



# News Release

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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 23, 2017**

*Note: This week's release reflects the annual revision to the weekly unemployment claims seasonal adjustment factors. The seasonal adjustment factors used for the UI Weekly Claims data from 2012 forward, along with the resulting seasonally adjusted values for initial claims and continuing claims, have been revised.*

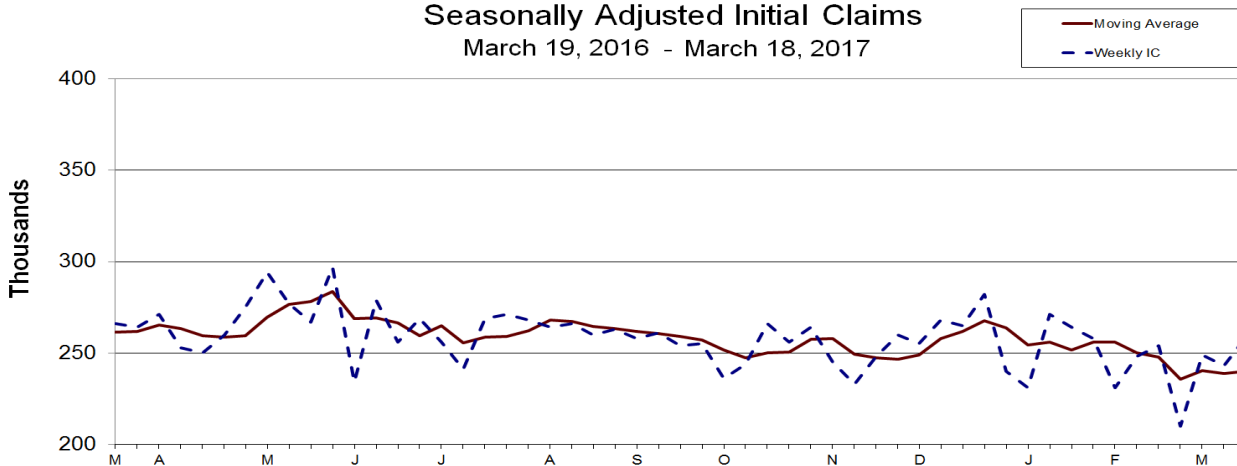
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

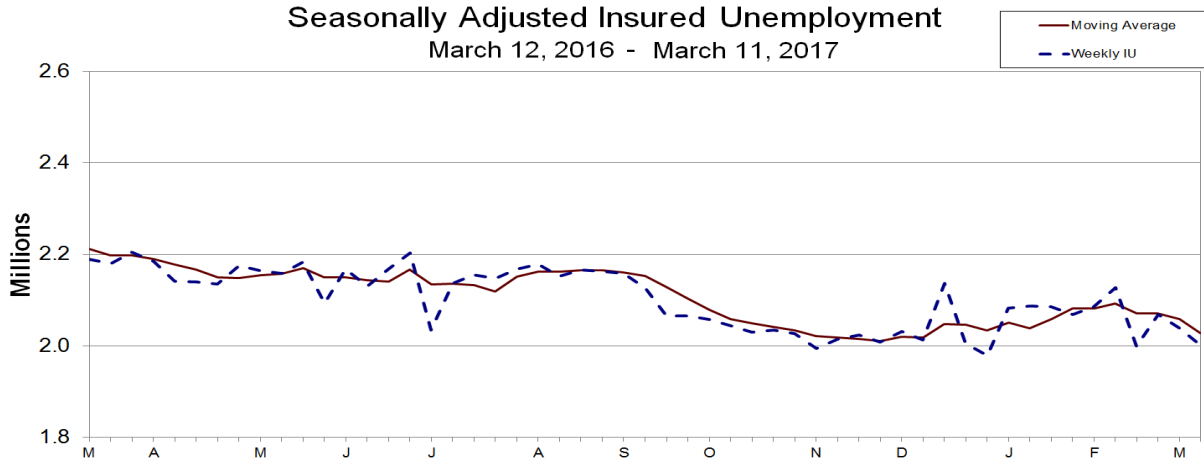
In the week ending March 18, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 258,000, an increase of 15,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 241,000 to 243,000. The 4-week moving average was 240,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 237,250 to 239,000.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending March 11, 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 March 11 was 2,000,000, a decrease of 39,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 9,000 from 2,030,000 to 2,039,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,026,750, a decrease of 32,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 4,500 from 2,054,250 to 2,058,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
March 19, 2016 - March 18, 2017



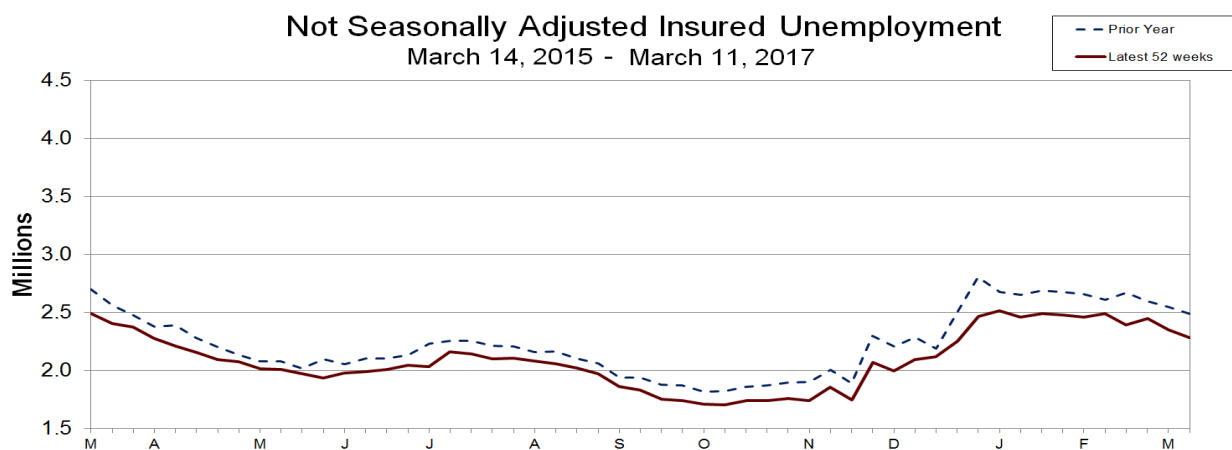
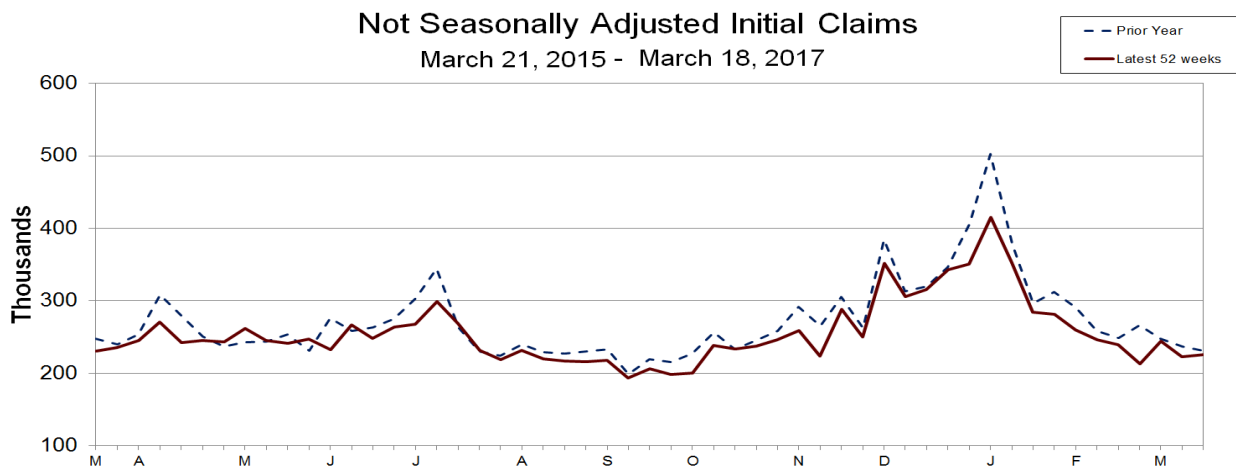
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
March 12, 2016 - March 11, 2017



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 225,105 in the week ending March 18, an increase of 2,878 (or 1.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 10,223 (or -4.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 230,882 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending March 11, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,286,058, a decrease of 63,323 (or -2.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 18,355 (or -0.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,492,144.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 4 was 2,391,551, a decrease of 98,740 from the previous week. There were 2,595,130 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending March 4.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 676 in the week ending March 11, an increase of 44 from the prior week. There were 851 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 43 from the preceding week.

There were 13,581 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 4, an increase of 276 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 11,095, a decrease of 294 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 4 were in Alaska (4.1), New Jersey (3.0), Connecticut (2.9), Puerto Rico (2.8), Rhode Island (2.8), California (2.7), Montana (2.7), Massachusetts (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.6), and Illinois (2.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 11 were in Florida (+826), California (+558), Missouri (+452), Louisiana (+412), and Alabama (+349), while the largest decreases were in New York (-16,603), Georgia (-1,626), Illinois (-1,277), Massachusetts (-626), and Oregon (-613).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 18	March 11	Change	March 4	<u>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></u>
Initial Claims (SA)	258,000	243,000	+15,000	249,000	266,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	225,105	222,227	+2,878	243,959	230,882
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	240,000	239,000	+1,000	240,250	261,250
WEEK ENDING	March 11	March 4	Change	February 25	<u>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></u>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,000,000	2,039,000	-39,000	2,069,000	2,190,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,286,058	2,349,381	-63,323	2,447,592	2,492,144
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,026,750	2,058,750	-32,000	2,070,250	2,212,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)<sup>2</sup></u>	1.4%	1.5%	-0.1	1.5%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)<sup>2</sup></u>	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.8%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 11	March 4	Change	<u>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></u>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	676	632	+44	726
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	851	894	-43	1,089

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 4	February 25	Change	<u>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></u>
Regular State	2,345,409	2,443,180	-97,771	2,543,319
Federal Employees	13,581	13,305	+276	12,949
Newly Discharged Veterans	11,095	11,389	-294	14,616
<u>Extended Benefits<sup>3</sup></u>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits<sup>4</sup></u>	8,034	7,776	+258	8,091
<u>STC / Workshare<sup>5</sup></u>	13,432	14,641	-1,209	16,155
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,391,551	2,490,291	-98,740	2,595,130

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 138,930,224 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 18			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 11		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,169	2,495	-326	17,060	18,128	-1,068
Alaska	1,228	1,219	9	12,328	12,923	-595
Arizona	3,720	3,746	-26	21,690	25,006	-3,316
Arkansas	1,535	1,595	-60	12,774	14,123	-1,349
California	41,567	45,766	-4,199	408,174	434,160	-25,986
Colorado	1,831	2,164	-333	29,158	27,599	1,559
Connecticut	3,229	3,715	-486	47,864	47,930	-66
Delaware	518	545	-27	7,078	6,818	260
District of Columbia	583	306	277	7,932	8,585	-653
Florida	6,539	7,180	-641	35,029	41,136	-6,107
Georgia	4,553	5,337	-784	27,997	29,961	-1,964
Hawaii	1,181	1,281	-100	8,213	7,636	577
Idaho	1,105	1,272	-167	11,236	12,656	-1,420
Illinois	9,398	8,912	486	148,296	144,381	3,915
Indiana	2,422	2,587	-165	28,277	29,400	-1,123
Iowa	2,697	2,084	613	30,846	31,225	-379
Kansas	4,692	1,918	2,774	12,350	12,721	-371
Kentucky	3,029	2,236	793	21,878	22,244	-366
Louisiana	2,294	2,478	-184	21,348	20,136	1,212
Maine	612	770	-158	9,965	10,173	-208
Maryland	3,671	3,455	216	36,358	40,986	-4,628
Massachusetts	4,763	5,386	-623	86,246	90,413	-4,167
Michigan	6,061	6,595	-534	85,975	86,473	-498
Minnesota	3,653	3,682	-29	66,356	65,859	497
Mississippi	1,429	1,228	201	8,824	10,241	-1,417
Missouri	5,410	3,733	1,677	27,592	29,842	-2,250
Montana	884	821	63	12,178	12,080	98
Nebraska	841	751	90	6,801	7,374	-573
Nevada	2,284	2,229	55	21,180	23,506	-2,326
New Hampshire	473	648	-175	5,023	6,064	-1,041
New Jersey	9,206	8,277	929	115,825	116,867	-1,042
New Mexico	816	884	-68	11,778	12,361	-583
New York	14,699	16,164	-1,465	177,376	180,269	-2,893
North Carolina	3,281	3,102	179	23,012	24,778	-1,766
North Dakota	477	404	73	9,887	8,250	1,637
Ohio	10,670	6,410	4,260	76,067	78,604	-2,537
Oklahoma	1,706	1,271	435	15,496	16,579	-1,083
Oregon	3,818	3,960	-142	32,829	32,593	236
Pennsylvania	16,073	15,455	618	150,990	146,717	4,273
Puerto Rico	1,436	1,556	-120	21,294	24,255	-2,961
Rhode Island	956	963	-7	12,662	12,922	-260
South Carolina	1,860	1,933	-73	13,631	14,702	-1,071
South Dakota	181	210	-29	3,466	3,603	-137
Tennessee	2,530	2,269	261	19,394	20,597	-1,203
Texas	13,437	14,103	-666	145,713	145,929	-216
Utah	931	1,118	-187	11,936	12,792	-856
Vermont	879	468	411	6,417	6,323	94
Virgin Islands	15	31	-16	412	506	-94
Virginia	3,973	2,955	1,018	28,524	28,676	-152
Washington	6,375	6,522	-147	62,040	61,721	319
West Virginia	821	917	-96	14,743	14,852	-109
Wisconsin	6,197	6,742	-545	50,815	52,819	-2,004
Wyoming	397	379	18	5,725	2,887	2,838
US Total	225,105	222,227	2,878	2,286,058	2,349,381	-63,323

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	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
March 12, 2016	261	4	260.50	2,190	-24	2,212.25	1.6
March 19, 2016	266	5	261.25	2,180	-10	2,198.00	1.6
March 26, 2016	264	-2	262.00	2,204	24	2,197.00	1.6
April 2, 2016	271	7	265.50	2,184	-20	2,189.50	1.6
April 9, 2016	253	-18	263.50	2,141	-43	2,177.25	1.6
April 16, 2016	250	-3	259.50	2,140	-1	2,167.25	1.6
April 23, 2016	260	10	258.50	2,135	-5	2,150.00	1.6
April 30, 2016	275	15	259.50	2,176	41	2,148.00	1.6
May 7, 2016	294	19	269.75	2,164	-12	2,153.75	1.6
May 14, 2016	277	-17	276.50	2,158	-6	2,158.25	1.6
May 21, 2016	267	-10	278.25	2,183	25	2,170.25	1.6
May 28, 2016	297	30	283.75	2,094	-89	2,149.75	1.5
June 4, 2016	234	-63	268.75	2,167	73	2,150.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	279	45	269.25	2,131	-36	2,143.75	1.6
June 18, 2016	256	-23	266.50	2,167	36	2,139.75	1.6
June 25, 2016	269	13	259.50	2,203	36	2,167.00	1.6
July 2, 2016	256	-13	265.00	2,035	-168	2,134.00	1.5
July 9, 2016	241	-15	255.50	2,136	101	2,135.25	1.6
July 16, 2016	269	28	258.75	2,155	19	2,132.25	1.6
July 23, 2016	271	2	259.25	2,148	-7	2,118.50	1.6
July 30, 2016	268	-3	262.25	2,167	19	2,151.50	1.6
August 6, 2016	264	-4	268.00	2,179	12	2,162.25	1.6
August 13, 2016	266	2	267.25	2,152	-27	2,161.50	1.6
August 20, 2016	260	-6	264.50	2,166	14	2,166.00	1.6
August 27, 2016	263	3	263.25	2,163	-3	2,165.00	1.6
September 3, 2016	258	-5	261.75	2,159	-4	2,160.00	1.6
September 10, 2016	261	3	260.50	2,125	-34	2,153.25	1.5
September 17, 2016	254	-7	259.00	2,066	-59	2,128.25	1.5
September 24, 2016	255	1	257.00	2,066	0	2,104.00	1.5
October 1, 2016	236	-19	251.50	2,058	-8	2,078.75	1.5
October 8, 2016	244	8	247.25	2,044	-14	2,058.50	1.5
October 15, 2016	266	22	250.25	2,030	-14	2,049.50	1.5
October 22, 2016	256	-10	250.50	2,035	5	2,041.75	1.5
October 29, 2016	264	8	257.50	2,027	-8	2,034.00	1.5
November 5, 2016	245	-19	257.75	1,994	-33	2,021.50	1.4
November 12, 2016	233	-12	249.50	2,014	20	2,017.50	1.5
November 19, 2016	248	15	247.50	2,023	9	2,014.50	1.5
November 26, 2016	260	12	246.50	2,008	-15	2,009.75	1.5
December 3, 2016	255	-5	249.00	2,031	23	2,019.00	1.5
December 10, 2016	268	13	257.75	2,012	-19	2,018.50	1.5
December 17, 2016	265	-3	262.00	2,137	125	2,047.00	1.5
December 24, 2016	282	17	267.50	2,005	-132	2,046.25	1.4
December 31, 2016	240	-42	263.75	1,979	-26	2,033.25	1.4
January 7, 2017	231	-9	254.50	2,083	104	2,051.00	1.5
January 14, 2017	271	40	256.00	2,087	4	2,038.50	1.5
January 21, 2017	264	-7	251.50	2,086	-1	2,058.75	1.5
January 28, 2017	258	-6	256.00	2,069	-17	2,081.25	1.5
February 4, 2017	231	-27	256.00	2,085	16	2,081.75	1.5
February 11, 2017	248	17	250.25	2,128	43	2,092.00	1.5
February 18, 2017	254	6	247.75	1,999	-129	2,070.25	1.4
February 25, 2017	210	-44	235.75	2,069	70	2,070.25	1.5
March 4, 2017	249	39	240.25	2,039	-30	2,058.75	1.5
March 11, 2017	243	-6	239.00	2,000	-39	2,026.75	1.4
March 18, 2017	258	15	240.00				

## Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March

11

## Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 4

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS							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	2495	349	-79	11	18	18128	1.0	-134	-3490	80	128	18336
Alaska	1219	36	43	3	3	12923	4.1	-305	-961	225	25	13173
Arizona	3746	-62	-21	8	2	25006	1.0	-143	-1498	215	77	25298
Arkansas	1595	-120	-747	5	1	14123	1.2	-1094	-4834	67	82	14272
California	45766	558	-735	162	160	434160	2.7	-1637	6619	3125	2452	439737
Colorado	2164	-26	33	13	33	27599	1.1	-2170	-5285	319	420	28338
Connecticut	3715	97	864	6	10	47930	2.9	-1071	-472	80	119	48129
Delaware	545	6	21	2	2	6818	1.6	-1575	-682	12	17	6847
District of Columbia	306	-20	20	22	0	8585	1.6	-146	503	1172	9	9766
Florida	7180	826	656	11	54	41136	0.5	-671	-6488	199	215	41550
Georgia	5337	-1626	-973	28	39	29961	0.7	-2054	-3890	185	293	30439
Hawaii	1281	42	137	3	19	7636	1.3	-594	1349	76	91	7803
Idaho	1272	-201	168	15	6	12656	1.9	-1002	926	282	27	12965
Illinois	8912	-1277	-591	10	9	144381	2.5	-7853	-13463	391	330	145102
Indiana	2587	37	-639	7	11	29400	1.0	-836	-3441	89	60	29549
Iowa	2084	88	-192	1	3	31225	2.1	-1037	-752	50	57	31332
Kansas	1918	68	-127	3	10	12721	0.9	-696	-3823	41	59	12821
Kentucky	2236	-364	-240	9	4	22244	1.2	-1829	-4651	130	234	22608
Louisiana	2478	412	-176	1	4	20136	1.1	930	-2715	50	39	20225
Maine	770	-183	-37	0	0	10173	1.7	-385	-1904	50	24	10247
Maryland	3455	-105	69	20	11	40986	1.7	-721	-3963	400	184	41570
Massachusetts	5386	-626	128	10	19	90413	2.6	-6996	-2696	195	198	90806
Michigan	6595	131	-266	12	20	86473	2.1	-9115	-11112	260	200	86933
Minnesota	3682	-170	-174	5	6	65859	2.4	976	-3597	148	91	66098
Mississippi	1228	51	-370	9	3	10241	0.9	-625	-1542	108	47	10396
Missouri	3733	452	-447	6	6	29842	1.1	-2960	-4417	116	75	30033
Montana	821	-105	-121	12	3	12080	2.7	-895	-481	515	41	12636
Nebraska	751	106	-667	5	2	7374	0.8	-369	-83	25	11	7410
Nevada	2229	-138	-292	10	5	23506	1.9	-1320	-2196	237	101	23844
New Hampshire	648	-433	-41	1	1	6064	1.0	398	-471	9	3	6076
New Jersey	8277	-484	221	19	15	116867	3.0	-4559	-4868	234	349	117450
New Mexico	884	-68	-134	3	0	12361	1.6	-277	-2132	272	80	12713
New York	16164	-16603	608	32	48	180269	2.0	-19709	-11571	338	544	181151
North Carolina	3102	-53	-325	6	11	24778	0.6	-304	-4221	125	221	25124
North Dakota	404	-59	-219	2	4	8250	2.0	-432	-1911	15	6	8271
Ohio	6410	-323	-440	9	41	78604	1.5	-1570	-8501	108	313	79025
Oklahoma	1271	37	-980	9	6	16579	1.1	143	-6689	73	120	16772
Oregon	3960	-613	-317	33	21	32593	1.8	-964	-745	655	154	33402
Pennsylvania	15455	-102	-1552	54	52	146717	2.6	-10037	-20157	576	405	147698
Puerto Rico	1556	-470	109	0	4	24255	2.8	639	553	43	102	24400
Rhode Island	963	89	89	3	3	12922	2.8	-1478	-88	26	35	12983
South Carolina	1933	-129	-317	5	11	14702	0.8	-602	-1539	41	114	14857
South Dakota	210	-18	-22	2	0	3603	0.9	-86	366	49	3	3655
Tennessee	2269	-74	-517	9	2	20597	0.7	-1550	-6624	405	47	21049
Texas	14103	262	-2852	35	108	145929	1.3	-4450	-29356	499	1871	148299
Utah	1118	-21	-61	9	2	12792	1.0	-467	-873	206	31	13029
Vermont	468	-317	-290	2	0	6323	2.1	-189	-323	15	8	6346
Virgin Islands	31	-11	-14	0	0	506	1.4	62	-80	6	10	522
Virginia	2955	-373	-544	18	22	28676	0.8	-232	-4893	427	405	29508
Washington	6522	265	-918	5	24	61721	2.0	-1565	1744	294	461	62476
West Virginia	917	-29	-249	0	7	14852	2.2	-605	-6709	53	49	14954
Wisconsin	6742	-254	-795	6	5	52819	1.9	-845	-5193	130	36	52985
Wyoming	379	-187	-346	5	1	2887	1.1	-3205	-5603	140	22	3049
Totals	222227	-21732	-14661	676	851	2349381	1.7	-98211	-198923	13581	11095	2374057

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 11, 2017**

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**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
None		

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NY	-16,603	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
GA	-1,626	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, wholesale trade, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
IL	-1,277	No comments.

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## 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.

[2012 2017 seasonal factors.txt](#)

[2012 2017 seasonal factors.xlsx](#)

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)

[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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