



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2023 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 4.0%

US Unemployment Rate = 3.5%

Connecticut’s March unemployment rate unchanged at 4.0%; payrolls increase by 1,100

WETHERSFIELD, April 20, 2023 – Connecticut payroll industry jobs increased 1,100 (0.1%) in March 2023 to 1,688,100 while the state’s unemployment rate held firm at 4.0% (preliminary, seasonally adjusted data). Statewide payroll employment is now 22,200 (1.3%) positions higher than the March 2022 level. The state has now recovered **96.7%** (279,700) of the 289,100 jobs lost during the 2020 COVID lockdown period. The state has added 15,000 jobs so far in the first three months of 2023. The February 2023 preliminary increase of 5,600 positions was revised lower by 500 to a 5,100 (0.3%) job gain. Connecticut’s jobless rate held steady at 4.0% from February 2023 and is still lower by three-tenths of a percentage point from the 4.3% unemployment rate a year ago. The CT Labor Situation presents labor statistics from two monthly surveys (establishment and household) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in partnership with the states.

“March’s smaller gains should be considered in the context of the extremely rapid growth of January and February,” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “Unusual weather patterns changed the timing of hiring in some industries leading to fluctuations in the seasonally adjusted data from month-to-month. However, the jobs numbers for the first three months of the year indicate Connecticut remains on a path of solid growth.”

Connecticut’s private sector employment increased by 500 (0.03%) positions in March 2023 to 1,458,100 and is higher by 18,600 positions (1.3%) from the March 2022 level (1,439,500). The state’s private sector is now **99.0%** recovered from the April 2020 COVID employment trough – only 2,700 more jobs are needed to reach February 2020 levels (1,460,800). There was a 1,300 downward revision to February’s private sector job estimate from the preliminary 6,100 released gain. In March the **government supersector** was up by 600 jobs (0.3%) to a level of 230,000. Total government employment in the state is now 3,600 positions (1.6%) above year-ago levels. The public sector is now 71.0% recovered from the overall COVID April 2020 employment low point. Connecticut’s government *supersector* includes all 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 March 2023, while four declined and the information *supersector* was unchanged.

The industry *supersectors* that increased employment (5) or were unchanged (1) in March 2023 (below)

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	March 2023 Employment
Professional & Business Services	+2,200	1.0%	227,300
Government	+600	0.3%	230,000
Other Services	+500	0.8%	62,900
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	+100	0.03%	297,000
Education & Health Services	+100	0.03%	352,000
Information	unchanged	0.0%	31,000

The four industry *supersectors* that put forth job declines in jobs in March 2023 (below)

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	March 2023 Employment
Construction & Mining	-1,800	-2.9%	60,400
Financial Activities	-200	-0.2%	115,000
Leisure & Hospitality	-200	-0.1%	154,000
Manufacturing	-200	-0.1%	158,500

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): One of the six major Connecticut **LMAs**, that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS, posted a nonfarm employment gain in March 2023, while the large **Hartford LMA** (0.0%, 577,300) and the southeastern **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (0.0%, 125,900) were both unchanged. The **New Haven LMA** (0.1%, 302,800) gained 300 jobs last month. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-0.1%, 406,600) lost 500 jobs while the **Waterbury LMA** (-0.3%, 67,200) and the **Danbury LMA** (-0.3%, 76,700) both decreased 200 positions as well.

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 2023 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 32.9 hours. This is lower by a full hour (-2.9%) than the March 2022 average of 33.9 hours. Average hourly earnings at \$35.81 last month, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$1.67 (4.9%) from the March 2022 estimate of \$34.14. The subsequent March 2023 private sector weekly wage averaged \$1,178.15 - higher by \$20.80 from a year ago (1.8%, \$1,157.35). The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in March 2023 was up 5.0% 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 March 2023 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **4.0%** (seasonally adjusted). This is stable compared to the February 2023 level of 4.0%. The Connecticut unemployment rate was 4.3% in March 2022. The statewide jobless rate was 3.9% in February 2020, just before the COVID lockdown and has been 3.9% or 4.0% every month since June 2022. The U.S. unemployment rate for March 2023 was calculated at 3.5%, one-tenth of a percentage point lower than the revised February 2023 rate (3.6%) and lower by one-tenth of a percentage point than the jobless rate of 3.6% a year ago.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in March were 2,898, *not seasonally adjusted*. The twelve-month moving average was 3,926 per week through March 2023, slightly higher by 54 (1.4%) from the twelve months ending February 2023 but slightly lower by 103 (-2.6%) than the average weekly count of 4,029 for the twelve months ending in March 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, May 18, 2023
(Preliminary April 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

	March 2023 P	February 2023 R	January 2023	December 2022	March 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,688,100	1,687,000	1,681,900	1,673,100	1,665,900	1,100	0.1%	22,200	1.3%
Total Private	1,458,100	1,457,600	1,452,800	1,444,200	1,439,500	500	0.0%	18,600	1.3%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	400	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	59,900	61,700	61,600	60,400	61,700	-1,800	-2.9%	-1,800	-2.9%
Manufacturing	158,500	158,700	158,400	159,100	156,100	-200	-0.1%	2,400	1.5%
Durable Goods	123,300	123,700	123,600	124,200	122,100	-400	-0.3%	1,200	1.0%
Nondurable Goods	35,200	35,000	34,800	34,900	34,000	200	0.6%	1,200	3.5%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	297,000	296,900	296,700	295,700	300,200	100	0.0%	-3,200	-1.1%
Wholesale	62,400	62,200	62,000	61,000	59,600	200	0.3%	2,800	4.7%
Retail	165,300	165,500	165,600	165,500	169,300	-200	-0.1%	-4,000	-2.4%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	69,300	69,200	69,100	69,200	71,300	100	0.1%	-2,000	-2.8%
Information	31,000	31,000	31,300	31,100	31,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	115,000	115,200	115,800	116,600	118,700	-200	-0.2%	-3,700	-3.1%
Finance & Insurance	95,700	95,900	96,500	97,200	99,400	-200	-0.2%	-3,700	-3.7%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,300	19,300	19,300	19,400	19,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	227,300	225,100	223,500	218,600	223,200	2,200	1.0%	4,100	1.8%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	101,100	101,000	101,900	100,100	98,500	100	0.1%	2,600	2.6%
Management of Companies	30,700	30,900	30,900	30,900	30,800	-200	-0.6%	-100	-0.3%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	95,500	93,200	90,700	87,600	93,900	2,300	2.5%	1,600	1.7%
Educational & Health Services	352,000	351,900	349,600	347,600	340,100	100	0.0%	11,900	3.5%
Educational Services	71,700	71,800	71,200	70,600	68,100	-100	-0.1%	3,600	5.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	280,300	280,100	278,400	277,000	272,000	200	0.1%	8,300	3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	154,000	154,200	153,100	153,000	147,100	-200	-0.1%	6,900	4.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,400	28,200	28,200	27,300	26,000	200	0.7%	2,400	9.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	125,600	126,000	124,900	125,700	121,100	-400	-0.3%	4,500	3.7%
Other Services	62,900	62,400	62,400	61,600	60,900	500	0.8%	2,000	3.3%
Government**	230,000	229,400	229,100	228,900	226,400	600	0.3%	3,600	1.6%
UNITED STATES	155,569,000	155,333,000	155,007,000	154,535,000	151,424,000	236,000	0.2%	4,145,000	2.7%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	March 2023 P	February 2023 R	January 2023	December 2022	March 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	406,600	407,100	404,200	401,100	398,600	-500	-0.1%	8,000	2.0%
Danbury	76,700	76,900	76,800	76,600	75,900	-200	-0.3%	800	1.1%
Hartford	577,300	577,300	575,600	573,700	571,400	0	0.0%	5,900	1.0%
New Haven	302,800	302,500	301,400	299,900	297,200	300	0.1%	5,600	1.9%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	125,900	125,900	124,500	124,200	122,500	0	0.0%	3,400	2.8%
Waterbury	67,200	67,400	67,100	66,700	66,000	-200	-0.3%	1,200	1.8%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	41,900	41,700	41,900	42,700	41,400	200	0.5%	500	1.2%
Torrington-Northwest	32,100	32,000	32,200	32,900	31,900	100	0.3%	200	0.6%
Danielson-Northeast	27,000	26,900	26,900	27,300	26,500	100	0.4%	500	1.9%

* 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.

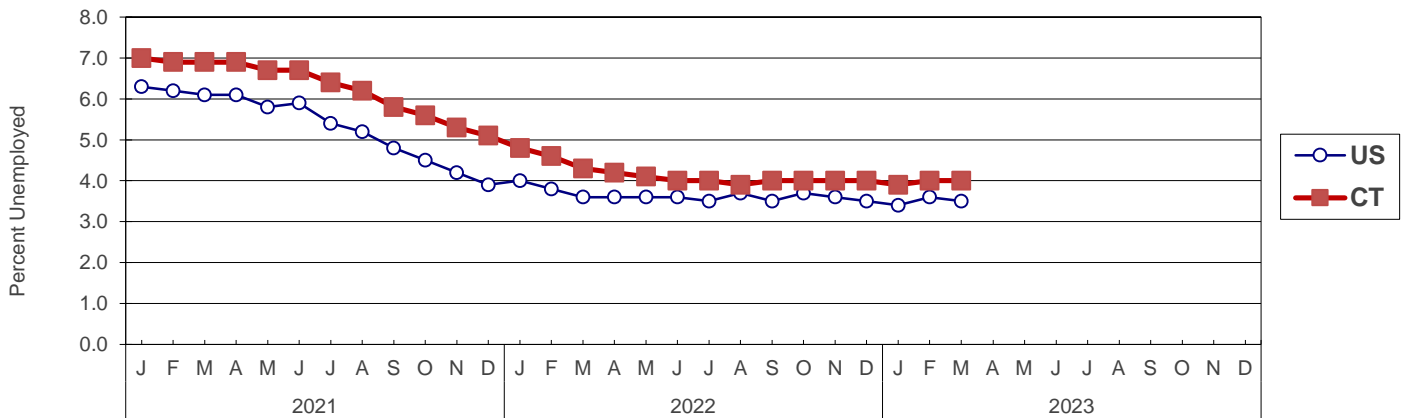
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2023 P		Mar 2022 R		Change		Feb 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	75,300	4.0	84,500	4.3	-9,200	-0.3	75,700	4.0
Labor Force	1,905,700		1,950,400		-44,700		1,910,800	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	5,839,000	3.5	5,972,000	3.6	-133,000	-0.1	5,936,000	3.6
Labor Force	166,731,000		164,301,000		2,430,000		166,251,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2021 - 2023



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2023 P		Mar 2022 R		Change		Feb 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	20,300	4.4	21,900	4.6	-1,600	-0.2	22,100	4.8
Danbury	4,100	3.9	4,500	4.2	-400	-0.3	4,500	4.3
Danielson-Northeast*	2,000	4.7	2,100	4.7	-100	0.0	2,100	4.8
Worcester NECTA	2,000	4.7	2,000	4.8	0	-0.1	2,000	4.8
Hampton	100	4.2	100	4.2	0	0.0	100	4.2
Enfield	2,100	4.1	2,300	4.5	-200	-0.4	2,200	4.4
Hartford	26,000	4.2	28,800	4.5	-2,800	-0.3	28,000	4.5
New Haven	13,100	3.9	14,400	4.2	-1,300	-0.3	14,200	4.2
Norwich-New London	5,600	4.1	6,600	4.7	-1,000	-0.6	6,100	4.5
Torrington-Northwest**	2,100	4.6	2,300	4.8	-200	-0.2	2,200	4.7
Torrington NECTA	1,300	5.2	1,400	5.3	-100	-0.1	1,400	5.3
Litchfield	800	3.9	900	4.1	-100	-0.2	800	4.0
Waterbury	6,500	5.9	6,300	5.6	200	0.3	6,400	5.8
CONNECTICUT	81,200	4.3	88,700	4.5	-7,500	-0.2	87,100	4.6
UNITED STATES	6,043,000	3.6	6,168,000	3.8	-125,000	-0.2	6,465,000	3.9

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

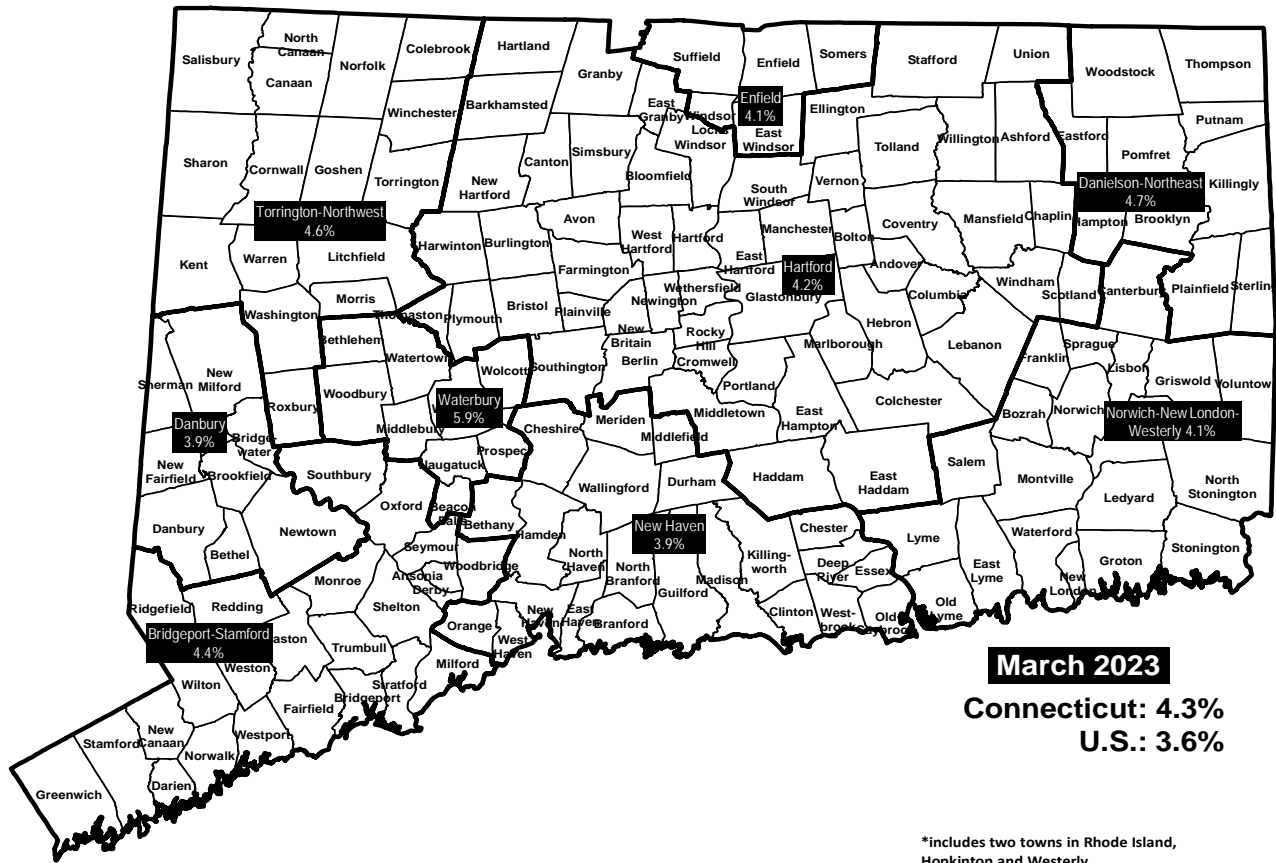
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* 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. 2023 P	Mar. 2022	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2023 R	Mar. 2023 P	Mar. 2022	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2023 R	Mar. 2023 P	Mar. 2022	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2023 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,178.15	\$1,157.35	\$20.80	\$1,183.71	32.9	33.9	-1.0	33.0	\$35.81	\$34.14	\$1.67	\$35.87
Manufacturing* Production Workers	\$1,138.75	\$1,125.20	\$13.55	\$1,165.31	39.9	40.2	-0.3	40.1	\$28.54	\$27.99	\$0.55	\$29.06

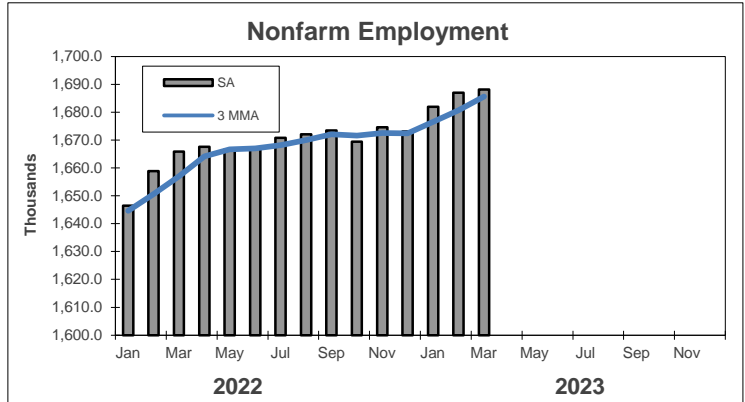
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

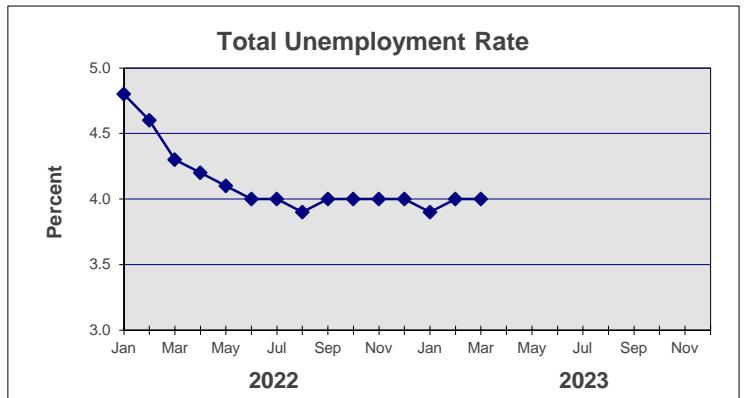
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

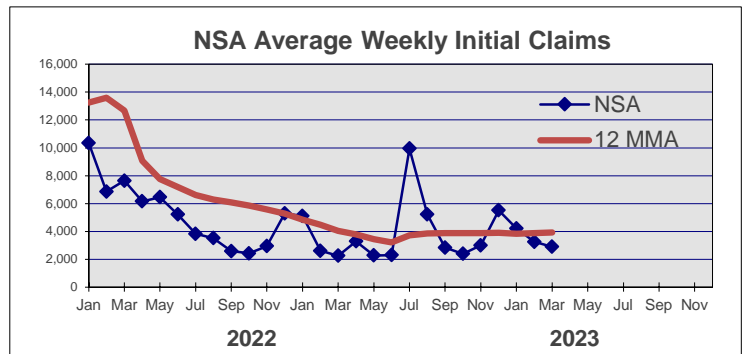
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2022		
Jan	1,646.5	4.8
Feb	1,658.8	4.6
Mar	1,665.9	4.3
Apr	1,667.6	4.2
May	1,666.6	4.1
Jun	1,666.9	4.0
Jul	1,670.8	4.0
Aug	1,672.1	3.9
Sep	1,673.4	4.0
Oct	1,669.4	4.0
Nov	1,674.6	4.0
Dec	1,673.1	4.0



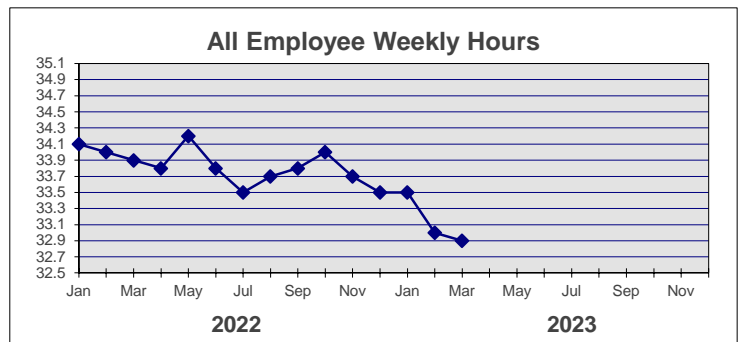
2023		
Jan	1,681.9	3.9
Feb	1,687.0 R	4.0 R
Mar	1,688.1 P	4.0 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	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 R
Mar	2,898	32.9 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute