



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 12, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

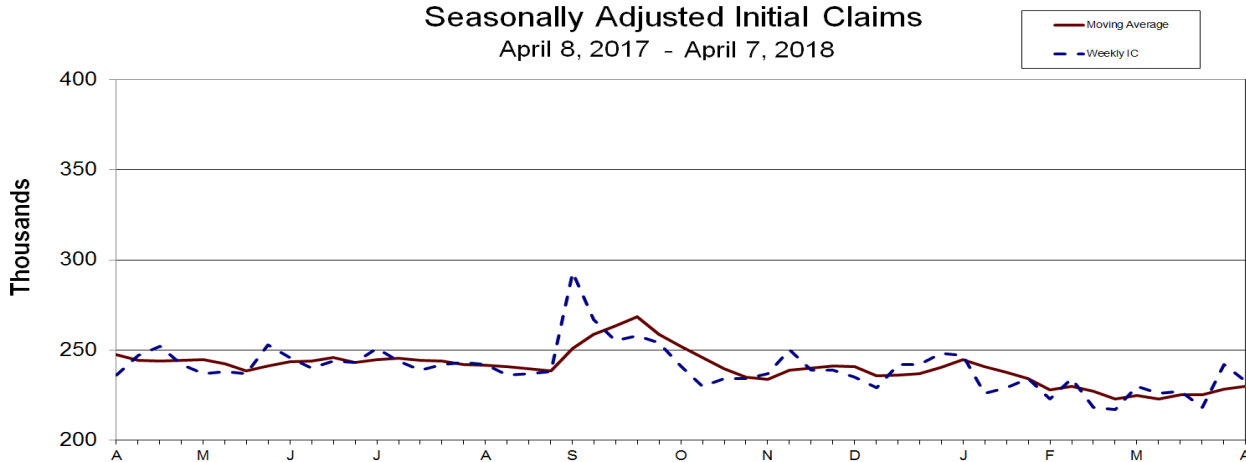
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 7, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 233,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 242,000. The 4-week moving average was 230,000, an increase of 1,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 228,250.

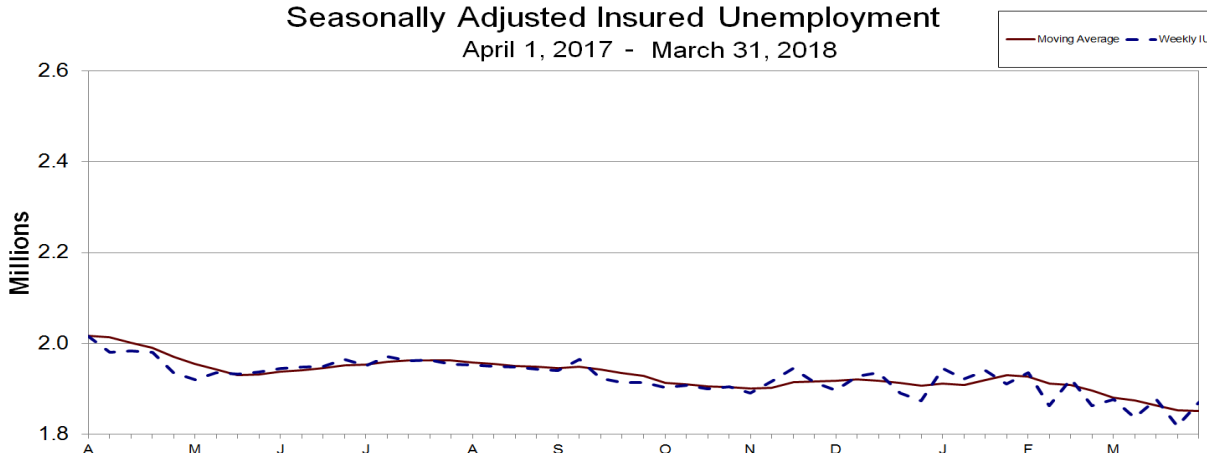
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending March 31, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 31 was 1,871,000, an increase of 53,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 10,000 from 1,808,000 to 1,818,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,850,250, a decrease of 1,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since January 5, 1974 when it was 1,838,500. The previous week's average was revised up by 3,500 from 1,848,250 to 1,851,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
April 8, 2017 - April 7, 2018



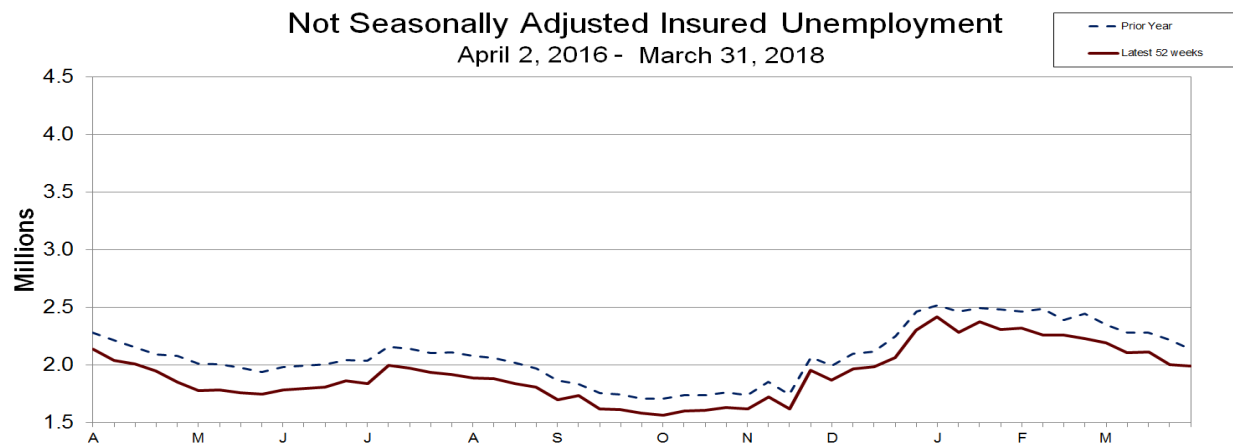
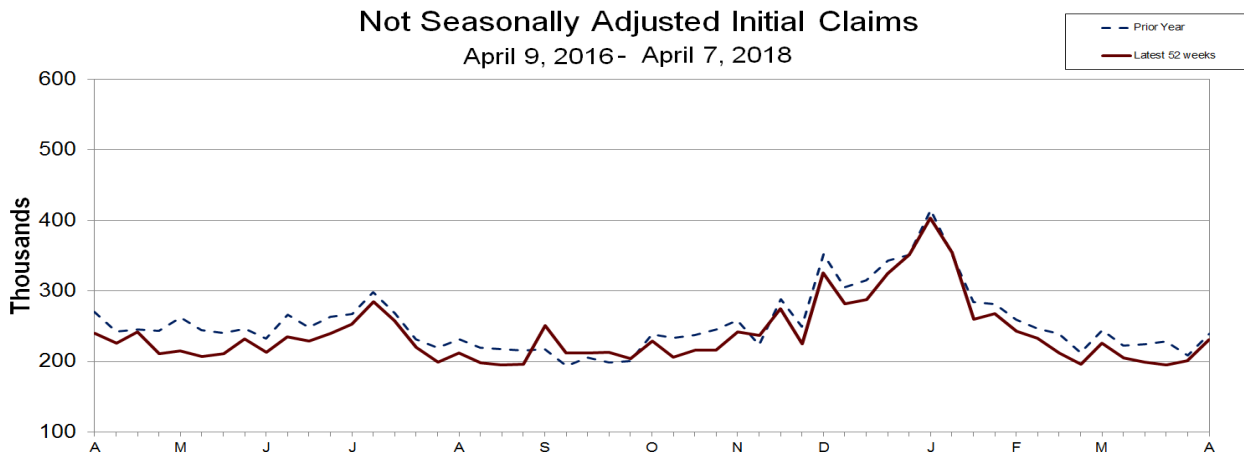
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 231,388 in the week ending April 7, an increase of 30,392 (or 15.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 39,473 (or 19.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 239,823 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending March 31, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,994,554, a decrease of 8,544 (or -0.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 65,437 (or -3.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,136,831.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 24 was 2,035,137, a decrease of 110,702 from the previous week. There were 2,261,867 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in Alaska and the Virgin Islands during the week ending March 24.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 583 in the week ending March 31, an increase of 1 from the prior week. There were 599 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 3 from the preceding week.

There were 9,872 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 24, a decrease of 1,821 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,006, an increase of 103 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 24 were in the Virgin Islands (4.6), Alaska (3.2), New Jersey (2.7), Connecticut (2.6), Puerto Rico (2.5), Massachusetts (2.4), Rhode Island (2.3), California (2.2), Montana (2.2), and Pennsylvania (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 31 were in Illinois (+2,504), Pennsylvania (+2,443), New Jersey (+2,081), Ohio (+1,496), and Michigan (+1,471), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-3,120), Connecticut (-1,005), Massachusetts (-877), Florida (-641), and New York (-556).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 7	March 31	Change	March 24	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	233,000	242,000	-9,000	218,000	236,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	231,388	200,996	+30,392	195,375	239,823
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	230,000	228,250	+1,750	225,250	247,250
WEEK ENDING	March 31	March 24	Change	March 17	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,871,000	1,818,000	+53,000	1,876,000	2,016,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,994,554	2,003,098	-8,544	2,111,979	2,136,831
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,850,250	1,851,750	-1,500	1,862,750	2,016,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.4%
<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 31	March 24	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	583	582	+1	600
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	599	596	+3	784

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 24	March 17	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,000,709	2,109,554	-108,845	2,220,626
Federal Employees	9,872	11,693	-1,821	11,679
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,006	7,903	+103	10,771
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1,024	1,018	+6	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,964	6,937	+27	7,526
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,562	8,734	-172	11,265
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,035,137	2,145,839	-110,702	2,261,867

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 141,013,239 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 7			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 31		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,298	2,356	-58	15,293	14,997	296
Alaska	1,362	1,048	314	10,107	9,997	110
Arizona	5,739	3,869	1,870	19,135	21,642	-2,507
Arkansas	2,065	1,911	154	11,182	12,619	-1,437
California	41,764	39,130	2,634	395,318	362,286	33,032
Colorado *	2,148	1,691	457	22,741	21,472	1,269
Connecticut	2,584	2,167	417	43,989	43,326	663
Delaware	1,321	583	738	5,538	6,814	-1,276
District of Columbia	546	248	298	7,478	8,152	-674
Florida	7,367	5,677	1,690	33,234	38,719	-5,485
Georgia	5,644	5,616	28	26,378	25,373	1,005
Hawaii	1,567	1,067	500	7,608	6,649	959
Idaho	975	1,343	-368	7,049	7,861	-812
Illinois	9,997	10,389	-392	120,935	124,410	-3,475
Indiana	2,821	2,019	802	19,113	18,503	610
Iowa	2,648	2,145	503	24,082	24,308	-226
Kansas	1,750	1,515	235	9,918	10,593	-675
Kentucky	2,780	1,899	881	19,027	19,874	-847
Louisiana	2,151	1,648	503	13,772	16,067	-2,295
Maine *	843	658	185	8,054	8,265	-211
Maryland	3,173	3,690	-517	29,875	34,425	-4,550
Massachusetts	4,755	4,043	712	78,157	84,204	-6,047
Michigan	5,562	6,261	-699	66,136	71,182	-5,046
Minnesota	3,663	3,090	573	58,443	56,935	1,508
Mississippi	923	779	144	6,842	8,042	-1,200
Missouri	3,826	4,019	-193	25,270	26,038	-768
Montana	1,017	718	299	9,526	9,966	-440
Nebraska	600	616	-16	5,455	6,184	-729
Nevada	2,888	2,185	703	18,788	20,485	-1,697
New Hampshire	570	504	66	4,370	4,906	-536
New Jersey	14,799	9,326	5,473	104,623	106,898	-2,275
New Mexico	936	899	37	9,699	10,040	-341
New York	16,587	13,234	3,353	155,931	160,042	-4,111
North Carolina	2,991	2,289	702	19,024	20,444	-1,420
North Dakota	501	256	245	6,980	6,333	647
Ohio	6,865	6,779	86	65,574	66,317	-743
Oklahoma	1,467	1,253	214	12,779	13,827	-1,048
Oregon	4,830	4,133	697	29,390	28,726	664
Pennsylvania	14,827	15,920	-1,093	132,763	126,915	5,848
Puerto Rico ^{IM}	1,390	867	523	20,821	21,550	-729
Rhode Island	890	958	-68	10,528	10,837	-309
South Carolina	2,281	1,826	455	14,055	15,162	-1,107
South Dakota	178	138	40	2,636	2,967	-331
Tennessee	2,536	2,328	208	18,297	20,163	-1,866
Texas	15,118	11,603	3,515	120,583	120,161	422
Utah	1,194	1,013	181	8,871	9,704	-833
Vermont	613	434	179	5,097	4,960	137
Virgin Islands ^{IM}	9	19	-10	2,232	1,730	502
Virginia	3,006	2,492	514	23,248	23,304	-56
Washington	6,529	5,232	1,297	52,798	52,666	132
West Virginia	1,054	797	257	12,019	12,452	-433
Wisconsin	6,900	5,984	916	39,952	40,178	-226
Wyoming	540	332	208	3,841	3,428	413
US Total	231,388	200,996	30,392	1,994,554	2,003,098	-8,544

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	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
April 1, 2017	241	-12	250.00	2,016	-8	2,016.75	1.4
April 8, 2017	236	-5	247.25	1,981	-35	2,014.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	247	11	244.25	1,984	3	2,001.25	1.4
April 22, 2017	252	5	244.00	1,980	-4	1,990.25	1.4
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	1,871	53	1,850.25	1.3
April 7, 2018	233	-9	230.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 31					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 24						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2356	186	-246	7	8	14997	0.8	-405	-1727	72	76	15145
Alaska	1048	24	31	3	3	9997	3.2	-1038	-1511	139	33	11192
Arizona	3869	-58	-524	7	6	21642	0.8	-309	-2679	217	77	21936
Arkansas	1911	-151	321	3	4	12619	1.1	503	-993	59	106	12784
California	39130	-43	3763	136	102	362286	2.2	-37124	-31159	2130	1598	366014
Colorado	1691	130	-584	6	9	21472	0.8	-2333	-4821	251	247	21970
Connecticut	2167	-1005	-847	9	6	43326	2.6	-4398	-3050	54	87	43467
Delaware	583	77	69	4	1	6814	1.6	877	-530	20	11	6845
District of Columbia	248	0	-17	5	0	8152	1.5	-1	-114	305	9	8466
Florida	5677	-641	-1304	14	37	38719	0.5	-432	-2802	169	165	39053
Georgia	5616	1231	562	25	33	25373	0.6	-837	-2743	140	231	25744
Hawaii	1067	-90	-211	3	2	6649	1.1	-445	-1167	86	89	6824
Idaho	1343	134	116	12	1	7861	1.1	-557	-2123	192	23	8076
Illinois	10389	2504	157	10	11	124410	2.1	-4704	-15417	288	252	124950
Indiana	2019	-122	-1396	4	6	18503	0.6	-1085	-7107	32	39	18574
Iowa	2145	345	163	6	3	24308	1.6	-2401	-1516	46	33	24387
Kansas	1515	-22	-945	3	4	10593	0.8	-292	-3329	38	45	10676
Kentucky	1899	-54	-317	3	0	19874	1.1	-1487	-1293	91	108	20073
Louisiana	1648	-215	-733	10	5	16067	0.9	95	-3619	38	14	16119
Maine	658	-55	-261	1	0	8265	1.4	-409	-1224	43	12	8320
Maryland	3690	28	702	27	2	34425	1.4	475	-3979	360	112	34897
Massachusetts	4043	-877	-336	3	15	84204	2.4	-872	-1767	125	145	84474
Michigan	6261	1471	-1180	15	15	71182	1.7	-5173	-14740	172	104	71458
Minnesota	3090	-99	-78	5	2	56935	2.0	-1733	-1204	130	67	57132
Mississippi	779	-223	-274	6	3	8042	0.7	-396	-1512	95	20	8157
Missouri	4019	420	427	6	4	26038	1.0	475	-4030	112	53	26203
Montana	718	2	-60	9	4	9966	2.2	-976	-431	350	21	10337
Nebraska	616	-114	-193	3	2	6184	0.6	-577	249	21	12	6217
Nevada	2185	-19	-62	5	5	20485	1.6	-567	-1648	159	78	20722
New Hampshire	504	26	-80	0	0	4906	0.8	-185	-208	2	7	4915
New Jersey	9326	2081	1113	11	24	106898	2.7	-730	-5494	265	282	107445
New Mexico	899	43	-127	0	3	10040	1.3	82	-2137	183	43	10266
New York	13234	-556	-584	21	29	160042	1.8	-4248	-12773	330	406	160778
North Carolina	2289	-241	-537	6	7	20444	0.5	-757	-2145	102	136	20682
North Dakota	256	-45	-121	2	1	6333	1.6	-326	-700	14	4	6351
Ohio	6779	1496	-556	5	13	66317	1.3	-2421	-8105	122	179	66618
Oklahoma	1253	-240	-217	7	5	13827	0.9	245	-1640	64	78	13969
Oregon	4133	509	-328	13	6	28726	1.6	-515	-1438	521	100	29347
Pennsylvania	15920	2443	1736	58	26	126915	2.2	-12257	-24767	474	303	127692
Puerto Rico	867	-251	-561	5	5	21550	2.5	-2519	-2813	24	76	21650
Rhode Island	958	323	253	3	1	10837	2.3	-542	-1067	28	15	10880
South Carolina	1826	-71	-66	6	10	15162	0.8	-352	1817	37	69	15269
South Dakota	138	-20	-27	1	1	2967	0.7	-121	-8	29	1	2997
Tennessee	2328	195	-531	12	10	20163	0.7	-627	1421	114	151	20428
Texas	11603	-3120	-2142	35	110	120161	1.0	-8867	-24162	483	1337	121981
Utah	1013	-21	91	14	2	9704	0.7	-848	-805	139	25	9868
Vermont	434	-16	-106	1	0	4960	1.6	-477	-750	14	3	4977
Virgin Islands	19	-8	-3	0	0	1730	4.6	-864	1334	0	10	1740
Virginia	2492	117	-133	10	29	23304	0.6	-404	-3031	248	239	23791
Washington	5232	-296	-1052	9	12	52666	1.7	-1885	-4806	451	589	53706
West Virginia	797	-56	-12	2	4	12452	1.9	-822	-668	56	44	12552
Wisconsin	5984	581	-71	5	4	40178	1.4	-2300	-6193	111	28	40317
Wyoming	332	-16	-33	7	4	3428	1.3	-1015	-1740	127	14	3569
Totals	200996	5621	-7351	583	599	2003098	1.4	-108881	-218864	9872	8006	2022000

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 31, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	+2,504	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
PA	+2,443	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, support and waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
NJ	+2,081	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and public administration industries.
OH	+1,496	Layoffs in the manufacturing and communication industries.
MI	+1,471	No comment.
GA	+1,231	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	-3,120	No comment.
CT	-1,005	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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