

Wednesday 26th March 2015 – 10:15am

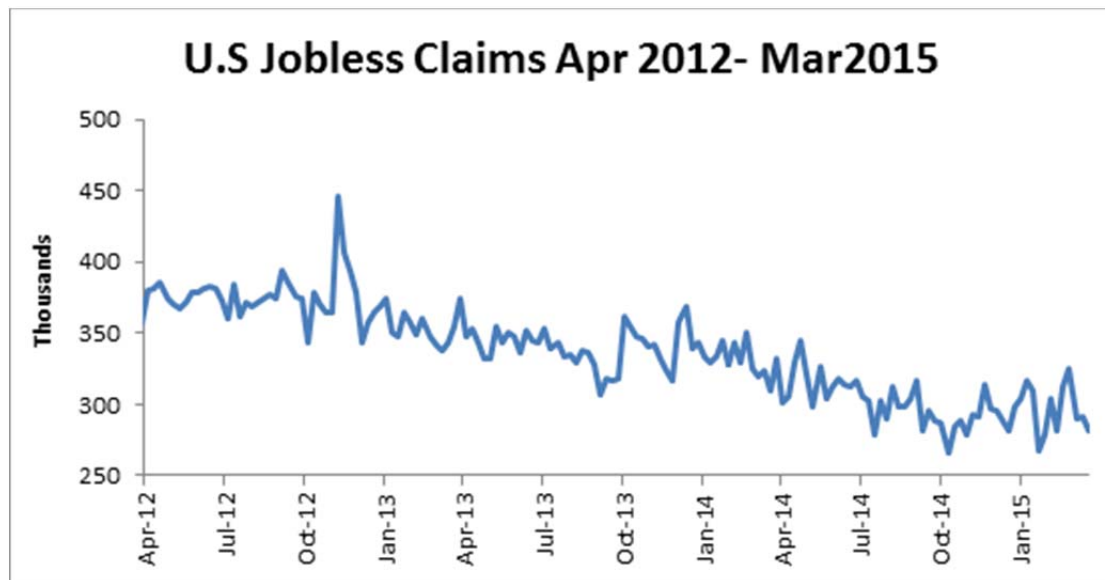
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Prepared by: Ravi Kurjah, Analyst II, First Citizens Research & Analytics

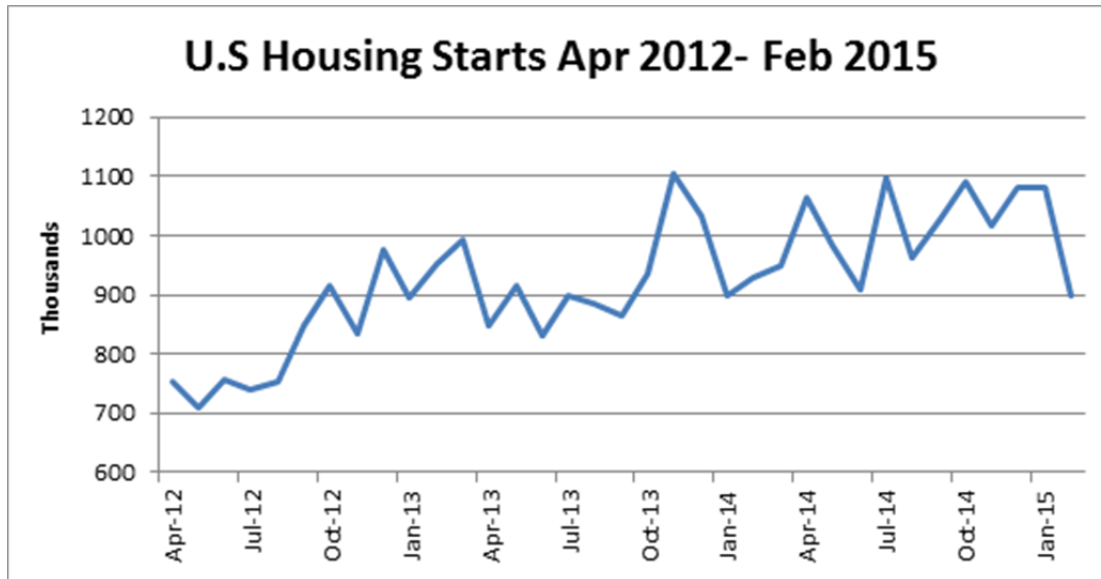
ravi.kurjah@firstcitizenstt.com

U.S. Jobless Claims Fall to Five-Week Low

- Jobless claims fell to its lowest level since mid-February by 9,000 to 282,000 in the week ended 21 March.
- Results were better than the 290,000 average forecasted by 52 Bloomberg surveyed economists.
- A sustained low level of applications shows that employers are holding on to workers, which typically coincides with more hiring.
- Continued gains in employment was one of two signals, along with a pickup in inflation, that the Federal Reserve officials last week said were necessary before raising interest rates.
- While purchases of new homes unexpectedly climbed in February, housing starts slumped, industrial production cooled, retail sales weakened and orders for durable goods unexpectedly dropped.
- Softer growth could delay the Fed even further in making an anticipated interest rate increase move this year.



Source: Bloomberg. First Citizens Research & Analytics



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