



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 5, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

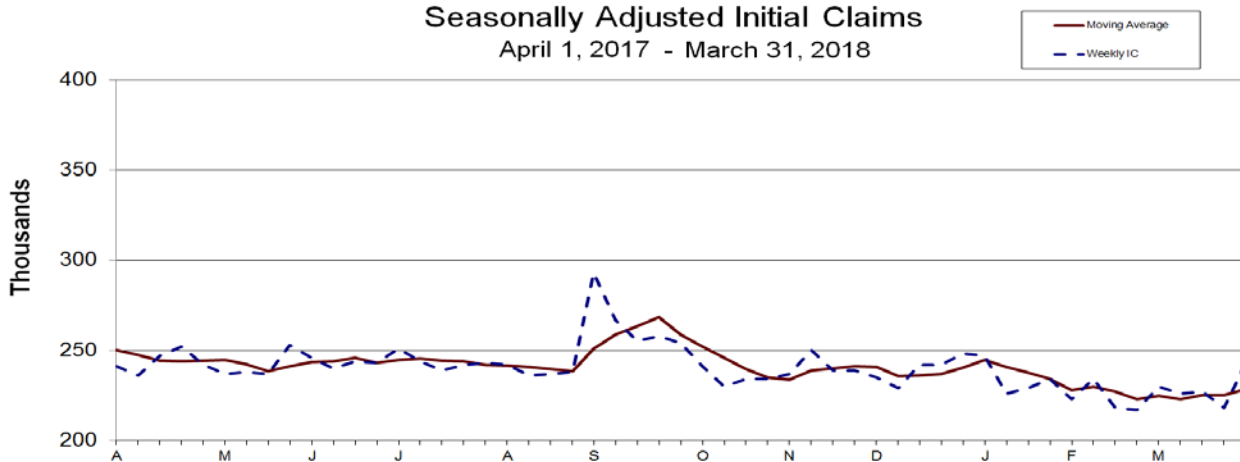
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 31, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 242,000, an increase of 24,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 3,000 from 215,000 to 218,000. The 4-week moving average was 228,250, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 224,500 to 225,250.

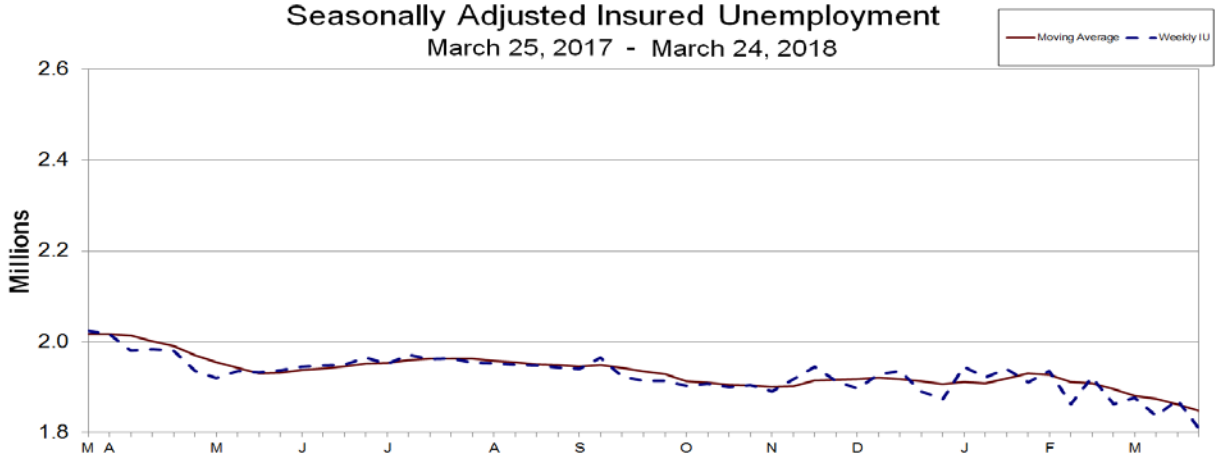
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending March 24, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 24 was 1,808,000, a decrease of 64,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 29, 1973 when it was 1,805,000. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 1,871,000 to 1,872,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,848,250, a decrease of 13,500 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 250 from 1,861,500 to 1,861,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018



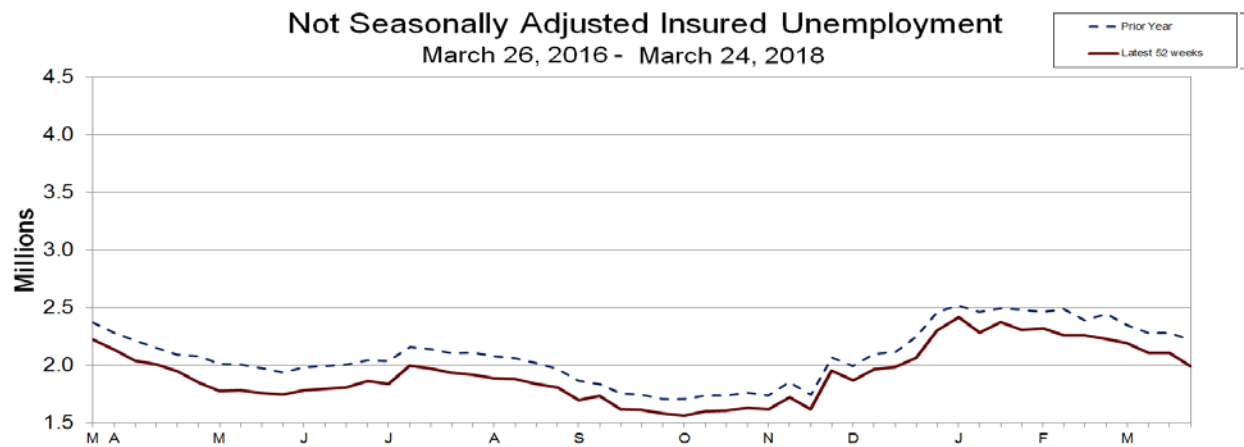
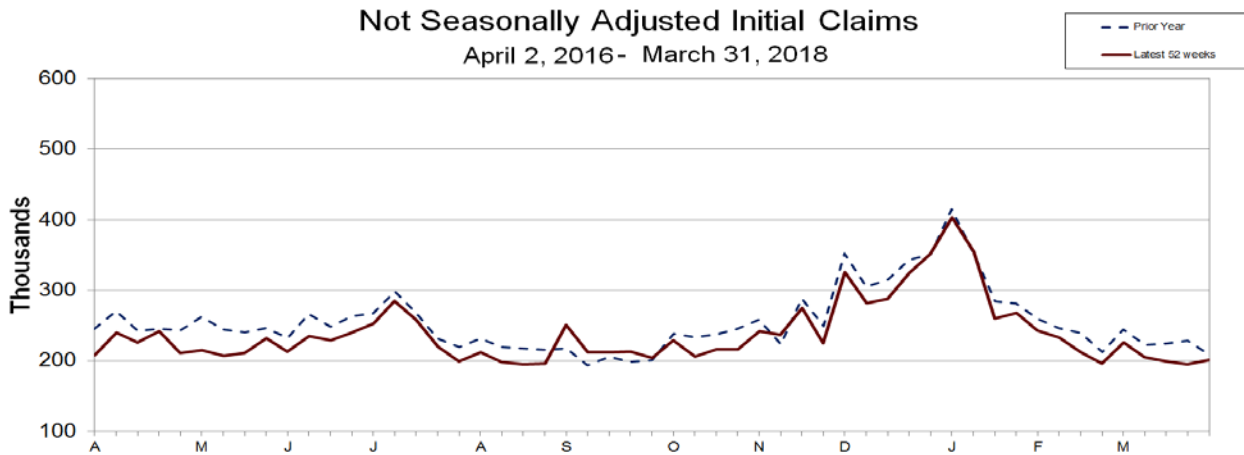
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
March 25, 2017 - March 24, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 200,909 in the week ending March 31, an increase of 5,797 (or 3.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 14,372 (or -7.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 208,347 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending March 24, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,992,285, a decrease of 115,229 (or -5.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 44,920 (or -2.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,221,962.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 17 was 2,141,204, an increase of 155 from the previous week. There were 2,326,608 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in Alaska and the Virgin Islands during week ending March 17.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 568 in the week ending March 24, unchanged from the prior week. There were 596 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 48 from the preceding week.

There were 11,526 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 17, an increase of 1,060 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,900, a decrease of 351 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 17 were in the Virgin Islands (6.9), Alaska (3.6), Connecticut (2.9), Puerto Rico (2.8), New Jersey (2.7), Massachusetts (2.5), Montana (2.5), Pennsylvania (2.5), Rhode Island (2.5), and California (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 24 were in Texas (+2,886), Arkansas (+800), Missouri (+420), Oregon (+290), and Maryland (+246), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,954), New Jersey (-1,672), New York (-1,226), Connecticut (-774), and Pennsylvania (-509).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 31	March 24	Change	March 17	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	242,000	218,000	+24,000	227,000	241,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	200,909	195,112	+5,797	198,591	208,347
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	228,250	225,250	+3,000	225,000	250,000
WEEK ENDING	March 24	March 17	Change	March 10	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,808,000	1,872,000	-64,000	1,836,000	2,024,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,992,285	2,107,514	-115,229	2,108,271	2,221,962
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,848,250	1,861,750	-13,500	1,874,250	2,017,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.5%	-0.1	1.5%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 24	March 17	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	568	568	0	596
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	596	644	-48	721

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 17	March 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,105,089	2,105,949	-860	2,282,211
Federal Employees	11,526	10,466	+1,060	12,733
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,900	8,251	-351	11,159
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1,018	948	+70	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,937	6,957	-20	7,996
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,734	8,478	+256	12,509
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,141,204	2,141,049	+155	2,326,608

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 31			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 24		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,240	2,170	70	15,234	15,402	-168
Alaska	1,137	1,024	113	9,853	11,035	-1,182
Arizona	3,628	3,927	-299	19,323	21,951	-2,628
Arkansas	1,809	2,062	-253	11,871	12,116	-245
California	39,746	39,173	573	369,039	399,410	-30,371
Colorado*	1,872	1,561	311	21,790	23,805	-2,015
Connecticut	2,174	3,172	-998	44,966	47,724	-2,758
Delaware	573	506	67	5,936	5,937	-1
District of Columbia	478	248	230	7,697	8,153	-456
Florida	5,503	6,318	-815	33,313	39,151	-5,838
Georgia	5,412	4,385	1,027	23,978	26,210	-2,232
Hawaii	1,076	1,157	-81	6,811	7,094	-283
Idaho	1,285	1,211	74	7,351	8,150	-799
Illinois	10,453	7,885	2,568	125,621	129,114	-3,493
Indiana	2,106	2,141	-35	19,307	19,588	-281
Iowa	2,387	1,800	587	25,104	26,709	-1,605
Kansas	1,548	1,537	11	10,859	10,885	-26
Kentucky	1,871	1,953	-82	19,505	21,361	-1,856
Louisiana	1,524	1,863	-339	13,882	15,972	-2,090
Maine*	651	713	-62	8,503	8,674	-171
Maryland	3,426	3,397	29	31,444	29,753	1,691
Massachusetts	3,995	4,920	-925	81,479	85,076	-3,597
Michigan	6,150	4,790	1,360	69,190	76,355	-7,165
Minnesota	3,224	3,189	35	59,363	58,668	695
Mississippi	674	1,002	-328	7,152	8,438	-1,286
Missouri	3,740	3,599	141	23,992	25,563	-1,571
Montana	695	716	-21	10,014	10,942	-928
Nebraska	608	730	-122	6,138	6,761	-623
Nevada	2,312	2,204	108	18,982	21,052	-2,070
New Hampshire	468	478	-10	4,543	5,091	-548
New Jersey	9,229	7,245	1,984	108,698	107,628	1,070
New Mexico	879	856	23	9,674	9,958	-284
New York	13,328	13,790	-462	161,352	164,290	-2,938
North Carolina	2,379	2,530	-151	19,247	21,201	-1,954
North Dakota	296	301	-5	7,251	6,659	592
Ohio	6,820	5,283	1,537	67,250	68,738	-1,488
Oklahoma	1,147	1,493	-346	13,349	13,582	-233
Oregon	4,133	3,624	509	28,867	29,241	-374
Pennsylvania	15,917	13,477	2,440	127,810	139,172	-11,362
Puerto Rico ^{IM}	823	1,118	-295	19,804	24,069	-4,265
Rhode Island	966	635	331	11,068	11,379	-311
South Carolina	1,733	1,897	-164	14,679	15,514	-835
South Dakota	124	158	-34	2,955	3,088	-133
Tennessee	2,251	2,133	118	18,406	20,790	-2,384
Texas	11,667	14,723	-3,056	117,932	129,028	-11,096
Utah	1,024	1,034	-10	9,572	10,552	-980
Vermont	427	450	-23	5,259	5,437	-178
Virgin Islands ^{IM}	13	27	-14	1,730	2,594	-864
Virginia	2,670	2,375	295	23,754	23,708	46
Washington	5,253	5,528	-275	54,346	54,551	-205
West Virginia	719	853	-134	13,113	13,274	-161
Wisconsin	5,979	5,403	576	40,662	42,478	-1,816
Wyoming	367	348	19	3,267	4,443	-1,176
US Total	200,909	195,112	5,797	1,992,285	2,107,514	-115,229

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	
March 25, 2017	253	-6	252.50	2,024	-12	2,017.25	1.5
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	1,872	36	1,861.75	1.3
March 24, 2018	218	-9	225.25	1,808	-64	1,848.25	1.3
March 31, 2018	242	24	228.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 24					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 17					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹		UCX ¹
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	2170	-171	-357	4	10	15402	0.8	-15	-2044	72	97	15571
Alaska	1024	13	-34	4	0	11035	3.6	407	-1290	175	12	12238
Arizona	3927	239	-59	7	2	21951	0.8	454	-2349	254	71	22276
Arkansas	2062	800	-485	0	2	12116	1.0	-648	-872	59	115	12290
California	39173	-2954	-3432	114	101	399410	2.4	21894	-16835	2968	1623	404001
Colorado	1561	-11	-288	8	19	23805	0.9	770	-2473	360	249	24414
Connecticut	3172	-774	-1026	6	8	47724	2.9	1752	-897	55	106	47885
Delaware	506	-41	-73	2	1	5937	1.4	178	-790	20	12	5969
District of Columbia	248	-30	-10	9	0	8153	1.5	-171	-202	363	0	8516
Florida	6318	-160	-374	15	29	39151	0.5	383	-1328	144	158	39453
Georgia	4385	-131	-1132	26	32	26210	0.6	-540	-2578	154	221	26585
Hawaii	1157	126	27	9	11	7094	1.1	218	-171	71	92	7257
Idaho	1211	215	-22	13	1	8150	1.2	-867	-2446	205	19	8374
Illinois	7885	151	-287	11	8	129114	2.2	-5555	-11119	390	212	129716
Indiana	2141	45	-376	3	2	19588	0.7	-1213	-7613	38	37	19663
Iowa	1800	-373	-166	4	1	26709	1.8	-2090	-2553	43	34	26786
Kansas	1537	61	-234	3	1	10885	0.8	-431	-3012	42	45	10972
Kentucky	1953	7	-84	4	4	21361	1.2	137	705	156	111	21629
Louisiana	1863	58	-433	1	6	15972	0.9	-45	-4040	36	15	16023
Maine	713	52	5	0	0	8674	1.5	-201	-1260	50	13	8737
Maryland	3397	246	-389	17	11	29753	1.2	-5584	-10259	216	115	30084
Massachusetts	4920	89	-89	12	14	85076	2.5	368	-2448	142	152	85370
Michigan	4790	53	-3641	11	11	76355	1.8	-1319	-6064	214	97	76666
Minnesota	3189	-205	-281	7	4	58668	2.1	-1913	-1928	119	89	58876
Mississippi	1002	-180	-174	2	1	8438	0.8	274	-1831	92	23	8553
Missouri	3599	420	-515	5	5	25563	0.9	-1596	-3903	141	44	25748
Montana	716	-152	-73	14	1	10942	2.5	-324	79	454	26	11422
Nebraska	730	10	-56	2	0	6761	0.7	-622	150	24	10	6795
Nevada	2204	122	-14	2	4	21052	1.6	-278	-1018	192	70	21314
New Hampshire	478	-83	-77	3	0	5091	0.8	12	-224	1	8	5100
New Jersey	7245	-1672	-1434	17	25	107628	2.7	-4562	-9507	255	274	108157
New Mexico	856	210	-393	3	4	9958	1.3	-197	-1869	247	41	10246
New York	13790	-1226	-7067	28	27	164290	1.8	-2701	-18657	352	417	165059
North Carolina	2530	-49	-465	8	8	21201	0.5	-262	-2229	107	131	21439
North Dakota	301	-48	-77	2	0	6659	1.6	-540	-930	15	4	6678
Ohio	5283	-168	-1030	9	12	68738	1.3	-3185	-9749	120	184	69042
Oklahoma	1493	242	12	8	4	13582	0.9	-398	-2385	63	67	13712
Oregon	3624	290	296	10	12	29241	1.6	-640	-1975	570	112	29923
Pennsylvania	13477	-509	-4816	54	33	139172	2.5	6030	-3866	566	297	140035
Puerto Rico	1118	-33	-75	0	6	24069	2.8	90	648	20	69	24158
Rhode Island	635	-199	-145	4	1	11379	2.5	-66	-1200	46	15	11440
South Carolina	1897	100	-178	3	14	15514	0.8	-376	1772	43	86	15644
South Dakota	158	4	-22	2	1	3088	0.8	-164	-185	36	2	3126
Tennessee	2133	-131	-341	13	10	20790	0.7	-557	1717	102	79	20971
Texas	14723	2886	-1227	48	98	129028	1.1	7236	-20883	485	1256	130769
Utah	1034	131	77	10	3	10552	0.8	-661	-474	158	28	10738
Vermont	450	-288	-19	0	1	5437	1.8	87	-810	13	4	5454
Virgin Islands	27	8	5	0	0	2594	6.9	216	2078	2	4	2600
Virginia	2375	2	-480	8	15	23708	0.7	-782	-4332	257	269	24234
Washington	5528	159	-466	12	26	54551	1.7	-1752	-3996	480	604	55635
West Virginia	853	-248	12	0	2	13274	2.0	164	-1119	58	45	13377
Wisconsin	5403	-448	-1186	6	5	42478	1.5	-1841	-6936	120	28	42626
Wyoming	348	66	11	5	0	4443	1.7	669	-868	161	8	4612
Totals	195112	-3479	-33157	568	596	2107514	1.5	-757	-176368	11526	7900	2127958

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 24, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	+2,886	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, retail trade, information, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,954	No comment.
NJ	-1,672	Fewer layoffs in the trade, manufacturing, accommodation and food service industries, and healthcare and social assistance industries.
NY	-1,226	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing industries.

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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