

May CT jobless rate rises one-tenth to 3.8%; jobs drop 6,500 in strike-impacted month

WETHERSFIELD, June 23, 2025 – Connecticut nonfarm employment fell by 6,500 jobs (-0.4%) in May 2025, to a level of 1,710,100, while the state's unemployment rate was up one-tenth of one percent to 3.8% (preliminary, seasonally adjusted data). Nonfarm industry payrolls in the state are just 1,800 (0.1%) positions higher than a year ago (1,708,300). The April 2025 preliminary job increase of 6,900 (0.5%) was reduced by 2,100 to a still large 4,800 jobs gain (0.3%) on the routine monthly revision. This month's job decline was affected by a large strike (-3,000) that returns when the June data are released next month. The May 2025 preliminary Connecticut jobless rate of 3.8% is up one-tenth of one percent from April 2025 and higher by seven-tenths of one percent from a year ago but remains below the U.S. average for the 29th consecutive month. *This labor statistics release presents current estimated data from two different monthly surveys (household and workplace) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in association with the states.*

"One-time events, most significantly a labor dispute, contributed to May's decline," said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. "So far this year the employment picture has been mixed, consistent with an economy that is growing but growing slower than the rapid pace following the COVID lockdown."

Connecticut's private sector employment was lower by 6,500 positions (-0.4%) in May 2025 to 1,475,200 and is now up just 2,200 jobs (0.1%) from the May 2024 level of 1,473,000. April's preliminary private sector gain of 6,800 jobs (0.5%) was adjusted lower by 1,900 to a 4,900 gain (0.3%). The full **government supersector** was unchanged in May to a level of 234,900 jobs and is now lower by 400 (-0.2%) positions over the year. *Connecticut's combined government supersector consists of all civilian federal, state, local, and tribal government employment, including public education and Native American casino jobs located on federally recognized tribal reservations.*

Two of the ten major industry *supersectors* gained jobs in May 2025, while six *supersectors* declined and the Government and Information *supersectors* were unchanged.

The four industry *supersectors* that increased employment or were unchanged in May 2025 included:

Increasing Supersectors			
Industry Supersector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	May 2025 Employment
Construction & Mining	+900	1.4%	63,600
Leisure & Hospitality	+200	0.1%	155,600
Government	unchanged	0.0%	234,900
Information	unchanged	0.0%	30,500

The six industry *supersector* that lost in jobs in May 2025 were:

Decreasing Supersectors			
Industry Supersector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	May 2025 Employment
Manufacturing*	-3,600	-2.3%	150,700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	-1,800	-0.6%	300,200
Professional and Business Services	-1,700	-0.8%	220,400
Other Services	-300	-0.5%	63,400
Financial Activities	-100	-0.1%	119,200
Education & Health Services	-100	-0.03%	371,600

*Strike

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): All five of the new major Connecticut **LMAs** (the 5 Metros formed from the CT Councils of Governments or COG regions) that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS (about 93.5% coverage of the state) relinquished nonfarm payroll jobs in May 2025. The **Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA** (-0.5%, 604,900, strike impacted) lost 3,200 positions, leading in both numeric and percentage declines. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Danbury LMA** (-0.3%, 409,600) dropped 1,100 jobs while the **New Haven LMA** (-0.2%, 294,800) declined 500 jobs. The **Waterbury-Shelton LMA** (-0.2%, 161,600) was down 300 positions and the **Norwich-New London-Willimantic LMA** (-0.1%, 128,500) decreased 100.

Note: The new five major Connecticut LMAs are independently estimated from the statewide data by the BLS and cover over 93% of the nonfarm employment in the state. As a result, estimates will not exactly sum to the statewide total. Furthermore, monthly Seasonal Adjustment (SA) on these 5 new designated COG-based labor markets may undergo some shifting seasonality effects due to the concurrent seasonal process exaggerating some movements on the new geographies due to the lack of more precise historical seasonal factors (because the metros are new).

Hours and Earnings: The May 2025 **private sector** average work week, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.4 hours (AWH). This is unchanged from the May 2024 average (0.0%, 33.4). Average hourly earnings (AHE) at \$38.88 in May 2025, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$1.20 (3.2%) from the May 2024 estimate of \$37.68. The resultant May 2025 private sector average weekly earnings (AWE) were estimated at \$1,298.59, higher by \$40.08 (3.2%) from a year ago (\$1,258.51). The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted - all items index) for May 2025 was up 2.4% from a year ago.

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 May 2025 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **3.8%** (seasonally adjusted). This is up one-tenth of a percentage point from April 2025 (3.7%). CT's unemployment rate is up seven-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago (3.1%). The U.S. unemployment rate for May 2025 was 4.2%, unchanged from the April 2025 rate (4.2%) but higher over the year from 4.0% in May 2024.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims (*not seasonally adjusted*) for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut for May 2025 were 2,423. This is 899 (-27.1%) claims lower than April 2025 (3,322) but just slightly higher by 92 claims (3.9%) than the May 2024 (2,331) level.

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. Because of the distinct differences both in concept and scope between the two estimates, nonfarm employment and unemployment do not necessarily move in the same economic direction month to month. 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 17, 2025
(Preliminary June 2025 data)

Contact: Communications, CT Department of Labor
CTDOL.Communications@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

	May 2025 P	April 2025 R	March 2025	February 2025	May 2024	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,710,100	1,716,600	1,711,800	1,715,900	1,708,300	-6,500	-0.4%	1,800	0.1%
Total Private	1,475,200	1,481,700	1,476,800	1,481,400	1,473,000	-6,500	-0.4%	2,200	0.1%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	63,100	62,200	61,900	62,200	63,100	900	1.4%	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	150,700	154,300	154,400	154,700	156,600	-3,600	-2.3%	-5,900	-3.8%
Durable Goods	117,300	121,000	121,200	121,600	122,800	-3,700	-3.1%	-5,500	-4.5%
Nondurable Goods	33,400	33,300	33,200	33,100	33,800	100	0.3%	-400	-1.2%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300,200	302,000	300,400	299,900	299,600	-1,800	-0.6%	600	0.2%
Wholesale	62,000	61,900	61,400	61,300	60,800	100	0.2%	1,200	2.0%
Retail	164,600	166,700	165,600	164,800	166,500	-2,100	-1.3%	-1,900	-1.1%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	73,600	73,400	73,400	73,800	72,300	200	0.3%	1,300	1.8%
Information	30,500	30,500	30,500	30,400	30,900	0	0.0%	-400	-1.3%
Financial Activities	119,200	119,300	119,600	119,500	117,900	-100	-0.1%	1,300	1.1%
Finance & Insurance	99,300	99,300	99,600	99,400	98,300	0	0.0%	1,000	1.0%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,900	20,000	20,000	20,100	19,600	-100	-0.5%	300	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	220,400	222,100	220,000	221,800	221,100	-1,700	-0.8%	-700	-0.3%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	101,300	102,300	101,700	101,700	101,200	-1,000	-1.0%	100	0.1%
Management of Companies	30,800	30,900	30,900	30,800	31,100	-100	-0.3%	-300	-1.0%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	88,300	88,900	87,400	89,300	88,800	-600	-0.7%	-500	-0.6%
Educational & Health Services	371,600	371,700	370,200	372,300	364,800	-100	0.0%	6,800	1.9%
Private Educational Services	74,000	74,200	72,600	74,700	73,400	-200	-0.3%	600	0.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	297,600	297,500	297,600	297,600	291,400	100	0.0%	6,200	2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	155,600	155,400	155,400	155,900	154,600	200	0.1%	1,000	0.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	27,800	27,600	27,500	27,600	28,900	200	0.7%	-1,100	-3.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	127,800	127,800	127,900	128,300	125,700	0	0.0%	2,100	1.7%
Other Services	63,400	63,700	63,900	64,200	63,900	-300	-0.5%	-500	-0.8%
Government**	234,900	234,900	235,000	234,500	235,300	0	0.0%	-400	-0.2%
UNITED STATES	159,561,000	159,422,000	159,275,000	159,155,000	157,635,000	139,000	0.1%	1,926,000	1.2%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs, COG-based)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data (Metros) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (5 CT MSAs)	May 2025 P	April 2025 R	March 2025	February 2025	May 2024	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Danbury	409,600	410,700	409,300	408,900	407,700	-1,100	-0.3%	1,900	0.5%
Hartford	604,900	608,100	607,400	607,200	609,000	-3,200	-0.5%	-4,100	-0.7%
New Haven	294,800	295,300	292,900	294,800	293,200	-500	-0.2%	1,600	0.5%
Norwich-New London-Willimantic	128,500	128,600	128,300	128,500	126,900	-100	-0.1%	1,600	1.3%
Waterbury - Shelton	161,600	161,900	161,200	161,300	160,700	-300	-0.2%	900	0.6%
Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, 2 Micropolitan Statistical Areas - Micros, State estimated - not BLS)									
Putnam - Northeastern	28,800	28,500	28,100	28,000	29,000	300	1.1%	-200	-0.7%
Torrington - Northwest Hills	38,400	37,600	37,000	37,100	38,100	800	2.1%	300	0.8%

* Less than 0.05% ** Includes Native American tribal government employment

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

Starting in 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. COG - Council of Government regions.

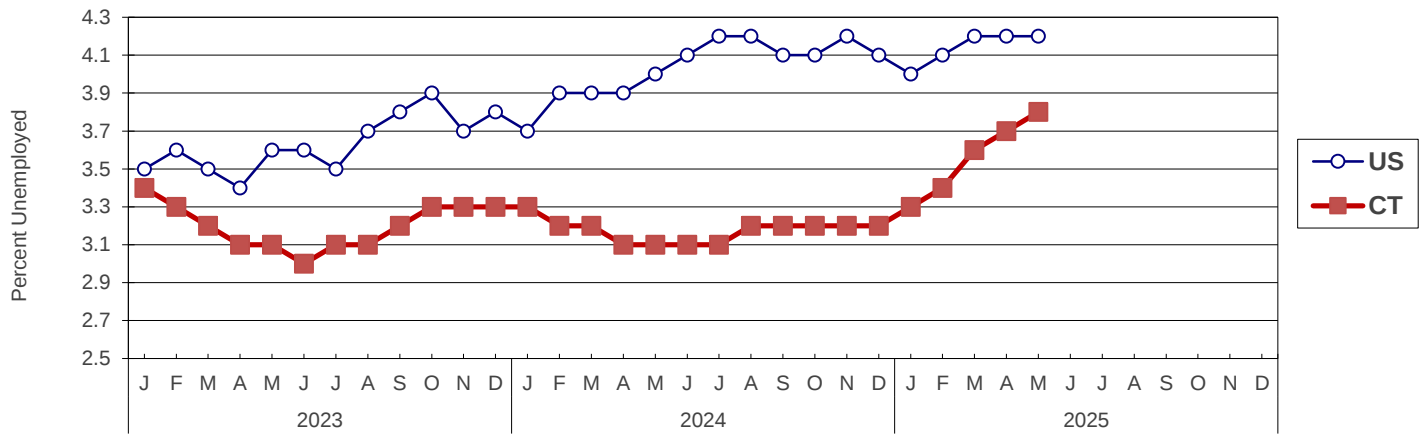
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	May 2025 P Number	Rate	May 2024 R Number	Rate	Change Number	Points	Apr 2025 R Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	74,300	3.8	60,500	3.1	13,800	0.7	72,200	3.7
Labor Force	1,960,100		1,939,900		20,200		1,960,100	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	7,237,000	4.2	6,635,000	4.0	602,000	0.2	7,166,000	4.2
Labor Force	170,510,000		167,799,000		2,711,000		171,135,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2023 - 2025



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	May 2025 P Number	Rate	May 2024 R Number	Rate	Change Number	Points	Apr 2025 R Number	Rate
Bridpt-Stamford-Danbury	19,600	3.8	15,600	3.0	4,000	0.8	16,900	3.3
Hartford-W.Htfd-E.Htfd	24,100	3.9	18,900	3.1	5,200	0.8	21,200	3.4
New Haven	12,500	3.9	9,900	3.1	2,600	0.8	10,800	3.4
Norwich-New Lon.-Willi.	5,400	3.8	4,300	3.0	1,100	0.8	4,600	3.2
Putnam-Northeast	1,700	3.9	1,200	2.9	500	1.0	1,600	3.7
Torrington-Northwest	1,700	3.6	1,300	2.8	400	0.8	1,500	3.3
Waterbury-Shelton	10,400	4.3	8,200	3.4	2,200	0.9	9,400	3.9
CONNECTICUT	76,300	3.9	60,000	3.1	16,300	0.8	66,800	3.4
UNITED STATES	6,815,000	4.0	6,235,000	3.7	580,000	0.3	6,582,000	3.9

P = Preliminary

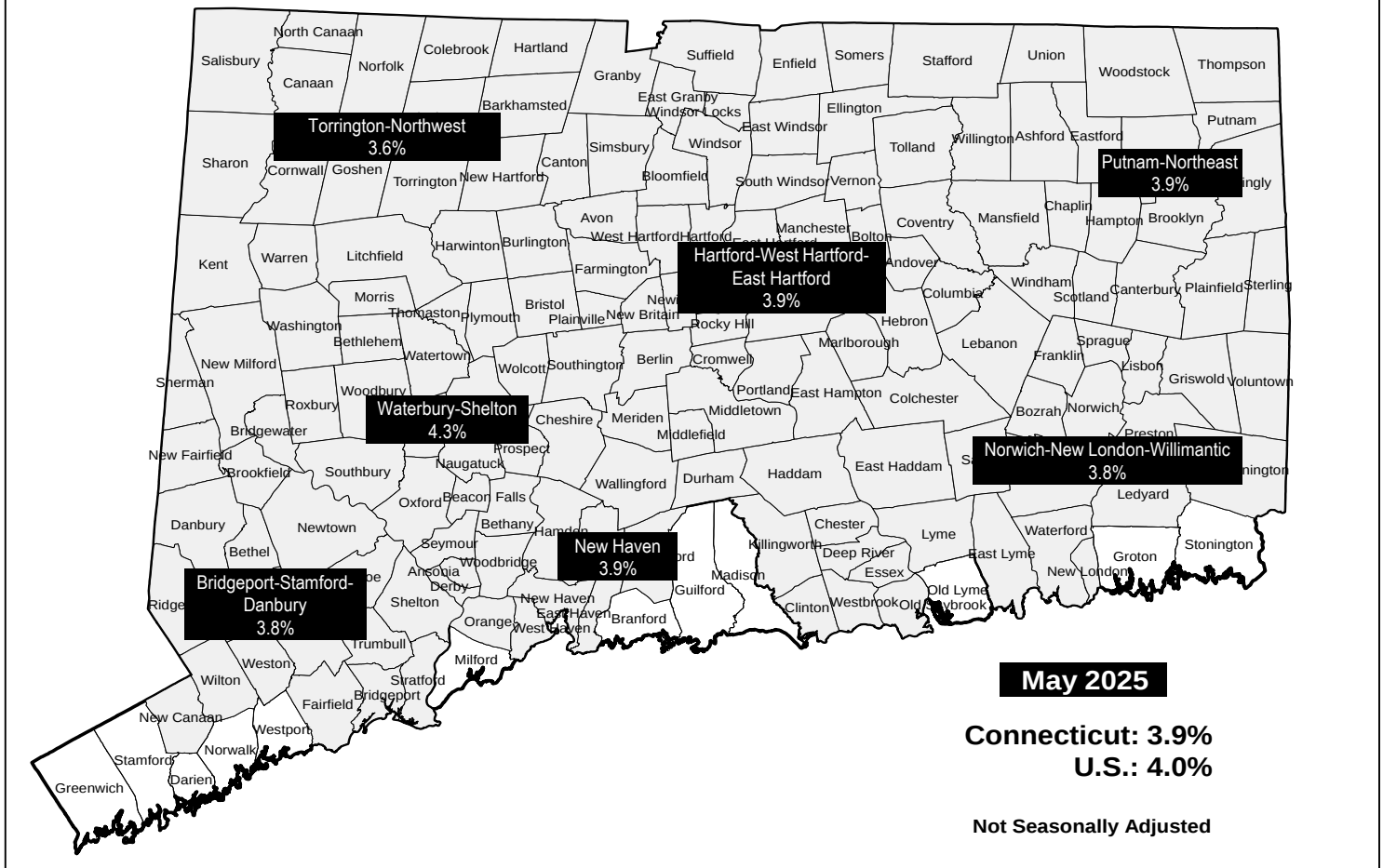
R = Revised

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

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			
	May 2025 P	May 2024	Change over Yr.	April 2025 R	May 2025 P	May 2024	Change over Yr.	April 2025 R	May 2025 P	May 2024	Change over Yr.	April 2025 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,298.59	\$1,258.51	\$40.08	\$1,300.37	33.4	33.4	0.0	33.3	\$38.88	\$37.68	\$1.20	\$39.05
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,182.55	\$1,206.14	-\$23.59	\$1,205.29	40.1	38.4	1.7	39.7	\$29.49	\$31.41	-\$1.92	\$30.36

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

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R = Revised

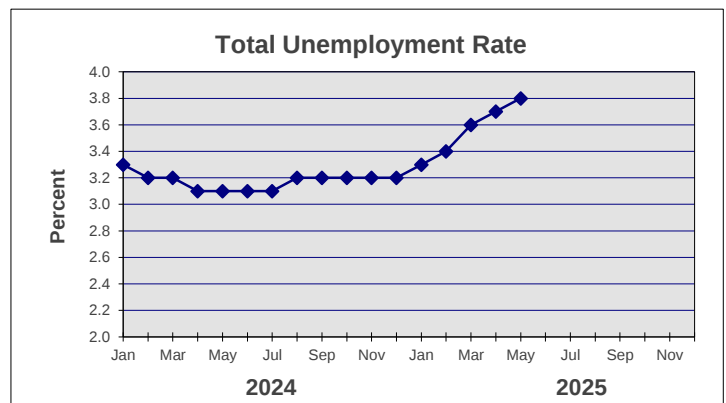
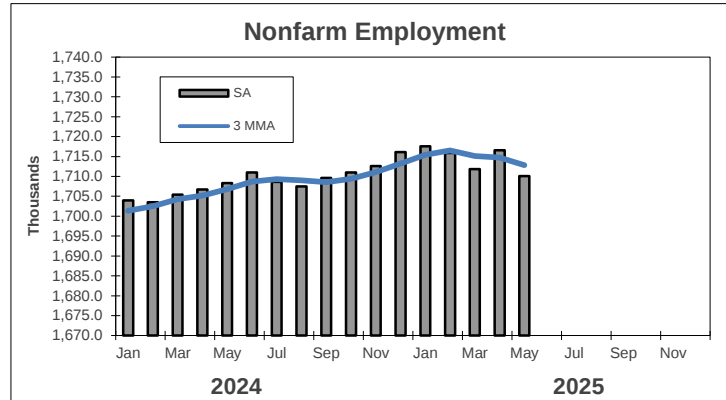
Hours and earnings are also developed for the state's major industry sectors and Labor Market Areas. They can be found on our website at: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

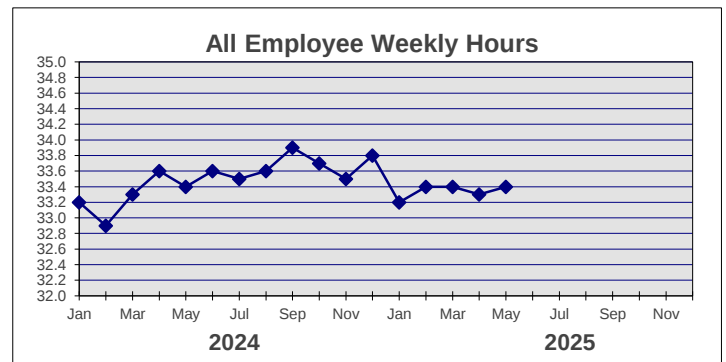
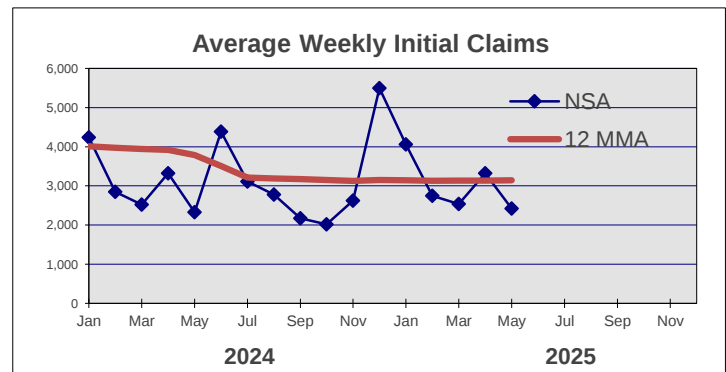
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2024		
Jan	1,704.0	3.3
Feb	1,703.5	3.2
Mar	1,705.4	3.2
Apr	1,706.7	3.1
May	1,708.3	3.1
Jun	1,711.0	3.1
Jul	1,708.6	3.1
Aug	1,707.5	3.2
Sep	1,709.6	3.2
Oct	1,711.0	3.2
Nov	1,712.6	3.2
Dec	1,716.1	3.2

2025		
Jan	1,717.6	3.3
Feb	1,715.9	3.4
Mar	1,711.8	3.6
Apr	1,716.6 R	3.7 R
May	1,710.1 P	3.8 P
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	NSA Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2024		
Jan	4,239	33.2
Feb	2,847	32.9
Mar	2,525	33.3
Apr	3,324	33.6
May	2,331	33.4
Jun	4,389	33.6
Jul	3,109	33.5
Aug	2,780	33.6
Sep	2,173	33.9
Oct	2,017	33.7
Nov	2,621	33.5
Dec	5,495	33.8

2025		
Jan	4,059	33.2
Feb	2,745	33.4
Mar	2,534	33.4
Apr	3,322	33.3 R
May	2,423	33.4 P
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute