

18.Mar.2021

## **Jobless Claims: Sharp Increase Amid Processing Bottlenecks**

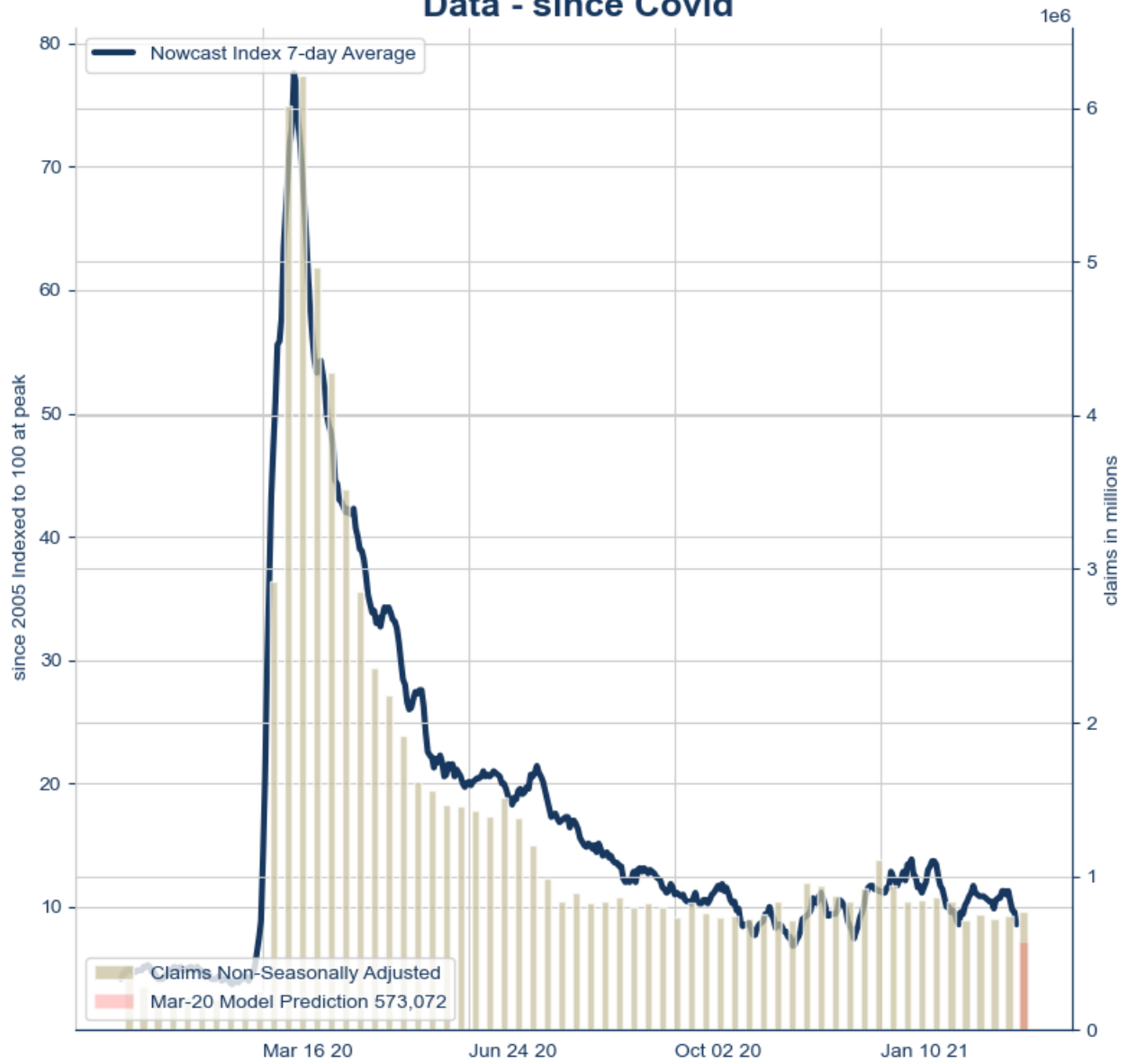
**Bottom Line:** Claims rose sharply last week, led by increases in Texas and Illinois.

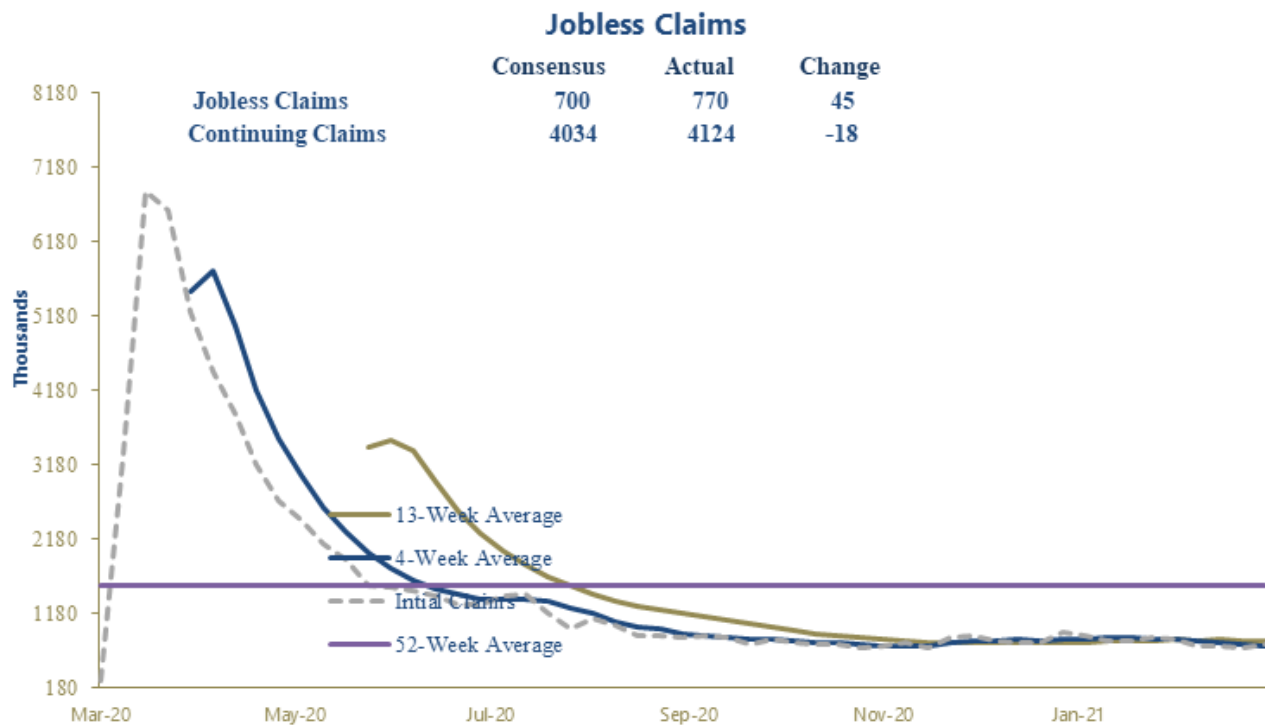
There continued to be significant volatility among the states as weather-related bottlenecks in processing worked through the systems. There were upward revisions to prior data confirming this. Looking through the volatility, the 4-week average is still modestly below the 13-week average, indicating the trend was still improving. Moreover, the unadjusted claims tally for the week was up less than the headline figure. Still, the trend bears watching here as claims are not falling as quickly as reopenings.

Our Nowcasting model forecasts have been suggesting real-time claims were running higher than the reported tally. And another week of upward revisions largely confirms the model has been correct. On the plus side, as of now the model forecast for this week's data (to be reported next week) is sharply lower.



## Claims vs. Nowcast Index Data - since Covid





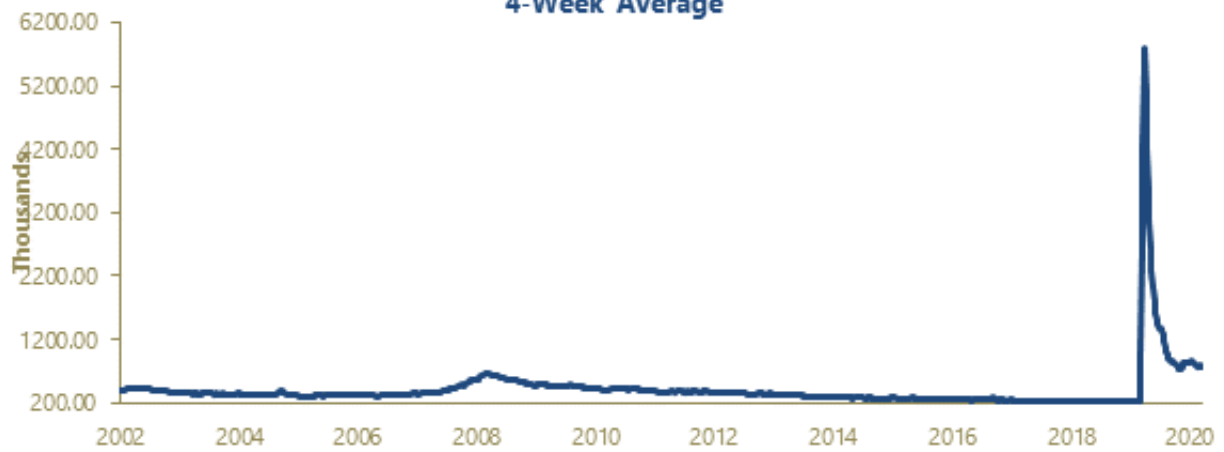
**Jobless Claims** ROSE by 45k during the week ended March 13th to 770k, compared with market expectations for an increase to 700k. The 4-week average FELL by 16.0k to 746k and the 13 week average FELL by 9.4k to 805k.

**Continuing Claims** FELL by 18k during the week ended March 6th to 4,124k, The 4-week average FELL by 99k to 4,256k.

On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, Continuing Claims FELL by 96k to 4,486k during the week ended February 27th.

**The Insured Jobless Rate** ROSE by 0.1% to 3.0% during the week ended March 6th. The insured jobless rate only reflects the number of people collecting regular state unemployment insurance.

**Initial Claims**  
**4-Week Average**



**Persons Collecting Unemployment Compensation**  
**Not Seasonally Adjusted**

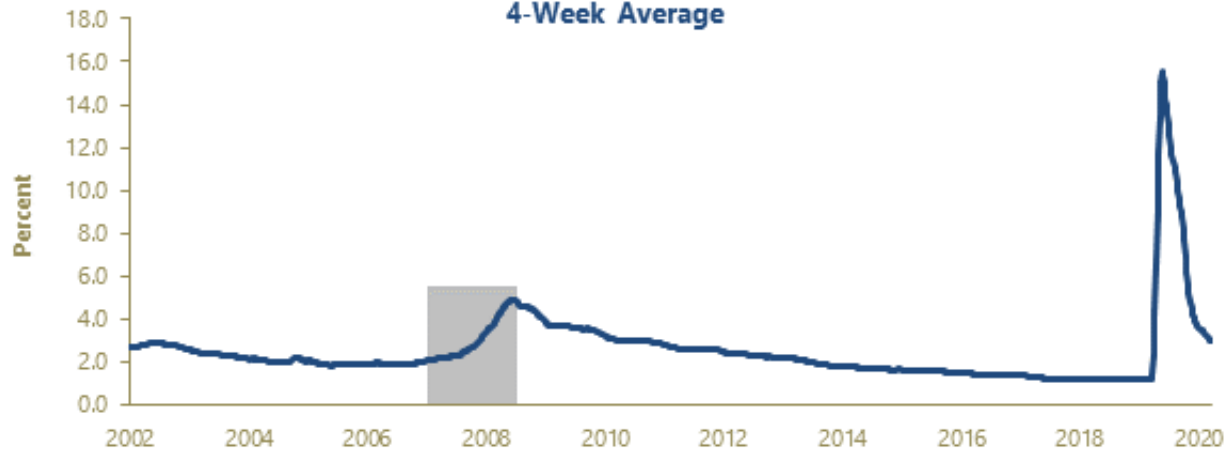


**Continuing Claims**  
**Not Seasonally Adjusted**



## Insured Jobless Rate

4-Week Average



	13-Mar	6-Mar	27-Feb	20-Feb	13-Feb	6-Feb	30-Jan	23-Jan	16-Jan
<b>Initial Claims (000's)</b>	770	725	754	736	834	848	812	812	875
<b>Weekly Change</b>	45	-29	18	-98	-14	36	0	-63	-52
<b>4-Week Average</b>	746	762	793	808	827	837	857	850	842
<b>Weekly Change</b>	-16	-31	-15	-19	-10	-20	7	8	17
<b>Continuing Claims (000's)</b>		4,124	4,142	4,337	4,419	4,520	4,558	4,691	4,785
<b>Weekly Change</b>		-18	-195	-82	-101	-38	-133	-94	-190
<b>4-Week Average</b>		4,256	4,355	4,459	4,547	4,639	4,752	4,907	5,002
<b>Weekly Change</b>		-99	-104	-89	-92	-114	-154	-95	-103
<b>Insured Jobless Rate (%)</b>		3.0	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4
Source: <i>Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor via Bloomberg. Our calculations.</i>									
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