



# COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

***For Immediate Release: April 1, 2021***

New Hampshire's initial claims for the week ended March 27th increased to 1,515 from a revised 1,009 (previously reported as 939 in last week's report). Weekly reports of initial claims for unemployment have been subject to substantial volatility and revision recently, as fraudulent claims have risen sharply and as the process for verifying claims and removing fraudulent ones to avoid paying fraudulent benefits, can take a more than one week. Again, we urge caution in interpreting week-to-week changes in initial claims filings. Rather, readers should look at trends over a number of weeks and compare them to previous time periods during the pandemic. For recent weeks, that means understanding that even with an increase in 500 new claims this week, the number still represents one of the three lowest reported claims in a week in over a year.

Last week's U.S. initial claims were revised down substantially (again, likely as a result of fraud detection measures) but for the week ended March 27th increased by 9.7 percent on a not seasonally adjusted basis. As with New Hampshire data, we urge caution in interpreting national numbers because the rise in fraudulent claims activity, and improvements in detecting them, can lead to substantial volatility in weekly numbers. A total of 33 states experienced an increase in initial claims during the week. Every New England state except Massachusetts had an increase in initial claims during the week.

New Hampshire's continued claims in the regular unemployment insurance (UI) program also increased, to 22,129 during the week ended March 20th, up 537 or 2.5 percent from the prior week. U.S. regular UI continued claims decreased by 2.1 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. Seventeen (17) states experienced an increase in regular UI program continuing claims during the week ended March 20th. New Hampshire was the

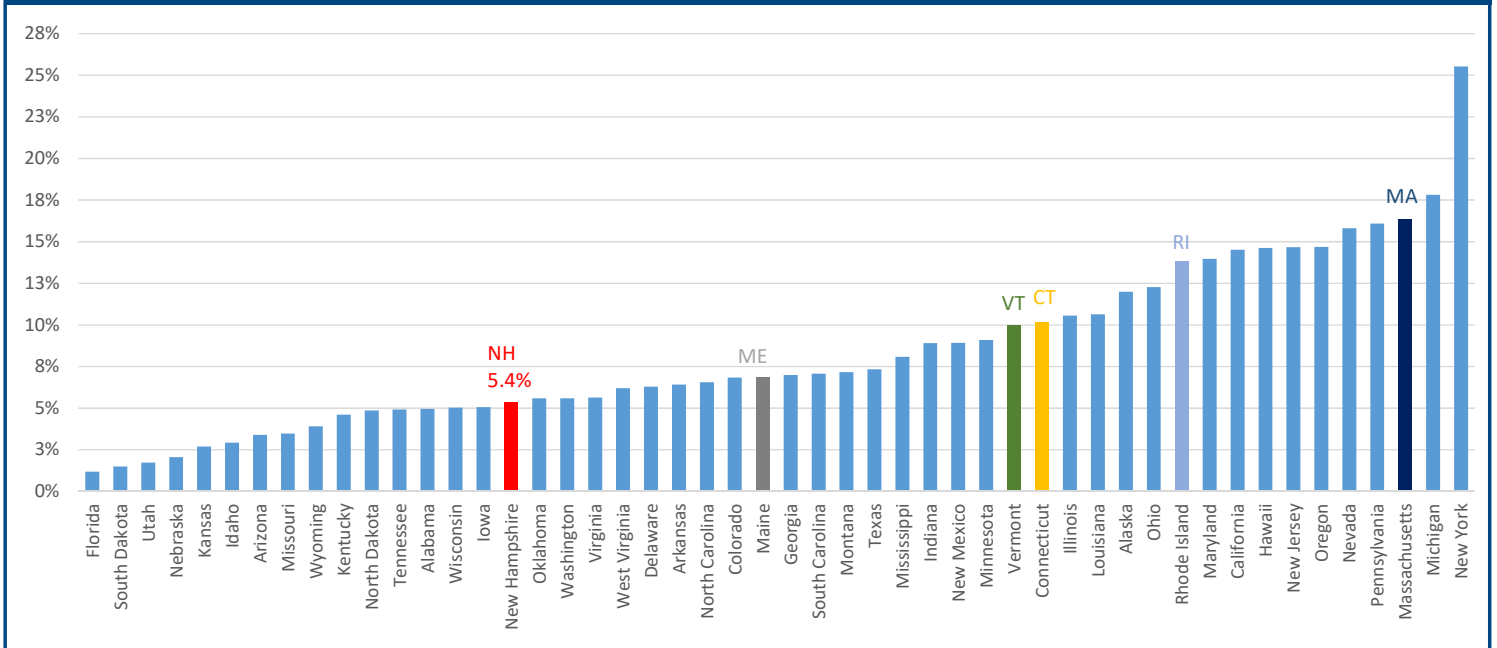
only New England state to experience an increase in regular continued UI claims during the week.

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. Seventeen (17) states experienced an increase in PUA continued claims during the week ended March 13th. New Hampshire's PUA continued claims dropped 2.7 percent during the week. In New England, only Connecticut had an increase in PUA continued claims during the week. Nationally, PUA continued claims declined by 6.3 percent during the week ended March 13th.

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. Thirteen (13) states saw an increase in PEUC claims during the week ended March 13th. New Hampshire had a small (-1.8%) decrease in PEUC claims during the week. In New England, Connecticut and Rhode Island had increases in PEUC claims during the week. Nationally, PEUC claims continued their volatility, decreasing by 11.3 percent during the week ended March 13th, after increasing by 15.2 percent the previous week.

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 decreased

## All Continued Claims (Regular UI, PUA and PEUC) as a % of the State's Pre-Covid 19 Workforce (as of March 13<sup>th</sup>)



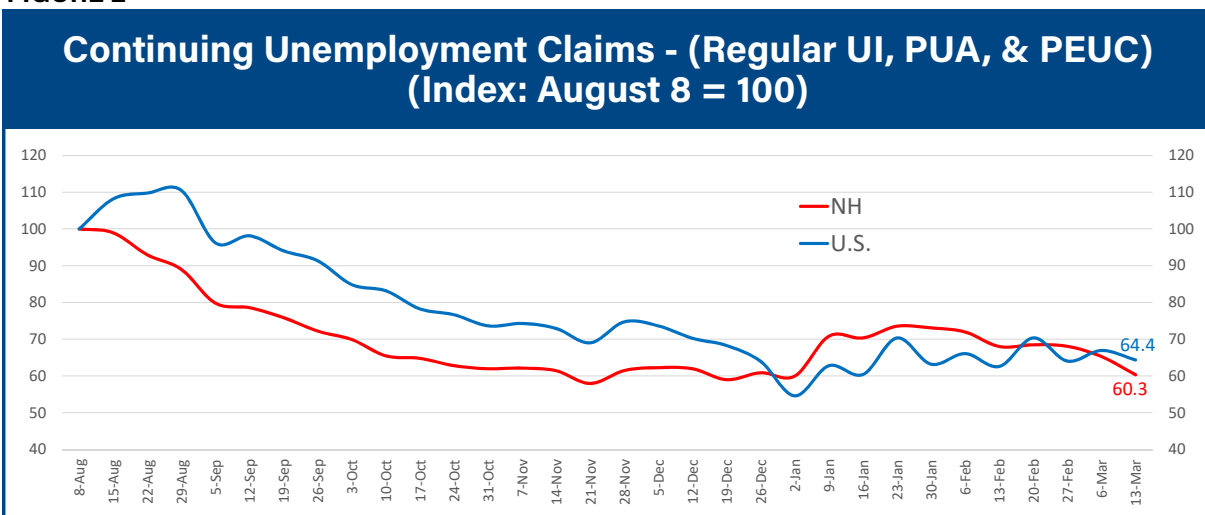
to 5.4 percent as of March 13th (PUA and PEUC claims are reported with a two week lag).

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 60 indicates that as of March 13th, continuing claims have declined by 40 percent since August 8th (100 - 60 = 40). Continuing claims nationally are now 36 percent below what they were during the week ended August 8th.

Weekly initial claims have fallen to a level where there are few significant variations in-town-by-town initial claims

numbers on a weekly basis. In addition, the potential for fraudulent claims temporarily affecting claims numbers make reported weekly changes by town less reliable. Continued claims are not subject to the same distortions due to fraudulent claims, and in any case are a better indicator of trends and the progress of the recovery at the state and local level. Accordingly, the original Table 1 (towns with the largest weekly changes in initial claims) will no longer be reported. Table 4 at the end of this report (now Table 3 beginning this week) will continue to report total initial claims by town since the pandemic began, as well as continued (active) claims by town which are updated once a month, along with a monthly update of each town's Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate.

FIGURE 2



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. 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. In addition, the official Bureau of Labor Statistics’ method of calculating unemployment rates does not include individuals collecting unemployment benefits through the PUA and PEUC programs, while the Covid-19 Affected Rate calculated by the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security does include those claims. Finally, the Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate does not include any seasonal adjustments.

The Covid-19 Affected Rate is presented in Table 3, along with the total number of initial claims filed in each community between March 2020 and March 20th 2021, to provide a metric of the relative employment impacts of Covid-19 on the residents of each community.<sup>1</sup> The official U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for New Hampshire in February was 3.3 percent, and the not seasonally adjusted figure was also 3.3 percent. For the week ending February 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.

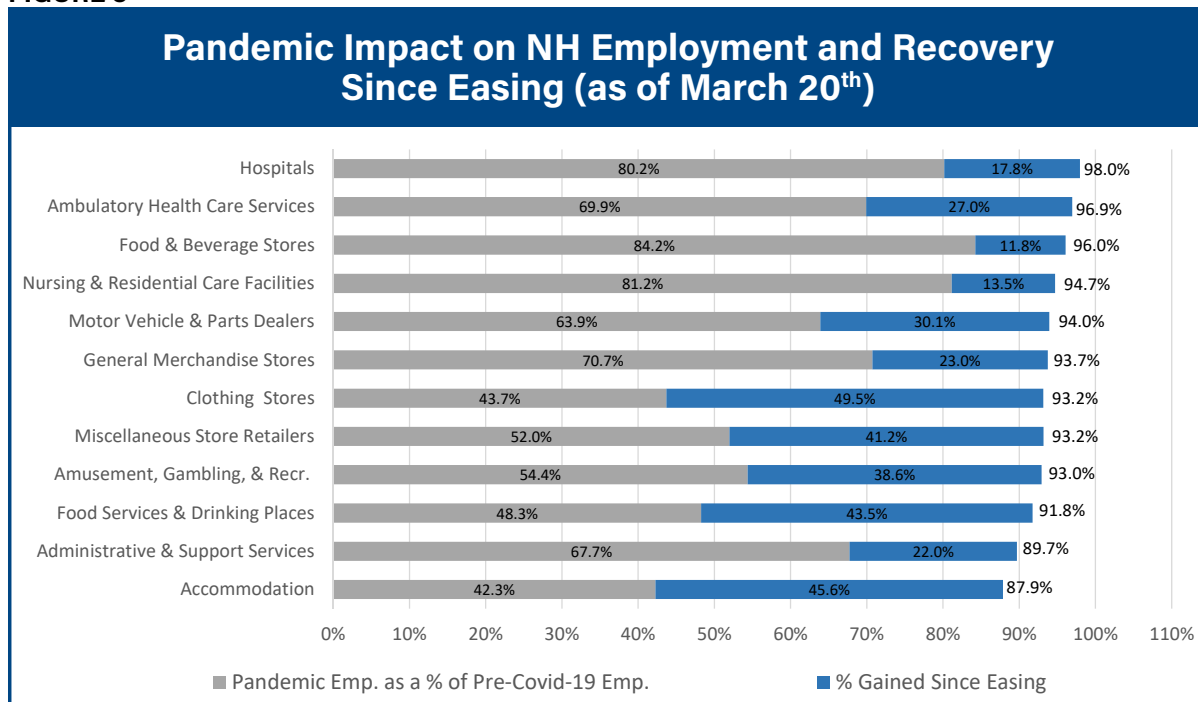
### Claims by County

Table 1 presents the total number of initial claims in each county between March 15th 2020 and March 20th 2021. 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 1. 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

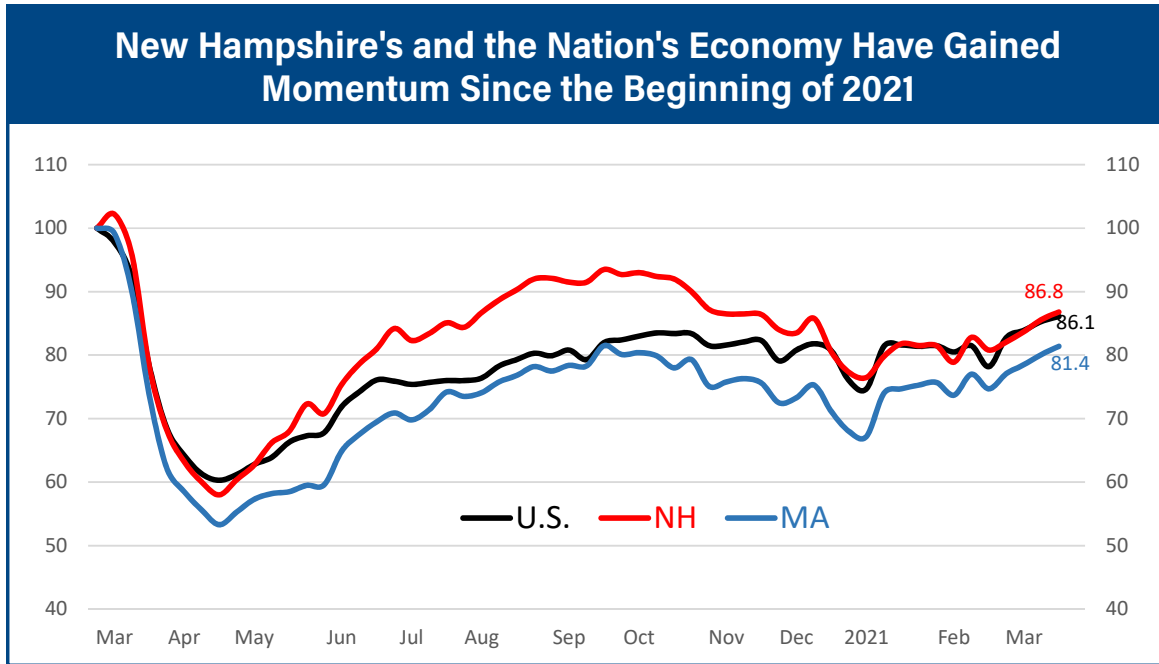
A majority of industries in New Hampshire saw declines in continued claims during the week ended March 20th. Thirteen of the 94 industry classifications (at the three-digit NAICS level) experienced an increase in continuing claims during the week but the total increase among all of them was just 39, with one industry, computer manufacturing, accounting for 16 of the 39 increased claims. Continued claims in the food services and drinking places industry continued their rapid decline, falling by 485 or 10.6 percent

**FIGURE 3**



<sup>1</sup> 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.

**FIGURE 4**



The retail industry had a decrease of 156 continued claims during the week ended March 20th, or -3.1 percent. Hospitality and recreation industries (accommodations, food services, and recreation) had the largest drops in continued claims, falling by 617 or -9.6 percent during the week.

Industries with the most initial claims for unemployment since March 16th 2020 are presented

during the week. Administrative and support industries, including temporary help services, experienced a decline of 160 continued claims during the week. Professional and scientific services had a 5.3 percent in continued claims during the week.

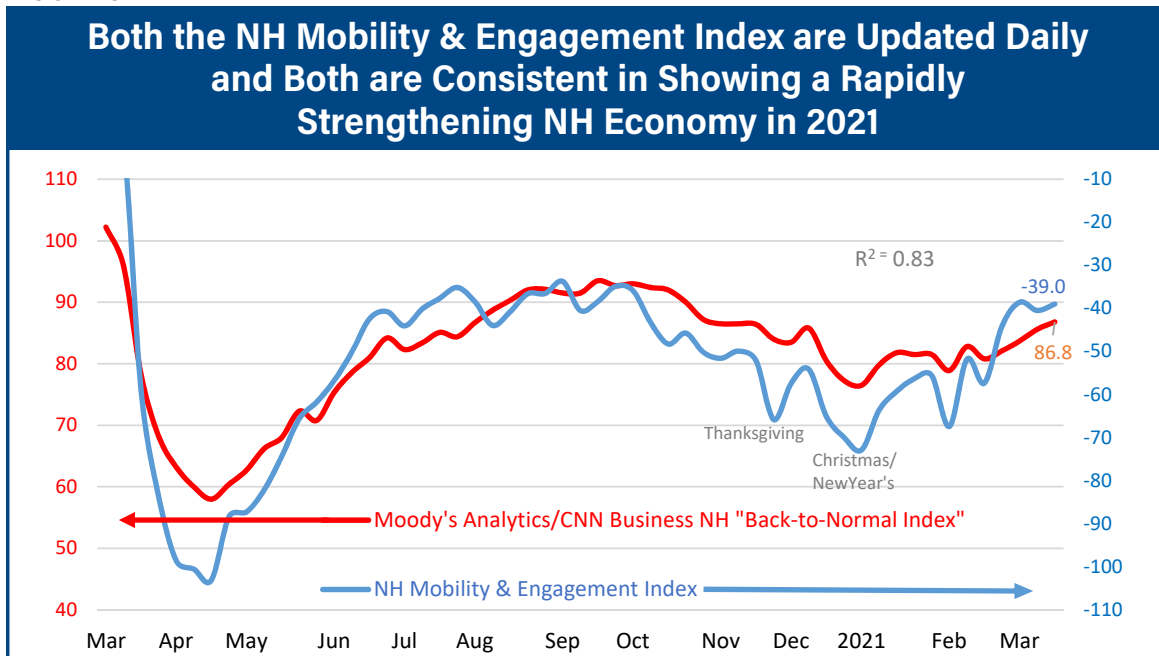
Construction industry continued claims declined by a 121 or 5.6 percent across specialty trade contractors, construction of buildings, and the heavy and civil construction industries. Manufacturing industries had a 2.8 percent decline (-81) in claims during the week. Claims in educational services decreased by 54, or 4.8 percent during the week.

Continued claims in healthcare industries decreased by 124, or 4.9 percent

in Table 3, along with the number of continuing claims in the industry for the week ended March 20th 2021, 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 March 20th.

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 March 20th. Combined, the graph provides an indication of the current capacity at which each industry is operating, as well as the degree to

**FIGURE 5**



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.

### **High Frequency Metrics Highlight New Hampshire's Recovery**

Most measures of economic activity produced by state and federal government agencies are provided monthly or quarterly, and with one or more additional months or quarter lags. The pandemic has highlighted the need for real-time measures of economic activity to assess the pandemic's impact on the economy and to guide public policy efforts to mitigate them.

The unemployment claims data presented in this weekly publication offer the best, high-frequency data produced by government on economic trends in the state. Claims data reflect an economy and specific industries that are accelerating their recovery. Importantly, high frequency economic metrics developed by the private sector that have emerged during the pandemic also validate the trajectory of New Hampshire's recovery.

This publication has previously highlighted the Moody's Analytics/CNN Business "Back-to-Normal Index" that measures the status of each state's and the nation's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The index is calculated daily and uses government produced economic data along with real-time metrics from private sector sources to capture how businesses and consumers are responding to the pandemic. Index numbers refer to how close to "normal" (its pre-pandemic level) each state's economy is functioning. A state's Index numbers are not

relative to any other state's index numbers. That is, two states with the same index numbers does not indicate that both have similarly strong economies, only that each is operating at a similar strength relative to their pre-pandemic economy. One state may have had a strong economy pre-pandemic, the other weaker, but they are both currently operating at the same distance away from whatever level their economy was functioning at prior to the pandemic. Figure 4 shows that New Hampshire's, as well as the nation's and Massachusetts's, economy have each gained momentum since the end of 2020, but that New Hampshire and the nation are both closer to operating at their pre-pandemic levels than is Massachusetts.

The "Back-to-Normal Index" uses a large number of public and private sector metrics in its calculation. The Dallas Federal Reserve Bank developed a "Mobility and Engagement Index" (MEI) that uses anonymous geolocation data (cell phone pingbacks) to track, on a daily and weekly basis, movement of a state's (and county and metro area's) residents away from their homes, and for how long, to assess a state's economic activity relative to its pre-pandemic baseline level. Figure 5 shows that, similar to the "Back-to-Normal Index," the MEI documents the increasing economic momentum in New Hampshire's recovery from the pandemic. The chart also shows the strong relationship between the MEI's measure of mobility and the progress of the state's economic recovery as measured by the "Back-to-Normal Index." In doing so, it provides a valuable, new, near real-time, and intuitively understood indicator of the direction of momentum in the New Hampshire economy.

— Brian Gottlob, Director

**TABLE 1 - COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY**

COUNTY	TOTAL CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH: MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CLAIMS MARCH 7 TO MARCH 20	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	CONTINUING CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH AS OF FEBRUARY 20 <sup>†</sup>	FEBRUARY 2020 LABOR FORCE	ESTIMATED CURRENT COVID-19 AFFECTED INSURED UNEMP. RATE
Belknap	11,726	28	-4	2,099	31,039	6.8%
Carroll	8,773	20	-1	1,663	23,718	7.0%
Cheshire	10,215	23	-18	1,759	41,500	4.2%
Coos	5,195	17	-3	910	14,724	6.2%
Grafton	12,843	26	-17	1,982	51,045	3.9%
Hillsborough	67,263	144	-108	11,839	245,905	4.8%
Merrimack	24,082	54	-46	4,221	84,821	5.0%
Rockingham	43,602	95	-31	7,751	188,982	4.1%
Strafford	20,303	52	-10	3,586	75,410	4.8%
Sullivan	5,774	17	-3	934	23,061	4.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>209,776</b>	<b>476</b>		<b>36,744</b>	<b>780,205</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

<sup>†</sup> New data for Continued Claims is released monthly

**TABLE 2 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16, 2020 TO MARCH 20, 2021**

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16, 2020	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF MARCH 13	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	FEBRUARY 6 CONT. CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	32,612	4,110	-485	49,907	8.2%
Administrative and Support Services	561	16,662	3,472	-160	33,750	10.3%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	621	12,610	1,052	-76	34,431	3.1%
Educational Services	611	10,110	1,076	-54	20,834	5.2%
Social Assistance	624	7,958	1,124	-41	15,809	7.1%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	541	7,323	1,054	-59	39,171	2.7%
Hospitals	622	6,930	614	-30	30,086	2.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	6,918	1,241	-66	18,817	6.6%
Personal and Laundry Services	812	6,137	736	-71	7,306	10.1%
Accommodation	721	6,075	1,019	-81	8,397	12.1%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	713	5,924	698	-51	9,883	7.1%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	5,781	762	-17	12,602	6.0%

**TABLE 2 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16, 2020 TO MARCH 20, 2021**

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16, 2020	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF MARCH 13	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	FEBRUARY 6 CONT. CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
General Merchandise Stores	452	5,685	929	-30	14,817	6.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	4,749	878	-28	22,356	3.9%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	448	4,058	412	-20	6,029	6.8%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	4,009	381	-10	9,527	4.0%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	623	3,942	756	-18	14,268	5.3%
General Automotive Repair	811	3,304	408	-20	5,313	7.7%
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	453	3,262	371	-20	5,449	6.8%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	332	3,169	395	-23	11,558	3.4%
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	334	3,137	406	16	16,381	2.5%
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	485	3,131	498	-15	3,652	13.6%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	423	3,130	428	-30	12,463	3.4%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	813	3,119	380	-23	6,517	5.8%
Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	335	2,287	169	-2	4,225	4.0%
Construction of Buildings	236	2,269	371	-32	6,082	6.1%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, and Book Stores	451	2,055	206	-12	4,154	5.0%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	424	1,884	290	-8	8,050	3.6%
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	442	1,855	177	-2	2,772	6.4%
Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers.	425	1,703	280	-4	7,771	3.6%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	339	1,689	183	-7	4,430	4.1%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	326	1,595	205	3	5,422	3.8%
Real Estate	531	1,545	242	-11	4,949	4.9%
Nonstore Retailers	454	1,536	247	-1	6,181	4.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	551	1,373	244	-14	9,284	2.6%
Gas Stations	447	1,351	217	-7	4,511	4.8%
Couriers and Messengers	492	1,320	283	-28	4,185	6.8%
Health and Personal Care Stores	446	1,303	172	-4	3,721	4.6%

**TABLE 2 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16, 2020 TO MARCH 20, 2021**

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16, 2020	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF MARCH 13	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	FEBRUARY 6 CONT. CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Machinery Manufacturing	333	1,249	203	1	7,006	2.9%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237	1,238	445	-23	3,564	12.5%
Textile Mills	313	1,186	190	-13	1,822	10.4%
Printing and Related Support Activities	323	1,184	166	-43	2,297	7.2%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	524	1,102	182	-1	11,768	1.5%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	331	1,098	160	-1	2,386	5.6%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	443	1,034	148	-5	2,958	1.7%
Rental and Leasing Services	532	1,015	172	2	1,993	9.6%
Industries in the Food Manufacturing	311	941	126	-3	2,771	5.5%
Industries in the Publishing Industries (except Internet)	511	928	147	-2	5,116	3.0%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	522	827	150	-7	11,768	1.4%
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related	711	792	154	-11	1,179	15.4%

\*NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System

**TABLE 3 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Acworth	106	18	459	3.9%
Albany	143	20	362	5.5%
Alexandria	313	43	912	4.7%
Allenstown	767	151	2,493	6.1%
Alstead	279	50	1,083	4.6%
Alton	892	167	3,009	5.6%
Amherst	1,338	212	6,419	3.3%
Andover	351	67	1,439	4.7%
Antrim	423	61	1,427	4.3%
Ashland	416	60	1,279	4.7%

**TABLE 3 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Atkinson	721	128	4,068	3.1%
Auburn	825	139	3,634	3.8%
Barnstead	808	129	2,656	4.9%
Barrington	1,386	221	5,523	4.0%
Bartlett	745	118	1,459	8.1%
Bath town	158	17	542	3.1%
Bedford	2,588	357	12,555	2.8%
Belmont	1,483	283	3,576	7.9%
Bennington	275	51	817	6.2%
Benton	35	8	150	5.3%



**TABLE 3 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Berlin	1,493	259	3,888	6.7%
Bethlehem	554	97	1,444	6.7%
Boscawen	748	109	1,972	5.5%
Bow	977	166	4,561	3.6%
Bradford	283	64	986	6.5%
Brentwood	551	91	2,642	3.4%
Bridgewater	169	35	761	4.6%
Bristol	704	99	1,842	5.4%
Brookfield	149	24	293	8.2%
Brookline	583	82	3,480	2.4%
Campton	711	108	2,110	5.1%
Canaan	551	85	2,042	4.2%
Candia	608	94	2,598	3.6%
Canterbury	314	54	1,508	3.6%
Carroll	150	16	391	4.1%
Center Harbor	178	28	670	4.2%
Charlestown	762	113	2,843	4.0%
Chatham	50	10	160	6.3%
Chester	700	105	3,145	3.3%
Chesterfield	342	61	1,943	3.1%
Chichester	420	68	1,588	4.3%
Claremont	1,921	307	6,385	4.8%
Colebrook	371	56	1,141	4.9%
Columbia	67	8	318	2.5%
Concord	7,338	1,282	23,063	5.6%
Conway	2,471	417	5,463	7.6%
Cornish	192	36	988	3.6%
Croydon	76	17	452	3.8%
Dalton	232	50	442	
Danbury	238	50	736	6.8%
Danville	615	110	2,771	4.0%
Deerfield	678	115	2,835	4.1%
Deering	246	36	1,133	3.2%
Derry	5,470	971	20,900	4.6%
Dorchester	40	11	200	5.5%
Dover	5,491	944	18,915	5.0%
Dublin	166	26	891	2.9%
Dummer	36	15	142	
Dunbarton	402	58	1,795	3.2%

**TABLE 3 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Durham	876	115	9,395	1.2%
East Kingston	267	51	1,401	3.6%
Easton	38	7	143	4.9%
Eaton	73	14	235	6.0%
Effingham	255	54	701	7.7%
Enfield	571	82	3,166	2.6%
Epping	1,149	188	4,282	4.4%
Epsom	753	138	2,996	4.6%
Errol	61	12	164	7.3%
Exeter	2,139	403	8,834	4.6%
Farmington	1,252	242	3,725	6.5%
Fitzwilliam	271	47	1,361	3.5%
Francestown	200	40	1,002	4.0%
Franconia	178	30	655	4.6%
Franklin	1,759	335	4,055	8.3%
Freedom	193	43	766	5.6%
Fremont	673	129	2,870	4.5%
Gilford	1,341	220	3,645	6.0%
Gilmanton	690	117	1,746	6.7%
Gilsum	129	28	457	6.1%
Goffstown	2,706	407	11,023	3.7%
Gorham	514	98	1,234	7.9%
Goshen	104	15	451	3.3%
Grafton	213	42	683	6.1%
Grantham	280	49	1,664	2.9%
Greenfield	261	51	1,066	4.8%
Greenland	557	101	2,467	4.1%
Greenville	284	55	1,206	4.6%
Groton	153	27	382	7.1%
Hampstead	1,058	188	5,151	3.6%
Hampton Falls	276	52	1,501	3.5%
Hampton	2,715	553	9,147	6.0%
Hancock	229	48	944	5.1%
Hanover	400	43	5,093	0.8%
Harrisville	136	26	609	4.3%
Haverhill	529	95	2,359	4.0%
Hebron	65	7	413	1.7%
Henniker	668	113	2,910	3.9%
Hill	186	36	543	6.6%

**TABLE 3 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Hillsborough	1,157	177	3,004	5.9%
Hinsdale	403	75	2,158	3.5%
Holderness	331	54	1,563	3.5%
Hollis	780	128	4,346	2.9%
Hooksett	2,379	392	9,376	4.2%
Hopkinton	681	111	3,481	3.2%
Hudson	3,505	577	15,467	3.7%
Jackson	198	25	366	6.8%
Jaffrey	735	151	3,103	4.9%
Jefferson	182	39	639	6.1%
Keene	3,458	533	11,949	4.5%
Kensington	209	41	1,313	3.1%
Kingston	868	160	3,777	4.2%
Laconia	3,380	657	7,775	8.5%
Lancaster	483	86	1,741	4.9%
Landaff	47	10	279	3.6%
Langdon	76	11	363	3.0%
Lebanon	1,576	230	7,793	3.0%
Lee	640	99	2,884	3.4%
Lempster	154	25	629	4.0%
Lincoln	418	63	770	8.2%
Lisbon	260	60	862	7.0%
Litchfield	1,192	183	4,887	3.7%
Littleton	1,283	229	3,256	7.0%
Londonderry	3,594	586	16,261	3.6%
Loudon	876	153	3,357	4.6%
Lyman	139	15	336	4.5%
Lyme	118	18	850	2.1%
Lyndeborough	255	54	1,056	5.1%
Madbury	245	40	1,097	3.6%
Madison	485	91	1,437	6.3%
Manchester	24,396	4,495	66,815	6.7%
Marlborough	357	70	1,221	5.7%
Marlow	112	27	369	7.3%
Mason	188	42	821	5.1%
Meredith	1,119	198	3,115	6.4%
Merrimack	3,886	651	16,570	3.9%
Middleton	269	52	1,051	4.9%
Milan	207	38	626	6.1%

**TABLE 3 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Milford	2,575	403	9,738	4.1%
Milton	688	143	2,390	6.0%
Monroe	91	18	401	4.5%
Mont Vernon	326	54	1,582	3.4%
Moultonborough	623	120	2,219	5.4%
Nashua	13,801	2,693	51,919	5.2%
Nelson	80	12	440	2.7%
New Boston	911	135	3,976	3.4%
New Castle	88	18	560	3.2%
New Durham	419	86	1,563	5.5%
New Hampton	461	64	1,321	4.8%
New Ipswich	530	92	3,023	3.0%
New London	362	52	1,941	2.7%
Newbury	270	35	1,212	2.9%
Newfields	220	36	1,071	3.4%
Newington	104	14	518	2.7%
Newmarket	1,670	238	5,818	4.1%
Newport	994	173	3,553	4.9%
Newton	458	97	3,283	3.0%
North Hampton	594	146	2,684	5.4%
Northfield	981	180	2,554	7.0%
Northumberland	376	56	1,059	5.3%
Northwood	780	121	2,672	4.5%
Nottingham	726	111	3,286	3.4%
Orford	120	22	817	2.7%
Ossipee	751	191	1,757	10.9%
Pelham	1,384	229	8,237	2.8%
Pembroke	1,358	249	4,612	5.4%
Peterborough	929	176	3,858	4.6%
Piermont	66	11	430	2.6%
Pittsburg	139	17	384	4.4%
Pittsfield	665	133	2,122	6.3%
Plainfield	212	28	1,446	1.9%
Plastow	847	155	4,320	3.6%
Plymouth	933	103	3,989	2.6%
Portsmouth	3,651	654	14,074	4.6%
Randolph	59	10	141	7.1%
Raymond	1,798	307	6,360	4.8%
Richmond	118	27	596	4.5%

**TABLE 3 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Rindge	541	90	2,943	3.1%
Rochester	5,753	1,024	18,190	5.6%
Rollinsford	419	86	1,456	5.9%
Roxbury	28	3	139	2.2%
Rumney	209	32	958	3.3%
Rye	689	129	3,459	3.7%
Salem	3,636	672	18,512	3.6%
Salisbury	213	35	827	4.2%
Sanbornton	517	98	1,689	5.8%
Sandown	858	137	4,279	3.2%
Sandwich	176	35	610	5.7%
Seabrook	1,346	282	5,180	5.4%
Sharon	40	11	224	4.9%
Shelburne	53	9	177	5.1%
Somersworth	2,271	437	6,891	6.3%
South Hampton	82	18	531	3.4%
Springfield	144	19	779	2.4%
Stark	61	9	194	4.6%
Stewartstown	106	17	370	4.6%
Stoddard	189	34	724	4.7%
Strafford	594	97	2,328	4.2%
Stratford	112	21	255	8.2%
Stratham	910	170	4,559	3.7%
Sugar Hill	88	15	351	4.3%
Sullivan	95	12	360	3.3%
Sunapee	414	60	1,671	3.6%
Surry	93	11	500	2.2%
Sutton	203	36	1,139	3.2%
Swanzey	1,082	191	4,101	4.7%
Tamworth	575	115	1,517	7.6%

**TABLE 3 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2021	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF FEB 20	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Temple	193	33	786	4.2%
Thornton	554	93	1,790	5.2%
Tilton	857	138	1,837	7.5%
Troy	340	66	1,174	5.6%
Tuftonboro	324	73	1,157	6.3%
Unity	143	31	865	3.6%
Wakefield	711	146	2,310	6.3%
Walpole	415	76	2,380	3.2%
Warner	422	78	1,587	4.9%
Warren	112	16	537	3.0%
Washington	196	32	513	6.2%
Waterville Valley	96	10	141	7.1%
Weare	1,420	201	6,179	3.3%
Webster	294	42	1,180	3.6%
Wentworth	123	17	535	3.2%
Westmoreland	202	31	941	3.3%
Whitefield	464	89	1,280	7.0%
Wilmot	174	34	788	4.3%
Wilton	626	102	2,190	4.7%
Winchester	644	112	2,058	5.4%
Windham	1,472	241	8,219	2.9%
Windsor	36	3	155	1.9%
Wolfeboro	835	162	2,827	5.7%
Woodstock	441	63	972	6.5%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>209,691</b>	<b>36,727</b>	<b>780,205</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

*\* 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 April 8th.

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

**NEWS RELEASE**

NHES is a proud member of America's Workforce Network and NH Works. NHES is an equal opportunity employer and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available on request of individuals with disabilities.

Telephone (603) 224-3311

Fax (603) 228-4010

TDD/TTY Access: Relay 1-800-735-2964