



# LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2023 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 3.5%

US Unemployment Rate = 3.9%

## Connecticut jobs fully recover COVID losses (+3,700); jobless rate stays 3.5% in October

WETHERSFIELD, November 16, 2023 – Connecticut nonfarm payroll jobs increased 3,700 (0.2%) in October 2023 to a level of 1,698,700 while the state’s unemployment rate stayed at a post-COVID low of 3.5% (preliminary, seasonally adjusted data). The state’s nonfarm industry employment is 29,300 (1.8%) positions higher than year-ago levels. The state has now fully recovered **100.4%** (290,300) of the 289,100 nonagricultural jobs lost during the March-April 2020 COVID lockdown. The preliminary September 2023 gain of 3,200 positions was revised higher by 500 to a 3,700 jobs increase – matching this month’s gain. Connecticut’s September unemployment rate held steady at 3.5% (the lowest since July 2019) and is lower by five-tenths of a percentage point from the 4.0% year-ago rate. *The CT Labor Situation presents labor statistics from two monthly surveys (workplaces and households) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in cooperation with the states.*

“Connecticut added jobs in eight of the ten months of 2023 so far, private sector employment is now at an all-time high, and the unemployment rate remains very low” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “Growth has come from a wide range of industries, but it is worth noting that the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, which contracted sharply at the beginning of the pandemic, is now more than fully recovered.”

**Connecticut’s private sector** employment increased by 3,600 (0.2%) jobs in October 2023 to 1,467,000 and is higher by 24,100 positions (1.7%) from the October 2022 level. The state’s private sector has fully recovered (102.3%) from the April 2020 COVID employment lockdown trough (1,194,800). An upward revision of 1,000 occurred to September’s preliminary private sector job gain estimate to a 1,700 job increase. The **government supersector** was higher by just 100 jobs last month to a level of 231,700 jobs. The full government sector employment in the state is 5,200 positions (2.3%) higher than year-ago levels. The public sector is now just 78.4% recovered from the general COVID April 2020 employment lockdown low point including last month’s downward revision of -500 to 2,000 from 2,500 initially reported. *Connecticut’s government supersector covers all civilian federal, state, local, and tribal government employment, including public education and Native American casino jobs located on federally recognized tribal reservations.*

Six of the ten major industry *supersectors* added jobs in October 2023, while four declined.

### The six industry *supersectors* that increased employment in October 2023:

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	October 2023 Employment
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	+2,600	0.9%	302,600
Education & Health Services	+1,400	0.4%	357,500
Other Services	+800	1.3%	63,100
Construction & Mining	+600	1.0%	61,700
Information	+300	0.9%	32,000
Government	+100	0.04%	231,700

### The four industry *supersectors* that decreased jobs in October 2023:

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	October 2023 Employment
Leisure & Hospitality	-800	-0.5%	154,300
Manufacturing	-800	-0.5%	158,000
Financial Activities	-300	-0.3%	114,400
Professional & Business Services	-200	-0.1%	223,400

**Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs):** Four of the six major Connecticut **LMAs** that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS posted nonfarm employment increases in October 2023, while two declined. The **Hartford LMA** (0.3%, 579,000) led in numerical gains adding 1,500 while the **Waterbury LMA** (0.3%, 68,200) added 200 jobs. Both the **Danbury LMA** (0.1%, 77,100) and the **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (0.1%, 126,800) added 100 positions each. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-0.1%, 406,200) decreased 300 positions and the **New Haven LMA** (-0.03%, 306,100) declined a small 100 positions.

*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 October 2023 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.7 hours. This is lower by three-tenths of an hour than the October 2022 average of 34.0 hours. Average hourly earnings at \$36.88 in October, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$1.55 (4.4%) from the October 2022 estimate of \$35.33. The resulting October 2023 private sector weekly wage averaged \$1,242.86, higher by \$41.46 (3.5%) from a year ago. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) for October 2023 was up 3.2% 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 October 2023 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **3.5%** (seasonally adjusted). This was unchanged over-the-month staying at the post-COVID lockdown low point and is down five-tenths of one percent compared to the October 2022 level of 4.0%. This is the third straight month at 3.5% for the state. The U.S. unemployment rate for October 2023 was 3.9%, up from the September 2023 rate of 3.8% and higher over-the-year from the U.S. jobless rate of 3.7% in October 2022.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in October 2023 were 2,253, *not seasonally adjusted*. The twelve-month moving average was 4,043 per week through October 2023, lower by 11 (-0.3%) from the twelve months ending September 2023 (4,054) but higher by 173 (4.5%) than the average weekly count of 3,870 for the twelve months ending in October 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, December 21, 2023  
(Preliminary November 2023 data)*

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

## Jobs - by Place of Work

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	October 2023 P	September 2023 R	August 2023	July 2023	October 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>1,698,700</b>	<b>1,695,000</b>	<b>1,691,300</b>	<b>1,691,200</b>	<b>1,669,400</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>29,300</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,467,000</b>	<b>1,463,400</b>	<b>1,461,700</b>	<b>1,460,300</b>	<b>1,442,900</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>									
Mining	500	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	61,200	60,600	61,600	61,300	61,200	600	1.0%	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	158,000	158,800	157,800	157,200	159,100	-800	-0.5%	-1,100	-0.7%
Durable Goods	123,000	123,800	122,900	122,500	124,300	-800	-0.6%	-1,300	-1.0%
Nondurable Goods	35,000	35,000	34,900	34,700	34,800	0	0.0%	200	0.6%
<b>Service Providing Industries</b>									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	302,600	300,000	300,100	299,800	294,500	2,600	0.9%	8,100	2.8%
Wholesale	64,400	63,600	63,200	62,900	59,500	800	1.3%	4,900	8.2%
Retail	166,400	166,200	166,400	166,500	167,000	200	0.1%	-600	-0.4%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	71,800	70,200	70,500	70,400	68,000	1,600	2.3%	3,800	5.6%
Information	32,000	31,700	31,600	31,600	31,200	300	0.9%	800	2.6%
Financial Activities	114,400	114,700	114,700	114,900	118,100	-300	-0.3%	-3,700	-3.1%
Finance & Insurance	95,300	95,700	95,600	95,700	98,500	-400	-0.4%	-3,200	-3.2%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,100	19,000	19,100	19,200	19,600	100	0.5%	-500	-2.6%
Professional & Business Services	223,400	223,600	223,800	223,700	219,400	-200	-0.1%	4,000	1.8%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	102,700	102,700	102,800	103,300	100,100	0	0.0%	2,600	2.6%
Management of Companies	31,200	31,200	31,200	31,000	30,800	0	0.0%	400	1.3%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	89,500	89,700	89,800	89,400	88,500	-200	-0.2%	1,000	1.1%
Educational & Health Services	357,500	356,100	355,300	354,000	345,200	1,400	0.4%	12,300	3.6%
Educational Services	72,800	72,500	72,300	71,700	70,600	300	0.4%	2,200	3.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	284,700	283,600	283,000	282,300	274,600	1,100	0.4%	10,100	3.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	154,300	155,100	155,500	155,900	151,800	-800	-0.5%	2,500	1.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	30,500	30,600	31,000	31,000	27,000	-100	-0.3%	3,500	13.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	123,800	124,500	124,500	124,900	124,800	-700	-0.6%	-1,000	-0.8%
Other Services	63,100	62,300	60,800	61,400	61,900	800	1.3%	1,200	1.9%
Government**	231,700	231,600	229,600	230,900	226,500	100	0.04%	5,200	2.3%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>156,923,000</b>	<b>156,773,000</b>	<b>156,476,000</b>	<b>156,311,000</b>	<b>154,006,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>2,917,000</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

### LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	October 2023 P	September 2023 R	August 2023	July 2023	October 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<b>Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk</b>	406,200	406,500	407,800	407,100	401,800	-300	-0.1%	4,400	1.1%
<b>Danbury</b>	77,100	77,000	77,200	76,900	76,500	100	0.1%	600	0.8%
<b>Hartford</b>	579,000	577,500	578,100	577,300	572,900	1,500	0.3%	6,100	1.1%
<b>New Haven</b>	306,100	306,200	305,200	302,200	297,900	-100	0.0%	8,200	2.8%
<b>Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI</b>	126,800	126,700	126,500	126,400	124,000	100	0.1%	2,800	2.3%
<b>Waterbury</b>	68,200	68,000	67,700	67,200	66,600	200	0.3%	1,600	2.4%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i>									
<b>Enfield</b>	43,200	43,100	42,800	42,600	42,600	100	0.2%	600	1.4%
<b>Torrington-Northwest</b>	33,200	33,200	33,400	33,600	33,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Danielson-Northeast</b>	27,600	27,500	27,400	27,400	27,200	100	0.4%	400	1.5%

\* 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](mailto:dol.lmi@ct.gov).

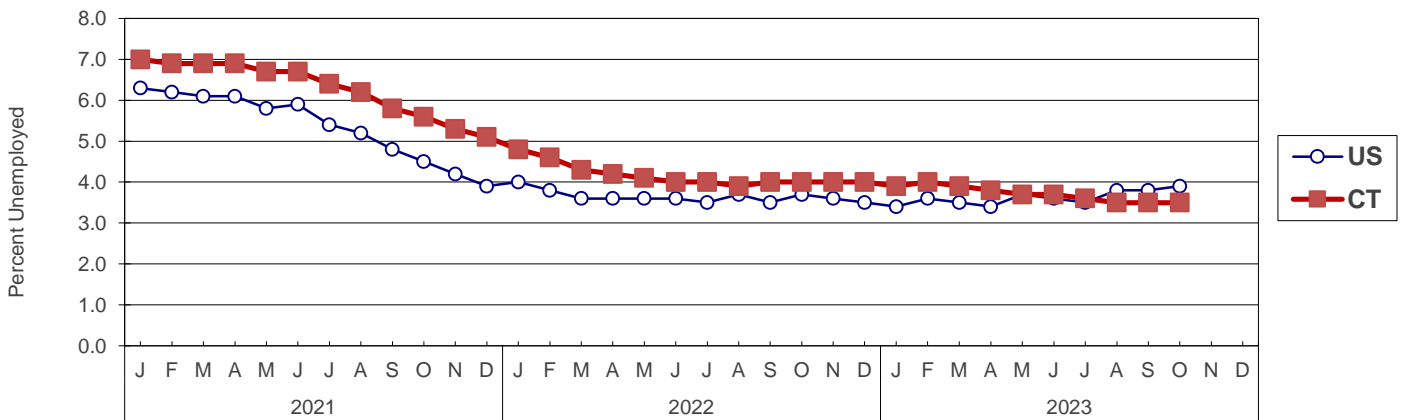
# UNEMPLOYMENT

## Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Oct 2023 P		Oct 2022 R		Change		Sep 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Unemployed	65,700	3.5	76,800	4.0	-11,100	-0.5	65,500	3.5
Labor Force	1,899,000		1,913,800		-14,800		1,897,800	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
Unemployed	6,506,000	3.9	6,053,000	3.7	453,000	0.2	6,360,000	3.8
Labor Force	167,728,000		164,646,000		3,082,000		167,929,000	

### U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2021 - 2023



### LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Oct 2023 P		Oct 2022 R		Change		Sep 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	17,000	3.7	18,300	3.9	-1,300	-0.2	14,900	3.2
Danbury	3,200	3.1	3,500	3.3	-300	-0.2	2,800	2.7
Danielson-Northeast*	1,400	3.3	1,600	3.6	-200	-0.3	1,300	2.9
Worcester NECTA	1,400	3.3	1,500	3.6	-100	-0.3	1,200	3.0
Hampton	100	2.5	100	3.3	0	-0.8	0	2.2
Enfield	1,500	3.0	1,800	3.5	-300	-0.5	1,300	2.6
Hartford	20,100	3.2	22,900	3.7	-2,800	-0.5	17,600	2.8
New Haven	10,700	3.2	12,100	3.6	-1,400	-0.4	9,400	2.8
Norwich-New London	4,300	3.1	5,100	3.7	-800	-0.6	3,800	2.7
Torrington-Northwest**	1,300	2.8	1,600	3.4	-300	-0.6	1,200	2.5
Torrington NECTA	800	3.3	1,000	3.9	-200	-0.6	700	2.9
Litchfield	500	2.3	600	2.7	-100	-0.4	400	2.0
Waterbury	4,600	4.1	5,100	4.5	-500	-0.4	4,000	3.6
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>63,700</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>71,600</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>-7,900</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>6,098,000</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>5,609,000</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>489,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6,049,000</b>	<b>3.6</b>

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

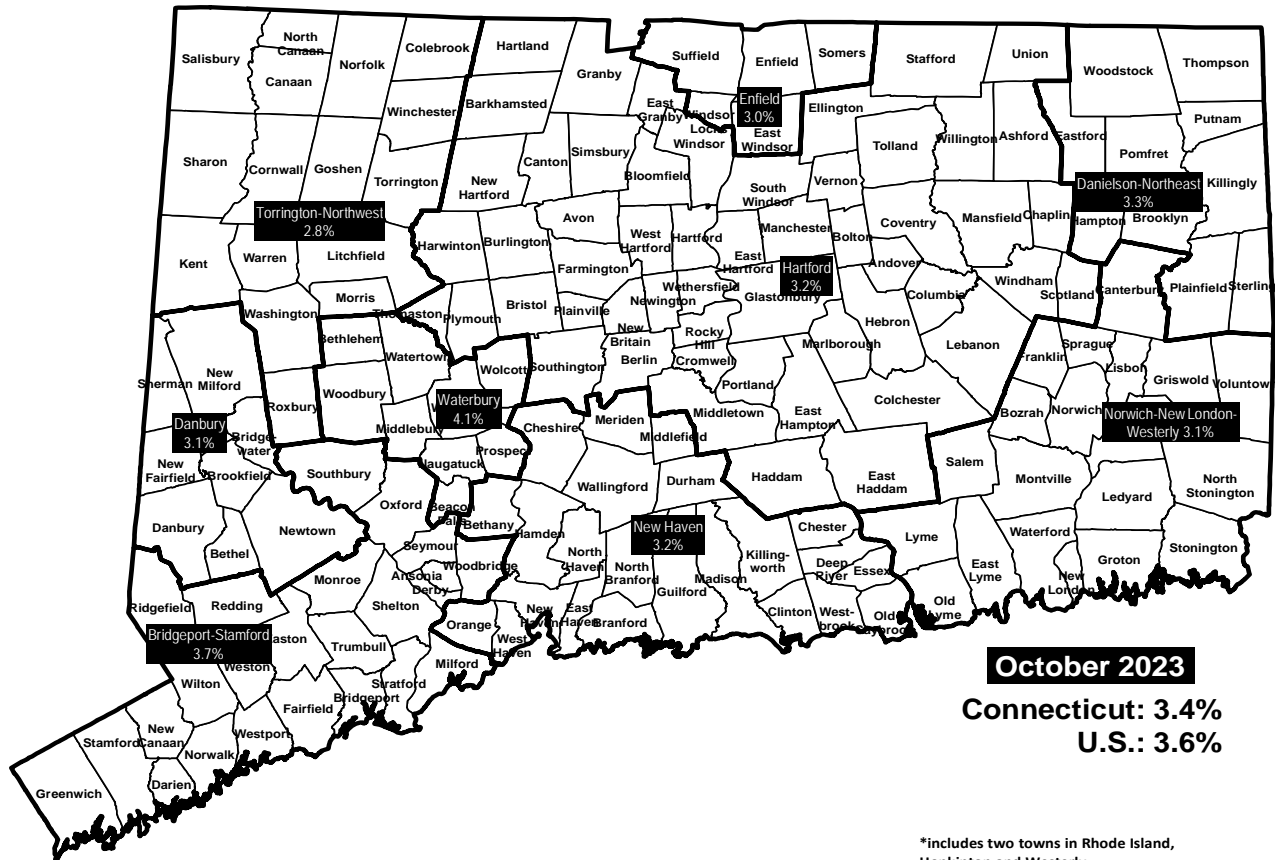
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\* 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			
	Oct. 2023 P	Oct. 2022	Change over Yr.	Sep. 2023 R	Oct. 2023 P	Oct. 2022	Change over Yr.	Sep. 2023 R	Oct. 2023 P	Oct. 2022	Change over Yr.	Sep. 2023 R
<b>Private Industry All Employees</b>	\$1,242.86	\$1,201.22	\$41.64	\$1,202.40	33.7	34.0	-0.3	33.4	\$36.88	\$35.33	\$1.55	\$36.00
<b>Manufacturing* Production Workers</b>	\$1,181.44	\$1,154.91	\$26.53	\$1,172.40	39.9	41.1	-1.2	40.0	\$29.61	\$28.10	\$1.51	\$29.31

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

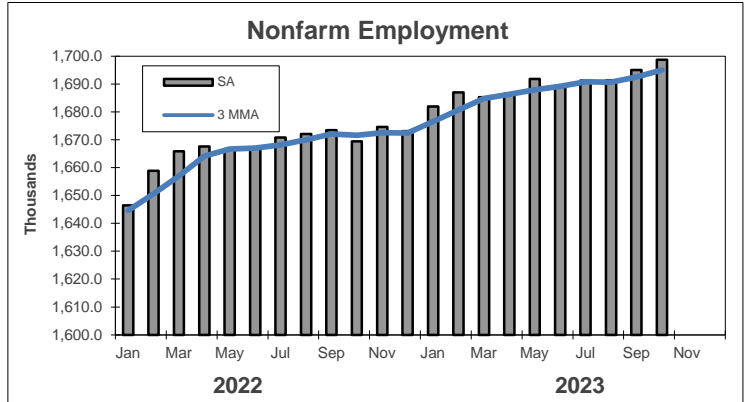
P = Preliminary      R = Revised

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](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi)

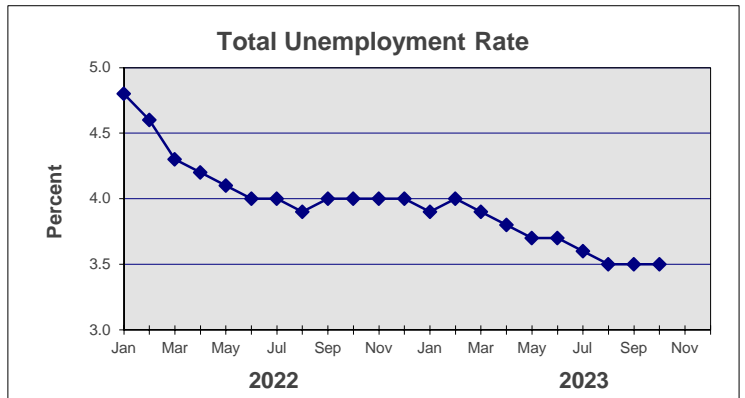
# TRENDS

## Seasonally Adjusted

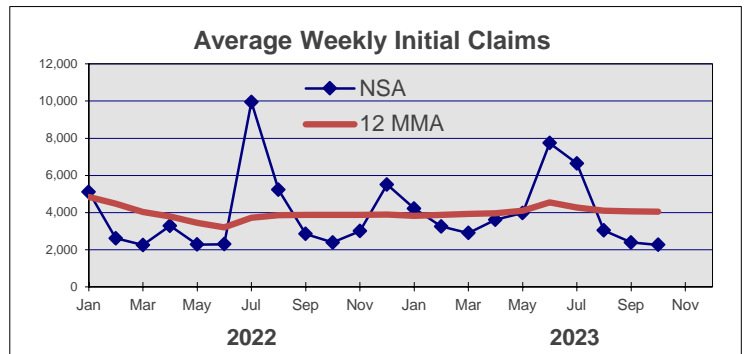
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
<b>2022</b>		
Jan	1,646.5	4.8
Feb	1,658.8	4.6
Mar	1,665.9	4.3
Apr	1,667.6	4.2
May	1,666.6	4.1
Jun	1,666.9	4.0
Jul	1,670.8	4.0
Aug	1,672.1	3.9
Sep	1,673.4	4.0
Oct	1,669.4	4.0
Nov	1,674.6	4.0
Dec	1,673.1	4.0



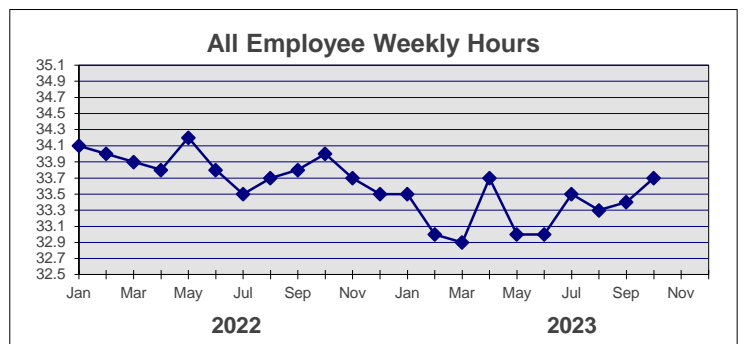
<b>2023</b>		
Jan	1,681.9	3.9
Feb	1,687.0	4.0
Mar	1,685.3	3.9
Apr	1,686.5	3.8
May	1,691.8	3.7
Jun	1,689.3	3.7
Jul	1,691.2	3.6
Aug	1,691.3	3.5
Sep	1,695.0 R	3.5 R
Oct	1,698.7 P	3.5 P
Nov		
Dec		



	NSA Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
<b>2022</b>		
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



<b>2023</b>		
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 R
Oct	2,253	33.7 P
Nov		
Dec		



\* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

\*\* Labor-management dispute