



News Release

Connect with DOL at
<http://blog.dol.gov>



U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 15-703-NAT

Program Contacts:
Tom Stengle (202) 693-2991
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676

TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 23, 2015

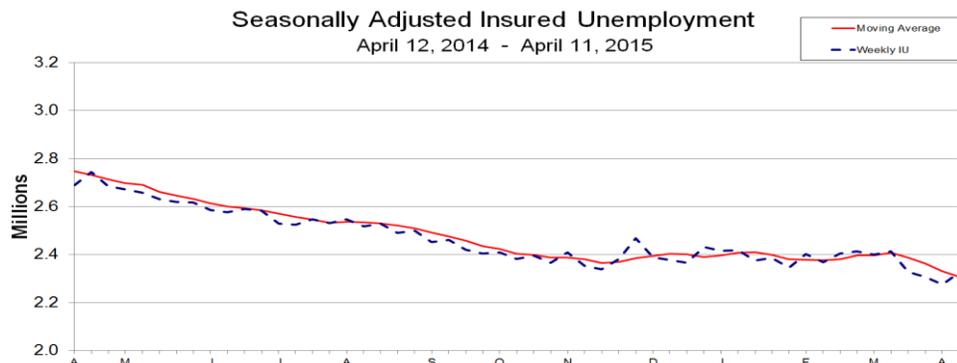
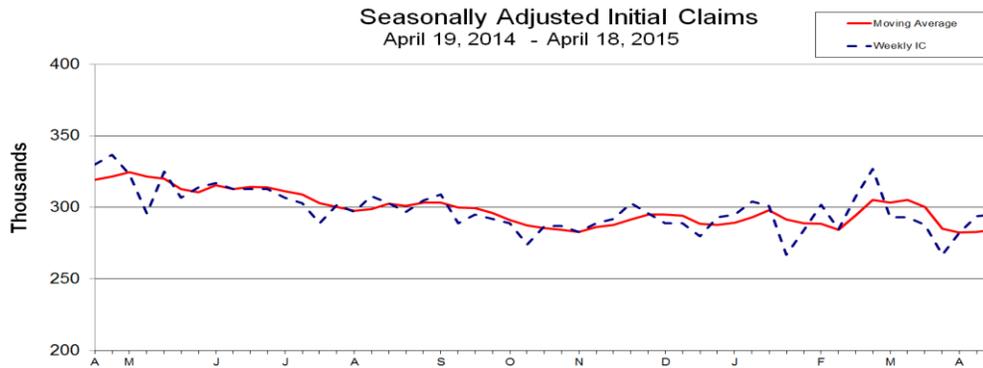
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 18, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 295,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 294,000. The 4-week moving average was 284,500, an increase of 1,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 282,750.

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

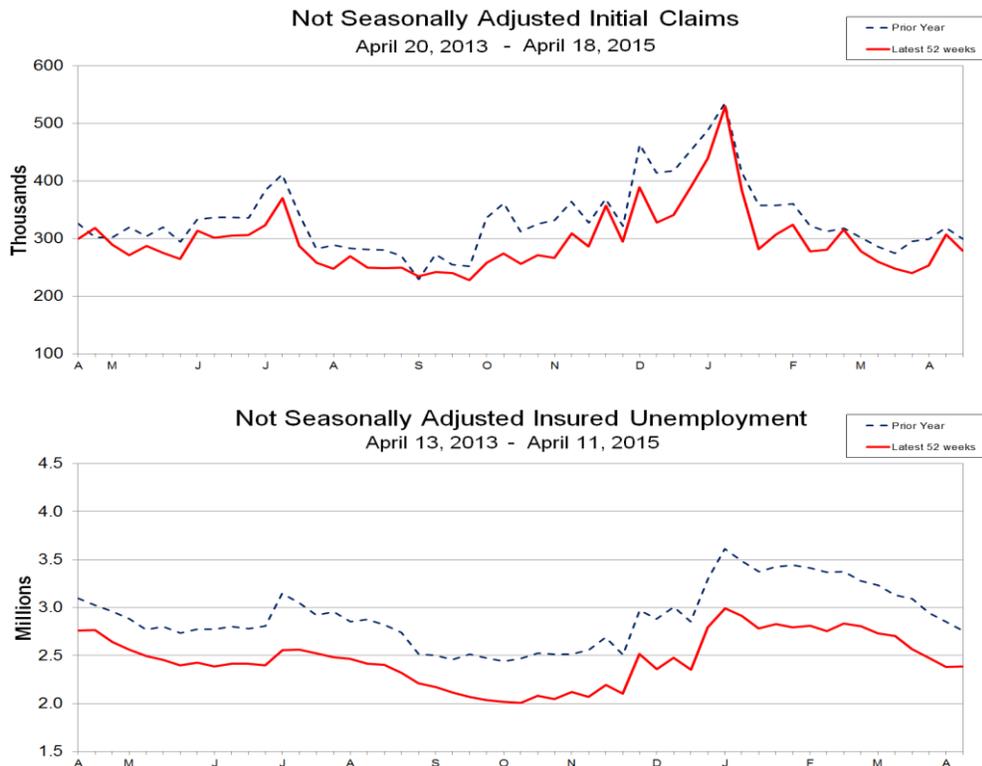
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending April 11, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 11 was 2,325,000, an increase of 50,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 7,000 from 2,268,000 to 2,275,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,308,750, a decrease of 22,000 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 1,750 from 2,329,000 to 2,330,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 279,097 in the week ending April 18, a decrease of 28,102 (or -9.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 29,369 (or -9.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 299,182 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending April 11, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,387,766, an increase of 5,858 (or 0.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 45,500 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,757,378.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 4 was 2,434,208, a decrease of 93,051 from the previous week. There were 2,922,195 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 4.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 953 in the week ending April 11, an increase of 137 from the prior week. There were 1,396 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 11 from the preceding week.

There were 12,974 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 4, a decrease of 281 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 20,750, an increase of 116 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 4 were in Alaska (3.6), New Jersey (3.1), Connecticut (3.0), Puerto Rico (2.8), Massachusetts (2.7), Rhode Island (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.6), California (2.5), Illinois (2.5), and West Virginia (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 11 were in California (+10,575), New York (+8,356), New Jersey (+4,319), Kentucky (+3,471), and Michigan (+3,043), while the largest decreases were in Illinois (-1,002), Oregon (-854), Arkansas (-356), Minnesota (-262), and Idaho (-177).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 18	April 11	Change	April 4	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	295,000	294,000	+1,000	282,000	330,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	279,097	307,199	-28,102	253,533	299,182
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	284,500	282,750	+1,750	282,500	319,500
WEEK ENDING	April 11	April 4	Change	March 28	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,325,000	2,275,000	+50,000	2,308,000	2,690,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,387,766	2,381,908	+5,858	2,476,249	2,757,378
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,308,750	2,330,750	-22,000	2,361,750	2,746,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.7%	2.0%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.9%	2.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 11	April 4	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	953	816	+137	1,238
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,396	1,407	-11	1,676

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 4	March 28	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,378,014	2,471,946	-93,932	2,846,895
Federal Employees	12,974	13,255	-281	16,020
Newly Discharged Veterans	20,750	20,634	+116	26,067
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	4	29	-25	258
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,000	6,987	+1,013	10,548
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	14,466	14,408	+58	22,407
TOTAL	2,434,208	2,527,259	-93,051	2,922,195

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 11, 2015
STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+10,575	Layoffs in the service industry.
NY	+8,356	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and public administration industries.
NJ	+4,319	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
KY	+3,471	No comment.
MI	+3,043	Layoffs in the management of companies and enterprises industry.
PA	+3,027	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
TX	+2,667	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
AZ	+2,003	No comment.
KS	+1,980	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
IN	+1,467	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
CT	+1,343	No comment.
PR	+1,259	No comment.
WA	+1,172	Layoffs in the manufacturing and transportation and warehousing industries.
FL	+1,105	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
NC	+1,072	Layoffs in the professional, scientific, and technical service industry.
DE	+1,001	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	-1,002	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 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	2,275	-33	2,330.75	1.7
April 11, 2015	294	12	282.75	2,325	50	2,308.75	1.7
April 18, 2015	295	1	284.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 11 INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 4 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT CHANGE FROM						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	4131	784	572	16	25	22325	1.2	-165	-4736	144	226	22695
Alaska	1383	390	-422	9	2	11381	3.6	-824	-4102	157	68	11606
Arizona	7110	2003	-626	8	17	29327	1.2	642	-7056	226	204	29757
Arkansas	2748	-356	40	6	12	20931	1.8	-1733	-1732	129	215	21275
California	50178	10575	-15114	154	174	384669	2.5	-16947	-84518	2655	3939	391263
Colorado	3324	249	54	16	42	32239	1.4	-2889	-6781	362	847	33448
Connecticut	4240	1343	253	8	5	48362	3.0	-579	-4789	92	177	48631
Delaware	1600	1001	788	1	1	7107	1.7	-1432	-1228	18	35	7160
District of Columbia	356	52	-55	8	2	8146	1.5	-208	-2317	386	27	8559
Florida	10374	1105	-5008	23	90	59864	0.8	-865	-30920	233	551	60648
Georgia	6563	317	-842	26	64	35922	0.9	417	-10606	266	626	36814
Hawaii	1473	270	-316	10	17	7897	1.3	-88	-2198	101	245	8243
Idaho	1469	-177	-36	9	8	10131	1.6	-1046	-2365	149	47	10327
Illinois	10955	-1002	-1122	15	29	140481	2.5	-5739	-41627	441	607	141529
Indiana	4567	1467	-1178	15	13	28508	1.0	-2150	-14672	108	148	28764
Iowa	2576	450	156	6	8	22175	1.5	-3128	-4169	82	119	22376
Kansas	3933	1980	1337	5	12	15722	1.2	-488	-4028	101	179	16002
Kentucky	6293	3471	2804	7	9	24752	1.4	-1901	-6716	162	411	25327
Louisiana	3062	764	601	9	11	22004	1.2	668	2873	44	78	22126
Maine	1125	123	-355	0	1	12607	2.2	-436	-3408	36	60	12703
Maryland	4546	-162	-198	26	27	45402	1.9	-1226	-8589	394	343	46139
Massachusetts	4916	130	-750	39	21	90337	2.7	-4725	-6554	245	552	91134
Michigan	9551	3043	-5860	18	30	82296	2.0	-6903	-28915	318	382	82996
Minnesota	3738	-262	-440	7	13	55474	2.1	-2038	-11274	152	207	55833
Mississippi	2047	356	-327	16	6	12178	1.1	-97	-4749	141	108	12427
Missouri	4767	185	-1162	11	7	31315	1.2	-4064	-9349	201	174	31690
Montana	1081	130	-115	12	6	9534	2.2	-1089	-1608	313	57	9904
Nebraska	960	125	-21	3	2	6803	0.7	-1379	-2053	43	22	6868
Nevada	3395	8	-105	2	12	27274	2.3	257	-4413	185	208	27667
New Hampshire	762	32	-113	2	2	6920	1.1	-321	-2221	10	32	6962
New Jersey	14542	4319	5864	19	23	116755	3.1	-2904	-16961	316	435	117506
New Mexico	1382	-66	-94	7	3	14549	1.9	-106	-1539	225	144	14918
New York	24398	8356	5929	58	80	196877	2.3	-582	-18966	564	1108	198549
North Carolina	4863	1072	-674	14	52	34814	0.9	-759	-22991	207	442	35463
North Dakota	711	149	290	0	4	5796	1.3	-297	1254	16	19	5831
Ohio	8663	632	654	8	62	76313	1.5	-3147	-14708	174	499	76986
Oklahoma	2113	14	447	10	6	20167	1.3	695	3397	70	181	20418
Oregon	5226	-854	-12	35	32	35046	2.1	-2165	-7524	548	327	35921
Pennsylvania	22446	3027	652	126	82	145593	2.6	-14058	-29281	634	821	147048
Puerto Rico	2643	1259	59	1	23	25312	2.8	1432	-3840	57	199	25568
Rhode Island	895	190	-149	5	5	12264	2.7	-1073	-1541	27	54	12345
South Carolina	3552	892	217	7	21	15886	0.9	57	-2241	55	191	16132
South Dakota	239	69	-21	4	2	2220	0.6	-446	-775	27	5	2252
Tennessee	4140	326	299	20	18	25909	1.0	-1377	-5872	171	206	26286
Texas	21023	2667	3092	55	185	153084	1.4	-5776	3212	621	2943	156650
Utah	1606	209	-138	27	8	11939	1.0	-390	-2077	186	73	12198
Vermont	768	164	-136	3	1	6181	2.1	-196	-1015	20	15	6216
Virgin Islands	22	-7	-31	0	0	596	1.6	-316	-322	16	10	622
Virginia	3571	174	-594	14	23	29970	0.9	-987	-8802	308	748	31026
Washington	8498	1172	-557	38	74	57613	2.0	1127	-10797	482	1164	59259
West Virginia	2080	915	720	6	9	16121	2.4	-216	-1081	103	91	16315
Wisconsin	9715	265	31	7	14	61254	2.3	-1754	-15133	140	124	61518
Wyoming	880	328	118	2	1	5566	2.0	-627	1052	113	57	5736
Totals	307199	53666	-11594	953	1396	2381908	1.8	-94341	-471371	12974	20750	2415636

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](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).