



# News Release

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

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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, February 19, 2015**

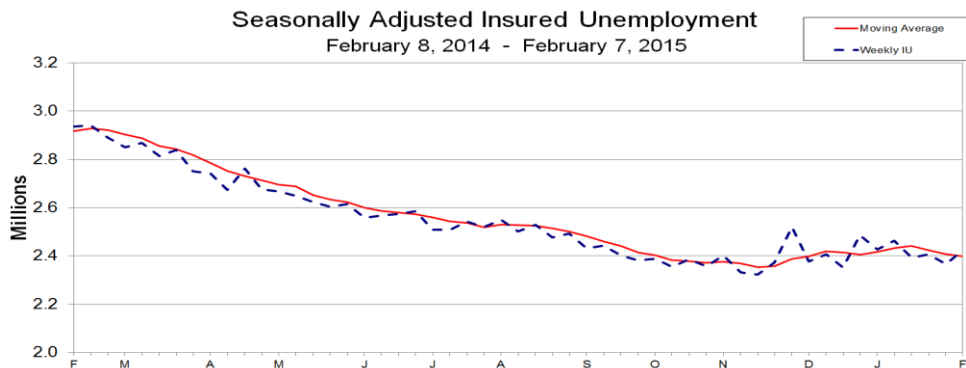
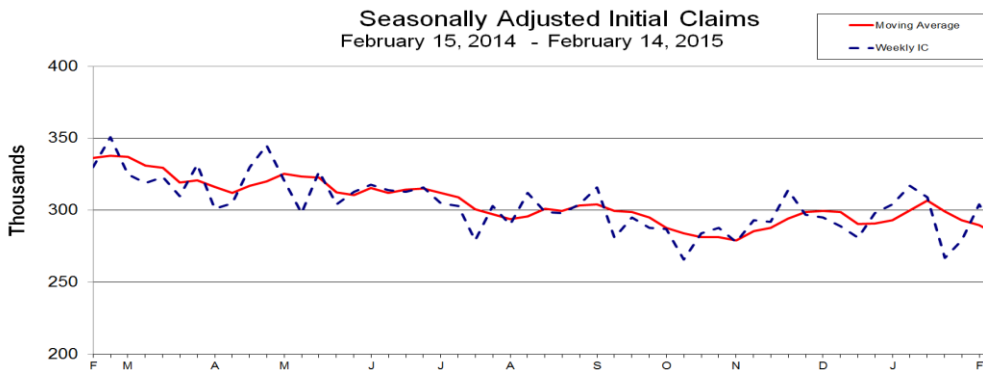
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 14, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 283,000, a decrease of 21,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 304,000. The 4-week moving average was 283,250, a decrease of 6,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 289,750.

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

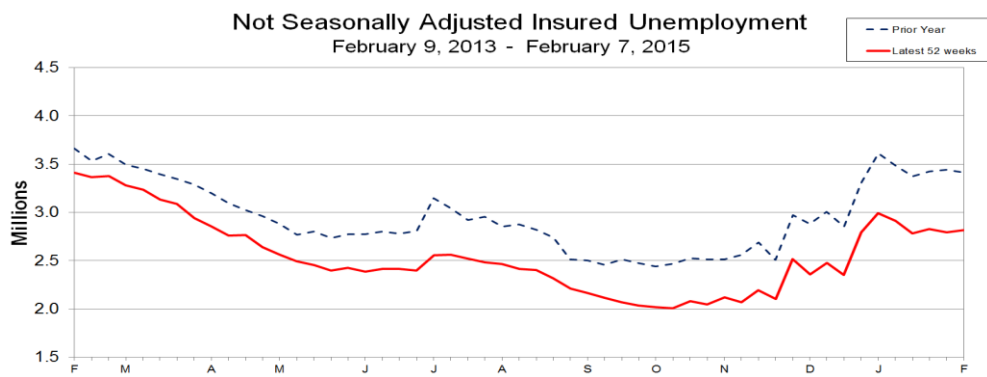
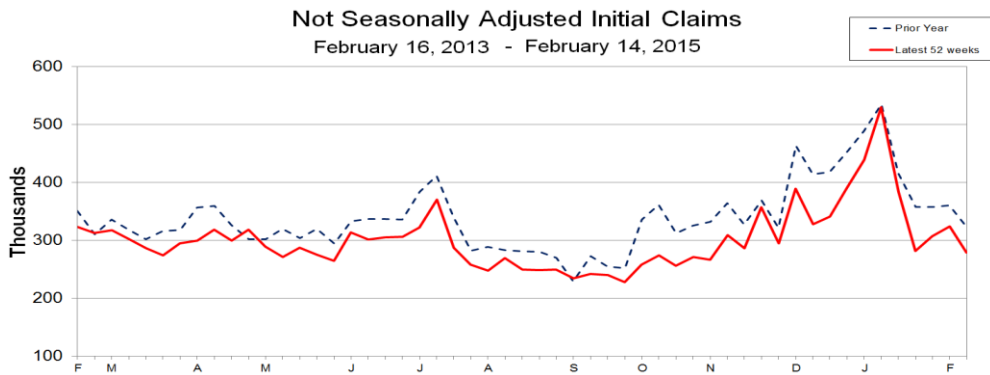
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending February 7, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 7 was 2,425,000, an increase of 58,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 13,000 from 2,354,000 to 2,367,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,398,000, a decrease of 9,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 3,500 from 2,404,000 to 2,407,500.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 278,986 in the week ending February 14, a decrease of 45,213 (or -13.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 24,353 (or -7.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 322,761 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.1 percent during the week ending February 7, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,813,487, an increase of 17,515 (or 0.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 49,717 (or -1.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.6 percent and the volume was 3,411,217.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending January 31 was 2,854,293, a decrease of 31,699 from the previous week. There were 3,512,470 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 January 31.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,001 in the week ending February 7, a decrease of 124 from the prior week. There were 1,769 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 248 from the preceding week.

There were 17,120 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending January 31, a decrease of 629 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 23,631, a decrease of 1,130 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 31 were in Alaska (4.5), New Jersey (3.7), Connecticut (3.5), Massachusetts (3.3), Pennsylvania (3.3), Rhode Island (3.3), Montana (3.2), Puerto Rico (3.1), Illinois (2.9), West Virginia (2.9), and Wisconsin (2.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 7 were in New York (+4,205), Texas (+2,437), California (+2,333), Pennsylvania (+1,998), and New Jersey (+1,536), while the largest decreases were in Georgia (-1,672), Tennessee (-491), Maryland (-484), Indiana (-341), and Puerto Rico (-295).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<b>February 7</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	283,000	304,000	-21,000	279,000	330,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	278,986	324,199	-45,213	306,643	322,761
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	283,250	289,750	-6,500	293,000	336,500
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 7</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,425,000	2,367,000	+58,000	2,406,000	2,936,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,813,487	2,795,972	+17,515	2,827,614	3,411,217
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,398,000	2,407,500	-9,500	2,422,750	2,918,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.8%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	2.1%	2.1%	0.0	2.1%	2.6%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 7</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,001	1,125	-124	1,208
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,769	1,521	+248	2,128

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,792,099	2,824,330	-32,231	3,434,645
Federal Employees	17,120	17,749	-629	21,658
Newly Discharged Veterans	23,631	24,761	-1,130	29,724
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	23	1	+22	79
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,396	6,863	+533	9,188
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	14,024	12,288	+1,736	17,176
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,854,293</b>	<b>2,885,992</b>	<b>-31,699</b>	<b>3,512,470</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 FEBRUARY 7, 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	+4,205	Layoffs in the construction, accommodation and food service, and transportation and warehousing industries.
TX	+2,437	No comment.
CA	+2,333	No comment.
PA	+1,998	Layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
NJ	+1,536	Layoffs in the trade, professional, scientific, and technical service, health care and social assistance, and manufacturing industries.
MO	+1,351	Layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and wholesale trade industries.
IL	+1,276	No comment.
KY	+1,042	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>
GA	-1,672	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, trade, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.

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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		
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	2,485	133	2,405.50	1.9	
January 3, 2015	304	6	293.00	2,428	-57	2,418.00	1.8	
January 10, 2015	317	13	300.00	2,463	35	2,432.00	1.8	
January 17, 2015	309	-8	307.00	2,394	-69	2,442.50	1.8	
January 24, 2015	267	-42	299.25	2,406	12	2,422.75	1.8	
January 31, 2015	279	12	293.00	2,367	-39	2,407.50	1.8	
February 7, 2015	304	25	289.75	2,425	58	2,398.00	1.8	
February 14, 2015	283	-21	283.25					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 7 INITIAL CLAIMS								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 31 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1		
Alabama	3060	-143	-1864	12	19	24967	1.4	-424	-8823	112	268	25347	
Alaska	1419	-106	-159	6	2	14273	4.5	-644	-3832	249	64	14586	
Arizona	3926	-141	-1047	18	6	29560	1.2	-770	-6486	310	210	30080	
Arkansas	2480	-79	-980	13	12	24364	2.2	-291	-5707	173	275	24812	
California	61006	2333	-3043	206	255	431740	2.8	-36817	-117767	3188	4316	439244	
Colorado	3291	91	-1094	26	62	35776	1.5	956	-16775	494	997	37267	
Connecticut	4998	140	1228	9	17	56997	3.5	3512	-5790	104	224	57325	
Delaware	951	-12	-227	1	5	9107	2.2	-1322	-2102	27	41	9175	
District of Columbia	321	-72	-94	16	3	9237	1.8	-336	-2682	461	23	9721	
Florida	10569	54	-2975	20	101	70826	0.9	-1021	-36754	313	642	71781	
Georgia	7341	-1672	-6217	33	83	43830	1.1	-2501	-18267	261	689	44780	
Hawaii	1505	-43	-461	9	19	8865	1.5	-269	-2256	96	229	9190	
Idaho	2394	-81	-52	24	8	15481	2.5	-43	-2672	225	60	15766	
Illinois	12918	1276	-1629	12	32	162015	2.9	-5814	-36446	439	627	163081	
Indiana	4550	-341	-934	12	15	40154	1.4	-152	-15574	143	187	40484	
Iowa	2815	346	-85	3	10	34729	2.3	-164	-3493	79	111	34919	
Kansas	3422	883	-731	3	14	21502	1.6	-392	-3620	141	197	21840	
Kentucky	4220	1042	-833	7	22	30599	1.7	759	-8327	285	554	31439	
Louisiana	2939	263	547	8	17	21325	1.1	-430	-1758	66	118	21509	
Maine	1209	-148	-278	0	1	15469	2.7	-46	-3440	46	67	15582	
Maryland	4694	-484	-1238	25	24	57078	2.4	295	-4750	471	422	57971	
Massachusetts	7422	-68	41	12	47	107060	3.3	3790	-1178	292	575	107927	
Michigan	10561	141	-676	23	24	103746	2.6	-477	-23362	401	388	104535	
Minnesota	4498	276	-1411	7	16	69322	2.6	2154	-11194	214	274	69810	
Mississippi	1709	41	-170	14	10	14110	1.3	-581	-8485	152	142	14404	
Missouri	6882	1351	-859	41	33	49054	1.9	-944	-11754	435	223	49712	
Montana	1301	44	-523	29	8	13775	3.2	-163	-1953	641	53	14469	
Nebraska	1422	378	-190	3	6	10477	1.1	-101	-2395	42	30	10549	
Nevada	3626	66	541	10	9	29948	2.6	3430	-2445	243	226	30417	
New Hampshire	995	115	-34	2	1	8371	1.4	-44	-2110	9	29	8409	
New Jersey	11176	1536	960	12	19	141043	3.7	4556	-6071	431	577	142051	
New Mexico	1482	259	138	5	13	14363	1.9	-55	-2971	392	156	14911	
New York	23798	4205	188	44	80	221452	2.6	3175	-38737	640	1323	223435	
North Carolina	5498	71	-1540	21	58	42656	1.1	-768	-32164	236	588	43480	
North Dakota	688	46	163	1	4	7183	1.7	179	-55	22	14	7219	
Ohio	10357	453	-716	16	57	92090	1.8	-1192	-28382	198	602	92890	
Oklahoma	2247	293	140	3	29	16948	1.1	632	-2382	60	221	17229	
Oregon	6244	-271	-12	35	25	40535	2.4	-653	-11191	826	342	41703	
Pennsylvania	24035	1998	-2136	90	101	182309	3.3	7300	-48434	781	970	184060	
Puerto Rico	2131	-295	-358	2	8	27970	3.1	-334	-4435	73	267	28310	
Rhode Island	2293	991	235	2	6	14677	3.3	839	-2825	35	54	14766	
South Carolina	3208	-205	-1485	6	25	19917	1.1	-398	-10756	71	247	20235	
South Dakota	311	12	-55	10	3	3681	0.9	-19	-531	38	7	3726	
Tennessee	4065	-491	-2259	18	24	33240	1.2	-1242	-5765	218	261	33719	
Texas	20418	2437	3279	54	247	140062	1.3	-6311	-22364	782	3141	143987	
Utah	1671	-32	-206	19	6	16041	1.3	8	-3958	474	79	16594	
Vermont	678	0	119	2	1	7425	2.5	12	-597	34	20	7479	
Virgin Islands	58	5	7	2	2	910	2.4	320	-22	8	10	928	
Virginia	4583	114	-1035	21	37	38236	1.1	-570	-7037	415	904	39555	
Washington	8446	439	-1746	27	118	68847	2.3	1785	-12360	804	1286	70937	
West Virginia	1740	-21	-316	0	7	19332	2.9	357	-4813	94	98	19524	
Wisconsin	9908	442	-4044	4	13	77508	2.9	-852	-25431	187	146	77841	
Wyoming	720	120	-13	3	5	5790	2.1	439	-577	189	57	6036	
Totals	324199	17556	-36139	1001	1769	2795972	2.1	-31642	-644055	17120	23631	2836746	

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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