

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates by Labor Market Area, 1990-July 2016

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In addition to not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate estimates, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also produces monthly seasonally adjusted data by major labor market areas (LMAs) for Connecticut, going back to 1990. Because of the one-month lag, these estimates are not published in the Labor Situation or the Connecticut Economic Digest, but they are available upon request. This article looks at the long-term monthly trends of seasonally adjusted unemployment rates of all the LMAs. The Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research separately produced seasonally adjusted estimates for small areas (Enfield, Torrington-

Northwest, and Danielson-Northeast) so that all areas in the state can be compared and analyzed. Note that because of the recent geographical changes, these small non-BLS LMAs can be seasonally adjusted only back to 2010.

As the chart shows, all the regions trended similarly over the historical period, with peaks and troughs of the LMAs coinciding about the same time. Waterbury LMA consistently posted highest jobless rates out of the six major areas during the 1990-2016 timeframe. In fact, during the last recession, that region reached the highest unemployment rate out of all the areas at 11.7% in December

2009. Conversely, the Danbury LMA's unemployment rates were the lowest throughout the history. Overall, the unemployment rates coming out of the latest 2008-2010 employment recession in the state were higher than those coming out of the 1989-1992 downturn.

Having these seasonally adjusted statistics by LMA is useful to keep track of the underlying trends each month, where it is not readily apparent with not seasonally adjusted series. Also available upon request are labor force, employed, and unemployed data from 1990 for the six major areas. ■

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