



# News Release

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Employment and Training Administration  
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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, February 12, 2015**

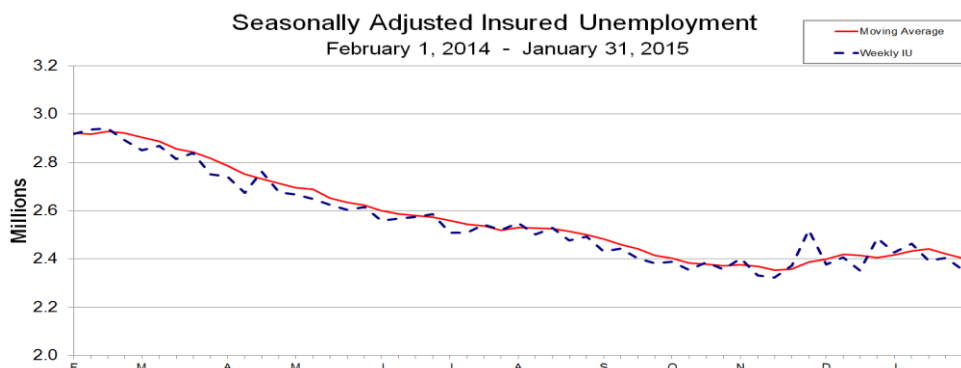
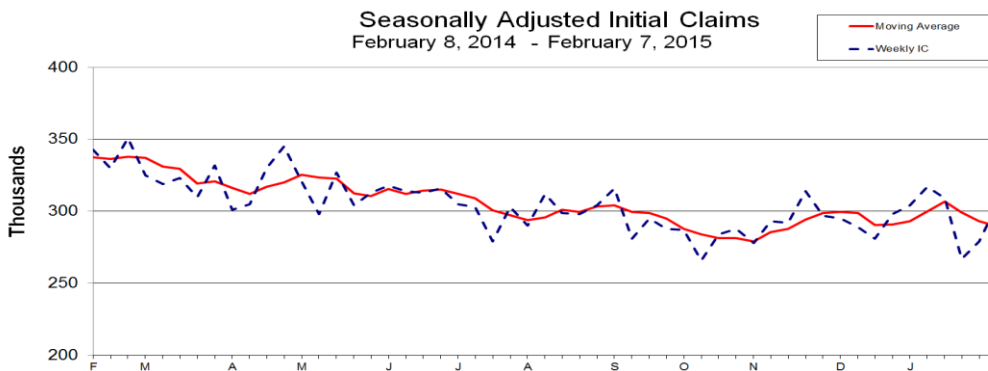
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 7, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 304,000, an increase of 25,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 278,000 to 279,000. The 4-week moving average was 289,750, a decrease of 3,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 292,750 to 293,000.

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

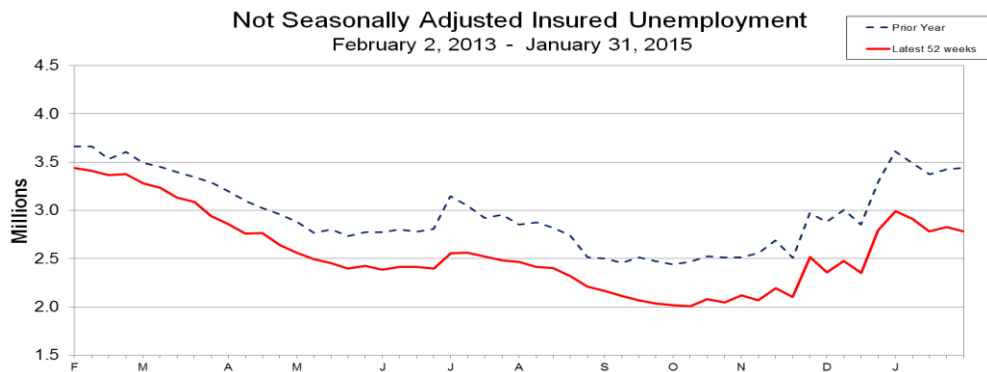
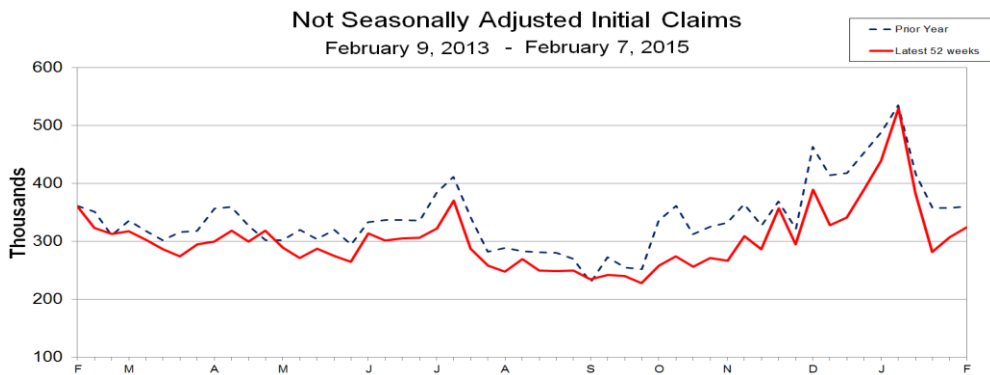
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending January 31, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 31 was 2,354,000, a decrease of 51,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 2,400,000 to 2,405,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,404,000, a decrease of 18,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 2,421,250 to 2,422,500.



**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 323,672 in the week ending February 7, an increase of 17,061 (or 5.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 9,215 (or -3.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 360,338 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.1 percent during the week ending January 31, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,780,264, a decrease of 45,511 (or -1.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 14,429 (or 0.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.6 percent and the volume was 3,440,027.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending January 24 was 2,884,119, an increase of 44,284 from the previous week. There were 3,497,108 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2014.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending January 24.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,131 in the week ending January 31, a decrease of 58 from the prior week. There were 1,510 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 11 from the preceding week.

There were 17,741 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending January 24, an increase of 762 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 24,735, an increase of 783 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 24 were in Alaska (4.7), New Jersey (3.6), Connecticut (3.3), Montana (3.3), Massachusetts (3.2), Pennsylvania (3.2), California (3.1), Puerto Rico (3.1), Rhode Island (3.1), Illinois (3.0), Wisconsin (2.9), and West Virginia (2.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 31 were in California (+18,068), Pennsylvania (+1,507), Georgia (+1,078), Michigan (+1,055), and Ohio (+1,051), while the largest decreases were in New Jersey (-1,608), Rhode Island (-988), Virginia (-522), Tennessee (-383), and Nebraska (-294).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 7</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	304,000	279,000	+25,000	267,000	343,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	323,672	306,611	+17,061	281,885	360,338
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	289,750	293,000	-3,250	299,250	337,500
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,354,000	2,405,000	-51,000	2,394,000	2,918,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,780,264	2,825,775	-45,511	2,784,732	3,440,027
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,404,000	2,422,500	-18,500	2,442,500	2,921,750
<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>	2.1%	2.1%	0.0	2.1%	2.6%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,131	1,189	-58	1,395
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,510	1,521	-11	1,920

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,822,491	2,781,715	+40,776	3,417,726
Federal Employees	17,741	16,979	+762	23,125
Newly Discharged Veterans	24,735	23,952	+783	30,723
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	1	3	-2	57
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	6,863	6,077	+786	8,427
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	12,288	11,109	+1,179	17,050
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,884,119</b>	<b>2,839,835</b>	<b>+44,284</b>	<b>3,497,108</b>

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 133,397,155 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](#)

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED JANUARY 31, 2015**

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**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	+18,068	Layoffs in the service industry.
PA	+1,507	Layoffs in the construction industry.
GA	+1,078	Layoffs in the manufacturing, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
MI	+1,055	No comment.
OH	+1,051	No comment.

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NJ	-1,608	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, retail trade, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance 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		
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	2,407	29	2,419.25	1.8	
December 20, 2014	281	-8	290.50	2,352	-55	2,414.25	1.8	
December 27, 2014	298	17	290.75	2,485	133	2,405.50	1.9	
January 3, 2015	304	6	293.00	2,428	-57	2,418.00	1.8	
January 10, 2015	317	13	300.00	2,463	35	2,432.00	1.8	
January 17, 2015	309	-8	307.00	2,394	-69	2,442.50	1.8	
January 24, 2015	267	-42	299.25	2,405	11	2,422.50	1.8	
January 31, 2015	279	12	293.00	2,354	-51	2,404.00	1.8	
February 7, 2015	304	25	289.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended January 31								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 24					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
INITIAL CLAIMS								INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1		
Alabama	3203	-81	-530	16	20	25391	1.4	-831	-7134	116	281	25788	
Alaska	1525	83	-207	8	3	14917	4.7	169	-4989	293	99	15309	
Arizona	4067	118	-715	19	1	30330	1.2	785	-5926	330	248	30908	
Arkansas	2559	-121	-758	12	8	24655	2.2	476	-6105	170	292	25117	
California	58673	18068	-4231	232	234	468557	3.1	77580	-46734	3457	4871	476885	
Colorado	3200	85	-404	22	75	34820	1.5	-1674	-9920	494	928	36242	
Connecticut	4858	861	-61	10	12	53485	3.3	-2360	-11374	92	210	53787	
Delaware	963	113	-334	1	1	10429	2.5	1439	-2476	29	53	10511	
District of Columbia	393	43	-14	10	0	9573	1.8	22	-2631	475	26	10074	
Florida	10515	-253	-4614	31	86	71847	1.0	-1101	-33131	296	710	72853	
Georgia	9013	1078	2684	27	78	46331	1.2	-427	-9663	268	742	47341	
Hawaii	1548	63	-279	5	15	9134	1.5	97	-1791	94	267	9495	
Idaho	2475	48	51	18	8	15524	2.5	50	-2600	226	60	15810	
Illinois	11642	236	-2264	12	27	167829	3.0	-4476	-43270	489	713	169031	
Indiana	4891	249	-2018	9	18	40306	1.4	-884	-13512	141	189	40636	
Iowa	2469	-242	-522	6	4	34893	2.3	-529	-3165	93	112	35098	
Kansas	2539	218	-579	10	8	21894	1.7	-762	-4239	138	216	22248	
Kentucky	3178	-251	-2135	7	14	29840	1.7	-986	-9550	345	461	30647	
Louisiana	2676	145	688	5	9	21755	1.2	84	-1058	68	112	21935	
Maine	1357	-208	-562	1	1	15515	2.7	332	-3219	45	56	15616	
Maryland	5178	713	-1454	28	20	56783	2.4	-268	-5421	444	424	57651	
Massachusetts	7490	706	-361	11	36	103270	3.2	-1098	-7811	255	569	104094	
Michigan	10420	1055	-1265	25	35	104223	2.6	-6062	-26880	391	455	105069	
Minnesota	4222	97	-1573	4	8	67168	2.5	136	-10574	207	278	67653	
Mississippi	1668	-33	-50	15	12	14691	1.4	-191	-8690	155	148	14994	
Missouri	5531	-134	-1783	47	13	49998	1.9	-1416	-11883	490	217	50705	
Montana	1257	131	-117	35	6	13938	3.3	-4	-1555	708	68	14714	
Nebraska	1044	-294	-520	3	5	10578	1.1	-766	-2350	38	30	10646	
Nevada	3560	259	318	10	2	26518	2.3	-3343	-6295	188	217	26923	
New Hampshire	880	-107	-295	1	4	8415	1.4	-65	-2026	7	29	8451	
New Jersey	9640	-1608	-2611	10	12	136487	3.6	-979	-26919	352	543	137382	
New Mexico	1223	3	-193	13	14	14418	1.9	233	-3047	364	170	14952	
New York	19593	-289	-6738	47	85	218277	2.5	-507	-44977	653	1352	220282	
North Carolina	5427	362	-264	15	43	43424	1.1	5	-29550	229	556	44209	
North Dakota	642	22	104	2	4	7004	1.6	-150	-132	25	12	7041	
Ohio	9904	1051	-3517	15	51	93282	1.8	-1419	-30648	185	650	94117	
Oklahoma	1954	163	144	7	18	16316	1.1	-820	-2885	61	214	16591	
Oregon	6515	660	334	48	25	41188	2.5	113	-11149	858	355	42401	
Pennsylvania	22037	1507	-5251	84	81	175009	3.2	-12300	-35845	811	1019	176839	
Puerto Rico	2426	267	-91	2	16	28304	3.1	-1645	-3874	76	323	28703	
Rhode Island	1302	-988	-1174	7	3	13838	3.1	107	-4173	36	68	13942	
South Carolina	3381	320	207	17	20	18476	1.0	-3083	-11149	55	232	18763	
South Dakota	299	-28	-78	3	1	3700	0.9	-14	-404	49	9	3758	
Tennessee	4556	-383	-1150	17	16	34482	1.3	420	-3114	211	283	34976	
Texas	17981	864	1282	77	208	146373	1.3	7459	-29178	941	3223	150537	
Utah	1703	77	-119	35	7	16033	1.3	-45	-4049	518	83	16634	
Vermont	678	62	-2	2	1	7413	2.5	45	-717	34	20	7467	
Virgin Islands	53	16	10	0	0	590	1.6	-308	-344	2	12	604	
Virginia	4469	-522	-1236	18	20	38806	1.1	1018	-9745	470	916	40192	
Washington	8007	267	-1166	46	90	67062	2.3	291	-11494	722	1313	69097	
West Virginia	1761	-148	-476	3	9	18975	2.8	-365	-6313	107	104	19186	
Wisconsin	9466	413	-5295	18	19	78360	2.9	-681	-20371	217	143	78720	
Wyoming	600	-7	53	5	4	5351	2.0	-259	-733	223	54	5628	
Totals	306611	24726	-51131	1131	1510	2825775	2.1	41043	-596782	17741	24735	2868252	

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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