



# LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research  
Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2020 Data  
CT Unemployment Rate = 3.7%  
US Unemployment Rate = 4.4%

## Nonfarm jobs decline by 7,600 in March; Unemployment rate at 3.7%

**NOTE: The March payroll and Unemployment statistics do not reflect the reality of recent COVID-19 related impacts on Connecticut's labor markets. Both surveys (business payroll and household employment) use data from the week that contains the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. While we saw some impact on jobs that week, we did not see the significant rise in layoffs and Unemployment Insurance claims until the following week.**

WETHERSFIELD, April 16, 2020 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state lost 7,600 net jobs (-0.5%) in March 2020, to a level of 1,691,900 seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 5,300 (0.3%) seasonally adjusted. The February 2020 originally-released job gain of 4,000 was revised down to a gain of 2,700. The number of the state's unemployed residents was estimated at 72,183, seasonally adjusted, down 398 from the revised February 2020 level. As a result, Connecticut's March unemployment rate is at 3.7%, seasonally adjusted, down one-tenth of a percent from the revised February level. Resident employment estimates include the self-employed and residents working out of state and are determined separately from the nonfarm payroll job estimates above. None of the movements in payroll job estimates are considered statistically significant. *The payroll job and unemployment estimates do not reflect activity in the latter half of March 2020.*

"The BLS survey data, based on the week containing the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month did not capture the dramatic events precipitated by the COVID-19 virus impacts," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. "We know from Unemployment Insurance claims that the leisure & hospitality, healthcare and retail sectors were severely impacted by furloughs and closures. We will have a more accurate picture of employment impacts in next month's report."

### Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

**Private sector** employment fell by 6,500 (-0.3%) to 1,455,700 jobs over the month in March, and are now up by 5,400 (0.3%) seasonally-adjusted jobs over March 2019. The **government supersector** fell by 1,100 jobs in March to a total of 236,200, and is down by 100 jobs (-0.0%) over the year. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public higher education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land.

Three of the ten major industry *supersectors* gained employment in March, and seven declined. The **professional & business services** (1.2%, 225,200) *supersector* led gains, adding 2,700 net new jobs. **Construction and related mining** (1.2%, 61,800) was next with 700 new positions while **manufacturing** (0.3%, 163,000) added 500 positions.

On the down side, the **leisure & hospitality supersector** (-3.5%, 152,300), led declines, losing 5,600 positions. **Education & health** (-0.7%, 341,600) dropped 2,400 net jobs. The **trade, transportation and utilities supersector** (-0.4%, 292,500) shed 1,200 jobs, while **government** (-0.5%, 236,200) fell by 1,100. The **financial activities supersector** (-0.7%, 123,400) lost 900 jobs while the **other services supersector** (-0.3%, 64,500) fell by 200. The **information supersector** (-0.3%, 31,400) dropped 100 positions.

**Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs):** All six *LMAs* seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics saw job declines in March 2020. The **Hartford LMA** (-0.5%, 586,800) led declines, dropping 3,100 net jobs. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-0.6%, 404,100) fell by 2,300 jobs while the **New Haven LMA** (-0.4%, 292,800) lost 1,200. The **Danbury LMA** (-1.0%, 76,900) shed 800 positions while both the **Norwich-New London-Westerly RI LMA** (-0.5%, 129,000) and the **Waterbury LMA** (-0.9%, 67,900) saw declines of 600 jobs.

*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 33.8 hours in March 2020, up two-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$33.64, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.66 (2.0%) from the March 2019 estimate (\$32.98). The resultant average private sector weekly pay amounted to \$1,137.03, up \$28.90 from a year ago (2.6%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in March 2020 was 1.5%. Information for the manufacturing production workweek and earnings can be found in the table section of this release under the "Hours and Earnings" data category. *Current all-employee private sector hours and earnings estimates can be volatile due to fluctuating sample responses.*

### **Labor Force Data (residential household survey)**

The March 2020 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **3.7%** (seasonally adjusted), down one-tenth of a point from the revised February 2020 figure and unchanged from a year ago. The US jobless rate in March 2020 was 4.4%, up nine-tenths from March 2019. *Reminder: The Household employment survey and subsequent modeling did not capture the COVID-19 impact on labor markets.*

Based on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics model (LAUS - a statistical model using the CPS – Current Population Survey residential data), the number of Connecticut unemployed residents, seasonally adjusted, declined by 400 from February at 72,200. Over the year, the number of the state's jobless residents was up by 1,600. The state's labor force fell an estimated 1,600 over the month at 1,928,900, and is up over the year by 27,100.

March 2020 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut was 23,264, up from February by 20,337 claims and up by 20,143 claims (645%) from the March 2019 level of 3,121. Note: March 2020 average weekly claims will likely rise upon revision due to significant delays in processing the current volume.

*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, May 21, 2020 (April Preliminary 2020 data)*

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04-16-20

Labor Market Information is available at: [www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi)  
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 2020 P	February 2020 R	January 2020	December 2019	March 2019	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>1,691,900</b>	<b>1,699,500</b>	<b>1,696,800</b>	<b>1,693,500</b>	<b>1,686,600</b>	<b>-7,600</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,455,700</b>	<b>1,462,200</b>	<b>1,460,000</b>	<b>1,457,100</b>	<b>1,450,300</b>	<b>-6,500</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>									
Mining	600	600	600	500	600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	61,200	60,500	60,000	60,500	60,200	700	1.2%	1,000	1.7%
Manufacturing	163,000	162,500	161,600	161,200	162,000	500	0.3%	1,000	0.6%
Durable Goods	128,300	127,800	127,000	126,600	127,500	500	0.4%	800	0.6%
Nondurable Goods	34,700	34,700	34,600	34,600	34,500	0	0.0%	200	0.6%
<b>Service Providing Industries</b>									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	292,500	293,700	296,800	292,900	292,100	-1,200	-0.4%	400	0.1%
Wholesale	59,400	59,000	58,800	59,000	59,800	400	0.7%	-400	-0.7%
Retail	172,300	173,500	175,400	172,200	177,000	-1,200	-0.7%	-4,700	-2.7%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	60,800	61,200	62,600	61,700	55,300	-400	-0.7%	5,500	9.9%
Information	31,400	31,500	31,400	31,600	31,500	-100	-0.3%	-100	-0.3%
Financial Activities	123,400	124,300	124,000	124,200	123,800	-900	-0.7%	-400	-0.3%
Finance & Insurance	102,500	103,200	103,100	103,600	103,800	-700	-0.7%	-1,300	-1.3%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,900	21,100	20,900	20,600	20,000	-200	-0.9%	900	4.5%
Professional & Business Services	225,200	222,500	222,200	223,100	217,900	2,700	1.2%	7,300	3.4%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	96,800	96,800	95,800	97,400	95,800	0	0.0%	1,000	1.0%
Management of Companies	34,200	34,000	34,000	33,800	32,900	200	0.6%	1,300	4.0%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	94,200	91,700	92,400	91,900	89,200	2,500	2.7%	5,000	5.6%
Educational & Health Services	341,600	344,000	343,300	342,600	338,400	-2,400	-0.7%	3,200	0.9%
Educational Services	67,000	68,900	69,700	68,000	66,100	-1,900	-2.8%	900	1.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	274,600	275,100	273,600	274,600	272,300	-500	-0.2%	2,300	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	152,300	157,900	155,700	155,900	158,300	-5,600	-3.5%	-6,000	-3.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	27,800	27,900	27,600	27,700	28,800	-100	-0.4%	-1,000	-3.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	124,500	130,000	128,100	128,200	129,500	-5,500	-4.2%	-5,000	-3.9%
Other Services	64,500	64,700	64,400	64,600	65,500	-200	-0.3%	-1,000	-1.5%
Government**	236,200	237,300	236,800	236,400	236,300	-1,100	-0.5%	-100	0.0%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>151,786,000</b>	<b>152,487,000</b>	<b>152,212,000</b>	<b>151,998,000</b>	<b>150,282,000</b>	<b>-701,000</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>1,504,000</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

### LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	March 2020 P	February 2020 R	January 2020	December 2019	March 2019	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<b>Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk</b>	404,100	406,400	407,900	407,200	406,500	-2,300	-0.6%	-2,400	-0.6%
<b>Danbury</b>	76,900	77,700	77,700	77,600	77,700	-800	-1.0%	-800	-1.0%
<b>Hartford</b>	586,800	589,900	588,100	585,900	583,400	-3,100	-0.5%	3,400	0.6%
<b>New Haven</b>	292,800	294,000	292,600	291,000	287,400	-1,200	-0.4%	5,400	1.9%
<b>Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI</b>	129,000	129,600	129,900	129,300	129,400	-600	-0.5%	-400	-0.3%
<b>Waterbury</b>	67,900	68,500	68,700	68,300	68,400	-600	-0.9%	-500	-0.7%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
<b>Enfield</b>	43,300	43,300	43,900	45,000	44,100	0	0.0%	-800	-1.8%
<b>Torrington-Northwest</b>	31,800	31,900	32,200	33,200	32,200	-100	-0.3%	-400	-1.2%
<b>Danielson-Northeast</b>	26,600	26,700	27,200	27,600	26,600	-100	-0.4%	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). Danbury and Waterbury LMA's are now back to being seasonally adjusted.

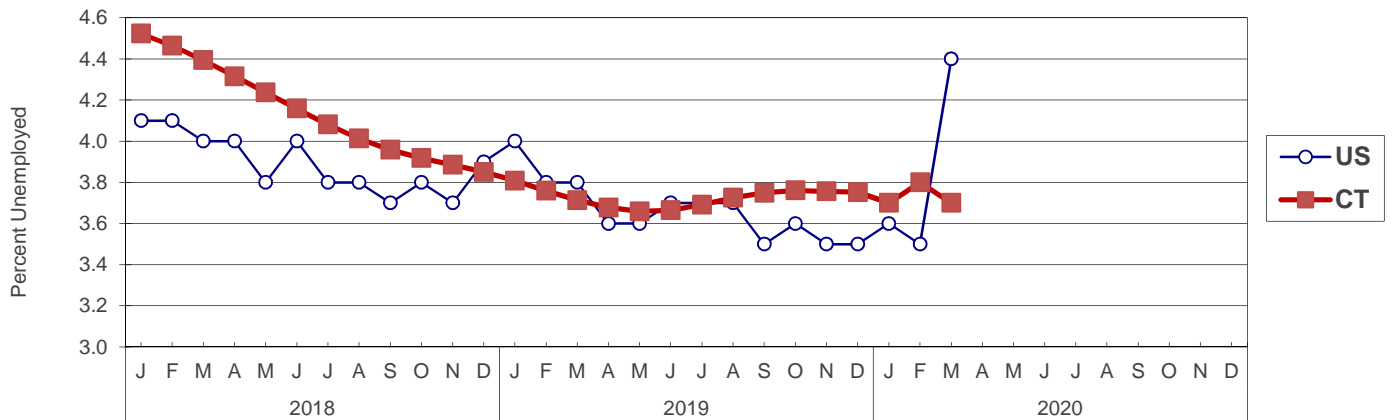
# UNEMPLOYMENT

## Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2020 P		Mar 2019 R		Change		Feb 2020 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Unemployed	72,200	3.7	70,600	3.7	1,600	0.0	72,600	3.8
Labor Force	1,928,900		1,901,700		27,200		1,930,500	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
Unemployed	7,140,000	4.4	6,194,000	3.8	946,000	0.6	5,787,000	3.5
Labor Force	162,913,000		162,935,000		-22,000		164,546,000	

### U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2018 - 2020



### LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2020 P		Mar 2019 R		Change		Feb 2020 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	18,500	4.0	18,300	4.0	200	0.0	20,800	4.5
Danbury	3,700	3.5	3,700	3.5	0	0.0	4,300	4.0
Danielson-Northeast*	1,800	4.1	1,900	4.5	-100	-0.4	2,000	4.6
Worcester NECTA	1,700	4.2	1,900	4.5	-200	-0.3	1,900	4.6
Hampton	100	3.3	100	3.9	0	-0.6	100	3.7
Enfield	1,900	3.8	2,000	3.9	-100	-0.1	2,200	4.2
Hartford	24,500	3.9	25,000	4.0	-500	-0.1	27,600	4.3
New Haven	12,200	3.7	12,500	3.8	-300	-0.1	13,700	4.1
Norwich-New London	5,800	4.1	5,600	4.0	200	0.1	6,200	4.4
Torrington-Northwest**	1,900	4.1	2,000	4.4	-100	-0.3	2,200	4.6
Torrington NECTA	1,200	4.7	1,300	5.0	-100	-0.3	1,400	5.3
Litchfield	700	3.3	700	3.6	0	-0.3	800	3.8
Waterbury	5,600	5.0	5,600	5.0	0	0.0	6,200	5.5
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>76,000</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>84,300</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>7,370,000</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6,382,000</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>988,000</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6,218,000</b>	<b>3.8</b>

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

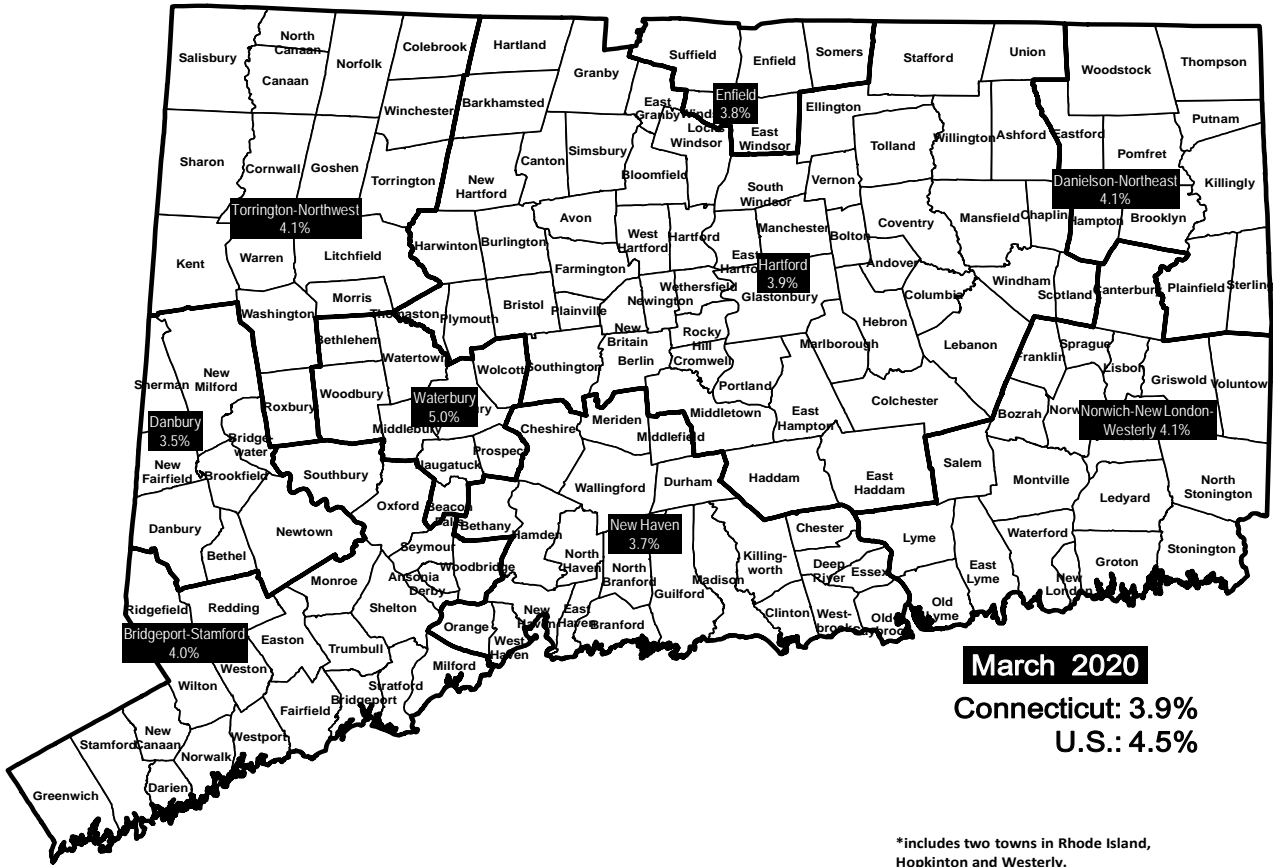
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined \*\* Torrington Metropolitan 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. 2020 P	Mar. 2019	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2020 R	Mar. 2020 P	Mar. 2019	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2020 R	Mar. 2020 P	Mar. 2019	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2020 R
<b>Private Industry All Employees</b>	\$1,137.03	\$1,108.13	\$28.90	\$1,139.06	33.8	33.6	0.2	33.7	\$33.64	\$32.98	\$0.66	\$33.80
<b>Manufacturing*</b>												
<b>Production Workers</b>	\$1,171.11	\$1,117.56	\$53.55	\$1,183.21	41.9	41.7	0.2	41.4	\$27.95	\$26.80	\$1.15	\$28.58

\* 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

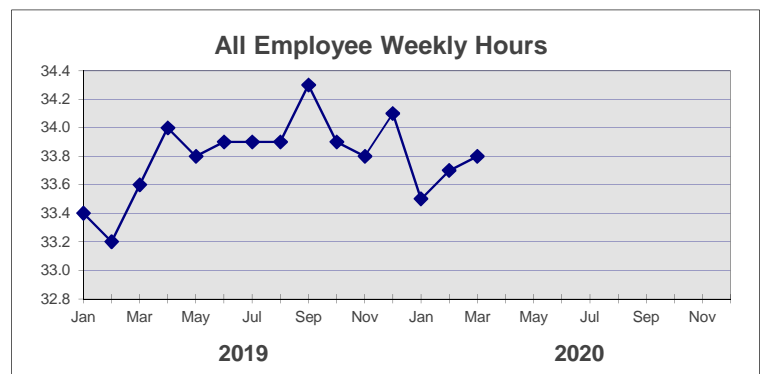
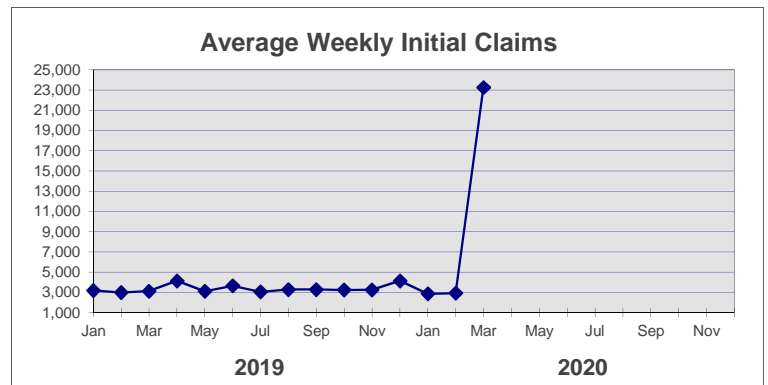
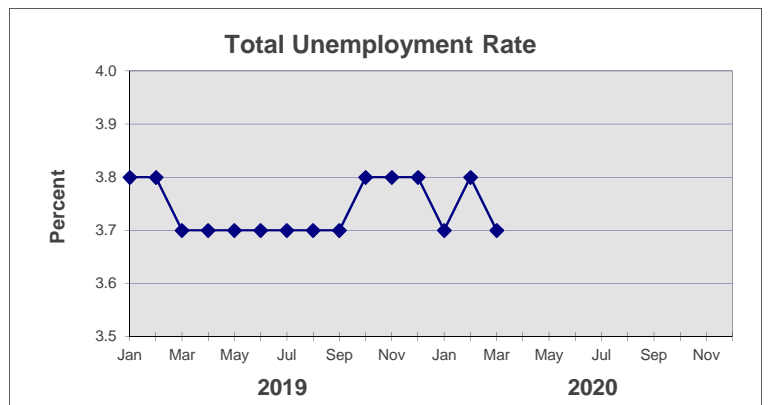
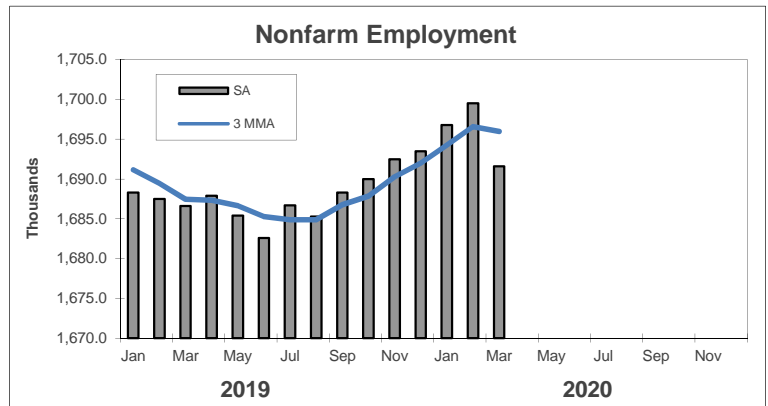
## Seasonally Adjusted

	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
<b>2019</b>		
Jan	1,688.3	3.8
Feb	1,687.5	3.8
Mar	1,686.6	3.7
Apr	1,687.9	3.7
May	1,685.4	3.7
Jun	1,682.6	3.7
Jul	1,686.7	3.7
Aug	1,685.3	3.7
Sep	1,688.3	3.7
Oct	1,690.0	3.8
Nov	1,692.5	3.8
Dec	1,693.5	3.8

<b>2020</b>		
Jan	1,696.8	3.7
Feb	1,699.5 R	3.8 R
Mar	1,691.6 P	3.7 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
<b>2019</b>		
Jan	3,184	33.4
Feb	2,985	33.2
Mar	3,121	33.6
Apr	4,146	34.0
May	3,114	33.8
Jun	3,655	33.9
Jul	3,046	33.9
Aug	3,280	33.9
Sep	3,279	34.3
Oct	3,238	33.9
Nov	3,254	33.8
Dec	4,146	34.1

<b>2020</b>		
Jan	2,854	33.5
Feb	2,927	33.7 R
Mar	23,264	33.8 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



\* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

\*\* Labor-management dispute