



# News Release

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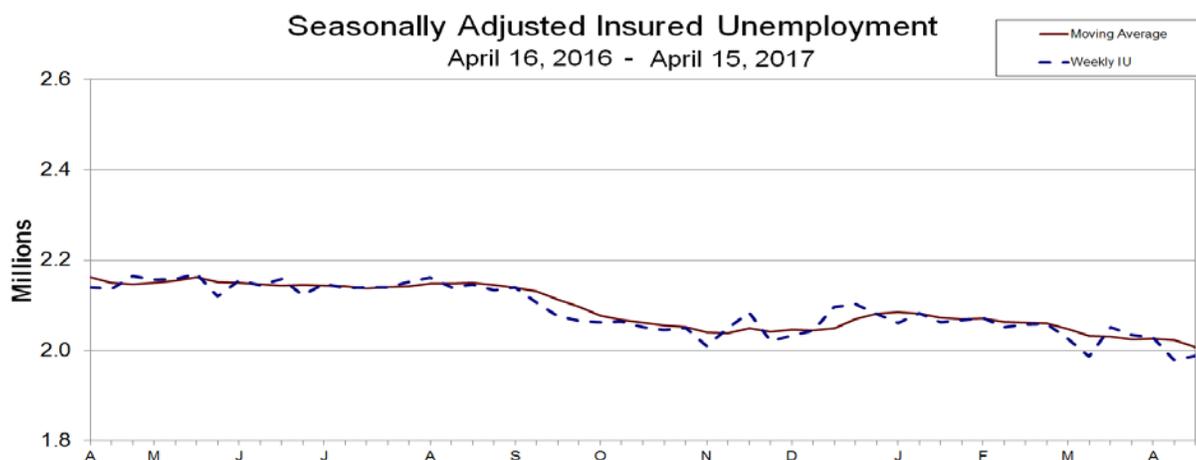
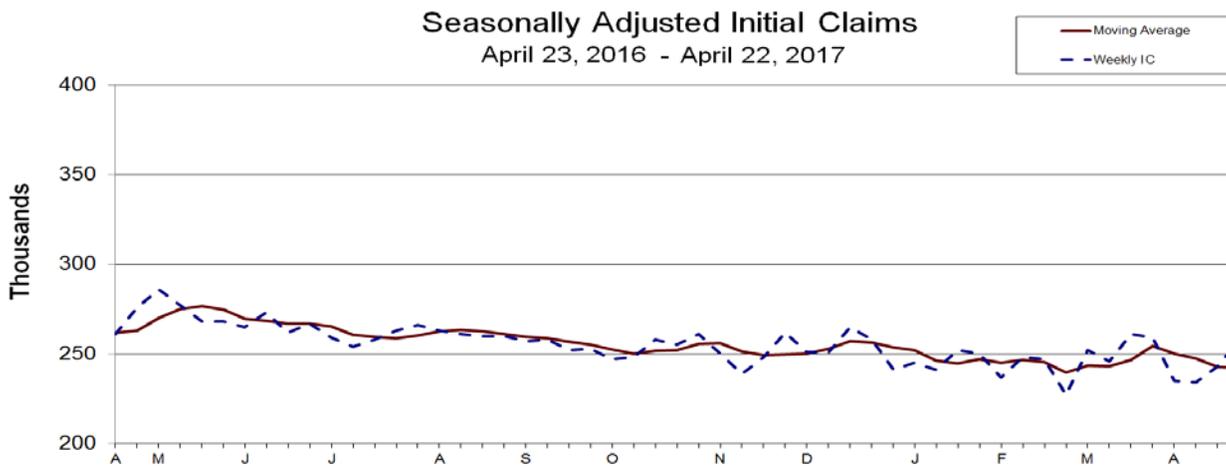
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 27, 2017

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 22, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 257,000, an increase of 14,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 244,000 to 243,000. The 4-week moving average was 242,250, a decrease of 500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 243,000 to 242,750.

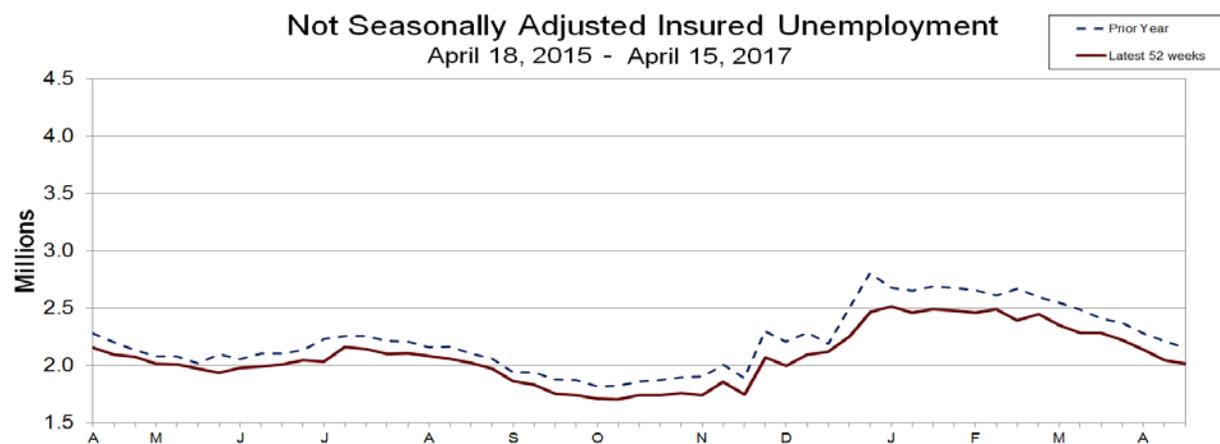
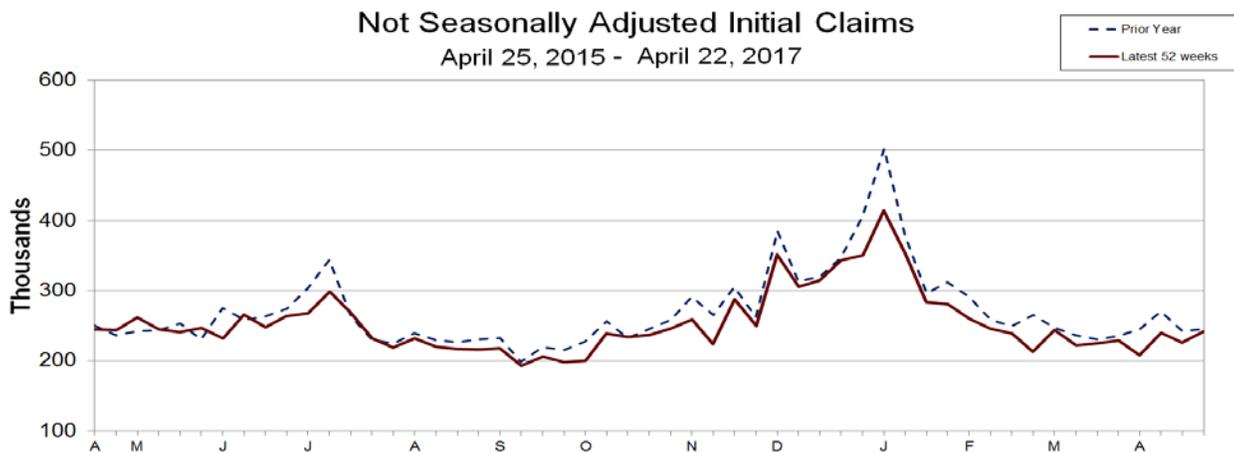
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending April 15, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 15 was 1,988,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 1,979,000 to 1,978,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,007,250, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since June 10, 2000 when it was 2,006,000. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 2,023,500 to 2,023,250.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 241,517 in the week ending April 22, an increase of 15,418 (or 6.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 2,921 (or 1.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 245,040 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending April 15, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,015,684, a decrease of 29,171 (or -1.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 39,552 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,154,608.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 8 was 2,081,133, a decrease of 96,380 from the previous week. There were 2,255,678 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 April 8.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 604 in the week ending April 15, a decrease of 125 from the prior week. There were 774 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 109 from the preceding week.

There were 10,557 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 8, a decrease of 1,084 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 10,476, an increase of 85 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 8 were in Alaska (3.5), Puerto Rico (2.6), New Jersey (2.5), Connecticut (2.4), California (2.3), Illinois (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), Massachusetts (2.2), Rhode Island (2.2), and Montana (1.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 15 were in California (+3,386), New Jersey (+3,098), Maryland (+1,563), Ohio (+1,239), and Connecticut (+992), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-3,478), Illinois (-1,953), Florida (-1,725), Arizona (-1,472), and Oregon (-1,400).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 22</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 8</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	257,000	243,000	+14,000	234,000	261,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	241,517	226,099	+15,418	239,659	245,040
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	242,250	242,750	-500	247,250	261,750
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>April 8</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,988,000	1,978,000	+10,000	2,028,000	2,140,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,015,684	2,044,855	-29,171	2,139,057	2,154,608
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,007,250	2,023,250	-16,000	2,025,500	2,162,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.4%	1.5%	-0.1	1.5%	1.6%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>April 8</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	604	729	-125	611
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	774	883	-109	1,068

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 8</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,041,631	2,135,937	-94,306	2,206,422
Federal Employees	10,557	11,641	-1,084	9,489
Newly Discharged Veterans	10,476	10,391	+85	13,765
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,449	7,823	-374	8,080
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	11,020	11,721	-701	17,922
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,081,133	2,177,513	-96,380	2,255,678

## 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 139,505,637 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 22			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 15		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,320	2,564	-244	16,493	16,794	-301
Alaska	1,580	1,225	355	10,785	10,814	-29
Arizona	5,543	5,285	258	24,582	25,968	-1,386
Arkansas	1,865	1,780	85	11,715	12,126	-411
California	45,923	47,139	-1,216	392,945	381,526	11,419
Colorado	2,341	2,238	103	25,276	25,091	185
Connecticut	4,022	4,378	-356	44,329	40,301	4,028
Delaware	1,232	410	822	5,772	5,602	170
District of Columbia	506	306	200	7,574	8,094	-520
Florida	6,693	6,839	-146	37,860	39,972	-2,112
Georgia	4,960	5,818	-858	26,639	28,264	-1,625
Hawaii	1,341	1,105	236	7,921	7,496	425
Idaho	928	1,035	-107	7,530	8,211	-681
Illinois	8,390	9,065	-675	124,852	132,793	-7,941
Indiana	2,430	2,271	159	21,639	22,977	-1,338
Iowa	2,265	2,029	236	20,923	21,881	-958
Kansas	1,720	1,561	159	10,554	13,473	-2,919
Kentucky	2,079	2,346	-267	18,550	19,703	-1,153
*Louisiana	2,285	2,602	-317	21,261	21,714	-453
Maine	730	754	-24	8,465	9,116	-651
Maryland	2,989	5,053	-2,064	32,884	35,267	-2,383
Massachusetts	8,930	4,640	4,290	69,272	75,197	-5,925
Michigan	5,361	5,786	-425	61,469	73,578	-12,109
Minnesota	3,108	3,010	98	47,801	49,269	-1,468
Mississippi	1,145	1,133	12	7,982	9,001	-1,019
Missouri	2,850	2,986	-136	22,936	25,837	-2,901
Montana	868	808	60	7,667	8,564	-897
Nebraska	623	875	-252	4,732	4,993	-261
Nevada	2,465	2,807	-342	21,093	21,719	-626
New Hampshire	553	604	-51	4,218	4,834	-616
New Jersey	12,312	12,193	119	102,911	99,185	3,726
New Mexico	776	888	-112	10,847	11,309	-462
New York	31,718	15,355	16,363	170,398	157,874	12,524
North Carolina	3,230	2,657	573	20,264	21,287	-1,023
North Dakota	370	256	114	5,793	5,446	347
Ohio	6,695	8,400	-1,705	62,251	64,503	-2,252
Oklahoma	1,308	1,361	-53	14,597	15,189	-592
Oregon	3,681	3,624	57	28,338	28,872	-534
Pennsylvania	12,764	14,496	-1,732	119,340	127,052	-7,712
Puerto Rico	1,559	1,219	340	22,324	22,474	-150
Rhode Island	2,242	1,364	878	9,262	10,022	-760
South Carolina	2,035	2,348	-313	12,686	13,008	-322
South Dakota	159	155	4	1,892	2,036	-144
Tennessee	2,355	2,501	-146	16,830	17,020	-190
Texas	13,798	13,147	651	145,529	139,357	6,172
Utah	1,298	1,081	217	8,630	9,011	-381
Vermont	1,132	646	486	5,393	5,475	-82
Virgin Islands	7	28	-21	480	378	102
Virginia	2,926	2,493	433	24,740	24,265	475
Washington	6,036	6,222	-186	54,837	55,726	-889
West Virginia	860	990	-130	11,715	11,975	-260
Wisconsin	5,819	5,726	93	36,705	38,787	-2,082
Wyoming	392	497	-105	4,203	4,429	-226
US Total	241,517	226,099	15,418	2,015,684	2,044,855	-29,171

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 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	
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	2,035	-17	2,024.75	1.5
April 1, 2017	235	-24	250.25	2,028	-7	2,025.50	1.5
April 8, 2017	234	-1	247.25	1,978	-50	2,023.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	243	9	242.75	1,988	10	2,007.25	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April  
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Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 8  
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM					STATE	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	(%) 2		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	2564	-205	-62	7	11	16794	0.9	61	-3367	80	108	16982
Alaska	1225	-176	-68	7	0	10814	3.5	-495	-1848	90	37	10941
Arizona	5285	-1472	-543	10	7	25968	1.0	1458	-2972	159	88	26215
Arkansas	1780	-453	-275	4	1	12126	1.0	-131	-3681	62	59	12247
California	47139	3386	-3008	120	140	381526	2.3	-20222	-3063	2266	2259	386051
Colorado	2238	-595	-968	12	24	25091	1.0	549	-5021	236	471	25798
Connecticut	4378	992	-374	6	4	40301	2.4	-3949	-494	65	77	40443
Delaware	410	-225	-194	2	0	5602	1.3	-411	-665	16	21	5639
District of Columbia	306	-84	59	9	1	8094	1.5	146	669	1040	11	9145
Florida	6839	-1725	-537	18	47	39972	0.5	127	-7036	211	231	40414
Georgia	5818	-247	-626	26	35	28264	0.7	-268	-3414	182	292	28738
Hawaii	1105	-430	-189	5	8	7496	1.2	163	966	44	113	7653
Idaho	1035	-221	-21	5	3	8211	1.2	-1020	-283	113	25	8349
Illinois	9065	-1953	-104	9	13	132793	2.3	-725	-2086	328	273	133394
Indiana	2271	-987	-827	8	5	22977	0.8	-3001	-2620	82	54	23113
Iowa	2029	-85	28	4	3	21881	1.4	-2486	623	58	44	21983
Kansas	1561	-653	-449	1	13	13473	1.0	-708	280	37	64	13574
Kentucky	2346	-1150	-250	2	1	19703	1.1	683	-4062	86	203	19992
Louisiana	2602	40	-189	5	9	21714	1.2	33	-971	55	67	21836
Maine	754	-186	-155	1	3	9116	1.6	-283	-1077	39	24	9179
Maryland	5053	1563	1694	29	11	35267	1.4	3047	-2602	377	179	35823
Massachusetts	4640	-416	-2500	5	21	75197	2.2	-6213	-867	183	182	75562
Michigan	5786	-967	69	15	10	73578	1.8	-4726	-3029	175	154	73907
Minnesota	3010	-255	-252	0	7	49269	1.8	-7234	-3218	81	92	49442
Mississippi	1133	-152	-399	9	1	9001	0.8	-142	-2182	98	40	9139
Missouri	2986	-1195	-534	7	10	25837	1.0	-1986	564	81	84	26002
Montana	808	-80	-272	11	1	8564	1.9	-864	-771	276	37	8877
Nebraska	875	57	221	0	1	4993	0.5	-506	236	18	10	5021
Nevada	2807	20	343	1	5	21719	1.7	-135	-2166	140	103	21962
New Hampshire	604	-39	-82	0	1	4834	0.8	-239	-637	8	4	4846
New Jersey	12193	3098	2430	14	21	99185	2.5	-8325	-3324	194	303	99682
New Mexico	888	-88	-337	1	0	11309	1.5	-203	-2616	161	72	11542
New York	15355	79	-304	22	43	157874	1.8	-8337	-8998	333	525	158732
North Carolina	2657	-731	-902	3	21	21287	0.5	-754	-4783	102	206	21595
North Dakota	256	-145	-205	0	1	5446	1.3	-1070	-1502	9	6	5461
Ohio	8400	1239	2228	9	28	64503	1.2	-6988	-4511	107	261	64871
Oklahoma	1361	-241	-487	10	4	15189	1.0	-228	-8215	75	124	15388
Oregon	3624	-1400	182	19	17	28872	1.6	-2229	-606	420	149	29441
Pennsylvania	14496	-495	-1580	70	43	127052	2.3	-4422	-13791	521	349	127922
Puerto Rico	1219	-1000	-907	5	4	22474	2.6	-476	371	36	67	22577
Rhode Island	1364	458	289	1	3	10022	2.2	-1037	-272	28	37	10087
South Carolina	2348	-107	-91	13	14	13008	0.7	-65	-1532	65	112	13185
South Dakota	155	-42	-53	2	0	2036	0.5	-565	113	49	3	2088
Tennessee	2501	-286	-57	9	1	17020	0.6	-585	-5318	403	57	17480
Texas	13147	-3478	-3417	42	125	139357	1.2	-2701	-36799	464	1908	141729
Utah	1081	-147	-395	6	4	9011	0.7	-764	-1814	96	31	9138
Vermont	646	-118	-163	1	0	5475	1.8	-66	-545	12	6	5493
Virgin Islands	28	-9	-15	0	0	378	1.0	-144	-118	2	8	388
Virginia	2493	-388	-801	21	26	24265	0.7	-990	-4898	379	410	25054
Washington	6222	-1283	-702	6	15	55726	1.8	-189	3205	174	339	56239
West Virginia	990	-195	-162	3	2	11975	1.8	-275	-6259	47	45	12067
Wisconsin	5726	-302	-186	4	6	38787	1.4	-4177	-6237	82	36	38905
Wyoming	497	-86	-202	5	0	4429	1.7	-135	-3874	112	16	4557
Totals	226099	-13560	-16301	604	774	2044855	1.5	-94202	-167117	10557	10476	2065888

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 15, 2017**

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**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	+3,386	Layoffs in the service industry.
NJ	+3,098	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and public administration industries.
MD	+1,563	No comment.
OH	+1,239	Layoffs in the manufacturing and transportation and warehousing industries.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
TX	-3,478	No comment.
IL	-1,953	No comment.
FL	-1,725	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
AZ	-1,472	No comment.
OR	-1,400	No comment.
WA	-1,283	No comment.
MO	-1,195	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
KY	-1,150	No comment.
PR	-1,000	No comment.

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## 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](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

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