



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 19, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

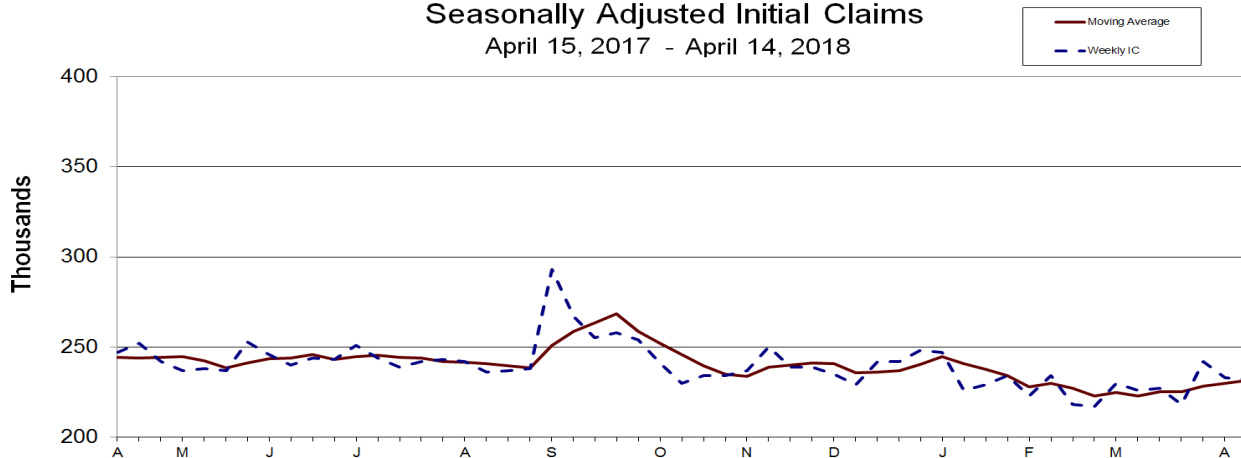
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 14, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 232,000, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 233,000. The 4-week moving average was 231,250, an increase of 1,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 230,000.

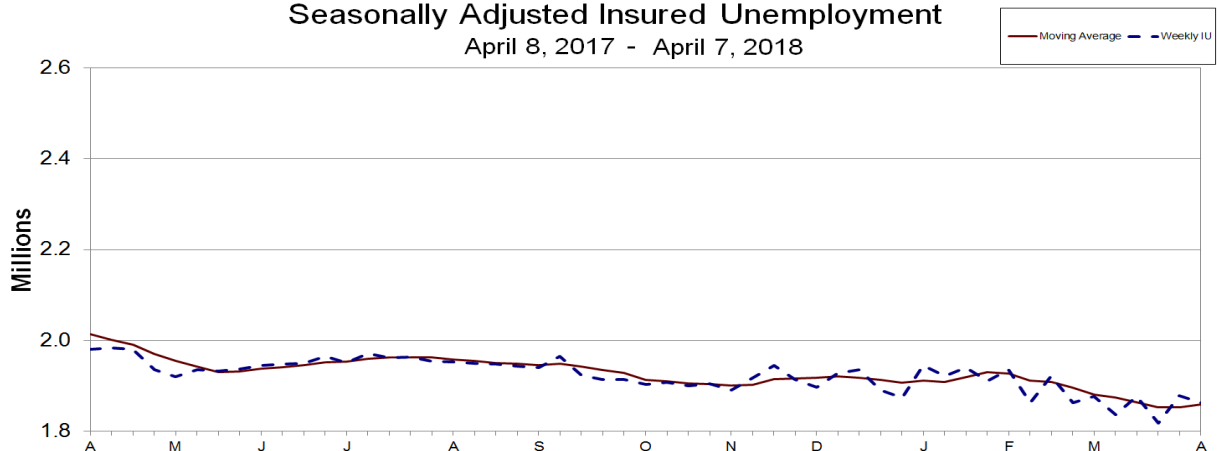
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending April 7, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 7 was 1,863,000, a decrease of 15,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 7,000 from 1,871,000 to 1,878,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,858,750, an increase of 6,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 1,850,250 to 1,852,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
April 15, 2017 - April 14, 2018



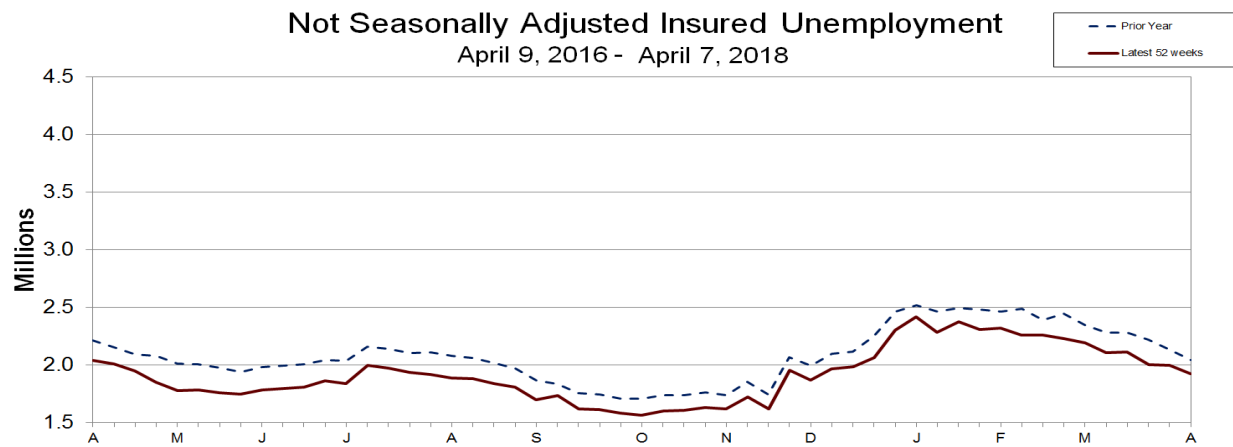
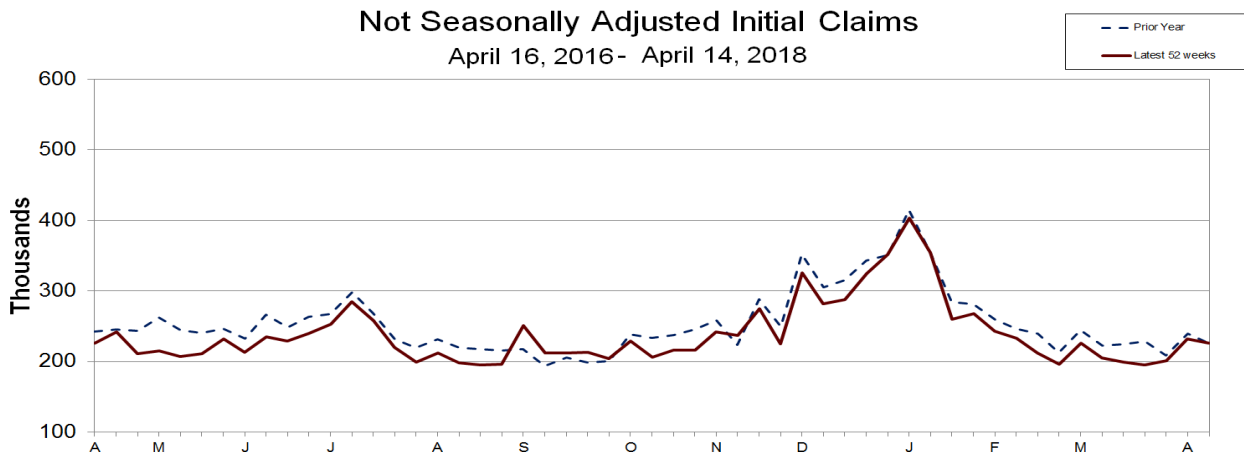
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
April 8, 2017 - April 7, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 225,545 in the week ending April 14, a decrease of 6,180 (or -2.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 5,134 (or -2.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 225,864 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending April 7, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,926,858, a decrease of 74,700 (or -3.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 60,084 (or -3.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,042,394.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 31 was 2,034,634, a decrease of 503 from the previous week. There were 2,177,513 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in Alaska and the Virgin Islands during the week ending March 31.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 795 in the week ending April 7, an increase of 212 from the prior week. There were 697 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 98 from the preceding week.

There were 10,678 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 31, an increase of 806 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,777, a decrease of 229 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 31 were in the Virgin Islands (6.0), Alaska (3.3), Connecticut (2.6), New Jersey (2.6), Puerto Rico (2.6), California (2.3), Massachusetts (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), Rhode Island (2.3), Illinois (2.1), Minnesota (2.1), and Montana (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 7 were in New Jersey (+5,567), Texas (+3,505), New York (+3,287), Arizona (+2,346), and California (+1,942), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-1,134), Michigan (-570), Illinois (-481), Idaho (-292), and Maryland (-227).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 14	April 7	Change	March 31	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	232,000	233,000	-1,000	242,000	247,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	225,545	231,725	-6,180	200,996	225,864
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	231,250	230,000	+1,250	228,250	244,250
WEEK ENDING	April 7	March 31	Change	March 24	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,863,000	1,878,000	-15,000	1,818,000	1,981,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,926,858	2,001,558	-74,700	2,003,098	2,042,394
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,858,750	1,852,000	+6,750	1,851,750	2,014,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 7	March 31	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	795	583	+212	729
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	697	599	+98	883

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 31	March 24	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,999,031	2,000,709	-1,678	2,135,937
Federal Employees	10,678	9,872	+806	11,641
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,777	8,006	-229	10,391
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1,010	1,024	-14	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,029	6,964	+65	7,823
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	9,109	8,562	+547	11,721
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,034,634	2,035,137	-503	2,177,513

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 141,433,196 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 April 14			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 7		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,860	2,462	-602	14,779	15,129	-350
Alaska	1,292	1,225	67	9,264	10,242	-978
Arizona	5,355	6,215	-860	20,770	21,709	-939
Arkansas	1,260	2,209	-949	10,596	11,934	-1,338
California	45,974	41,072	4,902	368,508	387,730	-19,222
Colorado *	2,191	2,148	43	20,488	22,361	-1,873
Connecticut	4,849	2,580	2,269	41,726	42,228	-502
Delaware	572	1,346	-774	5,996	5,365	631
District of Columbia	509	303	206	7,505	7,926	-421
Florida	6,324	7,595	-1,271	32,177	38,046	-5,869
Georgia	5,401	5,866	-465	25,336	27,693	-2,357
Hawaii	1,369	1,541	-172	7,046	7,352	-306
Idaho	867	1,051	-184	6,106	7,387	-1,281
Illinois	8,981	9,908	-927	120,385	119,717	668
Indiana	2,666	2,669	-3	18,077	18,350	-273
Iowa	1,911	2,274	-363	22,540	23,322	-782
Kansas	1,315	1,691	-376	9,838	9,895	-57
Kentucky	3,082	2,829	253	19,286	19,366	-80
Louisiana	1,946	2,393	-447	13,943	15,640	-1,697
Maine *	784	847	-63	7,457	7,958	-501
Maryland	2,504	3,463	-959	28,400	32,481	-4,081
Massachusetts	4,418	4,832	-414	72,263	79,033	-6,770
Michigan	4,723	5,691	-968	63,343	68,517	-5,174
Minnesota	3,574	3,507	67	56,107	58,221	-2,114
Mississippi	775	1,088	-313	6,815	7,448	-633
Missouri	2,683	3,977	-1,294	22,966	26,192	-3,226
Montana	873	1,014	-141	9,087	9,442	-355
Nebraska	528	611	-83	4,967	5,519	-552
Nevada	2,275	2,717	-442	18,386	20,418	-2,032
New Hampshire	453	588	-135	4,166	4,698	-532
New Jersey	8,893	14,893	-6,000	107,122	102,631	4,491
New Mexico	770	954	-184	9,450	10,003	-553
New York	31,960	16,521	15,439	170,248	154,769	15,479
North Carolina	2,793	2,846	-53	18,839	20,150	-1,311
North Dakota	379	423	-44	6,591	6,120	471
Ohio	5,217	6,824	-1,607	63,254	64,914	-1,660
Oklahoma	1,378	1,608	-230	13,097	13,490	-393
Oregon	3,808	4,832	-1,024	28,136	29,542	-1,406
Pennsylvania	12,053	14,786	-2,733	119,554	131,585	-12,031
Puerto Rico ^{IM}	1,065	1,473	-408	19,105	22,488	-3,383
Rhode Island	930	900	30	9,538	10,478	-940
South Carolina	2,024	2,426	-402	14,581	14,540	41
South Dakota	119	193	-74	2,482	2,669	-187
Tennessee	1,957	2,642	-685	17,848	19,492	-1,644
Texas	12,695	15,108	-2,413	114,669	122,403	-7,734
Utah	1,261	1,185	76	8,316	9,022	-706
Vermont	614	623	-9	4,906	4,856	50
Virgin Islands ^{IM}	14	14	0	1,980	2,228	-248
Virginia	2,520	2,787	-267	22,929	22,830	99
Washington	6,067	6,504	-437	52,418	51,214	1,204
West Virginia	902	1,135	-233	11,618	11,447	171
Wisconsin	6,237	6,848	-611	38,814	39,354	-540
Wyoming	575	488	87	3,040	4,014	-974
US Total	225,545	231,725	-6,180	1,926,858	2,001,558	-74,700

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 state estimate.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria.

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	
April 8, 2017	236	-5	247.25	1,981	-35	2,014.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	247	11	244.25	1,984	3	2,001.25	1.4
April 22, 2017	252	5	244.00	1,980	-4	1,990.25	1.4
April 29, 2017	242	-10	244.25	1,935	-45	1,970.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	237	-5	244.50	1,920	-15	1,954.75	1.4
May 13, 2017	238	1	242.25	1,935	15	1,942.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	237	-1	238.50	1,932	-3	1,930.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	253	16	241.25	1,937	5	1,931.00	1.4
June 3, 2017	246	-7	243.50	1,945	8	1,937.25	1.4
June 10, 2017	240	-6	244.00	1,947	2	1,940.25	1.4
June 17, 2017	244	4	245.75	1,950	3	1,944.75	1.4
June 24, 2017	243	-1	243.25	1,964	14	1,951.50	1.4
July 1, 2017	251	8	244.50	1,951	-13	1,953.00	1.4
July 8, 2017	244	-7	245.50	1,971	20	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	239	-5	244.25	1,962	-9	1,962.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	242	3	244.00	1,963	1	1,961.75	1.4
July 29, 2017	243	1	242.00	1,954	-9	1,962.50	1.4
August 5, 2017	242	-1	241.50	1,952	-2	1,957.75	1.4
August 12, 2017	236	-6	240.75	1,950	-2	1,954.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	237	1	239.50	1,947	-3	1,950.75	1.4
August 26, 2017	238	1	238.25	1,943	-4	1,948.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	293	55	251.00	1,940	-3	1,945.00	1.4
September 9, 2017	267	-26	258.75	1,965	25	1,948.75	1.4
September 16, 2017	255	-12	263.25	1,923	-42	1,942.75	1.4
September 23, 2017	258	3	268.25	1,913	-10	1,935.25	1.4
September 30, 2017	254	-4	258.50	1,914	1	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	241	-13	252.00	1,903	-11	1,913.25	1.4
October 14, 2017	230	-11	245.75	1,907	4	1,909.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	4	239.75	1,899	-8	1,905.75	1.4
October 28, 2017	234	0	234.75	1,904	5	1,903.25	1.4
November 4, 2017	237	3	233.75	1,890	-14	1,900.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	250	13	238.75	1,916	26	1,902.25	1.4
November 18, 2017	239	-11	240.00	1,945	29	1,913.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	239	0	241.25	1,913	-32	1,916.00	1.4
December 2, 2017	235	-4	240.75	1,896	-17	1,917.50	1.3
December 9, 2017	229	-6	235.50	1,928	32	1,920.50	1.4
December 16, 2017	242	13	236.25	1,936	8	1,918.25	1.4
December 23, 2017	242	0	237.00	1,891	-45	1,912.75	1.3
December 30, 2017	248	6	240.25	1,873	-18	1,907.00	1.3
January 6, 2018	247	-1	244.75	1,944	71	1,911.00	1.4
January 13, 2018	226	-21	240.75	1,922	-22	1,907.50	1.4
January 20, 2018	229	3	237.50	1,940	18	1,919.75	1.4
January 27, 2018	234	5	234.00	1,911	-29	1,929.25	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-11	228.00	1,935	24	1,927.00	1.4
February 10, 2018	234	11	230.00	1,862	-73	1,912.00	1.3
February 17, 2018	218	-16	227.25	1,922	60	1,907.50	1.4
February 24, 2018	217	-1	223.00	1,862	-60	1,895.25	1.3
March 3, 2018	230	13	224.75	1,877	15	1,880.75	1.3
March 10, 2018	226	-4	222.75	1,836	-41	1,874.25	1.3
March 17, 2018	227	1	225.00	1,876	40	1,862.75	1.3
March 24, 2018	218	-9	225.25	1,818	-58	1,851.75	1.3
March 31, 2018	242	24	228.25	1,878	60	1,852.00	1.3
April 7, 2018	233	-9	230.00	1,863	-15	1,858.75	1.3
April 14, 2018	232	-1	231.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED APRIL 7					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 31						
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹ UCX ¹		STATE	(%) ²	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹ UCX ¹		ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	2462	106	-307	11	4	15129	0.8	132	-1604	72	74	15275
Alaska	1225	177	-176	1	2	10242	3.3	245	-1067	156	15	11423
Arizona	6215	2346	-542	7	1	21709	0.8	67	-2801	210	71	21990
Arkansas	2209	298	-24	4	6	11934	1.0	-685	-323	60	108	12102
California	41072	1942	-2681	147	113	387730	2.3	25444	-14018	2857	1620	392207
Colorado	2148	457	-685	10	25	22361	0.9	889	-2181	324	259	22944
Connecticut	2580	413	-806	8	5	42228	2.6	-1098	-2022	66	88	42382
Delaware	1346	763	711	2	2	5365	1.2	-1449	-648	15	9	5389
District of Columbia	303	55	-87	8	0	7926	1.4	-226	-22	292	10	8228
Florida	7595	1918	-969	32	33	38046	0.5	-673	-1799	118	130	38294
Georgia	5866	250	-199	45	33	27693	0.7	2320	-839	160	232	28085
Hawaii	1541	474	6	2	12	7352	1.2	703	19	71	108	7531
Idaho	1051	-292	-205	11	4	7387	1.1	-474	-1844	155	19	7561
Illinois	9908	-481	-1110	12	13	119717	2.1	-4693	-13801	370	200	120287
Indiana	2669	650	-589	2	7	18350	0.6	-153	-7628	37	38	18425
Iowa	2274	129	160	5	4	23322	1.5	-986	-1045	46	32	23400
Kansas	1691	176	-523	2	1	9895	0.7	-698	-4286	44	37	9976
Kentucky	2829	930	-667	4	5	19366	1.1	-508	346	107	129	19602
Louisiana	2393	745	-333	8	3	15640	0.8	-427	-3815	40	12	15692
Maine	847	189	-93	1	3	7958	1.3	-307	-1441	36	13	8007
Maryland	3463	-227	-27	36	15	32481	1.3	-1944	261	337	110	32928
Massachusetts	4832	789	-224	9	9	79033	2.3	-5171	-2377	136	148	79317
Michigan	5691	-570	-1062	17	15	68517	1.6	-2665	-9787	200	92	68809
Minnesota	3507	417	242	4	4	58221	2.1	1286	1718	103	84	58408
Mississippi	1088	309	-197	1	2	7448	0.7	-594	-1695	98	25	7571
Missouri	3977	-42	-204	5	4	26192	1.0	154	-1631	116	54	26362
Montana	1014	296	126	19	3	9442	2.1	-524	14	342	28	9812
Nebraska	611	-5	-207	4	2	5519	0.6	-665	20	22	10	5551
Nevada	2717	532	-70	6	6	20418	1.6	-67	-1436	150	69	20637
New Hampshire	588	84	-55	0	3	4698	0.7	-208	-375	4	6	4708
New Jersey	14893	5567	5798	19	18	102631	2.6	-4267	-4879	268	283	103182
New Mexico	954	55	-22	3	0	10003	1.3	-37	-1509	193	41	10237
New York	16521	3287	1245	34	38	154769	1.7	-5273	-11442	343	410	155522
North Carolina	2846	557	-542	8	17	20150	0.5	-294	-1891	106	142	20398
North Dakota	423	167	22	4	1	6120	1.5	-213	-396	12	4	6136
Ohio	6824	45	-337	7	24	64914	1.2	-1403	-6577	89	158	65161
Oklahoma	1608	355	6	8	5	13490	0.9	-337	-1927	65	66	13621
Oregon	4832	699	-192	39	10	29542	1.6	816	-1559	504	110	30156
Pennsylvania	14786	-1134	-205	73	35	131585	2.3	4670	111	561	281	132427
Puerto Rico	1473	606	-746	4	8	22488	2.6	938	-462	27	65	22580
Rhode Island	900	-58	-6	2	1	10478	2.3	-359	-581	23	18	10519
South Carolina	2426	600	-29	10	6	14540	0.7	-622	1467	39	67	14646
South Dakota	193	55	-4	4	1	2669	0.7	-298	68	28	1	2698
Tennessee	2642	314	-145	8	15	19492	0.7	-671	1887	102	82	19676
Texas	15108	3505	-1517	103	125	122403	1.0	2242	-19655	497	1272	124172
Utah	1185	172	-43	9	5	9022	0.7	-682	-753	126	22	9170
Vermont	623	189	-141	0	1	4856	1.6	-104	-685	10	7	4873
Virgin Islands	14	-5	-23	1	0	2228	6.0	498	1706	2	6	2236
Virginia	2787	295	-94	15	26	22830	0.6	-474	-2425	234	267	23331
Washington	6504	1272	-1001	8	16	51214	1.6	-1452	-4701	421	576	52211
West Virginia	1135	338	-50	0	1	11447	1.7	-1005	-803	47	37	11531
Wisconsin	6848	864	820	7	3	39354	1.4	-824	-3610	107	26	39487
Wyoming	488	156	-95	6	2	4014	1.5	586	-550	130	6	4150
Totals	231725	30729	-8098	795	697	2001558	1.4	-1540	-135273	10678	7777	2021023

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 APRIL 7, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NJ	+5,567	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, public administration, and manufacturing industries.
TX	+3,505	Layoffs in the manufacturing, health care and social assistance, support and waste management and remediation service, retail trade, information, and financial and insurance industries.
NY	+3,287	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, art, entertainment, and recreation, and educational service industries.
AZ	+2,346	No comment.
CA	+1,942	No comment.
FL	+1,918	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
WA	+1,272	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, transportation and warehousing, and health care and social assistance industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	-1,134	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing 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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