



News Release

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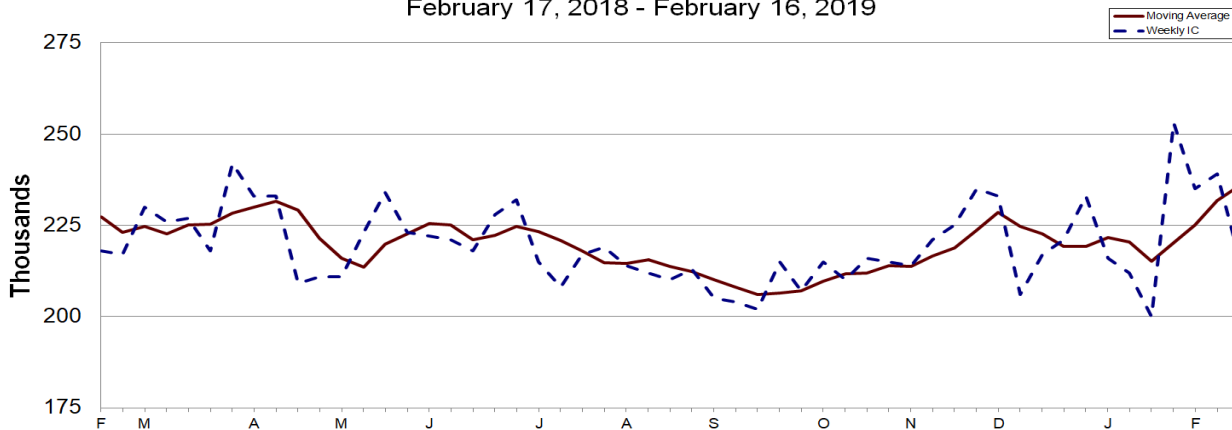
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 16, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 216,000, a decrease of 23,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 239,000. The 4-week moving average was 235,750, an increase of 4,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 231,750. This is the highest level for this average since January 20, 2018 when it was 237,500.

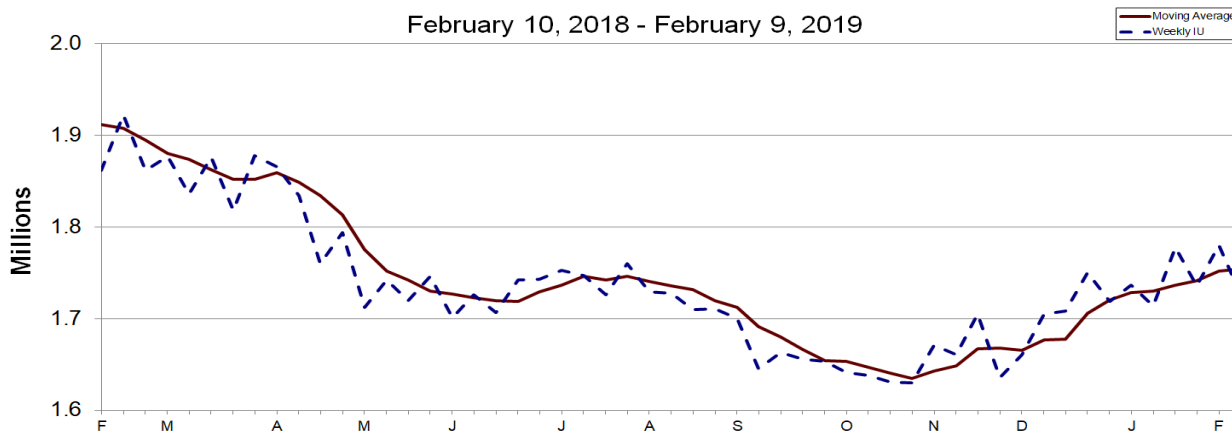
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending February 9, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 9 was 1,725,000, a decrease of 55,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 7,000 from 1,773,000 to 1,780,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,754,750, an increase of 2,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 1,750,250 to 1,752,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
February 17, 2018 - February 16, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

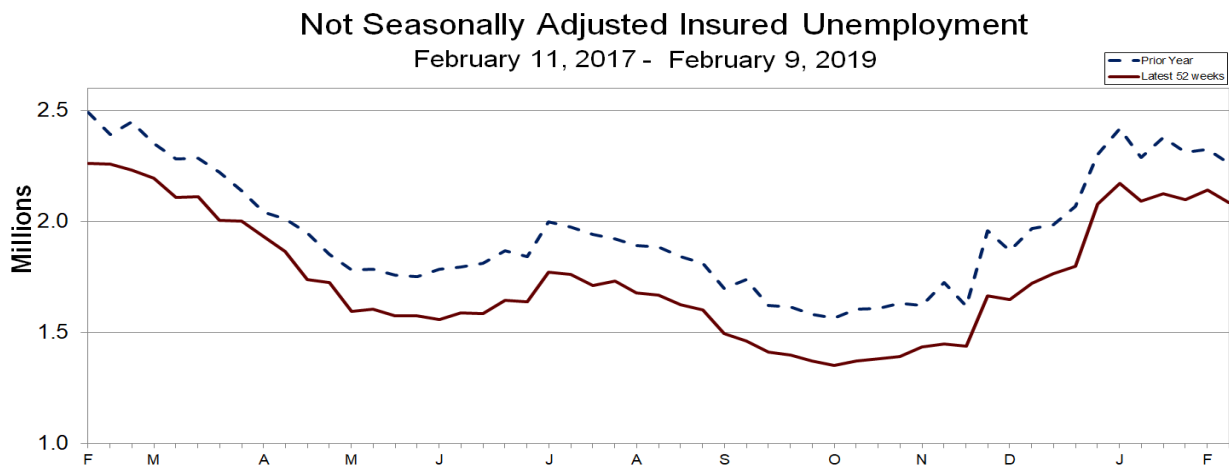
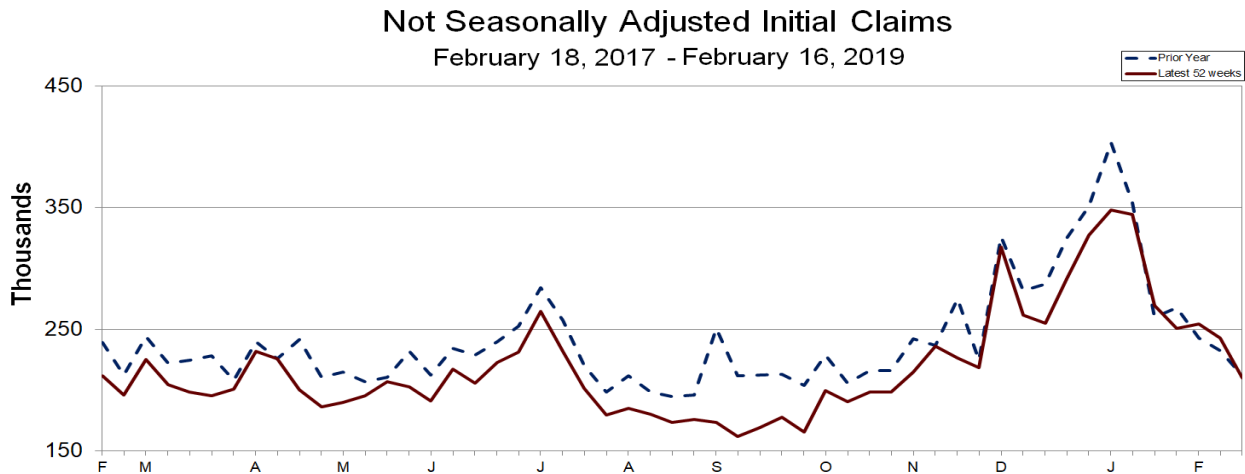
February 10, 2018 - February 9, 2019



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 210,100 in the week ending February 16, a decrease of 32,717 (or -13.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 10,297 (or -4.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 212,213 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending February 9, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,083,779, a decrease of 58,853 (or -2.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 7,118 (or 0.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,260,660.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 2 was 2,177,043, an increase of 33,128 from the previous week. There were 2,360,760 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 February 2.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 919 in the week ending February 9, a decrease of 197 from the prior week. There were 549 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 39 from the preceding week.

There were 14,933 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 2, a decrease of 11,134 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,469, a decrease of 80 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 2 were in Alaska (3.4), New Jersey (2.8), Montana (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.6), Rhode Island (2.6), Connecticut (2.5), Minnesota (2.4), Illinois (2.3), Massachusetts (2.3), and West Virginia (2.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 9 were in Washington (+4,554), Michigan (+1,356), Puerto Rico (+396), Oregon (+351), and Montana (+287), while the largest decreases were in California (-4,054), Pennsylvania (-2,083), Ohio (-1,859), Iowa (-1,463), and Illinois (-1,415).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 16	February 9	Change	February 2	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	216,000	239,000	-23,000	235,000	218,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	210,100	242,817	-32,717	254,336	212,213
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	235,750	231,750	+4,000	225,000	227,250
WEEK ENDING	February 9	February 2	Change	January 26	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,725,000	1,780,000	-55,000	1,736,000	1,862,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,083,779	2,142,632	-58,853	2,098,817	2,260,660
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,754,750	1,752,000	+2,750	1,741,250	1,912,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 9	February 2	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	919	1,116	-197	709
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	549	588	-39	649

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 2	January 26	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,139,679	2,095,947	+43,732	2,320,540
Federal Employees	14,933	26,067	-11,134	13,683
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,469	6,549	-80	8,453
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	1,005
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,640	5,871	-231	6,721
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	10,322	9,481	+841	10,358
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,177,043	2,143,915	+33,128	2,360,760

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 February 16			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 9		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,842	2,659	-817	15,520	16,382	-862
Alaska	1,094	1,029	65	9,598	10,324	-726
Arizona	3,060	3,310	-250	17,320	19,595	-2,275
Arkansas	1,709	1,804	-95	11,554	12,835	-1,281
California**	43,105	44,850	-1,745	365,908	371,696	-5,788
Colorado	1,828	2,210	-382	22,912	23,442	-530
Connecticut	2,301	2,918	-617	41,512	41,616	-104
Delaware	516	584	-68	6,531	6,430	101
District of Columbia	445	509	-64	7,839	8,650	-811
Florida	5,831	7,049	-1,218	30,873	38,218	-7,345
Georgia	5,512	5,575	-63	25,384	27,142	-1,758
Hawaii*	1,143	1,171	-28	6,867	6,861	6
Idaho	1,385	1,530	-145	10,848	11,124	-276
Illinois	7,561	9,340	-1,779	136,495	135,768	727
Indiana	2,524	3,462	-938	23,150	23,149	1
Iowa	2,310	2,679	-369	32,491	33,539	-1,048
Kansas	1,667	1,766	-99	12,422	12,281	141
Kentucky	2,260	2,381	-121	20,503	22,688	-2,185
Louisiana	1,595	1,971	-376	13,486	15,730	-2,244
Maine	655	746	-91	8,982	8,671	311
Maryland	3,056	3,134	-78	31,682	33,439	-1,757
Massachusetts	4,949	5,626	-677	80,589	81,423	-834
Michigan	5,996	10,373	-4,377	78,134	88,223	-10,089
Minnesota	3,169	5,091	-1,922	65,052	68,217	-3,165
Mississippi	816	1,076	-260	6,512	7,869	-1,357
Missouri	2,695	3,608	-913	29,000	31,428	-2,428
Montana	1,093	1,417	-324	12,510	11,497	1,013
Nebraska	734	866	-132	7,379	7,498	-119
Nevada	2,674	2,403	271	19,078	20,301	-1,223
New Hampshire	453	588	-135	4,305	4,714	-409
New Jersey	8,759	9,758	-999	111,309	111,536	-227
New Mexico	746	819	-73	9,957	10,226	-269
New York	13,684	17,414	-3,730	162,986	165,703	-2,717
North Carolina	3,090	3,312	-222	20,127	22,048	-1,921
North Dakota	519	574	-55	7,861	6,941	920
Ohio	5,894	6,584	-690	73,114	74,406	-1,292
Oklahoma	1,535	1,958	-423	13,779	14,393	-614
Oregon	4,802	4,928	-126	32,908	30,760	2,148
Pennsylvania	13,411	17,574	-4,163	137,198	146,591	-9,393
Puerto Rico**	1,304	1,584	-280	13,185	15,546	-2,361
Rhode Island	1,040	898	142	12,266	12,088	178
South Carolina	1,662	2,084	-422	16,431	16,979	-548
South Dakota	259	334	-75	3,241	3,375	-134
Tennessee	2,051	2,252	-201	18,505	20,014	-1,509
Texas	12,352	13,526	-1,174	115,371	115,008	363
Utah	1,166	1,179	-13	11,955	12,150	-195
Vermont	471	500	-29	5,763	5,353	410
Virgin Islands	22	25	-3	630	586	44
Virginia**	3,520	2,741	779	23,945	23,903	42
Washington	12,846	11,176	1,670	70,052	61,358	8,694
West Virginia	1,045	1,303	-258	16,773	14,999	1,774
Wisconsin	5,620	10,180	-4,560	48,362	54,782	-6,420
Wyoming	324	389	-65	3,625	3,137	488
US Total	210,100	242,817	-32,717	2,083,779	2,142,632	-58,853

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.

*Denotes OUI estimate.

**Denotes state estimate.

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	
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	1,834	-32	1,849.00	1.3
April 21, 2018	209	-24	229.25	1,760	-74	1,834.50	1.2
April 28, 2018	211	2	221.50	1,794	34	1,813.50	1.3
May 5, 2018	211	0	216.00	1,712	-82	1,775.00	1.2
May 12, 2018	223	12	213.50	1,742	30	1,752.00	1.2
May 19, 2018	234	11	219.75	1,720	-22	1,742.00	1.2
May 26, 2018	223	-11	222.75	1,746	26	1,730.00	1.2
June 2, 2018	222	-1	225.50	1,701	-45	1,727.25	1.2
June 9, 2018	221	-1	225.00	1,726	25	1,723.25	1.2
June 16, 2018	218	-3	221.00	1,707	-19	1,720.00	1.2
June 23, 2018	228	10	222.25	1,742	35	1,719.00	1.2
June 30, 2018	232	4	224.75	1,743	1	1,729.50	1.2
July 7, 2018	215	-17	223.25	1,753	10	1,736.25	1.2
July 14, 2018	208	-7	220.75	1,747	-6	1,746.25	1.2
July 21, 2018	217	9	218.00	1,726	-21	1,742.25	1.2
July 28, 2018	219	2	214.75	1,760	34	1,746.50	1.2
August 4, 2018	214	-5	214.50	1,729	-31	1,740.50	1.2
August 11, 2018	212	-2	215.50	1,728	-1	1,735.75	1.2
August 18, 2018	210	-2	213.75	1,710	-18	1,731.75	1.2
August 25, 2018	213	3	212.25	1,711	1	1,719.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	205	-8	210.00	1,700	-11	1,712.25	1.2
September 8, 2018	204	-1	208.00	1,645	-55	1,691.50	1.2
September 15, 2018	202	-2	206.00	1,663	18	1,679.75	1.2
September 22, 2018	215	13	206.50	1,656	-7	1,666.00	1.2
September 29, 2018	207	-8	207.00	1,653	-3	1,654.25	1.2
October 6, 2018	215	8	209.75	1,641	-12	1,653.25	1.2
October 13, 2018	210	-5	211.75	1,638	-3	1,647.00	1.1
October 20, 2018	216	6	212.00	1,631	-7	1,640.75	1.1
October 27, 2018	215	-1	214.00	1,630	-1	1,635.00	1.1
November 3, 2018	214	-1	213.75	1,671	41	1,642.50	1.2
November 10, 2018	221	7	216.50	1,661	-10	1,648.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	225	4	218.75	1,705	44	1,666.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	235	10	223.75	1,636	-69	1,668.25	1.1
December 1, 2018	233	-2	228.50	1,661	25	1,665.75	1.2
December 8, 2018	206	-27	224.75	1,705	44	1,676.75	1.2
December 15, 2018	217	11	222.75	1,708	3	1,677.50	1.2
December 22, 2018	221	4	219.25	1,750	42	1,706.00	1.2
December 29, 2018	233	12	219.25	1,719	-31	1,720.50	1.2
January 5, 2019	216	-17	221.75	1,737	18	1,728.50	1.2
January 12, 2019	212	-4	220.50	1,714	-23	1,730.00	1.2
January 19, 2019	200	-12	215.25	1,778	64	1,737.00	1.2
January 26, 2019	253	53	220.25	1,736	-42	1,741.25	1.2
February 2, 2019	235	-18	225.00	1,780	44	1,752.00	1.2
February 9, 2019	239	4	231.75	1,725	-55	1,754.75	1.2
February 16, 2019	216	-23	235.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 9					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 2					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	2659	154	404	12	5	16382	0.9	39	-1056	72	74	16528
Alaska	1029	-116	-163	5	3	10324	3.4	149	-2673	206	19	10549
Arizona	3310	-226	-625	15	3	19595	0.7	42	-2964	275	51	19921
Arkansas	1804	-39	161	5	7	12835	1.1	-294	-2085	79	39	12953
California	44850	-4054	3696	273	96	371696	2.2	8338	-34069	3467	1441	376604
Colorado	2210	-65	84	14	20	23442	0.9	853	-3015	397	202	24041
Connecticut	2918	12	-875	3	9	41616	2.5	-118	-8311	83	61	41760
Delaware	584	-144	34	0	1	6430	1.5	-727	-473	12	13	6455
District of Columbia	509	-88	221	58	0	8650	1.5	-1186	-538	626	6	9282
Florida	7049	-461	-110	9	21	38218	0.5	716	-6184	205	113	38536
Georgia	5575	92	-598	21	29	27142	0.6	-733	-3573	187	201	27530
Hawaii	1171	-112	-161	6	5	6861	1.1	-75	-847	78	61	7000
Idaho	1530	79	181	14	1	11124	1.6	-280	-849	357	11	11492
Illinois	9340	-1415	-830	10	6	135768	2.3	3897	-4140	601	170	136539
Indiana	3462	145	671	3	2	23149	0.8	2396	-839	34	27	23210
Iowa	2679	-1463	212	4	5	33539	2.2	2362	2080	63	25	33627
Kansas	1766	-151	-360	1	3	12281	0.9	-462	-1133	50	34	12365
Kentucky	2381	-292	-1086	4	2	22688	1.2	1887	-2622	135	111	22934
Louisiana	1971	-91	-189	4	3	15730	0.8	-737	-2836	49	20	15799
Maine	746	-183	-23	0	2	8671	1.5	-107	-829	39	13	8723
Maryland	3134	-570	-550	21	6	33439	1.3	-920	-6328	261	106	33806
Massachusetts	5626	-327	-327	18	5	81423	2.3	-746	-8894	183	94	81700
Michigan	10373	1356	-2044	18	10	88223	2.1	11052	-3015	285	73	88581
Minnesota	5091	260	1093	8	3	68217	2.4	5546	2640	213	60	68490
Mississippi	1076	97	-119	13	1	7869	0.7	-428	-1883	58	25	7952
Missouri	3608	-720	-117	3	1	31428	1.2	-824	-2564	154	29	31611
Montana	1417	287	412	26	2	11497	2.6	196	-1050	669	24	12190
Nebraska	866	-195	63	1	3	7498	0.8	165	-958	31	7	7536
Nevada	2403	-58	-180	4	4	20301	1.5	-67	-2545	185	60	20546
New Hampshire	588	5	28	0	0	4714	0.7	-28	-625	3	3	4720
New Jersey	9758	-145	709	39	12	111536	2.8	-213	-6673	334	261	112131
New Mexico	819	-51	29	6	2	10226	1.3	-111	-959	395	43	10664
New York	17414	-881	1329	27	29	165703	1.8	837	-9321	423	342	166468
North Carolina	3312	-146	-63	15	27	22048	0.5	-322	-2329	184	100	22332
North Dakota	574	21	46	3	1	6941	1.7	199	-1065	22	3	6966
Ohio	6584	-1859	-818	5	19	74406	1.4	1361	-5483	163	151	74720
Oklahoma	1958	-52	456	6	4	14393	0.9	-103	-607	59	63	14515
Oregon	4928	351	674	33	9	30760	1.6	-98	-1323	736	74	31570
Pennsylvania	17574	-2083	1946	70	31	146591	2.6	13917	-8369	740	270	147601
Puerto Rico	1584	396	-3	11	3	15546	1.9	-368	-15468	145	43	15734
Rhode Island	898	-556	-18	3	2	12088	2.6	-142	-554	32	18	12138
South Carolina	2084	-194	-456	5	6	16979	0.8	-419	-2067	49	89	17117
South Dakota	334	16	93	4	1	3375	0.8	92	-119	92	3	3470
Tennessee	2252	-211	-432	7	6	20014	0.7	-229	-4609	118	61	20193
Texas	13526	-635	-212	52	101	115008	1.0	-6019	-14885	829	1054	116891
Utah	1179	15	8	12	1	12150	0.9	-196	-231	375	20	12545
Vermont	500	-192	25	2	2	5353	1.8	-62	-212	19	1	5373
Virgin Islands	25	4	-9	0	0	586	1.7	-56	-3770	6	0	592
Virginia	2741	-228	-353	8	5	23903	0.6	-449	-3158	207	174	24284
Washington	11176	4554	4302	23	22	61358	1.9	-600	-1303	673	473	62504
West Virginia	1303	-129	145	2	5	14999	2.3	242	587	70	15	15084
Wisconsin	10180	-1192	3250	9	3	54782	1.9	6771	5086	127	32	54941
Wyoming	389	-39	14	4	0	3137	1.2	-123	-1911	78	6	3221
Totals	242817	-11519	9565	919	549	2142632	1.5	43815	-180921	14933	6469	2164034

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 FEBRUARY 9, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
WA	+4,554	Layoffs in the agriculture, fishing and hunting, mining, utilities, construction, manufacturing, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
MI	+1,356	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-4,054	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
PA	-2,083	Fewer layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
OH	-1,859	No comment.
IA	-1,463	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing and construction industries.
IL	-1,415	No comment.
WI	-1,192	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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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
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Program Contacts:
Kevin Stapleton: (202) 693-3009
Tony Sznoluch: (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676