



# LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2024 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 4.5%

US Unemployment Rate = 3.8%

## **Connecticut’s jobless rate steady at 4.5%; nonfarm payrolls see robust gains, 4,900**

WETHERSFIELD, April 18, 2024 – March 2024 Connecticut industry payroll jobs increased 4,900 (0.3%) to a level of 1,709,100, while the state’s unemployment rate held steady at 4.5% (preliminary data, seasonally adjusted). Over the year, statewide payroll employment is 18,900 (1.1%) positions higher than March 2023 levels (1,690,200). With the addition of the solid upward revisions to the preliminary February 2024 payroll estimates of 1,700 to 2,600 (0.2%), the state has now recovered **103.6%** (301,600) of the 291,100 nonagricultural jobs lost during the March-April 2020 COVID lockdown. The March 2024 unemployment rate was unchanged over-the-month but is one and one-tenth percentage points higher than a year ago (3.4%). *This release includes labor statistics from two different monthly surveys (household and establishment) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in cooperation with the States.*

“Connecticut added 13,300 jobs in the first three months of 2024, solid growth by any standard,” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “Job increases in leisure and hospitality were boosted by increased interest in March Madness and St. Patrick’s Day falling on a weekend while March retail trade benefited from an early Easter. We do not expect job growth to continue at this pace throughout the year, but 2024 is off to a great start.”

**Connecticut’s private sector** employment added 4,400 (0.3%) positions in March 2024 to 1,475,600 and is higher by 16,400 jobs (1.1%) from the March 2023 level (1,459,200). The state’s private sector has fully recovered (105.3%) from the April 2020 COVID employment lockdown period. February’s preliminary private sector job gain of 1,100 (0.1%) was revised up by 1,800 jobs to a 2,900 (0.2%) job increase. The **government supersector** also increased by 500 jobs (0.2%) in March to a level of 233,500 jobs and is higher by 2,500 (1.1%) positions from year-ago levels. The public sector is now 84.4% recovered from the overall COVID April 2020 employment bottom. The initial February 2024 government drop of 200 was revised lower by 100 to a 300 (-0.1%) loss. *Connecticut’s total 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.*

Eight of the ten major industry *supersectors* increased jobs in March 2024, while just one declined, and the Information *supersector* was unchanged.

The nine industry *supersectors* that added employment or were unchanged in March 2024 included:

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	March 2024 Employment
Leisure & Hospitality	+2,100	1.4%	156,700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	+1,300	0.4%	298,500
Education & Health Services	+1,000	0.3%	362,200
Construction and Mining	+700	1.1%	63,900
Manufacturing	+500	0.3%	159,100
Government	+500	0.2%	233,500
Other Services	+200	0.3%	65,700
Financial Activities	+200	0.2%	118,700
Information	unchanged	0.0%	30,000

The single industry *supersector* that lost jobs in March 2024 was:

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	March 2024 Employment
Professional & Business Services	-1,600	-0.7%	220,800

**Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs):** All six major Connecticut **LMAs** that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS (92% of the coverage of the state) delivered nonfarm industry employment gains in March 2024. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (0.4%, 410,200) led all regions with an 1,800-position gain. The **New Haven LMA** (0.4%, 305,700) was next, posting a 1,100-job increase. The largest LMA, **Hartford** (0.1%, 584,000) added 700 jobs while the **Danbury LMA** (0.8%, 78,300) increased 600 jobs (leading in monthly percentage gains). The **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (0.3%, 127,900) chipped in 400 jobs and the **Waterbury LMA** (0.3%, 66,900) gained 200.

*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 March 2024 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.4 hours. This is up five-tenths of an hour from the March 2023 average of 32.9 hours (1.5%) – a large annual advance. Average hourly earnings at \$37.39 in March 2024, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$1.64 (4.6%) from the March 2023 estimate of \$35.75. The March 2024 private sector weekly wage averaged \$1,248.83, higher by \$72.65 (6.2%) from a year ago. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) for March 2024 was up 3.5% from a year ago. Private sector wages averaged well above consumer inflation in March 2024.

*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 March 2024 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **4.5%** (seasonally adjusted). This is unchanged over the month but is higher by one and one-tenth percentage point compared to the March 2023 level of 3.4%. The U.S. unemployment rate for March 2024 was 3.8%, lower by one-tenth of a percentage point from the February 2024 rate of 3.9% but is higher over the year from the U.S. jobless rate of 3.5% in March 2023.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims (*not seasonally adjusted*) for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in March 2024 were 2,525. This is 322 (-11.3%, 2,847) claims lower than February 2024, and lower by 373 (-12.9%, 2,898) claims than March 2023.

*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. 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, May 16, 2024  
(Preliminary April 2024 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

	March 2024 P	February 2024 R	January 2024	December 2023	March 2023	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>1,709,100</b>	<b>1,704,200</b>	<b>1,701,600</b>	<b>1,695,800</b>	<b>1,690,200</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>18,900</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,475,600</b>	<b>1,471,200</b>	<b>1,468,300</b>	<b>1,462,500</b>	<b>1,459,200</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>									
Mining	500	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	63,400	62,700	61,700	61,500	62,500	700	1.1%	900	1.4%
Manufacturing	159,100	158,600	158,400	157,900	158,700	500	0.3%	400	0.3%
Durable Goods	124,700	124,300	124,200	123,800	124,100	400	0.3%	600	0.5%
Nondurable Goods	34,400	34,300	34,200	34,100	34,600	100	0.3%	-200	-0.6%
<b>Service Providing Industries</b>									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	298,500	297,200	297,600	299,200	297,800	1,300	0.4%	700	0.2%
Wholesale	62,100	61,200	61,400	61,200	60,900	900	1.5%	1,200	2.0%
Retail	165,300	164,500	164,600	165,500	168,000	800	0.5%	-2,700	-1.6%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	71,100	71,500	71,600	72,500	68,900	-400	-0.6%	2,200	3.2%
Information	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,200	31,600	0	0.0%	-1,600	-5.1%
Financial Activities	118,700	118,500	118,100	117,500	118,400	200	0.2%	300	0.3%
Finance & Insurance	98,900	98,700	98,500	97,800	98,700	200	0.2%	200	0.2%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,800	19,800	19,600	19,700	19,700	0	0.0%	100	0.5%
Professional & Business Services	220,800	222,400	224,000	220,900	223,200	-1,600	-0.7%	-2,400	-1.1%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	100,300	100,500	100,700	100,300	100,400	-200	-0.2%	-100	-0.1%
Management of Companies	31,600	31,700	31,800	31,600	31,600	-100	-0.3%	0	0.0%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	88,900	90,200	91,500	89,000	91,200	-1,300	-1.4%	-2,300	-2.5%
Educational & Health Services	362,200	361,200	360,500	356,500	350,800	1,000	0.3%	11,400	3.2%
Educational Services	72,500	72,900	73,500	72,400	69,700	-400	-0.5%	2,800	4.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	289,700	288,300	287,000	284,100	281,100	1,400	0.5%	8,600	3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	156,700	154,600	153,700	153,300	153,400	2,100	1.4%	3,300	2.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	29,300	28,400	28,000	28,300	27,700	900	3.2%	1,600	5.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	127,400	126,200	125,700	125,000	125,700	1,200	1.0%	1,700	1.4%
Other Services	65,700	65,500	63,800	65,000	62,300	200	0.3%	3,400	5.5%
Government**	233,500	233,000	233,300	233,300	231,000	500	0.2%	2,500	1.1%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>158,133,000</b>	<b>157,830,000</b>	<b>157,560,000</b>	<b>157,304,000</b>	<b>155,206,000</b>	<b>303,000</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>2,927,000</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

### LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

	March 2024 P	February 2024 R	January 2024	December 2023	March 2023	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
<b>Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk</b>	410,200	408,400	407,600	406,900	406,800	1,800	0.4%	3,400	0.8%
<b>Danbury</b>	78,300	77,700	77,700	78,000	77,600	600	0.8%	700	0.9%
<b>Hartford</b>	584,000	583,300	582,100	580,100	579,000	700	0.1%	5,000	0.9%
<b>New Haven</b>	305,700	304,600	304,300	302,600	299,400	1,100	0.4%	6,300	2.1%
<b>Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI</b>	127,900	127,500	127,400	126,500	125,500	400	0.3%	2,400	1.9%
<b>Waterbury</b>	66,900	66,700	66,800	66,700	66,700	200	0.3%	200	0.3%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i>									
<b>Enfield</b>	42,600	42,500	42,800	43,300	42,200	100	0.2%	400	0.9%
<b>Torrington-Northwest</b>	32,300	32,300	32,200	32,800	32,000	0	0.0%	300	0.9%
<b>Danielson-Northeast</b>	27,000	27,000	27,100	27,200	27,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

\* 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).

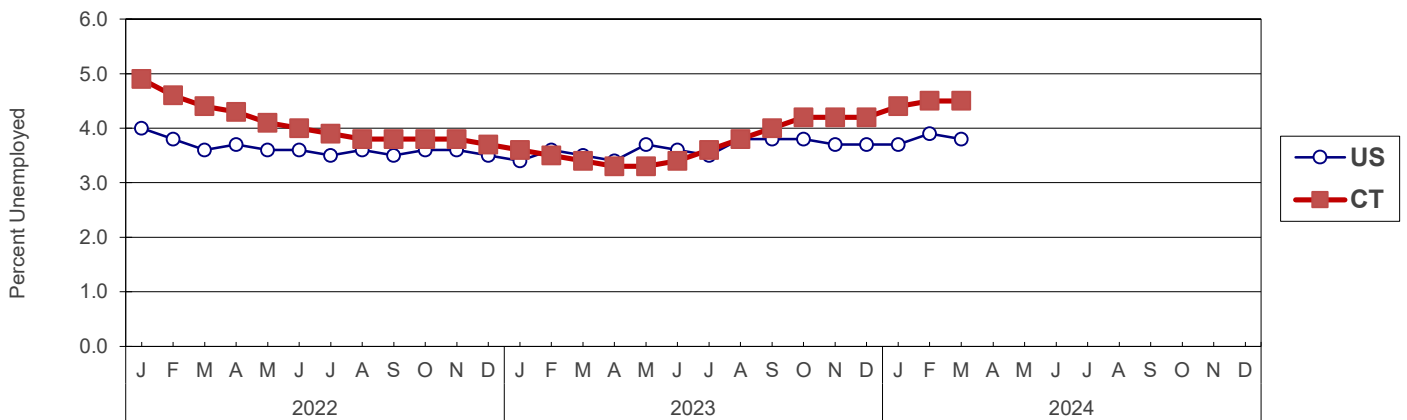
# UNEMPLOYMENT

## Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2024 P		Mar 2023 R		Change		Feb 2024 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Unemployed	85,400	4.5	64,200	3.4	21,200	1.1	86,100	4.5
Labor Force	1,910,500		1,887,100		23,400		1,906,400	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
Unemployed	6,429,000	3.8	5,866,000	3.5	563,000	0.3	6,458,000	3.9
Labor Force	167,895,000		166,690,000		1,205,000		167,426,000	

### U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2022 - 2024



### LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2024 P		Mar 2023 R		Change		Feb 2024 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	20,300	4.3	17,300	3.8	3,000	0.5	26,200	5.6
Danbury	4,100	3.8	3,400	3.3	700	0.5	5,300	5.0
Danielson-Northeast*	1,800	4.1	1,700	4.1	100	0.0	2,300	5.3
Worcester NECTA	1,700	4.2	1,700	4.1	0	0.1	2,200	5.4
Hampton	100	3.2	100	3.6	0	-0.4	100	4.1
Enfield	2,000	4.0	1,700	3.6	300	0.4	2,500	5.1
Hartford	25,700	4.1	22,200	3.6	3,500	0.5	32,600	5.2
New Haven	13,200	3.9	11,200	3.4	2,000	0.5	16,700	5.0
Norwich-New London	5,600	4.0	4,800	3.5	800	0.5	7,300	5.2
Torrington-Northwest**	1,900	4.1	1,800	4.0	100	0.1	2,500	5.4
Torrington NECTA	1,200	4.8	1,200	4.5	0	0.3	1,600	6.2
Litchfield	700	3.3	700	3.4	0	-0.1	900	4.4
Waterbury	6,200	5.5	5,500	5.0	700	0.5	7,500	6.8
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>69,300</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>101,900</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>6,604,000</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>6,043,000</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>561,000</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>6,970,000</b>	<b>4.2</b>

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

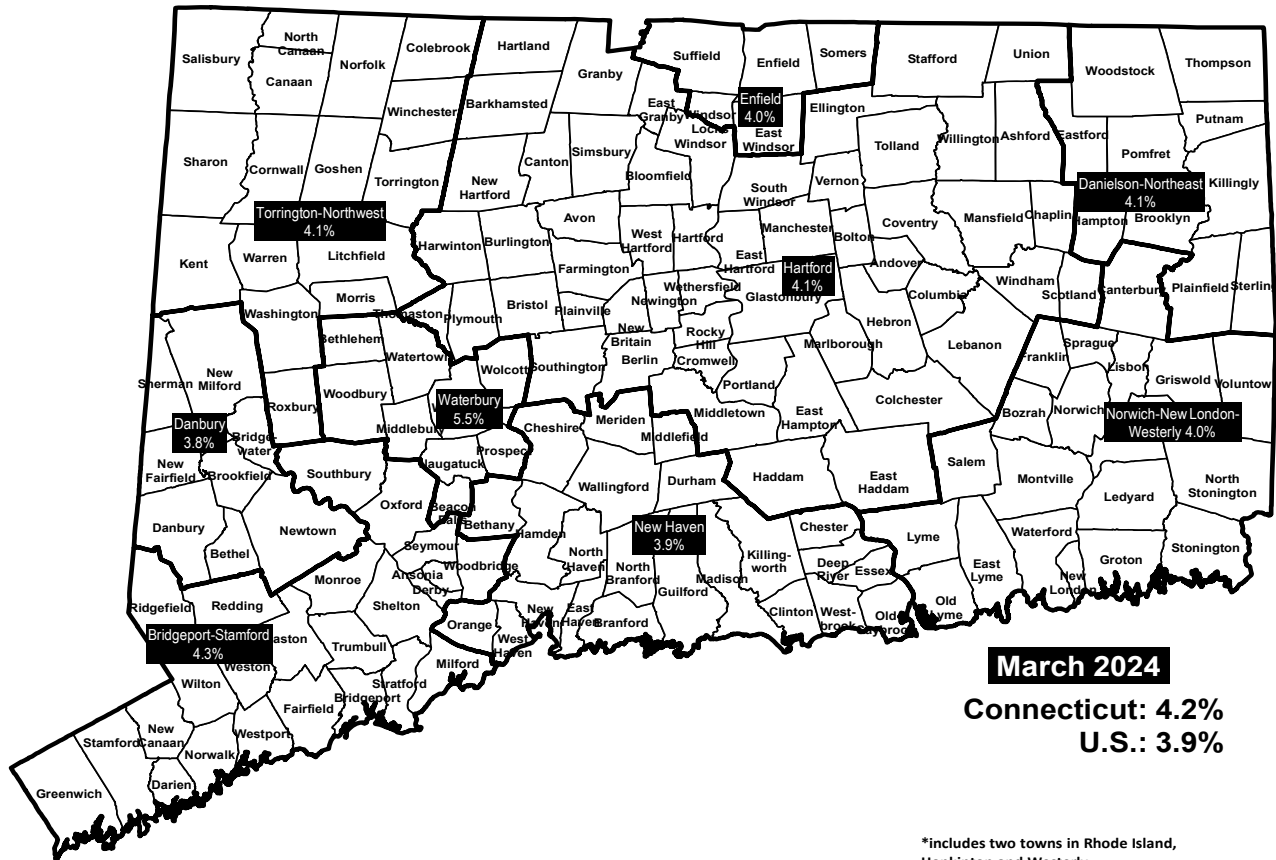
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\* 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			
	Mar. 2024 P	Mar. 2023	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2024 R	Mar. 2024 P	Mar. 2023	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2024 R	Mar. 2024 P	Mar. 2023	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2024 R
<b>Private Industry All Employees</b>	\$1,248.83	\$1,176.18	\$72.65	\$1,233.42	33.4	32.9	0.5	32.9	\$37.39	\$35.75	\$1.64	\$37.49
<b>Manufacturing* Production Workers</b>	\$1,216.73	\$1,138.00	\$78.73	\$1,186.18	38.7	40.0	-1.3	38.4	\$31.44	\$28.45	\$2.99	\$30.89

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

P = Preliminary      R = Revised

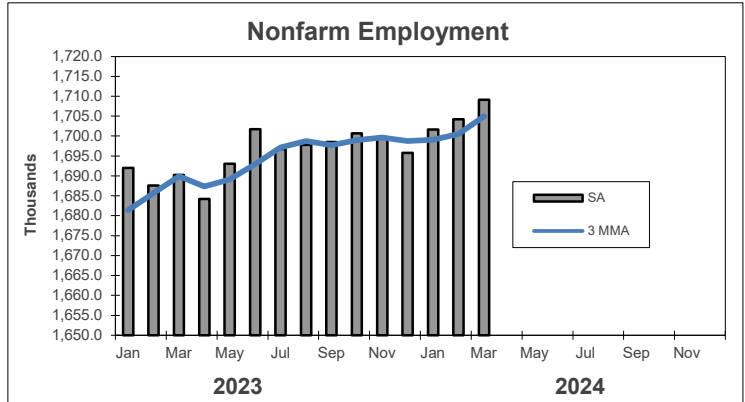
Hours and earnings are also developed for the state's major industry sectors and Labor Market Areas. They can be found on our website at: [www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi)



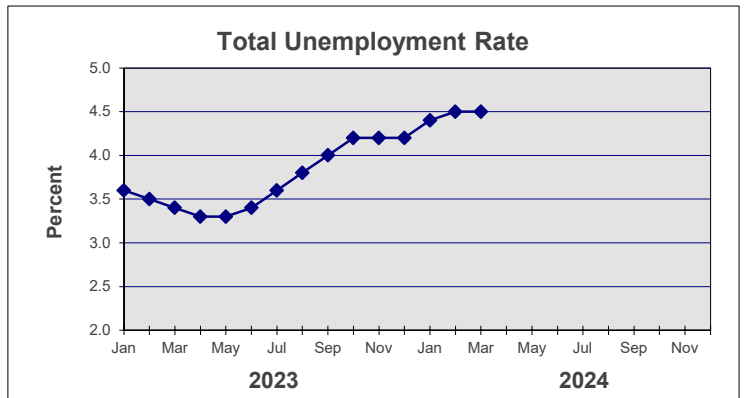
# TRENDS

## Seasonally Adjusted

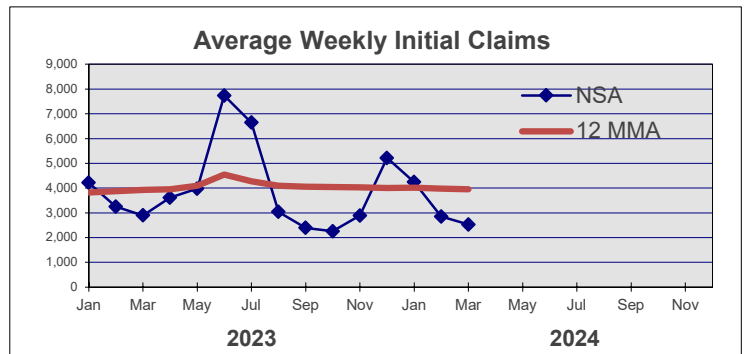
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
<b>2023</b>		
Jan	1,692.0	3.6
Feb	1,687.6	3.5
Mar	1,690.2	3.4
Apr	1,684.2	3.3
May	1,693.0	3.3
Jun	1,701.7	3.4
Jul	1,696.7	3.6
Aug	1,697.8	3.8
Sep	1,698.5	4.0
Oct	1,700.7	4.2
Nov	1,699.7	4.2
Dec	1,695.8	4.2



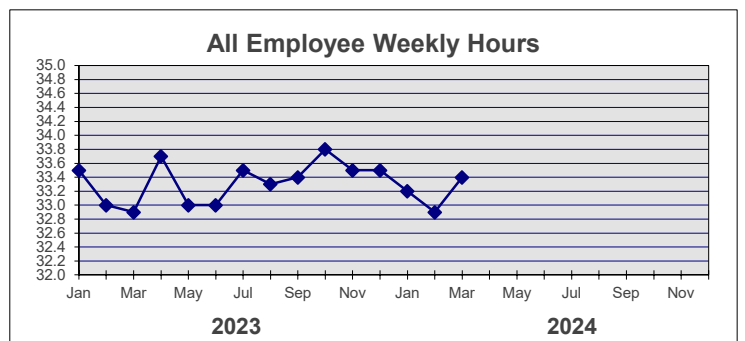
<b>2024</b>		
Jan	1,701.6	4.4
Feb	1,704.2 R	4.5 R
Mar	1,709.1 P	4.5 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	NSA Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
<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
Dec	5,214	33.5



<b>2024</b>		
Jan	4,239	33.2
Feb	2,847	32.9 R
Mar	2,525	33.4 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



\* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

\*\* Labor-management dispute