THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST
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JANUARY 2006

IN THIS ISSUE...

In November...

Nonfarm Employment

Connecticut	1,675,400
Change over month	0.07%
Change over year	0.7%
United States	134,289,000
Change over month	0.16%
Change over year	1.5%

Unemployment Rate

Connecticut	5.1%
United States	5.0%

Consumer Price Index

United States	197.6
Change over year	3.5%

The 2006 Economic Outlook: New Year, New Optimism

By Laura Jaworski, Trade Specialist/Research Analyst, and W. Michael Regan, Community Development Assistant Administrator, DECD

The New Year's fresh start brings with it a renewed sense of opportunity and optimism for the 2006 Connecticut economy. Leading economic indicators forecast a State economy that will continue to slowly grow on a path to recovery from the national recession that hit over four years ago. A review of several key factors follows.

Gross State Product

The most important indicator of Connecticut's economic performance is Gross State Product (GSP), the total dollar value of all final goods and services produced in the State. There is an approximate two-year lag in the State GSP data released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The Connecticut GSP for 2004 was $185 billion. Connecticut's GSP grew 4.5% between 2003-2004, above the national GSP growth of 4.3% during this time period, and significantly greater than the State's average annual GSP growth rate of 2.1% logged between 1997-2003. As the State's GSP trend has been upward, this is an encouraging positive in the Connecticut economic forecast.

Nationally, the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 4.3% in the third quarter of 2005, the best performance in over a year, and considerably higher than the 3.3% GDP increase logged in the second quarter. Such growth indicates an overall healthy economy.

Population

In recent years, Connecticut's population growth has been among the lowest in the U.S., leading to slow growth in the State's labor force, a constraint to job expansion, which is not easily rectified in the short term. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Connecticut's population increased 2.9% between April 2000 and July 2004, versus national growth of 4.3% during that time. Connecticut's population topped 3.5 million for the first time in 2004. Annual gains of 0.5% are forecasted to 2008, with the State adding between 15,000-26,000 persons on average during 2005-2008. A growing population, albeit small, coupled with the State's highly educated and skilled workforce, is a boon to the Connecticut economy.

Employment

The State avoided a potentially catastrophic employment loss when the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) removed the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Groton from the Pentagon's military realignment and closure list. The closure of both, along with the sub base's concomitant impact on Electric Boat, would have devastated the

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State's projected employment growth.

Connecticut's job losses during the recession began earlier and were more prolonged than national job losses. The State lagged most of the nation coming out of the recession, and won't recover all of the 61,400 jobs it lost from July 2000-September 2003 until April 2007; however, a recent FDIC report for Fall 2005 states that Connecticut currently ranks 26th in the nation for job growth, which is up from previous quarters - indicating that Connecticut is moving, albeit slowly, in the right direction. Data from the New England Economic Partnership (NEEP) forecast indicates that Connecticut will add approximately 18,200 positions in 2005. State job growth will continue at a steady pace with 17,600 jobs added in 2006. Top sectors of job creation are expected to include professional services, education and health services and leisure and hospitality. Another employment bright spot is the financial services sector, which will strengthen the State's reputation as a prime location for global financial transactions. The Royal Bank of Scotland's recent decision to locate and expand its U.S. operations in Stamford is a clear example of this sector's growth potential in the state. Manufacturing should hold steady in 2006.

Since May 2005, Connecticut's unemployment rate has been above the national rate for the first time since mid-1997. This is a point of concern in otherwise positive employment indicators. Connecticut's unemployment rate is forecasted by NEEP to remain in the low 5% range annually through 2009. The national unemployment rate is currently 5.0%.

Personal Income

Employment growth equates to income growth. According to the NEEP forecast, nominal personal income data for Connecticut reveals that in 2004 the State had the highest per capita personal income in the U.S. at $45,398, versus a national average of $32,937. This State figure grew by 5.6% from 2003 (versus a national growth of 4.7%), and is expected to grow 5.5% in 2005 and 5.8% in 2006, acting as a positive force in the growth of consumer spending, which translates to greater consumer confidence. This is significant, as spending marks the largest contribution to the GDP.

Energy Costs

A potential factor to slow growth and spending in 2006 are the energy costs associated with higher gasoline, home heating oil, natural gas and electricity prices. Higher energy costs will place a greater burden on Connecticut businesses and consumers, acting as an indirect tax and thereby reducing disposable income and discretionary spending. According to NEEP data, the higher combined costs of gasoline and heating could raise energy expenditures by $1,700 for the average household. Businesses will feel these costs as they power machinery to manufacture goods, run computers, etc. These costs appear to be a part of the economic forecast for at least the next six to twelve months.

Housing

NEEP projections estimate that housing permits will increase 0.8% to 11,935 in 2005, up from 11,837 in 2004. As mortgage rates rise along with land and construction costs, permits are projected to decrease to 11,442 in 2006 and 9,606 in 2007. Such a decrease is modest.

Despite increasing mortgage rates, Connecticut's existing

--Continued on page 5--

OCCUPATION PROFILE

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNICIANS AND MECHANICS

By Jungmin Charles Joo, Associate Research Analyst, DOL

Introduction

Anyone whose car or light truck has broken down knows the importance of the jobs of automotive service technicians and mechanics. They diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. The ability to diagnose the source of a problem quickly and accurately, a most valuable skill, requires good reasoning ability and a thorough knowledge of automobiles. Many technicians consider diagnosing hard-to-find troubles one of their most challenging and satisfying duties.

Nature of the work

The work of automotive service technicians and mechanics has evolved from mechanical repair to a high technology job. Technicians must have an increasingly broad base of knowledge about how vehicles' complex components work and interact, as well as the ability to work with electronic diagnostic equipment and computer-based technical reference materials.

About half of automotive service technicians work a standard 40-hour week, but almost 30 percent work more than 40 hours a week. Many of those working extended hours are self-employed technicians.

Employment

In Connecticut, 8,940 were employed as automotive service technicians and mechanics in 2004. Nationally, they held about 662,840 jobs. The top five states with the highest concentration of workers in this occupation were Delaware, North Dakota, Arizona, Vermont, and Pennsylvania.

The majority worked for automotive repair and maintenance shops, automobile dealers, and retailers and wholesalers of automotive parts, accessories, and supplies. Others found employment in gasoline stations; home and auto supply stores; automotive equipment rental and leasing companies; Federal, State, and local governments; and other organizations. About 16 percent of service technicians were self-employed, more than twice the proportion for all installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.

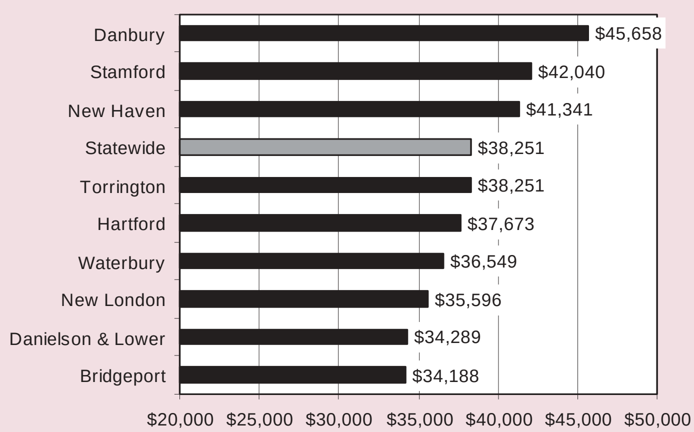
Training and other qualifications

Automotive technology is rapidly increasing in sophistication, and most training authorities strongly recommend that persons seeking automotive service technician and mechanic jobs complete a formal training program in high school or in a postsecondary vocational school. However, some service technicians still learn the trade solely by assisting and learning from experienced workers.

Employers increasingly send experienced automotive service technicians to manufacturer training centers to learn to repair new models or to receive special training in the repair of components, such as electronic fuel injection or air conditioners.

Voluntary certification by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) has become a standard credential for automotive service technicians. Certification is available in 1 or more of 8 different service areas, such as electrical systems, engine repair, brake systems, suspension and steering, and heating and air conditioning. For certification in each area, technicians must have at least 2 years of experience and pass a written examination. Completion of an automotive training program in high school, vocational or trade school, or community or junior college may be substituted for 1 year of experience.

Average annual wage for automotive technicians and mechanics by Labor Market Area, 2004



Earnings

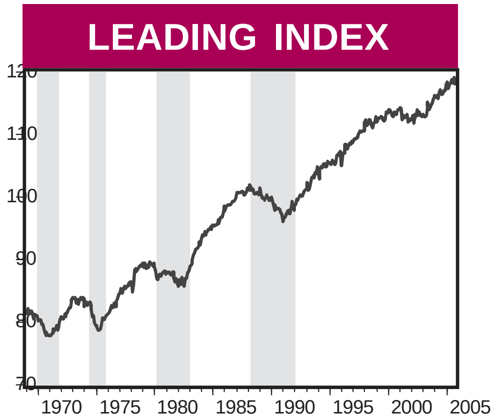
The national average annual wage for automotive service technicians and mechanics was $34,760, while Connecticut's was higher at $38,251 in 2004. The top five paying states for this occupation were Alaska ($45,110), Delaware ($43,040), California ($40,310), Massachusetts ($39,870), and District of Columbia ($38,940). As the chart shows, the earnings among the regions of the State ranged from $34,188 in the Bridgeport Labor Market Area to $45,658 in the Danbury Labor Market Area.

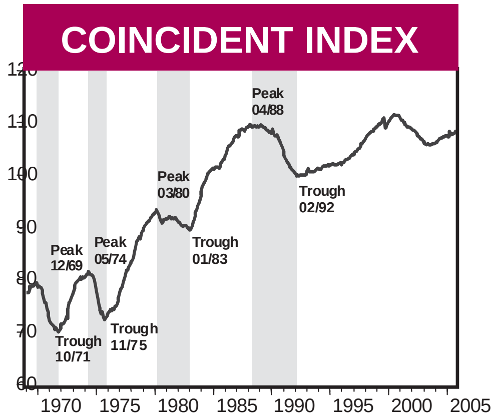
Job outlook

Job opportunities in this occupation are expected to be very good for persons who complete automotive training programs in high school, vocational and technical schools, or community colleges. Persons with good diagnostic and problem-solving skills, and whose training includes basic electronics skills, should have the best opportunities. Automotive service technicians and mechanics must continually adapt to changing technology and repair techniques as vehicle components and systems become increasingly sophisticated.

Nationally, employment of automotive service technicians and mechanics is expected to grow by 12 percent, which is about as fast as the average growth for all occupations through 2012. In Connecticut, it is also expected to grow by 12 percent, adding nearly 400 openings each year. ■

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Connecticut Department of Labor





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.

Connecticut Lags the Nation in Labor Productivity Growth Since 2000

In October, the revised CCEA-ECRI Connecticut coincident employment index rose on a year-to-year basis from 107.89 in October 2004 to 108.39 in October 2005. Three components of this index are positive contributors, with a lower insured unemployment rate, higher total non-farm employment, and higher total employment. A higher total unemployment rate is the sole negative contributor. On a sequential month-to-month basis, the revised CCEA-ECRI Connecticut coincident employment index rose marginally from 108.30 in September 2005 to 108.39 in October 2005. Higher total non-farm employment is the sole positive contributor to this index, while a marginally higher insured unemployment rate, and lower total employment contributed negatively to this index. The total unemployment rate remained constant at 5.3 percent. The revised Connecticut Coincident Index published by the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank also increased from 148.85 in October 2004 to 153.84 in October 2005, and increased from 153.52 in September 2005 to 153.84 in October 2005.

The revised CCEA-ECRI Connecticut leading employment index rose from 116.96 in October 2004 to 117.92 in October 2005. A lower short duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate is the only positive contributor to this index. A higher Moody's Baa corporate bond yield, a decrease in total housing permits, higher initial claims for unemployment insurance, and lower average weekly hours worked in manufacturing and construction are negative contributors to this index, while the Hartford help-wanted advertising index remained constant at its level of a year ago. On a sequential month-to-month basis, the revised CCEA-ECRI Connecticut leading employment index fell from 118.77 in August to 117.92 in October 2005. A higher Hartford help-wanted advertising index is the only positive contributor to this index. A higher Moody's Baa corporate bond yield, a large drop in total housing permits, higher initial claims for unemployment insurance, a higher short duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, and lower average weekly hours worked in manufacturing and construction are the five negative contributors.

As Connecticut enters 2006, it faces many challenges. We escaped the submarine base closing in Groton only to have Electric Boat announced that it plans to reduce its employment by between 2,000 to 2,400 jobs in 2006. Although Foxwoods Casino announced a major expansion, the new jobs created will probably not match the lost jobs at Electric Boat in terms of pay and other benefits. In May 2005, I reported here a study by the Federal Depository Insurance Corp. (FDIC) that documented the poor employment growth rate in Connecticut for the past fifteen years. I recently came across a study by Paul Bauer and Yoonsoo Lee, both of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, titled "Labor Productivity Growth across States," published in Economic Commentary by the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank in June 2005. Because of a lack of state level data, they measure labor productivity as output per worker rather than the more conventional output per hour measure. Nevertheless, several disturbing facts for Connecticut emerged from this study. From 1977 to 2000, Connecticut led the nation in labor productivity growth, averaging 2.8 percent per year. Since the end of the national recession in 2000, Connecticut's average labor productivity growth rate for 2001 and 2002 (the last year for which we have data), is 1.47 percent, which lags the national average of 2.84 percent for the same period, putting Connecticut in the bottom 25 percent among the states. Why should we care about labor productivity? First, labor productivity growth is closely related to wage growth and hence the living standard. Second, a state with more productive labor is more competitive than states with lower labor productivity, all else being equal.

As we enter 2006, the need for more rapid job growth is getting much attention in Connecticut. However, I have yet to hear anyone sounding a warning about labor productivity growth. Let me be the first to do so and let me emphasize the need to heed Connecticut's lagging labor productivity growth; otherwise, Connecticut's competitive edge will erode further.

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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 the indexes are described in the Technical Notes on page 23.

--Continued from page 2--

home sales market is also expected to be strong. Sales figures in 2005 are projected to increase by 2,700 units from 2004 to 56,800, while sales of existing homes are projected to be 52,000 in 2006, as the average price continues to rise through 2009.

As in the rest of the country, Connecticut's construction and housing markets continue to be hot sectors. New U.S. home sales hit a record in October, rising 13%, the most recent month for which data is available.

Federal Reserve and Interest Rates

As mentioned above, interest rates impact the housing market. The Federal Reserve is likely to continue gradually raising interest rates. According to Economy.com, the Federal Reserve is on an inflation-fighting offensive, and projects that in addition to rising mortgage rates, the Federal Funds rate (the interest rate on 10-year Treasury Bonds) will increase in 2006. According to forecasts, mortgage rates are expected to rise to 6.71% in 2006, and average 7.0% annually between 2006-2009.

Exports

Exports increase a state's GSP and lead to job creation. In 2004, Connecticut registered $8.56 billion in exports, up from $8.14 billion in 2003. Year-to-date third quarter 2005 figures from the World Institute for Strategic Economic Research (WISER), the most recent available data, indicate that Connecticut exports are up 11.54% over the same time last year. Top export sectors continue to be transportation equipment and optical and medical instruments. As in the past, Canada continues to be Connecticut's top export destination. Growing Connecticut export markets to watch include Belgium, Brazil, China, Malaysia and the Netherlands.

Although Connecticut is a small state geographically, the State's export sector is sizable, and outperforms national export figures. According to a recent report prepared for the Eastern Trade Council, Connecticut's trade value in dollars increased 40% between 1996-2004, while the U.S. figure increased 31% over the same time. Connecticut's continued growth in exports is a positive for the State's economy.

International topics to monitor include the national trade deficit, future bilateral trade agreements, energy imports as a result of the Gulf Coast hurricanes, and Chinese currency valuation issues. The growth in Connecticut's exports, however, is a double-edged sword in that it makes Connecticut's economy more susceptible to international pressures. A volatile global market place could easily translate into increased volatility in Connecticut's economy.

Conclusion

Overall, the economic outlook for 2006 is one of optimism. Positive indicators and slow to moderate growth in GSP, employment, personal income and exports, signal continued economic recovery. Growth will be slow and uneven and high energy costs, the economic fallout from hurricanes Rita and Wilma, the continuing war in Iraq, and increasing producer costs will work to further constrain growth; however, the U.S. economy has proven to be very resilient in recent years and positive signs outweigh negative ones for Connecticut. All in all, the emerging picture for 2006 is encouraging. ■

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

(Seasonally adjusted)	3Q 2005	3Q 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	2Q 2005
Employment Indexes (1992=100)*					
Leading	118.7	116.7	2.1	1.8	118.3
Coincident	108.1	107.5	0.6	0.5	108.0
General Drift Indicator (1986=100)*					
Leading	104.0	103.2	0.8	0.8	103.6
Coincident	102.4	102.8	-0.4	-0.4	103.6
Banknorth Business Barometer (1992=100)**	118.0	115.4	2.6	2.3	118.0

*Sources: *The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut*
***Banknorth 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 **Banknorth 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.

Total nonfarm employment increased over the year.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM	1675.4	1,664.5	10.9	0.7	1,674.3
Construction	71.0	68.1	2.9	4.3	71.0
Manufacturing	196.9	197.7	-0.8	-0.4	196.8
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	315.2	312.9	2.3	0.7	316.7
Information	39.1	39.2	-0.1	-0.3	38.7
Financial Activities	142.1	140.4	1.7	1.2	142.3
Professional and Business Services	200.8	200.1	0.7	0.3	199.4
Leisure and Hospitality	129.1	128.3	0.8	0.6	129.7
Government*	242.6	241.8	0.8	0.3	242.8

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor (see page 12 for other industries, not seasonally adjusted)
** Includes Native American tribal government employment*

Initial claims for unemployment insurance fell from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted)	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	5.1	4.6	0.5	---	5.3
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,824.4	1,794.1	30.3	1.7	1,821.3
Employed (000s)	1,730.7	1,711.4	19.3	1.1	1,724.5
Unemployed (000s)	93.7	82.7	11.0	13.3	96.8
Average Weekly Initial Claims	4,048	4,170	-122	-2.9	4,320
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	11	10	1	10.0	10
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.48	2.61	-0.12	---	2.65

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

The production worker weekly earnings rose over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

(Not seasonally adjusted)	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005	SEP 2005
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	42.4	-0.1	-0.2	42.0	--
Average Hourly Earnings	19.29	18.77	0.52	2.8	19.18	--
Average Weekly Earnings	815.97	795.85	20.12	2.5	805.56	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (1986=100)*	118.4	108.7	9.7	9.0	116.8	122.8
Production Worker Hours (000s)	5,039	5,018	21	0.4	4,982	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)**	403	363	40.0	11.0	451	460

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Energy
**Seasonally adjusted.*
***Latest two months are forecasted.*

Personal income for first quarter 2006 is forecasted to increase 4.1 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME

(Seasonally adjusted) (Annualized; $ Millions)	1Q* 2006	1Q 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	4Q* 2005
Personal Income	$172,810	$166,079	$6,731	4.1	$171,669
UI Covered Wages	$87,116	$86,606	$510	0.6	$87,195

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: September 2005 release
**Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor*

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

New auto registrations decreased from a year ago.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	SEP 2005	2,689	-4.4	25,057	24,509	2.2
Retail Sales (Bil. $)	OCT 2003	3.28	-0.6	34.19	34.55	-1.0
Construction Contracts Index (1980=100)	NOV 2005	374.0	26.4	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	NOV 2005	18,004	-18.9	219,230	214,848	2.0
Air Cargo Tons	NOV 2005	13,714	7.3	145,812	140,692	3.6
Exports (Bil. $)	3Q 2005	2.40	20.0	7.06	6.33	11.5

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

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

Net business formation, as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Department of Labor, was up over the year.

	MO/QTR	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	NOV 2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Department of Labor*	2Q 2005	2,269	-1.3	5,009	5,199	-3.7
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	NOV 2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Department of Labor*	2Q 2005	1,290	-29.7	2,619	3,667	-28.6

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

STATE REVENUES

Total revenues were up from a year ago.

(Millions of dollars)	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	% CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
TOTAL ALL REVENUES*	713.6	708.4	0.7	11,655.3	10,497.5	11.0
Corporate Tax	21.8	25.3	-13.8	599.7	551.5	8.7
Personal Income Tax	305.9	289.2	5.8	5,528.2	4,894.9	12.9
Real Estate Conv. Tax	16.4	16.8	-2.4	226.1	197.0	14.8
Sales & Use Tax	255.0	252.4	1.0	3,406.7	3,268.3	4.2
Indian Gaming Payments**	32.3	31.8	1.6	386.9	377.9	2.4

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.*

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

Gaming slots fell over the year.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
Info Center Visitors	NOV 2005	21,979	-17.4	358,922	412,335	-13.0
Major Attraction Visitors	NOV 2005	112,550	11.1	1,624,609	1,726,133	-5.9
Air Passenger Count	NOV 2005	606,638	4.8	6,790,904	6,156,002	10.3
Indian Gaming Slots (Mil.$)*	NOV 2005	1,554	-0.3	18,156	18,560	-2.2
Travel and Tourism Index**	3Q 2005	---	0.7	---	---	---

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

Compensation cost for the nation rose 3.0 percent over the year.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted SEP 2005	JUN 2005	3-Mo % Chg	Not Seasonally Adjusted SEP 2005	SEP 2004	12-Mo % Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	179.8	178.4	0.8	179.6	174.4	3.0
Wages and Salaries	169.4	168.4	0.6	169.5	165.9	2.2
Benefit Costs	206.2	203.6	1.3	206.4	196.9	4.8
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	178.9	173.7	3.0
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	168.5	164.9	2.2

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

U.S. inflation rate increased 3.5 percent over the year.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	MO/QTR	LEVEL	% CHANGE Y/Y	P/P*
CONSUMER PRICES				
CPI-U (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	NOV 2005	197.6	3.5	-0.8
Purchasing Power of $ (1982-84=$1.00)	NOV 2005	$0.506	-3.3	0.8
Northeast Region	NOV 2005	210.0	3.7	-0.7
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	NOV 2005	215.3	3.9	-0.6
Boston-Brockton-Nashua**	NOV 2005	218.6	3.3	-0.7
CPI-W (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	NOV 2005	193.4	3.5	-0.9
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)				
Connecticut***	3Q 2005	NA	NA	NA
New England	NOV 2005	93.1	5.2	30.0
U.S.	NOV 2005	98.9	6.8	16.1

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; The Conference Board
**Change over prior monthly or quarterly period*
***The Boston CPI can be used as a proxy for New England and is measured every other month.*
****The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut*

30-year conventional mortgage rate rose to 6.33 percent over the month.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	NOV 2005	OCT 2005	NOV 2004
Prime	7.00	6.75	4.93
Federal Funds	4.00	3.78	1.93
3 Month Treasury Bill	3.97	3.79	2.11
6 Month Treasury Bill	4.30	4.13	2.32
1 Year Treasury Bill	4.33	4.18	2.50
3 Year Treasury Note	4.43	4.29	3.09
5 Year Treasury Note	4.45	4.33	3.53
7 Year Treasury Note	4.48	4.38	3.88
10 Year Treasury Note	4.54	4.46	4.19
20 Year Treasury Note	4.83	4.74	4.89
Conventional Mortgage	6.33	6.07	5.73

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

All nine states in the region added jobs over the year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
Connecticut	1,675.4	1,664.5	10.9	0.7	1,674.3
Maine	618.4	615.7	2.7	0.4	618.1
Massachusetts	3,200.8	3,186.6	14.2	0.4	3,200.3
New Hampshire	641.2	631.0	10.2	1.6	640.9
New Jersey	4,064.6	4,028.4	36.2	0.9	4,061.1
New York	8,547.4	8,483.6	63.8	0.8	8,538.7
Pennsylvania	5,730.1	5,662.4	67.7	1.2	5,726.4
Rhode Island	495.4	489.3	6.1	1.2	494.5
Vermont	309.1	305.4	3.7	1.2	309.3
United States	134,289.0	132,294.0	1,995.0	1.5	134,074.0

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

LABOR FORCE

Eight of nine states posted increases in the labor force from last year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
Connecticut	1,824.4	1,794.1	30.3	1.7	1,821.3
Maine	721.0	702.7	18.3	2.6	719.4
Massachusetts	3,388.2	3,386.4	1.8	0.1	3,378.8
New Hampshire	740.6	724.7	15.9	2.2	740.6
New Jersey	4,497.0	4,392.4	104.6	2.4	4,500.7
New York	9,435.4	9,372.7	62.7	0.7	9,474.9
Pennsylvania	6,310.3	6,320.2	-9.9	-0.2	6,314.3
Rhode Island	580.3	561.0	19.3	3.4	576.7
Vermont	357.7	354.0	3.7	1.0	357.2
United States	150,176.0	148,313.0	1,863.0	1.3	150,079.0

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

One of nine states showed a decrease in its unemployment rate over the year.

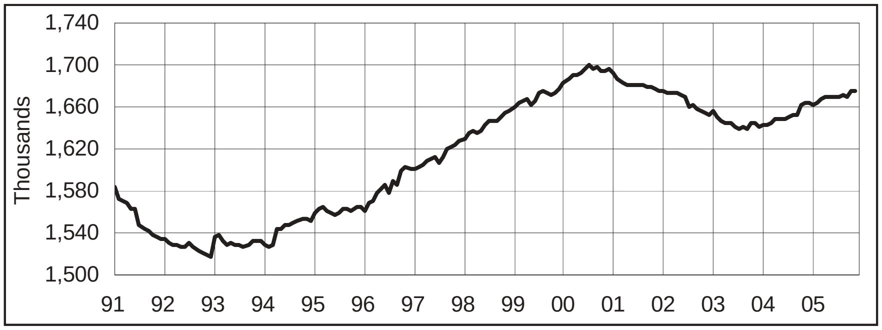
(Seasonally adjusted)	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE	OCT 2005
Connecticut	5.1	4.6	0.5	5.3
Maine	4.9	4.6	0.3	5.2
Massachusetts	4.9	4.8	0.1	4.8
New Hampshire	3.8	3.4	0.4	3.9
New Jersey	4.6	4.4	0.2	3.9
New York	5.4	5.4	0.0	4.8
Pennsylvania	5.1	5.6	-0.5	4.6
Rhode Island	5.2	4.8	0.4	5.4
Vermont	3.5	3.4	0.1	3.9
United States	5.0	5.4	-0.4	5.0

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

STATE

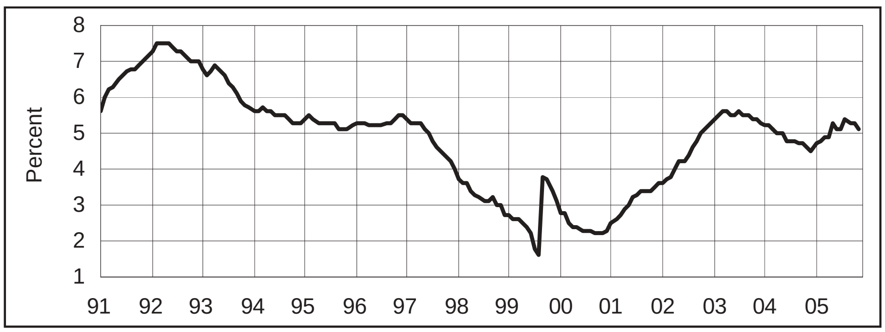
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



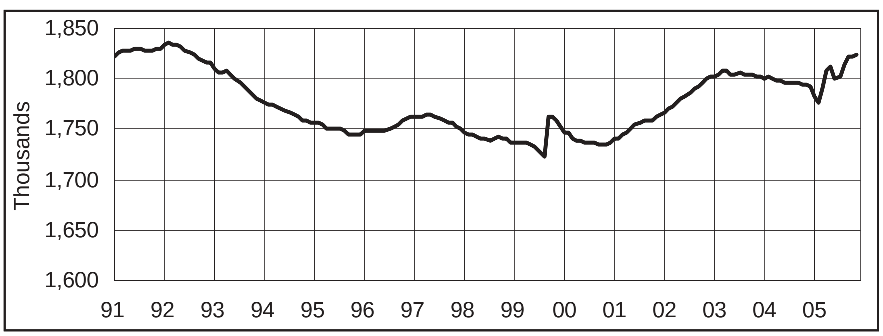
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	1,656.7	1,642.1	1,661.0
Feb	1,650.7	1,643.2	1,664.2
Mar	1,647.1	1,644.3	1,666.7
Apr	1,644.1	1,648.0	1,669.6
May	1,644.1	1,648.1	1,669.8
Jun	1,641.8	1,648.6	1,670.3
Jul	1,639.1	1,650.7	1,670.2
Aug	1,640.1	1,652.1	1,671.2
Sep	1,638.8	1,652.4	1,670.0
Oct	1,645.7	1,662.1	1,674.3
Nov	1,645.0	1,664.5	1,675.4
Dec	1,641.1	1,664.6	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



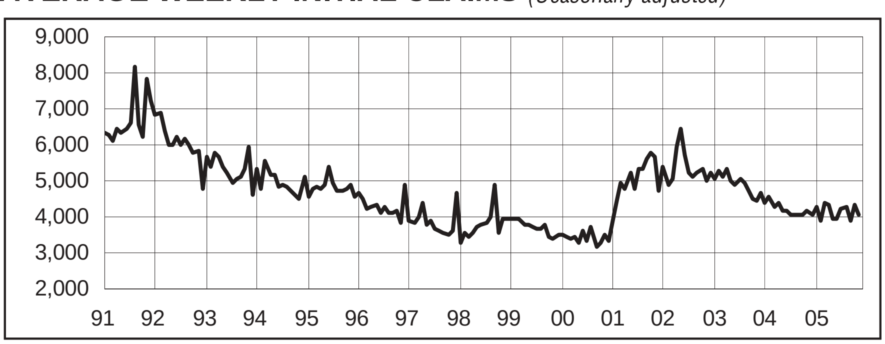
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	5.4	5.2	4.7
Feb	5.5	5.2	4.8
Mar	5.6	5.1	4.9
Apr	5.6	5.0	4.9
May	5.5	5.0	5.3
Jun	5.5	4.8	5.1
Jul	5.6	4.8	5.1
Aug	5.5	4.8	5.4
Sep	5.5	4.7	5.3
Oct	5.4	4.7	5.3
Nov	5.4	4.6	5.1
Dec	5.3	4.5	

LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



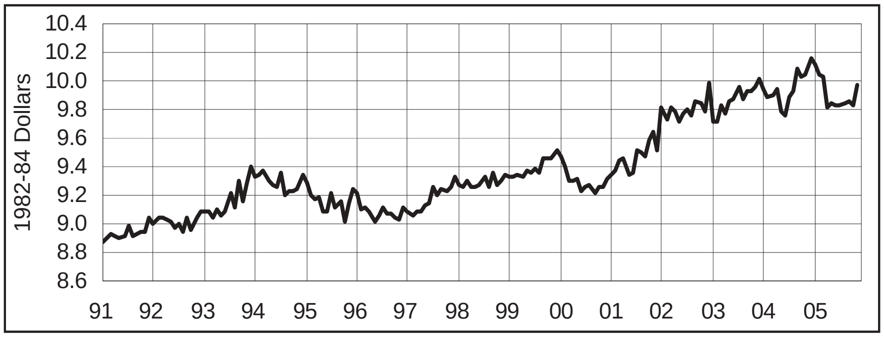
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	1,803.3	1,800.9	1,782.3
Feb	1,805.2	1,802.0	1,776.7
Mar	1,808.0	1,801.2	1,789.6
Apr	1,807.4	1,798.3	1,808.0
May	1,804.5	1,799.0	1,812.9
Jun	1,805.2	1,796.8	1,800.5
Jul	1,806.2	1,796.8	1,802.0
Aug	1,805.1	1,797.0	1,813.7
Sep	1,804.7	1,795.5	1,822.1
Oct	1,803.4	1,794.9	1,821.3
Nov	1,803.3	1,794.1	1,824.4
Dec	1,802.7	1,791.5	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*



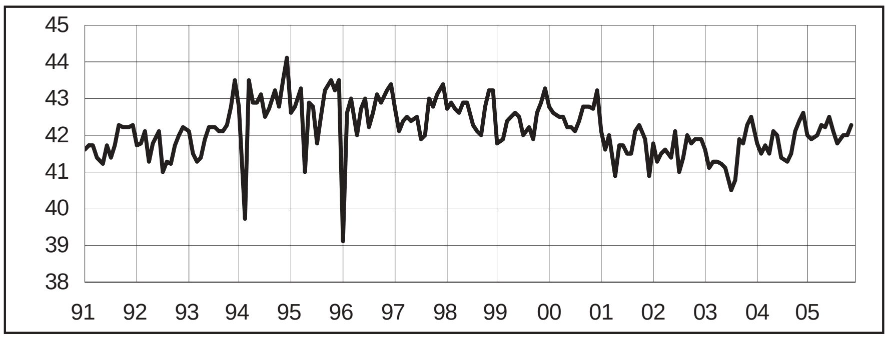
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	5,038	4,382	4,287
Feb	5,295	4,564	3,915
Mar	5,126	4,299	4,404
Apr	5,319	4,376	4,320
May	5,002	4,173	3,940
Jun	4,897	4,179	3,971
Jul	5,072	4,033	4,197
Aug	4,924	4,061	4,261
Sep	4,720	4,060	3,907
Oct	4,504	4,037	4,320
Nov	4,445	4,170	4,048
Dec	4,675	4,030	

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



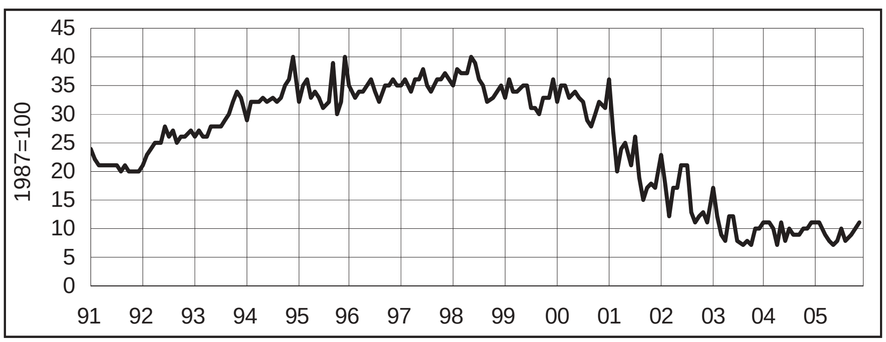
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	$9.71	$9.94	$10.12
Feb	$9.72	$9.89	$10.04
Mar	$9.83	$9.90	$10.03
Apr	$9.78	$9.94	$9.82
May	$9.86	$9.78	$9.84
Jun	$9.88	$9.76	$9.83
Jul	$9.96	$9.88	$9.82
Aug	$9.87	$9.92	$9.85
Sep	$9.93	$10.08	$9.85
Oct	$9.93	$10.02	$9.83
Nov	$9.95	$10.05	$9.97
Dec	$10.01	$10.16	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



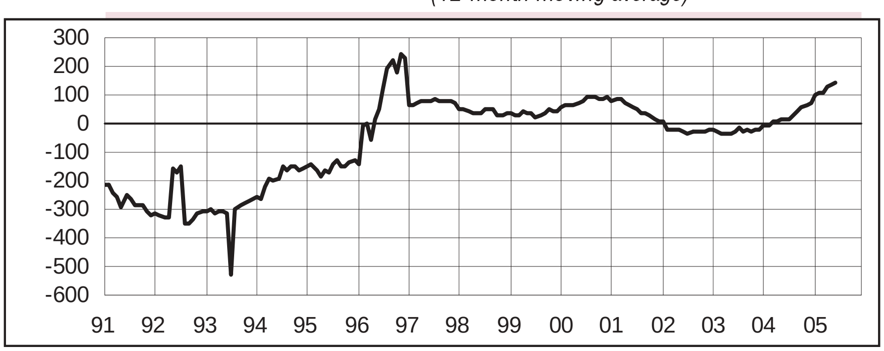
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	41.6	41.8	42.0
Feb	41.1	41.5	41.9
Mar	41.3	41.7	42.0
Apr	41.3	41.5	42.3
May	41.2	42.1	42.2
Jun	41.1	42.0	42.5
Jul	40.5	41.4	42.1
Aug	40.8	41.3	41.8
Sep	41.9	41.5	42.0
Oct	41.8	42.1	42.0
Nov	42.3	42.4	42.3
Dec	42.5	42.6	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	17	11	11
Feb	12	11	11
Mar	9	10	9
Apr	8	7	8
May	12	11	7
Jun	12	8	8
Jul	8	10	10
Aug	7	9	8
Sep	8	9	9
Oct	7	10	10
Nov	10	10	11
Dec	10	11	

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



Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	-24	-8	98
Feb	-29	-4	105
Mar	-32	6	106
Apr	-35	10	126
May	-34	14	133
Jun	-31	15	146
Jul	-17	15	
Aug	-25	31	
Sep	-22	42	
Oct	-27	60	
Nov	-24	66	
Dec	-20	72	

*New series began in 2001; prior years are not directly comparable

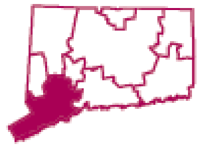
CONNECTICUT

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**1,693,000**	**1,681,800**	**11,200**	**0.7**	**1,684,000**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**271,100**	**268,900**	**2,200**	**0.8**	**271,200**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**73,600**	**70,600**	**3,000**	**4.2**	**74,100**
MANUFACTURING	**197,500**	**198,300**	**-800**	**-0.4**	**197,100**
Durable Goods	**147,300**	**147,500**	**-200**	**-0.1**	**147,100**
Fabricated Metal	34,200	34,100	100	0.3	34,100
Machinery	18,500	18,700	-200	-1.1	18,500
Computer and Electronic Product	15,100	15,600	-500	-3.2	15,100
Electrical Equipment	10,700	10,500	200	1.9	10,600
Transportation Equipment	43,700	43,300	400	0.9	43,600
Aerospace Product and Parts	30,400	29,900	500	1.7	30,300
Non-Durable Goods	**50,200**	**50,800**	**-600**	**-1.2**	**50,000**
Printing and Related	8,100	8,400	-300	-3.6	8,100
Chemical	17,100	17,100	0	0.0	17,100
Plastics and Rubber Products	7,700	7,700	0	0.0	7,600
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**1,421,900**	**1,412,900**	**9,000**	**0.6**	**1,412,800**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**321,400**	**319,100**	**2,300**	**0.7**	**315,100**
Wholesale Trade	67,200	65,900	1,300	2.0	66,900
Retail Trade	201,500	201,800	-300	-0.1	195,800
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	23,200	23,200	0	0.0	23,300
Building Material	16,400	15,900	500	3.1	16,500
Food and Beverage Stores	44,400	44,400	0	0.0	43,900
General Merchandise Stores	28,700	28,500	200	0.7	26,800
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	52,700	51,400	1,300	2.5	52,400
Utilities	8,600	8,800	-200	-2.3	8,600
Transportation and Warehousing	44,100	42,600	1,500	3.5	43,800
INFORMATION	**39,100**	**39,200**	**-100**	**-0.3**	**38,800**
Telecommunications	13,000	13,700	-700	-5.1	13,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**142,300**	**140,600**	**1,700**	**1.2**	**142,300**
Finance and Insurance	121,700	120,300	1,400	1.2	121,600
Credit Intermediation	31,800	31,300	500	1.6	31,900
Securities and Commodity Contracts	19,900	19,000	900	4.7	19,800
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	65,100	65,300	-200	-0.3	65,000
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	20,600	20,300	300	1.5	20,700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**202,000**	**201,300**	**700**	**0.3**	**201,100**
Professional, Scientific	87,800	88,100	-300	-0.3	87,400
Legal Services	14,600	14,700	-100	-0.7	14,700
Computer Systems Design	19,100	18,900	200	1.1	19,100
Management of Companies	24,400	25,600	-1,200	-4.7	24,500
Administrative and Support	89,800	87,600	2,200	2.5	89,200
Employment Services	31,800	31,400	400	1.3	31,500
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**276,700**	**274,100**	**2,600**	**0.9**	**275,900**
Educational Services	54,400	53,900	500	0.9	53,700
Health Care and Social Assistance	222,300	220,200	2,100	1.0	222,200
Hospitals	56,200	55,500	700	1.3	56,400
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	57,600	57,800	-200	-0.3	57,400
Social Assistance	36,200	35,100	1,100	3.1	35,900
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**127,700**	**126,900**	**800**	**0.6**	**129,800**
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	23,300	23,300	0	0.0	24,600
Accommodation and Food Services	104,400	103,600	800	0.8	105,200
Food Serv., Restaurants, Drinking Places	92,900	92,500	400	0.4	93,400
OTHER SERVICES	**63,000**	**62,800**	**200**	**0.3**	**63,000**
GOVERNMENT	**249,700**	**248,900**	**800**	**0.3**	**246,800**

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

BRIDGEPORT - STAMFORD LMA

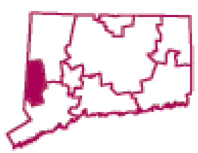


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT……………	**417,800**	**414,900**	**2,900**	**0.7**	**416,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES…………	**55,500**	**56,400**	**-900**	**-1.6**	**55,700**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING…..	**15,100**	**15,000**	**100**	**0.7**	**15,300**
MANUFACTURING……………………………	**40,400**	**41,400**	**-1,000**	**-2.4**	**40,400**
Durable Goods………………………………	**29,600**	**30,200**	**-600**	**-2.0**	**29,600**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES………..	**362,300**	**358,500**	**3,800**	**1.1**	**361,000**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES…..	**76,600**	**76,800**	**-200**	**-0.3**	**75,300**
Wholesale Trade……………………………	14,600	14,800	-200	-1.4	14,600
Retail Trade…………………………………	51,500	51,300	200	0.4	50,200
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities….	10,500	10,700	-200	-1.9	10,500
INFORMATION…………………………………	**12,000**	**12,000**	**0**	**0.0**	**11,900**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES………………………	**42,900**	**42,100**	**800**	**1.9**	**42,900**
Finance and Insurance………………………	36,100	35,400	700	2.0	36,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**69,300**	**70,000**	**-700**	**-1.0**	**69,700**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**62,200**	**60,900**	**1,300**	**2.1**	**62,100**
Health Care and Social Assistance……….	52,100	51,600	500	1.0	52,000
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY………………	**33,200**	**32,000**	**1,200**	**3.8**	**33,600**
Accommodation and Food Services……….	24,000	23,400	600	2.6	23,900
OTHER SERVICES……………………………	**17,000**	**16,800**	**200**	**1.2**	**17,100**
GOVERNMENT ………………………………	**49,100**	**47,900**	**1,200**	**2.5**	**48,400**
Federal…………………………………………	3,600	3,600	0	0.0	3,600
State & Local…………………………………	45,500	44,300	1,200	2.7	44,800

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

DANBURY LMA



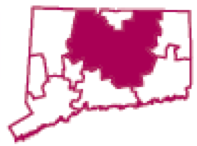
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT……………	**69,800**	**70,000**	**-200**	**-0.3**	**69,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES…………	**13,200**	**13,300**	**-100**	**-0.8**	**13,300**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES…………	**56,600**	**56,700**	**-100**	**-0.2**	**56,200**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES…..	**16,600**	**16,400**	**200**	**1.2**	**16,000**
Retail Trade…………………………………	12,600	12,600	0	0.0	12,100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**8,800**	**8,400**	**400**	**4.8**	**8,900**
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY………………	**5,000**	**5,000**	**0**	**0.0**	**5,100**
GOVERNMENT ………………………………	**8,500**	**8,400**	**100**	**1.2**	**8,300**
Federal…………………………………………	600	600	0	0.0	600
State & Local…………………………………	7,900	7,800	100	1.3	7,700

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 2004.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

HARTFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**549,800**	**547,200**	**2,600**	**0.5**	**547,400**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**86,100**	**86,200**	**-100**	**-0.1**	**86,300**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**22,200**	**22,300**	**-100**	**-0.4**	**22,200**
MANUFACTURING	**63,900**	**63,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**64,100**
Durable Goods	**53,400**	**53,500**	**-100**	**-0.2**	**53,700**
Transportation Equipment	18,400	18,300	100	0.5	18,400
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**463,700**	**461,000**	**2,700**	**0.6**	**461,100**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**91,400**	**90,900**	**500**	**0.6**	**90,100**
Wholesale Trade	18,400	18,800	-400	-2.1	18,400
Retail Trade	58,300	57,400	900	1.6	57,000
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	14,700	14,700	0	0.0	14,700
Transportation and Warehousing	11,000	11,100	-100	-0.9	11,000
INFORMATION	**11,700**	**11,300**	**400**	**3.5**	**11,700**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**67,300**	**67,900**	**-600**	**-0.9**	**67,300**
Depository Credit Institutions	7,800	7,800	0	0.0	7,800
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	44,300	45,800	-1,500	-3.3	44,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**59,300**	**58,200**	**1,100**	**1.9**	**59,100**
Professional, Scientific	27,800	27,000	800	3.0	27,600
Administrative and Support	26,100	25,400	700	2.8	25,800
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**86,700**	**85,700**	**1,000**	**1.2**	**86,200**
Health Care and Social Assistance	74,400	73,500	900	1.2	74,300
Ambulatory Health Care	22,600	22,300	300	1.3	22,600
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**38,100**	**37,700**	**400**	**1.1**	**38,800**
Accommodation and Food Services	31,800	31,200	600	1.9	31,900
OTHER SERVICES	**20,900**	**20,800**	**100**	**0.5**	**20,800**
GOVERNMENT	**88,300**	**88,500**	**-200**	**-0.2**	**87,100**
Federal	6,000	6,100	-100	-1.6	6,100
State & Local	82,300	82,400	-100	-0.1	81,000

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 2004.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS

- **Injury and illness rates down in 2004**
  Goods-producing industries as a whole (in U.S.) had an injury and illness rate of 6.5 cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers, while services-providing industries as a whole had a rate of 4.2 cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers. Both of these rates declined by 0.2 cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers from the rates reported for 2003. Among the goods-producing industry sectors, incidence rates during 2004 ranged from 3.8 cases per 100 full-time workers in mining to 6.6 cases per 100 full-time workers in manufacturing. Within the service-providing industry sectors, incidence rates ranged from 0.9 cases per 100 full-time workers in the finance and insurance sector to 7.3 cases per 100 full-time workers in transportation and warehousing. Data from the BLS Injuries and Illnesses and Fatalities program provide a wide range of information about workplace injuries and illnesses by industry sector. Additional information is available from Workplace injuries and illnesses in 2004, news release USDL 05-2195. (The Editor's Desk, Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 22, 2005)

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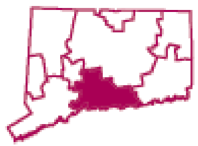
NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**276,000**	**275,700**	**300**	**0.1**	**273,900**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**46,000**	**46,000**	**0**	**0.0**	**46,200**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**12,400**	**12,200**	**200**	**1.6**	**12,400**
MANUFACTURING	**33,600**	**33,800**	**-200**	**-0.6**	**33,800**
Durable Goods	**22,900**	**23,100**	**-200**	**-0.9**	**22,600**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**230,000**	**229,700**	**300**	**0.1**	**227,700**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**52,300**	**52,200**	**100**	**0.2**	**51,300**
Wholesale Trade	11,300	11,600	-300	-2.6	11,500
Retail Trade	33,800	33,300	500	1.5	32,600
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,200	7,300	-100	-1.4	7,200
INFORMATION	**9,100**	**9,100**	**0**	**0.0**	**9,100**
Telecommunications	5,400	5,400	0	0.0	5,300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**13,100**	**13,600**	**-500**	**-3.7**	**12,800**
Finance and Insurance	8,800	10,100	-1,300	-12.9	9,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**25,500**	**26,000**	**-500**	**-1.9**	**25,300**
Administrative and Support	12,700	11,700	1,000	8.5	12,800
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**62,700**	**62,800**	**-100**	**-0.2**	**62,300**
Educational Services	22,300	22,400	-100	-0.4	21,800
Health Care and Social Assistance	40,400	40,400	0	0.0	40,500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**22,400**	**20,700**	**1,700**	**8.2**	**22,600**
Accommodation and Food Services	18,900	17,300	1,600	9.2	18,800
OTHER SERVICES	**10,700**	**10,400**	**300**	**2.9**	**10,700**
GOVERNMENT	**34,200**	**34,900**	**-700**	**-2.0**	**33,600**
Federal	5,500	5,500	0	0.0	5,500
State & Local	28,700	29,400	-700	-2.4	28,100

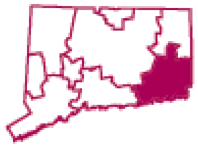
For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Value less than 50*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS (Cont.)

- **Hourly compensation in U.S. and foreign factories, 2004**
In the United States, hourly compensation costs for production workers in manufacturing increased 4.0 percent in 2004, to $23.17. Although average costs in the United States were higher than those in all the economies covered outside of Europe, 12 of the 19 European countries covered had higher hourly compensation costs than the United States, in a few cases more than 40 percent higher. Trade-weighted average costs increased 3.0 percent in the combined 31 foreign economies in 2004, when measured in national currency terms. This was less than the increase in the United States, but the value of foreign currencies rose 5.8 percent against the U.S. dollar, resulting in a rise in hourly compensation costs in the foreign economies of 8.9 percent on a U.S. dollar basis. These data are from the Foreign Labor Statistics program. The Asian newly industrializing economies are Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan. For more information, see International Comparisons of Hourly Compensation Costs for Production Workers in Manufacturing, 2004, news release USDL 05-2197. Hourly compensation costs include (1) hourly direct pay and (2) employer social insurance expenditures and other labor taxes. (The Editor's Desk, Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 23, 2005)

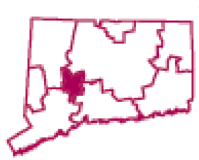
NORWICH - NEW LONDON LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**135,800**	**135,200**	**600**	**0.4**	**136,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,800**	**22,200**	**600**	**2.7**	**22,900**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**4,900**	**4,600**	**300**	**6.5**	**5,000**
MANUFACTURING	**17,900**	**17,600**	**300**	**1.7**	**17,900**
Durable Goods	**11,300**	**11,000**	**300**	**2.7**	**11,300**
Non-Durable Goods	**6,600**	**6,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**6,600**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**113,000**	**113,000**	**0**	**0.0**	**113,600**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**23,100**	**22,900**	**200**	**0.9**	**22,600**
Wholesale Trade	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
Retail Trade	16,800	16,800	0	0.0	16,300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	4,400	4,200	200	4.8	4,400
INFORMATION	**2,000**	**2,100**	**-100**	**-4.8**	**2,000**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**3,400**	**3,300**	**100**	**3.0**	**3,400**
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**10,300**	**10,200**	**100**	**1.0**	**10,300**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**18,800**	**18,300**	**500**	**2.7**	**18,500**
Health Care and Social Assistance	15,900	15,600	300	1.9	15,800
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**12,300**	**12,300**	**0**	**0.0**	**13,300**
Accommodation and Food Services	10,300	10,300	0	0.0	10,900
Food Serv., Restaurants, Drinking Places	8,300	8,300	0	0.0	8,700
OTHER SERVICES	**3,900**	**3,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**3,900**
GOVERNMENT	**39,200**	**40,000**	**-800**	**-2.0**	**39,600**
Federal	2,300	2,400	-100	-4.2	2,300
**State & Local	36,900	37,600	-700	-1.9	37,300

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

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**70,600**	**69,600**	**1,000**	**1.4**	**70,200**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**14,400**	**14,000**	**400**	**2.9**	**14,300**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**3,200**	**3,000**	**200**	**6.7**	**3,200**
MANUFACTURING	**11,200**	**11,000**	**200**	**1.8**	**11,100**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**56,200**	**55,600**	**600**	**1.1**	**55,900**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**13,800**	**13,700**	**100**	**0.7**	**13,500**
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,100
Retail Trade	9,300	9,300	0	0.0	9,000
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	2,400	2,300	100	4.3	2,400
INFORMATION	**1,100**	**1,100**	**0**	**0.0**	**1,100**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**2,800**	**2,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,800**
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**5,900**	**6,200**	**-300**	**-4.8**	**6,100**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**14,300**	**14,000**	**300**	**2.1**	**14,300**
Health Care and Social Assistance	13,100	12,800	300	2.3	13,100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**4,900**	**4,800**	**100**	**2.1**	**4,800**
OTHER SERVICES	**2,800**	**2,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,800**
GOVERNMENT	**10,600**	**10,200**	**400**	**3.9**	**10,500**
Federal	600	600	0	0.0	600
State & Local	10,000	9,600	400	4.2	9,900

For further information on the Waterbury 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 2004.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

SMALLER LMAS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT					
ENFIELD LMA	**46,400**	**47,100**	**-700**	**-1.5**	**45,000**
TORRINGTON LMA	**36,000**	**36,900**	**-900**	**-2.4**	**35,800**
WILLIMANTIC - DANIELSON LMA	**38,000**	**37,100**	**900**	**2.4**	**37,900**

NOTE: More industry detail data is available for the State and its nine labor market areas at: http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/202/covered.htm. The data published there differ from the data in the preceding tables in that they are developed from a near-universe count of Connecticut employment covered by the unemployment insurance (UI) program, while the data here is sample-based. The data drawn from the UI program does not contain estimates of employment not covered by unemployment insurance, and is lagged several months behind the current employment estimates presented here.

SPRINGFIELD, MA-CT NECTA*

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**299,200**	**299,100**	**100**	**0.0**	**298,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**51,200**	**50,800**	**400**	**0.8**	**51,500**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**10,900**	**11,300**	**-400**	**-3.5**	**11,100**
MANUFACTURING	**40,300**	**39,500**	**800**	**2.0**	**40,400**
Durable Goods	**25,500**	**24,900**	**600**	**2.4**	**25,500**
Non-Durable Goods	**14,800**	**14,600**	**200**	**1.4**	**14,900**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**248,000**	**248,300**	**-300**	**-0.1**	**247,200**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**62,400**	**62,800**	**-400**	**-0.6**	**61,000**
Wholesale Trade	11,800	11,200	600	5.4	11,800
Retail Trade	38,000	38,600	-600	-1.6	36,500
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	12,600	13,000	-400	-3.1	12,700
INFORMATION	**4,300**	**4,500**	**-200**	**-4.4**	**4,300**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**16,100**	**16,200**	**-100**	**-0.6**	**16,100**
Finance and Insurance	12,300	12,400	-100	-0.8	12,200
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	7,700	7,900	-200	-2.5	7,700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**24,200**	**24,400**	**-200**	**-0.8**	**24,400**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**54,900**	**54,700**	**200**	**0.4**	**54,800**
Educational Services	12,500	12,300	200	1.6	12,400
Health Care and Social Assistance	42,400	42,400	0	0.0	42,400
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**26,400**	**26,100**	**300**	**1.1**	**27,500**
OTHER SERVICES	**11,600**	**11,300**	**300**	**2.7**	**11,600**
GOVERNMENT	**48,100**	**48,300**	**-200**	**-0.4**	**47,500**
Federal	7,100	6,800	300	4.4	6,900
State & Local	41,000	41,500	-500	-1.2	40,600

* New England City and Town Area

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	OCT 2005
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,820,200	1,787,400	32,800	1.8	1,817,400
	Employed	1,733,000	1,712,000	21,000	1.2	1,730,400
	Unemployed	87,100	75,400	11,700	15.5	87,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.2	0.6	---	4.8
BRIDGEPORT - STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	463,300	455,000	0	0.0	463,300
	Employed	442,800	437,300	100	0.0	442,700
	Unemployed	20,600	17,700	0	0.0	20,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	3.9	-0.1	---	4.5
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	89,900	89,100	-100	-0.1	90,000
	Employed	86,700	86,200	0	0.0	86,700
	Unemployed	3,200	2,900	-100	-3.0	3,300
	Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.3	-0.1	---	3.6
ENFIELD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	48,200	47,200	200	0.4	48,000
	Employed	45,800	45,100	0	0.0	45,800
	Unemployed	2,300	2,100	100	4.5	2,200
	Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.4	0.2	---	4.6
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	570,300	559,700	1,400	0.2	568,900
	Employed	542,000	534,700	1,600	0.3	540,400
	Unemployed	28,300	25,000	-200	-0.7	28,500
	Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.5	0.0	---	5.0
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	303,700	298,200	1,400	0.5	302,300
	Employed	288,900	285,700	1,500	0.5	287,400
	Unemployed	14,800	12,600	0	0.0	14,800
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.2	0.0	---	4.9
NORWICH - NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	148,700	145,400	-400	-0.3	149,100
	Employed	141,900	139,800	-700	-0.5	142,600
	Unemployed	6,800	5,500	200	3.0	6,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.5	3.8	0.1	---	4.4
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	52,500	53,200	0	0.0	52,500
	Employed	50,100	51,000	-100	-0.2	50,200
	Unemployed	2,300	2,200	0	0.0	2,300
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.2	0.1	---	4.3
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	101,100	98,500	400	0.4	100,700
	Employed	94,900	93,200	400	0.4	94,500
	Unemployed	6,200	5,300	0	0.0	6,200
	Unemployment Rate	6.2	5.4	0.0	---	6.2
WILLIMANTIC-DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	56,100	54,100	100	0.2	56,000
	Employed	52,900	51,600	0	0.0	52,900
	Unemployed	3,200	2,600	100	3.2	3,100
	Unemployment Rate	5.7	4.7	0.2	---	5.5
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	150,239,000	148,246,000	1,993,000	1.3	150,304,000
	Employed	142,968,000	140,581,000	2,387,000	1.7	143,340,000
	Unemployed	7,271,000	7,665,000	-394,000	-5.1	6,964,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.2	-0.4	---	4.6

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

CONNECTICUT

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHG Y/Y	OCT 2005	AVG WEEKLY HOURS NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHG Y/Y	OCT 2005	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHG Y/Y	OCT 2005
MANUFACTURING	**$815.97**	**$795.85**	**$20.12**	**$805.56**	**42.3**	**42.4**	**-0.1**	**42.0**	**$19.29**	**$18.77**	**$0.52**	**$19.18**
DURABLE GOODS	**841.22**	**820.86**	**20.35**	**830.21**	**42.4**	**42.4**	**0.0**	**42.1**	**19.84**	**19.36**	**0.48**	**19.72**
Fabricated Metal	772.97	743.91	29.06	764.91	42.8	43.1	-0.3	42.9	18.06	17.26	0.80	17.83
Machinery	825.76	805.52	20.25	816.61	41.6	41.5	0.1	41.6	19.85	19.41	0.44	19.63
Computer & Electronic	699.21	688.05	11.16	662.96	41.3	41.7	-0.4	40.4	16.93	16.50	0.43	16.41
Transport. Equipment	1,028.62	997.92	30.70	1,034.90	42.4	42.0	0.4	42.8	24.26	23.76	0.50	24.18
NON-DUR. GOODS	**754.11**	**731.37**	**22.75**	**741.84**	**42.2**	**42.3**	**-0.1**	**41.7**	**17.87**	**17.29**	**0.58**	**17.79**
CONSTRUCTION	**910.19**	**876.26**	**33.93**	**879.69**	**39.3**	**38.5**	**0.8**	**38.6**	**23.16**	**22.76**	**0.40**	**22.79**

LMAs

MANUFACTURING	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHG Y/Y	OCT 2005	AVG WEEKLY HOURS NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHG Y/Y	OCT 2005	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS NOV 2005	NOV 2004	CHG Y/Y	OCT 2005
Bridgeport - Stamford	$805.56	$850.37	-$44.81	$850.20	41.1	41.2	-0.1	43.6	$19.60	$20.64	-$1.04	$19.50
Hartford	956.97	890.17	66.80	975.87	43.4	43.7	-0.3	45.2	22.05	20.37	1.68	21.59
New Haven	684.78	632.02	52.76	647.14	40.4	41.8	-1.4	38.0	16.95	15.12	1.83	17.03
Norwich - New London	821.12	795.85	25.27	811.08	42.7	43.3	-0.6	42.2	19.23	18.38	0.85	19.22
Waterbury	816.82	763.19	53.63	860.06	42.9	40.9	2.0	45.1	19.04	18.66	0.38	19.07

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN THE NEWS MEDIA

- November 2005 had the announcement that Airoom Architects & Builders of Illinois will open a design center and showroom in mid 2006 in the former Huffman Koos store in Norwalk. This will create a need for 30-50 new employees. Principal Financial Group, an Iowa financial services company, will move into the Merritt 7 in Norwalk and hire 40 employees by the end of the year. United Kingdom-based AC Cars Manufacturing will open a plant at the old Armstrong Factory in Bridgeport and hire 141 workers beginning in February 2006.

- November 2005 had the confirmation that Advest, Inc. will close its Hartford brokerage office within six months as a result of the company being acquired by Merrill Lynch & Company. It is expected that 300 employees will thus lose their jobs.

Business & Employment Changes Announced in the News Media lists start-ups, expansions, staff reductions, and layoffs reported by the media, both current and future. The report provides company name, the number of workers involved, date of the action, the principal product or service of the company, a brief synopsis of the action, and the source and date of the media article. This publication is available in both HTML and PDF formats at the Connecticut Department of Labor Web site, http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/busemp.htm.

Town

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES BY TOWN

(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

NOVEMBER 2005

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
BRIDGEPORT-STAMFORD	**463,334**	**442,782**	**20,552**	**4.4**
Ansonia	9,872	9,319	553	5.6
Bridgeport	62,282	57,672	4,610	7.4
Darien	8,915	8,580	335	3.8
Derby	6,822	6,457	365	5.4
Easton	3,710	3,595	115	3.1
Fairfield	28,218	27,194	1,024	3.6
Greenwich	29,856	28,832	1,024	3.4
Milford	30,675	29,357	1,318	4.3
Monroe	10,518	10,112	406	3.9
New Canaan	8,755	8,487	268	3.1
Newtown	13,770	13,295	475	3.4
Norwalk	47,913	45,947	1,966	4.1
Oxford	6,244	6,010	234	3.7
Redding	4,458	4,327	131	2.9
Ridgefield	11,601	11,226	375	3.2
Seymour	8,982	8,571	411	4.6
Shelton	22,045	21,174	871	4.0
Southbury	8,777	8,433	344	3.9
Stamford	65,946	63,290	2,656	4.0
Stratford	26,000	24,620	1,380	5.3
Trumbull	17,599	16,935	664	3.8
Weston	4,860	4,704	156	3.2
Westport	12,422	11,997	425	3.4
Wilton	8,252	7,970	282	3.4
Woodbridge	4,840	4,678	162	3.3
DANBURY	**89,915**	**86,746**	**3,169**	**3.5**
Bethel	10,783	10,421	362	3.4
Bridgewater	1,028	1,002	26	2.5
Brookfield	8,858	8,563	295	3.3
Danbury	43,395	41,814	1,581	3.6
New Fairfield	7,643	7,325	318	4.2
New Milford	16,080	15,567	513	3.2
Sherman	2,129	2,055	74	3.5
ENFIELD	**48,160**	**45,829**	**2,331**	**4.8**
East Windsor	5,942	5,604	338	5.7
Enfield	23,760	22,590	1,170	4.9
Somers	4,632	4,422	210	4.5
Suffield	6,953	6,674	279	4.0
Windsor Locks	6,872	6,538	334	4.9
HARTFORD	**570,250**	**541,962**	**28,288**	**5.0**
Andover	1,955	1,863	92	4.7
Ashford	2,495	2,408	87	3.5
Avon	8,785	8,499	286	3.3
Barkhamsted	2,159	2,081	78	3.6
Berlin	10,740	10,301	439	4.1
Bloomfield	9,598	9,012	586	6.1
Bolton	3,051	2,933	118	3.9
Bristol	33,574	31,768	1,806	5.4
Burlington	5,109	4,915	194	3.8

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
HARTFORD cont....				
Canton	5,322	5,133	189	3.6
Colchester	8,533	8,164	369	4.3
Columbia	2,956	2,842	114	3.9
Coventry	6,891	6,595	296	4.3
Cromwell	7,689	7,352	337	4.4
East Granby	2,834	2,735	99	3.5
East Haddam	5,020	4,830	190	3.8
East Hampton	6,504	6,153	351	5.4
East Hartford	25,355	23,765	1,590	6.3
Ellington	8,340	8,047	293	3.5
Farmington	12,503	12,045	458	3.7
Glastonbury	17,824	17,219	605	3.4
Granby	6,072	5,849	223	3.7
Haddam	4,604	4,454	150	3.3
Hartford	48,252	43,664	4,588	9.5
Hartland	1,171	1,138	33	2.8
Harwinton	3,077	2,953	124	4.0
Hebron	5,345	5,130	215	4.0
Lebanon	4,169	3,983	186	4.5
Manchester	31,442	29,953	1,489	4.7
Mansfield	12,056	11,674	382	3.2
Marlborough	3,454	3,328	126	3.6
Middlefield	2,372	2,271	101	4.3
Middletown	25,893	24,679	1,214	4.7
New Britain	34,332	31,971	2,361	6.9
New Hartford	3,638	3,496	142	3.9
Newington	16,443	15,758	685	4.2
Plainville	10,070	9,550	520	5.2
Plymouth	6,716	6,355	361	5.4
Portland	5,135	4,919	216	4.2
Rocky Hill	10,466	10,032	434	4.1
Simsbury	11,876	11,461	415	3.5
Southington	23,344	22,460	884	3.8
South Windsor	14,173	13,680	493	3.5
Stafford	6,734	6,380	354	5.3
Thomaston	4,531	4,321	210	4.6
Tolland	8,038	7,768	270	3.4
Union	451	442	9	2.0
Vernon	16,853	16,103	750	4.5
West Hartford	29,211	27,954	1,257	4.3
Wethersfield	13,391	12,747	644	4.8
Willington	3,866	3,725	141	3.6
Windsor	15,838	15,104	734	4.6

All Labor Market Areas(LMAs) in Connecticut except three are federally-designated areas for developing labor statistics. For the sake of simplicity, the federal Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk NECTA is referred to in Connecticut DOL publications as the 'Bridgeport-Stamford LMA', and the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford NECTA is referred to as the 'Hartford LMA'. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified 17 towns in the northwest part of the State as a separate area for reporting labor force data. For the convenience of our data users, these towns are included in the Torrington LMA. For the same purpose, five towns which are part of the Springfield, MA area are published as the 'Enfield LMA'. Similarly the towns of Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock (part of the Worcester, MA area), plus four towns estimated separately are included in the Willimantic-Danielson LMA.

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

(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

NOVEMBER 2005

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
NEW HAVEN	303,666	288,860	14,806	4.9
Bethany	2,941	2,850	91	3.1
Branford	17,083	16,410	673	3.9
Cheshire	14,459	13,946	513	3.5
Chester	2,242	2,167	75	3.3
Clinton	7,833	7,540	293	3.7
Deep River	2,574	2,469	105	4.1
Durham	4,078	3,938	140	3.4
East Haven	15,866	15,039	827	5.2
Essex	3,740	3,611	129	3.4
Guilford	12,633	12,199	434	3.4
Hamden	30,585	29,259	1,326	4.3
Killingworth	3,512	3,390	122	3.5
Madison	9,871	9,549	322	3.3
Meriden	30,869	29,052	1,817	5.9
New Haven	54,603	50,765	3,838	7.0
North Branford	8,140	7,799	341	4.2
North Haven	12,720	12,218	502	3.9
Old Saybrook	5,405	5,196	209	3.9
Orange	7,013	6,764	249	3.6
Wallingford	24,623	23,606	1,017	4.1
Westbrook	3,604	3,465	139	3.9
West Haven	29,269	27,627	1,642	5.6
*NORWICH-NEW LONDON	135,245	128,989	6,256	4.6
Bozrah	1,462	1,386	76	5.2
Canterbury	3,084	2,923	161	5.2
East Lyme	9,569	9,208	361	3.8
Franklin	1,178	1,130	48	4.1
Griswold	6,950	6,612	338	4.9
Groton	19,128	18,231	897	4.7
Ledyard	8,389	8,092	297	3.5
Lisbon	2,539	2,437	102	4.0
Lyme	1,136	1,104	32	2.8
Montville	10,833	10,373	460	4.2
New London	13,584	12,768	816	6.0
No. Stonington	3,205	3,096	109	3.4
Norwich	20,380	19,231	1,149	5.6
Old Lyme	4,220	4,063	157	3.7
Preston	2,788	2,671	117	4.2
Salem	2,529	2,439	90	3.6
Sprague	1,803	1,685	118	6.5
Stonington	10,336	10,009	327	3.2
Voluntown	1,605	1,512	93	5.8
Waterford	10,532	10,021	511	4.9

*Connecticut portion only. For whole NECTA, including Rhode Island town, see below.

NORWICH-NEW LONDON	148,671	141,909	6,762	4.5
Westerly, RI	13,426	12,920	506	3.8

Labor Force estimates are prepared following statistical procedures developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
TORRINGTON	52,451	50,142	2,309	4.4
Bethlehem	1,974	1,909	65	3.3
Canaan	590	572	18	3.1
Colebrook	805	786	19	2.4
Cornwall	797	777	20	2.5
Goshen	1,474	1,421	53	3.6
Kent	1,550	1,492	58	3.7
Litchfield	4,216	4,066	150	3.6
Morris	1,274	1,230	44	3.5
Norfolk	935	898	37	4.0
North Canaan	1,687	1,628	59	3.5
Roxbury	1,310	1,279	31	2.4
Salisbury	1,945	1,876	69	3.5
Sharon	1,518	1,475	43	2.8
Torrington	18,565	17,554	1,011	5.4
Warren	699	671	28	4.0
Washington	1,904	1,844	60	3.2
Winchester	5,889	5,547	342	5.8
Woodbury	5,315	5,114	201	3.8
WATERBURY	101,107	94,864	6,243	6.2
Beacon Falls	3,185	3,062	123	3.9
Middlebury	3,661	3,540	121	3.3
Naugatuck	17,082	16,232	850	5.0
Prospect	5,245	5,033	212	4.0
Waterbury	50,649	46,662	3,987	7.9
Watertown	12,357	11,815	542	4.4
Wolcott	8,927	8,520	407	4.6
WILLIMANTIC-DANIELSON	56,062	52,875	3,187	5.7
Brooklyn	3,675	3,537	138	3.8
Chaplin	1,361	1,299	62	4.6
Eastford	933	896	37	4.0
Hampton	1,123	1,048	75	6.7
Killingly	9,194	8,622	572	6.2
Plainfield	8,302	7,818	484	5.8
Pomfret	2,220	2,112	108	4.9
Putnam	5,077	4,776	301	5.9
Scotland	949	921	28	3.0
Sterling	1,877	1,763	114	6.1
Thompson	5,252	4,967	285	5.4
Windham	11,714	10,935	779	6.7
Woodstock	4,385	4,181	204	4.7

Not Seasonally Adjusted:				
CONNECTICUT	1,820,200	1,733,000	87,100	4.8
UNITED STATES	150,239,000	142,968,000	7,271,000	4.8
Seasonally Adjusted:				
CONNECTICUT	1,824,400	1,730,700	93,700	5.1
UNITED STATES	150,176,000	142,594,000	7,582,000	5.0

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.

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	NOV	YR TO DATE		TOWN	NOV	YR TO DATE		TOWN	NOV	YR TO DATE	
	2005	2005	2004		2005	2005	2004		2005	2005	2004
Andover	0	13	22	Griswold	na	na	71	Preston	3	29	19
Ansonia	1	13	16	Groton	10	145	260	Prospect	na	na	31
Ashford	1	15	27	Guilford	9	80	69	Putnam	3	35	48
Avon	2	63	86	Haddam	5	55	63	Redding	na	na	18
Barkhamsted	na	na	16	Hamden	2	26	37	Ridgefield	2	32	42
Beacon Falls	na	na	24	Hampton	2	22	26	Rocky Hill	12	81	84
Berlin	114	171	78	Hartford	0	129	171	Roxbury	na	na	13
Bethany	na	na	34	Hartland	na	na	10	Salem	2	27	30
Bethel	4	16	32	Harwinton	5	23	28	Salisbury	na	na	12
Bethlehem	na	na	7	Hebron	na	na	33	Scotland	1	10	14
Bloomfield	na	na	112	Kent	1	13	14	Seymour	6	90	36
Bolton	0	5	14	Killingly	19	115	86	Sharon	3	13	21
Bozrah	0	11	12	Killingworth	na	na	23	Shelton	6	210	120
Branford	na	na	39	Lebanon	2	36	75	Sherman	na	na	22
Bridgeport	7	200	122	Ledyard	1	44	71	Simsbury	10	54	85
Bridgewater	na	na	7	Lisbon	2	18	18	Somers	0	23	38
Bristol	4	104	114	Litchfield	na	na	47	South Windsor	11	74	191
Brookfield	na	na	72	Lyme	0	8	5	Southbury	2	62	100
Brooklyn	3	59	48	Madison	3	43	42	Southington	22	154	170
Burlington	4	33	49	Manchester	9	260	150	Sprague	0	16	9
Canaan	0	5	2	Mansfield	2	50	47	Stafford	na	na	68
Canterbury	0	19	21	Marlborough	2	30	39	Stamford	5	251	282
Canton	4	97	130	Meriden	4	113	314	Sterling	na	na	50
Chaplin	1	18	21	Middlebury	na	na	63	Stonington	5	74	91
Cheshire	2	37	59	Middlefield	2	4	8	Stratford	12	41	43
Chester	na	na	11	Middletown	23	234	208	Suffield	3	85	65
Clinton	2	33	46	Milford	31	292	272	Thomaston	na	na	35
Colchester	6	82	74	Monroe	6	43	26	Thompson	na	na	40
Colebrook	0	7	9	Montville	5	74	73	Tolland	6	91	83
Columbia	0	30	30	Morris	1	9	8	Torrington	7	90	97
Cornwall	1	9	11	Naugatuck	10	90	83	Trumbull	8	45	64
Coventry	4	43	44	New Britain	na	na	32	Union	1	6	4
Cromwell	10	22	54	New Canaan	8	63	55	Vernon	22	201	174
Danbury	25	445	393	New Fairfield	na	na	40	Voluntown	1	6	11
Darien	na	na	149	New Hartford	0	33	41	Wallingford	5	146	183
Deep River	0	4	14	New Haven	7	112	224	Warren	0	12	14
Derby	na	na	15	New London	7	72	39	Washington	na	na	8
Durham	3	44	43	New Milford	9	75	110	Waterbury	21	138	65
East Granby	0	21	18	Newington	5	41	40	Waterford	18	53	35
East Haddam	4	48	52	Newtown	4	96	126	Watertown	5	61	59
East Hampton	2	132	153	Norfolk	1	6	5	West Hartford	3	20	39
East Hartford	na	na	11	North Branford	na	na	53	West Haven	na	na	22
East Haven	4	70	43	North Canaan	1	8	10	Westbrook	2	30	33
East Lyme	14	99	77	North Haven	2	141	73	Weston	na	na	14
East Windsor	3	80	84	North Stonington	3	27	29	Westport	9	106	114
Eastford	1	14	21	Norwalk	214	331	282	Wethersfield	na	na	8
Easton	1	11	7	Norwich	12	276	200	Willington	3	18	24
Ellington	12	87	67	Old Lyme	na	na	30	Wilton	na	na	35
Enfield	na	na	51	Old Saybrook	3	48	41	Winchester	2	43	35
Essex	1	10	18	Orange	na	na	27	Windham	1	61	17
Fairfield	16	141	162	Oxford	16	224	199	Windsor	na	na	80
Farmington	4	95	124	Plainfield	5	46	46	Windsor Locks	na	na	55
Franklin	0	2	7	Plainville	2	19	37	Wolcott	6	54	61
Glastonbury	8	68	105	Plymouth	2	21	52	Woodbridge	na	na	13
Goshen	3	42	51	Pomfret	3	17	24	Woodbury	0	32	40
Granby	3	58	65	Portland	4	46	134	Woodstock	10	72	82
Greenwich	18	192	148								

For further information on the housing permit data, contact Kolie Sun 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 signal-plus noise 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. Beginning with the publication of January 2005 data, an improved methodology is being used to develop labor force estimates, by which monthly state model-based employment and unemployment estimates are controlled to add to the national CPS levels. This will ensure that national economic events are reflected in the state estimates, and it will significantly reduce end-of-year revisions. (For more information, please see the Connecticut Economic Digest, December 2004 issue.) 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 (LMAs) in Connecticut except three are federally-designated areas for developing labor statistics. For the sake of simplicity, the federal Bridgeport-Norwalk-Stamford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is referred to in Connecticut Department of Labor publications as the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA, and the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford MSA is called the Hartford LMA. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified the 17 towns in the in the northwestern part of the state 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 LMA. For the same purpose, data for the towns of East Windsor, Enfield, Somers, Suffield and Windsor Locks, which are officially part of the Springfield MSA, are published as the Enfield LMA. Similarly, the towns of Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock - part of the Worcester MSA - are included in the Willimantic-Danielson LMA. Also, data for Westerly, Rhode Island are included in the Norwich-New London LMA. Industry employment and labor force data estimates contained in Connecticut Department of Labor publications are prepared following the same statistical procedures developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, whether for federally designated or state-determined areas.

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 5-8 for reference months or quarters)

Leading Employment Index	**+0.8**
Coincident Employment Index	**+0.5**
Leading General Drift Indicator	**+0.8**
Coincident General Drift Indicator	**-0.4**
Banknorth Business Barometer	**+2.3**
Total Nonfarm Employment	**+0.7**
Unemployment Rate	**+0.5**
Labor Force	+1.7
Employed	+1.1
Unemployed	+13.3
Average Weekly Initial Claims	**-2.9**
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford	**+10.0**
Avg Insured Unempl. Rate	**-0.12***
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg	**-0.2**
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg	**+2.8**
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg	**+2.5**
CT Mfg. Production Index	**+9.0**
Production Worker Hours	+0.4
Industrial Electricity Sales	+11.0
Personal Income	**+4.1**
UI Covered Wages	**+0.6**

Business Activity	
Electricity Sales	+11.0
Retail Sales	-0.6
Construction Contracts Index	+26.4
New Auto Registrations	-18.9
Air Cargo Tons	+7.3
Exports	+20.0
Business Starts	
Secretary of the State	NA
Dept. of Labor	-1.3
Business Terminations	
Secretary of the State	NA
Dept. of Labor	-29.7
State Revenues	**+0.7**
Corporate Tax	-13.8
Personal Income Tax	+5.8
Real Estate Conveyance Tax	-2.4
Sales & Use Tax	+1.0
Indian Gaming Payments	+1.6

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

Tourism and Travel	
Info Center Visitors	-17.4
Attraction Visitors	+11.1
Air Passenger Count	+4.8
Indian Gaming Slots	-0.3
Travel and Tourism Index	+0.7
Employment Cost Index (U.S.)	
Total	+3.0
Wages & Salaries	+2.2
Benefit Costs	+4.8
Consumer Prices	
U.S. City Average	+3.5
Northeast Region	+3.7
NY-NJ-Long Island	+3.9
Boston-Brockton-Nashua	+3.3
Consumer Confidence	
Connecticut	NA
New England	+5.2
U.S.	+6.8
Interest Rates	
Prime	+2.07*
Conventional Mortgage	+0.60*

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- **What article topics would you like to see covered in future issues?**
- **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!

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