



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2023 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 3.5%

US Unemployment Rate = 3.8%

Connecticut job gains continue in September; unemployment rate holds 3.5%

WETHERSFIELD, October 19, 2023 – Connecticut payroll jobs increased 3,200 (0.2%) in September 2023 to a level of 1,694,500 while the state’s unemployment rate held steady at a post-COVID low of 3.5% (preliminary, seasonally adjusted data). The state’s nonfarm employment is now 21,100 (1.3%) positions higher than the year-ago level. The state has recovered **99.0%** (286,100) of the 289,100 nonagricultural jobs lost during the March-April 2020 COVID lockdown. The preliminary August 2023 gain of 2,100 positions was revised significantly lower by 2,000 to a 100-jobs increase. Local government was revised down by 1,700 jobs in August, accounting for most of the revision.

Connecticut’s September unemployment rate held steady at 3.5% (the lowest since July 2019) from the revised August 2023 level (August was revised down to 3.5% from 3.6%) and is lower by five-tenths of a percentage point from the 4.0% year-ago rate. *The CT Labor Situation combines labor statistics from two monthly surveys (workplaces and households) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in cooperation with the states.*

“Job growth continued in September and the unemployment rate remained low,” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “The private sector has added more than 18,000 jobs so far this year and growth has been balanced across a wide range of industries. The number of unemployed is at a 20-year low.”

Connecticut’s private sector employment increased by 700 (0.1%) jobs in September 2023 to 1,462,400 and is higher by 16,200 positions (1.1%) from the September 2022 level. The state’s private sector jobs are fully recovered (100.6%) from the April 2020 COVID employment lockdown low point (1,194,800). A downward revision of 800 happened to August’s preliminary private sector job gain estimate (2,200, 0.2%) to a now 1,400 (0.1%) job increase. The **government supersector** was higher (2,500, 1.1%) last month to a level of 232,100 jobs. The full government sector employment in the state is 4,900 positions (2.2%) higher than year-ago levels. The public sector is now 80.1% recovered from the general COVID April 2020 employment lockdown low point. Public schools were especially robust at the start of the school year. Connecticut’s government *supersector* encompasses 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* increased jobs in September 2023, while four decreased.

The six industry *supersectors* that increased employment in September 2023:

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	September 2023 Employment
Government	+2,500	1.1%	232,100
Other Services	+1,100	1.8%	61,900
Manufacturing	+900	0.6%	158,700
Education & Health Services	+700	0.2%	356,000
Leisure & Hospitality	+400	0.3%	155,900
Information	+100	0.3%	31,700

The four industry *supersectors* that declined in jobs in September 2023:

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	September 2023 Employment
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	-1,200	-0.4%	298,900
Construction & Mining	-900	-1.4%	61,200
Professional & Business Services	-300	-0.1%	223,500
Financial Activities	-100	-0.1%	114,600

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Three of the six major Connecticut **LMAs** that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS put forth nonfarm employment gains in September 2023, while three declined. The **New Haven LMA** (0.2%, 305,700) added 500 jobs while the **Waterbury LMA** (0.3%, 67,900) and the **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (0.2%, 126,700) each increased 200 positions. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-0.3%, 406,600) decreased 1,200 positions; the **Hartford LMA** (-0.1%, 577,800) lost 300 jobs and the **Danbury LMA** (-0.3%, 77,000) shed 200 payrolls.

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 September 2023 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.3 hours. This is lower by five-tenths of an hour than the September 2022 average of 33.8 hours. Average hourly earnings at \$36.04 in September, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$0.98 (2.8%) from the September 2022 estimate of \$35.06. The September 2023 private sector weekly wage averaged \$1,200.13, higher by \$15.10 from a year ago. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) for September 2023 was up 3.7% 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 September 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 at the post COVID lockdown low and is down five-tenths of one percent compared to the September 2022 level of 4.0%. (A downward revision came through for August 2023 from 3.6% to 3.5%). The U.S. unemployment rate for September 2023 was 3.8%, unchanged from the August 2023 rate (3.8%) and is higher than the U.S. jobless rate of 3.5% a year ago.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in September 2023 were 2,387, *not seasonally adjusted*. The twelve-month moving average was 4,054 per week through September 2023, lower by 38 (-0.9%) from the twelve months ending August 2023 (4,092) but higher by 182 (4.7%) than the average weekly count of 3,872 for the twelve months ending in September 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, November 16, 2023
(Preliminary October 2023 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*

	September 2023 P	August 2023 R	July 2023	June 2023	September 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,694,500	1,691,300	1,691,200	1,689,300	1,673,400	3,200	0.2%	21,100	1.3%
Total Private	1,462,400	1,461,700	1,460,300	1,457,800	1,446,200	700	0.1%	16,200	1.1%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	60,700	61,600	61,300	59,800	60,400	-900	-1.5%	300	0.5%
Manufacturing	158,700	157,800	157,200	157,700	158,100	900	0.6%	600	0.4%
<i>Durable Goods</i>	123,700	122,900	122,500	122,900	123,300	800	0.7%	400	0.3%
<i>Nondurable Goods</i>	35,000	34,900	34,700	34,800	34,800	100	0.3%	200	0.6%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	298,900	300,100	299,800	299,500	298,600	-1,200	-0.4%	300	0.1%
<i>Wholesale</i>	63,300	63,200	62,900	62,900	61,100	100	0.2%	2,200	3.6%
<i>Retail</i>	166,100	166,400	166,500	166,400	168,800	-300	-0.2%	-2,700	-1.6%
<i>Transp, Warehousing & Utilities</i>	69,500	70,500	70,400	70,200	68,700	-1,000	-1.4%	800	1.2%
Information	31,700	31,600	31,600	31,400	31,400	100	0.3%	300	1.0%
Financial Activities	114,600	114,700	114,900	114,700	118,300	-100	-0.1%	-3,700	-3.1%
<i>Finance & Insurance</i>	95,600	95,600	95,700	95,600	98,800	0	0.0%	-3,200	-3.2%
<i>Real Estate, Rental & Leasing</i>	19,000	19,100	19,200	19,100	19,500	-100	-0.5%	-500	-2.6%
Professional & Business Services	223,500	223,800	223,700	224,800	222,000	-300	-0.1%	1,500	0.7%
<i>Prof, Scientific & Tech Services</i>	102,400	102,800	103,300	103,000	99,600	-400	-0.4%	2,800	2.8%
<i>Management of Companies</i>	31,200	31,200	31,000	30,900	31,000	0	0.0%	200	0.6%
<i>Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv</i>	89,900	89,800	89,400	90,900	91,400	100	0.1%	-1,500	-1.6%
Educational & Health Services	356,000	355,300	354,000	351,200	344,700	700	0.2%	11,300	3.3%
<i>Educational Services</i>	72,600	72,300	71,700	71,200	69,500	300	0.4%	3,100	4.5%
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	283,400	283,000	282,300	280,000	275,200	400	0.1%	8,200	3.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	155,900	155,500	155,900	156,700	150,600	400	0.3%	5,300	3.5%
<i>Arts, Entertainment & Recreation</i>	30,500	31,000	31,000	31,300	26,800	-500	-1.6%	3,700	13.8%
<i>Accommodation & Food Services</i>	125,400	124,500	124,900	125,400	123,800	900	0.7%	1,600	1.3%
Other Services	61,900	60,800	61,400	61,500	61,600	1,100	1.8%	300	0.5%
Government**	232,100	229,600	230,900	231,500	227,200	2,500	1.1%	4,900	2.2%
UNITED STATES	156,874,000	156,538,000	156,311,000	156,075,000	153,682,000	336,000	0.2%	3,192,000	2.1%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>	September 2023 P	August 2023 R	July 2023	June 2023	September 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	406,600	407,800	407,100	406,900	402,400	-1,200	-0.3%	4,200	1.0%
Danbury	77,000	77,200	76,900	76,900	76,400	-200	-0.3%	600	0.8%
Hartford	577,800	578,100	577,300	576,000	573,300	-300	-0.1%	4,500	0.8%
New Haven	305,700	305,200	302,200	300,900	297,700	500	0.2%	8,000	2.7%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	126,700	126,500	126,400	126,000	124,200	200	0.2%	2,500	2.0%
Waterbury	67,900	67,700	67,200	66,700	66,500	200	0.3%	1,400	2.1%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	43,000	42,800	42,600	42,900	42,400	200	0.5%	600	1.4%
Torrington-Northwest	33,300	33,400	33,600	33,700	33,100	-100	-0.3%	200	0.6%
Danielson-Northeast	27,500	27,400	27,400	27,700	27,100	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.

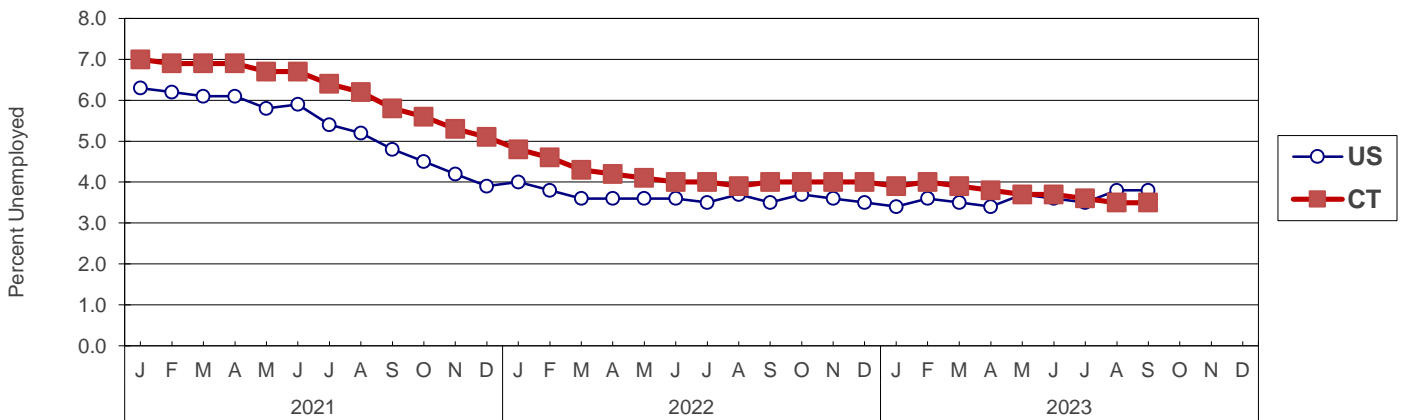
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Sep 2023 P		Sep 2022 R		Change		Aug 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	65,600	3.5	75,900	4.0	-10,300	-0.5	67,300	3.5
Labor Force	1,897,900		1,916,100		-18,200		1,896,500	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,360,000	3.8	5,770,000	3.5	590,000	0.3	6,355,000	3.8
Labor Force	167,929,000		164,619,000		3,310,000		167,839,000	

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Sep 2023 P		Sep 2022 R		Change		Aug 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	15,000	3.2	17,500	3.7	-2,500	-0.5	17,100	3.6
Danbury	2,800	2.7	3,400	3.2	-600	-0.5	3,300	3.1
Danielson-Northeast*	1,300	2.9	1,500	3.5	-200	-0.6	1,500	3.3
Worcester NECTA	1,200	3.0	1,500	3.5	-300	-0.5	1,400	3.4
Hampton	0	2.2	100	2.9	-100	-0.7	100	2.6
Enfield	1,300	2.6	1,800	3.5	-500	-0.9	1,500	3.1
Hartford	17,600	2.8	22,200	3.6	-4,600	-0.8	21,200	3.4
New Haven	9,400	2.8	11,700	3.5	-2,300	-0.7	10,900	3.3
Norwich-New London	3,800	2.7	5,000	3.6	-1,200	-0.9	4,500	3.2
Torrington-Northwest**	1,200	2.5	1,600	3.3	-400	-0.8	1,400	3.0
Torrington NECTA	700	2.9	1,000	3.8	-300	-0.9	900	3.5
Litchfield	400	2.1	600	2.7	-200	-0.6	500	2.3
Waterbury	4,000	3.6	4,800	4.3	-800	-0.7	4,700	4.3
CONNECTICUT	56,100	3.0	69,100	3.6	-13,000	-0.6	65,700	3.5
UNITED STATES	6,049,000	3.6	5,460,000	3.3	589,000	0.3	6,623,000	3.9

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

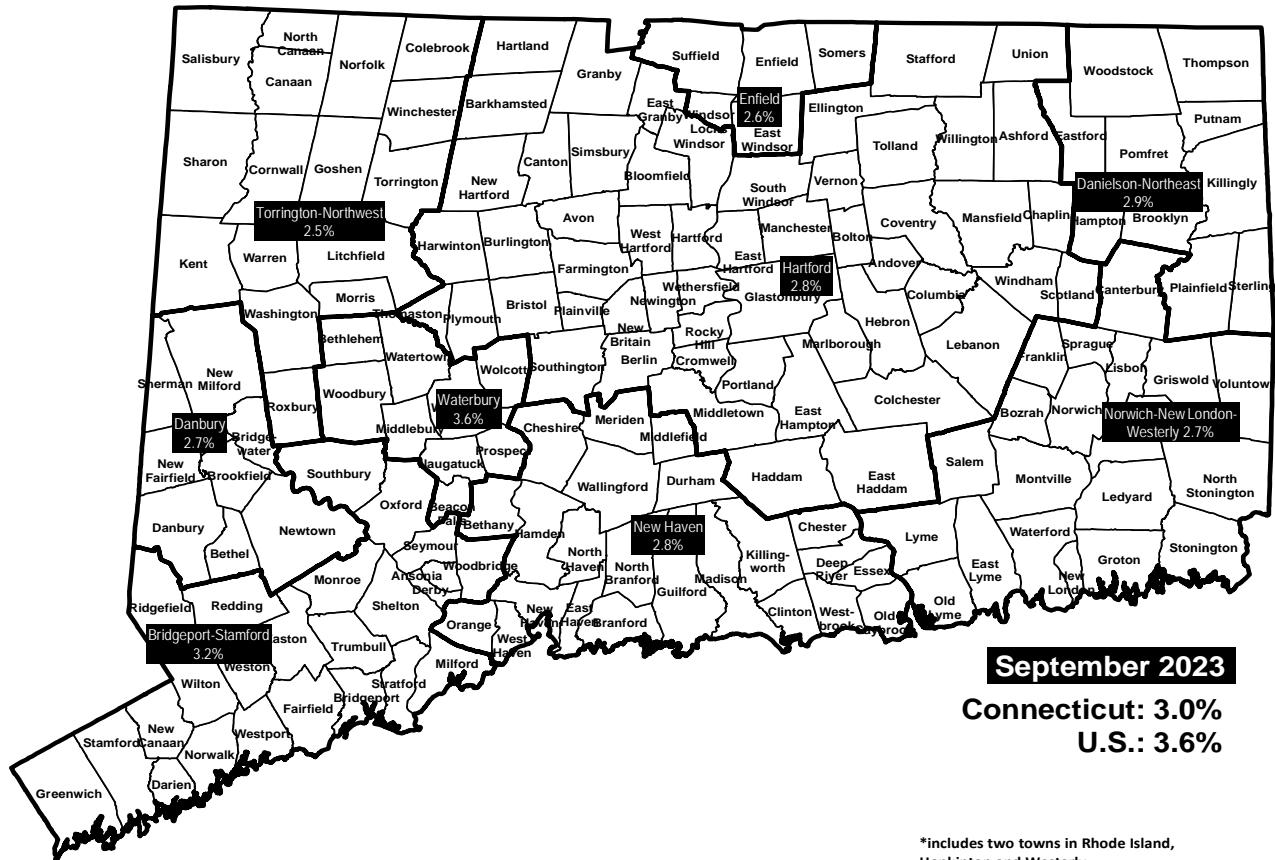
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* 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			
	Sep. 2023 P	Sep. 2022	Change over Yr.	Aug. 2023 R	Sep. 2023 P	Sep. 2022	Change over Yr.	Aug. 2023 R	Sep. 2023 P	Sep. 2022	Change over Yr.	Aug. 2023 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,200.13	\$1,185.03	\$15.10	\$1,187.81	33.3	33.8	-0.5	33.3	\$36.04	\$35.06	\$0.98	\$35.67
Manufacturing* Production Workers	\$1,175.33	\$1,157.38	\$17.95	\$1,145.60	40.1	41.1	-1.0	40.0	\$29.31	\$28.16	\$1.15	\$28.64

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

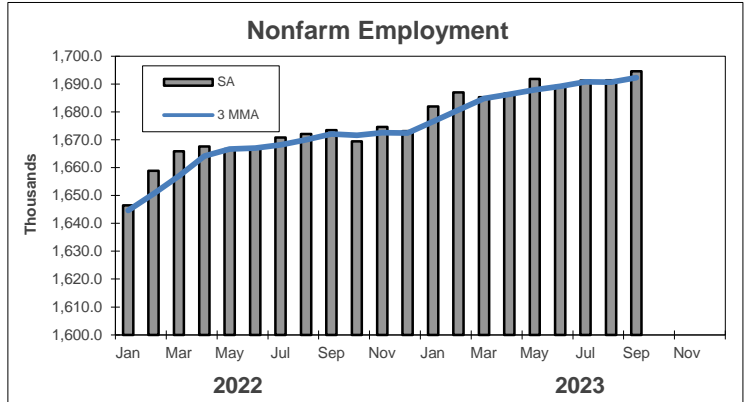
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

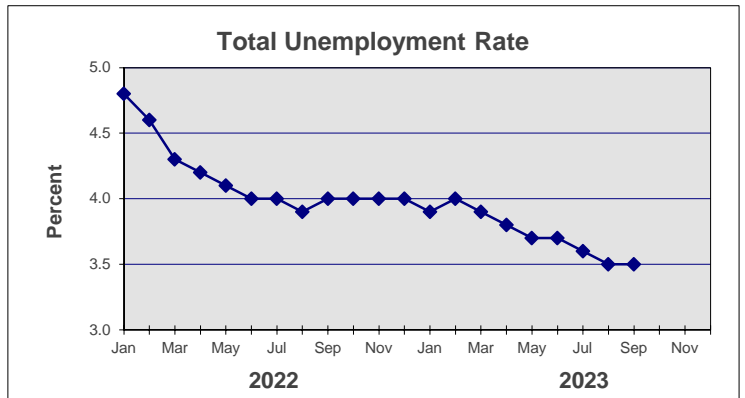
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

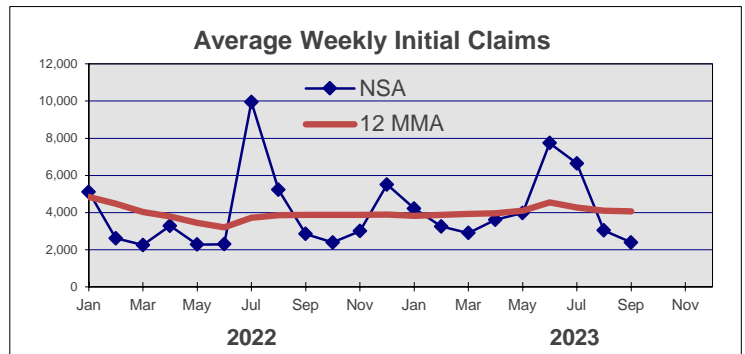
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2022		
Jan	1,646.5	4.8
Feb	1,658.8	4.6
Mar	1,665.9	4.3
Apr	1,667.6	4.2
May	1,666.6	4.1
Jun	1,666.9	4.0
Jul	1,670.8	4.0
Aug	1,672.1	3.9
Sep	1,673.4	4.0
Oct	1,669.4	4.0
Nov	1,674.6	4.0
Dec	1,673.1	4.0



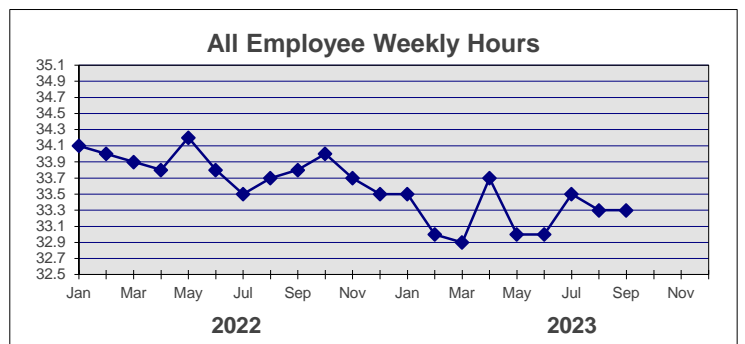
2023		
Jan	1,681.9	3.9
Feb	1,687.0	4.0
Mar	1,685.3	3.9
Apr	1,686.5	3.8
May	1,691.8	3.7
Jun	1,689.3	3.7
Jul	1,691.2	3.6
Aug	1,691.3 R	3.5 R
Sep	1,694.5 P	3.5 P
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	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
May	3,972	33.0
Jun	7,738	33.0
Jul	6,646	33.5
Aug	3,035	33.3 R
Sep	2,387	33.3 P
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute