



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2023 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 4.0%

US Unemployment Rate = 3.6%

Connecticut industry jobs increase 5,600 in February 2023; jobless rate ticks up to 4.0%

WETHERSFIELD, March 23, 2023 – Connecticut industry jobs gained 5,600 (0.3%) in February 2023 to 1,687,500 while the state’s unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.0% (preliminary, seasonally adjusted data). Statewide nonfarm payroll employment is now 28,700 (1.7%) positions higher than the February 2022 level. The Nutmeg State has now recovered **96.5%** (279,100) of the 289,100 jobs lost during the 2020 COVID lockdown period. Mild weather in the Northeast continued to help lift employment to start the year (+14,400 jobs added so far in the first two months of 2023). The January 2023 preliminary gain was revised up by 100 to +8,800 (0.5%). Connecticut’s unemployment rate inched up by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.0% from the revised January 2023 rate of 3.9% but is still lower by six-tenths of a percentage point from the 4.6% jobless rate a year ago. The labor statistics in the CT Labor Situation are produced from two surveys (establishment and residential) directed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in cooperation with the states.

“Connecticut is off to a great start in 2023,” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “Transportation & Warehousing, Administrative & Support Services, Professional & Scientific Services, Private Education, Wholesale Trade, and Construction are all above pre-pandemic levels. The unemployment rate remains low.”

Connecticut’s private sector employment increased by 6,100 (0.4%) positions in February 2023 to 1,458,900 and is higher by 26,100 positions (1.8%) from the January 2022 level. The state’s private sector is now 99.3% recovered from the April 2020 COVID employment trough – only 1,900 more jobs to go to reach February 2020 levels. The **government supersector** was lower by 500 jobs (-0.2%) to a level of 228,600. Total government employment in the state is just 2,600 positions (1.2%) above year-ago levels. The public sector is only 64.9% recovered from the COVID April 2020 low. Connecticut’s government *supersector* includes all federal, state, local, and tribal government employment, including public education and Native American casino jobs located on federally recognized tribal lands.

Seven of the ten major industry *supersectors* augmented jobs in February 2023, and three declined.

The seven Connecticut industry *supersectors* that gained employment in February 2023 (below)

| Increasing Sectors | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Industry Sector | Amount of Increase | Percent Change | February 2023 Employment |
| Education & Health Services | +2,200 | 0.6% | 351,800 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | +1,700 | 1.1% | 154,800 |
| Professional & Business Services | +900 | 0.4% | 224,400 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | +900 | 0.3% | 297,600 |
| Construction & Mining | +400 | 0.6% | 62,400 |
| Other Services | +200 | 0.3% | 62,600 |
| Manufacturing | +200 | 0.1% | 158,600 |

The three industry *supersectors* that lost jobs in February 2023 (below)

| Decreasing Sectors | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Industry Sector | Amount of Decrease | Percent Change | February 2023 Employment |
| Government | -500 | -0.2% | 228,600 |
| Information | -300 | -1.0% | 31,000 |
| Financial Activities | -100 | -0.1% | 115,700 |

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Five of the six major Connecticut **LMAs**, that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS, disclosed nonfarm employment gains in February 2023, while the **Danbury LMA** (76,800) was unchanged. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (0.5%, 406,300) led all LMAs in numerical regional employment gains by adding 2,100 positions, while the **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (0.6%, 125,300) led in regional percentage gains - gaining 800. The large **Hartford LMA** (0.1%, 576,400) also increased 800 jobs. The **New Haven LMA** (0.1%, 301,800) gained 400 jobs while the **Waterbury LMA** (0.1%, 67,200) also added 100 to 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 February 2023 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.0 hours. This is lower by a full hour (-2.9%) than the February 2022 average of 34.0 hours. Average hourly earnings at \$35.87 last month, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$1.76 (5.2%) from the February 2022 estimate of \$34.11. The resulting February 2023 private sector weekly wage averaged \$1,183.71 - higher by \$23.97 from a year ago (2.1%, \$1,159.74). The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in February 2023 was up 6.0% 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 February 2023 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **4.0%** (seasonally adjusted). This is slightly higher than the revised January 2023 level of 3.9%. The Connecticut unemployment rate was 4.6% in February 2022. The statewide jobless rate was 3.9% in February 2020, just before the COVID lockdown and has been 3.9% or 4.0% every month since June 2022. The U.S. unemployment rate for February 2023 was calculated at 3.6%, two-tenths higher than the revised January 2023 rate (3.4%) but lower than the February 2022 jobless rate of 3.8%.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in February were 3,249, *not seasonally adjusted*. The twelve-month moving average was 3,872 per week through February 2023, up by 53 (1.4%) from the twelve months ending January 2023 but lower by 606 (-13.5%) than the average weekly count of 4,478 for the twelve months ending in February 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, April 20, 2023
(Preliminary March 2023 data on the updated benchmark)*

Contact:
Communications, CT Department of Labor
CTDOL.SocialMedia@ct.gov

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

| | February 2023 P | January 2023 R | December 2022 | November 2022 | February 2022 | Over Month Change | Rate | Over Year Change | Rate |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| CONNECTICUT | 1,687,500 | 1,681,900 | 1,673,100 | 1,674,600 | 1,658,800 | 5,600 | 0.3% | 28,700 | 1.7% |
| Total Private | 1,458,900 | 1,452,800 | 1,444,200 | 1,445,100 | 1,432,800 | 6,100 | 0.4% | 26,100 | 1.8% |
| Goods Producing Industries | | | | | | | | | |
| Mining | 500 | 400 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 100 | 25.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Construction | 61,900 | 61,600 | 60,400 | 61,500 | 61,200 | 300 | 0.5% | 700 | 1.1% |
| Manufacturing | 158,600 | 158,400 | 159,100 | 158,800 | 155,300 | 200 | 0.1% | 3,300 | 2.1% |
| Durable Goods | 123,600 | 123,600 | 124,200 | 124,100 | 121,600 | 0 | 0.0% | 2,000 | 1.6% |
| Nondurable Goods | 35,000 | 34,800 | 34,900 | 34,700 | 33,700 | 200 | 0.6% | 1,300 | 3.9% |
| Service Providing Industries | | | | | | | | | |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 297,600 | 296,700 | 295,700 | 294,700 | 300,300 | 900 | 0.3% | -2,700 | -0.9% |
| Wholesale | 62,300 | 62,000 | 61,000 | 60,700 | 59,200 | 300 | 0.5% | 3,100 | 5.2% |
| Retail | 166,000 | 165,600 | 165,500 | 166,000 | 169,300 | 400 | 0.2% | -3,300 | -1.9% |
| Transp, Warehousing & Utilities | 69,300 | 69,100 | 69,200 | 68,000 | 71,800 | 200 | 0.3% | -2,500 | -3.5% |
| Information | 31,000 | 31,300 | 31,100 | 31,500 | 31,100 | -300 | -1.0% | -100 | -0.3% |
| Financial Activities | 115,700 | 115,800 | 116,600 | 117,200 | 118,500 | -100 | -0.1% | -2,800 | -2.4% |
| Finance & Insurance | 96,300 | 96,500 | 97,200 | 97,700 | 99,300 | -200 | -0.2% | -3,000 | -3.0% |
| Real Estate, Rental & Leasing | 19,400 | 19,300 | 19,400 | 19,500 | 19,200 | 100 | 0.5% | 200 | 1.0% |
| Professional & Business Services | 224,400 | 223,500 | 218,600 | 220,900 | 220,100 | 900 | 0.4% | 4,300 | 2.0% |
| Prof, Scientific & Tech Services | 101,000 | 101,900 | 100,100 | 101,100 | 98,400 | -900 | -0.9% | 2,600 | 2.6% |
| Management of Companies | 30,900 | 30,900 | 30,900 | 30,800 | 30,700 | 0 | 0.0% | 200 | 0.7% |
| Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv | 92,500 | 90,700 | 87,600 | 89,000 | 91,000 | 1,800 | 2.0% | 1,500 | 1.6% |
| Educational & Health Services | 351,800 | 349,600 | 347,600 | 346,100 | 338,900 | 2,200 | 0.6% | 12,900 | 3.8% |
| Educational Services | 71,600 | 71,200 | 70,600 | 70,300 | 67,100 | 400 | 0.6% | 4,500 | 6.7% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 280,200 | 278,400 | 277,000 | 275,800 | 271,800 | 1,800 | 0.6% | 8,400 | 3.1% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 154,800 | 153,100 | 153,000 | 152,200 | 146,100 | 1,700 | 1.1% | 8,700 | 6.0% |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 28,100 | 28,200 | 27,300 | 27,300 | 25,300 | -100 | -0.4% | 2,800 | 11.1% |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 126,700 | 124,900 | 125,700 | 124,900 | 120,800 | 1,800 | 1.4% | 5,900 | 4.9% |
| Other Services | 62,600 | 62,400 | 61,600 | 61,700 | 60,800 | 200 | 0.3% | 1,800 | 3.0% |
| Government** | 228,600 | 229,100 | 228,900 | 229,500 | 226,000 | -500 | -0.2% | 2,600 | 1.2% |
| UNITED STATES | 155,350,000 | 155,039,000 | 154,535,000 | 154,296,000 | 151,010,000 | 311,000 | 0.2% | 4,340,000 | 2.9% |

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

| | February 2023 P | January 2023 R | December 2022 | November 2022 | February 2022 | Over Month Change | Rate | Over Year Change | Rate |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------|------|
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk | 406,300 | 404,200 | 401,100 | 401,400 | 397,800 | 2,100 | 0.5% | 8,500 | 2.1% |
| Danbury | 76,800 | 76,800 | 76,600 | 76,900 | 75,700 | 0 | 0.0% | 1,100 | 1.5% |
| Hartford | 576,400 | 575,600 | 573,700 | 573,900 | 570,000 | 800 | 0.1% | 6,400 | 1.1% |
| New Haven | 301,800 | 301,400 | 299,900 | 299,700 | 296,400 | 400 | 0.1% | 5,400 | 1.8% |
| Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI | 125,300 | 124,500 | 124,200 | 124,700 | 122,000 | 800 | 0.6% | 3,300 | 2.7% |
| Waterbury | 67,200 | 67,100 | 66,700 | 66,600 | 65,700 | 100 | 0.1% | 1,500 | 2.3% |
| <i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Enfield | 41,700 | 41,900 | 42,700 | 42,700 | 41,000 | -200 | -0.5% | 700 | 1.7% |
| Torrington-Northwest | 32,200 | 32,200 | 32,900 | 33,100 | 31,700 | 0 | 0.0% | 500 | 1.6% |
| Danielson-Northeast | 26,900 | 26,900 | 27,300 | 27,400 | 26,500 | 0 | 0.0% | 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.

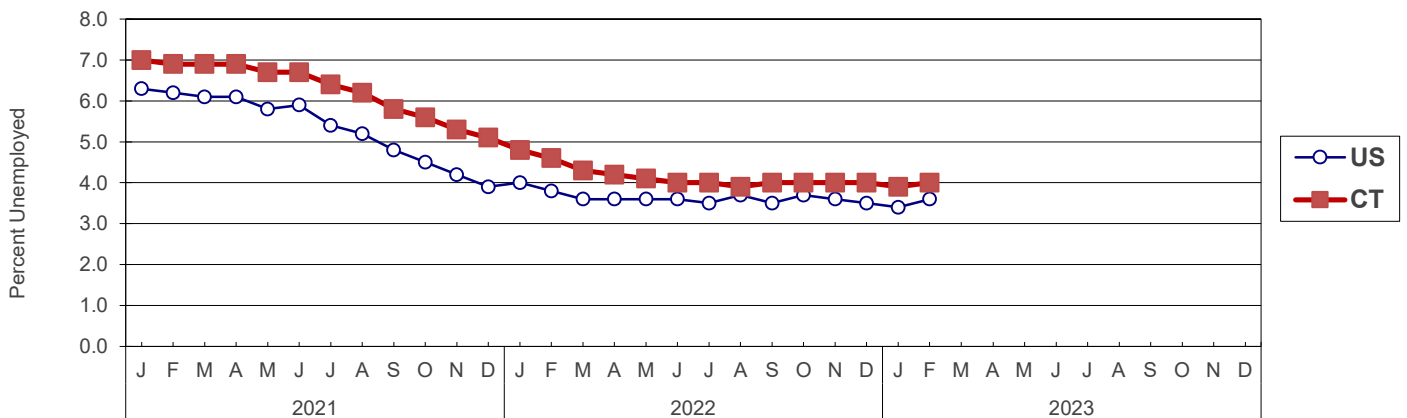
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

| | Feb 2023 P | | Feb 2022 R | | Change | | Jan 2023 R | |
|----------------------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|--------|-------------|------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Points | Number | Rate |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | |
| Unemployed | 75,800 | 4.0 | 89,200 | 4.6 | -13,400 | -0.6 | 75,400 | 3.9 |
| Labor Force | 1,910,900 | | 1,953,700 | | -42,800 | | 1,912,900 | |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | | | |
| Unemployed | 5,936,000 | 3.6 | 6,272,000 | 3.8 | -336,000 | -0.2 | 5,694,000 | 3.4 |
| Labor Force | 166,251,000 | | 163,862,000 | | 2,389,000 | | 165,832,000 | |

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

| | Feb 2023 P | | Feb 2022 R | | Change | | Jan 2023 R | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Points | Number | Rate |
| Bridgeport-Stamford | 22,100 | 4.8 | 24,700 | 5.2 | -2,600 | -0.4 | 20,000 | 4.3 |
| Danbury | 4,500 | 4.3 | 5,200 | 4.8 | -700 | -0.5 | 4,100 | 3.8 |
| Danielson-Northeast* | 2,100 | 4.8 | 2,400 | 5.3 | -300 | -0.5 | 1,900 | 4.3 |
| Worcester NECTA | 2,000 | 4.8 | 2,300 | 5.3 | -300 | -0.5 | 1,800 | 4.4 |
| Hampton | 100 | 4.1 | 100 | 4.5 | 0 | -0.4 | 100 | 3.7 |
| Enfield | 2,200 | 4.4 | 2,500 | 5.0 | -300 | -0.6 | 2,000 | 4.1 |
| Hartford | 28,100 | 4.6 | 32,500 | 5.1 | -4,400 | -0.5 | 25,700 | 4.1 |
| New Haven | 14,200 | 4.2 | 16,300 | 4.8 | -2,100 | -0.6 | 13,200 | 3.9 |
| Norwich-New London | 6,100 | 4.5 | 7,500 | 5.4 | -1,400 | -0.9 | 5,700 | 4.1 |
| Torrington-Northwest** | 2,200 | 4.7 | 2,500 | 5.3 | -300 | -0.6 | 2,000 | 4.2 |
| Torrington NECTA | 1,400 | 5.3 | 1,600 | 5.9 | -200 | -0.6 | 1,300 | 4.8 |
| Litchfield | 800 | 4.0 | 1,000 | 4.5 | -200 | -0.5 | 800 | 3.6 |
| Waterbury | 6,400 | 5.8 | 7,000 | 6.2 | -600 | -0.4 | 5,700 | 5.1 |
| CONNECTICUT | 87,200 | 4.6 | 99,900 | 5.2 | -12,700 | -0.6 | 79,800 | 4.2 |
| UNITED STATES | 6,465,000 | 3.9 | 6,782,000 | 4.1 | -317,000 | -0.2 | 6,378,000 | 3.9 |

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

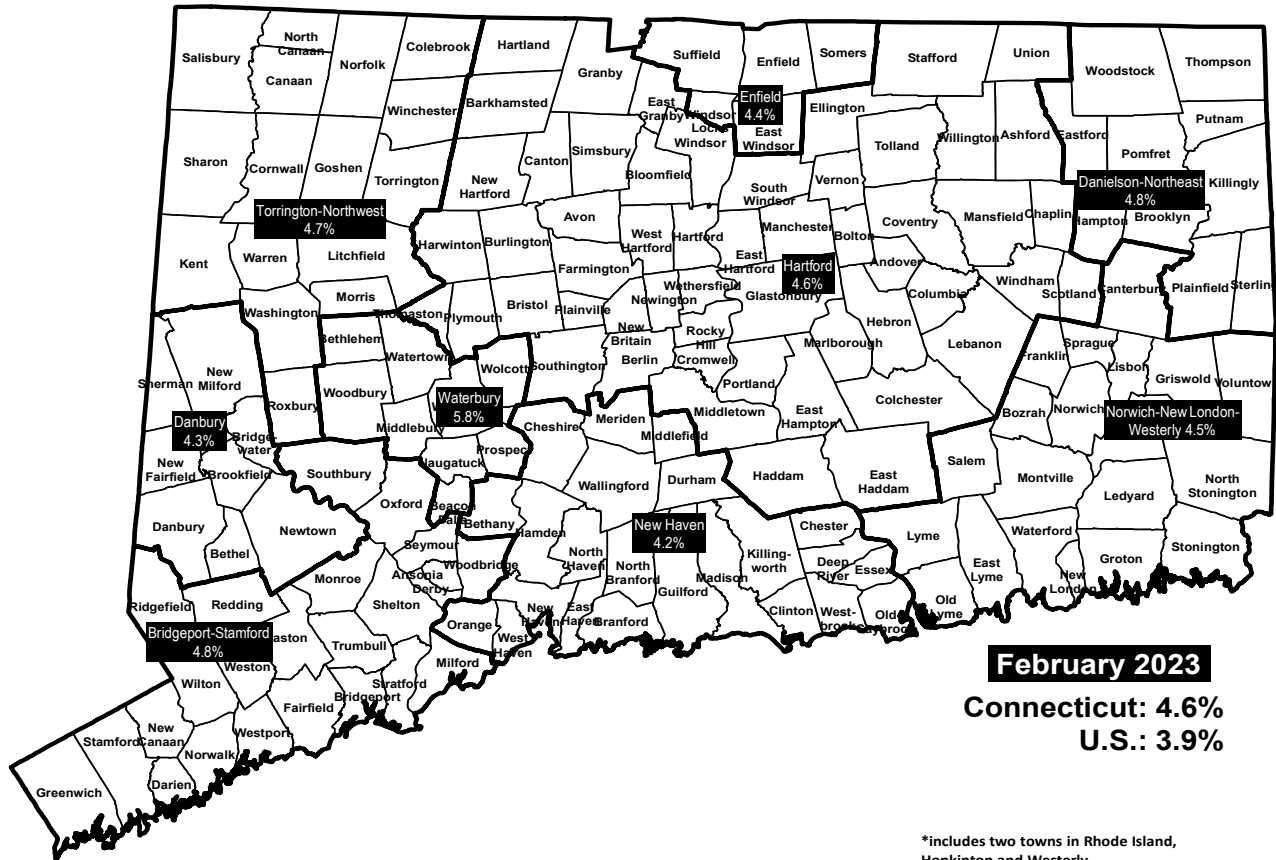
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* 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



HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

| | Average Weekly Earnings | | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | | Average Hourly Earnings | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Feb. 2023 P | Feb. 2022 | Change over Yr. | Jan. 2023 R | Feb. 2023 P | Feb. 2022 | Change over Yr. | Jan. 2023 R | Feb. 2023 P | Feb. 2022 | Change over Yr. | Jan. 2023 R |
| Private Industry All Employees | \$1,183.71 | \$1,159.74 | \$23.97 | \$1,206.34 | 33.0 | 34.0 | -1.0 | 33.5 | \$35.87 | \$34.11 | \$1.76 | \$36.01 |
| Manufacturing* Production Workers | \$1,169.32 | \$1,113.49 | \$55.83 | \$1,186.74 | 40.1 | 40.3 | -0.2 | 40.6 | \$29.16 | \$27.63 | \$1.53 | \$29.23 |

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

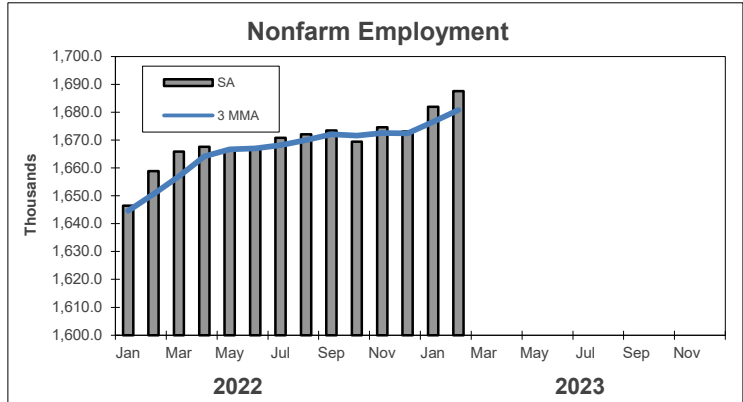
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

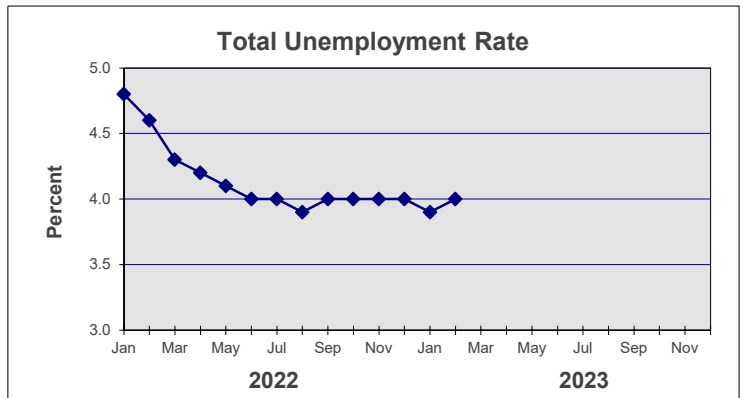
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

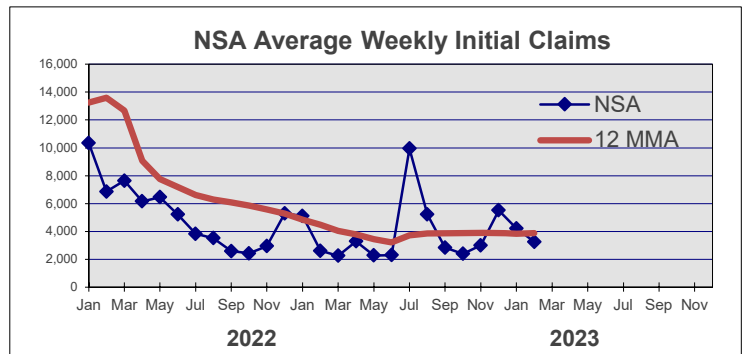
| | Nonfarm Employment (000s) | Total Unemployment Rate |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2022 | | |
| Jan | 1,646.5 | 4.8 |
| Feb | 1,658.8 | 4.6 |
| Mar | 1,665.9 | 4.3 |
| Apr | 1,667.6 | 4.2 |
| May | 1,666.6 | 4.1 |
| Jun | 1,666.9 | 4.0 |
| Jul | 1,670.8 | 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 |



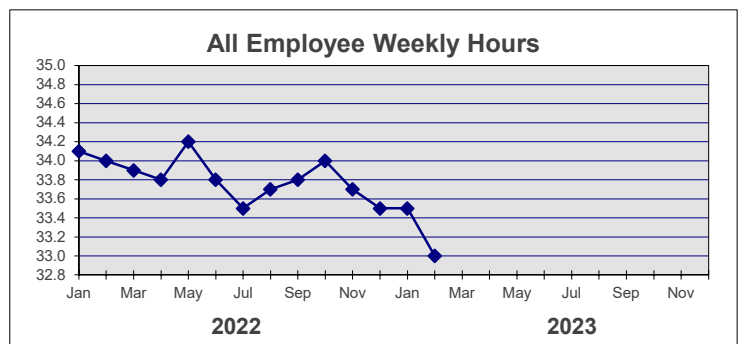
| | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 2023 | | |
| Jan | 1,681.9 R | 3.9 R |
| Feb | 1,687.5 P | 4.0 P |
| Mar | | |
| Apr | | |
| May | | |
| Jun | | |
| Jul | | |
| Aug | | |
| Sep | | |
| Oct | | |
| Nov | | |
| Dec | | |



| | 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 R |
| Feb | 3,249 | 33.0 P |
| Mar | | |
| Apr | | |
| May | | |
| Jun | | |
| Jul | | |
| Aug | | |
| Sep | | |
| Oct | | |
| Nov | | |
| Dec | | |



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute