



News Release

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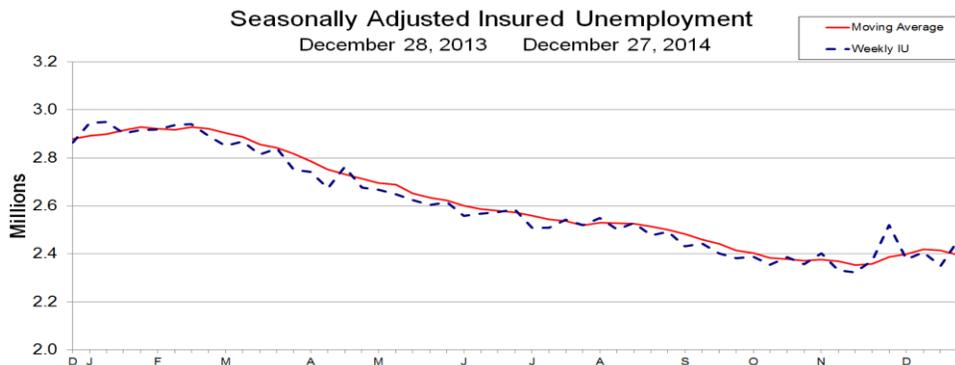
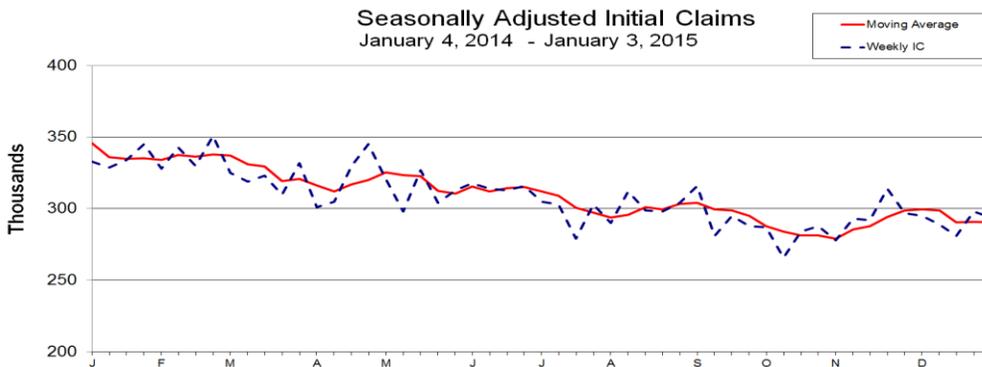
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 3, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 294,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 298,000. The 4-week moving average was 290,500, a decrease of 250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 290,750.

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

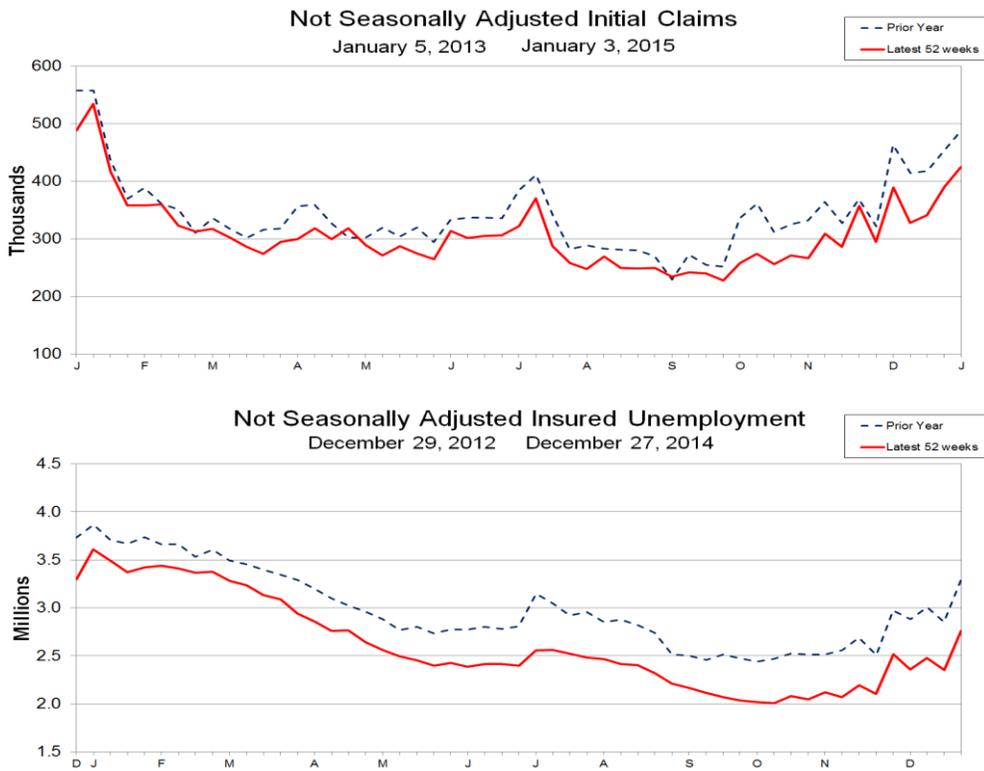
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending December 27, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 27 was 2,452,000, an increase of 101,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 2,353,000 to 2,351,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,397,000, a decrease of 17,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 2,414,250 to 2,414,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 425,399 in the week ending January 3, an increase of 35,581 (or 9.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 41,457 (or 10.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 488,537 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.1 percent during the week ending December 27, an increase of 0.3 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,758,693, an increase of 407,482 (or 17.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 293,901 (or 12.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.5 percent and the volume was 3,298,387.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 20 was 2,405,601, a decrease of 135,432 from the previous week. There were 4,205,127 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 20.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,021 in the week ending December 27, a decrease of 535 from the prior week. There were 918 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 796 from the preceding week.

There were 16,529 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 20, a decrease of 2,166 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 23,513, a decrease of 2,514 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 20 were in Alaska (4.3), New Jersey (3.0), Puerto Rico (3.0), Connecticut (2.7), Nevada (2.7), Massachusetts (2.6), Montana (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.6), California (2.5), and Rhode Island (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 27 were in Michigan (+11,544), New Jersey (+9,663), Wisconsin (+7,051), California (+6,547), and Iowa (+5,204), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-7,008), North Carolina (-2,377), Florida (-1,860), New York (-1,801), and South Carolina (-1,554).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	January 3	December 27	Change	December 20	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	294,000	298,000	-4,000	281,000	333,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	425,399	389,818	+35,581	340,827	488,537
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	290,500	290,750	-250	290,500	346,000
WEEK ENDING	December 27	December 20	Change	December 13	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,452,000	2,351,000	+101,000	2,407,000	2,863,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,758,693	2,351,211	+407,482	2,478,752	3,298,387
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,397,000	2,414,000	-17,000	2,419,250	2,878,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.8%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	2.1%	1.8%	+0.3	1.9%	2.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 27	December 20	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,021	1,556	-535	1,206
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	918	1,714	-796	1,205

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 20	December 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,348,348	2,474,688	-126,340	2,850,954
Federal Employees	16,529	18,695	-2,166	20,755
Newly Discharged Veterans	23,513	26,027	-2,514	28,458
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	5	6	-1	305
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,104	7,177	-1,073	3,662
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	11,102	14,440	-3,338	13,956
<u>TOTAL</u> ⁶	2,405,601	2,541,033	-135,432	4,205,127

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 27, 2014

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	+11,544	Layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service and manufacturing industries.
NJ	+9,663	Layoffs in the educational service and public administration industries.
WI	+7,051	No comment.
CA	+6,547	Layoffs in the service industry.
IA	+5,204	Layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
PA	+4,220	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, professional, scientific and technical service and manufacturing industries.
MA	+4,146	No comment.
MO	+3,896	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service and manufacturing industries.
MD	+3,372	No comment.
OH	+2,187	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
CT	+2,108	No comment.
IL	+1,662	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction and manufacturing industries.
WA	+1,639	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, mining, construction, transportation and warehousing and manufacturing industries.
RI	+1,503	Layoffs in the educational service industry.
MN	+1,166	No comment.
AR	+1,027	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	-7,008	Fewer layoffs due to shortened workweek.
NC	-2,377	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service industry.
FL	-1,860	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, wholesale trade, retail trade and manufacturing industries.
NY	-1,801	Fewer layoffs in the construction, health care and social assistance and retail trade industries.
SC	-1,554	No comment.
AZ	-1,270	No comment.
GA	-1,160	Fewer claims in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, health care and social assistance and accommodation and food service industries.
CO	-1,109	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 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	2,407	29	2,419.25	1.8	
December 20, 2014	281	-8	290.50	2,351	-56	2,414.00	1.8	
December 27, 2014	298	17	290.75	2,452	101	2,397.00	1.8	
January 3, 2015	294	-4	290.50					

		Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 27 INITIAL CLAIMS					Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 20 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT						
		CHANGE FROM					CHANGE FROM						
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	ALL PROGRAMS RETIREMENT	EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
Alabama	4230	146	-631	8	11	25214	1.4	832	-5583	124	304		25642
Alaska	1231	-294	-109	2	4	13341	4.3	-2012	-3330	219	74		13634
Arizona	2672	-1270	-406	26	5	28468	1.2	-1209	-6130	278	252		28998
Arkansas	4885	1027	-888	7	1	22618	2.0	-971	-6019	111	266		22995
California	54045	6547	-4310	155	150	377231	2.5	-51832	-34055	2831	4209		384271
Colorado	2236	-1109	-447	16	34	30103	1.3	-1681	-8586	377	956		31436
Connecticut	7494	2108	-481	4	7	44198	2.7	282	-7676	84	230		44512
Delaware	1196	155	-642	0	2	7114	1.7	-45	-1772	28	55		7197
District of Columbia	265	-198	-77	4	0	9328	1.8	66	-2850	337	23		9688
Florida	8261	-1860	-2617	25	58	64841	0.9	-9879	-28135	287	666		65794
Georgia	7367	-1160	-1418	19	47	37504	1.0	-3805	-16443	352	601		38457
Hawaii	1542	198	-152	5	13	8176	1.4	-766	-1727	98	219		8493
Idaho	2734	-489	-202	16	7	13231	2.1	432	-2080	151	69		13451
Illinois	17616	1662	-1420	9	21	131669	2.3	-9700	-39702	383	643		132695
Indiana	6161	-134	-1972	9	3	31460	1.1	236	-15080	169	211		31840
Iowa	10328	5204	-310	2	9	27666	1.9	2383	-1533	62	122		27850
Kansas	3756	-73	-1716	2	3	17321	1.3	473	-3339	102	206		17629
Kentucky	8360	749	-3218	34	7	22678	1.3	-2037	-7657	320	485		23484
Louisiana	1566	-965	-155	2	6	20328	1.1	-509	-3320	66	119		20513
Maine	1675	-201	-48	4	2	11573	2.0	-305	-1830	39	51		11663
Maryland	8692	3372	-465	56	12	48964	2.0	360	-8093	502	410		49876
Massachusetts	14125	4146	870	9	21	83399	2.6	607	-789	376	512		84287
Michigan	25229	11544	-11689	16	32	76345	1.9	-7257	-28042	269	416		77030
Minnesota	7298	1166	-695	8	9	58581	2.2	1714	-6494	168	277		59026
Mississippi	3038	120	-189	15	1	13945	1.3	-701	-7720	94	156		14195
Missouri	11658	3896	1569	46	24	39993	1.5	2714	-10066	717	204		40914
Montana	1735	191	-24	40	2	10923	2.6	-535	-1773	450	56		11429
Nebraska	2647	271	-288	0	0	9448	1.0	1023	-2373	33	34		9515
Nevada	3914	-405	509	17	10	30990	2.7	479	1	219	259		31468
New Hampshire	1897	701	-656	0	2	7024	1.1	163	-1349	5	25		7054
New Jersey	21693	9663	-1163	7	13	112379	3.0	-6155	-9068	309	564		113252
New Mexico	1583	325	-19	17	4	12978	1.7	-306	-3059	360	171		13509
New York	19996	-1801	-3786	44	51	184967	2.1	-1846	-41234	865	1295		187127
North Carolina	3455	-2377	-1499	3	14	37391	1.0	-2041	-29813	174	574		38139
North Dakota	1121	58	37	2	3	4886	1.2	536	-233	21	13		4920
Ohio	17148	2187	-4690	13	37	78369	1.6	4728	-17781	258	588		79215
Oklahoma	2191	118	-16	4	17	15088	1.0	222	-3520	67	223		15378
Oregon	7097	584	-2546	50	12	37637	2.3	-334	-8490	758	374		38769
Pennsylvania	29049	4220	-10618	146	55	140453	2.6	-18336	-44453	923	898		142274
Puerto Rico	1627	-282	-657	14	2	27067	3.0	-870	260	123	276		27466
Rhode Island	3226	1503	820	6	5	10640	2.4	120	-1520	32	65		10737
South Carolina	1607	-1554	-832	3	7	17475	1.0	-1652	-9585	48	236		17759
South Dakota	368	-102	-101	3	1	2920	0.7	71	-197	45	9		2974
Tennessee	5361	370	-1298	13	8	27998	1.1	469	-7604	248	293		28539
Texas	8049	-7008	-1261	26	82	120152	1.1	-19446	-21969	970	3143		124269
Utah	1858	-157	-100	42	8	13162	1.1	438	-4977	564	89		13815
Vermont	2016	484	-218	3	0	6172	2.1	593	-257	19	17		6208
Virgin Islands	14	-7	-20	0	0	586	1.6	-418	-258	2	18		606
Virginia	4764	-719	-926	14	6	32730	0.9	-508	-6711	396	884		34010
Washington	10913	1639	-1653	37	73	63029	2.2	-862	-10186	695	1364		65088
West Virginia	1391	-372	-227	6	5	14871	2.2	-490	-2760	86	104		15061
Wisconsin	16761	7051	184	7	10	62501	2.3	376	-15212	170	168		62839
Wyoming	677	123	20	5	2	4086	1.5	-350	-1241	145	37		4268
Totals	389818	48991	-62846	1021	918	2351211	1.8	-127541	-503413	16529	23513		2391258

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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