



Administrative Office  
45 South Fruit Street  
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# COVID-19

# UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

*For Immediate Release: May 14, 2020*

For the week ending May 9th, 9,491 individuals filed claims for unemployment insurance with the State of New Hampshire's Department of Employment Security, down 24 percent from a revised 12,475 during the week ending May 2nd, 2020. Nationally, the number of initial claims was down just eight percent compared to the week ending May 2nd. Seven states, led by Connecticut with 262,542, Florida (47,045), Washington (13,994), and Georgia (13,035) experienced an increase in new claims during the week. Combined, between March 15th and May 2nd, 173,104 new unemployment claims were filed with the New Hampshire's Department of Employment Security. Adding the preliminary number from the week ending May 9th brings the New Hampshire total reported to 182,925.

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 May 2nd). The state's largest city, Manchester, had the most residents filing for new unemployment claims during the week ending May 2nd with 842, down 236 (22%) from the week ending April 25th. Nashua had the next highest number of new claims during the week with 509, 149 fewer (or 23%) than during the previous week. The largest percentage drop in new claims among towns with at least 1,000 claims occurred in Conway (down 43 claims or 38% from the prior week). Goffstown (down 37%) and Merrimack (down 35%) experienced the next largest declines in new claims. Table 1 presents the 20 towns with the largest number of new claims filed during the week, along with the change and percentage change in new claims from the prior week. A total of 68 small towns in New Hampshire (29% of all towns) had slight increases in new claims totaling 265 during the week, for an average of four new claims each and a median number of new claims of three.

The claims numbers presented in the claims by town tables 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

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

TOWN	NEW CLAIMS APRIL 25 TO MAY 2	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	TOTAL NEW CLAIMS MARCH 15 TO MAY 2
Manchester	842	-236	-21.9%	14,891
Nashua	509	-149	-22.6%	8,196
Concord	242	-47	-16.3%	4,592
Dover	220	-31	-12.4%	3,561
Salem	178	8	4.7%	2,316
Derry	176	-68	-27.9%	3,576
Rochester	174	-70	-28.7%	3,631
Hudson	146	3	2.1%	2,197
Londonderry	138	-44	-24.2%	2,348
Keene	126	-8	-6.0%	2,107
Bedford	125	3	2.5%	1,615
Merrimack	123	-66	-34.9%	2,470
Portsmouth	119	-16	-11.9%	2,380
Hampton	114	-42	-26.9%	1,806
Laconia	105	-21	-16.7%	2,141
Hooksett	94	-28	-23.0%	1,567
Exeter	93	-4	-4.1%	1,338
Milford	91	-13	-12.5%	1,646
Goffstown	85	-50	-37.0%	1,790
Somersworth	83	-16	-16.2%	1,442

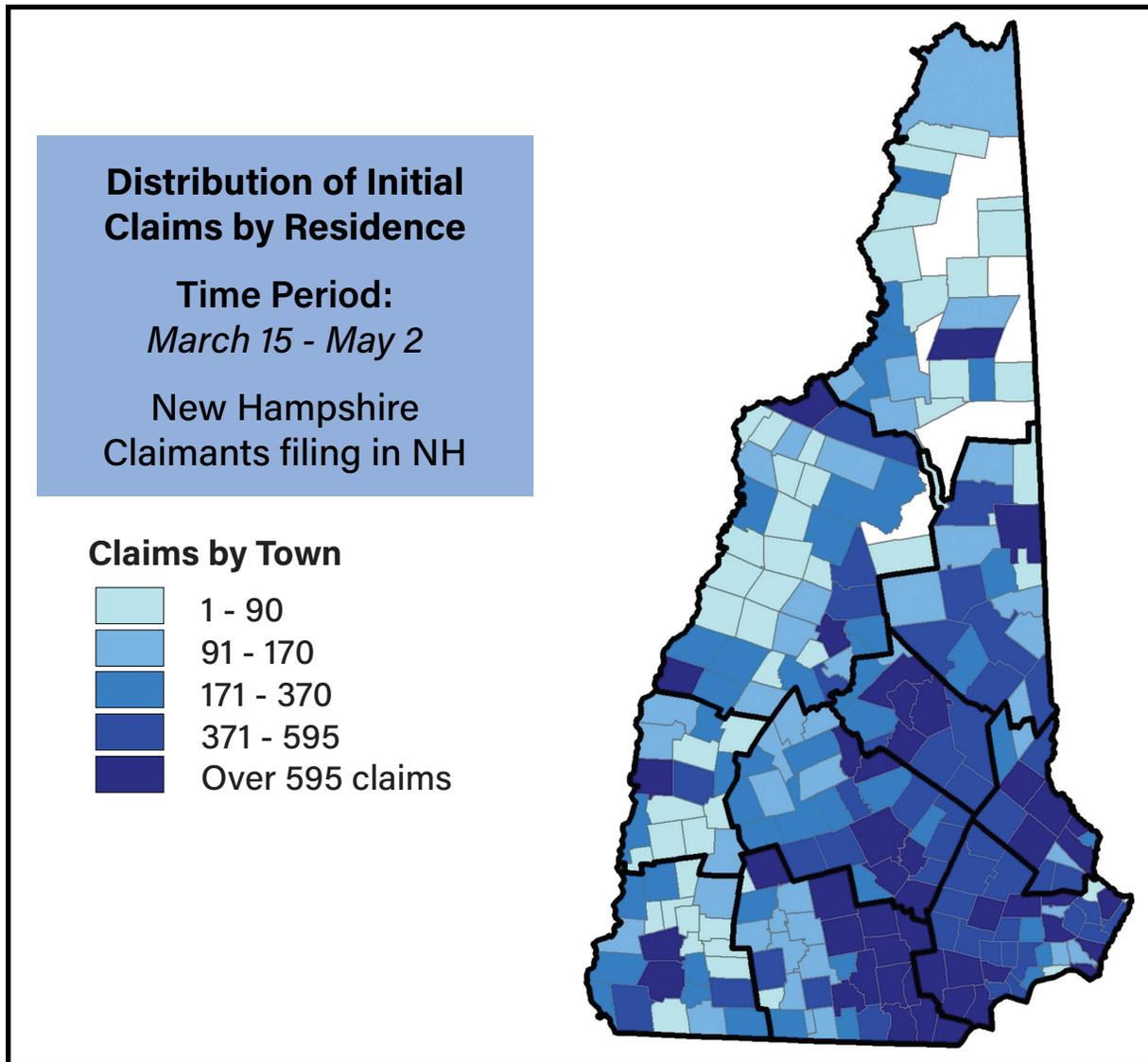
of individuals living in the town who have filed a new unemployment claim. A town in Rockingham County, for example, with a large number of residents commuting to work in Massachusetts may have a larger number of new claims than is presented in these tables because those New Hampshire residents will have filed their claims in Massachusetts. A complete listing of the cumulative initial unemployment claims by town (alphabetically for towns with at least 25 new claims) from March 15th through May 2nd, as well as the number of new claims as a percentage of the town's labor force<sup>1</sup>, is presented in Table 4 at the end of this release. We call this a measure of a town's "Covid19 Affected Unemployment Rate." It is not equivalent to a town's traditional unemployment rate as it only counts unemployment claims filed since March 15th and does not include New Hampshire residents who have filed an unemployment claim if they work in another state.

It is presented here to provide a metric of the relative employment impacts of Covid-19 on the population of each community.<sup>2</sup> For the week ending May 2nd, New Hampshire's 'Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate' was 17.1 percent. Adding New Hampshire residents who filed a claim in another state as well as individuals who were unemployed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic raises the overall unemployment rate.

A visual representation of initial claims activity by town and region is presented in Figure 1 which shows a map of New Hampshire towns color coded, into quintiles, according to the number of initial claims filed between March 15th and May 2nd.

Figure 2 presents the total number of claims by county in New Hampshire and Table 2 presents each county's Covid-19 affected unemployment rate through May 2nd.

**FIGURE 1**



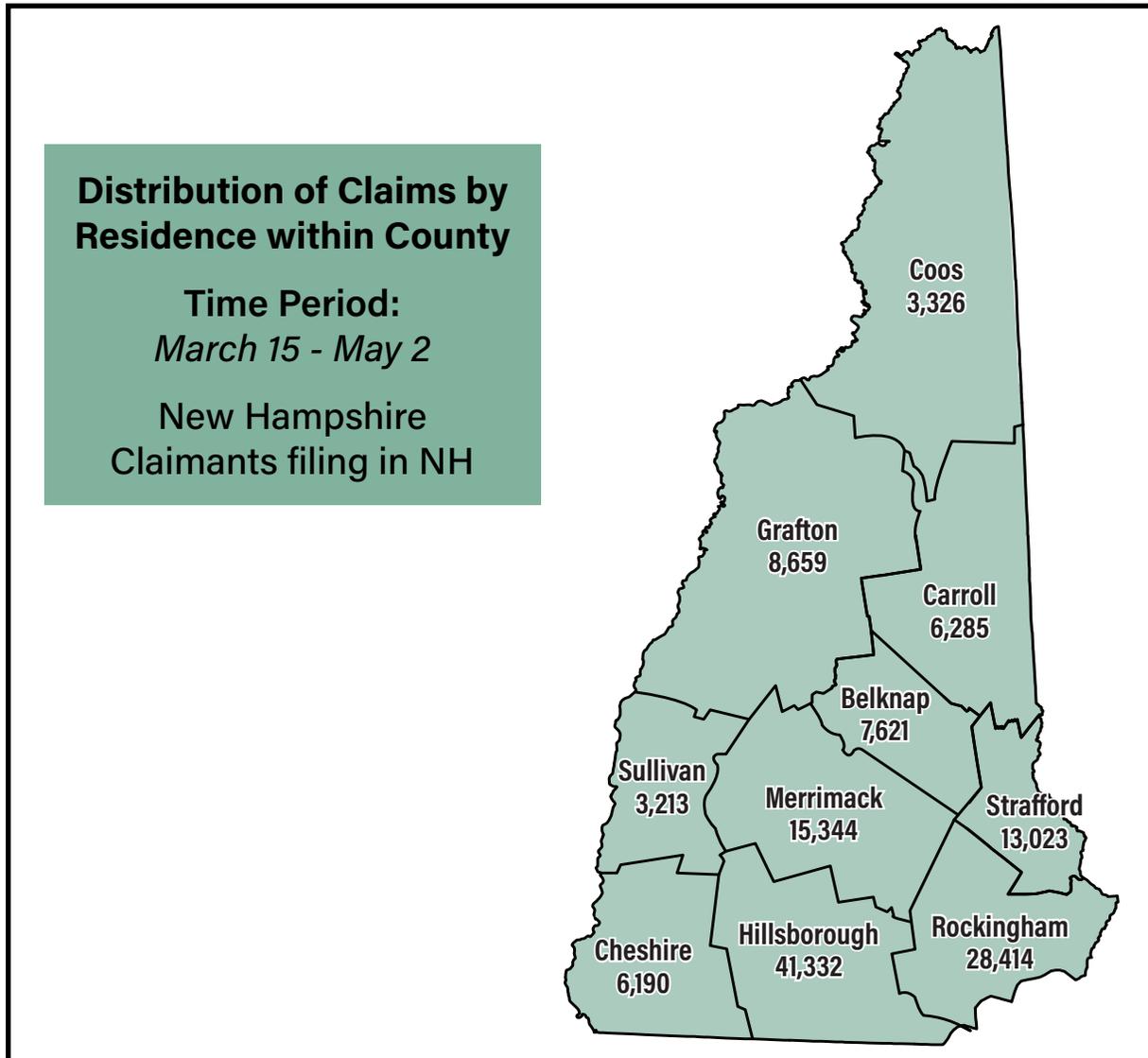
<sup>1</sup> The February 2020 labor force count for each town is used for this analysis.

<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.

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

COUNTY	TOTAL CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH: MARCH 15 TO MAY 2	FEBRUARY 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE
Belknap	7,621	31,039	24.6%
Carroll	6,285	23,718	26.5%
Cheshire	6,190	41,500	14.9%
Coos	3,326	14,724	22.6%
Grafton	8,659	51,045	17.0%
Hillsborough	41,332	245,905	16.8%
Merrimack	15,344	84,821	18.1%
Rockingham	28,414	188,982	15.0%
Strafford	13,023	75,410	17.3%
Sullivan	3,213	23,061	13.9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>133,407</b>	<b>780,205</b>	<b>17.1%</b>

**FIGURE 2**



Note that the rates for Hillsborough, Strafford, and especially Rockingham County are affected by a higher percentage of residents who work in another state (and thus are not counted in county and town numbers here which do not include New Hampshire residents who file a claim in another state). For these counties, Covid-19 affected unemployment rates are likely to be two to as much as four percent higher than reported here.

### Claims by Industry

Initial claims by New Hampshire residents working in New Hampshire are reported at the six digit North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) level in Table 3. Similar to claims reported by town, claims by industry reported here include only New Hampshire residents working in, and filing claims in, New Hampshire. Industry claims by out-of-state residents working in New Hampshire are not included in this table and thus the total number of claims by industry in Table 3 will

undercount (by the number of out-of-state workers who have filed a claim in New Hampshire) claims by industry.

Individuals employed at full-service restaurants filed the most new claims for unemployment insurance between March 15th and May 2nd (15,662). Another 3,865 New Hampshire residents working at limited service restaurants in the state have filed claims. Combined, 22,002 New Hampshire residents working in food services industries have filed unemployment claims in New Hampshire since March 15th. Collectively, 19,851 New Hampshire residents working in retail industries located in the state have filed unemployment claims, with new car dealers (2,601), department stores (1,828), and supermarkets and grocery stores (1,755), having the largest volume of unemployment claims between March 15th and May 2nd. A total of 15,382 health care workers have filed unemployment claims, led by general medical and surgical hospitals with 5,223 claims filed since March 15th.

**TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 15 TO MAY 2**

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE*	# CLAIMS FILED
Full-service restaurants	722511	15,662
General medical and surgical hospitals	622110	5,223
Limited-service restaurants	722513	3,865
Hotels and motels, except casino hotels	721110	3,766
Offices of dentists	621210	3,624
Child day care services	624410	2,833
Elementary and secondary schools	611110	2,605
Offices of physicians, except mental health	621111	2,602
New car dealers	441110	2,601
Temporary help services	561320	2,009
Beauty salons	812112	1,982
Department Stores	452210	1,828
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	445110	1,755
Professional employer organizations	561330	1,700
School and employee bus transportation	485410	1,329
Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars	722515	1,288
Skiing facilities	713920	962
Food service contractors	722310	940
Fitness and recreational sports centers	713940	930
Family clothing stores	448140	926
Colleges and universities	611310	905
Services for the elderly and disabled	624120	887

**TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 15 TO MAY 2**

<b>INDUSTRY</b>	<b>NAICS CODE*</b>	<b># CLAIMS FILED</b>
Civic and social organizations	813410	886
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	425120	849
Other individual and family services	624190	844
Janitorial services	561720	843
Nursing care facilities, skilled nursing	623110	828
Gasket, packing, and sealing device mfg.	339991	781
General automotive repair	811111	748
Electricity and signal testing instruments	334515	726
Office administrative services	561110	716
Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters	452311	686
Used merchandise stores	453310	665
Furniture stores	442110	654
Sporting goods stores	451110	652
Offices of optometrists	621320	636
Landscaping services	561730	623
Offices of specialty therapists	621340	606
Executive and legislative offices, combined	921140	601
Managing offices	551114	593
Home health care services	621610	586
Automotive parts and accessories stores	441310	578
Gasoline stations with convenience stores	447110	568
Pet care, except veterinary, services	812910	565
Residential plumbing and HVAC contractors	238221	563
Golf courses and country clubs	713910	559
Gift, novelty, and souvenir stores	453220	503
Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses	454110	498
All other home furnishings stores	442299	482
Electronics stores	443142	463

*\*NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System*

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 2	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Acworth	55	459	12.0%
Albany	112	362	30.9%
Alexandria	227	912	24.9%
Allenstown	488	2,493	19.6%
Alstead	171	1,083	15.8%
Alton	579	3,009	19.2%
Amherst	793	6,419	12.4%
Andover	202	1,439	14.0%
Antrim	241	1,427	16.9%
Ashland	282	1,279	22.0%
Atkinson	472	4,068	11.6%
Auburn	557	3,634	15.3%
Barnstead	535	2,656	20.1%
Barrington	904	5,523	16.4%
Bartlett	588	1,459	40.3%
Bath town	94	542	17.3%
Bedford	1,615	12,555	12.9%
Belmont	945	3,576	26.4%
Bennington	151	817	18.5%
Berlin	888	3,888	22.8%
Bethlehem	411	1,444	28.5%
Boscawen	467	1,972	23.7%
Bow	628	4,561	13.8%
Bradford	184	986	18.7%
Brentwood	360	2,642	13.6%
Bridgewater	117	761	15.4%
Bristol	475	1,842	25.8%
Brookfield	93	293	31.7%
Brookline	348	3,480	10.0%
Campton	508	2,110	24.1%
Canaan	353	2,042	17.3%
Candia	410	2,598	15.8%
Canterbury	214	1,508	14.2%
Carroll	108	391	27.6%
Center Harbor	130	670	19.4%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 2	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Charlestown	351	2,843	12.3%
Chatham	39	160	24.4%
Chester	474	3,145	15.1%
Chesterfield	201	1,943	10.3%
Chichester	281	1,588	17.7%
Claremont	1,043	6,385	16.3%
Colebrook	249	1,141	21.8%
Columbia	40	318	12.6%
Concord	4,592	23,063	19.9%
Conway	1,911	5,463	35.0%
Cornish	117	988	11.8%
Croydon	51	452	11.3%
Dalton	146	442	33.0%
Danbury	156	736	21.2%
Danville	398	2,771	14.4%
Deerfield	467	2,835	16.5%
Deering	146	1,133	12.9%
Derry	3,576	20,900	17.1%
Dorchester	28	200	14.0%
Dover	3,561	18,915	18.8%
Dublin	89	891	10.0%
Dummer	25	142	17.6%
Dunbarton	270	1,795	15.0%
Durham	519	9,395	5.5%
East Kingston	184	1,401	13.1%
Easton	29	143	20.3%
Eaton	55	235	23.4%
Effingham	158	701	22.5%
Enfield	367	3,166	11.6%
Epping	783	4,282	18.3%
Epsom	474	2,996	15.8%
Errol	48	164	29.3%
Exeter	1,338	8,834	15.1%
Farmington	797	3,725	21.4%
Fitzwilliam	168	1,361	12.3%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 2	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Francestown	125	1,002	12.5%
Franconia	136	655	20.8%
Franklin	1,100	4,055	27.1%
Freedom	131	766	17.1%
Fremont	467	2,870	16.3%
Gilford	924	3,645	25.3%
Gilmanton	467	1,746	26.7%
Gilsum	76	457	16.6%
Goffstown	1,790	11,023	16.2%
Gorham	358	1,234	29.0%
Goshen	65	451	14.4%
Grafton	134	683	19.6%
Grantham	195	1,664	11.7%
Greenfield	162	1,066	15.2%
Greenland	374	2,467	15.2%
Greenville	157	1,206	13.0%
Groton	103	382	27.0%
Hampstead	684	5,151	13.3%
Hampton Falls	169	1,501	11.3%
Hampton	1,806	9,147	19.7%
Hancock	131	944	13.9%
Hanover	175	5,093	3.4%
Harrisville	87	609	14.3%
Haverhill	322	2,359	13.6%
Hebron	49	413	11.9%
Henniker	412	2,910	14.2%
Hill	122	543	22.5%
Hillsborough	642	3,004	21.4%
Hinsdale	274	2,158	12.7%
Holderness	217	1,563	13.9%
Hollis	494	4,346	11.4%
Hooksett	1,567	9,376	16.7%
Hopkinton	436	3,481	12.5%
Hudson	2,197	15,467	14.2%
Jackson	149	366	40.7%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 2	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Jaffrey	410	3,103	13.2%
Jefferson	121	639	18.9%
Keene	2,107	11,949	17.6%
Kensington	125	1,313	9.5%
Kingston	584	3,777	15.5%
Laconia	2,141	7,775	27.5%
Lancaster	302	1,741	17.3%
Landaff	33	279	11.8%
Langdon	44	363	12.1%
Lebanon	1,010	7,793	13.0%
Lee	404	2,884	14.0%
Lempster	76	629	12.1%
Lincoln	322	770	41.8%
Lisbon	164	862	19.0%
Litchfield	799	4,887	16.3%
Littleton	886	3,256	27.2%
Londonderry	2,348	16,261	14.4%
Loudon	582	3,357	17.3%
Lyman	87	336	25.9%
Lyme	74	850	8.7%
Lyndeborough	169	1,056	16.0%
Madbury	159	1,097	14.5%
Madison	361	1,437	25.1%
Manchester	14,891	66,815	22.3%
Marlborough	211	1,221	17.3%
Marlow town	69	369	18.7%
Mason town	111	821	13.5%
Meredith	767	3,115	24.6%
Merrimack	2,470	16,570	14.9%
Middleton	170	1,051	16.2%
Milan	126	626	20.1%
Milford	1,646	9,738	16.9%
Milton	452	2,390	18.9%
Monroe	61	401	15.2%
Mont Vernon	201	1,582	12.7%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 2	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Moultonborough	436	2,219	19.6%
Nashua	8,196	51,919	15.8%
Nelson	48	440	10.9%
New Boston	596	3,976	15.0%
New Castle	46	560	8.2%
New Durham	271	1,563	17.3%
New Hampton	261	1,321	19.8%
New Ipswich	304	3,023	10.1%
New London	221	1,941	11.4%
Newbury	187	1,212	15.4%
Newfields	153	1,071	14.3%
Newington	68	518	13.1%
Newmarket	1,079	5,818	18.5%
Newport	573	3,553	16.1%
Newton	296	3,283	9.0%
North Hampton	396	2,684	14.8%
Northfield	659	2,554	25.8%
Northumberland	232	1,059	21.9%
Northwood	522	2,672	19.5%
Nottingham	493	3,286	15.0%
Orford	87	817	10.6%
Ossipee	485	1,757	27.6%
Pelham	872	8,237	10.6%
Pembroke	871	4,612	18.9%
Peterborough	563	3,858	14.6%
Piermont	39	430	9.1%
Pittsburg	100	384	26.0%
Pittsfield	411	2,122	19.4%
Plainfield	142	1,446	9.8%
Plaistow	541	4,320	12.5%
Plymouth	604	3,989	15.1%
Portsmouth	2,380	14,074	16.9%
Randolph	42	141	29.8%
Raymond	1,155	6,360	18.2%
Richmond	71	596	11.9%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 2	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Rindge	317	2,943	10.8%
Rochester	3,631	18,190	20.0%
Rollinsford	296	1,456	20.3%
Rumney	156	958	16.3%
Rye	431	3,459	12.5%
Salem	2,316	18,512	12.5%
Salisbury	120	827	14.5%
Sanbornton	337	1,689	20.0%
Sandown	588	4,279	13.7%
Sandwich	119	610	19.5%
Seabrook	843	5,180	16.3%
Sharon	26	224	11.6%
Shelburne	41	177	23.2%
Somersworth	1,442	6,891	20.9%
South Hampton	54	531	10.2%
Springfield	88	779	11.3%
Stark	38	194	19.6%
Stewartstown	66	370	17.8%
Stoddard	101	724	14.0%
Strafford	417	2,328	17.9%
Stratford	71	255	27.8%
Stratham	586	4,559	12.9%
Sugar Hill	62	351	17.7%
Sullivan	58	360	16.1%
Sunapee	229	1,671	13.7%
Surry	65	500	13.0%
Sutton	131	1,139	11.5%
Swanzey	688	4,101	16.8%
Tamworth	385	1,517	25.4%
Temple	115	786	14.6%
Thornton	416	1,790	23.2%
Tilton	535	1,837	29.1%
Troy	216	1,174	18.4%
Tuftonboro	226	1,157	19.5%
Unity	82	865	9.5%

<b>TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN</b>			
<b>TOWN</b>	<b>CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 2</b>	<b>FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *</b>	<b>COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **</b>
Wakefield	486	2,310	21.0%
Walpole	227	2,380	9.5%
Warner	266	1,587	16.8%
Warren	72	537	13.4%
Washington	102	513	19.9%
Waterville Valley	66	141	46.8%
Weare	954	6,179	15.4%
Webster	185	1,180	15.7%
Wentworth	84	535	15.7%
Westmoreland	133	941	14.1%
Whitefield	308	1,280	24.1%

<b>TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN</b>			
<b>TOWN</b>	<b>CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 2</b>	<b>FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *</b>	<b>COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **</b>
Wilmot	118	788	15.0%
Wilton	406	2,190	18.5%
Winchester	384	2,058	18.7%
Windham	891	8,219	10.8%
Wolfeboro	539	2,827	19.1%
Woodstock	357	972	36.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>133,407</b>	<b>780,205</b>	<b>17.1%</b>
<p><i>* February labor force counts are used as a pre-COVID baseline</i></p> <p><i>** Six towns with fewer than 25 claims are excluded from the table, but are included in totals</i></p>			

The next release of the **COVID-19 Unemployment Update** will be on May 21st.

For further information contact:  
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