



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2021 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 8.1%

US Unemployment Rate = 6.1%

CT unemployment rate drops to 8.1% in April; nonfarm industry jobs up 500

WETHERSFIELD, May 20, 2021 – Connecticut nonfarm employment increased 500 (0.03%) in April 2021 to 1,580,600 (seasonally adjusted). Statewide payroll jobs are now 176,700 (12.6%) positions higher than year-ago levels. April 2020 was the COVID-19 employment low (1,403,900). Connecticut has now recovered 60.4% of the 292,400 positions lost in March and April 2020 due to the lockdown. Connecticut monthly nonfarm job estimates are from the business workplace survey directed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

“Recoveries are uneven. April’s small job gains follow stronger gains in March. Evidence of increased job postings and openings suggests Connecticut is poised for larger gains later this year,” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “While the 2020 drop was caused by the pandemic, the subsequent recovery demonstrates the economy’s resilience. More jobs were added in the twelve months ending April 2021 than in any twelve-month period since these statistics were created in the 1930s.”

Private sector employment was lower by 600 (-0.04%) to 1,357,900 in April 2021 but is now higher by 167,200 jobs (14.0%) from the same month a year ago. The **government supersector**, added 1,100 jobs (0.5%) last month to a level of 222,700, and is now higher by 9,500 (4.5%) positions over the year. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state, and local employment, including public education and Native American casino employment located on tribal reservation land.

Six of the ten major industry *supersectors* had employment gains in April 2021, as four declined.

Six increasing industry *supersectors* included:

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	April 2021 Employment
Professional & Business Services	+3,600	1.8%	206,300
Leisure & Hospitality	+1,800	1.5%	125,300
Government	+1,100	0.5%	222,700
Information	+700	2.5%	28,300
Construction & Mining	+600	1.0%	58,100
Other Services	+400	0.7%	58,800

Four industry *supersectors* posted April 2021 (P) declines.

Declining Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	April 2021 Employment
Education & Health Services	-4,100	-1.2%	324,700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	-2,300	-0.8%	286,500
Financial Activities	-700	-0.6%	118,300
Manufacturing	-600	-0.4%	151,600

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Three of the six Connecticut **LMAs**, seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), had employment increases in April 2021, while three state **LMAs** posted declines. The **Danbury LMA** (0.6%, 72,400) added 400 jobs, while the **Hartford LMA** added 200 positions (0.04%, 548,600) and the **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (0.03%, 374,400) chipped in 100 positions. The **New Haven LMA** (-1.3%, 283,600) dropped 3,800 jobs (related to some Spring break cancellations this year, that boosted gains last month). Also losing jobs in April 2021 was the **Norwich–New London–Westerly LMA** (-0.9%, 114,200), decreasing 1,000 positions and the **Waterbury LMA** (-0.3%, 64,900) reducing employment levels by 200.

Note: The six major Connecticut LMAs are estimated independently from the statewide data by the BLS and cover more than 90% of the nonfarm employment in the state. Thus, estimates will not fully sum to the statewide total.

Hours and Earnings: The **private sector** workweek, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 34.2 hours in April 2021, up one-tenth of an hour from April 2020 (0.3%). Average hourly earnings at \$33.69, not seasonally adjusted, were lower by \$1.28 (-3.7%) from the April 2020 estimate of \$34.97. Average April 2021 private sector weekly wages averaged \$1,152.20, down \$40.28 from a year ago (-3.4%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in April 2021 is rising faster now at 4.2%. *Current all-employee private sector hours and earnings estimates can be volatile due to fluctuating sample responses.*

Labor Force Data (residential household survey)

The official April 2021 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be 8.1% (seasonally adjusted), lower by 0.2 percentage points from the March 2021 level of 8.3%. The Connecticut unemployment rate was 8.6% in April 2020. The U.S. jobless rate in April 2021 was 6.1%, up one-tenth of a percentage point from the March 2021 rate of 6.0%, but down big from the 14.8% U.S. unemployment rate a year ago.

Data users must be cautious about trying to compare or reconcile UI claims data with the official unemployment figures derived from the household survey. For additional insight into the Connecticut labor market during the COVID-19 pandemic please see the analysis linked here:

<https://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/claimsdata.asp> Please note that there are conceptual, coverage, and scope differences between the two data sources.

Unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut were an average of 4,609 per week in April 2021, down 5,944 (-56.3%) from the March 2021 (10,553) level and much lower by 33,023 claims (-87.8%) from the average weekly count of 37,632 in April 2020 when monthly job claims peaked due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

*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: Tuesday, June 22, 2021
(preliminary May 2021 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

	April 2021 P	March 2021 R	February 2021	January 2021	April 2020	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,580,600	1,580,100	1,574,900	1,571,800	1,403,900	500	0.0%	176,700	12.6%
Total Private	1,357,900	1,358,500	1,354,000	1,350,800	1,190,700	-600	0.0%	167,200	14.0%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	400	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	57,600	57,000	56,000	56,100	49,500	600	1.1%	8,100	16.4%
Manufacturing	151,600	152,200	152,100	152,100	148,200	-600	-0.4%	3,400	2.3%
Durable Goods	119,500	120,100	120,200	120,300	118,500	-600	-0.5%	1,000	0.8%
Nondurable Goods	32,100	32,100	31,900	31,800	29,700	0	0.0%	2,400	8.1%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	286,500	288,800	291,400	290,600	238,400	-2,300	-0.8%	48,100	20.2%
Wholesale	53,900	54,300	54,700	54,500	53,300	-400	-0.7%	600	1.1%
Retail	166,600	167,100	168,900	167,400	134,300	-500	-0.3%	32,300	24.1%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	66,000	67,400	67,800	68,700	50,800	-1,400	-2.1%	15,200	29.9%
Information	28,300	27,600	27,700	27,700	28,600	700	2.5%	-300	-1.0%
Financial Activities	118,300	119,000	118,600	118,900	119,400	-700	-0.6%	-1,100	-0.9%
Finance & Insurance	100,400	100,600	100,400	100,600	101,300	-200	-0.2%	-900	-0.9%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	17,900	18,400	18,200	18,300	18,100	-500	-2.7%	-200	-1.1%
Professional & Business Services	206,300	202,700	205,600	203,300	195,800	3,600	1.8%	10,500	5.4%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	93,800	92,000	91,600	91,400	90,200	1,800	2.0%	3,600	4.0%
Management of Companies	32,300	32,100	32,100	32,000	31,100	200	0.6%	1,200	3.9%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	80,200	78,600	81,900	79,900	74,500	1,600	2.0%	5,700	7.7%
Educational & Health Services	324,700	328,800	322,900	324,300	300,500	-4,100	-1.2%	24,200	8.1%
Educational Services	62,500	67,000	62,300	63,400	61,000	-4,500	-6.7%	1,500	2.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	262,200	261,800	260,600	260,900	239,500	400	0.2%	22,700	9.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	125,300	123,500	121,000	118,900	67,400	1,800	1.5%	57,900	85.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	20,900	20,300	19,500	18,800	12,200	600	3.0%	8,700	71.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	104,400	103,200	101,500	100,100	55,200	1,200	1.2%	49,200	89.1%
Other Services	58,800	58,400	58,200	58,500	42,400	400	0.7%	16,400	38.7%
Government**	222,700	221,600	220,900	221,000	213,200	1,100	0.5%	9,500	4.5%
UNITED STATES	144,308,000	144,042,000	143,272,000	142,736,000	130,161,000	266,000	0.2%	14,147,000	10.9%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

	April 2021 P	March 2021 R	February 2021	January 2021	April 2020	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	374,400	374,300	372,800	371,300	330,400	100	0.0%	44,000	13.3%
Danbury	72,400	72,000	71,200	70,800	62,000	400	0.6%	10,400	16.8%
Hartford	548,600	548,400	548,700	549,700	497,500	200	0.0%	51,100	10.3%
New Haven	283,600	287,400	281,800	282,000	248,000	-3,800	-1.3%	35,600	14.4%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	114,200	115,200	114,400	114,700	93,400	-1,000	-0.9%	20,800	22.3%
Waterbury	64,900	65,100	65,000	64,200	55,600	-200	-0.3%	9,300	16.7%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	41,400	42,100	41,500	41,500	37,400	-700	-1.7%	4,000	10.7%
Torrington-Northwest	29,900	30,200	29,900	29,800	27,400	-300	-1.0%	2,500	9.1%
Danielson-Northeast	25,200	25,600	25,300	25,400	22,800	-400	-1.6%	2,400	10.5%

* 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:

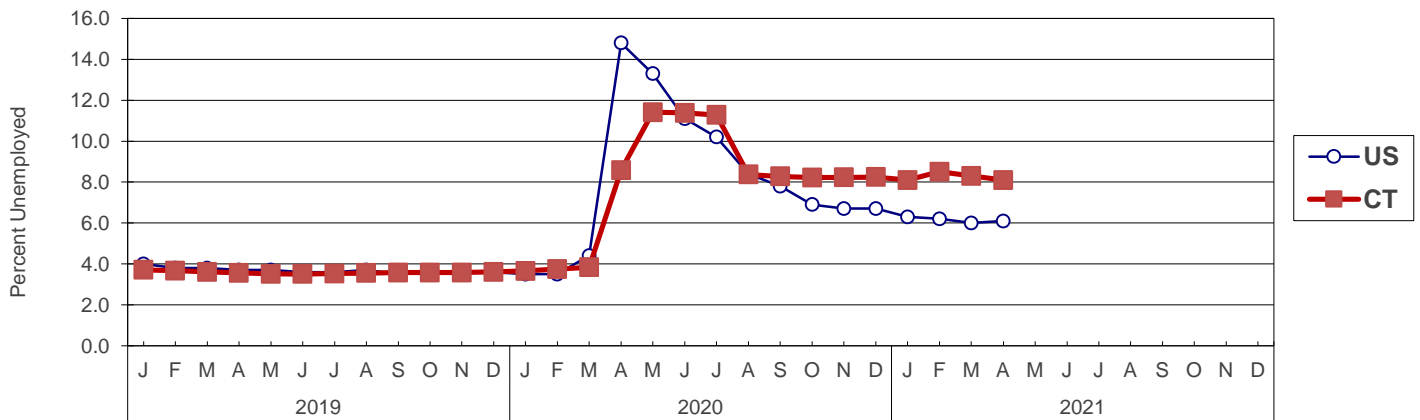
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 2021 P		Apr 2020 R		Change		Mar 2021 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	140,500	8.1	156,900	8.6	-16,400	-0.5	143,000	8.3
Labor Force	1,741,800		1,826,600		-84,800		1,729,600	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	9,812,000	6.1	23,109,000	14.8	-13,297,000	-8.7	9,710,000	6.0
Labor Force	160,988,000		156,478,000		4,510,000		160,558,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2019 - 2021



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 2021 P		Apr 2020 R		Change		Mar 2021 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	31,700	7.5	35,900	8.3	-4,200	-0.8	34,800	8.4
Danbury	6,300	6.6	8,100	8.3	-1,800	-1.7	6,900	7.3
Danielson-Northeast*	2,700	6.9	3,500	8.5	-800	-1.6	3,100	7.9
Worcester NECTA	2,600	6.9	3,400	8.6	-800	-1.7	2,900	8.0
Hampton	100	5.8	100	6.6	0	-0.8	100	6.6
Enfield	3,100	6.9	3,800	8.0	-700	-1.1	3,400	7.7
Hartford	44,000	7.7	48,100	7.9	-4,100	-0.2	46,600	8.2
New Haven	22,000	7.1	23,600	7.5	-1,600	-0.4	23,300	7.6
Norwich-New London	10,500	8.3	18,000	14.1	-7,500	-5.8	11,500	9.2
Torrington-Northwest**	3,000	7.2	3,300	7.3	-300	-0.1	3,400	8.2
Torrington NECTA	1,900	8.4	2,100	8.5	-200	-0.1	2,300	9.5
Litchfield	1,000	5.6	1,100	5.8	-100	-0.2	1,200	6.5
Waterbury	9,500	9.1	9,900	9.4	-400	-0.3	10,300	10.0
CONNECTICUT	131,900	7.6	151,100	8.4	-19,200	-0.8	142,100	8.2
UNITED STATES	9,220,000	5.7	22,504,000	14.4	-13,284,000	-8.7	9,905,000	6.2

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.

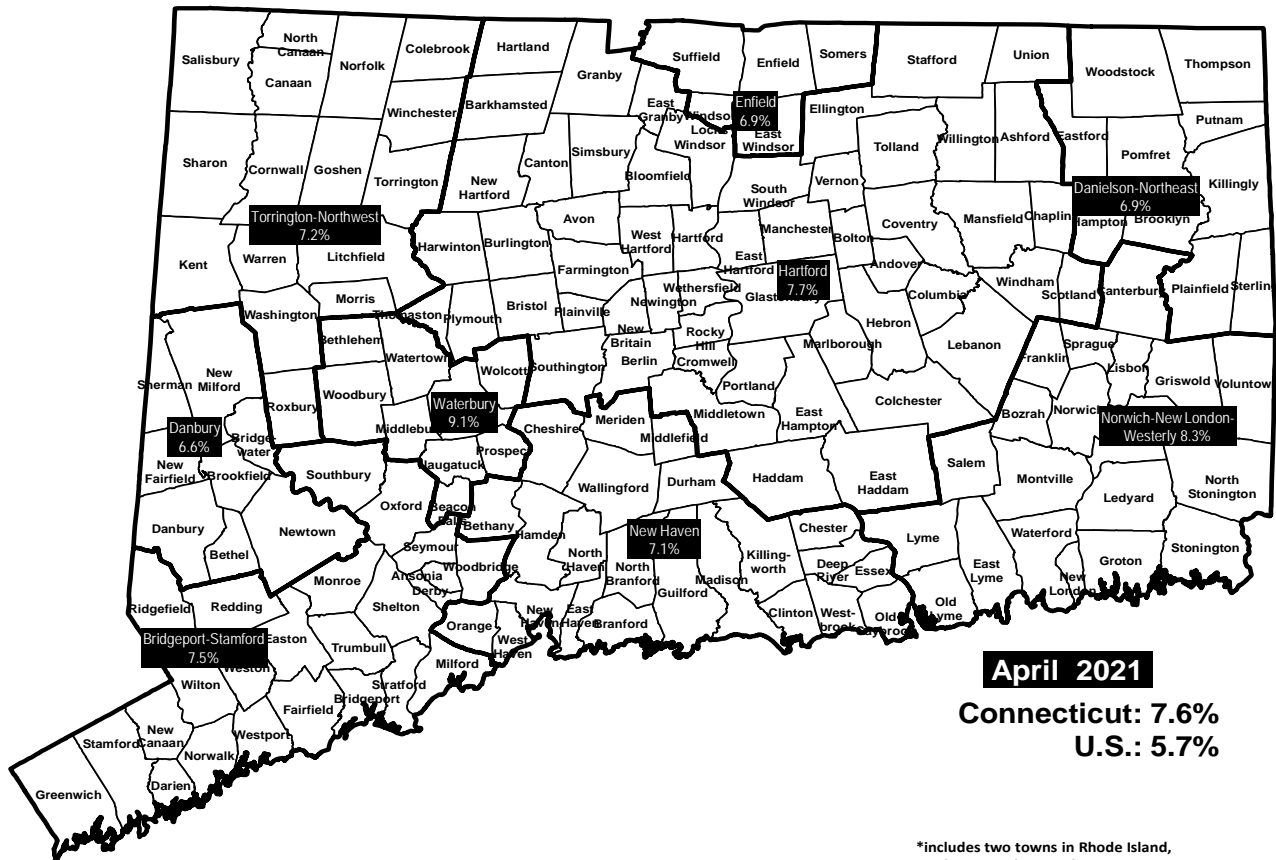
* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined

** Torrington Metropolitan 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			
	Apr. 2021 P	Apr. 2020	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2021 R	Apr. 2021 P	Apr. 2020	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2021 R	Apr. 2021 P	Apr. 2020	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2021 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,152.20	\$1,192.48	-\$40.28	\$1,145.70	34.2	34.1	0.1	34.2	\$33.69	\$34.97	-\$1.28	\$33.50
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,094.50	\$1,167.77	-\$73.27	\$1,099.30	39.8	39.2	0.6	39.6	\$27.50	\$29.79	-\$2.29	\$27.76

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

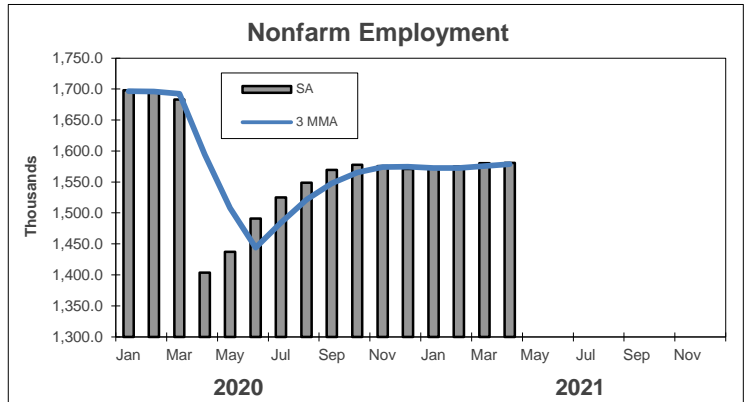
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

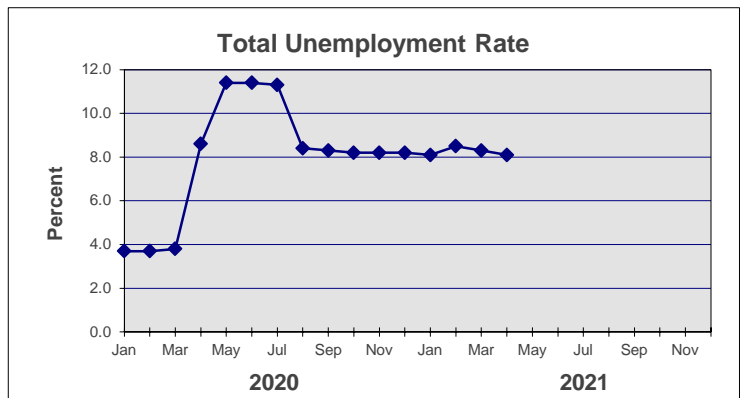
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

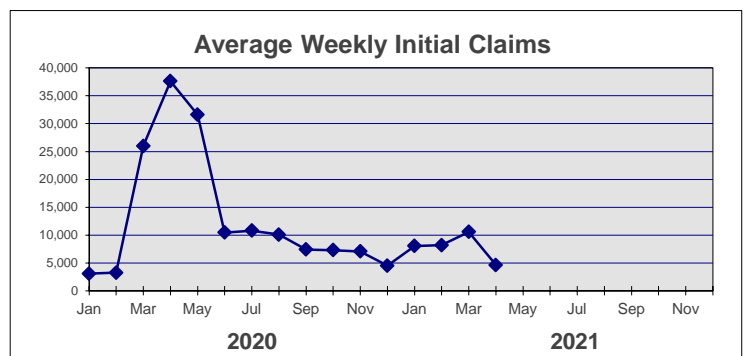
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2020		
Jan	1,698.0	3.7
Feb	1,696.3	3.7
Mar	1,683.3	3.8
Apr	1,403.9	8.6
May	1,437.5	11.4
Jun	1,490.9	11.4
Jul	1,525.0	11.3
Aug	1,549.0	8.4
Sep	1,569.2	8.3
Oct	1,577.7	8.2
Nov	1,575.4	8.2
Dec	1,570.8	8.2



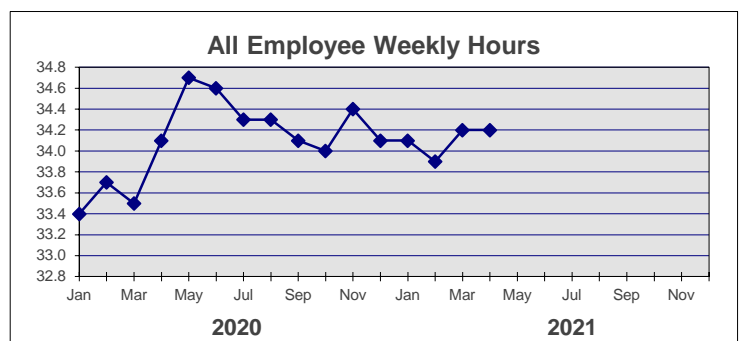
2021		
Jan	1,571.8	8.1
Feb	1,574.9	8.5
Mar	1,580.1 R	8.3 R
Apr	1,580.6 P	8.1 P
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2020		
Jan	3,079	33.4
Feb	3,243	33.7
Mar	25,989	33.5
Apr	37,632	34.1
May	31,592	34.7
Jun	10,446	34.6
Jul	10,794	34.3
Aug	10,073	34.3
Sep	7,408	34.1
Oct	7,295	34.0
Nov	7,072	34.4
Dec	4,493	34.1



2021		
Jan	8,040	34.1
Feb	8,184	33.9
Mar	10,553 R	34.2 R
Apr	4,609 P	34.2 P
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute