



News Release

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TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 22, 2018

Note: Calendar Year (CY) 2018 Seasonal Factors and revised seasonal factors and historical series for CY 2013-2017 for both initial claims and continued claims will be made available March 29, 2018, with the release of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Weekly Claims News Release.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

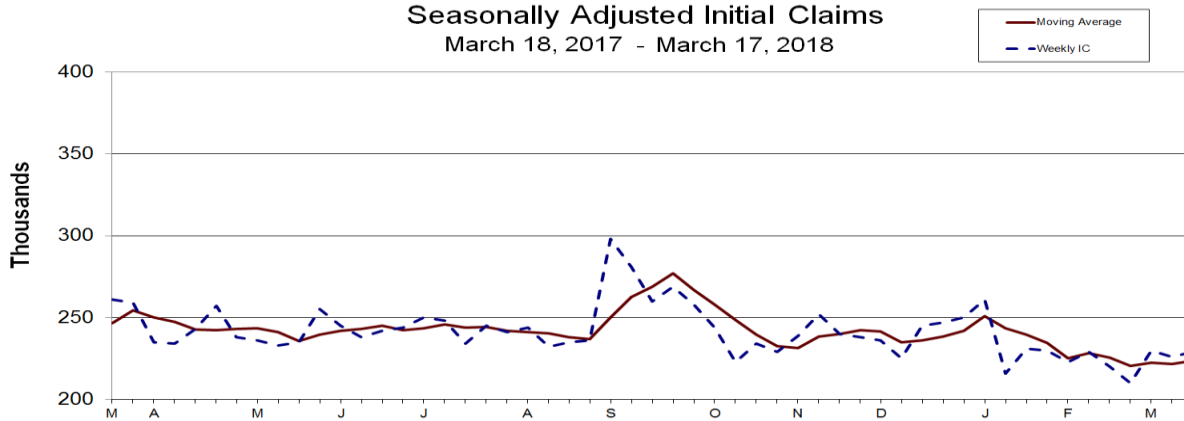
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 17, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 229,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 226,000. The 4-week moving average was 223,750, an increase of 2,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 221,500.

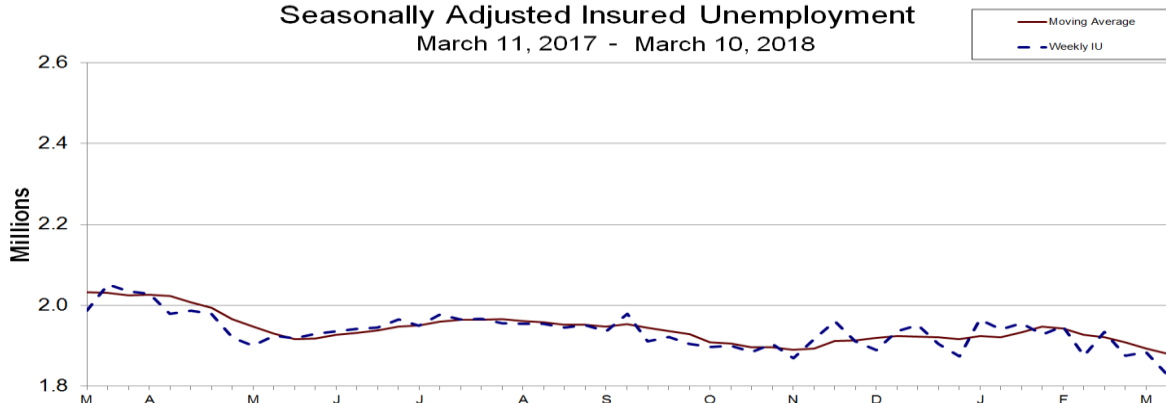
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending March 10, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 10 was 1,828,000, a decrease of 57,000 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 6,000 from 1,879,000 to 1,885,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,880,500, a decrease of 11,750 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 1,500 from 1,890,750 to 1,892,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 18, 2017 - March 17, 2018



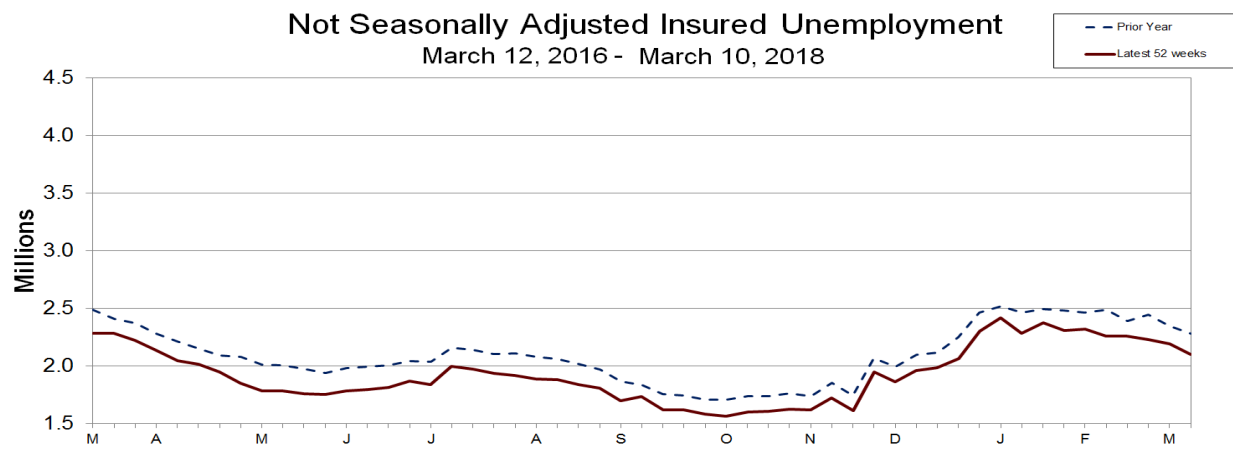
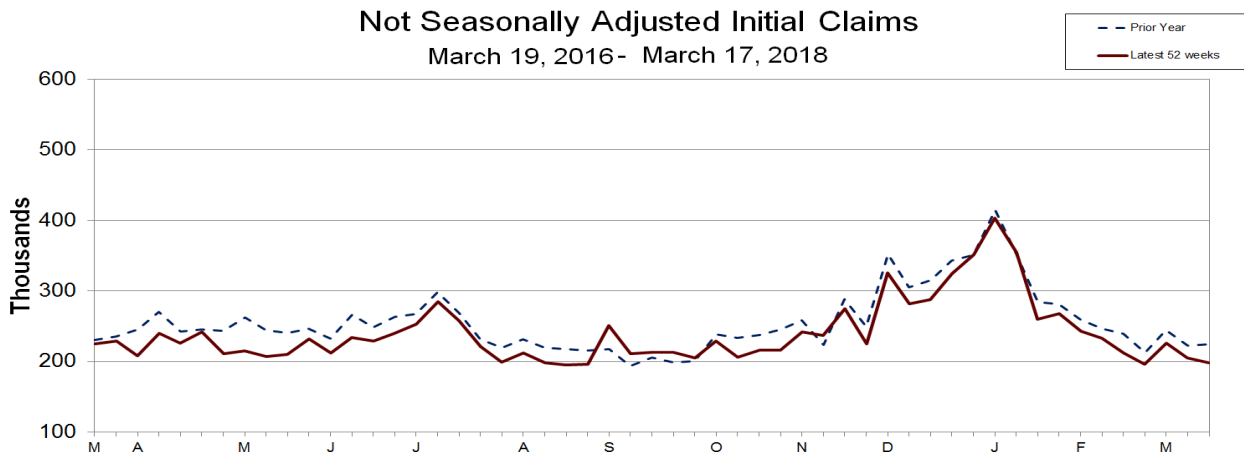
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
March 11, 2017 - March 10, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 198,473 in the week ending March 17, a decrease of 6,389 (or -3.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 8,809 (or -4.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 224,939 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending March 10, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,104,251, a decrease of 89,539 (or -4.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 24,501 (or -1.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,282,941.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 3 was 2,228,027, a decrease of 37,934 from the previous week. There were 2,391,551 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in Alaska and the Virgin Islands during the week ending March 3.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 659 in the week ending March 10, an increase of 23 from the prior week. There were 661 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 24 from the preceding week.

There were 12,036 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 3, an increase of 819 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,872, a decrease of 469 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 3 were in the Virgin Islands (9.7), Alaska (3.8), Puerto Rico (3.0), Connecticut (2.8), New Jersey (2.8), Montana (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.6), Rhode Island (2.6), Massachusetts (2.5), and California (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 10 were in California (+1,834), Florida (+923), Kentucky (+781), Puerto Rico (+545), and Georgia (+441), while the largest decreases were in New York (-18,154), Oregon (-1,367), Washington (-1,218), Wisconsin (-684), and Connecticut (-612).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 17	March 10	Change	March 3	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	229,000	226,000	+3,000	230,000	261,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	198,473	204,862	-6,389	225,513	224,939
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	223,750	221,500	+2,250	222,250	246,500
WEEK ENDING	March 10	March 3	Change	February 24	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,828,000	1,885,000	-57,000	1,875,000	1,987,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,104,251	2,193,790	-89,539	2,232,576	2,282,941
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,880,500	1,892,250	-11,750	1,908,000	2,032,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.6%	-0.1	1.6%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 10	March 3	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	659	636	+23	676
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	661	685	-24	851

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 3	February 24	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,191,209	2,230,032	-38,823	2,345,409
Federal Employees	12,036	11,217	+819	13,581
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,872	8,341	-469	11,095
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	961	864	+97	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,893	6,896	-3	8,034
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	9,056	8,611	+445	13,432
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,228,027	2,265,961	-37,934	2,391,551

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 17			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 10		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,202	2,115	87	15,657	16,017	-360
Alaska	1,092	1,035	57	10,468	11,568	-1,100
Arizona	3,519	3,856	-337	19,166	22,037	-2,871
Arkansas	1,168	1,439	-271	11,884	13,659	-1,775
California	42,681	44,552	-1,871	384,653	398,557	-13,904
Colorado *	1,572	1,753	-181	23,377	25,616	-2,239
Connecticut	3,934	3,406	528	47,708	46,491	1,217
Delaware	528	496	32	6,005	6,199	-194
District of Columbia	490	297	193	7,850	8,494	-644
Florida	6,302	6,892	-590	33,478	40,056	-6,578
Georgia	4,333	5,382	-1,049	25,469	27,939	-2,470
Hawaii	1,046	1,226	-180	7,019	7,453	-434
Idaho	942	1,142	-200	8,622	10,139	-1,517
Illinois	7,790	8,214	-424	135,766	136,154	-388
Indiana	2,202	2,136	66	21,680	22,589	-909
Iowa	2,426	1,977	449	29,745	29,464	281
Kansas	1,599	1,615	-16	11,538	12,039	-501
Kentucky	1,910	2,316	-406	20,859	22,882	-2,023
Louisiana	1,669	1,794	-125	14,338	16,737	-2,399
Maine *	658	704	-46	8,976	8,973	3
Maryland	2,724	3,095	-371	32,416	36,588	-4,172
Massachusetts	4,756	4,901	-145	83,850	86,499	-2,649
Michigan	4,602	5,493	-891	75,522	81,729	-6,207
Minnesota	3,517	3,503	14	63,337	63,226	111
Mississippi	1,046	982	64	7,442	8,542	-1,100
Missouri	3,024	3,010	14	26,663	29,291	-2,628
Montana	862	752	110	11,406	12,049	-643
Nebraska	715	701	14	7,318	7,814	-496
Nevada	2,328	2,269	59	19,823	21,956	-2,133
New Hampshire	512	554	-42	4,710	5,670	-960
New Jersey	8,824	8,270	554	114,433	110,371	4,062
New Mexico	625	700	-75	9,865	10,441	-576
New York	15,074	13,798	1,276	168,278	168,316	-38
North Carolina	2,705	2,868	-163	20,233	21,838	-1,605
North Dakota	397	322	75	8,291	7,310	981
Ohio	5,468	5,770	-302	72,917	74,493	-1,576
Oklahoma	1,118	1,419	-301	13,483	14,347	-864
Oregon	3,328	3,615	-287	29,790	31,008	-1,218
Pennsylvania	13,970	13,547	423	134,272	146,414	-12,142
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	1,085	1,566	-481	22,043	26,241	-4,198
Rhode Island	844	758	86	11,596	11,874	-278
South Carolina	1,701	2,173	-472	15,493	16,492	-999
South Dakota	142	206	-64	3,205	3,287	-82
Tennessee	2,195	2,178	17	20,104	22,550	-2,446
Texas	11,961	12,848	-887	119,469	123,876	-4,407
Utah	884	794	90	10,819	11,498	-679
Vermont	728	442	286	5,683	5,662	21
Virgin Islands ^{1M}	17	16	1	2,380	3,606	-1,226
Virginia	2,622	2,841	-219	24,959	25,236	-277
Washington	5,406	5,756	-350	58,118	58,427	-309
West Virginia	1,033	1,272	-239	13,691	13,392	299
Wisconsin	5,859	5,590	269	44,794	45,740	-946
Wyoming	338	506	-168	3,590	4,944	-1,354
US Total	198,473	204,862	-6,389	2,104,251	2,193,790	-89,539

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.

¹Affected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria.

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 11, 2017	246	-6	243.00	1,987	-38	2,032.00	1.4
March 18, 2017	261	15	246.50	2,052	65	2,030.75	1.5
March 25, 2017	259	-2	254.50	2,035	-17	2,024.75	1.5
April 1, 2017	235	-24	250.25	2,028	-7	2,025.50	1.5
April 8, 2017	234	-1	247.25	1,978	-50	2,023.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	243	9	242.75	1,987	9	2,007.00	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25	1,979	-8	1,993.00	1.4
April 29, 2017	238	-19	243.00	1,920	-59	1,966.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	236	-2	243.50	1,899	-21	1,946.25	1.4
May 13, 2017	233	-3	241.00	1,924	25	1,930.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	235	2	235.50	1,919	-5	1,915.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	255	20	239.75	1,929	10	1,917.75	1.4
June 3, 2017	245	-10	242.00	1,936	7	1,927.00	1.4
June 10, 2017	238	-7	243.25	1,942	6	1,931.50	1.4
June 17, 2017	242	4	245.00	1,945	3	1,938.00	1.4
June 24, 2017	244	2	242.25	1,965	20	1,947.00	1.4
July 1, 2017	250	6	243.50	1,949	-16	1,950.25	1.4
July 8, 2017	248	-2	246.00	1,977	28	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	234	-14	244.00	1,965	-12	1,964.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	245	11	244.25	1,967	2	1,964.50	1.4
July 29, 2017	241	-4	242.00	1,956	-11	1,966.25	1.4
August 5, 2017	244	3	241.00	1,954	-2	1,960.50	1.4
August 12, 2017	232	-12	240.50	1,954	0	1,957.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	235	3	238.00	1,945	-9	1,952.25	1.4
August 26, 2017	236	1	236.75	1,951	6	1,951.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	298	62	250.25	1,935	-16	1,946.25	1.4
September 9, 2017	281	-17	262.50	1,979	44	1,952.50	1.4
September 16, 2017	260	-21	268.75	1,911	-68	1,944.00	1.4
September 23, 2017	269	9	277.00	1,921	10	1,936.50	1.4
September 30, 2017	258	-11	267.00	1,904	-17	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	244	-14	257.75	1,896	-8	1,908.00	1.3
October 14, 2017	223	-21	248.50	1,900	4	1,905.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	11	239.75	1,884	-16	1,896.00	1.3
October 28, 2017	229	-5	232.50	1,904	20	1,896.00	1.4
November 4, 2017	239	10	231.25	1,868	-36	1,889.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	252	13	238.50	1,915	47	1,892.75	1.4
November 18, 2017	240	-12	240.00	1,960	45	1,911.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	238	-2	242.25	1,911	-49	1,913.50	1.4
December 2, 2017	236	-2	241.50	1,889	-22	1,918.75	1.3
December 9, 2017	225	-11	234.75	1,936	47	1,924.00	1.4
December 16, 2017	245	20	236.00	1,951	15	1,921.75	1.4
December 23, 2017	247	2	238.25	1,905	-46	1,920.25	1.4
December 30, 2017	250	3	241.75	1,873	-32	1,916.25	1.3
January 6, 2018	261	11	250.75	1,965	92	1,923.50	1.4
January 13, 2018	216	-45	243.50	1,940	-25	1,920.75	1.4
January 20, 2018	231	15	239.50	1,956	16	1,933.50	1.4
January 27, 2018	230	-1	234.50	1,927	-29	1,947.00	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-7	225.00	1,948	21	1,942.75	1.4
February 10, 2018	229	6	228.25	1,875	-73	1,926.50	1.3
February 17, 2018	220	-9	225.50	1,934	59	1,921.00	1.4
February 24, 2018	210	-10	220.50	1,875	-59	1,908.00	1.3
March 3, 2018	230	20	222.25	1,885	10	1,892.25	1.3
March 10, 2018	226	-4	221.50	1,828	-57	1,880.50	1.3
March 17, 2018	229	3	223.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 10					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 3					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1		
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO									(%) 2
Alabama	2115	102	-380	8	10	16017	0.9	-127	-2111	71	78	16166
Alaska	1035	2	-184	6	1	11568	3.8	341	-1355	200	14	12742
Arizona	3856	215	110	3	0	22037	0.8	169	-2969	260	59	22356
Arkansas	1439	-364	-156	4	9	13659	1.2	-832	-464	75	107	13841
California	44552	1834	-1214	155	114	398557	2.4	29819	-35603	3067	1639	403263
Colorado	1753	-180	-411	5	19	25616	1.0	1567	-1983	391	267	26274
Connecticut	3406	-612	-309	4	4	46491	2.8	-2878	-1439	48	89	46628
Delaware	496	22	-49	1	0	6199	1.4	-1451	-619	18	8	6225
District of Columbia	297	11	-9	12	0	8494	1.5	-311	-91	314	14	8822
Florida	6892	923	-288	25	42	40056	0.5	690	-1080	156	152	40364
Georgia	5382	441	45	20	37	27939	0.7	-136	-2022	137	233	28309
Hawaii	1226	9	-55	9	13	7453	1.2	169	-183	62	79	7594
Idaho	1142	-115	-130	10	4	10139	1.5	-683	-2517	269	18	10426
Illinois	8214	-606	-698	6	14	136154	2.3	-4867	-8227	371	210	136735
Indiana	2136	-273	-451	4	3	22589	0.8	-726	-6811	40	40	22669
Iowa	1977	165	-107	4	4	29464	1.9	-1371	-1761	52	34	29550
Kansas	1615	-42	-303	0	4	12039	0.9	-1651	-682	39	44	12122
Kentucky	2316	781	80	3	5	22882	1.2	153	638	148	153	23183
Louisiana	1794	-103	-684	11	3	16737	0.9	-728	-3399	37	17	16791
Maine	704	-305	-66	0	0	8973	1.5	-597	-1200	39	10	9022
Maryland	3095	56	-360	29	17	36588	1.5	-1147	-4398	374	128	37090
Massachusetts	4901	-382	-485	7	12	86499	2.5	-8016	-3914	133	158	86790
Michigan	5493	-333	-1102	16	13	81729	1.9	-765	-4744	229	108	82066
Minnesota	3503	-181	-179	6	2	63226	2.3	669	-2633	138	81	63445
Mississippi	982	102	-246	1	3	8542	0.8	-462	-1699	91	24	8657
Missouri	3010	-387	-723	3	2	29291	1.1	-5078	-551	107	52	29450
Montana	752	-119	-69	18	2	12049	2.7	-677	-31	567	24	12641
Nebraska	701	-108	-50	1	1	7814	0.8	-311	440	24	13	7851
Nevada	2269	-30	40	8	1	21956	1.7	-495	-1550	214	74	22244
New Hampshire	554	-404	-94	0	0	5670	0.9	444	-394	7	10	5687
New Jersey	8270	-442	-7	10	15	110371	2.8	-6535	-6496	245	280	110896
New Mexico	700	16	-184	3	3	10441	1.3	-79	-1920	286	41	10768
New York	13798	-18154	-2366	23	35	168316	1.8	-22449	-11953	371	414	169101
North Carolina	2868	149	-234	12	16	21838	0.5	-739	-2940	107	149	22094
North Dakota	322	-46	-82	4	0	7310	1.8	-298	-940	15	5	7330
Ohio	5770	-461	-640	7	17	74493	1.4	-3099	-4111	107	195	74795
Oklahoma	1419	84	148	11	4	14347	0.9	2	-2232	61	70	14478
Oregon	3615	-1367	-345	19	15	31008	1.7	-1737	-1585	632	104	31744
Pennsylvania	13547	-272	-1908	77	31	146414	2.6	6971	-303	505	290	147209
Puerto Rico	1566	545	10	0	6	26241	3.0	968	1986	27	61	26329
Rhode Island	758	-104	-205	4	3	11874	2.6	-1584	-1048	29	16	11919
South Carolina	2173	131	240	5	6	16492	0.8	-441	1790	45	78	16615
South Dakota	206	6	-4	3	0	3287	0.8	-110	-316	37	1	3325
Tennessee	2178	247	-91	6	6	22550	0.8	808	1953	110	74	22734
Texas	12848	278	-1255	36	109	123876	1.1	-6123	-22053	470	1171	125517
Utah	794	-42	-324	8	2	11498	0.8	-308	-1294	186	27	11711
Vermont	442	-447	-26	2	0	5662	1.9	95	-661	11	3	5676
Virgin Islands	16	-13	-15	0	0	3606	9.7	182	3100	2	0	3608
Virginia	2841	410	-114	19	16	25236	0.7	-724	-3440	256	264	25756
Washington	5756	-1218	-766	16	29	58427	1.8	-2295	-3294	512	612	59551
West Virginia	1272	401	355	6	4	13392	2.0	-721	-1460	56	43	13491
Wisconsin	5590	-684	-1152	7	4	45740	1.6	-2050	-7079	120	32	45892
Wyoming	506	213	127	2	1	4944	1.9	768	2057	168	5	5117
Totals	204862	-20651	-17365	659	661	2193790	1.6	-38786	-155591	12036	7872	2214659

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 10, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+1,834	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-18,154	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
OR	-1,367	No comment.
WA	-1,218	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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