



News Release

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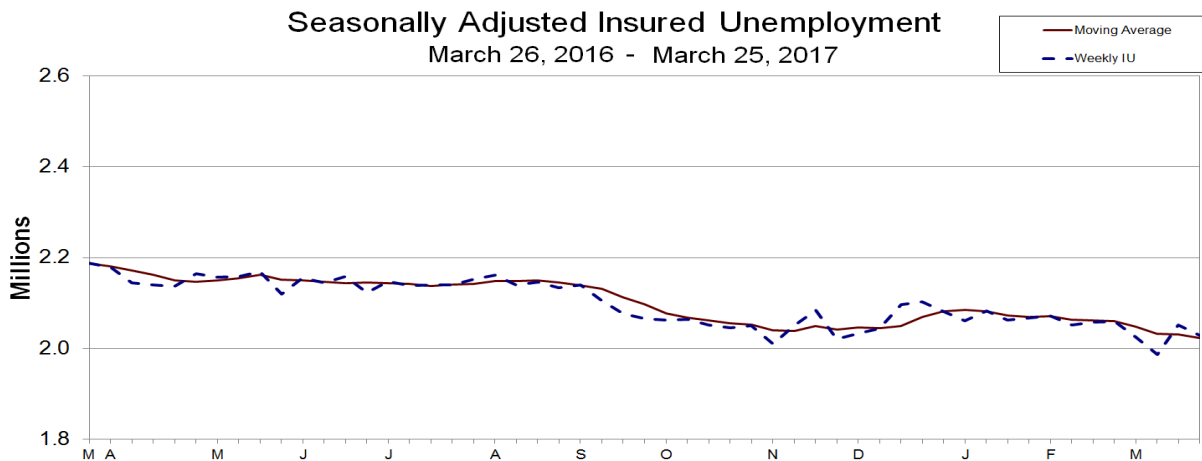
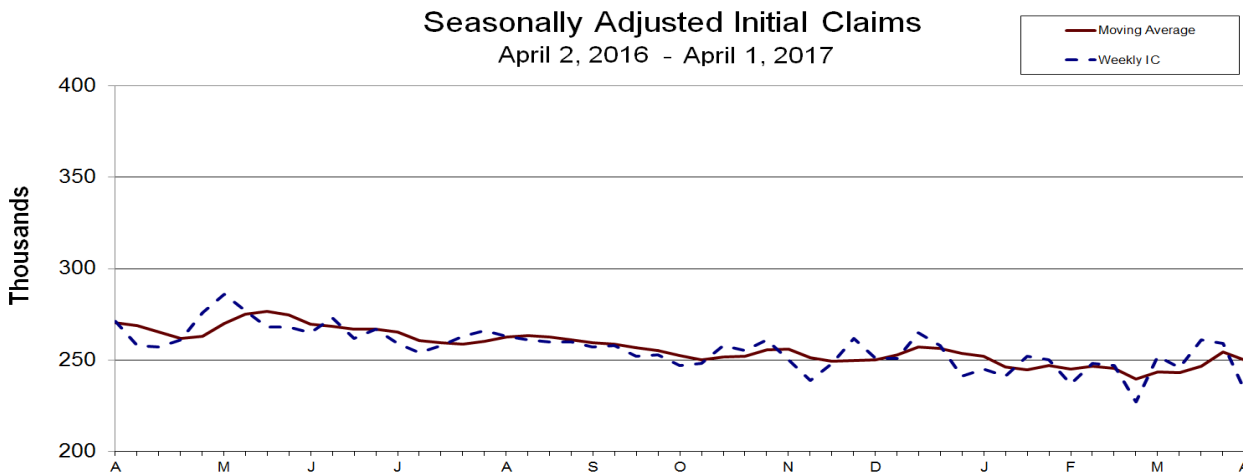
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 6, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 1, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 234,000, a decrease of 25,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 258,000 to 259,000. The 4-week moving average was 250,000, a decrease of 4,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 254,250 to 254,500.

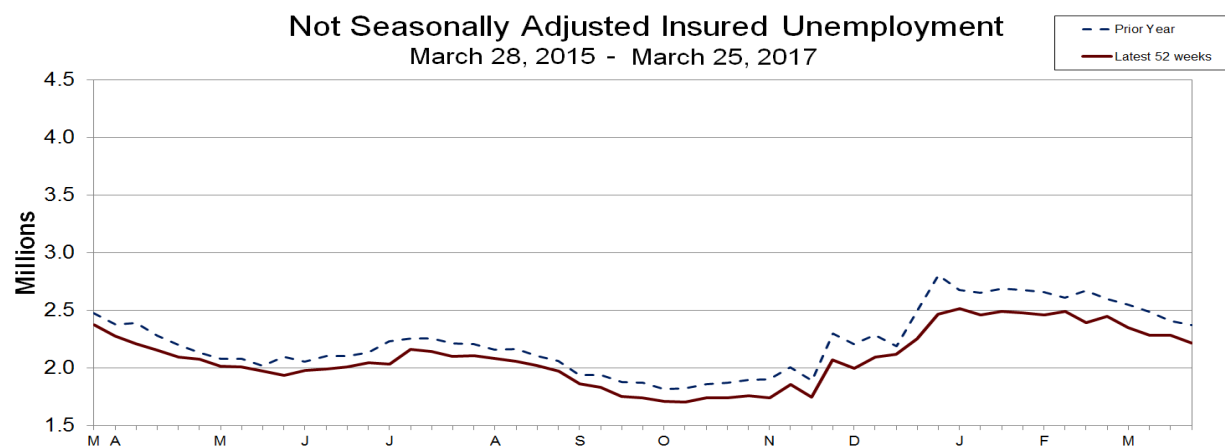
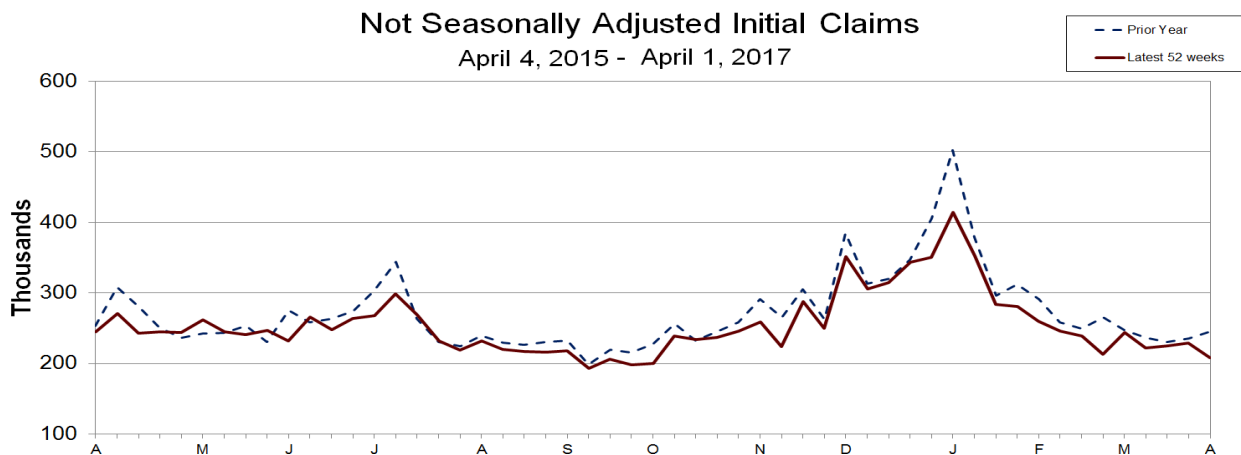
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending March 25, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 25 was 2,028,000, a decrease of 24,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 2,052,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,023,000, a decrease of 7,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 2,030,750. This is the lowest level for this average since June 17, 2000 when it was 2,016,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 207,565 in the week ending April 1, a decrease of 20,979 (or -9.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,034 (or 0.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 245,035 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending March 25, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,217,085, a decrease of 68,544 (or -3.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 43,086 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.7 percent and the volume was 2,375,518.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 18 was 2,326,608, an increase of 4,583 from the previous week. There were 2,454,956 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending March 18.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 596 in the week ending March 25, unchanged from the prior week. There were 721 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 9 from the preceding week.

There were 12,733 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 18, an increase of 439 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 11,159, an increase of 179 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 18 were in Alaska (3.9), Connecticut (3.0), New Jersey (3.0), Puerto Rico (2.7), Rhode Island (2.7), California (2.6), Massachusetts (2.6), Montana (2.5), Pennsylvania (2.5), and Illinois (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 25 were in New York (+6,249), Texas (+2,606), Michigan (+2,221), Pennsylvania (+2,216), and California (+1,603), while the largest decreases were in Ohio (-4,302), Kansas (-2,460), Missouri (-1,860), Illinois (-1,157), and Kentucky (-1,014).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 1	March 25	Change	March 18	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	234,000	259,000	-25,000	261,000	271,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	207,565	228,544	-20,979	224,939	245,035
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	250,000	254,500	-4,500	246,500	270,250
WEEK ENDING	March 25	March 18	Change	March 11	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,028,000	2,052,000	-24,000	1,987,000	2,187,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,217,085	2,285,629	-68,544	2,282,941	2,375,518
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,023,000	2,030,750	-7,750	2,032,000	2,187,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.4%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 25	March 18	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	596	596	0	613
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	721	730	-9	999

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 18	March 11	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,282,211	2,279,393	+2,818	2,404,054
Federal Employees	12,733	12,294	+439	11,775
Newly Discharged Veterans	11,159	10,980	+179	14,285
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,996	7,554	+442	8,022
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	12,509	11,804	+705	16,820
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,326,608	2,322,025	+4,583	2,454,956

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 138,930,224 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, extended and emergency benefits. Information on states that participate, and the extent of benefits paid, can be found starting on page 4-5 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-9 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 1			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 25		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,430	2,527	-97	16,511	17,446	-935
Alaska	1,144	1,058	86	11,508	12,325	-817
Arizona	4,202	3,986	216	21,762	24,300	-2,538
Arkansas	1,463	2,547	-1,084	12,876	12,988	-112
California	35,863	42,605	-6,742	400,855	416,245	-15,390
Colorado	2,247	1,849	398	26,972	26,278	694
Connecticut	3,032	4,198	-1,166	48,105	48,621	-516
Delaware	489	579	-90	6,582	6,727	-145
District of Columbia	471	258	213	7,792	8,355	-563
Florida	6,763	6,692	71	35,647	40,479	-4,832
Georgia	4,851	5,517	-666	26,838	28,788	-1,950
Hawaii	1,298	1,130	168	8,161	7,265	896
Idaho	1,181	1,233	-52	9,350	10,596	-1,246
Illinois	10,335	8,172	2,163	141,489	140,233	1,256
Indiana	3,429	2,517	912	25,714	27,201	-1,487
Iowa	2,306	1,966	340	27,381	29,262	-1,881
Kansas	2,602	1,771	831	14,732	13,897	835
Kentucky	2,196	2,037	159	20,930	20,656	274
*Louisiana	2,208	2,571	-363	21,155	21,759	-604
Maine	879	708	171	9,543	9,934	-391
Maryland	1,915	3,786	-1,871	35,171	40,012	-4,841
Massachusetts	4,348	5,009	-661	83,030	87,524	-4,494
Michigan	7,325	8,431	-1,106	83,801	82,419	1,382
Minnesota	3,288	3,470	-182	61,518	60,596	922
Mississippi	884	1,176	-292	8,451	10,269	-1,818
Missouri	3,360	4,114	-754	27,351	29,466	-2,115
Montana	756	789	-33	10,464	10,863	-399
Nebraska	808	786	22	5,963	6,611	-648
Nevada	2,468	2,218	250	20,521	22,070	-1,549
New Hampshire	536	555	-19	4,754	5,315	-561
New Jersey	8,136	8,679	-543	114,192	117,135	-2,943
New Mexico	937	1,249	-312	11,635	11,827	-192
New York	13,896	20,857	-6,961	174,348	182,947	-8,599
North Carolina	2,939	2,995	-56	21,596	23,430	-1,834
North Dakota	524	378	146	8,559	7,589	970
Ohio	7,351	6,313	1,038	74,690	78,487	-3,797
Oklahoma	1,370	1,481	-111	14,939	15,967	-1,028
Oregon	4,456	3,328	1,128	30,323	31,216	-893
Pennsylvania	14,177	18,293	-4,116	152,609	143,038	9,571
Puerto Rico	1,365	1,193	172	21,921	23,421	-1,500
Rhode Island	708	780	-72	12,088	12,579	-491
South Carolina	1,853	2,075	-222	12,787	13,742	-955
South Dakota	152	180	-28	2,986	3,273	-287
Tennessee	2,720	2,474	246	17,533	19,073	-1,540
Texas	13,833	15,950	-2,117	143,800	149,911	-6,111
Utah	934	957	-23	10,519	11,026	-507
Vermont	530	469	61	6,048	6,247	-199
Virgin Islands	16	22	-6	396	516	-120
Virginia	2,848	2,855	-7	27,183	28,040	-857
Washington	6,551	5,994	557	58,837	58,547	290
West Virginia	736	841	-105	13,374	14,393	-1,019
Wisconsin	6,068	6,589	-521	46,867	49,414	-2,547
Wyoming	388	337	51	4,928	5,311	-383
US Total	207,565	228,544	-20,979	2,217,085	2,285,629	-68,544

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 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 staff estimate.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
March 26, 2016	275	4	268.00	2,187	11	2,187.25	1.6
April 2, 2016	271	-4	270.25	2,178	-9	2,180.25	1.6
April 9, 2016	258	-13	268.75	2,145	-33	2,171.50	1.6
April 16, 2016	257	-1	265.25	2,140	-5	2,162.50	1.6
April 23, 2016	261	4	261.75	2,137	-3	2,150.00	1.6
April 30, 2016	276	15	263.00	2,165	28	2,146.75	1.6
May 7, 2016	286	10	270.00	2,157	-8	2,149.75	1.6
May 14, 2016	277	-9	275.00	2,158	1	2,154.25	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-9	276.75	2,169	11	2,162.25	1.6
May 28, 2016	268	0	274.75	2,120	-49	2,151.00	1.5
June 4, 2016	265	-3	269.50	2,155	35	2,150.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	273	8	268.50	2,144	-11	2,147.00	1.6
June 18, 2016	262	-11	267.00	2,158	14	2,144.25	1.6
June 25, 2016	267	5	266.75	2,123	-35	2,145.00	1.5
July 2, 2016	259	-8	265.25	2,147	24	2,143.00	1.6
July 9, 2016	254	-5	260.50	2,138	-9	2,141.50	1.6
July 16, 2016	258	4	259.50	2,140	2	2,137.00	1.6
July 23, 2016	263	5	258.50	2,139	-1	2,141.00	1.6
July 30, 2016	266	3	260.25	2,152	13	2,142.25	1.6
August 6, 2016	263	-3	262.50	2,161	9	2,148.00	1.6
August 13, 2016	261	-2	263.25	2,139	-22	2,147.75	1.6
August 20, 2016	260	-1	262.50	2,146	7	2,149.50	1.6
August 27, 2016	260	0	261.00	2,133	-13	2,144.75	1.5
September 3, 2016	257	-3	259.50	2,139	6	2,139.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	258	1	258.75	2,105	-34	2,130.75	1.5
September 17, 2016	252	-6	256.75	2,076	-29	2,113.25	1.5
September 24, 2016	253	1	255.00	2,066	-10	2,096.50	1.5
October 1, 2016	247	-6	252.50	2,063	-3	2,077.50	1.5
October 8, 2016	248	1	250.00	2,064	1	2,067.25	1.5
October 15, 2016	258	10	251.50	2,052	-12	2,061.25	1.5
October 22, 2016	255	-3	252.00	2,045	-7	2,056.00	1.5
October 29, 2016	261	6	255.50	2,050	5	2,052.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	250	-11	256.00	2,010	-40	2,039.25	1.5
November 12, 2016	239	-11	251.25	2,050	40	2,038.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	248	9	249.50	2,084	34	2,048.50	1.5
November 26, 2016	262	14	249.75	2,020	-64	2,041.00	1.5
December 3, 2016	251	-11	250.00	2,033	13	2,046.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	251	0	253.00	2,044	11	2,045.25	1.5
December 17, 2016	265	14	257.25	2,097	53	2,048.50	1.5
December 24, 2016	258	-7	256.25	2,102	5	2,069.00	1.5
December 31, 2016	241	-17	253.75	2,081	-21	2,081.00	1.5
January 7, 2017	245	4	252.25	2,061	-20	2,085.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	241	-4	246.25	2,083	22	2,081.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	252	11	244.75	2,063	-20	2,072.00	1.5
January 28, 2017	250	-2	247.00	2,067	4	2,068.50	1.5
February 4, 2017	237	-13	245.00	2,071	4	2,071.00	1.5
February 11, 2017	248	11	246.75	2,052	-19	2,063.25	1.5
February 18, 2017	247	-1	245.50	2,057	5	2,061.75	1.5
February 25, 2017	227	-20	239.75	2,059	2	2,059.75	1.5
March 4, 2017	252	25	243.50	2,025	-34	2,048.25	1.5
March 11, 2017	246	-6	243.00	1,987	-38	2,032.00	1.4
March 18, 2017	261	15	246.50	2,052	65	2,030.75	1.5
March 25, 2017	259	-2	254.50	2,028	-24	2,023.00	1.5
April 1, 2017	234	-25	250.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March
25

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 18
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM							CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	2527	191	-412	4	7	17446	0.9	-55	-3168	75	123	17644
Alaska	1058	-98	-95	6	3	12325	3.9	-183	-1023	188	20	12533
Arizona	3986	80	8	11	5	24300	0.9	-102	-1838	202	70	24572
Arkansas	2547	911	-664	4	5	12988	1.1	-693	-4644	67	72	13127
California	42605	1603	-1008	113	140	416245	2.6	15764	4805	2982	2452	421679
Colorado	1849	36	-538	12	25	26278	1.1	-2144	-4301	253	419	26950
Connecticut	4198	976	1816	8	5	48621	3.0	2531	3920	91	113	48825
Delaware	579	48	170	3	4	6727	1.6	49	25	12	16	6755
District of Columbia	258	9	-11	14	0	8355	1.5	-62	521	1111	2	9468
Florida	6692	-110	-259	17	46	40479	0.5	-449	-5538	163	239	40881
Georgia	5517	730	75	37	36	28788	0.7	-684	-3080	183	308	29279
Hawaii	1130	-7	76	4	10	7265	1.2	-614	1062	66	97	7428
Idaho	1233	70	-163	12	6	10596	1.6	-1138	162	220	28	10844
Illinois	8172	-1157	-2150	15	14	140233	2.4	-6596	-9069	365	329	140927
Indiana	2517	126	-11	4	8	27201	0.9	-1088	-3011	79	51	27331
Iowa	1966	-384	-568	5	3	29262	1.9	134	1059	48	58	29368
Kansas	1771	-2460	-219	3	12	13897	1.0	1532	-1965	43	50	13990
Kentucky	2037	-1014	-408	6	3	20656	1.1	-1448	-4059	119	220	20995
*Louisiana	2571	-16	74	4	8	21759	1.2	684	-1040	57	70	21886
Maine	708	50	-153	0	3	9934	1.7	3	-1706	44	24	10002
Maryland	3786	-165	-358	23	15	40012	1.6	330	-1599	407	195	40614
Massachusetts	5009	178	221	6	8	87524	2.6	375	240	216	207	87947
Michigan	8431	2221	2058	18	13	82419	2.0	-5851	-10992	245	186	82850
Minnesota	3470	-66	-201	4	5	60596	2.2	-1881	-3052	110	101	60807
Mississippi	1176	-433	-239	8	1	10269	0.9	241	-1312	107	48	10424
Missouri	4114	-1860	-607	3	1	29466	1.1	913	-1549	93	71	29630
Montana	789	-115	-235	9	5	10863	2.5	-1308	-611	409	37	11309
Nebraska	786	-39	4	3	0	6611	0.7	-256	507	26	14	6651
Nevada	2218	164	-186	7	7	22070	1.8	-636	-2926	220	104	22394
New Hampshire	555	36	-57	3	1	5315	0.8	-112	-778	7	3	5325
New Jersey	8679	-617	-713	12	21	117135	3.0	3516	3961	210	336	117681
New Mexico	1249	356	161	5	1	11827	1.5	-338	-2222	262	76	12165
New York	20857	6249	4983	27	28	182947	2.0	7117	1042	347	533	183827
North Carolina	2995	-145	-14	3	23	23430	0.6	-540	-3261	111	220	23761
North Dakota	378	24	-81	2	0	7589	1.8	-459	-1672	10	7	7606
Ohio	6313	-4302	-1661	4	17	78487	1.5	2719	-503	119	323	78929
Oklahoma	1481	-303	-426	4	5	15967	1.0	-99	-7681	77	129	16173
Oregon	3328	-496	-1375	14	6	31216	1.7	-1293	-532	599	151	31966
Pennsylvania	18293	2216	635	60	30	143038	2.5	-6853	-9917	552	478	144068
Puerto Rico	1193	-239	1032	1	3	23421	2.7	2466	4698	43	93	23557
Rhode Island	780	-182	-159	2	2	12579	2.7	117	553	26	34	12639
South Carolina	2075	182	-386	10	12	13742	0.7	-518	-1697	56	112	13910
South Dakota	180	-13	14	1	1	3273	0.8	-158	503	47	3	3323
Tennessee	2474	-188	-686	8	2	19073	0.7	-681	-5462	402	52	19527
Texas	15950	2606	-1411	41	131	149911	1.3	4142	-33020	560	1912	152383
Utah	957	12	-88	8	1	11026	0.8	-901	-1141	158	27	11211
Vermont	469	-422	-170	1	0	6247	2.1	198	-56	16	6	6269
Virgin Islands	22	-1	4	1	0	516	1.4	106	-22	4	4	524
Virginia	2855	-896	24	11	17	28040	0.8	455	-3312	400	404	28844
Washington	5994	-84	-564	9	13	58547	1.9	-1886	3189	254	428	59229
West Virginia	841	-58	-108	0	3	14393	2.2	-129	-5024	50	50	14493
Wisconsin	6589	382	-1712	5	4	49414	1.8	-862	-3874	109	31	49554
Wyoming	337	-11	-431	1	2	5311	2.0	-687	-3060	113	23	5447
Totals	228544	3575	-7172	596	721	2285629	1.6	2688	-123470	12733	11159	2309521

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 US total covered employment is BLS.

*Denotes state staff estimate.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 25, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+6,249	Layoffs in the construction, accommodation and food service, and transportation and warehousing industries.
TX	+2,606	Layoffs in the manufacturing, information, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and retail trade industries.
MI	+2,221	No comment.
PA	+2,216	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, construction, and professional, scientific and technical service industries.
CA	+1,603	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
OH	-4,302	No comment.
KS	-2,460	No comment.
MO	-1,860	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and transportation and warehousing industries.
IL	-1,157	No comment.
KY	-1,014	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.

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)

[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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