



News Release

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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 14-2306-NAT

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Wednesday, December 24, 2014

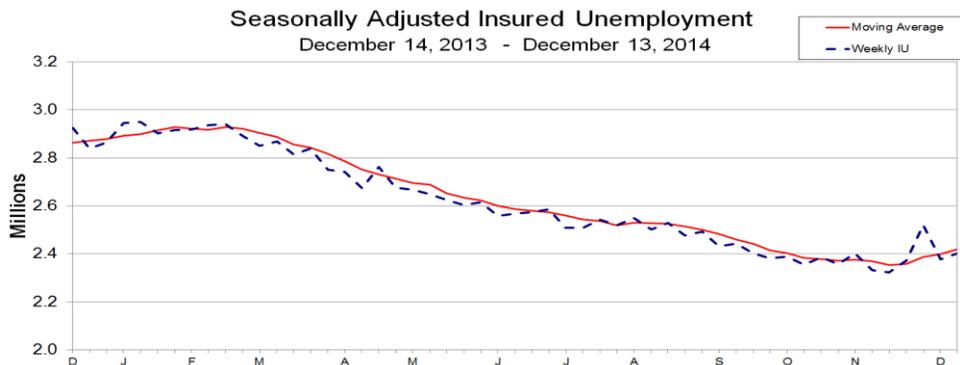
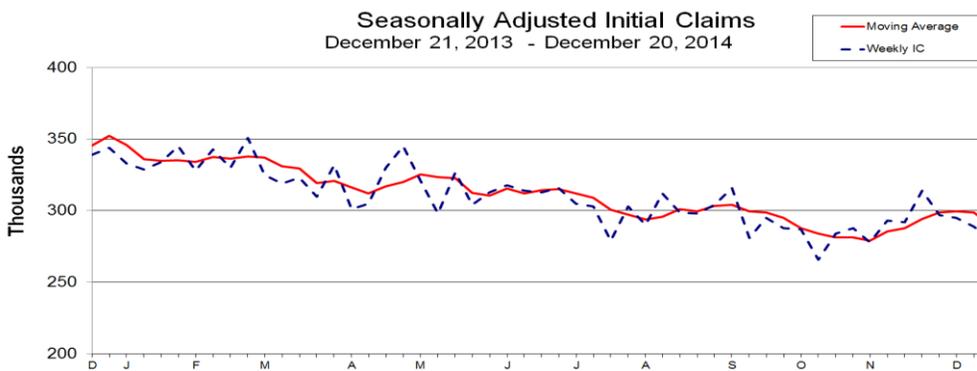
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 20, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 280,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 289,000. The 4-week moving average was 290,250, a decrease of 8,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 298,750.

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

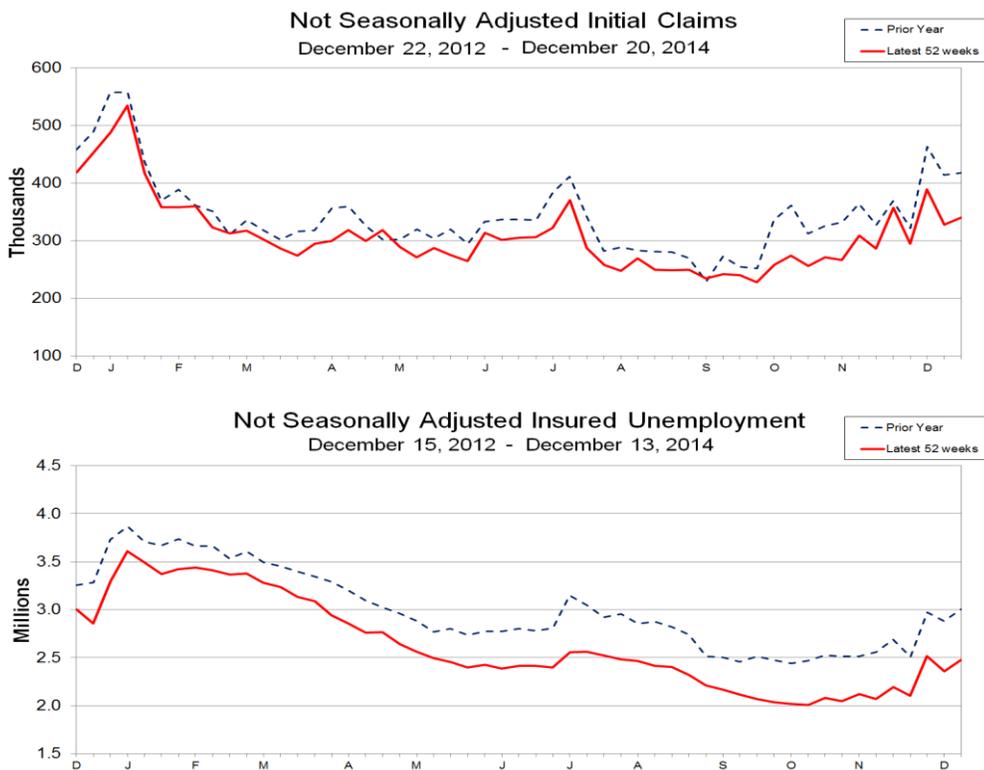
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending December 13, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 13 was 2,403,000, an increase of 25,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 2,373,000 to 2,378,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,418,250, an increase of 20,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 2,397,000 to 2,398,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 340,124 in the week ending December 20, an increase of 12,297 (or 3.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 23,148 (or 7.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 418,272 initial claims in the comparable week in 2013.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending December 13, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,474,968, an increase of 120,435 (or 5.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 95,133 (or 4.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.3 percent and the volume was 3,004,483.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 6 was 2,413,615, a decrease of 163,041 from the previous week. There were 4,288,629 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2013.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending December 6.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,331 in the week ending December 13, a decrease of 548 from the prior week. There were 1,752 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 266 from the preceding week.

There were 16,828 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 6, a decrease of 1,773 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 25,122, a decrease of 1,532 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 6 were in Alaska (4.2), Puerto Rico (3.1), New Jersey (3.0), Montana (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.7), Connecticut (2.6), Nevada (2.6), California (2.5), Massachusetts (2.4), and West Virginia (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 13 were in California (+11,794), Massachusetts (+443), Utah (+277), Rhode Island (+35), and Maine (+25), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-10,937), New York (-9,787), Wisconsin (-6,465), Georgia (-5,520), and Texas (-3,982).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 20	December 13	Change	December 6	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	280,000	289,000	-9,000	295,000	339,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	340,124	327,827	+12,297	388,769	418,272
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	290,250	298,750	-8,500	299,500	345,500
WEEK ENDING	December 13	December 6	Change	November 29	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,403,000	2,378,000	+25,000	2,520,000	2,925,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,474,968	2,354,533	+120,435	2,515,262	3,004,483
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,418,250	2,398,250	+20,000	2,387,000	2,863,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.9%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.9%	1.8%	+0.1	1.9%	2.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 13	December 6	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,331	1,879	-548	1,870
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,752	2,018	-266	2,004

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 6	November 29	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,350,816	2,511,601	-160,785	2,874,068
Federal Employees	16,828	18,601	-1,773	21,055
Newly Discharged Veterans	25,122	26,654	-1,532	31,336
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	7	5	+2	194
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	6,940	5,877	+1,063	5,566
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	13,902	13,918	-16	23,078
<u>TOTAL</u>⁶	2,413,615	2,576,656	-163,041	4,288,629

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 132,731,174 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](#)
6. Prior Year Total includes Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC08) claimants.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 13, 2014

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	-10,937	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
NY	-9,787	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
WI	-6,465	No comment.
GA	-5,520	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, accommodation and food service, and trade industries.
TX	-3,982	No comment.
IL	-3,352	No comment.
WA	-3,274	No comment.
MN	-3,218	No comment.
TN	-2,054	No comment.
VA	-1,992	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
OR	-1,909	No comment.
SC	-1,722	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MO	-1,621	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
AL	-1,583	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
MI	-1,550	No comment.
IA	-1,487	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing and construction industries.
KS	-1,097	No comment.
NJ	-1,015	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and health care and social assistance industries.

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+11,794	Layoffs in the service industry.

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	
December 14, 2013	368	10	341.75	2,925	38	2,863.25	2.2
December 21, 2013	339	-29	345.50	2,840	-85	2,872.25	2.2
December 28, 2013	344	5	352.25	2,863	23	2,878.75	2.2
January 4, 2014	333	-11	346.00	2,945	82	2,893.25	2.2
January 11, 2014	329	-4	336.25	2,951	6	2,899.75	2.3
January 18, 2014	334	5	335.00	2,903	-48	2,915.50	2.2
January 25, 2014	345	11	335.25	2,915	12	2,928.50	2.2
February 1, 2014	328	-17	334.00	2,918	3	2,921.75	2.2
February 8, 2014	343	15	337.50	2,936	18	2,918.00	2.2
February 15, 2014	330	-13	336.50	2,941	5	2,927.50	2.2
February 22, 2014	351	21	338.00	2,890	-51	2,921.25	2.2
March 1, 2014	325	-26	337.25	2,850	-40	2,904.25	2.2
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	2,389	7	2,403.75	1.8
October 11, 2014	266	-21	284.00	2,355	-34	2,382.00	1.8
October 18, 2014	284	18	281.25	2,387	32	2,378.25	1.8
October 25, 2014	288	4	281.25	2,356	-31	2,371.75	1.8
November 1, 2014	278	-10	279.00	2,403	47	2,375.25	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	2,403	25	2,418.25	1.8
December 20, 2014	280	-9	290.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 13 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 6 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	%	CHANGE FROM		ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT		
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	3194	-1583	-951	17	31	24289	1.4	-1925	-6962	122	292	24703
Alaska	1446	-167	-113	6	4	13190	4.2	-1465	-3469	215	79	13484
Arizona	3926	-560	-450	19	5	29564	1.2	-1083	-6030	258	272	30094
Arkansas	2987	-802	-1568	7	3	23546	2.1	-1368	-6830	126	290	23962
California	63637	11794	-14782	271	275	387307	2.5	-61690	-99416	2807	4661	394775
Colorado	2949	-15	-1245	40	56	30077	1.3	-2563	-7990	363	964	31404
Connecticut	4542	-869	-1421	6	11	42513	2.6	-1538	-7542	102	256	42871
Delaware	884	-449	-331	0	5	6974	1.7	-724	-1478	25	62	7061
District of Columbia	394	-26	1	5	1	9100	1.7	-371	-2871	364	23	9487
Florida	11106	-879	-1850	23	110	70646	0.9	-10160	-29121	314	683	71643
Georgia	8670	-5520	-1139	33	75	41983	1.1	-8248	-13656	436	785	43204
Hawaii	1461	-383	-198	9	21	8632	1.5	-252	-1991	118	257	9007
Idaho	2774	-62	-886	29	5	12308	2.0	7	-1809	137	67	12512
Illinois	14772	-3352	-7952	13	34	129400	2.3	-2959	-24263	406	645	130451
Indiana	5230	-599	-3471	12	25	30283	1.1	266	-12806	192	230	30705
Iowa	3555	-1487	-2535	2	8	24795	1.7	335	126	67	140	25002
Kansas	2563	-1097	-1243	2	8	16752	1.3	-897	-3485	115	215	17082
Kentucky	3460	-891	-1917	19	10	24311	1.4	-84	-5609	401	563	25275
Louisiana	2506	-290	-231	11	11	20322	1.1	-270	-3570	64	127	20513
Maine	2172	25	-365	4	3	11237	2.0	586	-2073	37	58	11332
Maryland	4869	-529	-2424	32	20	48142	2.0	-1133	-6754	512	439	49093
Massachusetts	9804	443	-533	21	38	79328	2.4	380	-2937	419	592	80339
Michigan	11592	-1550	-4405	28	44	71090	1.8	-5821	-18827	268	409	71767
Minnesota	5917	-3218	-3040	6	15	54747	2.1	-2110	-6318	187	288	55222
Mississippi	2566	-128	8	2	12	14469	1.4	-1014	-6215	106	151	14726
Missouri	6023	-1621	-3103	41	28	36898	1.4	-1246	-8255	730	229	37857
Montana	1443	-573	-512	54	7	11594	2.7	-346	-1427	430	66	12090
Nebraska	1393	-240	-1145	2	4	8350	0.9	-607	-732	38	41	8429
Nevada	3758	-683	-137	11	7	30029	2.6	-968	-311	207	243	30479
New Hampshire	1154	-26	-166	2	0	6535	1.1	130	-1262	11	21	6567
New Jersey	11850	-1015	-1774	15	28	113737	3.0	-6008	-2731	326	647	114710
New Mexico	1151	-194	-255	19	10	13199	1.7	-192	-2986	341	170	13710
New York	20304	-9787	-1404	52	91	181690	2.1	-11103	-38319	903	1300	183893
North Carolina	5931	-714	-1470	16	64	39127	1.0	-707	-32535	236	658	40021
North Dakota	906	-245	-430	1	2	3994	0.9	266	-438	18	10	4022
Ohio	10970	-247	-4478	13	55	71172	1.4	164	-14171	280	614	72066
Oklahoma	1589	-166	-650	7	25	14971	1.0	-406	-3897	66	226	15263
Oregon	6281	-1909	-897	79	36	37617	2.3	-2409	-7412	700	387	38704
Pennsylvania	23389	-10937	-5028	108	92	149790	2.7	-782	-40795	896	917	151607
Puerto Rico	1548	-361	-443	3	10	28156	3.1	-2681	-6599	151	310	28617
Rhode Island	1664	35	100	5	7	9848	2.2	50	-1730	40	67	9955
South Carolina	4315	-1722	-1013	8	34	19006	1.0	-1457	-7968	58	278	19342
South Dakota	445	-156	-366	2	1	2773	0.7	21	102	43	10	2826
Tennessee	4429	-2054	-770	14	28	27550	1.0	-456	-7467	251	292	28093
Texas	14828	-3982	-665	60	209	125895	1.2	-17306	-27048	1056	3297	130251
Utah	1919	277	-852	84	8	12158	1.0	1201	-4511	415	90	12663
Vermont	868	-207	1	3	2	5371	1.8	-708	-431	19	15	5405
Virgin Islands	44	-3	-16	1	1	750	2.0	-324	-268	2	18	770
Virginia	4594	-1992	-1620	22	33	32981	1.0	-1520	-7563	399	947	34327
Washington	8315	-3274	-2702	70	116	63925	2.2	-1486	-9262	648	1399	65972
West Virginia	2367	-386	-428	3	8	16461	2.4	-678	-1978	78	108	16647
Wisconsin	8924	-6465	-3151	11	12	61454	2.3	-7021	-13613	167	174	61795
Wyoming	449	-101	-371	8	4	4497	1.6	-49	-771	158	40	4695
Totals	327827	-60942	-86786	1331	1752	2354533	1.8	-160729	-526274	16828	25122	2396490

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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