



News Release

Connect with DOL at <http://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 15, 2018

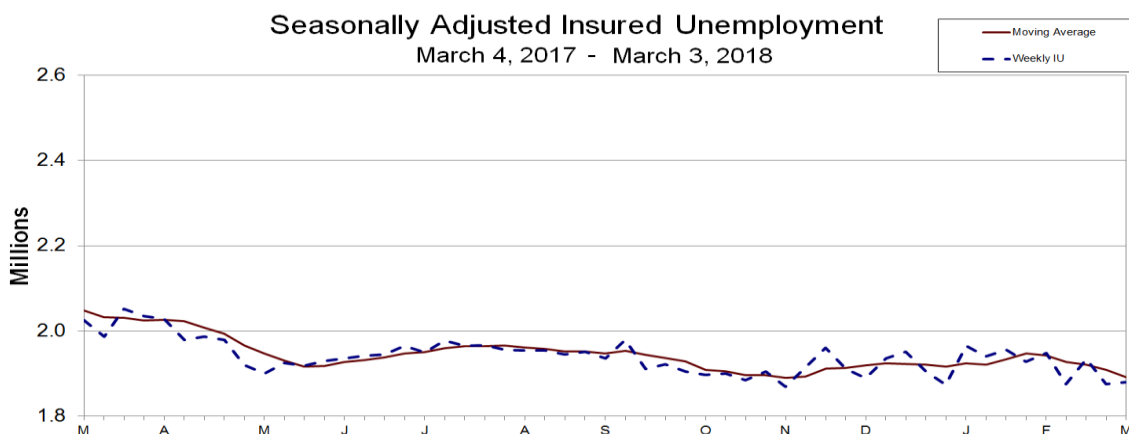
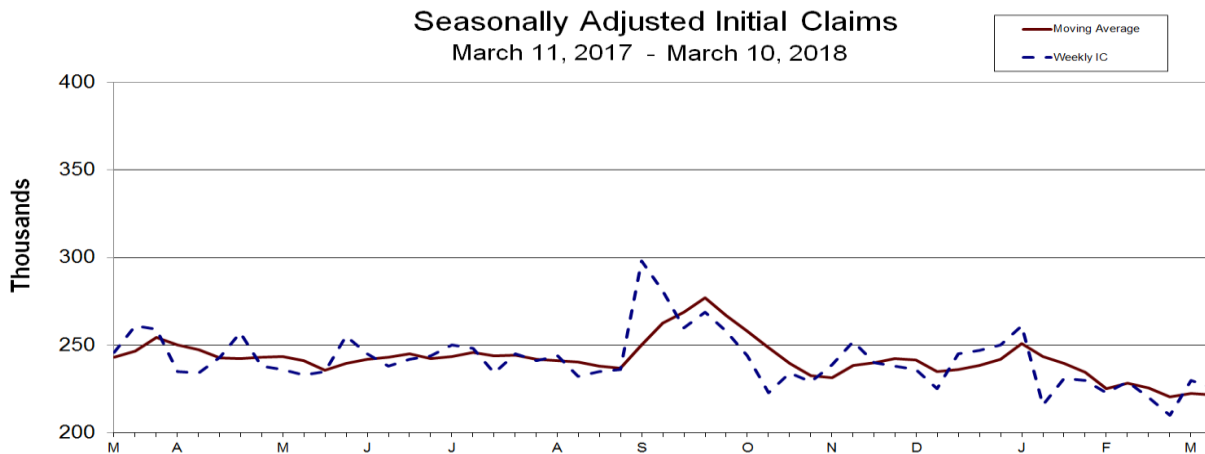
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 10, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 226,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 231,000 to 230,000. The 4-week moving average was 221,500, a decrease of 750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 222,500 to 222,250.

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

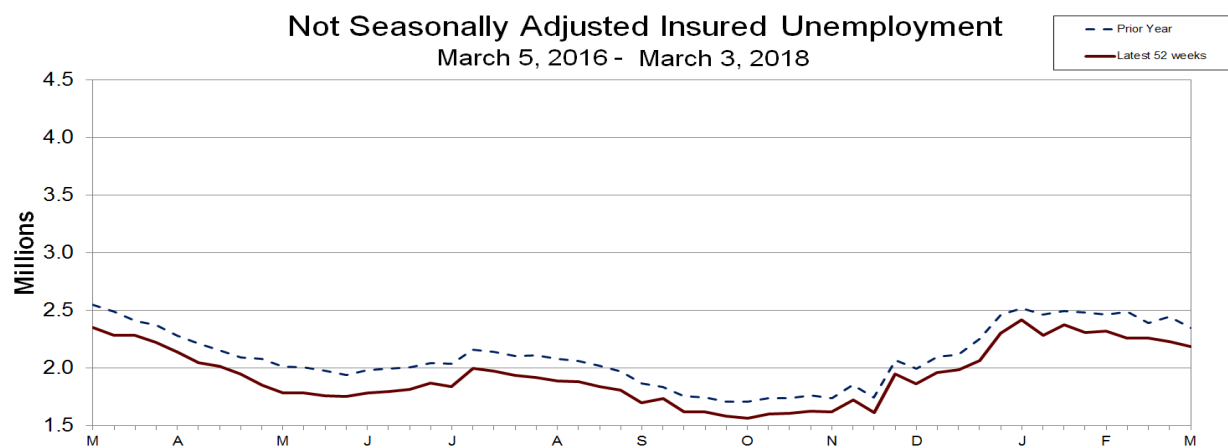
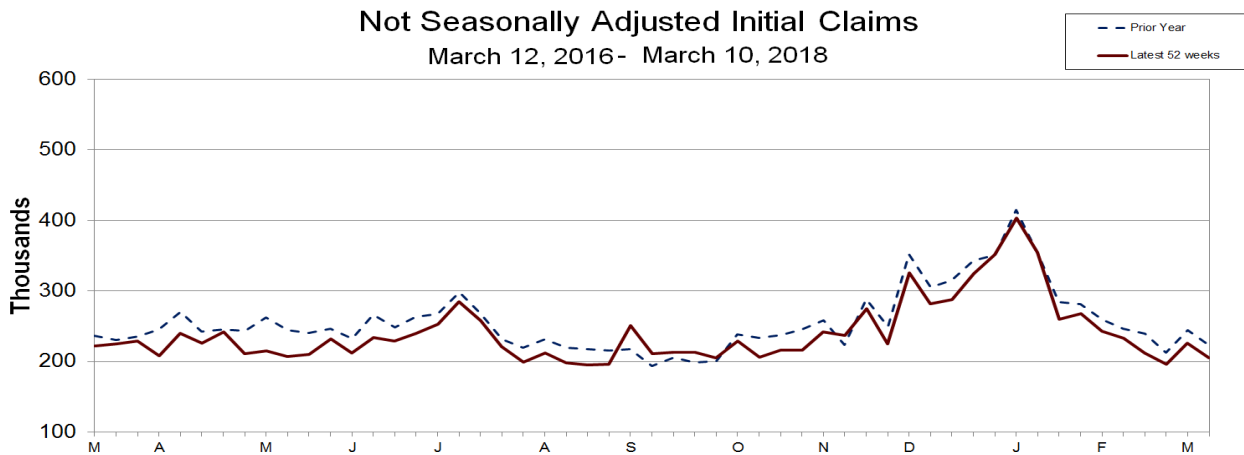
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending March 3, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 3 was 1,879,000, an increase of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 1,870,000 to 1,875,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,890,750, a decrease of 17,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 1,906,750 to 1,908,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 204,591 in the week ending March 10, a decrease of 20,922 (or -9.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 17,011 (or -7.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 222,227 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending March 3, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,187,125, a decrease of 45,451 (or -2.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 50,613 (or -2.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.7 percent and the volume was 2,349,381.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 24 was 2,265,961, a decrease of 27,890 from the previous week. There were 2,490,291 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 February 24.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 636 in the week ending March 3, an increase of 51 from the prior week. There were 685 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 130 from the preceding week.

There were 11,217 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 24, a decrease of 1,737 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,341, an increase of 145 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 24 were in the Virgin Islands (9.2), Alaska (3.6), Connecticut (3.0), New Jersey (3.0), Montana (2.9), Puerto Rico (2.9), Rhode Island (2.9), Massachusetts (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.5), and Illinois (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 3 were in New York (+18,249), California (+11,646), Washington (+1,011), Texas (+873), and New Jersey (+804), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-3,871), Rhode Island (-1,082), Kentucky (-690), Michigan (-637), and Kansas (-463).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 10	March 3	Change	February 24	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	226,000	230,000	-4,000	210,000	246,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	204,591	225,513	-20,922	195,931	222,227
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	221,500	222,250	-750	220,500	243,000
WEEK ENDING	March 3	February 24	Change	February 17	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,879,000	1,875,000	+4,000	1,934,000	2,025,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,187,125	2,232,576	-45,451	2,258,811	2,349,381
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,890,750	1,908,000	-17,250	1,921,000	2,048,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 3	February 24	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	636	585	+51	632
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	685	555	+130	894

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 24	February 17	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,230,032	2,256,241	-26,209	2,443,180
Federal Employees	11,217	12,954	-1,737	13,305
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,341	8,196	+145	11,389
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	864	964	-100	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,896	6,561	+335	7,776
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,611	8,935	-324	14,641
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,265,961	2,293,851	-27,890	2,490,291

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 March 10			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 3		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,973	2,013	-40	16,089	16,144	-55
Alaska	1,142	1,033	109	11,395	11,227	168
Arizona	3,680	3,641	39	19,370	21,868	-2,498
Arkansas	1,330	1,803	-473	12,778	14,491	-1,713
California	45,101	42,718	2,383	406,385	368,738	37,647
Colorado *	1,753	1,933	-180	26,112	24,049	2,063
Connecticut	3,406	4,018	-612	48,455	49,369	-914
Delaware	470	474	-4	6,349	7,650	-1,301
District of Columbia	488	286	202	7,980	8,805	-825
Florida	6,711	5,969	742	34,614	39,366	-4,752
Georgia	5,184	4,941	243	26,557	28,075	-1,518
Hawaii	1,244	1,217	27	7,788	7,284	504
Idaho	1,064	1,257	-193	9,725	10,822	-1,097
Illinois	8,272	8,820	-548	137,508	141,021	-3,513
Indiana	2,243	2,409	-166	23,399	23,315	84
Iowa	2,240	1,812	428	30,444	30,835	-391
Kansas	1,649	1,657	-8	12,032	13,690	-1,658
Kentucky	2,297	1,535	762	22,641	22,729	-88
Louisiana	1,655	1,897	-242	14,694	17,465	-2,771
Maine *	702	1,009	-307	9,104	9,570	-466
Maryland	2,830	3,039	-209	33,726	37,735	-4,009
Massachusetts	4,834	5,283	-449	85,594	94,515	-8,921
Michigan	5,343	5,826	-483	79,146	82,494	-3,348
Minnesota	3,606	3,684	-78	63,930	62,557	1,373
Mississippi	835	880	-45	7,657	9,004	-1,347
Missouri	2,861	3,397	-536	28,545	34,369	-5,824
Montana	735	871	-136	12,294	12,726	-432
Nebraska	704	809	-105	7,743	8,125	-382
Nevada	2,536	2,299	237	20,327	22,451	-2,124
New Hampshire	508	958	-450	5,287	5,226	61
New Jersey	8,190	8,712	-522	112,730	116,906	-4,176
New Mexico	698	684	14	10,132	10,520	-388
New York	13,896	31,952	-18,056	169,646	190,765	-21,119
North Carolina	2,987	2,719	268	20,695	22,577	-1,882
North Dakota	386	368	18	8,497	7,608	889
Ohio	5,783	6,231	-448	75,258	77,592	-2,334
Oklahoma	1,321	1,335	-14	13,588	14,345	-757
Oregon	3,614	4,982	-1,368	31,048	32,745	-1,697
Pennsylvania	13,518	13,819	-301	147,939	139,443	8,496
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	1,488	1,021	467	24,072	25,273	-1,201
Rhode Island	741	862	-121	12,040	13,458	-1,418
South Carolina	2,044	2,042	2	16,089	16,933	-844
South Dakota	193	200	-7	3,200	3,397	-197
Tennessee	2,078	1,931	147	21,105	21,742	-637
Texas	12,799	12,570	229	121,535	129,999	-8,464
Utah	1,056	836	220	11,342	11,806	-464
Vermont	435	889	-454	5,941	5,567	374
Virgin Islands ^{1M}	13	29	-16	3,606	3,424	182
Virginia	2,989	2,431	558	25,811	25,960	-149
Washington	5,810	6,974	-1,164	60,230	60,722	-492
West Virginia	1,218	871	347	13,924	14,113	-189
Wisconsin	5,572	6,274	-702	46,278	47,790	-1,512
Wyoming	366	293	73	4,751	4,176	575
US Total	204,591	225,513	-20,922	2,187,125	2,232,576	-45,451

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.

¹Affected 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	
March 4, 2017	252	25	243.50	2,025	-34	2,048.25	1.5
March 11, 2017	246	-6	243.00	1,987	-38	2,032.00	1.4
March 18, 2017	261	15	246.50	2,052	65	2,030.75	1.5
March 25, 2017	259	-2	254.50	2,035	-17	2,024.75	1.5
April 1, 2017	235	-24	250.25	2,028	-7	2,025.50	1.5
April 8, 2017	234	-1	247.25	1,978	-50	2,023.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	243	9	242.75	1,987	9	2,007.00	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25	1,979	-8	1,993.00	1.4
April 29, 2017	238	-19	243.00	1,920	-59	1,966.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	236	-2	243.50	1,899	-21	1,946.25	1.4
May 13, 2017	233	-3	241.00	1,924	25	1,930.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	235	2	235.50	1,919	-5	1,915.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	255	20	239.75	1,929	10	1,917.75	1.4
June 3, 2017	245	-10	242.00	1,936	7	1,927.00	1.4
June 10, 2017	238	-7	243.25	1,942	6	1,931.50	1.4
June 17, 2017	242	4	245.00	1,945	3	1,938.00	1.4
June 24, 2017	244	2	242.25	1,965	20	1,947.00	1.4
July 1, 2017	250	6	243.50	1,949	-16	1,950.25	1.4
July 8, 2017	248	-2	246.00	1,977	28	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	234	-14	244.00	1,965	-12	1,964.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	245	11	244.25	1,967	2	1,964.50	1.4
July 29, 2017	241	-4	242.00	1,956	-11	1,966.25	1.4
August 5, 2017	244	3	241.00	1,954	-2	1,960.50	1.4
August 12, 2017	232	-12	240.50	1,954	0	1,957.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	235	3	238.00	1,945	-9	1,952.25	1.4
August 26, 2017	236	1	236.75	1,951	6	1,951.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	298	62	250.25	1,935	-16	1,946.25	1.4
September 9, 2017	281	-17	262.50	1,979	44	1,952.50	1.4
September 16, 2017	260	-21	268.75	1,911	-68	1,944.00	1.4
September 23, 2017	269	9	277.00	1,921	10	1,936.50	1.4
September 30, 2017	258	-11	267.00	1,904	-17	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	244	-14	257.75	1,896	-8	1,908.00	1.3
October 14, 2017	223	-21	248.50	1,900	4	1,905.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	11	239.75	1,884	-16	1,896.00	1.3
October 28, 2017	229	-5	232.50	1,904	20	1,896.00	1.4
November 4, 2017	239	10	231.25	1,868	-36	1,889.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	252	13	238.50	1,915	47	1,892.75	1.4
November 18, 2017	240	-12	240.00	1,960	45	1,911.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	238	-2	242.25	1,911	-49	1,913.50	1.4
December 2, 2017	236	-2	241.50	1,889	-22	1,918.75	1.3
December 9, 2017	225	-11	234.75	1,936	47	1,924.00	1.4
December 16, 2017	245	20	236.00	1,951	15	1,921.75	1.4
December 23, 2017	247	2	238.25	1,905	-46	1,920.25	1.4
December 30, 2017	250	3	241.75	1,873	-32	1,916.25	1.3
January 6, 2018	261	11	250.75	1,965	92	1,923.50	1.4
January 13, 2018	216	-45	243.50	1,940	-25	1,920.75	1.4
January 20, 2018	231	15	239.50	1,956	16	1,933.50	1.4
January 27, 2018	230	-1	234.50	1,927	-29	1,947.00	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-7	225.00	1,948	21	1,942.75	1.4
February 10, 2018	229	6	228.25	1,875	-73	1,926.50	1.3
February 17, 2018	220	-9	225.50	1,934	59	1,921.00	1.4
February 24, 2018	210	-10	220.50	1,875	-59	1,908.00	1.3
March 3, 2018	230	20	222.25	1,879	4	1,890.75	1.3
March 10, 2018	226	-4	221.50				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 3					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 24					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		CHANGE FROM		STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	CHANGE FROM			
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1				(%) 2	UCFE 1		UCX 1
Alabama	2013	-155	-133	7	11	16144	0.9	-710	-2118	72	81	16297
Alaska	1033	4	-150	2	3	11227	3.6	-938	-2001	181	39	12311
Arizona	3641	371	-167	4	3	21868	0.8	-540	-3281	271	69	22208
Arkansas	1803	183	88	5	7	14491	1.2	121	-726	78	124	14693
California	42718	11646	-2490	154	113	368738	2.2	-23320	-67059	2379	1678	372795
Colorado	1933	-87	-257	8	22	24049	1.0	-2218	-5720	288	252	24589
Connecticut	4018	376	400	6	9	49369	3.0	941	368	53	83	49505
Delaware	474	-19	-65	0	4	7650	1.8	930	-743	21	12	7683
District of Columbia	286	20	-40	7	1	8805	1.6	76	74	338	13	9156
Florida	5969	-39	-385	17	35	39366	0.5	-3018	-2441	159	147	39672
Georgia	4941	54	-2022	31	37	28075	0.7	-833	-3940	151	217	28443
Hawaii	1217	-14	-22	4	12	7284	1.2	-379	-946	83	99	7466
Idaho	1257	121	-216	14	4	10822	1.6	143	-2836	278	22	11122
Illinois	8820	467	-1369	11	9	141021	2.4	161	-11213	291	262	141574
Indiana	2409	236	-141	4	4	23315	0.8	-823	-6921	43	38	23396
Iowa	1812	-211	-184	1	2	30835	2.0	-25	-1427	54	35	30924
Kansas	1657	-463	-193	1	3	13690	1.0	876	273	42	38	13770
Kentucky	1535	-690	-1065	2	3	22729	1.2	-1538	-1344	88	130	22947
Louisiana	1897	4	-169	4	6	17465	0.9	-145	-1741	45	19	17529
Maine	1009	260	56	2	1	9570	1.6	283	-988	35	13	9618
Maryland	3039	238	-521	21	14	37735	1.5	-563	-3972	363	128	38226
Massachusetts	5283	-3871	-729	8	7	94515	2.7	5543	-2894	143	158	94816
Michigan	5826	-637	-638	15	13	82494	2.0	-5982	-13094	211	97	82802
Minnesota	3684	324	-168	3	1	62557	2.2	82	-2326	141	73	62771
Mississippi	880	62	-297	3	1	9004	0.8	-247	-1862	79	19	9102
Missouri	3397	35	116	2	5	34369	1.3	2150	1567	126	58	34553
Montana	871	-157	-55	21	1	12726	2.9	161	-249	521	24	13271
Nebraska	809	61	164	1	3	8125	0.9	-77	382	25	15	8165
Nevada	2299	-111	-68	3	3	22451	1.7	116	-2375	197	73	22721
New Hampshire	958	409	-123	2	1	5226	0.8	-62	-440	2	8	5236
New Jersey	8712	804	-49	24	21	116906	3.0	3077	-4520	269	282	117457
New Mexico	684	30	-268	1	1	10520	1.4	-239	-2118	277	51	10848
New York	31952	18249	-815	27	31	190765	2.1	18789	-9213	371	416	191552
North Carolina	2719	220	-436	7	10	22577	0.5	-917	-2505	105	157	22839
North Dakota	368	-4	-95	1	4	7608	1.9	-172	-1074	18	6	7632
Ohio	6231	106	-502	3	20	77592	1.5	-680	-2582	134	212	77938
Oklahoma	1335	220	101	7	4	14345	0.9	-18	-2091	61	68	14474
Oregon	4982	597	409	30	17	32745	1.8	1597	-812	650	107	33502
Pennsylvania	13819	597	-1738	57	39	139443	2.5	-13625	-17311	516	354	140313
Puerto Rico	1021	-139	-1005	0	4	25273	2.9	-1883	1657	20	63	25356
Rhode Island	862	-1082	-12	1	0	13458	2.9	1100	-942	19	17	13494
South Carolina	2042	-18	-20	5	6	16933	0.9	-755	1629	40	75	17048
South Dakota	200	-20	-28	2	1	3397	0.8	-14	-292	43	2	3442
Tennessee	1931	-145	-412	7	11	21742	0.8	-2318	-405	93	59	21894
Texas	12570	873	-1271	38	114	129999	1.1	79	-20380	533	1398	131930
Utah	836	4	-303	11	6	11806	0.9	-144	-1453	193	24	12023
Vermont	889	147	104	0	1	5567	1.8	227	-945	13	4	5584
Virgin Islands	29	14	-13	0	1	3424	9.2	496	2980	4	24	3452
Virginia	2431	124	-897	14	19	25960	0.7	-307	-2948	282	268	26510
Washington	6974	1011	717	19	29	60722	1.9	763	-2564	518	639	61879
West Virginia	871	-34	-75	0	2	14113	2.1	-282	-1344	53	45	14211
Wisconsin	6274	-236	-722	9	5	47790	1.7	-409	-5874	119	32	47941
Wyoming	293	-153	-273	10	1	4176	1.6	-765	-1916	128	14	4318
Totals	225513	29582	-18446	636	685	2232576	1.6	-26235	-215016	11217	8341	2252998

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 3, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+18,249	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
CA	+11,646	Layoffs in the service industry.
WA	+1,011	Layoffs in the manufacturing, retail trade, and transportation and warehousing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-3,871	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and accommodation and food service industries.
RI	-1,082	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](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 18-407-NAT

Program Contacts:
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Sandra Trujillo (202) 693-2933
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676