



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2021 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 8.5%

US Unemployment Rate = 6.2%

Connecticut's job recovery adds 3,000 jobs in February: unemployment rate up to 8.5%

WETHERSFIELD, March 25, 2021 – Connecticut added 3,000 jobs (0.2%) in February after an upwardly revised 1,000 (0.1%) gain in January. Statewide total payroll employment is now 121,500 (-7.2%) positions below year-ago levels at 1,574,800 jobs. Connecticut has now recovered 170,900 nonfarm jobs (58.4%) of the 292,400 positions lost in March and April 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Statewide nonfarm industry employment estimates are from the workplace survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

“Connecticut’s job market rebounded in early 2021 after a set-back at the end of 2020 that coincided with an increase in COVID-19 infections” said Patrick Flaherty, Acting Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “We will need several months of sustained job growth to bring the unemployment rate down, but the January and February job gains are encouraging.”

Private sector employment increased by 4,000 positions (0.3%) to 1,354,800 in February 2021 and is now down by 105,700 (-7.2%) jobs since February 2020, just before the COVID-19 lockdown began. The **government supersector**, however, declined 1,000 jobs (-0.5%) to a level of 220,000 and is now down by 15,800 jobs (-6.7%) over the year. This is the fourth consecutive monthly public sector job loss. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public education and Native American casino employment located on tribal reservation land.

Four of the ten major industry *supersectors* had employment gains in February 2021, while four declined. The **Construction and Mining (56,500)** and **Information (27,700)** industry *supersectors* were **unchanged** last month.

Increasing industry *supersectors* included:

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	February 2021 Employment
Professional & Business Services	+2,400	1.2%	205,700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	+2,200	0.8%	292,800
Leisure & Hospitality	+1,300	1.1%	120,200
Manufacturing	+100	0.1%	152,200

Four industry *supersectors* exhibited February 2021 (P) declines.

Declining Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	February 2021 Employment
Government	-1,000	-0.5%	220,000
Education and Health Services	-800	-0.3%	323,500
Other Services	-600	-1.0%	57,900
Financial Activities	-600	-0.5%	118,300

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Four of the six Connecticut *LMAs*, seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), had employment gains in February 2021, while the **Hartford LMA** (-0.04%, 549,500) declined 200 positions and the **Norwich–New London–Westerly LMA** (114,700) was unchanged. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (0.3%, 372,300) posted the most regional job gain, increasing 1,000 positions. The **Waterbury LMA** (0.5%, 64,500) and the **New Haven LMA** (0.1%, 282,300) were both higher by 300 positions in February 2021. The **Danbury LMA** (0.1%, 70,900) added 100 positions.

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

Hours and Earnings: The **private sector** workweek, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 33.8 hours in February 2021, up one-tenth of an hour from February 2020 (0.3%). Average hourly earnings at \$33.68, not seasonally adjusted, were lower by \$0.11 (-0.3%) from the February 2020 estimate of \$33.79. Average February 2021 private sector weekly wages totaled \$1,138.38, down \$0.34 from a year ago (-0.03%). The re-employ of lower paid recovering industries has tempered recently higher wage growth. The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in February 2021 is rising now at 1.7%. *Current all-employee private sector hours and earnings estimates can be volatile due to fluctuating sample responses.*

Labor Force Data (residential household survey)

The official February 2021 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be 8.5% (seasonally adjusted), higher by 0.4 percentage points from the January 2021 level of 8.1%. The Connecticut unemployment rate was 3.7% in February 2020. The US jobless rate in February 2021 was 6.2%, down one-tenth of a percentage point from the January 2021 rate of 6.3%, but up two and seven-tenths percentage points from the 3.5% US unemployment rate a year ago.

Data users must be cautious about trying to compare or reconcile UI claims data with the official unemployment figures derived from the household survey. For additional insight into the Connecticut labor market during the COVID-19 pandemic please see the analysis linked here: <https://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/claimsdata.asp> Please note that there are conceptual, coverage, and scope differences between the two data sources.

Unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut were an average of 8,184 per week in February 2021, up 144 from the January 2021 (1.8%, 8,040) level and higher by 4,941 claims (152.4%) from the average weekly count of 3,243 in February 2020.

*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. 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: Thursday, April 15, 2021
(preliminary March 2021)

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Labor Market Information is available at: www.ctworkforce.info
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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2021 P	January 2021 R	December 2020	November 2020	February 2020	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,574,800	1,571,800	1,570,800	1,575,400	1,696,300	3,000	0.2%	-121,500	-7.2%
Total Private	1,354,800	1,350,800	1,349,700	1,350,200	1,460,500	4,000	0.3%	-105,700	-7.2%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	400	500	500	600	100	25.0%	-100	-16.7%
Construction	56,000	56,100	56,700	56,400	59,300	-100	-0.2%	-3,300	-5.6%
Manufacturing	152,200	152,100	152,900	151,600	160,900	100	0.1%	-8,700	-5.4%
Durable Goods	120,400	120,300	120,700	119,900	126,400	100	0.1%	-6,000	-4.7%
Nondurable Goods	31,800	31,800	32,200	31,700	34,500	0	0.0%	-2,700	-7.8%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	292,800	290,600	287,500	288,400	293,200	2,200	0.8%	-400	-0.1%
Wholesale	54,800	54,500	55,400	55,800	58,900	300	0.6%	-4,100	-7.0%
Retail	169,800	167,400	163,500	163,500	173,700	2,400	1.4%	-3,900	-2.2%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	68,200	68,700	68,600	69,100	60,600	-500	-0.7%	7,600	12.5%
Information	27,700	27,700	29,200	29,200	31,400	0	0.0%	-3,700	-11.8%
Financial Activities	118,300	118,900	119,800	119,300	122,800	-600	-0.5%	-4,500	-3.7%
Finance & Insurance	100,200	100,600	100,900	100,800	102,600	-400	-0.4%	-2,400	-2.3%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	18,100	18,300	18,900	18,500	20,200	-200	-1.1%	-2,100	-10.4%
Professional & Business Services	205,700	203,300	203,600	204,200	216,800	2,400	1.2%	-11,100	-5.1%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	91,400	91,400	91,900	91,600	96,200	0	0.0%	-4,800	-5.0%
Management of Companies	32,200	32,000	31,800	31,700	33,200	200	0.6%	-1,000	-3.0%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	82,100	79,900	79,900	80,900	87,400	2,200	2.8%	-5,300	-6.1%
Educational & Health Services	323,500	324,300	323,000	324,000	351,600	-800	-0.2%	-28,100	-8.0%
Educational Services	62,400	63,400	61,800	62,600	67,500	-1,000	-1.6%	-5,100	-7.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	261,100	260,900	261,200	261,400	284,100	200	0.1%	-23,000	-8.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	120,200	118,900	118,900	119,700	158,200	1,300	1.1%	-38,000	-24.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	19,200	18,800	18,300	18,600	28,100	400	2.1%	-8,900	-31.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	101,000	100,100	100,600	101,100	130,100	900	0.9%	-29,100	-22.4%
Other Services	57,900	58,500	57,600	56,900	65,700	-600	-1.0%	-7,800	-11.9%
Government**	220,000	221,000	221,100	225,200	235,800	-1,000	-0.5%	-15,800	-6.7%
UNITED STATES	143,048,000	142,669,000	142,503,000	142,809,000	152,523,000	379,000	0.3%	-9,475,000	-6.2%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	February 2021 P	January 2021 R	December 2020	November 2020	February 2020	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	372,300	371,300	370,400	371,000	404,000	1,000	0.3%	-31,700	-7.8%
Danbury	70,900	70,800	71,000	71,300	77,700	100	0.1%	-6,800	-8.8%
Hartford	549,500	549,700	549,100	549,400	589,700	-200	0.0%	-40,200	-6.8%
New Haven	282,300	282,000	282,600	281,800	295,000	300	0.1%	-12,700	-4.3%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	114,700	114,700	114,700	114,400	128,500	0	0.0%	-13,800	-10.7%
Waterbury	64,500	64,200	64,000	63,900	68,200	300	0.5%	-3,700	-5.4%
Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)									
Enfield	41,500	41,500	42,300	42,300	44,400	0	0.0%	-2,900	-6.5%
Torrington-Northwest	29,900	29,800	30,500	30,600	32,200	100	0.3%	-2,300	-7.1%
Danielson-Northeast	25,300	25,400	25,600	25,600	26,600	-100	-0.4%	-1,300	-4.9%

* 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:

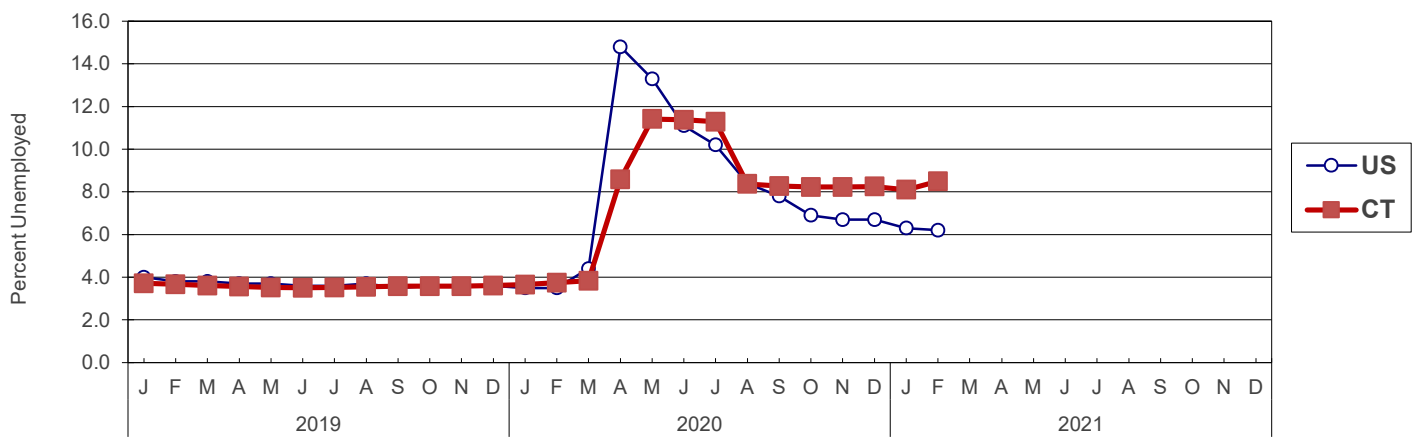
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Feb 2021 P		Feb 2020 R		Change		Jan 2021 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	146,100	8.5	71,800	3.7	74,300	4.8	149,200	8.1
Labor Force	1,712,900		1,918,000		-205,100		1,839,700	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	9,972,000	6.2	5,717,000	3.5	4,255,000	2.7	10,130,000	6.3
Labor Force	160,211,000		164,448,000		-4,237,000		160,161,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2019 - 2021



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Feb 2021 P		Feb 2020 R		Change		Jan 2021 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	35,100	8.7	19,000	4.1	16,100	4.6	38,100	8.7
Danbury	7,100	7.7	3,900	3.7	3,200	4.0	7,700	7.7
Danielson-Northeast*	3,100	8.2	1,800	4.2	1,300	4.0	3,400	8.1
Worcester NECTA	3,000	8.3	1,800	4.2	1,200	4.1	3,200	8.2
Hampton	100	7.0	100	3.4	0	3.6	100	6.6
Enfield	3,400	7.9	2,000	3.9	1,400	4.0	3,600	7.9
Hartford	46,900	8.4	25,100	4.0	21,800	4.4	50,300	8.3
New Haven	23,400	7.8	12,400	3.7	11,000	4.1	25,400	7.9
Norwich-New London	11,800	9.6	5,800	4.1	6,000	5.5	12,500	9.5
Torrington-Northwest**	3,500	8.4	2,000	4.2	1,500	4.2	3,700	8.2
Torrington NECTA	2,200	9.6	1,300	4.8	900	4.8	2,400	9.4
Litchfield	1,200	6.9	700	3.5	500	3.4	1,300	6.6
Waterbury	10,100	10.1	5,600	5.0	4,500	5.1	10,800	10.0
CONNECTICUT	143,100	8.5	76,900	4.0	66,200	4.5	154,200	8.5
UNITED STATES	10,486,000	6.6	6,218,000	3.8	4,268,000	2.8	10,851,000	6.8

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.

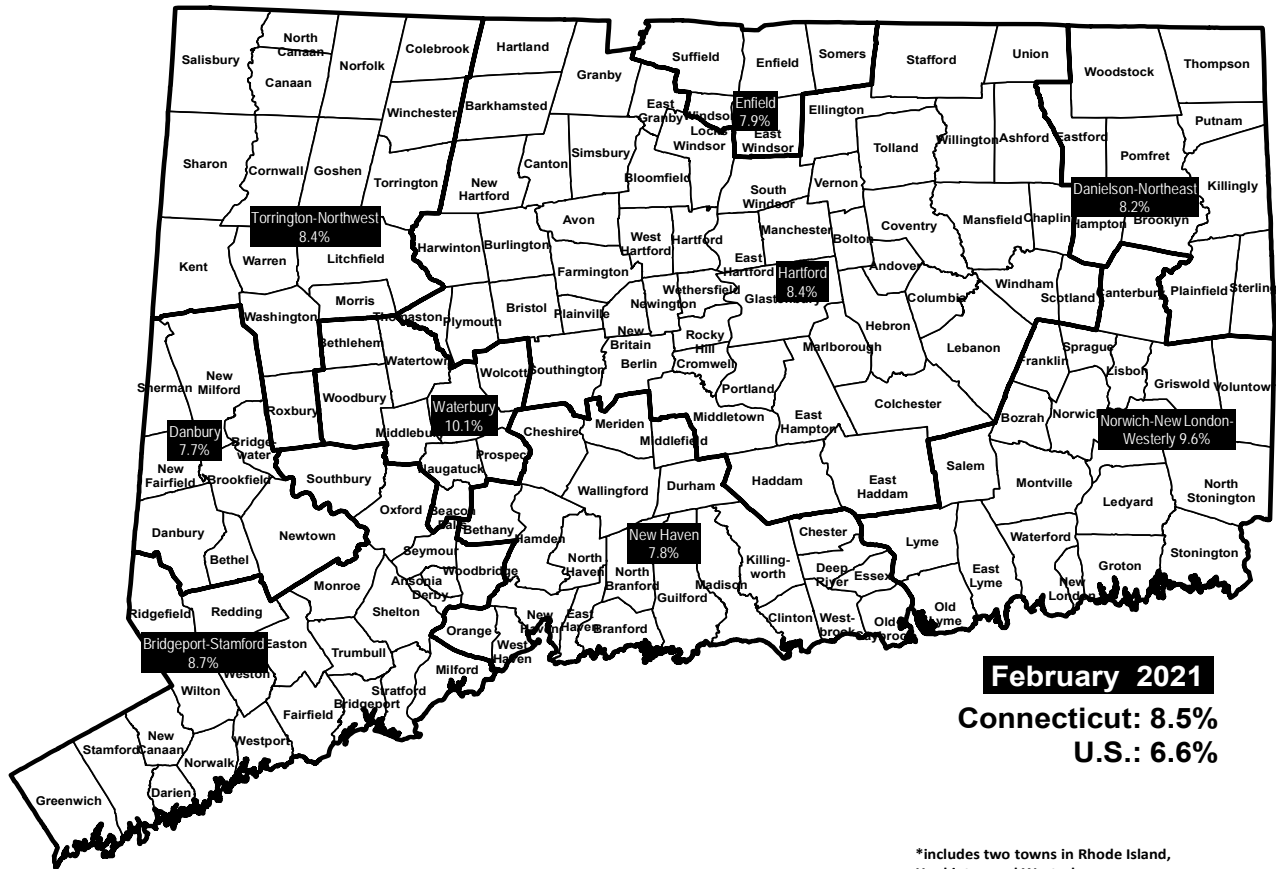
* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined

** Torrington Micropolitan NECTA and Litchfield LMA are combined

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LABOR MARKET AREAS



HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Feb. 2021 P	Feb. 2020	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2021 R	Feb. 2021 P	Feb. 2020	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2021 R	Feb. 2021 P	Feb. 2020	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2021 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,138.38	\$1,138.72	-\$0.34	\$1,151.56	33.8	33.7	0.1	34.1	\$33.68	\$33.79	-\$0.11	\$33.77
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,091.36	\$1,182.80	-\$91.44	\$1,106.30	39.3	41.4	-2.1	39.3	\$27.77	\$28.57	-\$0.80	\$28.15

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

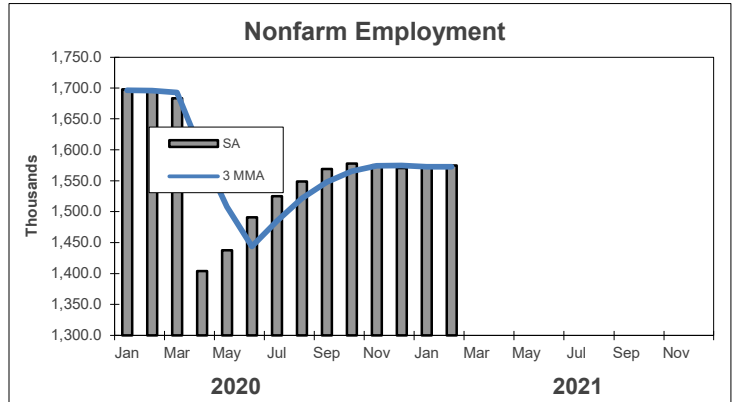
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

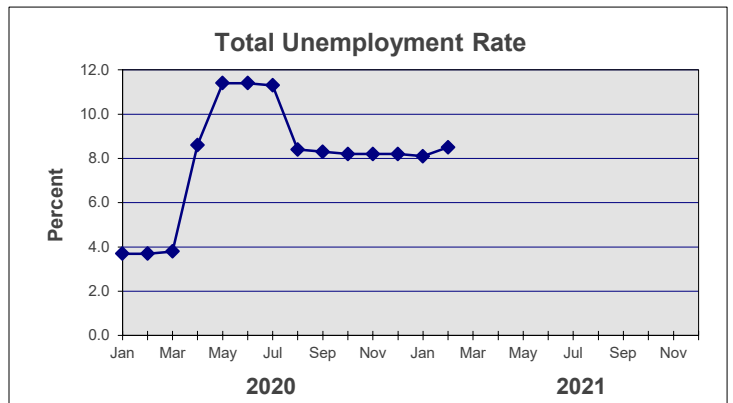
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

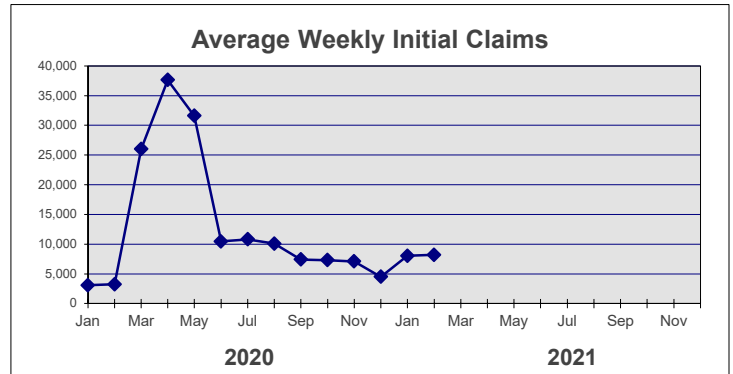
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2020		
Jan	1,698.0	3.7
Feb	1,696.3	3.7
Mar	1,683.3	3.8
Apr	1,403.9	8.6
May	1,437.5	11.4
Jun	1,490.9	11.4
Jul	1,525.0	11.3
Aug	1,549.0	8.4
Sep	1,569.2	8.3
Oct	1,577.7	8.2
Nov	1,575.4	8.2
Dec	1,570.8	8.2



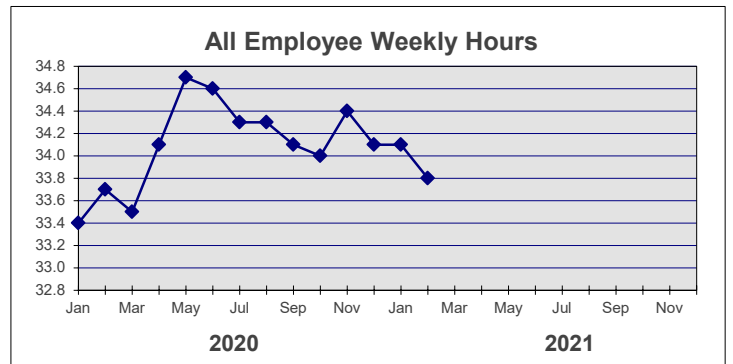
2021		
Jan	1,571.8 R	8.1 R
Feb	1,574.8 P	8.5 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2020		
Jan	3,079	33.4
Feb	3,243	33.7
Mar	25,989	33.5
Apr	37,632	34.1
May	31,592	34.7
Jun	10,446	34.6
Jul	10,794	34.3
Aug	10,073	34.3
Sep	7,408	34.1
Oct	7,295	34.0
Nov	7,072	34.4
Dec	4,493	34.1



2021		
Jan	8,040	34.1 R
Feb	8,184	33.8 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute