



# 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 15-334-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, March 5, 2015**

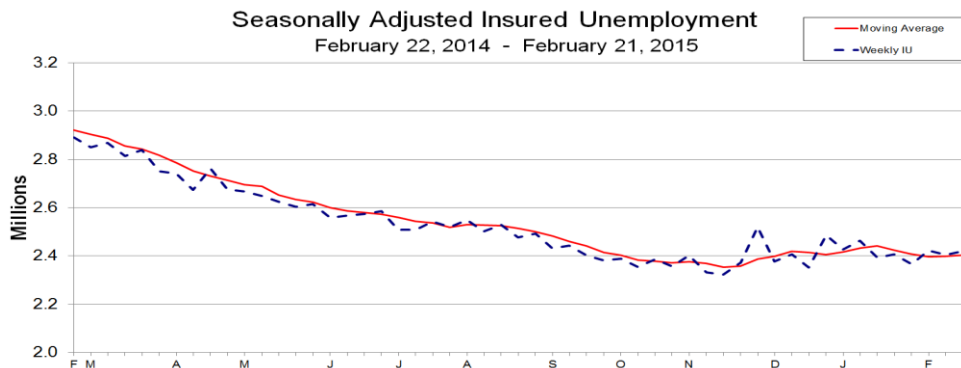
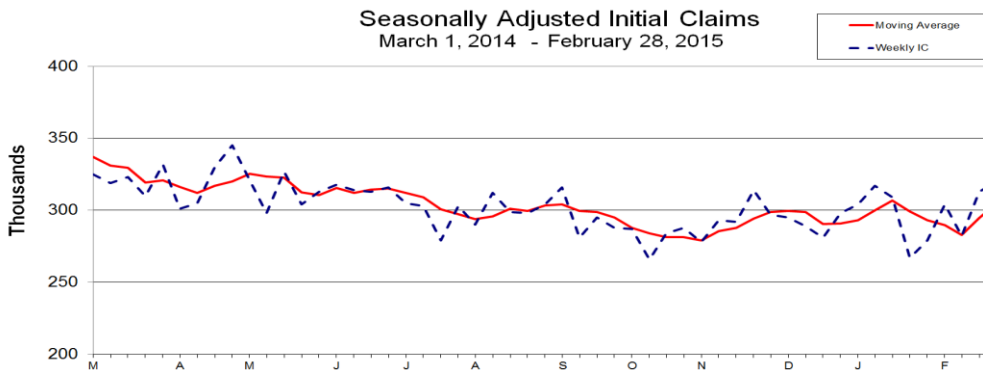
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 28, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 320,000, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 313,000. The 4-week moving average was 304,750, an increase of 10,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 294,500.

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

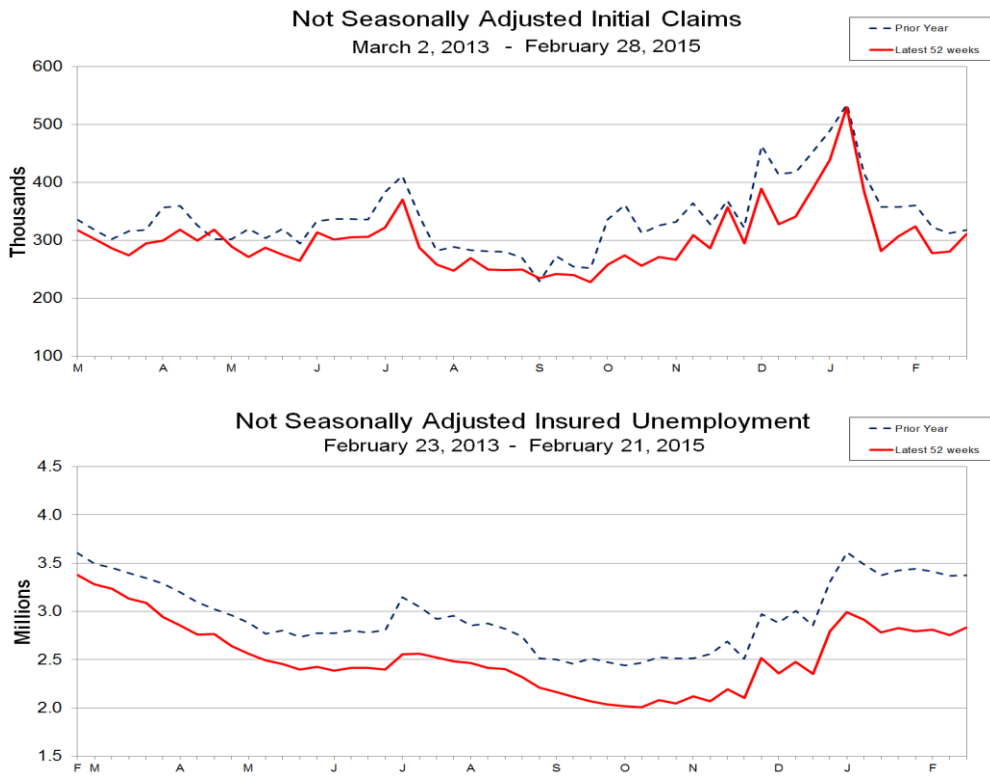
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending February 21, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 21 was 2,421,000, an increase of 17,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 2,401,000 to 2,404,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,403,500, an increase of 3,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 2,399,000 to 2,399,750.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 310,497 in the week ending February 28, an increase of 29,858 (or 10.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 23,491 (or 8.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 317,832 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.1 percent during the week ending February 21, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,832,170, an increase of 79,402 (or 2.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 60,104 (or 2.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.6 percent and the volume was 3,375,731.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 14 was 2,806,835, a decrease of 59,912 from the previous week. There were 3,438,475 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 February 14.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 770 in the week ending February 21, a decrease of 250 from the prior week. There were 1,251 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 195 from the preceding week.

There were 15,908 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 14, a decrease of 1,269 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 22,603, a decrease of 1,184 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 14 were in Alaska (4.5), New Jersey (3.7), Connecticut (3.4), Rhode Island (3.4), Pennsylvania (3.3), Montana (3.2), Massachusetts (3.1), Puerto Rico (3.1), Illinois (2.9), and Wisconsin (2.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 21 were in Massachusetts (+3,807), Kentucky (+2,926), Illinois (+2,777), Pennsylvania (+2,264), and Ohio (+2,134), while the largest decreases were in California (-3,832), New York (-2,512), Washington (-1,816), Oregon (-1,216), and Missouri (-999).

---

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 28</b>	<b>February 21</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	320,000	313,000	+7,000	282,000	325,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	310,497	280,639	+29,858	277,904	317,832
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	304,750	294,500	+10,250	283,000	337,250
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 21</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>February 7</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,421,000	2,404,000	+17,000	2,422,000	2,890,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,832,170	2,752,768	+79,402	2,809,934	3,375,731
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,403,500	2,399,750	+3,750	2,397,250	2,921,250
<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%

---

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 21</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	770	1,020	-250	1,025
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,251	1,446	-195	1,757

---

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<b>February 7</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,749,626	2,806,635	-57,009	3,362,306
Federal Employees	15,908	17,177	-1,269	20,413
Newly Discharged Veterans	22,603	23,787	-1,184	28,805
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	6	7	-1	29
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,139	7,139	0	9,547
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	11,553	12,002	-449	17,375
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,806,835</b>	<b>2,866,747</b>	<b>-59,912</b>	<b>3,438,475</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](#)

---

**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 21, 2015**

---

**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

---

<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
MA	+3,807	Layoffs in the educational service industry.
KY	+2,926	Increase due to inclement weather.
IL	+2,777	No comment.
PA	+2,264	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
OH	+2,134	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MI	+1,681	Layoffs in the management of companies and enterprises industry.
MD	+1,649	No comment.
RI	+1,452	Layoffs in the construction and business service industries.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

---

<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	-3,832	Fewer layoffs in the service and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry.
NY	-2,512	Fewer layoffs in the construction, retail trade, and manufacturing industries.
WA	-1,816	No comment.
OR	-1,216	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		
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	2,422	55	2,397.25	1.8	
February 14, 2015	282	-22	283.00	2,404	-18	2,399.75	1.8	
February 21, 2015	313	31	294.50	2,421	17	2,403.50	1.8	
February 28, 2015	320	7	304.75					

		Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 21 INITIAL CLAIMS						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 14 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
		CHANGE FROM				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	2772	-78	-1655	8	20	23754	1.3	-532	-8639	111	261	24126	
Alaska	1155	-173	-186	3	3	14014	4.5	-452	-3725	270	65	14349	
Arizona	3521	-131	-577	10	3	28727	1.2	-544	-7115	295	191	29213	
Arkansas	3053	512	875	6	6	23026	2.0	-1048	-5499	141	236	23403	
California	43039	-3832	-21869	181	172	420633	2.7	-32243	-110772	2983	3909	427525	
Colorado	2763	-71	-47	16	43	36704	1.6	1190	-14719	489	993	38186	
Connecticut	4144	510	-637	13	8	55906	3.4	88	-1362	126	221	56253	
Delaware	878	68	17	0	3	8679	2.1	-292	-2299	24	49	8752	
District of Columbia	269	-21	-66	4	2	8922	1.7	-190	-2688	466	30	9418	
Florida	9363	-117	-2416	20	79	68553	0.9	743	-35870	273	608	69434	
Georgia	6157	-873	-7025	28	65	41547	1.1	-1470	-18527	240	690	42477	
Hawaii	1177	-195	-191	10	26	8658	1.5	-243	-1877	98	222	8978	
Idaho	1341	-607	-506	11	3	15003	2.4	-675	-2859	253	64	15320	
Illinois	12742	2777	2549	10	20	164644	2.9	856	-31684	457	593	165694	
Indiana	5038	844	938	14	6	38771	1.4	-1022	-15193	122	169	39062	
Iowa	2383	-148	221	6	8	34562	2.3	-728	-2202	109	111	34782	
Kansas	3009	943	910	5	4	21030	1.6	-1413	-4922	119	200	21349	
Kentucky	6112	2926	2352	7	0	29851	1.7	816	-9181	215	511	30577	
Louisiana	2144	-378	180	5	11	20939	1.1	-496	-896	63	106	21108	
Maine	1046	-78	-160	1	2	15143	2.6	4	-2859	52	61	15256	
Maryland	5615	1649	850	21	19	55148	2.3	-600	-6784	439	395	55982	
Massachusetts	9925	3807	-376	7	32	102556	3.1	-2032	-6501	235	569	103360	
Michigan	10261	1681	-783	19	22	103126	2.6	-3132	-23765	378	358	103862	
Minnesota	4303	-10	389	6	11	66488	2.5	-1026	-8566	215	254	66957	
Mississippi	1316	-246	-246	6	1	13072	1.2	-622	-7471	142	145	13359	
Missouri	6909	-999	1765	19	11	48940	1.9	-812	-12231	349	209	49498	
Montana	1074	-122	8	9	3	13426	3.2	-63	-2049	605	60	14091	
Nebraska	1077	-93	-118	4	2	10430	1.1	-355	-1963	38	29	10497	
Nevada	3205	-238	346	6	6	29428	2.5	-237	-2789	267	227	29922	
New Hampshire	862	48	-100	2	3	8319	1.4	-109	-1997	8	28	8355	
New Jersey	10130	278	-18	16	18	138492	3.7	-912	-15526	359	529	139380	
New Mexico	1043	-116	-66	8	5	14723	1.9	154	-2546	353	151	15227	
New York	17494	-2512	-1621	31	80	217491	2.5	-3902	-37695	603	1270	219364	
North Carolina	3866	-769	-1616	13	30	40863	1.0	-457	-30634	218	516	41597	
North Dakota	578	17	110	2	1	7316	1.7	20	286	21	16	7353	
Ohio	11355	2134	2829	11	47	92106	1.8	-4874	-21078	187	590	92883	
Oklahoma	2091	-830	701	12	16	17772	1.2	690	-816	59	218	18049	
Oregon	4717	-1216	-1303	24	28	40121	2.4	-1449	-12304	773	336	41230	
Pennsylvania	22148	2264	-55	69	83	183586	3.3	4359	-46272	694	929	185214	
Puerto Rico	1639	-265	-329	3	5	28067	3.1	855	-3851	63	278	28408	
Rhode Island	2762	1452	-62	3	3	15132	3.4	-36	-2536	40	65	15237	
South Carolina	2192	-947	-3234	6	16	18905	1.0	-679	-11180	52	233	19190	
South Dakota	240	-31	29	2	2	3669	0.9	-59	-291	49	4	3722	
Tennessee	2840	-796	-2081	7	9	30604	1.1	-2162	-8462	206	234	31044	
Texas	17182	-817	3269	39	181	146142	1.3	2065	-13209	666	3232	150041	
Utah	1388	-99	-51	20	8	15447	1.2	-234	-3997	374	76	15897	
Vermont	873	357	49	2	1	7277	2.5	-177	-459	28	17	7322	
Virgin Islands	34	-17	2	0	2	944	2.5	340	64	6	8	958	
Virginia	3241	-696	-1696	10	12	35853	1.0	-1898	-11321	410	789	37052	
Washington	6680	-1816	-1482	28	91	65301	2.2	-2569	-13693	686	1258	67245	
West Virginia	1145	-324	-23	0	1	18517	2.7	-483	-4303	94	91	18702	
Wisconsin	9764	164	-20	5	12	78283	2.9	126	-17321	188	142	78613	
Wyoming	584	-35	200	2	6	6158	2.2	755	-323	197	57	6412	
Totals	280639	2735	-32026	770	1251	2752768	2.1	-57166	-614471	15908	22603	2791285	

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).