



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2024 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 4.4%
US Unemployment Rate = 3.9%

Connecticut’s unemployment rate declines to 4.4%; payroll jobs up 1,100 in April 2024

WETHERSFIELD, May 16, 2024 – April 2024 Connecticut payroll jobs increased 1,100 (0.1%) to a level of 1,705,800, as the state’s jobless rate ticked lower by one-tenth of one percent to 4.4% (preliminary data, seasonally adjusted). Over the year, statewide industry payroll employment is 21,600 (1.3%) positions higher than the April 2023 level of 1,684,200. The state has now recovered **102.5%** (298,300) of the 291,100 nonagricultural jobs lost during the March-April 2020 COVID lockdown period. March statewide preliminary payroll gains of 4,900 were revised much lower to a 500 jobs gain on the monthly survey revision. The April 2024 unemployment rate dropped one-tenth over-the-month but is one and one-tenth percentage points higher than a year ago (3.3%). *This release includes labor statistics from two different monthly surveys (households and establishments) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in cooperation with the States.*

“Connecticut has gained jobs each month in 2024 with Health Care, Construction, Local Government, Manufacturing, and Finance & Insurance adding the most jobs so far this year,” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “The unemployment rate remains low even as the labor force has increased each month of 2024 to date.”

Connecticut’s private sector employment added 300 (0.02%) positions in April 2024 to 1,471,500 and is higher by 17,700 jobs (1.2%) from the April 2023 level (1,453,800). The state’s private sector has fully recovered (103.8%) from the April 2020 COVID employment lockdown low point. March’s preliminary private sector job gain of 4,400 (0.3%) was revised to an unchanged (0.0%) job outcome. The **government supersector** was up by 800 jobs (0.3%) in April to a level of 234,300 jobs and is higher by 3,900 (1.7%) positions from year-ago levels. The public sector is now 87.8% recovered from the overall COVID April 2020 employment trough. There were no revisions to March’s 2024 total government gain of 500. *Connecticut’s total government supersector includes all civilian federal, state, local, and tribal government employment, including public education and Native American casino jobs located on federally recognized tribal reservations.*

Seven of the ten major industry *supersectors* increased jobs in April 2024, while three declined.

The seven industry *supersectors* that added employment in April 2024 included:

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	April 2024 Employment
Education & Health Services	+1,000	0.3%	363,000
Government	+800	0.3%	234,300
Financial Activities	+600	0.5%	118,900
Manufacturing	+600	0.4%	159,400
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	+300	0.1%	297,900
Construction and Mining	+200	0.3%	64,100
Information	+100	0.3%	30,000

The three industry *supersector* that lost jobs in April 2024 were:

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	April 2024 Employment
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,200	-0.8%	154,400
Other Services	-700	-1.1%	64,700
Professional & Business Services	-600	-0.3%	219,100

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Four of the six major Connecticut **LMAs** that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS (about 92% of the coverage of the state) produced nonfarm industry employment gains in April 2024. The **New Haven LMA** (0.3%, 306,600) and the **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (0.2%, 410,600) led in monthly numerical gains adding 800 jobs each followed by the largest LMA, **Hartford** (0.1%, 583,400) increasing 500 positions. The **Waterbury LMA** (0.6%, 67,000) saw the largest monthly percentage gain, adding 400 jobs. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (-0.3%, 127,000) cut 400 jobs and the **Danbury LMA** (-0.1%, 78,100) decreased 100 positions.

Note: The six major Connecticut LMAs are independently estimated from the statewide data by the BLS and cover over 90% of the nonfarm employment in the state. Thus, estimates will not exactly sum to the statewide total.

Hours and Earnings: The April 2024 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.5 hours. This is down two-tenths of an hour from the April 2023 average of 33.7 hours (-0.6%). Average hourly earnings at \$37.86 in April 2024, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$2.04 (5.7%) from the April 2023 estimate of \$35.82. The April 2024 private sector weekly wage averaged \$1,268.31, higher by \$61.18 (5.1%) from a year ago. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) for April 2024 was up 3.4% from a year ago. The private sector wage average remained above annualized consumer inflation in April 2024.

Note: Current all-employee private sector hours and earnings estimates can be volatile due to fluctuating sample responses.

Labor Force Data (residential household survey)

The preliminary April 2024 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **4.4%** (seasonally adjusted). This is lower over the month by one-tenth of one percent but is higher by one and one-tenth percentage point compared to the April 2023 level of 3.3%. Last April and May 2023, Connecticut's unemployment rate reached its post COVID low point of 3.3%. The U.S. unemployment rate for April 2024 was 3.9%, higher by one-tenth of a percentage point from the March 2024 rate of 3.8% and is higher over the year from the U.S. jobless rate of 3.4% in April 2023.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims (*not seasonally adjusted*) for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut for April 2024 were 3,324. This is 799 (31.6%) claims higher than March 2024 (2,525), but lower by 286 (-7.9%) claims than April 2023 (3,610). Spring school vacations can bring a temporary increase in initial claims from education-related sectors.

*The nonfarm employment estimate, derived from a survey of businesses, is a measure of jobs in the state; the unemployment rate and labor force estimates are based on a household survey, and measure the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Because of the distinct differences both in concept and scope between the two estimates, nonfarm employment and unemployment do not necessarily move in the same economic direction month to month. Overall, as the national and state economies recover, volatility in monthly numbers can be expected. **Job and employment estimates are best understood in the context of their movement over several months rather than observed changes in a single month's value.***

Next Connecticut Labor Situation release: Monday, June 24, 2024
(Preliminary May 2024 data)

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Labor Market Information is available at: www.ctworkforce.info
200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114 www.ct.gov/dol
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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	April 2024 P	March 2024 R	February 2024	January 2024	April 2023	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,705,800	1,704,700	1,704,200	1,701,600	1,684,200	1,100	0.1%	21,600	1.3%
Total Private	1,471,500	1,471,200	1,471,200	1,468,300	1,453,800	300	0.0%	17,700	1.2%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	500	600	0	0.0%	-100	-16.7%
Construction	63,600	63,400	62,700	61,700	62,300	200	0.3%	1,300	2.1%
Manufacturing	159,400	158,800	158,600	158,400	158,400	600	0.4%	1,000	0.6%
Durable Goods	125,100	124,600	124,300	124,200	123,800	500	0.4%	1,300	1.1%
Nondurable Goods	34,300	34,200	34,300	34,200	34,600	100	0.3%	-300	-0.9%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	297,900	297,600	297,200	297,600	294,900	300	0.1%	3,000	1.0%
Wholesale	62,300	61,700	61,200	61,400	61,000	600	1.0%	1,300	2.1%
Retail	164,500	164,800	164,500	164,600	167,600	-300	-0.2%	-3,100	-1.8%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	71,100	71,100	71,500	71,600	66,300	0	0.0%	4,800	7.2%
Information	30,000	29,900	30,000	30,000	31,500	100	0.3%	-1,500	-4.8%
Financial Activities	118,900	118,300	118,500	118,100	118,400	600	0.5%	500	0.4%
Finance & Insurance	99,100	98,500	98,700	98,500	98,700	600	0.6%	400	0.4%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,800	19,800	19,800	19,600	19,700	0	0.0%	100	0.5%
Professional & Business Services	219,100	219,700	222,400	224,000	221,100	-600	-0.3%	-2,000	-0.9%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	100,400	100,100	100,500	100,700	100,500	300	0.3%	-100	-0.1%
Management of Companies	31,400	31,500	31,700	31,800	31,500	-100	-0.3%	-100	-0.3%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	87,300	88,100	90,200	91,500	89,100	-800	-0.9%	-1,800	-2.0%
Educational & Health Services	363,000	362,000	361,200	360,500	351,900	1,000	0.3%	11,100	3.2%
Educational Services	72,700	72,500	72,900	73,500	70,100	200	0.3%	2,600	3.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	290,300	289,500	288,300	287,000	281,800	800	0.3%	8,500	3.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	154,400	155,600	154,600	153,700	152,500	-1,200	-0.8%	1,900	1.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,900	29,000	28,400	28,000	27,900	-100	-0.3%	1,000	3.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	125,500	126,600	126,200	125,700	124,600	-1,100	-0.9%	900	0.7%
Other Services	64,700	65,400	65,500	63,800	62,200	-700	-1.1%	2,500	4.0%
Government**	234,300	233,500	233,000	233,300	230,400	800	0.3%	3,900	1.7%
UNITED STATES	158,286,000	158,111,000	157,796,000	157,560,000	155,484,000	175,000	0.1%	2,802,000	1.8%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

Labor Market Area employment estimates are made independently of Statewide estimates.

	April 2024 P	March 2024 R	February 2024	January 2024	April 2023	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	410,600	409,800	408,400	407,600	404,300	800	0.2%	6,300	1.6%
Danbury	78,100	78,200	77,700	77,700	77,500	-100	-0.1%	600	0.8%
Hartford	583,400	582,900	583,300	582,100	578,600	500	0.1%	4,800	0.8%
New Haven	306,600	305,800	304,600	304,300	298,900	800	0.3%	7,700	2.6%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	127,000	127,400	127,500	127,400	124,900	-400	-0.3%	2,100	1.7%
Waterbury	67,000	66,600	66,700	66,800	66,300	400	0.6%	700	1.1%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	42,800	42,600	42,500	42,800	42,600	200	0.5%	200	0.5%
Torrington-Northwest	32,500	32,300	32,300	32,200	32,100	200	0.6%	400	1.2%
Danielson-Northeast	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,100	27,100	0	0.0%	-100	-0.4%

* Less than 0.05% ** Includes Native American tribal government employment

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

Starting with March, 2011, our monthly statewide and major LMA nonfarm job estimates have been taken over by the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the final phase of transition in this program, which began in 2008. As a result of changes in the estimation procedures, you are likely to see more variability in month-to-month estimates of job counts. Caution should be used in interpreting any single month's estimate. The data are best interpreted to identify trends and cycles over several months and quarters. If you have any questions about these changes, please email us at: dol.lmi@ct.gov.

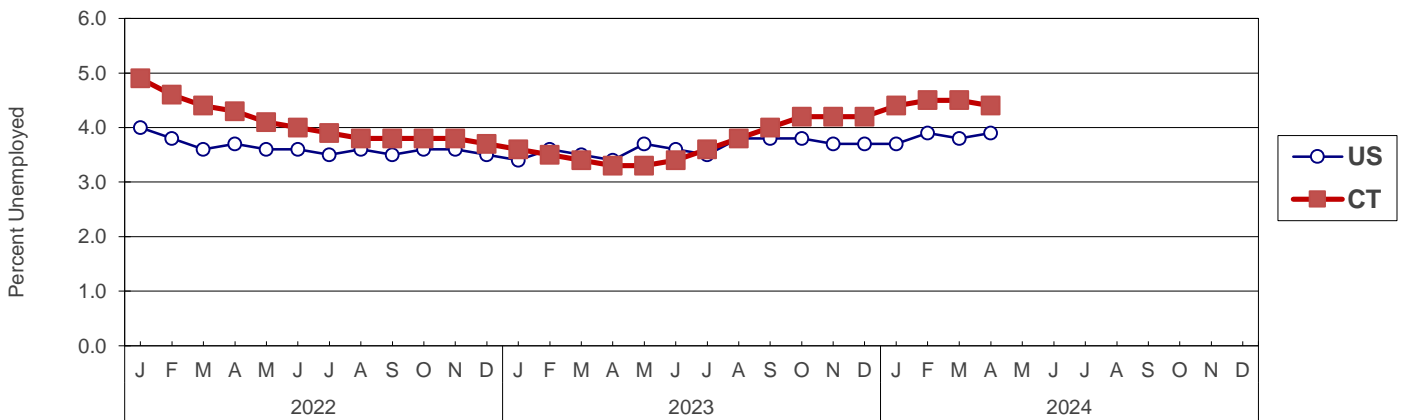
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 2024 P		Apr 2023 R		Change		Mar 2024 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	83,400	4.4	63,200	3.3	20,200	1.1	85,400	4.5
Labor Force	1,911,100		1,888,300		22,800		1,910,500	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,492,000	3.9	5,715,000	3.4	777,000	0.5	6,429,000	3.8
Labor Force	167,982,000		166,678,000		1,304,000		167,895,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2022 - 2024



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 2024 P		Apr 2023 R		Change		Mar 2024 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	16,600	3.6	13,800	3.0	2,800	0.6	20,300	4.3
Danbury	3,100	2.9	2,700	2.6	400	0.3	4,100	3.8
Danielson-Northeast*	1,400	3.3	1,300	3.1	100	0.2	1,800	4.1
Worcester NECTA	1,400	3.3	1,300	3.1	100	0.2	1,700	4.2
Hampton	100	2.5	100	2.8	0	-0.3	100	3.2
Enfield	1,600	3.4	1,300	2.7	300	0.7	2,000	4.0
Hartford	21,900	3.6	17,500	2.9	4,400	0.7	25,700	4.1
New Haven	10,900	3.3	8,900	2.7	2,000	0.6	13,100	3.9
Norwich-New London	4,800	3.5	3,800	2.8	1,000	0.7	5,600	4.0
Torrington-Northwest**	1,400	3.1	1,300	2.7	100	0.4	1,900	4.1
Torrington NECTA	1,000	3.8	800	3.2	200	0.6	1,200	4.8
Litchfield	500	2.3	500	2.2	0	0.1	700	3.3
Waterbury	4,800	4.5	4,100	3.8	700	0.7	6,200	5.5
CONNECTICUT	66,100	3.5	54,500	2.9	11,600	0.6	79,900	4.2
UNITED STATES	5,894,000	3.5	5,146,000	3.1	748,000	0.4	6,604,000	3.9

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

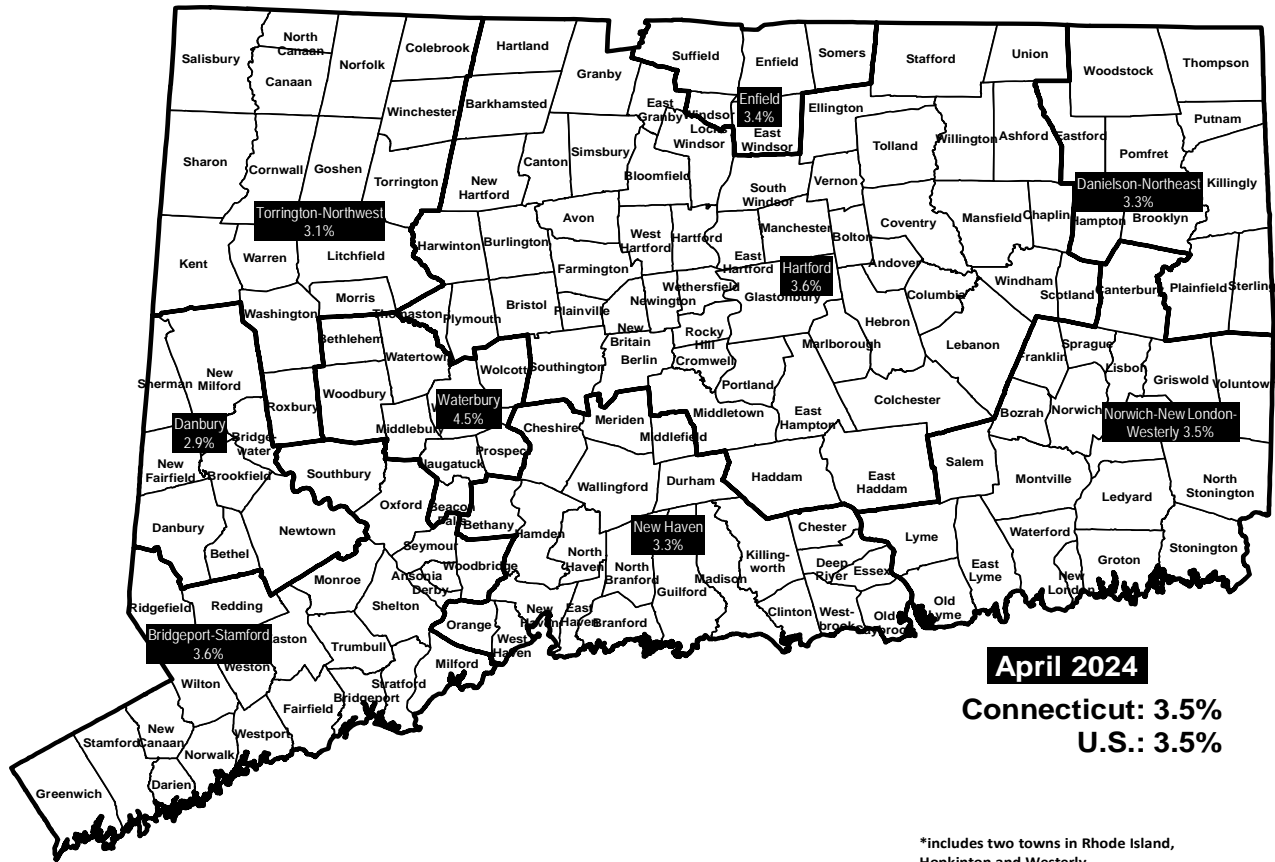
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined ** Torrington Micropolitan NECTA and Litchfield LMA are combined

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LABOR MARKET AREAS



*includes two towns in Rhode Island, Hopkinton and Westerly.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Apr. 2024 P	Apr. 2023	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2024 R	Apr. 2024 P	Apr. 2023	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2024 R	Apr. 2024 P	Apr. 2023	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2024 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,268.31	\$1,207.13	\$61.18	\$1,247.09	33.5	33.7	-0.2	33.3	\$37.86	\$35.82	\$2.04	\$37.45
Manufacturing* Production Workers	\$1,221.39	\$1,131.51	\$89.88	\$1,216.51	38.3	39.8	-1.5	38.4	\$31.89	\$28.43	\$3.46	\$31.68

* Production worker data have been impacted by the loss of a large, high-paying manufacturer from the monthly sample.

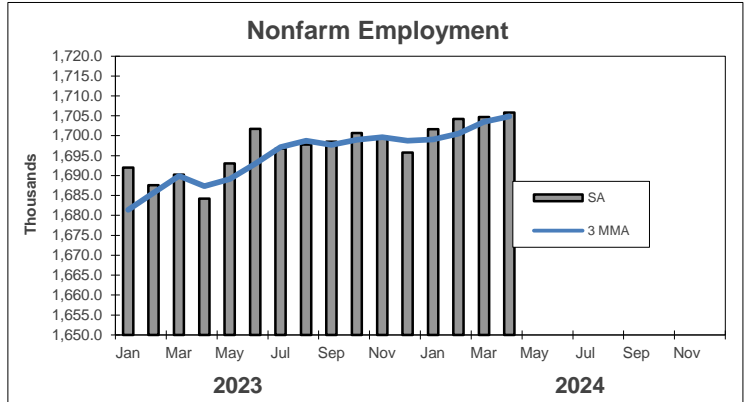
P = Preliminary R = Revised

Hours and earnings are also developed for the state's major industry sectors and Labor Market Areas. They can be found on our website at: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

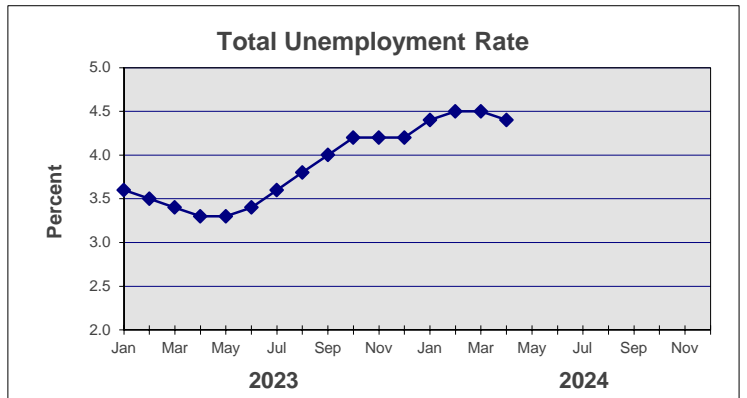
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

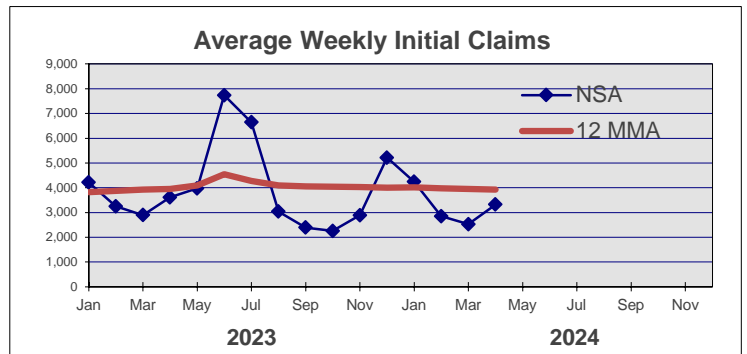
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2023		
Jan	1,692.0	3.6
Feb	1,687.6	3.5
Mar	1,690.2	3.4
Apr	1,684.2	3.3
May	1,693.0	3.3
Jun	1,701.7	3.4
Jul	1,696.7	3.6
Aug	1,697.8	3.8
Sep	1,698.5	4.0
Oct	1,700.7	4.2
Nov	1,699.7	4.2
Dec	1,695.8	4.2



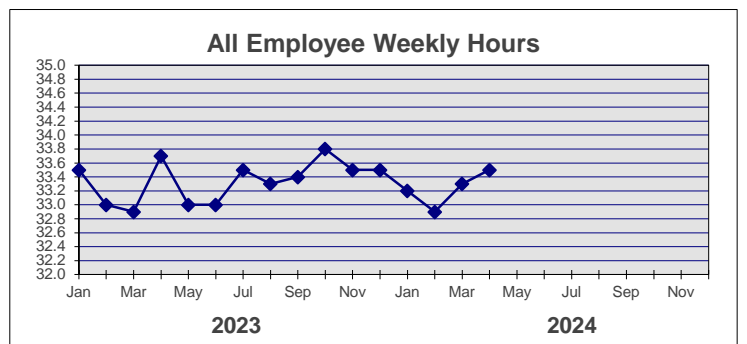
2024		
Jan	1,701.6	4.4
Feb	1,704.2	4.5
Mar	1,704.7 R	4.5 R
Apr	1,705.8 P	4.4 P
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	NSA Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2023		
Jan	4,215	33.5
Feb	3,249	33.0
Mar	2,898	32.9
Apr	3,610	33.7
May	3,972	33.0
Jun	7,738	33.0
Jul	6,646	33.5
Aug	3,035	33.3
Sep	2,387	33.4
Oct	2,253	33.8
Nov	2,885	33.5
Dec	5,214	33.5



2024		
Jan	4,239	33.2
Feb	2,847	32.9
Mar	2,525	33.3 R
Apr	3,324	33.5 P
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute