



News Release

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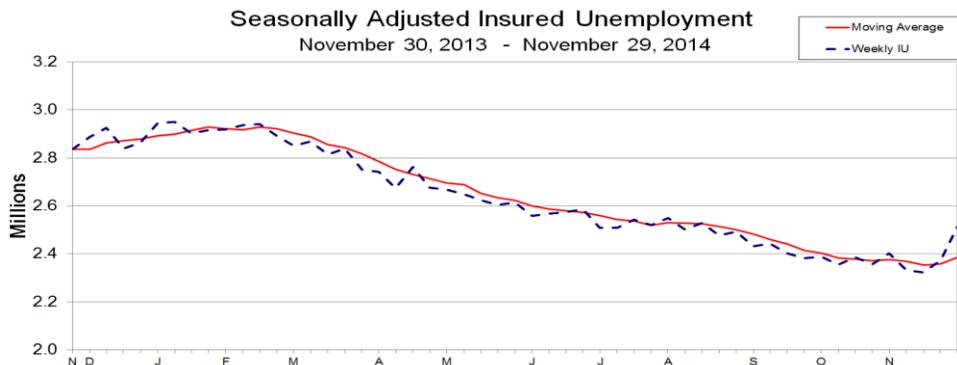
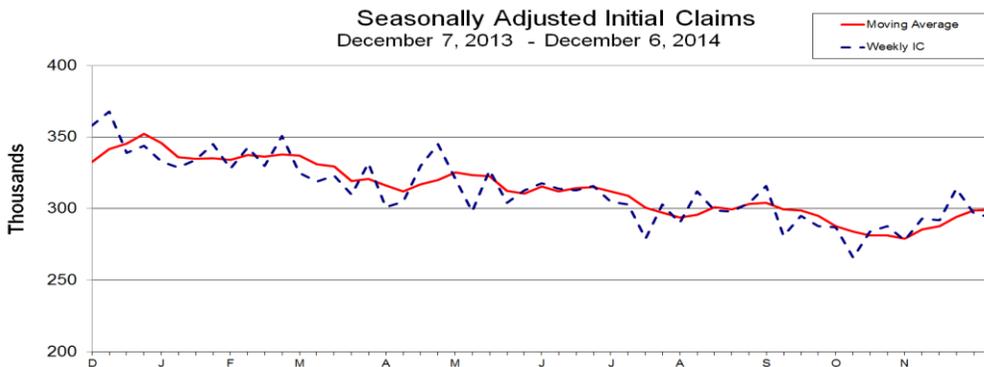
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 6, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 294,000, a decrease of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 297,000. The 4-week moving average was 299,250, an increase of 250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 299,000.

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

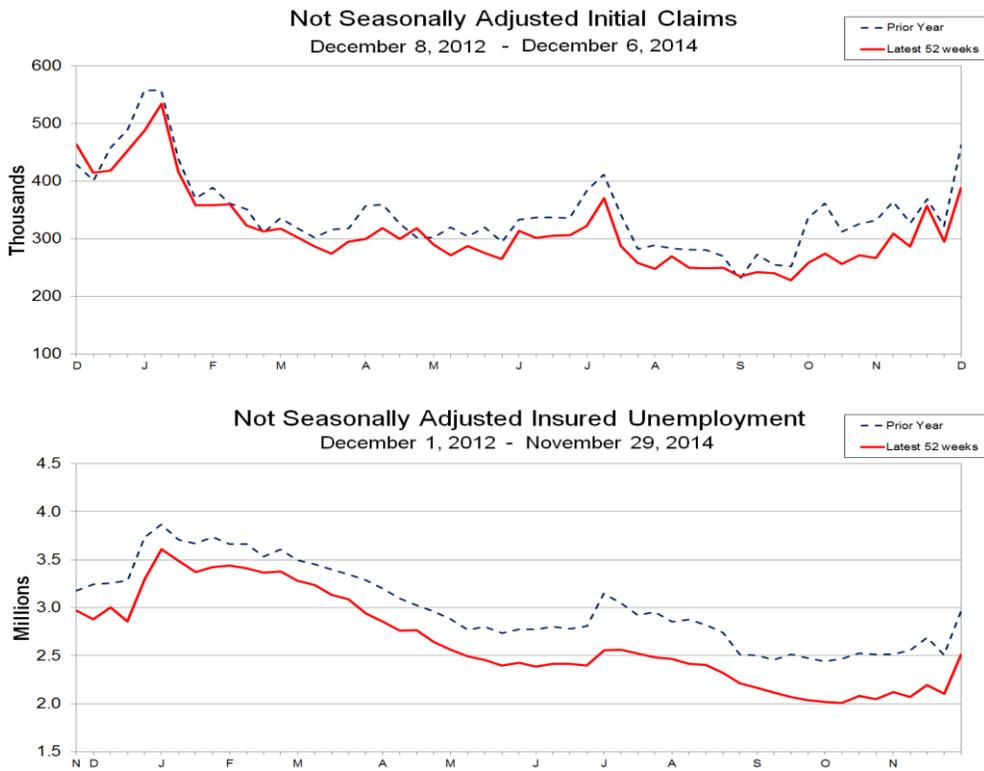
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.9 percent for the week ending November 29, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending November 29 was 2,514,000, an increase of 142,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 10,000 from 2,362,000 to 2,372,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,385,500, an increase of 27,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 2,500 from 2,355,250 to 2,357,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 388,258 in the week ending December 6, an increase of 93,834 (or 31.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 97,745 (or 33.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 463,413 initial claims in the comparable week in 2013.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending November 29, an increase of 0.3 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,509,255, an increase of 407,300 (or 19.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 265,710 (or 12.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.3 percent and the volume was 2,970,677.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending November 22 was 2,153,612, a decrease of 95,846 from the previous week. There were 3,820,947 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 22.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,103 in the week ending November 29, a decrease of 825 from the prior week. There were 1,107 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 536 from the preceding week.

There were 15,665 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending November 22, a decrease of 1,352 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 23,569, a decrease of 2,077 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending November 22 were in Alaska (4.0), Puerto Rico (3.1), New Jersey (2.8), Connecticut (2.4), Montana (2.4), Nevada (2.4), the Virgin Islands (2.3), Massachusetts (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), California (2.1), and Oregon (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending November 29 were in New York (+2,979), Wisconsin (+2,293), Arkansas (+484), Vermont (+417), and Kentucky (+145), while the largest decreases were in California (-13,819), Texas (-6,313), Ohio (-4,284), Pennsylvania (-4,199), and Illinois (-3,359).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 6	November 29	Change	November 22	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	294,000	297,000	-3,000	314,000	358,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	388,258	294,424	+93,834	357,128	463,413
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	299,250	299,000	+250	294,250	332,750
WEEK ENDING	November 29	November 22	Change	November 15	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,514,000	2,372,000	+142,000	2,323,000	2,837,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,509,255	2,101,955	+407,300	2,192,669	2,970,677
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,385,500	2,357,750	+27,750	2,353,750	2,835,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.9%	1.8%	+0.1	1.8%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.9%	1.6%	+0.3	1.7%	2.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 29	November 22	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,103	1,928	-825	1,506
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,107	1,643	-536	1,384

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 22	November 15	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,099,268	2,189,625	-90,357	2,501,910
Federal Employees	15,665	17,017	-1,352	18,392
Newly Discharged Veterans	23,569	25,646	-2,077	29,102
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	4	3	+1	180
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	5,011	5,647	-636	4,321
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	10,095	11,520	-1,425	18,110
<u>TOTAL</u> ⁶	2,153,612	2,249,458	-95,846	3,820,947

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 NOVEMBER 29, 2014

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-13,819	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
TX	-6,313	No comment.
OH	-4,284	No comment.
PA	-4,199	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, and construction industries
IL	-3,359	No comment.
FL	-3,194	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
MN	-2,940	No comment.
MO	-2,739	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
MI	-2,526	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.
NC	-2,301	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
WA	-1,954	No comment.
IA	-1,880	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.
NJ	-1,699	Fewer layoffs in the trade, construction, manufacturing, professional, scientific, and technical service, and health care and social assistance industries.
GA	-1,616	No comment.
IN	-1,507	No comment.
AZ	-1,420	No comment.
AL	-1,286	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, retail trade, administrative and support services and waste management and remediation service, and construction industries.
CO	-1,132	No comment.
KS	-1,090	No comment.
OR	-1,061	No comment.

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+2,979	Layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
WI	+2,293	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	
November 30, 2013	317	-7	328.75	2,837	33	2,835.75	2.2
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	2,514	142	2,385.50	1.9
December 6, 2014	294	-3	299.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended November 29 INITIAL CLAIMS						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended November 22 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT						
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	%	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	2977	-1286	-104	8	15	23920	1.3	-577	-6387	112	260	24292
Alaska	1284	-503	-237	9	2	12563	4.0	-719	-3127	226	86	12875
Arizona	3007	-1420	-304	21	4	28617	1.2	-2349	-5480	235	269	29121
Arkansas	4066	484	-288	5	5	21539	1.9	-389	-4685	114	286	21939
California	45792	-13819	-6129	238	144	315741	2.1	-70319	-45240	2404	3945	322090
Colorado	2533	-1132	-386	24	34	29050	1.3	-918	-6736	331	966	30347
Connecticut	4164	99	-189	9	17	39283	2.4	-362	-5720	98	253	39634
Delaware	800	-118	-169	0	2	7687	1.9	1119	-1392	34	58	7779
District of Columbia	296	-60	9	3	2	8961	1.7	-277	-2785	363	20	9344
Florida	8446	-3194	-3182	34	94	68432	0.9	-7768	-26482	286	598	69316
Georgia	5976	-1616	-591	17	39	35859	0.9	-4212	3700	444	629	36932
Hawaii	1159	-290	-247	7	17	8118	1.4	-707	-2033	98	252	8468
Idaho	2822	-190	167	30	5	10864	1.7	1447	-460	117	62	11043
Illinois	14741	-3359	984	8	20	110393	2.0	-2690	-23863	402	638	111433
Indiana	5052	-1507	-985	9	12	26941	1.0	1363	-12184	186	196	27323
Iowa	4108	-1880	-66	3	5	20443	1.4	2726	740	54	134	20631
Kansas	2115	-1090	-566	4	0	15491	1.2	-35	-3321	118	213	15822
Kentucky	4485	145	-937	23	6	21012	1.2	-190	-5373	315	507	21835
Louisiana	1698	-849	-152	7	14	19558	1.0	-206	-2867	65	120	19743
Maine	1449	-196	-273	3	1	8978	1.6	-80	-2039	38	50	9066
Maryland	4413	-875	-1169	47	13	45281	1.9	-703	-6108	481	439	46201
Massachusetts	7679	-205	-644	13	41	72085	2.2	541	-3123	387	501	72973
Michigan	10824	-2526	-1367	13	24	62021	1.6	-708	-17599	270	376	62667
Minnesota	7347	-2940	-54	10	13	45798	1.7	3140	-948	146	276	46220
Mississippi	2478	36	-109	3	4	13816	1.3	-101	-5769	115	165	14096
Missouri	4874	-2739	-231	57	11	34818	1.3	690	-7300	743	203	35764
Montana	1745	-384	-252	57	4	10079	2.4	465	-646	341	58	10478
Nebraska	2062	74	73	3	3	7474	0.8	643	-777	37	33	7544
Nevada	3775	-712	696	17	5	28150	2.4	248	167	196	246	28592
New Hampshire	821	-202	-286	1	0	5987	1.0	36	-1215	10	28	6025
New Jersey	9768	-1699	-2374	13	19	105296	2.8	-5083	-11337	312	672	106280
New Mexico	1091	-164	-204	14	10	12821	1.7	-198	-2954	312	147	13280
New York	24119	2979	4027	49	75	174973	2.0	6799	-31770	912	1268	177153
North Carolina	3256	-2301	-1426	8	36	36498	0.9	-3006	-33012	205	589	37292
North Dakota	1164	140	271	2	0	2653	0.6	527	63	15	10	2678
Ohio	11224	-4284	-3790	15	37	63336	1.3	5929	-10371	266	639	64241
Oklahoma	1428	-149	171	3	9	14682	1.0	-118	-3691	68	229	14979
Oregon	6269	-1061	-874	65	26	35389	2.1	401	-7105	564	372	36325
Pennsylvania	22024	-4199	-3255	63	43	121818	2.2	-6173	-28862	875	969	123662
Puerto Rico	1164	-441	-164	1	5	28226	3.1	-2417	-5401	171	272	28669
Rhode Island	1420	-264	-153	5	2	8906	2.0	84	-1937	33	79	9018
South Carolina	2729	-348	89	6	17	17586	1.0	-764	-7624	59	265	17910
South Dakota	402	-513	0	6	2	2184	0.6	223	347	37	10	2231
Tennessee	3157	-621	-283	10	17	26032	1.0	14	-7233	279	296	26607
Texas	9703	-6313	-933	27	134	121246	1.1	-10646	-24421	1115	3236	125600
Utah	1642	-216	26	52	4	10957	0.9	1407	-3784	368	102	11427
Vermont	1428	417	-37	2	0	4875	1.6	-109	43	12	18	4905
Virgin Islands	24	-15	10	0	1	856	2.3	-318	-198	2	18	876
Virginia	3417	-939	-850	17	26	29993	0.9	-1338	-6881	358	893	31244
Washington	9047	-1954	-312	56	69	55564	1.9	403	-7490	565	1316	57445
West Virginia	1191	-537	-374	1	9	13074	1.9	298	-1316	73	107	13254
Wisconsin	15336	2293	46	1	8	51666	1.9	3778	-10132	161	161	51988
Wyoming	433	-261	-95	4	2	4365	1.6	485	-627	137	34	4536
Totals	294424	-62704	-27472	1103	1107	2101955	1.6	-90714	-404745	15665	23569	2141193

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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