



# TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 3, 2018

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

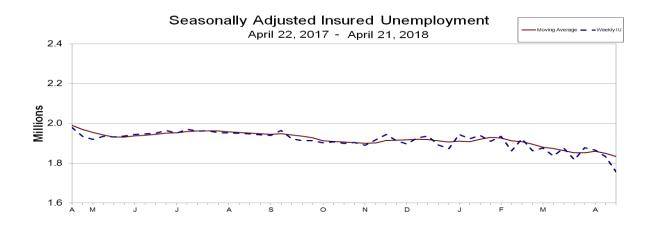
### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 28, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 211,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 209,000. The 4-week moving average was 221,500, a decrease of 7,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 229,250. This is the lowest level for this average since March 3, 1973 when it was 221,250.

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 April 21, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 21 was 1,756,000, a decrease of 77,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 8, 1973 when it was 1,717,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 4,000 from 1,837,000 to 1,833,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,833,250, a decrease of 15,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 29, 1973 when it was 1,784,250. The previous week's average was revised down by 1,000 from 1,849,750 to 1,848,750.

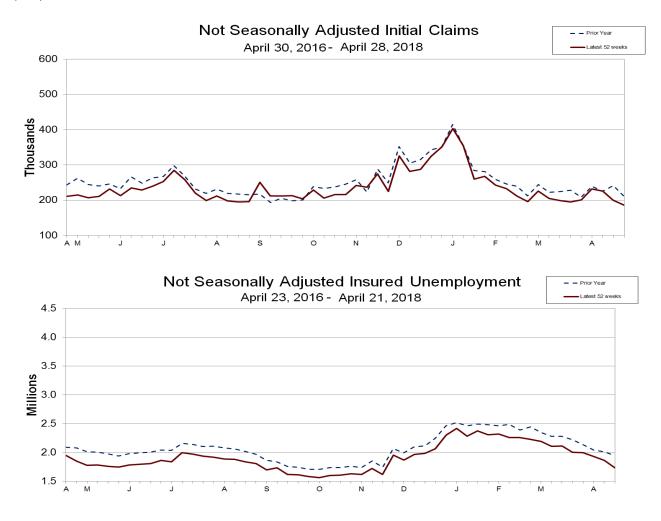




### **UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 186,049 in the week ending April 28, a decrease of 14,016 (or -7.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 15,470 (or -7.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 210,955 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending April 21, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,735,048, a decrease of 129,463 (or -6.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 53,167 (or -2.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 1,948,731.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 14 was 1,895,766, a decrease of 64,716 from the previous week. There were 2,052,086 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in the Virgin Islands during the week ending April 14.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 566 in the week ending April 21, a decrease of 57 from the prior week. There were 544 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 68 from the preceding week.

There were 9,720 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 14, an increase of 663 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,781, a decrease of 6 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 14 were in the Virgin Islands (4.5), Alaska (3.2), Connecticut (2.5), New Jersey (2.4), California (2.3), Puerto Rico (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.1), Illinois (1.9), Montana (1.9), Minnesota (1.8), and Rhode Island (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 21 were in Massachusetts (+4,228), Rhode Island (+1,697), Pennsylvania (+347), Vermont (+327), and Nevada (+156), while the largest decreases were in New York (-18,469), California (-4,353), New Jersey (-1,786), Kentucky (-1,251), and Wisconsin (-967).

WEEK ENDING	April 28	April 21	Change	April 14	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	211,000	209,000	+2,000	233,000	242,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	186,049	200,065	-14,016	226,090	210,955
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	221,500	229,250	-7,750	231,500	244,250
WEEK ENDING	April 21	April 14	Change	April 7	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,756,000	1,833,000	-77,000	1,866,000	1,980,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,735,048	1,864,511	-129,463	1,929,734	1,948,731
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,833,250	1,848,750	-15,500	1,859,500	1,990,250
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.3%	-0.1	1.3%	1.4%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.3%	-0.1	1.4%	1.4%

### INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 21	April 14	Change	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	566	623	-57	633
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	544	612	-68	764

### PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 14	April 7	Change	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	1,861,929	1,927,403	-65,474	2,011,433
Federal Employees	9,720	9,057	+663	10,997
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,781	7,787	-6	10,942
Extended Benefits <sup>3</sup>	375	1,022	-647	0
State Additional Benefits <sup>4</sup>	7,194	6,840	+354	7,820
STC / Workshare <sup>5</sup>	8,767	8,373	+394	10,894
TOTAL	1,895,766	1,960,482	-64,716	2,052,086

### **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: <a href="Extensions and Special Programs PDF"><u>Extensions and Special Programs PDF</u></a>
- 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 Weel	Ended April 28	Insured Unemp	loyment For Week End	ed April 21
STATE	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,911	2,052	-141	14,478	14,452	26
Alaska	1,324	984	340	9,165	9,892	-727
Arizona	4,171	5,981	-1,810	23,597	24,835	-1,238
Arkansas	1,788	1,424	364	10,315	11,042	-727
California	40,491	40,673	-182	344,801	386,990	-42,189
Colorado *	1,755	2,324	-569	20,177	21,339	-1,162
Connecticut	3,246	4,352	-1,106	39,714	40,450	-736
Delaware	427	441	-14	4,643	4,715	-72
District of Columbia	484	255	229	7,224	7,656	-432
Florida	6,121	6,381	-260	32,790	38,737	-5,947
Georgia	3,946	4,804	-858	23,766	25,378	-1,612
Hawaii	1,261	1,193	68	6,734	6,839	-105
	720	855		5,244		-660
Idaho			-135		5,904	
Illinois	7,882	8,463	-581	104,161	113,658	-9,497
Indiana	2,046	1,980	66	16,575	16,423	152
Iowa	1,749	1,746	3	18,780	19,362	-582
Kansas	1,469	1,413	56	8,722	8,955	-233
Kentucky	1,798	1,860	-62	17,399	17,493	-94
Louisiana	2,037	1,960	77	13,657	15,472	-1,815
Maine *	772	664	108	7,289	7,083	206
Maryland	2,620	2,836	-216	26,182	29,427	-3,245
Massachusetts	4,745	8,718	-3,973	56,974	57,566	-592
Michigan	4,038	4,826	-788	52,078	60,096	-8,018
Minnesota	3,106	3,051	55	50,835	50,844	-9
Mississippi	805	1,037	-232	6,602	7,336	-734
Missouri	2,405	2,569	-164	20,238	21,505	-1,267
Montana	699	822	-123	7,170	8,325	-1,155
Nebraska	527	580	-53	3,993	4,392	-399
Nevada	2,243	2,278	-35	17,742	19,275	-1,533
New Hampshire	841	523	318	3,709	4,201	-492
New Jersey	7,006	7,205	-199	89,125	93,464	-4,339
New Mexico	650	709	-59	9,166	9,537	-371
New York	13,509	13,449	60	136,949	140,953	-4,004
North Carolina	2,772	2,571	201	18,201	19,518	-1,317
North Dakota	318	275	43	4,882	4,987	-105
Ohio	5,095	5,224	-129	54,016	56,712	-2,696
			-182			-2,090 -809
Oklahoma	1,157	1,339		12,624	13,433	
Oregon	3,199	3,400	-201	26,840	27,740	-900
Pennsylvania	10,836	12,402	-1,566	101,684	117,961	-16,277
Puerto Rico IM	984	1,059	-75	16,796	19,599	-2,803
Rhode Island	657	2,631	-1,974	9,970	8,600	1,370
South Carolina	1,876	1,944	-68	13,659	14,322	-663
South Dakota	136	157	-21	1,964	2,281	-317
Tennessee	2,120	1,916	204	16,692	18,115	-1,423
Texas	12,185	12,221	-36	115,038	123,990	-8,952
Utah	1,038	1,090	-52	7,869	8,227	-358
Vermont	700	952	-252	4,997	4,576	421
Virgin Islands IM	11	26	-15	1,088	1,694	-606
Virginia	2,431	2,319	112	21,358	21,815	-457
Washington	5,138	5,691	-553	48,655	49,290	-635
West Virginia	760	907	-147	10,428	10,087	341
Wisconsin	5,763	5,249	514	35,296	34,254	1,042
Wyoming	281	284	-3	2,997	3,714	-717
,, jonning	201	204	-14,016	٠, ١ / ١	2,717	-/1/

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.

<sup>\*</sup>Denotes state estimate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>I</sup>Affected by Hurricane Irma.

<sup>M</sup>Affected by Hurricane Maria.

		Change from			Change from		
	Initial	Prior	4-Week	Insured	Prior	4-Week	
Week Ending	Claims	Week	Average	Unemployment	Week	Average	IUR
April 22, 2017	252	5	244.00	1,980	-4	1,990.25	1.4
April 29, 2017	242	-10	244.25	1,935	-45	1,970.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	237	-5	244.50	1,920	-15	1,954.75	1.4
May 13, 2017	238	1	242.25	1,935	15	1,942.50	1.4
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	-6	240.75	1,950	-2	1,954.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	237	1	239.50	1,947	-3	1,950.75	1.4
August 26, 2017	238	1	238.25	1,943	-4	1,948.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	293	55	251.00	1,940	-3	1,945.00	1.4
September 9, 2017	267	-26	258.75	1,965	25	1,948.75	1.4
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	1,910.00	1.4
December 9, 2017	229		235.50	1,928	32	1,920.50	1.3
December 16, 2017	242	-6 13		1,936		1,918.25	1.4
December 23, 2017	242	0	236.25 237.00	1,891	-45	1,918.23	1.4
December 30, 2017							
	248	6	240.25	1,873	-18	1,907.00	1.3
January 6, 2018	247	-1 21	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	1,833	-33	1,848.75	1.3
April 21, 2018	209	-24	229.25	1,756	-77	1,833.25	1.2
April 28, 2018	211	2	221.50				

## INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED APRIL 21

## INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 14

	APRIL 21									PRIL 1	4	
		CHANGI	E FROM					CHANG	E FROM			ALL PROGRAMS
		LAST	YEAR			2	LAST	YEAR				EXCLUDING
STATE NAME	STATE	WEEK	AGO		UCX <sup>1</sup> STATE	(%) <sup>2</sup>	WEEK	AGO		UCX 1	<b>c</b> 0	RAILROAD RETIREMENT
Alabama	2052	57	-431	8	14	14452	0.8	2	-2143	67	69	14588
Alaska	984	-104	-160	7	0	9892	3.2	502	-1065	109	20	10396
Arizona	5981	46	-32	8	0	24835	0.9	1865	-3044	171	70	25076
Arkansas	1424	30	-551	1	3	11042	0.9	-288	-1349	56	103	11201
California	40673	-4353	-4445	123	98	386990	2.3	25478	2629		1584	391137
Colorado	2324	133	-17	2	14	21339	0.8	1130	-3363	274	270	21883
Connecticut	4352	-496	341	4	6	40450	2.5	379	-2447	45	78	40573
Delaware	441	-154	-811	2	3	4715	1.1	-1077	-676	21	9	4745
District of Columbia	255	-28	-28	9	0	7656	1.4	-294	-380	310	9	7975
Florida	6381	-143	-505	21	17	38737	0.5	1936	-4168	144	159	39040
Georgia	4804	-798	-397	24	37	25378	0.6	-1296	-2599	174	200	25752
Hawaii	1193	-155	-112	2	8	6839	1.1	-30	-738	75	111	7025
Idaho	855	-78	-130	4	1	5904	0.9	-521	-2005	95	18	6017
Illinois	8463	-453	160	11	9	113658	1.9	-5538	-9702	378	204	114240
Indiana	1980	-554	-423	4	4	16423	0.6	-893	-5223	38	35	16496
Iowa	1746	49	-253	4	0	19362	1.3	-2451	-54	44	28	19434
Kansas	1413	103	-289	1	1	8955	0.7	-785	-1407	44	35	9034
Kentucky	1860	-1251	-236	1	2	17493	1.0	-2205	-1198	135	87	17715
Louisiana	1960	-182	-502	2	1	15472	0.8	-36	-4066	44	16	15532
Maine	664	-111	-103	0	0	7083	1.2	-252	-1373	31	10	7124
Maryland	2836	42	-463	19	15	29427	1.2	-1615	-6651	349	110	29886
Massachusetts	8718	4228	-257	5	13	57566	1.7	-15534	-12552	90	138	57794
Michigan	4826	0	-707	5	9	60096	1.4	-4981	-2979	153	92	60341
Minnesota	3051	-408	98	10	5	50844	1.8	-3122	5776	97	61	51002
Mississippi	1037	121	-275	0	3	7336	0.7	-80	-1667	86	18	7440
Missouri	2569	-288	-488	8	2	21505	0.8	-1905	-2024	99	55	21659
Montana	822	-83	-74	4	2	8325	1.9	-754	588	235	25	8585
Nebraska	580	-18	-65	4	1	4392	0.5	-639	-363	24	12	4428
Nevada	2278	156	-71	4	0	19275	1.5	-568	-3258	146	89	19510
New Hampshire	523	39	-85	3	0	4201	0.7	-281	-370	5	6	4212
New Jersey	7205	-1786	-5187	17	20	93464	2.4	-11871	-7952	241	266	93971
New Mexico	709	-76	-125	0	0	9537	1.2	-162	-1623	156	40	9733
New York	13449	-18469	-18221	19	34	140953	1.5	-28172	-28411	328	392	141673
North Carolina	2571	-96	-498	14	10	19518	0.5	-393	-1685	95	153	19766
North Dakota	275	-38	-12	4	2	4987	1.2	-816	354	14	3	5004
Ohio	5224	26	-1423	10	14	56712	1.1	-5751	-5331	99	173	56984
Oklahoma	1339	-181	-79	9	11	13433	0.9	-107	-1525	65	64	13562
Oregon	3400	-403	-297	8	10	27740	1.5	-388	-565	407	108	28255
Pennsylvania	12402	347	-379	47	32	117961	2.1	-754	-335	528	284	118773
Puerto Rico	1059	-68	-586	3	4	19599	2.3	-907	-4409	27	79	19705
Rhode Island	2631	1697	404	1	1	8600	1.8	-749	-613	23	17	8640
South Carolina	1944	-205	-139	4	8	14322	0.7	-771	1105	42	66	14430
South Dakota	157	32	-22	15	0	2281	0.6	-213	381	27	2	2310
Tennessee	1916	-157	-590	7	10	18115	0.6	-794	1057	88	90	18293
Texas	12221	-477	-1614	80	86	123990	1.1	7688	-20899	574	1378	125942
	1090		-190		1	8227	0.6			84		8337
Utah Vermont	952	-161 327	-190 -189	5 0	1	8227 4576	1.5	-102 -70	-390 -531	64 9	26 5	4590
				1	0					2		
Virgin Islands	26	10	14			1694	4.5	-286	1216		0	1696
Virginia Washin stan	2319	-3	-360	7	16	21815	0.6	-746	-2117	231	263	22309
Washington	5691	-405	-114	6	9	49290	1.5	-1632	-3686	350	584	50224
West Virginia	907	-63	-21	3	4	10087	1.5	-913	-1375	44	36	10167
Wisconsin	5249	-967	-543	3	2	34254	1.2	-3989	-1827	81	25	34360
Wyoming	284	-256	-64	3	1	3714	1.4	528	-693	103	6	3823
Totals	200065	-26025	-41546	566	544	1864511	1.3	-65223	-147725	9720	7781	1882387

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 APRIL 21, 2018

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

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	+4,228	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
RI	+1,697	Layoffs in the educational service and business industries.

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

State NY	<b>Change</b> -18,469	
CA	-4,353	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
NJ	-1,786	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, trade, construction, and health care and social assistance industries.
KY	-1,251	No comment.

#### 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 <a href="http://www.dol.gov">http://www.dol.gov</a>. The Departments <a href="Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center">Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center</a> 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).

U.S. Department of Labor
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Washington, D.C. 20210

Release Number: USDL 18-710-NAT

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