

U.S. Economic Forecast: Update – U.S. Jobless Claims

March 2017

Jobless claims calculation has been “improved” to account for slight inaccuracies in the traditional calculation. In the end, the calculation is improved and fortunately did not show any meaningful change in the relationship the economic factor has with other economic factors or market movements. For example, the number of weeks that the number has remained below 300,000 is now 80 weeks rather than the previously reported 107. While the number of weeks is shorter, it remains the best period since 1969 as before.

Initial jobless claims has increased to 258,000 from the previous 234,000 and the four week average increased as well from an earlier 236,500 to 240,000. The changes and most recent date are still well within our expectations and show a continuing improvement in the economic conditions within the USA.

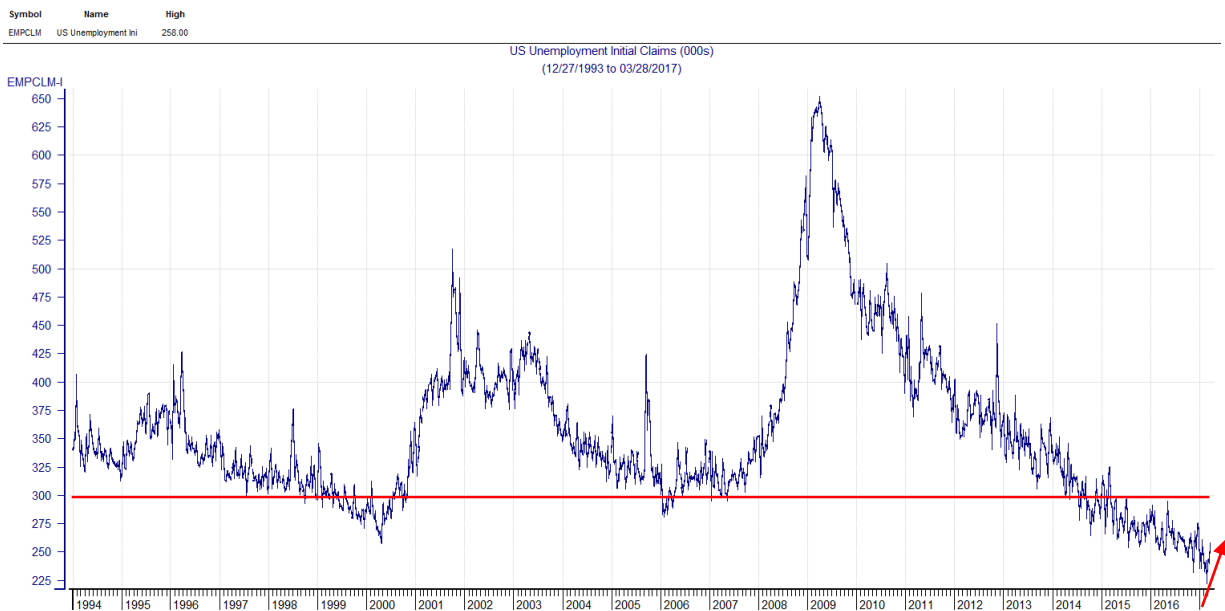


Figure 1: USA Unemployment Initial Claims Updated 27 March 2017