



# News Release

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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 6, 2023**

## **REVISION TO SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT FACTORS**

Beginning with the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Weekly Claims News Release issued Thursday, April 6, 2023, the methodology used to seasonally adjust the national initial claims and continued claims reflects a change in the estimation of the models.

Seasonal adjustment factors can be either multiplicative or additive. A multiplicative seasonal effect is assumed to be proportional to the level of the series. A large increase in the level of the series will be accompanied by a proportionally large seasonal effect. In contrast, an additive seasonal effect is assumed to be unaffected by the level of the series. In times of relative economic stability, a multiplicative adjustment is generally preferred over an additive adjustment. However, in the presence of a large level shift in a time series, multiplicative seasonal adjustment factors can result in systematic over- or under-adjustment of the series. In such cases, additive seasonal adjustment factors are preferred since they tend to track seasonal fluctuations more accurately in the series and lead to smaller revisions.

Prior to the pandemic, the unemployment insurance claims series used multiplicative models to seasonally adjust the claims. Starting with March 2020, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) staff, who provide the seasonal adjustment factors, specified both of the UI claims series as additive. After the large effects of the pandemic on the UI series lessened, the seasonal adjustment models were once again specified as multiplicative models. Statistical tests show that the UI series should, in normal times, be estimated using multiplicative adjustments.

While the pandemic period remains within the five-year revision period, the UI series will be treated as a hybrid adjustment. The most volatile economic period of the pandemic, including the period running from March 2020 to June 2021, was not revised and will continue to be based on additive adjustments. Before and after these periods, both series are adjusted using multiplicative adjustments. For consistency, the published seasonal factors are presented as multiplicative with additive factors converted to implicit multiplicative factors and will not be subject to revision.

Now that the pandemic impacts on the on the UI claims series are clearer, modifications have been made to the outlier sets in the seasonal adjustment models for both of the claims series. This led to larger than usual revisions during many weeks over the last 5 years, however, these changes should provide a more accurate picture of claims levels and patterns for both initial and continued claims.

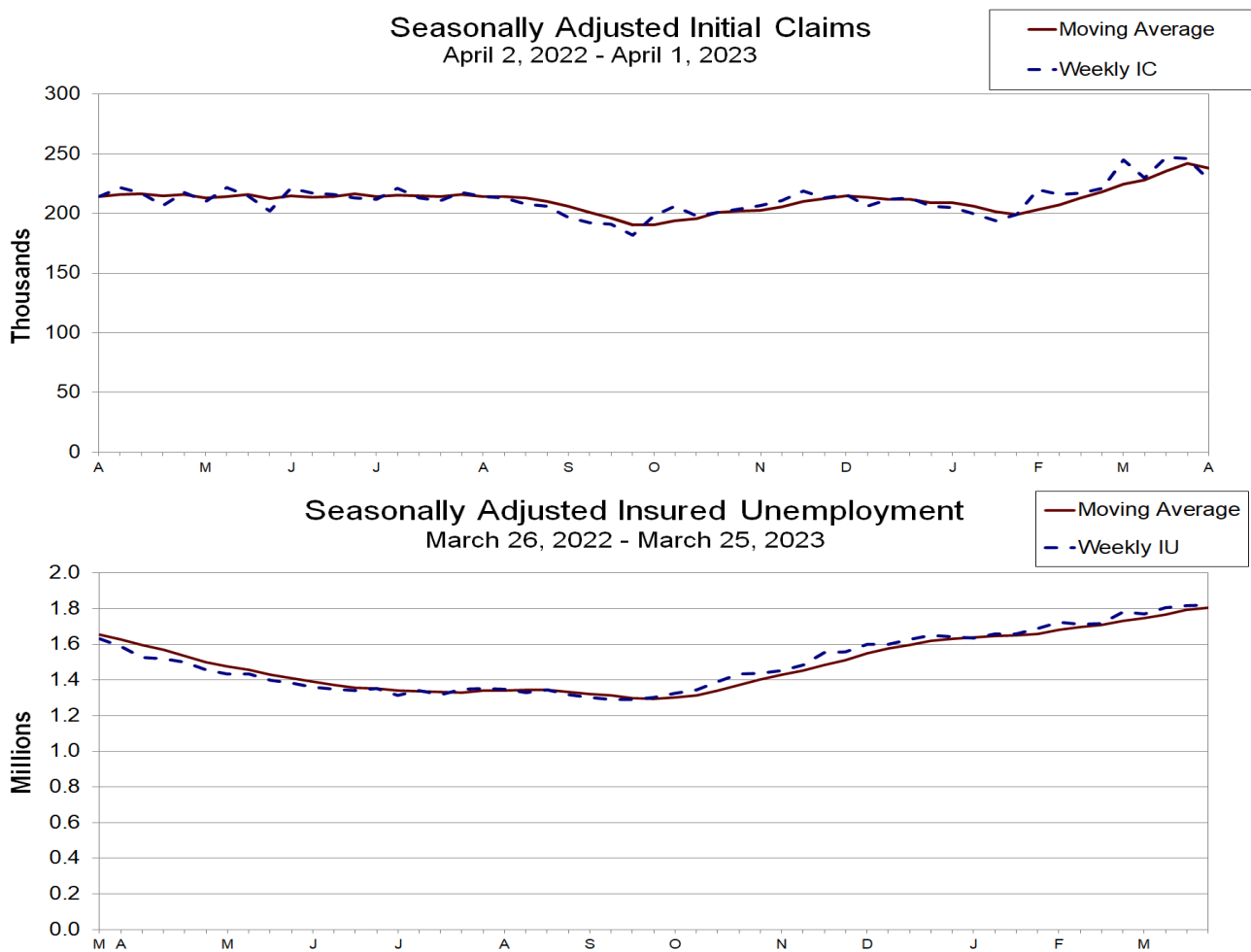
For further questions on the seasonal adjustment methodology, please see the [official release page for the UI claims seasonal adjustment factors](#) or contact BLS directly through the [Local Area Unemployment Statistics web contact form](#).

# UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 1, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 228,000, a decrease of 18,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 48,000 from 198,000 to 246,000. The 4-week moving average was 237,750, a decrease of 4,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 43,750 from 198,250 to 242,000.

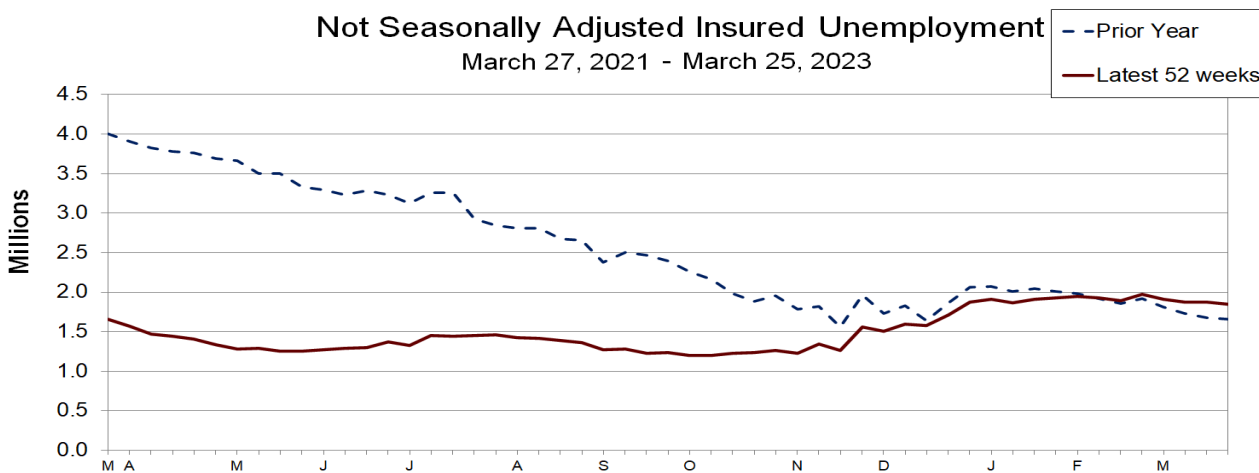
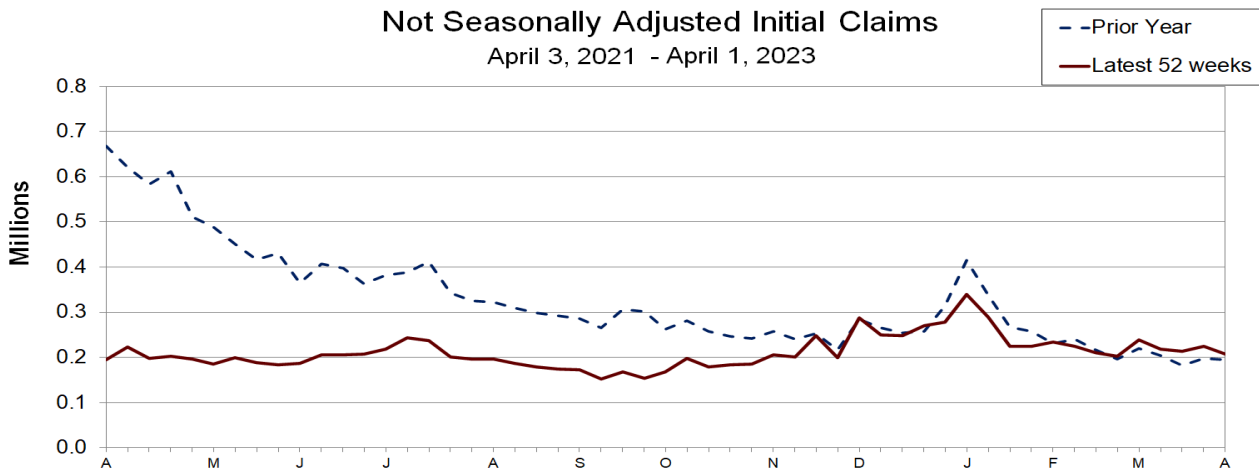
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending March 25, unchanged from the previous week's revised rate. The previous week's rate was revised up by 0.1 from 1.2 to 1.3 percent. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 25 was 1,823,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the highest level for insured unemployment since December 11, 2021 when it was 1,833,000. The previous week's level was revised up 128,000 from 1,689,000 to 1,817,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,804,000, an increase of 10,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the highest level for this average since November 13, 2021 when it was 2,007,000. The previous week's average was revised up by 101,750 from 1,691,750 to 1,793,500.



**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 206,931 in the week ending April 1, a decrease of 17,262 (or -7.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 1,229 (or -0.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 194,671 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending March 25, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 1,845,171, a decrease of 32,139 (or -1.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 38,164 (or -2.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.2 percent and the volume was 1,654,359.



The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending March 18 was 1,905,334, a decrease of 1,183 from the previous week. There were 1,728,353 weekly claims filed for benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2022.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending March 18.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 390 in the week ending March 25, an increase of 18 from the prior week. There were 328 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 23 from the preceding week.

There were 6,477 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending March 18, a decrease of 321 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 4,237, an increase of 285 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 18 were in New Jersey (2.6), California (2.4), Rhode Island (2.4), Massachusetts (2.3), Minnesota (2.2), Alaska (1.9), Illinois (1.9), New York (1.9), and Montana (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 25 were in Michigan (+4,536), Massachusetts (+2,733), California (+1,953), Texas (+1,810), and New York (+1,646), while the largest decreases were in Indiana (-2,559), Connecticut (-897), Tennessee (-663), Mississippi (-626), and Iowa (-615).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b>March 25</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	228,000	246,000	-18,000	247,000	214,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	206,931	224,193	-17,262	213,003	194,671
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	237,750	242,000	-4,250	235,750	214,500

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 25</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>March 11</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,823,000	1,817,000	+6,000	1,804,000	1,633,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,845,171	1,877,310	-32,139	1,878,281	1,654,359
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,804,000	1,793,500	+10,500	1,768,750	1,653,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) <sup>2</sup>	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) <sup>2</sup>	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.2%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 25</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	390	372	+18	492
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	328	305	+23	337

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CONTINUED WEEKS CLAIMED FILED FOR UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<b>March 11</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,870,587	1,871,892	-1,305	1,672,711
Federal Employees	6,477	6,798	-321	8,875
Newly Discharged Veterans	4,237	3,952	+285	4,332
Extended Benefits <sup>3</sup>	1,727	1,474	+253	28,147
State Additional Benefits <sup>4</sup>	2,023	1,946	+77	1,906
STC / Workshare <sup>5</sup>	20,283	20,455	-172	12,382
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,905,334</b>	<b>1,906,517</b>	<b>-1,183</b>	<b>1,728,353</b>

**FOOTNOTES**

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data Continued weeks claimed represent all weeks of benefits claimed during the week being reported, and do not represent weeks claimed by unique individuals.

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 145,292,485 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 benefits, and when applicable, extended 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 4-11 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

## Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 1			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 25		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,828	2,362	-534	8,275	9,086	-811
Alaska	757	721	36	5,298	5,615	-317
Arizona	2,896	3,062	-166	19,108	19,944	-836
Arkansas	1,246	1,157	89	6,938	7,596	-658
California	40,446	46,783	-6,337	411,624	413,320	-1,696
Colorado	2,463	2,424	39	24,687	24,272	415
Connecticut	2,283	2,424	-141	27,116	28,132	-1,016
Delaware	199	221	-22	4,786	4,336	450
District of Columbia	536	2,092	-1,556	5,917	5,694	223
Florida	4,874	5,129	-255	32,611	36,860	-4,249
Georgia	4,505	4,954	-449	26,664	27,794	-1,130
Hawaii	1,101	1,137	-36	5,685	5,766	-81
Idaho	1,222	1,293	-71	8,042	8,617	-575
Illinois	9,953	7,976	1,977	110,960	109,666	1,294
Indiana	5,951	1,279	4,672	24,072	24,737	-665
Iowa	1,444	1,446	-2	15,248	18,587	-3,339
Kansas	971	1,084	-113	5,356	5,000	356
Kentucky	1,413	5,317	-3,904	10,662	10,450	212
Louisiana	1,567	1,562	5	10,264	11,190	-926
Maine	708	710	-2	7,922	7,817	105
Maryland	1,489	2,048	-559	20,212	21,036	-824
Massachusetts	15,256	14,078	1,178	80,685	83,554	-2,869
Michigan	5,934	9,267	-3,333	59,348	63,455	-4,107
Minnesota	3,983	3,515	468	62,073	59,753	2,320
Mississippi	964	1,016	-52	4,798	5,736	-938
Missouri	2,978	4,622	-1,644	17,656	17,349	307
Montana	623	663	-40	7,941	8,237	-296
Nebraska	517	524	-7	4,483	4,948	-465
Nevada	2,018	2,061	-43	18,096	19,495	-1,399
New Hampshire	313	370	-57	2,726	3,034	-308
New Jersey	7,455	7,603	-148	101,937	103,827	-1,890
New Mexico	622	737	-115	9,364	9,647	-283
New York	13,659	15,276	-1,617	168,250	170,607	-2,357
North Carolina	3,327	3,340	-13	17,969	18,604	-635
North Dakota	206	228	-22	4,496	4,548	-52
Ohio	13,099	15,759	-2,660	54,788	56,989	-2,201
Oklahoma	951	1,145	-194	9,857	10,486	-629
Oregon	4,960	3,921	1,039	31,642	31,781	-139
Pennsylvania	8,241	8,928	-687	91,833	93,854	-2,021
Puerto Rico	1,036	996	40	14,024	15,230	-1,206
Rhode Island	576	706	-130	10,433	10,893	-460
South Carolina	1,700	1,573	127	12,226	12,595	-369
South Dakota	119	154	-35	2,493	2,572	-79
Tennessee	1,969	2,130	-161	13,827	14,938	-1,111
Texas	14,362	15,764	-1,402	122,870	124,947	-2,077
Utah	1,514	1,504	10	12,020	12,073	-53
Vermont	285	299	-14	3,543	3,525	18
Virgin Islands	23	31	-8	174	206	-32
Virginia	1,774	1,876	-102	13,136	11,758	1,378
Washington	5,024	5,036	-12	57,817	54,479	3,338
West Virginia	575	623	-48	8,373	8,019	354
Wisconsin	4,721	4,972	-251	32,276	32,270	6
Wyoming	295	295	0	2,570	2,386	184
US Total	206,931	224,193	-17,262	1,845,171	1,877,310	-32,139

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.

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 26, 2022	214	0	218.00	1,633	2	1,653.50	1.2
April 2, 2022	214	0	214.50	1,590	-43	1,628.75	1.1
April 9, 2022	222	8	216.00	1,527	-63	1,595.25	1.1
April 16, 2022	217	-5	216.75	1,521	-6	1,567.75	1.1
April 23, 2022	207	-10	215.00	1,498	-23	1,534.00	1.1
April 30, 2022	218	11	216.00	1,457	-41	1,500.75	1.0
May 7, 2022	210	-8	213.00	1,434	-23	1,477.50	1.0
May 14, 2022	222	12	214.25	1,432	-2	1,455.25	1.0
May 21, 2022	215	-7	216.25	1,399	-33	1,430.50	1.0
May 28, 2022	202	-13	212.25	1,382	-17	1,411.75	1.0
June 4, 2022	221	19	215.00	1,359	-23	1,393.00	1.0
June 11, 2022	217	-4	213.75	1,350	-9	1,372.50	1.0
June 18, 2022	216	-1	214.00	1,340	-10	1,357.75	1.0
June 25, 2022	213	-3	216.75	1,354	14	1,350.75	1.0
July 2, 2022	212	-1	214.50	1,314	-40	1,339.50	0.9
July 9, 2022	221	9	215.50	1,341	27	1,337.25	0.9
July 16, 2022	213	-8	214.75	1,317	-24	1,331.50	0.9
July 23, 2022	211	-2	214.25	1,350	33	1,330.50	1.0
July 30, 2022	218	7	215.75	1,352	2	1,340.00	1.0
August 6, 2022	214	-4	214.00	1,350	-2	1,342.25	1.0
August 13, 2022	213	-1	214.00	1,329	-21	1,345.25	0.9
August 20, 2022	208	-5	213.25	1,343	14	1,343.50	0.9
August 27, 2022	206	-2	210.25	1,316	-27	1,334.50	0.9
September 3, 2022	197	-9	206.00	1,302	-14	1,322.50	0.9
September 10, 2022	192	-5	200.75	1,289	-13	1,312.50	0.9
September 17, 2022	191	-1	196.50	1,290	1	1,299.25	0.9
September 24, 2022	182	-9	190.50	1,302	12	1,295.75	0.9
October 1, 2022	198	16	190.75	1,325	23	1,301.50	0.9
October 8, 2022	206	8	194.25	1,346	21	1,315.75	0.9
October 15, 2022	198	-8	196.00	1,391	45	1,341.00	1.0
October 22, 2022	201	3	200.75	1,432	41	1,373.50	1.0
October 29, 2022	204	3	202.25	1,439	7	1,402.00	1.0
November 5, 2022	207	3	202.50	1,454	15	1,429.00	1.0
November 12, 2022	211	4	205.75	1,484	30	1,452.25	1.0
November 19, 2022	219	8	210.25	1,554	70	1,482.75	1.1
November 26, 2022	213	-6	212.50	1,558	4	1,512.50	1.1
December 3, 2022	216	3	214.75	1,601	43	1,549.25	1.1
December 10, 2022	206	-10	213.50	1,601	0	1,578.50	1.1
December 17, 2022	212	6	211.75	1,627	26	1,596.75	1.1
December 24, 2022	213	1	211.75	1,650	23	1,619.75	1.1
December 31, 2022	206	-7	209.25	1,645	-5	1,630.75	1.1
January 7, 2023	205	-1	209.00	1,634	-11	1,639.00	1.1
January 14, 2023	200	-5	206.00	1,658	24	1,646.75	1.1
January 21, 2023	194	-6	201.25	1,660	2	1,649.25	1.1
January 28, 2023	199	5	199.50	1,688	28	1,660.00	1.2
February 4, 2023	220	21	203.25	1,723	35	1,682.25	1.2
February 11, 2023	216	-4	207.25	1,714	-9	1,696.25	1.2
February 18, 2023	217	1	213.00	1,718	4	1,710.75	1.2
February 25, 2023	221	4	218.50	1,781	63	1,734.00	1.2
March 4, 2023	245	24	224.75	1,772	-9	1,746.25	1.2
March 11, 2023	230	-15	228.25	1,804	32	1,768.75	1.2
March 18, 2023	247	17	235.75	1,817	13	1,793.50	1.3
March 25, 2023	246	-1	242.00	1,823	6	1,804.00	1.3
April 1, 2023	228	-18	237.75				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED  
MARCH 25

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED  
MARCH 18

STATE NAME	CHANGE FROM					CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE (%) <sup>2</sup>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		
Alabama	2,362	227	285	7	6	9,086	0.5	-161	5,329	51	14	9,151
Alaska	721	-20	-135	2	1	5,615	1.9	-54	-511	77	15	5,707
Arizona	3,062	55	391	2	1	19,944	0.7	218	7,035	93	20	20,057
Arkansas	1,157	-168	-277	2	0	7,596	0.6	-114	268	43	10	7,649
California	46,783	1,953	4,472	101	59	413,320	2.4	9,422	25,516	1,247	859	415,426
Colorado	2,424	29	328	3	3	24,272	0.9	-399	2,888	195	115	24,582
Connecticut	2,424	-897	213	1	0	28,132	1.7	-731	2,835	24	42	28,198
Delaware	221	-35	-199	1	3	4,336	1.0	144	729	17	9	4,362
District of Columbia	2,092	514	628	12	0	5,694	1.0	701	447	160	7	5,861
Florida	5,129	51	428	8	26	36,860	0.4	631	4,348	115	106	37,081
Georgia	4,954	-83	928	22	17	27,794	0.6	-2,289	-1,650	190	102	28,086
Hawaii	1,137	106	-17	2	5	5,766	1.0	167	-708	67	56	5,889
Idaho	1,293	131	176	2	3	8,617	1.1	-539	2,926	92	18	8,727
Illinois	7,976	-175	450	1	5	109,666	1.9	-4,331	-4,910	261	116	110,043
Indiana	1,279	-2,559	-1,947	9	4	24,737	0.8	-888	2,744	53	21	24,811
Iowa	1,446	-615	-101	3	1	18,587	1.2	-249	1,089	15	6	18,608
Kansas	1,084	-29	-34	0	0	5,000	0.4	-120	-239	27	10	5,037
Kentucky	5,317	679	2,849	0	0	10,450	0.6	-221	-116	47	47	10,544
Louisiana	1,562	-77	130	1	0	11,190	0.6	-94	420	39	12	11,241
Maine	710	74	105	1	0	7,817	1.3	130	787	22	8	7,847
Maryland	2,048	182	27	10	1	21,036	0.7	-1,208	193	132	40	21,208
Massachusetts	14,078	2,733	10,261	15	12	83,554	2.3	65	17,974	99	74	83,727
Michigan	9,267	4,536	834	3	4	63,455	1.5	-1,235	5,933	129	57	63,641
Minnesota	3,515	122	415	2	1	59,753	2.2	-623	5,723	80	60	59,893
Mississippi	1,016	-626	170	5	1	5,736	0.5	567	1,231	37	9	5,782
Missouri	4,622	1,604	1,765	3	3	17,349	0.6	46	3,313	78	38	17,465
Montana	663	114	78	16	1	8,237	1.8	-506	1,666	275	22	8,534
Nebraska	524	-48	37	2	1	4,948	0.5	-378	656	6	4	4,958
Nevada	2,061	-28	331	3	1	19,495	1.4	-120	4,391	103	42	19,640
New Hampshire	370	-9	101	1	1	3,034	0.5	-54	564	1	8	3,043
New Jersey	7,603	207	345	16	8	103,827	2.6	-393	14,842	277	164	104,268
New Mexico	737	-33	-30	1	1	9,647	1.2	60	878	111	24	9,782
New York	15,276	1,646	1,766	16	19	170,607	1.9	573	7,191	322	227	171,156
North Carolina	3,340	-46	810	2	1	18,604	0.4	-164	4,724	45	97	18,746
North Dakota	228	-15	39	1	0	4,548	1.1	-200	-37	11	3	4,562
Ohio	15,759	935	-423	8	15	56,989	1.1	-226	9,321	83	126	57,198
Oklahoma	1,145	-168	-1,801	6	6	10,486	0.7	382	-1,435	30	30	10,546
Oregon	3,921	-290	416	9	6	31,781	1.7	-265	8,053	329	47	32,157
Pennsylvania	8,928	161	1,830	10	15	93,854	1.7	-550	6,865	231	130	94,215
Puerto Rico	996	28	155	5	1	15,230	1.7	1,368	2,373	125	103	15,458
Rhode Island	706	-140	112	0	0	10,893	2.4	-312	1,774	21	17	10,931
South Carolina	1,573	-553	-8	2	1	12,595	0.6	-326	3,421	22	39	12,656
South Dakota	154	-14	37	1	0	2,572	0.6	-141	303	20	1	2,593
Tennessee	2,130	-663	245	2	6	14,938	0.4	8	2,500	41	44	15,023
Texas	15,764	1,810	353	40	69	124,947	1.0	3,805	25,519	429	884	126,260
Utah	1,504	-42	-133	8	0	12,073	0.8	-492	5,104	107	13	12,193
Vermont	299	-53	2	0	0	3,525	1.2	-158	181	0	1	3,526
Virgin Islands	31	4	8	0	0	206	0.6	18	-392	0	2	208
Virginia	1,876	253	249	2	0	11,758	0.3	-23	5,074	54	80	11,892
Washington	5,036	221	779	7	15	54,479	1.6	-1,000	12,194	286	237	55,002
West Virginia	623	-26	65	0	3	8,019	1.3	-261	1,117	25	13	8,057
Wisconsin	4,972	305	-437	1	2	32,270	1.1	-308	266	78	6	32,354
Wyoming	295	-78	-6	13	0	2,386	0.9	-143	229	55	2	2,443
Totals	224,193	11,190	27,065	390	328	1,877,310	1.3	-971	200,936	6,477	4,237	1,888,024

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.



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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 25, 2023**

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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>
MI	+4,536	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MA	+2,733	No comment.
CA	+1,953	No comment.
TX	+1,810	Layoffs in the accommodation and food services industry.
NY	+1,646	Layoffs in the accommodation and food services, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
MO	+1,604	Layoffs in the automobile 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>
IN	-2,559	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. On a weekly basis, continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment, as continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits. The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. 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. For further questions on the seasonal adjustment methodology, please see the [official release page for the UI claims seasonal adjustment factors](#) or contact BLS directly through the [Local Area Unemployment Statistics web contact form](#).

[2018\\_2023\\_seasonal\\_factors.txt](#)

[2018\\_2023\\_seasonal\\_factors.xlsx](#)

[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).

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