



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2023 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 3.6%

US Unemployment Rate = 3.8%

Connecticut's August jobless rate now lower than the U.S.; state payrolls gain 2,100

WETHERSFIELD, September 18, 2023 – Connecticut nonfarm payroll jobs increased 2,100 (0.1%) in August 2023 to a level of 1,693,300 while the state's unemployment rate held steady at the post-COVID low of 3.6% (preliminary, seasonally adjusted data). Nonfarm employment is now 21,200 (1.3%) positions higher than the August 2022 level. The state has now recovered **98.5%** (284,900) of the 289,100 nonagricultural jobs lost during the March-April 2020 COVID lockdown. The preliminary July 2023 gain of 2,900 (0.2%) positions was revised lower by 1,000 to a 1,900 (0.1%) job increase. Connecticut's unemployment rate held steady at 3.6% (the lowest since September 2019) from the July 2023 level and is lower by three-tenths of a percentage point from the 3.9% rate a year ago. The CT Labor Situation reports on the most up-to-date labor statistics from two monthly surveys (workplaces and residents) generated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with support from the states.

"Two months of steady job growth in a wide range of industries suggests Connecticut is heading toward a balanced path after the turmoil caused by the pandemic," said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. "The private sector has more than fully recovered from pandemic losses with construction employment at its highest level in nearly fifteen years."

Connecticut's private sector employment gained 2,200 (0.2%) jobs in August 2023 to 1,462,500 and is higher by 18,300 positions (1.3%) from the August 2022 level. The state's private sector is fully recovered (100.6%) from the April 2020 COVID employment lockdown low point (1,194,800)! A downward revision of 400 occurred to July's preliminary private sector job gain estimate (2,900, 0.2%) to a 2,500 (0.2%) job increase. The **government supersector** was slightly lower (-100, -0.04%) last month to a level of 230,800 jobs. The full government sector employment in the state is 2,900 positions (1.3%) higher than year-ago levels. The public sector is 74.5% recovered from the overall COVID April 2020 employment lockdown low. The state's government *supersector* combines all civilian federal, state, local, and tribal government employment, including public education and Native American casino jobs located on federally recognized tribal reservations. Connecticut aggregated government employment (2,900), total private jobs (18,300), and overall total nonfarm payrolls (21,200) are all now growing exactly same percentage over-the-year (1.27%), seasonally adjusted.

Six of the ten major industry *supersectors* added jobs in August 2023, while four declined.

The six industry *supersectors* that increased employment in August 2023:

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	August 2023 Employment
Education & Health Services	+800	0.2%	354,800
Professional & Business Services	+700	0.3%	224,400
Construction & Mining	+500	0.8%	62,300
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	+500	0.2%	300,300
Manufacturing	+400	0.3%	157,600
Information	+200	0.6%	31,800

The four industry *supersectors* that decreased jobs in August 2023:

Decreasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	August 2023 Employment
Other Services	-400	-0.7%	61,000
Leisure & Hospitality	-300	-0.2%	155,600
Financial Activities	-200	-0.2%	114,700
Government	-100	-0.04%	230,800

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Four of the six major Connecticut **LMAs** that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS posted nonfarm employment gains in August 2023, while the **Danbury LMA** (0.0%, 76,900) and the **Waterbury LMA** (0.0%, 67,200) were unchanged. The **New Haven LMA** (0.6%, 304,000) added 1,800 to lead in both monthly numeric and percentage job gain. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (0.3%, 408,500) increased 1,400 positions and the **Hartford LMA** (0.2%, 578,500) added 1,200 net payrolls. The seasonal southeastern **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (0.3%, 126,800) also chipped in 400 positions this August 2023.

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 August 2023 **private sector** workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.3 hours. This is lower by four-tenths of an hour (-1.2%) than the August 2022 average of 33.7 hours. Average hourly earnings at \$35.65 in August, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$1.04 (3.0%) from the August 2022 estimate of \$34.61. The subsequent August 2023 private sector weekly wage averaged \$1,187.15, higher by \$20.79 from a year ago (1.8%, \$1,166.36). The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) for August 2023 was up 3.7% 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 August 2023 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **3.6%** (seasonally adjusted). This is holding unchanged over-the-month at the post COVID lockdown low and is down three-tenths of one percent compared to the August 2022 level of 3.9%. This is the first time since May 2020 that Connecticut's unemployment rate has been below the U.S. jobless rate. They were both 3.7% in May 2023. The number of unemployed declined to 67,300, the lowest since May 2019 which was the lowest since February 2002. The U.S. Unemployment rate for August 2023 was calculated at 3.8%, up three-tenths of a percentage point from the July 2023 rate (3.5%) and is now higher than the U.S. jobless rate of 3.7% a year ago.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut in August 2023 were 3,035, *not seasonally adjusted*. The twelve-month moving average was 4,092 per week through August 2023, lower by 181 (-4.2%) from the twelve months ending July 2023 (4,273) but higher by 241 (6.3%) than the average weekly count of 3,851 for the twelve months ending in August 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, October 19, 2023
(Preliminary September 2023 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

	August 2023 P	July 2023 R	June 2023	May 2023	August 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,693,300	1,691,200	1,689,300	1,691,800	1,672,100	2,100	0.1%	21,200	1.3%
Total Private	1,462,500	1,460,300	1,457,800	1,461,000	1,444,200	2,200	0.2%	18,300	1.3%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	61,800	61,300	59,800	58,800	60,400	500	0.8%	1,400	2.3%
Manufacturing	157,600	157,200	157,700	157,600	157,800	400	0.3%	-200	-0.1%
Durable Goods	122,800	122,500	122,900	122,600	123,100	300	0.2%	-300	-0.2%
Nondurable Goods	34,800	34,700	34,800	35,000	34,700	100	0.3%	100	0.3%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300,300	299,800	299,500	300,100	299,000	500	0.2%	1,300	0.4%
Wholesale	62,700	62,900	62,900	62,900	60,800	-200	-0.3%	1,900	3.1%
Retail	166,500	166,500	166,400	167,100	168,800	0	0.0%	-2,300	-1.4%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	71,100	70,400	70,200	70,100	69,400	700	1.0%	1,700	2.4%
Information	31,800	31,600	31,400	32,100	31,400	200	0.6%	400	1.3%
Financial Activities	114,700	114,900	114,700	115,300	118,000	-200	-0.2%	-3,300	-2.8%
Finance & Insurance	95,600	95,700	95,600	96,100	98,600	-100	-0.1%	-3,000	-3.0%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,100	19,200	19,100	19,200	19,400	-100	-0.5%	-300	-1.5%
Professional & Business Services	224,400	223,700	224,800	225,300	221,800	700	0.3%	2,600	1.2%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	103,500	103,300	103,000	103,000	99,600	200	0.2%	3,900	3.9%
Management of Companies	31,300	31,000	30,900	30,800	31,000	300	1.0%	300	1.0%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	89,600	89,400	90,900	91,500	91,200	200	0.2%	-1,600	-1.8%
Educational & Health Services	354,800	354,000	351,200	351,500	342,800	800	0.2%	12,000	3.5%
Educational Services	71,800	71,700	71,200	71,200	68,300	100	0.1%	3,500	5.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	283,000	282,300	280,000	280,300	274,500	700	0.2%	8,500	3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	155,600	155,900	156,700	156,400	151,000	-300	-0.2%	4,600	3.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	31,400	31,000	31,300	29,000	27,000	400	1.3%	4,400	16.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	124,200	124,900	125,400	127,400	124,000	-700	-0.6%	200	0.2%
Other Services	61,000	61,400	61,500	63,400	61,500	-400	-0.7%	-500	-0.8%
Government**	230,800	230,900	231,500	230,800	227,900	-100	0.0%	2,900	1.3%
UNITED STATES	156,419,000	156,232,000	156,075,000	155,970,000	153,332,000	187,000	0.1%	3,087,000	2.0%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

	August 2023 P	July 2023 R	June 2023	May 2023	August 2022	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	408,500	407,100	406,900	407,700	402,100	1,400	0.3%	6,400	1.6%
Danbury	76,900	76,900	76,900	77,100	76,300	0	0.0%	600	0.8%
Hartford	578,500	577,300	576,000	578,000	573,700	1,200	0.2%	4,800	0.8%
New Haven	304,000	302,200	300,900	302,800	296,900	1,800	0.6%	7,100	2.4%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	126,800	126,400	126,000	125,700	123,200	400	0.3%	3,600	2.9%
Waterbury	67,200	67,200	66,700	67,300	66,000	0	0.0%	1,200	1.8%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	42,700	42,600	42,900	42,400	42,200	100	0.2%	500	1.2%
Torrington-Northwest	33,400	33,600	33,700	33,000	33,200	-200	-0.6%	200	0.6%
Danielson-Northeast	27,600	27,400	27,700	27,500	27,000	200	0.7%	600	2.2%

* 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.

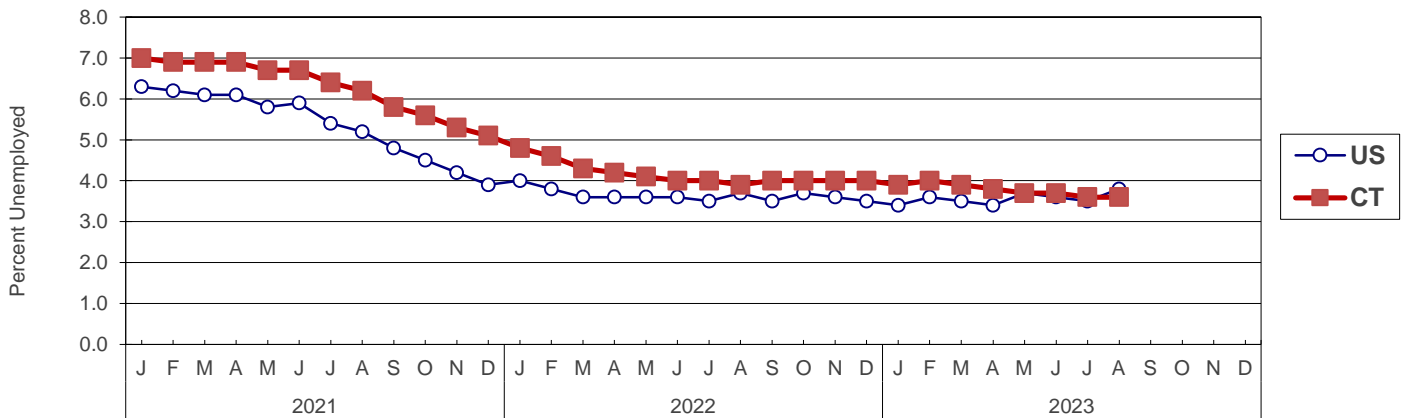
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Aug 2023 P		Aug 2022 R		Change		Jul 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	67,300	3.6	74,200	3.9	-6,900	-0.3	68,900	3.6
Labor Force	1,896,600		1,919,900		-23,300		1,896,800	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,355,000	3.8	6,021,000	3.7	334,000	0.1	5,841,000	3.5
Labor Force	167,839,000		164,714,000		3,125,000		167,103,000	

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Aug 2023 P		Aug 2022 R		Change		Jul 2023 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	17,100	3.7	19,600	4.1	-2,500	-0.4	19,700	4.1
Danbury	3,300	3.1	3,900	3.6	-600	-0.5	3,900	3.6
Danielson-Northeast*	1,500	3.3	1,700	3.9	-200	-0.6	1,700	3.9
Worcester NECTA	1,400	3.4	1,700	3.9	-300	-0.5	1,700	3.9
Hampton	100	2.5	100	3.0	0	-0.5	100	3.1
Enfield	1,500	3.1	1,900	3.7	-400	-0.6	1,800	3.6
Hartford	21,400	3.5	26,000	4.2	-4,600	-0.7	24,600	3.9
New Haven	11,100	3.3	13,300	3.9	-2,200	-0.6	12,600	3.7
Norwich-New London	4,500	3.2	5,600	3.9	-1,100	-0.7	5,100	3.6
Torrington-Northwest**	1,400	3.0	1,800	3.6	-400	-0.6	1,600	3.3
Torrington NECTA	900	3.5	1,100	4.2	-200	-0.7	1,000	4.0
Litchfield	500	2.3	600	2.9	-100	-0.6	600	2.6
Waterbury	4,800	4.3	5,500	4.9	-700	-0.6	5,300	4.8
CONNECTICUT	66,100	3.5	78,800	4.1	-12,700	-0.6	76,100	3.9
UNITED STATES	6,623,000	3.9	6,256,000	3.8	367,000	0.1	6,372,000	3.8

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

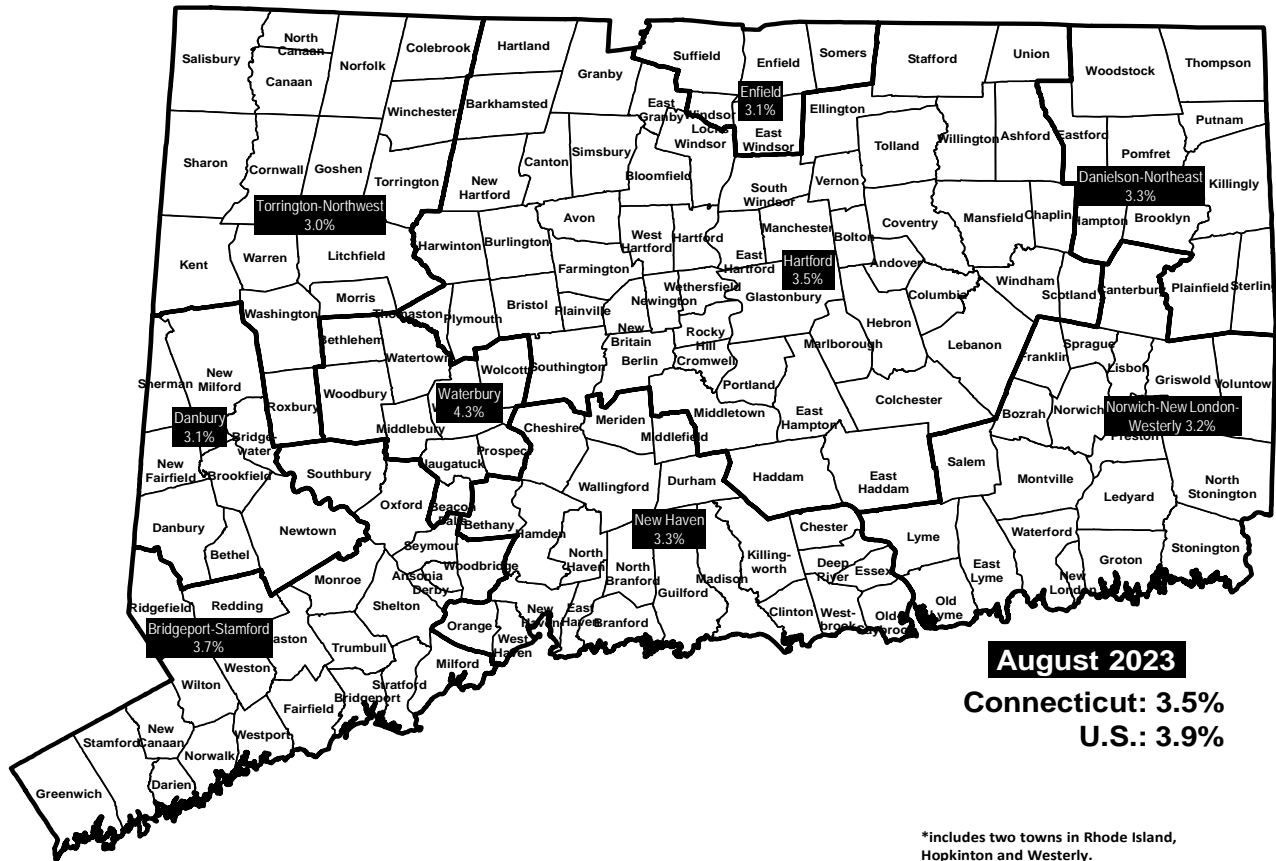
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* 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			
	Aug. 2023 P	Aug. 2022	Change over Yr.	Jul. 2023 R	Aug. 2023 P	Aug. 2022	Change over Yr.	Jul. 2023 R	Aug. 2023 P	Aug. 2022	Change over Yr.	Jul. 2023 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,187.15	\$1,166.36	\$20.79	\$1,196.62	33.3	33.7	-0.4	33.5	\$35.65	\$34.61	\$1.04	\$35.72
Manufacturing* Production Workers	\$1,167.25	\$1,139.68	\$27.57	\$1,169.72	40.6	40.4	0.2	40.1	\$28.75	\$28.21	\$0.54	\$29.17

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

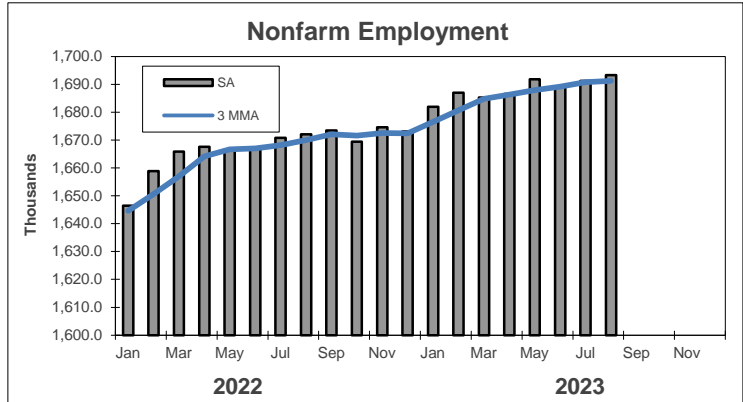
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

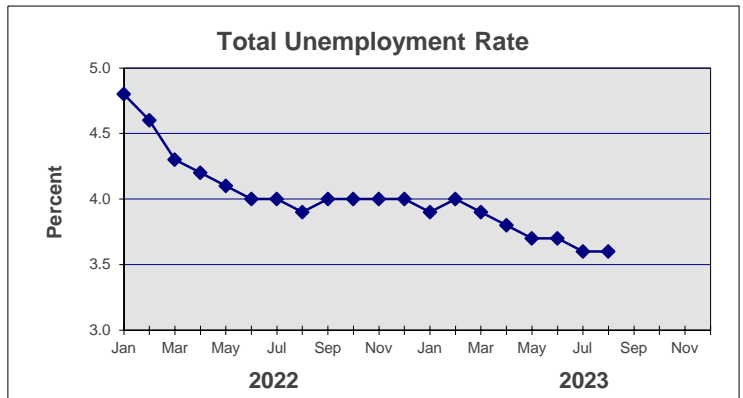
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

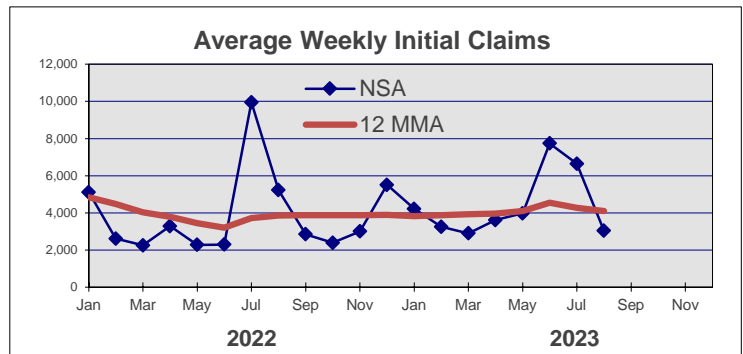
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2022		
Jan	1,646.5	4.8
Feb	1,658.8	4.6
Mar	1,665.9	4.3
Apr	1,667.6	4.2
May	1,666.6	4.1
Jun	1,666.9	4.0
Jul	1,670.8	4.0
Aug	1,672.1	3.9
Sep	1,673.4	4.0
Oct	1,669.4	4.0
Nov	1,674.6	4.0
Dec	1,673.1	4.0



2023		
Jan	1,681.9	3.9
Feb	1,687.0	4.0
Mar	1,685.3	3.9
Apr	1,686.5	3.8
May	1,691.8	3.7
Jun	1,689.3	3.7
Jul	1,691.2 R	3.6 R
Aug	1,693.3 P	3.6 P
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
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 R
Aug	3,035	33.3 P
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute