



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

COVID-19

UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

For Immediate Release: June 4, 2020

New claims for unemployment dropped for the eighth consecutive week during the week ending May 30th. For the week, 6,036 individuals filed claims for unemployment insurance with the State of New Hampshire's Department of Employment Security, down 17 percent from a revised 7,266 during the week ending May 23rd, 2020. Nationally, the number of initial claims was down 16 percent compared to the week ending May 23rd. Only three states, Florida (+31,083), California (+27,199) and Mississippi (+89), experienced an increase in new claims during the week.

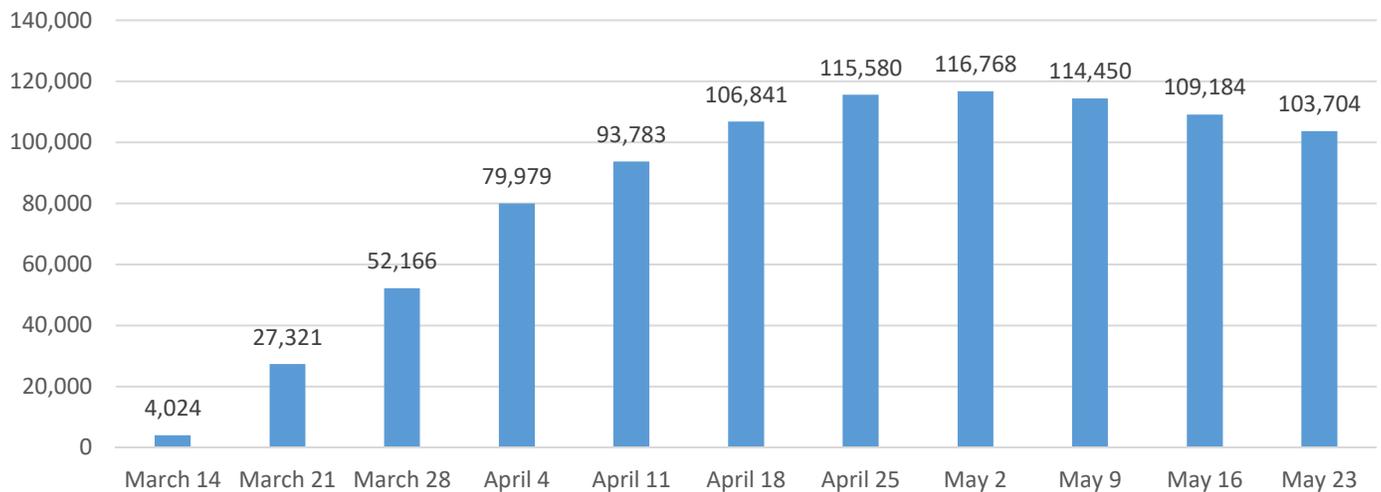
While New Hampshire continues to add new claims for unemployment at higher than pre-pandemic rates, the number of "continuing claims" by individuals who remain unemployed on a weekly basis has declined, indicating that easing of pandemic-required restrictions is resulting in more individuals returning to work in the state. As restrictions continue easing and more individuals return to work, tallies of initial claims become a less valuable indicator of the condition of the state's labor market. As of the week ending May 23rd (continuing claims are reported with a one-week lag), New Hampshire had 103,704 continued claims, down 5,480 or five percent from the prior week, and down 11 percent from the peak number of continued claims (116,768) that occurred during the week ending May 2nd. Nationally, continuing claims declined by just two percent during the week ending May 23rd, indicating that workers in New Hampshire are returning to their jobs at a faster rate than in the nation overall. This marks the third consecutive week of decline in continuing claims.

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 16th). The state's largest city, Manchester, again had the most residents filing for new unemployment claims during the week ending May 23rd with 511, down 111 (18%) from the week ending May 16th. Nashua had the next highest number of new claims during the week with 290, 43 fewer (or 13%) than during the previous week. 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 79 of towns in New Hampshire (33% of all towns) had slight increases in new claims totaling just 279 during the week, for an average of four new claims per town and a median number of three new claims each.

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

TOWN	NEW CLAIMS MAY 17 TO MAY 23	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	TOTAL NEW CLAIMS MARCH 15 TO MAY 23
Manchester	511	-111	-17.8%	16,704
Nashua	290	-43	-12.9%	9,263
Concord	135	-34	-20.1%	5,120
Dover	120	4	3.4%	3,964
Rochester	99	-41	-29.3%	4,046
Derry	95	-30	-24.0%	3,975
Portsmouth	86	-2	-2.3%	2,662
Keene	84	7	9.1%	2,357
Laconia	83	-2	-2.4%	2,398
Hudson	74	-19	-20.4%	2,468
Londonderry	74	-18	-19.6%	2,654
Merrimack	71	-16	-18.4%	2,739
Salem	69	-9	-11.5%	2,574
Bedford	58	-11	-15.9%	1,801
Hooksett	55	6	12.2%	1,744
Hillsborough	53	18	51.4%	759
Goffstown	51	-5	-8.9%	1,985
Somersworth	48	0	0.0%	1,613
Hampton	46	-13	-22.0%	2,011
Milford	45	-1	-2.2%	1,798

Continuing Claims Declined for the Third Consecutive Week Indicating that More Individuals are Returning to Work



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, 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. 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 23rd, as well as the number of new claims as a percentage of the town's labor force¹, 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.² For the week ending May 23rd, New Hampshire's "Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate" was 19.0 percent. 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 23rd.

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 23rd. Carroll, Belknap, and Coos Counties have the highest Covid-19 affected rates. These counties each have relatively high concentrations of employment in industries harder hit by pandemic-related layoffs (hospitality and retail industries) as well as healthcare for Belknap County. 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). Covid-19 affected unemployment rates are likely to be two to as much as four percent higher than reported here. Cheshire and Sullivan Counties have the smallest percentage of workers in hospitality industries that have been most affected by Covid-19 accounting for their below the statewide average rate.

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.

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.

New Hampshire workers in food service industries have filed the most new claims in the state since March 15th, (24,390), with 16,979 of those individuals working in full-service restaurants. Another 366 workers at full-service restaurants filled an initial unemployment claim between May 17th and May 23rd, down 140 from the week ending May 16th. Collectively, 22,870 New Hampshire residents working in retail industries located in the state have filed unemployment claims, with new car dealers (2,803), supermarkets and grocery stores (2,229), and department stores (2,046), having the largest volume of unemployment claims between March

15th and May 23rd. A total of 17,541 health care workers have filed unemployment claims, led by general medical and surgical hospitals with 6,249 claims, and offices of dentists with 3,809 claims filed since March 15th.

Despite being an industry with limited person-to-person contact with the public, manufacturing workers have filed 12,282 claims for unemployment benefits in New Hampshire since March 15th, including 1,365 during the week ending May 23rd. Still, compared to the week ending May 16th, manufacturing workers in New Hampshire file 297 fewer claims than they did during the week ending May 16th.

Claims by Gender

As of May 23rd, women comprise the majority (57%) of claimants for unemployment insurance. Examining the industries with the most claims for unemployment insurance helps explain this and shows that about 57 percent of the workforce of food services and accommodations industries in New Hampshire is female, while the health care industry (with 17,541 new claims filed since March 15th) is overwhelmingly (80%) staffed by women. The exception to women being the majority of employees in the hardest hit industries is retail trade where men and women are employed in nearly equal numbers (50.5% male and 49.5% female) in the state.

FIGURE 1

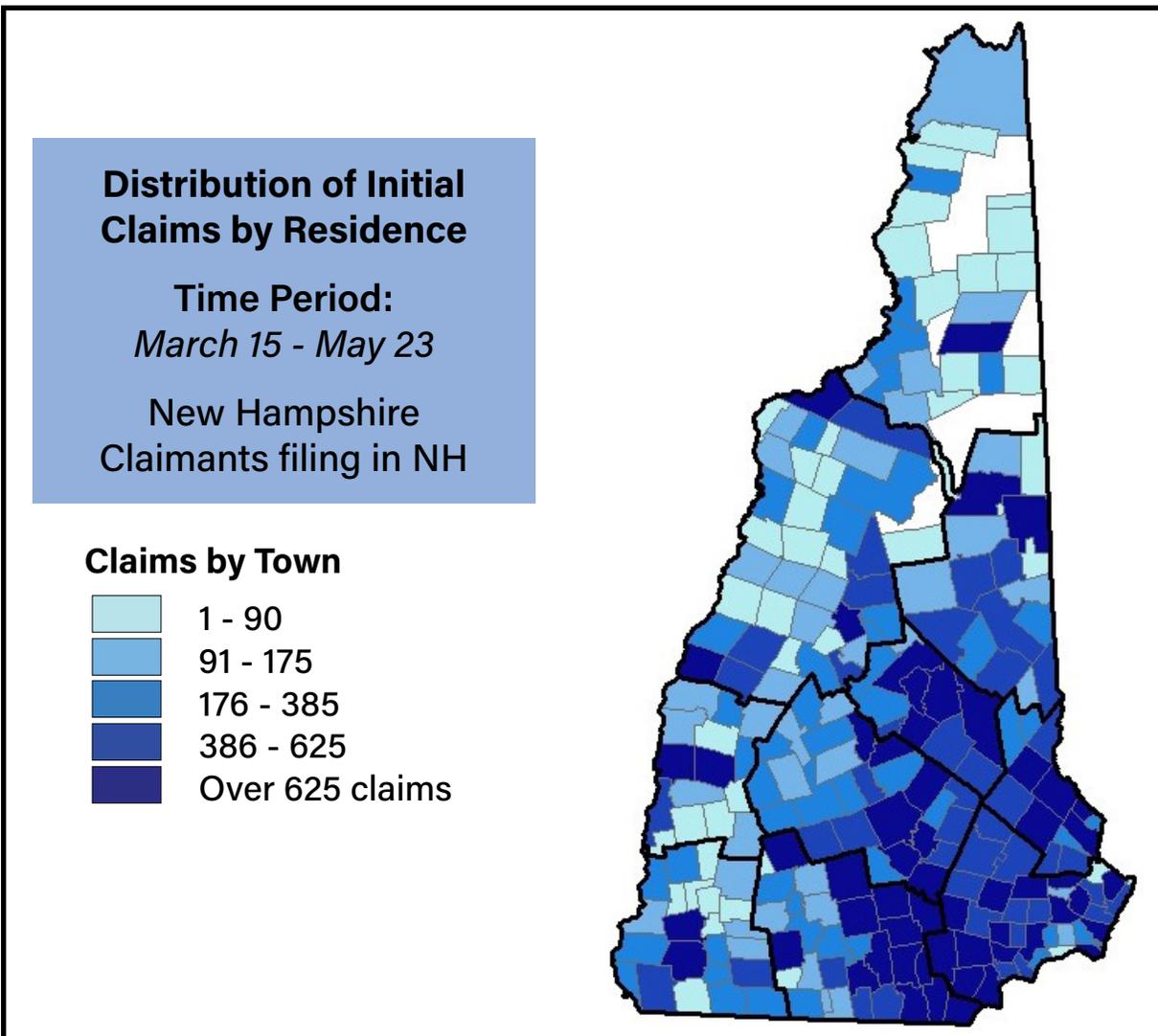


TABLE 2 - COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY

COUNTY	TOTAL CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH: MARCH 15 TO MAY 23	FEBRUARY 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE
Belknap	8,455	31,039	27.2%
Carroll	6,826	23,718	28.8%
Cheshire	6,890	41,500	16.6%
Coos	3,665	14,724	24.9%
Grafton	9,452	51,045	18.5%
Hillsborough	46,359	245,905	18.9%
Merrimack	17,026	84,821	20.1%
Rockingham	31,609	188,982	16.7%
Strafford	14,522	75,410	19.3%
Sullivan	3,590	23,061	15.6%
Totals	148,394	780,205	19.0%

FIGURE 2

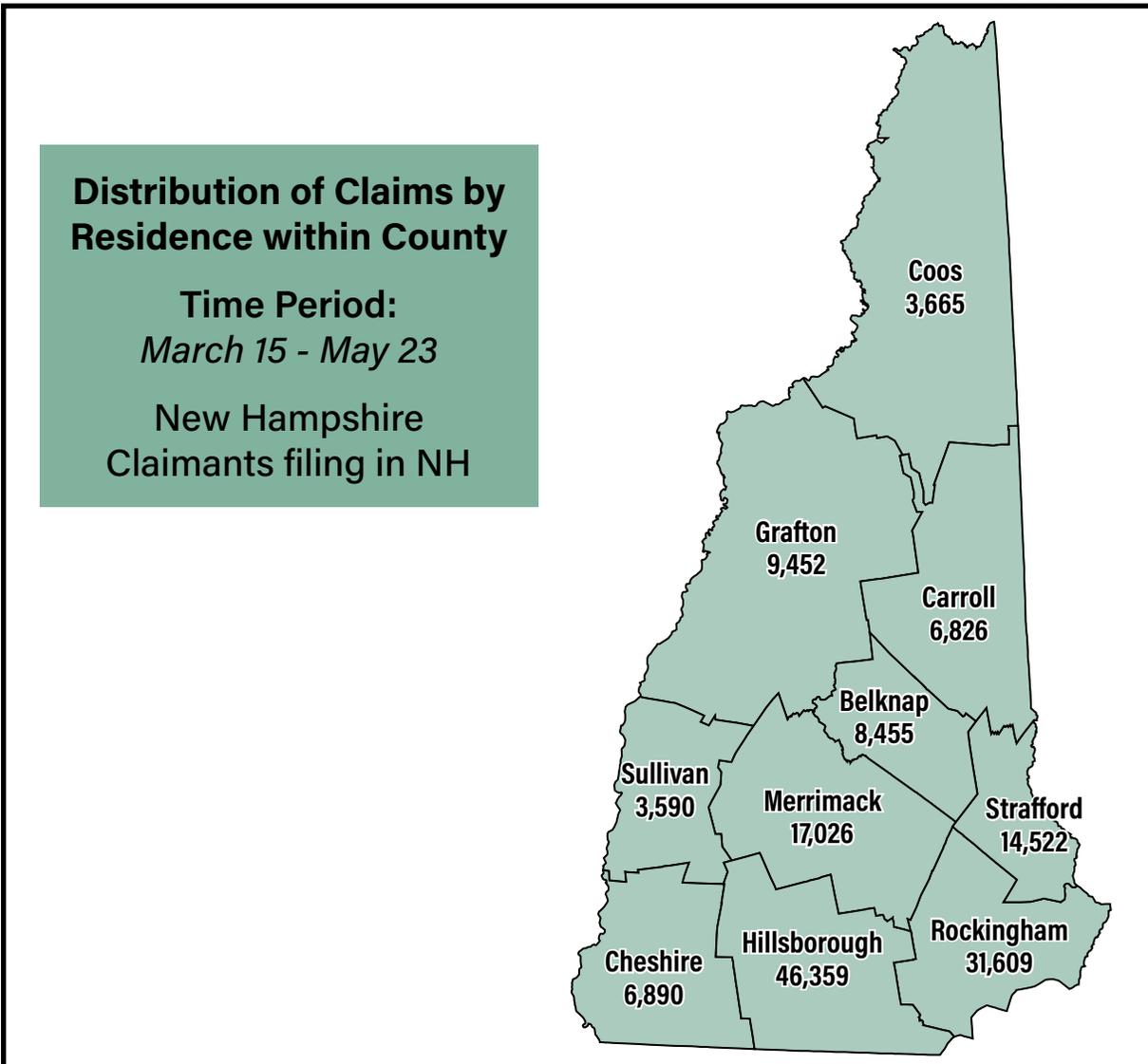


TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 15 TO MAY 16

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED	CLAIMS FILED MAY 17 - MAY 23	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK
Full-service restaurants	722511	16,979	366	-140
General medical and surgical hospitals	622110	6,249	240	-107
Limited-service restaurants	722513	4,475	178	-33
Hotels and motels, except casino hotels	721110	4,098	89	-35
Offices of dentists	621210	3,809	66	-5
Elementary and secondary schools	611110	3,159	189	-1
Child day care services	624410	3,016	49	-12
Offices of physicians, except mental health	621111	2,998	100	-35
New car dealers	441110	2,803	64	9
Temporary help services	561320	2,542	176	8
Supermarkets and other grocery stores	445110	2,299	147	-31
Beauty salons	812112	2,081	29	-13
Department Stores	452210	2,046	51	-34
Professional employer organizations	561330	1,936	86	6
School and employee bus transportation	485410	1,555	30	-15
Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars	722515	1,527	61	-21
Colleges and universities	611310	1,391	197	25
Nursing care facilities, skilled nursing	623110	1,176	116	3
Wholesale trade agents and brokers	425120	1,105	74	-14
Food service contractors	722310	1,079	37	-26
Skiing facilities	713920	1,059	27	-1
Fitness and recreational sports centers	713940	1,055	36	-7
Services for the elderly and disabled	624120	1,053	52	-2
Family clothing stores	448140	1,038	23	-14
Janitorial services	561720	1,010	42	-21
Other individual and family services	624190	991	43	-6
Civic and social organizations	813410	973	15	-17
Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters	452311	879	51	-14
Gasket, packing, and sealing device mfg.	339991	861	15	-18
Office administrative services	561110	834	32	-6
General automotive repair	811111	816	16	-11
Electricity and signal testing instruments	334515	807	22	-8
Executive and legislative offices, combined	921140	757	39	-13
Landscaping services	561730	751	34	-8
Home health care services	621610	746	35	-25
Sporting goods stores	451110	721	14	-13

TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 15 TO MAY 16

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED	CLAIMS FILED MAY 17 - MAY 23	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK
Gasoline stations with convenience stores	447110	718	46	-2
Used merchandise stores	453310	713	15	6
Managing offices	551114	709	27	-17
Furniture stores	442110	696	16	5
Offices of specialty therapists	621340	671	9	-19
Automotive parts and accessories stores	441310	666	26	-11
Offices of optometrists	621320	658	4	-5
Pet care, except veterinary, services	812910	622	13	-8
Golf courses and country clubs	713910	621	28	10
Residential plumbing and HVAC contractors	238221	612	13	1
Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses	454110	605	46	10
Gift, novelty, and souvenir stores	453220	556	14	-7
Electronics stores	443142	537	18	-10
All other home furnishings stores	442299	534	18	6

*NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 23	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Acworth	63	459	13.7%
Albany	120	362	33.1%
Alexandria	242	912	26.5%
Allenstown	539	2,493	21.6%
Alstead	180	1,083	16.6%
Alton	642	3,009	21.3%
Amherst	901	6,419	14.0%
Andover	225	1,439	15.6%
Antrim	279	1,427	19.6%
Ashland	310	1,279	24.2%
Atkinson	534	4,068	13.1%
Auburn	630	3,634	17.3%
Barnstead	594	2,656	22.4%
Barrington	1,015	5,523	18.4%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 23	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Bartlett	628	1,459	43.0%
Bath town	100	542	18.5%
Bedford	1,801	12,555	14.3%
Belmont	1,058	3,576	29.6%
Bennington	181	817	22.2%
Berlin	1,001	3,888	25.7%
Bethlehem	441	1,444	30.5%
Boscawen	508	1,972	25.8%
Bow	701	4,561	15.4%
Bradford	207	986	21.0%
Brentwood	394	2,642	14.9%
Bridgewater	128	761	16.8%
Bristol	528	1,842	28.7%
Brookfield	102	293	34.8%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 23	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Brookline	396	3,480	11.4%
Campton	545	2,110	25.8%
Canaan	398	2,042	19.5%
Candia	450	2,598	17.3%
Canterbury	234	1,508	15.5%
Carroll	121	391	30.9%
Center Harbor	147	670	21.9%
Charlestown	411	2,843	14.5%
Chatham	41	160	25.6%
Chester	534	3,145	17.0%
Chesterfield	222	1,943	11.4%
Chichester	313	1,588	19.7%
Claremont	1,151	6,385	18.0%
Colebrook	260	1,141	22.8%
Columbia	43	318	13.5%
Concord	5,120	23,063	22.2%
Conway	2,056	5,463	37.6%
Cornish	129	988	13.1%
Croydon	54	452	11.9%
Dalton	157	442	35.5%
Danbury	177	736	24.0%
Danville	431	2,771	15.6%
Deerfield	512	2,835	18.1%
Deering	164	1,133	14.5%
Derry	3,975	20,900	19.0%
Dorchester	31	200	15.5%
Dover	3,964	18,915	21.0%
Dublin	102	891	11.4%
Dummer	25	142	17.6%
Dunbarton	302	1,795	16.8%
Durham	597	9,395	6.4%
East Kingston	207	1,401	14.8%
Easton	31	143	21.7%
Eaton	57	235	24.3%
Effingham	182	701	26.0%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 23	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Enfield	401	3,166	12.7%
Epping	850	4,282	19.9%
Epsom	531	2,996	17.7%
Errol	52	164	31.7%
Exeter	1,513	8,834	17.1%
Farmington	887	3,725	23.8%
Fitzwilliam	185	1,361	13.6%
Francestown	137	1,002	13.7%
Franconia	146	655	22.3%
Franklin	1,193	4,055	29.4%
Freedom	144	766	18.8%
Fremont	511	2,870	17.8%
Gilford	1,018	3,645	27.9%
Gilmanton	514	1,746	29.4%
Gilsum	84	457	18.4%
Goffstown	1,985	11,023	18.0%
Gorham	385	1,234	31.2%
Goshen	73	451	16.2%
Grafton	148	683	21.7%
Grantham	210	1,664	12.6%
Greenfield	176	1,066	16.5%
Greenland	406	2,467	16.5%
Greenville	174	1,206	14.4%
Groton	112	382	29.3%
Hampstead	754	5,151	14.6%
Hampton Falls	187	1,501	12.5%
Hampton	2,011	9,147	22.0%
Hancock	158	944	16.7%
Hanover	195	5,093	3.8%
Harrisville	98	609	16.1%
Haverhill	358	2,359	15.2%
Hebron	52	413	12.6%
Henniker	468	2,910	16.1%
Hill	129	543	23.8%
Hillsborough	759	3,004	25.3%

TABLE 4 - INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BY TOWN

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 23	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Hinsdale	285	2,158	13.2%
Holderness	239	1,563	15.3%
Hollis	548	4,346	12.6%
Hooksett	1,744	9,376	18.6%
Hopkinton	481	3,481	13.8%
Hudson	2,468	15,467	16.0%
Jackson	162	366	44.3%
Jaffrey	470	3,103	15.1%
Jefferson	132	639	20.7%
Keene	2,357	11,949	19.7%
Kensington	148	1,313	11.3%
Kingston	639	3,777	16.9%
Laconia	2,398	7,775	30.8%
Lancaster	339	1,741	19.5%
Landaff	40	279	14.3%
Langdon	47	363	12.9%
Lebanon	1,096	7,793	14.1%
Lee	463	2,884	16.1%
Lempster	89	629	14.1%
Lincoln	340	770	44.2%
Lisbon	184	862	21.3%
Litchfield	893	4,887	18.3%
Littleton	966	3,256	29.7%
Londonderry	2,654	16,261	16.3%
Loudon	639	3,357	19.0%
Lyman	101	336	30.1%
Lyme	80	850	9.4%
Lyndeborough	190	1,056	18.0%
Madbury	177	1,097	16.1%
Madison	386	1,437	26.9%
Manchester	16,704	66,815	25.0%
Marlborough	239	1,221	19.6%
Marlow	73	369	19.8%
Mason	122	821	14.9%
Meredith	831	3,115	26.7%

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TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 23	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Merrimack	2,739	16,570	16.5%
Middleton	186	1,051	17.7%
Milan	134	626	21.4%
Milford	1,798	9,738	18.5%
Milton	496	2,390	20.8%
Monroe	68	401	17.0%
Mont Vernon	225	1,582	14.2%
Moultonborough	483	2,219	21.8%
Nashua	9,263	51,919	17.8%
Nelson	58	440	13.2%
New Boston	662	3,976	16.6%
New Castle	57	560	10.2%
New Durham	302	1,563	19.3%
New Hampton	283	1,321	21.4%
New Ipswich	346	3,023	11.4%
New London	244	1,941	12.6%
Newbury	199	1,212	16.4%
Newfields	165	1,071	15.4%
Newington	79	518	15.3%
Newmarket	1,174	5,818	20.2%
Newport	646	3,553	18.2%
Newton	320	3,283	9.7%
North Hampton	427	2,684	15.9%
Northfield	725	2,554	28.4%
Northumberland	264	1,059	24.9%
Northwood	576	2,672	21.6%
Nottingham	539	3,286	16.4%
Orange	20	181	11.0%
Orford	96	817	11.8%
Ossipee	532	1,757	30.3%
Pelham	991	8,237	12.0%
Pembroke	974	4,612	21.1%
Peterborough	631	3,858	16.4%
Piermont	43	430	10.0%
Pittsburg	109	384	28.4%

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TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 23	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Pittsfield	460	2,122	21.7%
Plainfield	153	1,446	10.6%
Plaistow	600	4,320	13.9%
Plymouth	681	3,989	17.1%
Portsmouth	2,662	14,074	18.9%
Randolph	47	141	33.3%
Raymond	1,273	6,360	20.0%
Richmond	86	596	14.4%
Rindge	360	2,943	12.2%
Rochester	4,046	18,190	22.2%
Rollinsford	319	1,456	21.9%
Rumney	169	958	17.6%
Rye	490	3,459	14.2%
Salem	2,574	18,512	13.9%
Salisbury	137	827	16.6%
Sanbornton	366	1,689	21.7%
Sandown	647	4,279	15.1%
Sandwich	135	610	22.1%
Seabrook	928	5,180	17.9%
Sharon	27	224	12.1%
Shelburne	43	177	24.3%
Somersworth	1,613	6,891	23.4%
South Hampton	57	531	10.7%
Springfield	102	779	13.1%
Stark	41	194	21.1%
Stewartstown	72	370	19.5%
Stoddard	121	724	16.7%
Strafford	457	2,328	19.6%
Stratford	79	255	31.0%
Stratham	667	4,559	14.6%
Sugar Hill	70	351	19.9%
Sullivan	66	360	18.3%
Sunapee	252	1,671	15.1%

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TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - MAY 23	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE *	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Surry	69	500	13.8%
Sutton	143	1,139	12.6%
Swanzey	749	4,101	18.3%
Tamworth	426	1,517	28.1%
Temple	131	786	16.7%
Thornton	451	1,790	25.2%
Tilton	604	1,837	32.9%
Troy	236	1,174	20.1%
Tuftonboro	242	1,157	20.9%
Unity	91	865	10.5%
Wakefield	525	2,310	22.7%
Walpole	252	2,380	10.6%
Warner	298	1,587	18.8%
Warren	76	537	14.2%
Washington	119	513	23.2%
Waterville Valley	69	141	48.9%
Weare	1,048	6,179	17.0%
Webster	207	1,180	17.5%
Wentworth	91	535	17.0%
Westmoreland	149	941	15.8%
Whitefield	342	1,280	26.7%
Wilmot	128	788	16.2%
Wilton	437	2,190	20.0%
Winchester	428	2,058	20.8%
Windham	1,034	8,219	12.6%
Windsor	25	155	16.1%
Wolfeboro	592	2,827	20.9%
Woodstock	369	972	38.0%
Totals	148,394	780,205	19.0%
<p>* February labor force counts are used as a pre-COVID baseline</p> <p>** Towns with fewer than 25 claims are excluded from the table, but are included in totals</p>			

The next release of the **COVID-19 Unemployment Update** will be on June 11th.

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

NEWS RELEASE

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