

30.Dec.2021

Jobless Claims: Modest Decline, Trend Still Lower

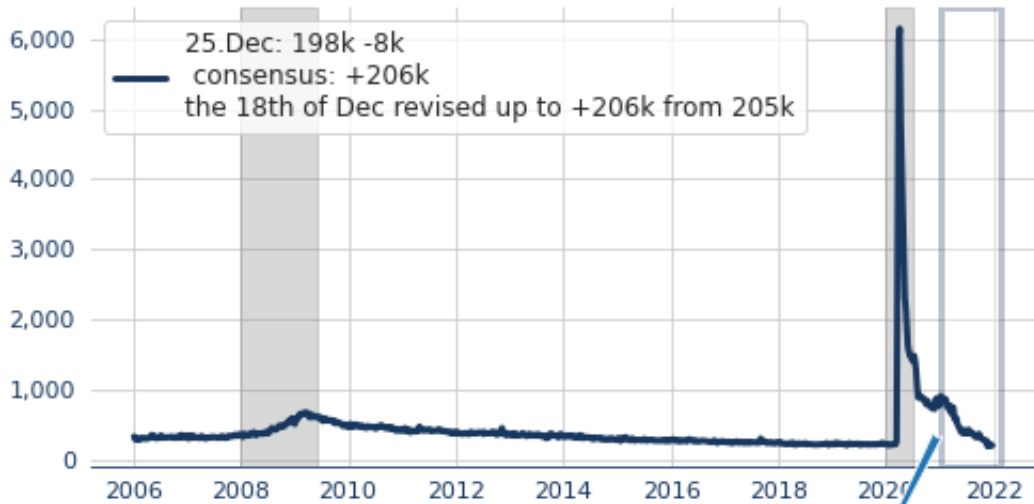
Bottom Line: Claims fell slightly, dipping back below 200k on a seasonally adjusted basis last week. The 4-week average fell below 200k for the first time since the pandemic. Moreover, the 13-week average was 248k, suggesting the trend was firmly still lower.

Our Nowcast model, which only uses non-seasonally adjusted data, suggests claims have been running a touch higher than reported. While we expect no significant change in trend, we could see a modest increase in the new year as applications for benefits get processed.

Initial Jobless Claims

25.Dec: 198k -8k

consensus: +206k



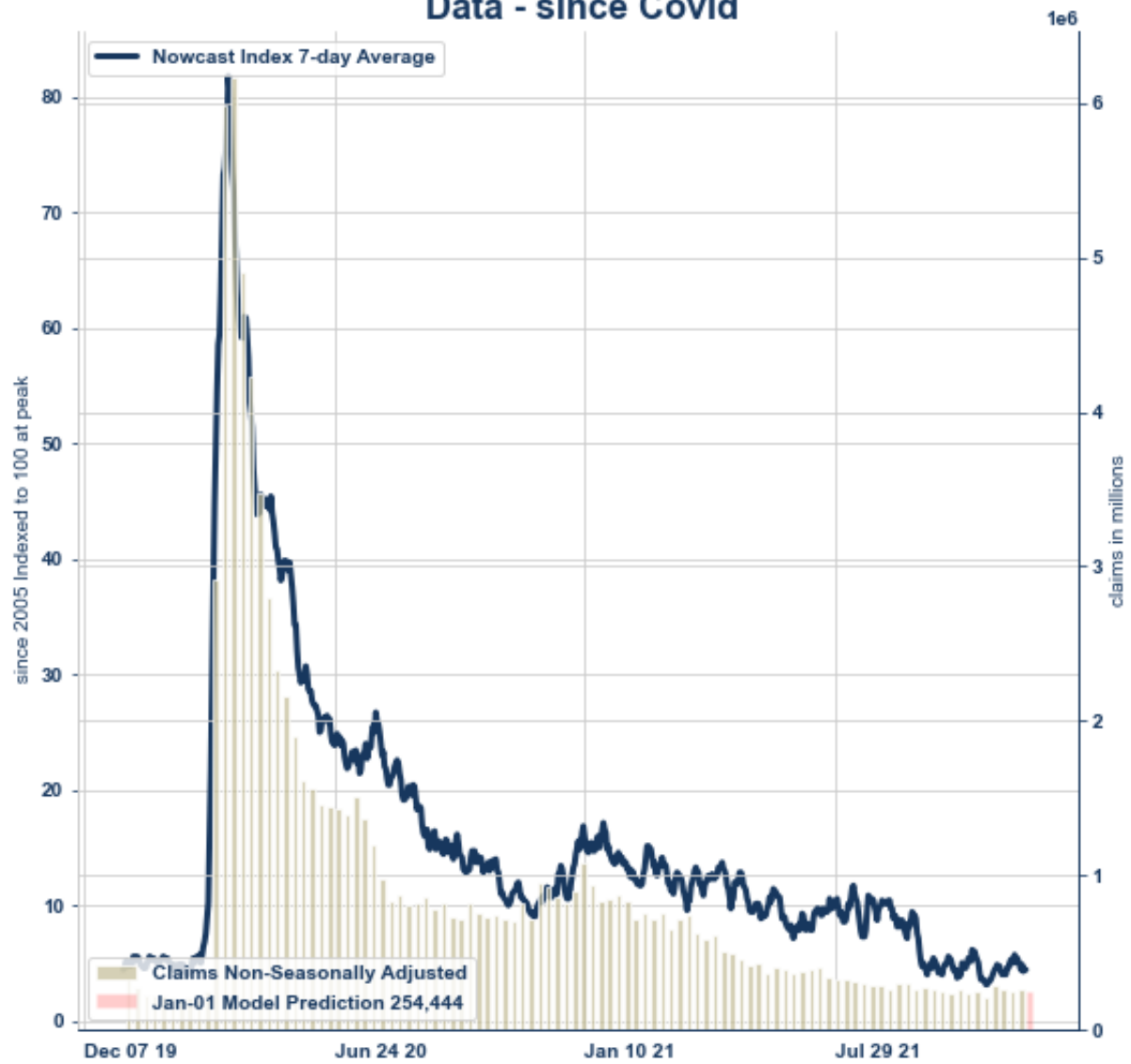
Recent Trends

Contingent Macro Advisors 2021 source: BLS via FRED



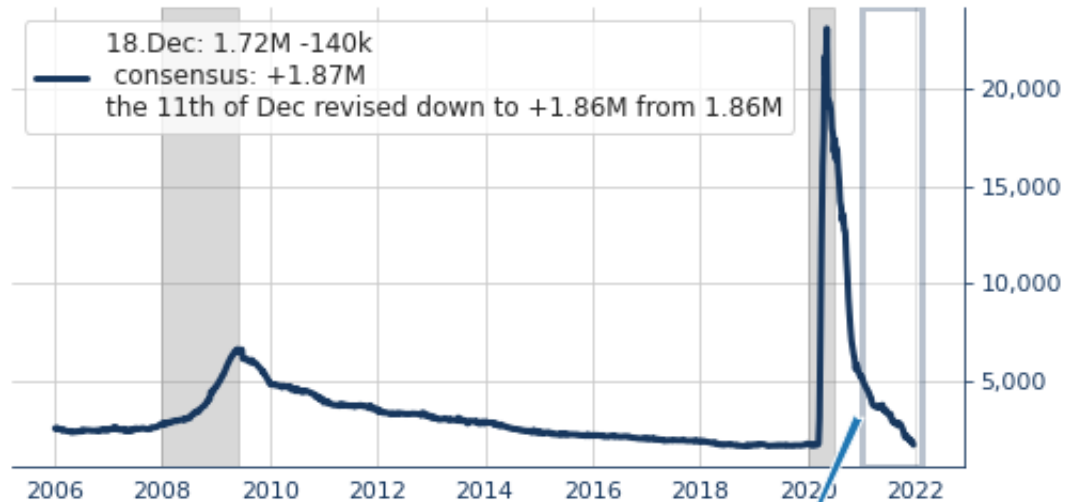


Claims vs. Nowcast Index Data - since Covid



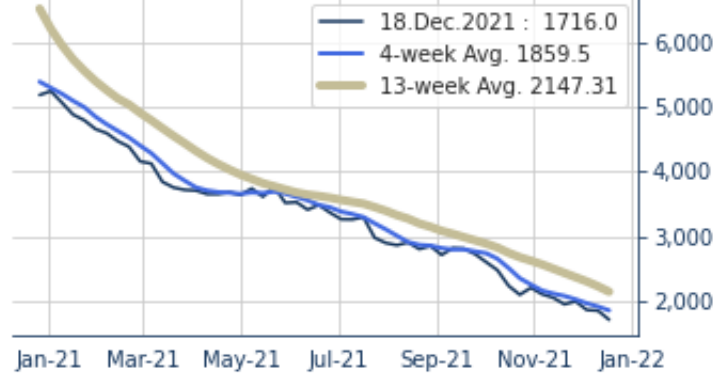
Continuing Claims

18.Dec: 1.72M -140k
consensus: +1.87M



Recent Trends

Contingent Macro Advisors 2021 source: BLS via FRED



Initial Jobless Claims FELL 8k in the week ended December 25th to 198k, BELOW the 4-week average of 199k, BELOW the 13-week average of 248k and 565k BELOW the year-ago level. Claims for the 18th of Dec were revised up from +205k to +206k. Non-seasonally adjusted Claims were nearly unchanged, up 1.12k.

Continuing Claims FELL 140k in the week ended December 18th to 1.72M, BELOW the 4-week average of 1.86M, BELOW the 13-week average of 2.15M and 3.6M BELOW the year-ago level. Continuing Claims for the 11th of Dec were revised down from +1.86M to +1.86M.

The Insured Jobless Rate FELL 10bps in the week ended December 18th. The insured jobless rate only reflects the number of people collecting regular state unemployment insurance.

US Weekly Jobless Claims in 000s	Dec-25	Dec-18	Dec-11	Dec-04	Nov-27	Nov-20	Nov-13	Nov-06
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Initial Jobless Claims SA	198	206	205	188	227	194	270	269
wk chg (SA)	-8	1	17	-39	33	-76	1	-2
Initial Jobless Claims NSA	256	255	266	284	217	253	240	257
wk chg (NSA)	1	-11	-18	67	-36	13	-17	15
4-week avg (SA)	199	206	204	220	240	251	273	278
chg in 4wk avg	-7	3	-16	-20	-11	-22	-5	-7
13-week avg (SA)	248	261	272	282	292	301	313	319
chg in 13k avg	-13	-11	-10	-10	-9	-12	-6	-8
Continuing Claims in 000s (one week lag)	Dec-18	Dec-11	Dec-04	Nov-27	Nov-20	Nov-13	Nov-06	Oct-30
Continuing Claims SA	1,716	1,856	1,867	1,999	1,954	2,055	2,109	2,209
wk chg (SA)	-140	-11	-132	45	-101	-54	-100	108
Continuing Claims NSA	1,637	1,828	1,735	1,966	1,561	1,821	1,783	1,953
wk chg (NSA)	-191	93	-231	405	-259	37	-170	68
4-week avg (SA)	1,860	1,919	1,969	2,029	2,082	2,118	2,164	2,257
chg in 4wk avg	-60	-50	-60	-52	-37	-46	-93	-98
13-week avg (SA)	2,147	2,232	2,306	2,371	2,437	2,502	2,568	2,626
chg in 13k avg	-84	-74	-65	-66	-65	-66	-58	-53

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