



News Release

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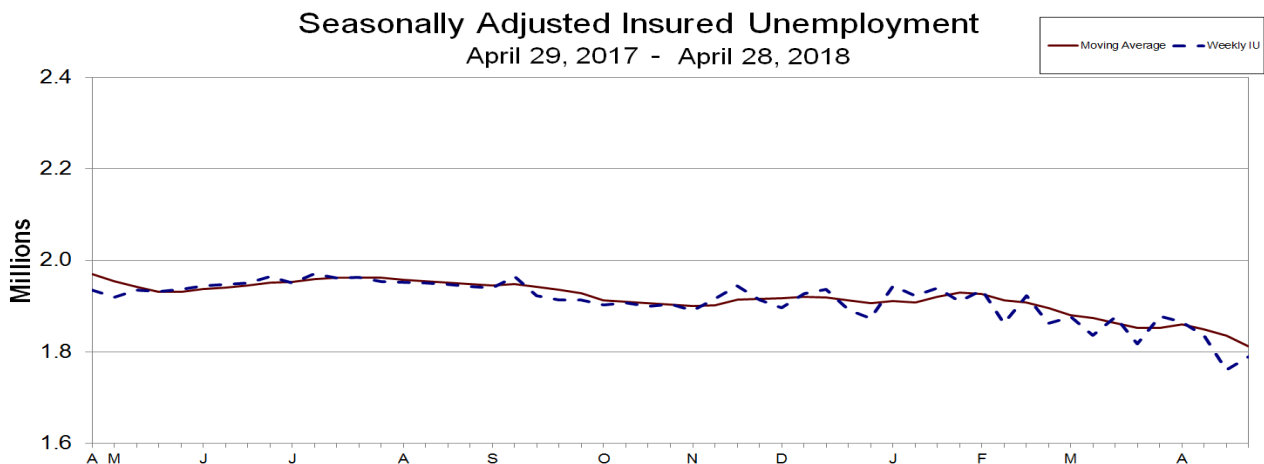
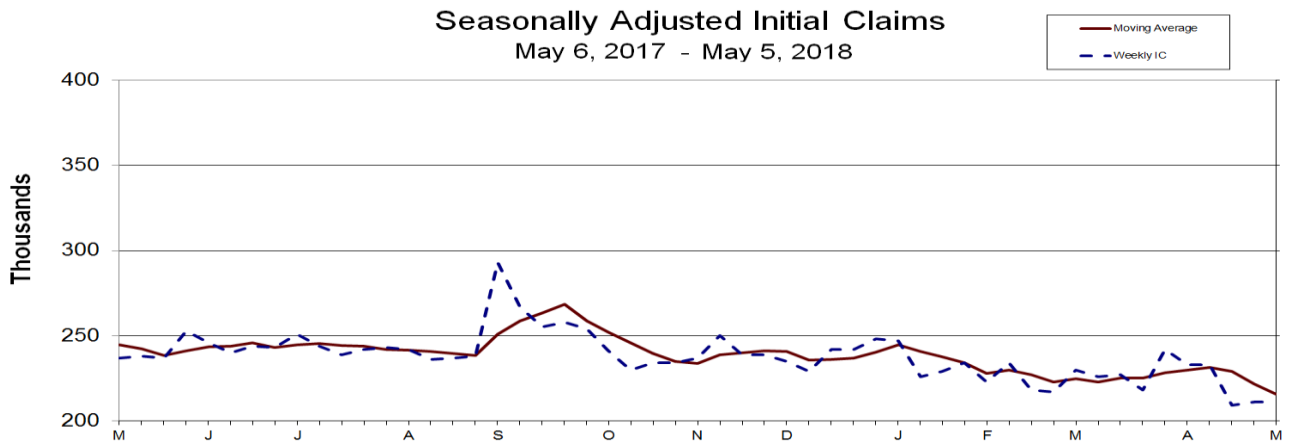
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 5, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 211,000, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised level of 211,000. The 4-week moving average was 216,000, a decrease of 5,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 221,500. This is the lowest level for this average since December 20, 1969 when it was 214,500.

Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

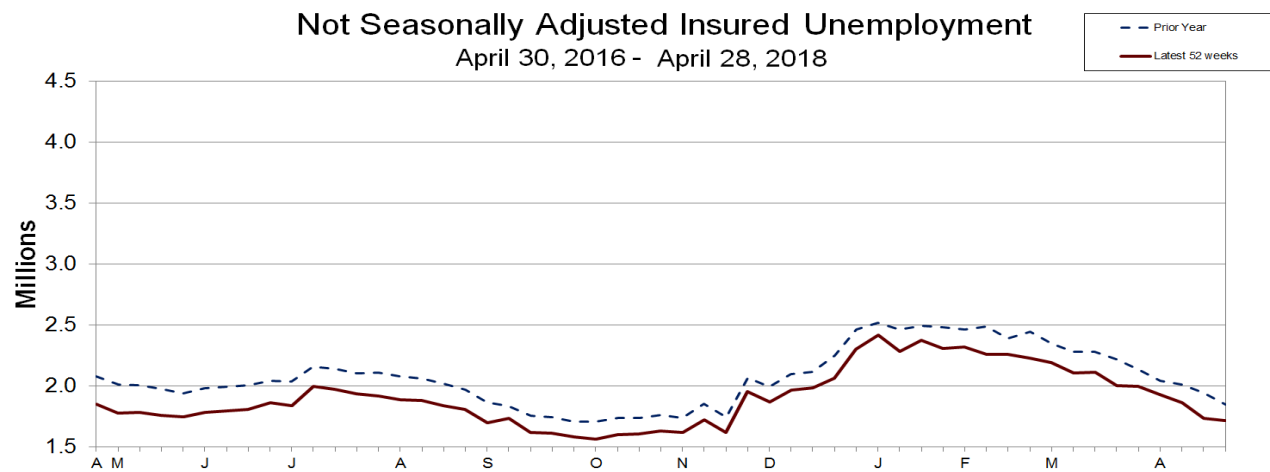
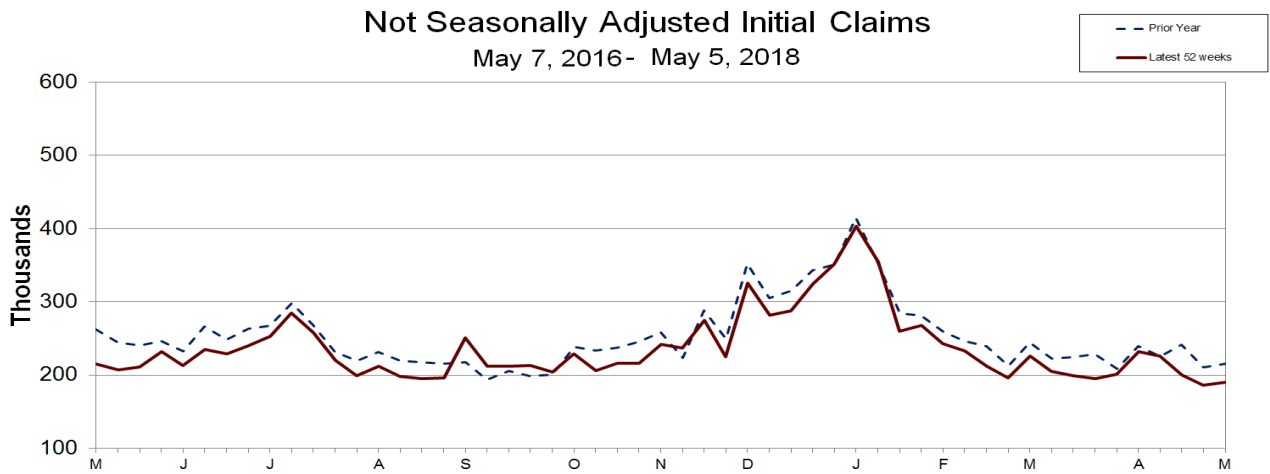
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending April 28, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 28 was 1,790,000, an increase of 30,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 1,756,000 to 1,760,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,812,500, a decrease of 22,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 29, 1973 when it was 1,784,250. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 1,833,250 to 1,834,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 190,084 in the week ending May 5, an increase of 3,633 (or 1.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 3,590 (or 1.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 215,040 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending April 28, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,719,741, a decrease of 19,135 (or -1.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 47,520 (or -2.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,852,170.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 21 was 1,767,583, a decrease of 129,133 from the previous week. There were 1,987,366 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in the Virgin Islands during the week ending April 21.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 544 in the week ending April 28, a decrease of 24 from the prior week. There were 643 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 100 from the preceding week.

There were 8,177 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 21, a decrease of 1,508 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,589, a decrease of 241 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 21 were in Alaska (3.0), the Virgin Islands (2.9), Connecticut (2.3), New Jersey (2.2), Puerto Rico (2.1), Rhode Island (2.1), California (2.0), Illinois (1.8), Pennsylvania (1.8), Massachusetts (1.7), and Minnesota (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 28 were in Wisconsin (+519), Arkansas (+485), New Hampshire (+364), Tennessee (+302), and Louisiana (+282), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-3,917), Rhode Island (-1,980), Pennsylvania (-1,536), Arizona (-1,471), and Connecticut (-1,109).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 5	April 28	Change	April 21	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	211,000	211,000	0	209,000	237,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	190,084	186,451	+3,633	200,139	215,040
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	216,000	221,500	-5,500	229,250	244,500
WEEK ENDING	April 28	April 21	Change	April 14	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,790,000	1,760,000	+30,000	1,834,000	1,935,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,719,741	1,738,876	-19,135	1,865,447	1,852,170
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,812,500	1,834,500	-22,000	1,849,000	1,970,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.2%	+0.1	1.3%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.3%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 28	April 21	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	544	568	-24	611
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	643	543	+100	777

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 21	April 14	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,736,700	1,862,865	-126,165	1,948,030
Federal Employees	8,177	9,685	-1,508	10,216
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,589	7,830	-241	10,955
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1	375	-374	20
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,842	7,194	-352	7,633
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,274	8,767	-493	10,512
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,767,583	1,896,716	-129,133	1,987,366

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 141,433,196 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 May 5			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 28		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,410	2,036	374	14,648	14,216	432
Alaska	1,035	944	91	9,381	9,274	107
Arizona	4,393	4,510	-117	23,862	26,390	-2,528
Arkansas	1,451	1,909	-458	10,590	10,993	-403
California	39,619	39,940	-321	378,806	337,467	41,339
Colorado *	1,899	1,755	144	21,848	19,891	1,957
Connecticut	2,474	3,243	-769	35,074	38,303	-3,229
Delaware	393	454	-61	4,529	4,450	79
District of Columbia	535	261	274	7,069	7,655	-586
Florida	6,480	6,302	178	32,973	37,030	-4,057
Georgia	4,859	4,124	735	24,005	24,998	-993
Hawaii	1,291	1,339	-48	7,211	6,552	659
Idaho	971	778	193	7,036	5,532	1,504
Illinois	8,136	7,818	318	101,658	103,024	-1,366
Indiana	2,222	1,948	274	15,551	15,815	-264
Iowa	1,786	1,559	227	15,695	18,256	-2,561
Kansas	1,465	1,430	35	8,650	8,610	40
Kentucky	2,002	1,817	185	16,886	17,727	-841
Louisiana	1,880	2,242	-362	13,693	15,278	-1,585
Maine *	658	776	-118	6,607	7,190	-583
Maryland	2,569	2,886	-317	25,758	28,721	-2,963
Massachusetts	4,401	4,801	-400	51,043	57,700	-6,657
Michigan	4,269	4,135	134	45,940	53,620	-7,680
Minnesota	2,934	2,985	-51	43,746	48,894	-5,148
Mississippi	969	936	33	6,462	7,158	-696
Missouri	2,816	2,560	256	19,688	20,654	-966
Montana	635	731	-96	6,507	7,262	-755
Nebraska	615	527	88	3,760	3,973	-213
Nevada	2,300	2,160	140	17,417	19,032	-1,615
New Hampshire	455	887	-432	3,987	4,015	-28
New Jersey	7,193	7,098	95	85,302	87,731	-2,429
New Mexico	720	659	61	9,019	9,394	-375
New York	13,268	13,435	-167	129,992	136,170	-6,178
North Carolina	2,858	2,657	201	18,016	19,231	-1,215
North Dakota	294	265	29	3,779	4,310	-531
Ohio	6,784	5,040	1,744	49,892	53,377	-3,485
Oklahoma	1,220	1,256	-36	12,570	13,098	-528
Oregon	3,303	3,204	99	26,040	26,830	-790
Pennsylvania	12,515	10,866	1,649	105,027	100,755	4,272
Puerto Rico ^{IM}	943	1,073	-130	16,884	17,863	-979
Rhode Island	699	651	48	7,583	9,816	-2,233
South Carolina	1,846	2,089	-243	13,480	15,247	-1,767
South Dakota	131	147	-16	1,530	1,985	-455
Tennessee	2,168	2,218	-50	16,721	17,779	-1,058
Texas	13,812	12,086	1,726	119,733	116,000	3,733
Utah	1,093	1,002	91	7,681	7,881	-200
Vermont	426	713	-287	4,330	4,727	-397
Virgin Islands ^{IM}	11	20	-9	1,518	1,088	430
Virginia	2,677	2,234	443	20,717	21,060	-343
Washington	5,164	5,100	64	47,451	47,256	195
West Virginia	773	826	-53	10,043	9,802	241
Wisconsin	3,973	5,768	-1,795	29,429	34,663	-5,234
Wyoming	291	251	40	2,924	3,133	-209
US Total	190,084	186,451	3,633	1,719,741	1,738,876	-19,135

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.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria.

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 29, 2017	242	-10	244.25	1,935	-45	1,970.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	237	-5	244.50	1,920	-15	1,954.75	1.4
May 13, 2017	238	1	242.25	1,935	15	1,942.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	237	-1	238.50	1,932	-3	1,930.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	253	16	241.25	1,937	5	1,931.00	1.4
June 3, 2017	246	-7	243.50	1,945	8	1,937.25	1.4
June 10, 2017	240	-6	244.00	1,947	2	1,940.25	1.4
June 17, 2017	244	4	245.75	1,950	3	1,944.75	1.4
June 24, 2017	243	-1	243.25	1,964	14	1,951.50	1.4
July 1, 2017	251	8	244.50	1,951	-13	1,953.00	1.4
July 8, 2017	244	-7	245.50	1,971	20	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	239	-5	244.25	1,962	-9	1,962.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	242	3	244.00	1,963	1	1,961.75	1.4
July 29, 2017	243	1	242.00	1,954	-9	1,962.50	1.4
August 5, 2017	242	-1	241.50	1,952	-2	1,957.75	1.4
August 12, 2017	236	-6	240.75	1,950	-2	1,954.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	237	1	239.50	1,947	-3	1,950.75	1.4
August 26, 2017	238	1	238.25	1,943	-4	1,948.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	293	55	251.00	1,940	-3	1,945.00	1.4
September 9, 2017	267	-26	258.75	1,965	25	1,948.75	1.4
September 16, 2017	255	-12	263.25	1,923	-42	1,942.75	1.4
September 23, 2017	258	3	268.25	1,913	-10	1,935.25	1.4
September 30, 2017	254	-4	258.50	1,914	1	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	241	-13	252.00	1,903	-11	1,913.25	1.4
October 14, 2017	230	-11	245.75	1,907	4	1,909.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	4	239.75	1,899	-8	1,905.75	1.4
October 28, 2017	234	0	234.75	1,904	5	1,903.25	1.4
November 4, 2017	237	3	233.75	1,890	-14	1,900.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	250	13	238.75	1,916	26	1,902.25	1.4
November 18, 2017	239	-11	240.00	1,945	29	1,913.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	239	0	241.25	1,913	-32	1,916.00	1.4
December 2, 2017	235	-4	240.75	1,896	-17	1,917.50	1.3
December 9, 2017	229	-6	235.50	1,928	32	1,920.50	1.4
December 16, 2017	242	13	236.25	1,936	8	1,918.25	1.4
December 23, 2017	242	0	237.00	1,891	-45	1,912.75	1.3
December 30, 2017	248	6	240.25	1,873	-18	1,907.00	1.3
January 6, 2018	247	-1	244.75	1,944	71	1,911.00	1.4
January 13, 2018	226	-21	240.75	1,922	-22	1,907.50	1.4
January 20, 2018	229	3	237.50	1,940	18	1,919.75	1.4
January 27, 2018	234	5	234.00	1,911	-29	1,929.25	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-11	228.00	1,935	24	1,927.00	1.4
February 10, 2018	234	11	230.00	1,862	-73	1,912.00	1.3
February 17, 2018	218	-16	227.25	1,922	60	1,907.50	1.4
February 24, 2018	217	-1	223.00	1,862	-60	1,895.25	1.3
March 3, 2018	230	13	224.75	1,877	15	1,880.75	1.3
March 10, 2018	226	-4	222.75	1,836	-41	1,874.25	1.3
March 17, 2018	227	1	225.00	1,876	40	1,862.75	1.3
March 24, 2018	218	-9	225.25	1,818	-58	1,851.75	1.3
March 31, 2018	242	24	228.25	1,878	60	1,852.00	1.3
April 7, 2018	233	-9	230.00	1,866	-12	1,859.50	1.3
April 14, 2018	233	0	231.50	1,834	-32	1,849.00	1.3
April 21, 2018	209	-24	229.25	1,760	-74	1,834.50	1.2
April 28, 2018	211	2	221.50	1,790	30	1,812.50	1.3
May 5, 2018	211	0	216.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED APRIL 28					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 21					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹ UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹ UCX ¹			
Alabama	2036	-16	-232	11	6	14216	0.8	-236	-2269	63	67	14346
Alaska	944	-40	-53	0	2	9274	3.0	-618	-1263	100	35	9410
Arizona	4510	-1471	-257	7	1	26390	1.0	1555	-2708	130	72	26592
Arkansas	1909	485	193	5	3	10993	0.9	-49	-1700	54	91	11138
California	39940	-733	-3966	110	110	337467	2.0	-49523	-44423	1985	1483	340935
Colorado	1755	-569	-552	11	18	19891	0.8	-1448	-3972	185	247	20323
Connecticut	3243	-1109	29	7	2	38303	2.3	-2147	759	55	83	38441
Delaware	454	13	-180	0	2	4450	1.0	-265	-1818	17	11	4478
District of Columbia	261	6	-88	9	1	7655	1.4	-1	-317	307	12	7974
Florida	6302	-79	-650	14	29	37030	0.4	-1707	-3828	121	177	37328
Georgia	4124	-680	-561	22	19	24998	0.6	-380	-2153	165	218	25381
Hawaii	1339	146	123	3	11	6552	1.1	-287	-1205	80	72	6704
Idaho	778	-77	-196	3	1	5532	0.8	-372	-2030	63	17	5612
Illinois	7818	-645	-1137	7	8	103024	1.8	-10634	-11191	264	242	103530
Indiana	1948	-32	-805	3	6	15815	0.5	-608	-4696	33	35	15883
Iowa	1559	-187	-754	3	4	18256	1.2	-1106	448	43	30	18329
Kansas	1430	17	-156	3	0	8610	0.6	-345	-1524	44	42	8696
Kentucky	1817	-117	-264	3	2	17727	1.0	-702	-983	78	125	17930
Louisiana	2242	282	-44	3	10	15278	0.8	-194	-4276	38	19	15335
Maine	776	112	-44	1	3	7190	1.2	107	-936	23	14	7227
Maryland	2886	50	-529	22	15	28721	1.1	-706	-4929	341	118	29180
Massachusetts	4801	-3917	-292	5	12	57700	1.7	134	-14291	81	139	57920
Michigan	4135	-691	-1450	10	14	53620	1.3	-6476	-5468	128	103	53851
Minnesota	2985	-66	98	3	2	48894	1.7	-1950	8098	80	65	49039
Mississippi	936	-101	-333	1	3	7158	0.6	-178	-1965	79	26	7263
Missouri	2560	-9	-542	2	8	20654	0.8	-851	-3570	89	51	20794
Montana	731	-91	-57	3	0	7262	1.6	-1063	-261	155	25	7442
Nebraska	527	-53	-80	1	0	3973	0.4	-419	-381	26	14	4013
Nevada	2160	-118	-183	6	3	19032	1.5	-243	-2523	112	74	19218
New Hampshire	887	364	-21	0	1	4015	0.6	-186	-320	4	8	4027
New Jersey	7098	-107	-1225	15	23	87731	2.2	-5733	-9659	284	279	88294
New Mexico	659	-50	-182	1	1	9394	1.2	-143	-1610	96	42	9532
New York	13435	-14	-4282	42	23	136170	1.5	-4783	-15127	345	384	136899
North Carolina	2657	86	-430	5	19	19231	0.5	-287	-2052	97	158	19486
North Dakota	265	-10	-55	8	2	4310	1.1	-677	507	13	3	4326
Ohio	5040	-184	-376	6	13	53377	1.0	-3335	-5829	102	164	53643
Oklahoma	1256	-83	-173	5	4	13098	0.9	-335	-1733	54	69	13221
Oregon	3204	-196	-311	14	6	26830	1.5	-910	-1041	309	95	27234
Pennsylvania	10866	-1536	-933	57	23	100755	1.8	-17206	-12468	416	296	101467
Puerto Rico	1073	14	-693	0	3	17863	2.1	-1736	-5487	25	77	17965
Rhode Island	651	-1980	-204	2	0	9816	2.1	1216	-791	22	18	9856
South Carolina	2089	145	-110	1	3	15247	0.8	925	2488	55	71	15373
South Dakota	147	-10	10	2	1	1985	0.5	-296	350	29	2	2016
Tennessee	2218	302	-720	10	13	17779	0.6	-336	-155	90	79	17948
Texas	12086	-135	-1138	61	165	116000	1.0	-7990	-23968	477	1207	117684
Utah	1002	-88	-280	7	2	7881	0.6	-346	-764	66	27	7974
Vermont	713	-239	-46	2	2	4727	1.6	151	-473	10	5	4742
Virgin Islands	20	-6	10	0	0	1088	2.9	-606	720	0	6	1094
Virginia	2234	-85	-407	10	20	21060	0.6	-755	-12280	229	246	21535
Washington	5100	-591	-822	7	20	47256	1.5	-2034	-4521	308	571	48135
West Virginia	826	-81	30	2	1	9802	1.5	-285	-1011	49	36	9887
Wisconsin	5768	519	948	7	2	34663	1.2	409	1502	74	29	34766
Wyoming	251	-33	-132	2	1	3133	1.2	-581	-758	84	10	3227
Totals	186451	-13688	-24504	544	643	1738876	1.2	-126571	-209855	8177	7589	1754643

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 28, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-3,917	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
RI	-1,980	No comment.
PA	-1,536	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.
AZ	-1,471	No comment.
CT	-1,109	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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