



# News Release

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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 9, 2015**

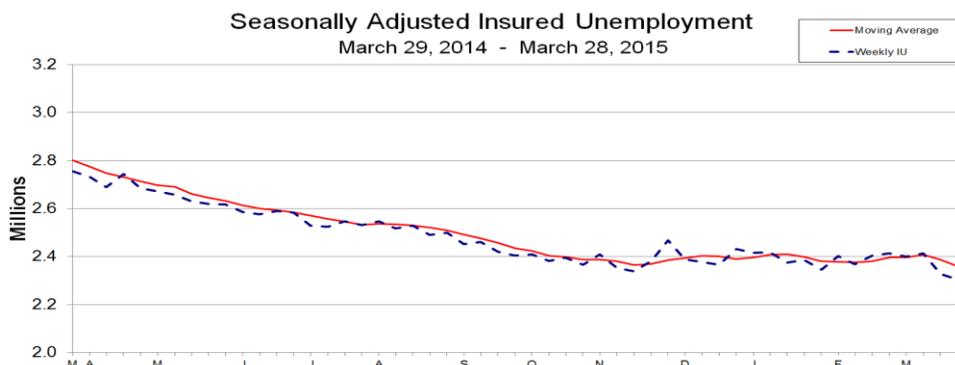
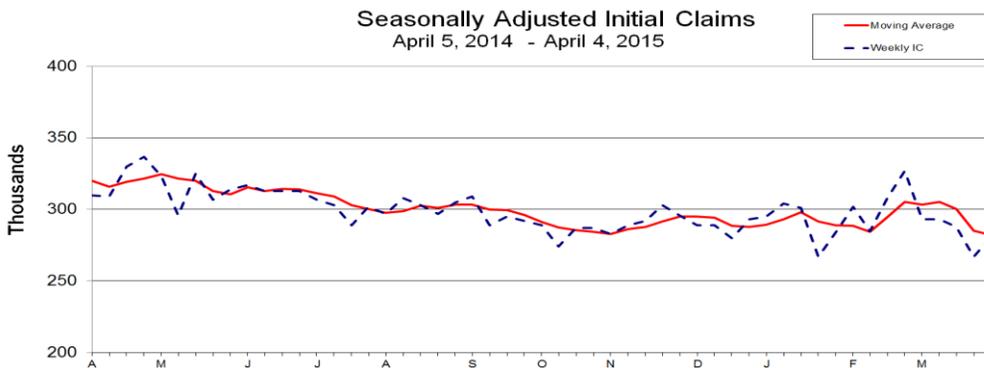
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 4, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 281,000, an increase of 14,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 268,000 to 267,000. The 4-week moving average was 282,250, a decrease of 3,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since June 3, 2000 when it was 281,500. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 285,500 to 285,250.

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

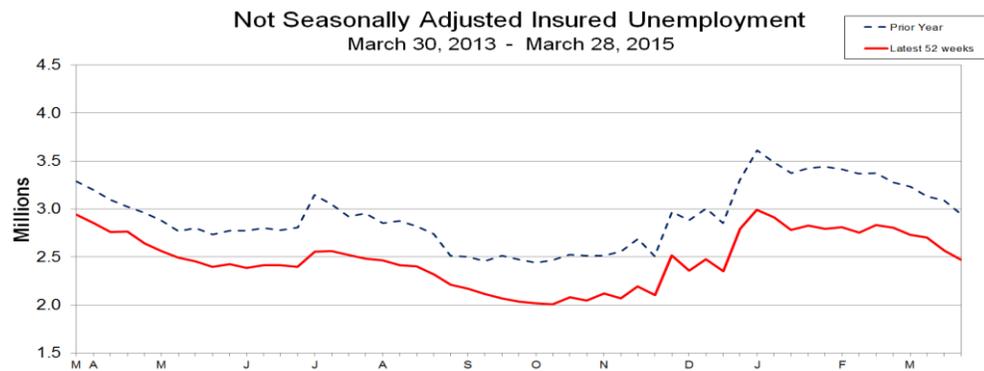
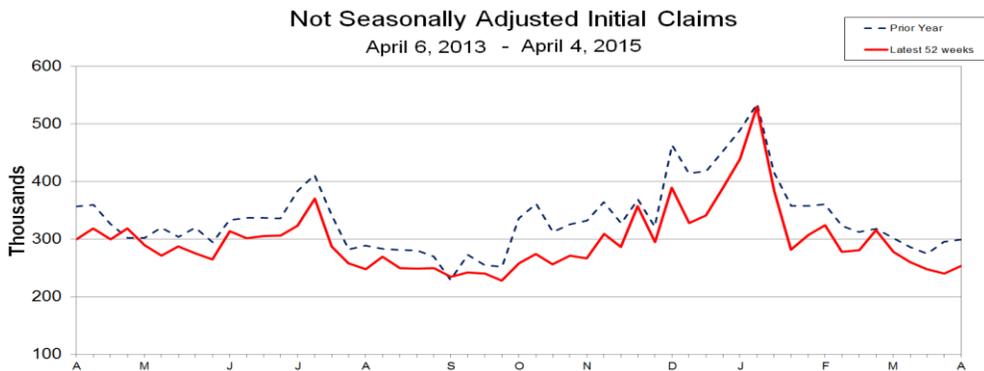
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending March 28, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 28 was 2,304,000, a decrease of 23,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 9, 2000 when it was 2,263,000. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 2,325,000 to 2,327,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,360,750, a decrease of 27,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since January 13, 2001 when it was 2,360,500. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 2,387,750 to 2,388,250.



**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 253,016 in the week ending April 4, an increase of 13,269 (or 5.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 534 (or 0.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 299,162 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending March 28, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,472,547, a decrease of 91,548 (or -3.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 67,476 (or -2.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.2 percent and the volume was 2,942,180.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 21 was 2,617,970, a decrease of 141,794 from the previous week. There were 3,163,363 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 21.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 867 in the week ending March 28, an increase of 59 from the prior week. There were 1,319 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 6 from the preceding week.

There were 14,558 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 21, a decrease of 82 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 21,873, a decrease of 33 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 21 were in Alaska (3.9), New Jersey (3.4), Connecticut (3.2), Rhode Island (3.1), Massachusetts (3.0), Pennsylvania (3.0), Puerto Rico (2.8), California (2.7), Illinois (2.7), Montana (2.6), and West Virginia (2.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 28 were in Oregon (+1,044), Wisconsin (+880), Arkansas (+570), Illinois (+549), and South Carolina (+418), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-2,338), Tennessee (-1,226), California (-999), Texas (-976), and Idaho (-944).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 4</b>	<b>March 28</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>March 21</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	281,000	267,000	+14,000	288,000	310,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	253,016	239,747	+13,269	248,032	299,162
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	282,250	285,250	-3,000	300,250	320,000
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 28</b>	<b>March 21</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,304,000	2,327,000	-23,000	2,413,000	2,755,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,472,547	2,564,095	-91,548	2,705,146	2,942,180
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,360,750	2,388,250	-27,500	2,407,750	2,802,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.8%	2.1%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.9%	1.9%	0.0	2.0%	2.2%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 28</b>	<b>March 21</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	867	808	+59	1,030
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,319	1,313	+6	1,749

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>March 21</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,560,448	2,701,131	-140,683	3,084,534
Federal Employees	14,558	14,640	-82	18,171
Newly Discharged Veterans	21,873	21,906	-33	27,977
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	6	8	-2	47
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,884	7,783	+101	10,520
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	13,201	14,296	-1,095	22,114
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,617,970</b>	<b>2,759,764</b>	<b>-141,794</b>	<b>3,163,363</b>

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](#)

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 28, 2015**

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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>
OR	+1,044	No comment.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
PA	-2,338	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.
TN	-1,226	No comment.

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## 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 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	2,327	-86	2,388.25	1.7	
March 28, 2015	267	-21	285.25	2,304	-23	2,360.75	1.7	
April 4, 2015	281	14	282.25					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 28								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 21				
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	3508	378	-159	21	14	22138	1.2	-995	-6153	140	229	22507
Alaska	1110	25	-225	8	0	12348	3.9	-655	-4014	216	74	12638
Arizona	4064	162	-1017	10	6	28802	1.2	75	-9118	274	236	29312
Arkansas	3037	570	-365	8	11	22078	2.0	-1188	-1923	126	225	22429
California	43250	-999	-26721	142	189	419464	2.7	-38647	-114970	3214	4425	427105
Colorado	2394	-47	-71	12	40	34296	1.5	-3612	-6794	403	899	35598
Connecticut	2700	-714	-509	8	11	52413	3.2	-1341	-6898	85	178	52676
Delaware	583	-119	-77	0	2	7820	1.9	-629	-1466	16	38	7874
District of Columbia	286	-30	-46	10	2	8549	1.6	-155	-2444	405	30	8984
Florida	8662	-320	-5032	18	73	62080	0.8	-2423	-34439	261	546	62887
Georgia	6081	-5	-1473	51	53	36851	1.0	-1004	-11159	235	632	37718
Hawaii	1261	27	-439	5	18	7995	1.4	-391	-2395	110	222	8327
Idaho	583	-944	-1383	6	0	8898	1.4	-2791	-4764	142	25	9065
Illinois	9945	549	-1483	18	29	153756	2.7	-7324	-38985	465	652	154873
Indiana	3499	330	-161	14	9	32594	1.2	-2914	-12938	122	161	32877
Iowa	2028	-153	-1613	6	7	28116	1.9	-2463	-4145	80	118	28314
Kansas	2264	317	215	3	16	17172	1.3	-606	-4352	108	183	17463
Kentucky	2420	-440	-1774	19	16	27640	1.6	-5054	-5006	159	453	28253
Louisiana	2622	-101	637	5	9	21513	1.1	320	1914	49	84	21646
Maine	929	82	-305	2	1	13594	2.4	-584	-3403	42	57	13693
Maryland	3617	-361	-426	32	28	49310	2.1	-2437	-9039	400	361	50071
Massachusetts	4721	-376	-783	30	26	97549	3.0	-1569	-5621	277	562	98388
Michigan	5823	-543	-2403	19	27	92776	2.3	-7062	-23114	390	418	93584
Minnesota	3646	-60	-657	4	10	59710	2.2	-2020	-10197	177	233	60120
Mississippi	1562	-1	-257	6	5	12557	1.2	-676	-5196	144	104	12805
Missouri	4567	-873	-554	19	19	38954	1.5	-2147	-7312	226	187	39367
Montana	952	-86	-47	11	7	11034	2.6	-818	-1990	422	73	11529
Nebraska	1020	-583	-126	0	3	8700	0.9	-454	-1861	39	22	8761
Nevada	2917	-136	29	5	15	27756	2.4	-96	-4278	218	209	28183
New Hampshire	633	-87	-159	5	0	7564	1.2	-45	-2332	6	18	7588
New Jersey	7651	-46	18	25	31	127860	3.4	-4984	-18389	356	472	128688
New Mexico	1204	170	-93	5	4	14327	1.9	-208	-2051	297	133	14757
New York	17046	344	-1310	53	66	205796	2.4	-3475	-28444	589	1138	207523
North Carolina	4149	-187	-722	13	50	37029	0.9	-960	-24800	200	480	37709
North Dakota	487	-49	252	0	2	6479	1.5	-228	1295	18	11	6508
Ohio	7214	24	-1834	13	50	83616	1.6	-5337	-13996	179	518	84313
Oklahoma	1965	-526	360	2	11	19756	1.3	809	2264	71	199	20026
Oregon	5335	1044	-1617	31	23	35875	2.1	-666	-7649	636	276	36787
Pennsylvania	15941	-2338	-900	82	59	162860	3.0	-19020	-27094	687	869	164417
Puerto Rico	1394	-407	-452	1	6	25562	2.8	-308	-6213	67	235	25864
Rhode Island	846	-349	-82	3	2	13969	3.1	-575	-1944	26	58	14053
South Carolina	2746	418	-210	3	23	16332	0.9	-226	-6770	57	188	16577
South Dakota	198	-49	-41	0	0	2935	0.7	-278	-517	40	6	2981
Tennessee	3225	-1226	-1205	9	23	28842	1.1	-3256	-5916	170	237	29249
Texas	18361	-976	3587	57	188	157749	1.4	-2058	-123	621	3018	161390
Utah	1273	12	-51	12	5	12901	1.0	-710	-2601	221	85	13207
Vermont	568	10	2	2	0	6625	2.2	-271	-812	20	15	6660
Virgin Islands	32	-30	-1	0	2	732	2.0	-198	-164	16	8	756
Virginia	3123	-81	-841	11	33	32889	0.9	-1969	-8968	350	786	34025
Washington	6514	-348	-1095	25	74	58172	2.0	-822	-10448	557	1203	59932
West Virginia	1229	0	175	6	5	17371	2.6	-2116	-1924	104	100	17575
Wisconsin	8049	880	-1779	13	12	66643	2.5	-3601	-17669	191	135	66969
Wyoming	513	-37	108	4	4	5748	2.1	-889	755	134	49	5931
Totals	239747	-8285	-55115	867	1319	2564095	1.9	-141051	-526570	14558	21873	2600532

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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