



## Macroeconomic Indicators

### Initial Jobless Claims

#### Definition

The count of U.S. initial claims for unemployment insurance (“initial jobless claims”) tracks how many new people have filed for unemployment benefits in the previous week.

#### Who Releases the Initial Jobless Claims Count?

U.S. Department of Labor.

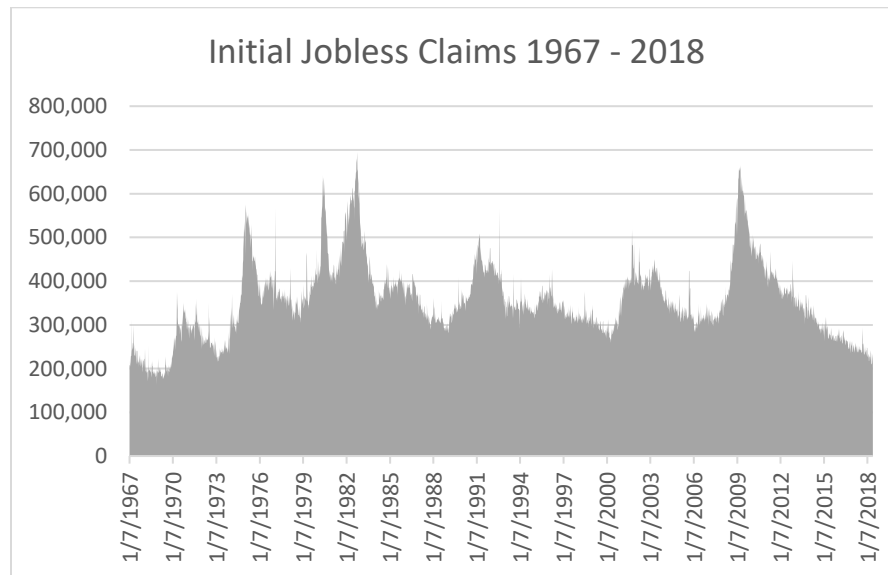
Available to the public: <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

#### What Does the Indicator Tell Investors?

The report is a good gauge of the U.S. labor market. By tracking the number of initial jobless claims, investors can get a sense of how tight the job market is. A tight labor market may lead to wage inflation, which in turn may prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rate to keep inflation in check. Rising interest rates, in turn, may choke the economy and lead to a recession.

The indicator is volatile due to seasonal changes in weather, major holidays, and other events.

As the chart below shows, the initial jobless claims have come down since the end of the Great Recession.



**Type of Indicator**

The initial jobless claims count is a leading economic indicator, as it provides an indication of emerging labor market conditions in the U.S.

**How Often Are the Initial Jobless Claims Released?**

Once a week, every Thursday, at 8:30 am Eastern time.

**Is the Indicator Revised?**

Yes