



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2024 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 3.0%
US Unemployment Rate = 4.1%

CT job gains accelerate (+5,100) in December as jobless rate remains steady at low 3.0%

WETHERSFIELD, January 27, 2025 – Connecticut nonfarm payrolls added 5,100 jobs (0.3%) in December 2024 to a level of 1,715,900 while the unemployment rate was stable at 3.0% for the third month in a row (preliminary data, seasonally adjusted). Statewide industry jobs are now 20,100 (1.2%) positions higher than a year ago. November’s preliminary small job gain of 300 (0.02%) was upgraded by 1,500 jobs on the normal monthly revision to an 1,800 (0.1%) employment gain. The December 2024 Connecticut jobless rate (3.0%) is significantly below a year ago (4.2%) and well below the nation (4.1%). *This labor statistics release presents estimated data from two different monthly surveys (businesses and households) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in cooperation with the states.*

“Connecticut ended 2024 in a solid position with growth in a wide range of industries and low unemployment,” said Patrick Flaherty, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “Among many encouraging signs, private sector jobs are at an all-time high and the unemployment rate remains at its lowest level since 2001.”

Connecticut’s private sector employment increased in December 2024 by 4,700 (0.3%) to 1,482,400 and is higher by 19,900 jobs (1.4%) from the December 2023 level. Retail was strong (1,600, 1.0%) in a compressed holiday season with overall broad sector gains. November’s preliminary private sector gain of 800 jobs was adjusted higher on revision to a 2,200 (0.2%) increase. The **government supersector** was also higher by 400 jobs (0.2%) in December to a level of 233,500 jobs, breaking a string of losses, and is now slightly higher by 200 (0.1%) positions over the year. *Connecticut’s aggregate government supersector consists of all civilian federal, state, local, and tribal government employment, including public education and Native American casino jobs located on federally recognized tribal reservations.*

Eight of the ten major industry *supersectors* increased jobs in December 2024, while just one declined and the manufacturing *supersector* was unchanged.

The nine industry *supersectors* that increased employment or were unchanged in December 2024 included:

Increasing Supersectors			
Industry Supersector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	December 2024 Employment
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	+1,900	0.6%	299,000
Private Education & Health Services	+1,400	0.4%	371,800
Leisure & Hospitality	+600	0.4%	157,200
Financial Activities	+400	0.3%	120,400
Government	+400	0.2%	233,500
Information	+200	0.7%	29,800
Other Services	+200	0.3%	64,800
Construction & Mining	+100	0.2%	63,000
Manufacturing	unchanged	0.0%	157,800

The sole industry *supersector* that declined in jobs in December 2024 was:

Decreasing Supersectors			
Industry Supersector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	December 2024 Employment
Professional & Business Services	-100	-0.05%	218,600

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): All six of the major Connecticut **LMAs** that are seasonally adjusted by the BLS (about 92.3% of the state) put forth nonfarm payroll job gains in December 2024. The largest **Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA** (0.3%, 591,100) increased 1,700, leading in magnitude, while the **Waterbury LMA** (0.5%, 66,900) added 300 jobs leading in monthly percentage gains. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (0.4%, 411,300) added 1,500 positions and the **New Haven LMA** (0.4%, 308,800) increased 1,100. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (0.4%, 127,000) chipped in 500 jobs and the **Danbury LMA** (0.4%, 78,400) was up by 300.

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

Hours and Earnings: The December 2024 **private sector** average workweek, *not seasonally adjusted*, averaged 33.8 hours (AWH). This is up three-tenths of an hour from the December 2023 average of 33.5 hours (0.9%). Average hourly earnings (AHE) at \$38.98 in December 2024, *not seasonally adjusted*, were up by \$2.05 (5.6%) from the December 2023 estimate of \$36.93. The subsequent December 2024 private sector average weekly earnings (AWE) were estimated at \$1,317.52, higher by \$80.36 (6.5%) from a year ago (\$1,237.16). The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted - all items index) for December 2024 was up 2.9% from a year ago. Private sector all-employee wage growth has been strong throughout the year.

Note: 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 December 2024 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be **3.0%** (seasonally adjusted) for the third consecutive month. This is down from December 2023 when it was 4.2%. The U.S. unemployment rate for December 2024 was 4.1%, down one-tenth of one percent from the November 2024 rate and higher over the year from 3.8% in December 2023. The CT jobless rate has been below the U.S. unemployment rate since June 2024.

Average weekly initial unemployment claims (*not seasonally adjusted*) for first-time filers (AWIC) in Connecticut for December 2024 were 5,495. This is 2,874 (109.7%) claims higher than November 2024 (2,621) and higher by 281 claims (5.4%) than the December 2023 (5,214) level.

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. Because of the distinct differences both in concept and scope between the two estimates, nonfarm employment and unemployment do not necessarily move in the same economic direction month to month. 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.

Following our usual annual schedule, there will be no labor situation release in February.
Next Connecticut Labor Situation release: Friday, March 14, 2025
(Preliminary January 2025 data on the new benchmark, benchmarked data from previous years, and new labor market area delineations will be included in the March 14, 2025 release.)

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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

	December 2024 P	November 2024 R	October 2024	September 2024	December 2023	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,715,900	1,710,800	1,709,000	1,709,300	1,695,800	5,100	0.3%	20,100	1.2%
Total Private	1,482,400	1,477,700	1,475,500	1,474,400	1,462,500	4,700	0.3%	19,900	1.4%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	600	600	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	62,500	62,400	62,200	61,900	61,500	100	0.2%	1,000	1.6%
Manufacturing	157,800	157,800	158,100	158,000	157,900	0	0.0%	-100	-0.1%
Durable Goods	123,800	123,700	124,100	123,900	123,800	100	0.1%	0	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	34,000	34,100	34,000	34,100	34,100	-100	-0.3%	-100	-0.3%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	299,000	297,100	296,700	295,700	299,200	1,900	0.6%	-200	-0.1%
Wholesale	62,900	62,500	62,200	62,000	61,200	400	0.6%	1,700	2.8%
Retail	164,800	163,200	163,500	164,000	165,500	1,600	1.0%	-700	-0.4%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	71,300	71,400	71,000	69,700	72,500	-100	-0.1%	-1,200	-1.7%
Information	29,800	29,600	30,100	30,000	30,200	200	0.7%	-400	-1.3%
Financial Activities	120,400	120,000	119,100	119,300	117,500	400	0.3%	2,900	2.5%
Finance & Insurance	100,100	99,800	99,100	99,400	97,800	300	0.3%	2,300	2.4%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,300	20,200	20,000	19,900	19,700	100	0.5%	600	3.0%
Professional & Business Services	218,600	218,700	219,500	220,100	220,900	-100	0.0%	-2,300	-1.0%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	100,700	101,100	101,600	101,500	100,300	-400	-0.4%	400	0.4%
Management of Companies	31,700	31,700	31,700	32,200	31,600	0	0.0%	100	0.3%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	86,200	85,900	86,200	86,400	89,000	300	0.3%	-2,800	-3.1%
Educational & Health Services	371,800	370,400	368,400	368,500	356,500	1,400	0.4%	15,300	4.3%
Private Educational Services	75,200	75,100	74,300	74,300	72,400	100	0.1%	2,800	3.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	296,600	295,300	294,100	294,200	284,100	1,300	0.4%	12,500	4.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	157,200	156,600	156,400	156,200	153,300	600	0.4%	3,900	2.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	30,000	29,900	29,600	29,400	28,300	100	0.3%	1,700	6.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	127,200	126,700	126,800	126,800	125,000	500	0.4%	2,200	1.8%
Other Services	64,800	64,600	64,400	64,100	65,000	200	0.3%	-200	-0.3%
Government**	233,500	233,100	233,500	234,900	233,300	400	0.2%	200	0.1%
UNITED STATES	159,536,000	159,280,000	159,068,000	159,025,000	157,304,000	256,000	0.2%	2,232,000	1.4%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	December 2024 P	November 2024 R	October 2024	September 2024	December 2023	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	411,300	409,800	409,500	409,900	406,900	1,500	0.4%	4,400	1.1%
Danbury	78,400	78,100	78,200	78,300	78,000	300	0.4%	400	0.5%
Hartford	591,100	589,400	588,500	588,500	580,100	1,700	0.3%	11,000	1.9%
New Haven	308,800	307,700	305,900	306,300	302,600	1,100	0.4%	6,200	2.0%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	127,000	126,500	126,500	126,200	126,500	500	0.4%	500	0.4%
Waterbury	66,900	66,600	66,700	66,900	66,700	300	0.5%	200	0.3%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated - not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	43,300	43,400	43,100	43,000	43,300	-100	-0.2%	0	0.0%
Torrington-Northwest	33,300	33,400	33,500	33,500	32,800	-100	-0.3%	500	1.5%
Danielson-Northeast	26,800	26,900	26,800	26,800	27,200	-100	-0.4%	-400	-1.5%

* Less than 0.05% ** Includes Native American tribal government employment

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

Starting in 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: doi.lmi@ct.gov.

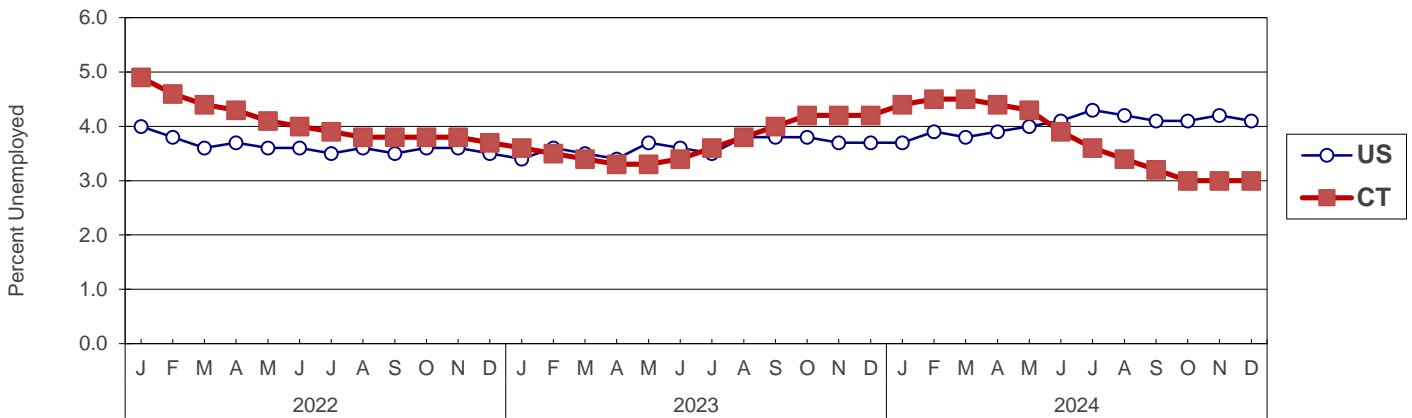
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Dec 2024 P		Dec 2023 R		Change		Nov 2024 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	57,400	3.0	79,900	4.2	-22,500	-1.2	56,900	3.0
Labor Force	1,912,100		1,899,100		13,000		1,903,100	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,886,000	4.1	6,315,000	3.8	571,000	0.3	7,121,000	4.2
Labor Force	168,547,000		167,439,000		1,108,000		168,304,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2022 - 2024



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Dec 2024 P		Dec 2023 R		Change		Nov 2024 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	13,400	2.8	19,400	4.2	-6,000	-1.4	13,500	2.9
Danbury	2,600	2.4	3,800	3.6	-1,200	-1.2	2,600	2.4
Danielson-Northeast*	1,200	2.7	1,700	3.9	-500	-1.2	1,200	2.7
Worcester NECTA	1,100	2.7	1,600	3.9	-500	-1.2	1,100	2.7
Hampton	0	1.9	100	3.2	-100	-1.3	0	2.1
Enfield	1,300	2.6	1,800	3.8	-500	-1.2	1,300	2.6
Hartford	16,800	2.7	24,300	4.0	-7,500	-1.3	16,800	2.7
New Haven	8,600	2.5	12,400	3.7	-3,800	-1.2	8,800	2.6
Norwich-New London	3,800	2.8	5,300	3.9	-1,500	-1.1	3,900	2.8
Torrington-Northwest**	1,200	2.4	1,700	3.7	-500	-1.3	1,100	2.4
Torrington NECTA	700	2.8	1,100	4.5	-400	-1.7	700	2.7
Litchfield	400	1.9	600	2.8	-200	-0.9	400	1.9
Waterbury	3,800	3.4	5,600	5.1	-1,800	-1.7	3,700	3.4
CONNECTICUT	52,000	2.7	75,600	4.0	-23,600	-1.3	52,200	2.7
UNITED STATES	6,452,000	3.8	5,907,000	3.5	545,000	0.3	6,708,000	4.0

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.

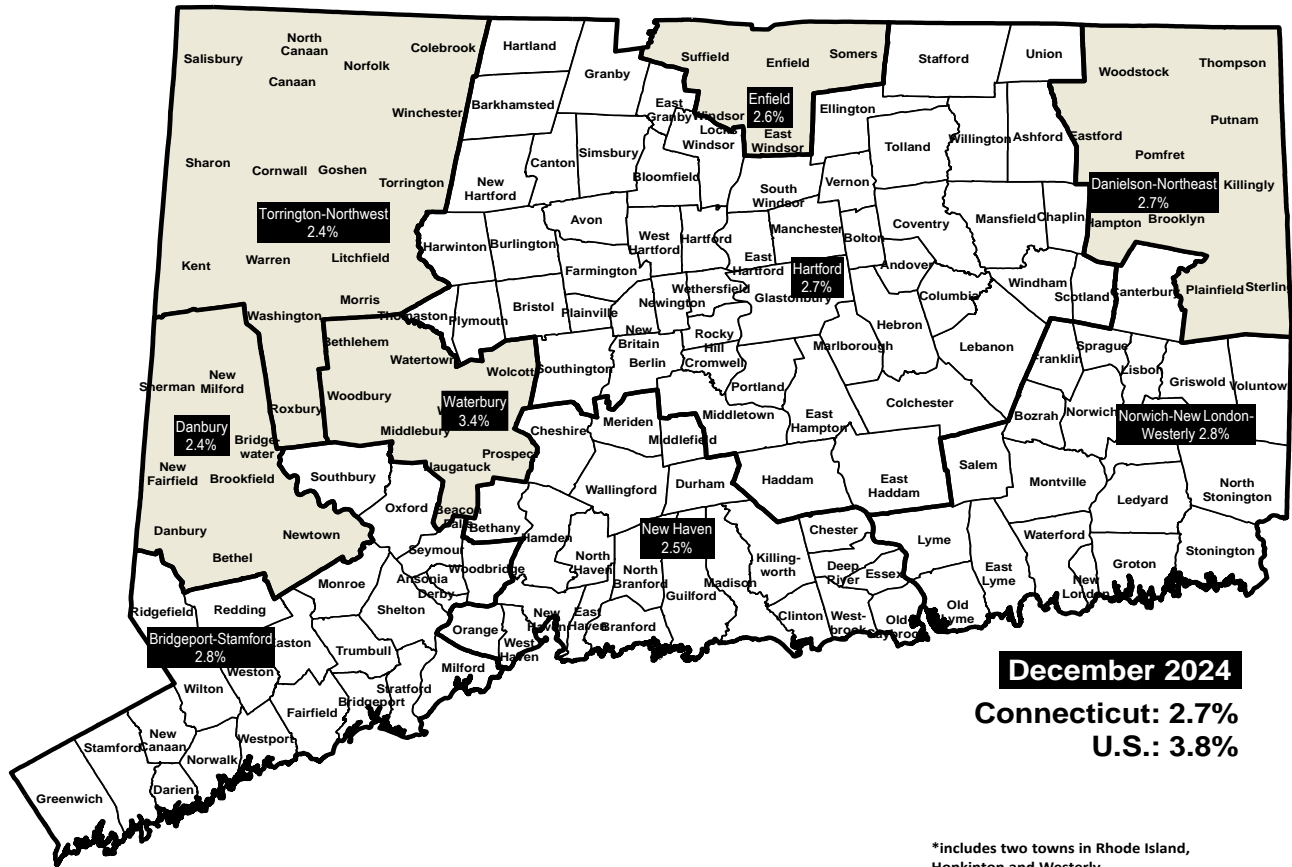
* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined

** 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			
	Dec. 2024 P	Dec. 2023	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2024 R	Dec. 2024 P	Dec. 2023	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2024 R	Dec. 2024 P	Dec. 2023	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2024 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,317.52	\$1,237.16	\$80.36	\$1,286.88	33.8	33.5	0.3	33.6	\$38.98	\$36.93	\$2.05	\$38.30
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,244.24	\$1,187.16	\$57.08	\$1,235.96	39.3	39.0	0.3	39.5	\$31.66	\$30.44	\$1.22	\$31.29

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

P = Preliminary R = Revised

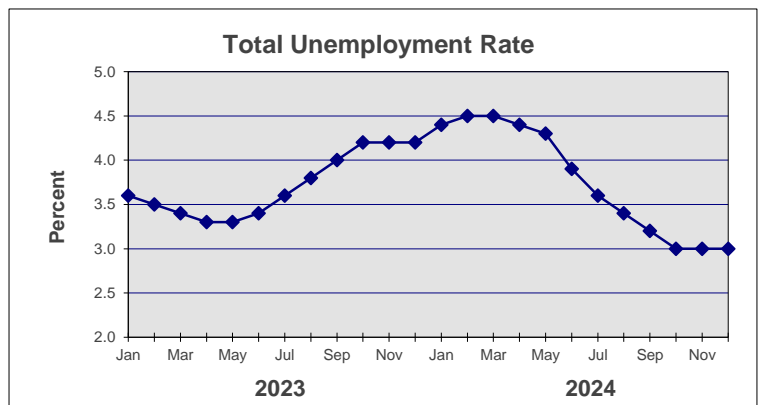
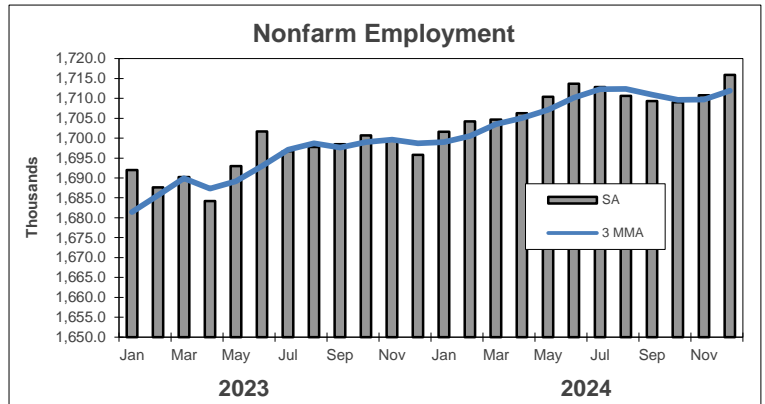
Hours and earnings are also developed for the state's major industry sectors and Labor Market Areas. They can be found on our website at: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

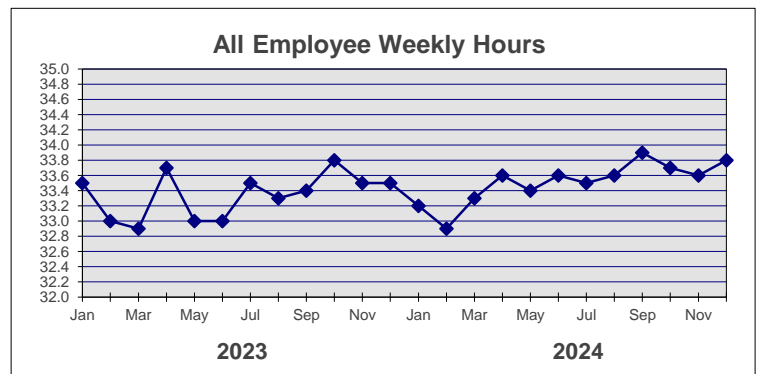
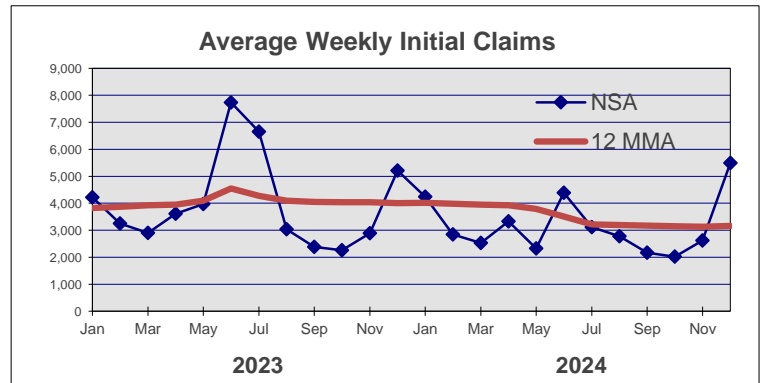
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2023		
Jan	1,692.0	3.6
Feb	1,687.6	3.5
Mar	1,690.2	3.4
Apr	1,684.2	3.3
May	1,693.0	3.3
Jun	1,701.7	3.4
Jul	1,696.7	3.6
Aug	1,697.8	3.8
Sep	1,698.5	4.0
Oct	1,700.7	4.2
Nov	1,699.7	4.2
Dec	1,695.8	4.2

2024		
Jan	1,701.6	4.4
Feb	1,704.2	4.5
Mar	1,704.7	4.5
Apr	1,706.3	4.4
May	1,710.4	4.3
Jun	1,713.7	3.9
Jul	1,712.8	3.6
Aug	1,710.6	3.4
Sep	1,709.3	3.2
Oct	1,709.0	3.0
Nov	1,710.8 R	3.0 R
Dec	1,715.9 P	3.0 P



	NSA Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
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
Aug	3,035	33.3
Sep	2,387	33.4
Oct	2,253	33.8
Nov	2,885	33.5
Dec	5,214	33.5

2024		
Jan	4,239	33.2
Feb	2,847	32.9
Mar	2,525	33.3
Apr	3,324	33.6
May	2,331	33.4
Jun	4,389	33.6
Jul	3,109	33.5
Aug	2,780	33.6
Sep	2,173	33.9
Oct	2,017	33.7
Nov	2,621	33.6 R
Dec	5,495	33.8 P



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute