18.May. 2023

## Jobless Claims: Swift Correction

Bottom Line: Claims corrected sharply lower after a surprise increase in the prior week. Claims in Massachusetts accounted for nearly all of the volatility amid reports of a spike in fraudulent claims and a subsequent state investigation. Claims still remain modestly higher than the long-term average and in a slight uptrend, suggesting a very slow slackening in a historically very tight labor market. Continuing claims have also started to lose upward momentum, furthering the notion that the slackening will be very slow.

## Initial Jobless Claims

13.May: 242k -22k consensus: $+252 k$


Jun-22 Jul-22 Sep-22 Nov-22 Dec-22 Feb-23 Apr-23 May-23

Contingent Macro Advisors 2023 source: BLS via FRED

Initial Jobless Claims FELL -22k in the week ended May 13th to 242k, BELOW the 4-week average of 244.25 k, ABOVE the 13 -week average of 238.23077 k but 20k ABOVE the year-ago level. Non-seasonally adjusted Claims FELL -18.605k

Continuing Claims FELL -8k in the week ended May 6th to 1.799M, BELOW the 4week average of 1.8125 M, ABOVE the 13 -week average of 1.795692 M but 365 k ABOVE the year-ago level.

## Continuing Claims

Steady uptrend since revisions in late 1st Quarter '23



Jun-22 Jul-22 Sep-22 Nov-22 Dec-22 Feb-23 Apr-23 May-23

Contingent Macro Advisors 2023 source: BLS via FRED

| US Weekly Jobless Claims in 000s | May-13 May-06 Apr-29 Apr-22 |  |  |  | Apr-15 Apr-08 |  | Apr-01 Mar-25 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Initial Jobless Claims SA | 242 | 264 | 242 | 229 | 246 | 240 | 228 | 246 |
| wk chg (SA) | -22 | 22 | 13 | -17 | 6 | 12 | -18 | -1 |
| Initial Jobless Claims NSA | 216 | 234 | 220 | 225 | 229 | 235 | 207 | 224 |
| wk chg (NSA) | -19 | 14 | -5 | -4 | -6 | 28 | -17 | 11 |
| 4-week avg (SA) | 244 | 245 | 239 | 236 | 240 | 240 | 238 | 242 |
| chg in 4wk avg | -1 | 6 | 4 | -4 | -0 | 2 | -4 | 6 |
| 13-week avg (SA) | 238 | 236 | 233 | 230 | 227 | 223 | 221 | 219 |
| chg in 13 k avg | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Continuing Claims in 000s (one | May-06 | Apr-29 | Apr-22 | Apr-15 | 5 Apr-08 | 8 Apr-0 |  |  |


| week lag) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Continuing Claims SA | $\mathbf{1 7 9 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 0 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 4 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 6 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 2 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 1 7}$ |
| wk chg (SA) | $\mathbf{- 8}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{- 4 2}$ | $\mathbf{- 1 8}$ | $\mathbf{5 7}$ | $\mathbf{- 1 9}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{1 3}$ |
| Continuing Claims NSA | 1612 | 1660 | 1689 | 1753 | 1789 | 1795 | 1844 | 1877 |
| wk chg (NSA) | -49 | -29 | -63 | -36 | -7 | -49 | -33 | -1 |
| 4-week avg (SA) | 1812 | 1828 | 1827 | 1833 | 1826 | 1812 | 1804 | 1794 |
| chg in 4wk avg | -16 | 1 | -6 | 6 | 14 | 8 | 10 | 25 |
| 13-week avg (SA) | 1796 | 1790 | 1781 | 1770 | 1756 | 1738 | 1726 | 1713 |
| chg in 13k avg | 6 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 12 | 13 | 15 |

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

