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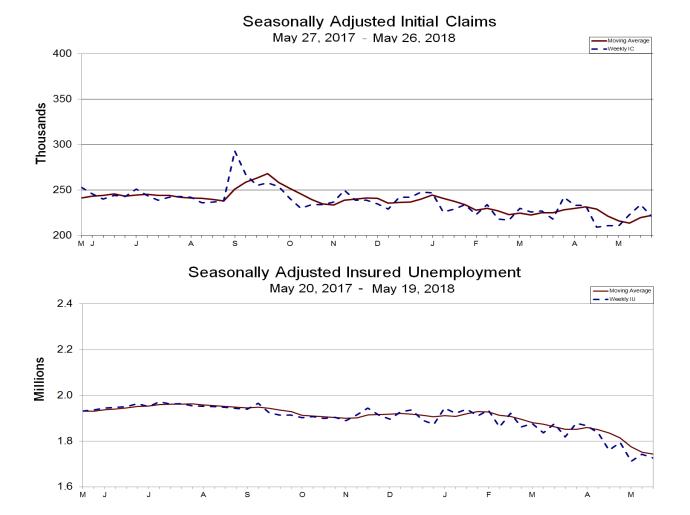
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 26, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 221,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 234,000. The 4-week moving average was 222,250, an increase of 2,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 219,750.

Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

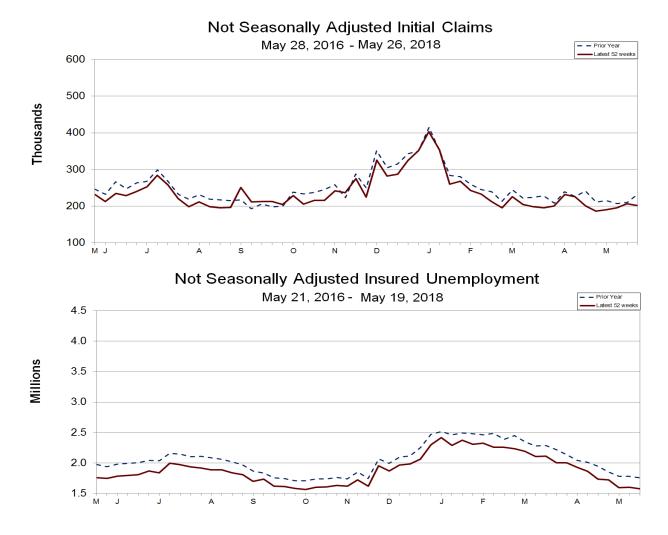
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending May 19, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 19 was 1,726,000, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 1,741,000 to 1,742,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,743,500, a decrease of 8,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 15, 1973 when it was 1,735,750. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 1,751,750 to 1,752,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 201,374 in the week ending May 26, a decrease of 5,669 (or -2.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 6,565 (or 3.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 232,138 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending May 19, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,579,407, a decrease of 24,712 (or -1.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 10,450 (or -0.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,759,705.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 12 was 1,631,905, an increase of 9,115 from the previous week. There were 1,822,609 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in the Virgin Islands during the week ending May 12.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 654 in the week ending May 19, an increase of 54 from the prior week. There were 724 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 223 from the preceding week.

There were 7,757 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 12, an increase of 493 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,711, an increase of 109 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 12 were in the Virgin Islands (3.5), Alaska (2.8), California (2.0), New Jersey (2.0), Connecticut (1.9), Puerto Rico (1.9), Pennsylvania (1.7), Illinois (1.6), Rhode Island (1.5), Nevada (1.4), and Washington (1.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 19 were in Pennsylvania (+2,219), California (+2,162), Michigan (+1,695), Kentucky (+1,660), and New Jersey (+1,126), while the largest decreases were in Missouri (-2,648), Washington (-305), Minnesota (-269), Wisconsin (-161), and Florida (-137).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 26	May 19	Change	May 12	Prior Year ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	221,000	234,000	-13,000	223,000	253,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	201,374	207,043	-5,669	195,214	232,138
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	222,250	219,750	+2,500	213,500	241,250
WEEK ENDING	May 19	May 12	Change	May 5	Prior Year ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,726,000	1,742,000	-16,000	1,712,000	1,932,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,579,407	1,604,119	-24,712	1,595,249	1,759,705
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,743,500	1,752,000	-8,500	1,775,000	1,930,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.1%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 19	May 12	Change	Prior Year ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	654	600	+54	690
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	724	947	-223	699

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 12	May 5	Change	Prior Year ¹
Regular State	1,601,888	1,592,947	+8,941	1,784,354
Federal Employees	7,757	7,264	+493	9,214
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,711	7,602	+109	10,889
Extended Benefits ³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits ⁴	6,903	6,947	-44	7,579
STC / Workshare ⁵	7,646	8,030	-384	10,573
TOTAL	1,631,905	1,622,790	+9,115	1,822,609

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 141,433,196 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: <u>Extensions and Special Programs PDF</u>
- 5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-9 of the following link: Extensions and Special Programs PDF

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Initial Claim	s Filed During Week	Ended May 26	Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 19			
STATE	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Chang	
Alabama	3,052	4,091	-1,039	17,097	15,833	1,264	
Alaska	1,234	914	320	7,908	8,520	-612	
Arizona	4,233	4,409	-176	24,297	27,631	-3,334	
Arkansas	1,843	1,874	-31	10,327	10,727	-400	
California*	37,510	41,544	-4,034	331,224	335,046	-3,82	
Colorado	1,885	1,771	114	19,414	20,475	-1,06	
Connecticut	2,488	2,690	-202	32,973	31,447	1,526	
Delaware	397	433	-36	4,327	4,137	190	
District of Columbia	532	350	182	7,193	7,409	-216	
Florida	6,869	6,840	29	33,331	37,581	-4,250	
	5,016	4,847	169	24,364	25,316	-952	
Georgia Hawaii**							
	1,034	1,158	-124	6,798	6,892	-94	
Idaho	768	709	59	3,990	4,457	-467	
Illinois	8,869	7,872	997	87,401	92,402	-5,00	
Indiana	2,128	2,058	70	14,412	13,826	586	
Iowa	2,663	2,047	616	13,705	13,317	388	
Kansas*	1,754	1,752	2	8,282	8,231	51	
Kentucky	2,877	6,629	-3,752	18,338	17,859	479	
Louisiana	2,842	2,351	491	13,817	15,258	-1,44	
Maine*	455	549	-94	4,959	5,353	-394	
Maryland	3,288	3,613	-325	25,192	27,237	-2,045	
Massachusetts	4,625	4,833	-208	45,823	46,992	-1,169	
Michigan	7,520	6,721	799	39,452	40,977	-1,525	
Minnesota	2,844	2,492	352	30,324	31,697	-1,373	
Mississippi	1,921	1,922	-1	7,541	7,324	217	
Missouri	5,086	4,160	926	23,860	23,112	748	
Montana	680	591	89	5,151	5,636	-485	
Nebraska	829	663	166	3,630	3,553	77	
Nevada	2,297	2,218	79	16,642	18,579	-1,93	
New Hampshire	357	443	-86	3,270	3,556	-286	
New Jersey	7,705	8,418	-713	81,053	79,547	1,506	
New Mexico	940	806	134	8,616	8,859	-243	
New York	13,960	12,279	1,681	119,327	118,811	516	
North Carolina	2,950	3,194	-244	18,454	18,762	-308	
North Dakota	357	284	73	2,386	2,177	209	
Ohio			237	45,874			
	6,196	5,959			46,028	-154	
Oklahoma	1,347	1,464	-117	12,809	12,914	-105	
Oregon	3,125	3,192	-67	24,462	24,789	-327	
Pennsylvania	11,872	13,362	-1,490	90,772	96,052	-5,280	
Puerto Rico*IM	1,518	940	578	24,737	16,441	8,296	
Rhode Island	624	846	-222	6,940	6,803	137	
South Carolina	2,322	2,326	-4	14,207	13,099	1,108	
South Dakota	160	174	-14	1,056	1,127	-71	
Tennessee	3,359	2,736	623	17,075	17,937	-862	
Texas	12,955	13,953	-998	114,630	119,249	-4,619	
Utah	1,020	957	63	7,174	7,304	-130	
Vermont	375	587	-212	3,411	3,227	184	
Virgin Islands IM	16	6	10	1,446	1,318	128	
Virginia*	2,826	3,148	-322	20,942	20,758	184	
Washington	5,130	5,090	40	44,428	44,344	84	
West Virginia	775	871	-96	9,052	8,720	332	
Wisconsin	3,663	3,634	29	22,770	22,899	-129	
Wyoming	283	273	10	2,744	2,574	170	
,	201,374	207,043	-5,669	1,579,407	1,604,119	-24,71	

Note: Advance Claims are not directly comparable to claims reported in prior weeks. Advance claims are reported by the state liable for paying the unemployment compensation, whereas previous weeks reported reflect claimants by state of residence. In addition, claims reported as "workshare equivalent" in the previous week are added to the advance claims as a proxy for the current week's "workshare equivalent" activity.

^{*}Denotes state estimate.

^{**}Denotes OUI estimate.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria

	Initial	Change from Prior	4-Week	Insured	Change from Prior	4-Week	
Week Ending	Claims	Week	Average	Unemployment		Average	IUR
May 20, 2017	237	-1	238.50	1,932	-3	1,930.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	253	16	241.25	1,937	5	1,931.00	1.4
June 3, 2017	246	-7	243.50	1,945	8	1,937.25	1.4
June 10, 2017	240	-6	244.00	1,947	2	1,940.25	1.4
June 17, 2017	244	4	245.75	1,950	3	1,944.75	1.4
June 24, 2017	243	-1	243.25	1,964	14	1,951.50	1.4
July 1, 2017	251	8	244.50	1,951	-13	1,953.00	1.4
July 8, 2017	244	-7	245.50	1,971	20	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	239	-5	244.25	1,962	-9	1,962.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	242	3	244.00	1,963	1	1,961.75	1.4
July 29, 2017	243	1	242.00	1,954	-9	1,962.50	1.4
August 5, 2017	242	-1	241.50	1,952	-2	1,957.75	1.4
August 12, 2017	236	-1 -6	240.75	1,950	-2 -2	1,954.75	1.4
August 12, 2017 August 19, 2017	237	-0 1	239.50	1,947	-2 -3	1,950.75	1.4
•	238		239.30	1,947	-3 -4	1,948.00	1.4
August 26, 2017	293	1 55	251.00	1,943	- 4 -3	1,945.00	1.4
September 2, 2017							1.4
September 9, 2017	267	-26	258.75	1,965	25	1,948.75	
September 16, 2017	255	-12	263.25	1,923	-42	1,942.75	1.4
September 23, 2017	258	3	268.25	1,913	-10	1,935.25	1.4
September 30, 2017	254	-4	258.50	1,914	1	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	241	-13	252.00	1,903	-11	1,913.25	1.4
October 14, 2017	230	-11	245.75	1,907	4	1,909.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	4	239.75	1,899	-8	1,905.75	1.4
October 28, 2017	234	0	234.75	1,904	5	1,903.25	1.4
November 4, 2017	237	3	233.75	1,890	-14	1,900.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	250	13	238.75	1,916	26	1,902.25	1.4
November 18, 2017	239	-11	240.00	1,945	29	1,913.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	239	0	241.25	1,913	-32	1,916.00	1.4
December 2, 2017	235	-4	240.75	1,896	-17	1,917.50	1.3
December 9, 2017	229	-6	235.50	1,928	32	1,920.50	1.4
December 16, 2017	242	13	236.25	1,936	8	1,918.25	1.4
December 23, 2017	242	0	237.00	1,891	-45	1,912.75	1.3
December 30, 2017	248	6	240.25	1,873	-18	1,907.00	1.3
January 6, 2018	247	-1	244.75	1,944	71	1,911.00	1.4
January 13, 2018	226	-21	240.75	1,922	-22	1,907.50	1.4
January 20, 2018	229	3	237.50	1,940	18	1,919.75	1.4
January 27, 2018	234	5	234.00	1,911	-29	1,929.25	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-11	228.00	1,935	24	1,927.00	1.4
February 10, 2018	234	11	230.00	1,862	-73	1,912.00	1.3
February 17, 2018	218	-16	227.25	1,922	60	1,907.50	1.4
February 24, 2018	217	-1	223.00	1,862	-60	1,895.25	1.3
March 3, 2018	230	13	224.75	1,877	15	1,880.75	1.3
March 10, 2018	226	-4	222.75	1,836	-41	1,874.25	1.3
March 17, 2018	227	1	225.00	1,876	40	1,862.75	1.3
March 24, 2018	218	-9	225.25	1,818	-58	1,851.75	1.3
March 31, 2018	242	24	228.25	1,878	60	1,852.00	1.3
April 7, 2018	233	-9	230.00	1,866	-12	1,859.50	1.3
April 14, 2018	233	0	231.50	1,834	-32	1,849.00	1.3
April 21, 2018	209	-24	229.25	1,760	-74	1,834.50	1.2
April 28, 2018	211	2	221.50	1,794	34	1,813.50	1.3
May 5, 2018	211	0	216.00	1,712	-82	1,775.00	1.3
	223	12	213.50	1,742	30	1,752.00	1.2
May 12, 2018	234	11		1,726	-16	1,743.50	1.2
May 19, 2018	434	11	219.75	1,720	-10	1,743.30	1.2

	MAY 19									Y 12		
		CHANG	E FROM					CHAN	GE FROM			ALL PROGRAMS
												EXCLUDING
CTATE NAME	CITE A ITTE	LAST	YEAR	ricee l	UCX ¹ STATE	(04.) 2	LAST	YEAR	ricer l	TION 1		RAILROAD
STATE NAME	STATE	WEEK	AGO				WEEK	AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1		RETIREMENT
Alabama	4091	445	1282	13	5	15833	0.8	1517	-588	56	80	15969
Alaska	914	123	-180	0	0	8520	2.8	-546	-1235	67	19	8606
Arizona	4409	261	256	3	3	27631	1.0	374	-2689	100	55	27786
Arkansas	1874	84	-310	12	6	10727	0.9	-155	-1481	52	84	10863
California	41544	2162	3524	156	108	335046	2.0	11302	-16184	1989	1609	338644
Colorado	1771	-5	-364	5	22	20475	0.8	826	-3830	127	247	20849
Connecticut	2690	155	-412	5	5	31447	1.9	-651	-1947	55	63	31565
Delaware	433	-54	13	1	1	4137	1.0	21	-784	15	11	4163
District of Columbia	350	15	25	12	1	7409	1.3	-27	-523	295	11	7715
Florida	6840	-137	-846	21	45	37581	0.5	755	-6086	153	162	37896
Georgia	4847	99	-338	26	30	25316	0.6	260	-2133	166	205	25687
Hawaii	1158	11	-150	3	14	6892	1.1	320	-605	59	98	7049
Idaho	709	-64	-108	1	0	4457	0.6	-271	-1601	34	15	4506
Illinois	7872	-42	-911	11	10	92402	1.6	740	-13411	380	207	92989
Indiana	2058	-128	-506	2	1	13826	0.5	-234	-5284	27	52	13905
Iowa	2047	259	2	0	1	13317	0.9	-675	-2535	45	25	13387
Kansas	1752	264	-170	4	2	8231	0.6	-138	-1426	36	30	8297
Kentucky	6629	1660	4263	3	4	17859	1.0	1215	25	83	136	18078
Louisiana	2351	325	-574	9	7	15258	0.8	117	-3642	42	18	15318
Maine	549	50	-37 4 -47	0	1		0.8	-440	-3042 -776	21	20	5394
						5353						
Maryland	3613	593	265	22	8	27237	1.1	-406	-4932	336	114	27687
Massachusetts	4833	407	-520	8	15	46992	1.3	-2052	-11835	72	131	47195
Michigan	6721	1695	-343	9	15	40977	1.0	-858	-5267	103	89	41169
Minnesota	2492	-269	-676	2	6	31697	1.1	-5943	-511	61	65	31823
Mississippi	1922	482	-202	3	4	7324	0.7	274	-2257	71	25	7420
Missouri	4160	-2648	-337	8	5	23112	0.8	3483	298	74	54	23240
Montana	591	-60	-145	7	1	5636	1.3	-296	-220	79	24	5739
Nebraska	663	-1	-253	1	1	3553	0.4	-22	-515	20	9	3582
Nevada	2218	67	-35	1	2	18579	1.4	264	-2313	96	71	18746
New Hampshire	443	-23	-15	0	0	3556	0.6	-102	-300	4	6	3566
New Jersey	8418	1126	594	15	21	79547	2.0	-1929	-5367	248	257	80052
New Mexico	806	124	-209	2	5	8859	1.1	-157	-1614	82	48	8989
New York	12279	101	-2135	37	26	118811	1.3	-4116	-14726	327	366	119504
North Carolina	3194	176	-256	9	17	18762	0.4	-36	-2489	76	162	19000
North Dakota	284	51	-104	2	2	2177	0.5	-427	-331	19	5	2201
Ohio	5959	484	72	7	20	46028	0.9	-1657	-6707	94	166	46288
Oklahoma	1464	136	-224	9	9	12914	0.8	-174	-2007	57	72	13043
Oregon	3192	317	-177	10	4	24789	1.3	-531	-1289	214	92	25095
Pennsylvania	13362	2219	776	46	27	96052	1.7	4984	-7293	496	252	96800
Puerto Rico	940	45	-770	2	4	16441	1.9	166	-6802	31	82	16554
Rhode Island	846	99	-5	1	1	6803	1.5	-162	-848	23	19	6845
South Carolina	2326	120	-244	5	10	13099	0.7	-670	-13	32	61	13192
South Dakota	174	-8	-13	13	1	1127	0.7	-59	-108	34	2	1163
Tennessee	2736	379	-213	6	14	17937		416	-388	83	81	18101
							0.6					
Texas	13953	198	-1245	105	198	119249	1.0	8003	-22119	596	1359	121204
Utah	957 597	48	-34	10	2	7304	0.5	-238	-925	46	18	7368
Vermont	587	230	-313	1	1	3227	1.1	-279	-625	8	6	3241
Virgin Islands	6	-9	-13	1	0	1318	3.5	-270	804	0	2	1320
Virginia	3148	556	-82	8	12	20758	0.6	233	-2644	213	262	21233
Washington	5090	-305	-187	10	18	44344	1.4	-535	-4305	211	592	45147
West Virginia	871	146	-69	2	3	8720	1.3	-101	-1229	53	40	8813
Wisconsin	3634	-161	-748	4	5	22899	0.8	-2069	-3249	57	26	22982
Wyoming	273	31	-90	1	1	2574	1.0	-174	-931	39	6	2619
Totals	207043	11829	-3501	654	724	1604119	1.1	8870	-179792	7757	7711	1619587

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.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 19, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	+2,219	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, construction, and administrative and support
		and waste management and remediation service industries.
CA	+2,162	Layoffs in the service industry.
MI	+1,695	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
KY	+1,660	No comment.
NJ	+1,126	Layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, accommodation and food service, and transportation and
		1
		warehousing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MO	-2,648	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, professional, scientific, technical service, and finance and insurance industries.

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

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at http://www.dol.gov. The Departments Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

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