



# News Release

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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 15, 2014**

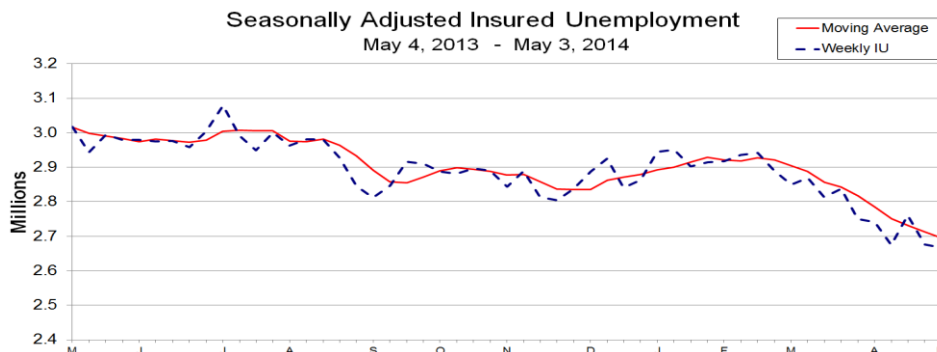
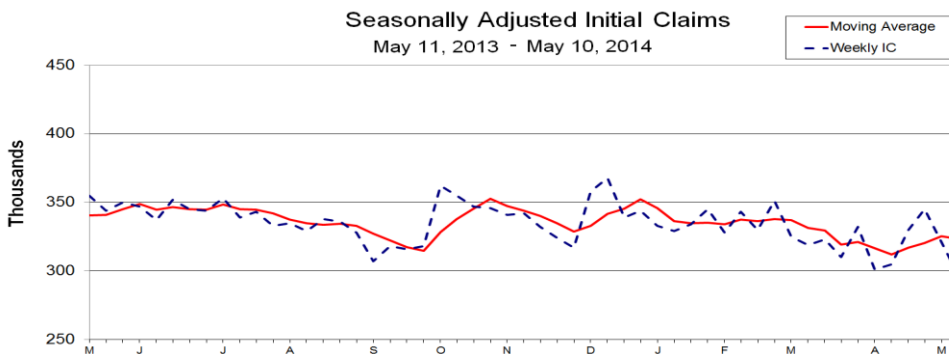
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 10, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 297,000, a decrease of 24,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for initial claims since May 12, 2007 when they were 297,000. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 319,000 to 321,000. The 4-week moving average was 323,250, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 324,750 to 325,250.

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

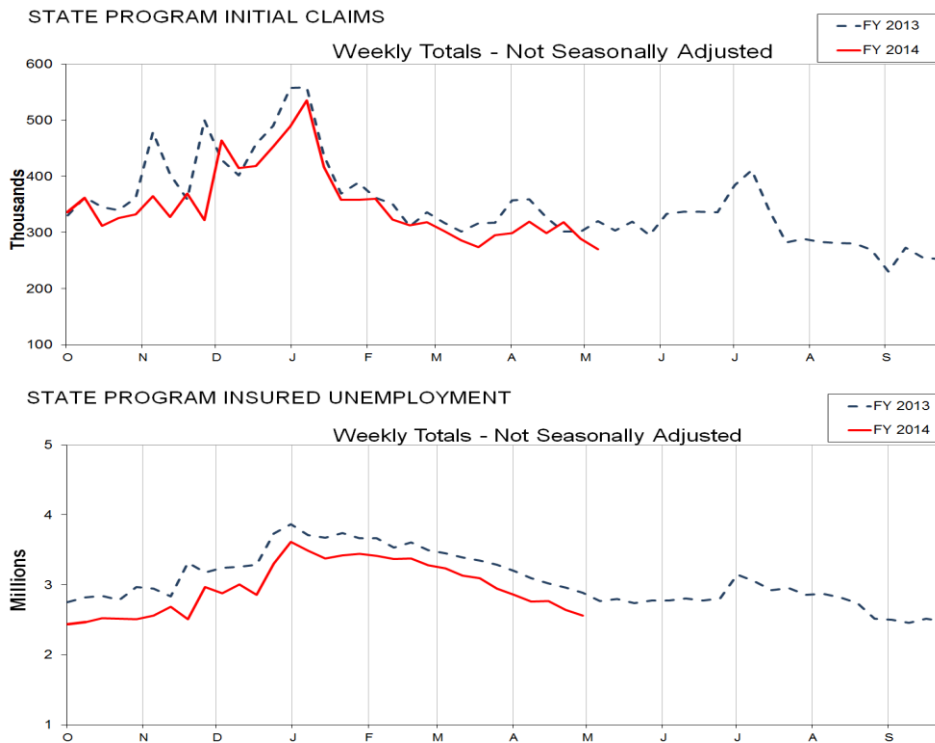
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 2.0 percent for the week ending May 3, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 3 was 2,667,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 1, 2007 when it was 2,639,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 9,000 from 2,685,000 to 2,676,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,694,500, a decrease of 18,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 15, 2007 when it was 2,670,500. The previous week's average was revised down by 2,250 from 2,715,250 to 2,713,000.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 269,689 in the week ending May 10, a decrease of 19,059 (or -6.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 2,887 (or 1.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 320,253 initial claims in the comparable week in 2013.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending May 3, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,560,629, a decrease of 80,954 (or -3.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 72,262 (or -2.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.2 percent and the volume was 2,883,832.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 26 was 2,705,019, a decrease of 127,674 from the previous week. There were 4,835,833 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 April 26.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 989 in the week ending May 3, a decrease of 280 from the prior week. There were 1,733 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 179 from the preceding week.

There were 14,023 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 26, a decrease of 664 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 25,296, a decrease of 708 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 26 were in Alaska (4.6), New Jersey (3.3), Puerto Rico (3.2), California (3.1), Connecticut (3.0), Rhode Island (3.0), Pennsylvania (2.9), Nevada (2.8), Illinois (2.7), and Massachusetts (2.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 3 were in Pennsylvania (+1,403), Texas (+1,147), Illinois (+646), Iowa (+540), and Maryland (+500), while the largest decreases were in New York (-20,637), California (-3,713), New Jersey (-2,565), Connecticut (-1,609), and Massachusetts (-1,277).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>Advance May 10</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	297,000	321,000	-24,000	345,000	355,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	269,689	288,748	-19,059	318,127	320,253
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	323,250	325,250	-2,000	320,250	340,500
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>Advance May 3</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,667,000	2,676,000	-9,000	2,761,000	3,017,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,560,629	2,641,583	-80,954	2,766,506	2,883,832
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,694,500	2,713,000	-18,500	2,731,500	3,016,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	2.0%	2.0%	0.0	2.1%	2.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.9%	2.0%	-0.1	2.1%	2.2%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	989	1,269	-280	1,421
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,733	1,554	+179	2,318

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,636,352	2,760,430	-124,078	2,956,546
Federal Employees	14,023	14,687	-664	18,391
Newly Discharged Veterans	25,296	26,004	-708	36,895
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	60	94	-34	510
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	9,870	10,311	-441	5,900
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	19,418	21,167	-1,749	25,490
<u>TOTAL</u> <sup>6</sup>	2,705,019	2,832,693	-127,674	4,835,833

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 131,532,656 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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 3, 2014**

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NY	-20,637	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, food services, and educational services industries.
CA	-3,713	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
NJ	-2,565	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and foods services, transportation and warehousing, and retail trade industries.
CT	-1,609	No comment.
MA	-1,277	Fewer layoffs in the educational services industry.
WI	-1,067	No comment.
GA	-1,033	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support services, retail trade, construction, and accommodation and food services industries.

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
PA	+1,403	Layoffs in the construction, food service, and manufacturing industries.
TX	+1,147	Layoffs in the manufacturing, finance, support services, retail trade, health care and social assistance, and transportation industries.

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## Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from			IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average		
May 4, 2013	332	0	340.00	3017	6	3016.00	2.3	
May 11, 2013	355	23	340.50	2943	-74	2998.75	2.3	
May 18, 2013	344	-11	340.75	2994	51	2991.25	2.3	
May 25, 2013	350	6	345.25	2979	-15	2983.25	2.3	
June 1, 2013	347	-3	349.00	2980	1	2974.00	2.3	
June 8, 2013	337	-10	344.50	2975	-5	2982.00	2.3	
June 15, 2013	352	15	346.50	2977	2	2977.75	2.3	
June 22, 2013	345	-7	345.25	2959	-18	2972.75	2.3	
June 29, 2013	344	-1	344.50	3003	44	2978.50	2.3	
July 6, 2013	353	9	348.50	3079	76	3004.50	2.4	
July 13, 2013	339	-14	345.25	2991	-88	3008.00	2.3	
July 20, 2013	343	4	344.75	2950	-41	3005.75	2.3	
July 27, 2013	333	-10	342.00	3001	51	3005.25	2.3	
August 3, 2013	335	2	337.50	2963	-38	2976.25	2.3	
August 10, 2013	329	-6	335.00	2981	18	2973.75	2.3	
August 17, 2013	338	9	333.75	2981	0	2981.50	2.3	
August 24, 2013	336	-2	334.50	2928	-53	2963.25	2.3	
August 31, 2013	328	-8	332.75	2845	-83	2933.75	2.2	
September 7, 2013	307	-21	327.25	2812	-33	2891.50	2.2	
September 14, 2013	318	11	322.25	2847	35	2858.00	2.2	
September 21, 2013	316	-2	317.25	2916	69	2855.00	2.2	
September 28, 2013	318	2	314.75	2910	-6	2871.25	2.2	
October 5, 2013	362	44	328.50	2888	-22	2890.25	2.2	
October 12, 2013	355	-7	337.75	2881	-7	2898.75	2.2	
October 19, 2013	347	-8	345.50	2896	15	2893.75	2.2	
October 26, 2013	346	-1	352.50	2890	-6	2888.75	2.2	
November 2, 2013	341	-5	347.25	2843	-47	2877.50	2.2	
November 9, 2013	342	1	344.00	2889	46	2879.50	2.2	
November 16, 2013	332	-10	340.25	2813	-76	2858.75	2.2	
November 23, 2013	324	-8	334.75	2804	-9	2837.25	2.2	
November 30, 2013	317	-7	328.75	2837	33	2835.75	2.2	
December 7, 2013	358	41	332.75	2887	50	2835.25	2.2	
December 14, 2013	368	10	341.75	2925	38	2863.25	2.2	
December 21, 2013	339	-29	345.50	2840	-85	2872.25	2.2	
December 28, 2013	344	5	352.25	2863	23	2878.75	2.2	
January 4, 2014	333	-11	346.00	2945	82	2893.25	2.2	
January 11, 2014	329	-4	336.25	2951	6	2899.75	2.3	
January 18, 2014	334	5	335.00	2903	-48	2915.50	2.2	
January 25, 2014	345	11	335.25	2915	12	2928.50	2.2	
February 1, 2014	328	-17	334.00	2918	3	2921.75	2.2	
February 8, 2014	343	15	337.50	2936	18	2918.00	2.2	
February 15, 2014	330	-13	336.50	2941	5	2927.50	2.2	
February 22, 2014	351	21	338.00	2890	-51	2921.25	2.2	
March 1, 2014	325	-26	337.25	2850	-40	2904.25	2.2	
March 8, 2014	319	-6	331.25	2869	19	2887.50	2.2	
March 15, 2014	323	4	329.50	2814	-55	2855.75	2.1	
March 22, 2014	310	-13	319.25	2838	24	2842.75	2.2	
March 29, 2014	332	22	321.00	2750	-88	2817.75	2.1	
April 5, 2014	301	-31	316.50	2741	-9	2785.75	2.1	
April 12, 2014	305	4	312.00	2674	-67	2750.75	2.0	
April 19, 2014	330	25	317.00	2761	87	2731.50	2.1	
April 26, 2014	345	15	320.25	2676	-85	2713.00	2.0	
May 3, 2014	321	-24	325.25	2667	-9	2694.50	2.0	
May 10, 2014	297	-24	323.25					

## Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May

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## Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 26

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS 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	3524	12	-813	9	25	27124	1.5	-208	-3366	123	266	27513
Alaska	1417	-51	-1031	8	1	14538	4.6	-850	-1207	134	94	14766
Arizona	5025	-567	-23	5	5	40281	1.7	417	-1536	185	253	40719
Arkansas	2607	110	-662	7	9	21916	1.9	-584	-4671	122	190	22228
California	57455	-3713	10262	214	284	471942	3.1	-14521	-27366	3019	4650	479617
Colorado	2919	-109	-384	10	57	39565	1.7	642	-2113	356	1087	41008
Connecticut	3516	-1609	-202	6	11	48393	3.0	-6841	-2243	69	225	48687
Delaware	812	-726	59	1	4	9562	2.4	1782	650	40	53	9659
District of Columbia	374	62	-446	9	0	10063	1.9	-239	-349	343	26	10433
Florida	14899	-958	3538	48	115	97743	1.3	2670	-12124	403	844	98990
Georgia	6711	-1033	-4098	19	72	45017	1.2	-920	-17151	366	873	46256
Hawaii	1592	-9	-301	14	28	9922	1.7	-540	-1535	122	227	10271
Idaho	1750	370	308	5	5	10505	1.7	-203	-2907	88	82	10675
Illinois	10782	646	-3271	21	26	148855	2.7	-21087	-10364	520	713	150088
Indiana	4222	-180	-821	22	22	35241	1.3	-1262	-10932	258	305	35804
Iowa	2627	540	-1	3	10	19314	1.3	-1739	-5843	75	140	19529
Kansas	2580	488	82	3	6	18970	1.5	-270	-4115	215	253	19438
Kentucky	3488	435	-1136	5	13	25460	1.5	-2824	-6704	132	554	26146
Louisiana	2273	35	-193	5	21	18926	1.0	5	-4084	111	110	19147
Maine	1291	114	122	0	2	14209	2.5	-363	-355	45	63	14317
Maryland	4572	500	-447	22	23	50890	2.1	-2687	-3960	540	429	51860
Massachusetts	7964	-1277	1824	21	34	86470	2.7	5015	1005	256	465	87191
Michigan	7778	256	-1980	18	43	88555	2.2	-15308	-3588	179	508	89242
Minnesota	3946	257	-26	7	10	52292	2.0	-4187	-8058	123	280	52695
Mississippi	2215	233	-804	10	0	16899	1.6	-261	-4347	203	130	17232
Missouri	5155	280	-244	16	3	37553	1.5	-1086	-7690	205	217	37975
Montana	897	-257	-137	11	13	9196	2.2	-602	-2370	252	89	9537
Nebraska	1142	152	-107	1	5	7381	0.8	-545	-2670	20	40	7441
Nevada	3144	-230	-313	9	19	31723	2.8	-673	-1127	214	254	32191
New Hampshire	1198	-19	251	1	1	8103	1.3	-10	-1565	13	20	8136
New Jersey	8496	-2565	-377	17	29	122722	3.3	-7111	-1429	314	544	123620
New Mexico	1231	-6	-32	6	7	16266	2.1	-68	-518	188	151	16605
New York	19615	-20637	988	73	88	197836	2.3	-21896	-25204	767	1279	199883
North Carolina	5015	-100	-4500	11	42	55133	1.4	-844	-33277	222	834	56189
North Dakota	300	36	-15	3	2	2580	0.6	-591	-1448	28	7	2615
Ohio	8094	422	-1755	12	56	73894	1.5	-4584	-14217	177	689	74760
Oklahoma	1514	10	-384	5	23	15977	1.1	-195	-4063	81	184	16242
Oregon	5292	-165	-919	92	26	39703	2.4	31	-8006	466	337	40506
Pennsylvania	18755	1403	-258	85	85	160969	2.9	-5535	-5968	700	1181	162850
Puerto Rico	2222	247	-275	1	15	28887	3.2	-1211	-11650	105	287	29279
Rhode Island	1468	-838	401	9	4	13342	3.0	1627	1362	52	68	13462
South Carolina	3319	-364	-716	2	17	17589	1.0	-429	-11660	56	182	17827
South Dakota	185	-22	-141	2	2	1796	0.5	-271	-809	29	9	1834
Tennessee	3858	324	-1408	17	29	27981	1.1	-132	-11908	109	291	28381
Texas	16507	1147	-787	52	277	147881	1.4	-6184	-5991	760	3093	151741
Utah	1615	-139	-36	19	10	12768	1.1	-269	-2948	121	100	12989
Vermont	569	-417	-353	3	2	6662	2.3	-378	-524	16	20	6698
Virgin Islands	22	-25	-56	1	0	678	1.8	-178	-426	10	6	694
Virginia	4231	343	-529	10	39	36400	1.1	-733	-5892	368	898	37666
Washington	7884	-685	-539	27	93	61580	2.1	-720	-6786	416	1346	63342
West Virginia	1075	-19	-279	1	2	14398	2.1	-2111	-1161	86	115	14599
Wisconsin	9229	-1067	169	9	13	65711	2.4	-5338	-14556	141	196	66048
Wyoming	377	-14	-59	2	5	4222	1.6	-524	-1902	80	39	4341
Totals	288748	-29379	-12854	989	1733	2641583	2	-124923	-321666	14023	25296	2680962

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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