LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2023 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 3.7%
US Unemployment Rate = 3.7%

Connecticut adds 5,000 jobs in May as state unemployment rate (3.7%) matches U.S.

WETHERSFIELD, June 15, 2023 – Connecticut nonfarm payroll jobs increased 5,000 (0.3%) in May 2023 to 1,691,500 and the state's unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.7% (preliminary, seasonally adjusted data). Industry payroll employment in the state is 24,900 (1.5%) positions higher than the May 2022 level. The state has now recovered **97.9%** (283,100) of the 289,100 jobs lost during the March-April 2020 COVID lockdown. The April 2023 preliminary overall payroll decline of 900 positions was revised higher by 2,100 to a 1,200 (0.1%) job gain. Connecticut's unemployment rate continued to tick lower to 3.7% (new COVID recovery low) from the April 2023 level (3.8%) and is now lower by four-tenths of a percentage point from the 4.1% rate in May 2022. This release presents current labor data from two monthly surveys (establishment and household) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in association with the states.

"Job growth averaged 3,680 per month during the first five months of 2023 with the unemployment rate back to the November 2019 level," said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. "We have seen job growth slow later in the year in recent years, and that may happen again in 2023. However, the labor market is strong as we approach the summer."

Connecticut's private sector employment increased by 4,800 (0.3%) jobs in May 2023 to 1,460,600 and is higher by 21,000 positions (1.5%) from the May 2022 level (1,439,600). The state's private sector is **99.9%** recovered from the April 2020 COVID employment low point. Just 200 more jobs are needed to reach February 2020 private sector levels. May job gains were broad. In addition, there was an upward revision to April's preliminary private sector job loss (-1,400, -0.1%) of 1,600 to a now slight 200 (0.01%) job gain. The **government** *supersector* was up by 200 (0.1%) to a level of 230,900 jobs. Combined government employment in the state is 3,900 positions (1.7%) above year-ago levels. The public sector is 74.9% recovered from the overall COVID April 2020 employment trough. Connecticut's 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.

Eight of the ten major industry *supersectors* increased jobs in May 2023, and two declined.

The eight industry *supersectors* that increased employment in May 2023 (below)

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	**Amount of Increase**	**Percent Change**	**May 2023 Employment**
Leisure & Hospitality	+2,600	1.7%	156,700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	+1,700	0.6%	300,500
Other Services	+1,100	1.8%	63,400
Information	+400	1.3%	31,900
Manufacturing	+200	0.1%	157,700
Government	+200	0.1%	230,900
Financial Activities	+100	0.1%	114,900
Professional & Business Services	+100	0.04%	224,600

The two industry *supersectors* that decreased jobs in May 2023 (below)

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	**Amount of Decrease**	**Percent Change**	**May 2023 Employment**
Education & Health Services	-1,200	-0.3%	351,200
Construction & Mining	-200	-0.3%	59,700

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): All six major Connecticut *LMAs* that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS revealed nonfarm industry employment gains in May 2023, with the largest *Hartford LMA* (0.3%, 579,600) leading in numerical gains (1,700) while the more seasonal southeastern *Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA* (+1,100, 126,000) led in percentage gains (0.9%). The *Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA* (0.3%, 408,100) added 1,200 positions and the *New Haven LMA* (0.3%, 303,800) chipped in 900. The *Danbury LMA* (0.5%, 77,300) contributed 400 positions and the *Waterbury LMA* (0.3%, 67,500) gained 200 additional jobs as well.

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

Hours and Earnings: The May 2023 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.1 hours. This is lower by one and one-tenth hour (-3.2%) than the May 2022 average of 34.2 hours. Average hourly earnings at $35.31 last month, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by $0.65 (1.9%) from the May 2022 estimate of $34.66. The associated May 2023 private sector weekly wage averaged $1,168.76 – now lower by $16.61 from a year ago (-1.4%, $1,185.37). The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) for May 2023 was up 4.0% from a year ago. *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 May 2023 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **3.7%** (seasonally adjusted). This is a new post lockdown low. This is lower by one-tenth of a percentage point compared to the April 2023 level of 3.8%. The Connecticut unemployment rate was 4.1% in May 2022. The U.S. unemployment rate for May 2023 was calculated at 3.7%, up three-tenths of a percentage point from the revised April 2023 rate (3.4%) and now higher by one-tenth of a percentage point than the U.S. jobless rate of 3.6% a year ago.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in May 2023 were 3,972, *not seasonally adjusted.* The twelve-month moving average was 4,095 per week through May 2023, higher by 141 (3.6%) from the twelve months ending April 2023 and still higher by 653 (19.0%) than the average weekly count of 3,442 for the twelve months ending in May 2022.

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, July 20, 2023
(Preliminary June 2023 data on the updated benchmark)

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT
Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*

	May 2023 P	April 2023 R	March 2023	February 2023	May 2022	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,691,500	1,686,500	1,685,300	1,687,000	1,666,600	5,000	0.3%	24,900	1.5%
Total Private	1,460,600	1,455,800	1,455,600	1,457,600	1,439,600	4,800	0.3%	21,000	1.5%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	59,200	59,400	59,900	61,700	60,800	-200	-0.3%	-1,600	-2.6%
Manufacturing	157,700	157,500	158,300	158,700	156,800	200	0.1%	900	0.6%
Durable Goods	122,600	122,600	123,200	123,700	122,600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	35,100	34,900	35,100	35,000	34,200	200	0.6%	900	2.6%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300,500	298,800	297,100	296,900	299,000	1,700	0.6%	1,500	0.5%
Wholesale	62,900	63,000	62,500	62,200	60,000	-100	-0.2%	2,900	4.8%
Retail	167,200	166,300	165,400	165,500	168,300	900	0.5%	-1,100	-0.7%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	70,400	69,500	69,200	69,200	70,700	900	1.3%	-300	-0.4%
Information	31,900	31,500	31,100	31,000	31,300	400	1.3%	600	1.9%
Financial Activities	114,900	114,800	115,000	115,200	118,800	100	0.1%	-3,900	-3.3%
Finance & Insurance	95,700	95,600	95,700	95,900	99,300	100	0.1%	-3,600	-3.6%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,200	19,200	19,300	19,300	19,500	0	0.0%	-300	-1.5%
Professional & Business Services	224,600	224,500	226,000	225,100	221,600	100	0.0%	3,000	1.4%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	102,100	101,600	101,200	101,000	97,900	500	0.5%	4,200	4.3%
Management of Companies	30,900	30,900	30,800	30,900	31,000	0	0.0%	-100	-0.3%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	91,600	92,000	94,000	93,200	92,700	-400	-0.4%	-1,100	-1.2%
Educational & Health Services	351,200	352,400	352,000	351,900	341,000	-1,200	-0.3%	10,200	3.0%
Educational Services	70,800	71,800	71,800	71,800	68,000	-1,000	-1.4%	2,800	4.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	280,400	280,600	280,200	280,100	273,000	-200	-0.1%	7,400	2.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	156,700	154,100	153,800	154,200	148,700	2,600	1.7%	8,000	5.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,800	28,900	28,700	28,200	26,600	-100	-0.3%	2,200	8.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	127,900	125,200	125,100	126,000	122,100	2,700	2.2%	5,800	4.8%
Other Services	63,400	62,300	61,900	62,400	61,100	1,100	1.8%	2,300	3.8%
Government**	230,900	230,700	229,700	229,400	227,000	200	0.1%	3,900	1.7%
UNITED STATES	156,105,000	155,766,000	155,472,000	155,255,000	152,042,000	339,000	0.2%	4,063,000	2.7%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	May 2023 P	April 2023 R	March 2023	February 2023	May 2022	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	408,100	406,900	406,600	407,100	399,200	1,200	0.3%	8,900	2.2%
Danbury	77,300	76,900	76,500	76,900	75,700	400	0.5%	1,600	2.1%
Hartford	579,600	577,900	577,000	577,300	570,400	1,700	0.3%	9,200	1.6%
New Haven	303,800	302,900	302,400	302,500	298,100	900	0.3%	5,700	1.9%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	126,000	124,900	125,700	125,900	122,600	1,100	0.9%	3,400	2.8%
Waterbury	67,500	67,300	67,200	67,400	65,600	200	0.3%	1,900	2.9%
Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)									
Enfield	42,500	41,800	41,900	41,700	42,100	700	1.7%	400	1.0%
Torrington-Northwest	33,100	32,500	32,100	32,000	32,800	600	1.8%	300	0.9%
Danielson-Northeast	27,400	27,100	27,000	26,900	27,200	300	1.1%	200	0.7%

* 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.

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*

	May 2023 P Number	Rate	May 2022 R Number	Rate	Change Number	Points	Apr 2023 R Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	71,100	3.7	79,800	4.1	-8,700	-0.4	72,600	3.8
Labor Force	1,897,600		1,943,400		-45,800		1,901,400	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,097,000	3.7	5,979,000	3.6	118,000	0.1	5,657,000	3.4
Labor Force	166,818,000		164,278,000		2,540,000		166,688,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*
2021 - 2023
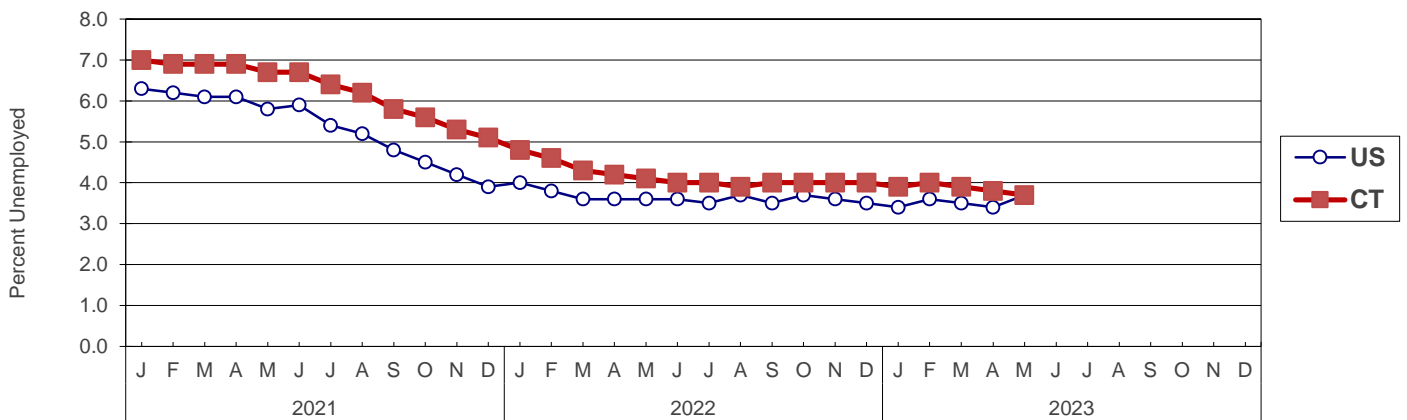
LABOR MARKET AREAS - *Not Seasonally Adjusted*

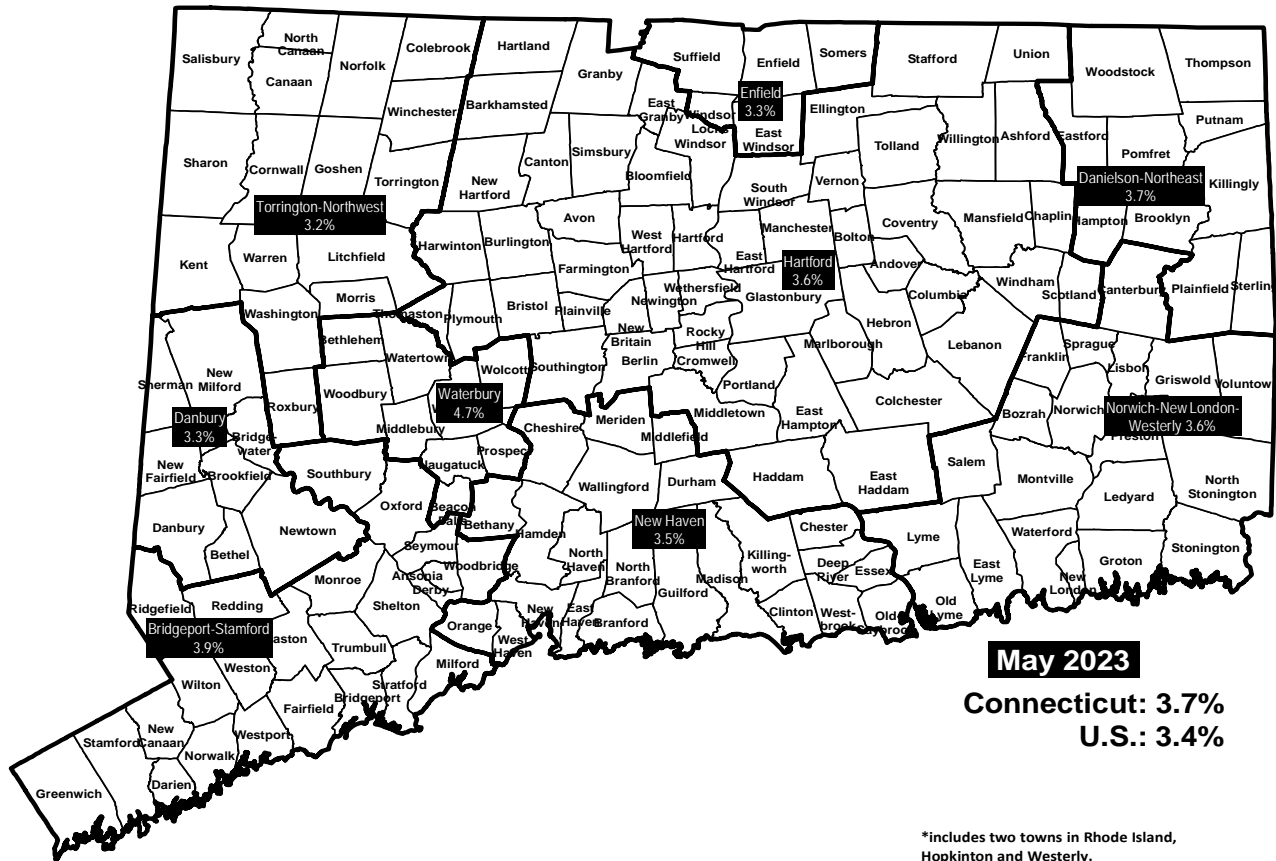|	May 2023 P Number	Rate	May 2022 R Number	Rate	Change Number	Points	Apr 2023 R Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	18,100	3.9	20,300	4.3	-2,200	-0.4	14,300	3.1
Danbury	3,500	3.3	4,000	3.7	-500	-0.4	2,900	2.7
Danielson-Northeast*	1,600	3.7	1,800	4.1	-200	-0.4	1,400	3.2
Worcester NECTA	1,500	3.7	1,800	4.1	-300	-0.4	1,300	3.2
Hampton	100	3.5	100	3.9	0	-0.4	100	2.9
Enfield	1,600	3.3	2,000	3.9	-400	-0.6	1,400	2.8
Hartford	21,900	3.6	26,300	4.1	-4,400	-0.5	18,200	3.0
New Haven	11,600	3.5	13,700	4.0	-2,100	-0.5	9,300	2.8
Norwich-New London	4,900	3.6	5,900	4.2	-1,000	-0.6	4,000	3.0
Torrington-Northwest**	1,500	3.2	1,800	3.7	-300	-0.5	1,300	2.8
Torrington NECTA	900	3.7	1,100	4.2	-200	-0.5	800	3.3
Litchfield	600	2.7	700	3.2	-100	-0.5	500	2.3
Waterbury	5,100	4.7	5,500	4.9	-400	-0.2	4,300	4.0
CONNECTICUT	69,500	3.7	80,900	4.2	-11,400	-0.5	56,600	3.0
UNITED STATES	5,700,000	3.4	5,548,000	3.4	152,000	0.0	5,146,000	3.1

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

Torrington-Northwest 3.2%
Enfield 3.3%
Danielson-Northeast 3.7%
Hartford 3.6%
Danbury 3.3%
Waterbury 4.7%
Norwich-New London-Westerly 3.6%
New Haven 3.5%
Bridgeport-Stamford 3.9%

May 2023

Connecticut: 3.7%
U.S.: 3.4%

*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			
	May 2023 P	May 2022	Change over Yr.	April 2023 R	May 2023 P	May 2022	Change over Yr.	April 2023 R	May 2023 P	May 2022	Change over Yr.	April 2023 R
Private Industry All Employees	$1,168.76	$1,185.37	-$16.61	$1,207.13	33.1	34.2	-1.1	33.7	$35.31	$34.66	$0.65	$35.82
Manufacturing* Production Workers	$1,115.81	$1,141.67	-$25.86	$1,130.32	39.4	40.6	-1.2	39.8	$28.32	$28.12	$0.20	$28.40

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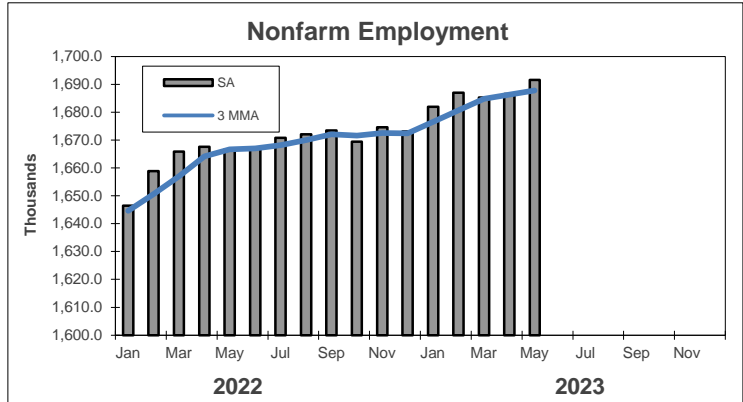
P = Preliminary   R = Revised

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*
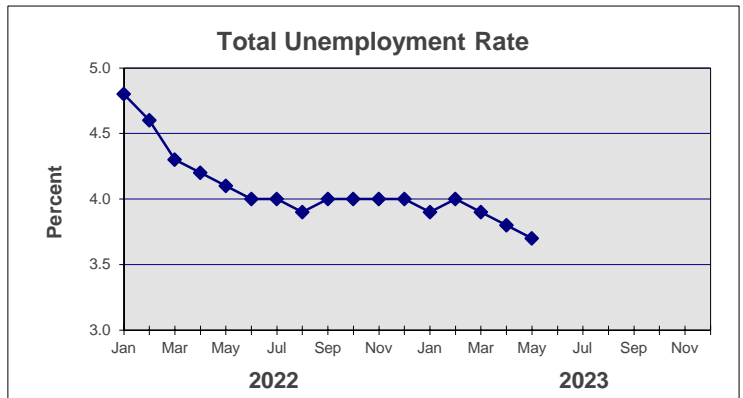
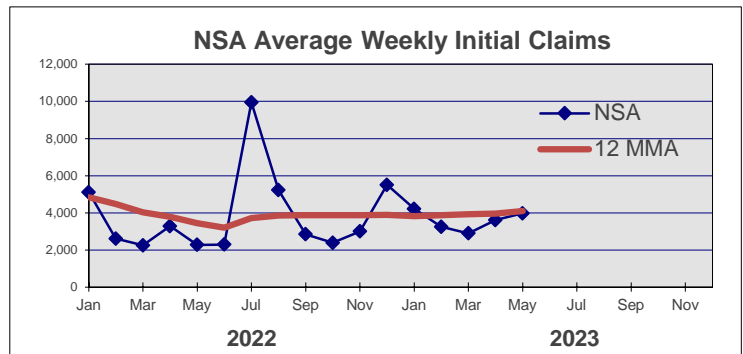|	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2022		
Jan	1,646.5	4.8
Feb	1,658.8	4.6
Mar	1,665.9	4.3
Apr	1,667.6	4.2
May	1,666.6	4.1
Jun	1,666.9	4.0
Jul	1,670.8	4.0
Aug	1,672.1	3.9
Sep	1,673.4	4.0
Oct	1,669.4	4.0
Nov	1,674.6	4.0
Dec	1,673.1	4.0
2023		
Jan	1,681.9	3.9
Feb	1,687.0	4.0
Mar	1,685.3	3.9
Apr	1,686.5 R	3.8 R
May	1,691.5 P	3.7 P
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

Nonfarm Employment

Total Unemployment Rate

	NSA Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2022		
Jan	5,111	34.1
Feb	2,611	34.0
Mar	2,247	33.9
Apr	3,283	33.8
May	2,277	34.2
Jun	2,294	33.8
Jul	9,947	33.5
Aug	5,218	33.7
Sep	2,838	33.8
Oct	2,389	34.0
Nov	3,001	33.7
Dec	5,508	33.5
2023		
Jan	4,215	33.5
Feb	3,249	33.0
Mar	2,898	32.9
Apr	3,610	33.7 R
May	3,972	33.1 P
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

NSA Average Weekly Initial Claims

All Employee Weekly Hours
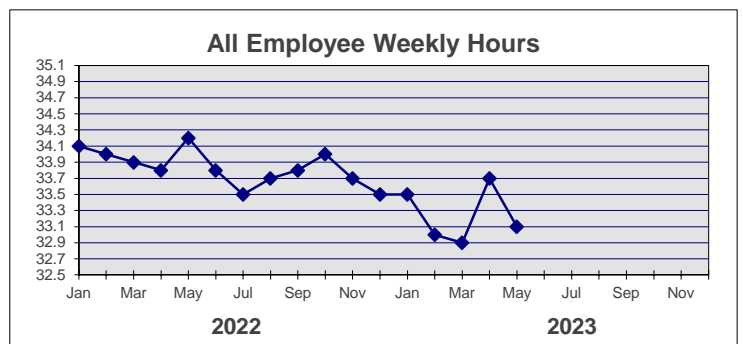
* Not seasonally adjusted   P = Preliminary   R = Revised   ** Labor-management dispute