

ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.8 No.2

A joint publication of the Connecticut Department of Labor & the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

FEBRUARY 2003

ARTICLES

Unmasking the Unemployment Rate 1,3

Economic News: 2002 Population by State 2

Town/City Profile: Simsbury 4

Occupational Profile: Physical Therapists 5

Industry Clusters: Maritime Cluster Outlines Transportation Recommendations.. 7

ALSO INSIDE

Housing Update..... 7

Economic Indicators

- of Employment 6
- on the Overall Economy 7
- Individual Data Items 8-10

Comparative Regional Data..... 11

Economic Indicator Trends 12-15

Labor Market Areas:

- Nonfarm Employment 16-21
- Labor Force 22
- Hours and Earnings 23
- Housing Permits 23

Cities and Towns:

- Labor Force 24-25
- Housing Permits 26

Technical Notes 27

At a Glance 28

In December...

- Employment down 3,100
- Unemployment rate 4.6%
- Housing permits down 4.9%

Unmasking the Unemployment Rate

As far as public interest is concerned, the unemployment rate is one of the most important figures generated by the Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research. The unemployment rate is used as a key indicator of our State's economic well being. Businesses and community leaders use the unemployment rate in guiding decisions regarding site locations and plant expansions; areas of high unemployment may offer tax breaks and other economic development incentives. Government officials use the unemployment rate as a basis for awarding government procurement contracts and to allocate millions of dollars in job training and economic development funds. Nationally, the unemployment rate influences the financial markets and, to some extent, interest rates. Despite all the attention to the unemployment rate, it remains one of the most misunderstood and often misused num-

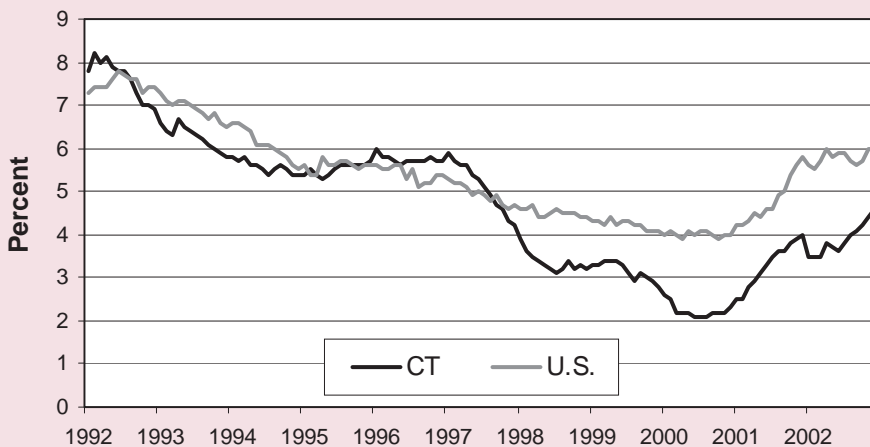
bers that exists. Just where does the unemployment rate come from, and what does it mean?

Common Misconceptions

Perhaps the most common misconception about the unemployment rate is that it just includes individuals filing unemployment insurance (UI) claims. Actually, UI claimants comprise only about 20 to 30 percent of the total unemployed. Another misconception is that the monthly unemployment rate represents unemployment for the entire month. In reality, the jobless rate references the week of the month that includes the 12th. This is called the standard survey reference week. Unemployed individuals are also counted where they live, not where they work. This means that a layoff in a particular town can, because of commuting, impact the unemployment rate in number of surrounding towns.

(Continued on page 3)

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate, 1992-2002



ECONOMIC DIGEST

The Connecticut Economic Digest is published monthly by the Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Public Affairs and Strategic Planning Division. Its purpose is to regularly provide users with a comprehensive source for the most current, up-to-date data available on the workforce and economy of the state, within perspectives of the region and nation.

The views expressed by authors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the Departments of Labor or Economic and Community Development.

To receive this publication free of charge write to: **The Connecticut Economic Digest**, Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research, 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114; email to dol.econdigest@po.state.ct.us; or call: (860) 263-6275. Articles from *The Connecticut Economic Digest* may be reprinted if the source is credited. Please send copies of the reprinted material to the Managing Editor.

Contributing DOL Staff: Salvatore DiPillo, Lincoln S. Dyer, Arthur Famiglietti, Noreen Passardi, David F. Post, Joseph Slepski and Erin C. Wilkins. **Managing Editor:** Jungmin Charles Joo. **Contributing DECD Staff:** Todd Bentsen, Kolie Chang, Robert Damroth and Mark Prisloe. We would also like to thank our associates at the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut, for their contributions to the Digest.

Connecticut Department of Labor

Shaun B. Cashman, Commissioner
Thomas E. Hutton, Deputy Commissioner

Roger F. Therrien, Director
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
Phone: (860) 263-6275
Fax: (860) 263-6263
E-Mail: dol.econdigest@po.state.ct.us
Website: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi>



Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

James F. Abromaitis, Commissioner
Rita Zangari, Deputy Commissioner
Timothy H. Coppage, Deputy Commissioner

Public Affairs and Strategic Planning Division
Research Unit
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106-2502
Phone: (860) 270-8165
Fax: (860) 270-8188
E-Mail: decd@po.state.ct.us
Website: <http://www.state.ct.us/ecd/research>



ECONOMIC NEWS

U.S. Population Up 3 Million in 2002; Nevada Grows Fastest: The nation's population grew by 1.1 percent, or 3.1 million people, between July 1, 2001 and July 1, 2002, to total 288.4 million, according to estimates released by the Census Bureau. Connecticut's population rose by 0.8 percent.

U.S., Region, State, and Puerto Rico Population Estimates and Population Change: July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2002

	July 1, 2002 Population	July 1, 2001 Population	Numerical Change	Percent Change
United States	288,368,698	285,317,559	3,051,139	1.1
Northeast	54,227,064	53,950,802	276,262	0.5
Midwest	65,141,893	64,819,817	322,076	0.5
South	103,347,425	101,953,947	1,393,478	1.4
West	65,652,316	64,592,993	1,059,323	1.6
Alabama	4,486,508	4,468,912	17,596	0.4
Alaska	643,786	633,630	10,156	1.6
Arizona	5,456,453	5,306,966	149,487	2.8
Arkansas	2,710,079	2,694,698	15,381	0.6
California	35,116,033	34,600,463	515,570	1.5
Colorado	4,506,542	4,430,989	75,553	1.7
Connecticut	3,460,503	3,434,602	25,901	0.8
Delaware	807,385	796,599	10,786	1.4
District of Columbia	570,898	573,822	-2,924	-0.5
Florida	16,713,149	16,373,330	339,819	2.1
Georgia	8,560,310	8,405,677	154,633	1.8
Hawaii	1,244,898	1,227,024	17,874	1.5
Idaho	1,341,131	1,320,585	20,546	1.6
Illinois	12,600,620	12,520,227	80,393	0.6
Indiana	6,159,068	6,126,743	32,325	0.5
Iowa	2,936,760	2,931,967	4,793	0.2
Kansas	2,715,884	2,702,125	13,759	0.5
Kentucky	4,092,891	4,068,816	24,075	0.6
Louisiana	4,482,646	4,470,368	12,278	0.3
Maine	1,294,464	1,284,470	9,994	0.8
Maryland	5,458,137	5,386,079	72,058	1.3
Massachusetts	6,427,801	6,401,164	26,637	0.4
Michigan	10,050,446	10,006,266	44,180	0.4
Minnesota	5,019,720	4,984,535	35,185	0.7
Mississippi	2,871,782	2,859,733	12,049	0.4
Missouri	5,672,579	5,637,309	35,270	0.6
Montana	909,453	905,382	4,071	0.4
Nebraska	1,729,180	1,720,039	9,141	0.5
Nevada	2,173,491	2,097,722	75,769	3.6
New Hampshire	1,275,056	1,259,359	15,697	1.2
New Jersey	8,590,300	8,511,116	79,184	0.9
New Mexico	1,855,059	1,830,935	24,124	1.3
New York	19,157,532	19,084,350	73,182	0.4
North Carolina	8,320,146	8,206,105	114,041	1.4
North Dakota	634,110	636,550	-2,440	-0.4
Ohio	11,421,267	11,389,785	31,482	0.3
Oklahoma	3,493,714	3,469,577	24,137	0.7
Oregon	3,521,515	3,473,441	48,074	1.4
Pennsylvania	12,335,091	12,303,104	31,987	0.3
Rhode Island	1,069,725	1,059,659	10,066	0.9
South Carolina	4,107,183	4,062,125	45,058	1.1
South Dakota	761,063	758,324	2,739	0.4
Tennessee	5,797,289	5,749,398	47,891	0.8
Texas	21,779,893	21,370,983	408,910	1.9
Utah	2,316,256	2,278,712	37,544	1.6
Vermont	616,592	612,978	3,614	0.6
Virginia	7,293,542	7,196,750	96,792	1.3
Washington	6,068,996	5,993,390	75,606	1.3
West Virginia	1,801,873	1,800,975	898	0.0
Wisconsin	5,441,196	5,405,947	35,249	0.7
Wyoming	498,703	493,754	4,949	1.0
Puerto Rico	3,858,806	3,838,361	20,445	0.5

(Continued from page 1)

Who is Counted as Unemployed?

The definition of who is counted as employed and unemployed is determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These definitions are based on objective, measurable criteria, and are used nationwide. This means that the criteria defining an unemployed person in Connecticut is the same for an unemployed person in Idaho or South Carolina or anywhere else in the nation. To be counted as **employed**, a person must be 16 years old or over and have worked for pay or profit during the survey week. This includes part-time and temporary work as well as regular full-time, year-round employment. An individual that works as little as one hour during the survey week is counted as employed. To be counted as **unemployed**, a person must be 16 years old or over and have no job at all during the survey week. However, that person must be able, available, and actively looking for work. The sum of the employed and unemployed comprises the labor force. The unemployment rate is the ratio of the total unemployed to the total labor force. The mathematical formula is: $\text{Employed} + \text{Unemployed} = \text{Labor Force}$, and $(\text{Unemployed} / \text{Labor Force}) \times 100 = \text{Unemployment Rate}$.

Where Do These Numbers Come From?

Each month, BLS designates the Census Bureau to conduct a survey of approximately 72,000 households across the nation called the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS, which includes households in each state, is conducted during the week after the standard survey reference week. During the survey, the census interviewer determines the employment status of all members of the household 16 years old and over for the previous week. They

essentially ask, "what were you doing last week?" If they held a job, they are classified as employed; if they had no job, but were able, available, and actively looking for one, they are classified as unemployed. The CPS is designed to yield employment and unemployment statistics each month for the nation as a whole. Connecticut, with a population of 3.4 million, has approximately 1,200 households represented in the CPS. To improve the estimate, BLS has designed a statistical model for states to use. This model uses a variable coefficient regression method, which uses two CPS numbers – residents employed and unemployed. The model supplements the results from the household survey with nonfarm payroll employment data from our monthly survey of businesses and claims data from Connecticut's unemployment insurance program. Other variables include agriculture employment, population, and seasonal factors.

How Accurate is the Unemployment Rate?

For any state, the actual unemployment rate could vary by up to a percentage point either side of the published rate. It is an estimate and is by no means 100 percent accurate. The only way to arrive at a completely accurate rate would be to conduct a complete census each month. This would be too costly and too time consuming. The current methodology is the result of decades of research and improvements in modeling techniques. BLS is constantly researching ways to improve the accuracy of state and local unemployment statistics, and methodologies will continue to evolve and improve over time. The current methodology is the best that is available, and for years has proven to mirror known economic developments in the State.

The unemployment rate is just one of many economic indicators. It should be used in concert with other useful labor market statistics in decision making and in assessing economic trends. Because employment and unemployment statistics are estimates, they are subject to sampling variability in any given month, and temporary statistical aberrations occur. Consequently, it is best to view these data over time to determine underlying trends in the economy.

A Historical Perspective

As the chart shows on the front page, Connecticut's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined from its peak in 1992 through the end of the decade. In September 2000, the jobless rate began to climb again. National unemployment rates also trended downward for almost nine years, before beginning to rise in November 2000. For most of those years, Connecticut's unemployment rates were below that of the nation, except for the 1996-97 period. The jobless situation in Connecticut has compared favorably since 1998, as evidenced by widened gap between the U.S. and Connecticut.

Prior to annual revisions, Connecticut's unemployment rate averaged 3.9 percent in 2002, still relatively low compared with the early nineties, and well below the nation's average of 5.8 percent. Nevertheless, the increases in the unemployment rates in recent months suggest that our State's economy is not out of the woods yet. ■

SOURCES: Adapted and reprinted with permission from an article, "The unemployment rate – behind the mystery" by Sam McClary of Labor Market Information in South Carolina, and from the Idaho Employment's September 2001 article, "F.Y.I.: unemployment rate demystified," and modified as it relates to Connecticut.

By Stephen Dombrowski, Marketing Representative, DOL

Introduction

Tucked away in the north central hills of Hartford County, along the Metacomet trail, lies the bucolic town of Simsbury. Its rich history predates the eighteenth century with settlers migrating from the town of Windsor in the 1670s, searching for religious autonomy and fertile land for crop planting. The Tariffville section in 1845 was home to the thriving Hartford Carpet Company. The Ensign Bickford Company, established in 1836, was made famous for the safety fuse used to this day in demolition blasting. It remains a major employer in the town, and now has an aerospace division as well. Simsbury experienced a tremendous economic gain in 1981 with the agreement and land purchase by the Hartford Insurance Group to bring their life insurance division to town. Over the next five years, this created several thousand jobs within the finance sector which enhanced the local economy through housing purchases, new construction, and patronization of the wholesale and retail trade sectors, along with the service sector.

Economy

Over the past eleven years, Simsbury has experienced healthy growth in its agriculture, retail trade, finance, insurance, and real estate, and services

industries. Over 2,400 new positions have been created within the town in these sectors, offsetting declines in its construction, manufacturing, and transportation, communication, and public utilities industries. The town has always enjoyed a relatively low unemployment rate, averaging about 2.7 percent annually since 1991 (see table below). People who have made Simsbury their home enjoy easy access to Bradley International Airport, just twelve miles away, as well as a short 13-mile commute to Hartford. This strategic location, coupled with viable first rate office and commercial space (73,000 square feet and 353 acres zoned as commercial/ industrial), are key economic development factors for a town poised to welcome additional light industry and service sector businesses. New housing permits surged to over 100 in 1993 with an additional 448 reported in the last eight years. The average price for a single-family house in Simsbury in 2000 was \$233,495 compared with the State average of \$219,784. Housing within the town remains competitive and desirable due in part to the boasting rights Simsbury enjoys in terms of its public school system. It implements an annual education budget of over 40 million dollars per year and has been rated as having one of the best public

school systems in Hartford County by Connecticut Magazine (November 2002) and best in the State by the Wall Street Journal publication, "Offspring" (July 2000).

Quality of Life

Simsbury has many attributes to offer people looking for a higher standard of living. Prep schools such as Ethel Walker, the Masters School and the Westminster School offer superb four-year education programs preparing their students for the challenges and opportunities of higher education. Cultural entities such as the Simsbury Light Opera Company and the Simsbury Theatre Guild hold command performances each season, enjoyed by thousands of Connecticut's citizens. The public library holds over 136,000 volumes and received the prestigious ranking as one of the top 100 public libraries in the nation out of 9,000 contending (Hennan American Public Library rating 2002). It also operates one of the first business resource centers, answering over 5,000 business related questions annually.

Outlook

Simsbury's diversified business structure, tradition of cultural and educational excellence, and the ability to draw economic initiatives that are juxtaposed to the quality of life its citizens enjoy, keeps it positioned for steady growth. The commercial frontier lies within the northern parcels of land conveniently located just minutes from Bradley International Airport. A tax abatement program continues to offer attractive financial incentives to businesses. Growth and prosperity have been woven into the fabric of the town for many decades with no signs of reversal on the horizon. The efforts of Simsbury's citizens, business leaders, and educators remain a cornerstone in the foundation of a community where quality of life and economic development are tantamount to keeping this town a very desirable place to live, work, and prosper. ■

Industry	1990			2000			2001				
	Units	Jobs	Wages	Units	Jobs	Wages	Units	Jobs	Wages		
Total	636	9,043	\$28,689	636	11,235	\$48,952	619	11,463	\$49,778		
Agriculture.....	25	149	\$23,053	29	229	\$26,613	28	234	\$27,217		
Construction.....	85	433	\$37,565	62	426	\$49,690	57	331	\$48,885		
Manufacturing.....	16	967	\$33,767	15	665	\$62,017	15	655	\$65,430		
Trans., Comm. & Utilities.....	12	232	\$37,007	12	185	\$48,005	13	192	\$50,599		
Wholesale Trade.....	60	184	\$41,022	60	176	\$66,664	52	250	\$100,937		
Retail Trade.....	126	1,813	\$15,654	106	1,908	\$21,081	101	1,964	\$22,222		
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate..	59	2,252	\$38,695	66	3,941	\$71,806	64	3,915	\$70,955		
Services.....	230	2,060	\$23,435	260	2,749	\$35,315	261	2,851	\$37,201		
Federal Government.....	4	51	\$30,547	6	43	\$45,667	6	44	\$44,229		
State Government.....	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n		
Local Government.....	17	871	\$28,354	17	894	\$42,185	17	998	\$39,573		
n = nondisclosable											
Economic Indicators \ Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Population.....	21,878	21,741	21,744	21,772	21,718	21,717	21,710	21,767	21,756	23,234	23,740
Labor Force.....	12,579	12,355	12,237	12,011	11,438	11,445	11,417	11,241	11,322	11,655	11,409
Employed.....	12,131	11,854	11,811	11,633	11,073	11,074	11,085	11,066	11,136	11,526	11,234
Unemployed.....	448	501	426	378	365	371	332	175	186	129	175
Unemployment Rate.....	3.6	4.1	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.9	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.5
New Housing Permits.....	44	94	106	47	69	72	59	73	68	34	26
Retail Sales (\$mil.).....	131.2	139.3	158.1	173.8	166.0	159.0	177.9	166.2	180.5	172.8	181.9

By Jungmin Charles Joo, Associate Research Analyst, DOL

Introduction

As the number of middle-aged and elderly individuals in the State increases, so does the demand for therapeutic services. The demand for physical therapists, for one, is expected to be high through the next decade, with employment opportunities rising faster than average.

Nature of the Work

Physical therapists provide services that help restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of patients suffering from injuries or disease. They work to restore, maintain, and promote overall fitness and health. Their patients include accident victims and individuals with disabling conditions such as low back pain, arthritis, heart disease, fractures, head injuries, and cerebral palsy.

Working Conditions

Physical therapists practice in hospitals, clinics, and private offices that have specially equipped facilities, or they treat patients in hospital rooms, homes, or schools. Most full-time physical therapists work a 40-hour week, which may include some evenings and weekends. The job can be physically demanding because therapists often have to stoop, kneel, crouch, lift, and stand for long periods. In addition, physical therapists move heavy equipment and lift patients or help them turn, stand, or walk.

Employment

In Connecticut, 2,150 were employed as physical therapists in 2001. Nationally, they held about 126,500 jobs; about 1 in 4 worked part time. The number of jobs is greater than the number of practicing physical therapists because some physical therapists hold two or more jobs. For example, some may work in a private

practice, but also work part time in another health facility. About two-thirds of physical therapists were employed in either hospitals or offices of physical therapists. Other jobs were in home health agencies, outpatient rehabilitation centers, offices and clinics of physicians, and nursing homes. Some physical therapists are self-employed in private practices.

Training and Other Qualifications

All states require physical therapists to pass a licensure exam before they can practice, after graduating from an accredited physical therapist educational program. According to the

family. Physical therapists are expected to continue professional development by participating in continuing education courses and workshops. A number of States require continuing education to maintain licensure.

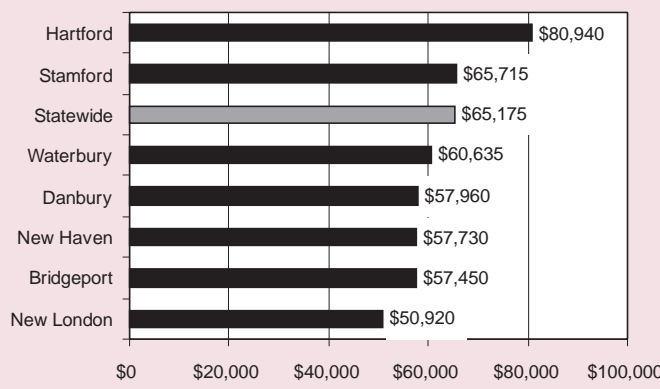
Earnings

The national average annual wage for physical therapists was \$59,120, while Connecticut's was higher at \$65,175 in 2001. As the chart shows, the earnings among the regions of the State ranged from \$50,920 in the New London Labor Market Area to \$80,940 in the Hartford Labor Market Area.

Job Outlook

Federal legislation imposing limits on reimbursement for therapy services may adversely affect the job market for physical therapists in the near term. However, over the long run, the demand for physical therapists should continue to rise as a result of growth in the number of individuals with disabilities or limited function requiring therapy services. The rapidly growing elderly population is particularly vulnerable to

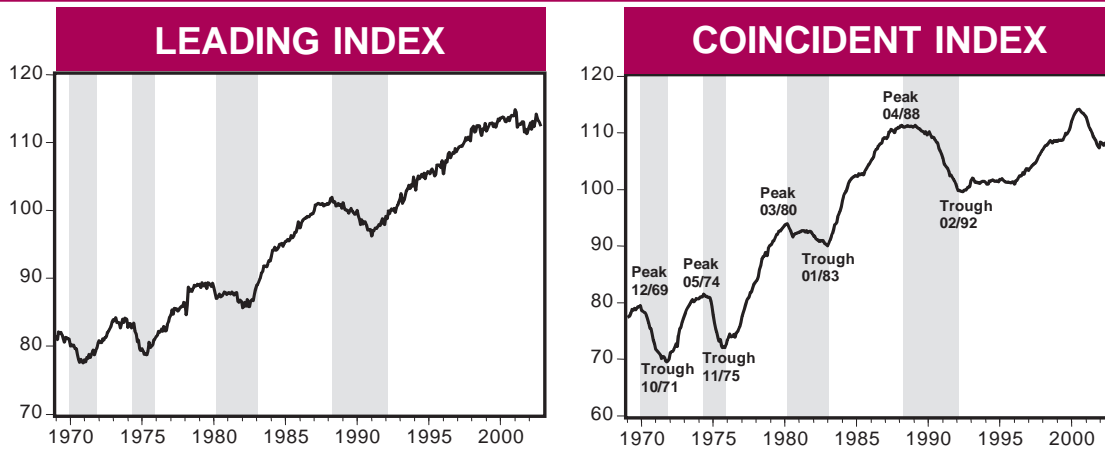
Average Annual Wage for Physical Therapists by Selected Labor Market Area, 2001



American Physical Therapy Association (<http://www.apta.org>), there were 199 accredited physical therapist programs in 2001. Of the accredited programs, 165 offered master's degrees, and 33 offered doctoral degrees. All physical therapist programs seeking accreditation are required to offer degrees at the master's degree level and above, in accordance with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

Physical therapists should have strong interpersonal skills to successfully educate patients about their treatments. They should also be compassionate and possess a desire to help patients. Similar traits also are needed to interact with the patient's

chronic and debilitating conditions that require therapeutic services. Also, the baby-boom generation is entering the prime age for heart attacks and strokes, increasing the demand for cardiac and physical rehabilitation. Additionally, more young people will need physical therapy as technological advances save the lives of a larger proportion of newborns with severe birth defects. Nationally, employment of physical therapists is expected to grow by 33 percent, which is much faster than the 15 percent average growth for all occupations through 2010. It is also expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations (10 %) in Connecticut over next ten years, adding more than 100 openings each year. ■



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 1992=100.

Not Much to be Thankful for in November

A host of discouraging economic data as the year began greeted those of us who expect much stronger growth for the U.S. economy in 2003. The U.S. index of industrial production fell unexpectedly in December of 2002. The U.S. trade deficit for November of 2002 was larger than expected, while the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index fell unexpectedly in January 2003. The good news is that the U.S. inflation rate remained tame and is expected to remain subdued for the coming year. We should remember, however, that these economic data simply confirmed what we already know or have suspected – that 2002 was not a stellar year for the U.S. economy. We actually have reasons to be optimistic for 2003. First, the many rounds of interest rate cuts by the Fed in 2002 may begin to stimulate business spending. Second, President Bush has offered a fiscal package that may stimulate the economy. The clouds on the horizon are the political tension with North Korea and the possible military conflict with Iraq.

Closer to home, the news is mixed on the Connecticut front for November 2002. The CCEA-ECRI coincident employment index fell on a year-to-year basis from 107.69 in November 2001 to 107.45 in November 2002. Two of the four components are negative

contributors to the index, with a higher total unemployment rate, and lower total nonfarm employment. Total employment is the only positive contributor to this index, while the insured unemployment rate remained the same. On a sequential month-to-month basis, the CCEA-ECRI Connecticut coincident employment index declined very slightly from 107.53 in October to 107.45 in November. The insured unemployment rate and total employment are the two positive contributors, while the total unemployment rate and total nonfarm employment are the two negative contributors. Year-to-date in 2002, the revised CCEA-ECRI Connecticut coincident employment index rose three times – in January, May, and October, and fell seven times in February, March, April, June, August, September, and November, and has remained stable in July.

The CCEA-ECRI Connecticut leading employment index rose from 111.3 in November 2001 to 112.4 in November 2002. Three components of this index are positive contributors, with a lower Moody's Baa corporate bond yield, lower initial claims for unemployment insurance, and higher average weekly hours worked in manufacturing and construction. The three negative contributors are lower total housing permits, a

higher short duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, and a lower Hartford help-wanted advertising index. On a sequential month-to-month basis, the leading employment index fell from 112.9 in October to 112.4 in November. Three components are positive contributors, with a lower Moody's Baa corporate bond yield, lower initial claims for unemployment insurance, and a lower short duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate. Two components are negative contributors, with lower total housing permits, and lower weekly hours worked in manufacturing and construction. The Hartford help-wanted index remained stable. Year-to-date in 2002, the revised CCEA-ECRI Connecticut leading employment index has risen five months out of eleven, in January, February, April, June, and July.

Governor Rowland and the coalition of state employee unions have yet to come to an agreement over the concession package. Regardless of the outcome, the pro-cyclical State fiscal budget will certainly put a damper on the Connecticut economy. Our hope for a better 2003 for the Connecticut economy very much hinges on how well the national economy performs in 2003. ■

Francis W. Ahking, Department of Economics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269. Phone: (860) 486-3026. Stan McMillen [(860) 486-0485, Storrs Campus], Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut, provided research support. Leading and coincident employment indexes were developed by Pami Dua and Stephen M. Miller, in cooperation with Anirvan Banerji at the Economic Cycle Research Institute. Components of Indexes are described in the Technical Notes on page 27.

Permit Activity Was Remarkably Strong in 2002

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 605 new housing units in December 2002, a 4.9 percent decrease compared to December of 2001 when 636 units were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 605 units permitted

in December 2002 represent a 21.5 percent decrease from the 771 units permitted in November 2002. The year-to-date permits are up 3.8 percent, from 9,254 through December 2001, to 9,607 through December 2002.

“In light of the economic uncertainty we have experienced in Connecticut the past year, housing permit activity was remarkably strong in 2002,” said Commis-

sioner Abromaitis. “The 9,607 housing units authorized represents the highest total in the past three years and the third highest total since 1990.”

Six of the eight counties had increases in new housing authorizations compared to a year ago. Danbury led all Connecticut communities with 261 units, followed by Stamford with 219 and Newtown with 195. ■

See data tables on pages 23 and 26.

Industry Clusters

Maritime Cluster Outlines Transportation Recommendations

The Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board's recently released strategic plan for addressing Connecticut's transportation issues includes recommendations made by the Connecticut Maritime Coalition. The plan calls for the establishment of a special task force to develop a statewide maritime policy. It also calls for an allocation of funds to enhance feeder barge capability and recommends that the federal-state law

conflict related to dredging be addressed.

During the information gathering process, the Connecticut Maritime Coalition submitted statistics, studies and testimony to the Transportation Strategy Board. A Connecticut Maritime Coalition report, entitled *Connecticut's Ports: Transportation Centers for Goods and People*, outlined specific recommendations to capitalize on Connecticut's maritime industries and waterways to improve Connecticut's transportation system.

A copy of this report and executive summary can be downloaded from the Connecticut Maritime Coalition's website: www.ctmaritime.com.

Activated as an industry cluster group in 2001, the Connecticut Maritime Coalition represents 349 businesses, 12,225 jobs and aggregate sales of \$2.61 billion.

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	3Q	3Q	CHANGE		2Q
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
Employment Indexes (1992=100)*					
Leading	113.7	112.5	1.2	1.1	112.8
Coincident	107.7	109.0	-1.3	-1.2	107.9
General Drift Indicator (1986=100)*					
Leading	99.6	100.1	-0.5	-0.5	99.9
Coincident	102.3	103.3	-1.0	-1.0	102.7
Business Barometer (1992=100)**	117.9	117.9	0.0	0.0	118.1

Sources: *The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut
**People's Bank

The Connecticut Economy's **General Drift Indicators** are composite measures of the four-quarter change in three coincident (Connecticut Manufacturing Production Index, nonfarm employment, and real personal income) and four leading (housing permits, manufacturing average weekly hours, Hartford help-wanted advertising, and initial unemployment claims) economic variables, and are indexed so 1986 = 100.

The **People's Bank Business Barometer** is a measure of overall economic growth in the state of Connecticut that is derived from non-manufacturing employment, real disposable personal income, and manufacturing production. The index is calculated by DataCore Partners, Inc for People's Bank.

Total nonfarm employment decreased by 9,300 over the year, largely the result of manufacturing job losses.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i> TOTAL NONFARM	1,662.8	1,672.1	-9.3	-0.6	1,665.9
Private Sector	1,413.1	1,425.8	-12.7	-0.9	1,415.2
Construction and Mining	64.3	65.7	-1.4	-2.1	64.8
Manufacturing	236.4	246.5	-10.1	-4.1	236.6
Transportation, Public Utilities	74.0	77.3	-3.3	-4.3	74.1
Wholesale, Retail Trade	358.3	356.3	2.0	0.6	358.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	140.5	142.1	-1.6	-1.1	141.0
Services	539.6	537.9	1.7	0.3	539.8
Government	249.7	246.3	3.4	1.4	250.7

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

Both the unemployment rate and initial claims for unemployment insurance rose from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i> Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	4.6	4.0	0.6	---	4.4
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,727.4	1,708.8	18.6	1.1	1,727.8
Employed (000s)	1,647.4	1,639.7	7.7	0.5	1,652.2
Unemployed (000s)	80.0	69.1	10.9	15.8	75.6
Average Weekly Initial Claims	5,895	5,099	796	15.6	5,040
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	11	17	-6	-35.3	13
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	3.53	2.95	0.58	---	3.37

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

The production worker weekly earnings rose while output decreased over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV	OCT
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002	2002
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i> Average Weekly Hours	43.0	41.7	1.3	3.1	42.9	--
Average Hourly Earnings	16.22	15.92	0.30	1.9	16.05	--
Average Weekly Earnings	697.46	663.86	33.60	5.1	688.55	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (1986=100)*	106.2	106.3	-0.1	-0.1	105.7	107.5
Production Worker Hours (000s)	5,552	5,675	-123	-2.2	5,577	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)**	435	441	-6.0	-1.4	445	480

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Energy

*Seasonally adjusted.

**Latest two months are forecasted.

Personal income for second quarter 2003 is forecasted to increase 2.4 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME

	<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>		CHANGE		1Q*
	2Q*	2Q	NO.	%	2003
<i>(Annualized; \$ Millions)</i> Personal Income	\$150,428	\$146,949	\$3,479	2.4	\$149,680
UI Covered Wages	\$80,068	\$77,638	\$2,430	3.1	\$79,695

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: January 2003 release

*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
New Housing Permits	DEC 2002	605	-4.9	9,607	9,254	3.8
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	SEP 2002	2,499	4.2	23,338	23,104	1.0
Retail Sales (Bil. \$)	SEP 2002	4.18	11.8	31.25	29.41	6.3
Construction Contracts						
Index (1980=100)	DEC 2002	274.1	-8.8	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	DEC 2002	14,222	-35.2	229,935	237,905	-3.4
Air Cargo Tons	DEC 2002	9,786	-24.4	143,070	143,139	0.0
Exports (Bil. \$)	3Q 2002	2.10	6.1	6.21	6.41	-3.1

Sources: Connecticut 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

Retail sales were up 11.8 percent from September a year ago. New auto registrations in 2002 were down by 3.4 percent.

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	MO/QTR	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	DEC 2002	2,117	1.9	25,934	22,831	13.6
Department of Labor*	2Q 2002	2,151	-7.7	4,685	5,395	-13.2
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	DEC 2002	960	4.1	6,149	6,173	-0.4
Department of Labor*	2Q 2002	1,257	-35.8	2,679	3,718	-27.9

Sources: Connecticut Secretary of the State; Connecticut Department of Labor
* Revised methodology applied back to 1996; 3-months total

Net business formation, as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Secretary of the State was up 18.8 percent to 19,785 from the same period last year.

STATE REVENUES

	YEAR TO DATE					
	DEC 2002	DEC 2001	% CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
<i>(Millions of dollars)</i>						
TOTAL ALL REVENUES*	847.9	853.7	-0.7	9,208.2	9,828.9	-6.3
Corporate Tax	70.6	39.8	77.4	442.2	474.7	-6.8
Personal Income Tax	411.0	464.0	-11.4	4,163.5	4,766.9	-12.7
Real Estate Conv. Tax	11.4	8.0	42.5	132.3	111.0	19.2
Sales & Use Tax	231.0	244.7	-5.6	3,098.1	3,137.0	-1.2
Indian Gaming Payments**	29.1	29.6	-1.7	380.0	350.4	8.5

Sources: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; Division of Special Revenue
*Includes all sources of revenue; Only selected sources are displayed; Most July receipts are credited to the prior fiscal year and are not shown. **See page 23 for explanation.

Total State revenues were down 6.3 percent in 2002.

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
Info Center Visitors	DEC 2002	35,253	-18.9	696,709	659,729	5.6
Major Attraction Visitors	DEC 2002	80,158	-16.5	2,011,352	1,845,440	9.0
Air Passenger Count	DEC 2002	535,156	10.8	6,525,215	6,888,031	-5.3
Indian Gaming Slots (Mil.\$)*	DEC 2002	1,453	-0.7	18,832	17,159	9.8
Travel and Tourism Index**	3Q2002	---	3.6	---	---	---

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

*See page 27 for explanation

**The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut

Air passenger traffic was down, while gaming slots revenues rose in 2002.

Compensation costs for both the nation and Northeast rose 3.2 percent over the year.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	DEC 2002	SEP 2002	3-Mo % Chg	DEC 2002	DEC 2001	12-Mo % Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	162.5	161.4	0.7	162.3	157.2	3.2
Wages and Salaries	157.6	156.9	0.4	157.5	153.3	2.7
Benefit Costs	174.7	172.6	1.2	174.6	166.7	4.7
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	161.3	156.3	3.2
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	155.7	151.7	2.6

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

The December U.S. inflation rate was 2.4 percent, while the U.S. and New England consumer confidence decreased 15.1 and 39.7 percent, respectively.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	MO/QTR	LEVEL	% CHANGE	
			Y/Y	P/P*
CONSUMER PRICES				
Connecticut**	4Q 2000	---	4.3	---
CPI-U (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	DEC 2002	180.9	2.4	-0.2
Purchasing Power of \$ (1982-84=\$1.00)	DEC 2002	\$0.553	-2.3	0.2
Northeast Region	DEC 2002	189.6	2.9	-0.3
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	DEC 2002	193.1	4.8	-0.2
Boston-Brockton-Nashua***	NOV 2002	200.4	4.0	0.7
CPI-W (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	DEC 2002	177.0	2.4	-0.2
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)				
Connecticut**	3Q 2002	89.5	-17.3	-6.5
New England	DEC 2002	62.3	-39.7	-24.5
U.S.	DEC 2002	80.3	-15.1	-5.4

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; The Conference Board

*Change over prior monthly or quarterly period

**The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut

***The Boston CPI can be used as a proxy for New England and is measured every other month.

Rates were uniformly lower than a year ago, including the 30-year conventional mortgage rate at 6.05 percent.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	DEC 2002	NOV 2002	DEC 2001
Prime	4.25	4.35	4.84
Federal Funds	1.24	1.34	1.82
3 Month Treasury Bill	1.21	1.25	1.69
6 Month Treasury Bill	1.27	1.30	1.78
1 Year Treasury Bill	1.57	1.64	2.22
3 Year Treasury Note	2.73	2.79	3.62
5 Year Treasury Note	3.47	3.52	4.39
7 Year Treasury Note	3.99	4.03	4.86
10 Year Treasury Note	4.48	4.53	5.09
30 Year Treasury Bond	5.31	5.37	5.48
Conventional Mortgage	6.05	6.07	7.07

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Six out of the nine states in the region lost jobs over the year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
Connecticut	1,662.8	1,672.1	-9.3	-0.6	1,665.9
Maine	610.3	608.1	2.2	0.4	610.5
Massachusetts	3,259.5	3,307.1	-47.6	-1.4	3,270.4
New Hampshire	621.4	624.6	-3.2	-0.5	624.0
New Jersey	4,009.4	4,023.3	-13.9	-0.3	4,013.5
New York	8,524.2	8,568.5	-44.3	-0.5	8,531.0
Pennsylvania	5,629.9	5,663.1	-33.2	-0.6	5,638.4
Rhode Island	481.7	477.9	3.8	0.8	482.5
Vermont	298.3	297.4	0.9	0.3	298.3
United States	130,709.0	130,890.0	-181.0	-0.1	130,810.0

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

LABOR FORCE

All states posted increases in the labor force from last year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
Connecticut	1,727.4	1,708.8	18.6	1.1	1,727.8
Maine	692.0	684.1	7.9	1.2	689.8
Massachusetts	3,365.2	3,297.1	68.1	2.1	3,374.1
New Hampshire	713.4	688.6	24.8	3.6	715.4
New Jersey	4,257.7	4,201.1	56.6	1.3	4,267.9
New York	9,011.2	8,812.4	198.8	2.3	8,980.1
Pennsylvania	6,116.1	6,078.3	37.8	0.6	6,097.4
Rhode Island	509.2	501.8	7.4	1.5	513.5
Vermont	349.7	336.5	13.2	3.9	348.9
United States	142,542.0	142,314.0	228.0	0.2	142,733.0

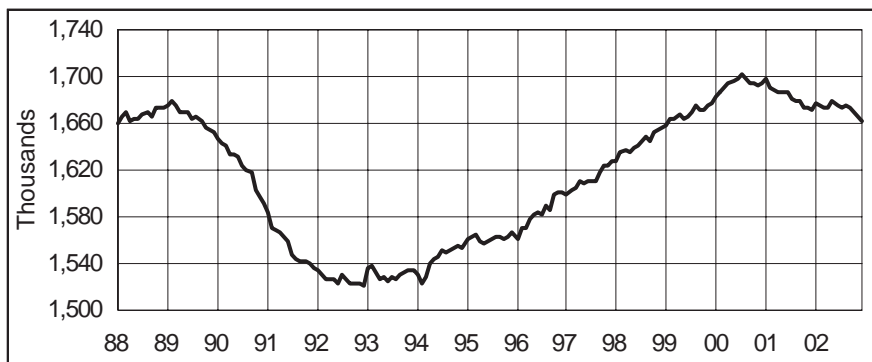
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Eight out of the nine states showed an increase in its unemployment rate over the year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	DEC	DEC	CHANGE	NOV
	2002	2001		2002
Connecticut	4.6	4.0	0.6	4.4
Maine	4.7	4.3	0.4	4.4
Massachusetts	5.2	4.4	0.8	5.1
New Hampshire	4.8	3.9	0.9	4.7
New Jersey	5.5	4.8	0.7	5.6
New York	6.3	5.7	0.6	6.0
Pennsylvania	6.0	5.1	0.9	5.6
Rhode Island	5.4	5.0	0.4	5.1
Vermont	4.2	4.3	-0.1	4.0
United States	6.0	5.8	0.2	6.0

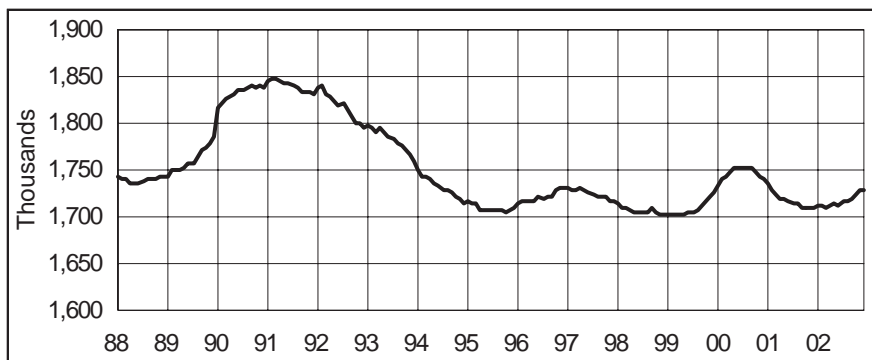
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*

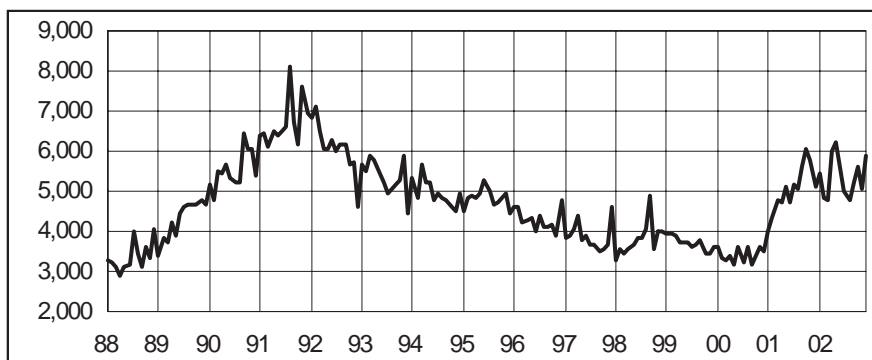
Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	1,682.3	1,697.6	1,676.8
Feb	1,686.3	1,691.3	1,675.8
Mar	1,690.7	1,687.8	1,673.3
Apr	1,694.3	1,685.8	1,673.6
May	1,697.0	1,687.0	1,679.0
Jun	1,698.0	1,686.5	1,675.6
Jul	1,701.0	1,681.1	1,674.2
Aug	1,697.2	1,680.0	1,674.8
Sep	1,695.2	1,678.6	1,673.0
Oct	1,693.8	1,673.4	1,669.1
Nov	1,692.5	1,672.4	1,665.9
Dec	1,694.2	1,672.1	1,662.8

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*

Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	2.6	2.5	3.5
Feb	2.5	2.5	3.5
Mar	2.2	2.8	3.5
Apr	2.2	2.9	3.8
May	2.2	3.1	3.7
Jun	2.1	3.3	3.6
Jul	2.1	3.5	3.8
Aug	2.1	3.6	4.0
Sep	2.2	3.6	4.1
Oct	2.2	3.8	4.2
Nov	2.2	3.9	4.4
Dec	2.3	4.0	4.6

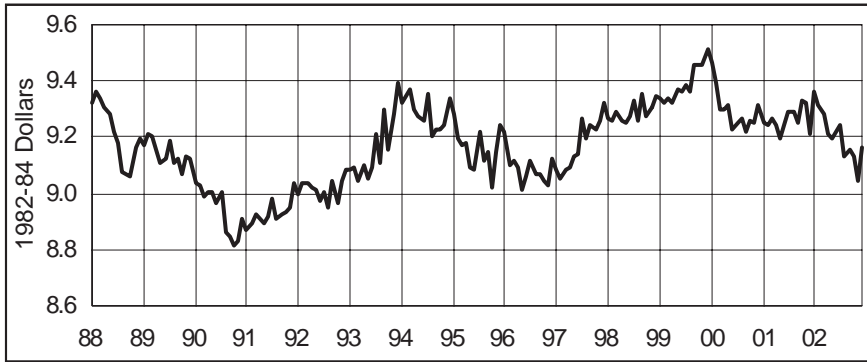
LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*

Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	1,733.5	1,736.2	1,712.0
Feb	1,740.5	1,728.0	1,711.5
Mar	1,743.1	1,723.8	1,708.6
Apr	1,747.6	1,719.8	1,711.8
May	1,752.1	1,719.0	1,714.9
Jun	1,753.0	1,717.2	1,710.9
Jul	1,753.3	1,715.5	1,717.4
Aug	1,752.2	1,714.7	1,717.8
Sep	1,751.7	1,710.2	1,720.1
Oct	1,746.7	1,710.0	1,724.1
Nov	1,742.9	1,709.7	1,727.8
Dec	1,740.0	1,708.8	1,727.4

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*

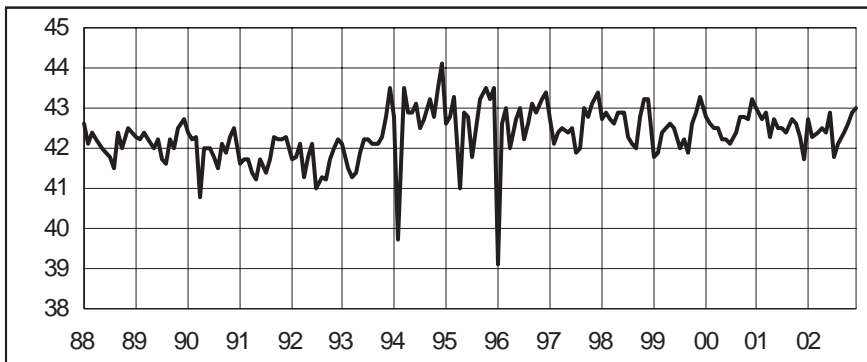
Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	3,612	4,003	5,432
Feb	3,351	4,312	4,842
Mar	3,276	4,761	4,764
Apr	3,387	4,741	5,974
May	3,182	5,138	6,243
Jun	3,601	4,738	5,603
Jul	3,233	5,182	5,026
Aug	3,607	5,060	4,794
Sep	3,168	5,637	5,215
Oct	3,388	6,054	5,618
Nov	3,608	5,791	5,040
Dec	3,479	5,099	5,895

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



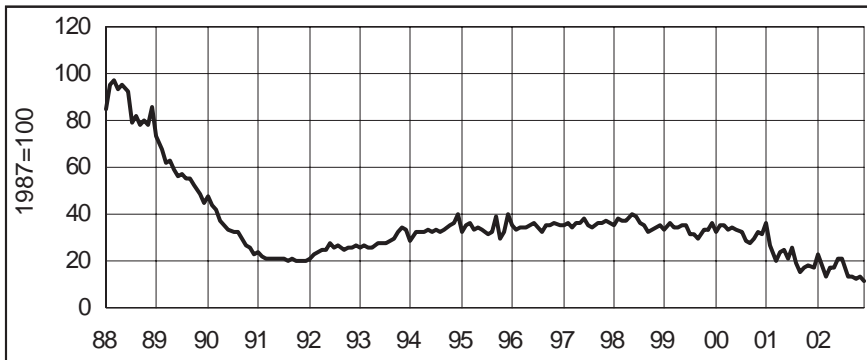
Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	\$9.47	\$9.25	\$9.36
Feb	9.39	9.25	9.31
Mar	9.30	9.27	9.28
Apr	9.30	9.24	9.22
May	9.31	9.20	9.19
Jun	9.23	9.24	9.22
Jul	9.25	9.29	9.24
Aug	9.27	9.29	9.13
Sep	9.22	9.25	9.15
Oct	9.26	9.33	9.13
Nov	9.25	9.32	9.05
Dec	9.31	9.21	9.16

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



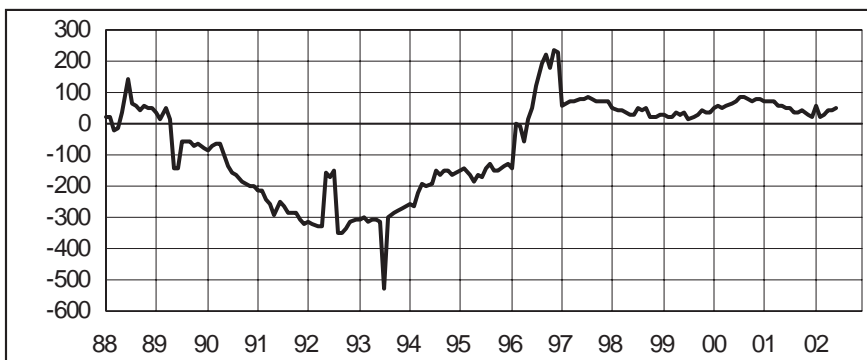
Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	42.8	43.0	42.7
Feb	42.6	42.7	42.3
Mar	42.5	42.9	42.4
Apr	42.5	42.3	42.5
May	42.2	42.7	42.4
Jun	42.2	42.5	42.9
Jul	42.1	42.5	41.8
Aug	42.4	42.4	42.1
Sep	42.8	42.7	42.4
Oct	42.8	42.6	42.6
Nov	42.7	42.3	42.9
Dec	43.2	41.7	43.0

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	32	36	23
Feb	35	27	18
Mar	35	20	13
Apr	33	24	17
May	34	25	17
Jun	33	21	21
Jul	32	26	21
Aug	29	19	13
Sep	28	15	13
Oct	30	17	12
Nov	32	18	13
Dec	31	17	11

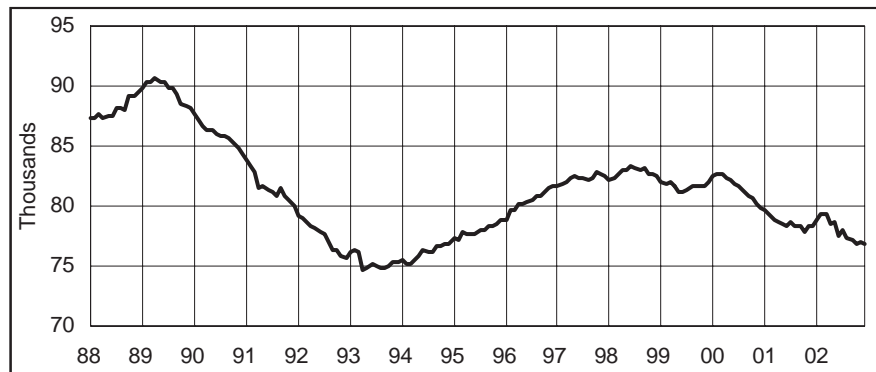
DOL NET BUSINESS STARTS *(12-month moving average)**



Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	47	69	56
Feb	54	72	24
Mar	52	72	30
Apr	57	59	40
May	64	56	46
Jun	69	51	52
Jul	83	49	
Aug	83	39	
Sep	80	39	
Oct	69	43	
Nov	76	31	
Dec	78	23	

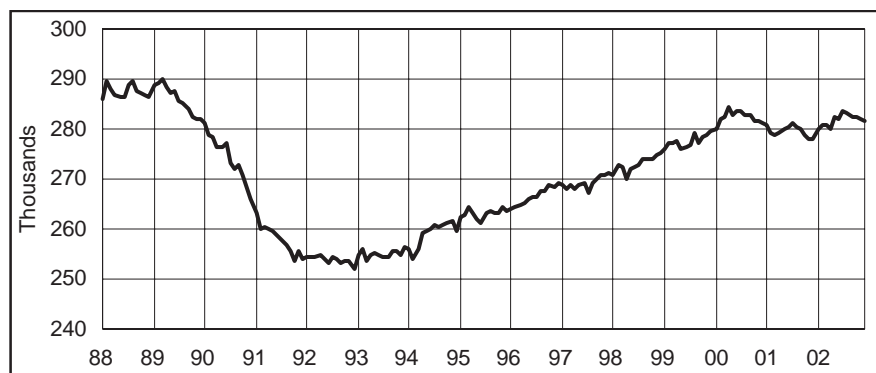
*New series began in 1996; prior years are not directly comparable

WHOLESALE TRADE EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



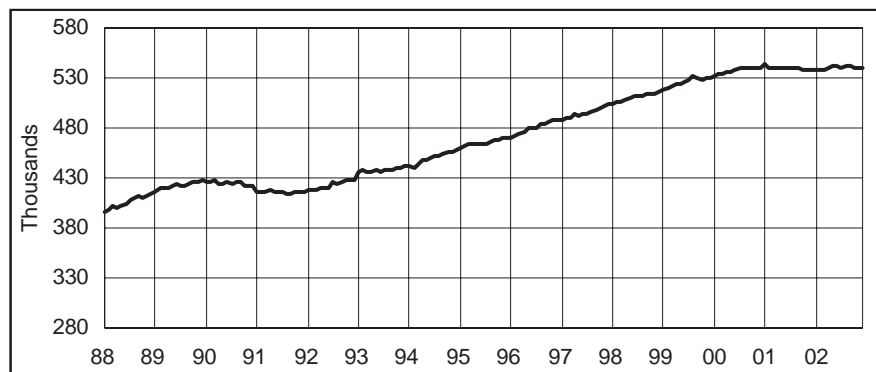
Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	82.5	79.7	78.9
Feb	82.7	79.4	79.4
Mar	82.6	78.9	79.3
Apr	82.3	78.6	78.5
May	82.1	78.5	78.6
Jun	81.8	78.3	77.5
Jul	81.6	78.6	78.0
Aug	81.3	78.4	77.3
Sep	80.9	78.3	77.1
Oct	80.6	77.8	76.9
Nov	80.1	78.3	77.0
Dec	79.9	78.3	76.8

RETAIL TRADE EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



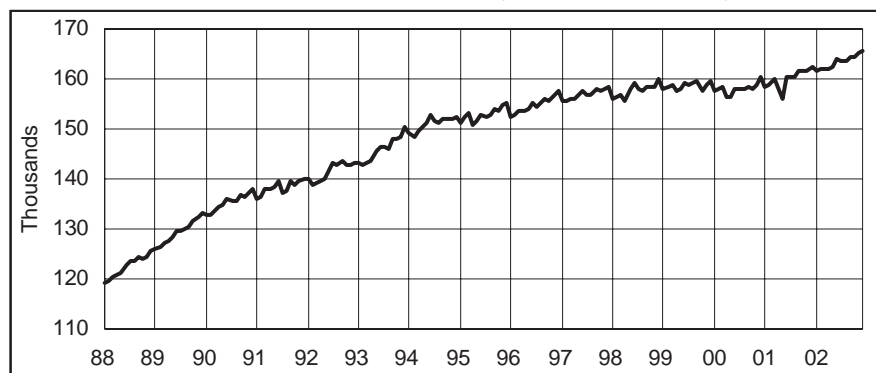
Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	280.2	280.7	280.2
Feb	281.8	279.1	280.9
Mar	282.5	278.8	280.6
Apr	284.4	279.2	280.1
May	282.9	280.0	282.3
Jun	283.6	280.4	282.2
Jul	283.7	281.4	283.7
Aug	282.8	280.5	283.2
Sep	282.9	279.9	282.3
Oct	281.6	278.7	282.4
Nov	281.6	278.2	281.9
Dec	281.3	278.0	281.5

TOTAL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



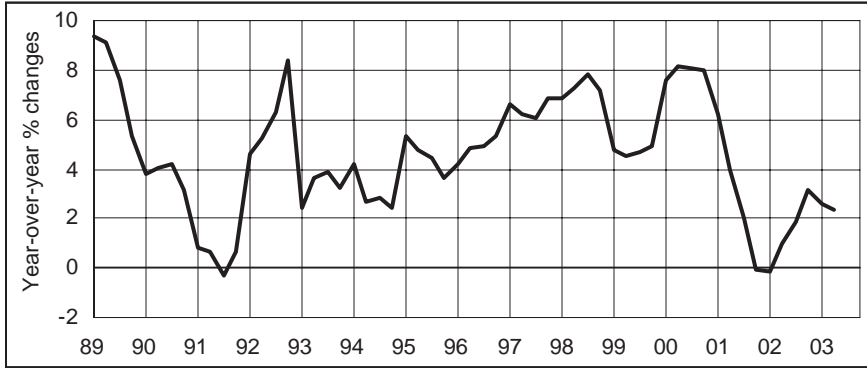
Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	532.4	543.4	538.4
Feb	533.3	540.3	538.3
Mar	534.9	540.3	538.6
Apr	536.0	539.4	540.2
May	535.3	540.1	541.6
Jun	537.9	540.5	541.7
Jul	540.2	539.8	541.0
Aug	539.1	539.7	542.0
Sep	539.4	539.1	541.5
Oct	539.6	538.1	541.0
Nov	539.7	538.1	539.8
Dec	541.0	537.9	539.6

HEALTH SERVICES EMPLOYMENT (Not seasonally adjusted)



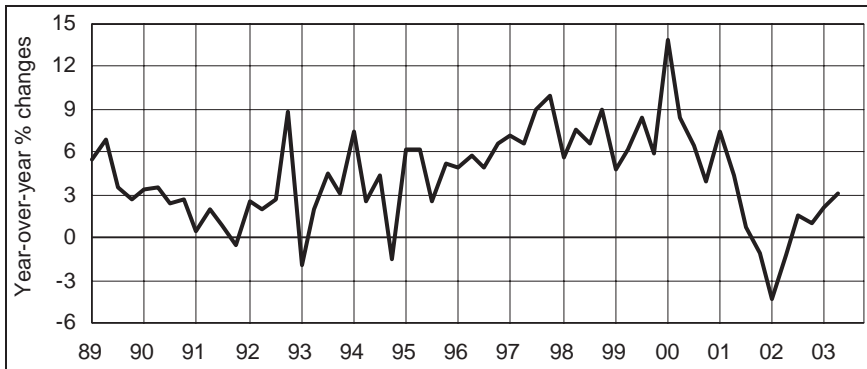
Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	157.4	158.5	161.5
Feb	157.9	158.8	161.8
Mar	158.4	159.8	162.0
Apr	156.6	158.0	161.9
May	156.6	155.8	162.3
Jun	157.9	160.3	163.8
Jul	157.8	160.5	163.7
Aug	157.8	160.5	163.5
Sep	158.3	161.5	164.3
Oct	158.0	161.7	164.6
Nov	159.0	161.6	165.1
Dec	160.4	162.5	165.5

PERSONAL INCOME *(Seasonally adjusted)*



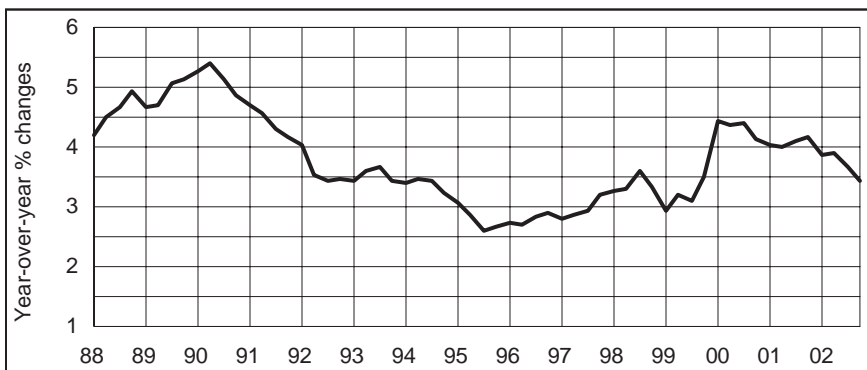
Quarter	2001	2002	2003
First	6.2	-0.2	2.6
Second	3.9	1.0	2.4
Third	2.0	1.9	
Fourth	-0.1	3.2	

UI COVERED WAGES *(Seasonally adjusted)*



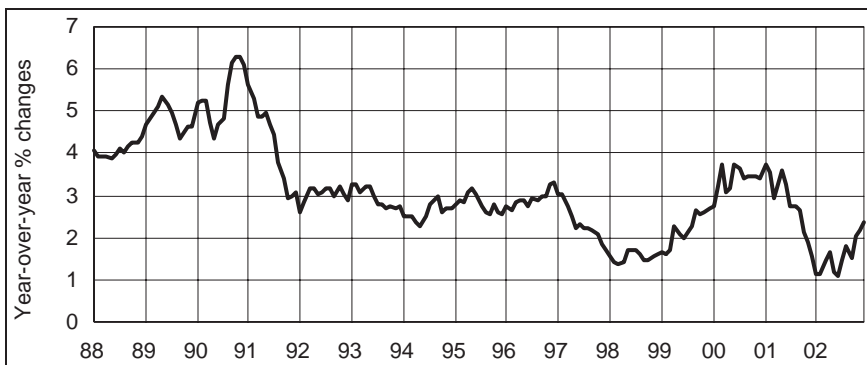
Quarter	2001	2002	2003
First	7.4	-4.3	2.1
Second	4.3	-1.2	3.1
Third	0.7	1.6	
Fourth	-1.2	1.0	

U.S. EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Quarter	2000	2001	2002
First	4.4	4.0	3.9
Second	4.4	3.9	3.9
Third	4.4	4.1	3.7
Fourth	4.3	4.1	3.4

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



Month	2000	2001	2002
Jan	2.7	3.7	1.1
Feb	3.2	3.5	1.1
Mar	3.8	2.9	1.5
Apr	3.1	3.3	1.6
May	3.2	3.6	1.2
Jun	3.7	3.2	1.1
Jul	3.7	2.7	1.5
Aug	3.4	2.7	1.8
Sep	3.5	2.6	1.5
Oct	3.4	2.1	2.0
Nov	3.4	1.9	2.2
Dec	3.4	1.6	2.4

CONNECTICUT



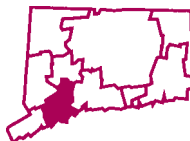
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	1,688,700	1,697,600	-8,900	-0.5	1,685,300
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	301,100	312,600	-11,500	-3.7	303,000
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	63,900	65,300	-1,400	-2.1	65,500
MANUFACTURING	237,200	247,300	-10,100	-4.1	237,500
Durable	164,800	172,300	-7,500	-4.4	164,900
Lumber & Furniture	5,800	5,800	0	0.0	5,800
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,900	2,800	100	3.6	2,800
Primary Metals	7,600	8,400	-800	-9.5	7,600
Fabricated Metals	29,200	30,600	-1,400	-4.6	29,300
Machinery & Computer Equipment	28,200	30,200	-2,000	-6.6	28,300
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	23,500	25,000	-1,500	-6.0	23,400
Transportation Equipment	44,800	45,600	-800	-1.8	44,800
Instruments	17,400	18,200	-800	-4.4	17,400
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	5,400	5,700	-300	-5.3	5,500
Nondurable	72,400	75,000	-2,600	-3.5	72,600
Food	7,900	8,100	-200	-2.5	7,900
Paper	6,800	7,100	-300	-4.2	6,800
Printing & Publishing	21,100	21,700	-600	-2.8	21,100
Chemicals	21,600	22,200	-600	-2.7	21,600
Rubber & Plastics	9,900	10,200	-300	-2.9	10,000
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	5,100	5,700	-600	-10.5	5,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,387,600	1,385,000	2,600	0.2	1,382,300
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	74,900	78,200	-3,300	-4.2	74,700
Transportation	44,300	45,500	-1,200	-2.6	43,900
Motor Freight & Warehousing	12,000	12,100	-100	-0.8	12,100
Other Transportation	32,300	33,400	-1,100	-3.3	31,800
Communications	19,200	20,400	-1,200	-5.9	19,400
Utilities	11,400	12,300	-900	-7.3	11,400
TRADE	372,000	369,900	2,100	0.6	365,900
Wholesale	77,500	79,000	-1,500	-1.9	77,500
Retail	294,500	290,900	3,600	1.2	288,400
General Merchandise	28,700	29,700	-1,000	-3.4	27,400
Food Stores	51,900	51,300	600	1.2	51,300
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	28,200	27,800	400	1.4	28,100
Restaurants	81,800	80,200	1,600	2.0	80,900
Other Retail Trade	103,900	101,900	2,000	2.0	100,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	140,800	142,400	-1,600	-1.1	140,900
Finance	53,100	54,200	-1,100	-2.0	53,100
Banking	24,800	25,000	-200	-0.8	24,900
Securities	15,200	15,600	-400	-2.6	15,200
Insurance	71,900	72,000	-100	-0.1	71,800
Insurance Carriers	60,500	60,700	-200	-0.3	60,500
Real Estate	15,900	16,100	-200	-1.2	15,900
SERVICES	543,400	541,700	1,700	0.3	542,500
Hotels & Lodging Places	11,400	11,500	-100	-0.9	11,200
Personal Services	18,800	18,700	100	0.5	18,300
Business Services	105,600	111,400	-5,800	-5.2	105,500
Health Services	165,500	162,500	3,000	1.8	165,100
Legal & Engineering Services	54,400	54,600	-200	-0.4	54,500
Educational Services	49,500	48,300	1,200	2.5	49,700
Other Services	138,200	134,700	3,500	2.6	138,200
GOVERNMENT	256,500	252,800	3,700	1.5	258,300
Federal	22,000	21,900	100	0.5	21,800
**State, Local & Other Government	234,500	230,900	3,600	1.6	236,500

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

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

BRIDGEPORT LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	180,900	186,600	-5,700	-3.1	180,900
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	39,400	42,100	-2,700	-6.4	39,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	6,000	6,600	-600	-9.1	6,300
MANUFACTURING	33,400	35,500	-2,100	-5.9	33,400
Durable Goods	26,600	28,700	-2,100	-7.3	26,600
Nondurable Goods	6,800	6,800	0	0.0	6,800
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	141,500	144,500	-3,000	-2.1	141,200
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	8,200	8,100	100	1.2	8,200
TRADE	41,100	42,400	-1,300	-3.1	40,600
Wholesale	7,900	8,400	-500	-6.0	7,900
Retail	33,200	34,000	-800	-2.4	32,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	11,500	12,000	-500	-4.2	11,500
SERVICES	59,500	60,600	-1,100	-1.8	59,600
Business Services	12,600	13,100	-500	-3.8	12,700
Health Services	20,900	21,000	-100	-0.5	20,900
GOVERNMENT	21,200	21,400	-200	-0.9	21,300
Federal	1,900	2,000	-100	-5.0	1,900
State & Local	19,300	19,400	-100	-0.5	19,400

For further information on the Bridgeport Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

DANBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

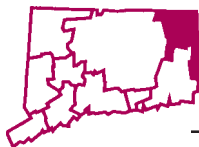
	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	88,000	89,300	-1,300	-1.5	87,400
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	21,500	21,800	-300	-1.4	21,600
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	4,100	4,100	0	0.0	4,100
MANUFACTURING	17,400	17,700	-300	-1.7	17,500
Durable Goods	9,900	10,000	-100	-1.0	9,900
Nondurable Goods	7,500	7,700	-200	-2.6	7,600
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	66,500	67,500	-1,000	-1.5	65,800
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	3,000	3,000	0	0.0	3,000
TRADE	20,800	21,300	-500	-2.3	20,200
Wholesale	2,900	3,000	-100	-3.3	2,800
Retail	17,900	18,300	-400	-2.2	17,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	5,500	5,600	-100	-1.8	5,500
SERVICES	25,100	25,400	-300	-1.2	25,000
GOVERNMENT	12,100	12,200	-100	-0.8	12,100
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,300	11,400	-100	-0.9	11,300

For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

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

DANIELSON LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	21,900	22,000	-100	-0.5	22,100
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,700	6,600	100	1.5	6,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	1,100	1,100	0	0.0	1,100
MANUFACTURING	5,600	5,500	100	1.8	5,600
Durable Goods	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	2,000
Nondurable Goods	3,600	3,500	100	2.9	3,600
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	15,200	15,400	-200	-1.3	15,400
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	500	500	0	0.0	500
TRADE	5,300	5,500	-200	-3.6	5,400
Wholesale	800	900	-100	-11.1	900
Retail	4,500	4,600	-100	-2.2	4,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	500	500	0	0.0	500
SERVICES	5,400	5,400	0	0.0	5,400
GOVERNMENT	3,500	3,500	0	0.0	3,600
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	3,400	3,400	0	0.0	3,500

For further information on the Danielson Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 263-6299.

HARTFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

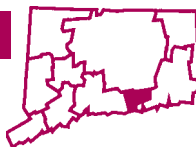
	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	604,500	616,200	-11,700	-1.9	604,300
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	106,200	110,400	-4,200	-3.8	107,000
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	21,400	22,900	-1,500	-6.6	22,100
MANUFACTURING	84,800	87,500	-2,700	-3.1	84,900
Durable Goods	67,900	70,000	-2,100	-3.0	67,900
Primary & Fabricated Metals	14,700	15,700	-1,000	-6.4	14,800
Industrial Machinery	12,600	13,200	-600	-4.5	12,500
Electronic Equipment	6,800	6,900	-100	-1.4	6,800
Transportation Equipment	25,900	26,000	-100	-0.4	25,900
Nondurable Goods	16,900	17,500	-600	-3.4	17,000
Printing & Publishing	7,100	7,200	-100	-1.4	7,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	498,300	505,800	-7,500	-1.5	497,300
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	27,500	28,000	-500	-1.8	27,600
Transportation	15,700	16,300	-600	-3.7	15,700
Communications & Utilities	11,800	11,700	100	0.9	11,900
TRADE	117,400	122,100	-4,700	-3.8	116,100
Wholesale	24,900	26,400	-1,500	-5.7	25,100
Retail	92,500	95,700	-3,200	-3.3	91,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	72,600	73,400	-800	-1.1	72,600
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	11,700	11,800	-100	-0.8	11,700
Insurance Carriers	48,000	48,500	-500	-1.0	48,000
SERVICES	178,600	180,300	-1,700	-0.9	178,100
Business Services	35,500	34,900	600	1.7	33,300
Health Services	59,700	59,200	500	0.8	59,600
GOVERNMENT	102,200	102,000	200	0.2	102,900
Federal	7,100	7,200	-100	-1.4	6,900
State & Local	95,100	94,800	300	0.3	96,000

For further information on the Hartford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

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

LOWER RIVER LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	9,900	9,900	0	0.0	9,900
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	2,900	3,100	-200	-6.5	3,000
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	400	400	0	0.0	500
MANUFACTURING	2,500	2,700	-200	-7.4	2,500
Durable Goods	2,100	2,300	-200	-8.7	2,100
Nondurable Goods	400	400	0	0.0	400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	7,000	6,800	200	2.9	6,900
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	300	300	0	0.0	300
TRADE	2,000	1,900	100	5.3	2,000
Wholesale	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail	1,600	1,500	100	6.7	1,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	300	300	0	0.0	300
SERVICES	3,300	3,300	0	0.0	3,300
GOVERNMENT	1,100	1,000	100	10.0	1,000
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	1,000	900	100	11.1	900

For further information on the Lower River Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 263-6299.

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

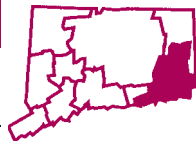
	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	265,100	265,300	-200	-0.1	265,100
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	45,700	46,800	-1,100	-2.4	46,000
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	10,100	10,100	0	0.0	10,500
MANUFACTURING	35,600	36,700	-1,100	-3.0	35,500
Durable Goods	23,100	23,700	-600	-2.5	23,000
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,600	7,000	-400	-5.7	6,600
Electronic Equipment	4,400	4,600	-200	-4.3	4,400
Nondurable Goods	12,500	13,000	-500	-3.8	12,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing	4,700	4,900	-200	-4.1	4,700
Chemicals & Allied	5,200	5,400	-200	-3.7	5,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	219,400	218,500	900	0.4	219,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	15,900	16,300	-400	-2.5	15,900
Communications & Utilities	8,400	8,800	-400	-4.5	8,400
TRADE	53,900	54,500	-600	-1.1	53,300
Wholesale	13,100	13,000	100	0.8	13,000
Retail	40,800	41,500	-700	-1.7	40,300
Eating & Drinking Places	11,100	11,200	-100	-0.9	11,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	12,900	12,800	100	0.8	13,000
Finance	4,100	4,200	-100	-2.4	4,200
Insurance	6,300	6,300	0	0.0	6,300
SERVICES	101,500	99,500	2,000	2.0	101,800
Business Services	16,500	16,000	500	3.1	16,300
Health Services	30,100	29,700	400	1.3	30,000
GOVERNMENT	35,200	35,400	-200	-0.6	35,100
Federal	5,800	5,900	-100	-1.7	5,600
State & Local	29,400	29,500	-100	-0.3	29,500

For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact Jungmin Charles Joo at (860) 263-6293.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Value less than 50*

NEW LONDON LMA

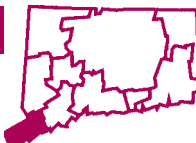


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	144,700	143,400	1,300	0.9	145,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	27,500	27,800	-300	-1.1	27,600
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	4,600	5,200	-600	-11.5	4,700
MANUFACTURING	22,900	22,600	300	1.3	22,900
Durable Goods	12,700	12,500	200	1.6	12,700
Primary & Fabricated Metals	1,400	1,600	-200	-12.5	1,400
Other Durable Goods	11,300	10,900	400	3.7	11,300
Nondurable Goods	10,200	10,100	100	1.0	10,200
Other Nondurable Goods	8,900	8,800	100	1.1	8,900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	117,200	115,600	1,600	1.4	117,400
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	6,000	6,200	-200	-3.2	6,000
TRADE	29,300	28,400	900	3.2	29,300
Wholesale	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
Retail	26,600	25,700	900	3.5	26,600
Eating & Drinking Places	7,600	7,000	600	8.6	7,700
Other Retail	19,100	18,700	400	2.1	18,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3,500	3,400	100	2.9	3,400
SERVICES	37,300	36,300	1,000	2.8	37,400
Personal & Business Services	6,500	6,700	-200	-3.0	6,600
Health Services	11,900	11,500	400	3.5	11,900
GOVERNMENT	41,100	41,300	-200	-0.5	41,300
Federal	2,900	2,800	100	3.6	2,900
State & Local	38,200	38,500	-300	-0.8	38,400
**Local	33,700	34,000	-300	-0.9	34,000

For further information on the New London Labor Market Area contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 263-6292.

STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	204,700	209,200	-4,500	-2.2	203,400
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	28,600	29,700	-1,100	-3.7	28,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	6,300	6,500	-200	-3.1	6,400
MANUFACTURING	22,300	23,200	-900	-3.9	22,300
Durable Goods	10,600	10,700	-100	-0.9	10,600
Industrial Machinery	2,500	2,700	-200	-7.4	2,600
Electronic Equipment	2,100	1,800	300	16.7	2,000
Nondurable Goods	11,700	12,500	-800	-6.4	11,700
Paper, Printing & Publishing	4,200	4,400	-200	-4.5	4,200
Chemicals & Allied	3,900	4,200	-300	-7.1	3,900
Other Nondurable	3,600	3,900	-300	-7.7	3,600
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	176,100	179,500	-3,400	-1.9	174,700
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	9,300	9,900	-600	-6.1	9,300
Communications & Utilities	3,200	3,200	0	0.0	3,200
TRADE	43,000	44,500	-1,500	-3.4	42,100
Wholesale	10,000	10,200	-200	-2.0	9,900
Retail	33,000	34,300	-1,300	-3.8	32,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	28,200	27,900	300	1.1	28,000
SERVICES	76,600	78,100	-1,500	-1.9	76,300
Business Services	20,500	22,600	-2,100	-9.3	20,400
Engineering & Mgmt. Services	11,200	11,700	-500	-4.3	11,200
Other Services	44,900	43,800	1,100	2.5	44,700
GOVERNMENT	19,000	19,100	-100	-0.5	19,000
Federal	1,800	1,900	-100	-5.3	1,700
State & Local	17,200	17,200	0	0.0	17,300

For further information on the Stamford Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

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

TORRINGTON LMA

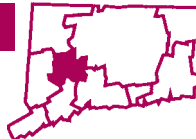


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	29,000	29,500	-500	-1.7	29,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	7,300	7,500	-200	-2.7	7,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	2,400	2,400	0	0.0	2,600
MANUFACTURING	4,900	5,100	-200	-3.9	4,900
Durable Goods	3,700	3,800	-100	-2.6	3,700
Nondurable Goods	1,200	1,300	-100	-7.7	1,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	21,700	22,000	-300	-1.4	21,500
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	300	400	-100	-25.0	300
TRADE	6,800	7,000	-200	-2.9	6,800
Wholesale	600	600	0	0.0	600
Retail	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1	6,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	800	800	0	0.0	800
SERVICES	10,100	10,000	100	1.0	10,000
GOVERNMENT	3,700	3,800	-100	-2.6	3,600
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,500	3,600	-100	-2.8	3,400

For further information on the Torrington Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepiski at (860) 263-6278.

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
	2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	85,900	86,100	-200	-0.2	85,700
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	18,900	20,000	-1,100	-5.5	19,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,400	3,600	-200	-5.6	3,700
MANUFACTURING	15,500	16,400	-900	-5.5	15,700
Durable Goods	12,400	13,200	-800	-6.1	12,600
Primary Metals	1,000	1,100	-100	-9.1	1,100
Fabricated Metals	5,600	5,900	-300	-5.1	5,500
Machinery & Electric Equipment	2,500	3,500	-1,000	-28.6	2,500
Nondurable Goods	3,100	3,200	-100	-3.1	3,100
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,000	1,100	-100	-9.1	1,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	67,000	66,100	900	1.4	66,300
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	3,800	3,800	0	0.0	3,900
TRADE	18,200	18,300	-100	-0.5	17,900
Wholesale	3,300	3,100	200	6.5	3,300
Retail	14,900	15,200	-300	-2.0	14,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3,700	3,600	100	2.8	3,700
SERVICES	28,200	27,700	500	1.8	28,000
Personal & Business	6,100	6,500	-400	-6.2	6,100
Health Services	10,700	10,600	100	0.9	10,600
GOVERNMENT	13,100	12,700	400	3.1	12,800
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	700
State & Local	12,300	11,900	400	3.4	12,100

For further information on the Waterbury Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepiski at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

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

LMA LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	DEC	DEC	CHANGE		NOV
		2002	2001	NO.	%	2002
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,712,400	1,694,300	18,100	1.1	1,719,700
	Employed	1,640,900	1,634,800	6,100	0.4	1,652,200
	Unemployed	71,500	59,500	12,000	20.2	67,500
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	3.5	0.7	---	3.9
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	210,700	212,400	-1,700	-0.8	212,100
	Employed	199,800	202,800	-3,000	-1.5	201,800
	Unemployed	10,900	9,600	1,300	13.5	10,300
	Unemployment Rate	5.2	4.5	0.7	---	4.8
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	108,200	107,900	300	0.3	108,700
	Employed	105,000	104,900	100	0.1	105,700
	Unemployed	3,200	3,000	200	6.7	3,000
	Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.8	0.1	---	2.8
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	34,700	34,100	600	1.8	35,100
	Employed	33,100	32,700	400	1.2	33,600
	Unemployed	1,600	1,300	300	23.1	1,500
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	3.9	0.7	---	4.2
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	579,900	575,500	4,400	0.8	583,200
	Employed	553,500	555,400	-1,900	-0.3	558,600
	Unemployed	26,300	20,100	6,200	30.8	24,500
	Unemployment Rate	4.5	3.5	1.0	---	4.2
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,400	12,100	300	2.5	12,400
	Employed	12,000	11,800	200	1.7	12,000
	Unemployed	400	300	100	33.3	400
	Unemployment Rate	3.0	2.2	0.8	---	2.9
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	281,400	274,600	6,800	2.5	282,100
	Employed	270,600	265,500	5,100	1.9	271,700
	Unemployed	10,800	9,100	1,700	18.7	10,400
	Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.3	0.5	---	3.7
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	157,900	152,100	5,800	3.8	158,900
	Employed	152,100	147,800	4,300	2.9	153,300
	Unemployed	5,800	4,200	1,600	38.1	5,600
	Unemployment Rate	3.7	2.8	0.9	---	3.5
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	190,900	191,000	-100	-0.1	190,200
	Employed	185,600	185,700	-100	-0.1	185,100
	Unemployed	5,300	5,400	-100	-1.9	5,100
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	2.8	0.0	---	2.7
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	38,400	38,200	200	0.5	38,900
	Employed	37,000	36,900	100	0.3	37,600
	Unemployed	1,400	1,300	100	7.7	1,300
	Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.3	0.3	---	3.4
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	115,000	113,200	1,800	1.6	115,300
	Employed	108,600	107,400	1,200	1.1	109,500
	Unemployed	6,400	5,800	600	10.3	5,900
	Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.1	0.4	---	5.1
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	142,298,000	141,912,000	386,000	0.3	142,405,000
	Employed	134,232,000	134,235,000	-3,000	0.0	134,358,000
	Unemployed	8,066,000	7,678,000	388,000	5.1	8,047,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.4	0.3	---	5.7

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

LMA

CONNECTICUT

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS				
	DEC		CHG	NOV	DEC		CHG	NOV	DEC		CHG	NOV	
	2002	2001	Y/Y	2002	2002	2001	Y/Y	2002	2002	2001	Y/Y	2002	
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>													
MANUFACTURING	\$697.46	\$663.86	\$33.60	\$688.55	43.0	41.7	1.3	42.9	\$16.22	\$15.92	\$0.30	\$16.05	
DURABLE GOODS	706.20	670.27	35.93	697.21	42.8	41.4	1.4	42.8	16.50	16.19	0.31	16.29	
Lumber & Furniture	581.09	601.09	-20.00	572.01	42.2	43.4	-1.2	41.3	13.77	13.85	-0.08	13.85	
Stone, Clay and Glass	649.38	655.19	-5.81	664.09	44.6	42.6	2.0	44.6	14.56	15.38	-0.82	14.89	
Primary Metals	657.04	682.68	-25.64	677.54	43.0	43.4	-0.4	44.4	15.28	15.73	-0.45	15.26	
Fabricated Metals	624.14	631.31	-7.18	617.27	42.2	43.3	-1.1	42.6	14.79	14.58	0.21	14.49	
Machinery	745.20	788.10	-42.90	747.77	43.2	44.5	-1.3	43.5	17.25	17.71	-0.46	17.19	
Electrical Equipment	607.45	586.93	20.53	591.07	44.6	42.5	2.1	42.8	13.62	13.81	-0.19	13.81	
Trans. Equipment	916.77	711.29	205.48	887.17	42.7	35.6	7.1	42.9	21.47	19.98	1.49	20.68	
Instruments	622.45	625.33	-2.88	613.82	42.2	41.8	0.4	41.7	14.75	14.96	-0.21	14.72	
Miscellaneous Mfg	678.04	658.37	19.67	677.74	41.7	39.4	2.3	41.2	16.26	16.71	-0.45	16.45	
NONDUR. GOODS	671.58	647.28	24.31	668.99	43.3	42.5	0.8	43.3	15.51	15.23	0.28	15.45	
Food	581.72	548.33	33.40	569.78	42.9	40.2	2.7	43.1	13.56	13.64	-0.08	13.22	
Paper	754.39	733.95	20.44	735.93	45.2	45.0	0.2	44.2	16.69	16.31	0.38	16.65	
Printing & Publishing	690.34	677.95	12.38	675.43	43.2	42.8	0.4	42.4	15.98	15.84	0.14	15.93	
Chemicals	788.14	767.94	20.21	807.23	43.4	41.6	1.8	43.8	18.16	18.46	-0.30	18.43	
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	581.63	575.40	6.23	582.77	42.3	42.0	0.3	42.6	13.75	13.70	0.05	13.68	
CONSTRUCTION	912.00	892.80	19.20	902.38	40.0	39.4	0.6	39.2	22.80	22.66	0.14	23.02	

LMA

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS				
	DEC		CHG	NOV	DEC		CHG	NOV	DEC		CHG	NOV	
	2002	2001	Y/Y	2002	2002	2001	Y/Y	2002	2002	2001	Y/Y	2002	
MANUFACTURING													
Bridgeport	\$686.88	\$655.08	\$31.80	\$693.39	40.5	42.1	-1.6	42.1	\$16.96	\$15.56	\$1.40	\$16.47	
Danbury	659.44	584.06	75.38	603.33	41.5	38.4	3.1	38.7	15.89	15.21	0.68	15.59	
Danielson	594.78	550.22	44.56	583.36	43.1	41.0	2.1	42.8	13.80	13.42	0.38	13.63	
Hartford	793.52	676.08	117.44	757.43	43.6	40.9	2.7	42.6	18.20	16.53	1.67	17.78	
Lower River	597.65	606.32	-8.67	596.73	40.3	42.4	-2.1	40.9	14.83	14.30	0.53	14.59	
New Haven	688.88	692.30	-3.42	680.08	43.6	43.0	0.6	43.4	15.80	16.10	-0.30	15.67	
New London	751.66	739.20	12.46	736.49	41.3	42.0	-0.7	40.4	18.20	17.60	0.60	18.23	
Stamford	623.08	591.64	31.44	602.78	42.1	42.2	-0.1	41.4	14.80	14.02	0.78	14.56	
Torrington	654.93	610.24	44.69	592.81	42.5	40.2	2.3	40.3	15.41	15.18	0.23	14.71	
Waterbury	657.49	630.77	26.72	643.92	39.3	39.3	0.0	40.6	16.73	16.05	0.68	15.86	

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

LMA

	DEC	DEC	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		NOV
	2002	2001	UNITS	%	2002	2001	UNITS	%	2002
	Connecticut	605	636	-31	-4.9	9,607	9,254	353	3.8
LMA:									
Bridgeport	66	82	-16	-19.5	852	909	-57	-6.3	55
Danbury	72	41	31	75.6	890	872	18	2.1	72
Danielson	35	24	11	45.8	372	323	49	15.2	27
Hartford	234	248	-14	-5.6	3,877	3,412	465	13.6	369
Lower River	5	11	-6	-54.5	128	134	-6	-4.5	12
New Haven	48	72	-24	-33.3	1,033	1,094	-61	-5.6	72
New London	47	61	-14	-23.0	883	719	164	22.8	58
Stamford	41	45	-4	-8.9	706	1,046	-340	-32.5	41
Torrington	19	12	7	58.3	276	240	36	15.0	24
Waterbury	38	40	-2	-5.0	590	505	85	16.8	41

Additional data by town are on page 26.

(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

DECEMBER 2002

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%	LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
BRIDGEPORT	210,671	199,759	10,912	5.2	HARTFORD cont...				
Ansonia	8,280	7,734	546	6.6	Burlington	4,309	4,154	155	3.6
Beacon Falls	2,754	2,610	144	5.2	Canton	4,498	4,373	125	2.8
BRIDGEPORT	58,856	54,394	4,462	7.6	Chaplin	1,171	1,126	45	3.8
Derby	6,043	5,742	301	5.0	Colchester	6,560	6,276	284	4.3
Easton	3,169	3,078	91	2.9	Columbia	2,589	2,521	68	2.6
Fairfield	25,467	24,716	751	2.9	Coventry	6,035	5,786	249	4.1
Milford	25,300	24,117	1,183	4.7	Cromwell	6,700	6,460	240	3.6
Monroe	9,541	9,214	327	3.4	Durham	3,458	3,347	111	3.2
Oxford	4,653	4,438	215	4.6	East Granby	2,395	2,313	82	3.4
Seymour	7,503	7,093	410	5.5	East Haddam	4,038	3,875	163	4.0
Shelton	19,392	18,567	825	4.3	East Hampton	6,086	5,818	268	4.4
Stratford	23,665	22,533	1,132	4.8	East Hartford	24,984	23,455	1,529	6.1
Trumbull	16,045	15,521	524	3.3	East Windsor	5,507	5,208	299	5.4
DANBURY	108,234	105,047	3,187	2.9	Ellington	6,743	6,498	245	3.6
Bethel	9,523	9,244	279	2.9	Enfield	22,175	21,311	864	3.9
Bridgewater	931	917	14	1.5	Farmington	10,955	10,588	367	3.4
Brookfield	8,051	7,813	238	3.0	Glastonbury	15,310	14,871	439	2.9
DANBURY	35,672	34,422	1,250	3.5	Granby	5,152	4,998	154	3.0
New Fairfield	6,921	6,720	201	2.9	Haddam	4,083	3,962	121	3.0
New Milford	13,752	13,342	410	3.0	HARTFORD	52,094	47,749	4,345	8.3
Newtown	12,294	11,903	391	3.2	Harwinton	2,881	2,785	96	3.3
Redding	4,344	4,272	72	1.7	Hebron	4,293	4,136	157	3.7
Ridgefield	12,050	11,796	254	2.1	Lebanon	3,280	3,129	151	4.6
Roxbury	1,027	1,012	15	1.5	Manchester	27,712	26,515	1,197	4.3
Sherman	1,656	1,623	33	2.0	Mansfield	8,834	8,667	167	1.9
Washington	2,012	1,981	31	1.5	Marlborough	2,989	2,898	91	3.0
DANIELSON	34,719	33,138	1,581	4.6	Middlefield	2,196	2,113	83	3.8
Brooklyn	3,958	3,837	121	3.1	Middletown	23,442	22,499	943	4.0
Eastford	898	871	27	3.0	New Britain	33,328	31,092	2,236	6.7
Hampton	1,129	1,093	36	3.2	New Hartford	3,560	3,442	118	3.3
KILLINGLY	8,738	8,161	577	6.6	Newington	15,161	14,562	599	4.0
Pomfret	2,174	2,108	66	3.0	Plainville	9,109	8,659	450	4.9
Putnam	4,841	4,610	231	4.8	Plymouth	6,280	5,951	329	5.2
Scotland	880	864	16	1.8	Portland	4,502	4,338	164	3.6
Sterling	1,643	1,570	73	4.4	Rocky Hill	9,467	9,114	353	3.7
Thompson	4,672	4,446	226	4.8	Simsbury	11,213	10,953	260	2.3
Union	406	393	13	3.2	Somers	3,981	3,845	136	3.4
Voluntown	1,376	1,317	59	4.3	Southington	20,654	19,800	854	4.1
Woodstock	4,004	3,867	137	3.4	South Windsor	13,030	12,614	416	3.2
HARTFORD	579,865	553,541	26,324	4.5	Stafford	5,749	5,489	260	4.5
Andover	1,595	1,544	51	3.2	Suffield	5,724	5,528	196	3.4
Ashford	2,105	2,035	70	3.3	Tolland	6,959	6,754	205	2.9
Avon	7,301	7,097	204	2.8	Vernon	16,072	15,479	593	3.7
Barkhamsted	2,014	1,949	65	3.2	West Hartford	27,654	26,759	895	3.2
Berlin	8,824	8,490	334	3.8	Wethersfield	11,873	11,452	421	3.5
Bloomfield	9,743	9,268	475	4.9	Willington	3,361	3,261	100	3.0
Bolton	2,631	2,572	59	2.2	Winchester	5,806	5,430	376	6.5
Bristol	31,141	29,518	1,623	5.2	Windham	9,829	9,310	519	5.3
					Windsor	14,195	13,566	629	4.4
					Windsor Locks	6,530	6,236	294	4.5

LABOR FORCE CONCEPTS

The **civilian labor force** comprises all state residents age 16 years and older classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with criteria described below. Excluded are members of the military and persons in institutions (correctional and mental health, for example).

The **employed** are all persons who did any work as paid employees or in their own business during the survey week, or who have worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member. Persons temporarily absent from a job because of illness, bad weather, strike or for personal reasons are also counted as employed whether they were paid by their employer or were seeking other jobs.

The **unemployed** are all persons who did not work, but were available for work during the survey week (except for temporary illness) and made specific efforts to find a job in the prior four weeks. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES BY TOWN

Town

(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

DECEMBER 2002

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%	LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
LOWER RIVER	12,395	12,020	375	3.0	STAMFORD	190,895	185,597	5,298	2.8
Chester	2,162	2,094	68	3.1	Darien	9,448	9,254	194	2.1
Deep River	2,699	2,608	91	3.4	Greenwich	30,980	30,345	635	2.0
Essex	3,280	3,198	82	2.5	New Canaan	9,378	9,194	184	2.0
Lyme	1,087	1,056	31	2.9	NORWALK	48,055	46,431	1,624	3.4
Westbrook	3,168	3,064	104	3.3	STAMFORD	65,295	63,189	2,106	3.2
NEW HAVEN	281,409	270,587	10,822	3.8	Weston	4,734	4,651	83	1.8
Bethany	2,641	2,578	63	2.4	Westport	14,091	13,791	300	2.1
Branford	16,180	15,659	521	3.2	Wilton	8,914	8,743	171	1.9
Cheshire	13,875	13,524	351	2.5	TORRINGTON	38,363	36,970	1,393	3.6
Clinton	7,589	7,372	217	2.9	Canaan**	691	677	14	2.0
East Haven	15,148	14,501	647	4.3	Colebrook	773	763	10	1.3
Guilford	11,753	11,495	258	2.2	Cornwall	781	766	15	1.9
Hamden	29,659	28,714	945	3.2	Goshen	1,340	1,292	48	3.6
Killingworth	3,063	2,941	122	4.0	Hartland	982	954	28	2.9
Madison	8,537	8,290	247	2.9	Kent**	2,014	1,979	35	1.7
MERIDEN	30,676	29,120	1,556	5.1	Litchfield	4,318	4,191	127	2.9
NEW HAVEN	58,118	55,172	2,946	5.1	Morris	1,114	1,073	41	3.7
North Branford	8,362	8,069	293	3.5	Norfolk	1,050	1,026	24	2.3
North Haven	12,615	12,249	366	2.9	North Canaan**	2,128	2,080	48	2.3
Orange	6,648	6,488	160	2.4	Salisbury**	2,319	2,287	32	1.4
Wallingford	23,273	22,498	775	3.3	Sharon**	1,946	1,918	28	1.4
West Haven	28,911	27,603	1,308	4.5	TORRINGTON	18,217	17,310	907	5.0
Woodbridge	4,361	4,313	48	1.1	Warren	690	654	36	5.2
*NEW LONDON	140,819	135,592	5,227	3.7	WATERBURY	114,985	108,604	6,381	5.5
Bozrah	1,503	1,441	62	4.1	Bethlehem	1,910	1,852	58	3.0
Canterbury	2,845	2,736	109	3.8	Middlebury	3,297	3,203	94	2.9
East Lyme	9,552	9,285	267	2.8	Naugatuck	16,435	15,575	860	5.2
Franklin	1,128	1,091	37	3.3	Prospect	4,703	4,508	195	4.1
Griswold	5,990	5,705	285	4.8	Southbury	6,756	6,546	210	3.1
Groton	17,768	17,122	646	3.6	Thomaston	4,127	3,911	216	5.2
Ledyard	8,214	8,000	214	2.6	WATERBURY	51,924	48,205	3,719	7.2
Lisbon	2,266	2,216	50	2.2	Watertown	12,129	11,605	524	4.3
Montville	10,014	9,631	383	3.8	Wolcott	8,640	8,294	346	4.0
NEW LONDON	13,466	12,784	682	5.1	Woodbury	5,066	4,906	160	3.2
No. Stonington	2,973	2,899	74	2.5	Not Seasonally Adjusted:				
NORWICH	19,311	18,411	900	4.7	CONNECTICUT	1,712,400	1,640,900	71,500	4.2
Old Lyme	3,877	3,802	75	1.9	UNITED STATES	142,298,000	134,232,000	8,066,000	5.7
Old Saybrook	5,999	5,801	198	3.3	Seasonally Adjusted:				
Plainfield	8,872	8,471	401	4.5	CONNECTICUT	1,727,400	1,647,400	80,000	4.6
Preston	2,609	2,538	71	2.7	UNITED STATES	142,542,000	133,952,000	8,590,000	6.0
Salem	2,108	2,028	80	3.8					
Sprague	1,721	1,626	95	5.5					
Stonington	10,003	9,735	268	2.7					
Waterford	10,599	10,270	329	3.1					
*Connecticut portion only. For whole MSA, including Rhode Island towns, see below.					**The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified these five towns as a separate area to report labor force data. For the convenience of our data users, data for these towns are included in the Torrington LMA. For the same purpose, data for the town of Thompson, which is officially part of the Worcester, MA MSA, is included in the Danielson LMA.				
NEW LONDON	157,868	152,094	5,774	3.7					
Hopkinton, RI	4,347	4,228	119	2.7					
Westerly, RI	12,702	12,274	428	3.4					

LABOR FORCE CONCEPTS (Continued)

The **unemployment rate** represents the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

With the exception of those persons temporarily absent from a job or waiting to be recalled to one, persons with no job and who are not actively looking for one are counted as "not in the labor force".

Over the course of a year, the size of the labor force and the levels of employment undergo fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays and the opening and closing of schools. Because these seasonal events follow a regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the monthly statistics. **Seasonal Adjustment** makes it easier to observe cyclical and other nonseasonal developments.

TOWN	DEC 2002	YR TO DATE 2002	2001	TOWN	DEC 2002	YR TO DATE 2002	2001	TOWN	DEC 2002	YR TO DATE 2002	2001
Andover	3	16	8	Griswold	3	46	46	Preston	1	18	18
Ansonia	3	22	22	Groton	5	73	76	Prospect	1	30	45
Ashford	2	28	21	Guilford	4	73	64	Putnam	1	16	16
Avon	9	141	89	Haddam	4	43	32	Redding	1	34	27
Barkhamsted	0	23	24	Hamden	1	143	185	Ridgefield	3	52	79
Beacon Falls	1	14	24	Hampton	2	21	19	Rocky Hill	6	113	73
Berlin	2	141	81	Hartford	0	91	88	Roxbury	1	17	23
Bethany	0	42	16	Hartland	0	6	10	Salem	1	22	17
Bethel	5	61	90	Harwinton	0	30	17	Salisbury	1	21	17
Bethlehem	1	21	20	Hebron	3	40	38	Scotland	0	17	7
Bloomfield	1	61	40	Kent	1	13	9	Seymour	5	111	45
Bolton	0	11	16	Killingly	7	66	60	Sharon	1	10	7
Bozrah	0	8	14	Killingworth	0	34	43	Shelton	2	141	119
Branford	1	60	44	Lebanon	2	39	38	Sherman	2	41	28
Bridgeport	8	64	102	Ledyard	3	57	49	Simsbury	4	36	26
Bridgewater	0	9	5	Lisbon	1	19	19	Somers	1	49	52
Bristol	5	122	117	Litchfield	4	31	29	South Windsor	10	154	69
Brookfield	7	55	31	Lyme	1	22	11	Southbury	7	115	71
Brooklyn	4	53	45	Madison	3	46	67	Southington	6	190	202
Burlington	3	64	80	Manchester	8	95	99	Sprague	1	9	6
Canaan	0	3	3	Mansfield	4	62	43	Stafford	3	49	44
Canterbury	0	35	24	Marlborough	4	44	55	Stamford	7	219	394
Canton	8	152	48	Meriden	4	73	46	Sterling	2	29	18
Chaplin	1	16	14	Middlebury	5	33	30	Stonington	6	83	64
Cheshire	2	52	91	Middlefield	0	12	8	Stratford	12	57	47
Chester	0	12	11	Middletown	17	191	165	Suffield	11	86	68
Clinton	5	104	61	Milford	13	132	191	Thomaston	1	28	34
Colchester	5	75	85	Monroe	2	36	34	Thompson	5	40	47
Colebrook	2	5	7	Montville	2	76	55	Tolland	8	98	92
Columbia	4	25	32	Morris	0	15	14	Torrington	6	102	82
Cornwall	0	10	7	Naugatuck	7	66	47	Trumbull	1	88	123
Coventry	5	52	58	New Britain	2	22	19	Union	0	6	5
Cromwell	4	50	71	New Canaan	4	59	52	Vernon	10	183	154
Danbury	13	261	236	New Fairfield	3	20	35	Voluntown	1	14	12
Darien	5	43	36	New Hartford	4	61	63	Wallingford	5	151	113
Deep River	2	10	18	New Haven	14	59	97	Warren	1	10	12
Derby	1	13	27	New London	0	8	1	Washington	1	8	8
Durham	4	56	44	New Milford	15	137	146	Waterbury	2	69	74
East Granby	0	30	31	Newington	3	51	68	Waterford	6	68	96
East Haddam	1	59	58	Newtown	21	195	164	Watertown	0	62	59
East Hampton	3	91	91	Norfolk	0	2	3	West Hartford	0	52	90
East Hartford	3	8	8	North Branford	2	39	25	West Haven	2	39	41
East Haven	1	39	76	North Canaan	0	5	5	Westbrook	1	42	40
East Lyme	5	86	60	North Haven	2	34	85	Weston	2	29	27
East Windsor	6	57	62	North Stonington	0	32	27	Westport	6	70	71
Eastford	1	8	7	Norwalk	5	121	328	Wethersfield	0	21	29
Easton	2	14	37	Norwich	4	96	31	Willington	2	25	27
Ellington	7	143	84	Old Lyme	5	41	33	Wilton	1	24	21
Enfield	1	50	30	Old Saybrook	2	33	29	Winchester	1	19	14
Essex	1	42	54	Orange	1	16	16	Windham	1	29	26
Fairfield	7	68	46	Oxford	9	92	92	Windsor	4	37	42
Farmington	14	143	115	Plainfield	2	63	49	Windsor Locks	0	17	25
Franklin	0	10	5	Plainville	4	34	10	Wolcott	9	115	76
Glastonbury	9	102	128	Plymouth	4	54	59	Woodbridge	1	29	24
Goshen	3	43	35	Pomfret	1	29	21	Woodbury	5	51	49
Granby	5	75	59	Portland	3	59	83	Woodstock	11	73	66
Greenwich	11	141	117								

For further information on the housing permit data, contact Kolie Chang of DECD at (860) 270-8167.

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

Registrations and terminations of business entities as recorded with the Secretary of the State and the Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) are an indication of new business formation and activity. DOL business starts include new employers which have become liable for unemployment insurance taxes during the quarter, as well as new establishments opened by existing employers. DOL business terminations are those accounts discontinued due to inactivity (no employees) or business closure, and accounts for individual business establishments that are closed by still active employers. The Secretary of the State 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.

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. These data are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

INDIAN GAMING DATA

Indian Gaming Payments are amounts received by the State as a result of the slot compact with the two Federally recognized tribes in Connecticut, which calls for 25 percent of net slot receipts to be remitted to the State. Indian Gaming Slots are the total net revenues from slot machines only received by the two Federally recognized Indian tribes.

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 took 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 six individual largely employment-related series -- the average workweek of manufacturing production and construction workers, Hartford help-wanted advertising index, short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, initial claims for unemployment insurance, total housing permits, and Moody's BAA corporate bond yield. While not employment-sector variables, housing permits are closely related to construction employment and the corporate bond yield adds important information about the movement in interest rates. The coincident employment index is a composite indicator of four individual employment-related series -- the total unemployment rate, nonfarm employment (employer survey), total employment (state residents employed measured by a household survey), and the insured unemployment rate. All data are seasonally adjusted and come from the Connecticut Labor Department, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

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) 263-6275 for a more comprehensive breakout of nonfarm employment estimates. These data are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 6-10 for reference months or quarters)

Leading Employment Index +1.0	Business Activity	Tourism and Travel
Coincident Employment Index -0.2	New Housing Permits -4.9	Info Center Visitors -18.9
Leading General Drift Indicator -0.5	Electricity Sales +4.2	Attraction Visitors -16.5
Coincident General Drift Indicator . -1.0	Retail Sales +11.8	Air Passenger Count +10.8
Business Barometer 0.0	Construction Contracts Index -8.8	Indian Gaming Slots -0.7
	New Auto Registrations -35.2	Travel and Tourism Index +3.6
Total Nonfarm Employment -0.6	Air Cargo Tons -24.4	
	Exports +6.1	
Unemployment +0.6*	Business Starts	Employment Cost Index (U.S.)
Labor Force +1.1	Secretary of the State +1.9	Total +3.2
Employed +0.5	Dept. of Labor -7.7	Wages & Salaries +2.7
Unemployed +15.8		Benefit Costs +4.7
Average Weekly Initial Claims +15.6	Business Terminations	Consumer Prices
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford -35.3	Secretary of the State +4.1	Connecticut +4.3
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate +0.58*	Dept. of Labor -35.8	U.S. City Average +2.4
		Northeast Region +2.9
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg +3.1		NY-NJ-Long Island +4.8
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg +1.9	State Revenues -0.7	Boston-Brockton-Nashua +4.0
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg +5.1	Corporate Tax +77.4	Consumer Confidence
CT Mfg. Production Index -0.1	Personal Income Tax -11.4	Connecticut -17.3
Production Worker Hours -2.2	Real Estate Conveyance Tax +42.5	New England -39.7
Industrial Electricity Sales -1.4	Sales & Use Tax -5.6	U.S. -15.1
Personal Income +2.4	Indian Gaming Payments -1.7	Interest Rates
UI Covered Wages +3.1		Prime -0.59*
		Conventional Mortgage -1.02*

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

THE CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC DIGEST

February 2003

THE CONNECTICUT

ECONOMIC DIGEST

A joint publication of
The Connecticut Departments of Labor and
Economic and Community Development

Opportunity • Guidance • Support



Mailing address:

Connecticut Economic Digest
Connecticut Department of Labor
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114

The Connecticut Economic Digest
is available on the internet at:

<http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi>

or

<http://www.state.ct.us/ecd/research>

We would appreciate your input:

- o What article topics would you like to see covered in future issues?
- o What additional data would you like to see included in the Digest?

Please send your comments, questions, and suggestions regarding the Digest to dol.econdigest@po.state.ct.us. Thank you!

- If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, please check here and return this page (or a photocopy) to the address at left.
- If your address has changed, please check here, make the necessary changes to your address label and return this page to the address at left.
- If you receive more than one copy of this publication, please check here and return this page from the duplicate copy to the address at left.