



News Release

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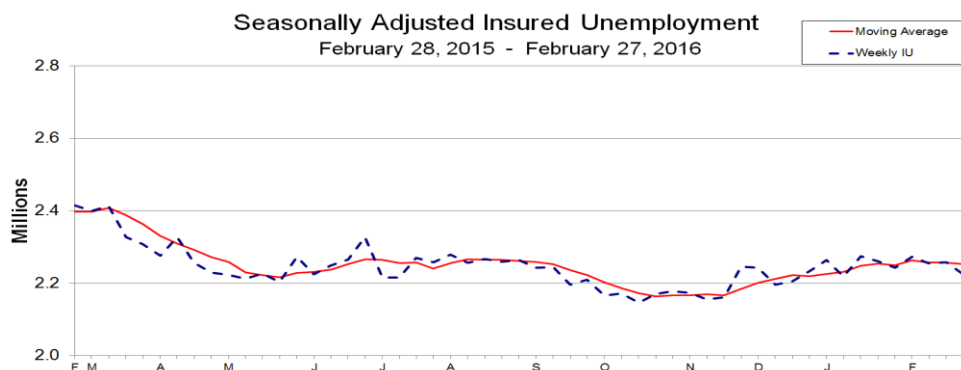
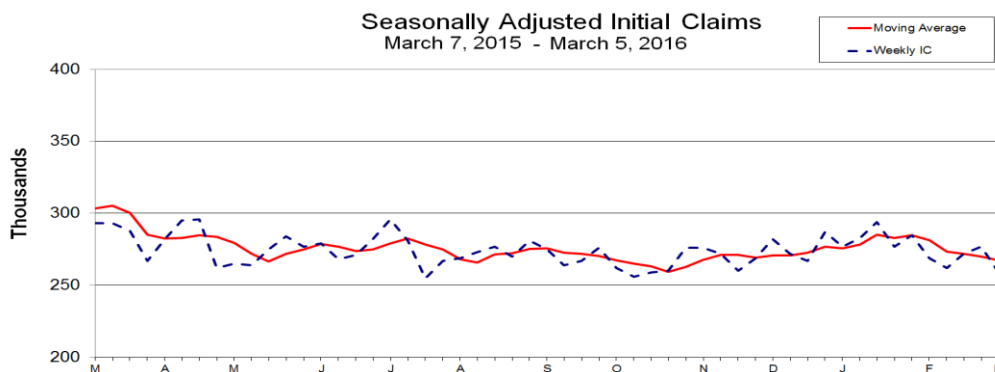
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 5, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 259,000, a decrease of 18,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 278,000 to 277,000. The 4-week moving average was 267,500, a decrease of 2,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 270,250 to 270,000.

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

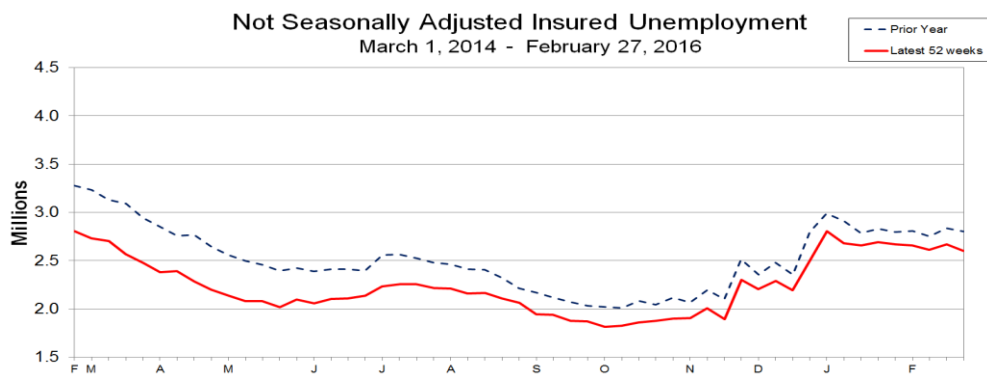
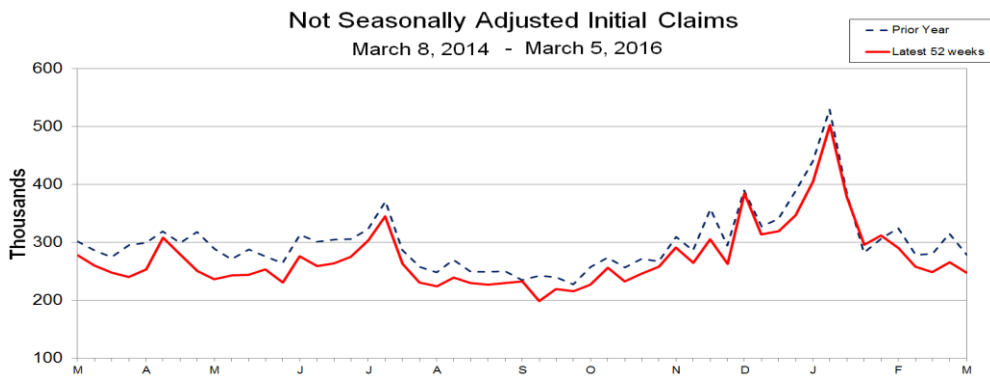
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending February 27, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 27 was 2,225,000, a decrease of 32,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 2,257,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,252,000, a decrease of 4,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 2,256,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 247,991 in the week ending March 5, a decrease of 17,800 (or -6.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 277 (or -0.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 277,925 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending February 27, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,598,636, a decrease of 71,882 (or -2.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 33,861 (or -1.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,804,575.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 20 was 2,719,948, an increase of 60,535 from the previous week. There were 2,891,641 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 20.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 817 in the week ending February 27, an increase of 195 from the prior week. There were 998 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 125 from the preceding week.

There were 13,756 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 20, an increase of 629 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 15,332, an increase of 266 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 20 were in Alaska (4.6), West Virginia (3.5), New Jersey (3.4), Rhode Island (3.3), Montana (3.2), Connecticut (3.1), Pennsylvania (3.1), Wyoming (3.1), Massachusetts (3.0), California (2.8), and Illinois (2.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 27 were in New York (+17,920), California (+4,346), Texas (+959), Oregon (+930), and New Hampshire (+686), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-3,413), Michigan (-1,054), Missouri (-983), Rhode Island (-838), and Pennsylvania (-609).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 5	February 27	Change	February 20	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	259,000	277,000	-18,000	272,000	293,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	247,991	265,791	-17,800	248,870	277,925
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	267,500	270,000	-2,500	272,000	303,250
WEEK ENDING	February 27	February 20	Change	February 13	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,225,000	2,257,000	-32,000	2,254,000	2,414,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,598,636	2,670,518	-71,882	2,612,427	2,804,575
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,252,000	2,256,500	-4,500	2,257,250	2,397,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.7%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.9%	2.0%	-0.1	1.9%	2.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 27	February 20	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	817	622	+195	893
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	998	873	+125	1,330

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 20	February 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,665,123	2,607,220	+57,903	2,832,081
Federal Employees	13,756	13,127	+629	16,587
Newly Discharged Veterans	15,332	15,066	+266	23,029
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	5
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,027	6,925	+1,102	7,895
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	17,710	17,075	+635	12,044
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,719,948	2,659,413	+60,535	2,891,641

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 5			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 27		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,183	2,632	551	21,045	22,150	-1,105
Alaska	1,373	1,151	222	13,969	14,506	-537
Arizona	3,709	3,641	68	23,624	27,050	-3,426
Arkansas	1,950	2,221	-271	18,845	20,423	-1,578
California	45,684	46,430	-746	422,046	435,303	-13,257
Colorado	2,758	2,665	93	34,954	33,258	1,696
Connecticut	3,146	3,972	-826	51,555	51,273	282
Delaware	634	628	6	8,239	8,099	140
District of Columbia	530	289	241	7,809	8,365	-556
Florida	7,165	6,923	242	42,035	49,134	-7,099
Georgia	6,541	6,545	-4	32,264	35,165	-2,901
Hawaii	1,200	1,088	112	6,819	6,375	444
Idaho	1,153	1,337	-184	11,392	13,530	-2,138
Illinois	10,823	10,041	782	160,508	162,994	-2,486
Indiana	3,614	3,462	152	34,426	35,948	-1,522
Iowa	2,587	2,159	428	35,120	34,674	446
Kansas	2,140	1,916	224	18,034	18,096	-62
Kentucky	2,852	3,120	-268	29,364	28,015	1,349
Louisiana	2,570	2,792	-222	23,290	22,955	335
Maine	915	1,093	-178	12,438	12,949	-511
Maryland	3,367	3,906	-539	43,354	47,387	-4,033
Massachusetts	5,357	6,282	-925	92,802	100,587	-7,785
Michigan	6,843	6,429	414	97,327	99,729	-2,402
Minnesota	4,123	3,801	322	73,045	69,015	4,030
Mississippi	1,267	1,426	-159	11,078	12,816	-1,738
Missouri	3,972	3,951	21	34,515	38,423	-3,908
Montana	931	978	-47	13,023	13,792	-769
Nebraska	771	844	-73	8,160	8,537	-377
Nevada	2,717	2,618	99	24,449	27,121	-2,672
New Hampshire	693	1,423	-730	6,966	6,778	188
New Jersey	9,005	9,059	-54	128,032	128,337	-305
New Mexico	1,114	1,073	41	14,028	14,785	-757
New York	17,279	34,660	-17,381	198,359	216,284	-17,925
North Carolina	3,990	3,622	368	28,564	30,725	-2,161
North Dakota	1,191	719	472	14,602	10,348	4,254
Ohio	7,783	7,456	327	89,709	91,587	-1,878
Oklahoma	1,951	2,283	-332	22,062	23,263	-1,201
Oregon	4,272	4,518	-246	33,876	34,933	-1,057
Pennsylvania	17,685	17,866	-181	183,639	174,217	9,422
Puerto Rico	1,614	1,781	-167	22,380	24,136	-1,756
Rhode Island	903	1,307	-404	13,488	15,238	-1,750
South Carolina	2,716	2,435	281	16,307	17,416	-1,109
South Dakota	199	216	-17	3,316	3,556	-240
Tennessee	3,228	3,873	-645	27,446	29,149	-1,703
Texas	17,808	16,936	872	179,282	179,585	-303
Utah	1,357	1,297	60	14,256	14,761	-505
Vermont	460	957	-497	7,451	6,980	471
Virgin Islands	16	33	-17	536	592	-56
Virginia	3,860	3,482	378	36,181	35,479	702
Washington	7,290	6,737	553	60,813	61,151	-338
West Virginia	1,183	1,467	-284	23,186	23,787	-601
Wisconsin	7,641	7,559	82	60,507	61,250	-743
Wyoming	878	692	186	8,121	8,512	-391
US Total	247,991	265,791	-17,800	2,598,636	2,670,518	-71,882

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		
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	277	5	270.00	2,225	-32	2,252.00	1.6	
March 5, 2016	259	-18	267.50					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 27
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 20
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM					STATE	RATE (%) ²	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	2632	-83	-1463	14	15	22150	1.2	-336	-2810	58	171	22379
Alaska	1151	51	-23	5	1	14506	4.6	-420	972	225	45	14776
Arizona	3641	309	-83	12	9	27050	1.1	324	-1710	277	161	27488
Arkansas	2221	255	-1257	9	2	20423	1.8	-259	-4345	100	135	20658
California	46430	4346	-1159	204	161	435303	2.8	50747	-18263	3304	3123	441730
Colorado	2665	117	-962	11	41	33258	1.4	-2565	-2423	371	567	34196
Connecticut	3972	-126	-8	6	7	51273	3.1	1474	-6356	76	143	51492
Delaware	628	-528	-444	0	2	8099	1.9	470	-2852	20	38	8157
District of Columbia	289	33	-59	7	0	8365	1.6	-93	-718	300	19	8684
Florida	6923	-395	-1975	17	49	49134	0.6	-1867	-9055	160	341	49635
Georgia	6545	-64	-2452	22	55	35165	0.9	-1665	-7922	183	411	35759
Hawaii	1088	101	-366	5	14	6375	1.1	85	-2059	82	118	6575
Idaho	1337	-124	-179	10	4	13530	2.1	-167	-733	313	49	13892
Illinois	10041	-514	-1910	14	24	162994	2.8	112	-1207	314	452	163760
Indiana	3462	58	-1501	8	4	35948	1.2	119	-4003	117	110	36175
Iowa	2159	-60	-371	4	6	34674	2.3	-1259	-293	58	89	34821
Kansas	1916	47	-697	3	9	18096	1.4	-641	-2640	69	107	18272
Kentucky	3120	-142	-2721	3	11	28015	1.6	-2794	-1984	162	278	28455
Louisiana	2792	-166	233	8	18	22955	1.2	106	1682	61	53	23069
Maine	1093	173	-239	2	1	12949	2.2	420	-2372	60	36	13045
Maryland	3906	235	-967	21	20	47387	2.0	-219	-9581	357	257	48001
Massachusetts	6282	-3413	156	6	38	100587	3.0	6460	-12095	230	311	101128
Michigan	6429	-1054	-1746	19	15	99729	2.4	-2297	-3083	352	229	100310
Minnesota	3801	-82	-812	9	8	69015	2.5	-1580	1702	166	160	69341
Mississippi	1426	278	-261	2	4	12816	1.2	-182	-529	122	53	12991
Missouri	3951	-983	-4252	10	10	38423	1.5	-2661	-11713	172	111	38706
Montana	978	-151	-163	9	1	13792	3.2	46	492	608	51	14451
Nebraska	844	86	-222	5	2	8537	0.9	-191	-1824	31	25	8593
Nevada	2618	209	-488	9	11	27121	2.2	201	590	237	143	27501
New Hampshire	1423	686	-117	4	7	6778	1.1	-46	-1489	1	15	6794
New Jersey	9059	-112	-712	18	22	128337	3.4	1209	-14014	256	437	129030
New Mexico	1073	-108	89	5	9	14785	1.9	74	1102	318	75	15178
New York	34660	17920	-3890	51	53	216284	2.5	21111	-24567	430	711	217425
North Carolina	3622	137	-841	7	25	30725	0.8	-770	-9204	143	235	31103
North Dakota	719	-270	105	1	0	10348	2.4	84	2915	18	6	10372
Ohio	7456	-113	-3720	11	46	91587	1.8	-112	-7715	136	462	92185
Oklahoma	2283	-63	269	4	13	23263	1.5	422	5195	72	131	23466
Oregon	4518	930	38	28	23	34933	2.0	-63	-4516	747	244	35924
Pennsylvania	17866	-609	-4688	75	16	174217	3.1	-8788	-3940	585	552	175354
Puerto Rico	1781	229	-43	7	12	24136	2.7	-249	-3574	47	180	24363
Rhode Island	1307	-838	-405	3	4	15238	3.3	1584	-2042	31	30	15299
South Carolina	2435	250	-727	11	17	17416	0.9	-468	-1474	65	140	17621
South Dakota	216	20	-65	5	1	3556	0.9	-62	-109	35	11	3602
Tennessee	3873	-134	-5260	10	11	29149	1.1	-260	-6490	166	155	29470
Texas	16936	959	-200	41	119	179585	1.6	4672	29579	560	2419	182564
Utah	1297	70	-144	21	0	14761	1.2	-359	-336	250	35	15046
Vermont	957	114	-18	4	0	6980	2.3	362	-656	29	2	7011
Virgin Islands	33	5	-7	0	1	592	1.6	68	-72	4	14	610
Virginia	3482	-283	-643	12	13	35479	1.0	368	-1650	320	570	36369
Washington	6737	72	-24	33	55	61151	2.0	-229	-3523	561	930	62642
West Virginia	1467	104	-363	6	2	23787	3.5	382	2085	93	58	23938
Wisconsin	7559	-451	-1996	5	6	61250	2.2	-1973	-18072	148	97	61495
Wyoming	692	-7	-22	1	1	8512	3.1	-234	2844	156	37	8705
Totals	265791	16921	-49775	817	998	2670518	2	58091	-164855	13756	15332	2699606

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 27, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+17,920	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
CA	+4,346	Layoffs in the service industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-3,413	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and educational service industries.
MI	-1,054	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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