



News Release

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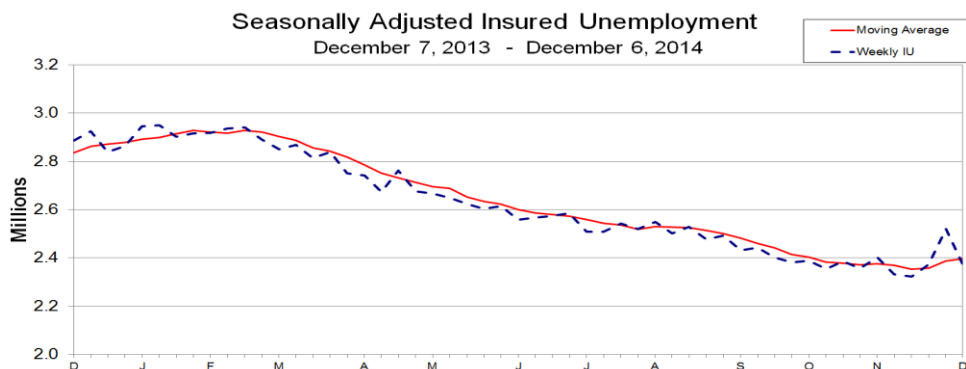
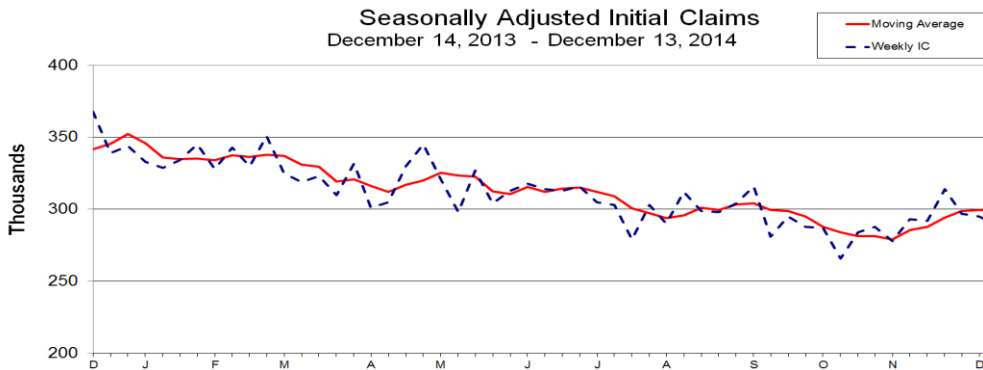
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 13, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 289,000, a decrease of 6,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 294,000 to 295,000. The 4-week moving average was 298,750, a decrease of 750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 299,250 to 299,500.

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

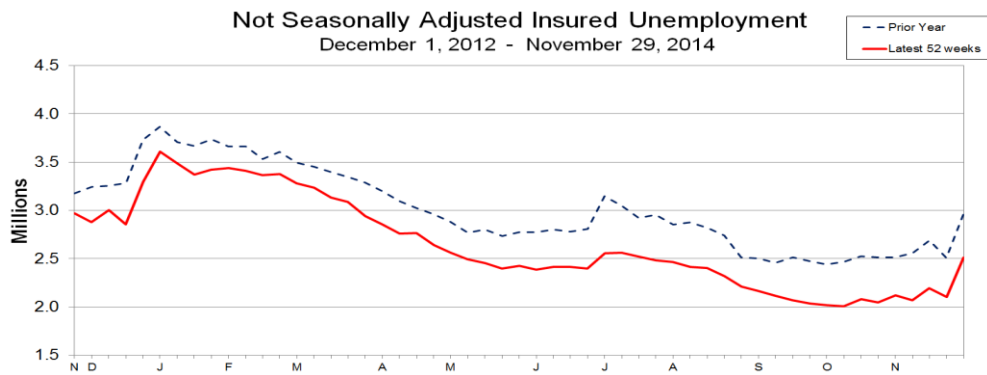
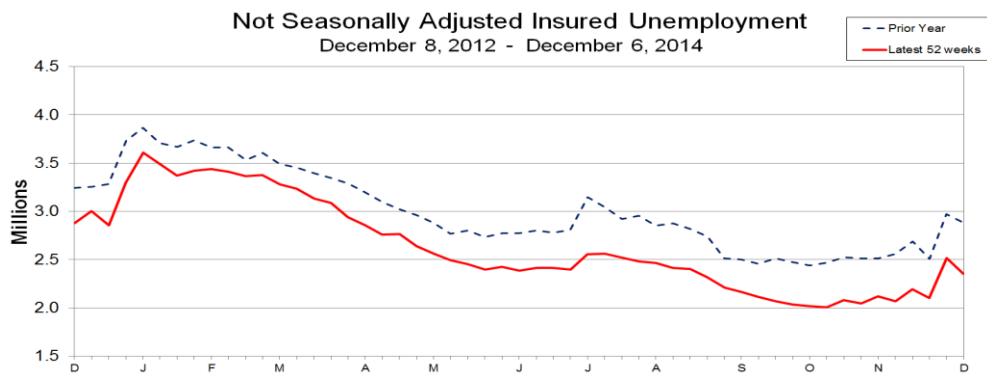
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending December 6, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 6 was 2,373,000, a decrease of 147,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 6,000 from 2,514,000 to 2,520,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,397,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,500 from 2,385,500 to 2,387,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 326,930 in the week ending December 13, a decrease of 61,841 (or -15.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 55,076 (or -14.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 414,613 initial claims in the comparable week in 2013.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending December 6, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,349,128, a decrease of 166,134 (or -6.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 20,162 (or -0.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.2 percent and the volume was 2,880,807.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending November 29 was 2,576,605, an increase of 422,949 from the previous week. There were 4,423,024 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 November 29.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,878 in the week ending December 6, an increase of 776 from the prior week. There were 2,018 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 911 from the preceding week.

There were 18,571 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending November 29, an increase of 2,909 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 26,633, an increase of 3,067 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending November 29 were in Alaska (4.7), Puerto Rico (3.4), New Jersey (3.2), California (2.9), the Virgin Islands (2.9), Montana (2.8), Connecticut (2.7), Nevada (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.7), and West Virginia (2.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 6 were in Pennsylvania (+12,302), Texas (+9,107), Georgia (+8,214), California (+6,051), and New York (+5,972), while the largest decreases were in Nebraska (-429), Vermont (-353), Arkansas (-216), Kentucky (-134), and North Dakota (-13).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 13	December 6	Change	November 29	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	289,000	295,000	-6,000	297,000	368,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	326,930	388,771	-61,841	294,389	414,613
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	298,750	299,500	-750	299,000	341,750
WEEK ENDING	December 6	November 29	Change	November 22	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,373,000	2,520,000	-147,000	2,372,000	2,887,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,349,128	2,515,262	-166,134	2,102,005	2,880,807
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,397,000	2,387,000	+10,000	2,357,750	2,835,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	1.8%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	1.6%	2.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 6	November 29	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,878	1,102	+776	2,188
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	2,018	1,107	+911	2,363

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 29	November 22	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,511,601	2,099,318	+412,283	2,963,733
Federal Employees	18,571	15,662	+2,909	22,560
Newly Discharged Veterans	26,633	23,566	+3,067	32,851
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	5	4	+1	197
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	5,877	5,011	+866	4,565
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	13,918	10,095	+3,823	25,087
<u>TOTAL</u> ⁶	2,576,605	2,153,656	+422,949	4,423,024

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 132,731,174 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 DECEMBER 6, 2014

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	+12,302	Layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service industries.
TX	+9,107	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, transportation and warehousing, and health care and social assistance industries.
GA	+8,214	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, construction, trade, and accommodation and food service industries.
CA	+6,051	Layoffs in the service and construction industries.
NY	+5,972	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and information industries.
FL	+3,539	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service industries.
NC	+3,389	Layoffs in the administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service industries.
IL	+3,383	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
TN	+3,326	Layoffs in the administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, manufacturing, and construction industries.
SC	+3,312	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
VA	+3,169	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
NJ	+3,097	Layoffs in the trade, construction, administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, and health care and social assistance industries.
MO	+2,744	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, and retail trade industries.
WA	+2,542	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, professional, scientific and technical service, and arts, entertainment and recreation industries.
MI	+2,318	No comment.
OR	+1,921	No comment.
AL	+1,800	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, manufacturing, retail trade, and construction industries.
MN	+1,788	No comment.
MA	+1,682	Layoffs in the construction, arts and entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food service industries.
WV	+1,562	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and manufacturing industries.
KS	+1,545	No comment.
AZ	+1,479	No comment.
CT	+1,247	No comment.
LA	+1,098	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		
December 7, 2013	358	41	332.75	2,887	50	2,835.25	2.2	
December 14, 2013	368	10	341.75	2,925	38	2,863.25	2.2	
December 21, 2013	339	-29	345.50	2,840	-85	2,872.25	2.2	
December 28, 2013	344	5	352.25	2,863	23	2,878.75	2.2	
January 4, 2014	333	-11	346.00	2,945	82	2,893.25	2.2	
January 11, 2014	329	-4	336.25	2,951	6	2,899.75	2.3	
January 18, 2014	334	5	335.00	2,903	-48	2,915.50	2.2	
January 25, 2014	345	11	335.25	2,915	12	2,928.50	2.2	
February 1, 2014	328	-17	334.00	2,918	3	2,921.75	2.2	
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	2,373	-147	2,397.00	1.8	
December 13, 2014	289	-6	298.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 6 INITIAL CLAIMS						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended November 29 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT						
STATE	CHANGE FROM					STATE	CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
							(%) ²					
Alabama	4777	1800	-2173	15	35	26214	1.5	2294	-7941	130	277	26621
Alaska	1613	329	-212	15	5	14655	4.7	2092	-4047	271	90	15016
Arizona	4486	1479	-351	34	5	30647	1.3	2030	-5481	280	291	31218
Arkansas	3789	-216	-448	14	13	24914	2.2	3325	-4708	124	313	25351
California	51843	6051	-21954	429	272	448997	2.9	133256	-56603	3635	5402	458034
Colorado	2964	431	-1784	43	63	32640	1.4	3590	-7062	488	937	34065
Connecticut	5411	1247	-808	11	12	44051	2.7	4768	-5438	93	262	44406
Delaware	1333	533	-185	4	4	7698	1.9	11	-1578	28	62	7788
District of Columbia	420	124	-46	8	1	9471	1.8	510	-2907	376	25	9872
Florida	11985	3539	-4346	39	135	80806	1.1	12374	-31814	344	760	81910
Georgia	14190	8214	-3959	25	92	50231	1.3	14372	-18349	515	899	51645
Hawaii	1844	685	-76	5	33	8884	1.5	766	-2604	139	314	9337
Idaho	2836	14	-749	20	7	12301	2.0	1437	-1301	133	64	12498
Illinois	18124	3383	-914	16	42	132359	2.4	21966	-20018	481	709	133549
Indiana	5829	777	-1399	9	20	30017	1.1	3076	-13301	199	225	30441
Iowa	5042	934	-519	9	11	24460	1.6	4017	550	59	158	24677
Kansas	3660	1545	174	6	11	17649	1.3	2158	-3473	124	200	17973
Kentucky	4351	-134	-233	30	16	24395	1.4	3383	-6334	351	495	25243
Louisiana	2796	1098	-363	3	16	20592	1.1	1034	-3568	74	137	20803
Maine	2147	698	-100	4	3	10651	1.9	1673	-1749	46	50	10747
Maryland	5398	985	-1112	36	32	49275	2.1	3994	-7135	536	440	50251
Massachusetts	9361	1682	1355	33	35	78948	2.4	6863	1601	410	562	79920
Michigan	13142	2318	-2873	30	60	76911	1.9	14890	-15798	327	551	77789
Minnesota	9135	1788	-1367	30	13	56857	2.1	11059	-2236	164	310	57331
Mississippi	2694	216	-240	7	8	15483	1.4	1667	-6471	125	170	15778
Missouri	7644	2744	-942	95	27	38144	1.5	3326	-9019	790	242	39176
Montana	2016	271	-1072	115	7	11940	2.8	1861	-381	449	78	12467
Nebraska	1633	-429	-722	3	2	8957	1.0	1483	-568	36	34	9027
Nevada	4441	666	276	23	9	30997	2.7	2847	801	230	248	31475
New Hampshire	1180	359	-133	3	1	6405	1.0	418	-1346	9	27	6441
New Jersey	12865	3097	-726	17	30	119745	3.2	14449	-10606	320	648	120713
New Mexico	1345	254	-180	29	13	13391	1.8	570	-2721	365	173	13929
New York	30091	5972	-4323	71	108	192793	2.2	17820	-37797	965	1298	195056
North Carolina	6645	3389	-2055	18	61	39834	1.0	3336	-34409	200	634	40668
North Dakota	1151	-13	-439	6	2	3728	0.9	1075	369	23	11	3762
Ohio	11217	-7	-2702	16	67	71008	1.4	7672	-13753	266	689	71963
Oklahoma	1755	327	-63	5	26	15377	1.0	695	-4017	68	229	15674
Oregon	8190	1921	222	136	28	40026	2.4	4637	-7245	625	399	41050
Pennsylvania	34326	12302	-4957	140	118	150572	2.7	28754	-20142	1020	980	152572
Puerto Rico	1909	745	-308	2	6	30837	3.4	2611	-2769	144	333	31314
Rhode Island	1629	209	102	5	4	9798	2.2	892	-1993	51	73	9922
South Carolina	6039	3312	-1910	4	36	20463	1.1	2877	-10041	36	251	20750
South Dakota	601	199	-253	3	3	2752	0.7	568	516	44	13	2809
Tennessee	6483	3326	-1160	19	28	28006	1.1	1974	-7744	262	302	28570
Texas	18810	9107	-1587	66	291	143201	1.3	21955	-28497	1281	3491	147976
Utah	1642	0	-1593	52	4	10957	0.9	0	-4229	368	102	11427
Vermont	1075	-353	10	5	0	6079	2.1	1204	-245	20	18	6117
Virgin Islands	47	23	-16	0	0	1074	2.9	218	2	6	22	1102
Virginia	6586	3169	-796	23	39	34501	1.0	4508	-7808	434	990	35925
Washington	11589	2542	-2153	99	139	65411	2.2	9847	-8433	694	1310	67415
West Virginia	2753	1562	-372	3	4	17139	2.5	4065	-3499	82	112	17333
Wisconsin	15389	53	-1507	28	19	68475	2.5	16809	-11061	160	182	68817
Wyoming	550	117	-599	17	2	4546	1.7	181	-1015	171	41	4758
Totals	388771	94384	-74640	1878	2018	2515262	1.9	413257	-455415	18571	26633	2560471

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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