THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.13 No.6 A joint publication of the Connecticut Department of Labor & the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

JUNE 2008

IN THIS ISSUE...

In April...

Nonfarm Employment
Connecticut 1,699,300
Change over month .... -0.02%
Change over year 0.6%

United States 137,818,000
Change over month .... -0.01%
Change over year 0.3%

Unemployment Rate
Connecticut 4.7%
United States 5.0%

Consumer Price Index
United States 214.8
Change over year 3.9%

TURNING POINT: Connecticut Employment Outlook to 2009

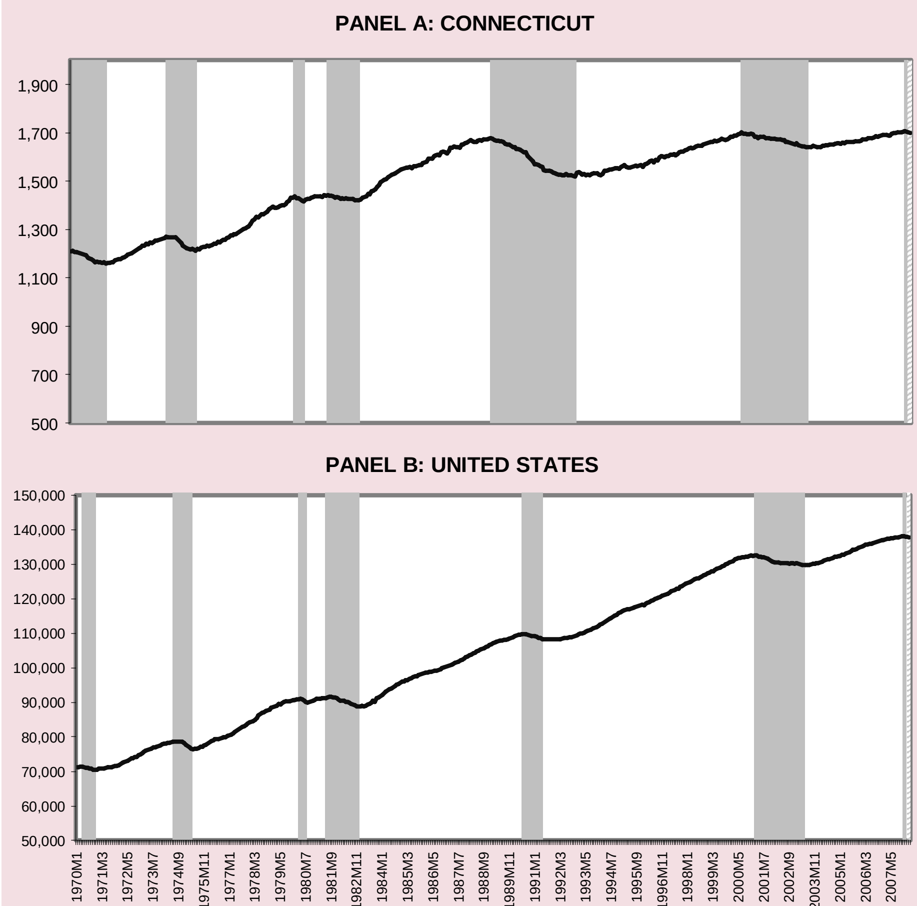
By Daniel W. Kennedy, Ph.D., Senior Economist, DOL

"The rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated."
——Mark Twain

Despite Mark Twain's protests to the contrary, it appears that the recovery-expansion in both the U.S. and Connecticut may have flatlined in December 2007. Even if it did, the coroner (i.e., National Bureau of Economic Research, or NBER) does not call the death of a national expansion until many months after the fact. And to dispel the myth: two consecutive quarters of contracting Real GDP *do not* define a recession.[1] Between December and April the U.S. and Connecticut have had four consecutive months of contracting employment.

Again, not to be presumptuous, but assuming the expansion is over, Connecticut's recovery-expansion phase of the current cycle, which began in July 2003, lasted 53 months, or 17.7 quarters. The state's 1990s recovery-expansion phase lasted 91 months or 30.3 quarters. The two post-Cold War

GRAPH 1: Connecticut and U.S. Employment Cycles: 1970-2008



THE CONNECTICUT
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, Compliance Office and Planning/Program Support. 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 annual subscription is $50. Send subscription requests to: ***The Connecticut Economic Digest***, Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research, 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114. Make checks payable to the Connecticut Department of Labor. Back issues are $4 per copy. The Digest can be accessed free of charge from the DOL Web site. 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. The views expressed by the authors are theirs alone and may not reflect those of the DOL or DECD.

Managing Editor: Jungmin Charles Joo

Associate Editor: Cynthia L. DeLisa

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of many DOL Research and DECD staff to the publication of the Digest.

Connecticut Department of Labor

Patricia H. Mayfield, Commissioner
Linda L. Agnew, 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@ct.gov
Website: http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

Joan M. McDonald, Commissioner
Ronald Angelo, Deputy Commissioner

Compliance Office and Planning/Program Support
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106-2502
Phone: (860) 270-8000
Fax: (860) 270-8200
E-Mail: decd@ct.gov
Website: http://www.decd.org

recovery-expansions averaged 74 months (24 quarters), with an average recovery phase of 66.5 months (22.2 quarters) and an average expansion phase of 5.5 months (1.8 quarters).

Graph 1 presents the Connecticut and U.S. employment cycles from 1970 to 2008. Panel A tracks Connecticut nonfarm employment from January 1970 to March 2008, and Panel B tracks U.S. nonfarm employment over the same 38-year period. The solid, grey-shaded areas of the graph represent job market recessions. The crosshatched, grey region represents the assumed, current downturn. Notice that, for the most part, the shaded areas are much larger regions for Connecticut than for the U.S. The reason: the average U.S. employment downturn since 1970 is 13.8 months, compared to 24.0 months for Connecticut.

Not counting the current downturn, there have been six downturns in both the U.S. and Connecticut job markets since 1970, either preceding, coinciding with, or following the beginning of an NBER-designated national recession. Connecticut's nonfarm employment turned down before U.S. employment declined in three of the six cycles. In one, 1981, the U.S. job decline led Connecticut's downturn. The beginning of Connecticut's labor market recession coincided with the U.S. jobs downturn in 1980, and thus far the State's downturn in nonfarm employment has coincided with that of the U.S. over the current cycle.

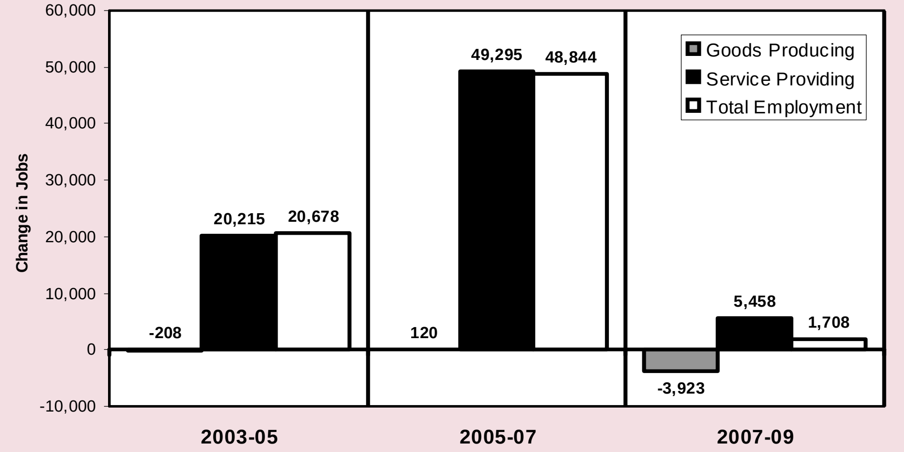
CURRENT CONDITIONS

The Good News—The trend-dominated sectors of the state's economy, driven by demographics and lifestyles, continued to create jobs even after overall employment declined after December 2007. The latest establishment survey data shows that, on a year-to-year (YTY) basis, the health care and social assistance sector added 6,233 jobs in the first quarter of 2008, with ambulatory care, hospitals, and nursing and residence care facilities accounting for most of the gains. Government added 4,367 jobs in the first quarter, mostly at the state and local levels. Accommodation and food services added 2,033 jobs in the first quarter of 2008 (YTY), with full-service restaurants contributing the largest share of the sector's job growth. With computer systems and design making the major contributions, the professional, technical, and scientific services sector reversed course and gained 1,667 over the first three months of 2008, on a YTY basis. This reverses the job losses for this sector in the last quarter of 2007. Information added 1,333 new positions in the first quarter, which continues the reversal of this sector's job losses which began in the second quarter of 2007. Educational services added 1,100 net, new jobs. Within the finance sector, securities, commodities, and brokers (which includes investment banks and hedge funds) continued to add jobs in 2008, adding 767 jobs over the first quarter, despite the credit crunch and financial meltdown. However, there may be a delayed effect on staffing adjustments that will show up later in the year (e.g., Swiss bank giant UBS, which has a significant presence in downtown Stamford, announced on May 6, 2008 that it will reduce its workforce by 5,500 by mid-2009).

The Not-So-Good News—At the sectoral level, the manufacturing sector, buffeted by both trend and cyclical forces, continued to contract, losing 1,933 jobs in the first quarter of 2008 on a YTY basis. The losses were fairly evenly split between the durable goods and non-durable goods sectors. Led by employment services, which extended its 2007 job losses into 2008 and has been a major contributor to sectoral job losses (discussed in more detail below), administrative and support services lost 1,767 jobs between the first quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008. Finance and insurance, driven by losses in credit intermediation, lost 1,433 jobs in the first quarter of 2008. Though the job market in Connecticut's securities, commodities, and brokers industry seems to have avoided the fallout from the financial and housing troubles so far, the banking industry has already taken some hits. Credit intermediation declined by 1,933 jobs in the first quarter of 2008.

Overall, the YTY growth in total nonfarm employment decelerated

GRAPH 2: Employment Change in CT: 2003-05, 2005-07 and 2007-09
(fourth quarter to fourth quarter)



slightly from 12,700 to 12,600 from 4Q 2007to 1Q 2008. However, this is down considerably from the YTY pace of 17,000 per month in the first half of 2007 and, as discussed above, the seasonally adjusted nonfarm series has declined from December through April, representing four consecutive months of decline. Further, as previously mentioned, employment services (i.e., temporary help agencies) declined at an accelerating rate between March and December 2007, with declines holding steady at about 2,000 per month, on a YTY basis, over the first three months of 2008. Why is this significant? Employment services may be a leading indicator of turning points in the economy.[2]

THE OUTLOOK TO 2009

The forecast calls for a considerable deceleration in job growth in the service-providing sector, from 49,295 between 2005 and 2007 (measured 4th quarter to 4th quarter) to 5,458 between 2007 and 2009. At the same time, the goods-producing sector is expected to experience job losses of 3,923 over the 2007-2009 forecast period. The net effect will be that the strong two-year addition of 48,844 jobs to Connecticut's economy between 2005 and 2007 will not be continued. It is expected that there will only be 1,708 net, new jobs created over the 2007-2009 forecast horizon (See Graph 2). Further, this assumes a recovery in jobs over the 2008-2009 period after a decline between 2007 and 2008.

Some of the same trend-driven growth sectors that dominated job growth over the previous two eight-quarter periods (2003-05 and 2005-07), are expected to account for most of the net, new jobs created over the forecast period (See the table below). They account for three of the five sectors expected to add 1,000 new jobs or more between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2009. Educational services (+8,561) and health care and social assistance (+7,970), driven by demographic trends, and accommodation and food services (+2,563), driven by lifestyles and Foxwoods's expansion, are all expected to continue their growth, albeit at a somewhat slower pace, over the 2007-09 forecast period. Despite the pullback in housing, construction is expected to add jobs (+1,207), mostly due to specialty trades (assuming finishing work continues) and tribal expansions.

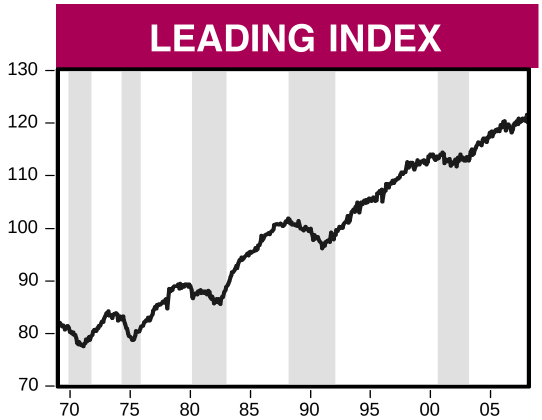
The current jobs downturn is expected to result in seven sectors losing 1,000 or more jobs over the eight-quarter forecast horizon. Due to trend-driven losses, intensified by cyclical effects of the downturn, the shedding of jobs in the manufacturing sector is expected to intensify between 2007 and 2009. Even over the strongest growth period of the current cycle (2005-07), manufacturing lost 3,762 jobs. This is expected to rise to a further loss of 5,120 jobs by the fourth quarter of 2009. Fallout from the subprime

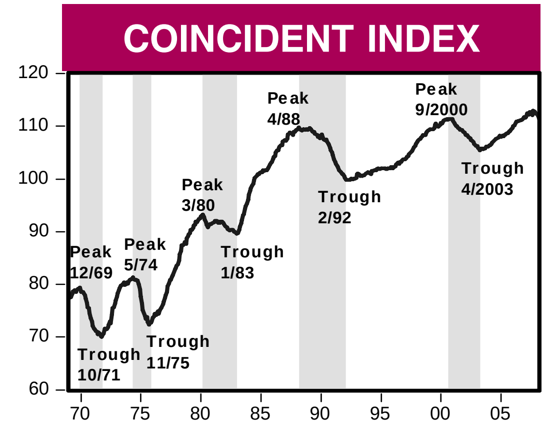
--Continued on page 5--

TABLE 1: Connecticut Non-Agricultural Employment: History and Forecast

INDUSTRY	HISTORICAL			FORECAST	NUMERICAL CHANGES			PERCENT CHANGES		
	2003:Q4	2005:Q4	2007:Q4	2009:Q4	2003-05	2005-07	2007-09	2003-05	2005-07	2007-09
TOTAL	**1,637,308**	**1,657,986**	**1,706,831**	**1,708,539**	**20,678**	**48,844**	**1,708**	**1.26**	**2.95**	**0.10**
GOODS PRODUCING…………………………	**266,167**	**265,959**	**266,079**	**262,156**	**-208**	**120**	**-3,923**	**-0.08**	**0.05**	**-1.47**
Mining……………………………………………	738	729	747	737	-9	18	-10	-1.22	2.47	-1.36
Construction……………………………………	68,591	70,827	74,691	75,898	2,236	3,864	1,207	3.26	5.46	1.62
Manufacturing……………………………………	196,838	194,403	190,641	185,521	-2,435	-3,762	-5,120	-1.24	-1.94	-2.69
SERVICE PROVIDING………………………	**1,370,986**	**1,391,201**	**1,440,497**	**1,445,955**	**20,215**	**49,295**	**5,458**	**1.47**	**3.54**	**0.38**
Wholesale Trade………………………………	65,603	66,962	68,263	67,959	1,359	1,301	-304	2.07	1.94	-0.44
Retail Trade……………………………………	198,310	197,475	197,519	196,920	-835	44	-599	-0.42	0.02	-0.30
Transportation and Warehousing…………………	51,536	53,734	54,296	54,078	2,198	562	-218	4.26	1.05	-0.40
Utilities…………………………………………	10,712	10,642	8,931	8,874	-70	-1,711	-57	-0.66	-16.08	-0.64
Information………………………………………	42,505	40,562	43,267	41,423	-1,943	2,705	-1,844	-4.57	6.67	-4.26
Finance and Insurance……………………………	121,778	122,067	122,944	119,591	289	877	-3,353	0.24	0.72	-2.73
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing………………	20,919	21,646	21,644	20,144	727	-2	-1,500	3.48	-0.01	-6.93
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services….	88,969	89,442	93,826	93,720	473	4,384	-106	0.53	4.90	-0.11
Management of Companies and Enterprises………	27,074	24,923	27,076	25,708	-2,151	2,153	-1,368	-7.94	8.64	-5.05
Admin and Support/Waste Manage/Remediation..	84,945	89,456	91,785	89,370	4,511	2,329	-2,415	5.31	2.60	-2.63
Educational Services………………………………	160,215	164,730	177,404	185,965	4,515	12,674	8,561	2.82	7.69	4.83
Health Care and Social Assistance…………………	235,351	242,595	255,421	263,391	7,244	12,826	7,970	3.08	5.29	3.12
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation………………	48,194	47,723	47,618	47,530	-471	-105	-88	-0.98	-0.22	-0.19
Accommodation and Food Services…………………	102,096	105,759	113,720	116,283	3,663	7,961	2,563	3.59	7.53	2.25
Other Services……………………………………	55,862	56,494	58,748	59,924	632	2,254	1,176	1.13	3.99	2.00
Government………………………………………	56,917	56,992	58,035	55,074	75	1,043	-2,961	0.13	1.83	-5.10

SOURCE: Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research NOTE: Data not seasonally adjusted





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.

Recession Clouds Gathering Over Connecticut?

The National Outlook

The unemployment rate of 5.0% in April 2008, higher than April 2007 (4.5%), improved slightly from the previous month, decreasing from 5.1% in March. total employment (from the household survey) increased by 362,000 jobs in March, an improvement over the loss of 24,000 jobs in the previous month. The federal tax rebate checks (part of the federal “stimulus package”) are reaching consumers and we should look for an effect in the coming months. Although food and energy prices have increased, the most recent data on consumer spending, (the March inflation-adjusted personal consumption expenditures), show a scant increase of 0.13% from the previous month and 2% from March a year ago. These positive signs offer hope that consumer spending will moderate the U.S. recession. Helping too is the declining dollar’s effect on our exports.

Connecticut Employment Indexes

The DECD-ECRI Connecticut coincident employment index is a measure of contemporaneous activity and decreased on a year-to-year basis from 111.5 in March 2007 to 111.3 in March 2008. Total employment (from the household survey) decreased 0.6% (10,980 persons) and nonfarm employment (from the employer survey) decreased 0.55% from March 2007; both variables contribute negatively to the annual change in this index. The insured unemployment rate (2.46% vs. 2.41% a year ago) and the total unemployment rate (5.3% vs. 4.4% a year ago) also contribute negatively to the annual change in this index. In contrast to recent months, employment and unemployment are now both trending downward.

On a month-to-month basis, the March 2008 coincident employment index decreased to 111.3 from 112.0 a month earlier. This index’s 12-month moving average growth rate (1.1%) declined from last month into negative territory. Total employment decreased by 6,800 persons. Nonfarm employment that decreased by 3,400 jobs from the revised, previous month’s level, and the total insured unemployment rate that increased from 2.45% last month to 2.46% in March contribute negatively to the monthly change in this index. Connecticut’s total unemployment rate increased from 5.0% to 5.3% from last month.

The DECD-ECRI Connecticut leading employment index that estimates future activity increased from 120.4 in March 2007 to 121.2 in March 2008. Manufacturing employment decreased by 2,200 jobs from 191,800 jobs a year ago to 189,600 jobs in March 2008, and is a negative contributor to the annual change in this index. Construction employment increased by 200 jobs over the year, the Hartford help-wanted index increased from a year ago, and, average weekly hours increased in manufacturing and construction from a year ago; all four are positive contributors to the annual change in this index. Housing permits decreased from 577 units in March 2007 to 500 in March 2008 and contribute negatively, as does Moody’s Baa bond yield that increased from 6.82% to 6.89%, and the short duration unemployment rate that increased from 1.52% to 1.56% over the year. However, initial claims that decreased 0.2% from 16,296 a year ago is a positive contributor.

On a month-to-month basis, the leading employment index increased from 120.1 to 121.2 in March 2008. Manufacturing employment decreased by 100 jobs over the month (a negative contributor); however, construction employment increased by 1,500 jobs from 61,100 the prior month, contributing positively to the monthly change in this index. In addition, housing permits increased by 67 units or 15.5% (seasonally adjusted) and construction average weekly hours increased from 38.1 to 39.1, contributing positively to the monthly change in this index. Manufacturing average weekly hours edged up from 42.2 to 42.6, contributing positively to the monthly change in this index. The Hartford help-wanted index was unchanged over the month and initial claims decreased by 3,430. The short duration unemployment rate that increased slightly from 1.52 to 1.56 is a negative component of this index on a month-to-month basis.

The decline of the March coincident index from one year ago and one month ago confirms a current downturn in the Connecticut economy; however, the increase in the leading indicator on both a year-to-year and month-to-month basis, is a glimmer of hope that Connecticut may be faring better than the national economy in the stormy times ahead.

By Stan McMillen, Ph.D. , Managing Economist, DECD, (860) 270-8166. Mark Prisloe, Associate Economist, DECD, provides research assistance. Professors Pami Dua and Stephen M. Miller, in cooperation with Anirvan Banerji at the Economic Cycle Research Institute developed the leading and coincident employment indexes. The views expressed herein are the author's own and do not necessarily represent those of the Connecticut Department of Labor or the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.
Components of the indexes are described in the Technical Notes on page 23.

--Continued from page 3--

mortgage troubles, housing recession, financial crisis, and restructuring in the financial services industry is expected, to some degree or another, to impact Connecticut. Finance and insurance is expected to shed 3,353 jobs over the eight-quarter forecast horizon, and real estate, rental, and leasing is projected to cut 1,500 jobs. Driven by tightening budgets, despite tribal expansions, government is expected to decline by 2,961 positions, mostly due to attrition at the state level and both layoffs and attrition at the local level. Administrative and support services is predicted to eliminate 2,415 positions. Two other sectors are also expected to shed 1,000 or more jobs over the next eight quarters: information (-1,844), and management of companies and enterprises (-1,368).

ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS TO THE FORECAST

The forecast assumes a "V-type" recession; that is, Connecticut employment will continue declining throughout 2008, but will recover in 2009. Hence, the small, but positive gain predicted over the eight-quarter forecast horizon. However, the risks to the forecast are substantial. The recession could be an elongated "U-type," or the national and state economies could stagnate for an extended period of time producing an "L-type" configuration. There are still a substantial number of additional mortgage resets expected in 2008 and into 2009. The shakiness of the financial system is not only due to the jump in subprime defaults, which revealed the significant underpricing of the risk premium by mortgage-based collateralized debt obligations (CDO's) held by investors. It is also due to another, potentially even bigger, time bomb that could go off: the credit default swaps,[3] now estimated at $45 trillion in the global economy. These wild cards, in conjunction with rising energy and food prices, could have the potential to turn the projected "V-type" recession into an elongated "U"; that is, a protracted affair lasting well into 2009, and even into 2010.

Even without these wild cards, the state, national, and even world economies could be entering a more difficult period. Consumers, especially in the U.S. but in some other developed economies as well, tapped into appreciating housing wealth to finance their spending during the recovery-expansion. With stagnating and even falling housing prices, the "ATM" that financed consumer spending during the latest asset bubble is closed. In addition, consumers have accumulated high levels of debt. This probably reduces the likelihood that consumer spending would be the driver of recovery.

As for domestic investment spending, over the recent expansion most investment spending on plant and equipment by U.S. multinationals has been on expanding, or building new, overseas operations. Without strong consumer spending and domestic investment drivers, a robust recovery would seem unlikely. In addition, significant domestic fiscal stimulus to compensate for a lack of household and business sector domestic spending also seems unlikely.

The big question at this point is: What course will the economy take from here? Connecticut economists have been in agreement that, as a result of the significant industry restructuring that has taken place in the past two decades, the fate of the state's economy is closely tied to the nation's. It now appears that both have reached a turning point.■

Notes

[1] To see what the criteria for a recession are, go to the NBER Website at http://www.nber.org/cycles/recessions.html#faq

[2] See "Employment services industry: a harbinger of the economy," CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC DIGEST (May 2006)

[3] A credit default swap is basically an insurance policy taken out by a financial institution to protect it against a default on a loan. But, unlike the life or property insurance industry, this "insurance industry" is not regulated. The holder of the "policy" can sell it off in the secondary market, and there is no guarantee that the purchaser will have the resources to pay a claim.

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

(Seasonally adjusted)	1Q 2008	1Q 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	4Q 2007
Employment Indexes (1992=100)*					
Leading	121.0	120.1	0.9	0.7	120.6
Coincident	111.9	111.4	0.4	0.4	112.2
General Drift Indicator (1986=100)*					
Leading	109.6	110.6	-1.0	-0.9	108.6
Coincident	115.1	114.2	0.9	0.8	115.6
Banknorth Business Barometer (1992=100)**	125.2	124.1	1.1	0.9	125.0

*Sources: *The Connecticut Economy, 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)	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM	1,699.3	1,689.1	10.2	0.6	1,699.7
Natural Res & Mining (Not Sea. Adj.)	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.6
Construction	67.8	68.1	-0.3	-0.4	67.8
Manufacturing	189.6	191.0	-1.4	-0.7	189.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	309.0	309.1	-0.1	0.0	310.9
Information	38.9	38.2	0.7	1.8	39.0
Financial Activities	142.8	145.0	-2.2	-1.5	142.6
Professional and Business Services	205.3	205.7	-0.4	-0.2	204.1
Educational and Health Services	293.1	286.0	7.1	2.5	292.4
Leisure and Hospitality Services	136.1	133.9	2.2	1.6	136.2
Other Services	64.2	64.1	0.1	0.2	64.3
Government*	251.8	247.3	4.5	1.8	251.9

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor   ** Includes Native American tribal government employment*

Initial claims for unemployment insurance rose from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted)	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	4.7	4.4	0.3	---	5.3
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,878.0	1,857.7	20.3	1.1	1,885.2
Employed (000s)	1,790.1	1,775.5	14.6	0.8	1,784.5
Unemployed (000s)	87.9	82.3	5.7	6.9	100.7
Average Weekly Initial Claims	4,443	4,129	314	7.6	4,135
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	5	7	-2	-28.6	7
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.61	2.49	0.12	---	2.63

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

The production worker weekly earnings rose over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

(Not seasonally adjusted)	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008	FEB 2008
Average Weekly Hours	42.5	42.4	0.1	0.2	42.6	--
Average Hourly Earnings	21.06	20.32	0.74	3.6	21.14	--
Average Weekly Earnings	895.05	861.57	33.48	3.9	900.56	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (2000=100)	115.8	115.0	0.8	0.7	118.4	113.8
Production Worker Hours (000s)	4,794	4,841	-47	-1.0	4,810	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)*	423	432	-9.0	-2.1	437	416

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

Personal income for third quarter 2008 is forecasted to increase 4.3 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME

(Seasonally adjusted) (Annualized; $ Millions)	3Q* 2008	3Q 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	2Q* 2008
Personal Income	$199,106	$190,859	8,247	4.3	$197,080
UI Covered Wages	$101,690	$98,357	3,333	3.4	$100,662

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: March 2008 release
**Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor*

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

New auto registrations increased over the year.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
New Housing Permits*	APR 2008	381	-51.1	1,614	2,153	-25.0
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	DEC 2007	3,015	14.1	34,123	31,677	7.7
Construction Contracts Index (1980=100)	APR 2008	590.1	47.5	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	APR 2008	17,096	4.5	63,169	64,832	-2.6
Air Cargo Tons	APR 2008	12,919	3.3	51,332	51,820	-0.9
Exports (Bil. $)	1Q 2008	3.60	11.6	3.60	3.22	11.6

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

** Estimated by the Bureau of the Census*

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

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

	MO/QTR	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	APR 2008	2,553	-9.2	10,537	11,389	-7.5
Department of Labor*	3Q2007	2,019	-7.7	7,102	7,749	-8.3
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	APR 2008	1,294	26.4	4,216	3,710	13.6
Department of Labor*	3Q2007	1,134	-35.2	3,972	5,270	-24.6

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)	APR 2008	APR 2007	% CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
TOTAL ALL REVENUES*	2,355.4	2,130.7	10.5	5,947.2	5,618.1	5.9
Corporate Tax	97.6	87.0	12.2	300.3	313.2	-4.1
Personal Income Tax	1,665.8	1,430.5	16.4	3,604.5	3,236.4	11.4
Real Estate Conv. Tax	9.6	12.7	-24.4	40.1	64.9	-38.2
Sales & Use Tax	293.8	337.2	-12.9	1,193.7	1,246.2	-4.2
Indian Gaming Payments**	32.0	34.8	-7.9	129.4	137.3	-5.7

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

Indian Gaming Slots fell over the year.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
Info Center Visitors	APR 2008	23,762	-8.0	74,399	74,825	-0.6
Major Attraction Visitors	APR 2008	159,140	3.0	408,431	393,520	3.8
Air Passenger Count	APR 2008	579,662	6.4	2,046,334	2,048,020	-0.1
Indian Gaming Slots (Mil.$)*	APR 2008	1,496	-6.7	6,106	6,277	-2.7
Travel and Tourism Index**	1Q 2008	---	2.0	---	---	---

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, University of Connecticut*

Compensation cost for the nation rose 3.2 percent over the year.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
Private Industry Workers	**MAR**	**DEC**	**3-Mo**	**MAR**	**MAR**	**12-Mo**
(Dec. 2005 = 100)	**2008**	**2007**	**% Chg**	**2008**	**2007**	**% Chg**
UNITED STATES TOTAL	107.3	106.5	0.8	107.3	104.0	3.2
Wages and Salaries	107.6	106.7	0.8	107.6	104.3	3.2
Benefit Costs	106.4	105.8	0.6	106.5	103.2	3.2
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	107.4	104.0	3.3
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	107.5	104.0	3.4

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

U.S. inflation rate increased 3.9 percent over the year.

CONSUMER NEWS

			% CHANGE	
(Not seasonally adjusted)	**MO/QTR**	**LEVEL**	**Y/Y**	**P/P***
CONSUMER PRICES				
CPI-U (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	APR 2008	214.8	3.9	0.6
Purchasing Power of $ (1982-84=$1.00)	APR 2008	$0.466	-3.8	-0.6
Northeast Region	APR 2008	228.1	3.9	0.5
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	APR 2008	233.8	3.5	0.3
Boston-Brockton-Nashua**	MAR 2008	233.1	3.0	0.5
CPI-W (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	APR 2008	210.7	4.3	0.8

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.*

Conventional mortgage fell to 5.92 percent over the month.

INTEREST RATES

	APR	**MAR**	**APR**
(Percent)	**2008**	**2008**	**2007**
Prime	5.24	5.66	8.25
Federal Funds	2.28	2.61	5.25
3 Month Treasury Bill	1.31	1.28	5.01
6 Month Treasury Bill	1.58	1.51	5.07
1 Year Treasury Note	1.74	1.54	4.93
3 Year Treasury Note	2.23	1.80	4.60
5 Year Treasury Note	2.84	2.48	4.59
7 Year Treasury Note	3.19	2.93	4.62
10 Year Treasury Note	3.68	3.51	4.69
20 Year Treasury Note	4.44	4.36	4.95
Conventional Mortgage	5.92	5.97	6.18

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

All but one states in the region added jobs over the year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
Connecticut	1,699.3	1,689.1	10.2	0.6	1,699.7
Maine	614.8	613.7	1.1	0.2	618.2
Massachusetts	3,290.6	3,267.6	23.0	0.7	3,293.0
New Hampshire	656.4	643.3	13.1	2.0	655.2
New Jersey	4,072.7	4,067.3	5.4	0.1	4,071.7
New York	8,768.7	8,710.4	58.3	0.7	8,777.5
Pennsylvania	5,802.0	5,786.4	15.6	0.3	5,799.7
Rhode Island	484.5	493.3	-8.8	-1.8	485.2
Vermont	306.8	306.5	0.3	0.1	308.2
United States	137,818.0	137,356.0	462.0	0.3	137,838.0

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

LABOR FORCE

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

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
Connecticut	1,878.0	1,857.7	20.3	1.1	1,885.2
Maine	708.7	703.6	5.1	0.7	707.9
Massachusetts	3,404.3	3,410.8	-6.5	-0.2	3,410.8
New Hampshire	746.3	738.0	8.3	1.1	743.5
New Jersey	4,512.4	4,468.1	44.3	1.0	4,495.3
New York	9,579.2	9,495.0	84.2	0.9	9,532.0
Pennsylvania	6,369.5	6,275.1	94.4	1.5	6,324.5
Rhode Island	573.1	575.9	-2.8	-0.5	572.8
Vermont	352.1	354.6	-2.5	-0.7	352.0
United States	153,957.0	152,542.0	1,415.0	0.9	153,784.0

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

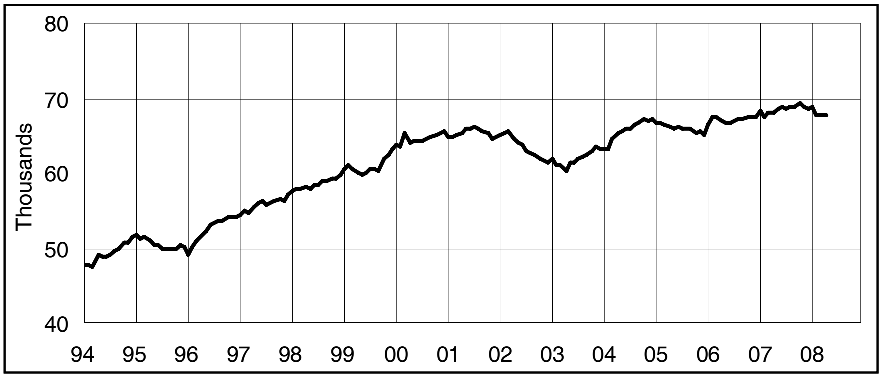
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

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

(Seasonally adjusted)	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE	MAR 2008
Connecticut	4.7	4.4	0.3	5.3
Maine	4.7	4.7	0.0	5.0
Massachusetts	4.1	4.6	-0.5	4.4
New Hampshire	3.8	3.7	0.1	3.9
New Jersey	5.0	4.3	0.7	4.8
New York	4.7	4.4	0.3	4.8
Pennsylvania	5.0	4.3	0.7	4.9
Rhode Island	6.1	5.0	1.1	6.1
Vermont	4.5	4.1	0.4	4.6
United States	5.0	4.5	0.5	5.1

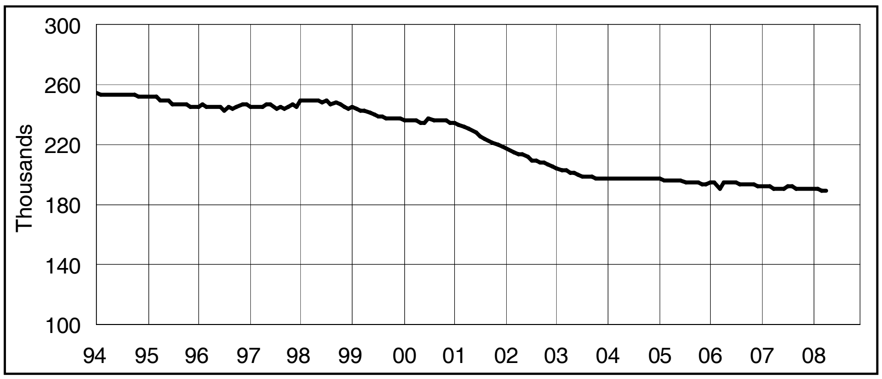
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



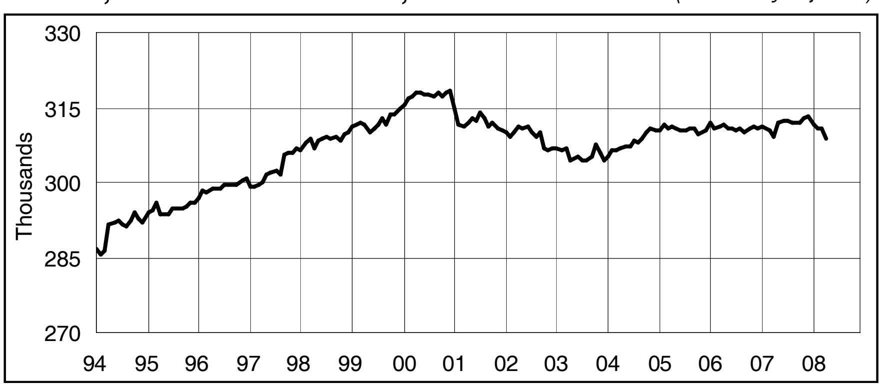
Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	66.5	68.2	68.9
Feb	67.4	67.6	67.7
Mar	67.6	68.0	67.8
Apr	66.9	68.1	67.8
May	66.7	68.5	
Jun	66.8	68.7	
Jul	66.9	68.6	
Aug	67.1	68.7	
Sep	67.2	68.8	
Oct	67.5	69.2	
Nov	67.4	68.9	
Dec	67.6	68.5	

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



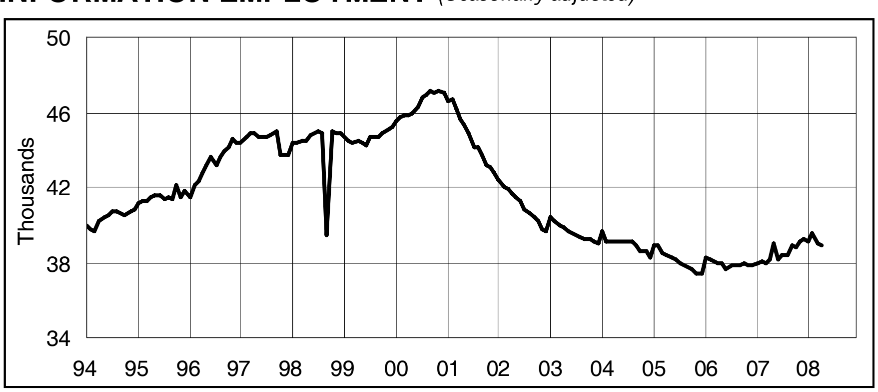
Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	194.2	192.3	190.4
Feb	194.3	192.2	190.1
Mar	190.9	191.7	189.9
Apr	194.4	191.0	189.6
May	194.3	191.1	
Jun	194.2	191.2	
Jul	194.2	191.4	
Aug	193.7	191.5	
Sep	193.4	191.3	
Oct	192.7	190.9	
Nov	192.8	190.8	
Dec	192.6	190.7	

TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, & UTILITIES EMP. *(Seasonally adjusted)*



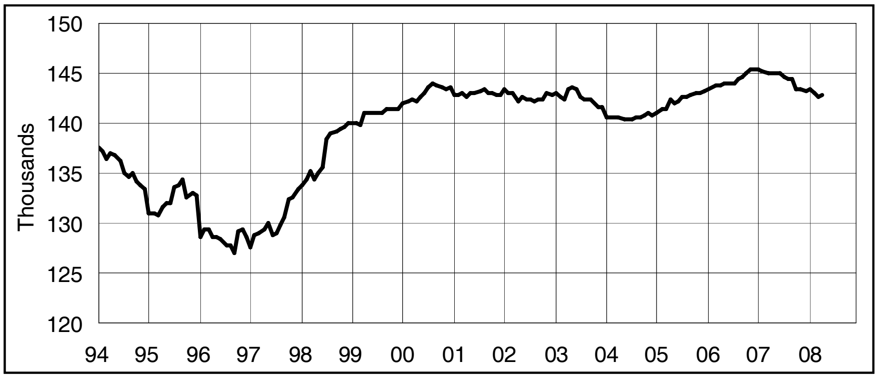
Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	311.9	311.2	311.7
Feb	310.7	310.6	310.7
Mar	311.3	310.5	310.9
Apr	311.5	309.1	309.0
May	310.9	311.9	
Jun	311.0	312.3	
Jul	310.3	312.4	
Aug	310.7	312.2	
Sep	310.1	311.9	
Oct	310.7	311.8	
Nov	311.1	312.6	
Dec	311.0	313.1	

INFORMATION EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



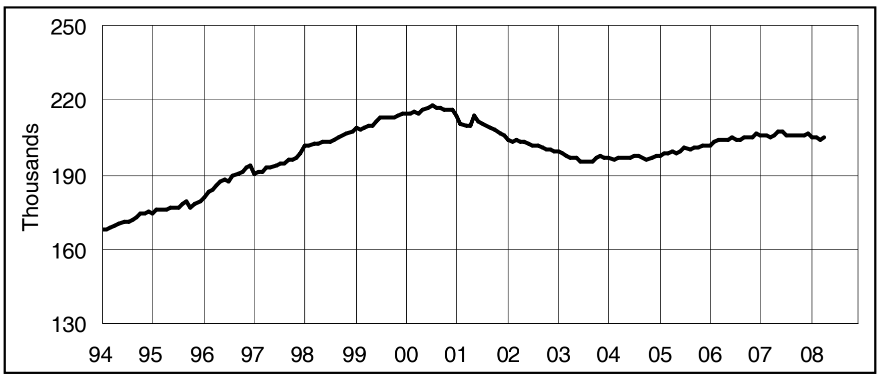
Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	38.3	37.9	39.1
Feb	38.2	38.1	39.5
Mar	38.1	37.9	39.0
Apr	37.9	38.2	38.9
May	37.9	39.0	
Jun	37.6	38.2	
Jul	37.8	38.4	
Aug	37.8	38.4	
Sep	37.8	38.9	
Oct	37.9	38.8	
Nov	37.8	39.1	
Dec	37.8	39.2	

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



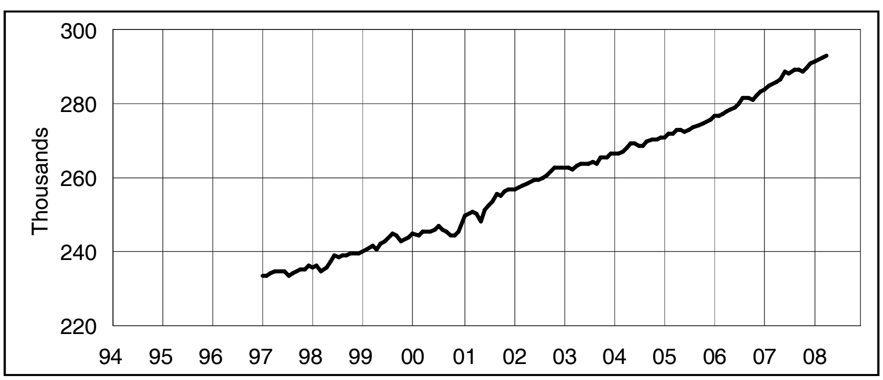
Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	143.4	145.3	143.5
Feb	143.7	145.2	143.1
Mar	143.8	145.0	142.6
Apr	143.8	145.0	142.8
May	143.9	144.9	
Jun	143.9	145.1	
Jul	144.1	144.7	
Aug	144.4	144.5	
Sep	144.6	144.3	
Oct	145.1	143.4	
Nov	145.4	143.3	
Dec	145.3	143.2	

PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERV. EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



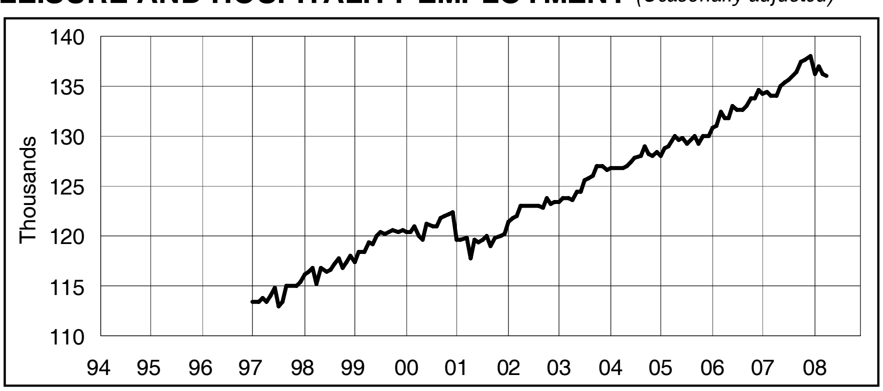
Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	202.0	205.6	205.3
Feb	203.6	205.5	204.9
Mar	204.0	204.8	204.1
Apr	204.3	205.7	205.3
May	204.1	207.0	
Jun	204.8	207.0	
Jul	203.7	206.0	
Aug	204.3	206.1	
Sep	204.7	205.6	
Oct	204.8	205.5	
Nov	205.1	206.1	
Dec	206.2	206.5	

EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERV. EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	276.5	284.0	291.6
Feb	276.7	284.7	292.1
Mar	277.3	285.4	292.4
Apr	277.8	286.0	293.1
May	278.5	286.6	
Jun	278.8	288.4	
Jul	280.2	288.2	
Aug	281.4	289.0	
Sep	281.6	289.3	
Oct	281.3	288.8	
Nov	282.2	289.5	
Dec	283.1	290.8	

LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	130.8	134.2	136.2
Feb	131.0	134.5	137.1
Mar	132.4	134.1	136.2
Apr	131.8	133.9	136.1
May	131.8	135.1	
Jun	132.9	135.3	
Jul	132.6	135.7	
Aug	132.6	136.1	
Sep	132.9	136.3	
Oct	133.8	137.5	
Nov	133.8	137.7	
Dec	134.7	138.0	

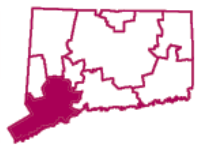
CONNECTICUT

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**1,701,300**	**1,689,400**	**11,900**	**0.7**	**1,683,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**256,700**	**258,500**	**-1,800**	**-0.7**	**252,800**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**67,300**	**67,800**	**-500**	**-0.7**	**63,200**
MANUFACTURING	**189,400**	**190,700**	**-1,300**	**-0.7**	**189,600**
Durable Goods	**143,500**	**143,600**	**-100**	**-0.1**	**143,500**
Fabricated Metal	32,700	33,300	-600	-1.8	32,600
Machinery	18,000	18,100	-100	-0.6	18,100
Computer and Electronic Product	13,900	14,200	-300	-2.1	13,900
Transportation Equipment	43,600	42,800	800	1.9	43,600
Aerospace Product and Parts	31,800	31,300	500	1.6	31,700
Non-Durable Goods	**45,900**	**47,100**	**-1,200**	**-2.5**	**46,100**
Chemical	15,200	15,700	-500	-3.2	15,200
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**1,444,600**	**1,430,900**	**13,700**	**1.0**	**1,431,000**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**307,200**	**306,100**	**1,100**	**0.4**	**307,400**
Wholesale Trade	68,600	67,500	1,100	1.6	68,500
Retail Trade	186,000	186,400	-400	-0.2	186,200
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	22,100	21,900	200	0.9	21,900
Building Material	16,500	16,800	-300	-1.8	15,500
Food and Beverage Stores	41,200	40,800	400	1.0	41,700
General Merchandise Stores	24,100	24,600	-500	-2.0	24,300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	52,600	52,200	400	0.8	52,700
Utilities	8,300	8,100	200	2.5	8,200
Transportation and Warehousing	44,300	44,100	200	0.5	44,500
INFORMATION	**38,800**	**38,000**	**800**	**2.1**	**38,800**
Telecommunications	13,100	13,200	-100	-0.8	13,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**142,600**	**144,100**	**-1,500**	**-1.0**	**142,100**
Finance and Insurance	122,400	123,100	-700	-0.6	122,200
Credit Intermediation	30,000	31,600	-1,600	-5.1	29,900
Securities and Commodity Contracts	22,200	21,600	600	2.8	22,200
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	65,400	65,100	300	0.5	65,300
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	20,200	21,000	-800	-3.8	19,900
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**205,900**	**206,000**	**-100**	**0.0**	**201,500**
Professional, Scientific	94,300	92,600	1,700	1.8	93,900
Legal Services	14,400	14,400	0	0.0	14,400
Computer Systems Design	22,200	21,500	700	3.3	22,000
Management of Companies	25,000	25,100	-100	-0.4	24,700
Administrative and Support	86,600	88,300	-1,700	-1.9	82,900
Employment Services	29,800	31,800	-2,000	-6.3	29,900
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**295,700**	**289,200**	**6,500**	**2.2**	**292,200**
Educational Services	59,100	58,400	700	1.2	56,100
Health Care and Social Assistance	236,600	230,800	5,800	2.5	236,100
Hospitals	58,500	57,100	1,400	2.5	58,700
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	59,800	58,900	900	1.5	59,200
Social Assistance	42,500	40,500	2,000	4.9	42,600
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**133,700**	**131,300**	**2,400**	**1.8**	**129,200**
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	22,800	22,500	300	1.3	21,100
Accommodation and Food Services	110,900	108,800	2,100	1.9	108,100
Food Serv., Restaurants, Drinking Places	99,400	97,200	2,200	2.3	96,900
OTHER SERVICES	**63,900**	**63,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**63,600**
GOVERNMENT	**256,800**	**252,300**	**4,500**	**1.8**	**256,200**
Federal Government	19,300	19,600	-300	-1.5	19,300
State Government	72,500	70,000	2,500	3.6	71,900
Local Government**	165,000	162,700	2,300	1.4	165,000

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2007.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

BRIDGEPORT - STAMFORD LMA

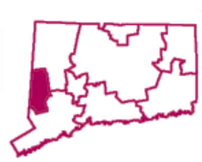


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**423,800**	**417,900**	**5,900**	**1.4**	**419,100**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**56,800**	**55,800**	**1,000**	**1.8**	**55,900**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**16,000**	**15,600**	**400**	**2.6**	**14,900**
MANUFACTURING	**40,800**	**40,200**	**600**	**1.5**	**41,000**
Durable Goods	**30,200**	**29,600**	**600**	**2.0**	**30,400**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**367,000**	**362,100**	**4,900**	**1.4**	**363,200**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**75,800**	**74,600**	**1,200**	**1.6**	**75,800**
Wholesale Trade	14,500	14,400	100	0.7	14,500
Retail Trade	49,700	48,800	900	1.8	49,700
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	11,600	11,400	200	1.8	11,600
INFORMATION	**12,400**	**11,400**	**1,000**	**8.8**	**12,400**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**45,600**	**45,000**	**600**	**1.3**	**45,700**
Finance and Insurance	39,100	38,400	700	1.8	39,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**71,500**	**71,200**	**300**	**0.4**	**69,500**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**62,900**	**62,200**	**700**	**1.1**	**62,600**
Health Care and Social Assistance	53,000	51,900	1,100	2.1	53,100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**33,600**	**33,000**	**600**	**1.8**	**32,200**
Accommodation and Food Services	25,300	24,600	700	2.8	24,600
OTHER SERVICES	**17,400**	**17,200**	**200**	**1.2**	**17,300**
GOVERNMENT	**47,800**	**47,500**	**300**	**0.6**	**47,700**
Federal	3,100	3,200	-100	-3.1	3,100
State & Local	44,700	44,300	400	0.9	44,600

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

DANBURY LMA



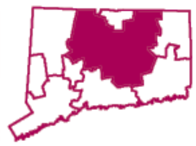
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**70,500**	**69,400**	**1,100**	**1.6**	**69,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**13,000**	**12,900**	**100**	**0.8**	**12,800**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**57,500**	**56,500**	**1,000**	**1.8**	**57,000**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**15,800**	**15,500**	**300**	**1.9**	**15,900**
Retail Trade	11,700	11,500	200	1.7	11,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**8,100**	**8,300**	**-200**	**-2.4**	**7,800**
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**5,800**	**5,500**	**300**	**5.5**	**5,700**
GOVERNMENT	**8,300**	**8,400**	**-100**	**-1.2**	**8,400**
Federal	600	600	0	0.0	600
State & Local	7,700	7,800	-100	-1.3	7,800

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 2007.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

HARTFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**563,800**	**554,900**	**8,900**	**1.6**	**558,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**86,900**	**86,600**	**300**	**0.3**	**85,600**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**22,200**	**22,100**	**100**	**0.5**	**20,900**
MANUFACTURING	**64,700**	**64,500**	**200**	**0.3**	**64,700**
Durable Goods	**53,800**	**53,700**	**100**	**0.2**	**53,800**
Transportation Equipment	18,400	18,600	-200	-1.1	18,500
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**476,900**	**468,300**	**8,600**	**1.8**	**472,900**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**89,400**	**88,000**	**1,400**	**1.6**	**89,100**
Wholesale Trade	20,000	19,600	400	2.0	19,800
Retail Trade	54,600	54,000	600	1.1	54,500
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	14,800	14,400	400	2.8	14,800
Transportation and Warehousing	11,700	11,300	400	3.5	11,700
INFORMATION	**12,400**	**12,000**	**400**	**3.3**	**12,300**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**66,100**	**66,600**	**-500**	**-0.8**	**66,200**
Depository Credit Institutions	7,700	7,700	0	0.0	7,700
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	44,400	44,900	-500	-1.1	44,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**62,300**	**61,000**	**1,300**	**2.1**	**60,600**
Professional, Scientific	30,600	29,900	700	2.3	30,400
Administrative and Support	24,500	24,600	-100	-0.4	23,500
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**93,300**	**89,800**	**3,500**	**3.9**	**93,000**
Health Care and Social Assistance	79,400	77,500	1,900	2.5	79,400
Ambulatory Health Care	23,800	23,100	700	3.0	23,800
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**41,000**	**39,500**	**1,500**	**3.8**	**40,000**
Accommodation and Food Services	34,600	33,500	1,100	3.3	34,100
OTHER SERVICES	**21,000**	**20,900**	**100**	**0.5**	**20,900**
GOVERNMENT	**91,400**	**90,500**	**900**	**1.0**	**90,800**
Federal	5,900	6,000	-100	-1.7	5,900
State & Local	85,500	84,500	1,000	1.2	84,900

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

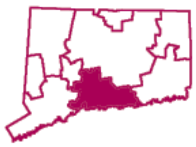
Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2007.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS

- **Manufacturing multifactor productivity in 2006**
  Multifactor productivity in the manufacturing sector (in U.S.) rose 1.6 percent in 2006. This is the fifth consecutive year that multifactor productivity rose in manufacturing. The 2006 multifactor productivity gain reflected a 1.8-percent increase in sectoral output and a 0.3-percent increase in combined inputs. Multifactor productivity is designed to measure the joint influences on economic growth of technological change, efficiency improvements, returns to scale, reallocation of resources, and other factors, allowing for the effects of capital, labor and, in the case of the manufacturing sector, intermediate inputs (energy, materials, purchased business services). These data are from the BLS Multifactor Productivity program. Productivity data are subject to revision. To learn more, see "Multifactor Productivity Trends in Manufacturing, 2006," news release USDL 08-0587. (The Editor's Desk, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2, 2008)

--Continued on the following page--

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**277,800**	**277,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**274,000**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**42,800**	**43,400**	**-600**	**-1.4**	**42,200**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**11,400**	**11,300**	**100**	**0.9**	**10,700**
MANUFACTURING	**31,400**	**32,100**	**-700**	**-2.2**	**31,500**
Durable Goods	**22,100**	**22,300**	**-200**	**-0.9**	**22,000**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**235,000**	**234,400**	**600**	**0.3**	**231,800**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**51,000**	**50,900**	**100**	**0.2**	**51,100**
Wholesale Trade	11,500	11,400	100	0.9	11,500
Retail Trade	30,800	30,700	100	0.3	30,900
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	8,700	8,800	-100	-1.1	8,700
INFORMATION	**8,000**	**8,200**	**-200**	**-2.4**	**8,100**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**13,400**	**13,700**	**-300**	**-2.2**	**13,300**
Finance and Insurance	9,600	9,900	-300	-3.0	9,600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**26,100**	**26,000**	**100**	**0.4**	**25,700**
Administrative and Support	12,800	12,600	200	1.6	12,500
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**69,500**	**68,700**	**800**	**1.2**	**67,200**
Educational Services	25,600	25,800	-200	-0.8	23,600
Health Care and Social Assistance	43,900	42,900	1,000	2.3	43,600
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**21,200**	**20,800**	**400**	**1.9**	**20,800**
Accommodation and Food Services	17,700	17,900	-200	-1.1	17,100
OTHER SERVICES	**11,100**	**10,900**	**200**	**1.8**	**11,000**
GOVERNMENT	**34,700**	**35,200**	**-500**	**-1.4**	**34,600**
Federal	5,100	5,100	0	0.0	5,100
State & Local	29,600	30,100	-500	-1.7	29,500

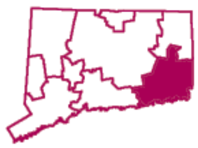
For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2007.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.   **Value less than 50*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS (Cont.)

- **Unemployment rate 26.9 percent among recent dropouts**
  Between October 2006 and October 2007, 426,000 people between the ages of 16 and 24 (in U.S.) dropped out of high school. The unemployment rate for these high school dropouts was 26.9 percent in October 2007, while the unemployment rate of 2007 high school graduates who had not enrolled in college was 19.9 percent. Among recent high school graduates who were in college, the unemployment rate was 9.8 percent in October. This information is from a supplement to the October 2007 Current Population Survey. Additional information is available from "College Enrollment and Work Activity of 2007 High School Graduates," news release USDL 08-0559. (The Editor's Desk, Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 30, 2008)

NORWICH - NEW LONDON LMA

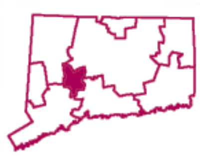


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**135,600**	**134,600**	**1,000**	**0.7**	**134,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**20,300**	**20,000**	**300**	**1.5**	**20,200**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**4,400**	**4,200**	**200**	**4.8**	**4,200**
MANUFACTURING	**15,900**	**15,800**	**100**	**0.6**	**16,000**
Durable Goods	**10,600**	**10,200**	**400**	**3.9**	**10,700**
Non-Durable Goods	**5,300**	**5,600**	**-300**	**-5.4**	**5,300**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**115,300**	**114,600**	**700**	**0.6**	**114,100**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**23,200**	**22,900**	**300**	**1.3**	**23,500**
Wholesale Trade	2,400	2,200	200	9.1	2,400
Retail Trade	15,900	16,000	-100	-0.6	16,200
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	4,900	4,700	200	4.3	4,900
INFORMATION	**2,000**	**2,100**	**-100**	**-4.8**	**2,000**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**3,300**	**3,400**	**-100**	**-2.9**	**3,200**
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**9,800**	**10,200**	**-400**	**-3.9**	**9,800**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**20,100**	**19,800**	**300**	**1.5**	**19,900**
Health Care and Social Assistance	17,200	16,900	300	1.8	17,200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**13,100**	**13,000**	**100**	**0.8**	**12,200**
Accommodation and Food Services	11,100	10,800	300	2.8	10,600
Food Serv., Restaurants, Drinking Places	9,300	8,900	400	4.5	8,900
OTHER SERVICES	**3,800**	**3,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**3,800**
GOVERNMENT	**40,000**	**39,400**	**600**	**1.5**	**39,700**
Federal	2,700	2,600	100	3.8	2,700
State & Local**	37,300	36,800	500	1.4	37,000

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

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**69,100**	**68,400**	**700**	**1.0**	**68,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**12,600**	**13,100**	**-500**	**-3.8**	**12,400**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**2,800**	**2,900**	**-100**	**-3.4**	**2,600**
MANUFACTURING	**9,800**	**10,200**	**-400**	**-3.9**	**9,800**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**56,500**	**55,300**	**1,200**	**2.2**	**55,900**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**13,800**	**13,300**	**500**	**3.8**	**13,600**
Wholesale Trade	2,200	2,200	0	0.0	2,200
Retail Trade	9,300	9,000	300	3.3	9,100
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	2,300	2,100	200	9.5	2,300
INFORMATION	**900**	**800**	**100**	**12.5**	**900**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**2,400**	**2,500**	**-100**	**-4.0**	**2,400**
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**6,400**	**6,200**	**200**	**3.2**	**6,200**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**15,000**	**14,800**	**200**	**1.4**	**14,800**
Health Care and Social Assistance	13,500	13,400	100	0.7	13,400
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**5,000**	**4,900**	**100**	**2.0**	**4,800**
OTHER SERVICES	**2,600**	**2,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,600**
GOVERNMENT	**10,400**	**10,200**	**200**	**2.0**	**10,600**
Federal	600	600	0	0.0	600
State & Local	9,800	9,600	200	2.1	10,000

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 2007.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

SMALLER LMAS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT					
ENFIELD LMA	**48,400**	**48,800**	**-400**	**-0.8**	**48,200**
TORRINGTON LMA	**36,900**	**36,500**	**400**	**1.1**	**36,000**
WILLIMANTIC - DANIELSON LMA	**38,200**	**38,300**	**-100**	**-0.3**	**37,500**

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

	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**298,200**	**298,600**	**-400**	**-0.1**	**294,400**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**46,600**	**47,000**	**-400**	**-0.9**	**46,000**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**9,800**	**10,200**	**-400**	**-3.9**	**9,000**
MANUFACTURING	**36,800**	**36,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**37,000**
Durable Goods	**23,400**	**23,400**	**0**	**0.0**	**23,600**
Non-Durable Goods	**13,400**	**13,400**	**0**	**0.0**	**13,400**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**251,600**	**251,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**248,400**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**59,500**	**60,000**	**-500**	**-0.8**	**59,400**
Wholesale Trade	11,400	11,600	-200	-1.7	11,400
Retail Trade	34,600	35,000	-400	-1.1	34,700
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	13,500	13,400	100	0.7	13,300
INFORMATION	**4,400**	**4,400**	**0**	**0.0**	**4,400**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**17,000**	**17,200**	**-200**	**-1.2**	**17,000**
Finance and Insurance	13,400	13,400	0	0.0	13,400
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	8,600	8,500	100	1.2	8,600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**23,300**	**23,800**	**-500**	**-2.1**	**22,000**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**58,400**	**57,100**	**1,300**	**2.3**	**58,400**
Educational Services	13,300	13,200	100	0.8	13,300
Health Care and Social Assistance	45,100	43,900	1,200	2.7	45,100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**26,700**	**27,000**	**-300**	**-1.1**	**25,200**
OTHER SERVICES	**11,500**	**11,600**	**-100**	**-0.9**	**11,400**
GOVERNMENT	**50,800**	**50,500**	**300**	**0.6**	**50,600**
Federal	7,200	6,700	500	7.5	7,200
State & Local	43,600	43,800	-200	-0.5	43,400

* New England City and Town Area

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2007.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	APR 2008	APR 2007	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 2008
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,866,900	1,847,000	19,900	1.1	1,874,700
	Employed	1,782,500	1,769,700	12,800	0.7	1,771,000
	Unemployed	84,400	77,300	7,100	9.2	103,800
	Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.2	0.3	---	5.5
BRIDGEPORT - STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	475,400	469,000	6,400	1.4	476,400
	Employed	455,900	451,800	4,100	0.9	452,900
	Unemployed	19,500	17,300	2,200	12.7	23,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	3.7	0.4	---	5.0
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	92,200	91,000	1,200	1.3	92,500
	Employed	89,000	88,100	900	1.0	88,400
	Unemployed	3,200	2,900	300	10.3	4,000
	Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.2	0.3	---	4.4
ENFIELD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	49,400	49,300	100	0.2	49,500
	Employed	47,100	47,200	-100	-0.2	46,800
	Unemployed	2,300	2,100	200	9.5	2,700
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.2	0.4	---	5.5
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	588,700	580,800	7,900	1.4	592,600
	Employed	561,800	555,600	6,200	1.1	559,000
	Unemployed	26,900	25,300	1,600	6.3	33,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.4	0.2	---	5.7
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	310,100	309,000	1,100	0.4	310,900
	Employed	295,400	295,200	200	0.1	293,100
	Unemployed	14,700	13,800	900	6.5	17,700
	Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.5	0.2	---	5.7
NORWICH - NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	150,100	148,700	1,400	0.9	150,500
	Employed	143,400	142,900	500	0.3	142,700
	Unemployed	6,700	5,800	900	15.5	7,900
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	3.9	0.5	---	5.2
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	54,400	54,000	400	0.7	54,300
	Employed	52,100	51,700	400	0.8	51,100
	Unemployed	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	3,200
	Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.2	0.1	---	5.8
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	101,900	100,600	1,300	1.3	103,000
	Employed	95,500	95,000	500	0.5	95,100
	Unemployed	6,500	5,600	900	16.1	7,900
	Unemployment Rate	6.3	5.6	0.7	---	7.7
WILLIMANTIC-DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	58,100	57,800	300	0.5	58,400
	Employed	54,900	54,900	0	0.0	54,500
	Unemployed	3,200	2,900	300	10.3	3,900
	Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.1	0.4	---	6.7
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	153,208,000	151,829,000	1,379,000	0.9	153,135,000
	Employed	145,921,000	145,297,000	624,000	0.4	145,108,000
	Unemployed	7,287,000	6,532,000	755,000	11.6	8,027,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.3	0.5	---	5.2

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2007.

CONNECTICUT	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	APR		CHG	MAR	APR		CHG	MAR	APR		CHG	MAR
(Not seasonally adjusted)	2008	2007	Y/Y	2008	2008	2007	Y/Y	2008	2008	2007	Y/Y	2008
MANUFACTURING	**$895.05**	**$861.57**	**$33.48**	**$900.56**	**42.5**	**42.4**	**0.1**	**42.6**	**$21.06**	**$20.32**	**$0.74**	**$21.14**
DURABLE GOODS	**922.68**	**889.98**	**32.70**	**928.30**	**42.5**	**42.4**	**0.1**	**42.7**	**21.71**	**20.99**	**0.72**	**21.74**
Fabricated Metal	827.65	798.39	29.26	824.59	42.4	42.4	0.0	42.2	19.52	18.83	0.69	19.54
Transport. Equipment	1,161.86	1,111.01	50.85	1,165.30	43.0	42.6	0.4	43.0	27.02	26.08	0.94	27.10
NON-DUR. GOODS	**822.18**	**784.82**	**37.36**	**827.90**	**42.6**	**42.4**	0.2	**42.5**	**19.30**	**18.51**	**0.79**	**19.48**
CONSTRUCTION	**948.02**	**912.77**	**35.25**	**991.73**	**38.6**	**38.4**	**0.2**	**38.8**	**24.56**	**23.77**	**0.79**	**25.56**

Due to constraints of the sample upon which estimates are made, statewide manufacturing hours and earnings for machinery and computer and electronic sectors are no longer published.

Due to cuts in the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics fiscal year 2008 budget allocations to state agencies that cooperatively develop labor statistics with the BLS, the Office of Research is suspending development and publication of production worker hours and earnings data for its labor market areas.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2007.

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN THE NEWS MEDIA

- On April 3, 2008, Home Depot opened a new store on Frontage Road, in East Haven, employing 150 people. The Bloomfield Cinemas 8, which had been closed for two years, reopened on April 25th with a new staff of 20. On May 1st, Five Guys Burgers & Fries, a national chain of fast food restaurants, will open in the former Quiznos in Mystic with 30 employees.

- April 2008 saw People's Bank announce plans to shut 20 branches, with 170 lost jobs. Windham-based Keeper Corp., a tie-down maker, is laying off 67, with work going to China. Neurogen Corp., a biotech company in Branford, has cut 45 jobs. Pitney Bowes will shift distribution from Newtown to Indiana, with 67 job losses. Famous Dave's restaurant in New Britain with 50 workers has closed. Stevenson Lumber of Suffield, with 80 workers, has closed.

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.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES BY TOWN

(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

APRIL 2008

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
BRIDGEPORT-STAMFORD				
	475,414	**455,924**	**19,490**	**4.1**
Ansonia	10,063	9,467	596	5.9
Bridgeport	63,133	58,483	4,650	7.4
Darien	9,264	9,019	245	2.6
Derby	6,934	6,560	374	5.4
Easton	3,789	3,669	120	3.2
Fairfield	28,645	27,650	995	3.5
Greenwich	30,568	29,660	908	3.0
Milford	32,023	30,793	1,230	3.8
Monroe	10,731	10,356	375	3.5
New Canaan	9,013	8,760	253	2.8
Newtown	14,425	14,010	415	2.9
Norwalk	49,009	47,195	1,814	3.7
Oxford	7,344	7,082	262	3.6
Redding	4,735	4,614	121	2.6
Ridgefield	11,820	11,467	353	3.0
Seymour	9,335	8,897	438	4.7
Shelton	23,213	22,313	900	3.9
Southbury	9,147	8,842	305	3.3
Stamford	66,905	64,539	2,366	3.5
Stratford	26,191	24,947	1,244	4.7
Trumbull	18,002	17,366	636	3.5
Weston	4,964	4,836	128	2.6
Westport	12,832	12,448	384	3.0
Wilton	8,405	8,160	245	2.9
Woodbridge	4,926	4,793	133	2.7
DANBURY	**92,191**	**89,001**	**3,190**	**3.5**
Bethel	10,858	10,520	338	3.1
Bridgewater	1,053	1,017	36	3.4
Brookfield	9,149	8,822	327	3.6
Danbury	44,786	43,185	1,601	3.6
New Fairfield	7,649	7,402	247	3.2
New Milford	16,528	15,941	587	3.6
Sherman	2,166	2,113	53	2.4
ENFIELD	**49,410**	**47,130**	**2,280**	**4.6**
East Windsor	6,229	5,896	333	5.3
Enfield	23,929	22,799	1,130	4.7
Somers	4,699	4,495	204	4.3
Suffield	7,495	7,205	290	3.9
Windsor Locks	7,057	6,734	323	4.6
HARTFORD	**588,713**	**561,821**	**26,892**	**4.6**
Andover	2,003	1,936	67	3.3
Ashford	2,657	2,551	106	4.0
Avon	9,284	9,033	251	2.7
Barkhamsted	2,258	2,163	95	4.2
Berlin	11,399	10,994	405	3.6
Bloomfield	10,139	9,621	518	5.1
Bolton	3,072	2,970	102	3.3
Bristol	34,561	32,820	1,741	5.0
Burlington	5,411	5,227	184	3.4

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
HARTFORD cont....				
Canton	5,800	5,631	169	2.9
Colchester	8,831	8,499	332	3.8
Columbia	3,092	2,990	102	3.3
Coventry	7,073	6,812	261	3.7
Cromwell	7,865	7,572	293	3.7
East Granby	2,952	2,860	92	3.1
East Haddam	5,215	5,032	183	3.5
East Hampton	7,069	6,736	333	4.7
East Hartford	25,483	24,012	1,471	5.8
Ellington	8,809	8,487	322	3.7
Farmington	13,027	12,603	424	3.3
Glastonbury	18,321	17,790	531	2.9
Granby	6,350	6,164	186	2.9
Haddam	4,876	4,737	139	2.9
Hartford	49,193	44,832	4,361	8.9
Hartland	1,212	1,178	34	2.8
Harwinton	3,223	3,085	138	4.3
Hebron	5,540	5,364	176	3.2
Lebanon	4,329	4,175	154	3.6
Manchester	32,319	30,867	1,452	4.5
Mansfield	13,183	12,709	474	3.6
Marlborough	3,660	3,535	125	3.4
Middlefield	2,400	2,314	86	3.6
Middletown	26,729	25,617	1,112	4.2
New Britain	34,780	32,415	2,365	6.8
New Hartford	3,866	3,717	149	3.9
Newington	16,714	16,078	636	3.8
Plainville	10,212	9,697	515	5.0
Plymouth	6,981	6,565	416	6.0
Portland	5,416	5,220	196	3.6
Rocky Hill	10,844	10,445	399	3.7
Simsbury	12,193	11,820	373	3.1
Southington	24,393	23,475	918	3.8
South Windsor	14,933	14,431	502	3.4
Stafford	6,878	6,579	299	4.3
Thomaston	4,721	4,466	255	5.4
Tolland	8,450	8,197	253	3.0
Union	483	464	19	3.9
Vernon	17,524	16,753	771	4.4
West Hartford	29,438	28,335	1,103	3.7
Wethersfield	13,404	12,886	518	3.9
Willington	3,947	3,819	128	3.2
Windsor	16,201	15,543	658	4.1

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 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)

APRIL 2008

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
NEW HAVEN	**310,090**	**295,424**	**14,666**	**4.7**
Bethany	3,107	3,012	95	3.1
Branford	17,354	16,702	652	3.8
Cheshire	14,605	14,075	530	3.6
Chester	2,292	2,214	78	3.4
Clinton	7,976	7,691	285	3.6
Deep River	2,585	2,494	91	3.5
Durham	4,272	4,145	127	3.0
East Haven	16,147	15,351	796	4.9
Essex	3,797	3,672	125	3.3
Guilford	13,010	12,604	406	3.1
Hamden	30,813	29,490	1,323	4.3
Killingworth	3,615	3,495	120	3.3
Madison	10,067	9,785	282	2.8
Meriden	31,861	29,919	1,942	6.1
New Haven	55,529	51,647	3,882	7.0
North Branford	8,422	8,091	331	3.9
North Haven	13,178	12,695	483	3.7
Old Saybrook	5,520	5,326	194	3.5
Orange	7,283	7,053	230	3.2
Wallingford	25,328	24,338	990	3.9
Westbrook	3,683	3,554	129	3.5
West Haven	29,647	28,072	1,575	5.3
*NORWICH-NEW LONDON				
	136,659	**130,751**	**5,908**	**4.3**
Bozrah	1,462	1,411	51	3.5
Canterbury	3,237	3,077	160	4.9
East Lyme	9,572	9,233	339	3.5
Franklin	1,190	1,140	50	4.2
Griswold	7,154	6,815	339	4.7
Groton	19,120	18,270	850	4.4
Ledyard	8,553	8,261	292	3.4
Lisbon	2,562	2,462	100	3.9
Lyme	1,142	1,113	29	2.5
Montville	10,937	10,494	443	4.1
New London	13,619	12,845	774	5.7
No. Stonington	3,289	3,166	123	3.7
Norwich	20,716	19,604	1,112	5.4
Old Lyme	4,219	4,091	128	3.0
Preston	2,858	2,761	97	3.4
Salem	2,639	2,530	109	4.1
Sprague	1,818	1,708	110	6.1
Stonington	10,531	10,184	347	3.3
Voluntown	1,611	1,540	71	4.4
Waterford	10,430	10,045	385	3.7

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

NORWICH-NEW LONDON				
	150,096	**143,431**	**6,665**	**4.4**
Westerly, RI	13,437	12,680	757	5.6

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	**54,394**	**52,071**	**2,323**	**4.3**
Bethlehem	2,022	1,947	75	3.7
Canaan	606	586	20	3.3
Colebrook	834	816	18	2.2
Cornwall	836	808	28	3.3
Goshen	1,619	1,562	57	3.5
Kent	1,594	1,548	46	2.9
Litchfield	4,425	4,254	171	3.9
Morris	1,297	1,252	45	3.5
Norfolk	953	920	33	3.5
North Canaan	1,745	1,668	77	4.4
Roxbury	1,390	1,343	47	3.4
Salisbury	1,978	1,920	58	2.9
Sharon	1,568	1,528	40	2.6
Torrington	19,303	18,277	1,026	5.3
Warren	748	721	27	3.6
Washington	1,939	1,885	54	2.8
Winchester	6,043	5,706	337	5.6
Woodbury	5,496	5,331	165	3.0
WATERBURY	**101,931**	**95,468**	**6,463**	**6.3**
Beacon Falls	3,329	3,171	158	4.7
Middlebury	3,884	3,755	129	3.3
Naugatuck	17,444	16,376	1,068	6.1
Prospect	5,348	5,107	241	4.5
Waterbury	50,335	46,443	3,892	7.7
Watertown	12,507	11,936	571	4.6
Wolcott	9,083	8,680	403	4.4
WILLIMANTIC-DANIELSON				
	58,061	**54,873**	**3,188**	**5.5**
Brooklyn	3,884	3,684	200	5.1
Chaplin	1,479	1,409	70	4.7
Eastford	1,013	980	33	3.3
Hampton	1,229	1,170	59	4.8
Killingly	9,551	8,978	573	6.0
Plainfield	8,449	7,941	508	6.0
Pomfret	2,292	2,200	92	4.0
Putnam	5,203	4,897	306	5.9
Scotland	1,025	991	34	3.3
Sterling	2,085	1,964	121	5.8
Thompson	5,338	5,050	288	5.4
Windham	11,847	11,154	693	5.8
Woodstock	4,668	4,456	212	4.5

Not Seasonally Adjusted:				
CONNECTICUT	**1,866,900**	**1,782,500**	**84,400**	**4.5**
UNITED STATES	**153,208,000**	**145,921,000**	**7,287,000**	**4.8**
Seasonally Adjusted:				
CONNECTICUT	**1,878,000**	**1,790,100**	**87,900**	**4.7**
UNITED STATES	**153,957,000**	**146,331,000**	**7,626,000**	**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	APR 2008	YR TO DATE 2008	YR TO DATE 2007
Andover	0	1	1
Ansonia	0	3	3
Ashford	0	0	4
Avon	2	8	13
Barkhamsted	na	na	na
Beacon Falls	na	na	na
Berlin	4	12	49
Bethany	na	na	na
Bethel	0	6	4
Bethlehem	na	na	na
Bloomfield	na	na	na
Bolton	1	2	5
Bozrah	0	1	2
Branford	na	na	na
Bridgeport	5	36	45
Bridgewater	na	na	na
Bristol	8	14	25
Brookfield	na	na	na
Brooklyn	2	11	5
Burlington	4	6	10
Canaan	0	1	2
Canterbury	0	2	4
Canton	0	6	8
Chaplin	1	4	5
Cheshire	4	17	13
Chester	na	na	na
Clinton	1	2	1
Colchester	3	3	19
Colebrook	1	1	0
Columbia	1	3	2
Cornwall	0	1	2
Coventry	0	8	7
Cromwell	2	8	12
Danbury	1	19	66
Darien	na	na	na
Deep River	0	0	0
Derby	na	na	na
Durham	2	8	11
East Granby	2	3	7
East Haddam	1	2	14
East Hampton	4	13	26
East Hartford	na	na	na
East Haven	0	4	9
East Lyme	3	9	12
East Windsor	5	22	8
Eastford	0	0	2
Easton	0	1	3
Ellington	5	33	28
Enfield	na	na	na
Essex	1	4	4
Fairfield	3	22	31
Farmington	3	12	16
Franklin	0	1	1
Glastonbury	2	5	25
Goshen	2	6	10
Granby	1	3	9
Greenwich	12	53	57

TOWN	APR 2008	YR TO DATE 2008	YR TO DATE 2007
Griswold	na	na	na
Groton	5	23	10
Guilford	12	20	10
Haddam	5	13	17
Hamden	0	1	6
Hampton	1	3	4
Hartford	6	21	17
Hartland	na	na	na
Harwinton	3	5	6
Hebron	na	na	na
Kent	2	3	2
Killingly	4	9	19
Killingworth	na	na	na
Lebanon	1	3	1
Ledyard	0	3	5
Lisbon	0	1	6
Litchfield	na	na	na
Lyme	2	4	1
Madison	2	7	6
Manchester	24	30	193
Mansfield	1	2	16
Marlborough	1	3	7
Meriden	2	10	18
Middlebury	na	na	na
Middlefield	0	1	1
Middletown	14	47	66
Milford	18	61	85
Monroe	0	4	6
Montville	2	9	3
Morris	1	2	3
Naugatuck	0	8	13
New Britain	na	na	na
New Canaan	0	6	13
New Fairfield	na	na	na
New Hartford	1	2	5
New Haven	12	19	20
New London	3	11	16
New Milford	2	6	5
Newington	5	22	9
Newtown	1	7	13
Norfolk	0	1	2
North Branford	na	na	na
North Canaan	1	2	2
North Haven	0	1	4
North Stonington	0	2	7
Norwalk	1	11	23
Norwich	2	10	33
Old Lyme	na	na	na
Old Saybrook	3	4	2
Orange	na	na	na
Oxford	11	24	16
Plainfield	0	13	4
Plainville	4	8	12
Plymouth	1	2	5
Pomfret	0	2	1
Portland	0	6	1

TOWN	APR 2008	YR TO DATE 2008	YR TO DATE 2007
Preston	1	2	6
Prospect	na	na	na
Putnam	2	5	7
Redding	na	na	na
Ridgefield	9	30	9
Rocky Hill	2	8	9
Roxbury	na	na	na
Salem	2	3	3
Salisbury	na	na	na
Scotland	0	0	3
Seymour	5	9	9
Sharon	1	3	0
Shelton	17	69	19
Sherman	na	na	na
Simsbury	0	3	3
Somers	2	10	12
South Windsor	3	7	14
Southbury	1	3	17
Southington	12	29	31
Sprague	2	4	1
Stafford	na	na	na
Stamford	5	198	230
Sterling	na	na	na
Stonington	3	12	11
Stratford	4	7	26
Suffield	0	7	11
Thomaston	na	na	na
Thompson	na	na	na
Tolland	2	8	8
Torrington	2	6	34
Trumbull	2	12	12
Union	0	0	1
Vernon	12	43	58
Voluntown	0	2	6
Wallingford	4	13	39
Warren	1	1	5
Washington	na	na	na
Waterbury	2	19	42
Waterford	1	8	13
Watertown	3	13	12
West Hartford	6	27	12
West Haven	na	na	na
Westbrook	2	5	7
Weston	na	na	na
Westport	8	20	25
Wethersfield	na	na	na
Willington	0	1	1
Wilton	na	na	na
Winchester	2	7	9
Windham	1	5	4
Windsor	na	na	na
Windsor Locks	na	na	na
Wolcott	0	13	10
Woodbridge	na	na	na
Woodbury	2	8	8
Woodstock	3	6	8

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	**+0.7**
Coincident Employment Index	**-0.2**
Leading General Drift Indicator	**-0.9**
Coincident General Drift Indicator	**+0.8**
Banknorth Business Barometer	**+0.9**
Total Nonfarm Employment	**+0.6**
Unemployment Rate	**+0.3**
Labor Force	+1.1
Employed	+0.8
Unemployed	+6.9
Average Weekly Initial Claims	**+7.6**
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford	**-28.6**
Avg Insured Unempl. Rate	**+0.12***
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg	**+0.2**
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg	**+3.6**
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg	**+3.9**
CT Mfg. Production Index	**+0.7**
Production Worker Hours	-1.0
Industrial Electricity Sales	-2.1
Personal Income	**+4.3**
UI Covered Wages	**+3.4**

Business Activity	
New Housing Permits	-51.1
Electricity Sales	+14.1
Construction Contracts Index	+47.5
New Auto Registrations	+4.5
Air Cargo Tons	+3.3
Exports	+11.6
Business Starts	
Secretary of the State	-9.2
Dept. of Labor	-7.7
Business Terminations	
Secretary of the State	+26.4
Dept. of Labor	-35.2
State Revenues	**+10.5**
Corporate Tax	+12.2
Personal Income Tax	+16.4
Real Estate Conveyance Tax	-24.4
Sales & Use Tax	-12.9
Indian Gaming Payments	-7.9

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

Tourism and Travel	
Info Center Visitors	-8.0
Attraction Visitors	+3.0
Air Passenger Count	+6.4
Indian Gaming Slots	-6.7
Travel and Tourism Index	+2.0
Employment Cost Index (U.S.)	
Total	+3.2
Wages & Salaries	+3.2
Benefit Costs	+3.2
Consumer Prices	
U.S. City Average	+3.9
Northeast Region	+3.9
NY-NJ-Long Island	+3.5
Boston-Brockton-Nashua	+3.0
Interest Rates	
Prime	-3.01*
Conventional Mortgage	-0.26*

THE CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC DIGEST

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

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**

NEED A COPY OF THE CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC DIGEST?

To receive a staple-bound, color copy of the Digest each month, please download the subscription order form at http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/misc/ctdigest.htm

For further information, please call the Office of Research at (860) 263-6290, or send an e-mail to dol.econdigest@ct.gov.

❑ 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.