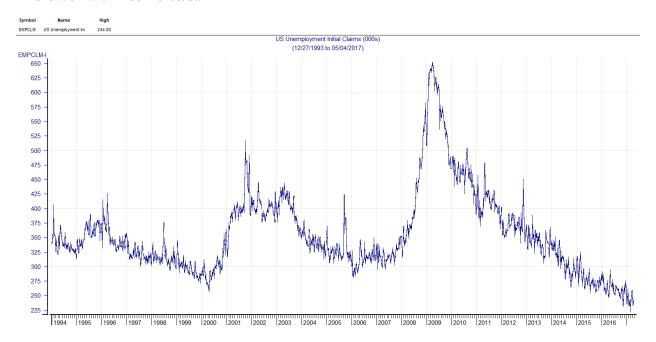
U.S. Economic Update – Jobless Claims

mployment jobless claims for 1st time requests is continue to fall. Recent jobless claims were down another 2,000 for the week ending 6 May. The rate is now at 236,000 which is well below the 300,000 unofficial benchmark. Additionally, the 4-week average remained nearly flat at 243,500 nearly the same as the previous week. Continuing claims were also down by 61,000 to 1.92 million for a previous 1.96 million.

This is well within our forecast.



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