



News Release

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TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 2, 2015

Note: This week's release reflects the annual revision to the weekly unemployment claims seasonal adjustment factors. The seasonal adjustment factors used for the UI Weekly Claims data from 2010 forward, along with the resulting seasonally adjusted values for initial claims and continuing claims, have been revised.

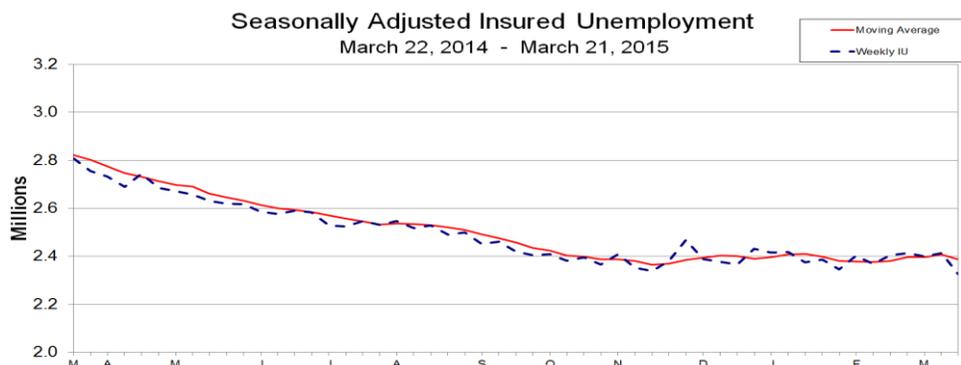
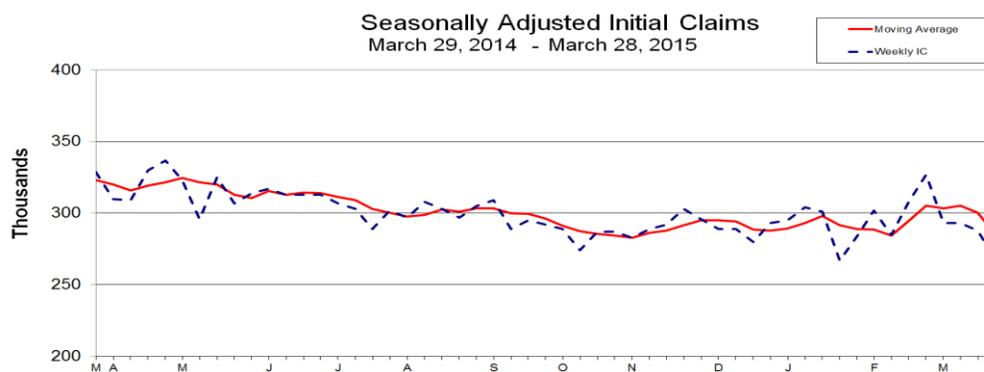
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 28, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 268,000, a decrease of 20,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 6,000 from 282,000 to 288,000. The 4-week moving average was 285,500, a decrease of 14,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 3,250 from 297,000 to 300,250.

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

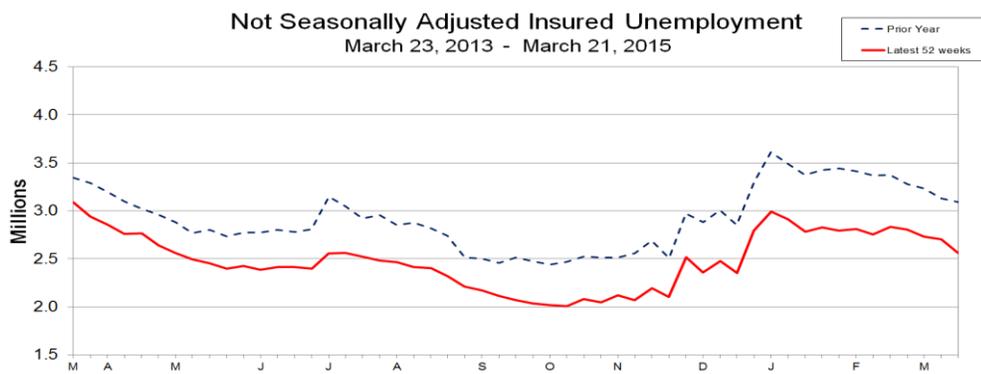
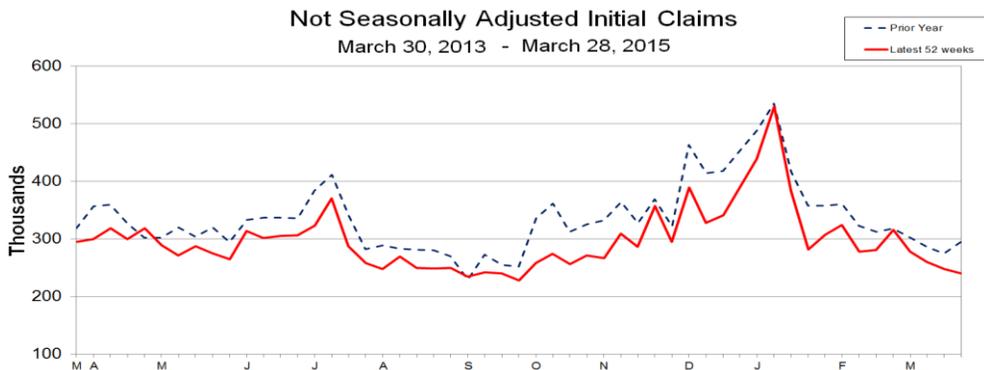
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending March 21, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 21 was 2,325,000, a decrease of 88,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 16, 2000 when it was 2,322,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 3,000 from 2,416,000 to 2,413,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,387,750, a decrease of 20,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 14,500 from 2,422,250 to 2,407,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 240,471 in the week ending March 28, a decrease of 7,561 (or -3.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 10,659 (or 4.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 294,862 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending March 21, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,561,743, a decrease of 143,403 (or -5.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 45,850 (or -1.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.4 percent and the volume was 3,090,665.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 14 was 2,759,764, a decrease of 25,188 from the previous week. There were 3,201,504 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 March 14.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 808 in the week ending March 21, a decrease of 139 from the prior week. There were 1,313 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 89 from the preceding week.

There were 14,640 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 14, a decrease of 640 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 21,906, a decrease of 337 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 14 were in Alaska (4.1), New Jersey (3.5), Connecticut (3.3), Pennsylvania (3.3), Rhode Island (3.2), California (3.0), Massachusetts (3.0), Illinois (2.9), Puerto Rico (2.9), and West Virginia (2.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 21 were in Texas (+2,035), Oklahoma (+429), Nebraska (+396), Arizona (+297), and Rhode Island (+216), while the largest decreases were in Tennessee (-3,589), California (-2,535), Pennsylvania (-1,692), Michigan (-1,555), and Maryland (-609).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 28	March 21	Change	March 14	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	268,000	288,000	-20,000	293,000	329,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	240,471	248,032	-7,561	260,242	294,862
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	285,500	300,250	-14,750	305,250	323,250
WEEK ENDING	March 21	March 14	Change	March 7	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,325,000	2,413,000	-88,000	2,399,000	2,807,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,561,743	2,705,146	-143,403	2,729,747	3,090,665
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,387,750	2,407,750	-20,000	2,396,750	2,822,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.8%	-0.1	1.8%	2.1%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.9%	2.0%	-0.1	2.0%	2.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 21	March 14	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	808	947	-139	996
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,313	1,402	-89	1,802

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 14	March 7	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,701,131	2,725,709	-24,578	3,127,041
Federal Employees	14,640	15,280	-640	18,244
Newly Discharged Veterans	21,906	22,243	-337	27,298
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	8	5	+3	34
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,783	7,748	+35	10,297
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	14,296	13,967	+329	18,590
TOTAL	2,759,764	2,784,952	-25,188	3,201,504

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 21, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	+2,035	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, educational service, and retail trade industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TN	-3,589	No comment.
CA	-2,535	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
PA	-1,692	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
MI	-1,555	Fewer layoffs in the management of companies and enterprises 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		
March 22, 2014	316	-9	323.00	2,807	0	2,822.75	2.1	
March 29, 2014	329	13	323.25	2,755	-52	2,802.50	2.1	
April 5, 2014	310	-19	320.00	2,733	-22	2,775.50	2.1	
April 12, 2014	309	-1	316.00	2,690	-43	2,746.25	2.0	
April 19, 2014	330	21	319.50	2,745	55	2,730.75	2.1	
April 26, 2014	337	7	321.50	2,685	-60	2,713.25	2.0	
May 3, 2014	323	-14	324.75	2,671	-14	2,697.75	2.0	
May 10, 2014	296	-27	321.50	2,659	-12	2,690.00	2.0	
May 17, 2014	325	29	320.25	2,631	-28	2,661.50	2.0	
May 24, 2014	307	-18	312.75	2,620	-11	2,645.25	2.0	
May 31, 2014	314	7	310.50	2,618	-2	2,632.00	2.0	
June 7, 2014	317	3	315.75	2,586	-32	2,613.75	2.0	
June 14, 2014	313	-4	312.75	2,576	-10	2,600.00	2.0	
June 21, 2014	313	0	314.25	2,591	15	2,592.75	2.0	
June 28, 2014	313	0	314.00	2,584	-7	2,584.25	2.0	
July 5, 2014	307	-6	311.50	2,530	-54	2,570.25	1.9	
July 12, 2014	303	-4	309.00	2,525	-5	2,557.50	1.9	
July 19, 2014	289	-14	303.00	2,547	22	2,546.50	1.9	
July 26, 2014	302	13	300.25	2,532	-15	2,533.50	1.9	
August 2, 2014	297	-5	297.75	2,546	14	2,537.50	1.9	
August 9, 2014	308	11	299.00	2,518	-28	2,535.75	1.9	
August 16, 2014	303	-5	302.50	2,528	10	2,531.00	1.9	
August 23, 2014	297	-6	301.25	2,491	-37	2,520.75	1.9	
August 30, 2014	305	8	303.25	2,500	9	2,509.25	1.9	
September 6, 2014	309	4	303.50	2,452	-48	2,492.75	1.9	
September 13, 2014	289	-20	300.00	2,460	8	2,475.75	1.9	
September 20, 2014	295	6	299.50	2,421	-39	2,458.25	1.8	
September 27, 2014	292	-3	296.25	2,404	-17	2,434.25	1.8	
October 4, 2014	289	-3	291.25	2,409	5	2,423.50	1.8	
October 11, 2014	274	-15	287.50	2,383	-26	2,404.25	1.8	
October 18, 2014	287	13	285.50	2,395	12	2,397.75	1.8	
October 25, 2014	287	0	284.25	2,365	-30	2,388.00	1.8	
November 1, 2014	283	-4	282.75	2,408	43	2,387.75	1.8	
November 8, 2014	289	6	286.50	2,352	-56	2,380.00	1.8	
November 15, 2014	292	3	287.75	2,339	-13	2,366.00	1.8	
November 22, 2014	303	11	291.75	2,383	44	2,370.50	1.8	
November 29, 2014	296	-7	295.00	2,469	86	2,385.75	1.9	
December 6, 2014	289	-7	295.00	2,388	-81	2,394.75	1.8	
December 13, 2014	289	0	294.25	2,377	-11	2,404.25	1.8	
December 20, 2014	280	-9	288.50	2,366	-11	2,400.00	1.8	
December 27, 2014	293	13	287.75	2,431	65	2,390.50	1.8	
January 3, 2015	295	2	289.25	2,415	-16	2,397.25	1.8	
January 10, 2015	304	9	293.00	2,418	3	2,407.50	1.8	
January 17, 2015	301	-3	298.25	2,376	-42	2,410.00	1.8	
January 24, 2015	267	-34	291.75	2,386	10	2,398.75	1.8	
January 31, 2015	284	17	289.00	2,346	-40	2,381.50	1.8	
February 7, 2015	302	18	288.50	2,402	56	2,377.50	1.8	
February 14, 2015	285	-17	284.50	2,369	-33	2,375.75	1.8	
February 21, 2015	308	23	294.75	2,405	36	2,380.50	1.8	
February 28, 2015	327	19	305.50	2,414	9	2,397.50	1.8	
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	2,325	-88	2,387.75	1.7	
March 28, 2015	268	-20	285.50					

		Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 21						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 14					
		INITIAL CLAIMS						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
		CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM					
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
Alabama	3130	127	-264	23	22	23133	1.3	-705	-5299	128	247	23508	
Alaska	1085	-142	-213	4	1	13003	4.1	9	-3572	234	53	13290	
Arizona	3902	297	-743	13	13	28727	1.2	8	-9380	256	195	29178	
Arkansas	2467	-381	-75	4	7	23266	2.1	-1867	-1522	121	251	23638	
California	44249	-2535	-8096	163	211	458111	3.0	25870	-46454	3172	4332	465615	
Colorado	2441	-143	-4	17	45	37908	1.6	1360	-8312	480	975	39363	
Connecticut	3414	38	249	5	10	53754	3.3	-982	-6459	100	201	54055	
Delaware	702	-284	27	0	3	8449	2.0	-696	-1146	23	39	8511	
District of Columbia	316	15	33	8	2	8704	1.7	-152	-2260	426	28	9158	
Florida	8982	150	-4617	21	70	64503	0.9	2348	-34975	262	587	65352	
Georgia	6086	-354	-774	25	49	37855	1.0	-1306	-10251	247	654	38756	
Hawaii	1234	-158	-325	11	10	8386	1.4	59	-1678	91	229	8706	
Idaho	1527	-6	143	4	2	11689	1.9	-875	-3269	207	54	11950	
Illinois	9396	-117	-1091	14	33	161080	2.9	-541	-26935	441	542	162063	
Indiana	3169	-108	-584	12	14	35508	1.3	-2724	-10829	118	150	35776	
Iowa	2181	148	-854	2	8	30579	2.1	-2593	-2346	83	120	30782	
Kansas	1947	-153	-302	3	1	17778	1.3	-1470	-4039	101	168	18047	
Kentucky	2860	-232	-215	13	10	32694	1.9	-358	-558	131	466	33292	
Louisiana	2723	203	592	1	1	21193	1.1	435	1554	62	83	21338	
Maine	847	-102	-420	0	4	14178	2.5	-454	-3386	48	65	14291	
Maryland	3978	-609	-534	27	24	51747	2.2	-3772	-7390	406	373	52526	
Massachusetts	5097	-323	-666	20	21	99118	3.0	-2640	-7348	246	542	99906	
Michigan	6366	-1555	-1006	9	23	99838	2.5	-611	-21434	342	311	100491	
Minnesota	3706	-196	-619	4	9	61730	2.3	-2406	-10197	185	239	62154	
Mississippi	1563	-535	-432	5	6	13233	1.2	380	-5428	145	124	13502	
Missouri	5440	93	-570	45	19	41101	1.6	-5901	-7887	222	201	41524	
Montana	1038	63	-22	9	3	11852	2.8	-756	-2273	490	66	12408	
Nebraska	1603	396	305	2	3	9154	1.0	-922	-3387	37	18	9209	
Nevada	3053	-66	308	5	5	27852	2.4	-979	-5539	227	197	28276	
New Hampshire	720	-30	-175	0	2	7609	1.2	-283	-2498	8	17	7634	
New Jersey	7697	-566	-710	18	25	132844	3.5	-5027	-12693	348	456	133648	
New Mexico	1034	-20	-141	5	10	14535	1.9	5	-2231	298	139	14972	
New York	16702	-509	-1194	49	56	209271	2.4	-6552	-30573	578	1167	211016	
North Carolina	4336	-7	-604	11	49	37989	1.0	-996	-25288	197	446	38632	
North Dakota	536	44	294	2	1	6707	1.6	-473	1278	16	13	6736	
Ohio	7190	-533	-658	10	45	88953	1.8	-5667	-12799	206	526	89685	
Oklahoma	2491	429	861	14	9	18947	1.2	162	1719	71	216	19234	
Oregon	4291	-260	-810	23	15	36541	2.2	-904	-8466	656	296	37493	
Pennsylvania	18279	-1692	-569	55	56	181880	3.3	5320	-27339	638	825	183343	
Puerto Rico	1801	-37	-583	1	7	25870	2.9	-269	-3984	61	248	26179	
Rhode Island	1195	216	-40	0	2	14544	3.2	-217	-2011	30	64	14638	
South Carolina	2328	-233	-560	7	23	16558	0.9	-720	-7106	49	207	16814	
South Dakota	247	-31	66	0	2	3213	0.8	-294	-441	40	7	3260	
Tennessee	4451	-3589	790	14	17	32098	1.2	-4061	-2833	174	239	32511	
Texas	19337	2035	2742	46	210	159807	1.5	7312	-221	606	3106	163526	
Utah	1261	-39	-58	13	11	13611	1.1	-748	-2817	237	83	13931	
Vermont	558	-124	-60	5	1	6896	2.3	-250	-707	19	14	6929	
Virgin Islands	62	20	8	2	0	930	2.5	154	-26	12	10	952	
Virginia	3204	-525	-997	8	33	34858	1.0	-1298	-8096	344	805	36007	
Washington	6862	186	-547	36	92	58994	2.0	-1986	-12141	569	1221	60784	
West Virginia	1229	-256	145	7	7	19487	2.9	-1228	263	99	96	19682	
Wisconsin	7169	-197	-2615	11	10	70244	2.6	-4857	-16968	202	126	70572	
Wyoming	550	-23	144	2	1	6637	2.4	517	1019	151	69	6857	
Totals	248032	-12210	-26040	808	1313	2705146	2	-24601	-426958	14640	21906	2741700	

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.

[2010 2015 seasonal factors.txt](#)

[2010 2015 seasonal factors.xls](#)

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)

[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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