



News Release

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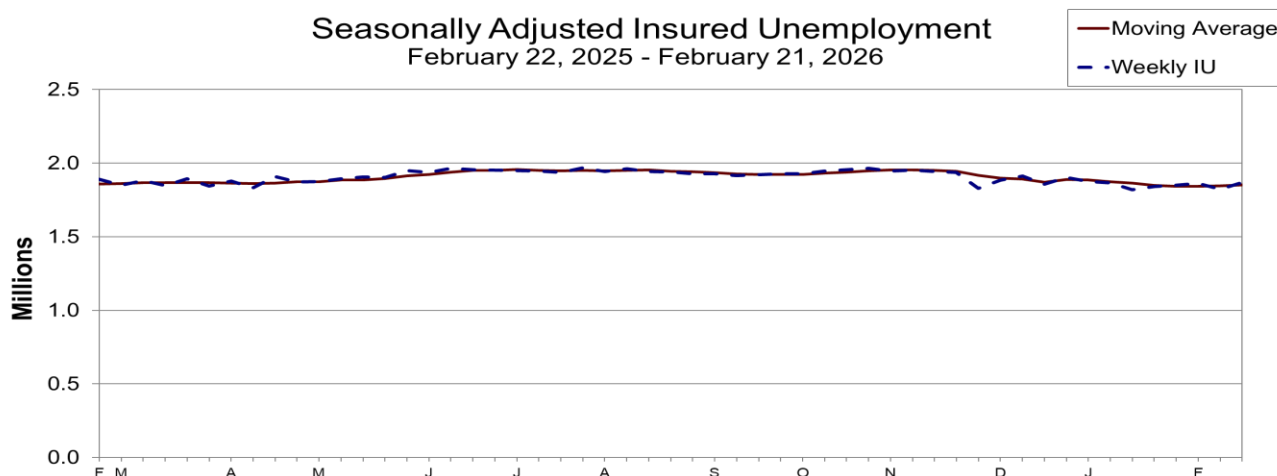
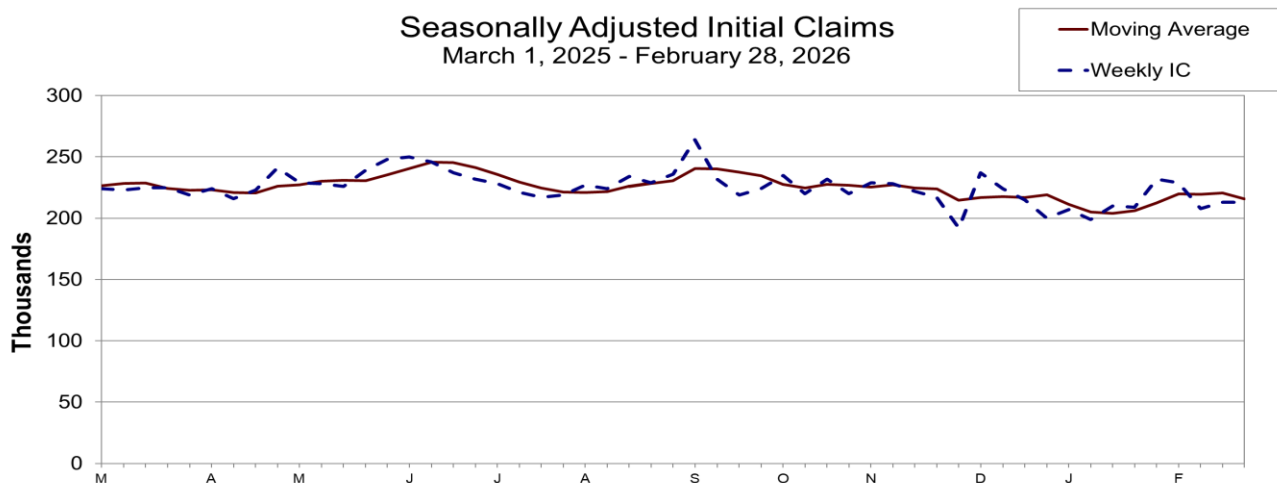
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 5, 2026

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 28, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 213,000, unchanged from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 212,000 to 213,000. The 4-week moving average was 215,750, a decrease of 4,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 220,250 to 220,500.

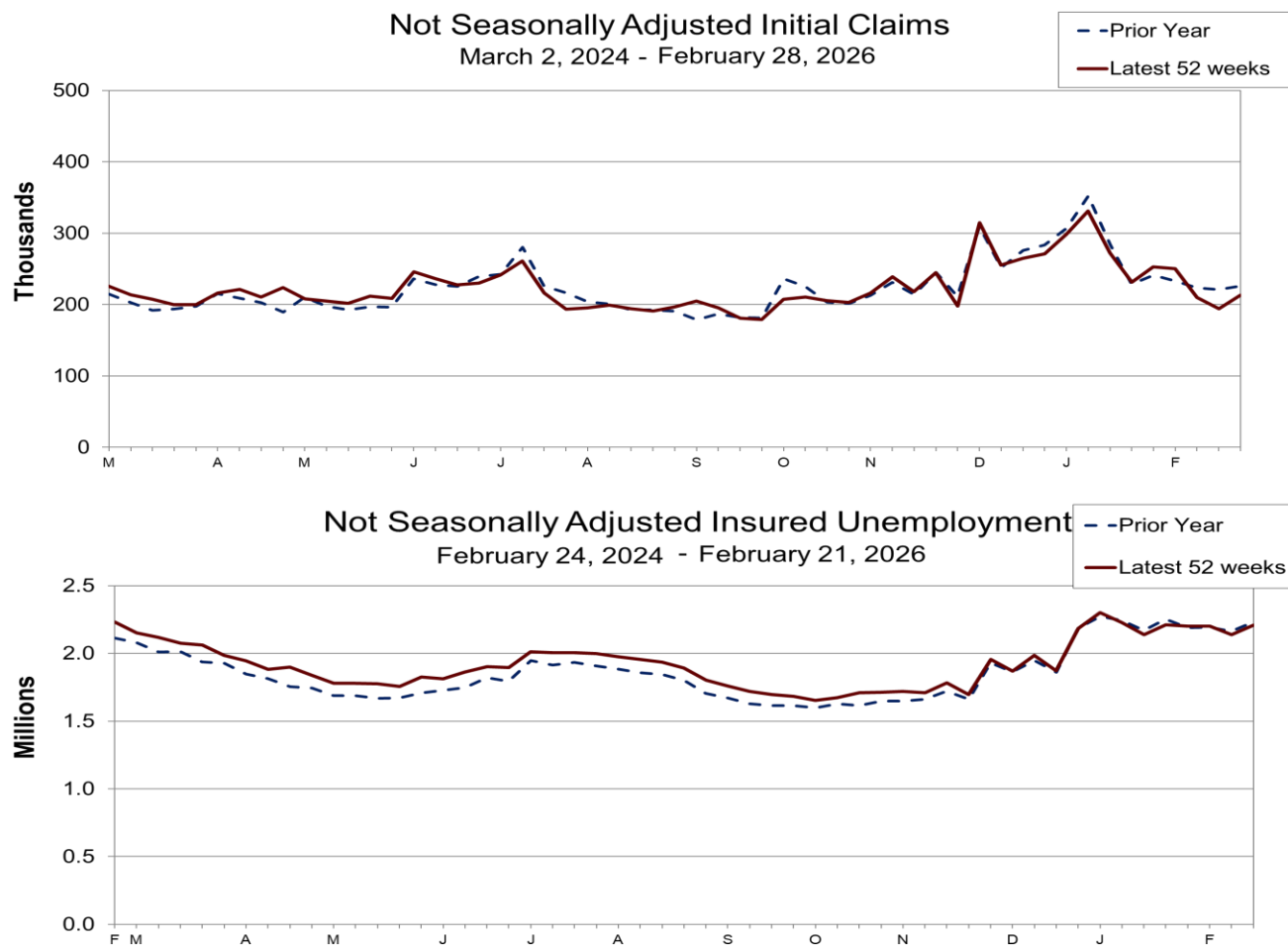
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending February 21, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 21 was 1,868,000, an increase of 46,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 11,000 from 1,833,000 to 1,822,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,851,500, an increase of 6,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 2,750 from 1,847,500 to 1,844,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 213,090 in the week ending February 28, an increase of 18,820 (or 9.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 18,938 (or 9.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 226,019 initial claims in the comparable week in 2025.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending February 21, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 2,208,197, an increase of 70,529 (or 3.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 16,402 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,231,017.



The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending February 14 was 2,173,255, a decrease of 65,762 from the previous week. There were 2,194,765 weekly claims filed for benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2025.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending February 14.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 529 in the week ending February 21, a decrease of 25 from the prior week. There were 369 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 59 from the preceding week.

There were 11,982 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending February 14, a decrease of 675 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 4,345, a decrease of 260 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 14 were in Rhode Island (3.0), New Jersey (2.9), Massachusetts (2.8), Washington (2.5), Minnesota (2.4), Illinois (2.2), New York (2.2), California (2.1), Montana (2.1), Oregon (2.0), and Pennsylvania (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 21 were in Rhode Island (+1,515), Oklahoma (+351), Tennessee (+218), Hawaii (+202), and Maine (+125), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-3,577), New York (-2,694), Ohio (-1,956), Texas (-1,184), and Kentucky (-1,012).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 28	February 21	Change	February 14	Prior Year ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	213,000	213,000	0	208,000	224,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	213,090	194,270	+18,820	209,830	226,019
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	215,750	220,500	-4,750	219,500	226,500

WEEK ENDING	February 21	February 14	Change	February 7	Prior Year ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,868,000	1,822,000	+46,000	1,864,000	1,892,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,208,197	2,137,668	+70,529	2,200,961	2,231,017
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,851,500	1,844,750	+6,750	1,844,000	1,859,750
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 21	February 14	Change	Prior Year ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	529	554	-25	1,634
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	369	428	-59	312

CONTINUED WEEKS CLAIMED FILED FOR UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 14	February 7	Change	Prior Year ¹
Regular State	2,130,348	2,192,800	-62,452	2,154,632
Federal Employees	11,982	12,657	-675	7,412
Newly Discharged Veterans	4,345	4,605	-260	4,306
Extended Benefits ³	13	65	-52	56
State Additional Benefits ⁴	3,365	3,511	-146	2,791
STC / Workshare ⁵	23,202	25,379	-2,177	25,568
TOTAL	2,173,255	2,239,017	-65,762	2,194,765

FOOTNOTES

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data Continued weeks claimed represent all weeks of benefits claimed during the week being reported, and do not represent weeks claimed by unique individuals.

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 153,398,888 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 benefits, and when applicable, extended 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 4-11 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 28			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 21		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,619	1,621	-2	7,738	8,902	-1,164
Alaska	518	453	65	5,203	5,429	-226
Arizona	2,177	2,386	-209	15,254	17,658	-2,404
Arkansas	1,569	1,311	258	4,426	4,401	25
California	42,065	42,563	-498	421,296	374,922	46,374
Colorado	2,866	2,989	-123	38,222	35,693	2,529
Connecticut	3,951	3,098	853	34,528	32,853	1,675
Delaware	267	287	-20	6,742	6,638	104
District of Columbia	865	607	258	9,031	8,103	928
Florida	4,845	5,608	-763	25,010	28,962	-3,952
Georgia	3,973	4,171	-198	25,448	27,151	-1,703
Hawaii	971	1,134	-163	5,799	5,818	-19
Idaho	911	906	5	10,258	11,012	-754
Illinois	7,349	7,211	138	130,469	129,370	1,099
Indiana	2,525	2,469	56	25,243	25,628	-385
Iowa	1,486	1,543	-57	18,715	20,954	-2,239
Kansas	1,247	998	249	9,699	9,297	402
Kentucky	1,965	1,769	196	17,914	15,240	2,674
Louisiana	1,115	1,101	14	5,271	6,804	-1,533
Maine	522	643	-121	9,910	9,462	448
Maryland	1,765	2,129	-364	26,637	27,261	-624
Massachusetts	4,861	5,693	-832	103,122	98,894	4,228
Michigan	8,166	3,738	4,428	88,841	78,623	10,218
Minnesota	3,792	3,623	169	75,080	70,667	4,413
Mississippi	746	849	-103	5,686	6,344	-658
Missouri	2,234	2,309	-75	21,349	22,149	-800
Montana	581	678	-97	11,088	10,593	495
Nebraska	587	524	63	7,898	8,387	-489
Nevada	2,336	2,807	-471	28,294	27,452	842
New Hampshire	859	478	381	3,844	4,814	-970
New Jersey	10,102	9,228	874	122,314	122,639	-325
New Mexico	776	790	-14	11,280	10,903	377
New York	31,507	14,073	17,434	225,548	209,519	16,029
North Carolina	2,963	3,200	-237	19,203	20,731	-1,528
North Dakota	414	306	108	7,109	6,495	614
Ohio	4,780	4,977	-197	61,699	66,366	-4,667
Oklahoma	1,035	2,392	-1,357	10,379	10,375	4
Oregon	5,063	4,937	126	42,416	39,564	2,852
Pennsylvania	9,724	9,486	238	114,025	116,299	-2,274
Puerto Rico	981	1,166	-185	7,079	16,974	-9,895
Rhode Island	1,052	2,669	-1,617	16,191	14,584	1,607
South Carolina	1,877	1,893	-16	15,100	15,557	-457
South Dakota	215	202	13	3,158	3,138	20
Tennessee	2,611	3,532	-921	18,328	18,888	-560
Texas	15,746	14,698	1,048	153,107	150,395	2,712
Utah	1,413	965	448	15,909	16,172	-263
Vermont	779	384	395	4,105	3,901	204
Virgin Islands	10	11	-1	240	204	36
Virginia	2,541	2,533	8	22,356	20,698	1,658
Washington	5,935	5,918	17	94,942	89,261	5,681
West Virginia	663	1,009	-346	9,431	10,197	-766
Wisconsin	3,855	3,870	-15	33,054	32,429	625
Wyoming	315	335	-20	3,209	2,898	311
US Total	213,090	194,270	18,820	2,208,197	2,137,668	70,529

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 claims 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	Change from			Change from			IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average	Insured Unemployment	Prior Week	4-Week Average	
February 22, 2025	243	19	226.00	1,892	45	1,859.75	1.2
March 1, 2025	224	-19	226.50	1,851	-41	1,862.75	1.2
March 8, 2025	223	-1	228.50	1,881	30	1,867.75	1.2
March 15, 2025	225	2	228.75	1,847	-34	1,867.75	1.2
March 22, 2025	225	0	224.25	1,893	46	1,868.00	1.2
March 29, 2025	219	-6	223.00	1,844	-49	1,866.25	1.2
April 5, 2025	224	5	223.25	1,878	34	1,865.50	1.2
April 12, 2025	216	-8	221.00	1,833	-45	1,862.00	1.2
April 19, 2025	223	7	220.50	1,908	75	1,865.75	1.3
April 26, 2025	241	18	226.00	1,872	-36	1,872.75	1.2
May 3, 2025	229	-12	227.25	1,877	5	1,872.50	1.2
May 10, 2025	228	-1	230.25	1,893	16	1,887.50	1.2
May 17, 2025	226	-2	231.00	1,907	14	1,887.25	1.3
May 24, 2025	239	13	230.50	1,902	-5	1,894.75	1.2
May 31, 2025	248	9	235.25	1,951	49	1,913.25	1.3
June 7, 2025	250	2	240.75	1,937	-14	1,924.25	1.3
June 14, 2025	246	-4	245.75	1,964	27	1,938.50	1.3
June 21, 2025	237	-9	245.25	1,956	-8	1,952.00	1.3
June 28, 2025	232	-5	241.25	1,954	-2	1,952.75	1.3
July 5, 2025	228	-4	235.75	1,951	-3	1,956.25	1.3
July 12, 2025	221	-7	229.50	1,946	-5	1,951.75	1.3
July 19, 2025	217	-4	224.50	1,936	-10	1,946.75	1.3
July 26, 2025	219	2	221.25	1,968	32	1,950.25	1.3
August 2, 2025	227	8	221.00	1,942	-26	1,948.00	1.3
August 9, 2025	224	-3	221.75	1,961	19	1,951.75	1.3
August 16, 2025	234	10	226.00	1,944	-17	1,953.75	1.3
August 23, 2025	229	-5	228.50	1,939	-5	1,946.50	1.3
August 30, 2025	236	7	230.75	1,927	-12	1,942.75	1.3
September 6, 2025	264	28	240.75	1,928	1	1,934.50	1.3
September 13, 2025	232	-32	240.25	1,916	-12	1,927.50	1.3
September 20, 2025	219	-13	237.75	1,921	5	1,923.00	1.3
September 27, 2025	224	5	234.75	1,929	8	1,923.50	1.3
October 4, 2025	235	11	227.50	1,928	-1	1,923.50	1.3
October 11, 2025	220	-15	224.50	1,947	19	1,931.25	1.3
October 18, 2025	232	12	227.75	1,957	10	1,940.25	1.3
October 25, 2025	220	-12	226.75	1,964	7	1,949.00	1.3
November 1, 2025	229	9	225.25	1,946	-18	1,953.50	1.3
November 8, 2025	228	-1	227.25	1,953	7	1,955.00	1.3
November 15, 2025	222	-6	224.75	1,944	-9	1,951.75	1.3
November 22, 2025	217	-5	224.00	1,937	-7	1,945.00	1.3
November 29, 2025	192	-25	214.75	1,830	-107	1,916.00	1.2
December 6, 2025	237	45	217.00	1,885	55	1,899.00	1.2
December 13, 2025	224	-13	217.50	1,914	29	1,891.50	1.2
December 20, 2025	215	-9	217.00	1,856	-58	1,871.25	1.2
December 27, 2025	200	-15	219.00	1,903	47	1,889.50	1.2
January 3, 2026	207	7	211.50	1,875	-28	1,887.00	1.2
January 10, 2026	199	-8	205.25	1,865	-10	1,874.75	1.2
January 17, 2026	210	11	204.00	1,819	-46	1,865.50	1.2
January 24, 2026	209	-1	206.25	1,841	22	1,850.00	1.2
January 31, 2026	232	23	212.50	1,852	11	1,844.25	1.2
February 7, 2026	229	-3	220.00	1,864	12	1,844.00	1.2
February 14, 2026	208	-21	219.50	1,822	-42	1,844.75	1.2
February 21, 2026	213	5	220.50	1,868	46	1,851.50	1.2
February 28, 2026	213	0	215.75				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 21						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 14						
STATE NAME	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	TOTAL INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	1,621	-236	-214	7	7	8,902	0.4	-116	-256	62	23	8,987
Alaska	453	-26	-95	0	0	5,429	1.7	-185	-224	93	5	5,527
Arizona	2,386	-115	-417	2	9	17,658	0.6	-197	-4,819	68	21	17,747
Arkansas	1,311	-62	441	0	0	4,401	0.3	-1,456	-2,970	24	5	4,430
California	42,563	-357	205	132	73	374,922	2.1	-19,945	-31,668	1,688	1,030	377,640
Colorado	2,989	-34	-239	3	12	35,693	1.3	12	1,908	331	185	36,209
Connecticut	3,098	59	98	1	4	32,853	1.9	324	885	46	33	32,932
Delaware	287	-26	30	5	5	6,638	1.4	-355	385	30	4	6,672
District of Columbia	607	-26	-1,286	23	0	8,103	1.4	-135	-1,067	1,092	7	9,202
Florida	5,608	-276	-305	23	20	28,962	0.3	-722	-4,421	172	65	29,199
Georgia	4,171	-122	-936	28	20	27,151	0.6	-400	-3,152	282	61	27,494
Hawaii	1,134	202	249	2	6	5,818	1.0	223	394	56	45	5,919
Idaho	906	-44	-479	4	0	11,012	1.3	-159	-1,079	187	8	11,207
Illinois	7,211	-39	-3,855	12	2	129,370	2.2	-6,301	-6,191	408	111	129,889
Indiana	2,469	-472	-593	5	3	25,628	0.8	-1,106	-3,280	49	46	25,723
Iowa	1,543	-918	-1,348	4	0	20,954	1.4	294	-2,447	20	7	20,981
Kansas	998	-346	-750	1	3	9,297	0.7	-604	-2,299	29	22	9,348
Kentucky	1,769	-1,012	-254	0	0	15,240	0.8	-2,436	-176	96	22	15,358
Louisiana	1,101	-276	-567	4	2	6,804	0.4	-485	-4,586	37	9	6,850
Maine	643	125	23	2	0	9,462	1.5	-69	450	42	3	9,507
Maryland	2,129	-365	-655	39	7	27,261	1.0	-994	1,009	749	51	28,061
Massachusetts	5,693	-29	-3,563	3	0	98,894	2.8	465	13,036	284	61	99,239
Michigan	3,738	-3,577	-3,821	4	2	78,623	1.8	-9,365	-2,691	138	22	78,783
Minnesota	3,623	-162	-1,357	5	7	70,667	2.4	-726	-3,348	125	57	70,849
Mississippi	849	-113	63	1	2	6,344	0.6	1,562	-506	48	6	6,398
Missouri	2,309	-153	-1,406	4	6	22,149	0.8	-987	-2,665	122	11	22,282
Montana	678	15	-180	6	1	10,593	2.1	-16	-1,434	377	8	10,978
Nebraska	524	-123	-353	3	1	8,387	0.8	-113	418	18	2	8,407
Nevada	2,807	3	332	2	0	27,452	1.8	-86	488	144	63	27,659
New Hampshire	478	25	78	5	0	4,814	0.7	-103	667	2	0	4,816
New Jersey	9,228	-660	-533	22	13	122,639	2.9	224	274	354	220	123,213
New Mexico	790	-46	-5	2	3	10,903	1.3	-183	131	149	29	11,081
New York	14,073	-2,694	-465	19	19	209,519	2.2	-6,350	29,869	612	232	210,363
North Carolina	3,200	-195	-91	2	2	20,731	0.4	-216	-6,438	97	69	20,897
North Dakota	306	-61	-81	1	1	6,495	1.5	-3	-45	17	3	6,515
Ohio	4,977	-1,956	-1,673	6	9	66,366	1.2	-549	-2,027	149	66	66,581
Oklahoma	2,392	351	1,168	5	2	10,375	0.6	-333	233	45	40	10,460
Oregon	4,937	53	577	15	2	39,564	2.0	-117	4,046	638	84	40,286
Pennsylvania	9,486	-970	-2,399	10	13	116,299	2.0	-3,782	-2,689	494	114	116,907
Puerto Rico	1,166	27	111	11	3	16,974	1.8	525	1,063	338	56	17,368
Rhode Island	2,669	1,515	-321	1	0	14,584	3.0	-228	512	43	18	14,645
South Carolina	1,893	-369	-125	2	6	15,557	0.7	-499	484	60	40	15,657
South Dakota	202	-12	-17	1	0	3,138	0.7	-54	-149	28	4	3,170
Tennessee	3,532	218	424	0	8	18,888	0.6	-912	-269	56	38	18,982
Texas	14,698	-1,184	157	62	74	150,395	1.1	-4,079	6,307	619	822	151,836
Utah	965	-622	-527	9	3	16,172	1.0	-120	792	296	22	16,490
Vermont	384	27	-31	0	0	3,901	1.3	-35	222	2	0	3,903
Virgin Islands	11	-6	-27	0	0	204	0.6	-44	-18	4	0	208
Virginia	2,533	-120	60	9	5	20,698	0.5	-1,143	2,519	277	71	21,046
Washington	5,918	7	69	10	12	89,261	2.5	132	5,170	687	402	90,350
West Virginia	1,009	-374	204	2	1	10,197	1.5	-640	826	66	13	10,276
Wisconsin	3,870	0	-1,817	5	1	32,429	1.1	-690	-3,518	78	6	32,513
Wyoming	335	-9	-90	5	0	2,898	1.1	-16	-91	54	3	2,955
Totals	194,270	-15,560	-26,586	529	369	2,137,668	1.4	-63,293	-22,435	11,982	4,345	2,153,995

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 U.S. total covered employment is BLS.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 21, 2026

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
RI	+1,515	Layoffs in transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, and in health care and social assistance industries

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	-3,577	Fewer layoffs in management of companies and enterprises industries.
NY	-2,694	Fewer layoffs in construction, health care and social assistance, and in professional, scientific, and technical services industries.
OH	-1,956	No comment.
TX	-1,184	No comment.
KY	-1,012	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. On a weekly basis, continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment, as continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits. The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. 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. For further questions on the seasonal adjustment methodology, please see the [official release page for the UI claims seasonal adjustment factors](#) or contact BLS directly through the [Local Area Unemployment Statistics web contact form](#).

[Weekly Claims Archives](#) [Weekly Claims Data](#)

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