



News Release

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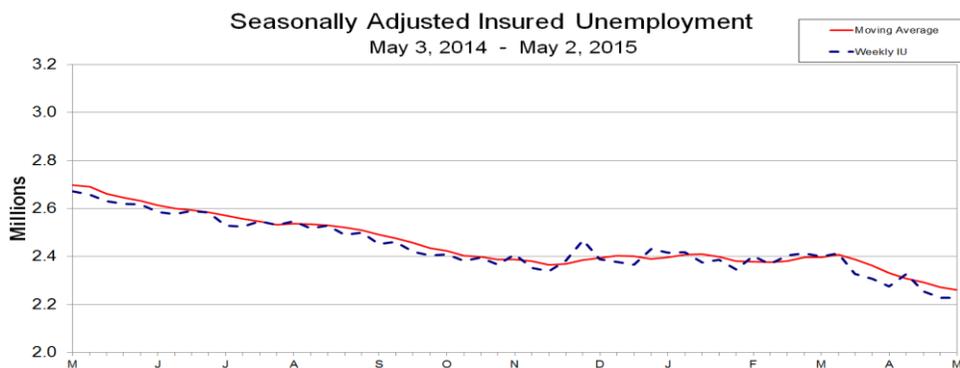
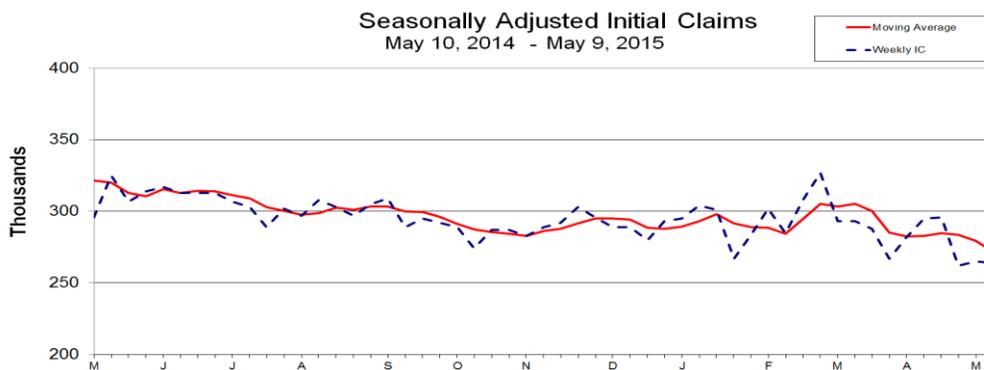
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 9, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 264,000, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 265,000. The 4-week moving average was 271,750, a decrease of 7,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 279,500. This is the lowest level for this average since April 22, 2000 when it was 266,750.

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

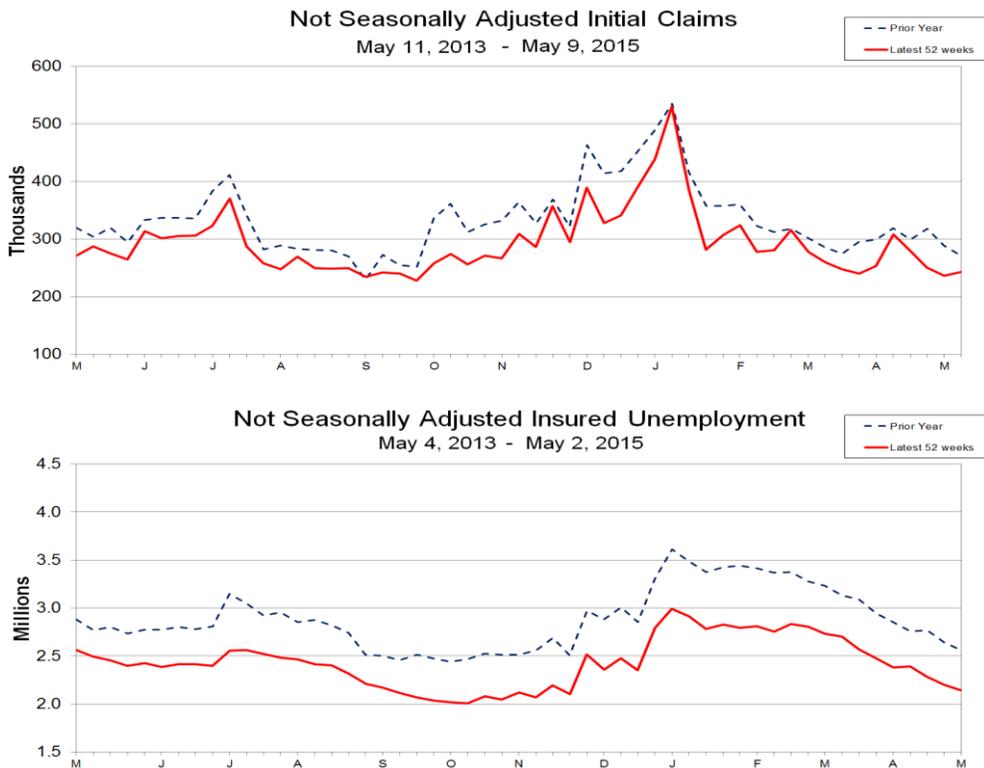
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending May 2, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 2 was 2,229,000, unchanged from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 2,228,000 to 2,229,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,260,250, a decrease of 11,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 2, 2000 when it was 2,241,000. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 2,271,500 to 2,271,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 242,640 in the week ending May 9, an increase of 6,219 (or 2.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 7,430 (or 3.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 270,738 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending May 2, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,144,165, a decrease of 55,592 (or -2.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 55,718 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,559,236.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 25 was 2,254,647, a decrease of 79,635 from the previous week. There were 2,705,019 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2014.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending April 25.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 839 in the week ending May 2, an increase of 12 from the prior week. There were 1,339 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 72 from the preceding week.

There were 11,387 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 25, a decrease of 859 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 19,481, a decrease of 1,157 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 25 were in Alaska (3.6), Puerto Rico (2.8), New Jersey (2.7), Rhode Island (2.6), California (2.5), Connecticut (2.5), the Virgin Islands (2.4), Massachusetts (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), Nevada (2.2), West Virginia (2.2), and Illinois (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 2 were in New York (+810), Oregon (+633), New Hampshire (+515), Pennsylvania (+333), and Virginia (+311), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-4,191), Rhode Island (-2,281), Georgia (-1,801), California (-1,753), and Connecticut (-1,114).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 9	May 2	Change	April 25	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	264,000	265,000	-1,000	262,000	296,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	242,640	236,421	+6,219	250,780	270,738
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	271,750	279,500	-7,750	283,750	321,500
WEEK ENDING	May 2	April 25	Change	April 18	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,229,000	2,229,000	0	2,256,000	2,671,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,144,165	2,199,757	-55,592	2,281,064	2,559,236
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,260,250	2,271,750	-11,500	2,291,500	2,697,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.7%	2.0%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.7%	1.9%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 2	April 25	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	839	827	+12	989
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,339	1,267	+72	1,733

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 25	April 18	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,193,566	2,276,387	-82,821	2,636,352
Federal Employees	11,387	12,246	-859	14,023
Newly Discharged Veterans	19,481	20,638	-1,157	25,296
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	60
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,052	8,213	-161	9,870
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	22,161	16,797	+5,364	19,418
TOTAL	2,254,647	2,334,282	-79,635	2,705,019

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 134,074,626 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](#)

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 2, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-4,191	Fewer layoffs in the educational service industry.
RI	-2,281	No comment.
GA	-1,801	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and trade industries.
CA	-1,753	No comment.
CT	-1,114	No comment.

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		
May 3, 2014	323	-14	324.75	2,671	-14	2,697.75	2.0	
May 10, 2014	296	-27	321.50	2,659	-12	2,690.00	2.0	
May 17, 2014	325	29	320.25	2,631	-28	2,661.50	2.0	
May 24, 2014	307	-18	312.75	2,620	-11	2,645.25	2.0	
May 31, 2014	314	7	310.50	2,618	-2	2,632.00	2.0	
June 7, 2014	317	3	315.75	2,586	-32	2,613.75	2.0	
June 14, 2014	313	-4	312.75	2,576	-10	2,600.00	2.0	
June 21, 2014	313	0	314.25	2,591	15	2,592.75	2.0	
June 28, 2014	313	0	314.00	2,584	-7	2,584.25	2.0	
July 5, 2014	307	-6	311.50	2,530	-54	2,570.25	1.9	
July 12, 2014	303	-4	309.00	2,525	-5	2,557.50	1.9	
July 19, 2014	289	-14	303.00	2,547	22	2,546.50	1.9	
July 26, 2014	302	13	300.25	2,532	-15	2,533.50	1.9	
August 2, 2014	297	-5	297.75	2,546	14	2,537.50	1.9	
August 9, 2014	308	11	299.00	2,518	-28	2,535.75	1.9	
August 16, 2014	303	-5	302.50	2,528	10	2,531.00	1.9	
August 23, 2014	297	-6	301.25	2,491	-37	2,520.75	1.9	
August 30, 2014	305	8	303.25	2,500	9	2,509.25	1.9	
September 6, 2014	309	4	303.50	2,452	-48	2,492.75	1.9	
September 13, 2014	289	-20	300.00	2,460	8	2,475.75	1.9	
September 20, 2014	295	6	299.50	2,421	-39	2,458.25	1.8	
September 27, 2014	292	-3	296.25	2,404	-17	2,434.25	1.8	
October 4, 2014	289	-3	291.25	2,409	5	2,423.50	1.8	
October 11, 2014	274	-15	287.50	2,383	-26	2,404.25	1.8	
October 18, 2014	287	13	285.50	2,395	12	2,397.75	1.8	
October 25, 2014	287	0	284.25	2,365	-30	2,388.00	1.8	
November 1, 2014	283	-4	282.75	2,408	43	2,387.75	1.8	
November 8, 2014	289	6	286.50	2,352	-56	2,380.00	1.8	
November 15, 2014	292	3	287.75	2,339	-13	2,366.00	1.8	
November 22, 2014	303	11	291.75	2,383	44	2,370.50	1.8	
November 29, 2014	296	-7	295.00	2,469	86	2,385.75	1.9	
December 6, 2014	289	-7	295.00	2,388	-81	2,394.75	1.8	
December 13, 2014	289	0	294.25	2,377	-11	2,404.25	1.8	
December 20, 2014	280	-9	288.50	2,366	-11	2,400.00	1.8	
December 27, 2014	293	13	287.75	2,431	65	2,390.50	1.8	
January 3, 2015	295	2	289.25	2,415	-16	2,397.25	1.8	
January 10, 2015	304	9	293.00	2,418	3	2,407.50	1.8	
January 17, 2015	301	-3	298.25	2,376	-42	2,410.00	1.8	
January 24, 2015	267	-34	291.75	2,386	10	2,398.75	1.8	
January 31, 2015	284	17	289.00	2,346	-40	2,381.50	1.8	
February 7, 2015	302	18	288.50	2,402	56	2,377.50	1.8	
February 14, 2015	285	-17	284.50	2,369	-33	2,375.75	1.8	
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	2,229	0	2,260.25	1.7	
May 9, 2015	264	-1	271.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May

2

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 25

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM							CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	2964	-648	-560	5	16	22158	1.2	-887	-4966	144	223	22525
Alaska	1083	-106	-334	3	6	11252	3.6	-53	-3286	116	56	11424
Arizona	4563	-285	-462	5	15	33910	1.4	543	-6371	136	220	34266
Arkansas	2315	-527	-292	4	5	20939	1.8	-178	-977	125	213	21277
California	45550	-1753	-11905	163	197	393899	2.5	-17801	-78043	2395	3730	400024
Colorado	2737	-223	-182	14	53	32881	1.4	-142	-6684	298	889	34068
Connecticut	3023	-1114	-493	9	8	40300	2.5	-6163	-8093	95	152	40547
Delaware	607	-1	-205	3	6	7391	1.8	961	-2171	22	39	7452
District of Columbia	287	-28	-87	10	3	7852	1.5	-58	-2211	385	20	8257
Florida	8416	-725	-6483	24	79	62051	0.8	1724	-35692	254	508	62813
Georgia	5551	-1801	-1160	14	61	35169	0.9	-1248	-9848	252	601	36022
Hawaii	1361	57	-231	9	19	8019	1.4	424	-1903	79	203	8301
Idaho	1144	-5	-606	3	5	8861	1.4	-295	-1644	87	53	9001
Illinois	9172	-639	-1610	14	22	118924	2.1	-7642	-29931	417	496	119837
Indiana	3420	55	-802	9	8	24147	0.8	-1392	-11094	97	147	24391
Iowa	2183	116	-444	7	6	17682	1.2	-985	-1632	84	102	17868
Kansas	1951	81	-629	2	11	15184	1.1	-17	-3786	82	176	15442
Kentucky	2574	-44	-914	16	8	22794	1.3	-2624	-2666	167	354	23315
Louisiana	2498	-239	225	2	12	22639	1.2	-170	3713	44	98	22781
Maine	1094	55	-197	0	2	10852	1.9	-359	-3357	33	67	10952
Maryland	3450	-42	-1122	20	19	40307	1.7	-1246	-10583	353	341	41001
Massachusetts	4910	-4191	-3054	20	28	76402	2.3	146	-10068	224	502	77128
Michigan	5436	-323	-2342	20	32	64699	1.6	-7243	-23856	234	292	65225
Minnesota	3608	148	-338	6	11	40119	1.5	-3245	-12173	117	215	40451
Mississippi	1598	-44	-617	7	7	12191	1.1	41	-4708	144	91	12426
Missouri	4264	65	-891	17	9	30265	1.2	-960	-7288	203	186	30654
Montana	908	-65	11	10	3	8079	1.9	-471	-1117	192	56	8327
Nebraska	823	56	-319	3	2	5854	0.6	-228	-1527	48	22	5924
Nevada	3189	-9	45	5	11	26328	2.2	254	-5395	126	185	26639
New Hampshire	1299	515	101	1	0	5886	1.0	-214	-2217	13	15	5914
New Jersey	7225	-266	-1271	12	32	100776	2.7	-5604	-21946	320	408	101504
New Mexico	1101	-1	-130	8	7	14226	1.9	354	-2040	154	107	14487
New York	16605	810	-3010	52	57	166033	1.9	-6629	-31803	578	991	167602
North Carolina	4140	37	-875	12	31	34443	0.9	-99	-20690	169	439	35051
North Dakota	455	0	155	1	2	3776	0.9	-323	1196	9	14	3799
Ohio	6755	-466	-1339	9	37	63344	1.2	-4014	-10550	166	507	64017
Oklahoma	1954	-70	440	6	16	21268	1.4	449	5291	68	170	21506
Oregon	4891	633	-401	89	32	32533	1.9	-489	-7170	395	254	33182
Pennsylvania	15463	333	-3292	78	53	127124	2.3	-10500	-33845	642	680	128446
Puerto Rico	1767	-211	-455	14	14	24863	2.8	476	-4024	52	221	25136
Rhode Island	819	-2281	-649	4	3	11641	2.6	1487	-1701	30	49	11720
South Carolina	2473	-225	-846	5	29	14838	0.8	-474	-2751	55	189	15082
South Dakota	172	-48	-13	0	1	1589	0.4	-35	-207	32	3	1624
Tennessee	3425	-308	-433	14	22	24598	0.9	-443	-3383	171	199	24968
Texas	17228	-144	721	38	209	166681	1.5	529	18800	534	2845	170060
Utah	1364	-197	-251	13	7	11273	0.9	-216	-1495	95	62	11430
Vermont	515	-572	-54	4	0	6006	2.0	-18	-656	16	11	6033
Virgin Islands	50	18	28	0	0	900	2.4	152	222	12	18	930
Virginia	3366	311	-865	18	31	27680	0.8	-1002	-8720	292	733	28705
Washington	6318	56	-1566	24	80	51491	1.7	-1077	-10089	327	1093	52911
West Virginia	1150	-133	75	2	6	14899	2.2	-828	501	90	83	15072
Wisconsin	6814	118	-2415	9	3	46898	1.7	-3137	-18813	127	99	47124
Wyoming	393	-89	16	2	3	5843	2.1	-338	1621	87	54	5984
Totals	236421	-14359	-52327	839	1339	2199757	1.6	-81307	-441826	11387	19481	2230625

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.

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 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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