



# News Release

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



U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20210  
Release Number: USDL 14-2337-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) Wednesday, December 31, 2014**

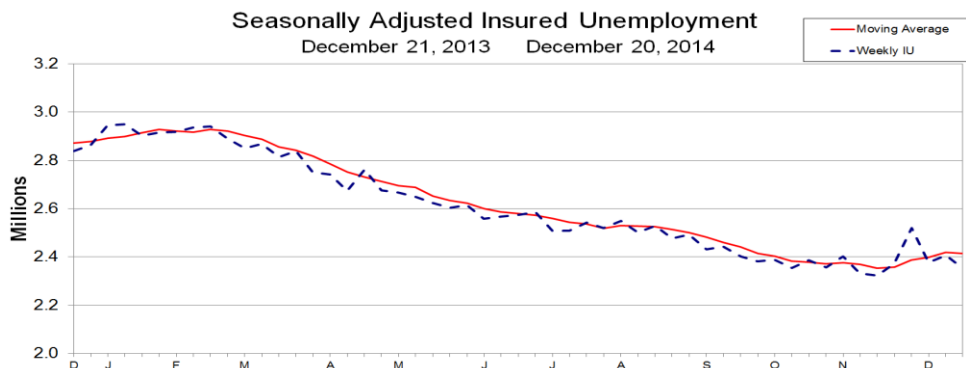
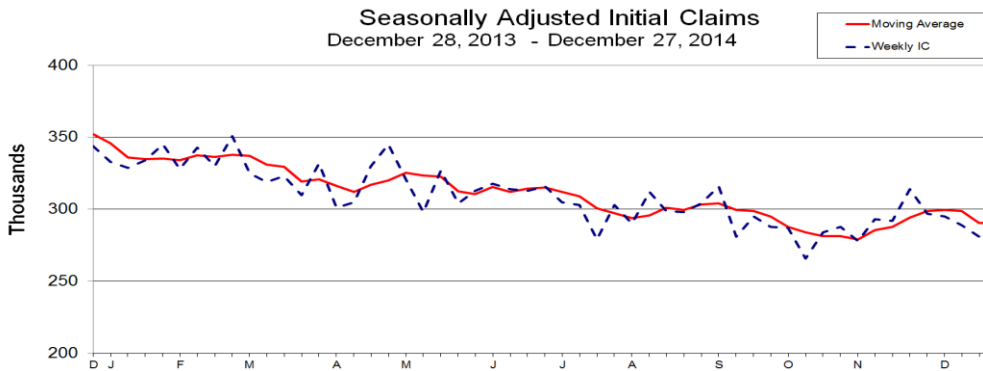
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 27, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 298,000, an increase of 17,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 280,000 to 281,000. The 4-week moving average was 290,750, an increase of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 290,250 to 290,500.

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

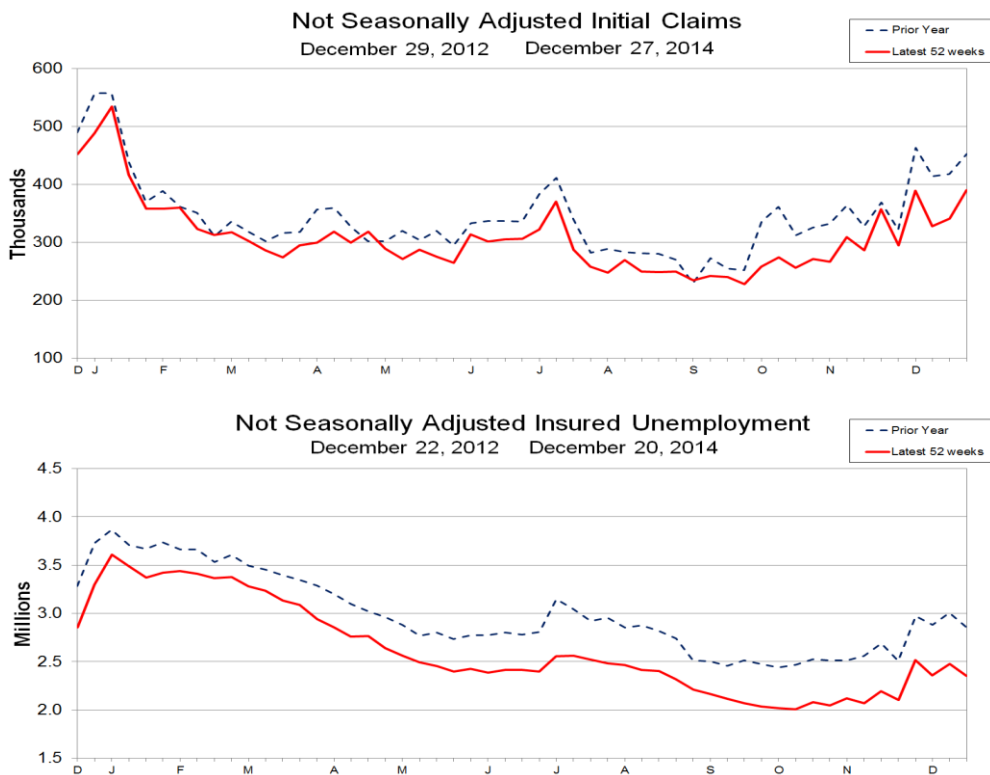
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending December 20, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 20 was 2,353,000, a decrease of 53,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 2,403,000 to 2,406,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,414,250, a decrease of 4,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 2,418,250 to 2,419,000.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 390,087 in the week ending December 27, an increase of 49,271 (or 14.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 26,411 (or 7.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 452,664 initial claims in the comparable week in 2013.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending December 20, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,352,984, a decrease of 125,321 (or -5.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 72,184 (or -2.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.2 percent and the volume was 2,854,624.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 13 was 2,540,575, an increase of 126,960 from the previous week. There were 4,470,098 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 December 13.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,558 in the week ending December 20, an increase of 227 from the prior week. There were 1,716 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 36 from the preceding week.

There were 18,684 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 13, an increase of 1,856 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 26,027, an increase of 905 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 13 were in Alaska (4.9), New Jersey (3.1), Puerto Rico (3.1), Pennsylvania (2.9), California (2.8), Connecticut (2.7), Montana (2.7), the Virgin Islands (2.7), Nevada (2.6), and Illinois (2.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 20 were in Kentucky (+4,151), Ohio (+3,991), Michigan (+2,093), Missouri (+1,739), and Iowa (+1,569), while the largest decreases were in California (-16,139), South Carolina (-1,110), Florida (-985), West Virginia (-604), and Maine (-296).

---

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

---

WEEK ENDING	December 27	December 20	Change	December 13	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	298,000	281,000	+17,000	289,000	344,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	390,087	340,816	+49,271	327,827	452,664
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	290,750	290,500	+250	298,750	352,250
WEEK ENDING	December 20	December 13	Change	December 6	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,353,000	2,406,000	-53,000	2,378,000	2,840,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,352,984	2,478,305	-125,321	2,354,533	2,854,624
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,414,250	2,419,000	-4,750	2,398,250	2,872,250
<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>	1.8%	1.9%	-0.1	1.8%	2.2%

---

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

---

WEEK ENDING	December 20	December 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,558	1,331	+227	1,877
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,716	1,752	-36	2,001

---

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

---

WEEK ENDING	December 13	December 6	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	2,474,241	2,350,816	+123,425	2,997,811
Federal Employees	18,684	16,828	+1,856	22,861
Newly Discharged Veterans	26,027	25,122	+905	31,824
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	6	7	-1	187
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,177	6,940	+237	4,406
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	14,440	13,902	+538	21,712
<u>TOTAL</u> <sup>6</sup>	2,540,575	2,413,615	+126,960	4,470,098

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 20, 2014**

---

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

---

<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
KY	+4,151	No comment.
OH	+3,991	No comment.
MI	+2,093	Layoffs in the construction industry.
MO	+1,739	Layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, and accommodation and food service industries.
IA	+1,569	Layoffs in the construction industry.
NY	+1,493	Layoffs in the construction, real estate and rental and leasing, accommodation and food service industries.
PA	+1,440	Layoffs in the manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, professional, scientific and technical service industries.
KS	+1,266	No comment.
IL	+1,182	Layoffs in the construction, and administrative and support service industries.
IN	+1,065	Layoffs in the construction industry.

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

---

<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	-16,139	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
SC	-1,110	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 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	2,378	-142	2,398.25	1.8	
December 13, 2014	289	-6	298.75	2,406	28	2,419.00	1.8	
December 20, 2014	281	-8	290.50	2,353	-53	2,414.25	1.8	
December 27, 2014	298	17	290.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 20 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 13 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	CHANGE FROM		ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO						LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO		
Alabama	4084	890	-513	11	40	24382	1.4	93	-6664	127	302	24811
Alaska	1525	79	-105	13	9	15353	4.9	2163	-3621	296	89	15738
Arizona	3942	16	-316	38	10	29677	1.2	113	-5476	301	291	30269
Arkansas	3803	816	-192	7	13	23194	2.1	-352	-7193	102	287	23583
California	47498	-16139	-25492	228	220	429063	2.8	41756	-68581	3755	4801	437619
Colorado	3345	396	-58	34	57	31784	1.4	1707	-8086	502	916	33202
Connecticut	5386	844	-1250	6	12	43916	2.7	1403	-7913	96	247	44259
Delaware	1041	157	-442	0	5	7159	1.7	185	-1888	24	57	7240
District of Columbia	463	69	-20	6	1	9262	1.8	162	-3069	365	26	9653
Florida	10121	-985	-4251	25	105	74720	1.0	4074	-28194	318	730	75768
Georgia	8527	-143	-2287	30	94	41309	1.1	-674	-14278	393	779	42481
Hawaii	1344	-117	-282	7	21	8942	1.5	310	-1714	129	292	9364
Idaho	3223	449	-44	45	12	12799	2.1	491	-2535	150	66	13015
Illinois	15954	1182	-3261	14	33	141369	2.5	11969	-23462	451	737	142557
Indiana	6295	1065	-1043	14	15	31224	1.1	941	-15521	206	220	31650
Iowa	5124	1569	-145	4	8	25283	1.7	488	-3264	61	147	25491
Kansas	3829	1266	732	6	2	16848	1.3	96	-5087	114	223	17185
Kentucky	7611	4151	696	45	15	24715	1.4	404	-5863	336	512	25565
Louisiana	2531	25	-47	8	15	20837	1.1	515	-3548	64	130	21031
Maine	1876	-296	-342	4	3	11878	2.1	641	-1996	53	58	11989
Maryland	5320	451	-1862	22	23	48604	2.0	462	-8512	509	450	49563
Massachusetts	9979	175	-384	19	40	82792	2.5	3464	-1442	442	576	83810
Michigan	13685	2093	-7177	32	49	83602	2.1	12512	-18217	295	538	84435
Minnesota	6132	215	-1198	10	11	56867	2.1	2120	-8094	171	322	57360
Mississippi	2918	352	-598	15	12	14646	1.4	177	-6317	107	167	14920
Missouri	7762	1739	-1961	72	37	37279	1.4	381	-12859	705	237	38221
Montana	1544	101	-82	60	4	11458	2.7	-136	-2357	558	72	12088
Nebraska	2376	983	-434	3	3	8425	0.9	75	-2535	38	35	8498
Nevada	4319	561	409	31	10	30511	2.6	482	-420	235	265	31011
New Hampshire	1196	42	-151	2	2	6861	1.1	326	-1247	9	23	6893
New Jersey	12030	180	-3481	13	29	118534	3.1	4797	-22908	343	663	119540
New Mexico	1258	107	-252	41	19	13284	1.7	85	-3083	349	180	13813
New York	21797	1493	-3195	49	115	186813	2.2	5123	-39227	905	1327	189045
North Carolina	5832	-99	-1816	16	61	39432	1.0	305	-32677	219	640	40291
North Dakota	1063	157	46	2	3	4350	1.0	356	-754	24	12	4386
Ohio	14961	3991	159	14	35	73641	1.5	2469	-17106	250	627	74518
Oklahoma	2073	484	-912	6	16	14866	1.0	-105	-3989	65	223	15154
Oregon	6513	232	-2566	133	25	37971	2.3	354	-9857	708	383	39062
Pennsylvania	24829	1440	-4237	98	89	158789	2.9	8999	-23381	1116	1070	160975
Puerto Rico	1909	361	-258	4	5	27937	3.1	-219	-1687	158	342	28437
Rhode Island	1723	59	-35	2	2	10520	2.4	672	-1486	43	77	10640
South Carolina	3205	-1110	-1418	3	28	19075	1.0	69	-8806	58	280	19413
South Dakota	470	25	-143	5	1	2849	0.7	76	-252	44	9	2902
Tennessee	4991	562	-966	25	26	27529	1.0	-21	-8611	234	320	28083
Texas	15057	229	-976	81	207	139598	1.3	13703	-26984	1132	3505	144238
Utah	2015	96	-260	120	5	12724	1.0	566	-4831	456	99	13279
Vermont	1532	664	226	1	1	5579	1.9	208	-492	25	15	5619
Virgin Islands	21	-23	-24	1	0	1004	2.7	254	-88	2	8	1014
Virginia	5483	889	-1599	29	41	33238	1.0	257	-8004	428	920	34586
Washington	9274	959	187	72	111	63891	2.2	-34	-8827	722	1415	66028
West Virginia	1763	-604	-565	6	2	15361	2.3	-1100	-4377	87	104	15552
Wisconsin	9710	786	-3223	12	13	62125	2.3	671	-17145	183	177	62485
Wyoming	554	105	-48	14	1	4436	1.6	-61	-1653	221	36	4693
Totals	340816	12989	-77456	1558	1716	2478305	1.9	123772	-526178	18684	26027	2523022

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).