



# LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2023 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 3.8%

US Unemployment Rate = 3.7%

## Connecticut down 2,500 payroll jobs in December; unemployment rate rises 0.2% to 3.8%

WETHERSFIELD, January 22, 2024 – Industry payroll jobs in Connecticut decreased 2,500 (-0.1%) in December 2023 to a level of 1,695,800, while the state’s jobless rate increased two-tenths of a percent to 3.8% (preliminary, all seasonally adjusted data). Statewide nonfarm industry employment stands 22,700 (1.4%) positions higher than year-ago December levels. The state has recovered **99.4%** (287,400) of the 289,100 nonagricultural jobs lost during the March-April 2020 COVID lockdown. The preliminary November 2023 job gain of 500 positions was revised lower by 600 jobs to now a minuscule loss (-100). Connecticut’s December 2023 jobless rate is lower by two-tenths of a percentage point from the 4.0% rate estimated a year ago. *This release includes labor statistics from two monthly surveys (household and establishment) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in association with the states.*

“While there were month-to-month fluctuations, 2023 was a year of solid growth and low unemployment in the Connecticut labor market,” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “Jobs increased by 22,700 in 2023 after growing 26,800 in 2022 – more jobs than were added in any two-year pre-pandemic period since 1999.”

**Connecticut’s private sector** employment declined 2,900 (-0.2%) positions in December 2023 to 1,462,200 but remains higher by 18,000 jobs (1.2%) from the December 2022 level. The state’s private sector is still fully recovered (100.5%) from the April 2020 COVID employment lockdown low point. November’s preliminary private sector job small decline of 300 was revised down further by 700 jobs to a -1,000 (-0.1%) jobs loss. The **government supersector** increased 400 jobs (0.2%) last month to a level of 233,600 jobs. The full government sector employment in the state is 4,700 positions (2.1%) higher than year-ago levels. The public sector is now 86.6% recovered from the COVID April 2020 overall employment bottom. November’s government gain was revised up by 100 to 900 (0.4%) from the initial 800 reported job gain. *The state’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.*

Consistent with established practice over the past many years, there will be no Labor Situation in February. On March 8, 2024, we will publish the January employment and unemployment numbers and the newly benchmarked data for 2023.

Three of the ten major industry *supersectors* increased jobs in December 2023, while six declined, and the Manufacturing *supersector* was unchanged.

**The four industry *supersectors* that increased employment or were unchanged in December 2023 included:**

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	December 2023 Employment
Leisure & Hospitality	+1,200	0.8%	156,500
Other Services	+1,100	1.7%	64,100
Government	+400	0.2%	233,600
Manufacturing	unchanged	0.0%	158,400

**The six industry *supersectors* that decreased jobs in December 2023 were:**

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	December 2023 Employment
Education & Health Services	-2,000	-0.6%	356,500
Professional & Business Services	-1,300	-0.6%	220,600
Construction & Mining	-800	-1.3%	60,500
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	-600	-0.2%	300,700
Financial Activities	-300	-0.3%	113,600
Information	-200	-0.6%	31,300

**Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs):** Just one of the six major Connecticut **LMAs** that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS posted a nonfarm employment increase in December 2023, while five put forth job declines. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (0.1%, 127,500) was the only regional gainer last month with a small 100 job gain. The largest **Hartford LMA** (-0.4%, 574,600) dropped 2,100 jobs. The **New Haven LMA** (-0.2%, 306,600) also lost 500 positions while the **Waterbury LMA** (-0.4%, 67,600) decreased 300 positions. The **Danbury LMA** (-0.3%, 76,500) was lower by 200 and the **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-0.02%, 406,400) decreased a small 100 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 December 2023 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.5 hours. This is unchanged from the December 2022 average of 33.5 hours. Average hourly earnings at \$36.88 in December 2023, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$1.56 (4.4%) from the December 2022 estimate of \$35.32. The subsequent December 2023 private sector weekly wage averaged \$1,235.48, higher by \$52.26 (4.4%) from a year ago. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) for December 2023 was up 3.4% from a year ago. CT's average private sector weekly wage has been outpacing inflation since October 2023.

*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 December 2023 unemployment rate for Connecticut was calculated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **3.8%** (seasonally adjusted). This is higher by two-tenths of a percentage point over-the-month but is down two-tenths of one percent compared to the December 2022 level of 4.0%. The U.S. unemployment rate for December 2023 was 3.7%, unmoved from the November 2023 rate of 3.7% but is higher over-the-year from the U.S. jobless rate of 3.5% in December 2022. Connecticut's unemployment rate averaged 3.7% for calendar year 2023 while the national average was 3.6%.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in December 2023 were 5,214, *not seasonally adjusted*. The twelve-month moving average was 4,009 per week through December 2023, lower by 24 (-0.6%) from the twelve months ending November 2023 (4,033) but higher by 115 (3.0%) than the average weekly count of 3,894 for the twelve months ending in December 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: Friday, March 08, 2024  
(Preliminary January 2024 data released on the new benchmark)*

Contact:  
Communications, CT Department of Labor  
[CTDOL.Communications@ct.gov](mailto:CTDOL.Communications@ct.gov)

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)  
*An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer*

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

## Jobs - by Place of Work

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	December 2023 P	November 2023 R	October 2023	September 2023	December 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>1,695,800</b>	<b>1,698,300</b>	<b>1,698,400</b>	<b>1,695,000</b>	<b>1,673,100</b>	<b>-2,500</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,462,200</b>	<b>1,465,100</b>	<b>1,466,100</b>	<b>1,463,400</b>	<b>1,444,200</b>	<b>-2,900</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>									
Mining	500	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	60,000	60,800	61,400	60,600	60,400	-800	-1.3%	-400	-0.7%
Manufacturing	158,400	158,400	158,100	158,800	159,100	0	0.0%	-700	-0.4%
Durable Goods	123,500	123,600	123,100	123,800	124,200	-100	-0.1%	-700	-0.6%
Nondurable Goods	34,900	34,800	35,000	35,000	34,900	100	0.3%	0	0.0%
<b>Service Providing Industries</b>									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300,700	301,300	302,400	300,000	295,700	-600	-0.2%	5,000	1.7%
Wholesale	63,600	63,900	64,500	63,600	61,000	-300	-0.5%	2,600	4.3%
Retail	165,600	165,900	166,200	166,200	165,500	-300	-0.2%	100	0.1%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	71,500	71,500	71,700	70,200	69,200	0	0.0%	2,300	3.3%
Information	31,300	31,500	31,900	31,700	31,100	-200	-0.6%	200	0.6%
Financial Activities	113,600	113,900	114,300	114,700	116,600	-300	-0.3%	-3,000	-2.6%
Finance & Insurance	94,600	94,800	95,300	95,700	97,200	-200	-0.2%	-2,600	-2.7%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,000	19,100	19,000	19,000	19,400	-100	-0.5%	-400	-2.1%
Professional & Business Services	220,600	221,900	223,100	223,600	218,600	-1,300	-0.6%	2,000	0.9%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	103,000	103,500	102,600	102,700	100,100	-500	-0.5%	2,900	2.9%
Management of Companies	31,100	31,200	31,100	31,200	30,900	-100	-0.3%	200	0.6%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	86,500	87,200	89,400	89,700	87,600	-700	-0.8%	-1,100	-1.3%
Educational & Health Services	356,500	358,500	357,600	356,100	347,600	-2,000	-0.6%	8,900	2.6%
Educational Services	72,200	72,900	72,600	72,500	70,600	-700	-1.0%	1,600	2.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	284,300	285,600	285,000	283,600	277,000	-1,300	-0.5%	7,300	2.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	156,500	155,300	154,000	155,100	153,000	1,200	0.8%	3,500	2.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	31,400	31,000	30,300	30,600	27,300	400	1.3%	4,100	15.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	125,100	124,300	123,700	124,500	125,700	800	0.6%	-600	-0.5%
Other Services	64,100	63,000	62,800	62,300	61,600	1,100	1.7%	2,500	4.1%
Government**	233,600	233,200	232,300	231,600	228,900	400	0.2%	4,700	2.1%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>157,232,000</b>	<b>157,016,000</b>	<b>156,843,000</b>	<b>156,738,000</b>	<b>154,535,000</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>2,697,000</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

### LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	December 2023 P	November 2023 R	October 2023	September 2023	December 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<b>Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk</b>	406,400	406,500	406,300	406,500	401,100	-100	0.0%	5,300	1.3%
<b>Danbury</b>	76,500	76,700	76,800	77,000	76,600	-200	-0.3%	-100	-0.1%
<b>Hartford</b>	574,600	576,700	578,600	577,500	573,700	-2,100	-0.4%	900	0.2%
<b>New Haven</b>	306,600	307,100	306,500	306,200	299,900	-500	-0.2%	6,700	2.2%
<b>Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI</b>	127,500	127,400	127,100	126,700	124,200	100	0.1%	3,300	2.7%
<b>Waterbury</b>	67,600	67,900	68,200	68,000	66,700	-300	-0.4%	900	1.3%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i>									
<b>Enfield</b>	43,100	43,200	43,300	43,100	42,700	-100	-0.2%	400	0.9%
<b>Torrington-Northwest</b>	33,100	33,200	33,200	33,200	32,900	-100	-0.3%	200	0.6%
<b>Danielson-Northeast</b>	27,400	27,600	27,600	27,500	27,300	-200	-0.7%	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](mailto:dol.lmi@ct.gov).

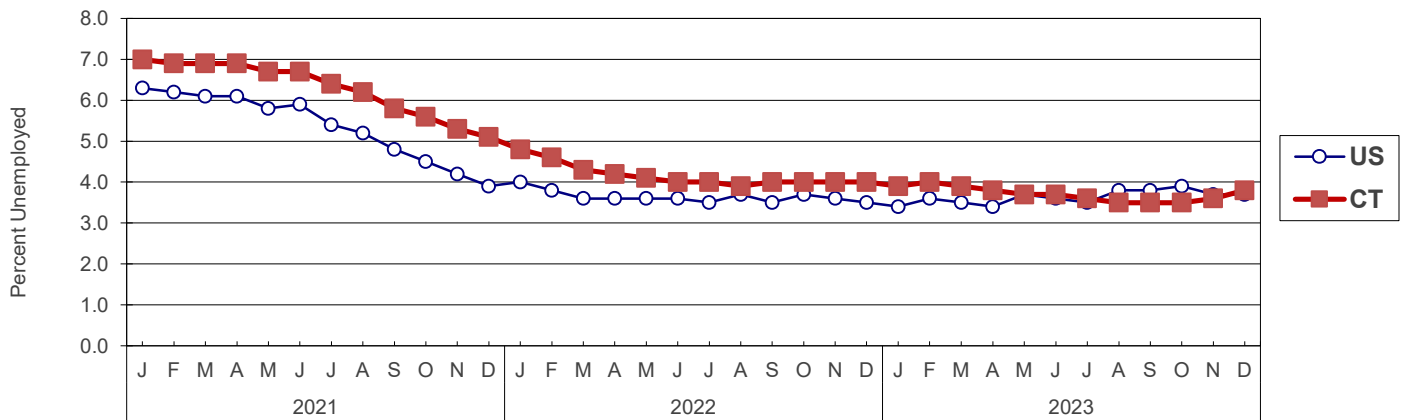
# UNEMPLOYMENT

## Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Dec 2023 P		Dec 2022 R		Change		Nov 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Unemployed	72,000	3.8	76,200	4.0	-4,200	-0.2	67,800	3.6
Labor Force	1,900,000		1,914,300		-14,300		1,900,100	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
Unemployed	6,268,000	3.7	5,698,000	3.5	570,000	0.2	6,262,000	3.7
Labor Force	167,451,000		164,998,000		2,453,000		168,127,000	

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



### LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Dec 2023 P		Dec 2022 R		Change		Nov 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	18,800	4.1	15,500	3.3	3,300	0.8	17,400	3.7
Danbury	3,600	3.5	3,000	2.9	600	0.6	3,300	3.2
Danielson-Northeast*	1,600	3.7	1,400	3.2	200	0.5	1,400	3.3
Worcester NECTA	1,500	3.7	1,400	3.2	100	0.5	1,400	3.3
Hampton	100	3.1	100	3.0	0	0.1	100	2.5
Enfield	1,800	3.6	1,600	3.2	200	0.4	1,600	3.1
Hartford	23,500	3.8	19,800	3.2	3,700	0.6	21,300	3.4
New Haven	12,000	3.6	10,100	3.0	1,900	0.6	11,100	3.3
Norwich-New London	5,100	3.7	4,200	3.1	900	0.6	4,600	3.3
Torrington-Northwest**	1,700	3.6	1,400	3.0	300	0.6	1,400	3.0
Torrington NECTA	1,100	4.3	900	3.5	200	0.8	900	3.5
Litchfield	600	2.7	500	2.5	100	0.2	500	2.4
Waterbury	5,400	4.9	4,400	4.0	1,000	0.9	4,600	4.2
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>73,100</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>61,300</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>66,400</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>5,907,000</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>5,352,000</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>5,827,000</b>	<b>3.5</b>

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

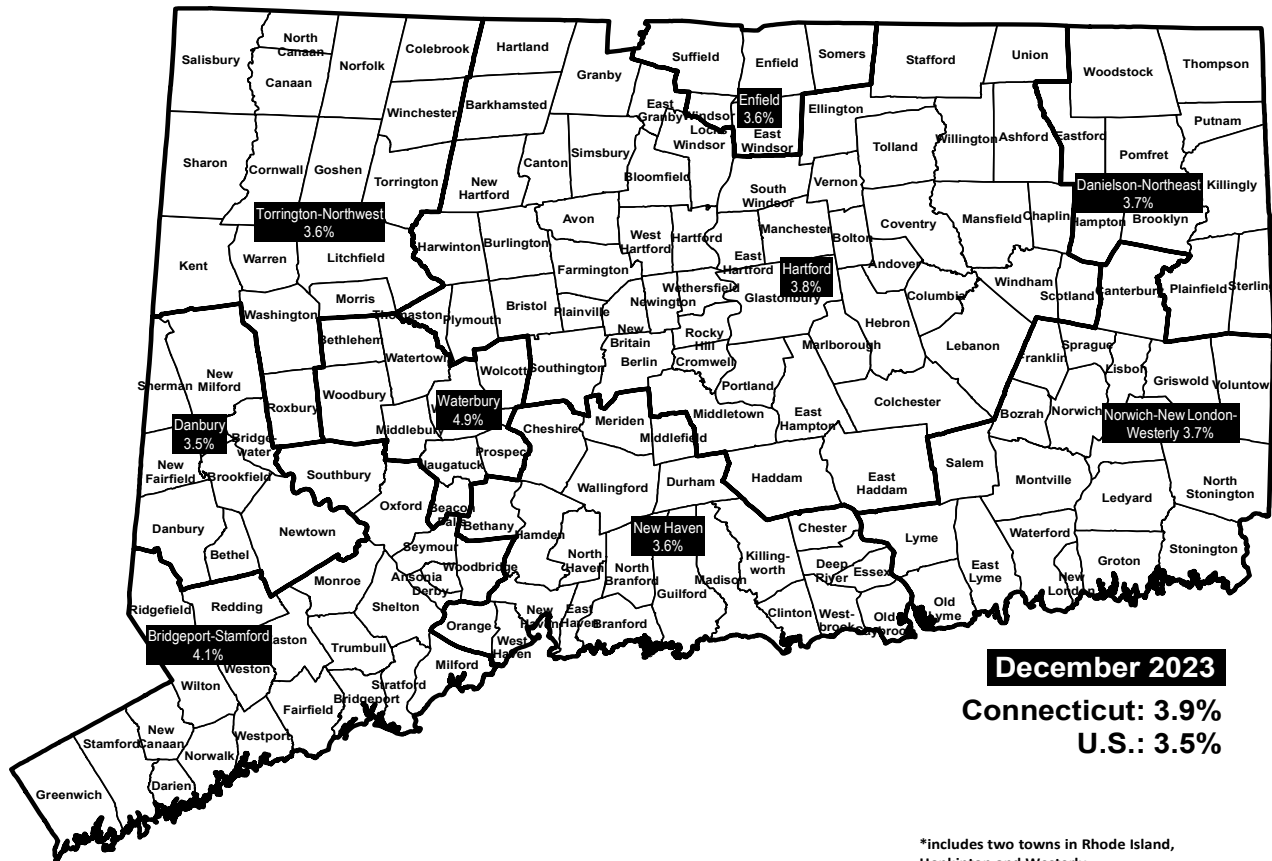
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\* 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			
	Dec. 2023 P	Dec. 2022	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2023 R	Dec. 2023 P	Dec. 2022	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2023 R	Dec. 2023 P	Dec. 2022	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2023 R
<b>Private Industry All Employees</b>	\$1,235.48	\$1,183.22	\$52.26	\$1,226.10	33.5	33.5	0.0	33.5	\$36.88	\$35.32	\$1.56	\$36.60
<b>Manufacturing* Production Workers</b>	\$1,184.36	\$1,183.63	\$0.73	\$1,174.93	39.4	41.4	-2.0	39.6	\$30.06	\$28.59	\$1.47	\$29.67

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

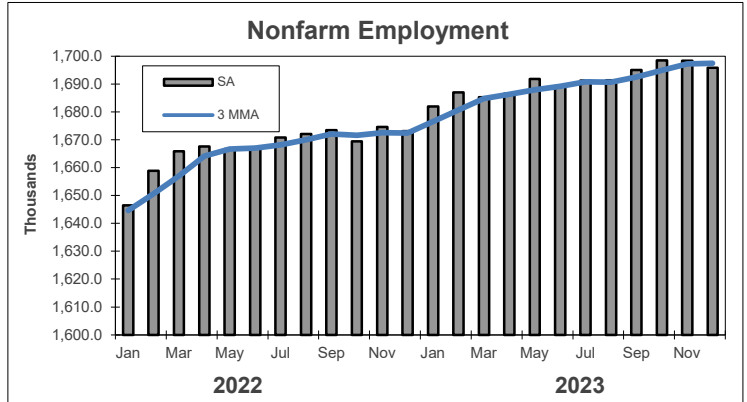
P = Preliminary      R = Revised

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)

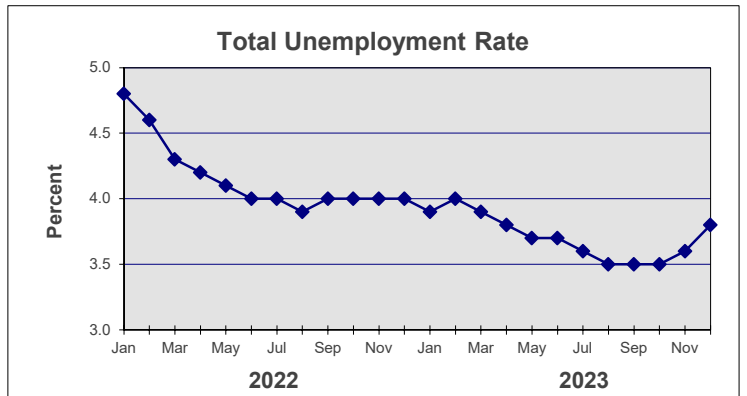
# TRENDS

## Seasonally Adjusted

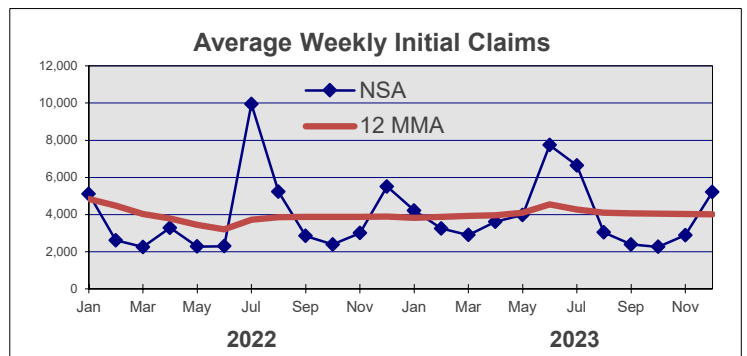
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
<b>2022</b>		
Jan	1,646.5	4.8
Feb	1,658.8	4.6
Mar	1,665.9	4.3
Apr	1,667.6	4.2
May	1,666.6	4.1
Jun	1,666.9	4.0
Jul	1,670.8	4.0
Aug	1,672.1	3.9
Sep	1,673.4	4.0
Oct	1,669.4	4.0
Nov	1,674.6	4.0
Dec	1,673.1	4.0



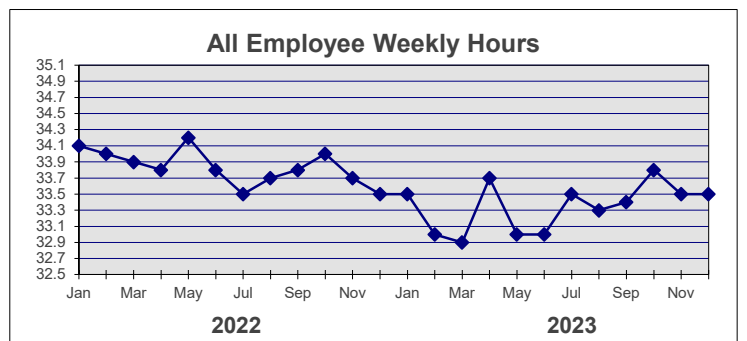
<b>2023</b>		
Jan	1,681.9	3.9
Feb	1,687.0	4.0
Mar	1,685.3	3.9
Apr	1,686.5	3.8
May	1,691.8	3.7
Jun	1,689.3	3.7
Jul	1,691.2	3.6
Aug	1,691.3	3.5
Sep	1,695.0	3.5
Oct	1,698.4	3.5
Nov	1,698.3 R	3.6 R
Dec	1,695.8 P	3.8 P



	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
Oct	2,253	33.8
Nov	2,885	33.5 R
Dec	5,214	33.5 P



\* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

\*\* Labor-management dispute