



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2021 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 8.3%

US Unemployment Rate = 6.0%

5,400 Connecticut jobs added in March: unemployment rate lower at 8.3%

WETHERSFIELD, April 15, 2021 – Connecticut nonfarm employment increased 5,400 (0.3%) in March 2021. Statewide total payroll employment is currently 103,000 (-6.1%) positions below year-ago levels at 1,580,300 jobs. Connecticut has now recovered 176,400 nonfarm jobs (60.3%) of the 292,400 positions lost in March and April 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Connecticut nonfarm industry employment estimates are from the business establishment survey directed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

“Jobs have now increased for three consecutive months and growth has accelerated” said Patrick Flaherty, Acting Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. “Growth was broad-based including March gains in education, construction, manufacturing, accommodation & food service, and finance & insurance.”

Private sector employment grew by 5,000 positions (0.4%) to 1,359,000 in March 2021 but is still lower by 89,900 (-6.2%) jobs from the same month a year ago. The **government supersector** also added 400 jobs (0.2%) last month at 221,300 and is lower by 13,100 (-5.6%) positions over the year. This gain broke a string of four consecutive monthly public sector job losses. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state, and local employment, including public education and Native American casino employment located on tribal reservation land.

Seven of the ten major industry *supersectors* had employment gains in March 2021, while three declined.

Increasing industry *supersectors* (7) included:

Increasing Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Increase	Percent Change	March 2021 Employment
Education and Health Services	+5,400	1.7%	328,300
Leisure & Hospitality	+1,600	1.3%	122,600
Construction & Mining	+1,100	2.0%	57,600
Manufacturing	+700	0.5%	152,800
Financial Activities	+600	0.5%	119,200
Other Services	+400	0.7%	58,600
Government	+400	0.2%	221,300

Three industry *supersectors* (3) posted March 2021 (P) declines.

Declining Sectors			
Industry Sector	Amount of Decrease	Percent Change	March 2021 Employment
Professional & Business Services	-2,600	-1.3%	203,000
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	-2,100	-0.7%	289,300
Information	-100	-0.4%	27,600

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Five of the six Connecticut **LMAs**, seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), had employment increases in March 2021, while the **Hartford LMA** (-0.04%, 548,500) lost 200 positions. The **New Haven LMA** (2.0%, 287,300) led all regional employment gains, adding 5,500 jobs. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (0.3%, 373,900) also increased 1,100 jobs and the **Norwich–New London–Westerly LMA** (0.8%, 115,300) recovered 900 positions. The **Danbury LMA** (0.3%, 71,400) added 200 jobs and the **Waterbury LMA** (0.2%, 65,100) also was higher by 100 in March 2021.

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 March 2021, up seven-tenths of an hour from March 2020 (2.1%). Average hourly earnings at \$33.52, not seasonally adjusted, were lower by \$0.27 (-0.8%) from the March 2020 estimate of \$33.79. Average March 2021 private sector weekly wages tallied \$1,146.38, up \$14.41 from a year ago (1.3%). 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 2021 is climbing now at 2.6%. *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 March 2021 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be 8.3% (seasonally adjusted), lower by 0.2 percentage points from the February 2021 level of 8.5%. The Connecticut unemployment rate was 3.8% in March 2020. The U.S. jobless rate in March 2021 was 6.0%, down two-tenths of a percentage point from the February 2021 rate of 6.2%, but up one and six-tenths percentage points from the 4.4% U.S. unemployment rate 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 10,553 per week in March 2021, up 2,369 from the February 2021 (28.9%, 8,184) level but lower by 15,436 claims (-59.4%) from the average weekly count of 25,989 in March 2020 when the Covid-19 lockdown first hit.

*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 20, 2021
(preliminary April 2021 data)

Contact:
Juliet Manalan
Communications Director, CT Department of Labor
Juliet.Manalan@ct.gov

Labor Market Information is available at: www.ctworkforce.info
200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114 www.ct.gov/dol
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*

	March 2021 P	February 2021 R	January 2021	December 2020	March 2020	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,580,300	1,574,900	1,571,800	1,570,800	1,683,300	5,400	0.3%	-103,000	-6.1%
Total Private	1,359,000	1,354,000	1,350,800	1,349,700	1,448,900	5,000	0.4%	-89,900	-6.2%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	400	500	600	0	0.0%	-100	-16.7%
Construction	57,100	56,000	56,100	56,700	59,800	1,100	2.0%	-2,700	-4.5%
Manufacturing	152,800	152,100	152,100	152,900	160,100	700	0.5%	-7,300	-4.6%
<i>Durable Goods</i>	120,600	120,200	120,300	120,700	125,800	400	0.3%	-5,200	-4.1%
<i>Nondurable Goods</i>	32,200	31,900	31,800	32,200	34,300	300	0.9%	-2,100	-6.1%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	289,300	291,400	290,600	287,500	293,100	-2,100	-0.7%	-3,800	-1.3%
<i>Wholesale</i>	54,400	54,700	54,500	55,400	58,700	-300	-0.5%	-4,300	-7.3%
<i>Retail</i>	167,200	168,900	167,400	163,500	173,400	-1,700	-1.0%	-6,200	-3.6%
<i>Transp, Warehousing & Utilities</i>	67,700	67,800	68,700	68,600	61,000	-100	-0.1%	6,700	11.0%
Information	27,600	27,700	27,700	29,200	31,300	-100	-0.4%	-3,700	-11.8%
Financial Activities	119,200	118,600	118,900	119,800	122,500	600	0.5%	-3,300	-2.7%
<i>Finance & Insurance</i>	100,700	100,400	100,600	100,900	102,400	300	0.3%	-1,700	-1.7%
<i>Real Estate, Rental & Leasing</i>	18,500	18,200	18,300	18,900	20,100	300	1.6%	-1,600	-8.0%
Professional & Business Services	203,000	205,600	203,300	203,600	217,800	-2,600	-1.3%	-14,800	-6.8%
<i>Prof, Scientific & Tech Services</i>	91,600	91,600	91,400	91,900	95,900	0	0.0%	-4,300	-4.5%
<i>Management of Companies</i>	32,100	32,100	32,000	31,800	33,000	0	0.0%	-900	-2.7%
<i>Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv</i>	79,300	81,900	79,900	79,900	88,900	-2,600	-3.2%	-9,600	-10.8%
Educational & Health Services	328,300	322,900	324,300	323,000	348,800	5,400	1.7%	-20,500	-5.9%
<i>Educational Services</i>	66,900	62,300	63,400	61,800	67,100	4,600	7.4%	-200	-0.3%
<i>Health Care & Social Assistance</i>	261,400	260,600	260,900	261,200	281,700	800	0.3%	-20,300	-7.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	122,600	121,000	118,900	118,900	150,700	1,600	1.3%	-28,100	-18.6%
<i>Arts, Entertainment & Recreation</i>	20,100	19,500	18,800	18,300	27,200	600	3.1%	-7,100	-26.1%
<i>Accommodation & Food Services</i>	102,500	101,500	100,100	100,600	123,500	1,000	1.0%	-21,000	-17.0%
Other Services	58,600	58,200	58,500	57,600	64,200	400	0.7%	-5,600	-8.7%
Government**	221,300	220,900	221,000	221,100	234,400	400	0.2%	-13,100	-5.6%
UNITED STATES	144,120,000	143,204,000	142,736,000	142,503,000	150,840,000	916,000	0.6%	-6,720,000	-4.5%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>	March 2021 P	February 2021 R	January 2021	December 2020	March 2020	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	373,900	372,800	371,300	370,400	401,900	1,100	0.3%	-28,000	-7.0%
Danbury	71,400	71,200	70,800	71,000	77,200	200	0.3%	-5,800	-7.5%
Hartford	548,500	548,700	549,700	549,100	585,300	-200	0.0%	-36,800	-6.3%
New Haven	287,300	281,800	282,000	282,600	293,600	5,500	2.0%	-6,300	-2.1%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	115,300	114,400	114,700	114,700	126,900	900	0.8%	-11,600	-9.1%
Waterbury	65,100	65,000	64,200	64,000	67,700	100	0.2%	-2,600	-3.8%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	42,000	41,500	41,500	42,300	44,000	500	1.2%	-2,000	-4.5%
Torrington-Northwest	30,000	29,900	29,800	30,500	31,900	100	0.3%	-1,900	-6.0%
Danielson-Northeast	25,600	25,300	25,400	25,600	26,600	300	1.2%	-1,000	-3.8%

* 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:

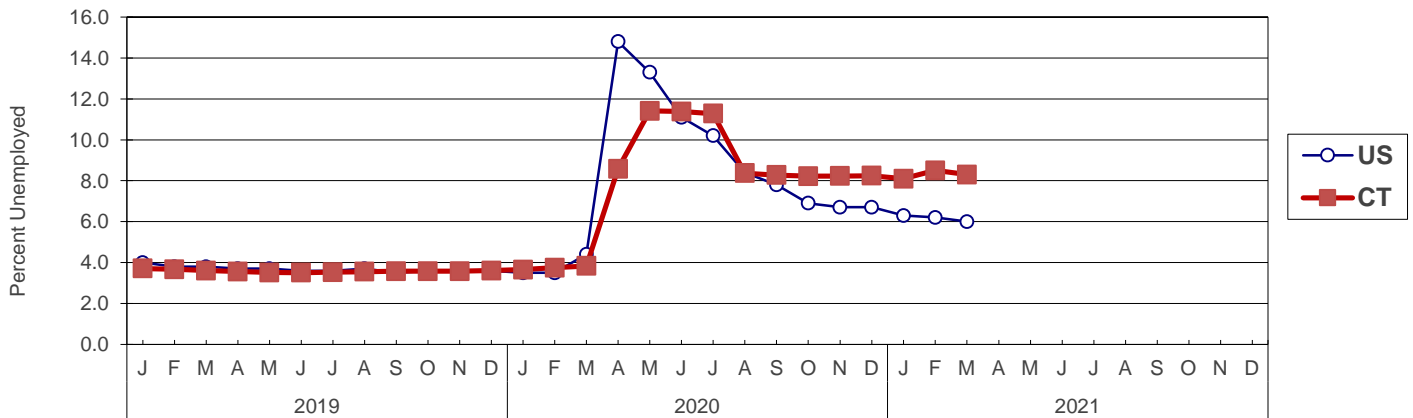
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2021 P		Mar 2020 R		Change		Feb 2021 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	143,200	8.3	73,400	3.8	69,800	4.5	145,600	8.5
Labor Force	1,729,800		1,915,600		-185,800		1,712,600	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	9,710,000	6.0	7,185,000	4.4	2,525,000	1.6	9,972,000	6.2
Labor Force	160,558,000		162,721,000		-2,163,000		160,211,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2019 - 2021



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2021 P		Mar 2020 R		Change		Feb 2021 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	35,000	8.4	19,900	4.3	15,100	4.1	34,400	8.5
Danbury	7,000	7.3	4,000	3.8	3,000	3.5	7,000	7.5
Danielson-Northeast*	3,100	7.9	1,900	4.5	1,200	3.4	3,100	8.1
Worcester NECTA	2,900	8.0	1,900	4.5	1,000	3.5	2,900	8.1
Hampton	100	6.7	100	3.5	0	3.2	100	6.9
Enfield	3,400	7.7	2,100	4.1	1,300	3.6	3,300	7.7
Hartford	47,000	8.2	26,400	4.2	20,600	4.0	45,900	8.2
New Haven	23,500	7.7	13,200	4.0	10,300	3.7	22,900	7.7
Norwich-New London	11,700	9.3	6,200	4.5	5,500	4.8	11,500	9.4
Torrington-Northwest**	3,500	8.3	2,100	4.4	1,400	3.9	3,400	8.2
Torrington NECTA	2,300	9.6	1,300	5.1	1,000	4.5	2,200	9.4
Litchfield	1,200	6.6	700	3.6	500	3.0	1,200	6.8
Waterbury	10,400	10.1	6,100	5.5	4,300	4.6	9,900	9.8
CONNECTICUT	143,200	8.3	81,000	4.3	62,200	4.0	140,000	8.3
UNITED STATES	9,905,000	6.2	7,370,000	4.5	2,535,000	1.7	10,486,000	6.6

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.

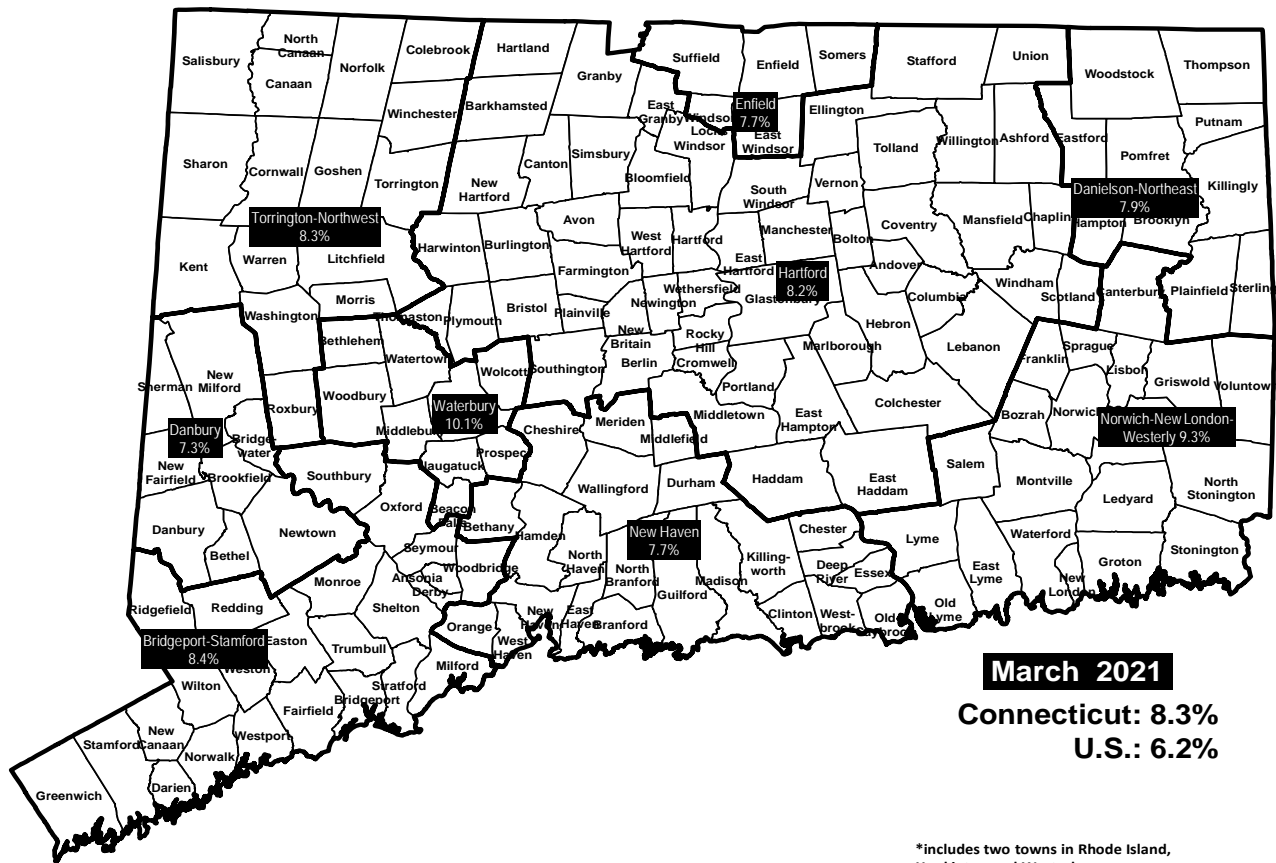
* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined

** 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. 2021 P	Mar. 2020	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2021 R	Mar. 2021 P	Mar. 2020	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2021 R	Mar. 2021 P	Mar. 2020	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2021 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,146.38	\$1,131.97	\$14.41	\$1,143.79	34.2	33.5	0.7	33.9	\$33.52	\$33.79	-\$0.27	\$33.74
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,097.71	\$1,192.33	-\$94.62	\$1,086.23	39.5	41.3	-1.8	39.2	\$27.79	\$28.87	-\$1.08	\$27.71

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

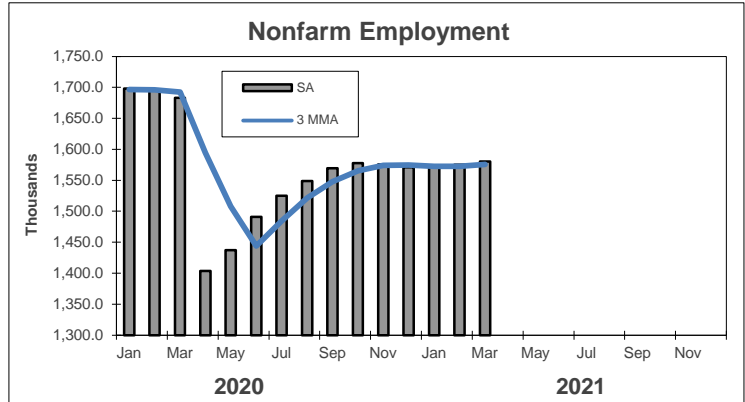
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

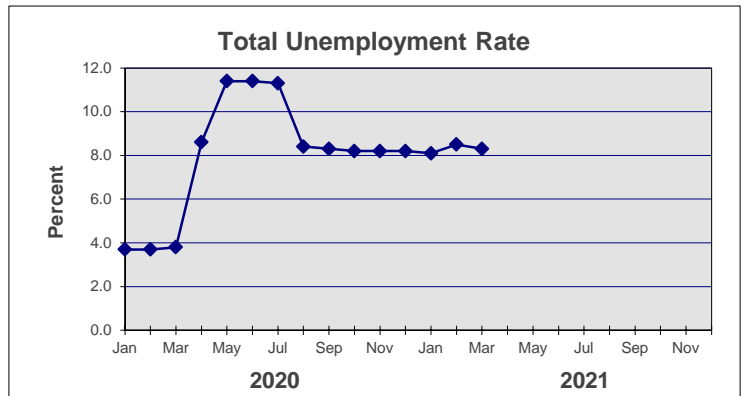
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

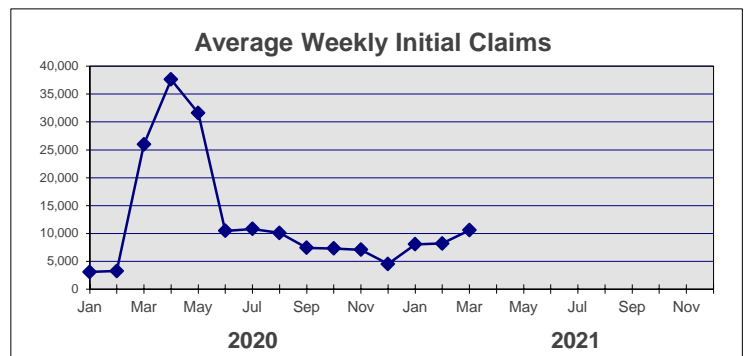
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2020		
Jan	1,698.0	3.7
Feb	1,696.3	3.7
Mar	1,683.3	3.8
Apr	1,403.9	8.6
May	1,437.5	11.4
Jun	1,490.9	11.4
Jul	1,525.0	11.3
Aug	1,549.0	8.4
Sep	1,569.2	8.3
Oct	1,577.7	8.2
Nov	1,575.4	8.2
Dec	1,570.8	8.2



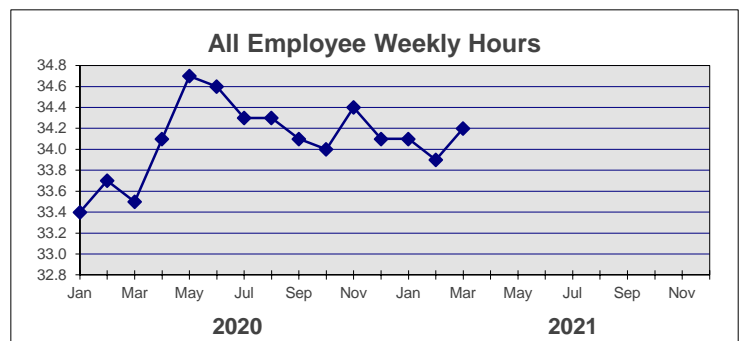
2021		
Jan	1,571.8	8.1
Feb	1,574.9 R	8.5 R
Mar	1,580.3 P	8.3 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2020		
Jan	3,079	33.4
Feb	3,243	33.7
Mar	25,989	33.5
Apr	37,632	34.1
May	31,592	34.7
Jun	10,446	34.6
Jul	10,794	34.3
Aug	10,073	34.3
Sep	7,408	34.1
Oct	7,295	34.0
Nov	7,072	34.4
Dec	4,493	34.1



2021		
Jan	8,040	34.1
Feb	8,184	33.9 R
Mar	10,553	34.2 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute