

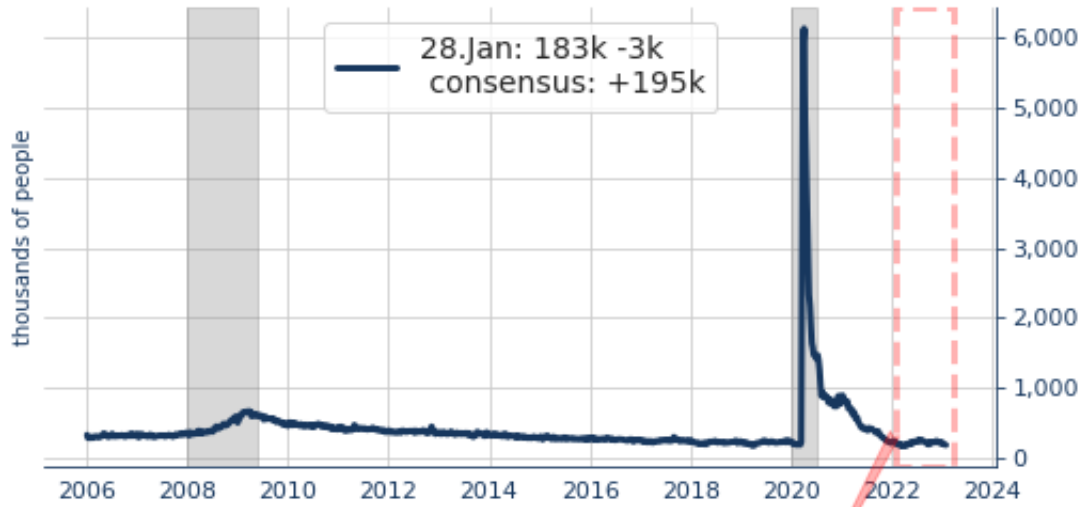
02.Feb.2023

Jobless Claims: Yet Another Week of Surprising Declines

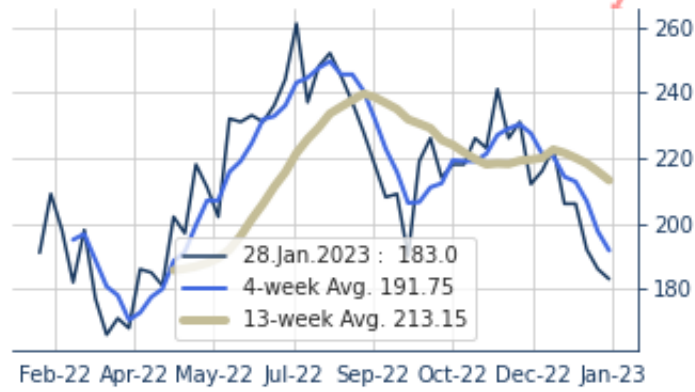
Bottom Line: Jobless claims surprisingly fell last week and were firmly trending lower again, having bounced in the 180-250k range for nearly a year, despite headlines about layoffs at major corporations. Moreover, the trend in continuing claims has lost all its upward momentum, with the number of people receiving unemployment insurance edging lower in January. While seasonal factors are still an issue, pushing the headline lower, they can't explain the surprising lack of any uptrend. While we are cautious that joblessness can lag economic activity, spiking quickly, it appears that employers in sectors experiencing slowness are holding onto labor more in this downturn than in previous cycles, worried that they won't be able to find the skilled labor again when activity rebounds.

Initial Jobless Claims

28.Jan: 183k -3k consensus: +195k

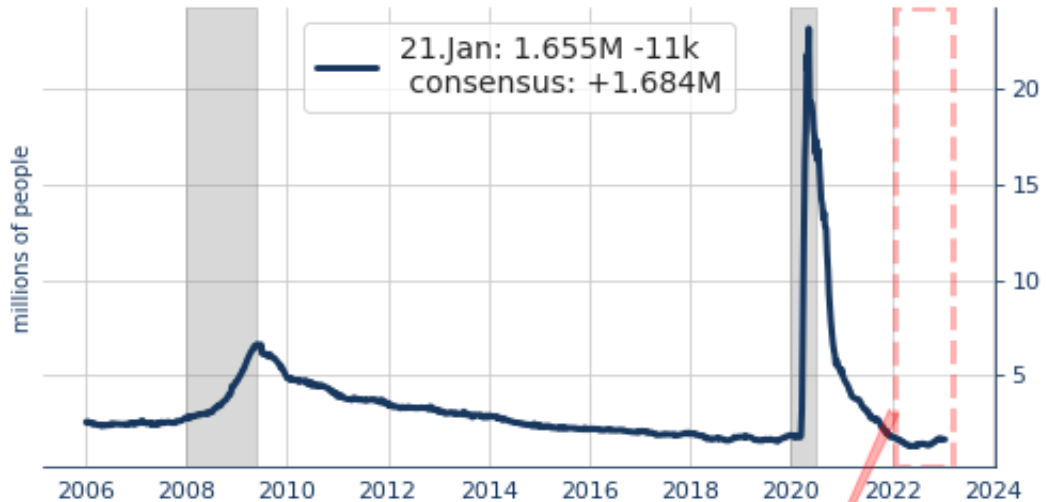


Recent Trends

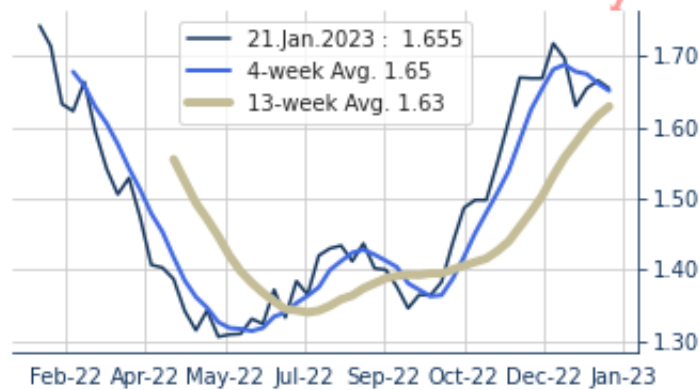


Continuing Claims

Uptrend has started to lose momentum.



Recent Trends



Contingent Macro Advisors 2023 source: BLS via FRED

Initial Jobless Claims FELL -3k in the week ended January 28th to 183k, BELOW the 4-week average of 191.75k, BELOW the 13-week average of 213.15385k and -31k BELOW the year-ago level. Non-seasonally adjusted Claims were nearly unchanged, -872.

Continuing Claims FELL -11k in the week ended January 21st to 1.655M, ABOVE the 4-week average of 1.6515M, ABOVE the 13-week average of 1.629615M but -102k BELOW the year-ago level.

US Weekly Jobless Claims in 000s	Jan-21	Jan-14	Jan-07	Dec-31	Dec-24	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-03
Initial Jobless Claims SA	186	192	206	206	223	216	212	231
wk chg (SA)	-6	-14	0	-17	7	4	-19	5
Initial Jobless Claims NSA	224	288	340	278	270	248	250	288

wk chg (NSA)	-64	-52	62	9	21	-2	-38	89
4-week avg (SA)	198	207	213	214	220	221	228	230
chg in 4wk avg	-9	-6	-2	-6	-1	-6	-3	1
13-week avg (SA)	216	218	220	222	223	220	219	219
chg in 13k avg	-2	-2	-2	-1	3	1	0	1
Continuing Claims in 000s (one week lag)	Jan-14	Jan-07	Dec-31	Dec-24	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-03	Nov-26
Continuing Claims SA	1675	1655	1630	1697	1718	1669	1669	1670
wk chg (SA)	20	25	-67	-21	49	0	-1	61
Continuing Claims NSA	1874	1909	1870	1711	1577	1594	1503	1561
wk chg (NSA)	-35	39	159	134	-17	91	-58	300
4-week avg (SA)	1664	1675	1678	1688	1682	1654	1625	1582
chg in 4wk avg	-11	-4	-10	7	27	30	43	43
13-week avg (SA)	1617	1599	1578	1558	1532	1504	1481	1460
chg in 13k avg	18	21	20	26	29	23	21	21

source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via St. Louis Fed FRED