



News Release

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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 15-626-NAT

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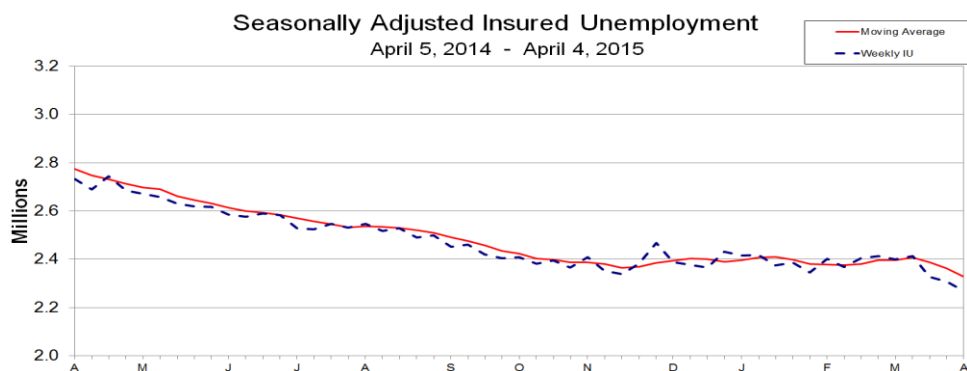
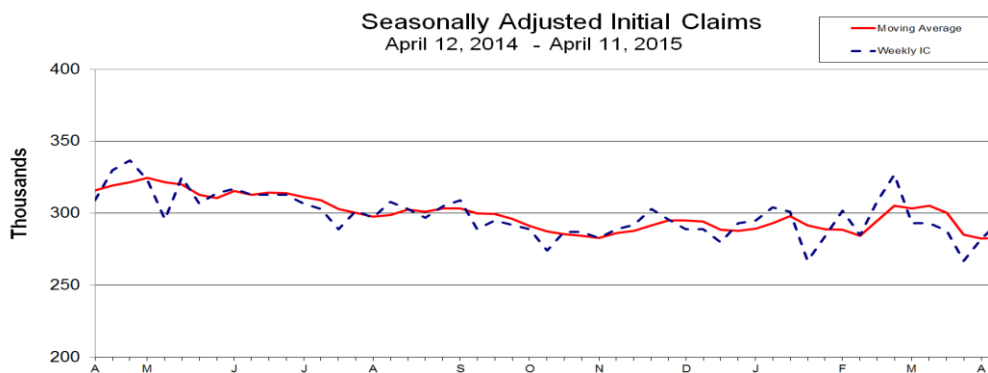
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 11, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 294,000, an increase of 12,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 281,000 to 282,000. The 4-week moving average was 282,750, an increase of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 282,250 to 282,500.

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

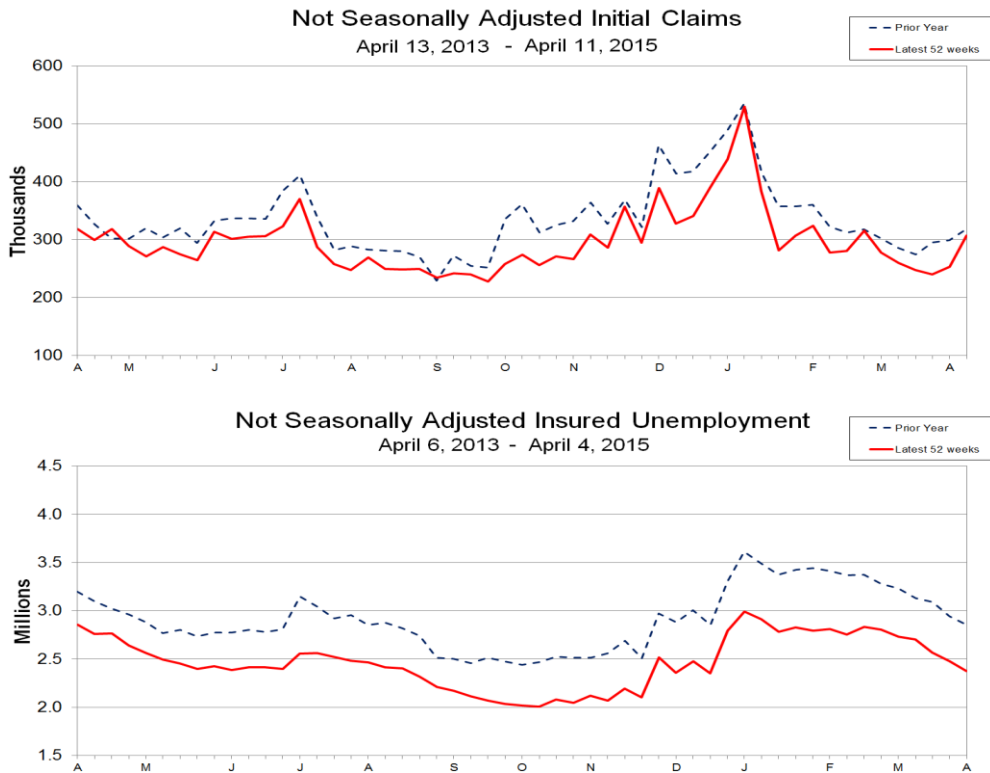
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending April 4, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 4 was 2,268,000, a decrease of 40,000 from the 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 4,000 from 2,304,000 to 2,308,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,329,000, a decrease of 32,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 30, 2000 when it was 2,325,750. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 2,360,750 to 2,361,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 307,500 in the week ending April 11, an increase of 53,967 (or 21.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 41,129 (or 16.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 318,793 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending April 4, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,374,817, a decrease of 101,432 (or -4.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 60,002 (or -2.4 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.2 percent and the volume was 2,853,279.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 28 was 2,527,259, a decrease of 90,744 from the previous week. There were 3,007,432 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 28.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 816 in the week ending April 4, a decrease of 51 from the prior week. There were 1,407 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 88 from the preceding week.

There were 13,255 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 28, a decrease of 1,303 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 20,634, a decrease of 1,239 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 28 were in Alaska (3.9), New Jersey (3.2), Connecticut (3.0), Rhode Island (3.0), Massachusetts (2.9), Pennsylvania (2.9), Puerto Rico (2.7), California (2.6), Illinois (2.6), Montana (2.5), and the Virgin Islands (2.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 4 were in Pennsylvania (+3,478), New Jersey (+2,572), Illinois (+2,012), Wisconsin (+1,401), and Maryland (+1,091), while the largest decreases were in California (-3,647), New York (-1,004), Indiana (-399), North Carolina (-358), and Louisiana (-324).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 11	April 4	Change	March 28	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	294,000	282,000	+12,000	267,000	309,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	307,500	253,533	+53,967	239,747	318,793
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	282,750	282,500	+250	285,250	316,000
WEEK ENDING	April 4	March 28	Change	March 21	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,268,000	2,308,000	-40,000	2,327,000	2,733,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,374,817	2,476,249	-101,432	2,564,095	2,853,279
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,329,000	2,361,750	-32,750	2,388,250	2,775,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.7%	2.1%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	1.9%	2.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 4	March 28	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	816	867	-51	999
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,407	1,319	+88	1,817

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 28	March 21	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,471,946	2,560,448	-88,502	2,937,320
Federal Employees	13,255	14,558	-1,303	16,583
Newly Discharged Veterans	20,634	21,873	-1,239	26,384
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	29	6	+23	105
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,987	7,884	-897	9,866
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	14,408	13,234	+1,174	17,174
TOTAL	2,527,259	2,618,003	-90,744	3,007,432

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 134,074,626 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 APRIL 4, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	+3,478	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
NJ	+2,572	Layoffs in the educational service, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, public administration, and wholesale trade industries.
IL	+2,012	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
WI	+1,401	No comment.
MD	+1,091	No comment.
ID	+1,063	No comment.
AZ	+1,043	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-3,647	Fewer layoffs in the service and manufacturing industries.
NY	-1,004	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		
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	2,308	-19	2,361.75	1.7	
April 4, 2015	282	15	282.50	2,268	-40	2,329.00	1.7	
April 11, 2015	294	12	282.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 4							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 28					
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	3347	-161	-594	21	19	22490	1.3	352	-6356	131	233	22854
Alaska	993	-117	-288	5	6	12205	3.9	-143	-3187	201	54	12460
Arizona	5107	1043	-1214	7	13	28685	1.2	-117	-6533	211	223	29119
Arkansas	3104	67	-74	7	9	22664	2.0	586	-1963	121	225	23010
California	39603	-3647	-16476	140	193	401616	2.6	-17848	-81219	2661	3659	407962
Colorado	3075	681	-149	24	55	35128	1.5	832	-8396	404	955	36487
Connecticut	2897	197	-812	6	11	48941	3.0	-3472	-7177	87	175	49203
Delaware	599	16	-80	1	2	8539	2.1	719	-1787	25	36	8600
District of Columbia	304	18	-73	7	0	8354	1.6	-195	-2333	404	26	8784
Florida	9269	607	-6049	30	68	60729	0.8	-1351	-35820	252	547	61528
Georgia	6246	165	-2761	43	57	35505	0.9	-1346	-11945	232	638	36375
Hawaii	1203	-58	-637	4	30	7985	1.4	-10	-2215	87	206	8278
Idaho	1646	1063	63	6	5	11177	1.8	2279	-2274	171	55	11403
Illinois	11957	2012	-691	7	21	146220	2.6	-7536	-29429	447	537	147204
Indiana	3100	-399	-922	8	8	30658	1.1	-1936	-14362	127	148	30933
Iowa	2126	98	-249	6	6	25303	1.7	-2813	-5247	72	119	25494
Kansas	1953	-311	-338	1	13	16210	1.2	-962	-4228	105	181	16496
Kentucky	2822	402	-673	9	5	26653	1.5	-987	-1436	133	406	27192
Louisiana	2298	-324	197	2	10	21336	1.1	-177	2006	47	83	21466
Maine	1002	73	-493	0	2	13043	2.3	-551	-3531	45	67	13155
Maryland	4708	1091	572	24	15	46628	1.9	-2682	-9888	407	360	47395
Massachusetts	4786	65	-1495	14	35	95062	2.9	-2487	-5937	249	553	95864
Michigan	6508	685	-6003	16	30	89199	2.2	-3577	-23540	321	313	89833
Minnesota	4000	354	-527	5	10	57512	2.1	-2198	-10166	146	237	57895
Mississippi	1691	129	-216	7	5	12275	1.1	-282	-5020	136	117	12528
Missouri	4582	15	-618	33	16	35379	1.4	-3575	-7164	217	184	35780
Montana	951	-1	-56	9	7	10623	2.5	-411	-2001	418	54	11095
Nebraska	835	-185	-250	2	3	8182	0.9	-518	-1489	42	19	8243
Nevada	3387	470	254	5	10	27017	2.3	-739	-4140	171	207	27395
New Hampshire	730	97	-249	1	3	7241	1.2	-323	-2294	15	15	7271
New Jersey	10223	2572	1987	11	18	119659	3.2	-8201	-6667	317	443	120419
New Mexico	1448	244	197	2	9	14655	1.9	328	-2256	277	137	15069
New York	16042	-1004	-1966	47	65	197459	2.3	-8337	-28071	605	1117	199181
North Carolina	3791	-358	-1371	8	34	35573	0.9	-1456	-24614	177	451	36201
North Dakota	562	75	262	1	5	6093	1.4	-386	1347	15	14	6122
Ohio	8031	817	-985	5	44	79460	1.6	-4156	-13945	168	526	80154
Oklahoma	2099	134	484	4	21	19472	1.3	-284	2712	72	203	19747
Oregon	6080	745	-1402	38	19	37211	2.2	1336	-8833	561	278	38050
Pennsylvania	19419	3478	243	101	62	159651	2.9	-3209	-31274	625	771	161047
Puerto Rico	1384	-10	-568	7	4	23880	2.7	-1682	-5688	69	235	24184
Rhode Island	705	-141	-282	3	1	13337	3.0	-632	-1632	30	57	13424
South Carolina	2660	-86	-341	6	21	15829	0.9	-503	-6777	45	187	16061
South Dakota	170	-28	-78	0	1	2666	0.7	-269	-520	28	4	2698
Tennessee	3814	589	-34	13	13	27286	1.0	-1556	-5534	174	215	27675
Texas	18356	-5	2217	45	248	158860	1.4	1111	6567	602	3058	162523
Utah	1397	124	-78	19	5	12329	1.0	-572	-2425	191	79	12599
Vermont	604	36	-227	3	2	6377	2.2	-248	-851	16	14	6407
Virgin Islands	29	-3	-3	1	2	912	2.5	180	40	12	8	932
Virginia	3397	274	-899	15	39	30957	0.9	-1932	-9297	324	780	32061
Washington	7326	812	-1363	23	114	56486	1.9	-1686	-9980	482	1167	58135
West Virginia	1165	-64	60	5	2	16337	2.4	-1034	-893	106	91	16534
Wisconsin	9450	1401	-579	6	8	63008	2.3	-3635	-19277	140	111	63259
Wyoming	552	39	-2	3	3	6193	2.3	445	1008	134	56	6383
Totals	253533	13786	-45629	816	1407	2476249	1.9	-87846	-465931	13255	20634	2510167

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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