

ECONOMIC DIGEST

DECEMBER 1998

- Connecticut retail trade industry trends are analyzed. (article, pp.1-4)
- Economic Board convened for the State's outlook. (p.3)
- October's employment: up by 22,200 from a year ago. (p.6)
- Unemployment rate: 3.8 percent, down from 3.9 percent in September. (p.6)
- Initial claims: down slightly from a year ago. (p.6)
- Housing permits: up 20.3 percent over the year. (p.7)
- Retail sales increased by 7.2 percent through August. (p.7)

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Retail: Help Wanted!

By J. Charles Joo and Joseph Slepski, Research Analysts

Since hitting a low point in December of 1992, Connecticut retail trade employment has been growing steadily, along with yearly increases in retail sales. After losing more than 30,000 jobs in the last recession, the retail sector, which accounts for nearly one out of every five jobs in Connecticut, has regained almost half its loss. Between 1992 and 1997, the industry's employment grew by over 14,500, or 5.7 percent.

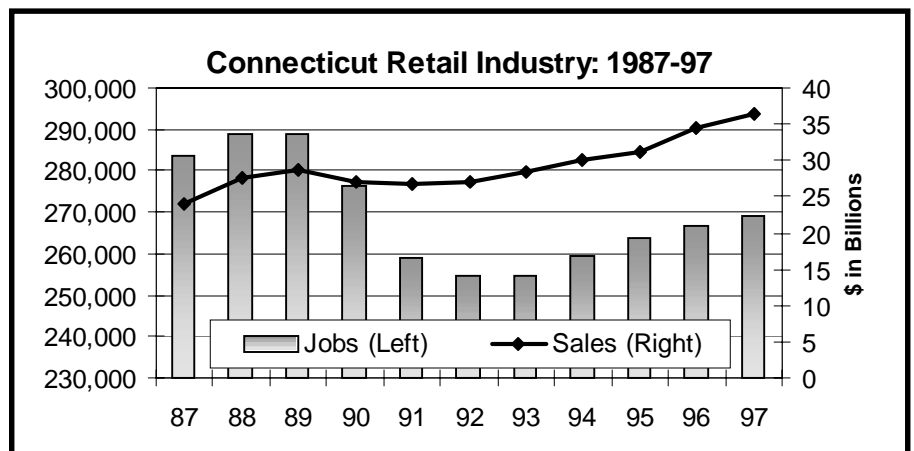
This article examines the retail sector's employment, wages, sales, seasonality, and future outlook. Detailed employment and wage data for all subsectors (4-digit Standard Industrial Classification levels) of the retail industry are also summarized on page 4.

Retail Employment

Retail trade's employment had been growing each year for many decades before declining from 1989 to 1992. Since then, the industry has seen five consecutive years of growth (see chart below). Connecticut's retail employment trends were similar to, although below, the nation's growth rates throughout the last decade.

In 1997, almost a third of all retail jobs were in *eating and drinking places* (see chart on page 2). This industry group also gained the most jobs (+5,300) from 1992 to 1997, reflecting a rising trend in dining out with the improving economy. (For more on the *eating and drinking places* industry, see the January 1998 issue of the Digest at www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/misc/digindex.htm) The second largest retail industry was *grocery stores*, accounting for over 40,000 jobs, and it grew two percent between 1992 and 1997. The greatest employment growth was in *miscellaneous food stores*, with a 150 percent increase. The rapid expansion of bagel and donut franchises helped to add 3,200 new workers (74%) in *retail bakeries*, which had the second

most jobs (+5,300) from 1992 to 1997, reflecting a rising trend in dining out with the improving economy. (For more on the *eating and drinking places* industry, see the January 1998 issue of the Digest at www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/misc/digindex.htm) The second largest retail industry was *grocery stores*, accounting for over 40,000 jobs, and it grew two percent between 1992 and 1997. The greatest employment growth was in *miscellaneous food stores*, with a 150 percent increase. The rapid expansion of bagel and donut franchises helped to add 3,200 new workers (74%) in *retail bakeries*, which had the second



highest growth both in number and percent of retail jobs. With both the historically low interest rates and recovering economy, more customers were buying cars, thus prompting *auto dealers* to hire 1,700 additional staff (see also February 1998 Digest). Along with the pentium-speed growth in the computer services industry (November 1997 Digest), *computer and computer software stores* have also expanded their workforce by over 1,000 since 1992.

Other notable trends include the rapid increases in non-store retailing such as the *catalog and mail order* industry (through TV, phone, online shopping), which

industry divisions, averaging just \$228 a week in 1997 (although this lower wage is skewed by the large number of part-time workers in this industry's workforce). That was a 13 percent increase from 1992, but inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 14 percent, and the average wage rate for all industries rose 19 percent during the same period.

The retail trade industries where wages declined include *bookstores, miscellaneous food stores, miscellaneous apparel and accessory stores, and shoe stores*. On the up side, the average wage at *motor vehicle dealers, miscellaneous homefurnishings stores,*

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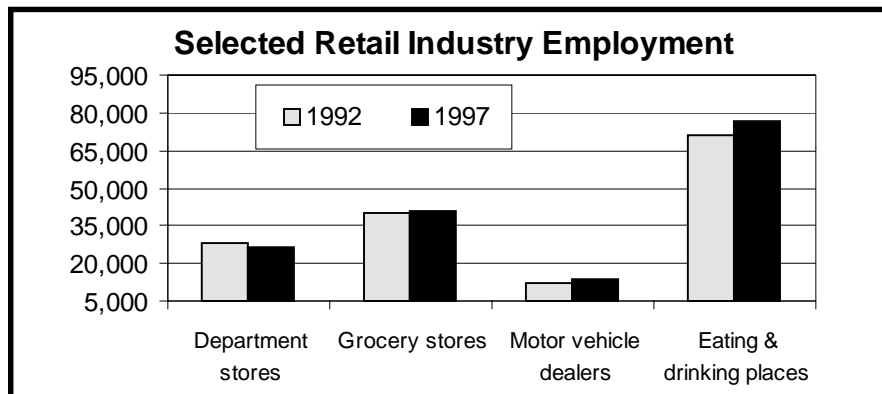
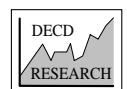
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added 700 jobs, representing an increase of 33 percent from 1992 to 1997. As the housing market rebounds, the *lumber and other building materials dealers*, spurred by "super" chain stores, have added nearly 1,000 new jobs (+17%) in the past five years. However, some sectors of the retail industry did not fare so well. Mainly due to the closing of major *department stores* during the recession of the early nineties, the department stores industry eliminated over 2,100 jobs, and *women's clothing stores* lost over 2,000 workers, a significant drop of 31 percent between 1992 and 1997.

Retail Wages

The average wage rate in retail trade in Connecticut is still the lowest among the major

retail nurseries, jewelry stores, furniture stores, and catalog and mail order sectors grew faster than did the average for all industries. In 1997, the highest wage was paid out to the employees of *computer and computer software stores*, while the lowest was paid at *retail bakeries*.

Retail Sales

Connecticut retail sales grew in the last decade, except in 1990 and 1991 (during the height of the recession) when they were down by 5.4 and 1.1 percent, respectively. In comparison, the nation sustained retail sales gains each year over the 1988-97 period. However, after trailing the U.S. from 1989 to 1995, Connecticut sales were higher than the nation's in 1996 and 1997. Still, current extreme

market volatility, overseas weakness, and more layoff announcements could affect sales during this holiday shopping season.

Retail Seasonality

There are many industries in Connecticut influenced by seasonal factors, but none more so than the retail trade sector. This particular industry experiences many peaks and valleys during the course of a year. The highest peak occurs during the months of November and December. During this decade employment in the retail industry has increased by an average of 11,575 during these two months. These seasonal gains ranged from a low of 7,700 jobs in the recession-ravaged year of 1990 to a high of 13,400 in 1997. The holiday season seems to be recession-proof in terms of staffing needs

as evidenced by the fact that in 1991 and 1992, when the economy was at a low point, employment in retail establishments increased by 12,300 and 11,800, respectively.

In the retail sector, however, what goes up in November and December must come down in January. In just one month all of the holiday gains are lost as employment sinks to levels that were reached the previous September. Just as the earlier mentioned gains were recession-proof, the losses are prosperity-proof as evidenced by January declines of 17,100 in 1996, 17,800 in 1997 and 17,000 in 1998.

So What's In Store?

The latest retail employment estimates show an increase of 900 jobs over last October, or a

Continued on page 4

HOUSING UPDATE

October Housing Permits Up 20.3%

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 1,025 new housing units in October 1998, a 20.3 percent increase compared to October of 1997 when 852 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 1,025 units permitted in October 1998 represent an increase of 4.2 percent from the 984 units permitted in September 1998. The year-to-date permits are up 21.9 percent, from 7,871 through October 1997, to 9,595 through October 1998.

"Housing permits are up throughout the state, with particularly strong growth in Fairfield, Hartford, and New London coun-

ties," Commissioner Abromaitis said. "As a symptom of the overall health of our economy, the increase in permits is a very encouraging sign."

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that New London County with 40 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in October compared to the same month a year ago. New Haven County followed with a 28.3 percent increase.

Fairfield County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in October with 274. Hartford County followed with 239 units and New Haven County had 195 units. Danbury led all Connecticut communities with 105 units, followed by Manchester with 98 and Milford with 30. ■

For more information on housing permits, see tables on pages 21-22.

Industry Clusters

Economic Board Convened

Connecticut, regional, and world economic outlooks, progress of the industry clusters, and transportation issues were featured topics November 20 at the annual conference of the Connecticut Economic Conference Board (CECB). Economic outlook speakers included former CECB Chairman Dr. Ed Deak; Steven Lanza, Managing Editor of The Connecticut Economy; and Ed Guay, Wintonbury Risk Management.

Connecticut will experience growth, but at a much slower rate of job and real gross state product (GSP) increases according to the New England Economic Project (NEEP) outlook presented by Deak. Other speakers saw sound current economic fundamentals, but risks associated with national and world events.

A report on the progress of the industry clusters was highlighted by bioscience, manufacturing, and workforce development presentations. Connecticut's seaports, aviation infrastructure, and ground transportation were also addressed. A major development making Bradley International Airport a "perishables center" will occur with the signed lease by Rainbow Growers. This large flower producing group from the Netherlands plans to construct a 100,000 sq. ft. distribution and refrigerated packaging facility and provide the airport with its first direct air cargo service to Europe.

A full CECB "Report to the Governor and the General Assembly" will be submitted in early 1999. ■

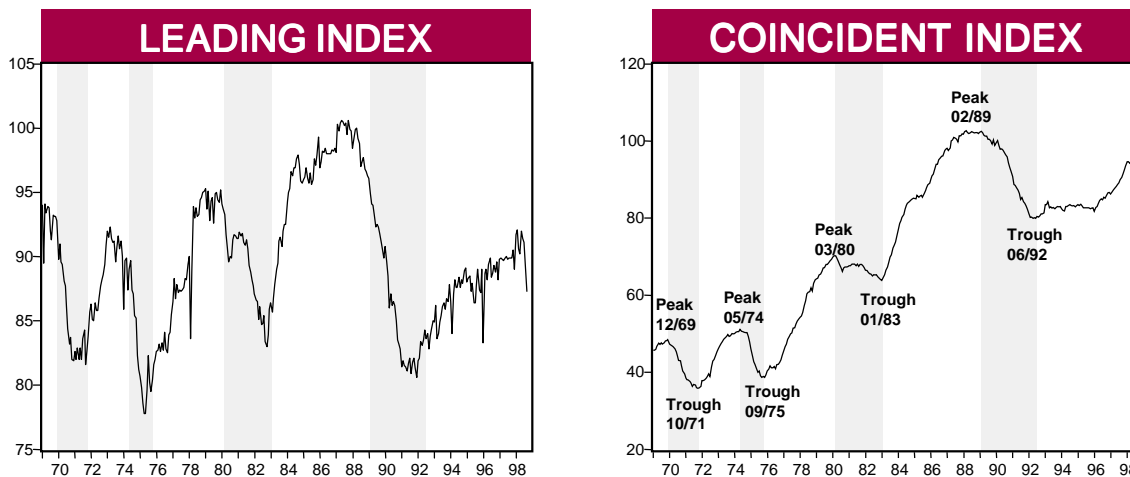
Connecticut Retail Trade Covered Employment And Wages: 1992 And 1997

Industry Code/ Description	Employment				Avg Wkly Wage		
	1992	1997	92-97 Chg		1992	1997	% Chg
			No.	%			
Total Industries	1,507,797	1,592,752	84,955	5.6	\$628	\$749	19.3
Total Retail Trade	254,527	269,061	14,534	5.7	322	356	10.6
5211. Lumber and Other Building Materials Dealers	5,319	6,207	888	16.7	505	583	15.5
5231. Paint, Glass, and Wallpaper Stores	1,021	977	-44	-4.3	478	550	15.1
5251. Hardware Stores	1,673	1,762	89	5.3	349	398	14.1
5261. Retail Nurseries, Lawn and Garden Supply Stores	1,828	2,047	219	12.0	387	484	24.9
5271. Mobile Home Dealers	55	10	-45	-81.8	469	534	13.8
5311. Department Stores	28,279	26,158	-2,121	-7.5	325	342	5.2
5331. Variety Stores	1,669	932	-737	-44.2	244	254	4.2
5399. Miscellaneous General Merchandise Stores	1,059	760	-299	-28.2	262	289	10.4
5411. Grocery Stores	40,154	40,815	661	1.6	317	320	1.0
5421. Meat and Fish Markets	511	528	17	3.3	298	334	12.1
5431. Fruit and Vegetable Markets	523	503	-20	-3.8	258	313	21.2
5441. Candy, Nut, and Confectionary Stores	235	293	58	24.7	195	244	24.9
5451. Dairy Products Stores	882	686	-196	-22.2	258	307	19.2
5461. Retail Bakeries	4,330	7,523	3,193	73.7	221	216	-2.4
5499. Miscellaneous Food Stores	528	1,318	790	149.6	266	218	-18.0
5511. Motor Vehicle Dealers (New and Used)	12,332	13,997	1,665	13.5	623	785	26.0
5521. Motor Vehicle Dealers (Used Only)	640	703	63	9.8	484	557	15.0
5531. Auto and Home Supply Stores	3,769	4,339	570	15.1	437	457	4.7
5541. Gasoline Service Stations	7,386	6,793	-593	-8.0	322	340	5.5
5551. Boat Dealers	473	524	51	10.8	453	474	4.5
5561. Recreational Vehicle Dealers	93	135	42	45.2	465	541	16.5
5571. Motorcycle Dealers	275	361	86	31.3	482	701	45.5
5599. Automotive Dealers, Not Elsewhere Classified	62	89	27	43.5	754	583	-22.7
5611. Men's and Boys' Clothing and Accessory Stores	996	1,123	127	12.8	386	459	18.8
5621. Women's Clothing Stores	6,658	4,625	-2,033	-30.5	314	357	13.8
5632. Women's Accessory and Specialty Stores	861	952	91	10.6	287	268	-6.6
5641. Children's and Infants' Wear Stores	648	902	254	39.2	278	297	6.7
5651. Family Clothing Stores	6,502	7,296	794	12.2	255	271	6.3
5661. Shoe Stores	2,858	2,178	-680	-23.8	341	301	-11.7
5699. Misc. Apparel and Accessory Stores	820	924	104	12.7	327	284	-13.1
5712. Furniture Stores	2,775	3,078	303	10.9	448	540	20.6
5713. Floor Covering Stores	945	913	-32	-3.4	464	572	23.3
5714. Drapery, Curtain, and Upholstery Stores	198	186	-12	-6.1	318	396	24.7
5719. Misc. Homefurnishings Stores	1,448	2,070	622	43.0	270	340	25.7
5722. Household Appliance Stores	977	829	-148	-15.1	427	425	-0.4
5731. Radio, TV, and Consumer Electronics Stores	1,385	2,003	618	44.6	460	470	2.2
5734. Computer and Computer Software Stores	1,530	2,598	1,068	69.8	818	893	9.2
5735. Record and Pre-recorded Tape Stores	1,000	1,296	296	29.6	225	231	2.7
5736. Musical Instrument Stores	259	349	90	34.7	418	452	8.1
5800. Eating and Drinking Places	71,498	76,778	5,280	7.4	202	228	13.0
5912. Drug Stores	9,366	10,329	963	10.3	317	368	15.9
5921. Liquor Stores	2,359	2,435	76	3.2	268	292	8.8
5932. Used Merchandise Stores	622	1,064	442	71.1	302	373	23.5
5941. Sporting Goods Stores and Bicycle Shops	1,882	2,438	556	29.5	336	355	5.7
5942. Book Stores	2,239	1,780	-459	-20.5	378	287	-24.1
5943. Stationery Stores	1,271	2,110	839	66.0	361	398	10.2
5944. Jewelry Stores	1,696	1,583	-113	-6.7	418	518	24.0
5945. Hobby, Toy, and Game Shops	1,524	1,534	10	0.7	261	231	-11.7
5946. Camera and Photographic Supply Stores	493	347	-146	-29.6	374	388	3.6
5947. Gift, Novelty, and Souvenir Shops	2,879	3,393	514	17.9	222	232	4.6
5948. Luggage and Leather Goods Stores	299	198	-101	-33.8	230	304	32.0
5949. Sewing, Needlework, and Piece Goods Stores	1,041	751	-290	-27.9	165	228	38.4
5961. Catalog and Mail-Order Houses	2,149	2,852	703	32.7	544	651	19.6
5962. Automatic Merchandising Machine Operators	575	584	9	1.6	451	481	6.8
5963. Direct Selling Establishments	523	348	-175	-33.5	551	677	22.9
5983. Fuel Oil Dealers	4,065	3,862	-203	-5.0	671	798	18.9
5984. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Dealers	440	500	60	13.6	619	752	21.5
5989. Fuel Dealers, Not Elsewhere Classified	19	3	-16	-84.2	390	495	26.8
5992. Florists	1,601	1,506	-95	-5.9	255	276	8.1
5993. Tobacco Stores and Stands	41	62	21	51.2	389	512	31.8
5994. News Dealers and Newsstands	156	119	-37	-23.7	233	317	36.1
5995. Optical Goods Stores	884	877	-7	-0.8	511	583	14.1
5999. Misc. Retail Stores, Not Elsewhere Classified	3,951	4,829	878	22.2	549	444	-19.1

growth of 0.3 percent over the year (page 14). This was the smallest over-the-year October gain in the last six years. As help-wanted signs are posted on many stores this Christmas season, the increasing shortage of available or willing workers may cause a drag on the industry.

Nevertheless, so long as consumer spending is sustained, the State's retail trade sector should continue to generate jobs in the near future. A new Filene's Basement, a retail apparel store, opened this fall in Stamford, adding 85 jobs. Another Big Y Foods supermarket store opened in Enfield, which added 300 more employees to industry payrolls. Lowe's Home Improvement Center also opened in the Wallingford Plaza, with another 200 jobs.

According to Connecticut Labor Department projections, retail employment is expected to grow almost ten percent by 2006, an addition of 23,600 jobs. Job openings for retail salespersons are forecast to be among the fastest growing occupations, adding almost 2,300 jobs annually through 2006. Other retail occupations on top of the list are cashiers and waiters & waitresses, with 2,200 and 1,600 job openings annually. ■



The distance from peak to trough, indicated by the shaded areas, measures the duration of an employment cycle recession. The vertical scale in both charts is an index with 1987=100.

Connecticut Economy's Future Camouflaged By SNET Strike

The Connecticut coincident and leading employment indexes both declined with the release of (preliminary) September data. The coincident index after having reached new peaks in each of the last three months backed down to a level last seen in April and May of this year. The leading index fell for the fourth consecutive month and is down on a year-over-year basis. The leading index declines in August and September probably reflect in large measure the GM and SNET strikes. As such, the signal sent by the leading index about the future of the Connecticut economy is camouflaged.

The leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, is now at a level not seen since November 1995. As stated last month, the June decrease in the leading index was largely a result of the higher initial claims for unemployment insurance. The July fall resulted from lower Hartford help-wanted advertising and a higher short-duration unemployment rate. The August

drop reflected higher initial claims for unemployment insurance. The much larger decline in September incorporates a much higher initial claims for unemployment insurance (its highest level since December 1996), a much lower Hartford help wanted index (its lowest level since August 1996), and a much reduced average work week of manufacturing production workers (a level not seen since January 1996).

A reversal in the direction of movement of the leading index for three consecutive months, as noted in previous columns, generally precedes a change in the direction of the economy by six-to-twelve months. As a consequence, the September data provide one more reason to question the sustainability of the current expansion. The signal sent, however, is muted significantly because of the SNET strike. We shall monitor the release of new data in the remaining three months of 1998, hoping to receive a clearer indication of the future path of the Connecticut economy. Will the

leading index continue its downward trend? Or will it turn on its heels and re-establish its recent upward trend?

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 90.5 in September 1997 to 94.8 in September 1998. All four index components, once again, point in a positive direction on a year-over-year basis with higher nonfarm employment, higher total employment, a lower insured unemployment rate, and a lower total unemployment rate.

The leading employment index fell from 89.9 in September 1997 to 87.3 in September 1998. Four of the five index components sent negative signals on a year-over-year basis with a higher short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, lower Hartford help-wanted advertising, a shorter average work week of manufacturing production workers, and higher initial claims for unemployment insurance. The other component sent a positive signal on a year-over-year basis with higher total housing permits.

Source: Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut. Developed by Pami Dua [Economic Cycle Research Center; NY, NY] and Stephen M. Miller [(860) 486-3853, Storrs Campus]. Kathryn E. Parr and Hulya Varol [(860) 486-3022, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment bounced back to a previous level after the return of striking workers at SNET.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

	OCT		CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)					
TOTAL NONFARM	1,649.4	1,627.2	22.2	1.4	1,640.7
Private Sector	1,423.4	1,401.9	21.5	1.5	1,414.4
Construction and Mining	60.5	58.5	2.0	3.4	60.4
Manufacturing	276.0	276.5	-0.5	-0.2	276.4
Transportation, Public Utilities	76.1	75.0	1.1	1.5	70.5
Wholesale, Retail Trade	359.6	356.6	3.0	0.8	359.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	135.8	131.8	4.0	3.0	135.6
Services	515.4	503.5	11.9	2.4	512.3
Government	226.0	225.3	0.7	0.3	226.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

October's unemployment rate edged down from September, as the number of unemployed declined slightly.

UNEMPLOYMENT

	OCT		CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
(Seasonally adjusted)					
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	3.8	4.8	-1.0	---	3.9
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,720.6	1,725.7	-5.1	-0.3	1,722.3
Employed (000s)	1,655.6	1,643.1	12.5	0.8	1,655.5
Unemployed (000s)	65.0	82.6	-17.6	-21.3	66.9
Average Weekly Initial Claims	3,501	3,503	-2	-0.1	5,092
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	33	36	-3	-8.3	32
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	1.94	2.15	-0.21	---	1.94

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

Manufacturing hours increased from a year ago, along with higher hourly wage rates.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	OCT		CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
(Not seasonally adjusted)					
Average Weekly Hours	43.1	42.8	0.3	0.7	42.3
Average Hourly Earnings	\$14.84	\$14.61	\$0.23	1.6	\$14.92
Average Weekly Earnings	\$639.60	\$625.31	\$14.30	2.3	\$631.12
Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*	123.8	122.6	1.2	1.0	119.8
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,846	6,916	-70	-1.0	6,712
Productivity Index (1982=100)*	191.7	187.9	3.8	2.0	190.5

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

*Seasonally adjusted

Personal income for first quarter 1999 is forecasted to increase 4.6 percent from a year ago.

INCOME (Quarterly)

	1Q*		CHANGE		4Q*
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1998
(Seasonally adjusted)					
(Annualized; \$ Millions)					
Personal Income	\$126,906	\$121,364	\$5,542	4.6	\$125,645
UI Covered Wages	NA	\$65,764*	---	---	\$69,273

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis; July 1998 release

*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

NA= Not Available

Note: This year, the annual revisions to the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) in July included the redefinition of the Dividends, Interest, and Rent (DIR) component of Personal Income (PI). The DIR component has been redefined to exclude capital gains distributions from mutual funds. With the October 1998 release, Connecticut's Quarterly PI (QPI) Series reflected this change. Consequently, Connecticut's QPI has been significantly revised for some periods. The Connecticut Labor Department has prepared a summary paper explaining the changes and their impact on the Connecticut QPI Series. For a copy, please contact the Office of Research, at (860) 566-5592.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %		YEAR TO DATE		% CHG
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG	
New Housing Permits	OCT 1998	1,025	20.3	9,595	7,871	21.9	
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	AUG 1998	2,693	8.6	19,414	18,972	2.3	
Retail Sales (Bil. \$)	AUG 1998	2.72	5.4	23.59	22.00	7.2	
Construction Contracts Index (1980=100)	SEP 1998	188.6	-22.6	---	---	---	
New Auto Registrations	OCT 1998	14,106	-3.1	176,881	149,299	18.5	
Air Cargo Tons	SEP 1998	11,487	6.7	103,848	97,650	6.3	

Air cargo tons were up 6.3 percent through the month of September. Retail sales increased by 7.2 percent through August.

Sources: Department of Economic and Community Development; U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration; Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; F.W. Dodge; Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles; Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	OCT 1998	% CHANGE		YEAR TO DATE		% CHG
		M/M	Y/Y	CURRENT	PRIOR	
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	1,629	5.3	4.0	16,696	14,653	13.9
Department of Labor	614	-14.1	-15.4	8,452	8,837	-4.4
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	355	10.6	-12.8	3,266	3,190	2.4
Department of Labor	1,267	117.7	-10.0	10,906	10,231	6.6

Net business formations as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Secretary of the State were 13,430 for the year to date.

Sources: Connecticut Secretary of the State -- corporations and other legal entities
Connecticut Department of Labor -- unemployment insurance program registrations

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

(Millions of dollars)	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS					
	OCT 1998	OCT 1997	% CHG	1997-98	1996-97	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	629.5	672.0	-6.3	1,973.4	1,973.6	0.0
Corporate Tax	23.4	23.0	1.7	114.2	103.3	10.6
Personal Income Tax	216.2	217.4	-0.6	763.2	735.3	3.8
Real Estate Conv. Tax	8.1	7.4	0.7	39.5	33.3	18.6
Sales & Use Tax	278.0	262.5	5.9	722.6	682.8	5.8

Overall tax collections were unchanged from a year ago. The largest gains were in the corporate tax, up 10.6 percent, and the real estate conveyance tax, up 18.6 percent.

Source: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services
*Includes all sources of tax revenue; Only selected taxes are displayed.

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %		YEAR TO DATE		% CHG
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG	
Tourism Inquiries	SEP 1998	12,444	-21.7	244,768	246,219	-0.6	
Info Center Visitors	SEP 1998	79,827	16.0	477,017	442,591	7.8	
Major Attraction Visitors	SEP 1998	92,326	22.6	1,614,642	1,425,663	13.3	
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	OCT 1998	85.2	-1.3	75.4	75.8	-0.5	
Air Passenger Count	SEP 1998	428,010	3.7	4,143,128	4,047,628	2.4	

October's hotel-motel occupancy rate in the State declined slightly over the year.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports; Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; Connecticut Lodging & Attractions Association

Compensation costs for the nation rose 3.8 percent over the year, while the Northeast's increased by 3.5 percent.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	SEP 1998	JUN 1998	3-Mo % Chg	SEP 1998	SEP 1997	12-Mo % Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	138.7	137.2	1.1	139.0	133.9	3.8
Wages and Salaries	136.6	134.9	1.3	136.6	131.0	4.3
Benefit Costs	144.2	143.2	0.7	144.5	140.8	2.6
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	138.7	134.0	3.5
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	135.4	130.7	3.6

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

The U.S. inflation rate for October was 1.5 percent, with a 3.0 percent increase in the Boston index. Consumer confidence fell to 104.8 in New England and 117.3 in the U.S., down somewhat from their month-ago and year-ago levels.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	OCT 1998	SEP 1998	OCT 1997	% CHG	
				M/M	Y/Y
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	164.0	163.6	161.6	0.2	1.5
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=\$1.00)	\$0.610	\$0.611	\$0.619	-0.2	-1.5
Northeast Region	171.3	170.6	168.7	0.4	1.5
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	174.8	174.4	172.3	0.2	1.5
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	---	172.1	---		3.0
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	160.6	160.2	158.5	0.2	1.3
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	117.3	126.4	123.4	-7.2	-4.9
New England	104.8	117.4	122.1	-10.7	-14.2

*The Boston CPI can be used as a proxy for New England and is measured every other month.
Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; The Conference Board

Interest rates were uniformly lower including the falling prime rate and a 6.71 percent 30-year conventional mortgage rate.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	OCT 1998	SEP 1998	OCT 1997
Prime	8.12	8.49	8.50
Federal Funds	5.07	5.51	5.50
3 Month Treasury Bill	4.08	4.74	4.95
6 Month Treasury Bill	4.15	4.75	5.09
1 Year Treasury Bill	4.12	4.71	5.46
3 Year Treasury Note	4.18	4.62	5.84
5 Year Treasury Note	4.18	4.62	5.93
7 Year Treasury Note	4.46	4.76	6.05
10 Year Treasury Note	4.53	4.81	6.03
30 Year Treasury Bond	5.01	5.20	6.33
Conventional Mortgage	6.71	6.72	7.29

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

COMPARATIVE REGIONAL DATA

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
Connecticut	1,649.4	1,627.2	22.2	1.4	1,640.7
Maine	569.2	558.5	10.7	1.9	567.9
Massachusetts	3,212.2	3,144.8	67.4	2.1	3,210.3
New Hampshire	572.7	573.4	-0.7	-0.1	569.3
New Jersey	3,816.6	3,748.4	68.2	1.8	3,815.0
New York	8,205.8	8,075.7	130.1	1.6	8,187.1
Pennsylvania	5,486.5	5,425.9	60.6	1.1	5,491.8
Rhode Island	454.4	451.9	2.5	0.6	455.2
Vermont	282.5	279.5	3.0	1.1	283.7
United States	126,464.0	123,568.0	2,896.0	2.3	126,348.0

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Connecticut's employment grew 1.4 percent over the year, while the nation's rose by 2.3 percent.

LABOR FORCE

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
Connecticut	1,720.6	1,725.7	-5.1	-0.3	1,722.3
Maine	660.7	657.8	2.9	0.4	649.6
Massachusetts	3,272.0	3,268.5	3.5	0.1	3,265.2
New Hampshire	655.0	652.8	2.2	0.3	648.7
New Jersey	4,183.0	4,194.1	-11.1	-0.3	4,190.0
New York	8,794.6	8,818.5	-23.9	-0.3	8,794.5
Pennsylvania	5,938.7	5,986.5	-47.8	-0.8	5,953.3
Rhode Island	501.8	507.7	-5.9	-1.2	502.6
Vermont	330.6	328.5	2.1	0.6	330.9
United States	137,976.0	136,406.0	1,570.0	1.2	138,075.0

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Vermont experienced the largest labor force growth in the region from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

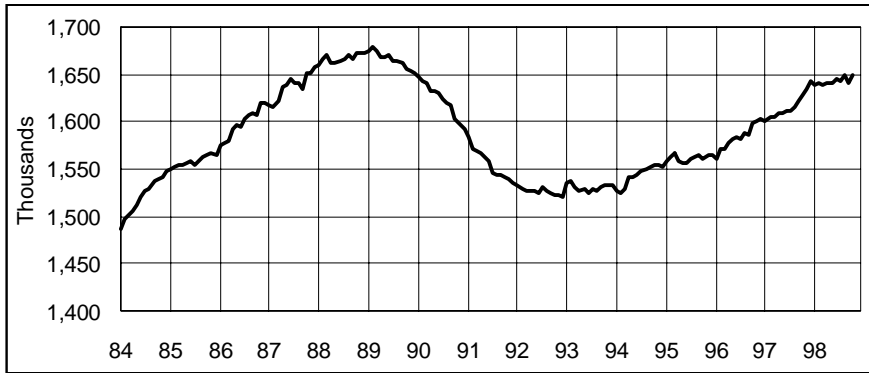
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997			1998
Connecticut	3.8	4.8	-1.0		3.9
Maine	4.5	5.4	-0.9		4.3
Massachusetts	3.3	3.9	-0.6		3.3
New Hampshire	2.9	3.0	-0.1		2.4
New Jersey	4.5	5.0	-0.5		4.7
New York	5.4	6.3	-0.9		5.5
Pennsylvania	4.7	5.0	-0.3		4.5
Rhode Island	5.2	5.1	0.1		4.9
Vermont	3.2	3.8	-0.6		3.2
United States	4.6	4.8	-0.2		4.6

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

All but Rhode Island in the region posted lower unemployment rates than last year.

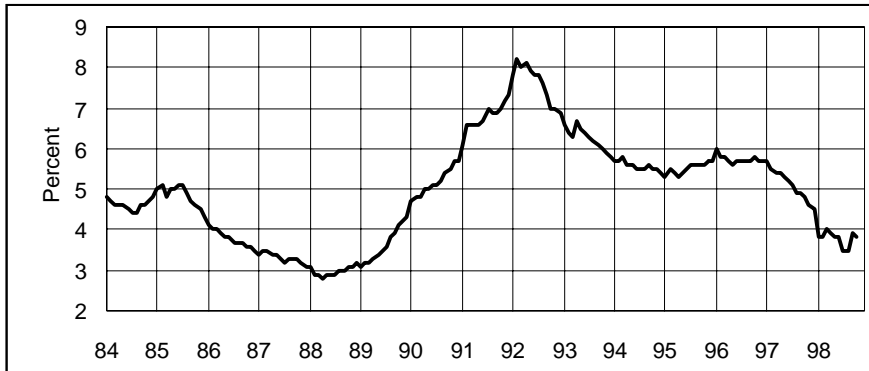
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



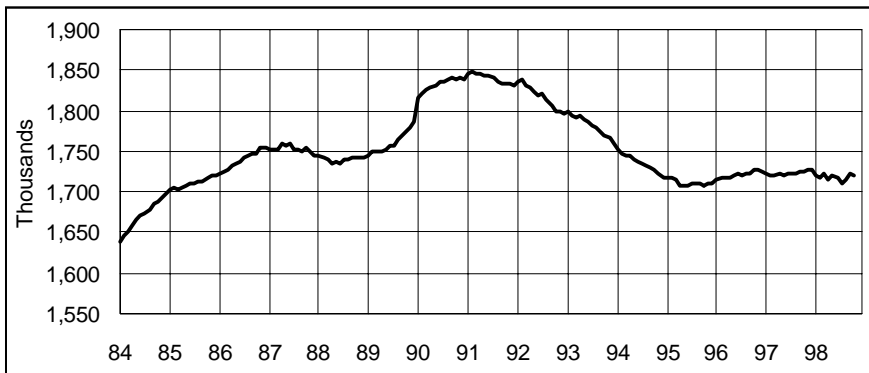
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	1,560.2	1,600.5	1,639.6
Feb	1,570.2	1,603.9	1,641.2
Mar	1,571.3	1,605.6	1,639.6
Apr	1,576.8	1,608.8	1,641.9
May	1,581.5	1,609.3	1,641.8
Jun	1,583.9	1,611.1	1,644.9
Jul	1,580.7	1,611.9	1,643.8
Aug	1,588.9	1,616.1	1,649.9
Sep	1,586.7	1,621.7	1,640.7
Oct	1,598.2	1,627.2	1,649.4
Nov	1,600.4	1,634.6	
Dec	1,601.9	1,642.6	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



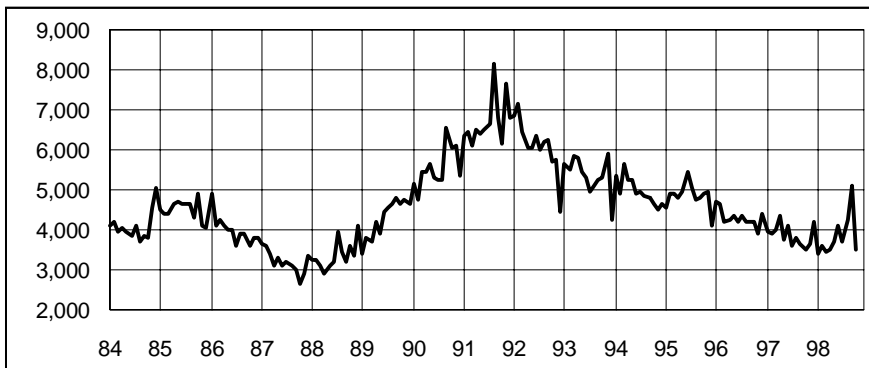
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	6.0	5.7	3.8
Feb	5.8	5.5	3.8
Mar	5.8	5.4	4.0
Apr	5.7	5.4	3.9
May	5.6	5.3	3.8
Jun	5.7	5.2	3.8
Jul	5.7	5.1	3.5
Aug	5.7	4.9	3.5
Sep	5.7	4.9	3.9
Oct	5.8	4.8	3.8
Nov	5.7	4.6	
Dec	5.7	4.5	

LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	1,714.4	1,723.6	1,720.0
Feb	1,717.2	1,720.8	1,716.8
Mar	1,717.7	1,720.5	1,722.4
Apr	1,718.5	1,722.2	1,714.9
May	1,719.2	1,721.0	1,721.1
Jun	1,721.5	1,721.7	1,718.0
Jul	1,721.0	1,722.0	1,709.3
Aug	1,722.4	1,722.9	1,715.8
Sep	1,722.0	1,723.9	1,722.3
Oct	1,727.1	1,725.7	1,720.6
Nov	1,726.9	1,726.6	
Dec	1,726.1	1,728.2	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	4,702	3,946	3,386
Feb	4,666	3,903	3,578
Mar	4,192	4,012	3,444
Apr	4,250	4,326	3,493
May	4,374	3,768	3,677
Jun	4,211	4,100	4,093
Jul	4,355	3,621	3,703
Aug	4,223	3,799	4,253
Sep	4,194	3,629	5,092
Oct	4,193	3,503	3,501
Nov	3,881	3,670	
Dec	4,383	4,178	

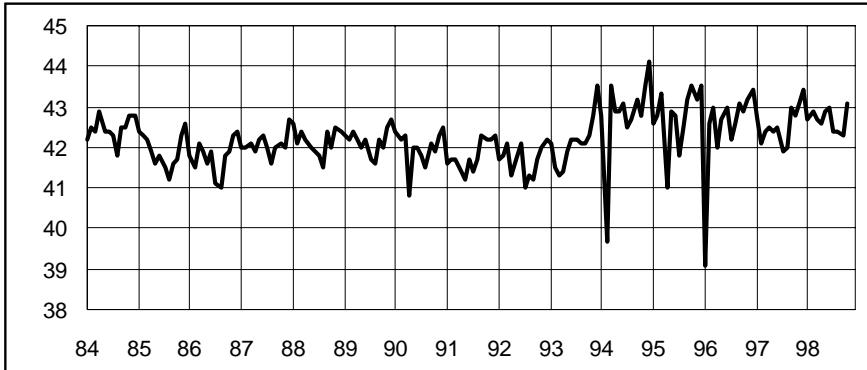
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

REAL AVG MANUFACTURING HOURLY EARNINGS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



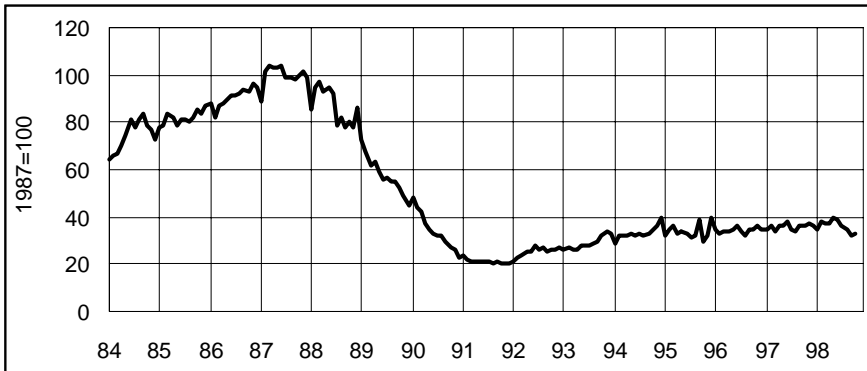
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	\$9.22	\$9.09	\$9.26
Feb	9.10	9.06	9.25
Mar	9.12	9.08	9.29
Apr	9.09	9.09	9.26
May	9.01	9.13	9.25
Jun	9.06	9.14	9.26
Jul	9.12	9.26	9.32
Aug	9.07	9.19	9.20
Sep	9.07	9.24	9.31
Oct	9.04	9.22	9.24
Nov	9.03	9.25	
Dec	9.12	9.32	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



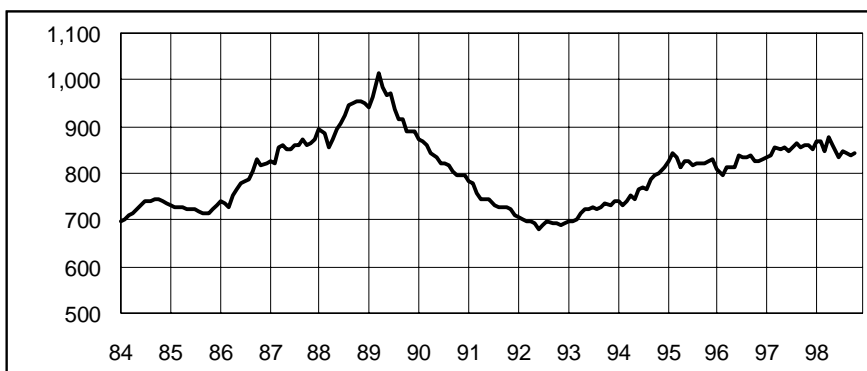
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	39.1	42.7	42.7
Feb	42.6	42.1	42.9
Mar	43.0	42.4	42.7
Apr	42.0	42.5	42.6
May	42.7	42.4	42.9
Jun	43.0	42.5	43.0
Jul	42.2	41.9	42.4
Aug	42.6	42.0	42.4
Sep	43.1	43.0	42.3
Oct	42.9	42.8	43.1
Nov	43.2	43.1	
Dec	43.4	43.4	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	35	35	35
Feb	33	36	38
Mar	34	34	37
Apr	34	36	37
May	35	36	40
Jun	36	38	39
Jul	34	35	36
Aug	32	34	35
Sep	35	36	32
Oct	35	35	33
Nov	36	37	
Dec	35	36	

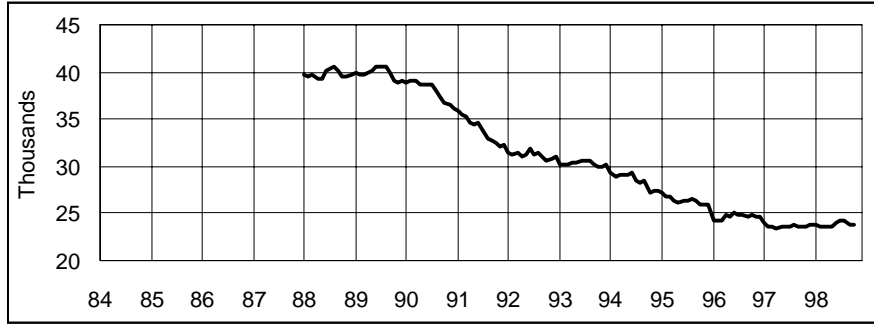
DOL NEWLY REGISTERED EMPLOYERS *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	810	833	868
Feb	794	840	870
Mar	812	856	846
Apr	813	849	878
May	811	856	861
Jun	838	848	836
Jul	833	856	849
Aug	833	862	841
Sep	838	854	838
Oct	825	859	845
Nov	825	859	
Dec	828	852	

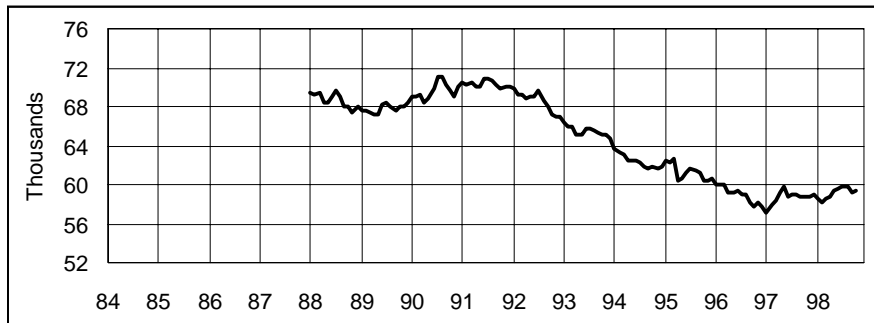
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

DEPOSITORY BANKING (SIC 60) EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



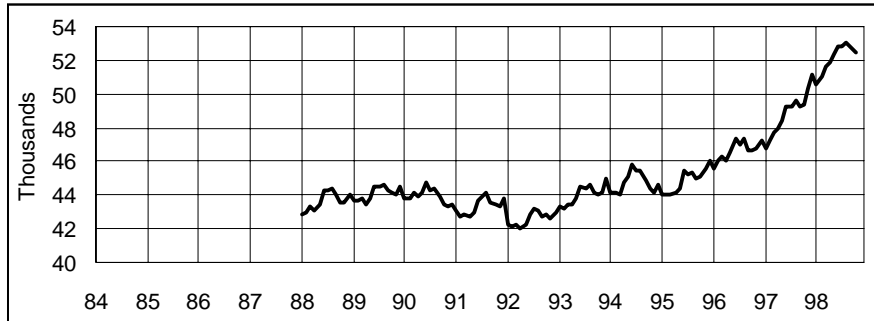
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	24.2	24.1	23.9
Feb	24.2	23.7	23.7
Mar	24.3	23.5	23.6
Apr	24.8	23.4	23.5
May	24.7	23.5	23.6
Jun	25.0	23.7	24.0
Jul	24.9	23.7	24.2
Aug	24.9	23.8	24.2
Sep	24.7	23.5	23.8
Oct	24.8	23.5	23.9
Nov	24.6	23.6	
Dec	24.6	23.8	

INSURANCE CARRIERS (SIC 63) EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



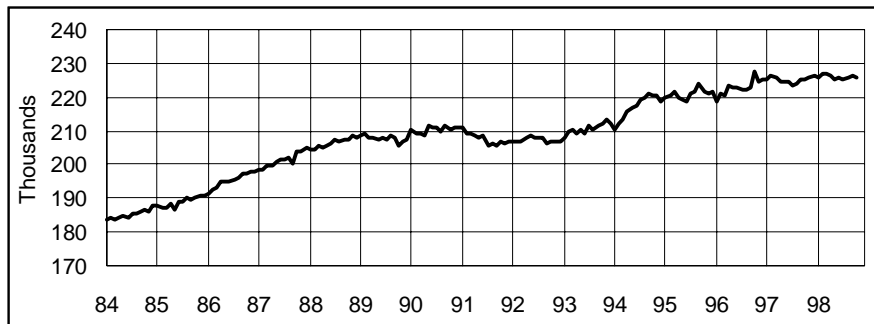
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	59.9	57.1	58.5
Feb	60.0	57.9	58.2
Mar	60.1	58.4	58.6
Apr	59.1	59.1	58.8
May	59.2	59.7	59.3
Jun	59.3	58.7	59.6
Jul	58.9	59.0	59.8
Aug	58.9	58.9	59.8
Sep	58.1	58.8	59.2
Oct	57.7	58.7	59.3
Nov	58.2	58.7	
Dec	57.7	58.9	

OTHER FIN., INS., REAL EST. EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	45.6	46.8	50.6
Feb	46.0	47.2	51.0
Mar	46.3	47.7	51.6
Apr	46.0	47.9	51.9
May	46.5	48.4	52.3
Jun	47.3	49.3	52.8
Jul	47.0	49.3	52.8
Aug	47.3	49.6	53.1
Sep	46.7	49.3	52.7
Oct	46.7	49.4	52.5
Nov	46.8	50.3	
Dec	47.2	51.1	

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT* *(Seasonally adjusted)*

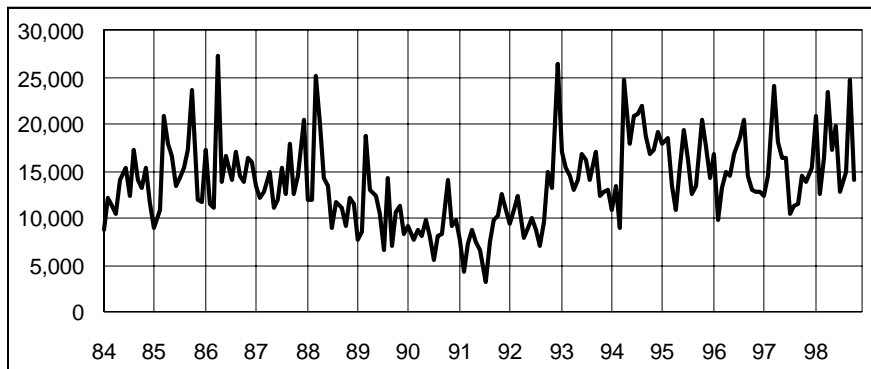


Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	218.9	225.4	225.8
Feb	221.0	226.1	227.0
Mar	220.3	225.6	226.8
Apr	223.4	224.8	226.2
May	222.8	224.5	225.3
Jun	222.6	224.4	226.0
Jul	222.0	223.5	225.0
Aug	222.5	224.2	225.5
Sep	222.7	225.2	226.3
Oct	227.4	225.3	226.0
Nov	224.8	225.6	
Dec	225.3	226.3	

*Includes Indian tribal government employment

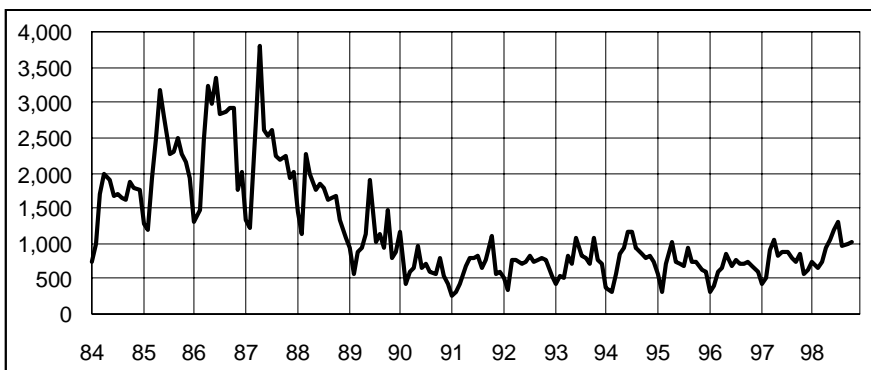
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

NEW AUTO REGISTRATIONS PROCESSED *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



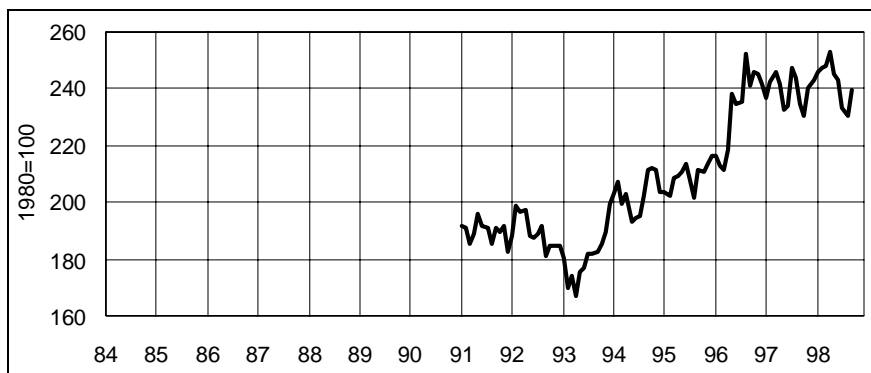
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	16,714	12,436	20,753
Feb	9,724	14,401	12,604
Mar	13,132	23,952	16,313
Apr	14,930	18,038	23,500
May	14,492	16,364	17,300
Jun	16,812	16,464	19,813
Jul	18,412	10,386	12,812
Aug	20,409	11,210	14,992
Sep	14,420	11,485	24,688
Oct	13,059	14,563	14,106
Nov	12,676	13,884	
Dec	12,684	15,416	

NEW HOUSING PERMITS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



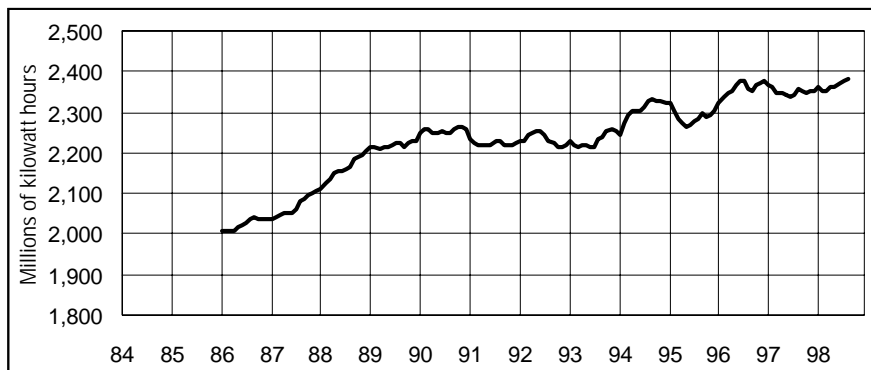
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	315	427	737
Feb	385	520	647
Mar	593	911	747
Apr	660	1,036	928
May	846	836	1,051
Jun	684	886	1,203
Jul	764	871	1,297
Aug	710	792	976
Sep	717	740	984
Oct	746	852	1,025
Nov	683	561	
Dec	589	622	

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS INDEX *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	216.2	236.8	245.6
Feb	212.9	242.4	247.6
Mar	211.1	245.7	247.7
Apr	218.5	241.5	252.9
May	238.3	232.2	245.5
Jun	234.4	234.0	243.1
Jul	235.5	244.7	233.3
Aug	251.9	241.4	230.7
Sep	240.7	232.4	239.9
Oct	245.8	230.5	
Nov	244.9	240.4	
Dec	241.5	242.8	

ELECTRICITY SALES *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	2,321	2,366	2,363
Feb	2,338	2,364	2,354
Mar	2,347	2,348	2,354
Apr	2,352	2,346	2,361
May	2,365	2,344	2,362
Jun	2,377	2,338	2,373
Jul	2,376	2,342	2,376
Aug	2,358	2,355	2,381
Sep	2,354	2,350	
Oct	2,365	2,349	
Nov	2,371	2,352	
Dec	2,377	2,354	

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

CONNECTICUT



Not Seasonally Adjusted

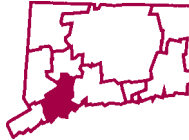
	OCT 1998	OCT 1997	CHANGE		SEP 1998
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	1,664,700	1,642,100	22,600	1.4	1,649,900
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	340,300	338,700	1,600	0.5	340,900
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	63,500	61,400	2,100	3.4	64,200
MANUFACTURING	276,800	277,300	-500	-0.2	276,700
Durable	193,700	194,200	-500	-0.3	193,500
Lumber & Furniture	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,200
Stone, Clay & Glass	3,100	3,000	100	3.3	3,000
Primary Metals	9,100	9,100	0	0.0	9,000
Fabricated Metals	34,800	34,600	200	0.6	34,800
Machinery & Computer Equipment	34,700	34,800	-100	-0.3	34,800
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	29,000	28,900	100	0.3	29,000
Transportation Equipment	49,200	49,800	-600	-1.2	49,200
Instruments	22,100	22,300	-200	-0.9	22,100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,500	6,500	0	0.0	6,400
Nondurable	83,100	83,100	0	0.0	83,200
Food	8,500	8,400	100	1.2	8,600
Textiles	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,100
Apparel	4,700	4,800	-100	-2.1	4,700
Paper	7,800	7,900	-100	-1.3	7,900
Printing & Publishing	25,700	25,500	200	0.8	25,800
Chemicals	21,100	21,100	0	0.0	21,200
Rubber & Plastics	10,900	11,000	-100	-0.9	10,800
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	2,300	2,200	100	4.5	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,324,400	1,303,400	21,000	1.6	1,309,000
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	76,900	75,800	1,100	1.5	71,400
Transportation	44,700	44,600	100	0.2	44,800
Motor Freight & Warehousing	11,600	11,900	-300	-2.5	11,500
Other Transportation	33,100	32,700	400	1.2	33,300
Communications	20,000	18,900	1,100	5.8	14,400
Utilities	12,200	12,300	-100	-0.8	12,200
TRADE	362,400	359,500	2,900	0.8	360,500
Wholesale	85,800	83,800	2,000	2.4	85,700
Retail	276,600	275,700	900	0.3	274,800
General Merchandise	28,400	28,700	-300	-1.0	27,700
Food Stores	53,200	53,500	-300	-0.6	52,800
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	26,900	27,300	-400	-1.5	26,700
Restaurants	78,400	78,500	-100	-0.1	79,000
Other Retail Trade	89,700	87,700	2,000	2.3	88,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	135,700	131,600	4,100	3.1	135,700
Finance	49,100	46,200	2,900	6.3	49,000
Banking	23,900	23,500	400	1.7	23,800
Insurance	70,400	69,600	800	1.1	70,500
Insurance Carriers	59,300	58,700	600	1.0	59,200
Real Estate	16,200	15,800	400	2.5	16,300
SERVICES	519,500	507,400	12,100	2.4	515,400
Hotels & Lodging Places	11,200	10,700	500	4.7	11,300
Personal Services	17,900	18,000	-100	-0.6	17,800
Business Services	109,100	105,500	3,600	3.4	108,400
Health Services	158,600	157,200	1,400	0.9	158,200
Legal & Engineering Services	54,100	52,200	1,900	3.6	53,600
Educational Services	45,300	44,100	1,200	2.7	42,800
Other Services	123,300	119,700	3,600	3.0	123,300
GOVERNMENT	229,900	229,100	800	0.3	226,000
Federal	22,300	22,500	-200	-0.9	22,200
**State, Local & Other Government	207,600	206,600	1,000	0.5	203,800

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

BRIDGEPORT LMA

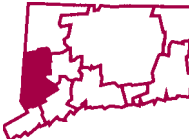


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT 1998	OCT 1997	CHANGE		SEP 1998
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	185,200	185,300	-100	-0.1	182,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	46,600	46,900	-300	-0.6	46,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	7,100	6,900	200	2.9	7,000
MANUFACTURING	39,500	40,000	-500	-1.3	39,500
Durable Goods	32,400	32,700	-300	-0.9	32,400
Fabricated Metals	4,400	4,400	0	0.0	4,400
Industrial Machinery	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1	6,300
Electronic Equipment	6,700	6,500	200	3.1	6,600
Transportation Equipment	8,700	9,000	-300	-3.3	8,800
Nondurable Goods	7,100	7,300	-200	-2.7	7,100
Printing & Publishing	2,100	2,000	100	5.0	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	138,600	138,400	200	0.1	136,300
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	7,100	7,200	-100	-1.4	6,500
TRADE	41,900	41,400	500	1.2	41,400
Wholesale	9,900	9,800	100	1.0	9,700
Retail	32,000	31,600	400	1.3	31,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	10,300	10,400	-100	-1.0	10,300
SERVICES	58,300	58,000	300	0.5	57,500
Business Services	14,000	13,800	200	1.4	14,000
Health Services	19,200	19,200	0	0.0	19,000
GOVERNMENT	21,000	21,400	-400	-1.9	20,600
Federal	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.3	2,200
State & Local	18,800	19,100	-300	-1.6	18,400

For further information on the Bridgeport Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

DANBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT 1998	OCT 1997	CHANGE		SEP 1998
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	88,500	87,100	1,400	1.6	87,300
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,400	22,500	-100	-0.4	22,200
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	4,000	3,600	400	11.1	3,900
MANUFACTURING	18,400	18,900	-500	-2.6	18,300
Durable Goods	9,900	9,800	100	1.0	9,800
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,800	4,800	0	0.0	4,700
Instruments	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,800
Nondurable Goods	8,500	9,100	-600	-6.6	8,500
Printing & Publishing	2,500	2,600	-100	-3.8	2,500
Chemicals	3,400	3,600	-200	-5.6	3,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	66,100	64,600	1,500	2.3	65,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	2,800	2,500	300	12.0	2,700
TRADE	22,200	22,400	-200	-0.9	21,900
Wholesale	4,000	3,900	100	2.6	4,000
Retail	18,200	18,500	-300	-1.6	17,900
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	5,100	4,700	400	8.5	5,000
SERVICES	25,600	24,700	900	3.6	25,500
GOVERNMENT	10,400	10,300	100	1.0	10,000
Federal	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
State & Local	9,600	9,400	200	2.1	9,200

For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

DANIELSON LMA

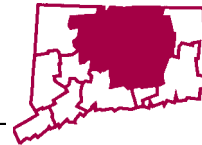


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	20,800	20,300	500	2.5	20,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	7,100	6,900	200	2.9	7,100
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	1,000	900	100	11.1	1,000
MANUFACTURING	6,100	6,000	100	1.7	6,100
Durable Goods	2,600	2,700	-100	-3.7	2,600
Nondurable Goods	3,500	3,300	200	6.1	3,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	13,700	13,400	300	2.2	13,700
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	500	500	0	0.0	500
TRADE	4,600	4,600	0	0.0	4,600
Wholesale	700	700	0	0.0	700
Retail	3,900	3,900	0	0.0	3,900
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	600	600	0	0.0	600
SERVICES	4,800	4,700	100	2.1	4,800
GOVERNMENT	3,200	3,000	200	6.7	3,200
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	3,100	2,900	200	6.9	3,100

For further information on the Danielson Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 566-3470.

HARTFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	603,700	602,500	1,200	0.2	600,200
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	114,300	113,800	500	0.4	114,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	19,900	20,600	-700	-3.4	20,100
MANUFACTURING	94,400	93,200	1,200	1.3	94,600
Durable Goods	74,900	73,700	1,200	1.6	75,100
Primary & Fabricated Metals	18,400	18,100	300	1.7	18,400
Industrial Machinery	14,400	14,600	-200	-1.4	14,500
Electronic Equipment	6,000	6,300	-300	-4.8	6,000
Transportation Equipment	27,500	26,400	1,100	4.2	27,700
Nondurable Goods	19,500	19,500	0	0.0	19,500
Printing & Publishing	7,600	7,800	-200	-2.6	7,700
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	489,400	488,700	700	0.1	485,500
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	27,600	27,300	300	1.1	26,700
Transportation	16,400	16,400	0	0.0	16,300
Communications & Utilities	11,200	10,900	300	2.8	10,400
TRADE	123,700	125,200	-1,500	-1.2	123,700
Wholesale	30,600	30,400	200	0.7	30,500
Retail	93,100	94,800	-1,700	-1.8	93,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	68,800	68,600	200	0.3	68,600
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	9,600	9,400	200	2.1	9,600
Insurance Carriers	46,400	46,600	-200	-0.4	46,100
SERVICES	173,700	172,600	1,100	0.6	173,300
Business Services	31,100	32,700	-1,600	-4.9	32,000
Health Services	60,100	59,600	500	0.8	60,100
GOVERNMENT	95,600	95,000	600	0.6	93,200
Federal	7,900	8,000	-100	-1.3	7,900
State & Local	87,700	87,000	700	0.8	85,300

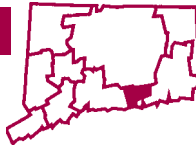
For further information on the Hartford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

LOWER RIVER LMA

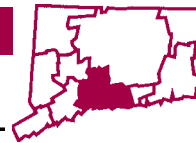


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT 1998	OCT 1997	CHANGE		SEP 1998
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	10,100	9,900	200	2.0	10,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,500	3,500	0	0.0	3,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	400	400	0	0.0	400
MANUFACTURING	3,100	3,100	0	0.0	3,000
Durable Goods	2,400	2,400	0	0.0	2,300
Electronic Equipment	800	800	0	0.0	800
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	0	0.0	1,500
Nondurable Goods	700	700	0	0.0	700
Rubber & Plastics	300	300	0	0.0	300
Other Nondurable Goods	400	400	0	0.0	400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,600	6,400	200	3.1	6,600
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	400	300	100	33.3	400
TRADE	2,300	2,200	100	4.5	2,300
Wholesale	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail	1,900	1,800	100	5.6	1,900
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	400	400	0	0.0	400
SERVICES	2,600	2,600	0	0.0	2,600
GOVERNMENT	900	900	0	0.0	900
Federal	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local	900	900	0	0.0	900

For further information on the Lower River Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 566-3470.

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT 1998	OCT 1997	CHANGE		SEP 1998
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	252,900	253,400	-500	-0.2	247,200
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	48,400	49,100	-700	-1.4	48,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	9,500	9,600	-100	-1.0	9,900
MANUFACTURING	38,900	39,500	-600	-1.5	38,800
Durable Goods	24,500	24,800	-300	-1.2	24,300
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,600	6,700	-100	-1.5	6,600
Electronic Equipment	5,200	5,000	200	4.0	5,200
Nondurable Goods	14,400	14,700	-300	-2.0	14,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,100	5,200	-100	-1.9	5,100
Chemicals & Allied	6,200	6,100	100	1.6	6,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	204,500	204,300	200	0.1	198,500
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	16,600	16,300	300	1.8	13,500
Communications & Utilities	9,100	8,800	300	3.4	6,100
TRADE	53,300	53,400	-100	-0.2	52,600
Wholesale	13,300	13,200	100	0.8	13,200
Retail	40,000	40,200	-200	-0.5	39,400
Eating & Drinking Places	11,000	11,200	-200	-1.8	10,900
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	12,900	13,000	-100	-0.8	12,800
Finance	3,800	3,900	-100	-2.6	3,700
Insurance	7,100	7,000	100	1.4	7,100
SERVICES	90,300	90,200	100	0.1	89,200
Business Services	12,000	13,000	-1,000	-7.7	12,000
Health Services	29,000	28,800	200	0.7	28,900
GOVERNMENT	31,400	31,400	0	0.0	30,400
Federal	5,300	5,500	-200	-3.6	5,300
State & Local	26,100	25,900	200	0.8	25,100

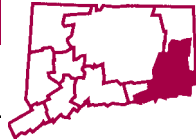
For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact J. Charles Joo at (860) 566-3470.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

NEW LONDON LMA

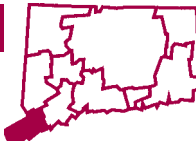


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	139,600	137,700	1,900	1.4	139,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	28,900	29,000	-100	-0.3	29,100
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	4,900	4,700	200	4.3	4,900
MANUFACTURING	24,000	24,300	-300	-1.2	24,200
Durable Goods	14,300	14,800	-500	-3.4	14,400
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,300	2,200	100	4.5	2,300
Other Durable Goods	12,000	12,600	-600	-4.8	12,100
Nondurable Goods	9,700	9,500	200	2.1	9,800
Paper & Allied	900	1,000	-100	-10.0	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods	7,500	7,100	400	5.6	7,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	110,700	108,700	2,000	1.8	110,500
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	6,600	6,500	100	1.5	6,300
TRADE	28,600	28,400	200	0.7	28,700
Wholesale	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,800
Retail	25,800	25,700	100	0.4	25,900
Eating & Drinking Places	8,000	8,000	0	0.0	8,300
Other Retail	17,900	17,700	200	1.1	17,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3,900	3,700	200	5.4	3,900
SERVICES	35,000	34,400	600	1.7	35,100
Personal & Business Services	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.5	6,400
Health Services	11,700	11,400	300	2.6	11,700
GOVERNMENT	36,600	35,700	900	2.5	36,500
Federal	2,700	2,800	-100	-3.6	2,700
State & Local	33,900	32,900	1,000	3.0	33,800
**Local	30,200	29,100	1,100	3.8	30,100

For further information on the New London Labor Market Area contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 566-3470.

STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	210,400	206,800	3,600	1.7	208,400
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	32,800	34,200	-1,400	-4.1	32,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	6,100	6,100	0	0.0	5,900
MANUFACTURING	26,700	28,100	-1,400	-5.0	26,600
Durable Goods	14,100	14,800	-700	-4.7	14,100
Industrial Machinery	3,700	3,700	0	0.0	3,700
Electronic Equipment	2,400	2,500	-100	-4.0	2,500
Nondurable Goods	12,600	13,300	-700	-5.3	12,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing	6,200	6,300	-100	-1.6	6,200
Chemicals & Allied	3,000	3,400	-400	-11.8	3,000
Other Nondurable	3,400	3,600	-200	-5.6	3,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	177,600	172,600	5,000	2.9	175,900
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	10,100	10,200	-100	-1.0	9,800
Communications & Utilities	3,100	3,100	0	0.0	2,800
TRADE	47,200	46,400	800	1.7	46,500
Wholesale	12,200	12,400	-200	-1.6	12,100
Retail	35,000	34,000	1,000	2.9	34,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	26,600	24,400	2,200	9.0	26,400
SERVICES	75,900	73,600	2,300	3.1	75,500
Business Services	23,500	22,300	1,200	5.4	23,200
Engineering & Mgmt. Services	10,900	10,400	500	4.8	10,800
Other Services	41,500	40,900	600	1.5	41,500
GOVERNMENT	17,800	18,000	-200	-1.1	17,700
Federal	1,900	1,800	100	5.6	1,900
State & Local	15,900	16,200	-300	-1.9	15,800

For further information on the Stamford Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepki at (860) 566-7823.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

TORRINGTON LMA

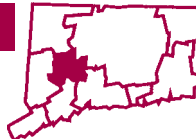


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	28,800	29,100	-300	-1.0	28,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	8,300	8,600	-300	-3.5	8,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,200
MANUFACTURING	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1	6,300
Durable Goods	4,300	4,400	-100	-2.3	4,400
Primary & Fabricated Metals	500	500	0	0.0	500
Industrial Machinery	1,100	1,200	-100	-8.3	1,200
Electronic Equipment	600	500	100	20.0	600
Other Durable Goods	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,100
Nondurable Goods	1,900	2,000	-100	-5.0	1,900
Rubber & Plastics	900	1,000	-100	-10.0	900
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	1,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	20,500	20,500	0	0.0	20,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	500	600	-100	-16.7	400
TRADE	6,700	6,500	200	3.1	6,400
Wholesale	700	700	0	0.0	600
Retail	6,000	5,800	200	3.4	5,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	900	900	0	0.0	900
SERVICES	9,100	9,100	0	0.0	9,100
GOVERNMENT	3,300	3,400	-100	-2.9	3,300
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,100	3,200	-100	-3.1	3,100

For further information on the Torrington Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepiski at (860) 566-7823.

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	89,200	88,200	1,000	1.1	88,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,700	22,600	100	0.4	22,600
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,900	3,500	400	11.4	3,700
MANUFACTURING	18,800	19,100	-300	-1.6	18,900
Durable Goods	14,800	14,800	0	0.0	14,900
Primary Metals	800	700	100	14.3	800
Fabricated Metals	6,700	6,600	100	1.5	6,700
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,900	5,000	-100	-2.0	4,900
Nondurable Goods	4,000	4,300	-300	-7.0	4,000
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,300	1,300	0	0.0	1,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	66,500	65,600	900	1.4	66,000
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	3,600	3,600	0	0.0	3,300
TRADE	19,000	18,700	300	1.6	19,100
Wholesale	2,900	3,100	-200	-6.5	3,000
Retail	16,100	15,600	500	3.2	16,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4,200	4,300	-100	-2.3	4,200
SERVICES	27,200	26,800	400	1.5	27,100
Personal & Business	7,700	7,100	600	8.5	7,700
Health Services	10,100	10,200	-100	-1.0	10,100
GOVERNMENT	12,500	12,200	300	2.5	12,300
Federal	900	800	100	12.5	800
State & Local	11,600	11,400	200	1.8	11,500

For further information on the Waterbury Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepiski at (860) 566-7823.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
		1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,718,900	1,723,600	-4,700	-0.3	1,708,000
	Employed	1,662,200	1,650,100	12,100	0.7	1,652,100
	Unemployed	56,700	73,500	-16,800	-22.9	55,800
	Unemployment Rate	3.3	4.3	-1.0	---	3.3
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	217,400	218,900	-1,500	-0.7	214,800
	Employed	208,300	207,800	500	0.2	206,300
	Unemployed	9,000	11,100	-2,100	-18.9	8,500
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	5.1	-0.9	---	4.0
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	110,400	108,900	1,500	1.4	109,000
	Employed	107,900	105,900	2,000	1.9	106,700
	Unemployed	2,500	3,000	-500	-16.7	2,300
	Unemployment Rate	2.2	2.7	-0.5	---	2.1
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	33,300	33,300	0	0.0	33,200
	Employed	31,800	31,300	500	1.6	31,800
	Unemployed	1,500	2,000	-500	-25.0	1,400
	Unemployment Rate	4.5	6.0	-1.6	---	4.2
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	581,300	585,600	-4,300	-0.7	579,000
	Employed	561,500	559,800	1,700	0.3	559,400
	Unemployed	19,800	25,800	-6,000	-23.3	19,600
	Unemployment Rate	3.4	4.4	-1.0	---	3.4
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,700	12,400	300	2.4	12,600
	Employed	12,300	12,000	300	2.5	12,300
	Unemployed	300	400	-100	-25.0	300
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	3.4	-0.9	---	2.7
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	270,300	273,300	-3,000	-1.1	267,800
	Employed	261,500	261,500	0	0.0	258,800
	Unemployed	8,800	11,700	-2,900	-24.8	9,000
	Unemployment Rate	3.3	4.3	-1.0	---	3.4
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	154,600	154,200	400	0.3	154,700
	Employed	148,700	146,400	2,300	1.6	149,000
	Unemployed	5,800	7,800	-2,000	-25.6	5,700
	Unemployment Rate	3.8	5.1	-1.3	---	3.7
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	198,000	195,500	2,500	1.3	196,000
	Employed	193,400	190,100	3,300	1.7	191,800
	Unemployed	4,500	5,400	-900	-16.7	4,200
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.8	-0.5	---	2.2
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	38,400	38,900	-500	-1.3	38,400
	Employed	37,500	37,800	-300	-0.8	37,500
	Unemployed	900	1,100	-200	-18.2	900
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.9	-0.6	---	2.4
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	119,300	119,000	300	0.3	119,000
	Employed	115,000	113,400	1,600	1.4	114,600
	Unemployed	4,300	5,700	-1,400	-24.6	4,400
	Unemployment Rate	3.6	4.7	-1.1	---	3.7
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	138,255,000	136,665,000	1,590,000	1.2	137,903,000
	Employed	132,424,000	130,671,000	1,753,000	1.3	131,864,000
	Unemployed	5,831,000	5,995,000	-164,000	-2.7	6,039,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.4	-0.2	---	4.4

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	OCT		CHG	SEP	OCT		CHG	SEP	OCT		CHG	SEP
	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>												
MANUFACTURING	\$639.60	\$625.31	\$14.30	\$631.12	43.1	42.8	0.3	42.3	\$14.84	\$14.61	\$0.23	\$14.92
DURABLE GOODS	653.83	637.49	16.34	642.54	43.3	42.9	0.4	42.3	15.10	14.86	0.24	15.19
Lumber & Furniture	483.95	481.28	2.67	487.21	40.6	41.1	-0.5	41.5	11.92	11.71	0.21	11.74
Stone, Clay and Glass	611.55	607.04	4.51	620.58	45.0	44.8	0.2	45.1	13.59	13.55	0.04	13.76
Primary Metals	597.80	622.35	-24.55	591.68	42.7	45.0	-2.3	43.0	14.00	13.83	0.17	13.76
Fabricated Metals	589.81	602.31	-12.50	575.17	43.4	43.9	-0.5	41.8	13.59	13.72	-0.13	13.76
Machinery	696.64	689.47	7.16	675.81	44.4	44.8	-0.4	43.1	15.69	15.39	0.30	15.68
Electrical Equipment	520.42	499.39	21.03	511.56	41.7	40.9	0.8	40.6	12.48	12.21	0.27	12.60
Trans. Equipment	832.76	797.47	35.29	833.20	43.6	42.6	1.0	43.6	19.10	18.72	0.38	19.11
Instruments	609.23	582.83	26.41	598.64	43.3	40.9	2.4	41.2	14.07	14.25	-0.18	14.53
Miscellaneous Mfg	614.85	554.35	60.51	595.40	42.2	41.4	0.8	41.9	14.57	13.39	1.18	14.21
NONDUR. GOODS	606.34	595.00	11.34	602.62	42.7	42.5	0.2	42.2	14.20	14.00	0.20	14.28
Food	558.00	536.49	21.51	563.62	45.0	43.3	1.7	45.6	12.40	12.39	0.01	12.36
Textiles	505.33	495.65	9.68	465.00	42.5	43.1	-0.6	40.4	11.89	11.50	0.39	11.51
Apparel	340.47	340.08	0.39	310.90	39.0	39.0	0.0	37.1	8.73	8.72	0.01	8.38
Paper	711.45	702.73	8.72	717.74	45.0	45.9	-0.9	45.6	15.81	15.31	0.50	15.74
Printing & Publishing	612.73	594.28	18.45	618.28	40.1	40.1	0.0	40.2	15.28	14.82	0.46	15.38
Chemicals	793.44	792.51	0.92	788.04	44.5	44.8	-0.3	44.0	17.83	17.69	0.14	17.91
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	520.15	494.68	25.47	507.94	43.6	42.1	1.5	41.6	11.93	11.75	0.18	12.21
CONSTRUCTION	819.81	790.90	28.91	805.45	41.3	41.3	0.0	40.7	19.85	19.15	0.70	19.79

LMAs

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	OCT		CHG	SEP	OCT		CHG	SEP	OCT		CHG	SEP
	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998
MANUFACTURING												
Bridgeport	\$641.94	\$629.40	\$12.54	\$642.53	42.4	42.7	-0.3	41.4	\$15.14	\$14.74	\$0.40	\$15.52
Danbury	623.05	652.96	-29.91	624.87	41.9	44.0	-2.1	41.3	14.87	14.84	0.03	15.13
Danielson	484.92	468.22	16.70	486.22	41.2	41.0	0.2	41.7	11.77	11.42	0.35	11.66
Hartford	686.96	672.98	13.98	671.38	43.7	43.7	0.0	42.6	15.72	15.40	0.32	15.76
Lower River	529.25	496.53	32.72	530.05	40.9	40.5	0.4	40.4	12.94	12.26	0.68	13.12
New Haven	628.13	618.00	10.13	614.20	42.1	42.3	-0.2	41.5	14.92	14.61	0.31	14.80
New London	665.98	648.22	17.76	656.88	42.5	42.9	-0.4	42.0	15.67	15.11	0.56	15.64
Stamford	547.65	566.62	-18.97	529.92	39.8	41.0	-1.2	38.4	13.76	13.82	-0.06	13.80
Torrington	518.34	546.80	-28.46	513.77	41.6	41.9	-0.3	41.3	12.46	13.05	-0.59	12.44
Waterbury	614.86	591.11	23.75	594.74	43.7	43.4	0.3	42.3	14.07	13.62	0.45	14.06

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		SEP
	1998	1997	UNITS	%	1998	1997	UNITS	%	1998
Connecticut	1,025	852	173	20.3	9,595	7,871	1,724	21.9	984
Counties:									
Fairfield	274	171	103	60.2	2,547	1,706	841	49.3	194
Hartford	239	236	3	1.3	2,386	1,865	521	27.9	225
Litchfield	62	60	2	3.3	666	626	40	6.4	72
Middlesex	70	66	4	6.1	611	525	86	16.4	74
New Haven	195	152	43	28.3	1,669	1,755	-86	-4.9	196
New London	91	65	26	40.0	830	652	178	27.3	134
Tolland	66	68	-2	-2.9	578	467	111	23.8	49
Windham	28	34	-6	-17.6	308	275	33	12.0	40

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	OCT 1998	YR TO DATE 1998	YR TO DATE 1997	TOWN	OCT 1998	YR TO DATE 1998	YR TO DATE 1997	TOWN	OCT 1998	YR TO DATE 1998	YR TO DATE 1997
Andover	2	20	24	Griswold	5	40	36	Preston	0	16	20
Ansonia	3	24	13	Groton	14	108	66	Prospect	3	47	46
Ashford	3	32	15	Guilford	10	121	114	Putnam	2	11	10
Avon	7	167	125	Haddam	5	18	25	Redding	4	35	28
Barkhamsted	0	20	21	Hamden	10	86	85	Ridgefield	12	119	109
Beacon Falls	2	21	22	Hampton	1	13	11	Rocky Hill	3	99	86
Berlin	6	74	62	Hartford	5	80	55	Roxbury	1	25	11
Bethany	5	25	18	Hartland	1	4	6	Salem	2	20	12
Bethel	3	36	31	Harwinton	2	19	27	Salisbury	4	12	3
Bethlehem	0	12	7	Hebron	7	66	65	Scotland	0	11	13
Bloomfield	4	33	32	Kent	1	11	10	Seymour	6	49	57
Bolton	5	22	21	Killingly	3	27	31	Sharon	0	3	2
Bozrah	0	6	7	Killingworth	7	52	43	Shelton	29	196	153
Branford	2	31	40	Lebanon	5	25	36	Sherman	5	19	19
Bridgeport	7	90	55	Ledyard	4	61	42	Simsbury	5	67	47
Bridgewater	2	12	4	Lisbon	3	20	19	Somers	2	34	31
Bristol	6	75	78	Litchfield	3	32	92	South Windsor	8	116	101
Brookfield	3	133	42	Lyme	2	15	11	Southbury	10	89	78
Brooklyn	3	12	1	Madison	7	84	85	Southington	17	191	157
Burlington	5	43	44	Manchester	98	450	308	Sprague	1	2	5
Canaan	0	2	3	Mansfield	5	49	40	Stafford	3	30	25
Canterbury	2	22	16	Marlborough	1	30	28	Stamford	7	207	165
Canton	1	36	25	Meriden	3	44	33	Sterling	1	17	23
Chaplin	2	15	13	Middlebury	5	23	24	Stonington	10	78	66
Cheshire	7	85	162	Middlefield	4	15	17	Stratford	10	46	42
Chester	0	9	18	Middletown	13	123	112	Suffield	4	179	57
Clinton	8	68	30	Milford	30	145	138	Thomaston	5	40	30
Colchester	12	95	90	Monroe	13	99	112	Thompson	0	18	15
Colebrook	0	10	4	Montville	2	33	21	Tolland	17	108	86
Columbia	2	25	18	Morris	1	9	3	Torrington	10	66	56
Cornwall	0	5	5	Naugatuck	13	49	38	Trumbull	4	110	75
Coventry	6	54	55	New Britain	1	6	8	Union	0	5	4
Cromwell	9	49	29	New Canaan	4	50	51	Vernon	5	24	22
Danbury	105	697	198	New Fairfield	1	21	33	Voluntown	2	17	11
Darien	2	19	24	New Hartford	1	27	28	Wallingford	10	172	106
Deep River	2	21	13	New Haven	9	67	0	Warren	1	8	8
Derby	3	27	27	New London	0	1	0	Washington	2	12	12
Durham	2	35	39	New Milford	13	102	94	Waterbury	5	49	44
East Granby	4	21	18	Newington	8	101	51	Waterford	4	65	57
East Haddam	4	71	61	Newtown	11	207	158	Watertown	4	69	90
East Hampton	8	42	34	Norfolk	0	2	2	West Hartford	2	19	8
East Hartford	0	3	2	North Branford	4	47	60	West Haven	4	27	42
East Haven	11	68	142	North Canaan	0	3	6	Westbrook	4	50	34
East Lyme	8	130	68	North Haven	7	90	60	Weston	2	16	10
East Windsor	2	26	18	No. Stonington	5	36	22	Westport	4	39	28
Eastford	1	8	7	Norwalk	14	110	82	Wethersfield	3	60	68
Easton	4	37	31	Norwich	1	19	21	Willington	2	14	8
Ellington	10	127	68	Old Lyme	10	42	37	Wilton	2	39	47
Enfield	3	64	74	Old Saybrook	2	22	33	Winchester	2	58	7
Essex	2	26	17	Orange	1	14	23	Windham	0	19	13
Fairfield	13	108	106	Oxford	9	80	53	Windsor	5	44	44
Farmington	17	103	130	Plainfield	3	33	46	Windsor Locks	3	10	14
Franklin	1	1	5	Plainville	5	34	26	Wolcott	12	72	124
Glastonbury	12	212	141	Plymouth	3	33	20	Woodbridge	4	33	121
Goshen	1	10	21	Pomfret	2	28	31	Woodbury	6	64	60
Granby	3	39	52	Portland	0	10	20	Woodstock	5	42	30
Greenwich	15	114	107								

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

DOL newly registered employers are those businesses newly registered with the Labor Department's unemployment insurance program (including reopened accounts) during the month. DOL discontinued employers are those accounts that are terminated due to inactivity (no employees) or business closure. Registrations and terminations of business entities as recorded with the Secretary of the State are an indication of new business formation and activity. These registrations include limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and foreign-owned (out-of-state) and domestic-owned (in-state) corporations.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), computed and published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs and other goods and services that people buy for their day-to-day living. The Northeast region is comprised of the New England states, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. *There is no separate consumer price index for Connecticut or any area within the state.*

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) covers both wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits for all occupations and establishments in both the private nonfarm sector and state and local government. The ECI measures employers' labor costs free from the influences of employment shifts among industries and occupations. The base period for all data is June 1989 when the ECI is 100.

HOURS AND EARNINGS ESTIMATES

Production worker earnings and hours estimates include full- and part-time employees working within manufacturing industries. Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month. Average hourly earnings are affected by such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

INITIAL CLAIMS

Average weekly initial claims are calculated by dividing the total number of new claims for unemployment insurance received in the month by the number of weeks in the month. A minor change in methodology takes effect with data published in the March 1997 issue of the DIGEST. Data have been revised back to January 1980.

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Primarily a measure of unemployment insurance program activity, the insured unemployment rate is the 13-week average of the number of people claiming unemployment benefits divided by the number of workers covered by the unemployment insurance system.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

Labor force estimates are a measure of the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Prepared under the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the statewide estimates are the product of a multiple variable coefficient regression model, which uses results from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of Connecticut households, counts of claimants for unemployment benefits, and establishment employment estimates. Due to the small size of the sample taken in Connecticut, the CPS results are subject to significant sampling error and produce considerable month-to-month fluctuations in estimates derived from the sample. In general, the CPS estimates, at the 90 percent confidence level, have an error range of about 1.5 percentage points on a rate of 6.0 percent. An accepted method for calculating the error range for model estimates is currently not available. Labor force data, reflecting persons employed by place of residence, are not directly comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. In the labor force estimates, workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. The labor force data also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics and the self-employed. Because of these conceptual differences, total labor force employment is almost always different from nonfarm wage and salary employment.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

All Labor Market Areas in Connecticut except three are federally designated areas for developing labor statistics. Industry employment data for the Danielson, Lower River and Torrington Labor Market Areas are prepared exclusively by the Connecticut Department of Labor, following the same statistical procedures used to prepare estimates for the other Labor Market Areas, which are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified the five towns of Canaan, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon as a separate area for reporting labor force data. For the convenience of our data users, data for these towns are included in the Torrington Labor Market Area. For the same purpose, data for the town of Thompson, which is officially part of the Worcester Metropolitan Statistical Area, are included in the Danielson Labor Market Area. Also, data for Hopkinton and Westerly, Rhode Island are included in the New London Labor Market Area.

LEADING AND COINCIDENT EMPLOYMENT INDICES

The *leading employment index* is a composite of five individual employment-related series -the average workweek of manufacturing production workers, Hartford help-wanted advertising, short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, initial claims for unemployment insurance and total housing permits. While not an employment-sector variable, housing permits are closely related to construction employment. The *coincident employment index* is a composite indicator of four individual employment-related series -the total unemployment rate, nonfarm employment (employer survey), total employment (household survey) and the insured unemployment rate. All data are seasonally adjusted and come from the Connecticut Labor Department and from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

Nonfarm employment estimates are derived from a survey of businesses to measure *jobs* by industry. The estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Excluded from these estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees and unpaid family workers. In some cases, due to space constraints, all industry estimates are not shown. Call (860) 566-7823 for a more comprehensive breakout of nonfarm employment estimates.

UI COVERED WAGES

UI covered wages is the total amount paid to those employees who are covered under the Connecticut's Unemployment Insurance (UI) law for services performed during the quarter. The fluctuations in the 1992-93 period reflect the effect of the changes in the tax law and the massive restructuring in the state's economy.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT A GLANCE

(Percent change from prior year; see pages 5-9 for reference months)

Leading Employment Index-2.9	Business Activity	Tourism and Travel
Coincident Employment Index+4.8	New Housing Permits +20.3	Tourism Inquiries -21.7
Total Nonfarm Employment+1.4	Electricity Sales +8.6	Tourism Info Centers +16.0
Unemployment -1.0*	Retail Sales +5.4	Attraction Visitors +22.6
Labor Force -0.3	Construction Contracts Index -22.6	Hotel-Motel Occupancy -1.3
Employed +0.8	New Auto Registrations -3.1	Air Passenger Count +3.7
Unemployed -21.3	Air Cargo Tons +6.7	
Average Weekly Initial Claims-0.1	Business Starts	Employment Cost Index (U.S.)
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford-8.3	Secretary of the State +4.0	Total +3.8
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate-0.21*	Dept. of Labor -15.4	Wages & Salaries +4.3
		Benefit Costs +2.6
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg+0.7	Business Terminations	Consumer Price Index
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg+1.6	Secretary of the State -12.8	U.S. City Average +1.5
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg+2.3	Dept. of Labor -10.0	Northeast Region +1.5
Manufacturing Output+1.0		NY-NJ-Long Island +1.5
Production Worker Hours -1.0	State Tax Collections-6.3	Boston-Brockton-Nashua +3.0
Productivity +2.0	Corporate Tax +1.7	Consumer Confidence
Personal Income+4.6	Personal Income Tax -0.6	U.S. -4.9
UI Covered Wages NA	Real Estate Conveyance Tax +0.7	New England -14.2
	Sales & Use Tax +5.9	Interest Rates
		Prime -0.38*
		Conventional Mortgage -0.58*

*Percentage point change; **Less than 0.05 percent; NA = Not Available

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