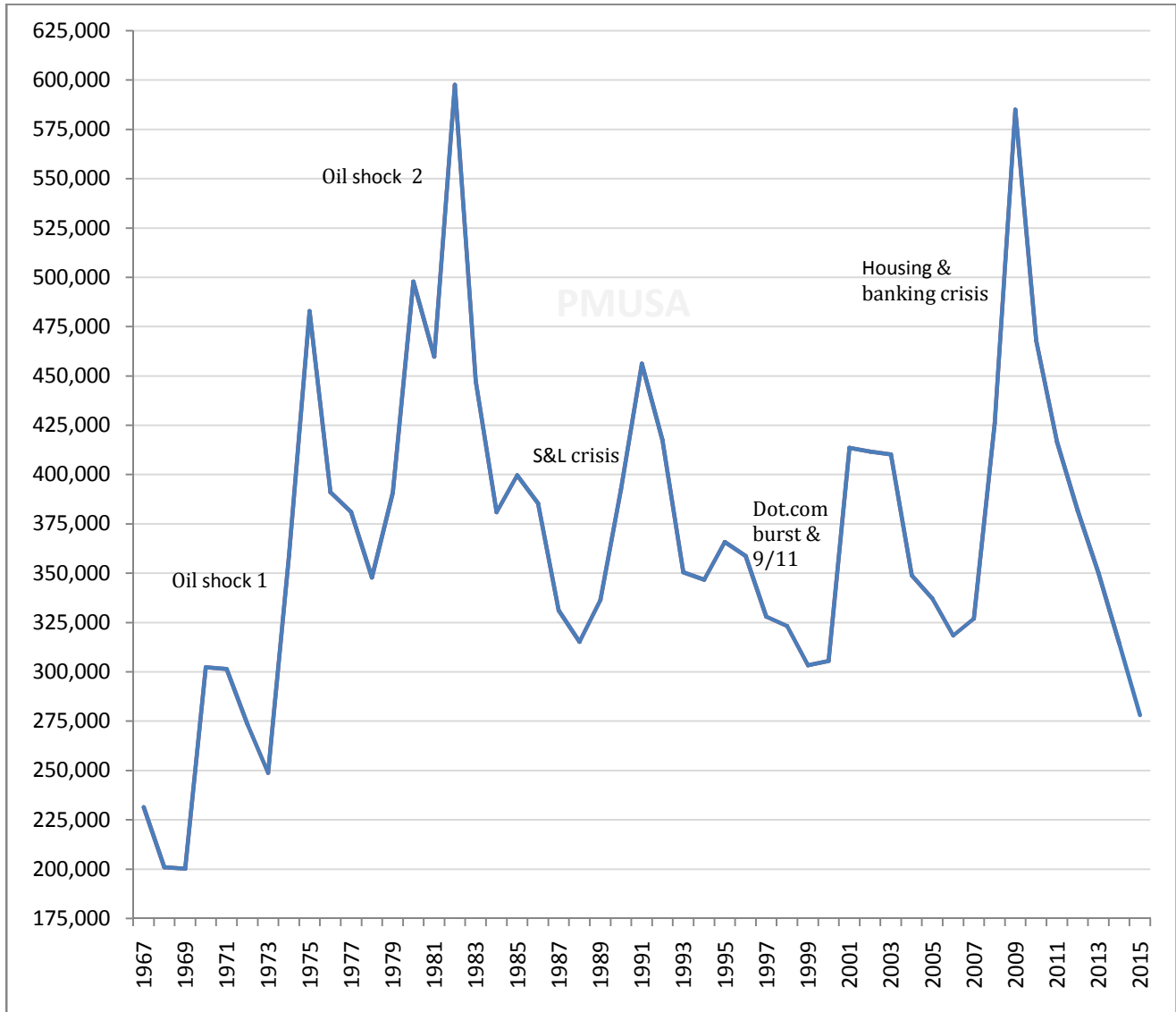


AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS PER YEAR 1967-2015 (Hundreds)



(Source: U.S. Dept of Labor)

2017 (thousands for prior week)

	Week1	Week2	Week3	Week4	Week5
Dec	258	254	275	265	235
Jan	247	234	259	246	
Feb	234	239	244		

Initial unemployment claims (IC) is a weekly measure of the number of American's who have lost their job and file for unemployment benefits. The trend in IC over the past 49 years is plainly obvious; higher. Initial unemployment claims are closely tied to the cyclical swings in the economy. The upward trend in claims obvious in this chart relates closely to overall labor challenges confronting the U.S. economy. IC have trended steadily lower since 2009, and by the end of 2015 are at low levels not seen since the 1970's. Still net new jobs remain weak. This is an historical dichotomy, and not a good one. Where are the new jobs? IC data is released weekly, every Thursday at 8:30AM EST.