New Hampshire Employment Security
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Administrative Office
45 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-4857

COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

For Immediate Release: March 12, 2021

New Hampshire's initial claims for the week ended March 6th increased by just 35, or 1.4 percent, to 2,482, from a revised 2,447. Weekly reports of initial claims for unemployment have been subject to substantial revision as the process for verifying claims and removing fraudulent ones, to avoid paying fraudulent benefits, can take more than a week. For this reason, we urge caution in interpreting week-to-week comparisons of initial claims. New fraud detection and removal procedures have been developed and as they are implemented the weekly initial claims numbers reported here and in the national release will become more reliable, less volatile, and subject to smaller revisions. U.S. initial claims decreased by 6.2 percent during the week on a not seasonally adjusted basis. A total of 12 states experienced an increase in initial claims during the week. In New England, in addition to New Hampshire's 35 claims increase, Massachusetts had an increase in initial claims during the week.

New Hampshire's continued claims in the regular unemployment insurance (UI) program were 24,819 during the week ended February 27th, down 388 (or 1.5%) from a revised 25,027 the prior week. U.S. regular UI continued claims decreased by 5.4 percent on a not seasonally adjusted basis. Continuing claims (by individuals who remain unemployed and file a "continuing claim" for unemployment insurance) is an important metric in assessing New Hampshire's progress of economic recovery from pandemic-required restrictions and related economic effects. Ten (10) states experienced an increase in regular UI program continuing claims during the week ended February 27th. Vermont was the only New England state to experience an increase in regular continued UI claims during the week.

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. Twenty eight (28) states experienced an increase in PUA continued claims during the week ended February 20th. Every New England state except Rhode Island had an increase in PUA continued claims during the week. New Hampshire's PUA continued claims increased by 452 or 4.3 percent during the week. Nationally, PUA continued claims jumped by 14.4 percent during the week ended February 20th.

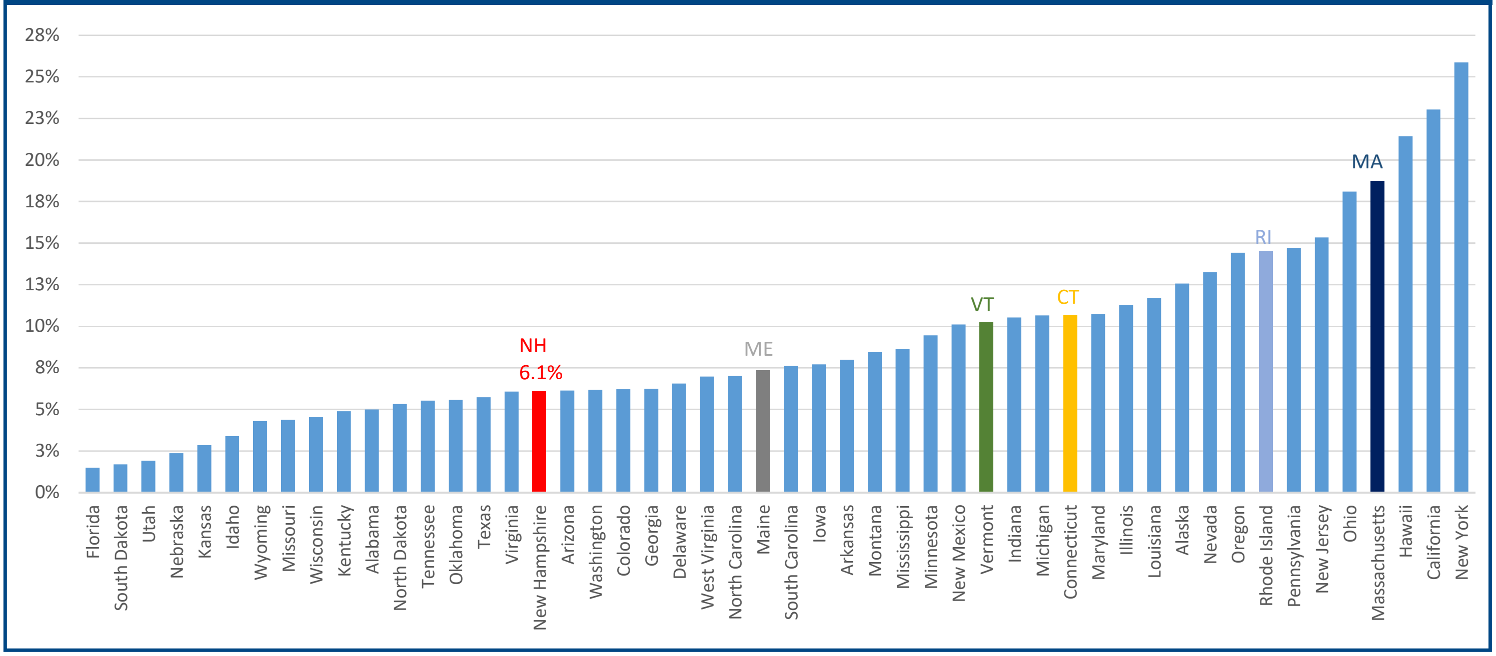
The CARES Act also established the "Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation" (PEUC) program to allow individuals who exhausted their regular UI benefits after 26 weeks to receive an additional 24 weeks of benefits. Thirty four (34) states saw an increase in PEUC claims during the week ended February 20th. New Hampshire experienced a small increase of 272 (2.4%) in PEUC claims during the week. In New England, every state except Massachusetts had an increase in PEUC claims during the week. Nationally there was a 22 percent increase in the number of PEUC continued claims.

Adding PUA and PEUC continued claims to regular state UI continued claims provides a more complete measure 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 the state saw a decrease in the overall number of continued claims and continued claims as a percentage of New Hampshire's pre-Covid-19 workforce increased slightly from 6.0 to 6.09 (rounded to 6.1) percent as of February 20th (PUA and PEUC claims are reported with a two week lag).

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 69 indicates that as of February 20th, continuing claims have declined by 31 percent since August 8th (100 – 69 = 31). Continuing claims nationally continue their volatility and their increased this week shows they are now 30 percent below what they were during the week ended August 8th.

FIGURE 1

All Continued Claims (Regular UI, PUA and PEUC) as a % of the State's Pre-Covid 19 Workforce (as of Feburary 20th)

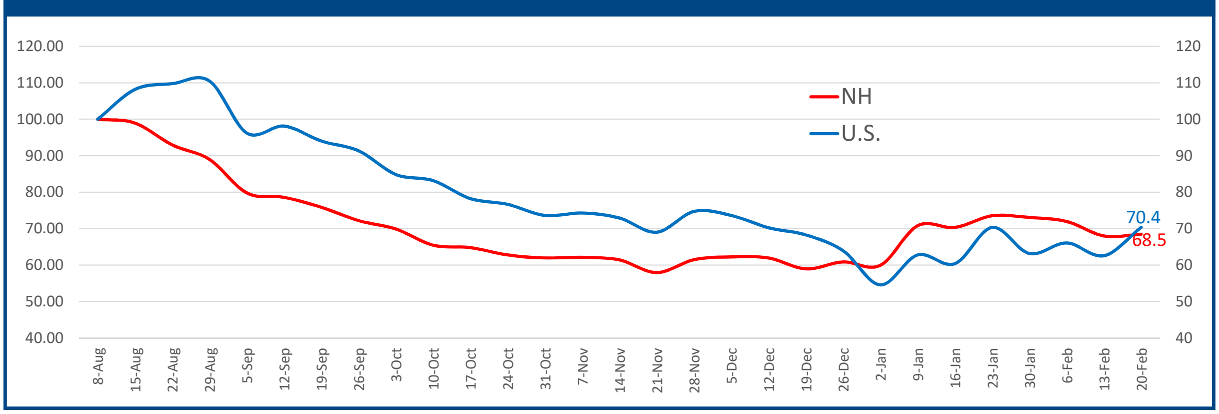


The high volume of fraudulent claims and process of verifying initial claims greatly increases the potential for error in reporting initial claims on a town-by-town basis each week. Accordingly, weekly initial claims by town, and changes in them, will not be reported this week. New fraud detection and removal procedures have been developed and as they are implemented we will return to reporting town-by-town initial claims on a weekly basis.

Table 4 at the end of this release will again report total initial claims by town through February 20th (no February 27th update). We will update those numbers following full implementation of new fraud removal procedures. Table 4 does, however, update continued claims for the month of February (as of February 20th), allowing the calculation of an updated "Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate" for each town. 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 February 20th), 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 between March 15th and February 20th to provide a metric of the relative employment impacts of Covid-19 on the population of each community.[1] The official U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for New Hampshire in January was 3.6 percent, and the not seasonally adjusted figure was 4.1 percent. For the week ending February

FIGURE 2

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



[1] *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.*

20th, New Hampshire's "Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate" (which is not seasonally adjusted) was 4.7 percent. Dalton (11.3%), Ossipee (10.9%), Dummer (10.6%) and Laconia (8.5%) 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. Another difference is that the official BLS unemployment rate does not count individuals in the temporary PUA program as unemployed for purposes of calculating the unemployment rate. Finally, the Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate does not include any seasonal adjustments.

Claims by County

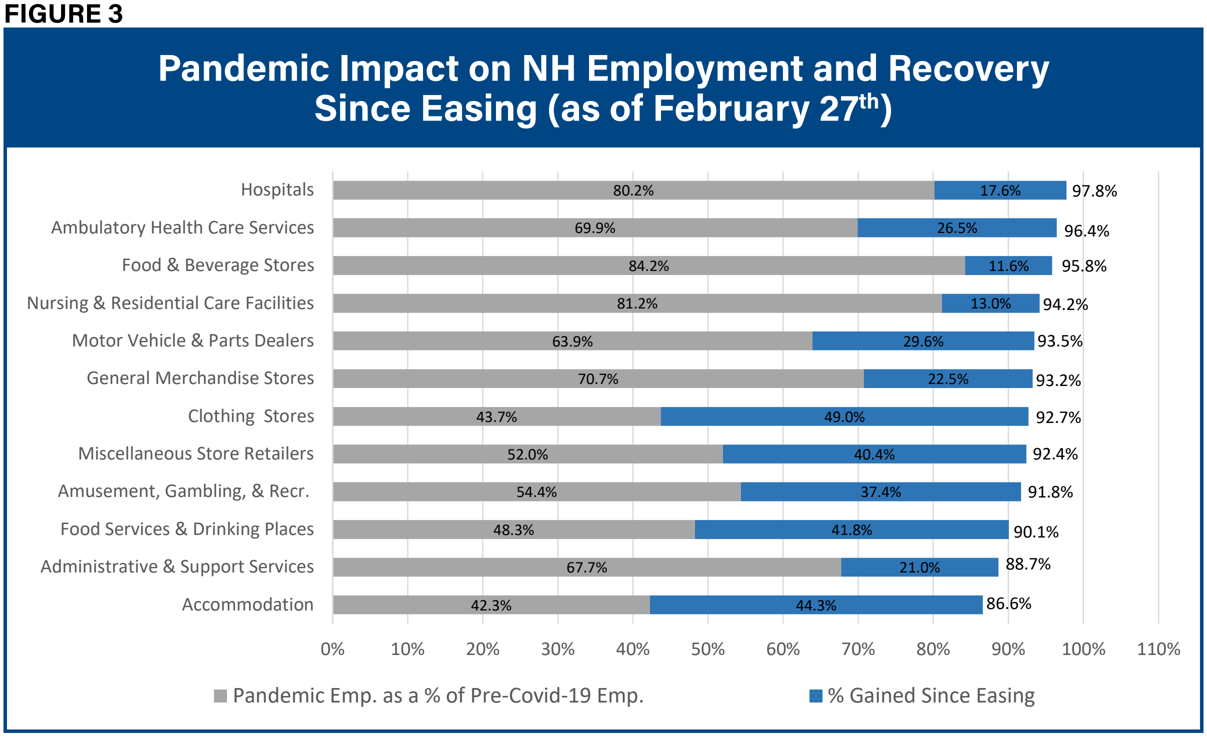
Table 2 presents the total number of initial claims in each county between March 15th and February 20th. Initial claims data by town are not updated this week, accordingly, neither are county initial claims data. Continued claims by town, and thus by county, are only reported once a month. County continuing claims data have been updated to February 20th, allowing for updated Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rates to be calculated for each county and for the state overall. Updated rates are reported in Table 2. New Hampshire's Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate declined to 4.7 percent in February, down from 5.0 percent in January. Carroll (7.0%), Belknap (6.8%), and Coos Counties (6.2%) have the highest Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rates as of February 20th, while the lowest rates were recorded in Grafton (3.9%), Rockingham County (4.1%), and Sullivan Counties (4.1%).

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 February 27th, 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 February 27th.

Seventeen (17) of the 94 industry classifications (at the three-digit NAICS level) experienced increases in continuing claims during the week, accounting for an additional 623 continued claims. One industry, transit and ground passenger transportation, account for 571 of the increase in continued claims among the 17 industries experiencing an increases during the week, with the remaining 16 industries adding just 52 continued claims. The large increase in the transit and ground passenger transportation industry is a product of school vacation week and the resulting temporary furlough of school bus drivers. Among the 50 industries most affected by the pandemic through February 27th, just eight (8) experienced an increase in continuing claims during the week, compared to the week ended February 20th (Table 3).

FIGURE 3



Continued claims in the construction industry decreased by 28 or 1.1 percent during the week ended February 27th. Manufacturing industries also had a 1.1 percent decline (-34) in continued claims during the week. Claims in educational services decreased by 28, or 2.2 percent during the week. Continued claims in healthcare industries decreased by 100, or 3.5 percent. The retail industry had a decrease of 90 continued claims during the week ended February 27th, or -1.7 percent, led by declines in general merchandise stores (-27) and building materials and garden equipment and supplies dealers (-20). Claims in the hospitality and recreation industries (accommodations, food services, and recreation) decreased by 106 or -1.5 percent during the week.

FIGURE 4

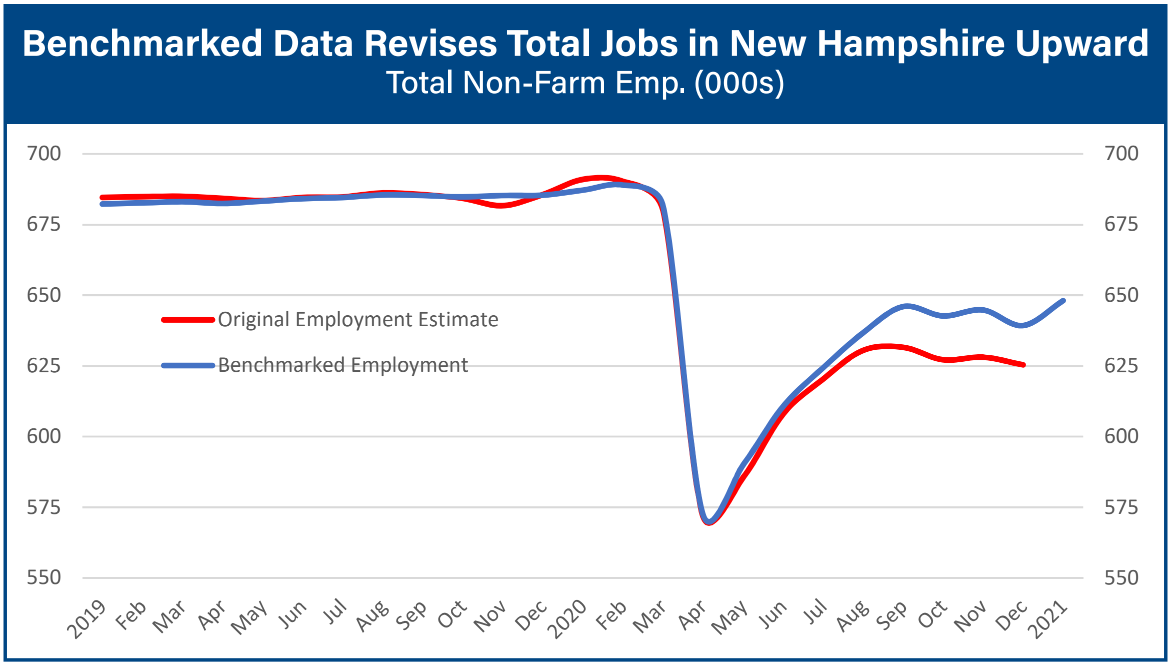
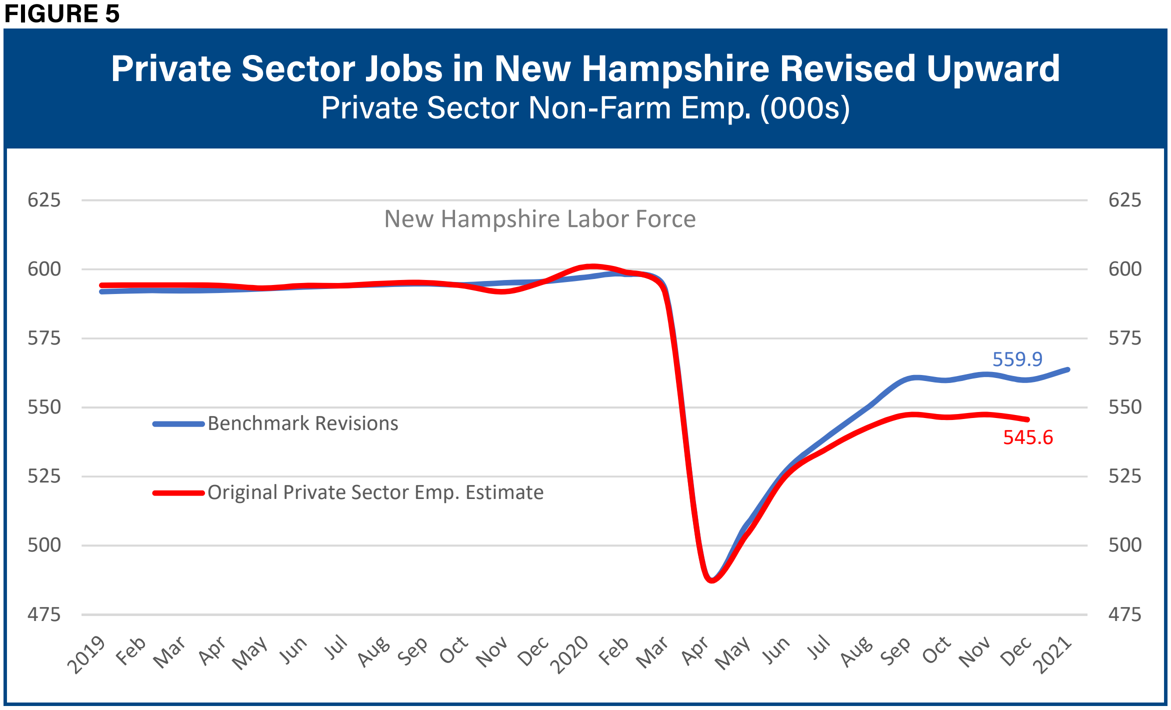


Figure 3 shows the percentage of an industry's pre-Covid-19 level of employment that filed a claim during the peak of the pandemic's employment impacts, as well as the percentage of continuing claims filed by workers in the industry during the week ending February 27th. Combined, the graph provides an 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.

Jobs in New Hampshire Revised Upward

Upward revisions to estimates of New Hampshire's labor force reported last week as a result of the annual "benchmarking" process, as expected, are followed this week by upward revisions to the state's monthly employment estimates. The annual benchmarking process uses quarterly census data from all New Hampshire employers to revise monthly estimates of employment in the state. As Figure 4 shows, revisions to New Hampshire's original monthly 2020 employment estimates are substantial in the second-half of the year, showing an additional 14 thousand jobs by December of 2020.

FIGURE 5



Benchmark revisions to 2020 employment in New Hampshire were largest in the private sector. Figure 5 shows that by December of 2020, private sector employment in New Hampshire was more than 14 thousand jobs above the original monthly estimate.

- Brian Gottlob, Director

TABLE 2 - COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY

COUNTY	TOTAL CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH: MARCH 16 TO FEBRUARY 20	CLAIMS FEBRUARY 14 TO FEBRUARY 20	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	CONTINUING CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH AS OF FEBRUARY 20†	FEBRUARY 2020 LABOR FORCE	ESTIMATED CURRENT COVID-19 AFFECTED INSURED UNEMP. RATE
Belknap	11,554	48	-10	2,099	31,039	6.8%
Carroll	8,673	27	-30	1,663	23,718	7.0%
Cheshire	10,018	40	-12	1,759	41,500	4.2%
Coos	5,110	20	-18	910	14,724	6.2%
Grafton	12,643	56	-18	1,982	51,045	3.9%
Hillsborough	65,722	333	-59	11,839	245,905	4.8%
Merrimack	23,669	101	-41	4,221	84,821	5.0%
Rockingham	42,753	205	-44	7,751	188,982	4.1%
Strafford	19,982	96	-20	3,586	75,410	4.8%
Sullivan	5,676	35	0	934	23,061	4.1%
Totals	**205,800**	**961**	**-252**	**36,744**	**780,205**	**4.7%**

*† New data for **Continued Claims** is released monthly*

TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16, 2020 TO FEBRUARY 27, 2021

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16, 2020	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF FEBRUARY 27	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	FEBRUARY 6 CONT. CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	29,756	4,959	-62	49,907	9.9%
Administrative and Support Services	561	15,474	3,822	-27	33,750	11.3%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	621	12,022	1,221	-45	34,431	3.5%
Educational Services	611	9,745	1,242	-28	20,834	6.0%
Social Assistance	624	7,367	1,215	-22	15,809	7.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	541	6,914	1,258	-31	39,171	3.2%
Hospitals	622	6,754	684	-27	30,086	2.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	6,545	1,450	-17	18,817	7.7%
Personal and Laundry Services	812	5,642	852	-10	7,306	11.7%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	713	5,556	819	-25	9,883	8.3%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	5,429	822	-8	12,602	6.5%
Accommodation	721	5,419	1,126	-19	8,397	13.4%

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General Merchandise Stores	452	5,357	1,002	-27	14,817	6.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	4,431	930	-7	22,356	4.2%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	448	3,856	441	-8	6,029	7.3%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	623	3,718	833	-28	14,268	5.8%
General Automotive Repair	811	3,089	456	-15	5,313	8.6%
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	453	3,075	415	0	5,449	7.6%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	332	3,062	473	-17	11,558	4.1%
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	334	3,052	440	-3	16,381	2.7%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	423	2,974	484	-3	12,463	3.9%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	813	2,915	422	-15	6,517	6.5%
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	485	2,841	1,170	571	3,652	32.0%
Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	335	2,249	177	12	4,225	4.2%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	2,193	418	-20	9,527	4.4%
Construction of Buildings	236	2,122	511	-3	6,082	8.4%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, and Book Stores	451	1,955	229	1	4,154	5.5%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	424	1,776	312	-5	8,050	3.9%
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	442	1,775	186	0	2,772	6.7%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	339	1,619	194	-2	4,430	4.4%
Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers.	425	1,607	307	-3	7,771	4.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	326	1,547	216	-1	5,422	4.0%
Nonstore Retailers	454	1,450	257	-8	6,181	4.2%
Real Estate	531	1,438	259	-9	4,949	5.2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	551	1,283	281	-5	9,284	3.0%
Gas Stations	447	1,247	240	-8	4,511	5.3%
Health and Personal Care Stores	446	1,220	176	3	4,185	4.2%
Couriers and Messengers	492	1,216	317	-1	3,721	8.5%

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Machinery Manufacturing	333	1,210	231	9	7,006	3.3%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237	1,191	528	-8	3,564	14.8%
Textile Mills	313	1,164	212	6	1,822	11.6%
Printing and Related Support Activities	323	1,096	203	-26	2,297	8.8%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	331	1,066	205	4	2,386	8.6%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	524	1,038	211	-4	11,768	5.6%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	443	994	154	-8	2,958	1.7%
Rental and Leasing Services	532	924	193	0	1,993	9.6%
Industries in the Food Manufacturing	311	906	141	-6	2,771	5.5%
Industries in the Publishing Industries (except Internet)	511	892	161	3	5,116	3.0%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	522	796	165	-3	11,768	1.4%
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related	711	741	174	-3	1,179	15.4%

**NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System*

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 20	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Acworth	104	15	459	3.3%
Albany	142	19	362	5.2%
Alexandria	308	49	912	5.4%
Allenstown	750	164	2,493	6.6%
Alstead	273	49	1,083	4.5%
Alton	883	172	3,009	5.7%
Acworth	104	18	459	3.9%
Albany	142	20	362	5.5%
Alexandria	308	43	912	4.7%
Allenstown	750	151	2,493	6.1%

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Alstead	273	50	1,083	4.6%
Alton	883	167	3,009	5.6%
Amherst	1,293	212	6,419	3.3%
Andover	343	67	1,439	4.7%
Antrim	419	61	1,427	4.3%
Ashland	410	60	1,279	4.7%
Atkinson	706	128	4,068	3.1%
Auburn	814	139	3,634	3.8%
Barnstead	797	129	2,656	4.9%
Barrington	1,361	221	5,523	4.0%

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TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 20	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Bartlett	738	118	1,459	8.1%
Bath town	156	17	542	3.1%
Bedford	2,537	357	12,555	2.8%
Belmont	1,454	283	3,576	7.9%
Bennington	273	51	817	6.2%
Benton	33	8	150	5.3%
Berlin	1,470	259	3,888	6.7%
Bethlehem	552	97	1,444	6.7%
Boscawen	732	109	1,972	5.5%
Bow	964	166	4,561	3.6%
Bradford	281	64	986	6.5%
Brentwood	542	91	2,642	3.4%
Bridgewater	168	35	761	4.6%
Bristol	696	99	1,842	5.4%
Brookfield	147	24	293	8.2%
Brookline	566	82	3,480	2.4%
Campton	707	108	2,110	5.1%
Canaan	543	85	2,042	4.2%
Candia	600	94	2,598	3.6%
Canterbury	311	54	1,508	3.6%
Carroll	148	16	391	4.1%
Center Harbor	177	28	670	4.2%
Charlestown	753	113	2,843	4.0%
Chatham	50	10	160	6.3%
Chester	692	105	3,145	3.3%
Chesterfield	334	61	1,943	3.1%
Chichester	417	68	1,588	4.3%
Claremont	1,882	307	6,385	4.8%
Colebrook	358	56	1,141	4.9%
Columbia	65	8	318	2.5%
Concord	7,197	1,282	23,063	5.6%
Conway	2,440	417	5,463	7.6%
Cornish	190	36	988	3.6%
Croydon	74	17	452	3.8%
Dalton	227	50	442	11.3%
Danbury	237	50	736	6.8%
Danville	600	110	2,771	4.0%
Deerfield	665	115	2,835	4.1%
Deering	241	36	1,133	3.2%

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Derry	5,359	971	20,900	4.6%
Dorchester	40	11	200	5.5%
Dover	5,407	944	18,915	5.0%
Dublin	162	26	891	2.9%
Dummer	36	15	142	10.6%
Dunbarton	399	58	1,795	3.2%
Durham	860	115	9,395	1.2%
East Kingston	267	51	1,401	3.6%
Easton	37	7	143	4.9%
Eaton	73	14	235	6.0%
Effingham	250	54	701	7.7%
Enfield	561	82	3,166	2.6%
Epping	1,117	188	4,282	4.4%
Epsom	735	138	2,996	4.6%
Errol	61	12	164	7.3%
Exeter	2,116	403	8,834	4.6%
Farmington	1,240	242	3,725	6.5%
Fitzwilliam	269	47	1,361	3.5%
Francestown	196	40	1,002	4.0%
Franconia	175	30	655	4.6%
Franklin	1,721	335	4,055	8.3%
Freedom	191	43	766	5.6%
Fremont	664	129	2,870	4.5%
Gilford	1,326	220	3,645	6.0%
Gilmanton	680	117	1,746	6.7%
Gilsum	128	28	457	6.1%
Goffstown	2,666	407	11,023	3.7%
Gorham	505	98	1,234	7.9%
Goshen	101	15	451	3.3%
Grafton	207	42	683	6.1%
Grantham	276	49	1,664	2.9%
Greenfield	257	51	1,066	4.8%
Greenland	552	101	2,467	4.1%
Greenville	278	55	1,206	4.6%
Groton	152	27	382	7.1%
Hampstead	1,038	188	5,151	3.6%
Hampton Falls	268	52	1,501	3.5%
Hampton	2,677	553	9,147	6.0%
Hancock	227	48	944	5.1%

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Hanover	386	43	5,093	0.8%
Harrisville	135	26	609	4.3%
Haverhill	520	95	2,359	4.0%
Hebron	64	7	413	1.7%
Henniker	658	113	2,910	3.9%
Hill	184	36	543	6.6%
Hillsborough	1,137	177	3,004	5.9%
Hinsdale	394	75	2,158	3.5%
Holderness	328	54	1,563	3.5%
Hollis	759	128	4,346	2.9%
Hooksett	2,346	392	9,376	4.2%
Hopkinton	670	111	3,481	3.2%
Hudson	3,379	577	15,467	3.7%
Jackson	197	25	366	6.8%
Jaffrey	718	151	3,103	4.9%
Jefferson	178	39	639	6.1%
Keene	3,395	533	11,949	4.5%
Kensington	206	41	1,313	3.1%
Kingston	852	160	3,777	4.2%
Laconia	3,327	657	7,775	8.5%
Lancaster	475	86	1,741	4.9%
Landaff	47	10	279	3.6%
Langdon	74	11	363	3.0%
Lebanon	1,537	230	7,793	3.0%
Lee	633	99	2,884	3.4%
Lempster	151	25	629	4.0%
Lincoln	418	63	770	8.2%
Lisbon	254	60	862	7.0%
Litchfield	1,169	183	4,887	3.7%
Littleton	1,262	229	3,256	7.0%
Londonderry	3,529	586	16,261	3.6%
Loudon	861	153	3,357	4.6%
Lyman	135	15	336	4.5%
Lyme	116	18	850	2.1%
Lyndeborough	246	54	1,056	5.1%
Madbury	240	40	1,097	3.6%
Madison	479	91	1,437	6.3%
Manchester	23,938	4,495	66,815	6.7%
Marlborough	351	70	1,221	5.7%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 20	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Marlow	109	27	369	7.3%
Mason	181	42	821	5.1%
Meredith	1,112	198	3,115	6.4%
Merrimack	3,792	651	16,570	3.9%
Middleton	266	52	1,051	4.9%
Milan	205	38	626	6.1%
Milford	2,509	403	9,738	4.1%
Milton	684	143	2,390	6.0%
Monroe	90	18	401	4.5%
Mont Vernon	316	54	1,582	3.4%
Moultonborough	619	120	2,219	5.4%
Nashua	13,375	2,693	51,919	5.2%
Nelson	80	12	440	2.7%
New Boston	901	135	3,976	3.4%
New Castle	87	18	560	3.2%
New Durham	411	86	1,563	5.5%
New Hampton	453	64	1,321	4.8%
New Ipswich	519	92	3,023	3.0%
New London	360	52	1,941	2.7%
Newbury	267	35	1,212	2.9%
Newfields	217	36	1,071	3.4%
Newington	103	14	518	2.7%
Newmarket	1,635	238	5,818	4.1%
Newport	979	173	3,553	4.9%
Newton	445	97	3,283	3.0%
North Hampton	587	146	2,684	5.4%
Northfield	966	180	2,554	7.0%
Northumberland	370	56	1,059	5.3%
Northwood	764	121	2,672	4.5%
Nottingham	718	111	3,286	3.4%
Orford	119	22	817	2.7%
Ossipee	738	191	1,757	10.9%
Pelham	1,347	229	8,237	2.8%
Pembroke	1,333	249	4,612	5.4%
Peterborough	918	176	3,858	4.6%
Piermont	62	11	430	2.6%
Pittsburg	139	17	384	4.4%
Pittsfield	651	133	2,122	6.3%
Plainfield	208	28	1,446	1.9%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 20	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Plaistow	814	155	4,320	3.6%
Plymouth	915	103	3,989	2.6%
Portsmouth	3,577	654	14,074	4.6%
Randolph	59	10	141	7.1%
Raymond	1,761	307	6,360	4.8%
Richmond	116	27	596	4.5%
Rindge	529	90	2,943	3.1%
Rochester	5,655	1,024	18,190	5.6%
Rollinsford	415	86	1,456	5.9%
Roxbury	27	3	139	2.2%
Rumney	206	32	958	3.3%
Rye	687	129	3,459	3.7%
Salem	3,501	672	18,512	3.6%
Salisbury	211	35	827	4.2%
Sanbornton	512	98	1,689	5.8%
Sandown	842	137	4,279	3.2%
Sandwich	173	35	610	5.7%
Seabrook	1,324	282	5,180	5.4%
Sharon	40	11	224	4.9%
Shelburne	52	9	177	5.1%
Somersworth	2,224	437	6,891	6.3%
South Hampton	80	18	531	3.4%
Springfield	143	19	779	2.4%
Stark	61	9	194	4.6%
Stewartstown	104	17	370	4.6%
Stoddard	187	34	724	4.7%
Strafford	586	97	2,328	4.2%
Stratford	109	21	255	8.2%
Stratham	902	170	4,559	3.7%
Sugar Hill	86	15	351	4.3%
Sullivan	94	12	360	3.3%
Sunapee	409	60	1,671	3.6%
Surry	92	11	500	2.2%
Sutton	198	36	1,139	3.2%
Swanzey	1,062	191	4,101	4.7%
Tamworth	569	115	1,517	7.6%
Temple	192	33	786	4.2%
Thornton	552	93	1,790	5.2%
Tilton	833	138	1,837	7.5%
Troy	331	66	1,174	5.6%
Tuftonboro	321	73	1,157	6.3%
Unity	138	31	865	3.6%
Wakefield	702	146	2,310	6.3%
Walpole	411	76	2,380	3.2%
Warner	417	78	1,587	4.9%
Warren	108	16	537	3.0%
Washington	194	32	513	6.2%
Waterville Valley	95	10	141	7.1%
Weare	1,405	201	6,179	3.3%
Webster	288	42	1,180	3.6%
Wentworth	121	17	535	3.2%
Westmoreland	199	31	941	3.3%
Whitefield	459	89	1,280	7.0%
Wilmot	172	34	788	4.3%
Wilton	610	102	2,190	4.7%
Winchester	622	112	2,058	5.4%
Windham	1,445	241	8,219	2.9%
Windsor	36	3	155	1.9%
Wolfeboro	828	162	2,827	5.7%
Woodstock	437	63	972	6.5%
Totals	**205,800**	**36,744**	**780,205**	**4.7%**

** Towns with fewer than 25 claims are excluded from the table, but are included in totals*

*** Includes only claims active during the reference week*

† New data for Continued Claims is released monthly

The next release of the **COVID-19 Unemployment Update** will be on March 18th.

For further information contact:
Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau
(603) 228-4124

NEWS RELEASE