



# News Release

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**8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 22, 2014**

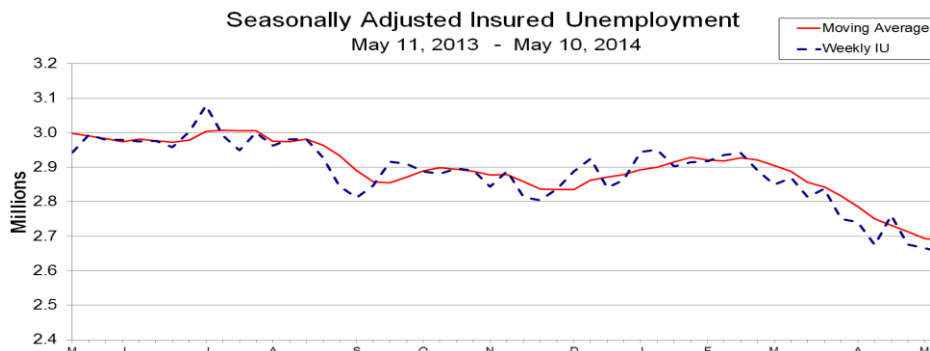
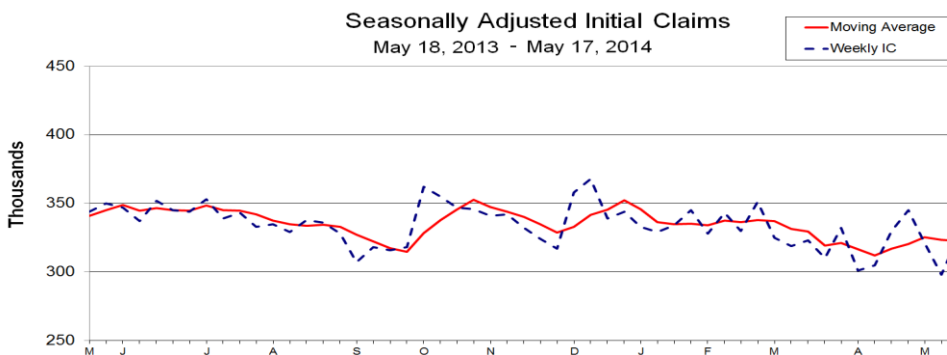
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 17, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 326,000, an increase of 28,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 297,000 to 298,000. The 4-week moving average was 322,500, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 323,250 to 323,500.

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

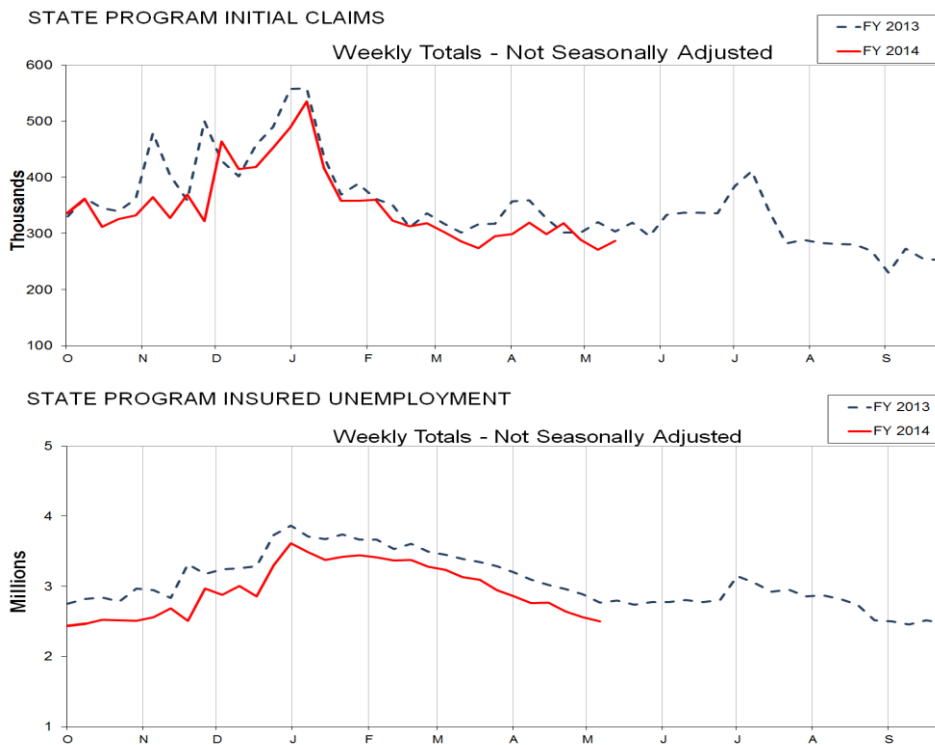
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 2.0 percent for the week ending May 10, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 10 was 2,653,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 1, 2007 when it was 2,639,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 2,667,000 to 2,666,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,689,000, a decrease of 5,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 15, 2007 when it was 2,670,500. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 2,694,500 to 2,694,250.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 286,590 in the week ending May 17, an increase of 15,638 (or 5.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 8,644 (or -3.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 303,357 initial claims in the comparable week in 2013.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending May 10, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,499,378, a decrease of 59,793 (or -2.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 47,984 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,769,495.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 3 was 2,620,476, a decrease of 84,543 from the previous week. There were 4,738,083 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 May 3.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 915 in the week ending May 10, a decrease of 74 from the prior week. There were 1,563 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 170 from the preceding week.

There were 13,744 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 3, a decrease of 279 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 25,132, a decrease of 164 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 3 were in Alaska (4.7), New Jersey (3.1), Puerto Rico (3.1), California (3.0), Connecticut (2.8), Pennsylvania (2.8), Nevada (2.7), Illinois (2.6), Virgin Islands (2.6), and Massachusetts (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 10 were in Mississippi (+1,183), Georgia (+1,147), Tennessee (+730), Minnesota (+587), and North Carolina (+324), while the largest decreases were in California (-7,651), Massachusetts (-2,316), Pennsylvania (-1,408), New York (-1,391), and Florida (-1,230).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>Advance May 17</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	326,000	298,000	+28,000	321,000	344,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	286,590	270,952	+15,638	288,748	303,357
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	322,500	323,500	-1,000	325,250	340,750
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>Advance May 10</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,653,000	2,666,000	-13,000	2,676,000	2,943,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,499,378	2,559,171	-59,793	2,641,583	2,769,495
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,689,000	2,694,250	-5,250	2,713,000	2,998,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	2.0%	2.0%	0.0	2.0%	2.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.9%	1.9%	0.0	2.0%	2.1%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	915	989	-74	1,459
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,563	1,733	-170	2,130

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,553,392	2,636,352	-82,960	2,877,511
Federal Employees	13,744	14,023	-279	18,246
Newly Discharged Veterans	25,132	25,296	-164	36,050
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	59	60	-1	406
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	9,711	9,870	-159	5,884
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	18,438	19,418	-980	23,300
<u>TOTAL</u> <sup>6</sup>	2,620,476	2,705,019	-84,543	4,738,083

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 131,532,656 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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 10, 2014**

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**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	-7,651	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
MA	-2,316	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
PA	-1,408	Fewer layoffs in the construction, and transportation and warehousing industries.
NY	-1,391	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, professional, scientific and technical services, and public administration industries.
FL	-1,230	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
MS	+1,183	No comment.
GA	+1,147	Layoffs in the administrative and support services, construction, accommodation and food services, and health care and social assistance industries.

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## Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
May 11, 2013	355	23	340.50	2943	-74	2998.75	2.3
May 18, 2013	344	-11	340.75	2994	51	2991.25	2.3
May 25, 2013	350	6	345.25	2979	-15	2983.25	2.3
June 1, 2013	347	-3	349.00	2980	1	2974.00	2.3
June 8, 2013	337	-10	344.50	2975	-5	2982.00	2.3
June 15, 2013	352	15	346.50	2977	2	2977.75	2.3
June 22, 2013	345	-7	345.25	2959	-18	2972.75	2.3
June 29, 2013	344	-1	344.50	3003	44	2978.50	2.3
July 6, 2013	353	9	348.50	3079	76	3004.50	2.4
July 13, 2013	339	-14	345.25	2991	-88	3008.00	2.3
July 20, 2013	343	4	344.75	2950	-41	3005.75	2.3
July 27, 2013	333	-10	342.00	3001	51	3005.25	2.3
August 3, 2013	335	2	337.50	2963	-38	2976.25	2.3
August 10, 2013	329	-6	335.00	2981	18	2973.75	2.3
August 17, 2013	338	9	333.75	2981	0	2981.50	2.3
August 24, 2013	336	-2	334.50	2928	-53	2963.25	2.3
August 31, 2013	328	-8	332.75	2845	-83	2933.75	2.2
September 7, 2013	307	-21	327.25	2812	-33	2891.50	2.2
September 14, 2013	318	11	322.25	2847	35	2858.00	2.2
September 21, 2013	316	-2	317.25	2916	69	2855.00	2.2
September 28, 2013	318	2	314.75	2910	-6	2871.25	2.2
October 5, 2013	362	44	328.50	2888	-22	2890.25	2.2
October 12, 2013	355	-7	337.75	2881	-7	2898.75	2.2
October 19, 2013	347	-8	345.50	2896	15	2893.75	2.2
October 26, 2013	346	-1	352.50	2890	-6	2888.75	2.2
November 2, 2013	341	-5	347.25	2843	-47	2877.50	2.2
November 9, 2013	342	1	344.00	2889	46	2879.50	2.2
November 16, 2013	332	-10	340.25	2813	-76	2858.75	2.2
November 23, 2013	324	-8	334.75	2804	-9	2837.25	2.2
November 30, 2013	317	-7	328.75	2837	33	2835.75	2.2
December 7, 2013	358	41	332.75	2887	50	2835.25	2.2
December 14, 2013	368	10	341.75	2925	38	2863.25	2.2
December 21, 2013	339	-29	345.50	2840	-85	2872.25	2.2
December 28, 2013	344	5	352.25	2863	23	2878.75	2.2
January 4, 2014	333	-11	346.00	2945	82	2893.25	2.2
January 11, 2014	329	-4	336.25	2951	6	2899.75	2.3
January 18, 2014	334	5	335.00	2903	-48	2915.50	2.2
January 25, 2014	345	11	335.25	2915	12	2928.50	2.2
February 1, 2014	328	-17	334.00	2918	3	2921.75	2.2
February 8, 2014	343	15	337.50	2936	18	2918.00	2.2
February 15, 2014	330	-13	336.50	2941	5	2927.50	2.2
February 22, 2014	351	21	338.00	2890	-51	2921.25	2.2
March 1, 2014	325	-26	337.25	2850	-40	2904.25	2.2
March 8, 2014	319	-6	331.25	2869	19	2887.50	2.2
March 15, 2014	323	4	329.50	2814	-55	2855.75	2.1
March 22, 2014	310	-13	319.25	2838	24	2842.75	2.2
March 29, 2014	332	22	321.00	2750	-88	2817.75	2.1
April 5, 2014	301	-31	316.50	2741	-9	2785.75	2.1
April 12, 2014	305	4	312.00	2674	-67	2750.75	2.0
April 19, 2014	330	25	317.00	2761	87	2731.50	2.1
April 26, 2014	345	15	320.25	2676	-85	2713.00	2.0
May 3, 2014	321	-24	325.25	2666	-10	2694.25	2.0
May 10, 2014	298	-23	323.50	2653	-13	2689.00	2.0
May 17, 2014	326	28	322.50				

## Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May

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## Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 3

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM							CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	3734	210	-812	12	33	26738	1.5	-386	-4007	131	266	27135
Alaska	1385	-32	-606	10	8	14690	4.7	152	-919	141	131	14962
Arizona	4853	-172	-84	8	3	40520	1.7	239	-1247	170	270	40960
Arkansas	2537	-70	-1057	9	9	21692	1.9	-224	-4978	114	190	21996
California	49804	-7651	-12449	188	235	451843	3.0	-20099	-26629	2824	4693	459380
Colorado	2684	-235	-370	5	47	37692	1.7	-1873	-4203	292	997	38981
Connecticut	3119	-397	-482	7	9	46162	2.8	-2231	-3001	79	220	46461
Delaware	738	-74	-34	2	5	7424	1.8	-2138	-340	29	44	7501
District of Columbia	397	23	-447	7	2	9842	1.9	-221	-494	337	20	10200
Florida	13669	-1230	885	31	110	95153	1.3	-2590	-9894	540	824	96517
Georgia	7858	1147	-4069	25	59	45185	1.2	168	-16224	355	876	46416
Hawaii	1649	57	-144	5	24	10098	1.7	176	-1169	107	281	10486
Idaho	1164	-586	-146	3	6	10585	1.7	80	-2082	80	79	10744
Illinois	10244	-538	-3616	10	34	147501	2.6	-1354	-8228	521	712	148734
Indiana	3846	-376	-1595	13	18	34709	1.2	-532	-9945	279	302	35290
Iowa	2205	-422	-298	5	7	19823	1.3	509	-3584	80	149	20052
Kansas	2040	-540	-261	3	5	18951	1.5	-19	-3473	217	264	19434
Kentucky	3406	-82	-535	33	7	26857	1.5	1397	-4434	218	575	27650
Louisiana	2209	-64	-118	3	14	18897	1.0	-29	-3620	98	114	19109
Maine	979	-312	-147	9	0	12685	2.2	-1524	-613	37	61	12783
Maryland	4176	-396	-859	41	26	50501	2.1	-389	-7097	521	423	51446
Massachusetts	5648	-2316	-304	15	28	77052	2.4	-9418	-5247	264	459	77775
Michigan	7628	-150	-2876	17	34	81619	2.1	-6936	-1686	197	498	82314
Minnesota	4533	587	566	3	14	52346	2.0	54	-3517	121	269	52736
Mississippi	3398	1183	-962	19	9	16910	1.6	11	-4256	200	126	17236
Missouri	4736	-419	-840	23	20	36694	1.4	-859	-6792	218	193	37105
Montana	922	25	-21	13	6	8948	2.1	-248	-1953	193	97	9238
Nebraska	1088	-54	-304	0	2	7250	0.8	-131	-2275	27	39	7316
Nevada	2994	-150	-242	9	11	30081	2.7	-1642	-2199	164	248	30493
New Hampshire	792	-406	-119	1	1	7750	1.3	-353	-686	12	20	7782
New Jersey	8079	-417	-47	27	30	116399	3.1	-6323	-1906	281	492	117194
New Mexico	1263	32	-115	5	9	15761	2.1	-505	-866	154	144	16059
New York	18224	-1391	-898	44	83	186456	2.2	-11380	-30087	724	1231	188411
North Carolina	5339	324	-6002	13	42	53914	1.4	-1219	-35124	224	823	54961
North Dakota	261	-39	-60	2	4	2470	0.6	-110	-943	18	13	2501
Ohio	7810	-284	-2024	13	51	71497	1.4	-2397	-15797	182	669	72348
Oklahoma	1614	100	-411	6	21	16265	1.1	288	-3748	78	190	16533
Oregon	4435	-857	-1025	31	23	38600	2.4	-1103	-7223	501	350	39451
Pennsylvania	17347	-1408	-2086	77	67	156316	2.8	-4653	-10142	784	1075	158176
Puerto Rico	2225	3	-109	2	9	28222	3.1	-665	-12202	117	303	28642
Rhode Island	1170	-298	199	1	6	10746	2.4	-2596	-625	50	57	10853
South Carolina	3025	-294	-818	2	16	17045	0.9	-544	-11448	49	180	17274
South Dakota	268	83	-14	4	1	1650	0.4	-146	-457	31	5	1686
Tennessee	4588	730	-190	14	21	30360	1.2	2379	-9432	140	276	30776
Texas	16130	-377	-1238	59	214	147494	1.4	-387	-6930	657	3174	151332
Utah	1646	31	73	21	7	12591	1.0	-177	-2488	110	104	12805
Vermont	536	-33	-143	0	3	5759	2.0	-903	-708	21	22	5802
Virgin Islands	45	23	-25	0	0	988	2.6	310	108	2	10	1000
Virginia	4284	53	-1110	15	37	35291	1.0	-1109	-6807	336	901	36528
Washington	7647	-237	-434	29	101	62627	2.2	1047	-9375	423	1321	64371
West Virginia	1188	113	-269	4	11	15314	2.2	916	167	77	116	15507
Wisconsin	9046	-183	-126	13	16	62975	2.3	-2736	-11972	138	194	63308
Wyoming	347	-30	-83	4	5	4233	1.6	11	-1864	81	42	4356
Totals	270952	-17796	-49301	915	1563	2559171	1.9	-82412	-324661	13744	25132	2598106

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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