



News Release

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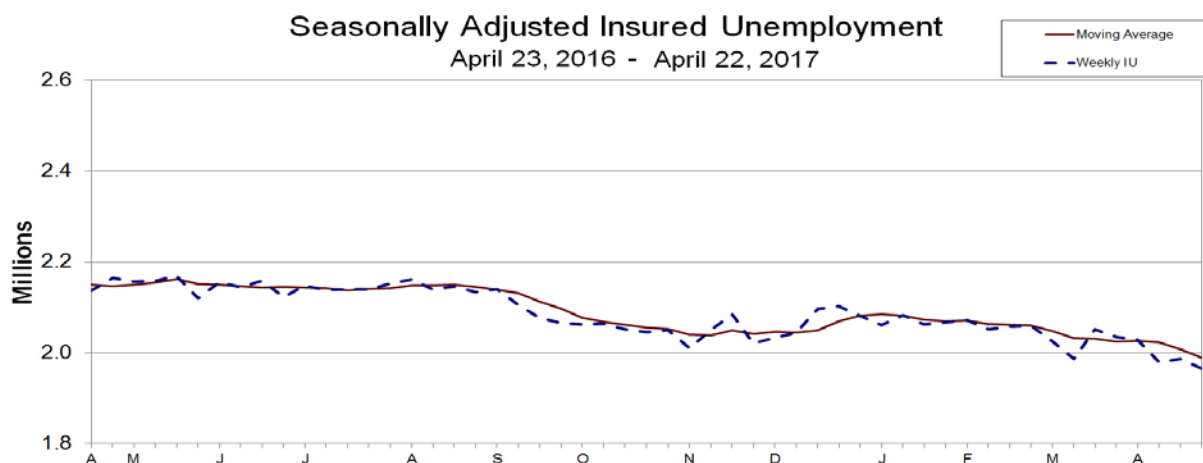
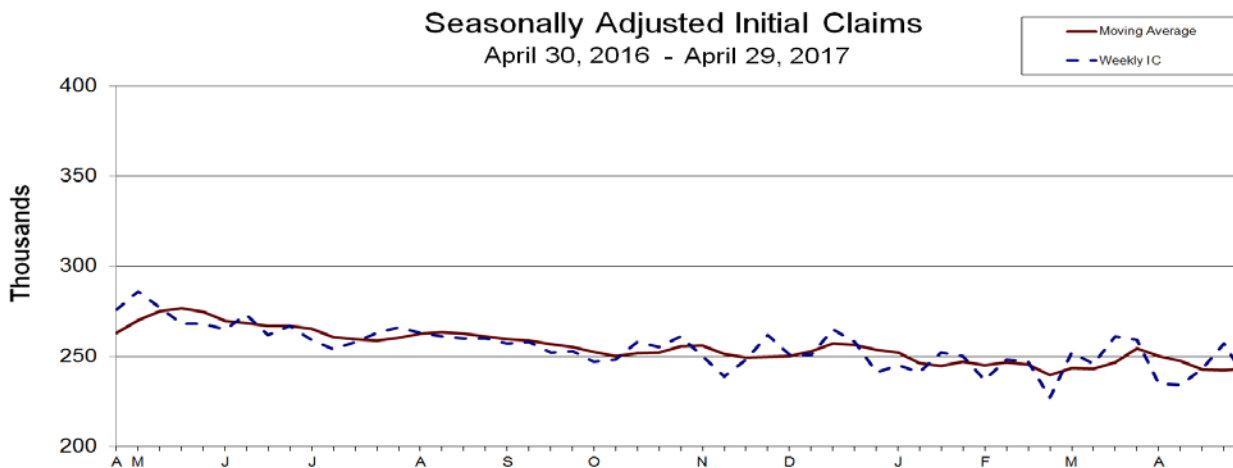
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 4, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 29, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 238,000, a decrease of 19,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 257,000. The 4-week moving average was 243,000, an increase of 750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 242,250.

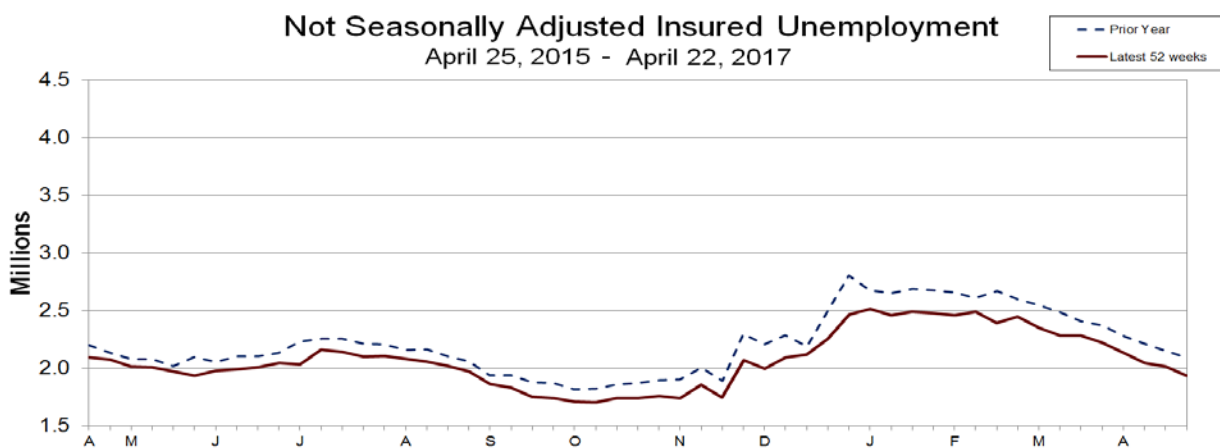
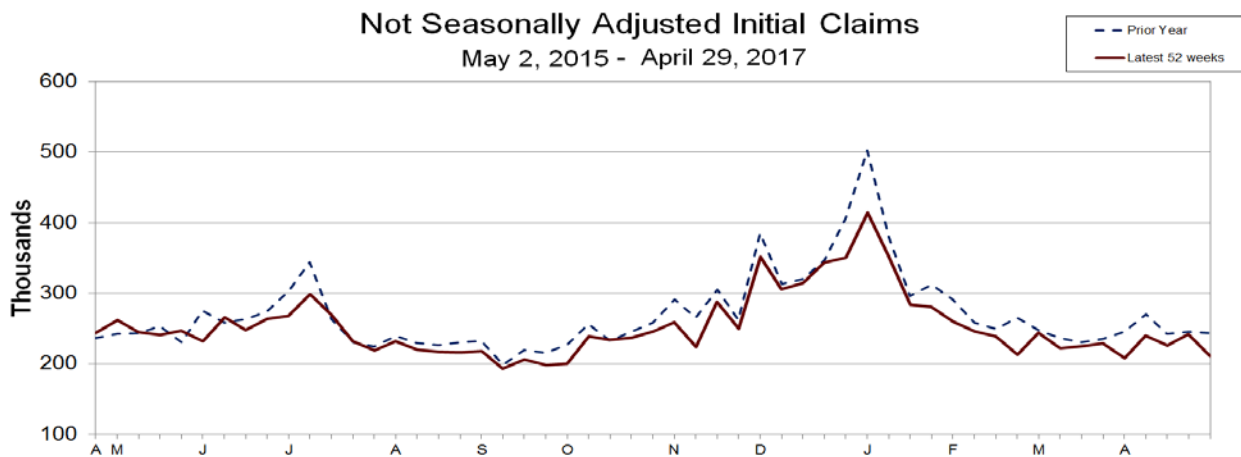
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending April 22, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 22 was 1,964,000, a decrease of 23,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since April 15, 2000 when it was 1,962,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 1,988,000 to 1,987,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,989,250, a decrease of 17,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since November 26, 1988 when it was 1,978,250. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 2,007,250 to 2,007,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 211,287 in the week ending April 29, a decrease of 30,493 (or -12.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 13,361 (or -5.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 243,392 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending April 22, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,936,314, a decrease of 78,194 (or -3.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 55,627 (or -2.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,094,406.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 15 was 2,052,086, a decrease of 29,047 from the previous week. There were 2,198,093 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 15.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 633 in the week ending April 22, an increase of 29 from the prior week. There were 764 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 10 from the preceding week.

There were 10,997 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 15, an increase of 440 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 10,942, an increase of 466 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 15 were in Alaska (3.5), Puerto Rico (2.7), Connecticut (2.6), New Jersey (2.6), California (2.3), Illinois (2.1), Pennsylvania (2.1), Massachusetts (2.0), Rhode Island (2.0), and New York (1.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 22 were in New York (+16,315), Massachusetts (+4,335), Rhode Island (+863), Delaware (+842), and Arizona (+728), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,021), Maryland (-1,754), Ohio (-1,753), Pennsylvania (-1,715), and Illinois (-762).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 29	April 22	Change	April 15	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	238,000	257,000	-19,000	243,000	276,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	211,287	241,780	-30,493	226,099	243,392
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	243,000	242,250	+750	242,750	263,000
WEEK ENDING	April 22	April 15	Change	April 8	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,964,000	1,987,000	-23,000	1,978,000	2,137,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,936,314	2,014,508	-78,194	2,044,855	2,094,406
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,989,250	2,007,000	-17,750	2,023,250	2,150,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.5%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 22	April 15	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	633	604	+29	661
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	764	774	-10	963

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 15	April 8	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,011,433	2,041,631	-30,198	2,149,426
Federal Employees	10,997	10,557	+440	9,659
Newly Discharged Veterans	10,942	10,476	+466	13,869
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,820	7,449	+371	8,184
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	10,894	11,020	-126	16,955
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,052,086	2,081,133	-29,047	2,198,093

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 29			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 22		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,110	2,483	-373	16,340	16,595	-255
Alaska	1,289	1,144	145	10,386	10,957	-571
Arizona	4,483	6,013	-1,530	26,082	27,879	-1,797
Arkansas	1,613	1,975	-362	12,080	12,391	-311
California	44,524	45,118	-594	389,810	384,361	5,449
Colorado	2,307	2,341	-34	24,481	24,702	-221
Connecticut	3,210	4,011	-801	38,753	42,897	-4,144
Delaware	604	1,252	-648	6,405	5,391	1,014
District of Columbia	553	283	270	7,520	8,036	-516
Florida	6,793	6,886	-93	35,837	42,905	-7,068
Georgia	4,474	5,201	-727	25,689	27,977	-2,288
Hawaii	1,238	1,305	-67	8,109	7,577	532
Idaho	924	985	-61	7,007	7,909	-902
Illinois	9,041	8,303	738	115,688	123,360	-7,672
Indiana	2,787	2,403	384	20,591	21,646	-1,055
Iowa	2,592	1,999	593	19,109	19,416	-307
Kansas	1,596	1,702	-106	10,264	10,362	-98
Kentucky	2,079	2,096	-17	18,550	18,691	-141
*Louisiana	2,268	2,631	-363	21,351	21,810	-459
Maine	778	767	11	8,143	8,456	-313
Maryland	3,133	3,299	-166	30,471	36,078	-5,607
Massachusetts	4,996	8,975	-3,979	69,419	70,118	-699
Michigan	5,440	5,533	-93	57,519	63,075	-5,556
Minnesota	2,995	2,953	42	43,298	45,068	-1,770
Mississippi	1,081	1,312	-231	8,061	9,003	-942
Missouri	2,925	3,057	-132	22,393	23,529	-1,136
Montana	758	896	-138	7,394	7,737	-343
Nebraska	619	645	-26	4,408	4,755	-347
Nevada	2,539	2,349	190	20,039	22,533	-2,494
New Hampshire	874	608	266	4,024	4,571	-547
New Jersey	8,238	12,392	-4,154	98,556	101,416	-2,860
New Mexico	776	834	-58	10,682	11,160	-478
New York	17,780	31,670	-13,890	152,294	169,364	-17,070
North Carolina	3,230	3,069	161	20,277	21,203	-926
North Dakota	391	287	104	4,777	4,633	144
Ohio	5,421	6,647	-1,226	59,302	62,043	-2,741
Oklahoma	1,342	1,418	-76	14,457	14,958	-501
Oregon	3,519	3,697	-178	27,880	28,305	-425
Pennsylvania	11,800	12,781	-981	114,148	118,296	-4,148
Puerto Rico	1,692	1,645	47	21,680	24,008	-2,328
Rhode Island	861	2,227	-1,366	10,827	9,213	1,614
South Carolina	2,148	2,083	65	12,247	13,217	-970
South Dakota	122	179	-57	1,669	1,900	-231
Tennessee	2,760	2,506	254	16,716	17,058	-342
Texas	13,518	13,835	-317	140,166	144,889	-4,723
Utah	1,302	1,280	22	8,660	8,617	43
Vermont	741	1,141	-400	5,507	5,107	400
Virgin Islands	3	12	-9	370	478	-108
Virginia	2,887	2,679	208	24,450	23,932	518
Washington	6,121	5,805	316	53,573	52,976	597
West Virginia	721	928	-207	11,147	11,462	-315
Wisconsin	4,819	5,792	-973	33,817	36,081	-2,264
Wyoming	472	348	124	3,891	4,407	-516
US Total	211,287	241,780	-30,493	1,936,314	2,014,508	-78,194

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 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	1,987	9	2,007.00	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25	1,964	-23	1,989.25	1.4
April 29, 2017	238	-19	243.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April
22

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 15
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	2483	-81	-96	13	16	16595	0.9	-199	-3367	74	116	16785
Alaska	1144	-81	10	5	1	10957	3.5	143	-1498	136	26	11119
Arizona	6013	728	-70	5	11	27879	1.1	1911	-2814	137	93	28109
Arkansas	1975	195	-400	5	1	12391	1.1	265	-3577	50	60	12501
California	45118	-2021	-1483	117	153	384361	2.3	2835	-9524	2686	2211	389258
Colorado	2341	103	-610	10	26	24702	1.0	-389	-4883	189	427	25318
Connecticut	4011	-367	-1032	4	5	42897	2.6	2596	2189	57	92	43046
Delaware	1252	842	714	2	0	5391	1.2	-211	-696	13	12	5416
District of Columbia	283	-23	-51	11	0	8036	1.4	-58	646	1043	11	9090
Florida	6886	47	-426	21	45	42905	0.5	2933	-4738	179	222	43306
Georgia	5201	-617	-829	28	30	27977	0.7	-287	-2490	214	261	28452
Hawaii	1305	200	95	3	15	7577	1.2	81	1056	66	101	7744
Idaho	985	-50	26	4	2	7909	1.2	-302	13	101	26	8036
Illinois	8303	-762	-5855	17	16	123360	2.1	-9433	-3486	389	318	124067
Indiana	2403	132	-536	7	7	21646	0.7	-1331	-1512	82	61	21789
Iowa	1999	-30	-490	1	5	19416	1.3	-2465	190	43	50	19509
Kansas	1702	141	-905	4	8	10362	0.8	-3111	-2608	32	68	10462
Kentucky	2096	-250	-455	8	8	18691	1.0	-1012	-4038	127	199	19017
Louisiana	2631	29	-53	5	10	21810	1.2	96	-877	54	65	21929
Maine	767	13	-40	1	2	8456	1.4	-660	-992	30	18	8504
Maryland	3299	-1754	69	29	12	36078	1.5	811	-811	366	190	36634
Massachusetts	8975	4335	-1338	7	10	70118	2.0	-5079	-2236	154	199	70471
Michigan	5533	-253	381	13	19	63075	1.5	-10503	-4906	123	139	63337
Minnesota	2953	-57	-25	8	7	45068	1.6	-4201	-1076	72	97	45237
Mississippi	1312	179	-125	12	7	9003	0.8	2	-2225	99	40	9142
Missouri	3057	71	-784	3	3	23529	0.9	-2308	-174	84	71	23684
Montana	896	88	-83	7	4	7737	1.8	-827	-1131	209	38	7984
Nebraska	645	-230	-129	2	2	4755	0.5	-238	312	20	10	4785
Nevada	2349	-458	-114	4	7	22533	1.8	814	-1014	152	106	22791
New Hampshire	608	4	-83	1	0	4571	0.7	-263	-690	8	5	4584
New Jersey	12392	199	3917	9	14	101416	2.6	2231	1864	168	295	101879
New Mexico	834	-54	-301	2	2	11160	1.4	-149	-2579	147	77	11384
New York	31670	16315	16026	20	23	169364	1.9	11490	11595	330	518	170212
North Carolina	3069	412	-413	10	20	21203	0.5	-84	-4210	92	217	21512
North Dakota	287	31	-224	3	2	4633	1.1	-813	-1542	14	4	4651
Ohio	6647	-1753	125	7	23	62043	1.2	-2460	-2942	110	263	62416
Oklahoma	1418	57	-623	12	4	14958	1.0	-231	-8505	73	127	15158
Oregon	3697	73	-174	25	13	28305	1.6	-567	-534	409	156	28870
Pennsylvania	12781	-1715	-2275	73	45	118296	2.1	-8756	-17744	502	425	119223
Puerto Rico	1645	426	204	5	2	24008	2.7	1534	1943	59	78	24145
Rhode Island	2227	863	-572	2	6	9213	2.0	-809	-383	25	34	9272
South Carolina	2083	-265	-296	4	12	13217	0.7	209	-812	63	122	13402
South Dakota	179	24	-4	15	1	1900	0.5	-136	243	29	3	1932
Tennessee	2506	5	-16	9	4	17058	0.6	38	-4478	397	63	17518
Texas	13835	688	-2453	57	122	144889	1.3	5532	-36442	520	1926	147335
Utah	1280	199	-33	3	3	8617	0.6	-394	-1988	91	29	8737
Vermont	1141	495	-27	3	0	5107	1.7	-368	-646	14	6	5127
Virgin Islands	12	-16	-27	0	0	478	1.3	100	-34	4	4	486
Virginia	2679	186	-543	5	19	23932	0.7	-333	-4891	382	440	24754
Washington	5805	-417	-445	4	10	52976	1.7	-2750	2753	379	732	54087
West Virginia	928	-62	-508	0	2	11462	1.7	-513	-5819	49	48	11559
Wisconsin	5792	66	374	5	4	36081	1.3	-2706	-3715	64	31	36176
Wyoming	348	-149	-255	3	1	4407	1.6	-22	-4277	87	12	4506
Totals	241780	15681	-3260	633	764	2014508	1.4	-30347	-140100	10997	10942	2036447

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.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 22, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+16,315	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
MA	+4,335	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,021	No comment.
MD	-1,754	No comment.
OH	-1,753	No comment.
PA	-1,715	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.

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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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 17-565-NAT

Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676