LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2023 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 3.8%
US Unemployment Rate = 3.4%

Connecticut's April jobless rate hits post-lockdown low (3.8%), payrolls decline 900

WETHERSFIELD, May 18, 2023 – Connecticut nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 900 (-0.05%) in April 2023 to 1,684,400 as the state's unemployment rate declined to 3.8% (preliminary, seasonally adjusted data). Industry payroll employment in the state is now 16,800 (1.0%) positions higher than the April 2022 level. The state has recovered **95.5%** (276,000) of the 289,100 jobs lost during the 2020 COVID lockdown period. The March 2023 preliminary increase of 1,100 positions was revised down by 2,800 to a -1,700 (-0.1%) job loss. Connecticut's unemployment rate, however, ticked lower to 3.8% from the March 2023 revised level (3.9%) and is now lower by four-tenths of a percentage point from the 4.2% rate in April 2022. Two monthly surveys (workplace and residential) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in cooperation with the states are presented in the CT Labor Situation.

"Jobs are up an average of 2,800 per month so far in 2023, an indication of a solid, stable economy," said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. "Unusual weather patterns have contributed to month-to-month volatility in the jobs numbers, but the low level of unemployment shows the labor market's continued resilience."

Connecticut's private sector employment declined by -1,400 (-0.1%) positions in April 2023 to 1,454,200 but is still higher by 12,800 positions (0.9%) from the April 2022 level (1,441,400). The state's private sector is **97.5%** recovered from the April 2020 COVID employment low. 6,600 more jobs are needed to reach February 2020 levels. The previously reported 500 March gain was revised down by 2,500 to a 2,000-job loss. Much of this downward revision for March arose from a -2,571 downward modification to the services to buildings and dwellings industry which includes landscaping and other industries affected by 2023's unusual weather patterns. For April 2023, the **government** *supersector* was up by 500 jobs (0.2%) to a level of 230,200. Aggregated government employment in the state is 4,000 positions (1.8%) above year-ago levels. The public sector is now 71.9% recovered from the overall COVID April 2020 employment low point. Connecticut'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.

Five of the ten major industry *supersectors* increased jobs in April 2023, and five declined.

The industry *supersectors* that increased employment (5) in April 2023 (below)

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	**Amount of Increase**	**Percent Change**	**April 2023 Employment**
Education & Health Services	**+700**	**0.2%**	**352,700**
Government	**+500**	**0.2%**	**230,200**
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	**+400**	**0.1%**	**297,500**
Information	**+200**	**0.6%**	**31,300**
Other Services	**+200**	**0.3%**	**62,100**

The five industry *supersectors* that revealed job declines in jobs in April 2023 (below)

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	**Amount of Decrease**	**Percent Change**	**April 2023 Employment**
Professional & Business Services	**-1,500**	**-0.7%**	**224,500**
Manufacturing	**-600**	**-0.4%**	**157,700**
Financial Activities	**-300**	**-0.3%**	**114,700**
Leisure & Hospitality	**-300**	**-0.2%**	**153,500**
Construction & Mining	**-200**	**-0.3%**	**60,200**

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Five of the six major Connecticut *LMAs* that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS put forth small nonfarm industry employment gains in April 2023, while the more seasonal southeastern *Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA* (-1.1%, 124,300) was down 1,400 jobs. Lessened winter job declines due to the warm winter weather this year can result in less recurring job buildup for a typical spring in certain LMAs and seasonal industries. The *Waterbury LMA* (0.5%, 67,500), the *New Haven LMA* (0.1%, 302,700), and the *Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA* (0.1%, 406,900) each gained 300 jobs last month. The *Danbury LMA* (0.3%, 76,700) added 200 positions and the largest *Hartford LMA* (0.02%, 577,100) increased by 100.

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 April 2023 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.7 hours. This is lower by one-tenth hour (-0.3%) than the April 2022 average of 33.8 hours. Average hourly earnings at $35.80 last month, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by $1.47 (4.3%) from the April 2022 estimate of $34.33. The accompanying April 2023 private sector weekly wage averaged $1,206.46 - higher by $46.11 from a year ago (4.0%, $1,160.35). The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) for April 2023 was up 4.9% 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 preliminary April 2023 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **3.8%** (seasonally adjusted). This is lower by one-tenth of a percentage point compared to the revised March 2023 level of 3.9% (the preliminary March 2023 rate was 4.0%). The Connecticut unemployment rate was 4.2% in April 2022. The statewide jobless rate was 3.9% in February 2020, just before the COVID lockdown and had been 3.9% or 4.0% every month since June 2022 and now has gone lower. The U.S. unemployment rate for April 2023 was calculated at 3.4%, one-tenth of a percentage point lower than the revised March 2023 rate (3.5%) and lower by two-tenths of a percentage point than the U.S. jobless rate of 3.6% a year ago.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in April were 3,610, *not seasonally adjusted.* The twelve-month moving average was 3,954 per week through April 2023, higher by 28 (0.7%) from the twelve months ending March 2023 (3,926) and still higher by 164 (4.3%) than the average weekly count of 3,790 for the twelve months ending in April 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, June 15, 2023
(Preliminary May 2023 data on the updated benchmark)

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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 2023 P	March 2023 R	February 2023	January 2023	April 2022	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,684,400	1,685,300	1,687,000	1,681,900	1,667,600	-900	-0.1%	16,800	1.0%
Total Private	1,454,200	1,455,600	1,457,600	1,452,800	1,441,400	-1,400	-0.1%	12,800	0.9%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	400	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	59,700	59,900	61,700	61,600	61,600	-200	-0.3%	-1,900	-3.1%
Manufacturing	157,700	158,300	158,700	158,400	156,900	-600	-0.4%	800	0.5%
Durable Goods	122,700	123,200	123,700	123,600	122,800	-500	-0.4%	-100	-0.1%
Nondurable Goods	35,000	35,100	35,000	34,800	34,100	-100	-0.3%	900	2.6%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	297,500	297,100	296,900	296,700	300,400	400	0.1%	-2,900	-1.0%
Wholesale	63,000	62,500	62,200	62,000	60,000	500	0.8%	3,000	5.0%
Retail	165,100	165,400	165,500	165,600	169,600	-300	-0.2%	-4,500	-2.7%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	69,400	69,200	69,200	69,100	70,800	200	0.3%	-1,400	-2.0%
Information	31,300	31,100	31,000	31,300	31,000	200	0.6%	300	1.0%
Financial Activities	114,700	115,000	115,200	115,800	118,800	-300	-0.3%	-4,100	-3.5%
Finance & Insurance	95,500	95,700	95,900	96,500	99,400	-200	-0.2%	-3,900	-3.9%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,200	19,300	19,300	19,300	19,400	-100	-0.5%	-200	-1.0%
Professional & Business Services	224,500	226,000	225,100	223,500	222,800	-1,500	-0.7%	1,700	0.8%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	101,700	101,200	101,000	101,900	98,900	500	0.5%	2,800	2.8%
Management of Companies	30,900	30,800	30,900	30,900	30,900	100	0.3%	0	0.0%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	91,900	94,000	93,200	90,700	93,000	-2,100	-2.2%	-1,100	-1.2%
Educational & Health Services	352,700	352,000	351,900	349,600	340,200	700	0.2%	12,500	3.7%
Educational Services	72,100	71,800	71,800	71,200	67,900	300	0.4%	4,200	6.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	280,600	280,200	280,100	278,400	272,300	400	0.1%	8,300	3.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	153,500	153,800	154,200	153,100	148,200	-300	-0.2%	5,300	3.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,800	28,700	28,200	28,200	26,600	100	0.3%	2,200	8.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	124,700	125,100	126,000	124,900	121,600	-400	-0.3%	3,100	2.5%
Other Services	62,100	61,900	62,400	62,400	61,000	200	0.3%	1,100	1.8%
Government**	230,200	229,700	229,400	229,100	226,200	500	0.2%	4,000	1.8%
UNITED STATES	155,673,000	155,420,000	155,255,000	155,007,000	151,678,000	253,000	0.2%	3,995,000	2.6%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	April 2023 P	March 2023 R	February 2023	January 2023	April 2022	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	406,900	406,600	407,100	404,200	400,000	300	0.1%	6,900	1.7%
Danbury	76,700	76,500	76,900	76,800	76,200	200	0.3%	500	0.7%
Hartford	577,100	577,000	577,300	575,600	570,700	100	0.0%	6,400	1.1%
New Haven	302,700	302,400	302,500	301,400	299,000	300	0.1%	3,700	1.2%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	124,300	125,700	125,900	124,500	122,700	-1,400	-1.1%	1,600	1.3%
Waterbury	67,500	67,200	67,400	67,100	65,800	300	0.4%	1,700	2.6%
Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)									
Enfield	41,800	41,900	41,700	41,900	41,600	-100	-0.2%	200	0.5%
Torrington-Northwest	32,500	32,100	32,000	32,200	32,400	400	1.2%	100	0.3%
Danielson-Northeast	27,100	27,000	26,900	26,900	27,000	100	0.4%	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.

UNEMPLOYMENT
Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*

	Apr 2023 P Number	Rate	Apr 2022 R Number	Rate	Change Number	Points	Mar 2023 R Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	72,300	3.8	81,900	4.2	-9,600	-0.4	75,300	3.9
Labor Force	1,901,200		1,947,700		-46,500		1,905,600	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	5,657,000	3.4	5,968,000	3.6	-311,000	-0.2	5,839,000	3.5
Labor Force	166,688,000		163,950,000		2,738,000		166,731,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*
2021 - 2023
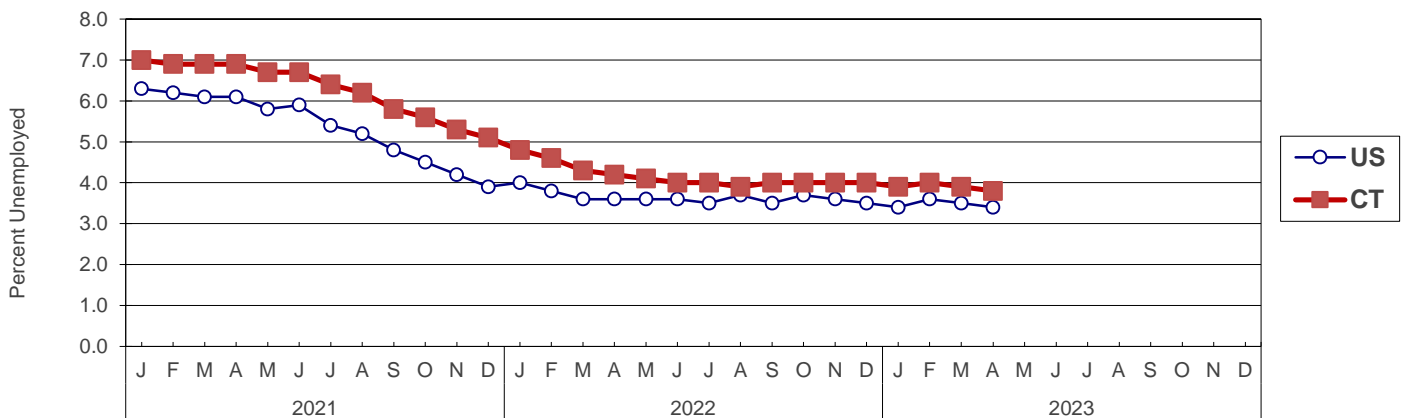
LABOR MARKET AREAS - *Not Seasonally Adjusted*

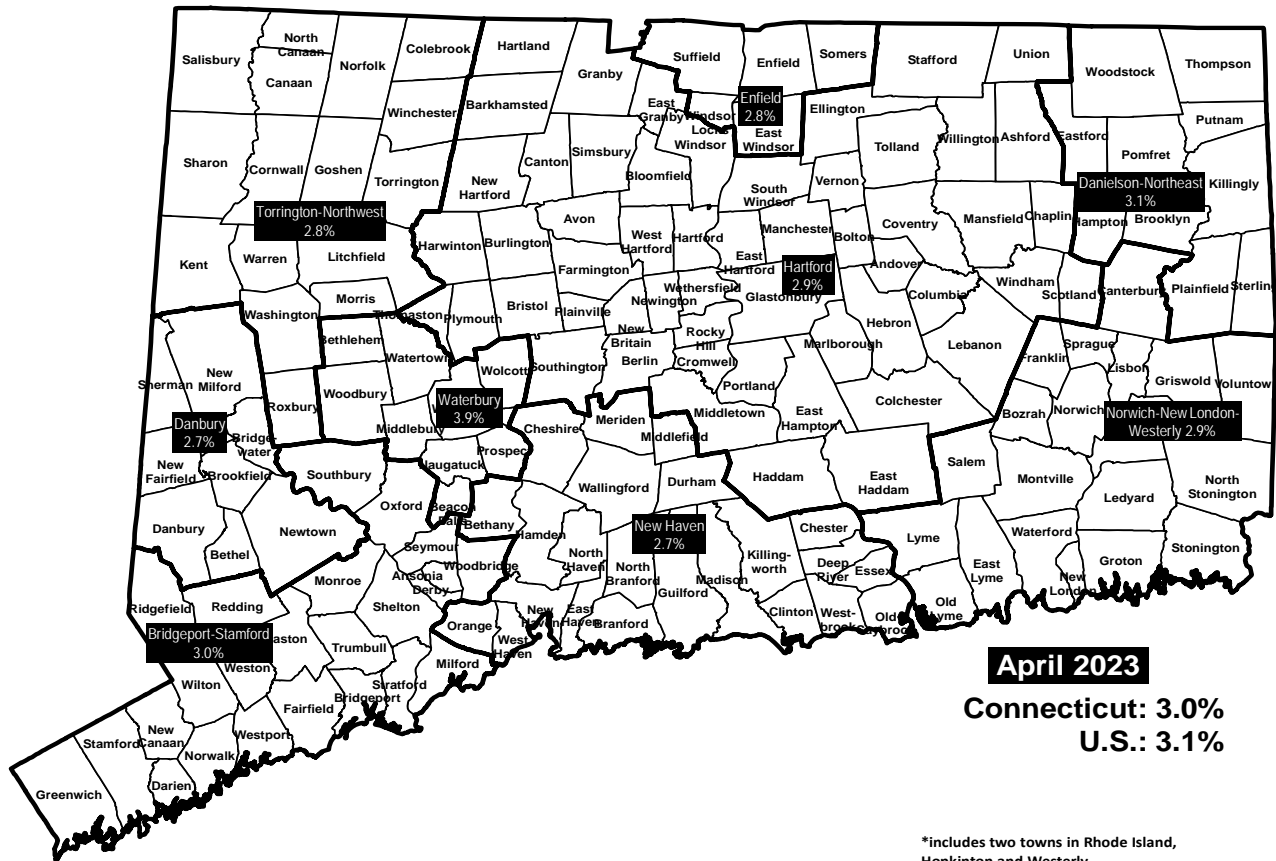|	Apr 2023 P Number	Rate	Apr 2022 R Number	Rate	Change Number	Points	Mar 2023 R Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	14,000	3.0	19,000	4.0	-5,000	-1.0	20,300	4.4
Danbury	2,800	2.7	3,900	3.6	-1,100	-0.9	4,000	3.9
Danielson-Northeast*	1,300	3.1	1,800	4.0	-500	-0.9	2,000	4.7
Worcester NECTA	1,300	3.1	1,700	4.0	-400	-0.9	2,000	4.7
Hampton	100	2.9	100	3.7	0	-0.8	100	4.2
Enfield	1,400	2.8	2,000	3.9	-600	-1.1	2,000	4.1
Hartford	17,700	2.9	26,000	4.1	-8,300	-1.2	26,000	4.2
New Haven	9,000	2.7	12,800	3.8	-3,800	-1.1	13,100	3.9
Norwich-New London	3,900	2.9	5,600	4.0	-1,700	-1.1	5,600	4.1
Torrington-Northwest**	1,300	2.8	1,800	3.7	-500	-0.9	2,100	4.6
Torrington NECTA	800	3.2	1,100	4.1	-300	-0.9	1,300	5.2
Litchfield	500	2.2	700	3.2	-200	-1.0	800	4.0
Waterbury	4,200	3.9	5,400	4.8	-1,200	-0.9	6,400	5.8
CONNECTICUT	55,200	3.0	77,700	4.0	-22,500	-1.0	81,100	4.3
UNITED STATES	5,146,000	3.1	5,458,000	3.3	-312,000	-0.2	6,043,000	3.6

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

April 2023

Connecticut: 3.0%
U.S.: 3.1%

Labor Market Area rates shown on the map:
- Torrington-Northwest 2.8%
- Danbury 2.7%
- Bridgeport-Stamford 3.0%
- Waterbury 3.9%
- New Haven 2.7%
- Enfield 2.8%
- Hartford 2.9%
- Danielson-Northeast 3.1%
- Norwich-New London-Westerly 2.9%

*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. 2023 P	Apr. 2022	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2023 R	Apr. 2023 P	Apr. 2022	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2023 R	Apr. 2023 P	Apr. 2022	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2023 R
Private Industry All Employees	$1,206.46	$1,160.35	$46.11	$1,176.18	33.7	33.8	-0.1	32.9	$35.80	$34.33	$1.47	$35.75
Manufacturing* Production Workers	$1,148.17	$1,094.86	$53.31	$1,136.40	40.4	39.9	0.5	40.0	$28.42	$27.44	$0.98	$28.41

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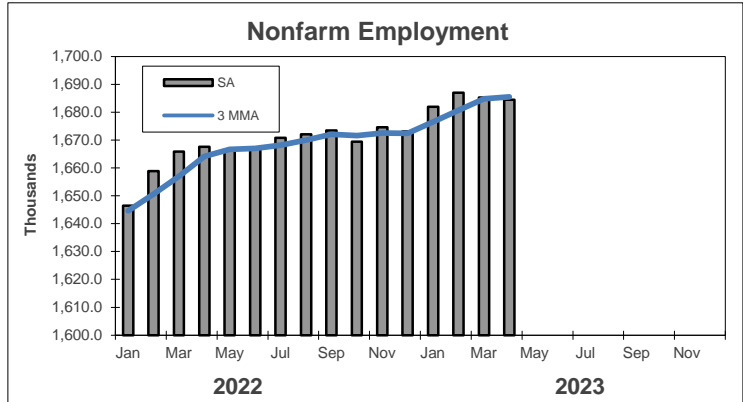
P = Preliminary   R = Revised

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*
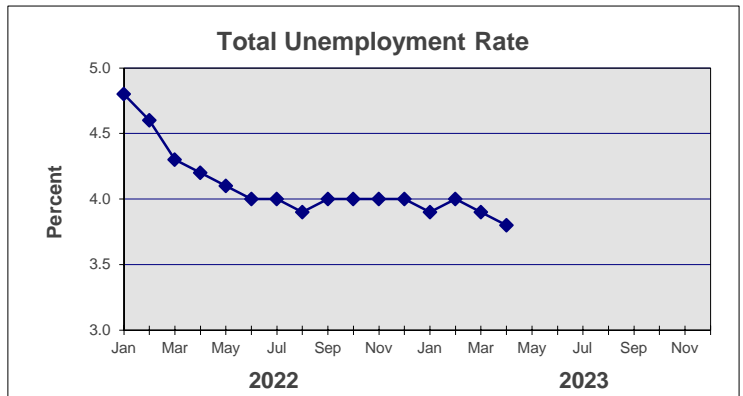
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2022		
Jan	1,646.5	4.8
Feb	1,658.8	4.6
Mar	1,665.9	4.3
Apr	1,667.6	4.2
May	1,666.6	4.1
Jun	1,666.9	4.0
Jul	1,670.8	4.0
Aug	1,672.1	3.9
Sep	1,673.4	4.0
Oct	1,669.4	4.0
Nov	1,674.6	4.0
Dec	1,673.1	4.0
2023		
Jan	1,681.9	3.9
Feb	1,687.0	4.0
Mar	1,685.3 R	3.9 R
Apr	1,684.4 P	3.8 P
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

Nonfarm Employment

Total Unemployment Rate

	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
Feb	3,249	33.0
Mar	2,898	32.9 R
Apr	3,610	33.7 P
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		
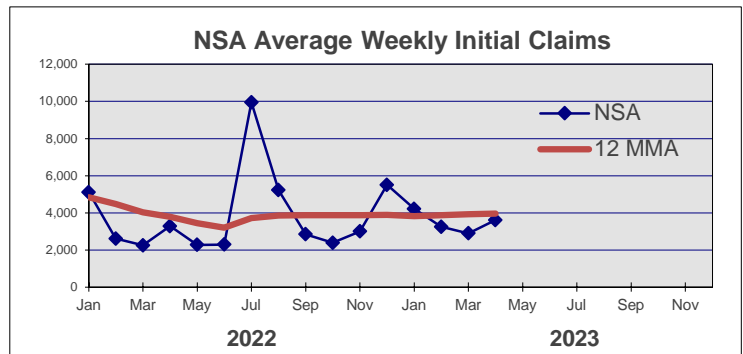
NSA Average Weekly Initial Claims

All Employee Weekly Hours
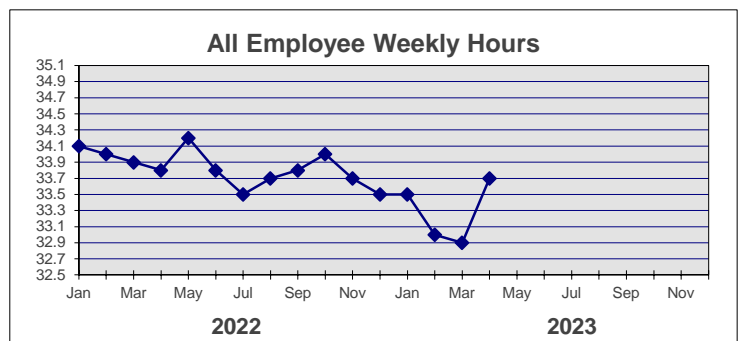
* Not seasonally adjusted   P = Preliminary   R = Revised   ** Labor-management dispute