



# News Release

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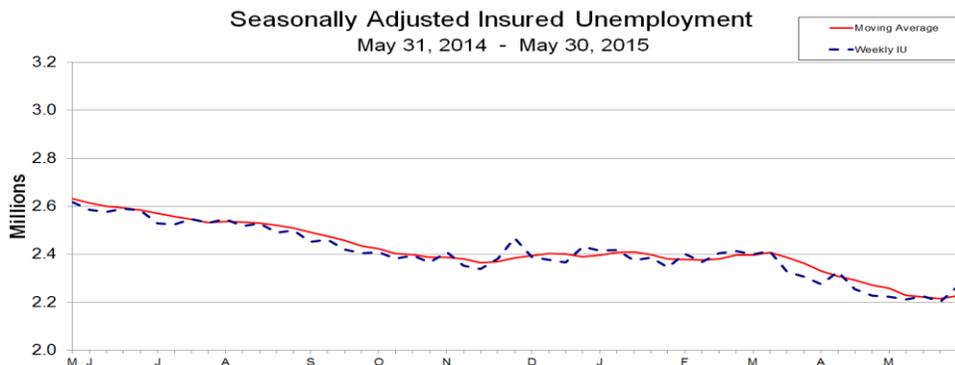
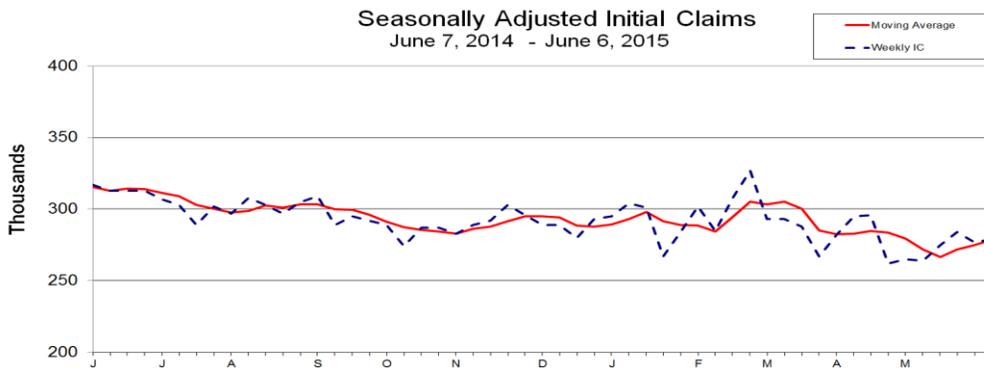
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending June 6, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 279,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 276,000 to 277,000. The 4-week moving average was 278,750, an increase of 3,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 274,750 to 275,000.

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

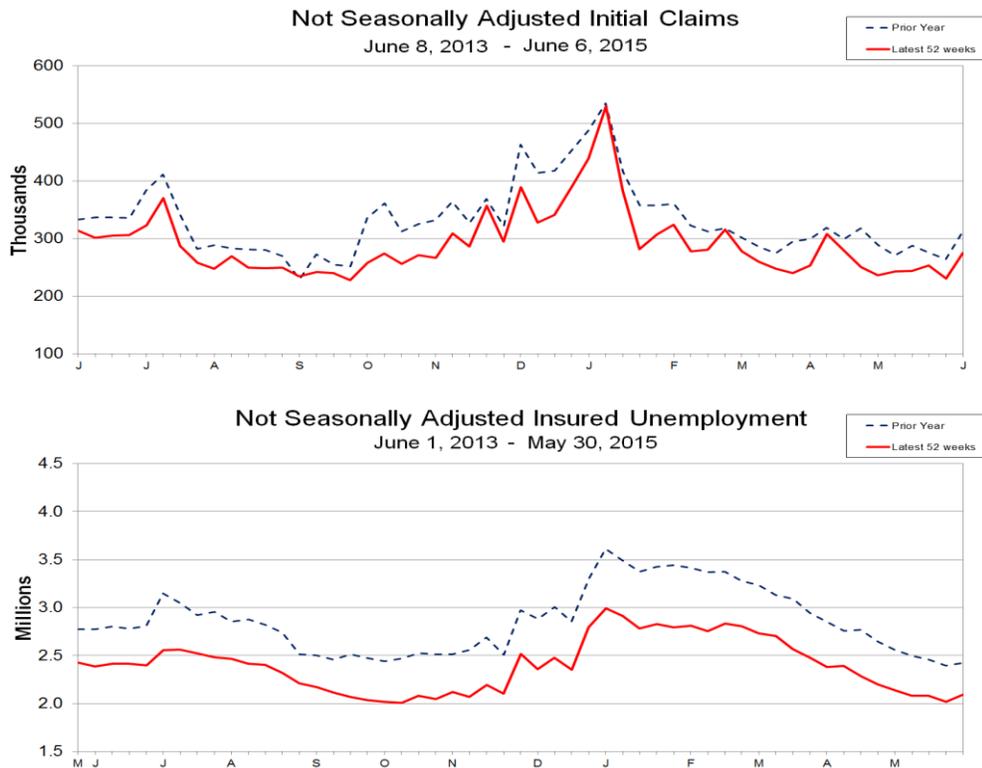
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending May 30, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 30 was 2,265,000, an increase of 61,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 8,000 from 2,196,000 to 2,204,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,226,750, an increase of 10,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 2,000 from 2,214,250 to 2,216,250.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 274,880 in the week ending June 6, an increase of 44,210 (or 19.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 42,645 (or 18.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 313,371 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending May 30, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,090,937, an increase of 72,487 (or 3.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 15,425 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,424,134.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 23 was 2,062,171, a decrease of 64,979 from the previous week. There were 2,447,338 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 May 23.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 789 in the week ending May 30, a decrease of 95 from the prior week. There were 1,111 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 167 from the preceding week.

There were 9,345 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 23, a decrease of 834 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 18,210, a decrease of 1,201 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 23 were in Alaska (3.1), Puerto Rico (2.8), the Virgin Islands (2.6), New Jersey (2.4), Connecticut (2.3), Nevada (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), California (2.1), West Virginia (2.1), and Massachusetts (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 30 were in Tennessee (+1,006), Puerto Rico (+686), Ohio (+540), New Mexico (+416), and Alabama (+359), while the largest decreases were in California (-7,891), Texas (-2,580), Kansas (-2,075), New Jersey (-1,531), and Florida (-1,232).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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WEEK ENDING	June 6	May 30	Change	May 23	<u>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></u>
Initial Claims (SA)	279,000	277,000	+2,000	284,000	317,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	274,880	230,670	+44,210	253,454	313,371
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	278,750	275,000	+3,750	272,000	315,750
WEEK ENDING	May 30	May 23	Change	May 16	<u>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></u>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,265,000	2,204,000	+61,000	2,226,000	2,618,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,090,937	2,018,450	+72,487	2,079,188	2,424,134
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,226,750	2,216,250	+10,500	2,222,500	2,632,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)<sup>2</sup></u>	1.7%	1.6%	+0.1	1.7%	2.0%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)<sup>2</sup></u>	1.6%	1.5%	+0.1	1.6%	1.8%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 30	May 23	Change	<u>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></u>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	789	884	-95	1,348
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,111	1,278	-167	1,535

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 23	May 16	Change	<u>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></u>
Regular State	2,014,262	2,074,596	-60,334	2,390,008
Federal Employees	9,345	10,179	-834	11,371
Newly Discharged Veterans	18,210	19,411	-1,201	23,719
<u>Extended Benefits<sup>3</sup></u>	0	0	0	132
<u>State Additional Benefits<sup>4</sup></u>	6,717	7,852	-1,135	8,292
<u>STC / Workshare<sup>5</sup></u>	13,637	15,112	-1,475	13,816
TOTAL	2,062,171	2,127,150	-64,979	2,447,338

**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 134,074,626 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 MAY 30, 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>
TN	+1,006	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	-7,891	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
TX	-2,580	No comment.
KS	-2,075	No comment.
NJ	-1,531	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, retail trade, accommodation and food service, and health care and social assistance industries.
FL	-1,232	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, construction, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
MS	-1,108	No comment.

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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	
May 31, 2014	314	7	310.50	2,618	-2	2,632.00	2.0
June 7, 2014	317	3	315.75	2,586	-32	2,613.75	2.0
June 14, 2014	313	-4	312.75	2,576	-10	2,600.00	2.0
June 21, 2014	313	0	314.25	2,591	15	2,592.75	2.0
June 28, 2014	313	0	314.00	2,584	-7	2,584.25	2.0
July 5, 2014	307	-6	311.50	2,530	-54	2,570.25	1.9
July 12, 2014	303	-4	309.00	2,525	-5	2,557.50	1.9
July 19, 2014	289	-14	303.00	2,547	22	2,546.50	1.9
July 26, 2014	302	13	300.25	2,532	-15	2,533.50	1.9
August 2, 2014	297	-5	297.75	2,546	14	2,537.50	1.9
August 9, 2014	308	11	299.00	2,518	-28	2,535.75	1.9
August 16, 2014	303	-5	302.50	2,528	10	2,531.00	1.9
August 23, 2014	297	-6	301.25	2,491	-37	2,520.75	1.9
August 30, 2014	305	8	303.25	2,500	9	2,509.25	1.9
September 6, 2014	309	4	303.50	2,452	-48	2,492.75	1.9
September 13, 2014	289	-20	300.00	2,460	8	2,475.75	1.9
September 20, 2014	295	6	299.50	2,421	-39	2,458.25	1.8
September 27, 2014	292	-3	296.25	2,404	-17	2,434.25	1.8
October 4, 2014	289	-3	291.25	2,409	5	2,423.50	1.8
October 11, 2014	274	-15	287.50	2,383	-26	2,404.25	1.8
October 18, 2014	287	13	285.50	2,395	12	2,397.75	1.8
October 25, 2014	287	0	284.25	2,365	-30	2,388.00	1.8
November 1, 2014	283	-4	282.75	2,408	43	2,387.75	1.8
November 8, 2014	289	6	286.50	2,352	-56	2,380.00	1.8
November 15, 2014	292	3	287.75	2,339	-13	2,366.00	1.8
November 22, 2014	303	11	291.75	2,383	44	2,370.50	1.8
November 29, 2014	296	-7	295.00	2,469	86	2,385.75	1.9
December 6, 2014	289	-7	295.00	2,388	-81	2,394.75	1.8
December 13, 2014	289	0	294.25	2,377	-11	2,404.25	1.8
December 20, 2014	280	-9	288.50	2,366	-11	2,400.00	1.8
December 27, 2014	293	13	287.75	2,431	65	2,390.50	1.8
January 3, 2015	295	2	289.25	2,415	-16	2,397.25	1.8
January 10, 2015	304	9	293.00	2,418	3	2,407.50	1.8
January 17, 2015	301	-3	298.25	2,376	-42	2,410.00	1.8
January 24, 2015	267	-34	291.75	2,386	10	2,398.75	1.8
January 31, 2015	284	17	289.00	2,346	-40	2,381.50	1.8
February 7, 2015	302	18	288.50	2,402	56	2,377.50	1.8
February 14, 2015	285	-17	284.50	2,369	-33	2,375.75	1.8
February 21, 2015	308	23	294.75	2,405	36	2,380.50	1.8
February 28, 2015	327	19	305.50	2,414	9	2,397.50	1.8
March 7, 2015	293	-34	303.25	2,399	-15	2,396.75	1.8
March 14, 2015	293	0	305.25	2,413	14	2,407.75	1.8
March 21, 2015	288	-5	300.25	2,327	-86	2,388.25	1.7
March 28, 2015	267	-21	285.25	2,308	-19	2,361.75	1.7
April 4, 2015	282	15	282.50	2,275	-33	2,330.75	1.7
April 11, 2015	295	13	283.00	2,327	52	2,309.25	1.7
April 18, 2015	296	1	285.00	2,256	-71	2,291.50	1.7
April 25, 2015	262	-34	283.75	2,229	-27	2,271.75	1.7
May 2, 2015	265	3	279.50	2,223	-6	2,258.75	1.7
May 9, 2015	264	-1	271.75	2,212	-11	2,230.00	1.6
May 16, 2015	275	11	266.50	2,226	14	2,222.50	1.7
May 23, 2015	284	9	272.00	2,204	-22	2,216.25	1.6
May 30, 2015	277	-7	275.00	2,265	61	2,226.75	1.7
June 6, 2015	279	2	278.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May 30							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 23					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
INITIAL CLAIMS							INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		CHANGE FROM			CHANGE FROM					
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	(%) <sup>2</sup>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	
Alabama	4077	359	-164	15	14	23567	1.3	579	-3600	126	201	23894
Alaska	1208	-176	-188	1	4	9811	3.1	-137	-2536	95	41	9947
Arizona	4649	240	-820	62	13	33933	1.4	-131	-6354	120	227	34280
Arkansas	3429	181	611	8	15	21262	1.9	232	-650	107	165	21534
California	34787	-7891	-16380	107	179	327528	2.1	-48390	-74631	1597	3294	332419
Colorado	2409	-573	-97	6	35	30281	1.3	-2089	-6363	169	843	31293
Connecticut	2425	-784	-244	9	6	36738	2.3	53	-7878	79	158	36975
Delaware	597	-18	-11	0	2	6586	1.6	845	-1436	27	37	6650
District of Columbia	326	-54	-38	4	1	7663	1.4	-45	-2123	369	14	8046
Florida	8480	-1232	-3041	21	64	59988	0.8	21	-31209	211	525	60724
Georgia	6796	167	-829	28	44	37211	1.0	792	-8554	244	609	38064
Hawaii	1133	-102	-454	9	18	7866	1.3	7	-2017	73	172	8111
Idaho	1083	-50	112	1	3	7759	1.2	-37	-1292	33	53	7845
Illinois	9637	-215	-715	4	22	107120	1.9	-2886	-24526	383	499	108002
Indiana	3049	-241	-515	5	9	22106	0.8	-728	-9221	87	112	22305
Iowa	2464	142	329	5	3	16805	1.1	-43	-397	67	95	16967
Kansas	2614	-2075	-81	5	9	16868	1.3	2003	-3271	77	146	17091
Kentucky	3088	-896	-241	10	9	21126	1.2	-231	-4501	240	352	21718
Louisiana	3299	133	323	5	9	23706	1.3	190	4130	42	66	23814
Maine	671	-182	-231	0	1	7420	1.3	-634	-2647	19	49	7488
Maryland	3386	-387	-524	34	12	37673	1.6	-421	-11071	325	340	38338
Massachusetts	4813	-808	-490	11	20	64763	2.0	-249	-9549	207	419	65389
Michigan	5608	-28	-974	13	26	52416	1.3	390	-30317	184	277	52877
Minnesota	3635	-572	72	4	16	33752	1.3	-465	-4915	82	177	34011
Mississippi	1966	-1108	-1053	0	1	13719	1.3	281	-6053	96	73	13888
Missouri	6645	-392	300	16	13	32434	1.2	2555	-5395	198	154	32786
Montana	1033	195	167	3	6	6657	1.6	-134	-262	88	39	6784
Nebraska	1437	183	-36	5	2	6101	0.7	184	-1097	50	25	6176
Nevada	2958	-1	-38	3	2	25219	2.2	-206	-3794	75	160	25454
New Hampshire	487	-230	-210	2	3	4788	0.8	-112	-1898	12	10	4810
New Jersey	6575	-1531	368	15	22	91489	2.4	-1872	-14304	266	473	92228
New Mexico	1725	416	-223	23	8	13147	1.7	-108	-2460	104	105	13356
New York	15684	-546	-1965	38	47	149575	1.7	-1885	-23463	518	943	151036
North Carolina	3890	-919	-732	4	32	34185	0.9	138	-18882	160	416	34761
North Dakota	616	119	293	19	2	3374	0.8	-33	1729	8	14	3396
Ohio	7610	540	-617	5	23	56796	1.1	-960	-10003	145	500	57441
Oklahoma	2143	125	555	10	15	22381	1.5	0	6271	78	171	22630
Oregon	3629	-957	-352	15	23	30388	1.8	-897	-5142	268	243	30899
Pennsylvania	15097	-866	-750	56	41	120340	2.2	-1172	-27938	584	645	121569
Puerto Rico	3178	686	-146	3	10	24968	2.8	-1430	-3193	85	222	25275
Rhode Island	910	22	122	2	0	8380	1.9	-149	-1266	29	49	8458
South Carolina	2560	-386	-539	6	10	15330	0.8	326	-2622	55	168	15553
South Dakota	273	9	-5	97	0	1282	0.3	-87	-69	27	5	1314
Tennessee	4927	1006	-570	7	9	24125	0.9	-351	-5830	129	177	24431
Texas	15015	-2580	-720	42	164	169756	1.5	-144	20601	530	2676	172962
Utah	1102	-265	-170	10	6	10857	0.9	70	-959	110	65	11032
Vermont	444	-50	44	1	1	4217	1.4	-289	-547	10	9	4236
Virgin Islands	46	-8	17	0	0	972	2.6	230	188	12	16	1000
Virginia	3174	-607	-794	11	29	27670	0.8	-552	-7665	262	690	28622
Washington	5428	-661	-1502	18	90	47882	1.6	-1801	-8272	241	1086	49209
West Virginia	1517	47	434	1	6	14025	1.1	223	931	89	66	14180
Wisconsin	6454	84	-910	10	12	39078	2.4	-889	-11670	123	93	39294
Wyoming	484	-47	159	0	0	5367	1.9	-300	2064	30	46	5443
Totals	230670	-22784	-33463	789	1111	2018450	1.5	-60738	-375928	9345	18210	2046005

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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