



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

COVID-19

UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

For Immediate Release: May 21, 2020

For the week ending May 16th, 8,333 individuals filed claims for unemployment insurance with the State of New Hampshire's Department of Employment Security, down 17 percent from a revised 10,016 during the week ending May 9th, 2020. Nationally, the number of initial claims was down just 8 percent compared to the week ending May 9th. Eleven states, led by California with 33,448, Washington (34,397), and New York (27,102), experienced an increase in new claims during the week. Including this week's preliminary number for the week ending May 16th, a total of 191,471 new unemployment claims have been filed with the New Hampshire's Department of Employment Security.

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 9th). The state's largest city, Manchester, again had the most residents filing for new unemployment claims during the week ending May 9th with 680, down 162 (19%) from the week ending May 2nd. Nashua had the next highest number of new claims during the week with 444, 65 fewer (or 13%) than during the previous week. The largest percentage drop in new claims among towns with at least 1,000 claims occurred in Bedford (down 66 claims or 53% from the prior week). Salem (down 38%) and Newmarket (down 36%) 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 47 towns in New Hampshire (20% of all towns) had slight increases in new claims totaling just 144 during the week, for an average and median number of three new claims each.

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 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)

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

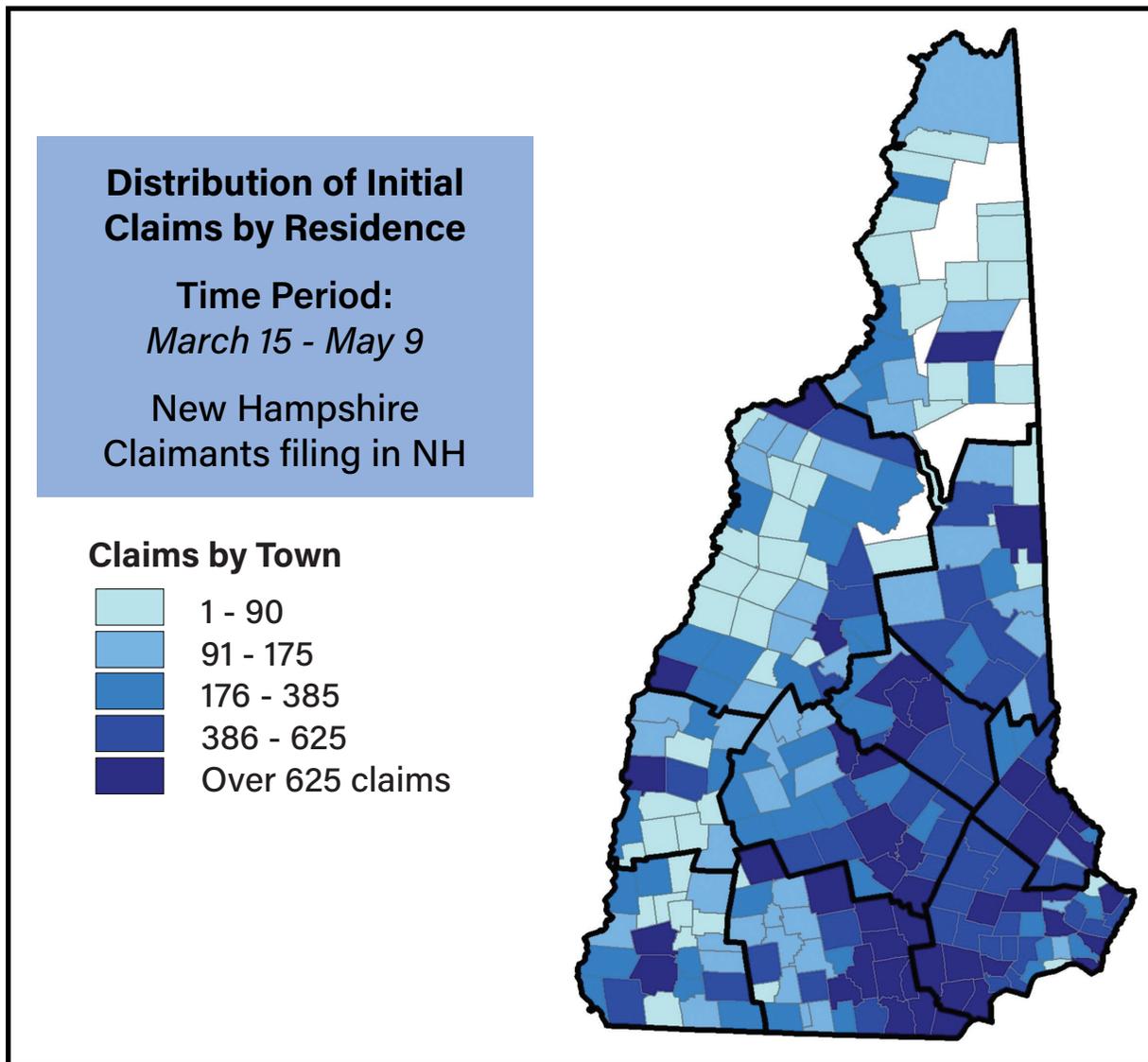
TOWN	NEW CLAIMS MAY 3 TO MAY 9	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	TOTAL NEW CLAIMS MARCH 15 TO MAY 9
Manchester	680	-162	-19.2%	15,571
Nashua	444	-65	-12.8%	8,640
Concord	224	-18	-7.4%	4,816
Derry	179	3	1.7%	3,755
Rochester	176	2	1.1%	3,807
Dover	167	-53	-24.1%	3,728
Londonderry	140	2	1.4%	2,488
Merrimack	111	-12	-9.8%	2,581
Salem	111	-67	-37.6%	2,427
Portsmouth	108	-11	-9.2%	2,488
Hudson	104	-42	-28.8%	2,301
Hampton	100	-14	-12.3%	1,906
Exeter	93	0	0.0%	1,431
Keene	89	-37	-29.4%	2,196
Laconia	89	-16	-15.2%	2,230
Goffstown	88	3	3.5%	1,878
Somersworth	75	-8	-9.6%	1,517
Hooksett	73	-21	-22.3%	1,640
Windham	64	15	30.6%	955
Conway	63	-6	-8.7%	1,974

from March 15th through May 9th, as well as the number of new claims as a percentage of the town's labor force, 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. Earlier this week the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau issued the official April monthly unemployment rate for the state. The not seasonally adjusted rate for April was 17.2 percent. The official unemployment release was calculated using data for the week containing the 12th of April, it does not include individuals affected by unemployment in the latter portion of April. For the week ending May 9th, New Hampshire's "Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate" was 17.9 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. 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 new 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.

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 9th.

FIGURE 1



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

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

TABLE 2 - COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY

COUNTY	TOTAL CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH: MARCH 15 TO MAY 9	FEBRUARY 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE
Belknap	7,952	31,039	25.6%
Carroll	6,491	23,718	27.4%
Cheshire	6,459	41,500	15.6%
Coos	3,459	14,724	23.5%
Grafton	8,943	51,045	17.5%
Hillsborough	43,257	245,905	17.6%
Merrimack	16,035	84,821	18.9%
Rockingham	29,811	188,982	15.8%
Strafford	13,653	75,410	18.1%
Sullivan	3,339	23,061	14.5%
Totals	139,399	780,205	17.9%

FIGURE 2

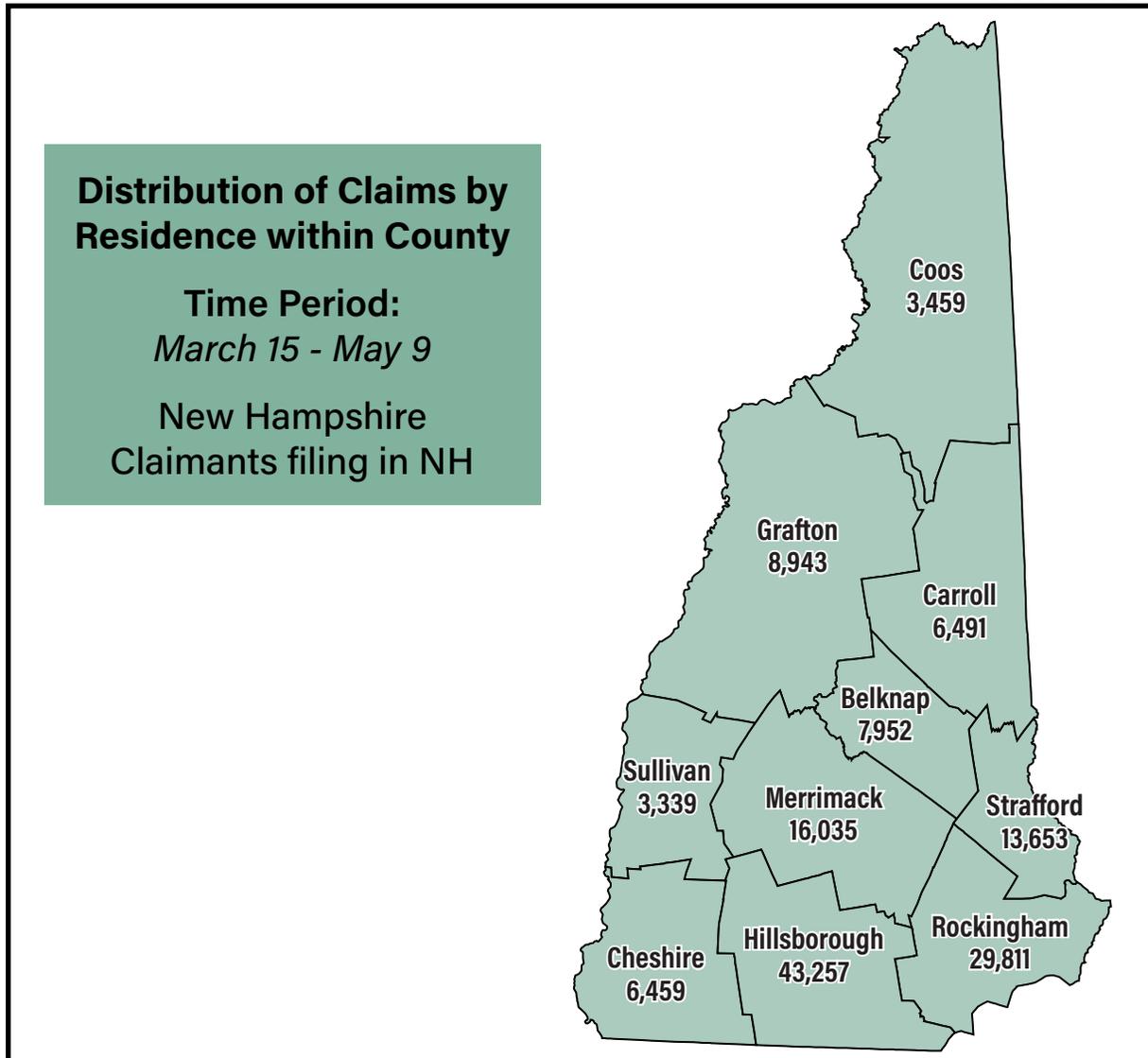


Figure 2 presents the total number of claims by county in New Hampshire and Table 2 presents each county's Covid-19 affected unemployment rate through May 2nd. Note that the rates for Hillsborough, Strafford, and especially Rockingham County are affected by a higher percentage of residents who work in 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 9th (16,107). Another 3,865 New Hampshire residents working at limited service restaurants in the state have filed claims. Combined, 22,556 New Hampshire residents working in food services industries have filed unemployment claims in New Hampshire since March 15th. Collectively, 21,028 New Hampshire residents working in retail industries located in the state have filed unemployment claims, with new car dealers (2,684), supermarkets and grocery stores (1,974), and department stores (1,910), having the largest volume of unemployment claims between March 15th and May 9th. A total of 16,248 health care workers have filed unemployment claims, led by general medical and surgical hospitals with 5,662 claims, and offices of dentists with 3,672 claims filed since March 15th.

With medical providers beginning to open for elective procedures, retail operations opening with some restrictions, restaurants allowing outdoor dining with restrictions, and many other business re-opening with restrictions, future Covid-19 releases will look to incorporate information about continuing unemployment claims by industry (individuals who have filed initial claims and qualify for benefit who continue each week to report that they remain unemployed). Continuing claims data will provide additional information about the rates at which different industrial sectors are resuming operations as restrictions are relaxed or removed.

TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 15 TO MAY 9

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE*	# CLAIMS FILED	CLAIMS FILED MAY 3 - MAY 9
Full-service restaurants	722511	16,107	445
General medical and surgical hospitals	622110	5,662	439
Limited-service restaurants	722513	4,086	221
Hotels and motels, except casino hotels	721110	3,885	119
Offices of dentists	621210	3,672	48
Child day care services	624410	2,906	73
Elementary and secondary schools	611110	2,780	175
Offices of physicians, except mental health	621111	2,763	161
New car dealers	441110	2,684	83
Temporary help services	561320	2,198	189
Beauty salons	812112	2,010	28
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	445110	1,974	219
Department Stores	452210	1,910	82
Professional employer organizations	561330	1,770	70
School and employee bus transportation	485410	1,480	151
Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars	722515	1,384	96
Colleges and universities	611310	1,022	117
Skiing facilities	713920	1,004	42
Food service contractors	722310	979	39

TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 15 TO MAY 9

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE*	# CLAIMS FILED	CLAIMS FILED MAY 3 - MAY 9
Family clothing stores	448140	978	52
Fitness and recreational sports centers	713940	976	46
Nursing care facilities, skilled nursing	623110	947	119
Services for the elderly and disabled	624120	947	60
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	425120	943	94
Civic and social organizations	813410	926	40
Janitorial services	561720	905	62
Other individual and family services	624190	899	55
Gasket, packing, and sealing device mfg.	339991	813	32
General automotive repair	811111	773	25
Office administrative services	561110	764	48
Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters	452311	763	77
Electricity and signal testing instruments	334515	755	29
Used merchandise stores	453310	689	24
Sporting goods stores	451110	680	28
Landscaping services	561730	675	52
Furniture stores	442110	669	15
Executive and legislative offices, combined	921140	666	65
Home health care services	621610	651	65
Offices of optometrists	621320	645	9
Managing offices	551114	638	45
Offices of specialty therapists	621340	634	28
Gasoline stations with convenience stores	447110	624	56
Automotive parts and accessories stores	441310	603	25
Pet care, except veterinary, services	812910	588	23
Residential plumbing and HVAC contractors	238221	587	24
Golf courses and country clubs	713910	575	16
Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses	454110	523	25
Gift, novelty, and souvenir stores	453220	521	18
All other home furnishings stores	442299	504	22
Electronics stores	443142	491	28

**NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System*

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 9	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Acworth	56	459	12.2%
Albany	114	362	31.5%
Alexandria	230	912	25.2%
Allenstown	509	2,493	20.4%
Alstead	176	1,083	16.3%
Alton	612	3,009	20.3%
Amherst	837	6,419	13.0%
Andover	214	1,439	14.9%
Antrim	259	1,427	18.1%
Ashland	292	1,279	22.8%
Atkinson	495	4,068	12.2%
Auburn	584	3,634	16.1%
Barnstead	561	2,656	21.1%
Barrington	959	5,523	17.4%
Bartlett	600	1,459	41.1%
Bath	98	542	18.1%
Bedford	1,674	12,555	13.3%
Belmont	996	3,576	27.9%
Bennington	157	817	19.2%
Berlin	936	3,888	24.1%
Bethlehem	417	1,444	28.9%
Boscawen	487	1,972	24.7%
Bow	658	4,561	14.4%
Bradford	194	986	19.7%
Brentwood	379	2,642	14.3%
Bridgewater	121	761	15.9%
Bristol	498	1,842	27.0%
Brookfield	96	293	32.8%
Brookline	360	3,480	10.3%
Campton	519	2,110	24.6%
Canaan	368	2,042	18.0%
Candia	436	2,598	16.8%
Canterbury	216	1,508	14.3%
Carroll	114	391	29.2%
Center Harbor	135	670	20.1%

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TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 9	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Charlestown	368	2,843	12.9%
Chatham	40	160	25.0%
Chester	502	3,145	16.0%
Chesterfield	213	1,943	11.0%
Chichester	291	1,588	18.3%
Claremont	1,087	6,385	17.0%
Colebrook	251	1,141	22.0%
Columbia	42	318	13.2%
Concord	4,816	23,063	20.9%
Conway	1,974	5,463	36.1%
Cornish	121	988	12.2%
Croydon	51	452	11.3%
Dalton	150	442	33.9%
Danbury	163	736	22.1%
Danville	408	2,771	14.7%
Deerfield	489	2,835	17.2%
Deering	152	1,133	13.4%
Derry	3,755	20,900	18.0%
Dorchester	30	200	15.0%
Dover	3,728	18,915	19.7%
Dublin	93	891	10.4%
Dummer	25	142	17.6%
Dunbarton	286	1,795	15.9%
Durham	552	9,395	5.9%
East Kingston	197	1,401	14.1%
Easton	29	143	20.3%
Eaton	55	235	23.4%
Effingham	166	701	23.7%
Enfield	382	3,166	12.1%
Epping	809	4,282	18.9%
Epsom	502	2,996	16.8%
Errol	48	164	29.3%
Exeter	1,431	8,834	16.2%
Farmington	836	3,725	22.4%
Fitzwilliam	174	1,361	12.8%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 9	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Francestown	131	1,002	13.1%
Franconia	142	655	21.7%
Franklin	1,134	4,055	28.0%
Freedom	135	766	17.6%
Fremont	483	2,870	16.8%
Gilford	956	3,645	26.2%
Gilmanton	486	1,746	27.8%
Gilsum	79	457	17.3%
Goffstown	1,878	11,023	17.0%
Gorham	372	1,234	30.1%
Goshen	67	451	14.9%
Grafton	140	683	20.5%
Grantham	204	1,664	12.3%
Greenfield	169	1,066	15.9%
Greenland	385	2,467	15.6%
Greenville	164	1,206	13.6%
Groton	107	382	28.0%
Hampstead	716	5,151	13.9%
Hampton	1,906	9,147	20.8%
Hampton Falls	183	1,501	12.2%
Hancock	137	944	14.5%
Hanover	183	5,093	3.6%
Harrisville	92	609	15.1%
Haverhill	338	2,359	14.3%
Hebron	51	413	12.3%
Henniker	435	2,910	14.9%
Hill	127	543	23.4%
Hillsborough	671	3,004	22.3%
Hinsdale	279	2,158	12.9%
Holderness	220	1,563	14.1%
Hollis	517	4,346	11.9%
Hooksett	1,640	9,376	17.5%
Hopkinton	456	3,481	13.1%
Hudson	2,301	15,467	14.9%
Jackson	152	366	41.5%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 9	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Jaffrey	436	3,103	14.1%
Jefferson	126	639	19.7%
Keene	2,196	11,949	18.4%
Kensington	133	1,313	10.1%
Kingston	609	3,777	16.1%
Laconia	2,230	7,775	28.7%
Lancaster	315	1,741	18.1%
Landaff	34	279	12.2%
Langdon	44	363	12.1%
Lebanon	1,043	7,793	13.4%
Lee	427	2,884	14.8%
Lempster	77	629	12.2%
Lincoln	328	770	42.6%
Lisbon	173	862	20.1%
Litchfield	834	4,887	17.1%
Littleton	909	3,256	27.9%
Londonderry	2,488	16,261	15.3%
Loudon	608	3,357	18.1%
Lyman	91	336	27.1%
Lyme	77	850	9.1%
Lyndeborough	174	1,056	16.5%
Madbury	165	1,097	15.0%
Madison	372	1,437	25.9%
Manchester	15,571	66,815	23.3%
Marlborough	223	1,221	18.3%
Marlow town	70	369	19.0%
Mason town	116	821	14.1%
Meredith	794	3,115	25.5%
Merrimack	2,581	16,570	15.6%
Middleton	177	1,051	16.8%
Milan	128	626	20.4%
Milford	1,707	9,738	17.5%
Milton	468	2,390	19.6%
Monroe	66	401	16.5%
Mont Vernon	210	1,582	13.3%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 9	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Moultonborough	453	2,219	20.4%
Nashua	8,640	51,919	16.6%
Nelson	48	440	10.9%
New Boston	622	3,976	15.6%
New Castle	53	560	9.5%
New Durham	281	1,563	18.0%
New Hampton	270	1,321	20.4%
New Ipswich	317	3,023	10.5%
New London	230	1,941	11.8%
Newbury	191	1,212	15.8%
Newfields	159	1,071	14.8%
Newington	71	518	13.7%
Newmarket	1,113	5,818	19.1%
Newport	593	3,553	16.7%
Newton	311	3,283	9.5%
North Hampton	409	2,684	15.2%
Northfield	681	2,554	26.7%
Northumberland	242	1,059	22.9%
Northwood	542	2,672	20.3%
Nottingham	505	3,286	15.4%
Orford	89	817	10.9%
Ossipee	497	1,757	28.3%
Pelham	915	8,237	11.1%
Pembroke	918	4,612	19.9%
Peterborough	588	3,858	15.2%
Piermont	41	430	9.5%
Pittsburg	103	384	26.8%
Pittsfield	423	2,122	19.9%
Plainfield	146	1,446	10.1%
Plaistow	559	4,320	12.9%
Plymouth	627	3,989	15.7%
Portsmouth	2,488	14,074	17.7%
Randolph	43	141	30.5%
Raymond	1,202	6,360	18.9%
Richmond	77	596	12.9%

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TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 9	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Rindge	337	2,943	11.5%
Rochester	3,807	18,190	20.9%
Rollinsford	307	1,456	21.1%
Rumney	159	958	16.6%
Rye	452	3,459	13.1%
Salem	2,427	18,512	13.1%
Salisbury	131	827	15.8%
Sanbornton	349	1,689	20.7%
Sandown	618	4,279	14.4%
Sandwich	124	610	20.3%
Seabrook	879	5,180	17.0%
Sharon	26	224	11.6%
Shelburne	43	177	24.3%
Somersworth	1,517	6,891	22.0%
South Hampton	55	531	10.4%
Springfield	95	779	12.2%
Stark	39	194	20.1%
Stewartstown	71	370	19.2%
Stoddard	109	724	15.1%
Strafford	429	2,328	18.4%
Stratford	74	255	29.0%
Stratham	625	4,559	13.7%
Sugar Hill	63	351	17.9%
Sullivan	60	360	16.7%
Sunapee	240	1,671	14.4%
Surry	67	500	13.4%
Sutton	134	1,139	11.8%
Swanzey	714	4,101	17.4%
Tamworth	404	1,517	26.6%
Temple	121	786	15.4%
Thornton	433	1,790	24.2%
Tilton	563	1,837	30.6%
Troy	224	1,174	19.1%
Tuftonboro	230	1,157	19.9%
Unity	85	865	9.8%

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TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 9	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Wakefield	504	2,310	21.8%
Walpole	235	2,380	9.9%
Warner	272	1,587	17.1%
Warren	75	537	14.0%
Washington	105	513	20.5%
Waterville Valley	67	141	47.5%
Weare	992	6,179	16.1%
Webster	196	1,180	16.6%
Wentworth	86	535	16.1%
Westmoreland	140	941	14.9%
Whitefield	318	1,280	24.8%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN			
TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 9	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Wilmot	123	788	15.6%
Wilton	415	2,190	18.9%
Winchester	398	2,058	19.3%
Windham	955	8,219	11.6%
Wolfeboro	563	2,827	19.9%
Woodstock	362	972	37.2%
Totals	133,399	780,205	17.9%
<p><i>* February labor force counts are used as a pre-COVID baseline</i></p> <p><i>** 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 28th.

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

NEWS RELEASE

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