



News Release

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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 15-289-NAT

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, February 26, 2015

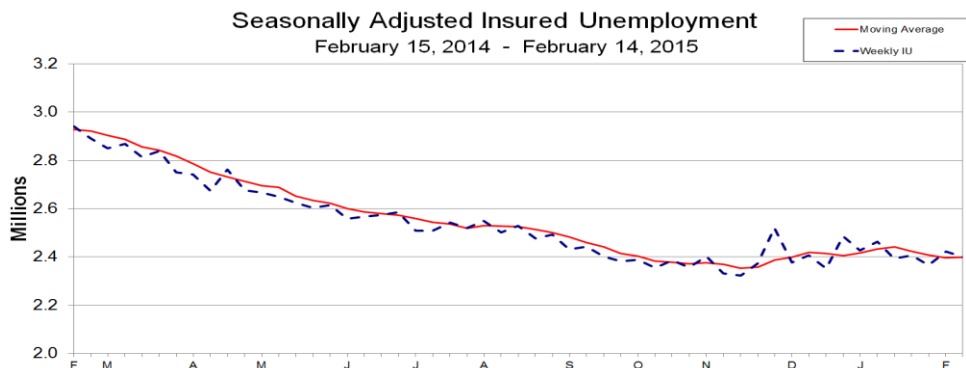
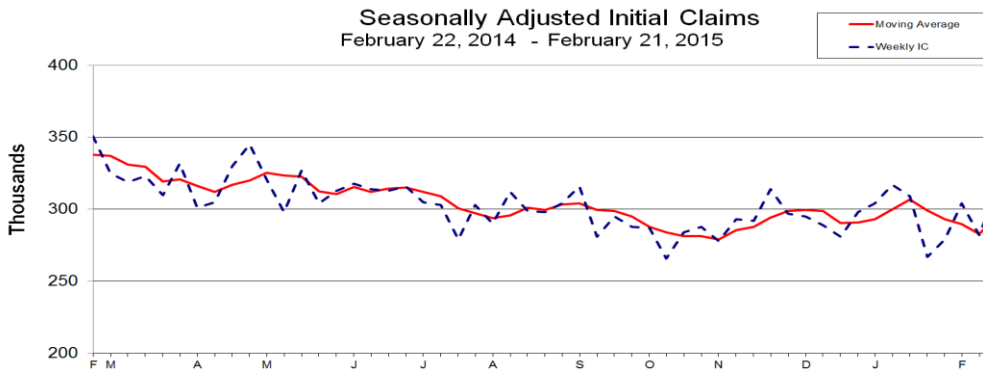
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 21, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 313,000, an increase of 31,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 283,000 to 282,000. The 4-week moving average was 294,500, an increase of 11,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 283,250 to 283,000.

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

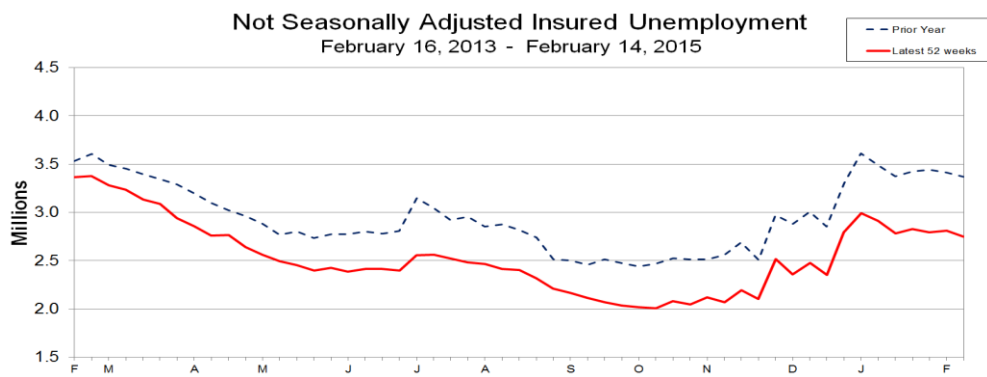
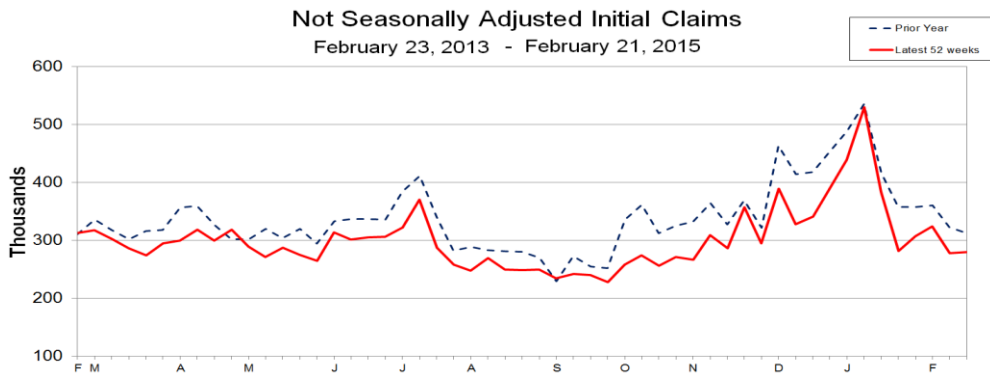
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending February 14, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 14 was 2,401,000, a decrease of 21,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 3,000 from 2,425,000 to 2,422,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,399,000, an increase of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 750 from 2,398,000 to 2,397,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 280,000 in the week ending February 21, an increase of 2,096 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 25,110 (or -9.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 312,665 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.1 percent during the week ending February 14, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,749,233, a decrease of 60,701 (or -2.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 36,335 (or -1.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.6 percent and the volume was 3,367,237.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 7 was 2,866,747, an increase of 12,469 from the previous week. There were 3,486,049 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 7.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,020 in the week ending February 14, an increase of 21 from the prior week. There were 1,446 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 324 from the preceding week.

There were 17,177 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 7, an increase of 67 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 23,787, an increase of 160 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 7 were in Alaska (4.6), New Jersey (3.7), Connecticut (3.4), Rhode Island (3.4), Massachusetts (3.2), Montana (3.2), Pennsylvania (3.2), Puerto Rico (3.0), California (2.9), Illinois (2.9), and Wisconsin (2.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 14 were in Missouri (+1,026), Oklahoma (+674), Arkansas (+61), and the Washington (+50), while the largest decreases were in California (-14,135), Pennsylvania (-4,151), New York (-3,792), Illinois (-2,953), and Texas (-2,419).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 21	February 14	Change	February 7	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	313,000	282,000	+31,000	304,000	351,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	280,000	277,904	+2,096	324,158	312,665
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	294,500	283,000	+11,500	289,750	338,000
WEEK ENDING	February 14	February 7	Change	January 31	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,401,000	2,422,000	-21,000	2,367,000	2,941,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,749,233	2,809,934	-60,701	2,795,972	3,367,237
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,399,000	2,397,250	+1,750	2,407,500	2,927,500
<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	2.1%	2.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 14	February 7	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,020	999	+21	1,184
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,446	1,770	-324	1,689

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 7	January 31	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,806,635	2,792,099	+14,536	3,405,680
Federal Employees	17,177	17,110	+67	22,313
Newly Discharged Veterans	23,787	23,627	+160	29,570
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	7	23	-16	98
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,139	7,395	-256	9,478
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	12,002	14,024	-2,022	18,910
TOTAL	2,866,747	2,854,278	+12,469	3,486,049

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 FEBRUARY 14, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MO	+1,026	Layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and transportation and warehousing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-14,135	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
PA	-4,151	Fewer layoffs in the construction and accommodation and food service industries.
NY	-3,792	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, construction, and transportation and warehousing industries.
IL	-2,953	No comment.
TX	-2,419	No comment.
MI	-1,981	No comment.
CT	-1,364	No comment.
KS	-1,356	No comment.
NJ	-1,324	Fewer layoffs in the construction, trade, manufacturing, and professional, scientific, and technical service industries.
MA	-1,304	Fewer layoffs in the construction, trade, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
OH	-1,136	No comment.
FL	-1,089	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
KY	-1,034	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		
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	2,406	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	2,401	-21	2,399.00	1.8	
February 21, 2015	313	31	294.50					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 14 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 7 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	%	CHANGE FROM		UCFE 1	UCX 1	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	2850	-210	-318	14	25	24286	1.4	-681	-7965	116	264	24666
Alaska	1328	-91	-152	6	0	14466	4.6	193	-4660	288	70	14824
Arizona	3652	-274	-647	8	6	29271	1.2	-289	-7022	303	215	29789
Arkansas	2541	61	-499	13	9	24074	2.1	-290	-6828	146	253	24473
California	46871	-14135	-23010	184	236	452876	2.9	21136	-92491	3623	4766	461265
Colorado	2834	-457	-309	22	65	35514	1.5	-262	-9795	474	954	36942
Connecticut	3634	-1364	229	8	12	55818	3.4	-1179	-5818	84	205	56107
Delaware	810	-141	-22	1	5	8971	2.2	-136	-1938	20	36	9027
District of Columbia	290	-31	9	13	3	9112	1.7	-125	-2438	459	36	9607
Florida	9480	-1089	-3166	24	80	67810	0.9	-3016	-31703	293	627	68730
Georgia	7030	-311	1231	24	72	43017	1.1	-813	-10827	241	701	43959
Hawaii	1372	-133	-411	6	25	8901	1.5	36	-2500	119	235	9255
Idaho	1948	-446	123	32	4	15678	2.5	197	-2743	260	63	16001
Illinois	9965	-2953	-1802	11	18	163788	2.9	1773	-45861	474	690	164952
Indiana	4194	-356	-883	5	12	39793	1.4	-361	-15540	123	190	40106
Iowa	2531	-284	212	12	5	35290	2.4	561	-2809	89	111	35490
Kansas	2066	-1356	-698	10	10	22443	1.7	941	-5330	135	187	22765
Kentucky	3186	-1034	-995	5	11	29035	1.7	-1564	-11012	273	467	29777
Louisiana	2522	-417	529	6	6	21435	1.1	110	-840	67	99	21601
Maine	1124	-85	-309	3	0	15139	2.6	-330	-3724	51	49	15239
Maryland	3966	-728	-372	22	22	55748	2.3	-1330	-6683	424	410	56582
Massachusetts	6118	-1304	-681	22	26	104588	3.2	-2472	-2903	230	603	105421
Michigan	8580	-1981	-4786	24	32	106258	2.7	2512	-22467	395	456	107109
Minnesota	4313	-185	-312	7	3	67514	2.5	-1808	-9510	212	264	67990
Mississippi	1562	-147	-136	19	10	13694	1.3	-416	-7756	152	150	13996
Missouri	7908	1026	-878	33	24	49752	1.9	698	-14668	391	205	50348
Montana	1196	-105	-142	18	2	13489	3.2	-286	-2305	619	57	14165
Nebraska	1170	-252	-154	5	5	10785	1.2	308	-1769	38	24	10847
Nevada	3443	-183	162	13	12	29665	2.6	-283	-2638	271	229	30165
New Hampshire	814	-181	-163	0	0	8428	1.4	57	-1933	7	28	8463
New Jersey	9852	-1324	768	23	19	139404	3.7	-1639	-17701	342	522	140268
New Mexico	1159	-323	10	3	8	14569	1.9	206	-2789	380	135	15084
New York	20006	-3792	-2681	42	62	221393	2.6	-59	-38132	625	1268	223286
North Carolina	4635	-863	241	22	50	41320	1.0	-1336	-29452	207	546	42073
North Dakota	561	-127	164	2	0	7296	1.7	113	105	26	12	7334
Ohio	9221	-1136	-477	14	38	96980	1.9	4890	-23333	200	642	97822
Oklahoma	2921	674	1221	4	11	17082	1.1	134	-2162	62	219	17363
Oregon	5933	-311	-1897	49	23	41570	2.5	1035	-11757	818	337	42725
Pennsylvania	19884	-4151	-2610	98	87	179227	3.2	-3082	-32309	799	1025	181051
Puerto Rico	1904	-227	-133	1	12	27212	3.0	-758	-2974	61	284	27557
Rhode Island	1310	-983	-737	4	4	15168	3.4	491	-3259	30	61	15259
South Carolina	3139	-69	1033	5	22	19584	1.1	-333	-8292	51	228	19863
South Dakota	271	-40	-15	2	2	3728	0.9	47	-428	49	4	3781
Tennessee	3636	-429	-1197	18	22	32766	1.2	-474	-6238	218	252	33236
Texas	17999	-2419	2469	45	187	144077	1.3	4015	-24255	831	3076	147989
Utah	1487	-184	-134	28	6	15681	1.3	-360	-4085	426	73	16180
Vermont	516	-121	-35	2	0	7454	2.5	29	-388	27	19	7500
Virgin Islands	51	-7	11	0	0	604	1.6	-306	-342	16	10	630
Virginia	3937	-646	-72	16	25	37751	1.1	-485	-8896	416	846	39013
Washington	8496	50	-1433	46	103	67870	2.3	-977	-12600	696	1273	69839
West Virginia	1469	-271	-62	5	3	19000	2.8	-332	-5486	96	103	19199
Wisconsin	9600	-308	-1125	15	17	78157	2.9	649	-21457	206	154	78517
Wyoming	619	-101	184	6	5	5403	2.0	-387	-577	218	54	5675
Totals	277904	-46254	-44857	1020	1446	2809934	2.1	13962	-601283	17177	23787	2850905

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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