



News Release

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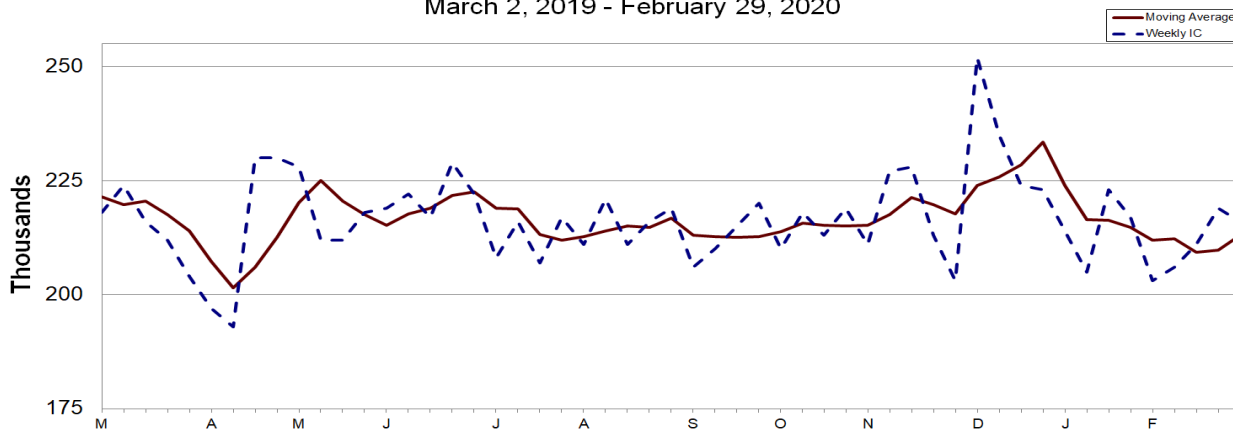
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

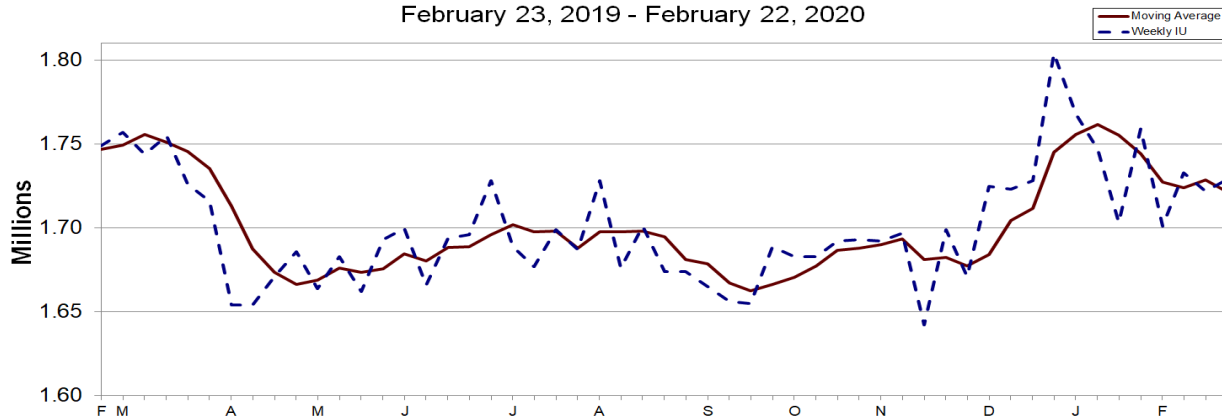
In the week ending February 29, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 216,000, a decrease of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 219,000. The 4-week moving average was 213,000, an increase of 3,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 209,750.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending February 22, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 22 was 1,729,000, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 1,724,000 to 1,722,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,721,250, a decrease of 7,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 1,729,250 to 1,728,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 2, 2019 - February 29, 2020



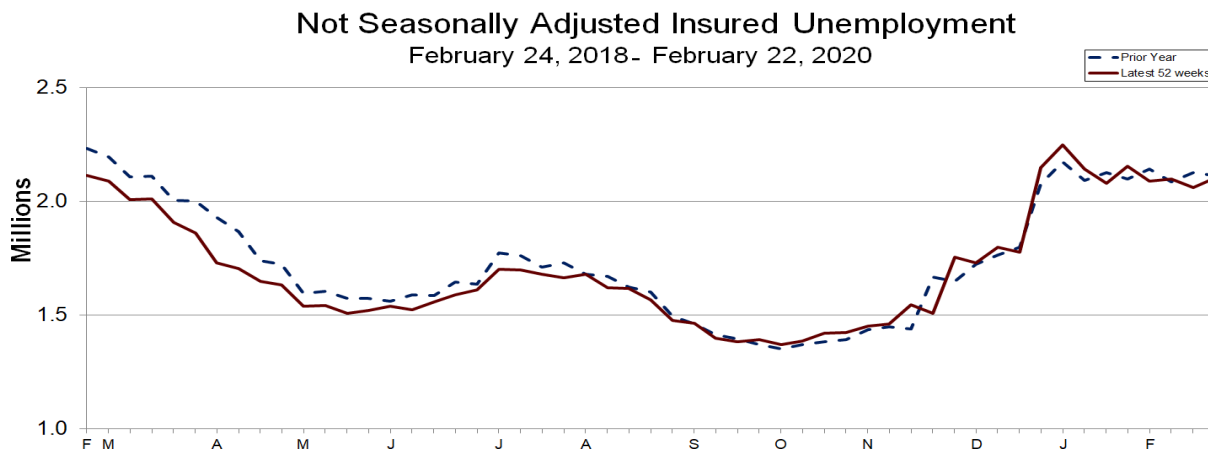
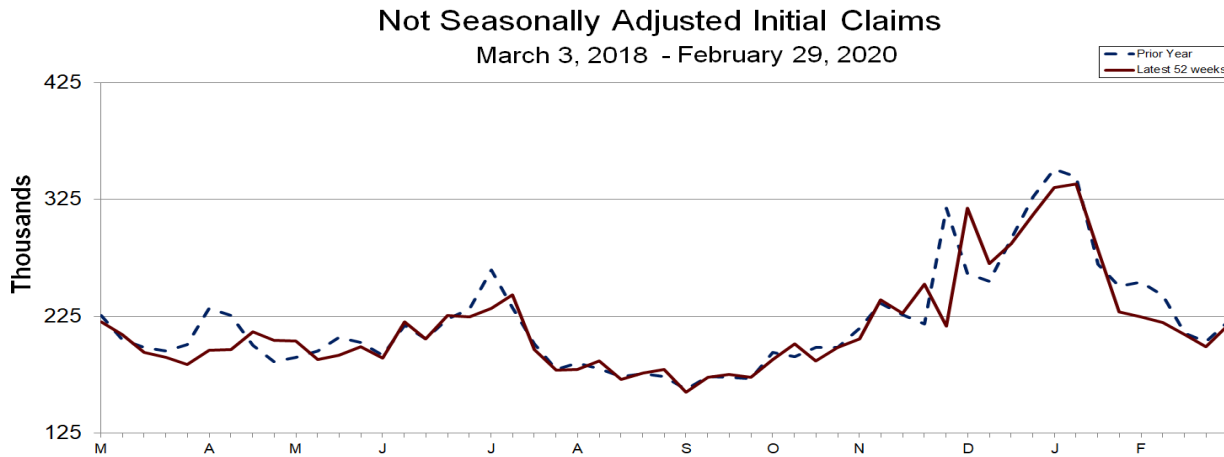
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
February 23, 2019 - February 22, 2020



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 217,608 in the week ending February 29, an increase of 18,330 (or 9.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 21,923 (or 11.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 220,583 initial claims in the comparable week in 2019.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending February 22, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,100,788, an increase of 39,145 (or 1.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 31,002 (or 1.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,112,593.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 15 was 2,092,457, a decrease of 38,216 from the previous week. There were 2,157,774 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2019.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending February 15.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 577 in the week ending February 22, a decrease of 42 from the prior week. There were 397 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 63 from the preceding week.

There were 10,703 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 15, a decrease of 195 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,507, a decrease of 156 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 15 were in Alaska (2.9), New Jersey (2.7), West Virginia (2.6), Connecticut (2.5), Montana (2.5), Pennsylvania (2.5), Puerto Rico (2.4), Rhode Island (2.4), Illinois (2.2), Massachusetts (2.2), and Minnesota (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 22 were in Massachusetts (+3,871), Illinois (+3,767), Rhode Island (+925), Indiana (+423), and Iowa (+392), while the largest decreases were in California (-8,466), Georgia (-1,247), Pennsylvania (-952), Oregon (-770), and Texas (-743).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 29	February 22	Change	February 15	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	216,000	219,000	-3,000	211,000	218,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	217,608	199,278	+18,330	209,336	220,583
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	213,000	209,750	+3,250	209,250	221,500
WEEK ENDING	February 22	February 15	Change	February 8	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,729,000	1,722,000	+7,000	1,733,000	1,749,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,100,788	2,061,643	+39,145	2,099,073	2,112,593
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,721,250	1,728,750	-7,500	1,724,000	1,746,750
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 22	February 15	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	577	619	-42	658
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	397	460	-63	431

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 15	February 8	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	2,057,774	2,095,032	-37,258	2,123,288
Federal Employees	10,703	10,898	-195	12,361
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,507	5,663	-156	6,269
Extended Benefits ³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits ⁴	5,396	5,571	-175	5,720
STC / Workshare ⁵	13,077	13,509	-432	10,136
TOTAL	2,092,457	2,130,673	-38,216	2,157,774

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 145,230,691 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 4-4 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-8 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 29			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 22		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama*	1,840	2,181	-341	16,624	16,375	249
Alaska	933	773	160	8,814	8,864	-50
Arizona	2,941	3,151	-210	15,794	18,217	-2,423
Arkansas	1,276	1,055	221	10,752	12,546	-1,794
California	42,131	34,979	7,152	376,252	349,252	27,000
Colorado	1,708	1,862	-154	23,252	23,694	-442
Connecticut	2,854	2,435	419	43,321	41,691	1,630
Delaware	504	632	-128	6,068	5,921	147
District of Columbia	464	422	42	6,786	7,003	-217
Florida	4,696	4,861	-165	28,486	33,570	-5,084
Georgia	5,378	5,030	348	25,862	26,963	-1,101
Hawaii	1,079	1,020	59	6,208	6,195	13
Idaho	874	1,114	-240	9,457	11,275	-1,818
Illinois	9,031	11,812	-2,781	133,152	131,171	1,981
Indiana	2,399	2,979	-580	24,131	22,913	1,218
Iowa	2,508	2,631	-123	31,179	30,741	438
Kansas	1,539	1,494	45	11,891	12,003	-112
Kentucky	2,220	2,508	-288	23,104	22,623	481
Louisiana	1,431	1,798	-367	12,217	14,640	-2,423
Maine	843	737	106	9,181	8,624	557
Maryland	2,520	2,700	-180	28,023	29,095	-1,072
Massachusetts	4,805	9,264	-4,459	81,014	77,091	3,923
Michigan*	5,497	5,942	-445	76,376	78,029	-1,653
Minnesota	3,509	3,539	-30	65,185	62,200	2,985
Mississippi	698	827	-129	6,366	7,922	-1,556
Missouri	2,610	3,063	-453	24,783	27,035	-2,252
Montana	710	795	-85	11,536	11,308	228
Nebraska	499	493	6	5,451	5,780	-329
Nevada	2,482	2,052	430	18,835	19,472	-637
New Hampshire	843	444	399	3,754	3,936	-182
New Jersey	7,674	8,396	-722	113,296	109,265	4,031
New Mexico	662	737	-75	9,693	10,051	-358
New York	31,344	14,144	17,200	184,341	163,220	21,121
North Carolina	1,610	2,852	-1,242	19,629	21,630	-2,001
North Dakota	474	435	39	7,893	6,886	1,007
Ohio	9,862	6,208	3,654	69,875	70,924	-1,049
Oklahoma	1,328	1,509	-181	16,041	17,269	-1,228
Oregon	3,919	3,514	405	30,679	30,548	131
Pennsylvania	12,039	12,631	-592	136,000	142,306	-6,306
Puerto Rico*	1,695	1,390	305	18,173	20,765	-2,592
Rhode Island	838	1,921	-1,083	12,614	11,199	1,415
South Carolina	1,922	1,824	98	15,377	16,239	-862
South Dakota	133	191	-58	3,024	3,164	-140
Tennessee	2,080	1,855	225	18,655	20,139	-1,484
Texas	12,714	12,047	667	132,420	127,275	5,145
Utah	909	1,008	-99	11,369	11,960	-591
Vermont	851	610	241	5,302	4,872	430
Virgin Islands	26	55	-29	564	508	56
Virginia	3,477	2,079	1,398	22,736	22,493	243
Washington	6,077	5,585	492	61,583	59,819	1,764
West Virginia	1,046	1,207	-161	19,300	17,355	1,945
Wisconsin	5,656	6,098	-442	44,226	43,996	230
Wyoming	450	389	61	4,144	3,611	533
US Total	217,608	199,278	18,330	2,100,788	2,061,643	39,145

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.

*Denotes state estimate.

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	
February 23, 2019	224	11	224.50	1,749	-24	1,746.75	1.2
March 2, 2019	218	-6	221.50	1,757	8	1,749.50	1.2
March 9, 2019	224	6	219.75	1,744	-13	1,755.75	1.2
March 16, 2019	216	-8	220.50	1,755	11	1,751.25	1.2
March 23, 2019	212	-4	217.50	1,726	-29	1,745.50	1.2
March 30, 2019	204	-8	214.00	1,716	-10	1,735.25	1.2
April 6, 2019	197	-7	207.25	1,654	-62	1,712.75	1.2
April 13, 2019	193	-4	201.50	1,654	0	1,687.50	1.2
April 20, 2019	230	37	206.00	1,671	17	1,673.75	1.2
April 27, 2019	230	0	212.50	1,686	15	1,666.25	1.2
May 4, 2019	228	-2	220.25	1,664	-22	1,668.75	1.2
May 11, 2019	212	-16	225.00	1,683	19	1,676.00	1.2
May 18, 2019	212	0	220.50	1,662	-21	1,673.75	1.2
May 25, 2019	218	6	217.50	1,693	31	1,675.50	1.2
June 1, 2019	219	1	215.25	1,700	7	1,684.50	1.2
June 8, 2019	222	3	217.75	1,666	-34	1,680.25	1.2
June 15, 2019	217	-5	219.00	1,694	28	1,688.25	1.2
June 22, 2019	229	12	221.75	1,696	2	1,689.00	1.2
June 29, 2019	222	-7	222.50	1,728	32	1,696.00	1.2
July 6, 2019	208	-14	219.00	1,689	-39	1,701.75	1.2
July 13, 2019	216	8	218.75	1,677	-12	1,697.50	1.2
July 20, 2019	207	-9	213.25	1,699	22	1,698.25	1.2
July 27, 2019	217	10	212.00	1,687	-12	1,688.00	1.2
August 3, 2019	211	-6	212.75	1,728	41	1,697.75	1.2
August 10, 2019	221	10	214.00	1,676	-52	1,697.50	1.2
August 17, 2019	211	-10	215.00	1,701	25	1,698.00	1.2
August 24, 2019	216	5	214.75	1,674	-27	1,694.75	1.2
August 31, 2019	219	3	216.75	1,674	0	1,681.25	1.2
September 7, 2019	206	-13	213.00	1,665	-9	1,678.50	1.2
September 14, 2019	210	4	212.75	1,656	-9	1,667.25	1.1
September 21, 2019	215	5	212.50	1,655	-1	1,662.50	1.1
September 28, 2019	220	5	212.75	1,689	34	1,666.25	1.2
October 5, 2019	210	-10	213.75	1,683	-6	1,670.75	1.2
October 12, 2019	218	8	215.75	1,683	0	1,677.50	1.2
October 19, 2019	213	-5	215.25	1,692	9	1,686.75	1.2
October 26, 2019	219	6	215.00	1,693	1	1,687.75	1.2
November 2, 2019	211	-8	215.25	1,692	-1	1,690.00	1.2
November 9, 2019	227	16	217.50	1,697	5	1,693.50	1.2
November 16, 2019	228	1	221.25	1,642	-55	1,681.00	1.1
November 23, 2019	213	-15	219.75	1,699	57	1,682.50	1.2
November 30, 2019	203	-10	217.75	1,671	-28	1,677.25	1.2
December 7, 2019	252	49	224.00	1,725	54	1,684.25	1.2
December 14, 2019	235	-17	225.75	1,723	-2	1,704.50	1.2
December 21, 2019	224	-11	228.50	1,728	5	1,711.75	1.2
December 28, 2019	223	-1	233.50	1,804	76	1,745.00	1.2
January 4, 2020	214	-9	224.00	1,768	-36	1,755.75	1.2
January 11, 2020	205	-9	216.50	1,747	-21	1,761.75	1.2
January 18, 2020	223	18	216.25	1,703	-44	1,755.50	1.2
January 25, 2020	217	-6	214.75	1,759	56	1,744.25	1.2
February 1, 2020	203	-14	212.00	1,701	-58	1,727.50	1.2
February 8, 2020	206	3	212.25	1,733	32	1,724.00	1.2
February 15, 2020	211	5	209.25	1,722	-11	1,728.75	1.2
February 22, 2020	219	8	209.75	1,729	7	1,721.25	1.2
February 29, 2020	216	-3	213.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 22					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 15					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) ²	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	2181	43	-12	14	8	16375	0.9	48	481	69	75	16519
Alaska	773	-142	-131	4	0	8864	2.9	-479	-1301	181	10	9055
Arizona	3151	-387	246	10	3	18217	0.6	-299	-1145	217	26	18460
Arkansas	1055	-547	-395	2	0	12546	1.0	-433	80	60	30	12636
California	34979	-8466	530	125	67	349252	2.0	-26053	-36848	2206	1080	352538
Colorado	1862	-347	-63	10	10	23694	0.9	1618	225	326	134	24154
Connecticut	2435	-85	-804	4	2	41691	2.5	2307	-446	48	71	41810
Delaware	632	22	138	0	1	5921	1.3	4	-311	12	19	5952
District of Columbia	422	-51	46	16	0	7003	1.2	-76	-813	182	6	7191
Florida	4861	-368	-824	16	13	33570	0.4	-879	-4658	156	78	33804
Georgia	5030	-1247	-90	22	17	26963	0.6	-354	-245	164	131	27258
Hawaii	1020	-179	-176	2	5	6195	1.0	78	-706	70	59	6324
Idaho	1114	-242	-305	17	1	11275	1.5	-59	41	314	16	11605
Illinois	11812	3767	4366	4	0	131171	2.2	-2594	-3193	322	147	131640
Indiana	2979	423	612	4	6	22913	0.8	561	838	28	24	22965
Iowa	2631	392	452	3	0	30741	2.0	-58	-516	55	21	30817
Kansas	1494	-582	-309	1	2	12003	0.9	337	203	33	22	12058
Kentucky	2508	-305	-4323	2	2	22623	1.2	-453	-139	221	104	22948
Louisiana	1798	59	14	8	1	14640	0.8	-417	-677	49	16	14705
Maine	737	-53	140	3	0	8624	1.4	-272	-21	47	14	8685
Maryland	2700	-348	149	11	8	29095	1.1	-124	-3287	201	86	29382
Massachusetts	9264	3871	-34	13	5	77091	2.2	179	-4219	129	102	77322
Michigan	5942	355	-299	11	4	78029	1.8	-1120	-9013	189	57	78275
Minnesota	3539	-102	525	2	1	62200	2.2	-1756	1237	123	62	62385
Mississippi	827	-34	-17	8	2	7922	0.7	-294	330	66	14	8002
Missouri	3063	-300	94	0	3	27035	1.0	-327	-2322	104	26	27165
Montana	795	-126	-73	15	1	11308	2.5	-171	-629	641	18	11967
Nebraska	493	-44	-215	3	1	5780	0.6	-24	-1629	14	7	5801
Nevada	2052	-491	-78	1	1	19472	1.4	-113	-1119	172	45	19689
New Hampshire	444	20	73	2	0	3936	0.6	-79	-665	7	0	3943
New Jersey	8396	-154	-116	12	21	109265	2.7	-751	-919	237	268	109770
New Mexico	737	12	61	2	0	10051	1.3	64	40	273	38	10362
New York	14144	-189	106	13	18	163220	1.7	-891	2707	275	309	163804
North Carolina	2852	-242	-282	10	13	21630	0.5	-342	155	103	105	21838
North Dakota	435	-22	95	1	0	6886	1.7	-38	33	15	4	6905
Ohio	6208	-324	27	9	4	70924	1.3	-290	-79	109	120	71153
Oklahoma	1509	-124	-392	7	6	17269	1.1	-244	3472	58	52	17379
Oregon	3514	-770	-773	23	7	30548	1.6	-619	-2497	675	56	31279
Pennsylvania	12631	-952	-292	54	28	142306	2.5	6157	1432	548	190	143044
Puerto Rico	1390	-198	218	9	2	20765	2.4	-349	5308	131	89	20985
Rhode Island	1921	925	22	0	2	11199	2.4	35	-784	24	10	11233
South Carolina	1824	-264	-255	3	4	16239	0.8	-308	-92	28	60	16327
South Dakota	191	-3	-48	1	0	3164	0.8	-32	-237	51	2	3217
Tennessee	1855	-285	-274	10	8	20139	0.7	-346	563	97	62	20298
Texas	12047	-743	281	31	80	127275	1.0	-6200	9443	548	995	128818
Utah	1008	-89	-10	13	2	11960	0.8	-171	91	216	14	12190
Vermont	610	67	-46	0	0	4872	1.6	-59	-311	9	1	4882
Virgin Islands	55	15	39	0	0	508	1.5	0	0	10	0	518
Virginia	2079	-614	-161	2	7	22493	0.6	12	-388	187	154	22834
Washington	5585	-726	-1775	31	23	59819	1.8	-2000	-13515	493	416	60728
West Virginia	1207	35	236	0	3	17355	2.6	499	3007	49	32	17436
Wisconsin	6098	290	329	7	5	43996	1.5	-167	-1867	101	26	44123
Wyoming	389	-209	2	6	0	3611	1.4	-88	556	60	4	3675
Totals	199278	-10058	-3771	577	397	2061643	1.4	-37430	-64349	10703	5507	2077853

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.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 22, 2020

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	+3,871	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food services industries.
IL	+3,767	Layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation services industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-8,466	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
GA	-1,247	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation services, trade, manufacturing, and professional, scientific and technical services 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.

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)

[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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