



# LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research  
Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2020 Data  
CT Unemployment Rate = 8.0%  
US Unemployment Rate = 6.7%

## Connecticut payroll jobs fall 3,400 in December with unemployment rate down to 8.0%

WETHERSFIELD, January 25, 2021 – Connecticut payroll employment declined by another 3,400 jobs in December 2020 (-0.2%) after a revised 3,400 decrease in November. This is the second monthly drop after six consecutive increases. Statewide employment is now 102,700 (-6.1%) positions lower than a year ago at 1,590,800 jobs. The preliminary estimated November 2020 job loss of 1,600 was revised lower by 1,800. Nonfarm industry job estimates are from the business establishment survey conducted by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

“While the second month of job declines is disappointing, the details reveal underlying resilience in the economy” said Patrick Flaherty, Acting Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “The largest December declines were in industries directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic such as accommodation and food service. On the other hand, manufacturing, construction and finance each increased in December.”

**Private sector** employment fell by 1,000 jobs (-0.1%) to 1,372,900 in December 2020 and is lower by 84,200 (-5.8%) jobs since December 2019 while the **government supersector** dropped 2,400 jobs (-1.1%) to a level of 217,900 and is now down by 18,500 jobs (-7.8%) over the year. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land. *Goods producing sectors* are stronger (3,000, manufacturing and construction/mining) again this month while *service providing sectors* (-6,400, the rest) are still weaker — reflecting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unusual seasonal patterns may also be affecting the December numbers. For example, delivery services saw a smaller hiring increase than usual during December because they had increased staff earlier in the year as demand for delivery services was strong throughout most of 2020. This made December look relatively weaker.

### Five of the ten major industry *supersectors* had employment gains in December.

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	December 2020 Employment
Manufacturing	+1,900	1.2%	158,200
Construction and Mining	+1,100	1.9%	58,000
Professional & Business Services	+600	0.3%	214,200
Financial Activities	+500	0.4%	120,300
Information	+100	0.3%	30,400

### Five industry *supersectors* had December 2020 declines.

Declining Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	December 2020 Employment
Leisure & Hospitality	-3,200	-2.5%	125,200
Government	-2,400	-1.1%	217,900
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	-1,200	-0.4%	286,300
Education and Health Services	-700	-0.2%	322,800
Other Services	-100	-0.2%	57,500

**Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs):** Four of the six **LMAs** seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics posted small employment gains in December 2020, while two **LMAs** declined. The **Norwich–New London–Westerly LMA** (0.8%, 116,800) led all regional labor markets in December, increasing by 900 positions. The **New Haven LMA** (0.3%, 277,000) was next adding 800 jobs in December 2020. The **Hartford LMA** (0.1%, 558,700) added 700 jobs while the **Waterbury LMA** (0.8%, 61,700) also chipped in 500 positions. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-0.3%, 367,500) was lower in December, losing 1,200 positions. And the **Danbury LMA** (-1.0%, 72,300) decreased by 700 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 34.2 hours in December 2020, up one-tenth of an hour from December 2019 (0.3%). Average hourly earnings at \$34.39, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.57 (1.7%) from the December 2019 estimate (\$33.82). Average private sector weekly pay tallied \$1,176.14, up \$22.88 from a year ago (2.0%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in December 2020 was 1.4%. *Current all-employee private sector hours and earnings estimates can be volatile due to fluctuating sample responses.*

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

The official December 2020 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be 8.0% (seasonally adjusted), lower by 0.2 percentage points from the November 2020 level of 8.2%. The Connecticut unemployment rate was 3.8% in December 2019. The US jobless rate in December 2020 was 6.7%, unchanged from November's rate. The US rate was 3.6% a year ago.

Data users must be cautious about trying to compare or reconcile UI claims data with the official unemployment figures derived from the household survey. For additional insight into the Connecticut labor market during the COVID-19 pandemic please see the analysis linked here: <https://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/claimsdata.asp> Please note that there are conceptual, coverage, and scope differences between the two data sources.

Unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut were an average of 5,408 per week in December 2020, down 1,330 from the November 2020 (-19.7%) level but higher by 1,262 claims (30.4%) from the average weekly level of 4,146 in December 2019.

*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: Friday, March 12, 2021  
(preliminary January 2021 and revised 2020 data on the new benchmark)

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Labor Market Information is available at: [www.ctworkforce.info](http://www.ctworkforce.info)  
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

	December 2020 P	November 2020 R	October 2020	September 2020	December 2019	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>1,590,800</b>	<b>1,594,200</b>	<b>1,597,600</b>	<b>1,586,100</b>	<b>1,693,500</b>	<b>-3,400</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>-102,700</b>	<b>-6.1%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,372,900</b>	<b>1,373,900</b>	<b>1,376,500</b>	<b>1,365,200</b>	<b>1,457,100</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>-84,200</b>	<b>-5.8%</b>
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>									
Mining	500	500	500	600	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	57,500	56,400	57,000	57,400	60,500	1,100	2.0%	-3,000	-5.0%
Manufacturing	158,200	156,300	156,300	155,900	161,200	1,900	1.2%	-3,000	-1.9%
Durable Goods	124,200	122,500	122,700	122,400	126,600	1,700	1.4%	-2,400	-1.9%
Nondurable Goods	34,000	33,800	33,600	33,500	34,600	200	0.6%	-600	-1.7%
<b>Service Providing Industries</b>									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	286,300	287,500	284,000	278,500	292,900	-1,200	-0.4%	-6,600	-2.3%
Wholesale	58,700	59,000	59,300	58,700	59,000	-300	-0.5%	-300	-0.5%
Retail	163,900	163,200	163,600	161,800	172,200	700	0.4%	-8,300	-4.8%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	63,700	65,300	61,100	58,000	61,700	-1,600	-2.5%	2,000	3.2%
Information	30,400	30,300	30,100	29,600	31,600	100	0.3%	-1,200	-3.8%
Financial Activities	120,300	119,800	120,300	119,500	124,200	500	0.4%	-3,900	-3.1%
Finance & Insurance	101,000	100,800	100,900	100,900	103,600	200	0.2%	-2,600	-2.5%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,300	19,000	19,400	18,600	20,600	300	1.6%	-1,300	-6.3%
Professional & Business Services	214,200	213,600	214,400	213,700	223,100	600	0.3%	-8,900	-4.0%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	95,000	93,900	94,900	94,500	97,400	1,100	1.2%	-2,400	-2.5%
Management of Companies	33,100	32,600	32,500	33,200	33,800	500	1.5%	-700	-2.1%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	86,100	87,100	87,000	86,000	91,900	-1,000	-1.1%	-5,800	-6.3%
Educational & Health Services	322,800	323,500	324,500	325,200	342,600	-700	-0.2%	-19,800	-5.8%
Educational Services	60,700	62,100	61,700	63,000	68,000	-1,400	-2.3%	-7,300	-10.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	262,100	261,400	262,800	262,200	274,600	700	0.3%	-12,500	-4.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	125,200	128,400	131,900	128,500	155,900	-3,200	-2.5%	-30,700	-19.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	19,700	21,000	21,700	22,200	27,700	-1,300	-6.2%	-8,000	-28.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	105,500	107,400	110,200	106,300	128,200	-1,900	-1.8%	-22,700	-17.7%
Other Services	57,500	57,600	57,500	56,300	64,600	-100	-0.2%	-7,100	-11.0%
Government**	217,900	220,300	221,100	220,900	236,400	-2,400	-1.1%	-18,500	-7.8%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>142,624,000</b>	<b>142,764,000</b>	<b>142,428,000</b>	<b>141,774,000</b>	<b>151,998,000</b>	<b>-140,000</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>-9,374,000</b>	<b>-6.2%</b>

### LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	December 2020 P	November 2020 R	October 2020	September 2020	December 2019	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<b>Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk</b>	367,500	368,700	368,800	366,500	407,200	-1,200	-0.3%	-39,700	-9.7%
<b>Danbury</b>	72,300	73,000	72,300	72,800	77,600	-700	-1.0%	-5,300	-6.8%
<b>Hartford</b>	558,700	558,000	556,400	554,900	585,900	700	0.1%	-27,200	-4.6%
<b>New Haven</b>	277,000	276,200	277,600	272,900	291,000	800	0.3%	-14,000	-4.8%
<b>Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI</b>	116,800	115,900	116,300	114,800	129,300	900	0.8%	-12,500	-9.7%
<b>Waterbury</b>	61,700	61,200	61,300	61,200	68,300	500	0.8%	-6,600	-9.7%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
<b>Enfield</b>	43,000	43,000	42,700	42,600	45,000	0	0.0%	-2,000	-4.4%
<b>Torrington-Northwest</b>	30,900	31,000	31,200	30,900	33,200	-100	-0.3%	-2,300	-6.9%
<b>Danielson-Northeast</b>	26,100	26,200	26,200	26,200	27,600	-100	-0.4%	-1,500	-5.4%

\* 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:

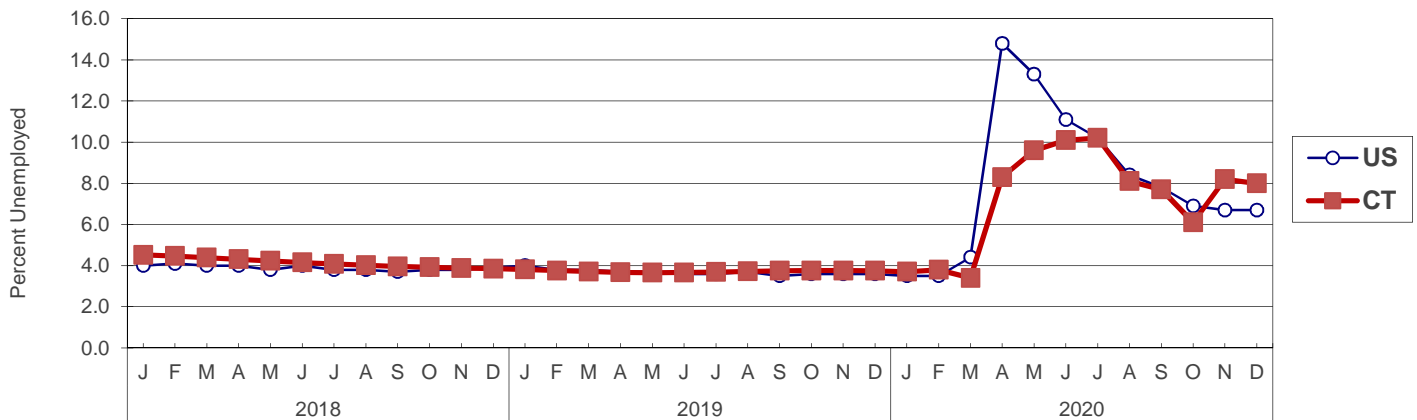
# UNEMPLOYMENT

## Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Dec 2020 P		Dec 2019 R		Change		Nov 2020 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Unemployed	150,400	8.0	72,300	3.8	78,100	4.2	154,700	8.2
Labor Force	1,879,200		1,926,300		-47,100		1,882,600	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
Unemployed	10,736,000	6.7	5,844,000	3.6	4,892,000	3.1	10,728,000	6.7
Labor Force	160,567,000		164,579,000		-4,012,000		160,536,000	

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



### LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Dec 2020 P		Dec 2019 R		Change		Nov 2020 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	34,000	7.6	15,000	3.2	19,000	4.4	36,200	8.0
Danbury	6,600	6.4	2,900	2.7	3,700	3.7	6,900	6.6
Danielson-Northeast*	3,000	7.1	1,500	3.3	1,500	3.8	3,100	7.1
Worcester NECTA	2,900	7.2	1,400	3.4	1,500	3.8	3,000	7.2
Hampton	100	5.3	100	2.6	0	2.7	100	4.9
Enfield	3,300	7.1	1,600	3.2	1,700	3.9	3,400	7.1
Hartford	46,200	7.4	20,700	3.3	25,500	4.1	47,400	7.5
New Haven	23,300	7.1	10,100	3.0	13,200	4.1	24,400	7.4
Norwich-New London	11,600	8.5	4,500	3.2	7,100	5.3	12,000	8.7
Torrington-Northwest**	3,200	6.9	1,400	3.0	1,800	3.9	3,200	6.8
Torrington NECTA	2,100	8.2	900	3.5	1,200	4.7	2,100	8.1
Litchfield	1,100	5.3	500	2.3	600	3.0	1,100	5.2
Waterbury	9,900	9.1	4,600	4.1	5,300	5.0	10,000	9.1
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>139,900</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>61,800</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>78,100</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>145,500</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>10,404,000</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>5,503,000</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4,901,000</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>10,264,000</b>	<b>6.4</b>

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

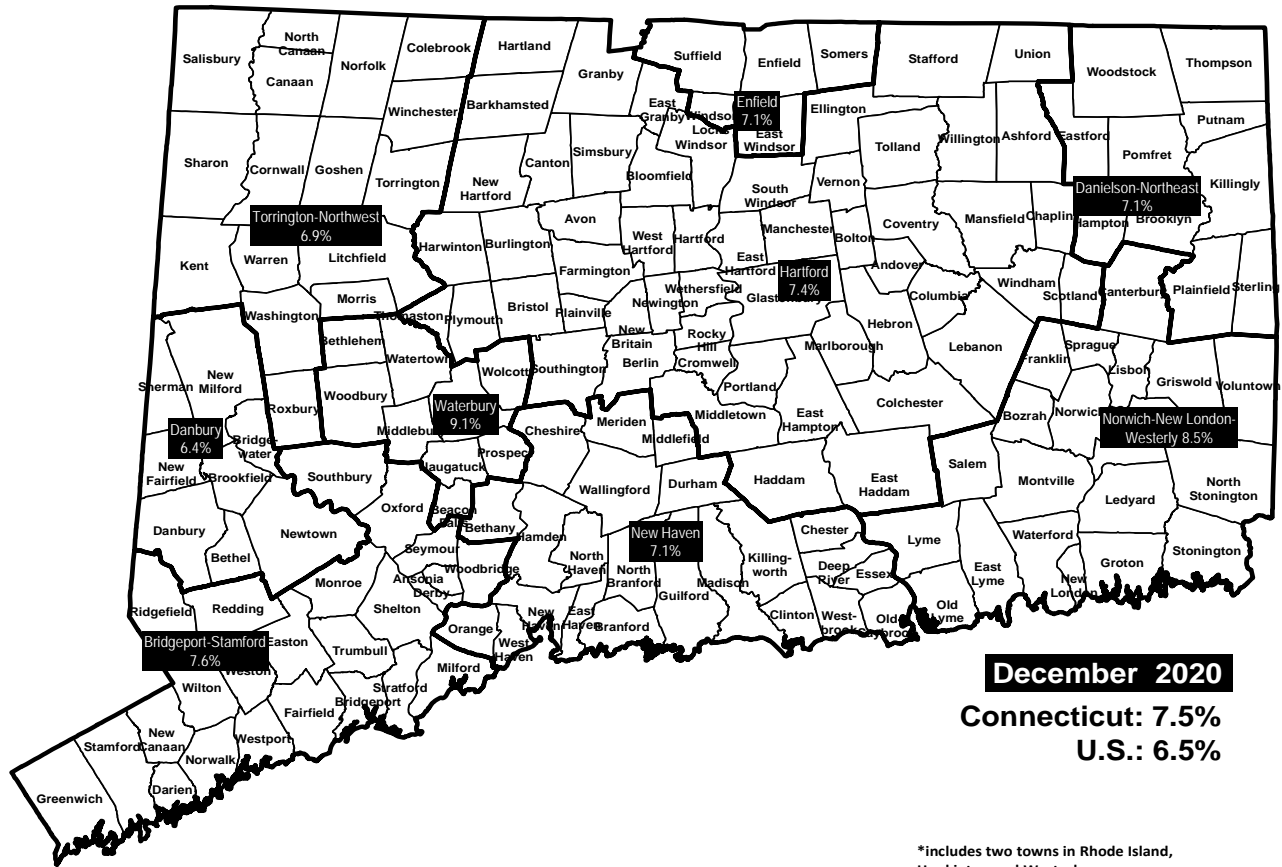
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\* 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			
	Dec. 2020 P	Dec. 2019	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2020 R	Dec. 2020 P	Dec. 2019	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2020 R	Dec. 2020 P	Dec. 2019	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2020 R
<b>Private Industry All Employees</b>	\$1,176.14	\$1,153.26	\$22.88	\$1,192.65	34.2	34.1	0.1	34.4	\$34.39	\$33.82	\$0.57	\$34.67
<b>Manufacturing*</b>												
<b>Production Workers</b>	\$1,155.47	\$1,220.16	-\$64.69	\$1,177.74	40.5	43.1	-2.6	40.5	\$28.53	\$28.31	\$0.22	\$29.08

\* 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

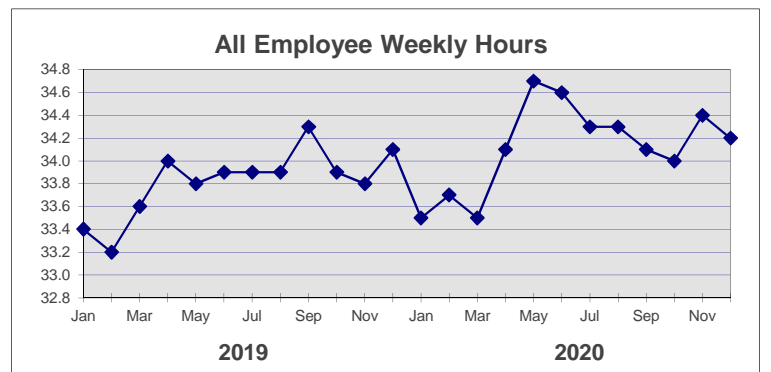
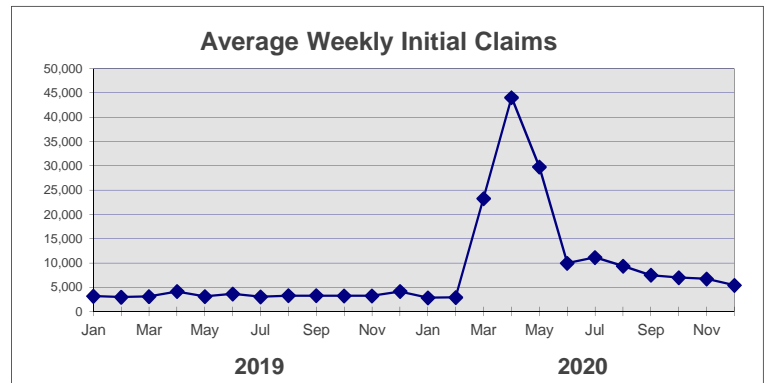
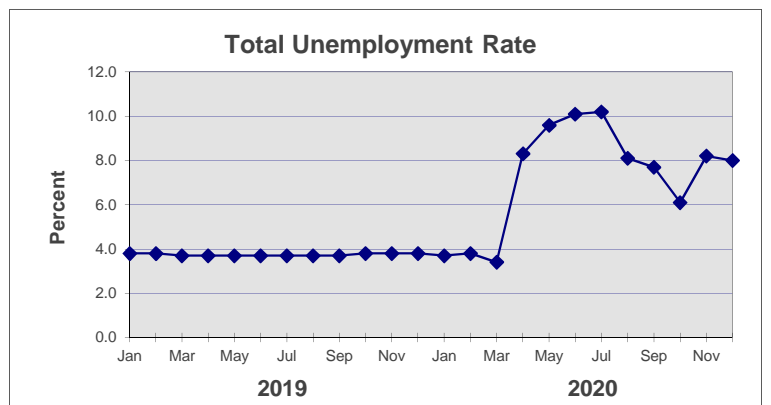
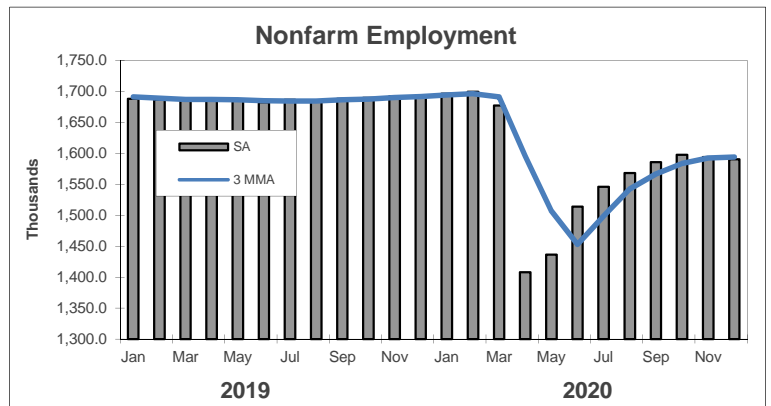
## Seasonally Adjusted

	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	3.8
Mar	1,677.4	3.4
Apr	1,408.2	8.3
May	1,436.6	9.6
Jun	1,513.9	10.1
Jul	1,546.2	10.2
Aug	1,568.1	8.1
Sep	1,586.1	7.7
Oct	1,597.6	6.1
Nov	1,594.2 R	8.2 R
Dec	1,590.8 P	8.0 P

	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
Mar	23,264	33.5
Apr	44,075	34.1
May	29,758	34.7
Jun	9,986	34.6
Jul	11,168	34.3
Aug	9,378	34.3
Sep	7,491	34.1
Oct	7,016	34.0
Nov	6,738	34.4 R
Dec	5,408	34.2 P



\* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

\*\* Labor-management dispute