



Administrative Office  
45 South Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301-4857

# COVID-19

# UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

**For Immediate Release:** February 18, 2021

New Hampshire's initial claims, as reported in the national claims release, show an increase of 183 claims (to 3,777) during the week ended February 13th. However, a large number of these claims (over 1,000) were detected as fraudulent but the timely revised initial claims numbers submitted by New Hampshire were not included in the week's national release. Thus, this week's initial claims numbers in the national release are not accurate and should not be viewed as an indication of initial claims trends in the state during the week. U.S. initial claims decreased by 0.7 percent during the week on a not seasonally adjusted basis. A total of 14 states experienced an increase in initial claims during the week. Discounting the fraudulent claims filed in New Hampshire, no New England state experienced and increase in initial claims during the week.

New Hampshire's continued claims in the regular unemployment insurance (UI) program were 26,374 during the week ended February 6th, down 808 (or 3.0%) from a revised 27,182 the prior week. U.S. regular UI continued claims decreased by 1.9 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. Eighteen (18) states experienced an increase in regular UI program continuing claims during the week ended February 6th, including Rhode Island among New England states.

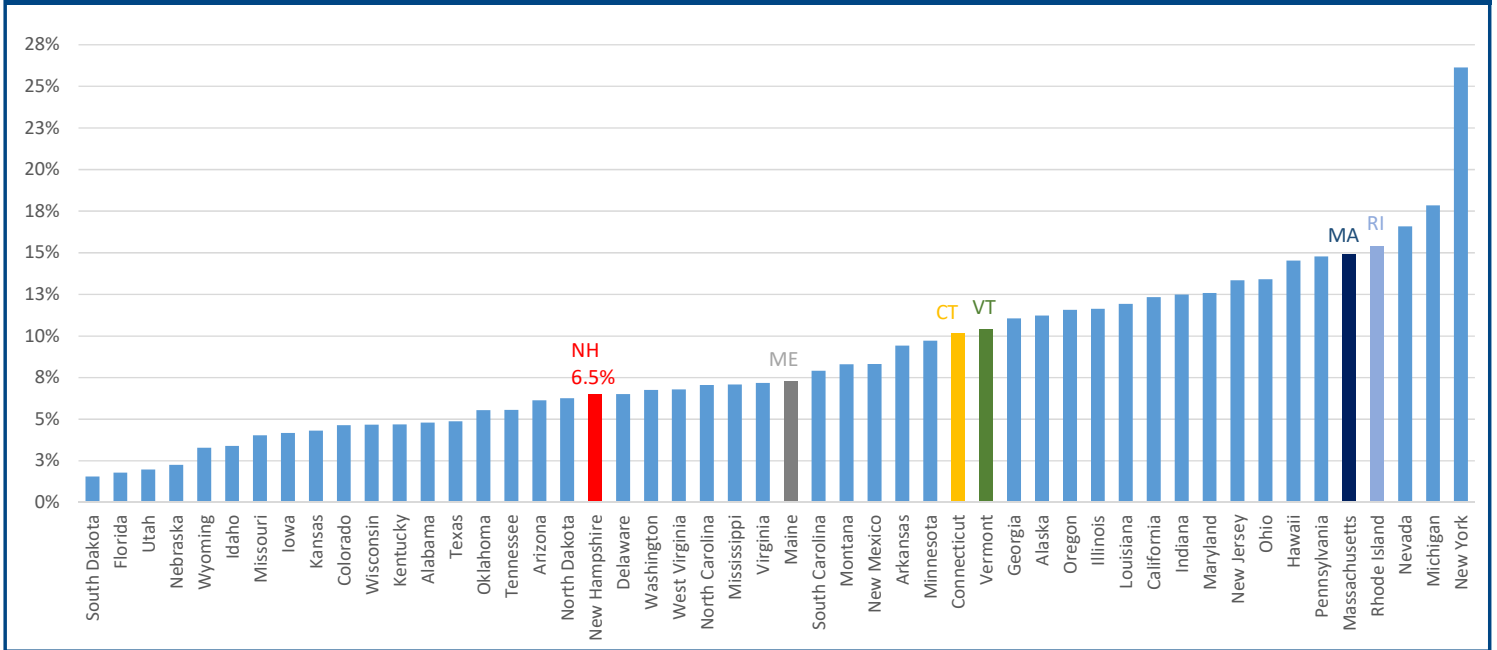
In addition to continued claims filed by individuals who qualify for a state's regular unemployment benefits program (UI), the federal CARES Act established the "Pandemic Unemployment Assistance" (PUA) program to allow workers affected by the pandemic but who would not normally qualify for regular state 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.

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

TOWN	NEW CLAIMS JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 6	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	TOTAL NEW CLAIMS MARCH 16 TO FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING CLAIMS AS OF JANUARY 23 <sup>†</sup>
<b>Largest Increases (from Prior Week) in New Claims</b>				
Nashua	142	34	13,219	2,871
Bedford	35	21	2,510	374
Laconia	40	17	3,299	686
Derry	53	13	5,305	1,033
Haverhill	15	13	510	87
Berlin	23	12	1,453	294
Hampton	33	12	2,656	579
Rochester	52	12	5,585	1,062
Hillsborough	14	8	1,126	212
Wilton	9	8	604	112
<b>Largest Decreases (From Prior Week) in New Claims</b>				
Belmont	8	-9	1,436	288
Deerfield	4	-7	656	123
Alton	8	-6	872	172
Newmarket	9	-6	1,618	256
Milton	4	-5	681	152
Swanzey	7	-5	1,051	214
Tuftonboro	0	-5	320	72
Warner	0	-5	414	84
Stratham	5	-3	886	178
Whitefield	2	-3	448	88

<sup>†</sup> 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 January 30<sup>th</sup>)



Twenty five (25) states experienced an increase in PUA continued claims during the week ended January 30th. Among New England states, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont 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. Thirty one (31) states saw an increase in PEUC claims during the week ended January 30th, an indication that more individuals in those states are remaining unemployed for a longer period of time. Again this week, Massachusetts was the only New England State not to have an increase in PEUC claims during the 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 small decrease in the overall number of continued claims and continued claims as a percentage of New Hampshire’s pre-Covid-19 workforce remained at 6.5 percent as of January 30th (PUA and PEUC claims are reported with a two 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 2

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

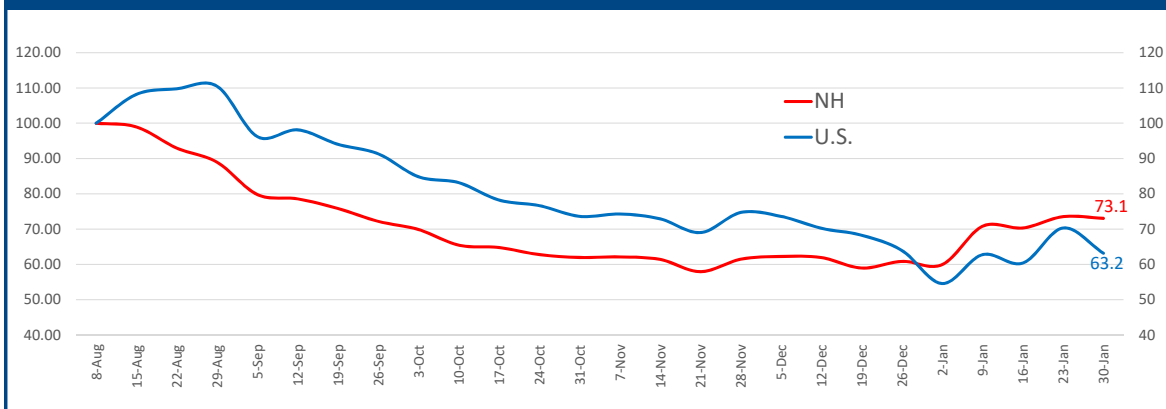


Figure 2 highlights continuing claims trends in New Hampshire and the U.S. since August 8th. On the graph, each region’s peak for continuing claims is set at an index value of 100, with index numbers reflecting the percentage change in continuing claims from 100 (thus New Hampshire’s index value of 73 indicates that as of January

30th, continuing claims have declined by 27 percent since August 8th (100 – 73 = 27). Continuing claims nationally have been somewhat volatile following the temporary lapse in the PUA and PEUC programs and claims nationally are now 37 percent below what they were during the week ended August 8th.

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 February 6th). The number of claims filed by New Hampshire residents working in New Hampshire increased by 319 during the week. Table 1 presents the 10 towns with the largest increase in the number of new claims over the prior week, as well as the 10 towns with the largest decrease in new claims.

Table 1 shows that Nashua (+34), Bedford (+21), and Laconia (+17), had the largest increases in new claims over the previous week. Belmont (-9) and Deerfield (-7) had the largest declines in initial claims compared to the prior week. One hundred and sixteen (116) of New Hampshire's 238 towns had an increase in new claims during the week, totaling 464 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 January 23rd) as a percentage of the town's labor force<sup>1</sup>, 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 January 23rd), 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 of each community.<sup>2</sup> The State of New Hampshire's official unemployment rate for January will be released on March 2nd (the annual "benchmarking" process of employment that adjusts prior monthly survey-based employment data using a quarterly census of employers data occurs in February), and will reflect employment and unemployment in January 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 December was 4.0 percent, and the not seasonally adjusted figure 3.8 percent. For the week ending January 23rd, New Hampshire's "Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate" (which is not seasonally adjusted) was 5.0 percent. Dalton (14.5%), Ossipee (10.6%) and Lincoln (10.3%) and 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. Finally, the Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate does include any seasonal adjustments.

## 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 February 6th, the change in initial claims from the prior week, and the number of continuing claims

<sup>1</sup> The February 2020 labor force count for each town is used for this analysis.

<sup>2</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.

filed by residents of each county. Each of New Hampshire's 10 counties experienced an increase in initial claims during the week compared to the previous week. Hillsborough (+103), Rockingham (+55) and Grafton (+42) Counties had the largest increases in initial unemployment claims during the week. Carroll (7.4%), Belknap (7.2%), and Coos Counties (6.8%) have the highest Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rates as of January 23rd, while the lowest rates were recorded in Grafton (4.2%), Rockingham County (4.3%), and Sullivan Counties (4.3%).

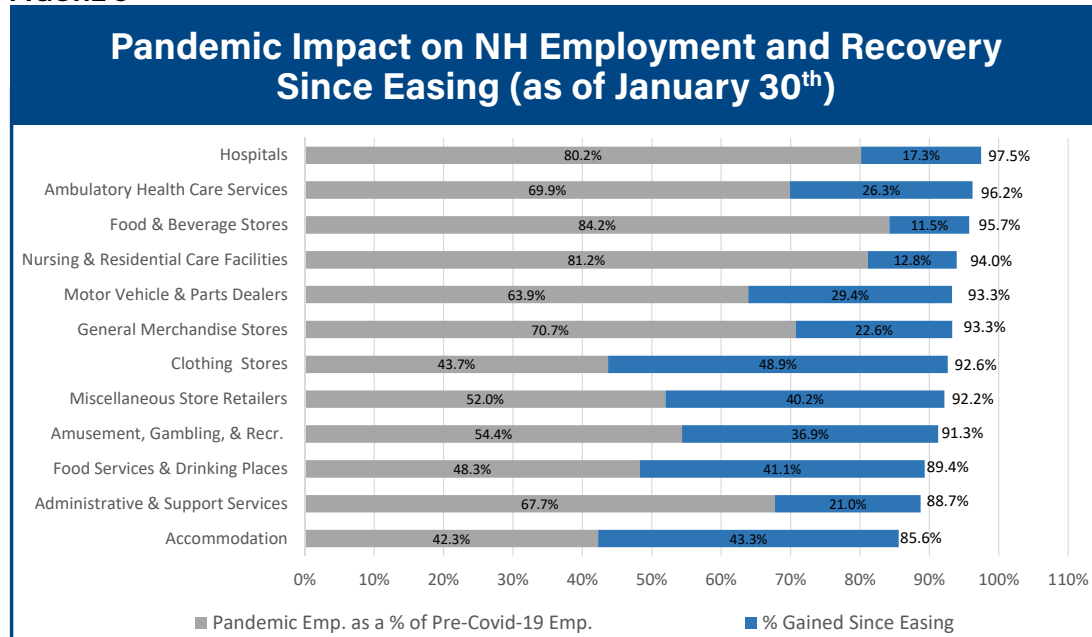
### Claims by Industry

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 6th, 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 6th.

Twenty one (21) of the 94 industry classifications (at the three-digit NAICS level) experienced increases in continuing claims during the week, accounting for an additional 164 continued claims. Among the 50 industries most affected by the pandemic through February 6th, just eight (8) experienced an increase in continuing claims during the week, compared to the week ended January 30th (Table 3).

Continued claims in the construction industry increased by 58 or 2.4 percent during the week ended February 6th, as seasonal patterns continue to limit construction activity. Manufacturing industries had a decline in continued claims of 1.2 percent (-40) during the week. A majority of manufacturing industries had declines in claims, however primary metal manufacturing experienced an increase of 25 continued claims during the week. Claims in educational services decreased by 84 or -6.1 percent. Continued claims in healthcare industries decreased by 102, a decline of -3.4 percent during the week. The retail industry had a decrease of 196 continued claims during the week ended February 6th, or -3.5 percent. Claims in the hospitality and recreation industries (accommodations, food services, and recreation) decreased by 369 or 4.8 percent. The food

**FIGURE 3**

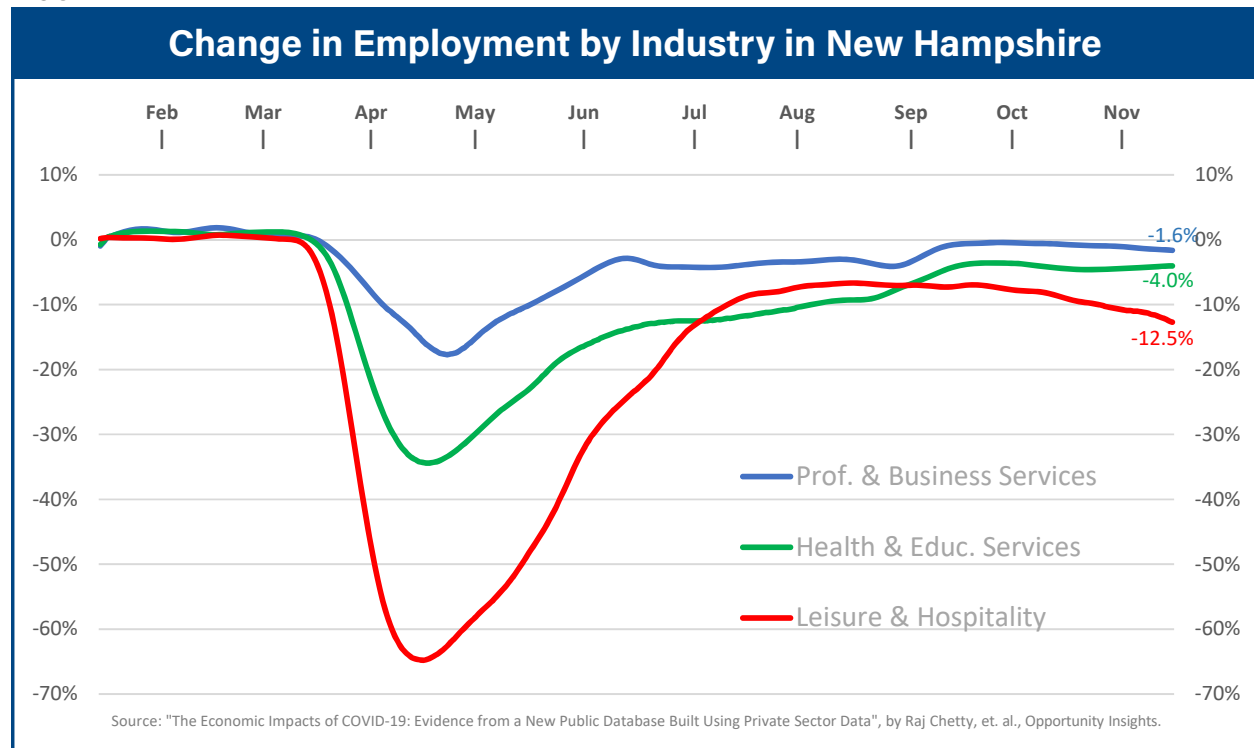


services industry again had the largest decline in continued claims of any industry during the week (-255 or -4.6%). It is unclear whether the decline in continued claims in the food services industry is a result of rehiring in the industry or if more employees in the industry are finding employment in other industries and occupations. Employment by industry numbers produced by the annual benchmarking process and via future Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data will provide insight into if and how labor is being reallocated among industries in the state.

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 6th. 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.

### Fewer Lower Wage Jobs Does Not Necessarily Mean More Middle and High Wage Jobs

Unemployment claims data from the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security show that the industries hardest hit during the pandemic have been industries that tend to employ a higher percentage of lower wage workers. Figure 4 uses data from private sector payroll and human service firms (Paychex, Intuit, Earnin, and Kronos) to compare employment trends in three higher, middle, and lower wage industries. The chart shows that, by far, lower wage industries (hospitality and leisure) have been hardest hit by job losses during the pandemic.

**FIGURE 4**

But lower wage and lower skill workers are more likely to have experienced unemployment during the pandemic regardless of the industries in which they work. Data from the same private sector sources highlight the differential impact that the pandemic is having on higher and lower wage workers. Figure 5 shows that, as of mid-November, jobs held by higher wage workers (above \$60,000) had increased by 4.3 percent in New Hampshire compared to their pre-pandemic levels, and compared to a 2.9 percent increase nationally. Jobs held by middle wage workers (between \$27,000 and \$60,000) had declined by 0.7 percent in New Hampshire, while jobs held by lower wage workers (under \$27,000) had declined by 20.8 percent. This decline in lower wage relative to higher wage jobs pushes the distribution of jobs more toward higher wage ones, but does nothing to raise the earnings and income levels of individuals with fewer skills and lower levels of educational attainment who largely hold lower wage jobs.

The possibility that many lower wage jobs lost may not return has profound implications for re-shaping the post-pandemic economy. Reducing the number of lower wage jobs is a worthwhile goal to the extent that individuals holding these jobs can, instead, acquire the skills to move into higher wage positions. But the post-pandemic economy is likely to require fewer lower wage jobs with the increase in teleworking during the pandemic playing a primary role in reducing the demand for lower wage employment. As the pandemic subsides, telework will play a more prominent role in New Hampshire's labor market than it did prior to the pandemic. Offices are costly and redundant places to accomplish work tasks that a third or more of New

Hampshire employees could accomplish from their homes (based on the occupational makeup of New Hampshire's industries). Organizations have invested time and money learning the keys to a productive teleworking workforce and will not completely abandon those sunk costs. The one-third of workers in New Hampshire holding jobs amenable to telework will not all do so when the pandemic ends, but it is possible that as many as 15-20 percent will do so. That is a substantial increase over the 5-7 percent who primarily worked from home prior to the pandemic. The increase in telework at the expense of office time and business travel will reduce the need for office space, commuting trips, and business gatherings, and will mean declines in demand for building cleaning, security, and maintenance service; hotel workers and restaurant staff; ride-hailing drivers; and other workers who provide services for individuals when they are at work in offices and other locations rather than when working from their own homes. These services make up a large share of employment among workers without postsecondary training or education. The need to social distance as well as the labor shortages during the pandemic, because of health, child and family care issues, etc., forced many organizations to automate or otherwise provide their goods and services with less labor. For example, there are now fewer workers per retail store (in addition to fewer retail stores), more automation in cleaning, and in warehousing, again with lower wage workers most affected.

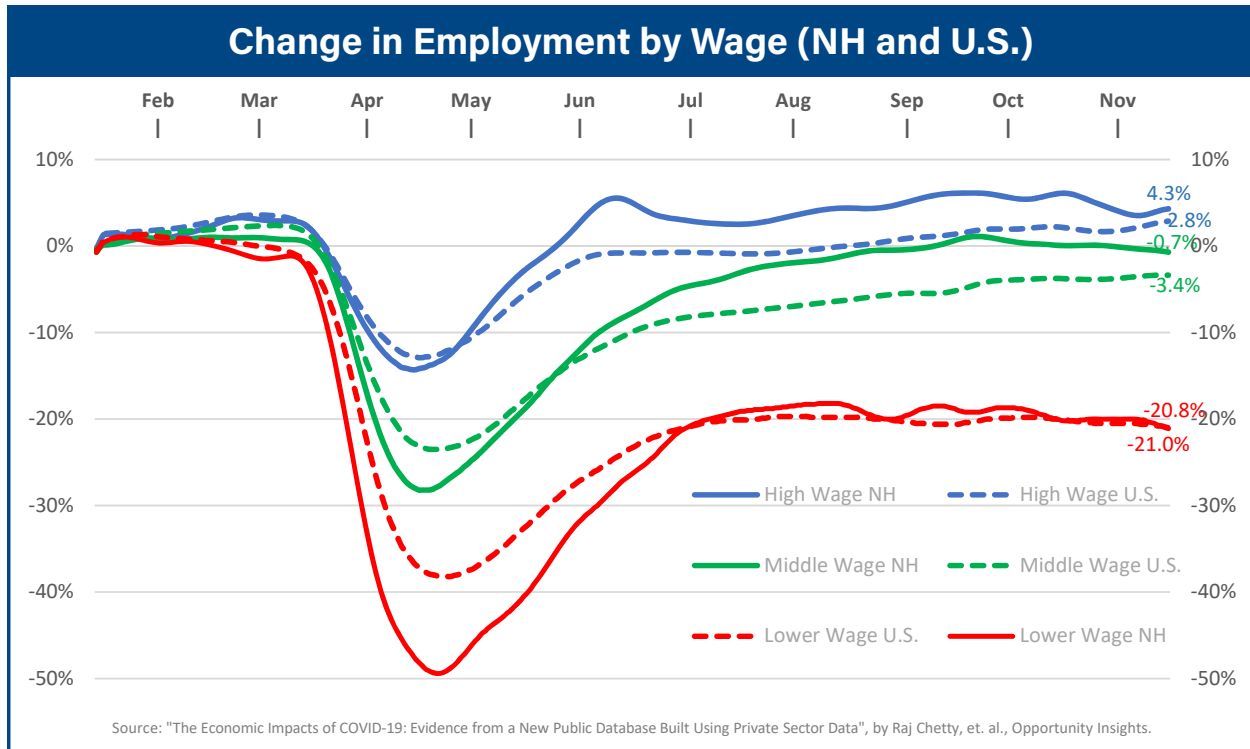
Unfortunately, fewer jobs in lower wage occupations and industries does not imply an increase in higher wage jobs. One implication of fewer lower wage jobs is that policies

like mandating a high minimum wage lose some efficacy in raising living standards as employment opportunities in low wage industries are lost, and as pandemic-induced efforts by organizations to automate tasks with less labor may push more organizations to accelerate their reduction in labor rather than bear the costs of a higher minimum wage. In that circumstance, policies directed at helping

individuals obtain the skills, education, training or short-term retraining in order to obtain higher wage jobs become more important. There will be no greater economic challenge in New Hampshire and the nation than re-allocating the labor (mostly lower wage) permanently displaced in the post-pandemic economy.

- Brian Gottlob, Director

**FIGURE 5**



**TABLE 2 - COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY**

COUNTY	TOTAL CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH: MARCH 16 TO FEBRUARY 6	CLAIMS JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 6	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	CONTINUING CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH AS OF JANUARY 23 <sup>†</sup>	FEBRUARY 2020 LABOR FORCE	ESTIMATED CURRENT COVID-19 AFFECTED INSURED UNEMP. RATE
Belknap	11,448	120	17	2,221	31,039	6.0%
Carroll	8,589	54	2	1,752	23,718	6.2%
Cheshire	9,926	104	12	1,905	41,500	3.9%
Coos	5,052	64	27	1,007	14,724	5.7%
Grafton	12,513	149	42	2,136	51,045	3.5%
Hillsborough	64,997	605	103	12,661	245,905	4.3%
Merrimack	23,426	233	26	4,450	84,821	4.4%
Rockingham	42,299	395	55	8,132	188,982	3.6%
Strafford	19,770	179	14	3,857	75,410	4.2%
Sullivan	5,606	66	21	981	23,061	3.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>203,626</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>39,102</b>	<b>780,205</b>	<b>4.2%</b>

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

**TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16 TO FEBRUARY 6**

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF FEBRUARY 6	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	FEBRUARY 6 CONT. CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	29,248	5,322	-255	49,907	10.7%
Administrative and Support Services	561	14,853	3,801	-146	33,750	11.3%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	621	11,700	1,301	-68	34,431	3.8%
Educational Services	611	9,467	1,288	-84	20,834	6.2%
Social Assistance	624	7,191	1,264	-72	15,809	8.0%
Hospitals	622	6,651	762	-19	30,086	2.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	541	6,299	1,275	-26	39,171	3.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	5,986	1,411	38	18,817	7.5%
Personal and Laundry Services	812	5,499	900	-61	7,306	12.3%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	713	5,425	863	-63	9,883	8.7%
Accommodation	721	5,319	1,209	-51	8,397	14.4%
General Merchandise Stores	452	5,258	994	-46	14,817	6.7%

**TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16 TO FEBRUARY 6**

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF FEBRUARY 6	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	FEBRUARY 6 CONT. CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	5,223	850	-20	12,602	6.7%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	4,307	954	-35	22,356	4.3%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	448	3,759	443	-19	6,029	7.3%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	623	3,607	864	-15	14,268	6.1%
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	453	2,994	426	-25	5,449	7.8%
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	334	2,943	430	-8	16,381	2.6%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	332	2,911	482	-15	11,558	4.2%
General Automotive Repair	811	2,806	437	-10	5,313	8.2%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	423	2,742	494	-8	12,463	4.0%
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	485	2,722	556	-32	3,652	15.2%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	813	2,719	446	-9	6,517	6.8%
Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	335	2,207	169	1	4,225	4.0%
Construction of Buildings	236	1,948	503	22	6,082	8.3%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	1,918	433	-10	9,527	4.5%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, and Book Stores	451	1,897	232	-13	4,154	5.6%
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	442	1,709	189	-8	2,772	6.8%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	424	1,687	314	-6	8,050	3.9%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	339	1,591	197	-5	4,430	4.4%
Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers.	425	1,495	314	-7	7,771	4.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	326	1,493	213	-12	5,422	3.9%
Nonstore Retailers	454	1,378	261	3	6,181	4.2%
Real Estate	531	1,302	262	-11	4,949	5.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	551	1,228	279	-10	9,284	3.0%
Health and Personal Care Stores	446	1,184	179	-10	4,185	4.3%
Gas Stations	447	1,175	245	-11	4,511	5.4%
Couriers and Messengers	492	1,161	327	-12	3,721	8.8%
Machinery Manufacturing	333	1,145	223	-12	7,006	3.2%



**TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 16 TO FEBRUARY 6**

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 16	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF FEBRUARY 6	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	FEBRUARY 6 CONT. CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Textile Mills	313	1,141	208	-2	1,822	11.4%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237	1,080	536	-2	3,564	15.0%
Printing and Related Support Activities	323	1,050	213	-6	2,297	9.3%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	331	1,046	195	25	2,386	8.2%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	443	941	158	-2	2,958	5.3%
Rental and Leasing Services	532	891	196	-6	1,993	9.8%
Industries in the Food Manufacturing	311	872	153	7	2,771	5.5%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	524	867	184	4	11,768	1.6%
Industries in the Publishing Industries (except Internet)	511	829	153	-3	5,116	3.0%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	522	732	176	2	8,107	2.2%
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related	711	719	175	-4	1,179	14.8%

\*NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System

**TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF JAN 30	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Acworth	103	15	459	3.3%
Albany	142	19	362	5.2%
Alexandria	307	49	912	5.4%
Allenstown	744	164	2,493	6.6%
Alstead	270	49	1,083	4.5%
Alton	872	172	3,009	5.7%
Amherst	1,264	226	6,419	3.5%
Andover	342	72	1,439	5.0%
Antrim	414	64	1,427	4.5%
Ashland	405	59	1,279	4.6%

**TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF JAN 30	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Atkinson	694	139	4,068	3.4%
Auburn	807	152	3,634	4.2%
Barnstead	790	137	2,656	5.2%
Barrington	1,346	230	5,523	4.2%
Bartlett	735	141	1,459	9.7%
Bath town	155	25	542	4.6%
Bedford	2,510	374	12,555	3.0%
Belmont	1,436	288	3,576	8.1%
Bennington	273	52	817	6.4%
Benton	32	7	150	4.7%

**TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF JAN 30	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Berlin	1,453	294	3,888	7.6%
Bethlehem	548	112	1,444	7.8%
Boscawen	718	125	1,972	6.3%
Bow	951	176	4,561	3.9%
Bradford	280	67	986	6.8%
Brentwood	536	97	2,642	3.7%
Bridgewater	164	33	761	4.3%
Bristol	692	102	1,842	5.5%
Brookfield	145	26	293	8.9%
Brookline	559	96	3,480	2.8%
Campton	702	113	2,110	5.4%
Canaan	541	86	2,042	4.2%
Candia	588	98	2,598	3.8%
Canterbury	309	59	1,508	3.9%
Carroll	145	21	391	5.4%
Center Harbor	175	34	670	5.1%
Charlestown	745	114	2,843	4.0%
Chatham	50	10	160	6.3%
Chester	683	118	3,145	3.8%
Chesterfield	330	60	1,943	3.1%
Chichester	410	71	1,588	4.5%
Claremont	1,858	330	6,385	5.2%
Colebrook	354	58	1,141	5.1%
Columbia	65	9	318	2.8%
Concord	7,130	1,358	23,063	5.9%
Conway	2,418	454	5,463	8.3%
Cornish	189	40	988	4.0%
Croydon	73	18	452	4.0%
Dalton	225	64	442	14.5%
Danbury	235	49	736	6.7%
Danville	594	114	2,771	4.1%
Deerfield	656	123	2,835	4.3%
Deering	241	38	1,133	3.4%
Derry	5,305	1,033	20,900	4.9%
Dorchester	39	10	200	5.0%
Dover	5,362	1,068	18,915	5.6%
Dublin	160	34	891	3.8%
Dummer	36	13	142	9.2%
Dunbarton	394	67	1,795	3.7%

**TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF JAN 30	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Durham	849	127	9,395	1.4%
East Kingston	265	56	1,401	4.0%
Easton	37	7	143	4.9%
Eaton	71	15	235	6.4%
Effingham	244	51	701	7.3%
Enfield	558	80	3,166	2.5%
Epping	1,105	206	4,282	4.8%
Epsom	726	141	2,996	4.7%
Errol	61	11	164	6.7%
Exeter	2,082	408	8,834	4.6%
Farmington	1,227	256	3,725	6.9%
Fitzwilliam	265	56	1,361	4.1%
Francestown	195	47	1,002	4.7%
Franconia	174	34	655	5.2%
Franklin	1,697	350	4,055	8.6%
Freedom	187	44	766	5.7%
Fremont	654	138	2,870	4.8%
Gilford	1,316	233	3,645	6.4%
Gilmanton	674	128	1,746	7.3%
Gilsum	126	28	457	6.1%
Goffstown	2,638	445	11,023	4.0%
Gorham	499	101	1,234	8.2%
Goshen	100	18	451	4.0%
Grafton	204	36	683	5.3%
Grantham	271	53	1,664	3.2%
Greenfield	253	50	1,066	4.7%
Greenland	547	109	2,467	4.4%
Greenville	273	51	1,206	4.2%
Groton	152	26	382	6.8%
Hampstead	1,030	189	5,151	3.7%
Hampton Falls	264	52	1,501	3.5%
Hampton	2,656	579	9,147	6.3%
Hancock	223	53	944	5.6%
Hanover	371	47	5,093	0.9%
Harrisville	135	28	609	4.6%
Haverhill	510	87	2,359	3.7%
Hebron	63	10	413	2.4%
Henniker	652	123	2,910	4.2%
Hill	182	39	543	7.2%

**TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF JAN 30	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Hillsborough	1,126	212	3,004	7.1%
Hinsdale	392	68	2,158	3.2%
Holderness	328	63	1,563	4.0%
Hollis	746	128	4,346	2.9%
Hooksett	2,320	412	9,376	4.4%
Hopkinton	665	113	3,481	3.2%
Hudson	3,349	619	15,467	4.0%
Jackson	196	31	366	8.5%
Jaffrey	706	162	3,103	5.2%
Jefferson	178	49	639	7.7%
Keene	3,365	565	11,949	4.7%
Kensington	206	41	1,313	3.1%
Kingston	844	165	3,777	4.4%
Laconia	3,299	686	7,775	8.8%
Lancaster	467	99	1,741	5.7%
Landaff	46	11	279	3.9%
Langdon	72	13	363	3.6%
Lebanon	1,518	273	7,793	3.5%
Lee	631	125	2,884	4.3%
Lempster	149	23	629	3.7%
Lincoln	413	79	770	10.3%
Lisbon	252	67	862	7.8%
Litchfield	1,156	196	4,887	4.0%
Littleton	1,250	231	3,256	7.1%
Londonderry	3,490	596	16,261	3.7%
Loudon	853	155	3,357	4.6%
Lyman	135	17	336	5.1%
Lyme	112	16	850	1.9%
Lyndeborough	241	53	1,056	5.0%
Madbury	239	41	1,097	3.7%
Madison	472	90	1,437	6.3%
Manchester	23,678	4,796	66,815	7.2%
Marlborough	351	87	1,221	7.1%
Marlow	107	30	369	8.1%
Mason	179	39	821	4.8%
Meredith	1,102	216	3,115	6.9%
Merrimack	3,758	718	16,570	4.3%
Middleton	263	51	1,051	4.9%
Milan	205	39	626	6.2%

**TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF JAN 30	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Milford	2,491	429	9,738	4.4%
Milton	681	152	2,390	6.4%
Monroe	89	18	401	4.5%
Mont Vernon	313	49	1,582	3.1%
Moultonborough	618	141	2,219	6.4%
Nashua	13,219	2,871	51,919	5.5%
Nelson	79	17	440	3.9%
New Boston	890	147	3,976	3.7%
New Castle	85	15	560	2.7%
New Durham	404	87	1,563	5.6%
New Hampton	446	71	1,321	5.4%
New Ipswich	514	97	3,023	3.2%
New London	360	56	1,941	2.9%
Newbury	264	40	1,212	3.3%
Newfields	217	43	1,071	4.0%
Newington	103	12	518	2.3%
Newmarket	1,618	256	5,818	4.4%
Newport	967	180	3,553	5.1%
Newton	437	100	3,283	3.0%
North Hampton	580	146	2,684	5.4%
Northfield	956	188	2,554	7.4%
Northumberland	366	62	1,059	5.9%
Northwood	759	119	2,672	4.5%
Nottingham	714	113	3,286	3.4%
Orford	117	24	817	2.9%
Ossipee	725	186	1,757	10.6%
Pelham	1,329	234	8,237	2.8%
Pembroke	1,317	258	4,612	5.6%
Peterborough	906	186	3,858	4.8%
Piermont	59	8	430	1.9%
Pittsburg	139	28	384	7.3%
Pittsfield	641	131	2,122	6.2%
Plainfield	207	30	1,446	2.1%
Plastow	803	153	4,320	3.5%
Plymouth	907	137	3,989	3.4%
Portsmouth	3,539	702	14,074	5.0%
Randolph	59	13	141	9.2%
Raymond	1,743	348	6,360	5.5%
Richmond	116	28	596	4.7%

**TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF JAN 30	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Rindge	524	100	2,943	3.4%
Rochester	5,585	1,062	18,190	5.8%
Rollinsford	411	97	1,456	6.7%
Roxbury	27	4	139	2.9%
Rumney	206	34	958	3.5%
Rye	683	133	3,459	3.8%
Salem	3,469	692	18,512	3.7%
Salisbury	209	33	827	4.0%
Sanbornton	508	103	1,689	6.1%
Sandown	833	132	4,279	3.1%
Sandwich	170	35	610	5.7%
Seabrook	1,308	301	5,180	5.8%
Sharon	40	9	224	4.0%
Shelburne	52	10	177	5.6%
Somersworth	2,193	465	6,891	6.7%
South Hampton	79	17	531	3.2%
Springfield	141	22	779	2.8%
Stark	61	9	194	4.6%
Stewartstown	104	17	370	4.6%
Stoddard	182	33	724	4.6%
Strafford	579	96	2,328	4.1%
Stratford	106	16	255	6.3%
Stratham	886	178	4,559	3.9%
Sugar Hill	85	15	351	4.3%
Sullivan	94	16	360	4.4%
Sunapee	405	63	1,671	3.8%
Surry	92	15	500	3.0%
Sutton	198	40	1,139	3.5%
Swanzey	1,051	214	4,101	5.2%
Tamworth	563	120	1,517	7.9%

**TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN**

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 16 - FEBRUARY 6	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF JAN 30	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Temple	190	38	786	4.8%
Thornton	549	89	1,790	5.0%
Tilton	830	153	1,837	8.3%
Troy	329	72	1,174	6.1%
Tuftonboro	320	72	1,157	6.2%
Unity	136	29	865	3.4%
Wakefield	693	146	2,310	6.3%
Walpole	408	81	2,380	3.4%
Warner	414	84	1,587	5.3%
Warren	106	19	537	3.5%
Washington	190	33	513	6.4%
Waterville Valley	95	11	141	7.8%
Weare	1,390	229	6,179	3.7%
Webster	288	45	1,180	3.8%
Wentworth	120	22	535	4.1%
Westmoreland	198	29	941	3.1%
Whitefield	448	88	1,280	6.9%
Wilmot	171	34	788	4.3%
Wilton	604	112	2,190	5.1%
Winchester	619	129	2,058	6.3%
Windham	1,437	259	8,219	3.2%
Windsor	35	3	155	1.9%
Wolfeboro	824	167	2,827	5.9%
Woodstock	432	72	972	7.4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>203,626</b>	<b>39,102</b>	<b>780,205</b>	<b>5.0%</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 February 25th.

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

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