



# News Release

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

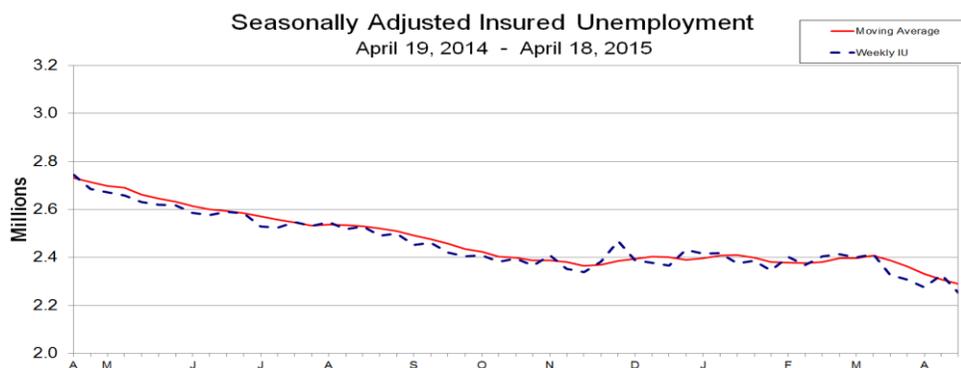
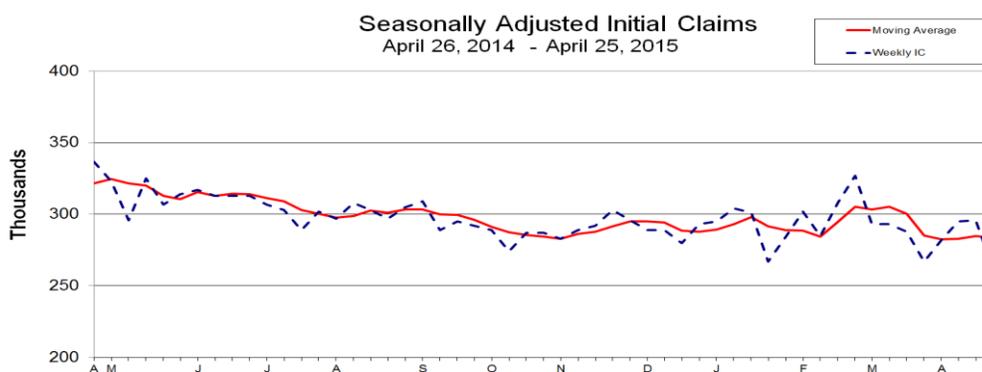
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 25, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 262,000, a decrease of 34,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for initial claims since April 15, 2000 when it was 259,000. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 295,000 to 296,000. The 4-week moving average was 283,750, a decrease of 1,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 284,500 to 285,000.

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

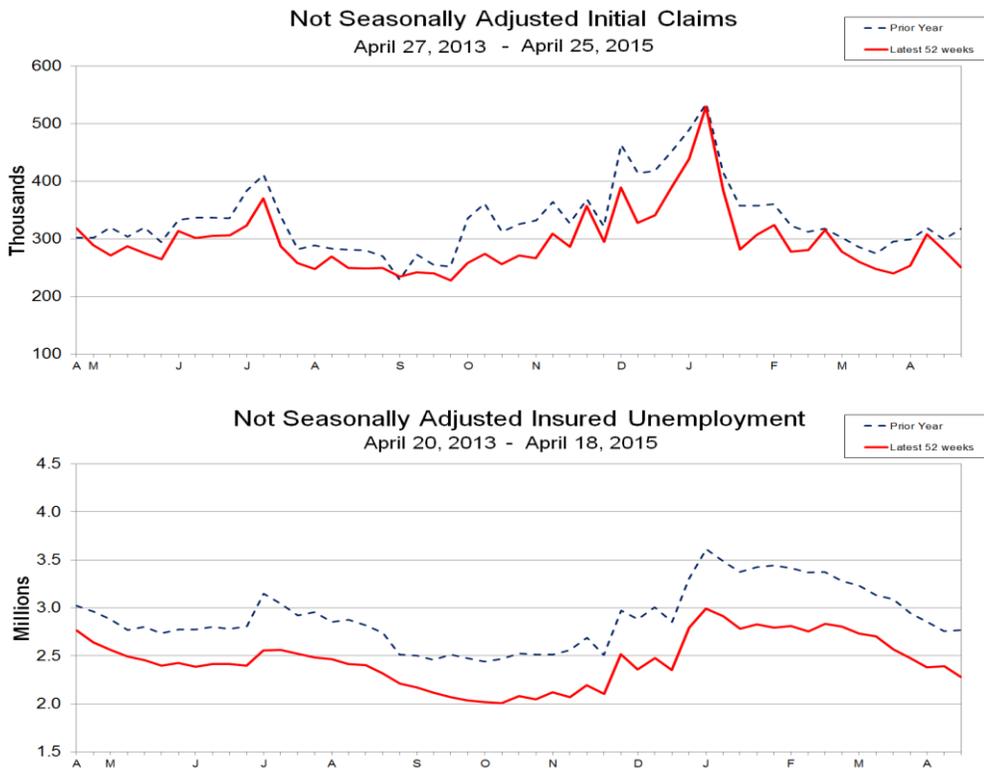
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending April 18, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 18 was 2,253,000, a decrease of 74,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 2, 2000 when it was 2,229,000. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 2,325,000 to 2,327,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,290,750, a decrease of 18,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 23, 2000 when it was 2,288,500. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 2,308,750 to 2,309,250.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 250,815 in the week ending April 25, a decrease of 28,982 (or -10.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 3,253 (or 1.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 318,127 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.7 percent during the week ending April 18, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,278,090, a decrease of 111,815 (or -4.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 37,233 (or -1.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,766,506.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 11 was 2,440,229, an increase of 6,021 from the previous week. There were 2,822,340 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 April 11.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 794 in the week ending April 18, a decrease of 160 from the prior week. There were 1,326 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 72 from the preceding week.

There were 12,361 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 11, a decrease of 613 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 20,567, a decrease of 183 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 11 were in Alaska (3.6), New Jersey (3.1), Connecticut (2.8), Puerto Rico (2.8), California (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.6), the Virgin Islands (2.6), Massachusetts (2.5), Rhode Island (2.5), and Illinois (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 18 were in New York (+8,902), Connecticut (+1,831), California (+1,343), Michigan (+387), and Vermont (+212), while the largest decreases were in New Jersey (-5,997), Pennsylvania (-5,566), Kentucky (-3,338), Texas (-2,163), and Kansas (-2,030).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 25</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	262,000	296,000	-34,000	295,000	337,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	250,815	279,797	-28,982	308,173	318,127
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	283,750	285,000	-1,250	283,000	321,500
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 4</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,253,000	2,327,000	-74,000	2,275,000	2,745,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,278,090	2,389,905	-111,815	2,381,908	2,766,506
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,290,750	2,309,250	-18,500	2,330,750	2,730,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.7%	2.1%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.7%	1.8%	-0.1	1.8%	2.1%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	794	954	-160	949
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,326	1,398	-72	1,489

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b>April 4</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,385,946	2,378,014	+7,932	2,752,219
Federal Employees	12,361	12,974	-613	15,115
Newly Discharged Veterans	20,567	20,750	-183	26,058
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	4	-4	140
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,819	8,000	-181	9,921
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	13,536	14,466	-930	18,887
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,440,229</b>	<b>2,434,208</b>	<b>+6,021</b>	<b>2,822,340</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 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](#)

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 18, 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>
NY	+8,902	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and public administration industries.
CT	+1,831	Layoffs in the educational service industry.
CA	+1,343	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>
NJ	-5,997	Fewer layoffs in the educational service, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and public administration industries.
PA	-5,566	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and transportation and warehousing industries.
KY	-3,338	No comment.
TX	-2,163	No comment.
KS	-2,030	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
WI	-2,006	No comment.
OH	-1,962	No comment.
IL	-1,637	No comment.
WA	-1,477	No comment.
AZ	-1,213	No comment.
MO	-1,155	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
FL	-1,080	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
IN	-1,044	No comment.
OR	-1,030	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		
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	2,275	-33	2,330.75	1.7	
April 11, 2015	295	13	283.00	2,327	52	2,309.25	1.7	
April 18, 2015	296	1	285.00	2,253	-74	2,290.75	1.7	
April 25, 2015	262	-34	283.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 18 INITIAL CLAIMS								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 11 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
STATE	CHANGE FROM							CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	3385	-746	207	13	15	22220	1.2	-105	-5127	140	227	22587
Alaska	1172	-211	-330	3	2	11309	3.6	-72	-3220	150	65	11524
Arizona	5897	-1213	-634	4	21	31806	1.3	2479	-6235	171	210	32187
Arkansas	2684	-64	218	8	9	20849	1.8	-82	-1415	135	222	21206
California	51521	1343	-10884	164	236	403219	2.6	18550	-72768	2642	3846	409707
Colorado	3200	-124	189	21	40	33318	1.4	1079	-7740	369	961	34648
Connecticut	6071	1831	11	10	8	44910	2.8	-3452	-4196	88	171	45169
Delaware	713	-887	131	1	1	7568	1.8	461	-262	17	38	7623
District of Columbia	325	-31	-22	5	0	8090	1.5	-56	-2099	412	28	8530
Florida	9294	-1080	-5711	24	77	61534	0.8	1670	-38195	243	526	62303
Georgia	6648	85	-649	39	77	36172	0.9	250	-10134	245	598	37015
Hawaii	1344	-129	-240	6	22	8025	1.4	128	-1884	90	195	8310
Idaho	1180	-289	-105	6	2	9781	1.6	-350	-1346	112	51	9944
Illinois	9318	-1637	-1339	14	25	136384	2.4	-4097	-27580	440	532	137356
Indiana	3523	-1044	-645	7	10	27630	1.0	-878	-11464	110	155	27895
Iowa	2012	-564	-386	7	8	20936	1.4	-1239	-1539	74	114	21124
Kansas	1903	-2030	-291	2	4	17140	1.3	1418	-2627	89	176	17405
Kentucky	2955	-3338	-194	7	12	24218	1.4	-534	-3013	139	429	24786
Louisiana	2789	-273	838	3	5	22248	1.2	244	3252	40	90	22378
Maine	1188	63	-291	4	1	11920	2.1	-687	-3457	37	64	12021
Maryland	3549	-997	-2193	18	20	44039	1.8	-1363	-8658	372	355	44766
Massachusetts	4583	-333	-675	4	24	83154	2.5	-7183	-3337	264	526	83944
Michigan	9938	387	-4226	12	23	83837	2.1	1541	-28484	248	301	84386
Minnesota	3490	-248	-253	5	9	48646	1.8	-6828	-11813	133	216	48995
Mississippi	1844	-203	-156	26	8	12172	1.1	-6	-4954	146	106	12424
Missouri	4586	-1155	-555	7	10	33823	1.3	2508	-5060	204	200	34227
Montana	1085	4	-22	6	3	9057	2.1	-477	-1161	262	55	9374
Nebraska	881	-79	-164	6	1	6513	0.7	-290	-1630	49	20	6582
Nevada	2963	-432	-939	7	11	26907	2.3	-367	-4326	156	189	27252
New Hampshire	660	-102	-193	1	3	6587	1.1	-333	-2033	15	19	6621
New Jersey	8545	-5997	-4785	20	27	118969	3.1	2214	-4536	311	425	119705
New Mexico	1165	-217	-277	6	9	14027	1.8	-522	-2325	188	127	14342
New York	33300	8902	16571	80	85	203336	2.3	6459	-2012	591	1122	205049
North Carolina	4343	-520	-35	11	27	35072	0.9	258	-21617	194	464	35730
North Dakota	439	-272	207	1	1	4837	1.1	-959	1243	7	15	4859
Ohio	6701	-1962	-720	9	42	73391	1.4	-2922	-9067	151	526	74068
Oklahoma	2066	-47	550	7	17	20408	1.3	241	4190	69	179	20656
Oregon	4196	-1030	-302	22	19	34327	2.0	-719	-6078	484	239	35050
Pennsylvania	16880	-5566	-2176	74	58	146197	2.6	604	-24304	631	740	147568
Puerto Rico	1945	-698	-7	1	10	24947	2.8	-365	-4621	55	262	25264
Rhode Island	1001	106	-225	3	3	11322	2.5	-942	-1267	25	49	11396
South Carolina	3337	-215	468	8	20	15747	0.9	-139	-1953	50	191	15988
South Dakota	176	-63	-37	5	1	2096	0.5	-124	-449	27	4	2127
Tennessee	3630	-510	273	6	23	25661	1.0	-248	-5070	168	191	26020
Texas	18860	-2163	4047	41	158	164025	1.5	10941	14836	566	3043	167634
Utah	1618	12	-142	6	3	11685	0.9	-254	-1671	153	75	11913
Vermont	980	212	-126	3	0	6034	2.0	-147	-1075	18	13	6065
Virgin Islands	41	19	19	0	0	952	2.6	356	160	14	14	980
Virginia	3236	-335	-574	15	21	29451	0.8	-519	-8365	306	795	30552
Washington	7021	-1477	-1057	24	97	54567	1.8	-3046	-8401	402	1148	56117
West Virginia	1301	-779	116	1	7	15717	2.3	-404	312	99	93	15909
Wisconsin	7709	-2006	-1829	9	8	57086	2.1	-4168	-14271	138	109	57333
Wyoming	606	-274	159	2	3	6039	2.2	473	1373	122	58	6219
Totals	279797	-28376	-19385	794	1326	2389905	1.8	7997	-367473	12361	20567	2422833

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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