



# News Release

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



U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
Washington, D.C.  
Release Number: USDL 14-996-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, June 5, 2014**

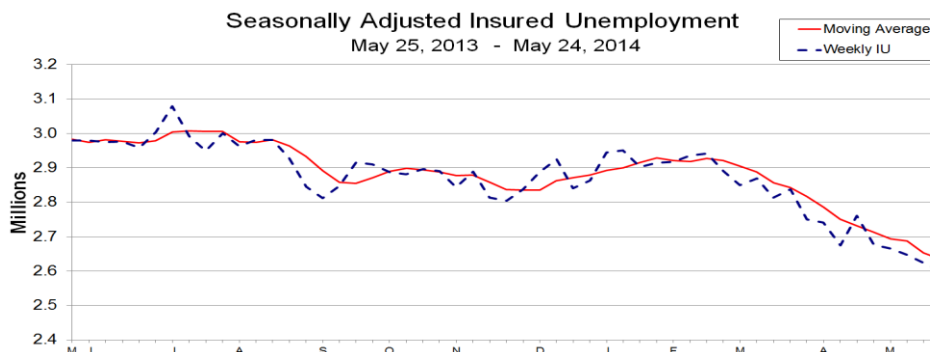
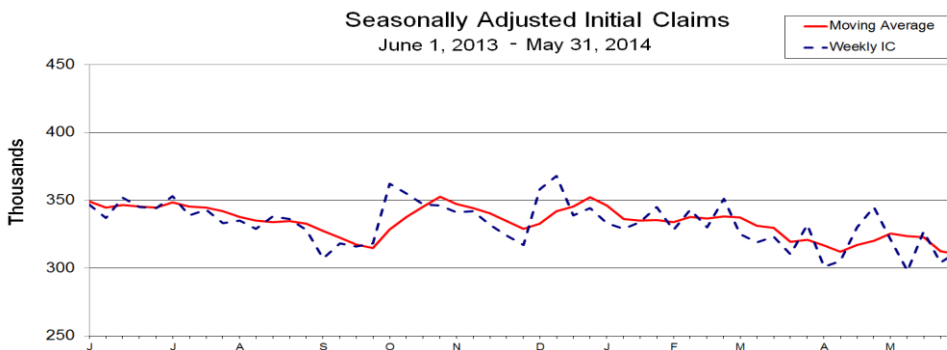
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 31, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 312,000, an increase of 8,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 4,000 from 300,000 to 304,000. The 4-week moving average was 310,250, a decrease of 2,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since June 2, 2007 when it was 307,500. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 311,500 to 312,500.

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

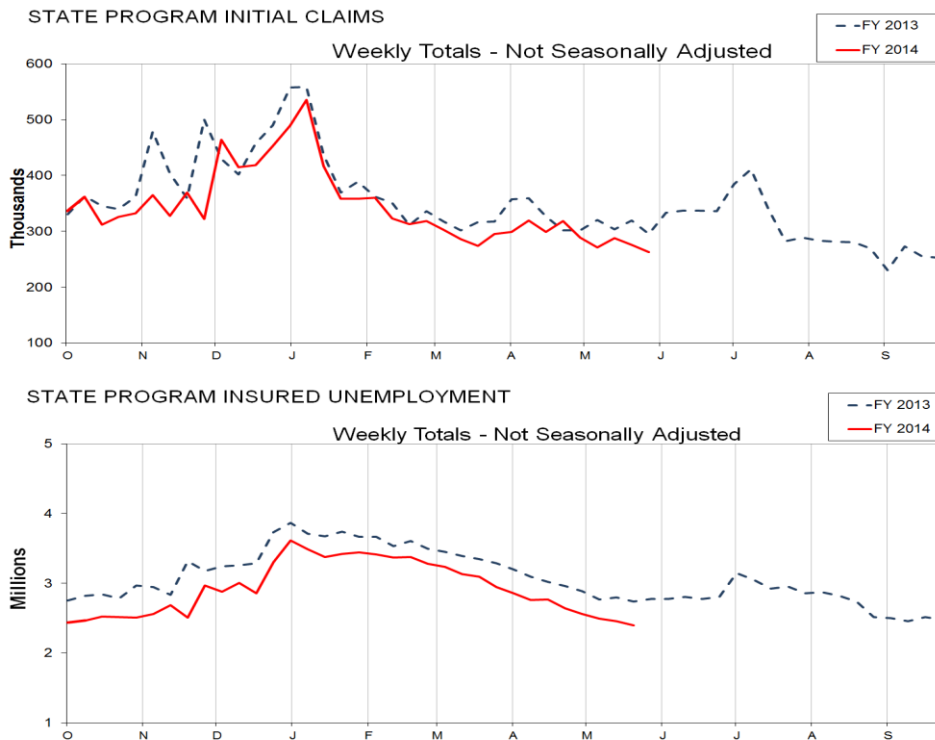
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 2.0 percent for the week ending May 24, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 24 was 2,603,000, a decrease of 20,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since October 27, 2007 when it was 2,587,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 8,000 from 2,631,000 to 2,623,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,635,000, a decrease of 18,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 1, 2007 when it was 2,622,250. The previous week's average was revised down by 2,000 from 2,655,250 to 2,653,250.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 262,931 in the week ending May 31, a decrease of 12,481 (or -4.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 19,130 (or -6.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 294,608 initial claims in the comparable week in 2013.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending May 24, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,394,992, a decrease of 60,020 (or -2.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 41,966 (or -1.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,734,582.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 17 was 2,513,302, a decrease of 40,279 from the previous week. There were 4,637,937 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 May 17.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,067 in the week ending May 24, an increase of 25 from the prior week. There were 1,448 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 191 from the preceding week.

There were 12,306 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 17, a decrease of 185 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 24,704, a decrease of 424 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 17 were in Alaska (4.3), Puerto Rico (3.0), California (2.9), New Jersey (2.9), Connecticut (2.8), Pennsylvania (2.8), Nevada (2.6), Illinois (2.5), Massachusetts (2.3), Oregon (2.2), Rhode Island (2.2), and Maryland (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 24 were in New York (+1,347), Ohio (+966), Wisconsin (+669), Louisiana (+642), and Tennessee (+580), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-6,683), Kansas (-2,093), Illinois (-1,407), Pennsylvania (-1,249), and California (-1,170).

---

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 31</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	312,000	304,000	+8,000	327,000	347,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	262,931	275,412	-12,481	287,398	294,608
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	310,250	312,500	-2,250	322,750	349,000
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,603,000	2,623,000	-20,000	2,648,000	2,979,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,394,992	2,455,012	-60,020	2,494,495	2,734,582
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,635,000	2,653,250	-18,250	2,687,750	2,983,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	2.0%	2.0%	0.0	2.0%	2.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	1.9%	2.1%

---

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,067	1,042	+25	1,364
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,448	1,639	-191	1,958

---

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,449,755	2,489,912	-40,157	2,792,714
Federal Employees	12,306	12,491	-185	17,739
Newly Discharged Veterans	24,704	25,128	-424	35,829
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	101	61	+40	391
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	9,241	9,563	-322	5,458
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	17,195	16,426	+769	25,213
<u>TOTAL</u> <sup>6</sup>	2,513,302	2,553,581	-40,279	4,637,937

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.

---

**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 24, 2014**

---

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

---

<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
MI	-6,683	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
KS	-2,093	No comment.
IL	-1,407	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support services, and trade industries.
PA	-1,249	Fewer layoffs in the food services, construction, and manufacturing industries.
CA	-1,170	No comment.

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

---

<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NY	+1,347	Layoffs in the food services, construction, and educational services industries.

---

## 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		
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	2666	-10	2694.25	2.0	
May 10, 2014	298	-23	323.50	2648	-18	2687.75	2.0	
May 17, 2014	327	29	322.75	2623	-25	2653.25	2.0	
May 24, 2014	304	-23	312.50	2603	-20	2635.00	2.0	
May 31, 2014	312	8	310.25					

## Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May

24

## Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 17

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	3773	151	-934	18	25	27084	1.5	386	-3915	119	258	27461	
Alaska	1509	218	-453	2	5	13535	4.3	-54	-947	135	106	13776	
Arizona	5301	259	48	55	7	40602	1.7	259	-1462	144	281	41027	
Arkansas	2889	-399	-672	7	14	22251	2.0	652	-5124	112	178	22541	
California	53111	-1170	-1430	213	203	431112	2.9	-15586	-42304	2299	4635	438046	
Colorado	2781	106	-520	14	47	36881	1.6	-895	-4164	243	981	38105	
Connecticut	3426	29	-456	6	22	45156	2.8	127	-3720	61	201	45418	
Delaware	636	-4	-98	2	3	7045	1.7	1	-533	27	47	7120	
District of Columbia	374	-20	-468	11	0	9892	1.9	42	-412	359	20	10272	
Florida	12318	-687	-1736	34	85	93100	1.3	-3956	-13513	488	818	94406	
Georgia	7857	552	-2005	30	65	44941	1.2	65	-15448	327	871	46139	
Hawaii	1640	35	4	6	18	9988	1.7	-5	-1181	110	274	10372	
Idaho	1219	93	-290	1	3	9603	1.6	-325	-1501	51	79	9733	
Illinois	9698	-1407	-3929	18	37	139546	2.5	205	-3296	524	700	140770	
Indiana	4102	-101	-841	6	18	32402	1.2	-624	-11251	225	275	32902	
Iowa	2461	164	-543	6	8	17714	1.2	62	-3800	67	130	17911	
Kansas	2439	-2093	-1465	26	8	20264	1.6	1925	-1785	194	255	20713	
Kentucky	3171	-760	-1618	33	19	26519	1.5	1313	-5094	222	557	27298	
Louisiana	2985	642	-401	7	10	18948	1.0	431	-3099	84	120	19152	
Maine	973	-13	-79	0	2	10583	1.9	-932	-1270	30	54	10667	
Maryland	4517	380	-843	36	24	49050	2.1	-334	-6413	524	405	49980	
Massachusetts	6455	517	-82	7	26	73682	2.3	540	-6888	219	453	74354	
Michigan	6754	-6683	-2199	12	33	79001	2.0	-8997	324	188	488	79677	
Minnesota	3646	114	-776	7	6	40590	1.5	-3657	-4867	98	240	40928	
Mississippi	2938	-53	-521	13	7	19126	1.8	868	-4399	168	133	19427	
Missouri	6379	-391	-2981	54	26	37177	1.4	1031	-6141	220	222	37619	
Montana	853	-44	-309	6	4	7735	1.8	-246	-1937	109	87	7931	
Nebraska	1320	85	-148	3	3	7179	0.8	208	-2022	36	33	7248	
Nevada	3013	-97	-219	5	13	29344	2.6	-530	-1615	149	234	29727	
New Hampshire	789	-4	-52	3	1	6853	1.1	-187	-1159	8	24	6885	
New Jersey	7861	-663	-1147	19	27	110417	2.9	-1013	-5496	295	501	111302	
New Mexico	1322	79	-60	8	8	15520	2.0	-326	-1111	88	139	15747	
New York	18223	1347	-1111	52	71	175691	2.1	-3369	-33427	676	1186	177553	
North Carolina	5659	-221	-4216	9	36	53862	1.4	438	-34781	200	774	54836	
North Dakota	303	84	-147	8	0	1787	0.4	-253	-729	17	11	1815	
Ohio	9083	966	-849	14	43	67490	1.3	-1125	-11492	159	646	68295	
Oklahoma	1643	-60	-400	6	15	16169	1.1	163	-3772	75	170	16414	
Oregon	4491	-612	-595	23	18	36355	2.2	-1415	-7673	384	332	37071	
Pennsylvania	17263	-1249	-3016	74	73	151136	2.8	-985	-10585	754	1038	152929	
Puerto Rico	2537	398	-224	5	7	27646	3.0	-2301	-11475	93	282	28021	
Rhode Island	834	-177	-253	1	1	9987	2.2	-232	-477	42	69	10098	
South Carolina	3358	-398	-881	8	20	17799	1.0	516	-11464	77	180	18056	
South Dakota	271	-31	-112	42	4	1419	0.4	-116	-397	23	5	1447	
Tennessee	4548	580	-735	15	29	30029	1.1	-1000	-10567	125	261	30415	
Texas	16695	-260	-393	61	187	149847	1.4	3241	-10415	701	3265	153821	
Utah	1300	-190	-345	21	11	12185	1.0	-213	-1910	116	105	12406	
Vermont	573	-129	-110	0	1	5113	1.7	-192	-721	14	22	5149	
Virgin Islands	38	-11	-4	0	2	800	2.1	-72	-114	16	10	826	
Virginia	4302	-418	-639	6	33	35948	1.0	552	-6555	321	916	37185	
Washington	6383	-979	-1284	31	94	57494	2.0	-1605	-7456	316	1288	59098	
West Virginia	1205	-18	-324	8	8	14507	2.1	870	-648	78	115	14700	
Wisconsin	7845	669	-1078	13	17	53212	2.0	-2867	-12998	140	187	53539	
Wyoming	348	-112	-157	2	1	3696	1.4	34	-1470	56	43	3795	
Totals	275412	-11986	-44096	1067	1448	2455012	1.9	-39483	-344669	12306	24704	2492123	

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).