



# News Release

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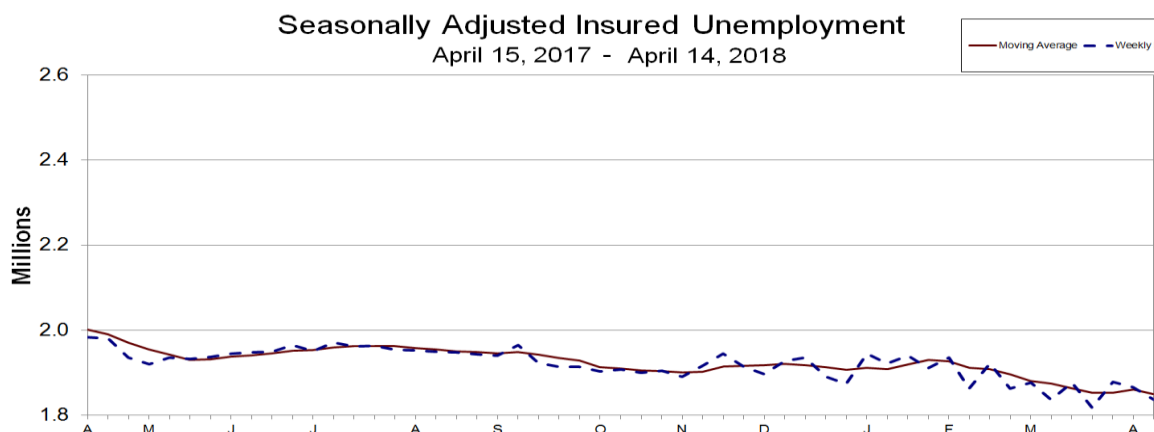
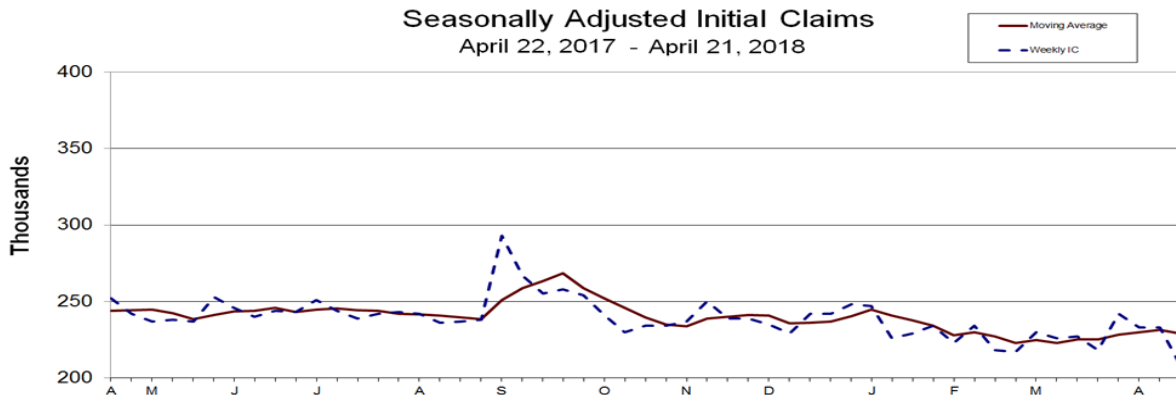
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 21, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 209,000, a decrease of 24,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for initial claims since December 6, 1969 when it was 202,000. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 232,000 to 233,000. The 4-week moving average was 229,250, a decrease of 2,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 231,250 to 231,500.

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

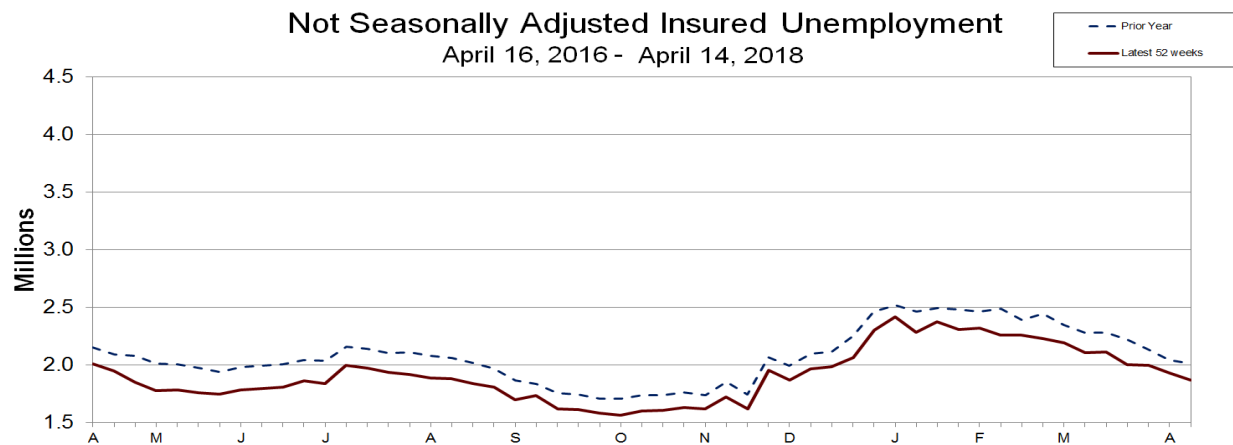
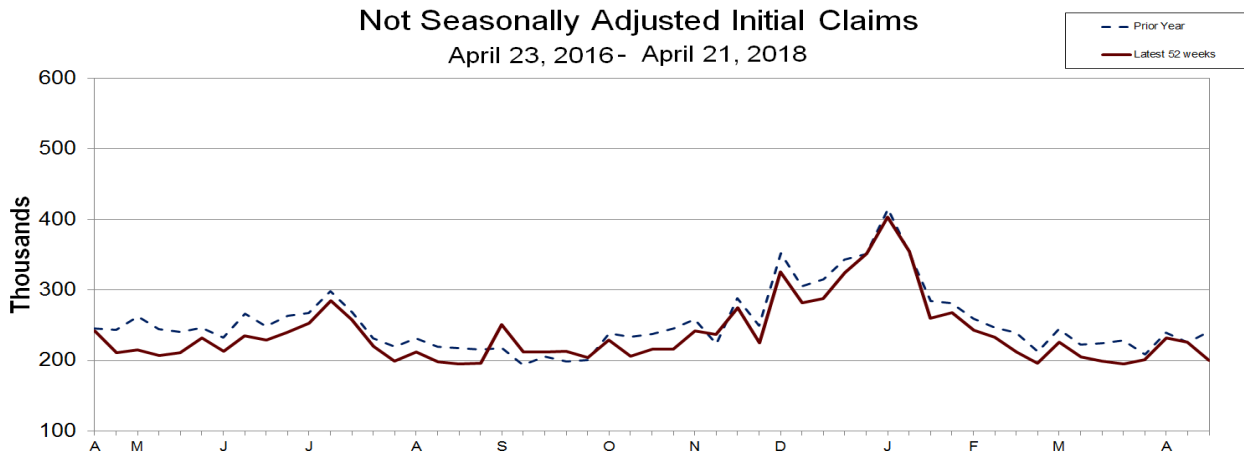
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending April 14, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 14 was 1,837,000, a decrease of 29,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 1,863,000 to 1,866,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,849,750, a decrease of 9,750 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 750 from 1,858,750 to 1,859,500.



**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 199,816 in the week ending April 21, a decrease of 26,218 (or -11.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 3,259 (or -1.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 241,611 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending April 14, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,868,048, a decrease of 61,686 (or -3.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 31,727 (or -1.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 2,012,236.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 7 was 1,960,482, a decrease of 74,152 from the previous week. There were 2,081,133 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in the Virgin Islands during the week ending April 7.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 623 in the week ending April 14, a decrease of 172 from the prior week. There were 612 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 85 from the preceding week.

There were 9,057 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 7, a decrease of 1,621 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,787, an increase of 10 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 7 were in the Virgin Islands (5.3), Alaska (3.1), New Jersey (2.7), Connecticut (2.4), Puerto Rico (2.4), California (2.2), Massachusetts (2.1), Pennsylvania (2.1), Illinois (2.0), Montana (2.0), and Rhode Island (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 14 were in New York (+15,397), California (+3,954), Connecticut (+2,268), Kentucky (+282), and Utah (+66), while the largest decreases were in New Jersey (-5,902), Pennsylvania (-2,731), Texas (-2,410), Ohio (-1,626), and Missouri (-1,120).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 21	April 14	Change	April 7	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	209,000	233,000	-24,000	233,000	252,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	199,816	226,034	-26,218	231,725	241,611
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	229,250	231,500	-2,250	230,000	244,000
WEEK ENDING	April 14	April 7	Change	March 31	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,837,000	1,866,000	-29,000	1,878,000	1,984,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,868,048	1,929,734	-61,686	2,001,558	2,012,236
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,849,750	1,859,500	-9,750	1,852,000	2,001,250
<a href="#">Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)<sup>2</sup></a>	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.4%
<a href="#">Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)<sup>2</sup></a>	1.3%	1.4%	-0.1	1.4%	1.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 14	April 7	Change	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	623	795	-172	604
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	612	697	-85	774

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 7	March 31	Change	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	1,927,403	1,999,031	-71,628	2,041,631
Federal Employees	9,057	10,678	-1,621	10,557
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,787	7,777	+10	10,476
<a href="#">Extended Benefits<sup>3</sup></a>	1,022	1,010	+12	0
<a href="#">State Additional Benefits<sup>4</sup></a>	6,840	7,029	-189	7,449
<a href="#">STC / Workshare<sup>5</sup></a>	8,373	9,109	-736	11,020
<b><a href="#">TOTAL</a></b>	<b>1,960,482</b>	<b>2,034,634</b>	<b>-74,152</b>	<b>2,081,133</b>

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 141,433,196 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 21			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 14		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,907	1,995	-88	14,608	14,450	158
Alaska	1,266	1,088	178	9,762	9,390	372
Arizona	5,451	5,935	-484	22,027	22,970	-943
Arkansas	1,288	1,394	-106	10,247	11,330	-1,083
California	41,499	45,026	-3,527	394,676	361,512	33,164
Colorado *	2,324	2,191	133	21,770	20,209	1,561
Connecticut	4,346	4,848	-502	41,993	40,071	1,922
Delaware	424	595	-171	4,867	5,792	-925
District of Columbia	454	283	171	7,231	7,950	-719
Florida	6,201	6,524	-323	34,138	36,801	-2,663
Georgia	4,605	5,602	-997	24,123	26,674	-2,551
Hawaii	1,217	1,348	-131	7,213	6,869	344
Idaho	789	933	-144	5,582	6,425	-843
Illinois	8,523	8,916	-393	114,913	119,196	-4,283
Indiana	2,108	2,534	-426	17,173	17,316	-143
Iowa	1,931	1,697	234	19,960	21,813	-1,853
Kansas	1,477	1,310	167	9,030	9,740	-710
Kentucky	1,933	3,111	-1,178	23,583	19,698	3,885
Louisiana	1,745	2,142	-397	13,706	15,508	-1,802
Maine *	661	775	-114	7,173	7,335	-162
Maryland	2,586	2,794	-208	26,867	31,042	-4,175
Massachusetts	8,656	4,490	4,166	56,827	73,100	-16,273
Michigan	4,701	4,826	-125	58,554	65,077	-6,523
Minnesota	3,168	3,459	-291	52,816	53,966	-1,150
Mississippi	892	916	-24	6,705	7,416	-711
Missouri	2,443	2,857	-414	21,001	23,410	-2,409
Montana	793	905	-112	8,287	9,079	-792
Nebraska	586	598	-12	4,349	5,031	-682
Nevada	2,432	2,122	310	17,707	19,843	-2,136
New Hampshire	481	484	-3	3,909	4,482	-573
New Jersey	7,123	8,991	-1,868	94,913	105,335	-10,422
New Mexico	692	785	-93	9,325	9,699	-374
New York	13,516	31,918	-18,402	142,010	169,125	-27,115
North Carolina	2,688	2,667	21	18,429	19,911	-1,482
North Dakota	326	313	13	5,590	5,803	-213
Ohio	5,223	5,198	25	57,332	62,463	-5,131
Oklahoma	1,227	1,520	-293	12,998	13,540	-542
Oregon	3,385	3,803	-418	27,914	28,128	-214
Pennsylvania	12,381	12,055	326	119,228	118,715	513
Puerto Rico <sup>IM</sup>	978	1,127	-149	18,189	20,506	-2,317
Rhode Island	2,641	934	1,707	8,673	9,349	-676
South Carolina	1,830	2,149	-319	13,788	15,093	-1,305
South Dakota	148	125	23	2,253	2,494	-241
Tennessee	1,828	2,073	-245	16,942	18,909	-1,967
Texas	12,241	12,698	-457	122,915	116,302	6,613
Utah	1,145	1,251	-106	8,215	8,329	-114
Vermont	946	625	321	4,818	4,646	172
Virgin Islands <sup>IM</sup>	21	16	5	1,696	1,980	-284
Virginia	2,531	2,322	209	22,118	22,561	-443
Washington	5,643	6,040	-397	50,775	50,922	-147
West Virginia	849	970	-121	10,679	11,000	-321
Wisconsin	5,259	6,216	-957	34,908	38,243	-3,335
Wyoming	308	540	-232	3,543	3,186	357
US Total	199,816	226,034	-26,218	1,868,048	1,929,734	-61,686

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.

<sup>I</sup>Affected by Hurricane Irma.

<sup>M</sup>Affected 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	
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	1,878	60	1,852.00	1.3
April 7, 2018	233	-9	230.00	1,866	-12	1,859.50	1.3
April 14, 2018	233	0	231.50	1,837	-29	1,849.75	1.3
April 21, 2018	209	-24	229.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED APRIL 14					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 7						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	(%) <sup>2</sup>	CHANGE FROM				
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>		
Alabama	1995	-467	-569	11	8	14450	0.8	-679	-2344	68	66	14584
Alaska	1088	-137	-137	2	0	9390	3.1	-852	-1424	112	31	10554
Arizona	5935	-280	650	4	2	22970	0.9	1261	-2998	175	76	23221
Arkansas	1394	-815	-386	2	3	11330	1.0	-604	-796	52	101	11483
California	45026	3954	-2113	120	117	361512	2.2	-26218	-20014	2165	1559	365236
Colorado	2191	43	-47	13	16	20209	0.8	-2152	-4882	203	249	20661
Connecticut	4848	2268	470	8	5	40071	2.4	-2157	-230	59	70	40200
Delaware	595	-751	185	2	1	5792	1.3	427	190	18	9	5819
District of Columbia	283	-20	-23	12	0	7950	1.4	24	-144	295	9	8254
Florida	6524	-1071	-315	19	31	36801	0.4	-1245	-3171	149	163	37113
Georgia	5602	-264	-216	29	37	26674	0.6	-1019	-1590	152	240	27066
Hawaii	1348	-193	243	2	6	6869	1.1	-483	-627	85	72	7026
Idaho	933	-118	-102	5	2	6425	0.9	-962	-1786	116	19	6560
Illinois	8916	-992	-149	20	14	119196	2.0	-521	-13597	271	242	119709
Indiana	2534	-135	263	4	5	17316	0.6	-1034	-5661	35	37	17388
Iowa	1697	-577	-332	4	1	21813	1.4	-1509	-68	49	29	21891
Kansas	1310	-381	-251	6	1	9740	0.7	-155	-3733	43	36	9819
Kentucky	3111	282	765	2	2	19698	1.1	332	-5	101	117	19916
Louisiana	2142	-251	-225	8	10	15508	0.8	-132	-3745	40	11	15559
Maine	775	-72	21	0	0	7335	1.2	-623	-1781	32	10	7377
Maryland	2794	-669	-2259	31	14	31042	1.2	-1439	-4225	353	114	31509
Massachusetts	4490	-342	-150	12	9	73100	2.1	-5933	-2097	132	154	73386
Michigan	4826	-865	-960	11	17	65077	1.5	-3440	-8501	160	102	65339
Minnesota	3459	-48	449	11	6	53966	1.9	-4255	4697	96	61	54123
Mississippi	916	-172	-217	1	0	7416	0.7	-32	-1585	87	19	7522
Missouri	2857	-1120	-129	2	3	23410	0.9	-2782	-2427	90	54	23554
Montana	905	-109	97	5	3	9079	2.0	-363	515	229	21	9330
Nebraska	598	-13	-277	4	2	5031	0.5	-488	38	26	14	5071
Nevada	2122	-595	-685	4	7	19843	1.5	-575	-1876	143	74	20060
New Hampshire	484	-104	-120	1	2	4482	0.7	-216	-352	2	7	4491
New Jersey	8991	-5902	-3202	21	21	105335	2.7	2704	6150	258	271	105864
New Mexico	785	-169	-103	1	0	9699	1.2	-304	-1610	145	44	9888
New York	31918	15397	16563	23	19	169125	1.9	14356	11251	321	396	169842
North Carolina	2667	-179	10	11	19	19911	0.5	-239	-1376	105	142	20158
North Dakota	313	-110	57	0	1	5803	1.4	-317	357	15	5	5823
Ohio	5198	-1626	-3202	9	19	62463	1.2	-2451	-2040	95	184	62742
Oklahoma	1520	-88	159	5	7	13540	0.9	50	-1649	62	73	13675
Oregon	3803	-1029	179	15	10	28128	1.5	-1414	-744	440	104	28672
Pennsylvania	12055	-2731	-2441	57	32	118715	2.1	-12870	-8337	454	317	119486
Puerto Rico	1127	-346	-92	1	6	20506	2.4	-1982	-1968	27	77	20610
Rhode Island	934	34	-430	4	1	9349	2.0	-1129	-673	25	19	9393
South Carolina	2149	-277	-199	6	5	15093	0.8	553	2085	37	66	15196
South Dakota	125	-68	-30	1	2	2494	0.6	-175	458	23	2	2519
Tennessee	2073	-569	-428	13	14	18909	0.7	-583	1889	93	84	19086
Texas	12698	-2410	-449	61	88	116302	1.0	-6101	-23055	484	1261	118047
Utah	1251	66	170	3	8	8329	0.6	-693	-682	94	26	8449
Vermont	625	2	-21	1	1	4646	1.5	-210	-829	11	5	4662
Virgin Islands	16	2	-12	0	0	1980	5.3	-248	1602	0	4	1984
Virginia	2322	-465	-171	14	13	22561	0.6	-269	-1704	214	264	23039
Washington	6040	-464	-182	9	17	50922	1.6	-292	-4804	373	596	51891
West Virginia	970	-165	-20	2	2	11000	1.7	-447	-975	48	39	11087
Wisconsin	6216	-632	490	7	2	38243	1.4	-1111	-544	88	31	38362
Wyoming	540	52	43	4	1	3186	1.2	-828	-1243	107	11	3304
Totals	226034	-5691	170	623	612	1929734	1.4	-71824	-112660	9057	7787	1947600

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 14, 2018**

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**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NY	+15,397	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service industries.
CA	+3,954	Layoffs in the service industry.
CT	+2,268	Layoffs in the educational service industry.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NJ	-5,902	Fewer layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, public administration, wholesale trade, and manufacturing industries.
PA	-2,731	Fewer layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
TX	-2,410	No comment.
OH	-1,626	No comment.
MO	-1,120	Fewer layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
FL	-1,071	Fewer layoffs in the construction, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
OR	-1,029	No comment.

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## 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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