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New Hampshire’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2020 was 4.0 percent, reflecting the impact on unemployment due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it. This was an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the November rate, which increased to 3.9 percent after revision. The December 2019 seasonally adjusted rate was 2.6 percent.

Seasonally adjusted estimates for December 2020 placed the number of employed residents at 719,350, a decrease of 3,470 from the previous month and a decrease of 37,330 from December 2019. The number of unemployed residents increased by 360 over-the-month to 29,920. This was 10,020 more unemployed than in December 2019. From November to December 2020, the total labor force decreased by 3,110 to 749,270. This was a decrease of 27,310 from December 2019.

The unadjusted December 2020 unemployment rate for New Hampshire was 3.8 percent, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the November rate, which increased to 3.7 percent after revision. The December 2019 unadjusted rate was 2.3 percent.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2020 was 6.7 percent, unchanged from the November rate, and an increase of 3.1 percentage points from the December 2019 rate. The national unadjusted rate for December 2020 was 6.5 percent, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the November rate, and an increase of 3.1 percentage points from the December 2019 rate.

NOTE: State nonfarm employment estimates are available on our Internet Web site: www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi concurrent with this release. Local area unemployment rates are expected to be available on Thursday, January 28. All monthly data will continue to be published in the monthly newsletter New Hampshire Economic Conditions.

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