



News Release

Connect with DOL at
<http://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 3, 2016

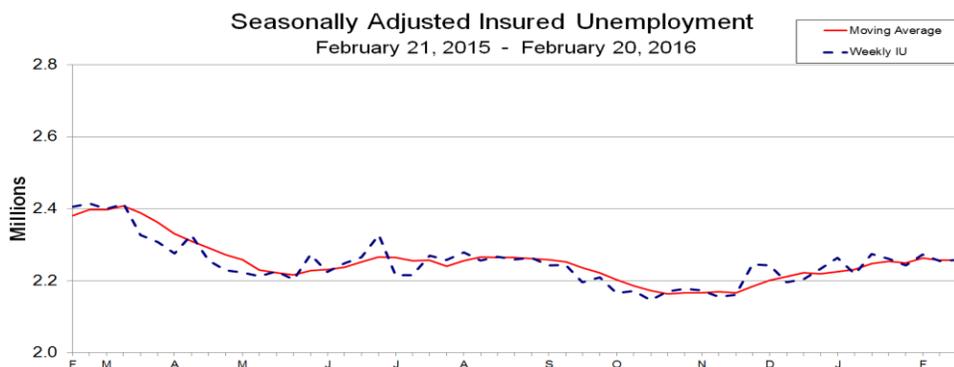
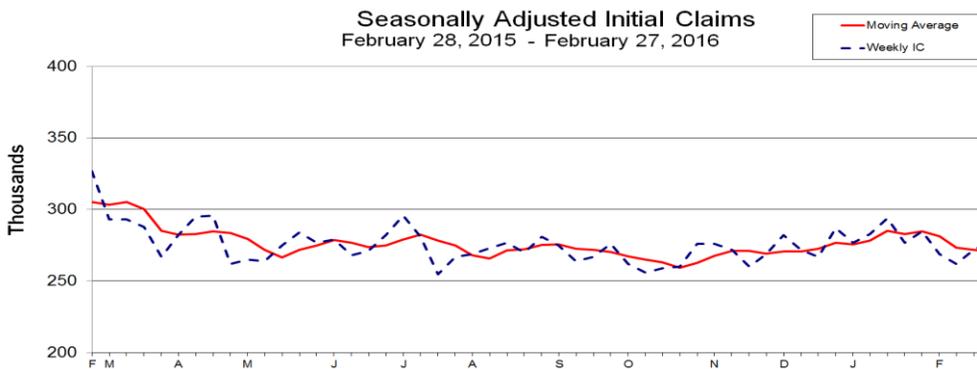
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 27, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 278,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 272,000. The 4-week moving average was 270,250, a decrease of 1,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 272,000.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims.

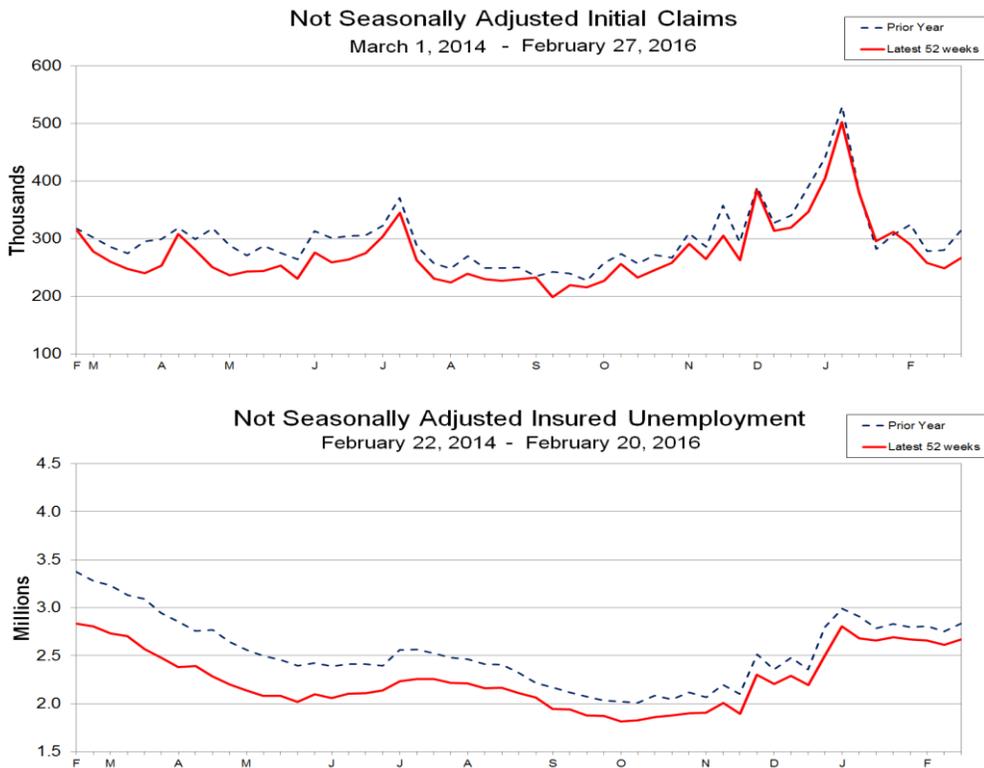
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending February 20, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 20 was 2,257,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 2,253,000 to 2,254,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,256,500, a decrease of 750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 2,257,000 to 2,257,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 266,423 in the week ending February 27, an increase of 17,553 (or 7.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 12,253 (or 4.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 315,566 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.0 percent during the week ending February 20, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,669,968, an increase of 57,541 (or 2.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 54,097 (or 2.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,835,368.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 13 was 2,659,413, a decrease of 48,512 from the previous week. There were 2,806,820 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 February 13.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 622 in the week ending February 20, a decrease of 150 from the prior week. There were 873 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 143 from the preceding week.

There were 13,127 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 13, a decrease of 1,407 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 15,066, a decrease of 611 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 13 were in Alaska (4.7), West Virginia (3.5), New Jersey (3.3), Pennsylvania (3.3), Montana (3.2), Wyoming (3.2), Connecticut (3.0), Rhode Island (3.0), Illinois (2.8), and Massachusetts (2.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 20 were in Massachusetts (+3,268), Missouri (+1,012), Connecticut (+787), Rhode Island (+744), and Tennessee (+724), while the largest decreases were in California (-5,515), New York (-1,282), Oregon (-1,036), Virginia (-1,006), and Michigan (-990).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 27	February 20	Change	February 13	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	278,000	272,000	+6,000	262,000	327,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	266,423	248,870	+17,553	258,380	315,566
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	270,250	272,000	-1,750	273,250	305,500
WEEK ENDING	February 20	February 13	Change	February 6	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,257,000	2,254,000	+3,000	2,272,000	2,405,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,669,968	2,612,427	+57,541	2,657,981	2,835,368
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,256,500	2,257,250	-750	2,262,250	2,380,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.7%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	2.0%	1.9%	+0.1	2.0%	2.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 20	February 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	622	772	-150	770
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	873	1,016	-143	1,251

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 13	February 6	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,607,220	2,652,816	-45,596	2,749,626
Federal Employees	13,127	14,534	-1,407	15,908
Newly Discharged Veterans	15,066	15,677	-611	22,603
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	6
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,925	7,869	-944	7,124
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	17,075	17,029	+46	11,553
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,659,413	2,707,925	-48,512	2,806,820

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 February 27			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 20		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,464	2,715	-251	20,856	22,486	-1,630
Alaska	1,249	1,100	149	14,210	14,926	-716
Arizona	3,429	3,332	97	23,879	26,726	-2,847
Arkansas	2,044	1,966	78	19,131	20,682	-1,551
California	47,014	42,084	4,930	443,083	384,556	58,527
Colorado	2,657	2,548	109	33,933	35,823	-1,890
Connecticut	3,972	4,098	-126	53,148	49,799	3,349
Delaware	601	1,156	-555	8,400	7,629	771
District of Columbia	518	256	262	7,986	8,458	-472
Florida	6,627	7,318	-691	41,996	51,001	-9,005
Georgia	6,295	6,609	-314	33,176	36,830	-3,654
Hawaii	1,138	987	151	6,632	6,290	342
Idaho	1,194	1,461	-267	12,295	13,697	-1,402
Illinois	10,094	10,555	-461	164,198	162,882	1,316
Indiana	3,462	3,404	58	36,069	35,829	240
Iowa	2,581	2,219	362	36,220	35,933	287
Kansas	2,094	1,869	225	18,731	18,737	-6
Kentucky	3,111	3,262	-151	27,835	30,809	-2,974
Louisiana	2,431	2,958	-527	23,131	22,849	282
Maine	1,027	920	107	12,899	12,529	370
Maryland	3,620	3,671	-51	43,833	47,606	-3,773
Massachusetts	6,265	9,695	-3,430	99,483	94,127	5,356
Michigan	6,197	7,483	-1,286	96,917	102,026	-5,109
Minnesota	3,932	3,883	49	73,515	70,595	2,920
Mississippi	1,218	1,148	70	11,206	12,998	-1,792
Missouri	3,851	4,934	-1,083	35,875	41,084	-5,209
Montana	907	1,129	-222	13,469	13,746	-277
Nebraska	840	758	82	8,607	8,728	-121
Nevada	2,837	2,409	428	24,917	26,920	-2,003
New Hampshire	1,350	737	613	6,340	6,824	-484
New Jersey	8,946	9,171	-225	131,081	127,128	3,953
New Mexico	1,020	1,181	-161	14,257	14,711	-454
New York	34,837	16,740	18,097	218,584	195,173	23,411
North Carolina	3,793	3,485	308	29,291	31,495	-2,204
North Dakota	1,113	989	124	14,703	10,264	4,439
Ohio	7,503	7,569	-66	92,139	91,699	440
*Oklahoma	2,536	2,346	190	22,688	22,841	-153
Oregon	4,506	3,588	918	35,051	34,996	55
Pennsylvania	17,967	18,475	-508	177,040	183,005	-5,965
Puerto Rico	1,702	1,552	150	21,608	24,385	-2,777
Rhode Island	1,302	2,145	-843	15,412	13,654	1,758
South Carolina	2,358	2,185	173	16,710	17,884	-1,174
South Dakota	193	196	-3	3,434	3,618	-184
Tennessee	3,689	4,007	-318	27,717	29,409	-1,692
Texas	17,166	15,977	1,189	180,622	174,913	5,709
Utah	1,326	1,227	99	14,790	15,120	-330
Vermont	941	843	98	7,429	6,618	811
Virgin Islands	25	28	-3	602	524	78
Virginia	3,723	3,765	-42	36,926	35,111	1,815
Washington	7,078	6,665	413	63,380	61,380	2,000
West Virginia	1,363	1,363	0	24,752	23,405	1,347
Wisconsin	7,542	8,010	-468	61,728	63,223	-1,495
Wyoming	775	699	76	8,054	8,746	-692
US Total	266,423	248,870	17,553	2,669,968	2,612,427	57,541

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 OUI staff estimate.

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		
February 21, 2015	308	23	294.75	2,405	36	2,380.50	1.8	
February 28, 2015	327	19	305.50	2,414	9	2,397.50	1.8	
March 7, 2015	293	-34	303.25	2,399	-15	2,396.75	1.8	
March 14, 2015	293	0	305.25	2,413	14	2,407.75	1.8	
March 21, 2015	288	-5	300.25	2,327	-86	2,388.25	1.7	
March 28, 2015	267	-21	285.25	2,308	-19	2,361.75	1.7	
April 4, 2015	282	15	282.50	2,275	-33	2,330.75	1.7	
April 11, 2015	295	13	283.00	2,327	52	2,309.25	1.7	
April 18, 2015	296	1	285.00	2,256	-71	2,291.50	1.7	
April 25, 2015	262	-34	283.75	2,229	-27	2,271.75	1.7	
May 2, 2015	265	3	279.50	2,223	-6	2,258.75	1.7	
May 9, 2015	264	-1	271.75	2,212	-11	2,230.00	1.6	
May 16, 2015	275	11	266.50	2,226	14	2,222.50	1.7	
May 23, 2015	284	9	272.00	2,204	-22	2,216.25	1.6	
May 30, 2015	277	-7	275.00	2,272	68	2,228.50	1.7	
June 6, 2015	279	2	278.75	2,225	-47	2,231.75	1.7	
June 13, 2015	268	-11	277.00	2,249	24	2,237.50	1.7	
June 20, 2015	271	3	273.75	2,265	16	2,252.75	1.7	
June 27, 2015	282	11	275.00	2,327	62	2,266.50	1.7	
July 4, 2015	296	14	279.25	2,216	-111	2,264.25	1.6	
July 11, 2015	281	-15	282.50	2,216	0	2,256.00	1.6	
July 18, 2015	255	-26	278.50	2,270	54	2,257.25	1.7	
July 25, 2015	267	12	274.75	2,258	-12	2,240.00	1.7	
August 1, 2015	269	2	268.00	2,278	20	2,255.50	1.7	
August 8, 2015	273	4	266.00	2,256	-22	2,265.50	1.7	
August 15, 2015	277	4	271.50	2,266	10	2,264.50	1.7	
August 22, 2015	270	-7	272.25	2,259	-7	2,264.75	1.7	
August 29, 2015	281	11	275.25	2,263	4	2,261.00	1.7	
September 5, 2015	275	-6	275.75	2,243	-20	2,257.75	1.7	
September 12, 2015	264	-11	272.50	2,244	1	2,252.25	1.7	
September 19, 2015	267	3	271.75	2,195	-49	2,236.25	1.6	
September 26, 2015	276	9	270.50	2,209	14	2,222.75	1.6	
October 3, 2015	262	-14	267.25	2,165	-44	2,203.25	1.6	
October 10, 2015	256	-6	265.25	2,172	7	2,185.25	1.6	
October 17, 2015	259	3	263.25	2,146	-26	2,173.00	1.6	
October 24, 2015	260	1	259.25	2,170	24	2,163.25	1.6	
October 31, 2015	276	16	262.75	2,177	7	2,166.25	1.6	
November 7, 2015	276	0	267.75	2,173	-4	2,166.50	1.6	
November 14, 2015	272	-4	271.00	2,155	-18	2,168.75	1.6	
November 21, 2015	260	-12	271.00	2,161	6	2,166.50	1.6	
November 28, 2015	269	9	269.25	2,246	85	2,183.75	1.7	
December 5, 2015	282	13	270.75	2,242	-4	2,201.00	1.7	
December 12, 2015	272	-10	270.75	2,195	-47	2,211.00	1.6	
December 19, 2015	267	-5	272.50	2,205	10	2,222.00	1.6	
December 26, 2015	287	20	277.00	2,234	29	2,219.00	1.6	
January 2, 2016	277	-10	275.75	2,264	30	2,224.50	1.7	
January 9, 2016	283	6	278.50	2,219	-45	2,230.50	1.6	
January 16, 2016	294	11	285.25	2,274	55	2,247.75	1.7	
January 23, 2016	277	-17	282.75	2,260	-14	2,254.25	1.7	
January 30, 2016	285	8	284.75	2,243	-17	2,249.00	1.6	
February 6, 2016	269	-16	281.25	2,272	29	2,262.25	1.7	
February 13, 2016	262	-7	273.25	2,254	-18	2,257.25	1.7	
February 20, 2016	272	10	272.00	2,257	3	2,256.50	1.7	
February 27, 2016	278	6	270.25					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 20
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 13
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM					STATE	%	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2715	177	-57	8	11	22486	1.2	-269	-1268	61	160	22707
Alaska	1100	-158	-55	3	0	14926	4.7	-71	912	231	50	15207
Arizona	3332	-247	-189	9	13	26726	1.1	-657	-2001	298	165	27189
Arkansas	1966	-288	-1087	7	1	20682	1.8	-643	-2344	106	156	20944
California	42084	-5515	-955	159	139	384556	2.4	-32567	-36077	2775	2668	389999
Colorado	2548	-280	-215	12	37	35823	1.5	2155	-881	353	674	36850
Connecticut	4098	787	-46	3	10	49799	3.0	1414	-6107	65	128	49992
Delaware	1156	429	278	4	4	7629	1.8	-736	-1050	14	34	7677
District of Columbia	256	-24	-13	6	0	8458	1.6	-18	-464	299	16	8773
Florida	7318	256	-2045	8	52	51001	0.7	1330	-17552	181	321	51503
Georgia	6609	-395	452	24	40	36830	0.9	-831	-4717	184	450	37464
Hawaii	987	-30	-190	2	14	6290	1.1	-7	-2368	72	168	6530
Idaho	1461	98	120	16	3	13697	2.1	-560	-1306	325	44	14066
Illinois	10555	414	-2187	4	9	162882	2.8	-10704	-1762	365	414	163661
Indiana	3404	-88	-1634	10	9	35829	1.2	137	-2942	119	120	36068
Iowa	2219	-619	-164	2	3	35933	2.4	-574	1371	60	97	36090
Kansas	1869	-111	-1140	2	7	18737	1.4	-513	-2293	64	116	18917
Kentucky	3262	34	-2850	5	5	30809	1.7	2067	958	132	280	31221
Louisiana	2958	652	814	7	9	22849	1.2	70	1910	68	62	22979
Maine	920	-40	-126	0	2	12529	2.2	-176	-2614	52	41	12622
Maryland	3671	-381	-1944	22	12	47606	2.0	-514	-7542	355	253	48214
Massachusetts	9695	3268	-230	6	21	94127	2.8	-130	-8429	239	303	94669
Michigan	7483	-990	-2778	16	25	102026	2.5	4786	-1100	280	216	102522
Minnesota	3883	-645	-420	4	6	70595	2.6	-502	4107	167	172	70934
Mississippi	1148	-204	-168	4	0	12998	1.2	-582	-74	132	53	13183
Missouri	4934	1012	-1975	9	14	41084	1.6	738	-7856	204	127	41415
Montana	1129	92	55	14	2	13746	3.2	-588	320	614	56	14416
Nebraska	758	-164	-319	1	4	8728	0.9	-344	-1702	26	21	8775
Nevada	2409	-315	-796	3	4	26920	2.2	-1082	-2508	221	140	27281
New Hampshire	737	10	-125	1	3	6824	1.1	-59	-1495	3	14	6841
New Jersey	9171	-302	-959	10	17	127128	3.3	-1436	-11364	244	448	127820
New Mexico	1181	-241	138	6	4	14711	1.9	268	-12	312	87	15110
New York	16740	-1282	-754	21	29	195173	2.2	-2766	-22318	407	702	196282
North Carolina	3485	-395	-381	8	27	31495	0.8	-671	-9368	161	244	31900
North Dakota	989	221	411	2	4	10264	2.3	158	2948	18	9	10291
Ohio	7569	-921	-3786	7	22	91699	1.8	-635	-407	138	460	92297
Oklahoma	2346	405	255	2	11	22841	1.5	217	5069	65	138	23044
Oregon	3588	-1036	-1129	28	19	34996	2.0	-1407	-5125	756	256	36008
Pennsylvania	18475	-453	-3673	56	16	183005	3.3	4957	-581	541	636	184182
Puerto Rico	1552	-201	-87	1	6	24385	2.7	-654	-3682	57	194	24636
Rhode Island	2145	744	-617	2	5	13654	3.0	15	-1478	22	31	13707
South Carolina	2185	-24	-7	8	12	17884	0.9	-710	-1021	77	142	18103
South Dakota	196	-45	-44	0	0	3618	0.9	-52	-51	47	14	3679
Tennessee	4007	724	1167	10	14	29409	1.1	-176	-1195	162	163	29734
Texas	15977	-990	-1205	23	129	174913	1.5	247	28771	469	2337	177719
Utah	1227	-204	-161	12	3	15120	1.2	-345	-327	259	37	15416
Vermont	843	312	-30	0	2	6618	2.2	-138	-662	27	1	6646
Virgin Islands	28	-10	-6	2	0	524	1.4	-54	-420	8	6	538
Virginia	3765	-1006	524	6	21	35111	1.0	130	-742	312	543	35966
Washington	6665	-403	-15	42	63	61380	2.0	-1887	-3921	584	926	62890
West Virginia	1363	-430	218	0	1	23405	3.5	-763	4888	88	71	23564
Wisconsin	8010	-690	-1754	3	8	63223	2.3	-771	-15060	149	84	63456
Wyoming	699	-18	115	2	1	8746	3.2	349	2588	159	18	8923
Totals	248870	-9510	-31769	622	873	2612427	1.9	-45554	-140344	13127	15066	2640620

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 FEBRUARY 20, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	+3,268	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and educational service industries.
MO	+1,012	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-5,515	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
NY	-1,282	Fewer layoffs in the retail trade, accommodation and food service, and art, entertainment and recreation industries.
OR	-1,036	No comment.
VA	-1,006	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.

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](#)

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).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 16-448-NAT

Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676