



# News Release

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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, August 21, 2014**

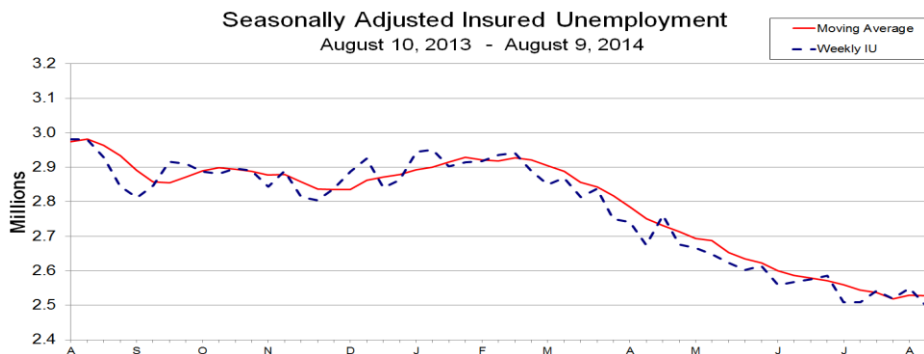
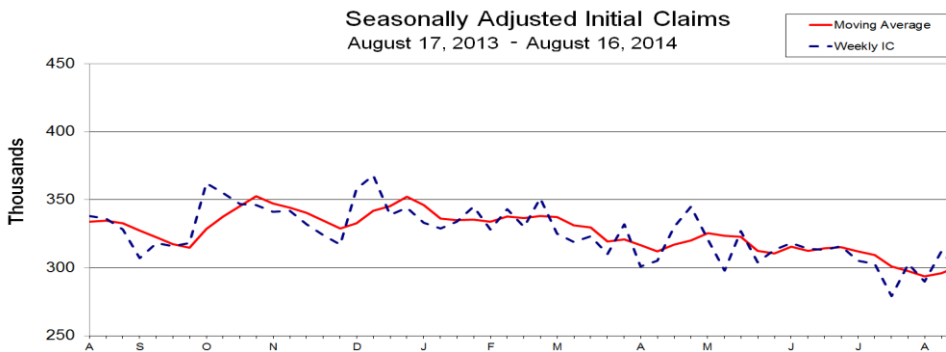
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 16, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 298,000, a decrease of 14,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 311,000 to 312,000. The 4-week moving average was 300,750, an increase of 4,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 295,750 to 296,000.

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

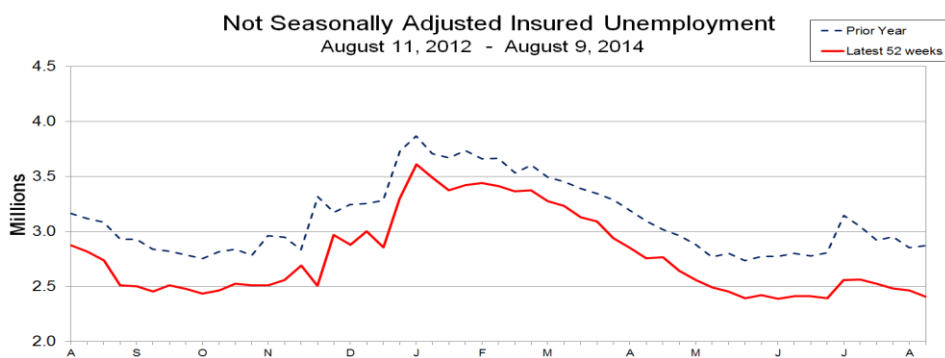
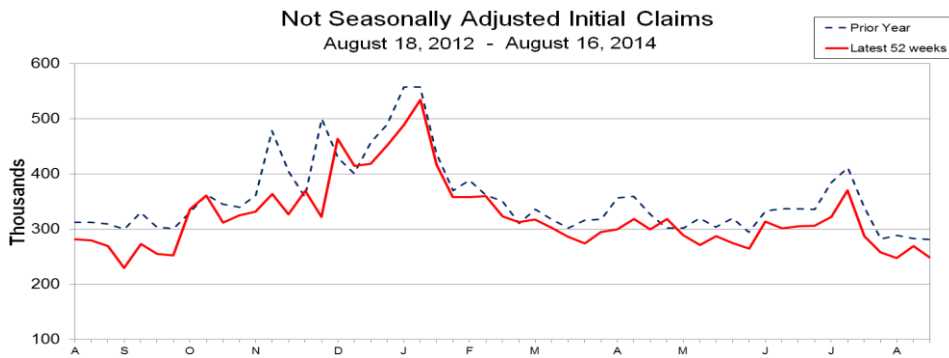
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.9 percent for the week ending August 9, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 9 was 2,500,000, a decrease of 49,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since June 16, 2007 when it was 2,453,000. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 2,544,000 to 2,549,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,527,500, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 2,528,250 to 2,529,500.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 248,759 in the week ending August 16, a decrease of 20,709 (or -7.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 9,357 (or -3.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 281,164 initial claims in the comparable week in 2013.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending August 9, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,409,779, a decrease of 52,377 (or -2.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 5,098 (or -0.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.2 percent and the volume was 2,873,345.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 2 was 2,517,465, a decrease of 18,965 from the previous week. There were 4,431,604 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 August 2.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,048 in the week ending August 9, a decrease of 11 from the prior week. There were 2,225 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 399 from the preceding week.

There were 14,643 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 2, a decrease of 669 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 23,805, a decrease of 647 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 2 were in Puerto Rico (4.3), New Jersey (3.3), Alaska (3.1), Connecticut (3.1), Pennsylvania (2.9), California (2.8), Rhode Island (2.6), Massachusetts (2.5), Nevada (2.5), and the Virgin Islands (2.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 9 were in California (+10,107), New York (+1,928), Massachusetts (+1,451), Michigan (+1,423), and Florida (+1,236), while the largest decreases were in Connecticut (-397), Kansas (-305), South Carolina (-225), Arkansas (-206), and Hawaii (-188).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 16</b>	<b>August 9</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>August 2</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	298,000	312,000	-14,000	290,000	338,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	248,759	269,468	-20,709	247,877	281,164
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	300,750	296,000	+4,750	293,750	333,750
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 9</b>	<b>August 2</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>July 26</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,500,000	2,549,000	-49,000	2,519,000	2,981,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,409,779	2,462,156	-52,377	2,481,360	2,873,345
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,527,500	2,529,500	-2,000	2,519,250	2,973,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.9%	1.9%	0.0	1.9%	2.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	1.9%	2.2%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 9</b>	<b>August 2</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,048	1,059	-11	1,437
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	2,225	1,826	+399	2,363

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 2</b>	<b>July 26</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,457,832	2,477,345	-19,513	2,845,385
Federal Employees	14,643	15,312	-669	21,102
Newly Discharged Veterans	23,805	24,452	-647	33,088
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	280	285	-5	328
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	5,054	5,322	-268	4,077
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	15,851	13,714	+2,137	26,556
<u>TOTAL</u> <sup>6</sup>	2,517,465	2,536,430	-18,965	4,431,604

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 132,140,947 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 AUGUST 9, 2014**

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
None		

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	+10,107	Layoffs in the service industry.
NY	+1,928	Layoffs in the food service, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
MA	+1,451	Layoffs in the retail trade industry.
MI	+1,423	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
FL	+1,236	Layoffs in the agriculture, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and 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		
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	313	9	310.50	2615	12	2622.25	2.0	
June 7, 2014	318	5	315.50	2559	-56	2600.00	1.9	
June 14, 2014	314	-4	312.25	2568	9	2586.25	2.0	
June 21, 2014	313	-1	314.50	2575	7	2579.25	2.0	
June 28, 2014	316	3	315.25	2586	11	2572.00	2.0	
July 5, 2014	305	-11	312.00	2508	-78	2559.25	1.9	
July 12, 2014	303	-2	309.25	2508	0	2544.25	1.9	
July 19, 2014	279	-24	300.75	2542	34	2536.00	1.9	
July 26, 2014	303	24	297.50	2519	-23	2519.25	1.9	
August 2, 2014	290	-13	293.75	2549	30	2529.50	1.9	
August 9, 2014	312	22	296.00	2500	-49	2527.50	1.9	
August 16, 2014	298	-14	300.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 9 INITIAL CLAIMS								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 2 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	CHANGE FROM		ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1				LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO		UCFE 1
Alabama	3284	40	-831	10	36	28797	1.6	-442	-5975	125	243	29165
Alaska	1021	59	-413	2	5	9701	3.1	-28	-1039	131	75	9907
Arizona	4787	43	-125	11	3	44549	1.8	-485	-2070	252	291	45092
Arkansas	2396	-206	-746	7	22	23866	2.1	28	-4955	81	223	24170
California	55043	10107	9920	234	390	423628	2.8	7139	-16286	2591	4618	430837
Colorado	2500	107	-138	11	55	30159	1.3	-1181	-6765	217	843	31219
Connecticut	3092	-397	-732	8	17	49543	3.1	-171	-5365	88	214	49845
Delaware	700	48	-138	1	3	7651	1.9	-879	-1187	33	59	7743
District of Columbia	459	50	24	11	1	10788	2.1	-130	-1440	344	13	11145
Florida	14734	1236	1884	37	131	98539	1.3	1820	-20089	519	780	99838
Georgia	7724	751	-501	41	79	48392	1.3	-501	-13018	364	868	49624
Hawaii	1191	-188	-647	9	30	8681	1.5	-854	-3165	102	227	9010
Idaho	1058	2	-366	4	11	8578	1.4	94	-1601	37	67	8682
Illinois	10306	540	-1640	15	46	124066	2.2	-8102	-27408	466	631	125163
Indiana	4114	48	-1087	19	26	27269	1.0	3	-14100	224	198	27691
Iowa	2780	80	166	4	7	18495	1.3	385	-2440	64	124	18683
Kansas	2073	-305	-735	8	10	17119	1.3	162	-5236	156	205	17480
Kentucky	3144	87	-953	15	14	25231	1.4	-1035	-7249	220	500	25951
Louisiana	2364	71	-355	6	17	22970	1.2	-234	-3921	81	104	23155
Maine	760	-70	-304	2	2	7731	1.4	-268	-1610	30	48	7809
Maryland	4331	319	-980	29	36	52510	2.2	-796	-35	567	395	53472
Massachusetts	6941	1451	1378	22	27	81721	2.5	1122	7846	382	499	82602
Michigan	8907	1423	887	13	41	62053	1.6	-11922	-13315	146	374	62573
Minnesota	3073	-8	-343	2	17	35001	1.3	443	-5898	79	230	35310
Mississippi	1856	-98	-622	5	23	22586	2.1	-492	-4339	108	133	22827
Missouri	4983	318	-741	90	24	41013	1.6	434	-7018	751	243	42007
Montana	717	9	-58	1	9	6217	1.5	-170	-2413	69	71	6357
Nebraska	970	57	-400	2	3	7432	0.8	-213	-1882	24	40	7496
Nevada	3176	5	-243	6	17	28934	2.5	-579	-2377	104	237	29275
New Hampshire	1357	664	511	0	6	6929	1.1	-53	-1015	14	36	6979
New Jersey	8880	107	521	26	46	125589	3.3	-1909	-7579	269	540	126674
New Mexico	1054	77	-182	8	14	14981	2.0	-430	-2259	145	139	15265
New York	18073	1928	-542	61	111	185747	2.2	-1651	-42754	922	1129	187798
North Carolina	5130	39	-2193	17	66	52751	1.4	-59	-37113	194	752	53697
North Dakota	229	-73	-152	4	3	1988	0.5	58	-413	174	15	2177
Ohio	7506	97	-1439	12	67	63340	1.3	-2004	-14603	274	599	64213
Oklahoma	1519	-38	-285	3	32	16921	1.1	-72	-3732	68	173	17162
Oregon	4457	792	-569	14	46	33624	2.0	-919	-8066	268	343	34236
Pennsylvania	15882	279	-2501	64	90	157614	2.9	5985	-19363	676	905	159195
Puerto Rico	2833	542	-169	7	19	38706	4.3	-245	-7357	237	301	39244
Rhode Island	1206	245	-257	2	3	11699	2.6	222	-793	32	59	11790
South Carolina	3444	-225	-1487	8	36	20819	1.1	-85	-10018	76	232	21127
South Dakota	187	5	-52	4	1	1378	0.4	-23	-492	283	17	1678
Tennessee	3889	322	-604	19	31	33636	1.3	-195	-8404	228	271	34135
Texas	14908	759	-1538	100	318	153997	1.4	1237	-14811	1147	3153	158300
Utah	1367	54	-145	17	10	10847	0.9	-48	-2177	256	104	11207
Vermont	432	79	-93	4	2	4351	1.5	-57	-631	10	19	4380
Virgin Islands	50	8	-2	0	0	858	2.3	104	-258	4	20	882
Virginia	4092	64	-594	12	52	35486	1.0	628	-7050	395	850	36731
Washington	7039	412	-777	33	141	51570	1.8	2254	-10521	397	1305	53272
West Virginia	947	-8	-262	1	15	12724	1.9	-6048	-2275	80	74	12878
Wisconsin	6235	-164	-1490	6	13	50455	1.9	708	-14159	114	186	50755
Wyoming	268	47	-148	1	1	2926	1.1	250	-858	25	30	2981
Totals	269468	21591	-13288	1048	2225	2462156	1.9	-19204	-391051	14643	23805	2500884

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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