



News Release

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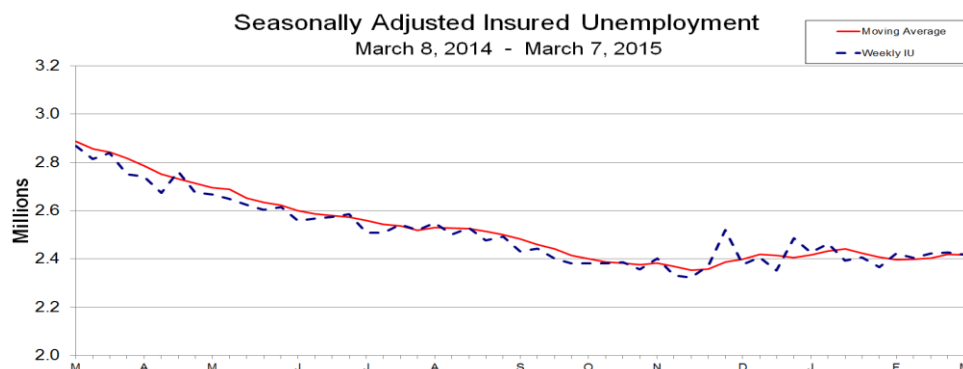
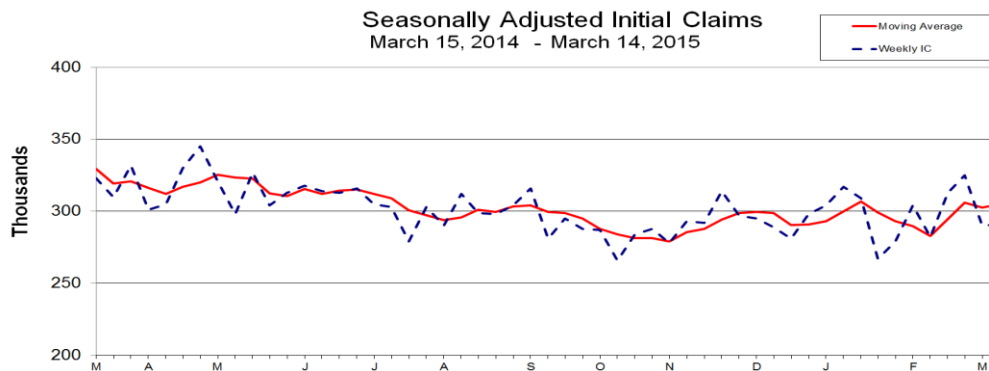
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 14, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 291,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 289,000 to 290,000. The 4-week moving average was 304,750, an increase of 2,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 302,250 to 302,500.

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

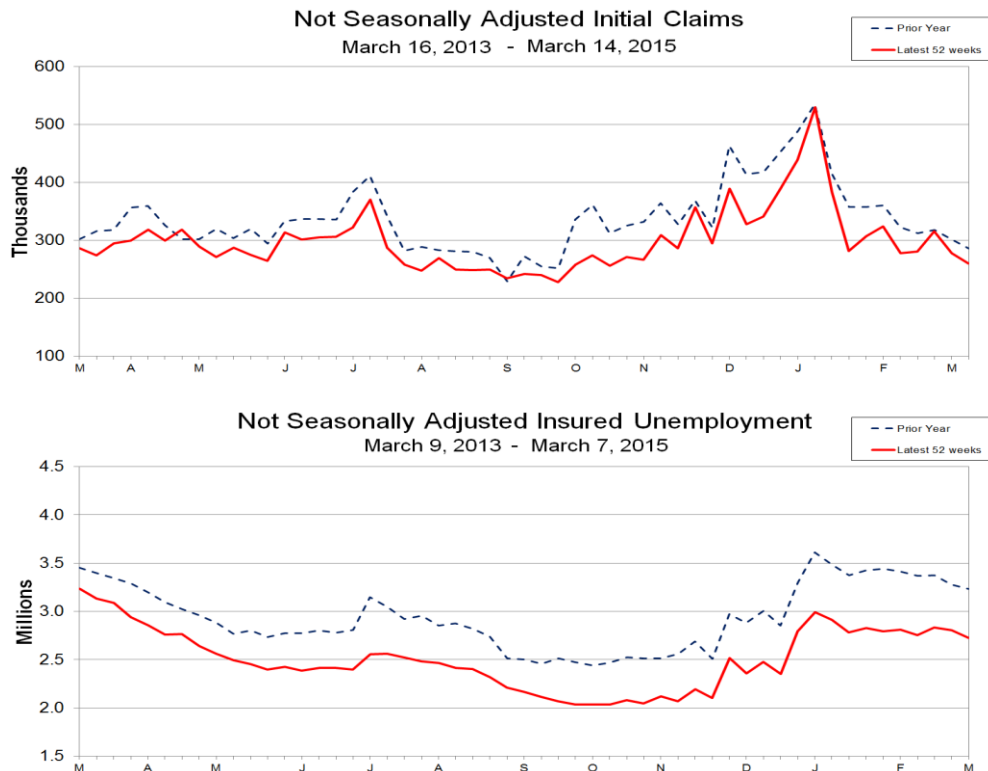
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending March 7, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 7 was 2,417,000, a decrease of 11,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 10,000 from 2,418,000 to 2,428,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,418,000, a decrease of 1,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 2,500 from 2,416,750 to 2,419,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 259,671 in the week ending March 14, a decrease of 18,254 (or -6.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 19,127 (or -6.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 285,970 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.0 percent during the week ending March 7, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,724,216, a decrease of 80,359 (or -2.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 67,990 (or -2.4 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.5 percent and the volume was 3,233,107.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 28 was 2,859,145, a decrease of 32,496 from the previous week. There were 3,350,028 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 February 28.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 895 in the week ending March 7, an increase of 2 from the prior week. There were 1,593 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 263 from the preceding week.

There were 15,398 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 28, a decrease of 1,189 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 22,164, a decrease of 865 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 28 were in Alaska (4.3), New Jersey (3.7), Pennsylvania (3.5), Connecticut (3.4), Rhode Island (3.4), Massachusetts (3.1), Montana (3.1), West Virginia (3.1), Illinois (3.0), Puerto Rico (3.0), California (2.9), and Wisconsin (2.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 7 were in Texas (+1,939), Florida (+1,593), Oregon (+748), North Carolina (+704), and Washington (+530), while the largest decreases were in New York (-19,138), Tennessee (-4,069), Missouri (-2,793), Ohio (-2,575), and California (-1,825).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 14	March 7	Change	February 28	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	291,000	290,000	+1,000	325,000	323,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	259,671	277,925	-18,254	315,566	285,970
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	304,750	302,500	+2,250	306,000	329,500
WEEK ENDING	March 7	February 28	Change	February 21	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,417,000	2,428,000	-11,000	2,423,000	2,869,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,724,216	2,804,575	-80,359	2,835,369	3,233,107
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,418,000	2,419,250	-1,250	2,404,000	2,887,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.8%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	2.0%	2.1%	-0.1	2.1%	2.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 7	February 28	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	895	893	+2	1,057
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,593	1,330	+263	1,974

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 28	February 21	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,800,970	2,832,081	-31,111	3,272,175
Federal Employees	15,398	16,587	-1,189	19,115
Newly Discharged Veterans	22,164	23,029	-865	27,878
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	6	5	+1	33
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	7,571	7,895	-324	10,081
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	13,036	12,044	+992	20,746
TOTAL	2,859,145	2,891,641	-32,496	3,350,028

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 133,397,155 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 MARCH 7, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	+1,939	No comment.
FL	+1,593	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-19,138	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and accommodation and food service industries.
TN	-4,069	No comment.
MO	-2,793	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing industries.
OH	-2,575	No comment.
CA	-1,825	No comment.
KY	-1,703	No comment.
NJ	-1,431	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, retail trade, and accommodation and food service industries.
WI	-1,251	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	
March 8, 2014	319	-6	331.25	2,869	19	2,887.50	2.2
March 15, 2014	323	4	329.50	2,814	-55	2,855.75	2.1
March 22, 2014	310	-13	319.25	2,838	24	2,842.75	2.2
March 29, 2014	332	22	321.00	2,750	-88	2,817.75	2.1
April 5, 2014	301	-31	316.50	2,741	-9	2,785.75	2.1
April 12, 2014	305	4	312.00	2,674	-67	2,750.75	2.0
April 19, 2014	330	25	317.00	2,761	87	2,731.50	2.1
April 26, 2014	345	15	320.25	2,676	-85	2,713.00	2.0
May 3, 2014	321	-24	325.25	2,666	-10	2,694.25	2.0
May 10, 2014	298	-23	323.50	2,648	-18	2,687.75	2.0
May 17, 2014	327	29	322.75	2,623	-25	2,653.25	2.0
May 24, 2014	304	-23	312.50	2,603	-20	2,635.00	2.0
May 31, 2014	313	9	310.50	2,615	12	2,622.25	2.0
June 7, 2014	318	5	315.50	2,559	-56	2,600.00	1.9
June 14, 2014	314	-4	312.25	2,568	9	2,586.25	2.0
June 21, 2014	313	-1	314.50	2,575	7	2,579.25	2.0
June 28, 2014	316	3	315.25	2,586	11	2,572.00	2.0
July 5, 2014	305	-11	312.00	2,508	-78	2,559.25	1.9
July 12, 2014	303	-2	309.25	2,508	0	2,544.25	1.9
July 19, 2014	279	-24	300.75	2,542	34	2,536.00	1.9
July 26, 2014	303	24	297.50	2,519	-23	2,519.25	1.9
August 2, 2014	290	-13	293.75	2,549	30	2,529.50	1.9
August 9, 2014	312	22	296.00	2,502	-47	2,528.00	1.9
August 16, 2014	299	-13	301.00	2,528	26	2,524.50	1.9
August 23, 2014	298	-1	299.75	2,478	-50	2,514.25	1.9
August 30, 2014	304	6	303.25	2,492	14	2,500.00	1.9
September 6, 2014	316	12	304.25	2,432	-60	2,482.50	1.8
September 13, 2014	281	-35	299.75	2,442	10	2,461.00	1.8
September 20, 2014	295	14	299.00	2,402	-40	2,442.00	1.8
September 27, 2014	288	-7	295.00	2,382	-20	2,414.50	1.8
October 4, 2014	287	-1	287.75	2,382	0	2,402.00	1.8
October 11, 2014	266	-21	284.00	2,382	0	2,387.00	1.8
October 18, 2014	284	18	281.25	2,387	5	2,383.25	1.8
October 25, 2014	288	4	281.25	2,356	-31	2,376.75	1.8
November 1, 2014	278	-10	279.00	2,403	47	2,382.00	1.8
November 8, 2014	293	15	285.75	2,333	-70	2,369.75	1.8
November 15, 2014	292	-1	287.75	2,323	-10	2,353.75	1.8
November 22, 2014	314	22	294.25	2,372	49	2,357.75	1.8
November 29, 2014	297	-17	299.00	2,520	148	2,387.00	1.9
December 6, 2014	295	-2	299.50	2,378	-142	2,398.25	1.8
December 13, 2014	289	-6	298.75	2,407	29	2,419.25	1.8
December 20, 2014	281	-8	290.50	2,352	-55	2,414.25	1.8
December 27, 2014	298	17	290.75	2,485	133	2,405.50	1.9
January 3, 2015	304	6	293.00	2,428	-57	2,418.00	1.8
January 10, 2015	317	13	300.00	2,463	35	2,432.00	1.8
January 17, 2015	309	-8	307.00	2,394	-69	2,442.50	1.8
January 24, 2015	267	-42	299.25	2,406	12	2,422.75	1.8
January 31, 2015	279	12	293.00	2,367	-39	2,407.50	1.8
February 7, 2015	304	25	289.75	2,422	55	2,397.25	1.8
February 14, 2015	282	-22	283.00	2,404	-18	2,399.75	1.8
February 21, 2015	313	31	294.50	2,423	19	2,404.00	1.8
February 28, 2015	325	12	306.00	2,428	5	2,419.25	1.8
March 7, 2015	290	-35	302.50	2,417	-11	2,418.00	1.8
March 14, 2015	291	1	304.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 7						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 28						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
INITIAL CLAIMS						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT						
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	3382	-713	-105	77	27	24708	1.4	-252	-5129	104	253	25065
Alaska	1185	11	-222	6	2	13469	4.3	-65	-3571	270	54	13793
Arizona	3994	270	-715	5	6	28350	1.2	-410	-12480	270	206	28826
Arkansas	2533	-945	-617	7	4	24944	2.2	176	-854	129	236	25309
California	45764	-1825	-12117	185	252	444014	2.9	-9552	-101743	3118	4296	451428
Colorado	3475	-152	607	14	58	36961	1.6	1280	-11657	471	960	38392
Connecticut	3486	-494	-206	8	20	55317	3.4	-2312	-6521	97	212	55626
Delaware	761	-311	-7	0	1	8835	2.1	-2116	-1310	23	44	8902
District of Columbia	292	-56	-35	8	1	8818	1.7	-265	-2337	435	27	9280
Florida	10491	1593	-2341	21	84	65577	0.9	7388	-34814	261	565	66403
Georgia	8409	-588	610	25	74	42269	1.1	-818	-8122	256	671	43196
Hawaii	1441	-13	-143	8	29	8407	1.4	-27	-1855	96	217	8720
Idaho	1859	343	43	15	6	13335	2.1	-928	-3918	233	64	13632
Illinois	11474	-477	-1098	13	28	166878	3.0	2677	-24631	439	548	167865
Indiana	4061	-902	-276	11	17	39715	1.4	-236	-10484	168	151	40034
Iowa	2455	-75	-89	8	12	34582	2.3	-385	-845	74	105	34761
Kansas	2223	-390	-356	3	9	20489	1.5	-247	-2847	110	187	20786
Kentucky	4138	-1703	-128	8	10	31818	1.8	1819	-3050	193	482	32493
Louisiana	2782	223	925	2	14	21113	1.1	-160	821	55	95	21263
Maine	1052	-280	-237	0	6	14917	2.6	-404	-3315	42	61	15020
Maryland	4277	-596	-524	24	16	54088	2.3	-2880	-6681	458	368	54914
Massachusetts	5885	-241	-731	13	34	102241	3.1	-10441	-5990	239	572	103052
Michigan	7464	-711	-1210	18	27	105391	2.6	2579	-21975	365	310	106066
Minnesota	4182	-431	-850	8	13	67964	2.5	651	-8923	203	245	68412
Mississippi	1743	56	-276	21	7	12993	1.2	-352	-6016	136	120	13249
Missouri	5410	-2793	-299	27	25	48993	1.9	-1143	-5709	242	207	49442
Montana	1119	-22	-95	15	7	13236	3.1	-64	-2026	551	57	13844
Nebraska	1092	26	-283	0	2	10285	1.1	-76	-1926	38	21	10344
Nevada	3275	169	-58	4	8	29347	2.5	2816	-2688	251	206	29804
New Hampshire	862	-678	-166	1	2	8782	1.4	515	-2292	9	29	8820
New Jersey	8340	-1431	-1216	16	14	138174	3.7	-4177	-10760	357	453	138984
New Mexico	1203	219	-55	8	8	14655	1.9	972	-2164	321	148	15124
New York	19412	-19138	-864	34	71	219381	2.5	-21470	-29822	589	1233	221203
North Carolina	5167	704	116	11	48	40706	1.0	777	-26118	184	474	41364
North Dakota	513	-101	157	0	2	7371	1.7	-62	660	19	16	7406
Ohio	8601	-2575	-708	12	43	96931	1.9	-2371	-9212	201	561	97693
Oklahoma	2030	16	615	7	18	18782	1.2	714	724	69	211	19062
Oregon	5228	748	-580	39	34	38346	2.3	-1103	-9343	728	311	39385
Pennsylvania	22236	-318	158	78	68	190625	3.5	12467	-25653	697	922	192247
Puerto Rico	1908	84	-306	0	8	27088	3.0	-622	-3349	65	251	27404
Rhode Island	1169	-543	-540	1	3	15344	3.4	-1936	-2404	37	80	15461
South Carolina	3004	-158	-891	8	22	18134	1.0	-756	-7930	49	204	18387
South Dakota	257	-24	-21	3	1	3686	0.9	21	-281	46	7	3739
Tennessee	5064	-4069	1179	10	21	33852	1.3	-1787	-3188	212	225	34289
Texas	19075	1939	3531	52	255	151623	1.4	1617	-4935	574	3071	155271
Utah	1489	48	44	6	12	14892	1.2	-205	-3449	323	84	15299
Vermont	765	-210	-150	2	1	7463	2.5	-168	-558	25	19	7507
Virgin Islands	40	0	-1	1	1	844	2.3	180	-50	22	16	882
Virginia	3803	-322	-233	9	28	37254	1.1	125	-7002	398	775	38427
Washington	7291	530	-1945	27	108	65822	2.2	1148	-12195	699	1261	67782
West Virginia	1754	-76	613	3	9	21168	3.1	-534	304	98	98	21364
Wisconsin	8304	-1251	-2560	10	11	78148	2.9	-1174	-14220	178	123	78449
Wyoming	706	-8	270	3	6	6450	2.4	782	425	171	52	6673
Totals	277925	-37641	-24386	895	1593	2804575	2.1	-30794	-473408	15398	22164	2842143

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 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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