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COVID-19

UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

For Immediate Release: January 7, 2020

Officially reported (by the U.S. Department of Labor) unemployment claims in New Hampshire for the week ended January 2nd contain a number of distortions related to the temporary lapse in the federal CARES Act programs, the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program. Because of the temporary program lapse, some individuals receiving PUA and PEUC benefits in New Hampshire were forced to refile claims for benefits during the week, artificially increasing the number of initial (new) claims during the week. The reported number of 4,106 for the week ended January 2nd, was up 825 from a revised 3,281 during the week ended December 26th. Distortion in the weekly claims numbers was likely an issue in other states as well. U.S. initial claims increased by 9.2 percent during the week on a not seasonally adjusted basis. A total of 39 states experienced an increase in initial claims during the week, including every state in New England except Rhode Island.

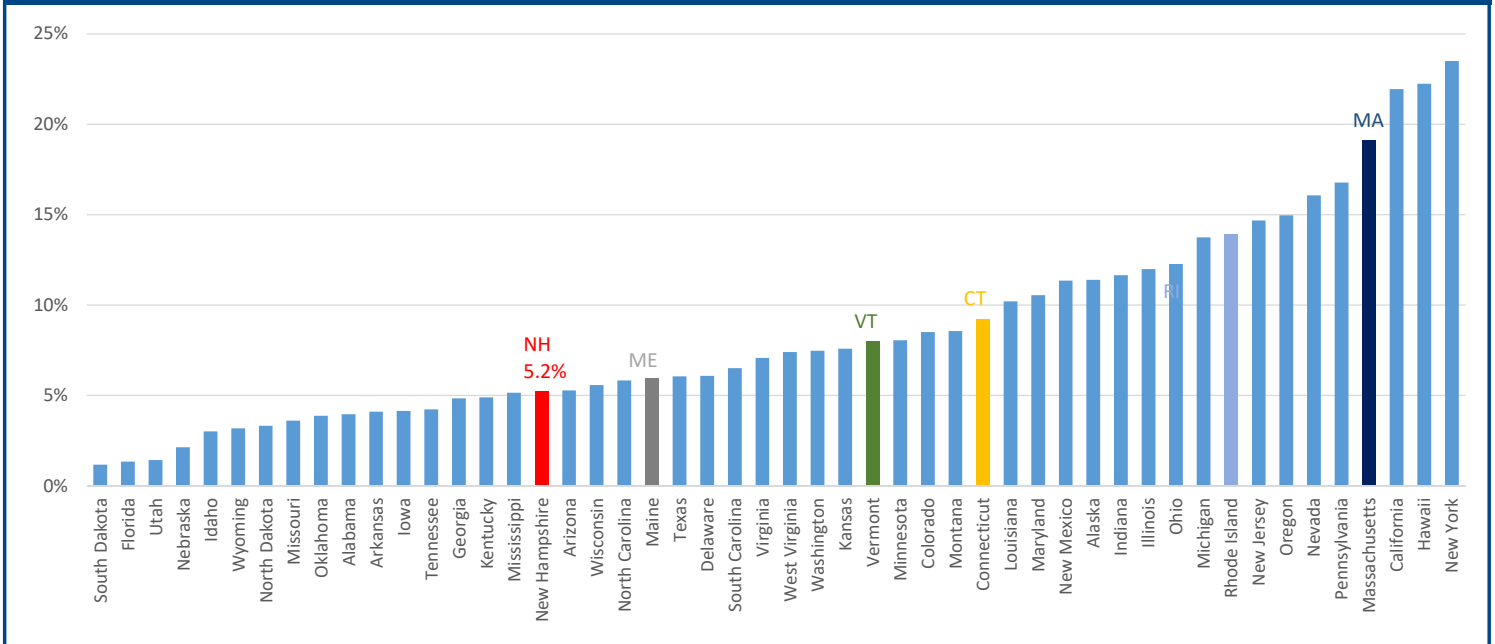
New Hampshire's continued claims in the regular unemployment insurance (UI) program were even more distorted in the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) report. Because of the temporary lapse in federal CARES Act programs, individuals receiving benefits in New Hampshire from those programs were automatically counted as regular UI program beneficiaries. The result was a reported increase in continued claims of over 18,000, nearly a doubling of regular UI continued claims. New Hampshire made the Department of Labor aware of the distortion but as the numbers are reported just a few days after their initial collection, time did not allow for a correction in the official US DOL release. Regular UI claims were reported in the DOL release at 39,387, up from 21,142. New Hampshire reported a corrected 24,203 UI beneficiaries for the week ended January 2nd that was not included in the DOL release, an increase of 14 percent over the December 26th number of 21,142. It is unclear whether other state systems also automatically shifted PUA and PEUC beneficiaries

**TABLE 1
TOWNS WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF
NEW CLAIMS DURING THE WEEK**

TOWN	NEW CLAIMS DECEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 26	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	TOTAL NEW CLAIMS MARCH 16 TO DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING CLAIMS AS OF NOVEMBER 21 [†]
Manchester	137	-28	22,456	3,970
Nashua	88	-6	12,458	2,278
Rochester	39	5	5,288	888
Dover	36	0	5,077	826
Concord	34	-6	6,717	1,113
Keene	34	14	3,154	427
Laconia	24	4	3,127	581
Derry	22	-8	5,003	812
Hudson	22	0	3,171	500
Merrimack	18	0	3,561	576
Londonderry	17	-1	3,315	482
Salem	17	1	3,296	597
Somersworth	16	2	2,074	367
Hooksett	14	5	2,192	320
Milford	14	-9	2,374	326
Bedford	13	-2	2,376	357
Pembroke	13	6	1,235	208
Amherst	12	8	1,207	174
Berlin	12	3	1,369	242
Franklin	12	-4	1,592	278

[†] New data for Continued Claims is released monthly

All Continued Claims (Regular UI, PUA and PEUC) as a % of the State's Pre-Covid 19 Workforce (as of December 19th)



to regular UI beneficiaries during the temporary lapse of those federal programs, but U.S. regular UI continued claims increased by 2.8 percent on a not seasonally adjusted basis. Forty one (41) states experienced an increase in regular UI program continuing claims during the week ended December 26th, including all New England states except Massachusetts.

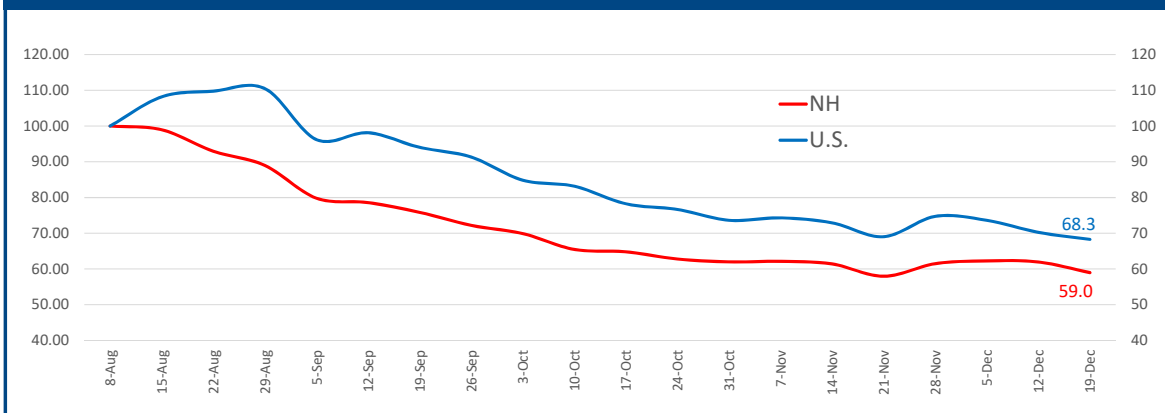
In addition to continued claims filed by individuals who qualify for a state’s regular unemployment benefits program (UI), the federal CARES Act established the “Pandemic Unemployment Assistance” (PUA) program to allow workers affected by the pandemic but who would not normally qualify for regular state benefits (e.g. the self-employed, workers who leave work to care for a family member, so-called “gig workers,” and other affected workers) to receive benefits. States have implemented or transitioned regular UI

claimants to the PUA program at different times during the pandemic. Thirteen (13) states experienced an increase in PUA continued claims during the week ended December 26th. In New England, Connecticut and Massachusetts had increases in PUA claims during the week. The CARES Act also established the “Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation” (PEUC) program to allow individuals who exhausted their regular UI benefits after 26 weeks to receive an additional 13 weeks of benefits. Just three (3) states saw an increase in PEUC claims during the week, no New England experienced an increase. Both the PUA and PEUC programs have been extended for an additional 11 weeks (into March) as part of recently passed federal Covid-19 relief measures.

Adding PUA and PEUC continued claims to regular state UI continued claims provides a more complete measure

FIGURE 2

Continuing Unemployment Claims - (Regular UI, PUA, & PEUC) (Index: August 8 = 100)



of the impacts of the pandemic on the labor market than does UI claims alone. Combined UI, PUA, and PEUC continued claims as a percentage of each state’s pre-pandemic labor force is presented in Figure 1. New Hampshire continues to have the lowest percentage among all Northeastern

states and has the 17th lowest overall among states. Using this broader measure of Covid-19's impact on the labor market, New Hampshire's continued claims as a percentage of its pre-Covid-19 declined to 5.2 percent as of December 19th (PUA and PEUC claims are reported with an additional one-week lag). Note that weekly claims data reported in the town-by-town sections and the claims by industry section of these weekly reports have consistently included regular UI as well as PUA and PEUC claims.

FIGURE 3

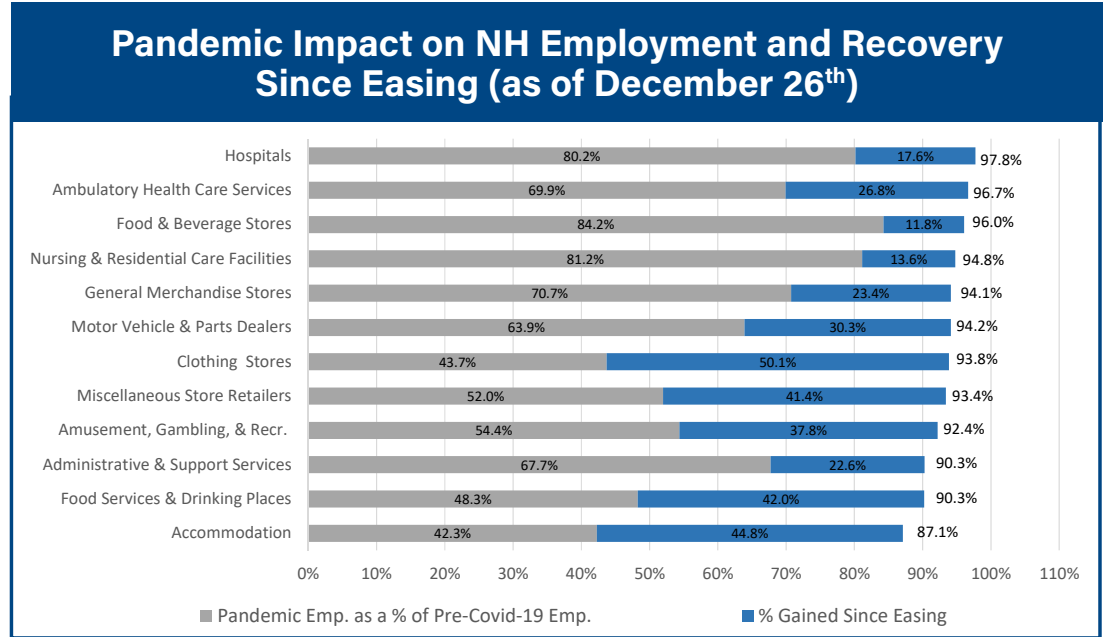


Figure 2 highlights continuing claims trends in New Hampshire and the U.S. since August 8th. On the graph, each region's peak for continuing claims is set at an index value of 100, with index numbers reflecting the percentage change in continuing claims from 100 (thus New Hampshire's index value of 59 indicates that as of December 19th, continuing claims have declined by 41 percent since August 8th $100 - 59 = 41$). Continuing claims nationally have declined by 32 percent during the same time period.

Town-by-town breakouts of the number of new claims filed by New Hampshire residents who also work in the state are available with a one-week lag (through December 26th). The number of claims filed by New Hampshire residents working in New Hampshire decreased by 35 during the week. Manchester (-29), Hanover (-10), and Milford (-9) had the largest decreases in new claims over the previous week. Keene (+14) and Amherst (+8) had the largest increases in initial claims during the week. Eighty of New Hampshire's 238 towns had an increase in new claims during the week, totaling 211 new claims.

The claims numbers presented in Tables 1, Table 2, and Table 4 are based on where an individual lives, not where they work, and do not include initial claims of New Hampshire residents who work out-of-state (who file claims in the state where the business they work is located). For towns with a higher percentage of New Hampshire workers commuting out to another state, claim numbers may not reflect the actual number of individuals living in the town who have filed a new unemployment claim. A town in Rockingham, Hillsborough, or Strafford

Counties, with a large number of residents commuting to work in Massachusetts, may have a larger number of new claims than is presented in these tables because those New Hampshire residents will have filed their claims in Massachusetts. Thirty percent of workers who live in Rockingham County work outside of New Hampshire, while 22 percent of Hillsborough and Strafford County workers are employed in another state. Our "Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate" measures the number of continuing claims as a percentage of pre-Covid-19 labor force as a metric to indicate the impact of pandemic-related impacts on employment in the state, its counties, and communities. At this time continuing claims by town are only reported on a monthly basis, however, we continue to report initial claims on a weekly and cumulative basis to provide the most current available updates to claims data.

A complete listing of the cumulative initial unemployment claims by town, as well as the number of continuing claims (alphabetically for towns with at least 25 new claims) since March 15th as well as the number of continued claims (as of November 21st) as a percentage of the town's labor force¹, is presented in Table 4 at the end of this release. The "Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate" reported in this release is not equivalent to a town's traditional unemployment rate as it only counts continuing unemployment claims filed during the reference week (in this case November 21st), and does not include New Hampshire residents who have filed an unemployment claim if they work in another state. It is presented here, along with the total number of initial claims filed in each community since March 15th, to provide a metric of the relative employment impacts of Covid-19 on the population

¹ The February 2020 labor force count for each town is used for this analysis.

² The number of NH residents filing claims in New Hampshire will not equal the total number of initial claims filed in New Hampshire because New Hampshire residents working in another state who are laid off will file a claim in the state where their employer is located. Similarly, residents of other states who work in New Hampshire and who file a claim will file in New Hampshire. Neither of these groups will be counted in the town-by-town or county counts in this release. Out-of-state residents laid-off or furloughed from a New Hampshire organization will, however, be counted in New Hampshire's total count of new claims.

of each community.² The State of New Hampshire’s official unemployment rate for November was released on December 15th and reflects employment and unemployment in November during the reference week (the week containing the 12th day of the month). The official U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for New Hampshire in November was 3.8 percent, and the not seasonally adjusted figure 3.5 percent. For the week ending November 21st, New Hampshire’s “Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate” (which is not seasonally adjusted) was 4.1 percent. Dalton (9.7%), Lincoln (9.1%) and Ossipee (8.1%) had the highest Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rates in the state.

Differences between the Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate and the official New Hampshire unemployment rate include the fact that the Covid-19 Affected Rate is based entirely on continuing claims for unemployment for residents who live and work in New Hampshire, while the official rate includes data from a survey of households in the state and is not concerned in which state a New Hampshire residents works. Another difference is the use of February 2020 labor force numbers in calculating the Covid-19 Affected Rate. This is done to remove possible distortions in the labor force data, as the current situation has led to some difficulty in accurately classifying workers who are temporarily away from work as either unemployed or out of the labor force.

Claims by County

Table 2 presents the total number of initial claims in each county since March 15th, the number of claims during the week ended December 26th, the change in initial claims from the prior week, and the number of continuing claims filed by residents of each county. Five (5) of the state’s 10 counties experienced a decrease in initial claims during the week compared to the previous week, led

by Rockingham (-34), and Hillsborough (-20) Counties. Belknap (+13), Strafford (+12), and Carroll (+11) counties had increases in initial claims for unemployment, while Cheshire and Coos Counties saw no change in claims activity.

As of the week ended November 21st, Carroll County has the highest Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate, at 6.2 percent, while the lowest rate was recorded in Grafton and Rockingham Counties at 3.5 percent.

Claims by Industry

Industries with the most initial claims for unemployment since March 15th are presented in Table 3, along with the number of continuing claims in the industry for the week ended December 26th, New Hampshire employment in each industry as of the fourth quarter of 2019, as well as the percentage of each industry’s employees that filed a continuing unemployment claim during the week of December 26th.

Twenty seven (27) of the 94 industry classifications (at the three-digit NAICS level) experienced increases in continuing claims during the week, accounting for an additional 517 continued claims. By far the largest increase in continued claims was in the passenger ground transportation industry (+295) continued claims) that includes school bus drivers who work for private sector transportation companies with whom most school districts contract for pupil transportation services. Construction industry continued claims once again increased as seasonal patterns limit construction activity. Heavy and civil engineering construction (+65 claims), which is largely street, highway, bridge, water and sewer construction, may also be affected by pandemic-related fiscal constraints facing governments. Combined, construction industry continued claims increased by 89 or 5.3 percent during the week. Among the 50 industries most affected by the pandemic through December 26th, nine (9) experienced an increase in continuing claims during the week, compared to the week ended December 19th (Table 3).

Continued claims in manufacturing industries declined by 77 or -2.6 percent. Claims in educational services decreased by 46, or -3.5 percent. Continued claims in healthcare industries declined by 81 or -3.1 percent during the week. Claims in the hospitality (accommodations, food services, and recreation) industries decreased by 205 or -3.0 percent. The retail industry experienced a decrease of 90 continued claims (-1.9%) during the week ended December 26th.

FIGURE 4

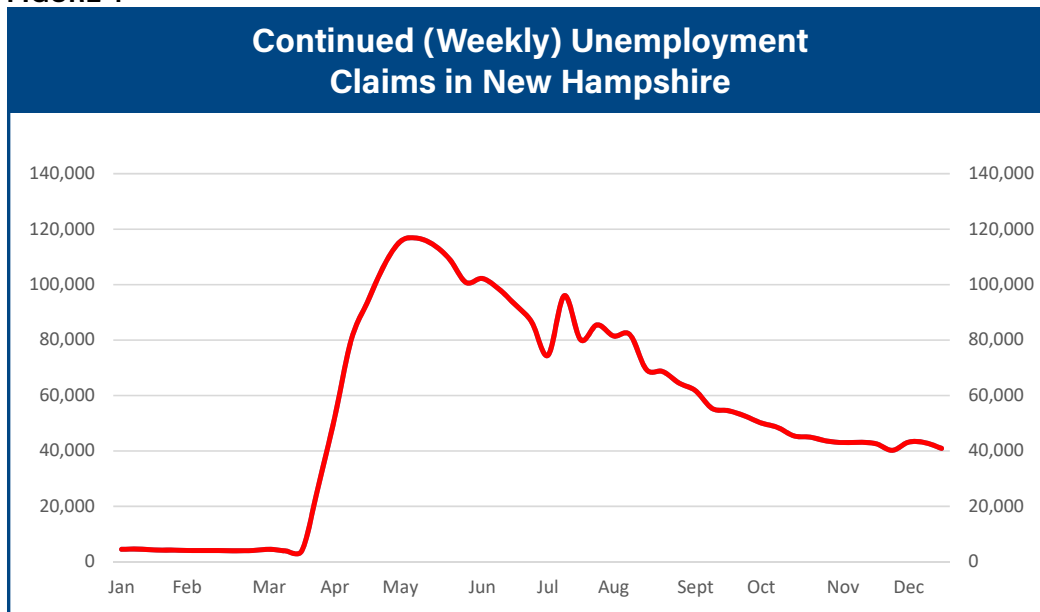
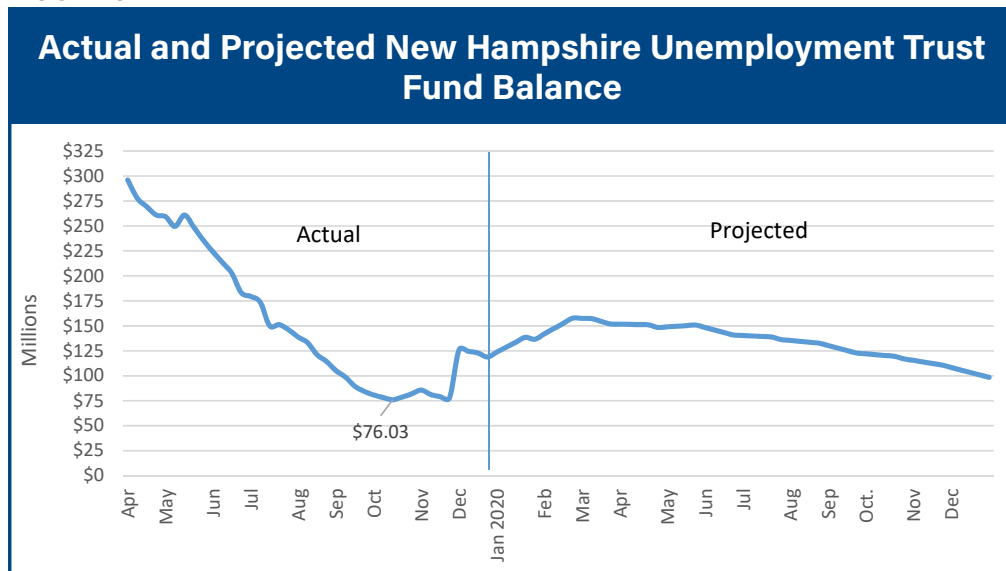


Figure 3 shows the percentage of an industry's pre-Covid-19 level of employment that filed a claim during the peak of the pandemic's employment impacts, as well as the percentage of continuing claims filed by workers in the industry during the week ending December 26th. Combined, the graph provides an indication of the current capacity at which each industry is operating, as well as the degree to which each industry is recovering from the depths of the pandemic's impacts. The chart presents just 12 industries that were among the most affected (in terms of claims for unemployment) by the pandemic.

FIGURE 5



New Hampshire's Unemployment Trust Fund

As of the end of the third quarter of 2020, a total of 18 states had depleted the trust funds used to pay unemployment benefits and were forced to borrow funds from the federal government to keep their funds solvent. The tremendous increase in the number of weekly benefit claims in New Hampshire during the pandemic (Figure 4) resulted in a rapid depletion of New Hampshire's unemployment trust fund, but the state's fund has remained solvent, and New Hampshire has not had to borrow from the federal government to pay benefits.

Our current forecast for the trust fund shows the fund remaining solvent throughout 2021 (Figure 5). Individuals who qualified for federal CARES Act programs (PUA and PEUC) had benefits paid with federal funds and the extension of these programs will provide additional stability to New Hampshire's unemployment trust fund. Still a large percentage of individuals receiving unemployment benefits are paid with dollars from the state's trust fund. The trust fund is funded by a tax on employers, the rate of which is individually determined for each employer and based on their experience with layoffs (how often their employees collect benefits from the fund). Collectively, however, employers in the state have had their tax rates affected by the high number of benefits claimed and paid during the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, New Hampshire's trust fund had a balance of over \$300 million. When the trust fund balance is above \$300 million, employers receive a legislatively enacted 1.5 percent reduction (officially called a "fund balance reduction") to their unemployment insurance tax rate beginning in the following quarter. Employers receive smaller rate reductions as the balance reaches \$250 million (0.5% reduction) and \$275 million (1.0% reduction). The pandemic's impact on unemployment caused the trust fund to fall below \$100 million, resulting in the elimination of the 1.5 percent fund balance reduction

in employer's tax rates. In addition, to help assure the solvency of the trust fund, 0.5 percent tax rate surcharges can be added to employer's tax rates. A 0.5 percent surcharge took effect in the third and fourth quarters of 2020 as the trust fund balance dipped to approximately \$76 million in the third quarter.

Still, New Hampshire has sought to limit the impacts of higher unemployment insurance tax rates on businesses during the pandemic, while still maintaining its obligation to keep the trust fund solvent and pay unemployment benefits. To do so, the state has taken several actions. First, the initial surcharge applied in the third quarter of 2020 was removed for the first quarter of 2021. Second, an additional 0.5 percent surcharge could have been applied but aided by the infusion of \$50 million in federal CARES Act funds, and as the fund began to stabilize, that surcharge was not implemented. Combined, the infusion of CARES Act funds and the removal and avoidance of an additional surcharge will result in a savings of up to \$65 million dollars in employer taxes had the actions not been taken. Finally, while employer tax rates are normally determined by their experience with laying off workers, during the pandemic, layoffs are not being factored into the calculation of each employer's tax rate.

These actions taken to assure the trust funds solvency and to cushion the impact of a recession on employers who may already be struggling financially highlight an inefficiency of unemployment insurance trust funds nationwide. When economic conditions are stronger, and employers are healthier financially, and when trust fund balances are strong, employers are asked to contribute less to trust funds, but when the economy and employers are much weaker, they have their unemployment insurance tax rates increased and are asked to pay more to the trust fund.

- Brian Gottlob, Director

TABLE 2 - COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY

COUNTY	TOTAL CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH: MARCH 16 TO DECEMBER 26	CLAIMS DECEMBER 6 TO DECEMBER 26	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	CONTINUING CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH AS OF NOVEMBER 21 [†]	FEBRUARY 2020 LABOR FORCE	ESTIMATED CURRENT COVID-19 AFFECTED INSURED UNEMP. RATE
Belknap	10,847	76	13	1,851	31,039	6.0%
Carroll	8,277	50	11	1,460	23,718	6.2%
Cheshire	9,280	73	0	1,491	41,500	3.6%
Coos	4,766	29	0	836	14,724	5.7%
Grafton	11,868	59	-2	1,773	51,045	3.5%
Hillsborough	61,533	387	-20	10,362	245,905	4.2%
Merrimack	22,080	143	-11	3,569	84,821	4.2%
Rockingham	40,155	189	-34	6,641	188,982	3.5%
Strafford	18,711	134	12	3,105	75,410	4.1%
Sullivan	5,310	26	-4	836	23,061	3.6%
Totals	192,827	1,166	-35	31,924	780,205	4.1%

[†] New data for Continued Claims is released monthly

TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16 TO DECEMBER 26

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF DECEMBER 26	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	DEC 19 CONTINUED CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	28,089	4,873	-124	49,907	9.8%
Administrative and Support Services	561	13,429	3,278	38	33,750	9.7%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	621	11,104	1,142	-46	34,431	3.3%
Educational Services	611	8,809	1,260	-46	20,834	6.0%
Social Assistance	624	6,844	1,131	-52	15,809	7.2%
Hospitals	622	6,352	685	-24	30,086	2.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	541	5,611	1,131	-44	39,171	2.9%
Personal and Laundry Services	812	5,313	793	-22	7,306	10.9%
Accommodation	721	5,175	1,084	-42	8,397	12.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	5,154	979	32	18,817	5.2%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	713	5,122	771	-39	9,883	7.8%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	4,937	738	-19	12,602	5.9%

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General Merchandise Stores	452	4,913	872	1	14,817	5.9%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	4,059	878	-12	22,356	3.9%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	448	3,611	371	-13	6,029	6.2%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	623	3,267	744	-11	14,268	5.2%
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	453	2,822	359	-14	5,449	6.6%
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	334	2,769	383	-6	16,381	2.3%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	332	2,690	448	-31	11,558	3.9%
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	485	2,637	879	295	3,652	24.1%
General Automotive Repair	811	2,578	365	-11	5,313	6.9%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	423	2,475	402	-24	12,463	3.2%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	813	2,464	393	-21	6,517	6.0%
Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	335	2,152	173	10	4,225	4.1%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, and Book Stores	451	1,802	202	-9	4,154	4.9%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	1,698	338	-1	9,527	3.5%
Construction of Buildings	236	1,695	383	-8	6,082	6.3%
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	442	1,645	170	0	2,772	6.1%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	424	1,558	277	-2	8,050	3.4%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	339	1,534	178	-7	4,430	4.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	326	1,414	217	-18	5,422	4.0%
Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers.	425	1,377	263	-7	7,771	3.4%
Nonstore Retailers	454	1,265	223	-3	6,181	3.6%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	551	1,135	233	-10	9,284	2.5%
Real Estate	531	1,129	209	-8	4,949	4.2%
Textile Mills	313	1,115	219	17	1,822	12.0%
Health and Personal Care Stores	446	1,113	170	-8	4,185	4.1%
Gas Stations	447	1,058	216	-11	4,511	4.8%
Machinery Manufacturing	333	1,052	199	-21	7,006	2.8%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	331	1,014	133	-36	2,386	5.6%

TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16 TO DECEMBER 26

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF DECEMBER 26	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	DEC 19 CONTINUED CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Printing and Related Support Activities	323	993	175	1	2,297	7.6%
Couriers and Messengers	492	900	176	0	3,721	4.7%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	443	878	124	-1	2,958	4.2%
Rental and Leasing Services	532	843	166	-4	1,993	8.3%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237	825	404	65	3,564	11.3%
Industries in the Food Manufacturing	311	823	118	-7	2,771	4.3%
Industries in the Publishing Industries (except Internet)	511	751	151	1	5,116	3.0%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	524	712	157	-7	11,768	1.3%
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related	711	677	188	-1	1,179	15.9%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	336	653	126	-9	2,634	4.8%

*NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF NOV. 21	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Acworth	98	15	459	3.3%
Albany	136	15	362	4.1%
Alexandria	296	39	912	4.3%
Allenstown	709	121	2,493	4.9%
Alstead	255	48	1,083	4.4%
Alton	823	139	3,009	4.6%
Amherst	1,207	174	6,419	2.7%
Andover	320	49	1,439	3.4%
Antrim	389	54	1,427	3.8%
Ashland	382	50	1,279	3.9%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF NOV. 21	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Atkinson	674	123	4,068	3.0%
Auburn	761	117	3,634	3.2%
Barnstead	746	117	2,656	4.4%
Barrington	1,283	198	5,523	3.6%
Bartlett	723	109	1,459	7.5%
Bath town	153	25	542	4.6%
Bedford	2,376	357	12,555	2.8%
Belmont	1,362	239	3,576	6.7%
Bennington	256	41	817	5.0%
Benton	31	6	150	4.0%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF NOV. 21	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Berlin	1,369	242	3,888	6.2%
Bethlehem	529	103	1,444	7.1%
Boscawen	668	98	1,972	5.0%
Bow	899	145	4,561	3.2%
Bradford	267	59	986	6.0%
Brentwood	509	82	2,642	3.1%
Bridgewater	157	28	761	3.7%
Bristol	656	80	1,842	4.3%
Brookfield	139	19	293	6.5%
Brookline	523	68	3,480	2.0%
Campton	682	104	2,110	4.9%
Canaan	513	70	2,042	3.4%
Candia	555	86	2,598	3.3%
Canterbury	294	52	1,508	3.4%
Carroll	138	23	391	5.9%
Center Harbor	166	21	670	3.1%
Charlestown	703	101	2,843	3.6%
Chatham	49	10	160	6.3%
Chester	652	90	3,145	2.9%
Chesterfield	304	43	1,943	2.2%
Chichester	390	56	1,588	3.5%
Claremont	1,751	270	6,385	4.2%
Colebrook	336	56	1,141	4.9%
Columbia	61	9	318	2.8%
Concord	6,717	1,113	23,063	4.8%
Conway	2,343	375	5,463	6.9%
Cornish	177	27	988	2.7%
Croydon	69	17	452	3.8%
Dalton	210	43	442	9.7%
Danbury	219	37	736	5.0%
Danville	565	94	2,771	3.4%
Deerfield	624	95	2,835	3.4%
Deering	224	27	1,133	2.4%
Derry	5,003	812	20,900	3.9%
Dorchester	38	11	200	5.5%
Dover	5,077	826	18,915	4.4%
Dublin	146	26	891	2.9%
Dummer	32	6	142	4.2%
Dunbarton	379	60	1,795	3.3%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF NOV. 21	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Durham	798	103	9,395	1.1%
East Kingston	250	44	1,401	3.1%
Easton	35	8	143	5.6%
Eaton	68	10	235	4.3%
Effingham	232	46	701	6.6%
Ellsworth	16	3	58	5.2%
Enfield	530	66	3,166	2.1%
Epping	1,057	161	4,282	3.8%
Epsom	681	106	2,996	3.5%
Errol	58	11	164	6.7%
Exeter	1,972	334	8,834	3.8%
Farmington	1,157	205	3,725	5.5%
Fitzwilliam	249	46	1,361	3.4%
Francestown	186	40	1,002	4.0%
Franconia	169	25	655	3.8%
Franklin	1,592	278	4,055	6.9%
Freedom	179	38	766	5.0%
Fremont	620	109	2,870	3.8%
Gilford	1,251	205	3,645	5.6%
Gilmanton	637	97	1,746	5.6%
Gilsum	118	21	457	4.6%
Goffstown	2,509	398	11,023	3.6%
Gorham	469	80	1,234	6.5%
Goshen	98	18	451	4.0%
Grafton	194	26	683	3.8%
Grantham	258	43	1,664	2.6%
Greenfield	236	40	1,066	3.8%
Greenland	521	77	2,467	3.1%
Greenville	248	43	1,206	3.6%
Groton	147	24	382	6.3%
Hampstead	972	142	5,151	2.8%
Hampton Falls	253	45	1,501	3.0%
Hampton	2,527	512	9,147	5.6%
Hancock	208	40	944	4.2%
Hanover	319	47	5,093	0.9%
Harrisville	125	23	609	3.8%
Haverhill	473	69	2,359	2.9%
Hebron	61	8	413	1.9%
Henniker	610	97	2,910	3.3%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF NOV. 21	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Hill	170	29	543	5.3%
Hillsborough	1,069	165	3,004	5.5%
Hinsdale	372	75	2,158	3.5%
Holderness	306	48	1,563	3.1%
Hollis	690	100	4,346	2.3%
Hooksett	2,192	320	9,376	3.4%
Hopkinton	628	94	3,481	2.7%
Hudson	3,171	500	15,467	3.2%
Jackson	193	28	366	7.7%
Jaffrey	657	110	3,103	3.5%
Jefferson	171	42	639	6.6%
Keene	3,154	427	11,949	3.6%
Kensington	193	34	1,313	2.6%
Kingston	804	146	3,777	3.9%
Laconia	3,127	581	7,775	7.5%
Lancaster	443	83	1,741	4.8%
Landaff	43	5	279	1.8%
Langdon	70	11	363	3.0%
Lebanon	1,435	217	7,793	2.8%
Lee	603	84	2,884	2.9%
Lempster	142	24	629	3.8%
Lincoln	393	70	770	9.1%
Lisbon	240	53	862	6.1%
Litchfield	1,097	158	4,887	3.2%
Littleton	1,168	193	3,256	5.9%
Londonderry	3,315	482	16,261	3.0%
Loudon	804	115	3,357	3.4%
Lyman	126	27	336	8.0%
Lyme	105	15	850	1.8%
Lyndeborough	233	47	1,056	4.5%
Madbury	225	40	1,097	3.6%
Madison	462	85	1,437	5.9%
Manchester	22,456	3,970	66,815	5.9%
Marlborough	328	50	1,221	4.1%
Marlow	97	21	369	5.7%
Mason	161	24	821	2.9%
Meredith	1,044	180	3,115	5.8%
Merrimack	3,561	576	16,570	3.5%
Middleton	248	37	1,051	3.5%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF NOV. 21	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Milan	189	29	626	4.6%
Milford	2,374	326	9,738	3.3%
Milton	641	124	2,390	5.2%
Monroe	82	13	401	3.2%
Mont Vernon	301	36	1,582	2.3%
Moultonborough	590	106	2,219	4.8%
Nashua	12,458	2,278	51,919	4.4%
Nelson	77	14	440	3.2%
New Boston	856	132	3,976	3.3%
New Castle	78	15	560	2.7%
New Durham	381	72	1,563	4.6%
New Hampton	427	64	1,321	4.8%
New Ipswich	490	79	3,023	2.6%
New London	339	50	1,941	2.6%
Newbury	255	41	1,212	3.4%
Newfields	206	30	1,071	2.8%
Newington	103	11	518	2.1%
Newmarket	1,548	208	5,818	3.6%
Newport	922	154	3,553	4.3%
Newton	411	75	3,283	2.3%
North Hampton	543	117	2,684	4.4%
Northfield	899	135	2,554	5.3%
Northumberland	346	43	1,059	4.1%
Northwood	721	105	2,672	3.9%
Nottingham	687	90	3,286	2.7%
Orford	115	17	817	2.1%
Ossipee	684	142	1,757	8.1%
Pelham	1,269	197	8,237	2.4%
Pembroke	1,235	208	4,612	4.5%
Peterborough	844	160	3,858	4.1%
Piermont	58	7	430	1.6%
Pittsburg	132	23	384	6.0%
Pittsfield	612	111	2,122	5.2%
Plainfield	197	27	1,446	1.9%
Plastow	779	137	4,320	3.2%
Plymouth	858	87	3,989	2.2%
Portsmouth	3,375	553	14,074	3.9%
Randolph	56	7	141	5.0%
Raymond	1,640	290	6,360	4.6%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF NOV. 21	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Richmond	103	16	596	2.7%
Rindge	495	81	2,943	2.8%
Rochester	5,288	888	18,190	4.9%
Rollinsford	384	75	1,456	5.2%
Roxbury	26	6	139	4.3%
Rumney	199	29	958	3.0%
Rye	631	109	3,459	3.2%
Salem	3,296	597	18,512	3.2%
Salisbury	198	32	827	3.9%
Sanbornton	486	85	1,689	5.0%
Sandown	805	106	4,279	2.5%
Sandwich	165	29	610	4.8%
Seabrook	1,240	237	5,180	4.6%
Sharon	36	10	224	4.5%
Shelburne	49	7	177	4.0%
Somersworth	2,074	367	6,891	5.3%
South Hampton	74	13	531	2.4%
Springfield	137	16	779	2.1%
Stark	58	12	194	6.2%
Stewartstown	99	16	370	4.3%
Stoddard	169	31	724	4.3%
Strafford	552	86	2,328	3.7%
Stratford	100	16	255	6.3%
Stratham	843	142	4,559	3.1%
Sugar Hill	82	15	351	4.3%
Sullivan	89	8	360	2.2%
Sunapee	378	60	1,671	3.6%
Surry	83	13	500	2.6%
Sutton	187	36	1,139	3.2%
Swanzey	978	172	4,101	4.2%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - DECEMBER 26	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF NOV. 21	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Tamworth	542	105	1,517	6.9%
Temple	177	31	786	3.9%
Thornton	528	80	1,790	4.5%
Tilton	778	123	1,837	6.7%
Troy	316	72	1,174	6.1%
Tuftonboro	309	66	1,157	5.7%
Unity	129	28	865	3.2%
Wakefield	659	133	2,310	5.8%
Walpole	375	66	2,380	2.8%
Warner	388	68	1,587	4.3%
Warren	104	15	537	2.8%
Washington	181	25	513	4.9%
Waterville Valley	89	11	141	7.8%
Weare	1,326	192	6,179	3.1%
Webster	269	34	1,180	2.9%
Wentworth	114	19	535	3.6%
Westmoreland	187	24	941	2.6%
Whitefield	424	85	1,280	6.6%
Wilmot	159	25	788	3.2%
Wilton	569	98	2,190	4.5%
Winchester	577	98	2,058	4.8%
Windham	1,348	221	8,219	2.7%
Windsor	33	1	155	0.6%
Wolfeboro	788	140	2,827	5.0%
Woodstock	419	57	972	5.9%
Totals	192,827	31,924	780,205	4.1%
<p><i>* Towns with fewer than 25 claims are excluded from the table, but are included in totals</i></p> <p><i>** Includes only claims active during the reference week</i></p> <p><i>† New data for Continued Claims is released monthly</i></p>				

The next release of the **COVID-19 Unemployment Update** will be on January 14th.

For further information contact:
Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau
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