



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 19, 2020

Note: This week's release reflects the annual revision to the weekly unemployment claims seasonal adjustment factors. The seasonal adjustment factors used for the UI Weekly Claims data from 2015 forward, along with the resulting seasonally adjusted values for initial claims and continuing claims, have been revised.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

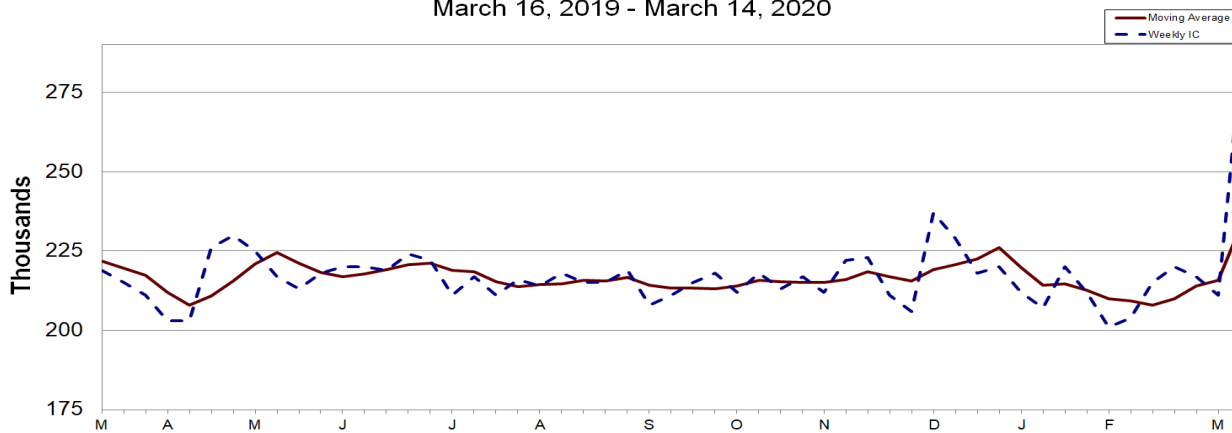
During the week ending March 14, the increase in initial claims are clearly attributable to impacts from the COVID-19 virus. A number of states specifically cited COVID-19 related layoffs, while many states reported increased layoffs in service related industries broadly and in the accommodation and food services industries specifically, as well as in the transportation and warehousing industry, whether COVID-19 was identified directly or not.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 14, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 281,000, an increase of 70,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 211,000. This is the highest level for initial claims since September 2, 2017 when it was 299,000. The 4-week moving average was 232,250, an increase of 16,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the highest level for this average since January 27, 2018 when it was 234,500. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 214,000 to 215,750.

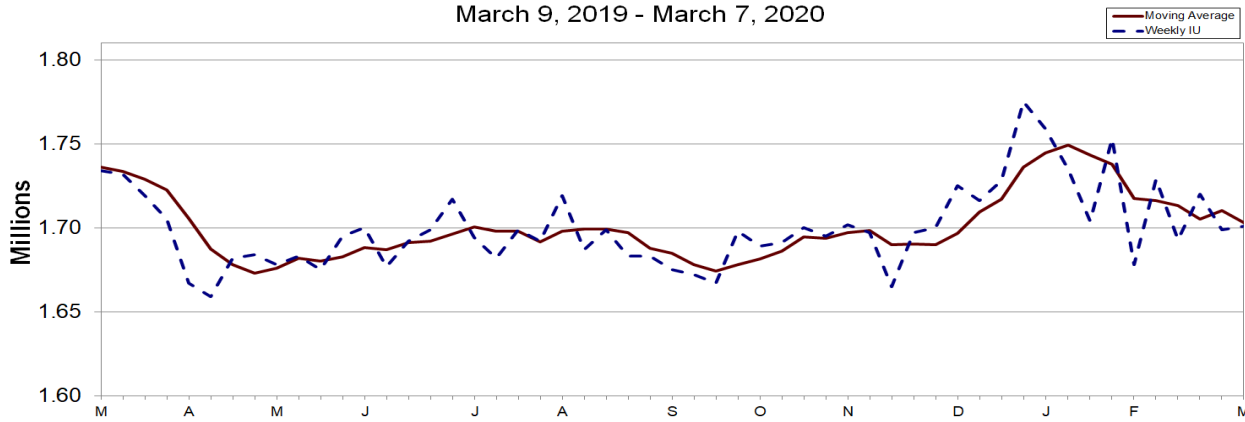
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending March 7, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 7 was 1,701,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 23,000 from 1,722,000 to 1,699,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,703,250, a decrease of 7,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 17,250 from 1,727,500 to 1,710,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 16, 2019 - March 14, 2020



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

March 9, 2019 - March 7, 2020



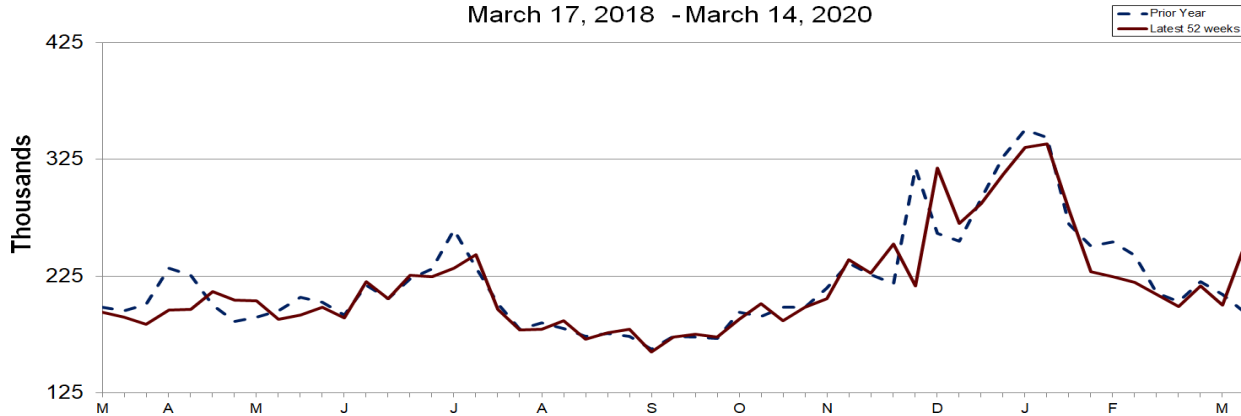
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 250,892 in the week ending March 14, an increase of 50,517 (or 25.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 12,023 (or -6.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 194,335 initial claims in the comparable week in 2019.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending March 7, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,976,544, a decrease of 80,706 (or -3.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 83,241 (or -4.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 2,008,348.

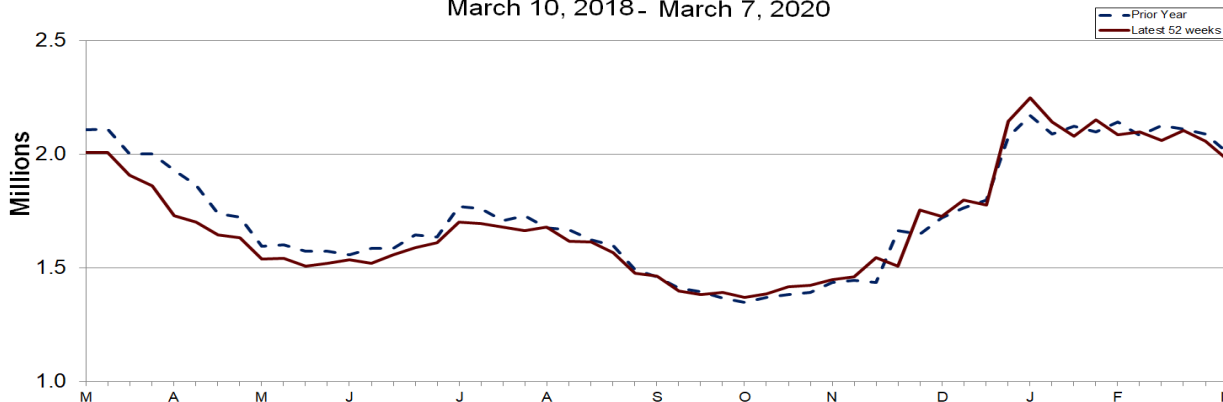
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

March 17, 2018 - March 14, 2020



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

March 10, 2018 - March 7, 2020



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 29 was 2,087,182, a decrease of 49,559 from the previous week. There were 2,120,283 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2019.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending February 29.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 553 in the week ending March 7, a decrease of 23 from the prior week. There were 507 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 80 from the preceding week.

There were 10,496 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 29, an increase of 237 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,352, a decrease of 215 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 29 were in Alaska (2.7), New Jersey (2.7), Connecticut (2.5), Montana (2.4), Pennsylvania (2.4), Rhode Island (2.4), West Virginia (2.4), Illinois (2.3), California (2.2), Minnesota (2.2), and Puerto Rico (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 7 were in California (+1,707), Texas (+1,663), Washington (+846), North Carolina (+808), and Florida (+472), while the largest decreases were in New York (-17,173), Ohio (-3,371), Georgia (-969), Virginia (-740), and Wisconsin (-606).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 14	March 7	Change	February 29	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	281,000	211,000	+70,000	217,000	219,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	250,892	200,375	+50,517	216,982	194,335
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	232,250	215,750	+16,500	214,000	221,750
WEEK ENDING	March 7	February 29	Change	February 22	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,701,000	1,699,000	+2,000	1,720,000	1,734,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,976,544	2,057,250	-80,706	2,105,457	2,008,348
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,703,250	1,710,250	-7,000	1,705,000	1,736,000
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 7	February 29	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	553	576	-23	1,021
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	507	427	+80	506

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 29	February 22	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	2,054,129	2,101,301	-47,172	2,085,487
Federal Employees	10,496	10,259	+237	11,812
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,352	5,567	-215	6,031
Extended Benefits ³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits ⁴	5,641	5,628	+13	5,776
STC / Workshare ⁵	11,564	13,986	-2,422	11,177
TOTAL	2,087,182	2,136,741	-49,559	2,120,283

FOOTNOTES

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 145,230,691 as denominator.
3. Information on the EB program can be found here: [EB Program information](#)
4. Some states maintain additional benefit programs for those claimants who exhaust regular benefits, and when applicable, extended benefits. Information on states that participate, and the extent of benefits paid, can be found starting on page 4-4 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-8 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 14			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 7		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,677	2,160	-483	11,784	15,777	-3,993
Alaska	1,197	815	382	8,404	8,266	138
Arizona	3,654	3,357	297	15,429	17,593	-2,164
Arkansas	1,232	1,843	-611	10,157	11,618	-1,461
California	58,208	43,385	14,823	357,509	378,864	-21,355
Colorado	2,349	1,865	484	22,051	22,908	-857
Connecticut	3,436	2,527	909	41,006	40,638	368
Delaware	452	518	-66	5,635	5,480	155
District of Columbia	1,036	471	565	6,521	6,792	-271
Florida	6,256	5,325	931	27,793	32,262	-4,469
Georgia	5,259	4,569	690	24,414	25,079	-665
Hawaii	1,616	1,275	341	6,458	6,021	437
Idaho	977	938	39	7,990	10,167	-2,177
Illinois	10,922	8,727	2,195	131,425	136,396	-4,971
Indiana	2,713	2,223	490	22,365	22,586	-221
Iowa	2,489	2,221	268	28,452	29,424	-972
Kansas	1,820	1,365	455	10,014	11,003	-989
Kentucky	2,718	2,463	255	22,374	22,770	-396
Louisiana	2,134	1,698	436	11,845	14,199	-2,354
Maine	612	715	-103	8,604	8,739	-135
Maryland	3,717	2,668	1,049	26,651	28,061	-1,410
Massachusetts	7,408	4,712	2,696	75,489	75,552	-63
Michigan	5,214	5,150	64	73,808	77,661	-3,853
Minnesota	4,121	3,488	633	63,726	62,767	959
Mississippi	750	879	-129	6,177	7,416	-1,239
Missouri	3,822	2,994	828	21,675	25,225	-3,550
Montana	781	714	67	10,288	10,782	-494
Nebraska	799	501	298	4,765	5,581	-816
Nevada	6,501	2,309	4,192	18,318	19,850	-1,532
New Hampshire	542	495	47	3,649	4,475	-826
New Jersey	9,348	7,996	1,352	106,630	107,646	-1,016
New Mexico	850	690	160	9,333	9,845	-512
New York	14,413	14,035	378	159,722	161,892	-2,170
North Carolina	3,434	2,575	859	18,380	20,196	-1,816
North Dakota	512	423	89	7,399	6,543	856
Ohio	7,051	6,545	506	67,836	73,123	-5,287
Oklahoma	1,612	1,569	43	15,445	17,067	-1,622
Oregon	4,278	4,154	124	29,332	29,517	-185
Pennsylvania *	15,503	12,227	3,276	129,796	136,931	-7,135
Puerto Rico	1,103	1,343	-240	15,826	18,657	-2,831
Rhode Island	1,109	700	409	10,911	11,130	-219
South Carolina	1,995	1,889	106	14,690	15,341	-651
South Dakota	169	185	-16	2,805	3,059	-254
Tennessee	2,746	2,032	714	17,484	19,035	-1,551
Texas	16,120	14,355	1,765	126,759	125,252	1,507
Utah	1,314	1,015	299	10,324	11,077	-753
Vermont	651	446	205	5,139	5,219	-80
Virgin Islands	23	64	-41	596	586	10
Virginia	2,883	2,527	356	21,935	22,714	-779
Washington	14,846	6,616	8,230	58,241	56,513	1,728
West Virginia	822	1,033	-211	17,780	16,110	1,670
Wisconsin	5,202	5,052	150	41,417	42,337	-920
Wyoming	496	534	-38	3,988	3,508	480
US Total	250,892	200,375	50,517	1,976,544	2,057,250	-80,706

Note: Advance claims are not directly comparable to claims reported in prior weeks. Advance claims are reported by the state liable for paying the unemployment compensation, whereas previous weeks reported claims reflect claimants by state of residence. In addition, claims reported as "workshare equivalent" in the previous week are added to the advance claims as a proxy for the current week's "workshare equivalent" activity.

*Denotes state estimate.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	Insured Unemployment	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	IUR
March 9, 2019	224	4	221.50	1,734	4	1,736.00	1.2
March 16, 2019	219	-5	221.75	1,732	-2	1,733.75	1.2
March 23, 2019	215	-4	219.50	1,719	-13	1,728.75	1.2
March 30, 2019	211	-4	217.25	1,705	-14	1,722.50	1.2
April 6, 2019	203	-8	212.00	1,667	-38	1,705.75	1.2
April 13, 2019	203	0	208.00	1,659	-8	1,687.50	1.2
April 20, 2019	226	23	210.75	1,682	23	1,678.25	1.2
April 27, 2019	230	4	215.50	1,684	2	1,673.00	1.2
May 4, 2019	225	-5	221.00	1,678	-6	1,675.75	1.2
May 11, 2019	217	-8	224.50	1,683	5	1,681.75	1.2
May 18, 2019	213	-4	221.25	1,675	-8	1,680.00	1.2
May 25, 2019	218	5	218.25	1,695	20	1,682.75	1.2
June 1, 2019	220	2	217.00	1,700	5	1,688.25	1.2
June 8, 2019	220	0	217.75	1,677	-23	1,686.75	1.2
June 15, 2019	219	-1	219.25	1,692	15	1,691.00	1.2
June 22, 2019	224	5	220.75	1,699	7	1,692.00	1.2
June 29, 2019	222	-2	221.25	1,717	18	1,696.25	1.2
July 6, 2019	211	-11	219.00	1,694	-23	1,700.50	1.2
July 13, 2019	217	6	218.50	1,682	-12	1,698.00	1.2
July 20, 2019	211	-6	215.25	1,699	17	1,698.00	1.2
July 27, 2019	216	5	213.75	1,692	-7	1,691.75	1.2
August 3, 2019	214	-2	214.50	1,719	27	1,698.00	1.2
August 10, 2019	218	4	214.75	1,687	-32	1,699.25	1.2
August 17, 2019	215	-3	215.75	1,699	12	1,699.25	1.2
August 24, 2019	215	0	215.50	1,683	-16	1,697.00	1.2
August 31, 2019	219	4	216.75	1,683	0	1,688.00	1.2
September 7, 2019	208	-11	214.25	1,675	-8	1,685.00	1.2
September 14, 2019	211	3	213.25	1,672	-3	1,678.25	1.2
September 21, 2019	215	4	213.25	1,667	-5	1,674.25	1.2
September 28, 2019	218	3	213.00	1,698	31	1,678.00	1.2
October 5, 2019	212	-6	214.00	1,689	-9	1,681.50	1.2
October 12, 2019	218	6	215.75	1,691	2	1,686.25	1.2
October 19, 2019	213	-5	215.25	1,700	9	1,694.50	1.2
October 26, 2019	217	4	215.00	1,695	-5	1,693.75	1.2
November 2, 2019	212	-5	215.00	1,702	7	1,697.00	1.2
November 9, 2019	222	10	216.00	1,697	-5	1,698.50	1.2
November 16, 2019	223	1	218.50	1,665	-32	1,689.75	1.2
November 23, 2019	211	-12	217.00	1,697	32	1,690.25	1.2
November 30, 2019	206	-5	215.50	1,700	3	1,689.75	1.2
December 7, 2019	237	31	219.25	1,725	25	1,696.75	1.2
December 14, 2019	229	-8	220.75	1,716	-9	1,709.50	1.2
December 21, 2019	218	-11	222.50	1,728	12	1,717.25	1.2
December 28, 2019	220	2	226.00	1,775	47	1,736.00	1.2
January 4, 2020	212	-8	219.75	1,759	-16	1,744.50	1.2
January 11, 2020	207	-5	214.25	1,735	-24	1,749.25	1.2
January 18, 2020	220	13	214.75	1,704	-31	1,743.25	1.2
January 25, 2020	212	-8	212.75	1,753	49	1,737.75	1.2
February 1, 2020	201	-11	210.00	1,678	-75	1,717.50	1.2
February 8, 2020	204	3	209.25	1,729	51	1,716.00	1.2
February 15, 2020	215	11	208.00	1,693	-36	1,713.25	1.2
February 22, 2020	220	5	210.00	1,720	27	1,705.00	1.2
February 29, 2020	217	-3	214.00	1,699	-21	1,710.25	1.2
March 7, 2020	211	-6	215.75	1,701	2	1,703.25	1.2
March 14, 2020	281	70	232.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 7						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 29						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM					LAST WEEK	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE (%) ²		WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	2160	208	54	7	10	15777	0.8	-980	987	68	73	15918	
Alaska	815	-59	-134	0	1	8266	2.7	-672	-1383	159	9	8434	
Arizona	3357	271	-46	5	7	17593	0.6	-544	-1464	204	30	17827	
Arkansas	1843	425	447	4	4	11618	1.0	-626	-14	54	28	11700	
California	43385	1707	2489	137	81	378864	2.2	8876	-23274	2409	1090	382363	
Colorado	1865	184	-26	9	16	22908	0.9	499	-234	305	142	23355	
Connecticut	2527	-316	-176	4	7	40638	2.5	-1530	-565	44	68	40750	
Delaware	518	-6	5	2	0	5480	1.2	-1262	-481	12	16	5508	
District of Columbia	471	19	65	6	0	6792	1.2	-228	-637	188	5	6985	
Florida	5325	472	-879	20	23	32262	0.4	-1159	-3099	158	69	32489	
Georgia	4569	-969	-597	29	22	25079	0.6	-1879	-202	151	123	25353	
Hawaii	1275	226	142	3	3	6021	1.0	96	-640	63	51	6135	
Idaho	938	-60	-219	18	5	10167	1.4	-420	-666	270	13	10450	
Illinois	8727	-253	-2846	7	9	136396	2.3	4273	7280	298	141	136835	
Indiana	2223	-53	-622	3	2	22586	0.7	-408	1676	22	28	22636	
Iowa	2221	-19	-11	3	1	29424	1.9	-1092	-1540	50	22	29496	
Kansas	1365	-152	-218	1	3	11003	0.8	-502	-476	34	24	11061	
Kentucky	2463	240	417	0	1	22770	1.2	-963	1595	202	95	23067	
Louisiana	1698	189	114	5	1	14199	0.7	-1090	-366	40	15	14254	
Maine	715	-147	5	1	0	8739	1.5	-268	229	47	8	8794	
Maryland	2668	42	-217	8	6	28061	1.1	-351	-3185	186	77	28324	
Massachusetts	4712	-153	-97	7	14	75552	2.1	-7668	-5109	121	83	75756	
Michigan	5150	-269	-777	9	13	77661	1.8	-909	-4808	191	72	77924	
Minnesota	3488	78	64	6	8	62767	2.2	1071	1259	135	54	62956	
Mississippi	879	135	-45	7	3	7416	0.7	-426	157	68	14	7498	
Missouri	2994	262	-44	6	1	25225	0.9	-1724	-1552	84	29	25338	
Montana	714	19	-190	10	4	10782	2.4	-514	-1242	546	16	11344	
Nebraska	501	-1	-223	2	1	5581	0.6	-705	-1682	13	8	5602	
Nevada	2309	-15	80	5	3	19850	1.4	-194	-282	173	45	20068	
New Hampshire	495	-399	-77	3	0	4475	0.7	427	-535	6	1	4482	
New Jersey	7996	223	6	17	24	107646	2.7	-3256	-1836	236	277	108159	
New Mexico	690	9	8	3	2	9845	1.2	-194	-6	227	36	10108	
New York	14035	-17173	241	17	26	161892	1.7	-20799	3163	280	302	162474	
North Carolina	2575	808	-550	11	16	20196	0.5	-992	-365	102	85	20383	
North Dakota	423	60	110	2	0	6543	1.6	-252	45	20	4	6567	
Ohio	6545	-3371	-24	4	13	73123	1.4	2468	4863	103	109	73335	
Oklahoma	1569	111	-54	4	5	17067	1.1	138	3209	54	47	17168	
Oregon	4154	218	-2578	27	6	29517	1.5	-648	-5306	642	53	30212	
Pennsylvania	12227	182	-3093	42	22	136931	2.4	1836	-2355	546	224	137701	
Puerto Rico	1343	47	223	13	6	18657	2.2	-823	2879	130	73	18860	
Rhode Island	700	-174	-50	3	2	11130	2.4	-1254	-655	17	10	11157	
South Carolina	1889	-88	82	5	3	15341	0.7	-438	481	35	53	15429	
South Dakota	185	26	-29	4	2	3059	0.7	-57	-362	52	3	3114	
Tennessee	2032	18	5	4	5	19035	0.6	-1378	-68	98	59	19192	
Texas	14355	1663	1595	34	85	125252	1.0	-7995	12444	565	951	126768	
Utah	1015	130	35	6	1	11077	0.8	-374	-75	191	14	11282	
Vermont	446	-417	16	1	1	5219	1.7	180	-226	7	0	5226	
Virgin Islands	64	27	41	2	0	586	1.7	24	146	6	0	592	
Virginia	2527	-740	82	4	14	22714	0.6	511	206	204	150	23068	
Washington	6616	846	-455	14	19	56513	1.7	-2073	-8087	485	376	57374	
West Virginia	1033	-75	162	0	4	16110	2.4	-687	2682	41	41	16192	
Wisconsin	5052	-606	-1321	4	2	42337	1.5	-1237	-2150	96	33	42466	
Wyoming	534	63	183	5	0	3508	1.3	-35	466	58	3	3569	
Totals	200375	-16607	-8927	553	507	2057250	1.4	-48207	-31160	10496	5352	2073098	

Figures appearing in columns showing over-the-week changes reflect all revisions in data for prior week submitted by state agencies.

1. The Unemployment Compensation program for Federal Employees (UCFE) and the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers (UCX) exclude claims filed jointly under other programs to avoid duplication.
2. Rate is not seasonally adjusted. The source of U.S. total covered employment is BLS.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 7, 2020

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+1,707	No comment.
TX	+1,663	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-17,173	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and education service industries.
OH	-3,371	No Comment.

TECHNICAL NOTES

This news release presents the weekly unemployment insurance (UI) claims reported by each state's unemployment insurance program offices. These claims may be used for monitoring workload volume, assessing state program operations and for assessing labor market conditions. States initially report claims directly taken by the state liable for the benefit payments, regardless of where the claimant who filed the claim resided. These are the basis for the advance initial claims and continued claims reported each week. These data come from ETA 538, Advance Weekly Initial and Continued Claims Report. The following week initial claims and continued claims are revised based on a second reporting by states that reflect the claimants by state of residence. These data come from the ETA 539, Weekly Claims and Extended Benefits Trigger Data Report.

A. Initial Claims

An initial claim is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The claimant requests a determination of basic eligibility for the UI program. When an initial claim is filed with a state, certain programmatic activities take place and these result in activity counts including the count of initial claims. The count of U.S. initial claims for unemployment insurance is a leading economic indicator because it is an indication of emerging labor market conditions in the country. However, these are weekly administrative data which are difficult to seasonally adjust, making the series subject to some volatility.

B. Continued Weeks Claimed

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment then files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. Continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment. The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. Continued claims reflect the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits in the nation. While continued claims are not a leading indicator (they roughly coincide with economic cycles at their peaks and lag at cycle troughs), they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the U.S. economy.

C. Seasonal Adjustments and Annual Revisions

Over the course of a year, the weekly changes in the levels of initial claims and continued claims undergo regularly occurring fluctuations. These fluctuations may result from seasonal changes in weather, major holidays, the opening and closing of schools, or other similar events. Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on the level of a series can be tempered by adjusting for regular seasonal variation. These adjustments make trend and cycle developments easier to spot. At the beginning of each calendar year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) with a set of seasonal factors to apply to the unadjusted data during that year. Concurrent with the implementation and release of the new seasonal factors, ETA incorporates revisions to the UI claims historical series caused by updates to the unadjusted data.

[2015 2020 seasonal factors.txt](#)

[2015 2020 seasonal factors.xlsx](#)

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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