



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 16, 2017

Note: Calendar Year (CY) 2017 Seasonal Factors and revised seasonal factors and historical series for CY 2012-2016 for both initial claims and continued claims will be made available March 23, 2017, with the release of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Weekly Claims News Release.

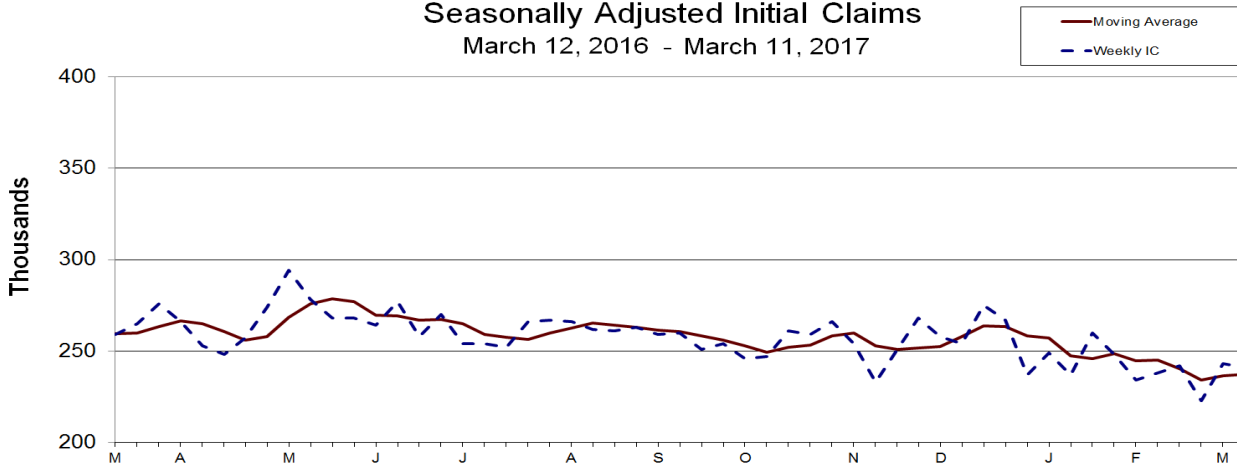
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

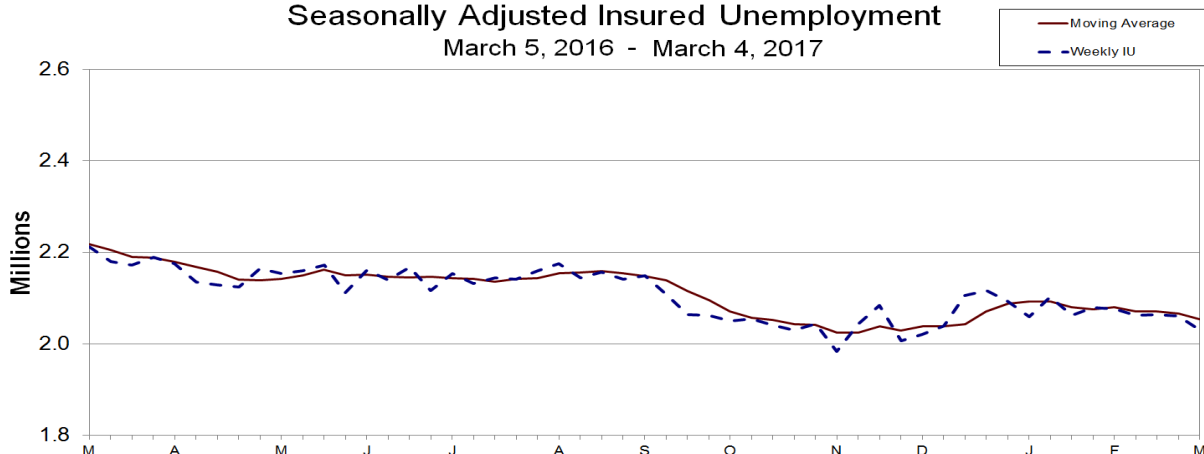
In the week ending March 11, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 241,000, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 243,000. The 4-week moving average was 237,250, an increase of 750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 236,500.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending March 4, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 4 was 2,030,000, a decrease of 30,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 2,058,000 to 2,060,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,054,250, a decrease of 11,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 2,065,500 to 2,066,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 12, 2016 - March 11, 2017



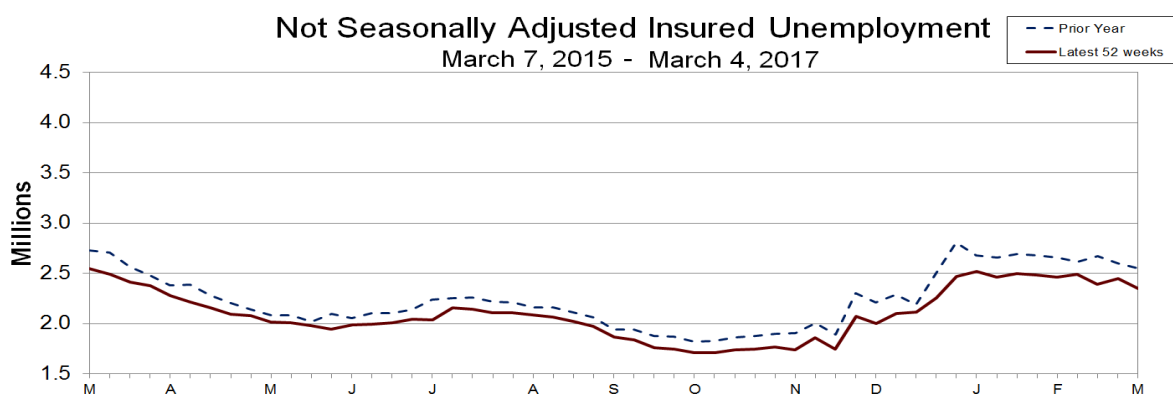
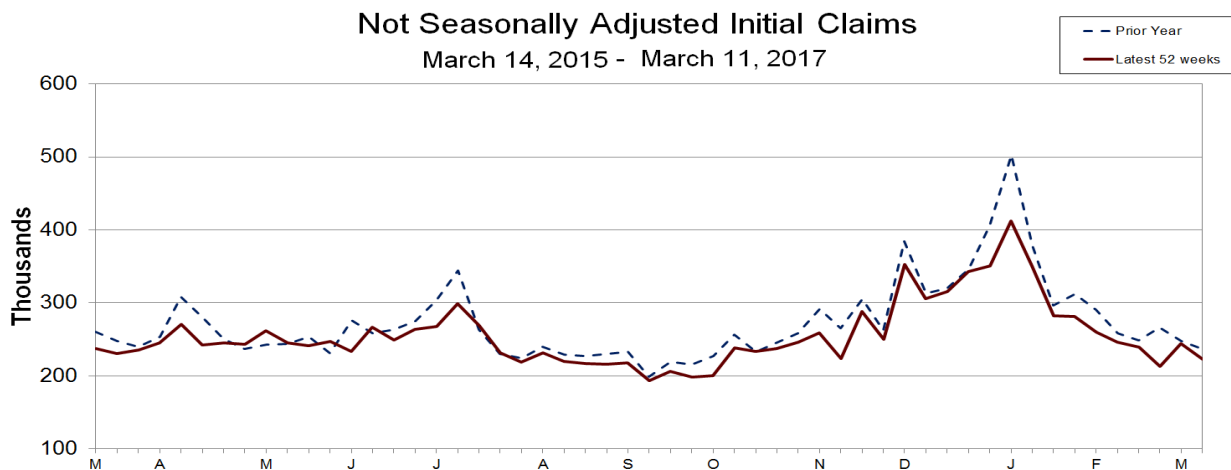
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
March 5, 2016 - March 4, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 222,510 in the week ending March 11, a decrease of 21,449 (or -8.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 19,234 (or -7.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 236,888 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.7 percent during the week ending March 4, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,348,718, a decrease of 98,874 (or -4.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 63,868 (or -2.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,548,304.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 25 was 2,490,291, an increase of 55,956 from the previous week. There were 2,647,693 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 February 25.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 632 in the week ending March 4, an increase of 13 from the prior week. There were 894 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 254 from the preceding week.

There were 13,305 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 25, a decrease of 707 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 11,389, a decrease of 260 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 25 were in Alaska (4.2), New Jersey (3.1), Rhode Island (3.1), Connecticut (3.0), Montana (3.0), Massachusetts (2.9), Pennsylvania (2.8), California (2.7), Puerto Rico (2.7), and Illinois (2.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 4 were in New York (+17,680), Illinois (+2,552), Pennsylvania (+2,121), California (+1,880), and Georgia (+1,734), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-3,422), Rhode Island (-1,332), Louisiana (-207), Michigan (-165), and Iowa (-79).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 11	March 4	Change	February 25	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	241,000	243,000	-2,000	223,000	259,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	222,510	243,959	-21,449	212,829	236,888
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	237,250	236,500	+750	234,250	259,500
WEEK ENDING	March 4	February 25	Change	February 18	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,030,000	2,060,000	-30,000	2,064,000	2,212,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,348,718	2,447,592	-98,874	2,392,472	2,548,304
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,054,250	2,066,000	-11,750	2,070,750	2,218,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.8%	-0.1	1.7%	1.9%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 4	February 25	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	632	619	+13	741
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	894	640	+254	1,075

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 25	February 18	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,443,180	2,389,018	+54,162	2,595,884
Federal Employees	13,305	14,012	-707	12,653
Newly Discharged Veterans	11,389	11,649	-260	14,844
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,776	7,588	+188	7,939
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	14,641	12,068	+2,573	16,373
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,490,291	2,434,335	+55,956	2,647,693

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 March 11			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 4		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,324	2,146	178	17,724	18,262	-538
Alaska	1,315	1,183	132	12,719	13,228	-509
Arizona	3,589	3,808	-219	22,014	25,149	-3,135
Arkansas	1,470	1,715	-245	13,308	15,217	-1,909
California	46,297	45,208	1,089	443,038	435,797	7,241
Colorado	2,172	2,190	-18	28,084	29,769	-1,685
Connecticut	3,711	3,618	93	49,905	49,001	904
Delaware	523	539	-16	7,177	8,393	-1,216
District of Columbia	530	326	204	8,107	8,731	-624
Florida	6,936	6,354	582	35,030	41,807	-6,777
Georgia	5,145	6,963	-1,818	28,419	32,015	-3,596
Hawaii	1,302	1,239	63	7,958	8,230	-272
Idaho	1,204	1,473	-269	12,127	13,658	-1,531
Illinois	9,021	10,189	-1,168	145,962	152,234	-6,272
Indiana	2,605	2,550	55	29,520	30,236	-716
Iowa	2,426	1,996	430	33,147	32,262	885
Kansas	2,049	1,850	199	13,301	13,417	-116
Kentucky	2,211	2,600	-389	22,075	24,073	-1,998
Louisiana	2,220	2,066	154	18,915	19,206	-291
Maine	735	953	-218	10,214	10,558	-344
Maryland	3,130	3,560	-430	37,639	41,707	-4,068
Massachusetts	5,298	6,012	-714	89,460	97,409	-7,949
Michigan	6,437	6,464	-27	83,613	95,588	-11,975
Minnesota	3,815	3,852	-37	67,497	64,883	2,614
Mississippi	1,054	1,177	-123	8,887	10,866	-1,979
Missouri	3,530	3,281	249	28,994	32,802	-3,808
Montana	797	926	-129	12,193	12,975	-782
Nebraska	745	645	100	7,326	7,743	-417
Nevada	2,452	2,367	85	21,953	24,826	-2,873
New Hampshire	583	1,081	-498	5,667	5,666	1
New Jersey	8,186	8,761	-575	119,138	121,426	-2,288
New Mexico	802	952	-150	11,988	12,638	-650
New York	16,266	32,767	-16,501	181,677	199,978	-18,301
North Carolina	3,270	3,155	115	23,652	25,082	-1,430
North Dakota	518	463	55	10,193	8,682	1,511
Ohio	6,506	6,733	-227	78,964	80,174	-1,210
Oklahoma	1,212	1,234	-22	15,798	16,436	-638
Oregon	3,951	4,573	-622	32,715	33,557	-842
Pennsylvania	15,477	15,557	-80	147,129	156,754	-9,625
Puerto Rico	1,479	2,026	-547	21,587	23,616	-2,029
Rhode Island	965	874	91	13,007	14,400	-1,393
South Carolina	1,996	2,062	-66	14,123	15,304	-1,181
South Dakota	190	228	-38	3,593	3,689	-96
Tennessee	2,129	2,343	-214	20,177	22,147	-1,970
Texas	14,307	13,841	466	145,932	150,379	-4,447
Utah	1,141	1,139	2	12,803	13,259	-456
Vermont	460	785	-325	6,725	6,512	213
Virgin Islands	25	42	-17	508	444	64
Virginia	3,191	3,328	-137	29,616	28,908	708
Washington	6,818	6,257	561	63,320	63,286	34
West Virginia	831	946	-115	15,171	15,457	-286
Wisconsin	6,717	6,996	-279	53,296	53,664	-368
Wyoming	447	566	-119	5,633	6,092	-459
US Total	222,510	243,959	-21,449	2,348,718	2,447,592	-98,874

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.

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 5, 2016	253	-9	259.75	2,212	14	2,218.50	1.6
March 12, 2016	259	6	259.50	2,180	-32	2,205.25	1.6
March 19, 2016	265	6	259.75	2,172	-8	2,190.50	1.6
March 26, 2016	276	11	263.25	2,189	17	2,188.25	1.6
April 2, 2016	266	-10	266.50	2,176	-13	2,179.25	1.6
April 9, 2016	253	-13	265.00	2,135	-41	2,168.00	1.6
April 16, 2016	248	-5	260.75	2,129	-6	2,157.25	1.6
April 23, 2016	257	9	256.00	2,124	-5	2,141.00	1.6
April 30, 2016	274	17	258.00	2,165	41	2,138.25	1.6
May 7, 2016	294	20	268.25	2,153	-12	2,142.75	1.6
May 14, 2016	278	-16	275.75	2,160	7	2,150.50	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-10	278.50	2,172	12	2,162.50	1.6
May 28, 2016	268	0	277.00	2,112	-60	2,149.25	1.5
June 4, 2016	264	-4	269.50	2,162	50	2,151.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	277	13	269.25	2,139	-23	2,146.25	1.6
June 18, 2016	258	-19	266.75	2,167	28	2,145.00	1.6
June 25, 2016	270	12	267.25	2,117	-50	2,146.25	1.5
July 2, 2016	254	-16	264.75	2,153	36	2,144.00	1.6
July 9, 2016	254	0	259.00	2,132	-21	2,142.25	1.5
July 16, 2016	252	-2	257.50	2,144	12	2,136.50	1.6
July 23, 2016	266	14	256.50	2,141	-3	2,142.50	1.6
July 30, 2016	267	1	259.75	2,160	19	2,144.25	1.6
August 6, 2016	266	-1	262.75	2,175	15	2,155.00	1.6
August 13, 2016	262	-4	265.25	2,145	-30	2,155.25	1.6
August 20, 2016	261	-1	264.00	2,157	12	2,159.25	1.6
August 27, 2016	263	2	263.00	2,142	-15	2,154.75	1.6
September 3, 2016	259	-4	261.25	2,149	7	2,148.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	260	1	260.75	2,108	-41	2,139.00	1.5
September 17, 2016	251	-9	258.25	2,064	-44	2,115.75	1.5
September 24, 2016	254	3	256.00	2,062	-2	2,095.75	1.5
October 1, 2016	246	-8	252.75	2,050	-12	2,071.00	1.5
October 8, 2016	247	1	249.50	2,054	4	2,057.50	1.5
October 15, 2016	261	14	252.00	2,040	-14	2,051.50	1.5
October 22, 2016	259	-2	253.25	2,030	-10	2,043.50	1.5
October 29, 2016	266	7	258.25	2,043	13	2,041.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	254	-12	260.00	1,983	-60	2,024.00	1.4
November 12, 2016	233	-21	253.00	2,043	60	2,024.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	251	18	251.00	2,084	41	2,038.25	1.5
November 26, 2016	268	17	251.50	2,007	-77	2,029.25	1.5
December 3, 2016	258	-10	252.50	2,021	14	2,038.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	254	-4	257.75	2,039	18	2,037.75	1.5
December 17, 2016	275	21	263.75	2,105	66	2,043.00	1.5
December 24, 2016	267	-8	263.50	2,116	11	2,070.25	1.5
December 31, 2016	237	-30	258.25	2,093	-23	2,088.25	1.5
January 7, 2017	249	12	257.00	2,059	-34	2,093.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	237	-12	247.50	2,103	44	2,092.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	260	23	245.75	2,063	-40	2,079.50	1.5
January 28, 2017	248	-12	248.50	2,079	16	2,076.00	1.5
February 4, 2017	234	-14	244.75	2,077	-2	2,080.50	1.5
February 11, 2017	238	4	245.00	2,063	-14	2,070.50	1.5
February 18, 2017	242	4	240.50	2,064	1	2,070.75	1.5
February 25, 2017	223	-19	234.25	2,060	-4	2,066.00	1.5
March 4, 2017	243	20	236.50	2,030	-30	2,054.25	1.5
March 11, 2017	241	-2	237.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 4

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 25

INITIAL CLAIMS							INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		CHANGE FROM			CHANGE FROM					
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2146	231	-1218	9	19	18262	1.0	-520	-3915	79	116	18457
Alaska	1183	168	-104	4	0	13228	4.2	-610	-1070	207	44	13479
Arizona	3808	411	-106	6	2	25149	1.0	-150	-1290	242	87	25478
Arkansas	1715	-29	-385	5	2	15217	1.3	25	-4793	75	82	15374
California	45208	1880	66	125	182	435797	2.7	35002	20604	2824	2385	441006
Colorado	2190	153	-576	9	34	29769	1.2	1138	-4473	311	457	30537
Connecticut	3618	458	479	7	9	49001	3.0	556	-765	77	117	49195
Delaware	539	5	-123	0	4	8393	1.9	1137	-556	14	22	8429
District of Columbia	326	45	28	29	0	8731	1.6	127	584	1130	6	9867
Florida	6354	31	-1022	12	47	41807	0.5	-1015	-7463	179	212	42198
Georgia	6963	1734	189	17	33	32015	0.8	70	-2080	177	316	32508
Hawaii	1239	108	70	3	7	8230	1.4	529	1707	47	116	8393
Idaho	1473	130	187	9	3	13658	2.1	-193	838	309	40	14007
Illinois	10189	2552	-548	6	10	152234	2.6	2282	-6980	339	209	152782
Indiana	2550	101	-1022	3	6	30236	1.0	-1574	-3943	80	64	30380
Iowa	1996	-79	-261	1	5	32262	2.1	-778	-1209	71	49	32382
Kansas	1850	77	-229	2	3	13417	1.0	-619	-3920	50	61	13528
Kentucky	2600	158	-250	5	0	24073	1.3	223	-5464	101	226	24400
Louisiana	2066	-207	-884	2	1	19206	1.0	-749	-3911	49	38	19293
Maine	953	125	-11	1	2	10558	1.8	152	-1923	53	32	10643
Maryland	3560	544	-133	24	16	41707	1.7	-773	-4972	405	201	42313
Massachusetts	6012	-3422	611	12	19	97409	2.9	5218	1687	200	204	97813
Michigan	6464	-165	-540	7	16	95588	2.3	3522	-4514	246	180	96014
Minnesota	3852	535	-133	8	9	64883	2.3	83	-3792	146	83	65112
Mississippi	1177	133	-336	5	5	10866	1.0	-276	-1316	119	52	11037
Missouri	3281	120	-691	5	2	32802	1.2	-1052	-4004	123	84	33009
Montana	926	151	-74	20	3	12975	3.0	341	-479	620	30	13625
Nebraska	645	-9	-111	3	1	7743	0.8	-290	-381	25	12	7780
Nevada	2367	41	-195	4	7	24826	2.0	368	-1683	195	106	25127
New Hampshire	1081	437	341	4	1	5666	0.9	33	-1723	7	7	5680
New Jersey	8761	-72	-374	19	18	121426	3.1	1539	-4133	229	370	122025
New Mexico	952	19	-218	2	0	12638	1.6	46	-2220	274	64	12976
New York	32767	17680	15662	27	39	199978	2.2	16651	3947	343	541	200862
North Carolina	3155	327	-647	9	16	25082	0.6	-1165	-4943	137	248	25467
North Dakota	463	41	-312	1	1	8682	2.1	-123	-1531	11	6	8699
Ohio	6733	905	-1026	13	26	80174	1.5	-2742	-8982	127	300	80601
Oklahoma	1234	-11	-699	6	10	16436	1.1	-625	-6181	74	123	16633
Oregon	4573	410	300	26	21	33557	1.9	283	-346	667	147	34371
Pennsylvania	15557	2121	-2124	83	48	156754	2.8	5008	-24117	556	411	157721
Puerto Rico	2026	473	330	2	5	23616	2.7	-131	-1359	45	112	23773
Rhode Island	874	-1332	-47	5	1	14400	3.1	1160	1000	25	32	14457
South Carolina	2062	159	-744	2	12	15304	0.8	-548	-1727	55	127	15486
South Dakota	228	51	5	4	1	3689	0.9	-53	259	49	5	3743
Tennessee	2343	358	-1076	9	1	22147	0.8	205	-6663	429	186	22762
Texas	13841	1548	-3802	25	182	150379	1.3	-2498	-26181	513	1964	152856
Utah	1139	103	-184	10	6	13259	1.0	-471	-971	220	27	13506
Vermont	785	2	312	2	1	6512	2.2	284	-547	15	8	6535
Virgin Islands	42	27	17	0	0	444	1.2	-76	-78	0	10	454
Virginia	3328	344	-237	17	29	28908	0.8	-353	-5866	417	433	29758
Washington	6257	723	-680	9	26	63286	2.0	-2244	4334	294	529	64109
West Virginia	946	49	-314	0	1	15457	2.3	-296	-6839	50	47	15554
Wisconsin	6996	637	-654	10	2	53664	1.9	-922	-6258	125	39	53828
Wyoming	566	151	-176	4	0	6092	2.3	-16	-2627	150	22	6264
Totals	243959	31130	-3669	632	894	2447592	1.8	55120	-153228	13305	11389	2472286

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 MARCH 4, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+17,680	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
IL	+2,552	Layoffs in the construction, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, wholesale trade, and retail trade industries.
PA	+2,121	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, manufacturing, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing industries.
CA	+1,880	No comment.
GA	+1,734	Layoffs in the manufacturing, trade, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and construction industries.
TX	+1,548	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, health care and social assistance, and retail industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-3,422	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and accommodation and food service industries.
RI	-1,332	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

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