



# News Release

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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 17, 2016**

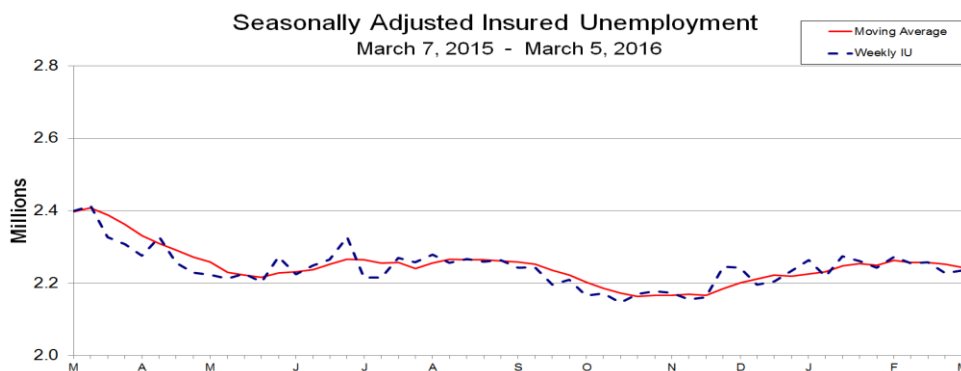
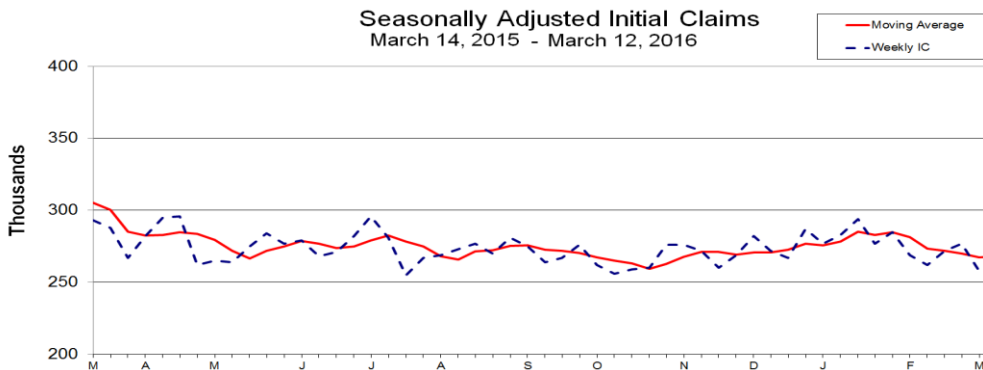
*Note: Calendar Year (CY) 2016 Seasonal Factors and revised seasonal factors and historical series for CY 2011-2015 for both initial claims and continued claims will be made available March 24, 2016, with the release of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Weekly Claims News Release.*

## **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS** **SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

In the week ending March 12, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 265,000, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 259,000 to 258,000. The 4-week moving average was 268,000, an increase of 750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 267,500 to 267,250.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 54 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

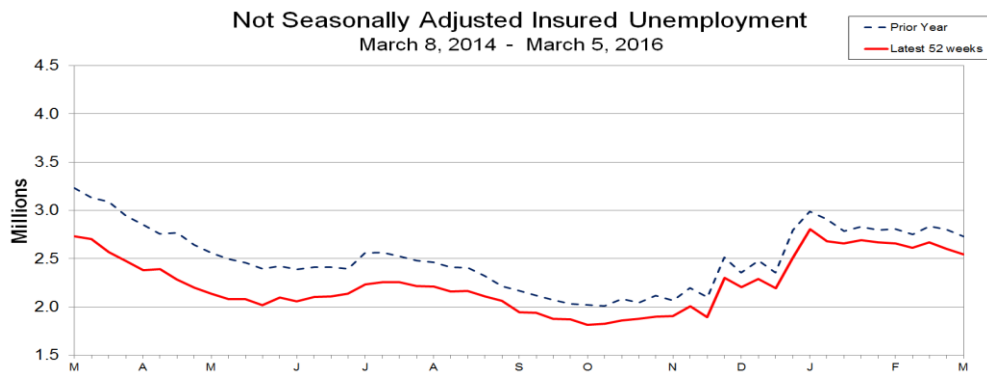
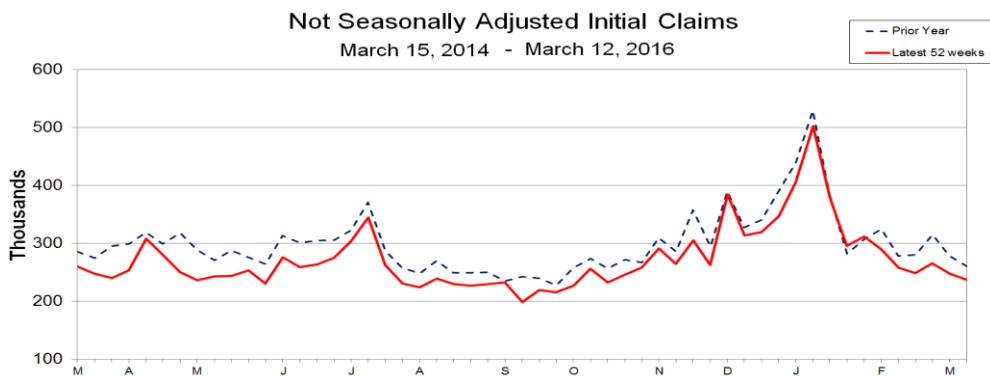
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending March 5, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 5 was 2,235,000, an increase of 8,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 2,225,000 to 2,227,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,243,250, a decrease of 9,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 2,252,000 to 2,252,500.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 237,168 in the week ending March 12, a decrease of 10,462 (or -4.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 16,285 (or -6.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 260,242 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending March 5, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,543,351, a decrease of 57,506 (or -2.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 66,803 (or -2.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.0 percent and the volume was 2,729,747.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 27 was 2,647,728, a decrease of 72,124 from the previous week. There were 2,859,145 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2015.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending February 27.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 741 in the week ending March 5, a decrease of 76 from the prior week. There were 1,052 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 54 from the preceding week.

There were 12,650 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 27, a decrease of 1,105 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 14,845, a decrease of 489 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 27 were in Alaska (4.5), New Jersey (3.3), West Virginia (3.3), Pennsylvania (3.2), Montana (3.1), Wyoming (3.1), Connecticut (3.0), Massachusetts (2.9), Rhode Island (2.9), Illinois (2.8), and Puerto Rico (2.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 5 were in Alabama (+732), Texas (+707), Illinois (+696), Michigan (+575), and Florida (+453), while the largest decreases were in New York (-17,555), California (-1,288), Massachusetts (-881), Connecticut (-844), and New Hampshire (-683).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 12</b>	<b>March 5</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>February 27</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	265,000	258,000	+7,000	277,000	293,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	237,168	247,630	-10,462	265,802	260,242
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	268,000	267,250	+750	270,000	305,250
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 5</b>	<b>February 27</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>February 20</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,235,000	2,227,000	+8,000	2,257,000	2,399,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,543,351	2,600,857	-57,506	2,670,398	2,729,747
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,243,250	2,252,500	-9,250	2,256,500	2,396,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.7%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.9%	1.9%	0.0	2.0%	2.0%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 5</b>	<b>February 27</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	741	817	-76	895
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,052	998	+54	1,593

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 27</b>	<b>February 20</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,595,921	2,665,026	-69,105	2,800,970
Federal Employees	12,650	13,755	-1,105	15,398
Newly Discharged Veterans	14,845	15,334	-489	22,164
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	6
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,939	8,027	-88	7,571
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	16,373	17,710	-1,337	13,036
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,647,728	2,719,852	-72,124	2,859,145

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 136,270,223 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 12			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 5		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,417	3,364	-947	20,491	22,177	-1,686
Alaska	1,279	1,287	-8	13,550	14,298	-748
Arizona	3,592	3,914	-322	23,513	26,439	-2,926
Arkansas	2,163	2,102	61	17,682	20,047	-2,365
California	46,946	45,142	1,804	434,915	415,193	19,722
Colorado	2,172	2,766	-594	33,574	34,242	-668
Connecticut	2,848	3,139	-291	50,217	49,766	451
Delaware	500	662	-162	7,779	8,949	-1,170
District of Columbia	471	298	173	7,694	8,147	-453
Florida	6,259	7,376	-1,117	40,778	49,270	-8,492
Georgia	6,056	6,774	-718	31,965	34,095	-2,130
Hawaii	1,174	1,169	5	6,578	6,523	55
Idaho	990	1,286	-296	10,534	12,820	-2,286
Illinois	9,569	10,737	-1,168	159,113	159,214	-101
Indiana	3,272	3,572	-300	32,933	34,179	-1,246
Iowa	2,567	2,257	310	33,356	33,471	-115
Kansas	2,147	2,079	68	17,059	17,337	-278
Kentucky	2,469	2,850	-381	26,747	29,537	-2,790
Louisiana	2,292	2,950	-658	23,100	23,117	-17
Maine	763	964	-201	12,017	12,481	-464
Maryland	3,101	3,693	-592	41,659	46,679	-5,020
Massachusetts	5,172	5,401	-229	92,043	95,722	-3,679
Michigan	6,649	7,004	-355	94,304	100,102	-5,798
Minnesota	3,973	3,985	-12	71,408	68,675	2,733
Mississippi	1,398	1,513	-115	10,803	12,182	-1,379
Missouri	4,098	3,972	126	32,025	36,806	-4,781
Montana	870	1,000	-130	12,141	13,454	-1,313
Nebraska	1,434	756	678	7,498	8,124	-626
Nevada	2,702	2,562	140	23,601	26,509	-2,908
New Hampshire	638	740	-102	6,138	7,389	-1,251
New Jersey	7,967	9,135	-1,168	124,083	125,559	-1,476
New Mexico	973	1,170	-197	14,005	14,858	-853
New York	15,739	17,105	-1,366	194,494	196,031	-1,537
North Carolina	3,564	3,802	-238	27,482	30,025	-2,543
North Dakota	975	775	200	14,462	10,213	4,249
Ohio	6,860	7,759	-899	87,623	89,156	-1,533
Oklahoma	2,266	1,933	333	22,482	22,617	-135
Oregon	4,254	4,273	-19	33,387	33,903	-516
Pennsylvania	17,030	17,681	-651	169,353	180,871	-11,518
Puerto Rico	1,385	1,696	-311	21,294	24,975	-3,681
Rhode Island	870	921	-51	13,152	13,400	-248
South Carolina	2,212	2,806	-594	15,506	17,031	-1,525
South Dakota	206	223	-17	3,123	3,430	-307
Tennessee	2,583	3,419	-836	25,847	28,810	-2,963
Texas	17,253	17,643	-390	176,713	176,560	153
Utah	1,201	1,323	-122	13,699	14,230	-531
Vermont	741	473	268	7,039	7,059	-20
Virgin Islands	34	25	9	598	522	76
Virginia	3,798	3,565	233	34,875	34,774	101
Washington	7,847	6,937	910	60,046	58,952	1,094
West Virginia	1,084	1,260	-176	22,427	22,296	131
Wisconsin	7,543	7,650	-107	58,424	59,922	-1,498
Wyoming	802	742	60	8,022	8,719	-697
US Total	237,168	247,630	-10,462	2,543,351	2,600,857	-57,506

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	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from			IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average		
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	2,223	-6	2,258.75	1.7	
May 9, 2015	264	-1	271.75	2,212	-11	2,230.00	1.6	
May 16, 2015	275	11	266.50	2,226	14	2,222.50	1.7	
May 23, 2015	284	9	272.00	2,204	-22	2,216.25	1.6	
May 30, 2015	277	-7	275.00	2,272	68	2,228.50	1.7	
June 6, 2015	279	2	278.75	2,225	-47	2,231.75	1.7	
June 13, 2015	268	-11	277.00	2,249	24	2,237.50	1.7	
June 20, 2015	271	3	273.75	2,265	16	2,252.75	1.7	
June 27, 2015	282	11	275.00	2,327	62	2,266.50	1.7	
July 4, 2015	296	14	279.25	2,216	-111	2,264.25	1.6	
July 11, 2015	281	-15	282.50	2,216	0	2,256.00	1.6	
July 18, 2015	255	-26	278.50	2,270	54	2,257.25	1.7	
July 25, 2015	267	12	274.75	2,258	-12	2,240.00	1.7	
August 1, 2015	269	2	268.00	2,278	20	2,255.50	1.7	
August 8, 2015	273	4	266.00	2,256	-22	2,265.50	1.7	
August 15, 2015	277	4	271.50	2,266	10	2,264.50	1.7	
August 22, 2015	270	-7	272.25	2,259	-7	2,264.75	1.7	
August 29, 2015	281	11	275.25	2,263	4	2,261.00	1.7	
September 5, 2015	275	-6	275.75	2,243	-20	2,257.75	1.7	
September 12, 2015	264	-11	272.50	2,244	1	2,252.25	1.7	
September 19, 2015	267	3	271.75	2,195	-49	2,236.25	1.6	
September 26, 2015	276	9	270.50	2,209	14	2,222.75	1.6	
October 3, 2015	262	-14	267.25	2,165	-44	2,203.25	1.6	
October 10, 2015	256	-6	265.25	2,172	7	2,185.25	1.6	
October 17, 2015	259	3	263.25	2,146	-26	2,173.00	1.6	
October 24, 2015	260	1	259.25	2,170	24	2,163.25	1.6	
October 31, 2015	276	16	262.75	2,177	7	2,166.25	1.6	
November 7, 2015	276	0	267.75	2,173	-4	2,166.50	1.6	
November 14, 2015	272	-4	271.00	2,155	-18	2,168.75	1.6	
November 21, 2015	260	-12	271.00	2,161	6	2,166.50	1.6	
November 28, 2015	269	9	269.25	2,246	85	2,183.75	1.7	
December 5, 2015	282	13	270.75	2,242	-4	2,201.00	1.7	
December 12, 2015	272	-10	270.75	2,195	-47	2,211.00	1.6	
December 19, 2015	267	-5	272.50	2,205	10	2,222.00	1.6	
December 26, 2015	287	20	277.00	2,234	29	2,219.00	1.6	
January 2, 2016	277	-10	275.75	2,264	30	2,224.50	1.7	
January 9, 2016	283	6	278.50	2,219	-45	2,230.50	1.6	
January 16, 2016	294	11	285.25	2,274	55	2,247.75	1.7	
January 23, 2016	277	-17	282.75	2,260	-14	2,254.25	1.7	
January 30, 2016	285	8	284.75	2,243	-17	2,249.00	1.6	
February 6, 2016	269	-16	281.25	2,272	29	2,262.25	1.7	
February 13, 2016	262	-7	273.25	2,254	-18	2,257.25	1.7	
February 20, 2016	272	10	272.00	2,257	3	2,256.50	1.7	
February 27, 2016	277	5	270.00	2,227	-30	2,252.50	1.6	
March 5, 2016	258	-19	267.25	2,235	8	2,243.25	1.6	
March 12, 2016	265	7	268.00					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 5							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 27					
INITIAL CLAIMS							INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
CHANGE FROM							CHANGE FROM					
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	(%) <sup>2</sup>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
Alabama	3364	732	-18	11	20	22177	1.2	27	-2531	55	160	22392
Alaska	1287	136	102	8	3	14298	4.5	-208	829	217	49	14564
Arizona	3914	273	-80	7	17	26439	1.1	-611	-1911	290	169	26898
Arkansas	2102	-119	-431	7	7	20047	1.7	-376	-4897	110	133	20290
California	45142	-1288	-622	161	163	415193	2.6	-20110	-28821	2863	2861	420917
Colorado	2766	101	-709	14	42	34242	1.4	984	-2719	319	643	35204
Connecticut	3139	-844	-347	5	13	49766	3.0	-1387	-5551	75	144	49985
Delaware	662	34	-99	1	2	8949	2.1	850	114	18	31	8998
District of Columbia	298	9	6	9	0	8147	1.5	-218	-671	295	13	8455
Florida	7376	453	-3115	14	67	49270	0.6	136	-16307	155	293	49718
Georgia	6774	229	-1635	38	51	34095	0.9	-1070	-8174	164	440	34699
Hawaii	1169	81	-272	2	12	6523	1.1	148	-1884	83	150	6756
Idaho	1286	-51	-573	11	5	12820	2.0	-710	-515	292	42	13154
Illinois	10737	696	-737	9	14	159214	2.8	-3780	-7664	323	378	159915
Indiana	3572	110	-489	10	10	34179	1.2	-1769	-5536	107	111	34397
Iowa	2257	98	-198	4	7	33471	2.2	-1203	-1111	50	88	33609
Kansas	2079	163	-144	0	3	17337	1.3	-759	-3152	58	115	17510
Kentucky	2850	-270	-1288	8	11	29537	1.7	1522	-2281	108	288	29933
Louisiana	2950	158	168	18	15	23117	1.2	162	2004	65	57	23239
Maine	964	-129	-88	3	2	12481	2.2	-468	-2436	51	37	12569
Maryland	3693	-213	-584	29	14	46679	1.9	-708	-7409	370	257	47306
Massachusetts	5401	-881	-484	11	30	95722	2.9	-4865	-6519	208	299	96229
Michigan	7004	575	-460	17	12	100102	2.5	373	-5289	276	241	100619
Minnesota	3985	184	-197	6	4	68675	2.5	-340	711	151	173	68999
Mississippi	1513	87	-230	2	5	12182	1.1	-634	-811	116	55	12353
Missouri	3972	21	-1438	15	11	36806	1.4	-1617	-12187	173	118	37097
Montana	1000	22	-119	22	3	13454	3.1	-338	218	590	44	14088
Nebraska	756	-88	-336	0	1	8124	0.9	-413	-2161	25	21	8170
Nevada	2562	-56	-713	11	5	26509	2.2	-612	-2838	221	135	26865
New Hampshire	740	-683	-122	1	3	7389	1.2	611	-1393	7	22	7418
New Jersey	9135	76	795	18	17	125559	3.3	-2778	-12615	231	426	126216
New Mexico	1170	97	-33	3	5	14858	1.9	73	203	295	76	15229
New York	17105	-17555	-2307	36	41	196031	2.2	-20253	-23350	434	689	197154
North Carolina	3802	180	-1365	9	26	30025	0.7	-700	-10681	143	222	30390
North Dakota	775	56	262	3	1	10213	2.3	-135	2842	13	5	10231
Ohio	7759	303	-842	9	37	89156	1.7	-2431	-7775	133	408	89697
Oklahoma	1933	-350	-97	4	14	22617	1.5	-646	3835	65	126	22808
Oregon	4273	-245	-955	20	15	33903	2.0	-1030	-4443	708	245	34856
Pennsylvania	17681	-185	-4555	61	16	180871	3.2	6654	-9754	509	616	181996
Puerto Rico	1696	-85	-212	2	14	24975	2.8	839	-2113	64	183	25222
Rhode Island	921	-386	-248	2	1	13400	2.9	-1838	-1944	31	30	13461
South Carolina	2806	371	-198	6	14	17031	0.9	-385	-1103	58	142	17231
South Dakota	223	7	-34	1	1	3430	0.9	-126	-256	39	12	3481
Tennessee	3419	-454	-1645	6	21	28810	1.1	-339	-5042	156	144	29110
Texas	17643	707	-1432	38	151	176560	1.6	-3025	24937	461	2324	179345
Utah	1323	26	-166	9	4	14230	1.1	-531	-662	231	31	14492
Vermont	473	-484	-292	1	0	7059	2.4	79	-406	26	4	7089
Virgin Islands	25	-8	-15	1	0	522	1.4	-70	-322	6	4	532
Virginia	3565	83	-238	17	24	34774	1.0	-705	-2480	288	537	35599
Washington	6937	200	-354	34	81	58952	2.0	-2199	-6870	545	892	60389
West Virginia	1260	-207	-494	0	8	22296	3.3	-1491	1128	86	61	22443
Wisconsin	7650	91	-654	3	9	59922	2.2	-1328	-18226	149	86	60157
Wyoming	742	50	36	4	0	8719	3.1	207	2269	144	15	8878
Totals	247630	-18172	-30295	741	1052	2600857	1.9	-69541	-203720	12650	14845	2628352

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 5, 2016**

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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	-17,555	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
CA	-1,288	No comment.

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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.

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)

[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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