



News Release

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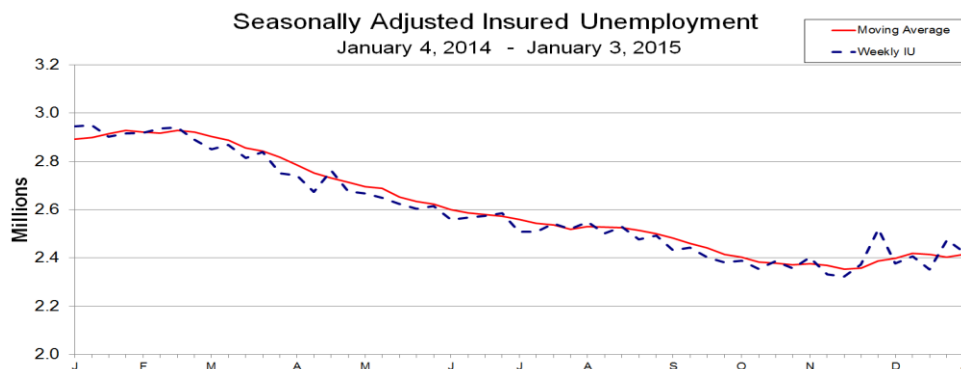
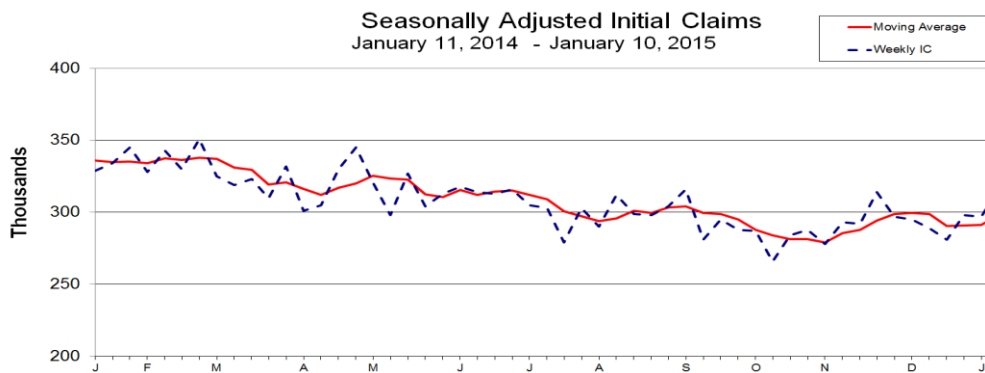
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 10, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 316,000, an increase of 19,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 3,000 from 294,000 to 297,000. The 4-week moving average was 298,000, an increase of 6,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 290,500 to 291,250.

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

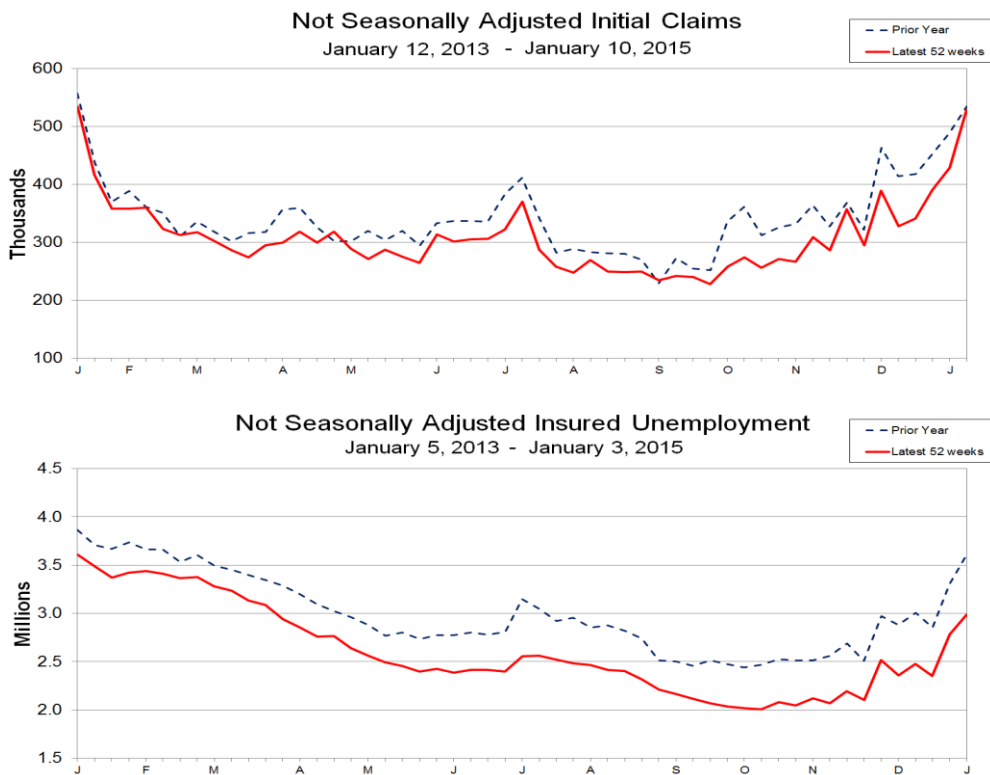
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending January 3, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's revised rate. The previous week's rate was revised up by 0.1 from 1.8 to 1.9 percent. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 3 was 2,424,000, a decrease of 51,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 23,000 from 2,452,000 to 2,475,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,414,500, an increase of 11,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 6,000 from 2,397,000 to 2,403,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 528,476 in the week ending January 10, an increase of 99,660 (or 23.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 66,724 (or 15.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 534,966 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.2 percent during the week ending January 3, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,983,695, an increase of 199,554 (or 7.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 262,328 (or 9.4 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.8 percent and the volume was 3,611,093.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 27 was 2,841,840, an increase of 435,146 from the previous week. There were 4,717,707 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2013.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending December 27.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,243 in the week ending January 3, an increase of 222 from the prior week. There were 1,342 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 426 from the preceding week.

There were 18,634 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 27, an increase of 2,106 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 24,969, an increase of 1,447 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 27 were in Alaska (5.0), New Jersey (3.4), Connecticut (3.3), Massachusetts (3.1), Montana (3.0), Rhode Island (3.0), Wisconsin (3.0), Pennsylvania (2.9), California (2.8), and Oregon (2.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 3 were in New York (+21,493), Georgia (+14,274), South Carolina (+8,955), Texas (+5,422), and Florida (+5,338), while the largest decreases were in California (-13,261), Michigan (-5,476), New Jersey (-3,852), Iowa (-3,542), and Massachusetts (-3,379).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	January 10	January 3	Change	December 27	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	316,000	297,000	+19,000	298,000	329,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	528,476	428,816	+99,660	389,757	534,966
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	298,000	291,250	+6,750	290,750	336,250
WEEK ENDING	January 3	December 27	Change	December 20	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,424,000	2,475,000	-51,000	2,352,000	2,945,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,983,695	2,784,141	+199,554	2,352,296	3,611,093
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,414,500	2,403,000	+11,500	2,414,250	2,893,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	1.8%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	2.2%	2.1%	+0.1	1.8%	2.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 3	December 27	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,243	1,021	+222	1,588
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,342	916	+426	1,752

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 27	December 20	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,780,752	2,349,433	+431,319	3,293,996
Federal Employees	18,634	16,528	+2,106	22,914
Newly Discharged Veterans	24,969	23,522	+1,447	30,506
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	2	5	-3	158
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	5,780	6,104	-324	3,812
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	11,703	11,102	+601	15,658
<u>TOTAL</u> ⁶	2,841,840	2,406,694	+435,146	4,717,707

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](#)
6. Prior Year Total includes Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC08) claimants.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED JANUARY 3, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+21,493	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.
GA	+14,274	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support, construction, and health care and social assistance industries.
SC	+8,955	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
TX	+5,422	Layoffs in the retail trade, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
FL	+5,338	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and retail trade industries.
TN	+5,195	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support, and construction industries.
AL	+3,555	Layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, retail trade, manufacturing, wholesale trade, and accommodation and food service industries.
NC	+3,230	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
PA	+2,417	Layoffs in the arts, entertainment and recreation, and mining industries.
OR	+2,127	No comment.
WI	+1,740	No comment.
VA	+1,695	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
CO	+1,453	Layoffs in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas industry.
IN	+1,403	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-13,261	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
MI	-5,476	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
NJ	-3,852	Fewer layoffs in the educational service, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and public administration industries.
IA	-3,542	No comment.
MA	-3,379	No comment.
MD	-2,813	No comment.
OH	-2,255	No comment.
MO	-1,743	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
IL	-1,711	No comment.
PR	-1,373	No comment.
RI	-1,248	No comment.
VT	-1,038	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		
January 4, 2014	333	-11	346.00	2,945	82	2,893.25	2.2	
January 11, 2014	329	-4	336.25	2,951	6	2,899.75	2.3	
January 18, 2014	334	5	335.00	2,903	-48	2,915.50	2.2	
January 25, 2014	345	11	335.25	2,915	12	2,928.50	2.2	
February 1, 2014	328	-17	334.00	2,918	3	2,921.75	2.2	
February 8, 2014	343	15	337.50	2,936	18	2,918.00	2.2	
February 15, 2014	330	-13	336.50	2,941	5	2,927.50	2.2	
February 22, 2014	351	21	338.00	2,890	-51	2,921.25	2.2	
March 1, 2014	325	-26	337.25	2,850	-40	2,904.25	2.2	
March 8, 2014	319	-6	331.25	2,869	19	2,887.50	2.2	
March 15, 2014	323	4	329.50	2,814	-55	2,855.75	2.1	
March 22, 2014	310	-13	319.25	2,838	24	2,842.75	2.2	
March 29, 2014	332	22	321.00	2,750	-88	2,817.75	2.1	
April 5, 2014	301	-31	316.50	2,741	-9	2,785.75	2.1	
April 12, 2014	305	4	312.00	2,674	-67	2,750.75	2.0	
April 19, 2014	330	25	317.00	2,761	87	2,731.50	2.1	
April 26, 2014	345	15	320.25	2,676	-85	2,713.00	2.0	
May 3, 2014	321	-24	325.25	2,666	-10	2,694.25	2.0	
May 10, 2014	298	-23	323.50	2,648	-18	2,687.75	2.0	
May 17, 2014	327	29	322.75	2,623	-25	2,653.25	2.0	
May 24, 2014	304	-23	312.50	2,603	-20	2,635.00	2.0	
May 31, 2014	313	9	310.50	2,615	12	2,622.25	2.0	
June 7, 2014	318	5	315.50	2,559	-56	2,600.00	1.9	
June 14, 2014	314	-4	312.25	2,568	9	2,586.25	2.0	
June 21, 2014	313	-1	314.50	2,575	7	2,579.25	2.0	
June 28, 2014	316	3	315.25	2,586	11	2,572.00	2.0	
July 5, 2014	305	-11	312.00	2,508	-78	2,559.25	1.9	
July 12, 2014	303	-2	309.25	2,508	0	2,544.25	1.9	
July 19, 2014	279	-24	300.75	2,542	34	2,536.00	1.9	
July 26, 2014	303	24	297.50	2,519	-23	2,519.25	1.9	
August 2, 2014	290	-13	293.75	2,549	30	2,529.50	1.9	
August 9, 2014	312	22	296.00	2,502	-47	2,528.00	1.9	
August 16, 2014	299	-13	301.00	2,528	26	2,524.50	1.9	
August 23, 2014	298	-1	299.75	2,478	-50	2,514.25	1.9	
August 30, 2014	304	6	303.25	2,492	14	2,500.00	1.9	
September 6, 2014	316	12	304.25	2,432	-60	2,482.50	1.8	
September 13, 2014	281	-35	299.75	2,442	10	2,461.00	1.8	
September 20, 2014	295	14	299.00	2,402	-40	2,442.00	1.8	
September 27, 2014	288	-7	295.00	2,382	-20	2,414.50	1.8	
October 4, 2014	287	-1	287.75	2,389	7	2,403.75	1.8	
October 11, 2014	266	-21	284.00	2,355	-34	2,382.00	1.8	
October 18, 2014	284	18	281.25	2,387	32	2,378.25	1.8	
October 25, 2014	288	4	281.25	2,356	-31	2,371.75	1.8	
November 1, 2014	278	-10	279.00	2,403	47	2,375.25	1.8	
November 8, 2014	293	15	285.75	2,333	-70	2,369.75	1.8	
November 15, 2014	292	-1	287.75	2,323	-10	2,353.75	1.8	
November 22, 2014	314	22	294.25	2,372	49	2,357.75	1.8	
November 29, 2014	297	-17	299.00	2,520	148	2,387.00	1.9	
December 6, 2014	295	-2	299.50	2,378	-142	2,398.25	1.8	
December 13, 2014	289	-6	298.75	2,407	29	2,419.25	1.8	
December 20, 2014	281	-8	290.50	2,352	-55	2,414.25	1.8	
December 27, 2014	298	17	290.75	2,475	123	2,403.00	1.9	
January 3, 2015	297	-1	291.25	2,424	-51	2,414.50	1.8	
January 10, 2015	316	19	298.00					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended January 3								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 27				
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	7785	3555	-3858	11	23	30194	1.7	4980	-10154	130	295	30619
Alaska	1240	9	-213	12	7	15804	5.0	2463	-3441	282	104	16190
Arizona	3372	700	-817	22	7	29869	1.2	1401	-5190	329	255	30453
Arkansas	4531	-354	-1052	14	8	28807	2.6	6189	-4983	115	292	29214
California	40784	-13261	-14087	262	180	420154	2.8	42923	-52068	3479	4631	428264
Colorado	3689	1453	-96	40	47	33285	1.4	3182	-7704	527	934	34746
Connecticut	8074	580	621	3	6	54094	3.3	9896	-6962	78	220	54392
Delaware	1544	348	398	0	1	9891	2.4	2777	-1633	27	59	9977
District of Columbia	371	106	16	30	0	9664	1.8	336	-2812	358	23	10045
Florida	13599	5338	-3602	17	116	99478	1.3	34637	-2630	392	855	100725
Georgia	21641	14274	-5878	26	48	60859	1.6	23355	-16056	382	800	62041
Hawaii	2018	476	-346	4	11	9763	1.7	1587	-1069	114	294	10171
Idaho	3248	514	-45	12	1	14667	2.4	1436	-3856	127	20	14814
Illinois	15905	-1711	-1941	10	31	153836	2.7	22167	-26295	470	701	155007
Indiana	7564	1403	-482	15	16	35938	1.3	4478	-17585	183	197	36318
Iowa	6786	-3542	360	3	7	35754	2.4	8088	-4002	65	130	35949
Kansas	4164	408	-133	6	2	20446	1.6	3125	-4933	104	215	20765
Kentucky	7880	-480	-1546	19	13	28893	1.7	6215	-3520	378	490	29761
Louisiana	1814	248	-428	7	10	21477	1.1	1149	-2966	62	126	21665
Maine	2252	577	-186	2	3	13373	2.3	1800	-2437	57	56	13486
Maryland	5879	-2813	34	29	24	55745	2.3	6781	-7332	545	427	56717
Massachusetts	10746	-3379	2976	10	32	100536	3.1	17137	2774	382	552	101470
Michigan	19753	-5476	470	34	39	95019	2.4	18674	-26706	305	496	95820
Minnesota	8289	991	-1330	16	7	72932	2.7	14351	-7766	202	299	73433
Mississippi	2532	-506	-463	27	6	16415	1.5	2470	-8549	113	143	16671
Missouri	9915	-1743	-2820	37	14	49493	1.9	9500	-12074	736	218	50447
Montana	2203	468	277	61	8	12787	3.0	1864	-2037	618	61	13466
Nebraska	1962	-685	-123	3	4	11662	1.3	2214	-2071	39	31	11732
Nevada	3151	-763	-181	11	4	29585	2.6	-1405	-3062	190	238	30013
New Hampshire	1435	-462	-52	0	5	8333	1.4	1309	-1757	6	24	8363
New Jersey	17841	-3852	1867	7	18	128484	3.4	16105	-22143	315	566	129365
New Mexico	1118	-465	-107	11	9	14399	1.9	1421	-2755	368	170	14937
New York	41489	21493	-10607	76	60	222340	2.6	37373	-42385	961	1308	224609
North Carolina	6685	3230	-979	8	20	41726	1.1	4335	-34005	195	594	42515
North Dakota	867	-254	-271	2	1	6099	1.4	1213	-304	17	14	6130
Ohio	14893	-2255	-1463	15	52	90645	1.8	12276	-19278	230	639	91514
Oklahoma	2988	797	1154	6	16	16260	1.1	1172	-4055	65	216	16541
Oregon	9224	2127	-752	67	25	45852	2.8	8215	-8799	810	382	47044
Pennsylvania	31466	2417	-4027	92	83	159690	2.9	19237	-38740	979	919	161588
Puerto Rico	254	-1373	-71	0	1	23953	2.6	-3114	-2961	168	311	24432
Rhode Island	1978	-1248	268	2	0	13378	3.0	2738	-467	36	71	13485
South Carolina	10501	8955	-1570	6	25	24915	1.4	6355	-12590	52	237	25204
South Dakota	508	140	-32	4	4	3365	0.9	445	-306	49	5	3419
Tennessee	10556	5195	-1294	10	19	32110	1.2	4112	-8601	233	307	32650
Texas	13471	5422	-2477	56	192	144823	1.3	24671	-24021	1129	3363	149317
Utah	2146	288	142	62	7	14260	1.2	1098	-4940	579	91	14930
Vermont	978	-1038	-103	6	3	7646	2.6	1474	-692	27	17	7690
Virgin Islands	20	6	0	0	0	784	2.1	198	0	10	10	804
Virginia	6459	1695	-3056	10	16	38118	1.1	5388	-9186	403	903	39424
Washington	10632	-281	-1962	43	93	72447	2.5	9418	-10924	701	1332	74480
West Virginia	1387	-4	-411	2	8	17258	2.5	2387	-4147	102	107	17467
Wisconsin	18501	1740	410	9	7	82129	3.0	19628	-12702	176	172	82477
Wyoming	728	51	147	6	3	4707	1.7	621	-1369	234	49	4990
Totals	428816	39059	-59721	1243	1342	2784141	2.1	431845	-514246	18634	24969	2827746

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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