

Unemployment Claims on the Rise

Manufacturing layoffs fueled the increase

Initial unemployment claims in New Hampshire climbed to 4,677 in June 2001, up over 120 percent from June 2000. This was the first time since 1994 that claims exceeded 4,000 during June. Initial claims for second quarter 2001 increased 54.0 percent from the first quarter, up over 5,000. Over-the-year, initial claims increased nearly 130 percent in second quarter 2001.

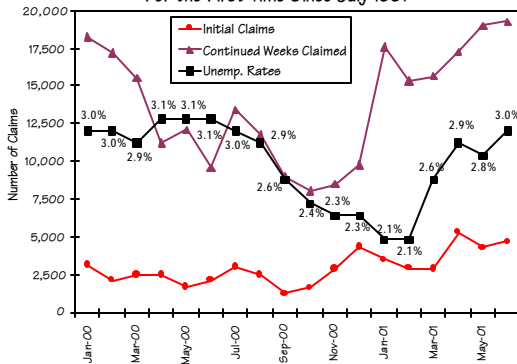
The rise in initial claims was primarily the result of layoffs in Manufacturing. Even though Manufacturing accounted for less than one-fifth of total covered employment, it had over a third of total initial claims filed during first quarter 2001. Initial claims against manufacturers rose to 47.1 percent in second quarter 2001.

Initial claims: a request for determination to be eligible for compensation.

Continued weeks claimed: an eligible person's request for compensation for each week of unemployment. The number of continued weeks claimed reflects the number of weeks of unemployment compensation that has been requested and does not reflect how many people are making claims.

During the first three weeks in July 2001 there were 5,386 initial claims filed. This was an increase of more than 113 percent over the first three weeks in July 2000. Many Manufacturing firms shutdown for vacations in July. Employees who were not paid for all or part of the shutdown could file for unemployment compensation.

Continued Weeks Claimed Exceeded 19,000 During May 2001, For the First Time Since July 1997



Within Manufacturing the bulk of the initial claims was in Electronic and other electric equipment. Claims in this industry had over 53 percent of Manufacturing's total claims for the second quarter. After having less than ten percent of the initial claims in Manufacturing during January and February, claims in Electronic and other electric equipment jumped to a quarter of Manufacturing's claims in March and climbed all the way to 62.2 percent in June.

Continued Weeks Claimed

There were 19,292 continued weeks claimed during June 2001. This more than doubled the number in June 2000. April 2001 saw continued weeks claimed rise 10.2 percent over-the-month. This was the first time since 1991 that the number of continued weeks claimed in April was larger than in March. The growth leveled off in May and only gained 1.5 percent in June. The first three weeks in July 2001 had 21,366 continued weeks claimed. This was up 137.1 percent over the first three weeks in July 2000.

Not surprisingly the majority of continued weeks claimed were in Manufacturing. This again was driven by Electronic and other electric equipment. This industry held 44.3 percent of Manufacturing's continued claims in both May and June.

Gail Houston

Initial Claims Expanded During Second Quarter 2001

Month	Unemployment Rate	Claims		Over-The-Month Change				Over-The-Year Change			
		Initial	Continued	Initial Net	Initial Percent	Continued Net	Continued Percent	Initial Net	Initial Percent	Continued Net	Continued Percent
January	2.1%	3,479	17,578	-851	-19.7%	7,805	79.9%	356	11.4%	-638	-3.5%
February	2.1%	2,923	15,307	-556	-12.9%	-2,271	-12.9%	784	36.7%	-1,881	-10.9%
March	2.6%	2,869	15,663	-54	-1.8%	356	2.3%	402	16.3%	135	0.9%
April	2.9%	5,320	17,258	2,451	85.4%	1,595	10.2%	2,853	115.6%	6,013	53.5%
May	2.8%	4,282	19,015	-1,038	-19.5%	1,757	10.2%	2,600	154.6%	6,890	56.8%
June	3.0%	4,677	19,292	395	9.2%	277	1.5%	2,545	119.4%	9,709	101.3%
TOTAL		23,550	104,113					9,540	68.1%	20,228	24.1%