



# COVID-19

# UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

*For Immediate Release:* September 24, 2020

Initial claims for unemployment in New Hampshire decreased by four to 2,272 (or -0.2%) during the week ending September 19th, compared to a revised 2,276 during the week ended September 12th. Nationally, initial claims increased by 3.6 percent on a not seasonally adjusted basis. Compared to the week ended September 12th, a troubling total of 29 states experienced an increase in initial claims during the week. In New England, Massachusetts recorded the third largest increase in initial claims (4,407) of any state during the week.

Continuing claims for unemployment declined substantially in New Hampshire during the week ended September 12th. 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. As of the week ending September 12th (continuing claims are reported with a one-week lag), New Hampshire had 36,492 continued claims, down 3,446 or 8.6 percent from a revised 39,938 during the week ending September 5th.

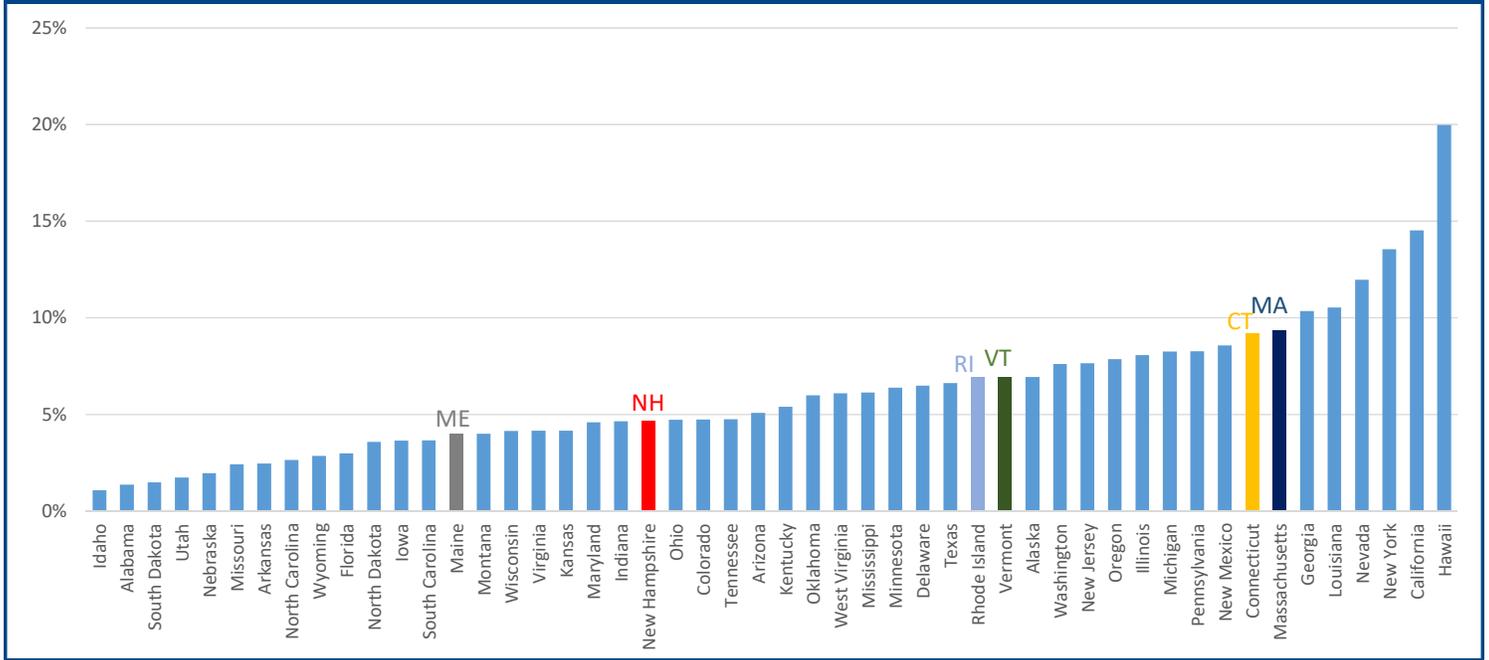
For the week ending September 12th. The U.S. Census Bureau's weekly "Small Business Pulse Survey" reported that 33.8 percent of New Hampshire small businesses indicated they expect to have to identify and hire new employees within the next six months, compared to 23.3 percent nationally, and the highest percentage in the nation (Michigan was second at 31.6%). The second highest percentage in New England, behind New Hampshire, was Connecticut at 26 percent.

Continued claims decreased marginally nationally, falling by just 1.4 percent during the week on a not seasonally adjusted basis. Overall, 17 states experienced an increase in continuing claims during the week. Connecticut was the only New England state to experience an increase in continued claims during the week ended September 12th.

<b>TABLE 1 TOWNS WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS DURING THE WEEK</b>				
<b>TOWN</b>	<b>NEW CLAIMS JULY 26 TO SEPTEMBER 12</b>	<b>CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK</b>	<b>TOTAL NEW CLAIMS MARCH 15 TO SEPTEMBER 12</b>	<b>CONTINUING CLAIMS AS OF AUGUST 22<sup>†</sup></b>
Manchester	122	-16	20,260	5,859
Nashua	62	-5	11,305	3,437
Concord	39	1	6,060	1,604
Portsmouth	30	20	3,091	828
Merrimack	24	5	3,281	867
Dover	21	-4	4,650	1,246
Rochester	20	-5	4,812	1,359
Derry	17	-11	4,637	1,345
Hampton	13	4	2,329	685
Newmarket	13	9	1,412	356
Somersworth	13	1	1,896	540
Hudson	12	-6	2,923	776
Keene	12	-9	2,843	728
Goffstown	11	4	2,314	620
Laconia	11	-9	2,820	781
Lebanon	10	0	1,298	339
Salem	10	-18	3,033	909
Belmont	9	1	1,241	330
Franklin	9	1	1,414	415
Newport	9	3	831	241

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

## Continuing Claims as a % of the State's Pre-COVID-19 Workforce (as of September 12<sup>th</sup>)

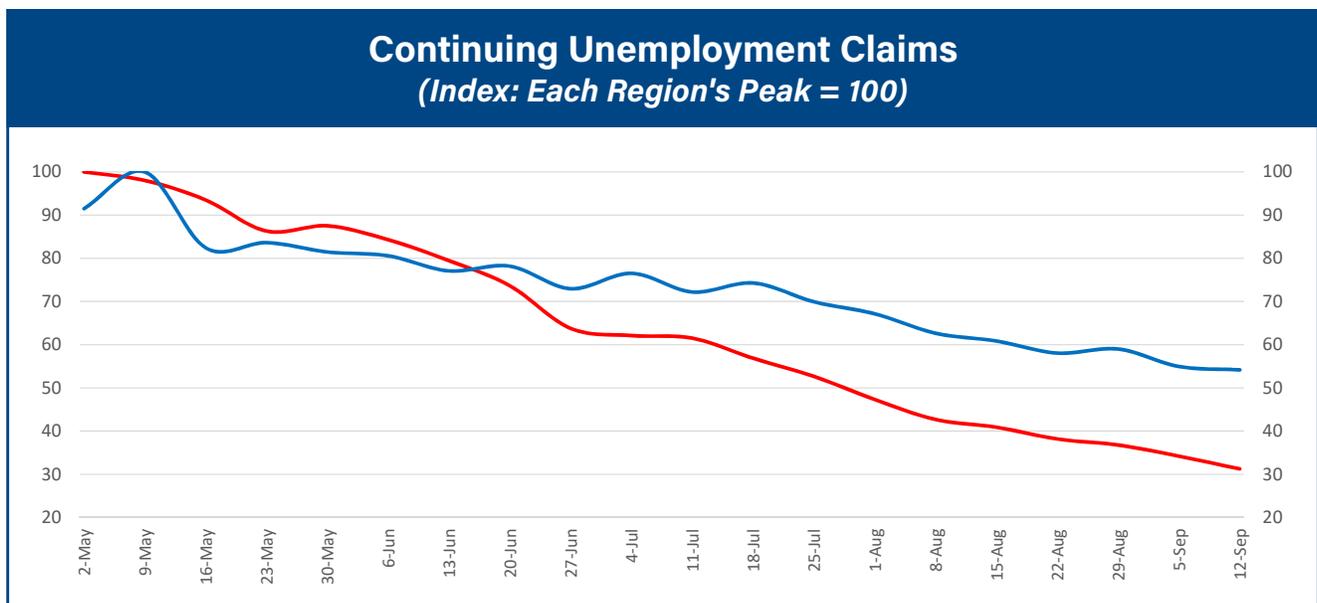


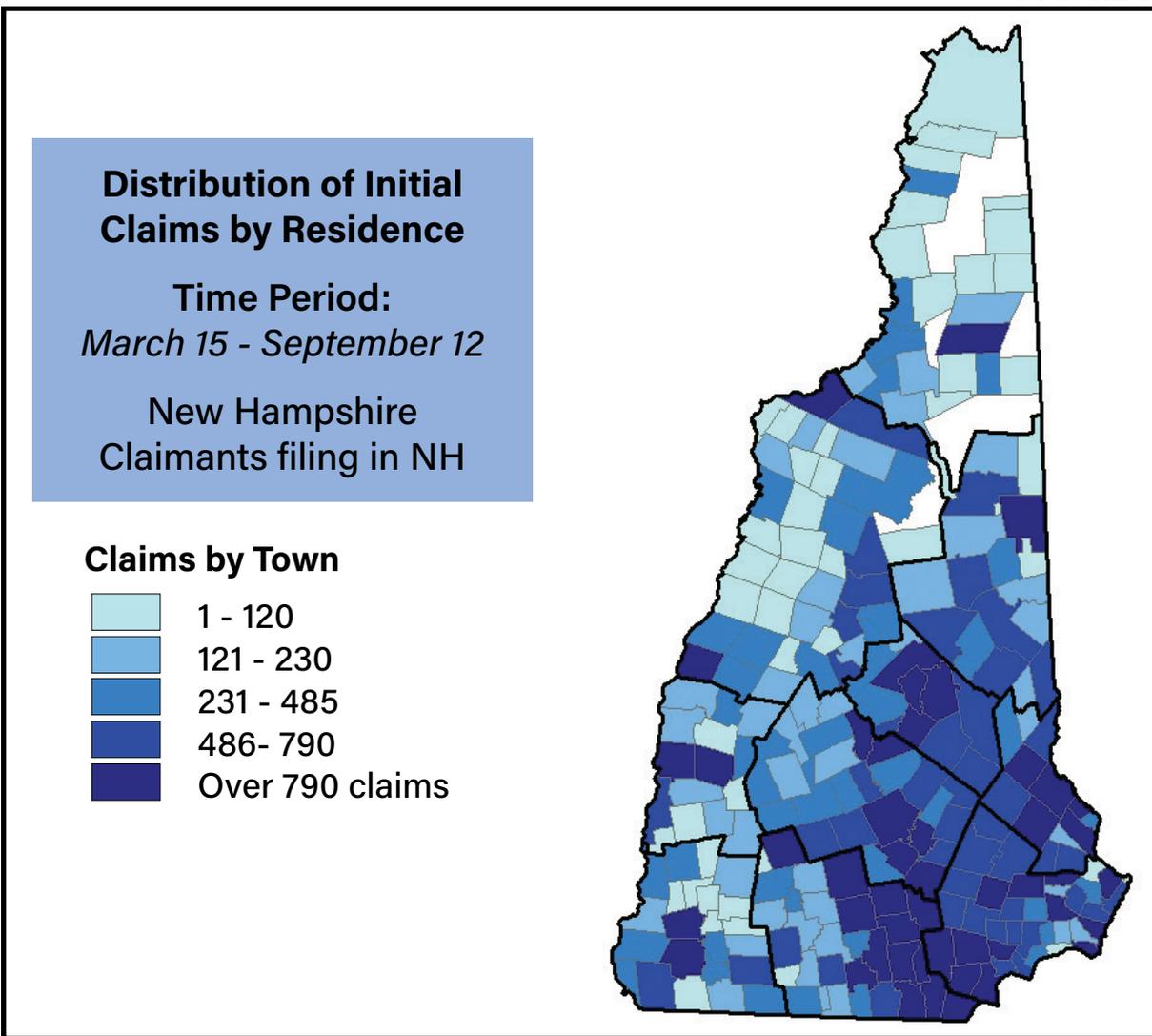
The figure below highlights continuing claims trends in New Hampshire and the U.S. Since peaking during the week of May 2nd in New Hampshire, continuing claims have fallen by 69 percent, compared to the U.S. overall which has seen a decline of 46 percent since continuing claims peaked nationally during the week of May 9th. 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 31 indicates that as of September 12th, continuing claims in the state were 69 percent below their peak ( $100 - 31 = 69$ )).

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 September

12th). The number of claims filed by New Hampshire residents working in New Hampshire decreased by 108 during the week. Of the towns with the most initial claims during the week, Portsmouth had the largest increase with 30 new claims reported or an increase of 20 over the 10 new claims reported during the week ended September 5th (Table 1). Portsmouth was the only town to record an increase of 10 or more claims compared to the prior week.

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



**FIGURE 1**

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 August 22nd) 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 August 22nd), 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 August was released on September 15th and reflects employment and unemployment during

<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.

the week that contained August 12th. The official U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics unemployment rate for New Hampshire in August is 6.5 percent. For the week ending August 22nd, New Hampshire’s “Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate” was 6.2 percent. Towns with the highest rates include: Waterville Valley (16.3%), Jackson (13.1%) and Brookfield (13.0%).

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.

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 September 12th.

### Claims by County

Figure 2 presents the total number of initial claims by county in New Hampshire, and Table 2 presents the total number of initial claims in each county since March 15th, the change in initial claims from the prior week, along with the number of continuing claims filed by residents of each

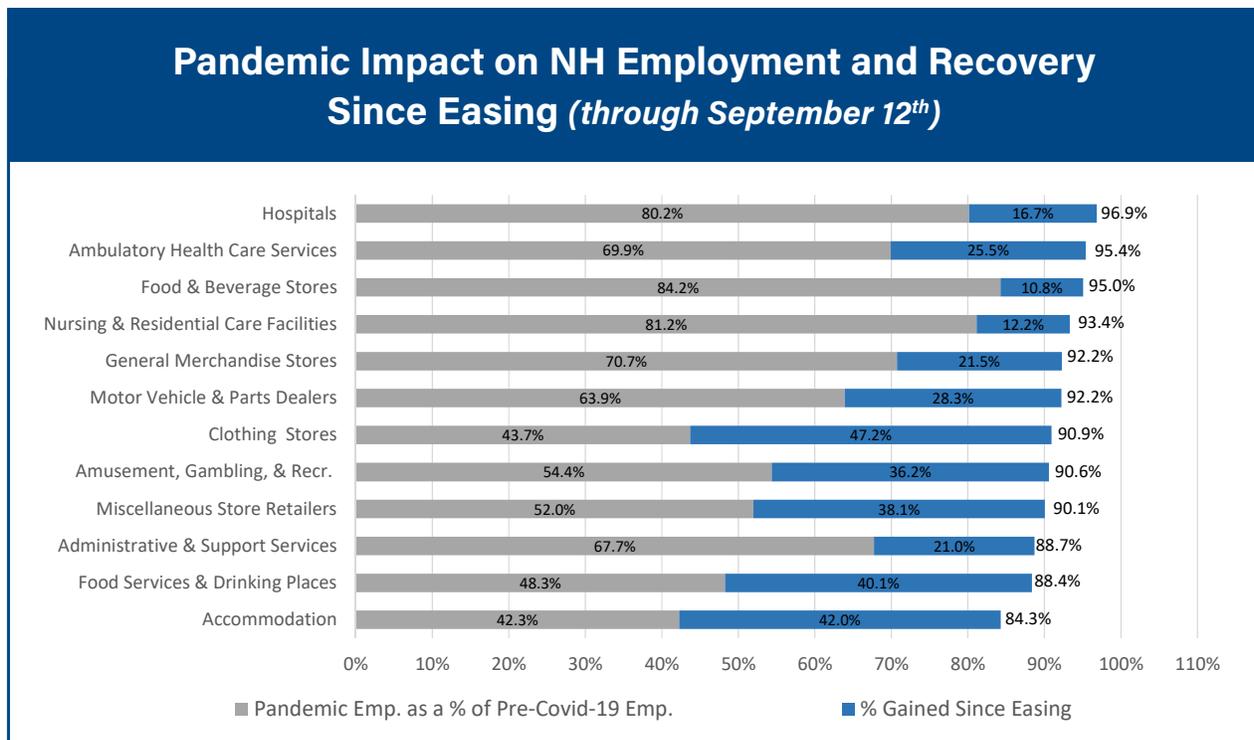
county. The statewide decrease of 108 initial claims for unemployment insurance by New Hampshire residents working in New Hampshire was spread across all but one county in in the state during the week ended September 12th. Only Coos County, with an increase of just three initial claims compared to the prior week, experienced an increase in claims.

As of the week ended August 22nd, Carroll County has the highest Covid-19 Affected Unemployment Rate, at 9.0 percent, while the lowest rates were recorded in Grafton and Sullivan Counties at 5.3 percent.

### 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 September 12th, 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 September 12th. Of 94 industry classifications (at the three-digit NAICS level), seven experienced increases in continuing claims during the week of September 12th, with the machinery manufacturing industry, with an increase of 38, accounting for almost all of the 45 continued claims increase among the seven industries. Among the 50 industries most affected by the pandemic, just three had an increase in continuing claims during the week.

Continuing claims in manufacturing industries declined by 110 or 2.7 percent during the week ended September 12th. Claims in educational services again declined significantly (by 248 or 12.8%) as more schools and colleges resumed instruction. The largest decline in continued claims in



any single industry (-531 or 33.7%) occurred in transit and passenger ground transportation and is largely attributable to the re-opening of schools and the re-hiring of school bus drivers. Healthcare industries experienced a drop in continued claims of 213, or 5.7 percent. Hospitality and recreation industries experienced a 6.4 percent reduction in continued claims overall (-551 claims), led by a 7.6 percent reduction in continued claims in the amusements, gambling, and recreation industry. Employment in retail (continued claims down 286 or 4.3%) and construction industries (continued claims down by 3.0%) also showed progress in recovering employment from their pandemic lows.

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 September 12th. 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.

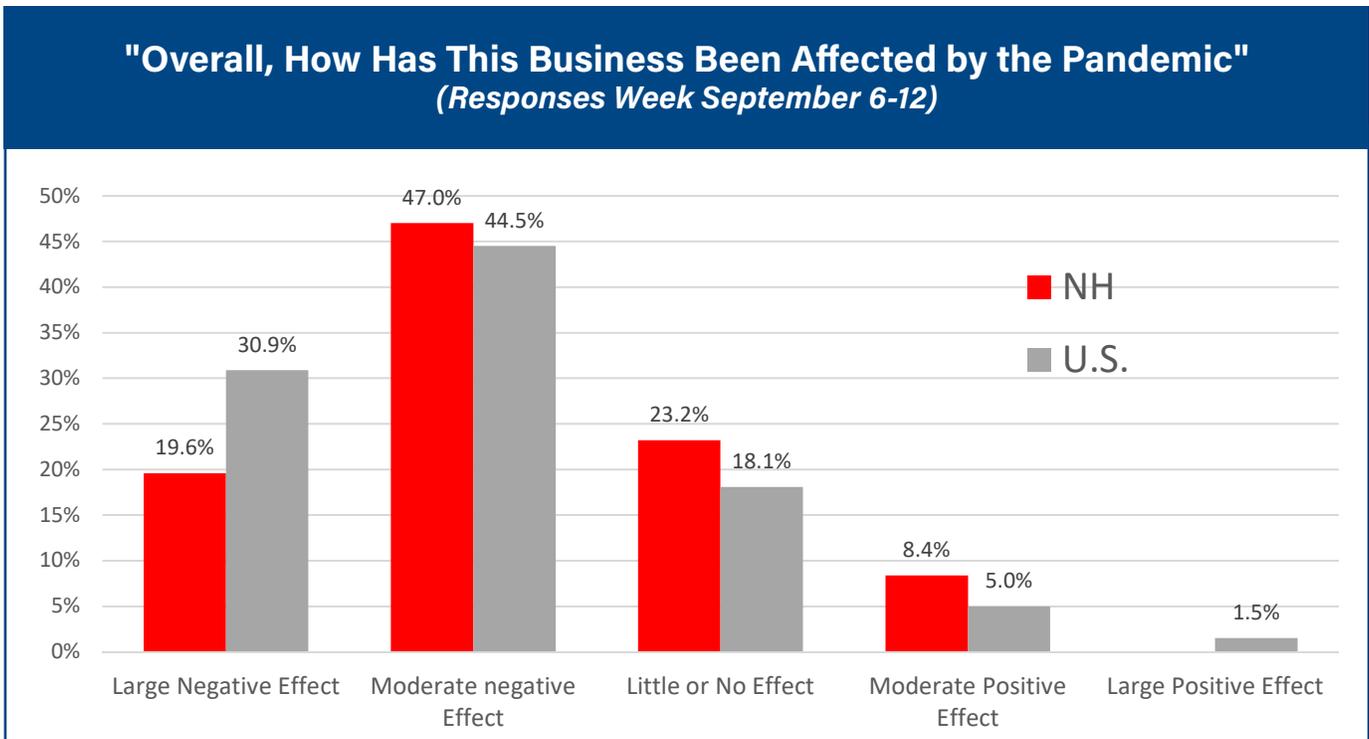
### Business Sentiment Improving

The decline in continuing claims for unemployment benefits in New Hampshire relative to the U.S. overall is empirical evidence of the more rapid pace of economic recovery in the Granite State. Looking ahead, along with continued progress in controlling the pandemic in New Hampshire, business and consumer confidence will be key

to maintaining momentum in the state’s economic recovery, especially as concerns are expressed about the potential health and economic impacts of the pandemic as winter approaches.

The U.S. Census Bureau’s “Small Business Pulse Survey” asks over 300,000 businesses across the country how their business has been affected during the pandemic. While a majority of businesses in New Hampshire and the nation indicate they have been negatively affected during the pandemic, the most recent survey data (collected between September 6 and September 12) show that small businesses in New Hampshire are much less likely (19.6% to 30.9%) to indicate that the pandemic has had a large negative impact on their business.

Understanding current business sentiment regarding the impacts of the pandemic is important, but understanding the trends in business sentiment over time is more important in assessing whether businesses feel that conditions are improving or declining in New Hampshire. Declines in continued claims for unemployment, and recent increases in the number of employed individuals in New Hampshire, both indicate significant improvement in business and economic conditions in the state. Ideally, that data would be supported by, and reflected in, improving small business sentiment in the state. Small businesses in New Hampshire and the nation are still being negatively affected by the pandemic, but as the figure below shows, small business sentiment continues to improve in New Hampshire and, similar to trends in continuing claims for unemployment insurance, sentiment in New Hampshire is improving faster than in the nation overall.

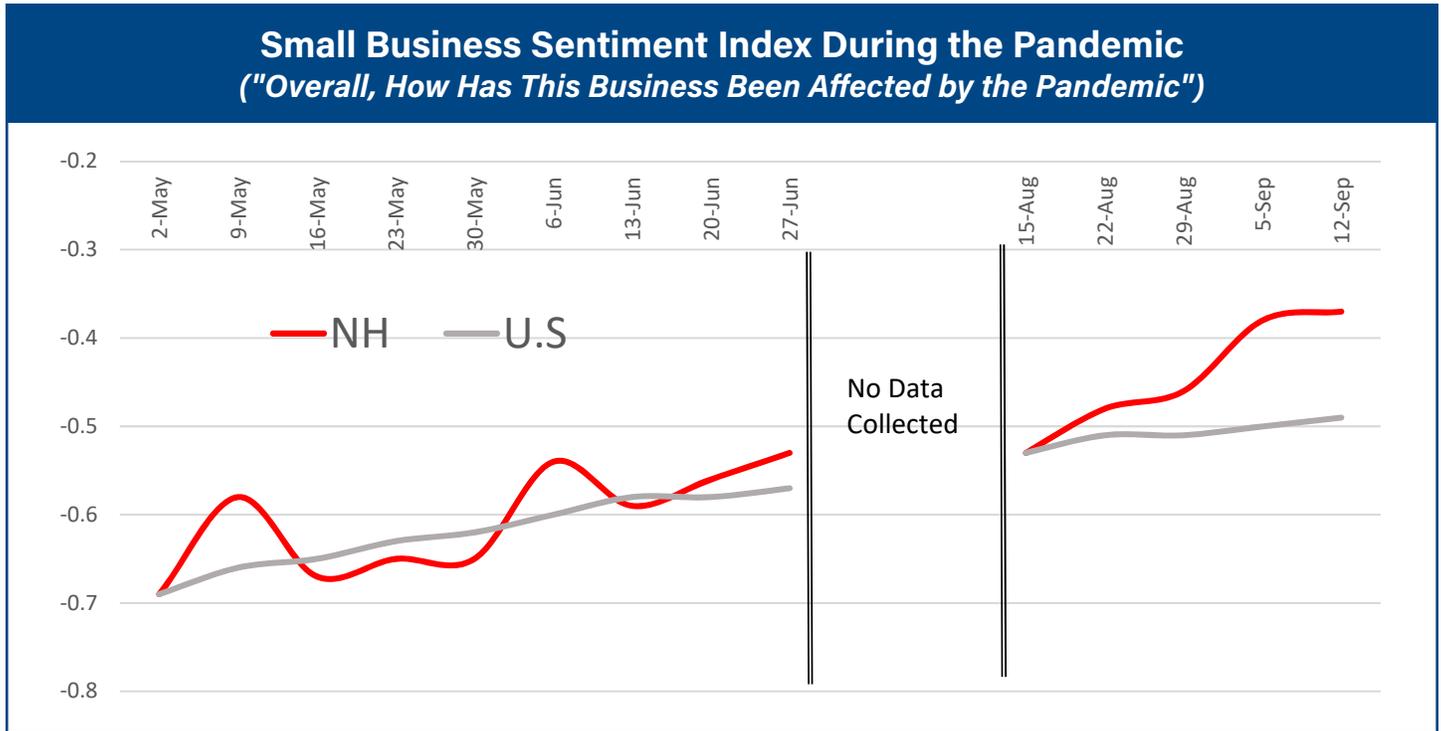


The “Small Business Sentiment Index” assesses the overall effect of the pandemic on businesses. Negative values (up to -1) of the index indicate a negative effect (increasingly so as the index value approaches -1), zero indicates little or no effect, and positive values (up to +1) indicate a positive effect (increasingly so as the index value approaches +1).

indicate that they expect it to take six months or more for their business to return to their “normal level of operations,” than did in May (31.9%). The percentages and trends are similar for small business nationally (31.4% in May compared to 43.9% in September).

- Brian Gottlob, Director, ELM

Even as overall sentiment improves, however, more businesses in New Hampshire (43.2%) in September

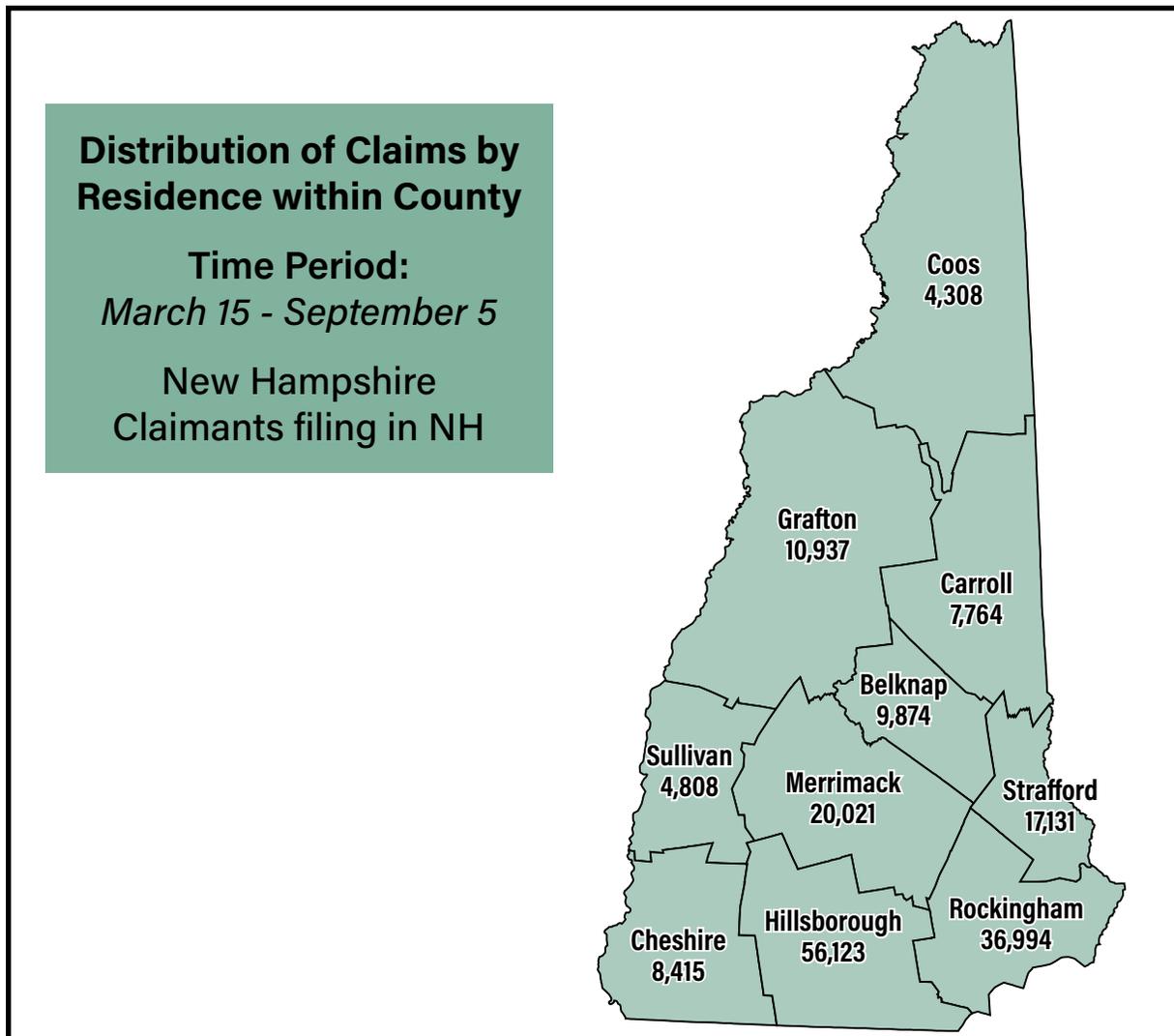


**TABLE 2 - COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY**

COUNTY	TOTAL CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH: MARCH 15 TO SEPT. 12	CLAIMS AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 12	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	CONTINUING CLAIMS BY NH RESIDENTS WORKING IN NH AS OF AUGUST 22†	FEBRUARY 2020 LABOR FORCE	ESTIMATED CURRENT COVID-19 AFFECTED INSURED UNEMP. RATE
Belknap	9,874	48	-14	2,605	31,039	8.4%
Carroll	7,764	21	-12	2,145	23,718	9.0%
Cheshire	8,415	45	-3	2,372	41,500	5.7%
Coos	4,308	23	3	1,100	14,724	7.5%
Grafton	10,937	51	-11	2,704	51,045	5.3%
Hillsborough	56,123	293	-22	15,822	245,905	6.4%
Merrimack	20,021	100	-20	5,393	84,821	6.4%
Rockingham	36,994	176	-9	10,426	188,982	5.5%
Strafford	17,131	79	-14	4,659	75,410	6.2%
Sullivan	4,808	25	-6	1,214	23,061	5.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>176,375</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>-108</b>	<b>48,440</b>	<b>780,205</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

† New data for Continued Claims is released monthly

**FIGURE 2**



**TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW  
UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 15 TO SEPTEMBER 5**

<b>INDUSTRY</b>	<b>NAICS CODE *</b>	<b># CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 15</b>	<b>CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF SEPTEMBER 12</b>	<b>CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK</b>	<b>Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>SEPT. 12 CONTINUED CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT</b>
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	26,259	5,810	-389	49,907	11.6%
Administrative and Support Services	561	11,361	3,816	-186	33,750	11.3%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	621	10,531	1,582	-110	34,431	4.6%
Educational Services	611	8,093	1,705	-248	20,834	8.2%
Social Assistance	624	6,341	1,609	-131	15,809	10.2%
Hospitals	622	6,036	953	-50	30,086	3.2%
Personal and Laundry Services	812	5,077	1,029	-58	7,306	14.1%
Accommodation	721	4,933	1,320	-85	8,397	15.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	541	4,785	1,517	-71	39,171	3.9%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	4,642	979	-32	12,602	7.8%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	713	4,578	930	-77	9,883	9.4%
General Merchandise Stores	452	4,495	1,146	-45	14,817	7.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	4,224	916	-21	18,817	4.9%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	3,631	1,102	-51	22,356	4.9%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	448	3,433	546	-29	6,029	9.1%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	623	2,822	952	-32	14,268	6.7%
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	453	2,656	542	-27	5,449	9.9%
Electronic Computer Manufacturing	334	2,548	492	-15	16,381	3.0%
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	485	2,421	1,045	-531	3,652	28.6%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	332	2,337	733	-11	11,558	6.3%
General Automotive Repair	811	2,320	497	-15	7,091	7.0%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	813	2,196	514	-39	6,517	7.9%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	423	2,121	573	-20	12,463	4.6%
Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	335	2,061	149	-33	4,225	3.5%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, and Book Stores	451	1,692	303	-23	4,154	7.3%
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	442	1,558	276	-14	2,772	10.0%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	339	1,462	257	-11	4,430	5.8%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	1,448	418	-11	9,527	4.4%

**TABLE 3 - INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS - MARCH 15 TO SEPTEMBER 5**

INDUSTRY	NAICS CODE *	# CLAIMS FILED SINCE MARCH 15	CONTINUING CLAIMS (CCFS) AS OF SEPTEMBER 12	CHANGE FROM PRIOR WEEK	Q4 2019 EMPLOYMENT	SEPT. 12 CONTINUED CLAIMS AS A % OF Q4 2019 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT
Construction of Buildings	236	1,443	401	-19	6,082	6.6%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	424	1,372	346	-50	8,050	4.3%
Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers.	425	1,331	378	-23	7,771	4.9%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	326	1,282	285	-10	5,422	5.3%
Nonstore Retailers	454	1,125	340	-15	6,181	5.5%
Textile Mills	313	1,051	271	1	1,822	14.9%
Health and Personal Care Stores	446	1,032	249	-12	4,185	5.9%
Real Estate	531	974	260	-12	4,949	5.3%
Machinery Manufacturing	333	964	326	38	7,006	4.7%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	331	958	199	-18	2,386	8.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	551	942	296	-12	9,284	3.2%
Printing and Related Support Activities	323	940	291	-14	2,297	12.7%
Gas Stations	447	927	296	-20	4,511	6.6%
Electronics and Appliance Stores	443	830	208	-7	2,958	7.0%
Rental and Leasing Services	532	761	211	-9	1,993	10.6%
Industries in the Food Manufacturing	311	757	184	1	2,771	6.6%
Couriers and Messengers	492	712	216	-12	3,721	5.8%
Industries in the Publishing Industries (except Internet)	511	664	194	-14	5,116	3.8%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	336	642	229	-8	2,634	8.7%
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related	711	620	220	-13	1,179	18.7%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	524	584	204	-8	11,768	1.7%
Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries	512	529	106	-10	890	11.9%
*NAICS - North American Industrial Classification System						

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - SEPTEMBER 12*	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF AUG. 22†	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Acworth	92	27	459	5.9%
Albany	131	32	362	8.8%
Alexandria	285	63	912	6.9%
Allenstown	648	192	2,493	7.7%
Alstead	236	64	1,083	5.9%
Alton	757	200	3,009	6.6%
Amherst	1,102	279	6,419	4.3%
Andover	290	88	1,439	6.1%
Antrim	353	95	1,427	6.7%
Ashland	356	74	1,279	5.8%
Atkinson	626	195	4,068	4.8%
Auburn	730	191	3,634	5.3%
Barnstead	687	184	2,656	6.9%
Barrington	1,185	298	5,523	5.4%
Bartlett	699	166	1,459	11.4%
Bath town	140	39	542	7.2%
Bedford	2,158	579	12,555	4.6%
Belmont	1,241	330	3,576	9.2%
Bennington	236	68	817	8.3%
Benton	28	7	150	4.7%
Berlin	1,221	316	3,888	8.1%
Bethlehem	506	150	1,444	10.4%
Boscawen	606	140	1,972	7.1%
Bow	817	223	4,561	4.9%
Bradford	244	85	986	8.6%
Brentwood	467	137	2,642	5.2%
Bridgewater	149	33	761	4.3%
Bristol	603	133	1,842	7.2%
Brookfield	122	38	293	13.0%
Brookline	484	114	3,480	3.3%
Campton	629	155	2,110	7.3%
Canaan	467	124	2,042	6.1%
Candia	513	140	2,598	5.4%
Canterbury	271	71	1,508	4.7%
Carroll	131	39	391	10.0%
Center Harbor	163	34	670	5.1%
Charlestown	653	135	2,843	4.7%
Chatham	48	13	160	8.1%
Chester	616	150	3,145	4.8%
Chesterfield	274	74	1,943	3.8%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - SEPTEMBER 12*	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF AUG. 22†	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Chichester	354	92	1,588	5.8%
Claremont	1,570	387	6,385	6.1%
Colebrook	298	72	1,141	6.3%
Columbia	49	9	318	2.8%
Concord	6,060	1,604	23,063	7.0%
Conway	2,257	595	5,463	10.9%
Cornish	164	37	988	3.7%
Croydon	65	26	452	5.8%
Dalton	186	45	442	10.2%
Danbury	201	56	736	7.6%
Danville	527	159	2,771	5.7%
Deerfield	587	162	2,835	5.7%
Deering	212	48	1,133	4.2%
Derry	4,637	1,345	20,900	6.4%
Dorchester	33	12	200	6.0%
Dover	4,650	1,246	18,915	6.6%
Dublin	131	38	891	4.3%
Dummer	31	11	142	7.7%
Dunbarton	343	89	1,795	5.0%
Durham	720	163	9,395	1.7%
East Kingston	233	66	1,401	4.7%
Easton	35	6	143	4.2%
Eaton	64	11	235	4.7%
Effingham	212	62	701	8.8%
Enfield	478	136	3,166	4.3%
Epping	972	276	4,282	6.4%
Epsom	617	173	2,996	5.8%
Errol	55	14	164	8.5%
Exeter	1,800	520	8,834	5.9%
Farmington	1,034	295	3,725	7.9%
Fitzwilliam	228	56	1,361	4.1%
Francestown	182	54	1,002	5.4%
Franconia	162	38	655	5.8%
Franklin	1,414	415	4,055	10.2%
Freedom	165	60	766	7.8%
Fremont	575	174	2,870	6.1%
Gilford	1,169	303	3,645	8.3%
Gilmanton	585	154	1,746	8.8%
Gilsum	101	35	457	7.7%
Goffstown	2,314	620	11,023	5.6%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - SEPTEMBER 12*	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF AUG. 22†	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Gorham	439	110	1,234	8.9%
Goshen	94	28	451	6.2%
Grafton	178	53	683	7.8%
Grantham	244	63	1,664	3.8%
Greenfield	219	64	1,066	6.0%
Greenland	480	131	2,467	5.3%
Greenville	228	66	1,206	5.5%
Groton	132	39	382	10.2%
Hampstead	883	238	5,151	4.6%
Hampton Falls	228	67	1,501	4.5%
Hampton	2,329	685	9,147	7.5%
Hancock	196	59	944	6.3%
Hanover	264	66	5,093	1.3%
Harrisville	120	33	609	5.4%
Haverhill	432	120	2,359	5.1%
Hebron	56	12	413	2.9%
Henniker	553	138	2,910	4.7%
Hill	157	41	543	7.6%
Hillsborough	989	251	3,004	8.4%
Hinsdale	347	127	2,158	5.9%
Holderness	278	59	1,563	3.8%
Hollis	641	168	4,346	3.9%
Hooksett	2,032	532	9,376	5.7%
Hopkinton	567	148	3,481	4.3%
Hudson	2,923	776	15,467	5.0%
Jackson	183	48	366	13.1%
Jaffrey	591	181	3,103	5.8%
Jefferson	148	48	639	7.5%
Keene	2,843	728	11,949	6.1%
Kensington	179	49	1,313	3.7%
Kingston	749	213	3,777	5.6%
Laconia	2,820	781	7,775	10.0%
Lancaster	399	105	1,741	6.0%
Landaff	42	12	279	4.3%
Langdon	65	14	363	3.9%
Lebanon	1,298	339	7,793	4.4%
Lee	560	137	2,884	4.8%
Lempster	133	32	629	5.1%
Lincoln	373	76	770	9.9%
Lisbon	213	58	862	6.7%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - SEPTEMBER 12*	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF AUG. 22†	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Litchfield	1,026	276	4,887	5.6%
Littleton	1,080	252	3,256	7.7%
Londonderry	3,057	806	16,261	5.0%
Loudon	730	173	3,357	5.2%
Lyman	116	33	336	9.8%
Lyme	96	24	850	2.8%
Lyndeborough	220	74	1,056	7.0%
Madbury	213	51	1,097	4.6%
Madison	433	125	1,437	8.7%
Manchester	20,260	5,859	66,815	8.8%
Marlborough	285	87	1,221	7.1%
Marlow	91	34	369	9.2%
Mason	149	43	821	5.2%
Meredith	957	252	3,115	8.1%
Merrimack	3,281	867	16,570	5.2%
Middleton	229	54	1,051	5.1%
Milan	168	35	626	5.6%
Milford	2,210	536	9,738	5.5%
Milton	587	157	2,390	6.6%
Monroe	77	25	401	6.2%
Mont Vernon	279	70	1,582	4.4%
Moultonborough	542	147	2,219	6.6%
Nashua	11,305	3,437	51,919	6.6%
Nelson	72	21	440	4.8%
New Boston	794	198	3,976	5.0%
New Castle	72	18	560	3.2%
New Durham	351	98	1,563	6.3%
New Hampton	357	88	1,321	6.7%
New Ipswich	439	120	3,023	4.0%
New London	288	82	1,941	4.2%
Newbury	235	64	1,212	5.3%
Newfields	193	58	1,071	5.4%
Newington	95	22	518	4.2%
Newmarket	1,412	356	5,818	6.1%
Newport	831	241	3,553	6.8%
Newton	379	112	3,283	3.4%
North Hampton	505	151	2,684	5.6%
Northfield	830	203	2,554	7.9%
Northumberland	317	69	1,059	6.5%
Northwood	662	166	2,672	6.2%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - SEPTEMBER 12*	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF AUG. 22†	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Nottingham	642	169	3,286	5.1%
Orford	105	31	817	3.8%
Ossipee	621	190	1,757	10.8%
Pelham	1,171	344	8,237	4.2%
Pembroke	1,124	329	4,612	7.1%
Peterborough	760	241	3,858	6.2%
Piermont	52	17	430	4.0%
Pittsburg	120	22	384	5.7%
Pittsfield	551	163	2,122	7.7%
Plainfield	186	48	1,446	3.3%
Plaistow	706	212	4,320	4.9%
Plymouth	790	173	3,989	4.3%
Portsmouth	3,091	828	14,074	5.9%
Randolph	53	16	141	11.3%
Raymond	1,483	448	6,360	7.0%
Richmond	101	32	596	5.4%
Rindge	439	117	2,943	4.0%
Rochester	4,812	1,359	18,190	7.5%
Rollinsford	366	106	1,456	7.3%
Rumney	187	42	958	4.4%
Rye	585	173	3,459	5.0%
Salem	3,033	909	18,512	4.9%
Salisbury	177	39	827	4.7%
Sanbornton	432	107	1,689	6.3%
Sandown	739	202	4,279	4.7%
Sandwich	153	42	610	6.9%
Seabrook	1,117	327	5,180	6.3%
Sharon	34	16	224	7.1%
Shelburne	47	10	177	5.6%
Somersworth	1,896	540	6,891	7.8%
South Hampton	67	19	531	3.6%
Springfield	122	28	779	3.6%
Stark	53	18	194	9.3%
Stewartstown	90	20	370	5.4%
Stoddard	153	44	724	6.1%
Strafford	528	155	2,328	6.7%
Stratford	94	26	255	10.2%

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

TOWN	CLAIMS MARCH 15 - SEPTEMBER 12*	CONTINUING (ACTIVE) CLAIMS AS OF AUG. 22†	FEB. 2020 LABOR FORCE	COVID-19 AFFECTED UNEMP. RATE **
Stratham	787	199	4,559	4.4%
Sugar Hill	78	22	351	6.3%
Sullivan	77	29	360	8.1%
Sunapee	307	69	1,671	4.1%
Surry	77	22	500	4.4%
Sutton	172	47	1,139	4.1%
Swanzy	893	249	4,101	6.1%
Tamworth	497	142	1,517	9.4%
Temple	162	46	786	5.9%
Thornton	500	118	1,790	6.6%
Tilton	706	172	1,837	9.4%
Troy	291	98	1,174	8.3%
Tuftonboro	285	95	1,157	8.2%
Unity	121	39	865	4.5%
Wakefield	615	180	2,310	7.8%
Walpole	341	93	2,380	3.9%
Warner	349	107	1,587	6.7%
Warren	92	17	537	3.2%
Washington	161	40	513	7.8%
Waterville Valley	85	23	141	16.3%
Weare	1,230	307	6,179	5.0%
Webster	242	55	1,180	4.7%
Wentworth Location	105	2	535	0.4%
Westmoreland	179	46	941	4.9%
Whitefield	386	111	1,280	8.7%
Wilmot	149	44	788	5.6%
Wilton	535	142	2,190	6.5%
Winchester	521	156	2,058	7.6%
Windham	1,238	353	8,219	4.3%
Windsor	31	5	155	3.2%
Wolfeboro	721	195	2,827	6.9%
Woodstock	400	87	972	9.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>176,375</b>	<b>48,440</b>	<b>780,205</b>	<b>6.2%</b>
<p>* Towns with fewer than 25 claims are excluded from the table, but are included in totals</p> <p>** Includes only claims active during the reference week</p> <p>† New data for Continued Claims is released monthly</p>				

The next release of the **COVID-19 Unemployment Update** will be on October 1st.

For further information contact:  
**Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau**  
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