



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 24, 2016

Note: This week's release reflects the annual revision to the weekly unemployment claims seasonal adjustment factors. The seasonal adjustment factors used for the UI Weekly Claims data from 2011 forward, along with the resulting seasonally adjusted values for initial claims and continuing claims, have been revised.

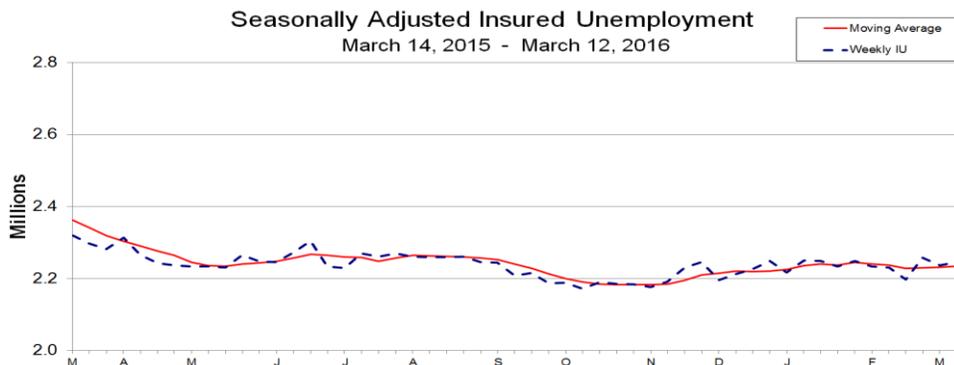
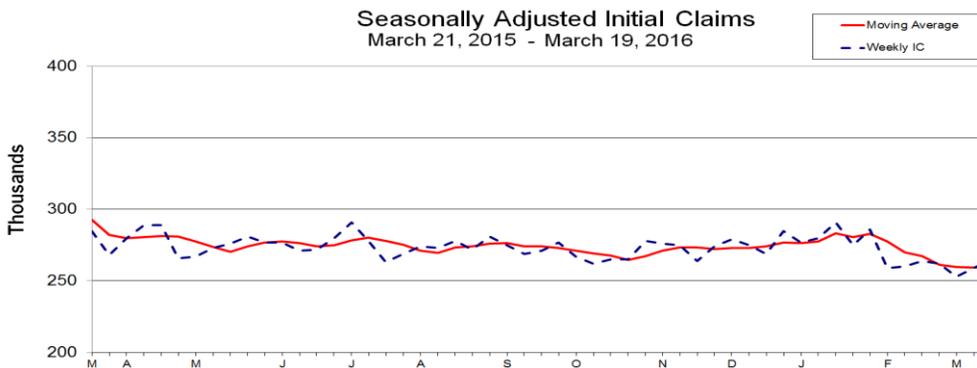
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 19, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 265,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 260,000 to 259,000. The 4-week moving average was 259,750, an increase of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 259,750 to 259,500.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 55 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

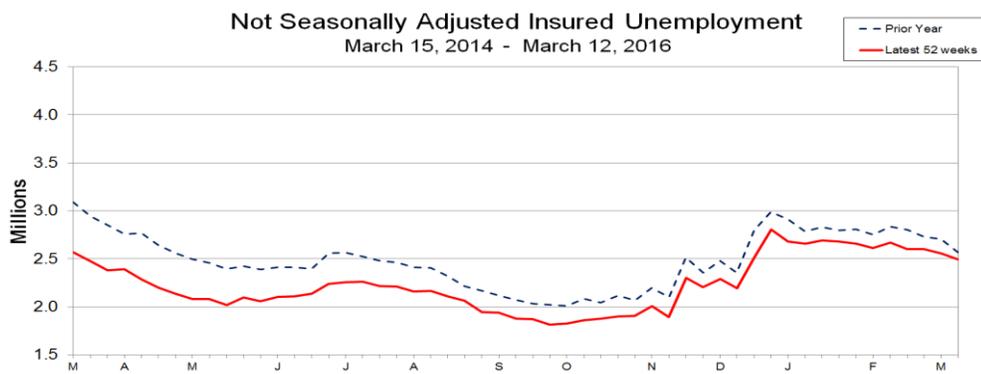
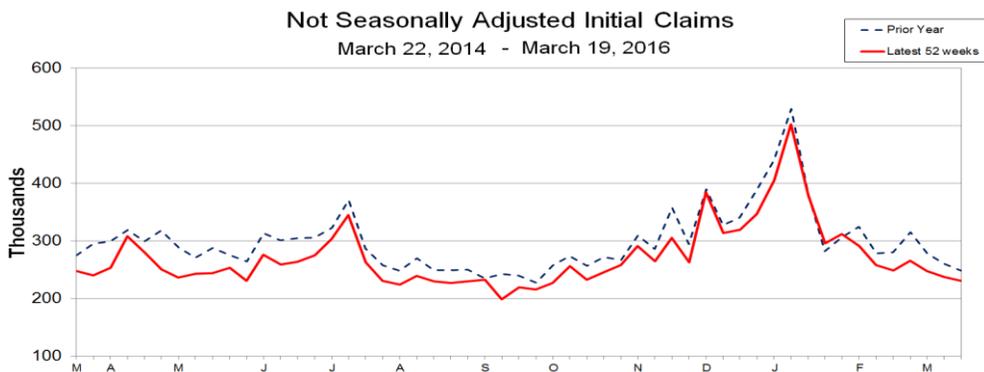
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending March 12, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 12 was 2,179,000, a decrease of 39,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 7,000 from 2,225,000 to 2,218,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,206,500, a decrease of 13,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 8,000 from 2,228,000 to 2,220,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 230,888 in the week ending March 19, a decrease of 6,024 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 10,898 (or -4.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 248,032 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending March 12, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,490,752, a decrease of 64,584 (or -2.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 19,964 (or -0.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,705,148.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 5 was 2,602,151, a decrease of 45,542 from the previous week. There were 2,784,952 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2015.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending March 5.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 722 in the week ending March 12, a decrease of 19 from the prior week. There were 1,089 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 14 from the preceding week.

There were 12,944 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 5, an increase of 291 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 14,610, a decrease of 234 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 5 were in Alaska (4.4), New Jersey (3.2), West Virginia (3.2), Wyoming (3.1), Pennsylvania (3.0), Connecticut (2.9), Montana (2.9), Rhode Island (2.9), Illinois (2.8), and Massachusetts (2.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 12 were in California (+1,359), Nebraska (+662), Washington (+503), Oklahoma (+318), and Vermont (+285), while the largest decreases were in New York (-1,549), Illinois (-1,234), New Jersey (-1,079), Ohio (-909), and Florida (-852).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 19	March 12	Change	March 5	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	265,000	259,000	+6,000	253,000	285,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	230,888	236,912	-6,024	247,628	248,032
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	259,750	259,500	+250	259,750	292,750
WEEK ENDING	March 12	March 5	Change	February 27	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,179,000	2,218,000	-39,000	2,198,000	2,377,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,490,752	2,555,336	-64,584	2,600,820	2,705,148
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,206,500	2,220,000	-13,500	2,227,750	2,376,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	1.9%	1.9%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 12	March 5	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	722	741	-19	947
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,089	1,075	+14	1,402

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 5	February 27	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,550,351	2,595,884	-45,533	2,725,709
Federal Employees	12,944	12,653	+291	15,280
Newly Discharged Veterans	14,610	14,844	-234	22,243
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	5
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,091	7,939	+152	7,748
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	16,155	16,373	-218	13,967
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,602,151	2,647,693	-45,542	2,784,952

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 136,270,223 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 19			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 12		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,245	2,574	-329	19,878	21,618	-1,740
Alaska	1,384	1,176	208	13,549	13,884	-335
Arizona	3,488	3,767	-279	23,370	26,504	-3,134
Arkansas	1,925	2,342	-417	17,098	18,957	-1,859
California	44,560	46,501	-1,941	423,289	427,541	-4,252
Colorado	2,443	2,131	312	33,456	32,884	572
Connecticut	3,070	2,851	219	48,763	48,402	361
Delaware	435	524	-89	7,491	7,500	-9
District of Columbia	470	286	184	7,645	8,082	-437
Florida	6,626	6,524	102	41,646	47,624	-5,978
Georgia	5,621	6,310	-689	31,081	33,851	-2,770
Hawaii	1,099	1,144	-45	6,696	6,287	409
Idaho	1,090	1,104	-14	9,778	11,730	-1,952
Illinois	9,901	9,503	398	154,651	157,844	-3,193
Indiana	3,458	3,226	232	31,908	32,841	-933
Iowa	2,852	2,276	576	31,042	31,977	-935
Kansas	2,306	2,045	261	16,559	16,544	15
Kentucky	2,522	2,476	46	27,680	26,895	785
Louisiana	2,435	2,654	-219	22,919	22,851	68
Maine	936	807	129	11,654	12,077	-423
Maryland	3,390	3,386	4	39,597	44,949	-5,352
Massachusetts	5,106	5,258	-152	88,761	93,109	-4,348
Michigan	6,818	6,861	-43	93,600	97,585	-3,985
Minnesota	3,878	3,856	22	69,362	69,456	-94
Mississippi	1,289	1,598	-309	10,878	17,783	-6,905
Missouri	4,646	4,180	466	30,789	34,259	-3,470
Montana	912	942	-30	11,598	12,561	-963
Nebraska	785	1,418	-633	7,283	7,457	-174
Nevada	2,579	2,521	58	23,521	25,702	-2,181
New Hampshire	587	689	-102	5,929	6,535	-606
New Jersey	7,848	8,056	-208	120,310	121,735	-1,425
New Mexico	1,008	1,018	-10	13,742	14,493	-751
New York	14,579	15,556	-977	189,330	191,840	-2,510
North Carolina	3,416	3,427	-11	26,410	28,999	-2,589
North Dakota	945	623	322	13,938	10,161	3,777
Ohio	6,578	6,850	-272	83,590	87,105	-3,515
Oklahoma	2,433	2,251	182	22,661	23,268	-607
Oregon	3,997	4,277	-280	32,902	33,338	-436
Pennsylvania	15,648	17,007	-1,359	169,516	166,874	2,642
Puerto Rico	1,501	1,447	54	21,808	23,702	-1,894
Rhode Island	808	874	-66	12,617	13,010	-393
South Carolina	2,514	2,250	264	15,206	16,241	-1,035
South Dakota	173	232	-59	2,913	3,237	-324
Tennessee	2,757	2,786	-29	24,585	27,221	-2,636
Texas	16,538	16,979	-441	180,859	176,317	4,542
Utah	1,105	1,179	-74	12,990	13,665	-675
Vermont	775	758	17	6,883	6,646	237
Virgin Islands	15	45	-30	540	586	-46
Virginia	3,578	3,499	79	33,865	33,569	296
Washington	7,037	7,440	-403	59,211	59,977	-766
West Virginia	993	1,166	-173	21,273	21,561	-288
Wisconsin	7,157	7,537	-380	56,141	58,012	-1,871
Wyoming	629	725	-96	7,991	8,490	-499
US Total	230,888	236,912	-6,024	2,490,752	2,555,336	-64,584

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.

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 14, 2015	287	-2	295.50	2,377	5	2,376.25	1.8	
March 21, 2015	285	-2	292.75	2,320	-57	2,362.50	1.7	
March 28, 2015	268	-17	282.25	2,297	-23	2,341.50	1.7	
April 4, 2015	280	12	280.00	2,282	-15	2,319.00	1.7	
April 11, 2015	289	9	280.50	2,314	32	2,303.25	1.7	
April 18, 2015	289	0	281.50	2,265	-49	2,289.50	1.7	
April 25, 2015	266	-23	281.00	2,242	-23	2,275.75	1.7	
May 2, 2015	267	1	277.75	2,237	-5	2,264.50	1.7	
May 9, 2015	273	6	273.75	2,233	-4	2,244.25	1.7	
May 16, 2015	276	3	270.50	2,233	0	2,236.25	1.7	
May 23, 2015	281	5	274.25	2,231	-2	2,233.50	1.7	
May 30, 2015	277	-4	276.75	2,265	34	2,240.50	1.7	
June 6, 2015	277	0	277.75	2,247	-18	2,244.00	1.7	
June 13, 2015	271	-6	276.50	2,246	-1	2,247.25	1.7	
June 20, 2015	272	1	274.25	2,272	26	2,257.50	1.7	
June 27, 2015	280	8	275.00	2,304	32	2,267.25	1.7	
July 4, 2015	291	11	278.50	2,233	-71	2,263.75	1.7	
July 11, 2015	278	-13	280.25	2,229	-4	2,259.50	1.7	
July 18, 2015	263	-15	278.00	2,270	41	2,259.00	1.7	
July 25, 2015	269	6	275.25	2,260	-10	2,248.00	1.7	
August 1, 2015	274	5	271.00	2,269	9	2,257.00	1.7	
August 8, 2015	273	-1	269.75	2,261	-8	2,265.00	1.7	
August 15, 2015	278	5	273.50	2,259	-2	2,262.25	1.7	
August 22, 2015	272	-6	274.25	2,259	0	2,262.00	1.7	
August 29, 2015	281	9	276.00	2,261	2	2,260.00	1.7	
September 5, 2015	275	-6	276.50	2,246	-15	2,256.25	1.7	
September 12, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,244	-2	2,252.50	1.7	
September 19, 2015	271	2	274.00	2,208	-36	2,239.75	1.6	
September 26, 2015	277	6	273.00	2,216	8	2,228.50	1.6	
October 3, 2015	267	-10	271.00	2,186	-30	2,213.50	1.6	
October 10, 2015	262	-5	269.25	2,188	2	2,199.50	1.6	
October 17, 2015	265	3	267.75	2,171	-17	2,190.25	1.6	
October 24, 2015	265	0	264.75	2,190	19	2,183.75	1.6	
October 31, 2015	278	13	267.50	2,185	-5	2,183.50	1.6	
November 7, 2015	276	-2	271.00	2,183	-2	2,182.25	1.6	
November 14, 2015	275	-1	273.50	2,176	-7	2,183.50	1.6	
November 21, 2015	264	-11	273.25	2,191	15	2,183.75	1.6	
November 28, 2015	274	10	272.25	2,230	39	2,195.00	1.6	
December 5, 2015	279	5	273.00	2,245	15	2,210.50	1.7	
December 12, 2015	275	-4	273.00	2,195	-50	2,215.25	1.6	
December 19, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,212	17	2,220.50	1.6	
December 26, 2015	285	16	277.00	2,226	14	2,219.50	1.6	
January 2, 2016	277	-8	276.50	2,248	22	2,220.25	1.6	
January 9, 2016	280	3	277.75	2,217	-31	2,225.75	1.6	
January 16, 2016	291	11	283.25	2,250	33	2,235.25	1.7	
January 23, 2016	275	-16	280.75	2,248	-2	2,240.75	1.6	
January 30, 2016	286	11	283.00	2,234	-14	2,237.25	1.6	
February 6, 2016	259	-27	277.75	2,249	15	2,245.25	1.7	
February 13, 2016	260	1	270.00	2,233	-16	2,241.00	1.6	
February 20, 2016	264	4	267.25	2,231	-2	2,236.75	1.6	
February 27, 2016	262	-2	261.25	2,198	-33	2,227.75	1.6	
March 5, 2016	253	-9	259.75	2,218	20	2,220.00	1.6	
March 12, 2016	259	6	259.50	2,179	-39	2,206.50	1.6	
March 19, 2016	265	6	259.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 12								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 5				
INITIAL CLAIMS								INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE		STATE	%	CHANGE FROM		UCFE		ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	1	1			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	1	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2574	-790	-429	11	17	21618	1.2	-559	-2220	65	157	21840
Alaska	1176	-111	-51	9	4	13884	4.4	-414	890	191	36	14111
Arizona	3767	-147	162	9	14	26504	1.1	65	-2215	227	152	26883
Arkansas	2342	242	-506	4	9	18957	1.7	-1053	-6176	97	121	19175
California	46501	1359	-283	174	182	427541	2.7	12348	-4700	3124	3028	433693
Colorado	2131	-635	-453	18	45	32884	1.4	-1358	-3664	374	822	34080
Connecticut	2851	-288	-525	7	12	48402	2.9	-1364	-6334	58	122	48582
Delaware	524	-138	-462	0	2	7500	1.8	-1449	-1645	26	27	7553
District of Columbia	286	-12	-15	4	1	8082	1.5	-65	-774	292	15	8389
Florida	6524	-852	-2308	10	53	47624	0.6	-1646	-14531	151	329	48104
Georgia	6310	-464	-130	30	50	33851	0.8	-244	-5310	176	418	34445
Hawaii	1144	-25	-248	8	10	6287	1.1	-236	-2040	83	134	6504
Idaho	1104	-182	-429	18	6	11730	1.8	-1090	-834	266	41	12037
Illinois	9503	-1234	-10	9	22	157844	2.8	-1370	-3777	346	431	158621
Indiana	3226	-346	-51	9	6	32841	1.1	-1338	-5391	100	104	33045
Iowa	2276	19	243	2	5	31977	2.1	-1494	-1195	51	92	32120
Kansas	2045	-34	-55	4	3	16544	1.2	-793	-2704	62	102	16708
Kentucky	2476	-374	-616	8	10	26895	1.5	-2642	-6157	136	253	27284
Louisiana	2654	-296	134	7	21	22851	1.2	-266	2093	68	54	22973
Maine	807	-157	-142	1	0	12077	2.1	-404	-2555	50	34	12161
Maryland	3386	-307	-1201	17	18	44949	1.9	-1730	-10570	352	241	45542
Massachusetts	5258	-143	-162	6	19	93109	2.8	-2613	-8649	207	321	93637
Michigan	6861	-143	-1060	11	23	97585	2.4	-2517	-2864	333	211	98129
Minnesota	3856	-129	-46	6	5	69456	2.6	781	5320	166	155	69777
Mississippi	1598	85	-500	0	4	17783	1.6	5601	4930	111	51	17945
Missouri	4180	208	-1167	9	12	34259	1.3	-2547	-12743	137	89	34485
Montana	942	-58	-33	13	2	12561	2.9	-893	-47	502	51	13114
Nebraska	1418	662	211	1	2	7457	0.8	-667	-2619	28	18	7503
Nevada	2521	-41	-598	13	4	25702	2.1	-807	-3129	237	131	26070
New Hampshire	689	-51	-61	1	0	6535	1.0	-854	-1357	7	19	6561
New Jersey	8056	-1079	-207	24	32	121735	3.2	-3824	-16136	260	422	122417
New Mexico	1018	-152	-36	5	7	14493	1.9	-365	-37	313	90	14896
New York	15556	-1549	-1655	38	55	191840	2.2	-4191	-23983	398	653	192891
North Carolina	3427	-375	-916	10	23	28999	0.7	-1026	-9986	142	221	29362
North Dakota	623	-152	131	1	1	10161	2.3	-52	2981	13	8	10182
Ohio	6850	-909	-873	6	31	87105	1.7	-2051	-7515	134	432	87671
Oklahoma	2251	318	189	6	9	23268	1.5	651	4483	61	129	23458
Oregon	4277	4	-274	26	22	33338	1.9	-565	-4107	704	241	34283
Pennsylvania	17007	-674	-2964	55	47	166874	3.0	-13997	-9686	568	493	167935
Puerto Rico	1447	-249	-391	1	5	23702	2.7	-1273	-2437	57	197	23956
Rhode Island	874	-47	-105	0	2	13010	2.9	-390	-1751	20	31	13061
South Carolina	2250	-556	-311	5	15	16241	0.9	-790	-1037	64	133	16438
South Dakota	232	9	-46	1	1	3237	0.8	-193	-270	40	14	3291
Tennessee	2786	-633	-5254	14	10	27221	1.0	-1589	-8938	153	147	27521
Texas	16979	-664	-323	43	147	176317	1.6	-243	23822	493	2031	178841
Utah	1179	-144	-121	14	4	13665	1.1	-565	-694	211	33	13909
Vermont	758	285	76	3	2	6646	2.2	-413	-502	30	2	6678
Virgin Islands	45	20	3	1	0	586	1.6	64	-190	6	12	604
Virginia	3499	-66	-230	7	26	33569	1.0	-1205	-2587	301	508	34378
Washington	7440	503	764	30	75	59977	2.0	1025	-1003	601	874	61452
West Virginia	1166	-94	-319	1	4	21561	3.2	-735	846	77	60	21698
Wisconsin	7537	-113	171	7	8	58012	2.1	-1910	-17089	144	92	58248
Wyoming	725	-17	152	5	2	8490	3.1	-229	2370	131	28	8649
Totals	236912	-10716	-23330	722	1089	2555336	1.9	-45484	-174413	12944	14610	2582890

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 12, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+1,359	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-1,549	Fewer layoffs in the health care and social assistance, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
IL	-1,234	No comment.
NJ	-1,079	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, construction, retail trade, health care and social assistance, and manufacturing 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.

[2011 2016 seasonal factors.txt](#)

[2011 2016 seasonal factors.xls](#)

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)

[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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