



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 28, 2019

Note: This week's release reflects the annual revision to the weekly unemployment claims seasonal adjustment factors. The seasonal adjustment factors used for the UI Weekly Claims data from 2014 forward, along with the resulting seasonally adjusted values for initial claims and continuing claims, have been revised.

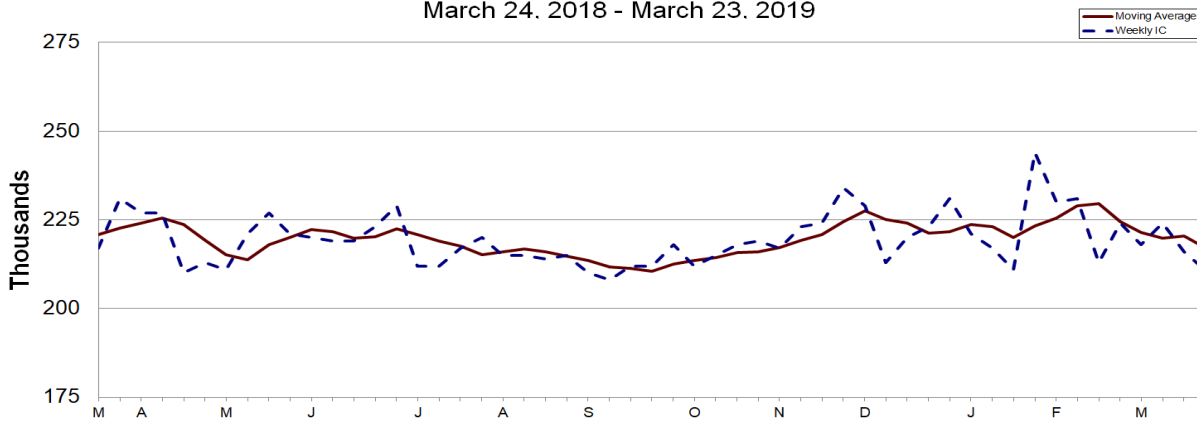
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 23, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 211,000, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 5,000 from 221,000 to 216,000. The 4-week moving average was 217,250, a decrease of 3,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 4,500 from 225,000 to 220,500.

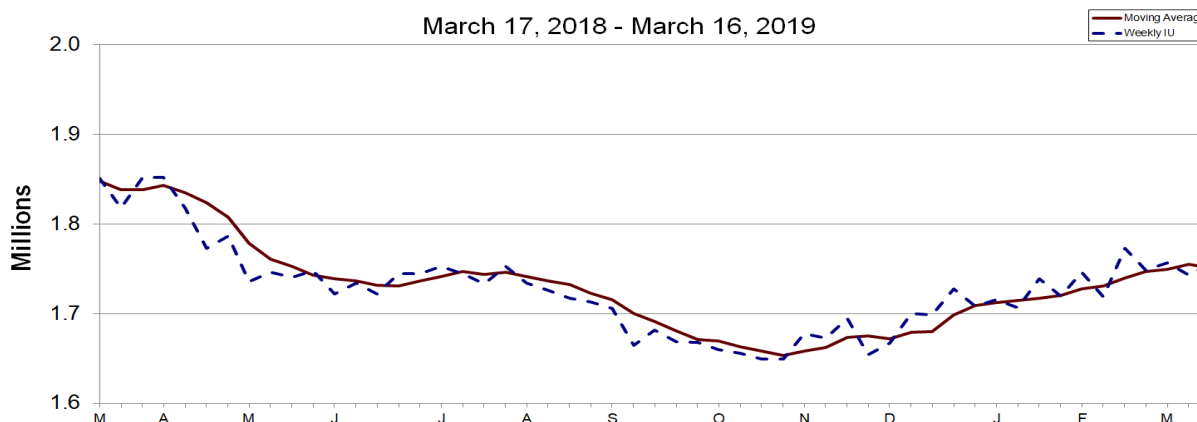
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending March 16, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 16 was 1,756,000, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 7,000 from 1,750,000 to 1,743,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,751,250, a decrease of 4,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 17,000 from 1,772,500 to 1,755,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 24, 2018 - March 23, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

March 17, 2018 - March 16, 2019

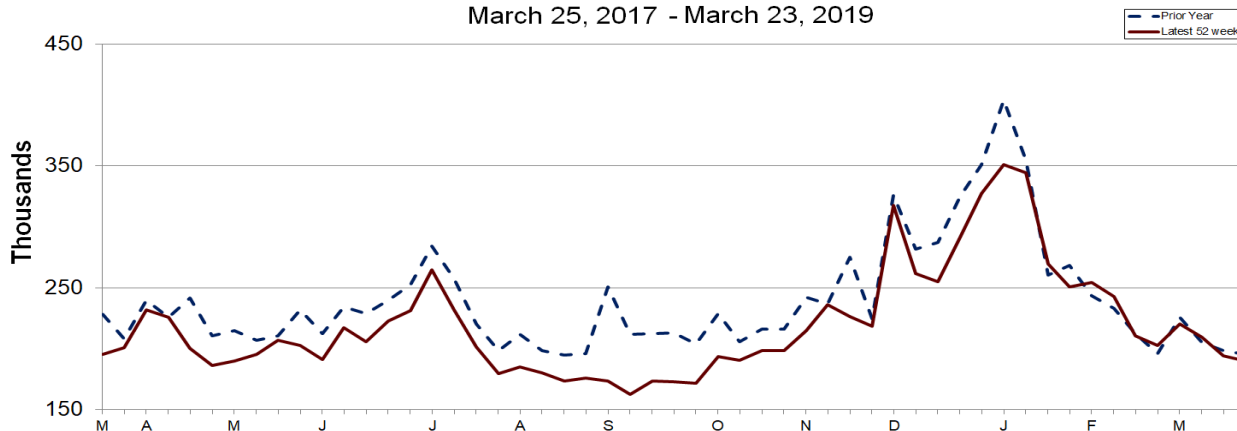


UNADJUSTED DATA

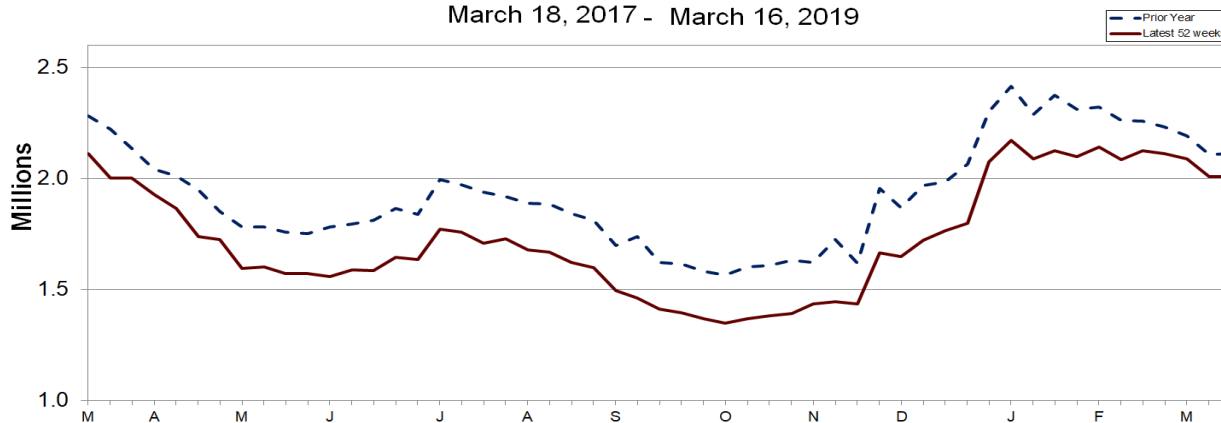
The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 189,732 in the week ending March 23, a decrease of 4,650 (or -2.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 647 (or -0.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 195,433 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending March 16, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,010,217, an increase of 1,719 (or 0.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 12,204 (or -0.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,111,985.

Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 25, 2017 - March 23, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
March 18, 2017 - March 16, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 9 was 2,039,299, a decrease of 80,984 from the previous week. There were 2,141,049 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2018.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending March 9.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 579 in the week ending March 16, a decrease of 442 from the prior week. There were 507 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 1 from the preceding week.

There were 10,705 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 9, a decrease of 1,107 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,135, an increase of 104 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 9 were in Alaska (2.9), New Jersey (2.7), Montana (2.6), Connecticut (2.5), Rhode Island (2.5), Massachusetts (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), California (2.2), Illinois (2.1), and Minnesota (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 16 were in Oklahoma (+1,046), South Carolina (+270), California (+232), Tennessee (+221), and Mississippi (+211), while the largest decreases were in Illinois (-3,586), Oregon (-3,026), Pennsylvania (-2,242), Washington (-1,284), and Texas (-1,180).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 23	March 16	Change	March 9	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	211,000	216,000	-5,000	224,000	217,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	189,732	194,382	-4,650	209,362	195,433
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	217,250	220,500	-3,250	219,750	220,750
WEEK ENDING	March 16	March 9	Change	March 2	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,756,000	1,743,000	+13,000	1,757,000	1,851,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,010,217	2,008,498	+1,719	2,088,573	2,111,985
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,751,250	1,755,500	-4,250	1,749,500	1,847,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%
<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	March 16	March 9	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	579	1,021	-442	568
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	507	506	+1	644

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 9	March 2	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,005,443	2,085,487	-80,044	2,105,949
Federal Employees	10,705	11,812	-1,107	10,466
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,135	6,031	+104	8,251
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	1	0	+1	948
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	6,063	5,776	+287	6,957
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	10,952	11,177	-225	8,478
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,039,299	2,120,283	-80,984	2,141,049

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 143,051,794 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 23			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 16		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,110	2,149	-39	14,048	14,372	-324
Alaska	900	955	-55	9,141	8,934	207
Arizona	3,262	3,388	-126	16,767	19,088	-2,321
Arkansas	2,138	1,442	696	9,317	10,973	-1,656
California	40,399	41,128	-729	391,929	372,306	19,623
Colorado	1,566	1,506	60	23,503	21,189	2,314
Connecticut	2,513	2,821	-308	42,385	41,068	1,317
Delaware	442	460	-18	5,613	5,735	-122
District of Columbia	447	430	17	6,997	7,259	-262
Florida	5,149	5,801	-652	30,066	34,751	-4,685
Georgia	4,021	4,387	-366	22,776	24,682	-1,906
Hawaii	1,077	1,155	-78	6,836	6,575	261
Idaho	1,047	1,043	4	8,319	9,697	-1,378
Illinois	7,978	7,987	-9	132,535	125,462	7,073
Indiana	2,149	2,088	61	20,287	20,682	-395
Iowa	2,490	2,348	142	29,982	30,334	-352
Kansas	1,295	1,648	-353	11,103	11,193	-90
Kentucky	1,880	2,105	-225	19,408	20,145	-737
Louisiana	1,472	1,661	-189	12,049	14,268	-2,219
Maine	547	619	-72	8,570	8,493	77
Maryland	2,824	2,593	231	28,067	30,617	-2,550
Massachusetts	4,243	4,354	-111	77,870	79,574	-1,704
Michigan	4,750	5,156	-406	77,000	76,084	916
Minnesota	3,406	3,229	177	60,262	58,534	1,728
Mississippi	792	1,135	-343	6,448	7,356	-908
Missouri	3,446	3,233	213	22,553	25,791	-3,238
Montana	760	774	-14	11,240	11,601	-361
Nebraska	729	788	-59	6,791	7,071	-280
Nevada	2,240	2,288	-48	17,916	19,588	-1,672
New Hampshire	468	518	-50	4,074	4,484	-410
New Jersey	7,405	7,853	-448	106,498	107,328	-830
New Mexico	819	677	142	9,244	9,622	-378
New York	12,748	12,915	-167	153,607	156,976	-3,369
North Carolina	2,681	2,668	13	18,659	18,613	46
North Dakota	264	288	-24	6,511	6,161	350
Ohio	6,002	6,449	-447	65,633	67,386	-1,753
Oklahoma	1,385	2,669	-1,284	13,577	13,527	50
Oregon	3,857	3,706	151	30,140	31,989	-1,849
Pennsylvania	11,926	13,078	-1,152	136,916	130,101	6,815
Puerto Rico	939	1,175	-236	12,865	15,808	-2,943
Rhode Island	750	887	-137	11,713	11,800	-87
South Carolina	1,661	2,077	-416	14,170	14,436	-266
South Dakota	154	143	11	3,202	3,312	-110
Tennessee	2,304	2,248	56	16,570	18,153	-1,583
Texas	14,410	11,580	2,830	116,097	113,456	2,641
Utah	885	914	-29	10,069	10,758	-689
Vermont	492	641	-149	5,508	5,219	289
Virgin Islands	16	20	-4	428	546	-118
Virginia	2,337	2,257	80	22,284	22,104	180
Washington	5,695	5,787	-92	61,409	62,889	-1,480
West Virginia	693	840	-147	15,096	13,532	1,564
Wisconsin	5,439	5,999	-560	42,894	43,947	-1,053
Wyoming	330	322	8	3,275	2,929	346
US Total	189,732	194,382	-4,650	2,010,217	2,008,498	1,719

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	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
March 17, 2018	221	-1	220.50	1,851	18	1,847.75	1.3
March 24, 2018	217	-4	220.75	1,818	-33	1,838.75	1.3
March 31, 2018	231	14	222.75	1,852	34	1,838.50	1.3
April 7, 2018	227	-4	224.00	1,852	0	1,843.25	1.3
April 14, 2018	227	0	225.50	1,818	-34	1,835.00	1.3
April 21, 2018	210	-17	223.75	1,773	-45	1,823.75	1.3
April 28, 2018	213	3	219.25	1,787	14	1,807.50	1.3
May 5, 2018	211	-2	215.25	1,736	-51	1,778.50	1.2
May 12, 2018	221	10	213.75	1,746	10	1,760.50	1.2
May 19, 2018	227	6	218.00	1,741	-5	1,752.50	1.2
May 26, 2018	221	-6	220.00	1,748	7	1,742.75	1.2
June 2, 2018	220	-1	222.25	1,722	-26	1,739.25	1.2
June 9, 2018	219	-1	221.75	1,734	12	1,736.25	1.2
June 16, 2018	219	0	219.75	1,722	-12	1,731.50	1.2
June 23, 2018	223	4	220.25	1,745	23	1,730.75	1.2
June 30, 2018	229	6	222.50	1,745	0	1,736.50	1.2
July 7, 2018	212	-17	220.75	1,753	8	1,741.25	1.2
July 14, 2018	212	0	219.00	1,745	-8	1,747.00	1.2
July 21, 2018	217	5	217.50	1,733	-12	1,744.00	1.2
July 28, 2018	220	3	215.25	1,753	20	1,746.00	1.2
August 4, 2018	215	-5	216.00	1,734	-19	1,741.25	1.2
August 11, 2018	215	0	216.75	1,726	-8	1,736.50	1.2
August 18, 2018	214	-1	216.00	1,717	-9	1,732.50	1.2
August 25, 2018	215	1	214.75	1,713	-4	1,722.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	210	-5	213.50	1,706	-7	1,715.50	1.2
September 8, 2018	208	-2	211.75	1,665	-41	1,700.25	1.2
September 15, 2018	212	4	211.25	1,682	17	1,691.50	1.2
September 22, 2018	212	0	210.50	1,669	-13	1,680.50	1.2
September 29, 2018	218	6	212.50	1,668	-1	1,671.00	1.2
October 6, 2018	212	-6	213.50	1,660	-8	1,669.75	1.2
October 13, 2018	215	3	214.25	1,656	-4	1,663.25	1.2
October 20, 2018	218	3	215.75	1,649	-7	1,658.25	1.2
October 27, 2018	219	1	216.00	1,649	0	1,653.50	1.2
November 3, 2018	217	-2	217.25	1,678	29	1,658.00	1.2
November 10, 2018	223	6	219.25	1,673	-5	1,662.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	224	1	220.75	1,695	22	1,673.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	234	10	224.50	1,654	-41	1,675.00	1.2
December 1, 2018	229	-5	227.50	1,667	13	1,672.25	1.2
December 8, 2018	213	-16	225.00	1,700	33	1,679.00	1.2
December 15, 2018	220	7	224.00	1,699	-1	1,680.00	1.2
December 22, 2018	223	3	221.25	1,728	29	1,698.50	1.2
December 29, 2018	231	8	221.75	1,708	-20	1,708.75	1.2
January 5, 2019	221	-10	223.75	1,716	8	1,712.75	1.2
January 12, 2019	217	-4	223.00	1,707	-9	1,714.75	1.2
January 19, 2019	211	-6	220.00	1,739	32	1,717.50	1.2
January 26, 2019	244	33	223.25	1,720	-19	1,720.50	1.2
February 2, 2019	230	-14	225.50	1,746	26	1,728.00	1.2
February 9, 2019	231	1	229.00	1,719	-27	1,731.00	1.2
February 16, 2019	213	-18	229.50	1,773	54	1,739.50	1.2
February 23, 2019	224	11	224.50	1,749	-24	1,746.75	1.2
March 2, 2019	218	-6	221.50	1,757	8	1,749.50	1.2
March 9, 2019	224	6	219.75	1,743	-14	1,755.50	1.2
March 16, 2019	216	-8	220.50	1,756	13	1,751.25	1.2
March 23, 2019	211	-5	217.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 16					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 9					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	(%) ²	CHANGE FROM				
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹		UCX ¹
Alabama	2149	43	-192	10	6	14372	0.8	-418	-1045	60	68	14500
Alaska	955	6	-56	3	2	8934	2.9	-715	-1694	166	9	9109
Arizona	3388	-15	-300	7	7	19088	0.7	31	-2409	212	52	19352
Arkansas	1442	46	180	5	5	10973	0.9	-659	-1791	68	39	11080
California	41128	232	-999	150	115	372306	2.2	-29832	-5210	2600	1368	376274
Colorado	1506	-385	-66	6	9	21189	0.8	-1953	-1846	223	203	21615
Connecticut	2821	118	-1125	2	5	41068	2.5	-135	-4904	66	67	41201
Delaware	460	-53	-87	1	1	5735	1.3	-226	-24	16	9	5760
District of Columbia	430	24	152	20	1	7259	1.3	-170	-1065	379	6	7644
Florida	5801	-403	-677	17	26	34751	0.4	-610	-4017	138	128	35017
Georgia	4387	-779	-129	32	22	24682	0.6	-599	-2068	146	206	25034
Hawaii	1155	22	124	2	7	6575	1.1	-86	-301	90	5	6670
Idaho	1043	-114	47	10	3	9697	1.4	-1136	680	241	9	9947
Illinois	7987	-3586	253	12	7	125462	2.1	-3654	-9207	325	151	125938
Indiana	2088	-757	-8	2	4	20682	0.7	-228	-119	30	31	20743
Iowa	2348	116	175	1	2	30334	2.0	-630	1535	42	27	30403
Kansas	1648	65	172	2	3	11193	0.8	-286	-123	32	26	11251
Kentucky	2105	59	159	0	2	20145	1.1	-1030	-1079	72	125	20342
Louisiana	1661	77	-144	5	3	14268	0.8	-297	-1749	40	17	14325
Maine	619	-91	-42	0	1	8493	1.4	-17	-382	40	8	8541
Maryland	2593	-292	-558	9	10	30617	1.2	-629	-4722	240	91	30948
Massachusetts	4354	-455	-477	4	11	79574	2.3	-1087	-5134	150	90	79814
Michigan	5156	-771	419	4	6	76084	1.8	-6385	-1590	225	68	76377
Minnesota	3229	-195	-165	2	2	58534	2.1	-2974	-2047	122	50	58706
Mississippi	1135	211	-47	4	2	7356	0.7	97	-808	87	17	7460
Missouri	3233	195	54	2	4	25791	0.9	-986	-1368	101	27	25919
Montana	774	-130	-94	17	1	11601	2.6	-423	335	448	22	12071
Nebraska	788	64	68	4	1	7071	0.7	-192	-312	21	8	7100
Nevada	2288	59	206	4	2	19588	1.5	-544	-1742	171	51	19810
New Hampshire	518	-54	-43	1	1	4484	0.7	-526	-595	1	8	4493
New Jersey	7853	-137	-1064	10	20	107328	2.7	-2154	-4862	250	234	107812
New Mexico	677	-5	31	5	3	9622	1.2	-229	-533	279	40	9941
New York	12915	-879	-2101	22	24	156976	1.7	-1753	-10015	367	322	157665
North Carolina	2668	-457	89	2	18	18613	0.4	-1948	-2850	78	92	18783
North Dakota	288	-25	-61	2	0	6161	1.5	-337	-1038	17	4	6182
Ohio	6449	-120	998	10	12	67386	1.3	-874	-4537	139	138	67663
Oklahoma	2669	1046	1418	5	9	13527	0.9	-331	-453	59	59	13645
Oregon	3706	-3026	372	20	13	31989	1.7	-2834	2108	554	71	32614
Pennsylvania	13078	-2242	-908	52	22	130101	2.3	-9185	-3041	420	301	130822
Puerto Rico	1175	55	24	5	3	15808	1.9	30	-8171	150	43	16001
Rhode Island	887	137	53	4	1	11800	2.5	15	355	18	17	11835
South Carolina	2077	270	280	7	8	14436	0.7	-424	-1454	47	72	14555
South Dakota	143	-71	-11	2	0	3312	0.8	-109	60	40	5	3357
Tennessee	2248	221	-16	8	5	18153	0.6	-950	-3194	100	49	18302
Texas	11580	-1180	-257	30	69	113456	1.0	648	-8336	508	1026	114990
Utah	914	-66	11	3	4	10758	0.8	-394	-455	168	18	10944
Vermont	641	211	-97	1	0	5219	1.7	-226	-131	10	0	5229
Virgin Islands	20	-3	1	0	0	546	1.6	106	-1832	6	4	557
Virginia	2257	-248	-116	4	13	22104	0.6	-567	-2386	197	157	22458
Washington	5787	-1284	360	33	8	62889	1.9	-1711	6586	516	456	63861
West Virginia	840	-31	-261	2	2	13532	2.0	104	422	50	18	13600
Wisconsin	5999	-374	148	8	1	43947	1.6	-540	-372	109	15	44071
Wyoming	322	-29	40	6	1	2929	1.1	-113	-845	71	8	3008
Totals	194382	-14980	-4267	579	507	2008498	1.4	-80075	-99775	10705	6135	2025339

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 MARCH 16, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
OK	+1,046	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	-3,586	No comment.
OR	-3,026	No comment.
PA	-2,242	Fewer layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
WA	-1,284	No comment.
TX	-1,180	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.

[2014 2019 seasonal factors.txt](#)
[2014 2019 seasonal factors.xlsx](#)

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

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