



News Release

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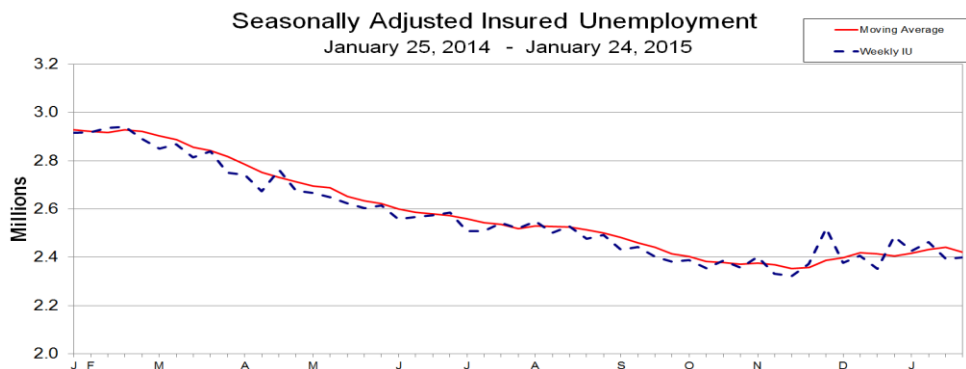
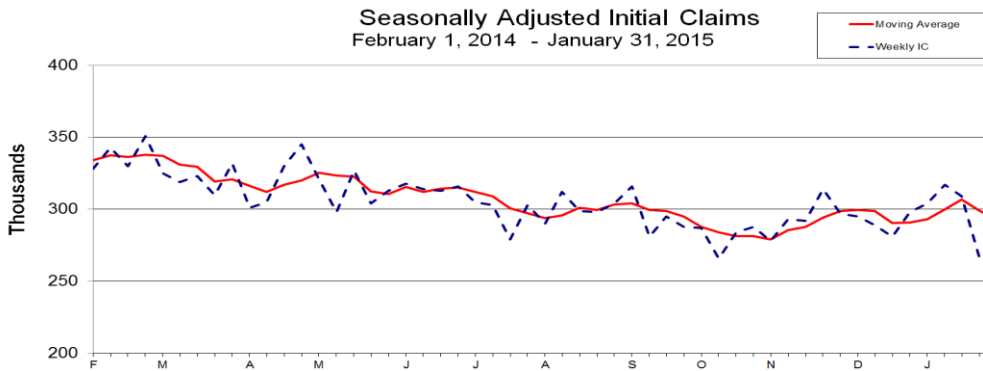
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 31, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 278,000, an increase of 11,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 265,000 to 267,000. The 4-week moving average was 292,750, a decrease of 6,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 298,500 to 299,250.

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

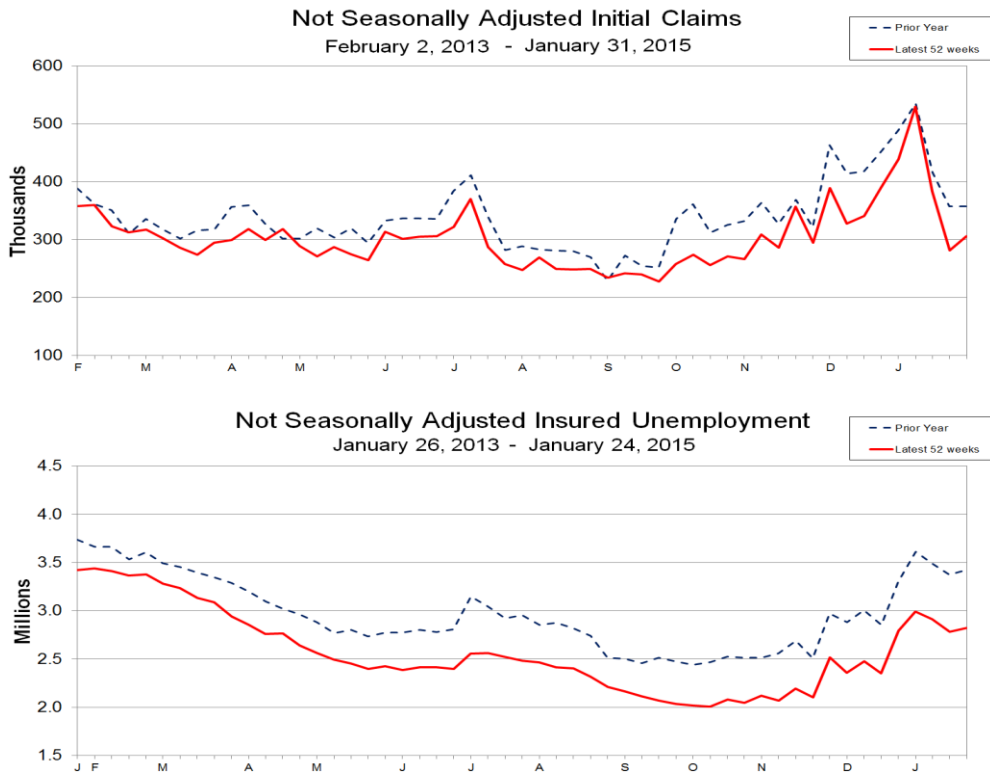
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending January 24, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 24 was 2,400,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 9,000 from 2,385,000 to 2,394,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,421,250, a decrease of 21,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 4,000 from 2,438,500 to 2,442,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 305,712 in the week ending January 31, an increase of 23,827 (or 8.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 11,211 (or 4.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 357,742 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.1 percent during the week ending January 24, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,820,082, an increase of 35,350 (or 1.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 28,733 (or 1.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.6 percent and the volume was 3,422,557.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending January 17 was 2,839,835, a decrease of 131,507 from the previous week. There were 3,443,454 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 January 17.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,189 in the week ending January 24, a decrease of 488 from the prior week. There were 1,521 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 261 from the preceding week.

There were 16,979 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending January 17, a decrease of 1,090 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 23,952, a decrease of 1,694 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 17 were in Alaska (4.7), New Jersey (3.6), Connecticut (3.4), Pennsylvania (3.4), Montana (3.3), Puerto Rico (3.3), Massachusetts (3.2), Illinois (3.1), Rhode Island (3.1), West Virginia (2.9), and Wisconsin (2.9).

There were no increases in initial claims for the week ending January 24. The largest decreases were in California (-21,586), New York (-6,919), Pennsylvania (-6,649), Michigan (-6,458), and Illinois (-5,751).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	January 31	January 24	Change	January 17	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	278,000	267,000	+11,000	309,000	328,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	305,712	281,885	+23,827	383,538	357,742
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	292,750	299,250	-6,500	307,000	334,000
WEEK ENDING	January 24	January 17	Change	January 10	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,400,000	2,394,000	+6,000	2,463,000	2,915,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,820,082	2,784,732	+35,350	2,911,671	3,422,557
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,421,250	2,442,500	-21,250	2,432,000	2,928,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.8%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	2.1%	2.1%	0.0	2.2%	2.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 24	January 17	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,189	1,677	-488	1,243
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,521	1,782	-261	1,857

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 17	January 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,781,715	2,908,185	-126,470	3,368,996
Federal Employees	16,979	18,069	-1,090	21,884
Newly Discharged Veterans	23,952	25,646	-1,694	29,950
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	3	6	-3	63
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,077	6,424	-347	7,270
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	11,109	13,012	-1,903	15,291
TOTAL	2,839,835	2,971,342	-131,507	3,443,454

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 JANUARY 24, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-21,586	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
NY	-6,919	Fewer layoffs in the construction, accommodation and food service, and manufacturing industries.
PA	-6,649	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
MI	-6,458	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
IL	-5,751	No comment.
GA	-4,496	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, and trade industries.
CT	-3,843	No comment.
OH	-3,505	No comment.
MO	-3,319	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
TN	-2,886	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, transportation and warehousing, construction and accommodation and food service industries.
WI	-2,872	No comment.
NJ	-2,693	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
TX	-2,557	No comment.
MA	-2,394	Fewer layoffs in the construction, trade, accommodation and food service, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
IN	-2,123	No comment.
FL	-1,962	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
SC	-1,746	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
NC	-1,667	Fewer layoffs in the construction, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
MN	-1,428	No comment.
AL	-1,370	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and retail trade industries.
OR	-1,280	No comment.
MD	-1,232	No comment.
IA	-1,032	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing 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		
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	2,407	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	2,400	6	2,421.25	1.8	
January 31, 2015	278	11	292.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended January 24								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 17				
INITIAL CLAIMS								INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM		ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
				UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	(%) ²						
Alabama	3284	-1370	-796	13	27	26222	1.5	-1978	-7876	115	293	26630
Alaska	1442	-206	-210	5	0	14748	4.7	-692	-3664	253	80	15081
Arizona	3949	-630	-850	16	2	29545	1.2	-740	-6279	297	236	30078
Arkansas	2680	-540	-117	10	8	24179	2.1	-1208	-6075	149	278	24606
California	40605	-21586	-31930	236	213	390977	2.5	-73186	-97339	3022	4023	398022
Colorado	3115	-654	-284	20	81	36494	1.6	2539	-17966	455	1008	37957
Connecticut	3997	-3843	-1618	13	13	55845	3.4	-1908	-8855	92	245	56182
Delaware	850	-508	-126	0	3	8990	2.2	-113	-1213	23	55	9068
District of Columbia	350	-76	39	4	3	9551	1.8	-319	-2381	465	21	10037
Florida	10768	-1962	-5884	27	101	72948	1.0	179	-43646	311	678	73937
Georgia	7935	-4496	-952	26	66	46758	1.2	-6250	-12674	284	768	47810
Hawaii	1485	-132	-113	5	19	9037	1.5	-666	-1517	105	239	9381
Idaho	2427	-277	222	30	10	15474	2.5	122	-2372	214	59	15747
Illinois	11406	-5751	-3073	13	20	172305	3.1	4541	-32561	399	685	173389
Indiana	4642	-2123	-5040	10	19	41190	1.5	-2737	-13381	126	182	41498
Iowa	2711	-1032	-193	9	5	35422	2.4	-4151	-2658	84	134	35640
Kansas	2321	-546	-251	3	5	22656	1.7	-1616	-3293	122	211	22989
Kentucky	3429	-987	-1413	1	10	30826	1.8	-772	-8706	376	561	31764
Louisiana	2531	-456	311	2	11	21671	1.2	-701	-1966	78	113	21862
Maine	1565	-623	-182	1	2	15183	2.6	-163	-2698	46	63	15292
Maryland	4465	-1232	-1447	30	22	57051	2.4	-264	-1890	448	431	57930
Massachusetts	6784	-2394	-1012	25	27	104368	3.2	535	-4326	268	586	105222
Michigan	9365	-6458	-4731	32	35	110285	2.8	-6235	-30060	371	445	111101
Minnesota	4125	-1428	-762	8	10	67032	2.5	-4315	-7765	201	277	67511
Mississippi	1701	-461	-132	24	10	14882	1.4	-687	-9111	154	153	15189
Missouri	5665	-3319	-896	43	12	51414	2.0	-1793	-8863	469	226	52109
Montana	1126	-292	-156	37	4	13942	3.3	41	-1818	675	50	14667
Nebraska	1338	-143	-277	3	6	11344	1.2	-617	-1529	41	30	11415
Nevada	3301	-718	167	9	5	29861	2.6	325	-2114	236	248	30345
New Hampshire	987	-291	-234	2	3	8480	1.4	110	-1720	6	28	8514
New Jersey	11248	-2693	850	46	22	137466	3.6	-1451	-6528	345	569	138380
New Mexico	1220	-246	-239	6	7	14185	1.9	-45	-2874	363	163	14711
New York	19882	-6919	-1619	35	87	218784	2.5	-3044	-35859	632	1320	220736
North Carolina	5065	-1667	-1023	21	56	43419	1.1	-29	-30477	225	548	44192
North Dakota	620	-283	29	0	1	7154	1.7	-65	171	22	12	7188
Ohio	8853	-3505	-2788	5	53	94701	1.9	-2275	-22331	191	603	95495
Oklahoma	1791	-243	42	4	18	17136	1.1	-70	-1921	65	202	17403
Oregon	5855	-1280	-1505	77	29	41075	2.5	-350	-10922	853	349	42277
Pennsylvania	20530	-6649	-4310	101	81	187309	3.4	3386	-40356	850	993	189152
Puerto Rico	2159	-923	-135	3	11	29949	3.3	-367	-3416	116	279	30344
Rhode Island	2290	-110	345	3	7	13731	3.1	-742	-2148	31	65	13827
South Carolina	3061	-1746	-831	7	12	21559	1.2	-1154	-8631	60	253	21872
South Dakota	327	-120	-11	2	2	3714	0.9	-94	-275	49	9	3772
Tennessee	4939	-2886	-1729	18	15	34062	1.3	-1596	-3252	219	287	34568
Texas	17117	-2557	1310	81	202	138914	1.3	-7361	-26654	845	3187	142946
Utah	1626	-475	-114	20	8	16078	1.3	257	-4176	554	95	16727
Vermont	616	-180	-119	3	0	7368	2.5	-239	-636	27	21	7416
Virgin Islands	37	-2	-10	1	0	898	2.4	208	-36	36	14	948
Virginia	4991	-169	-743	29	27	37788	1.1	-443	-9432	425	925	39138
Washington	7740	-868	-936	50	94	66771	2.3	-1008	-11383	727	1354	68852
West Virginia	1909	-635	123	2	7	19340	2.9	-1101	-3542	100	103	19543
Wisconsin	9053	-2872	-667	9	19	79041	2.9	-7007	-16437	175	157	79374
Wyoming	607	-91	99	9	11	5610	2.0	370	-1054	184	38	5832
Totals	281885	-101653	-75921	1189	1521	2784732	2.1	-126939	-588485	16979	23952	2825666

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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