THE CONNECTICUT

ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.3 No.3

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

MARCH 1998

- The newly benchmarked data showed that Connecticut added 32,700 jobs in 1997, or 2.1 percent over the year. (article, pp.1, 4)
- The Stamford area did especially well, creating 6,900 jobs last year. (article, pp.2-3)
- Employment fell in January by 3,400, but was 38,700 above a year ago. (p.6)
- The revised unemployment rate for 1997 dropped to 5.1 percent from 5.7 percent in 1996.
- Housing permits rose by 72.6 percent from last January. (p.7)
- The annual inflation rate in January was 1.6 percent for the nation. (p.8)

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1997: The Year Of Titanic Job Growth

by J. Charles Joo, Research Analyst

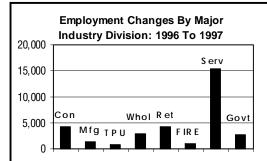
G ranted, the magnitude of new jobs created in 1997 was not as large as the ones during the 1984-87 period of out-

of-control expansions. But
Connecticut's employment did grow by 2.1 percent over 1996, making it the biggest yearly gain since 1987!
The new 1997
benchmarked (see Annual Revisions on page 4 for explanation) annual

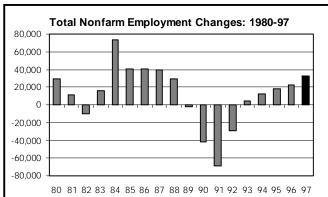
average data showed an increase of 32,700 nonfarm jobs from the revised figure in 1996, the best gain we have seen in ten years. By December 1997, Connecticut recovered 77 percent of the total jobs lost during the 1989-92 recession, and is experiencing growth comparable to the national employment growth rate.

All Industries Gain Jobs

For the first time since 1984, employment in all major industry divisions rose last year. Good



news finally came from the previously declining manufacturing and finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) divisions. The manufactur-



ing industry ended a 12 year streak of job losses by adding 1,400 workers in 1997. The growth in the chemicals, electronic equipment, and fabricated metal manufacturing industries cushioned the blows in the transportation equipment and industrial machinery manufacturing businesses. The FIRE division also turned around in 1997, after an eight year decline, with an increase of 1,000 jobs. Although the banking and life insurance sectors continued to face shrinking pay-

rolls last year, yet another year of expansion in the fire, marine and casualty insurance companies more than offset the losses in the other sectors.

The services industry division added 15,400 jobs over the year, with continued hiring in both the business

-Continued on page 4-

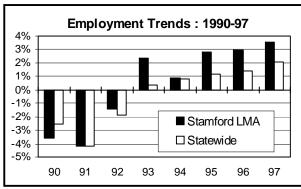
Connecticut's Gold Coast Is Shining

he Stamford Labor Market Area is often referred to as the "Gold Coast." This nickname came about as a result of the proximity of the Area to the shoreline and also the fact that several wealthy executives who worked in Manhattan made lower Fairfield county their home. New York executives preferred life in Connecticut to that of New York for a variety of reasons. Among these were: less traffic and congestion, reliable rail transportation, lower housing costs, better schools and no state income tax. Many Area residents worked in New York, shopped in

Area jobs were lost and the unemployment rate rose to five percent. Not only were residents losing jobs in Connecticut, but many State residents who worked in New York were also victims of corporate downsizing. With a median sale price of more than \$400,000 for houses, it became very difficult for the Area to attract new residents. In 1991, the State of Connecticut instituted an income tax which removed one of the longest standing advantages which Connecticut had over New York. Nevertheless, the industry mix in the Stamford Area brought about

a much faster recovery than the rest of the State. While other areas were heavily dependent on the manufacturing and construction industries, the Stamford Area had a very high concentration of finance, insurance and real estate firms. After an

initial loss of just a few hundred jobs, 6,000 new jobs have been created in this industry sector in the past five years alone. Even with the hard economic times facing the rest of the State, large financial firms still saw the many benefits of relocating in Connecticut. Recognizing the advantages of this State and working closely with local and State officials, Swiss Bank started the ball rolling when it was announced in 1995 that this company would be relocating to Stamford. By January 1998 this company had moved 2,200 jobs into the Area. In 1997, National Westminster Bank announced that they will be moving their North American headquarters, along with 750 employees, to Stamford. Also



New York, ate in New York, read New York newspapers and watched and listened to New York radio and television stations. It was no wonder then that many were of the opinion that lower Fairfield County was "not really part of Connecticut." This relatively small Labor Market Area, which encompasses only eight towns and 327 square miles, was never really considered to follow the pattern set by the rest of the State. This assumption, however, was proved partially wrong during the last recession.

In early 1989, there were 201,000 people who were working in the Stamford Area. The unemployment rate stood at 1.8 percent of the labor force. Over the next three years, however, 22,000

THE CONNECTICUT

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

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

To receive this publication free of charge write to: The Connecticut Economic Digest. Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research, 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109; or call: (860) 566-7823. Current subscribers who do not wish to continue receiving the publication or who have a change of address are asked to fill out the information on the back cover and return it to the above address

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RESEARCH

during the past year, it was announced that Zurich Reinsurance had agreed to move into the Area with a net gain of close to 1,000 jobs. Initially this announcement was met with some protest over the fact that State tax credits were being used to facilitate the move. These protests, however, turned into roars of approval when Zurich Reinsurance invested ten million dollars in the City of Bridgeport. This city, which was ravaged by the recession, is using this money to build a stadium to house a professional baseball team that is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of people to the city.

In the last five years, over 23,000 jobs have returned to the Stamford Labor Market Area. Manufacturing employment has still not rebounded as 10,000 factory jobs have been lost. Construction, which fell by close to 2,000 jobs between 1990 and

1992, has recovered over half of those jobs. Employment in this industry is expected to continue to grow as more offices are renovated and new buildings built to house the relocating companies.

The increasing number of jobs in the Area has led to a boom in the transportation, communications and utilities industries. After suffering a loss of 1,400 jobs in the early nineties, 2,200 new jobs have been created in this sector, with most of these being in rail and bus transportation. The services industry is also faring well as 15,000 jobs have been created, with many of these being in either the business services or engineering and management services. The level of employment in the Stamford Area is now at the same level that it was back at its high point in 1989. As a result, the Area's unemployment rate has fallen to 2.9 percent of the labor force, the lowest in the State.

Through the recession and recovery, population has remained stable in the Area. The estimated 330,000 residents has not changed during the entire decade, but is expected to increase to more than 336,000 by the turn of the century as more jobs coming into Connecticut from New York will lead to more workers residing in the Stamford Area. One drawback to this could be housing costs. In 1996 the median sale price for a home in the area was \$437,000. This high price tag could turn out to be a plus, though for upper Fairfield County. These workers might look to buying homes there where home prices are \$200,000 lower. In any case, jobs are moving in and people are moving in and the "Gold Coast" looks very golden indeed.

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

HOUSING UPDATE

January Housing Permits Up 72.6%

ommissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 737 new housing units in January 1998, a 72.6 percent increase compared to January of 1997 when 427 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 737 units permitted in January 1998 represent an increase of 18.5

percent from the 622 units permitted in December 1997.

"Last year, the housing sector posted the biggest permit increase in eight years," James Abromaitis said. "We are encouraged that the January 1998 numbers indicate strong growth continues."

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Hartford County with 233.7 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in

January compared to the same month a year ago. Fairfield County followed with a 54.2 percent increase.

Hartford County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in January with 297. Fairfield County followed with 165 units and New Haven County had 102 units. Suffield led all Connecticut communities with 100 units, followed by Manchester with 87, and Shelton with 19.

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

The annual housing permit report for 1996 is available from the Department of Economic and Community Development. To obtain a copy, please call (860) 270-8165 or fax requests to (860) 270-8188.

-Continued from page 1and health services sectors. Construction firms employed an additional 4,300 workers last year, the biggest jump since 1987. The transportation and public utilities (TPU) industry grew further in 1997 as well, reaching the highest employment level seen in the last 15 years thanks to the rapid developments in the communications sector. As the economy picked up its pace, the wholesale and retail trade industries also benefited, enjoying 2,800 and 4,300 new jobs last year. The overall government sector continued to show strength, as the Indian Tribal governments' booming casinos outweighed the declines in federal and state government jobs.

Stamford Area Adds The Most Jobs

All but one (Danielson) of the ten labor market areas in Connecticut added more jobs last year. As the table above shows, the Stamford Labor Market Area (LMA) added 6,900 jobs in 1997, which was the largest gain among all the labor market areas (more on the Stamford area on pages 2-3). From 1989 to 1997, the New London Area added 6,600 (+5.1%) workers (mainly from the opening of Foxwoods and Sun casinos), while the Hartford LMA was still running at 56,000 jobs, or 8.6 percent below the 1989 employment level.

Conr	necticu	t Nonfa	arm Em (1989 - 9					Marke	t Areas	5
	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	1991	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	1995	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>89->97</u>
Statewide	1665.6	1623.5	1555.2	1526.2	1531.1	1543.7	1561.5	1583.6	1616.3	-49.3
% Chg		-2.5	-4.2	-1.9	0.3	0.8	1.2	1.4	2.1	-3.0
Bridgeport	198.2	192.1	181.7	176.0	175.7	178.0	178.9	179.8	183.0	-15.2
% Chg		-3.1	-5.4	-3.1	-0.2	1.3	0.5	0.5	1.8	-7.7
Danbury	85.5	84.9	81.6	81.3	81.8	82.8	83.2	83.8	85.6	0.1
% Chg		-0.7	-3.9	-0.4	0.6	1.2	0.5	0.7	2.1	0.1
Danielson	19.2	18.7	17.9	17.8	18.2	18.8	19.6	20.3	20.1	0.9
% Chg		-2.6	-4.3	-0.6	2.2	3.3	4.3	3.6	-1.0	4.7
Hartford	652.8	639.9	607.8	588.3	585.5	586.5	584.5	590.2	596.8	-56.0
% Chg		-2.0	-5.0	-3.2	-0.5	0.2	-0.3	1.0	1.1	-8.6
Lower River	9.2	8.9	8.7	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.7	9.3	9.5	0.3
% Chg		-3.3	-2.2	-4.6	3.6	1.2	0.0	6.9	2.2	3.3
New Haven	261.3	254.6	241.7	237.0	238.4	238.9	241.0	244.7	249.3	-12.0
% Chg		-2.6	-5.1	-1.9	0.6	0.2	0.9	1.5	1.9	-4.6
New London	129.7	126.1	120.4	121.7	124.1	128.4	131.6	132.6	136.3	6.6
% Chg		-2.8	-4.5	1.1	2.0	3.5	2.5	0.8	2.8	5.1
Stamford	196.9	189.8	181.9	179.3	183.6	185.2	190.4	196.1	203.0	6.1
% Chg		-3.6	-4.2	-1.4	2.4	0.9	2.8	3.0	3.5	3.1
Torrington	28.2	28.0	27.1	26.6	27.0	27.1	27.6	27.6	28.6	0.4
% Cha		-0.7	-3.2	-1.8	1.5	0.4	1.8	0.0	3.6	1.4

More Good News

Waterbury

% Chg

87.9

84.5

-3.9

82.0

-3.0

79.6

-2.9

80.1

0.6

80.5

0.5

There are some more inspiring statistics that point to a very robust economy last year. The newly benchmarked unemployment rate for 1997 dropped to 5.1 percent from 5.7 percent in 1996, as the number of unemployed persons fell by 11 percent. The last year Connecticut had a lower unemployment rate was in 1989, at 3.7 percent. The labor force in the State also rose again in 1997 to 1,723,300. Moreover, real personal income grew 4.7 percent last year, the largest increase since 1988. Since 1994, real income

growth in Connecticut has taken off significantly, and even surpassed the nation's in the past two years.

83.9

2.3

86.4

3.0

-1.5

-1.7

Unsinkable Economy?

82.0

1.9

So what does the future hold for Connecticut's economy? Well, despite a drop in January, the State still has 38,700 more jobs than a year earlier. Consider also that, both housing permit and new automobile registration figures rebounded in 1997 after two years of decline. The number of initial claims for unemployment declined further, as the Hartford help wanted index rose once again last year. The State Labor Department's record of new business starts showed an increase, while the number of business terminations fell in 1997. All these trends appear to indicate that our economic Ship is not only heading in the right direction, but may add even more jobs this year. And even if a national iceberg looms ahead, our State's restructured and more diversified economy should not sink like it did last time. So full speed ahead, Connecticut!

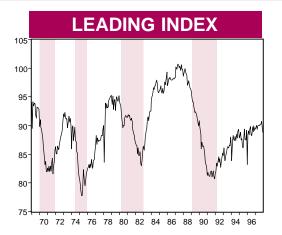
ANNUAL REVISIONS TO NONFARM EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

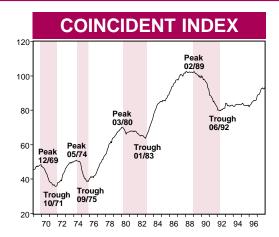
Every year, nonfarm employment estimates are revised during the annual benchmarking process. The benchmarking reanchors the sample estimate levels to the universe levels, which account for 97% of all the Connecticut employers. This year the total nonfarm employment revision, 6,100 more than originally estimated for March 1997, was a positive revision of 0.38 percent.

Monthly labor force estimates, like the nonfarm employment estimates, are considered preliminary and are also revised annually after the end of each calendar year to correspond with the annual average of the findings from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly canvas of households throughout the nation. Unlike the preliminary monthly estimates, which are produced using a regression model designed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the degree of statistical error can be calculated on the survey data, and is smallest for annual averages. Therefore, the annual average estimates from the CPS become the official estimates, and are used to replace the monthly preliminary numbers. For 1997, the annual average unemployment rate for Connecticut was revised upward by two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.9 percent (based on the preliminary monthly data) to 5.1 percent. Monthly estimates have been adjusted to reflect this change.

The revised series are available by contacting Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research at (860) 566-3470, or via www.ctdol.state.ct.us.

LEADING AND COINCIDENT INDICATORS





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

Connecticut Economy Shows Few Signs Of Faltering

he Connecticut coincident and leading employment indexes support the consensus view that the Connecticut economy should continue to expand, at least through the end of the year.

The coincident index, a barometer of current employment activity, reversed its two-month decline and rebounded to its peak in the current expansion with the release of (preliminary) December data. The declines in the previous two months follow a two-year period of significant upward movement in the coincident index (see chart). Since December 1996, non-farm employment increased by over 36,000, or 2.3 percent, while total employment rose by almost 24,000, or 1.5 percent.

The leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, fell in December with the release of the (preliminary)

December data after reaching its

peak in the current expansion in the prior month (November). The December fall was largely a result of a seasonal increase in the initial claims for unemployment insurance from just over 14,000 in November to just over 22,000 in December.

Taking a longer view, nonfarm employment currently stands at 1,632,800 up from its previous trough of 1,520,100 in December 1992, but has not yet returned to its prior peak of 1,678,300 in February 1989. That is, the Connecticut economy is still just under 46,000 nonfarm jobs short of its peak employment in 1989. A similar story holds for the unemployment rate, which is calculated from total employment and the labor force. The current unemployment rate is 4.4 percent, down from the prior trough of 8.2 percent in February 1992, but not yet returned to its prior peak of 2.8 percent in April 1988.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 86.1 in December 1996 to 93.0 in December 1997. All four index components continue to point in a positive direction on a year-over-year basis with higher nonfarm employment, higher total employment, a lower insured unemployment rate, and a lower total unemployment rate.

The leading employment index rose from 88.2 in December 1996 to 88.8 in December 1997. Three index components sent positive signals on a year-over-year basis with a lower short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, lower initial claims for unemployment insurance, and a higher average workweek of manufacturing production workers. One index component sent a negative signal on a year-overyear basis with lower total housing permits. Finally, Hartford help-wanted advertising was unchanged on a year-over-year basis.

Source: Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut. Developed by Pami Dua [(203) 461-6644, Stamford Campus (on leave)] and Stephen M. Miller [(860) 486-3853, Storrs Campus]. Kathryn E. Parr [(860) 486-0485, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment grew by 38,700 over the year, or 2.4 percent. All of the major industry divisions showed increases in jobs from last year.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR	INDUS'	TRY DIV	ISION		
	JAN	JAN	CHAN	1GE	DEC
(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
TOTAL NONFARM	1,639.2	1,600.5	38.7	2.4	1,642.6
Private Sector	1,413.4	1,375.1	38.3	2.8	1,416.3
Construction and Mining	60.9	56.2	4.7	8.4	59.7
Manufacturing	277.2	275.2	2.0	0.7	276.3
Transportation, Public Utilities	75.3	74.4	0.9	1.2	75.7
Wholesale, Retail Trade	360.0	349.8	10.2	2.9	362.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	133.6	129.0	4.6	3.6	133.6
Services	506.4	490.5	15.9	3.2	508.7
Government	225.8	225.4	0.4	0.2	226.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate declined to 3.8 percent in January, a drop of almost two full percentage points from last year's 5.7 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT				
	JAN	JAN	CHANGE	DEC
(Seasonally adjusted)	1998	1997	NO. %	1997
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	3.8	5.7	-1.9	4.5
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,719.5	1,723.6	-4.1 -0.2	1,728.2
Employed (000s)	1,654.5	1,626.2	28.3 1.7	1,650.7
Unemployed (000s)	65.0	97.4	-32.4 -33.3	77.5
Average Weekly Initial Claims	3,386	3,946	-560 -14.2	4,178
Help Wanted Index Htfd. (1987=100)	35	35	0 0.0	36
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.31	2.55	-0.24	2.06

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

The average production worker hourly earnings rose 3.4 percent, while the weekly hours did not change over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTI	VITY				
	JAN	JAN	CHAI	NGE	DEC
(Not seasonally adjusted)	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
Average Weekly Hours	42.7	42.7	0.0	0.0	43.4
Average Hourly Earnings	\$14.68	\$14.20	\$0.48	3.4	\$14.74
Average Weekly Earnings	\$626.84	\$606.34	\$20.50	3.4	\$639.72
Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*	124.9	120.1	4.8	4.0	122.2
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,886	6,805	81	1.2	7,011
Productivity Index (1982=100)*	188.8	183.8	5.0	2.7	189.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

Revised personal income for second quarter 1998 is forecasted to increase 6.0 percent from a year ago. The wages component is expected to grow 4.4

INCOME (Quart	erly)				
(Seasonally adjusted)	2Q*	2Q	CHANG	GΕ	1Q*
(Annualized; \$ Millions)	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
Personal Income	\$124,236	\$117,258	\$6,978	3.0	\$122,497
UI Covered Wages	\$63,586	\$60,891	\$2,695	4.4	\$62,862

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: January 1998 release

^{*}Seasonally adjusted

BUSINESS ACTIVITY % Y/Y % YEAR TO DATE MONTH **LEVEL** CHG CURRENT PRIOR CHG **New Housing Permits** JAN 1998 72.6 737 427 72.6 737 -0.8 Electricity Sales (mil kWh) NOV 1997 2.329 0.5 25,799 26,003 Retail Sales (Bil. \$) **NOV 1997** 2.70 3.1 31,003 29,341 5.7 **Construction Contracts** Index (1980=100) 157.5 25.4 **DEC 1997 New Auto Registrations** JAN 1998 20,753 66.9 20,753 12,436 66.9 Air Cargo Tons DEC 1997 14,229 15.0 135,294 130,536 3.6

The index of construction contracts was up 25.4 percent in December over December last year, along with increases of 3.1 percent in year-over-year retail sales and 15.0 percent in air cargo tons.

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

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	JAN	% CH	ANGE	YEAR TO DATE	
	1998	M/M	Y/Y	NO. %	6 CHG
STARTS					
Secretary of the State	1,845	-1.4	28.9	1,845	28.9
Department of Labor	769	20.0	4.2	769	4.2
TERMINATIONS					
Secretary of the State	349	-58.6	9.1	349	9.1
Department of Labor	1,318	112.2	2.7	1,318	2.7

tary of the State showed increases of 28.9 and 9.1 percent, respectively, for a net gain of 1,496 businesses.

Business starts and terminations registered with the Secre-

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

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

				FISCAL YEAR TOTALS
	JAN	JAN	%	%
(Millions of dollars)	1998	1997	CHG	1997-98 1996-97 CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	940.1	890.4	5.6	4,168.7 3,890.6 7.1
Corporate Tax	22.4	23.9	-6.3	240.2 242.8 -1.1
Personal Income Tax	446.1	372.6	19.7	1,695.2 1,468.0 15.5
Real Estate Conv. Tax	7.0	5.2	1.8	55.4 42.5 30.4
Sales & Use Tax	309.0	297.4	3.9	1,412.3 1,331.9 6.0

tions increased overall 7.1
percent through January from
the same period a year ago
with gains of 15.5 percent in
personal income taxes and 30.4
percent in real estate conveyance taxes.

Fiscal year-to-date tax collec-

Source: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

						V ——
		•	Y/Y %	YEAR	TO DATE	%
	MONTH	LEVEL	CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
Tourism Inquiries	JAN 1998	5,234	-31.0	5,234	7,583	-31.0
Info Center Visitors	JAN 1998	18,615	-24.5	18,615	24,661	-24.5
Major Attraction Visitors	JAN 1998	52,185	16.3	52,185	44,855	16.3
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	JAN 1998	59.2	3.1	59.2	57.4	3.1
Air Passenger Count	DEC 1997	440,920	0.2	5,421,873	5,377,759	8.0

The number of major attraction visitors increased 16.3 percent in January from January last year. Hotel-motel occupancy was up 3.1 percent.

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

^{*}Includes all sources of tax revenue; Only selected taxes are displayed.

Compensation costs for the nation rose 3.4 percent over the year, while the Northeast's increased by 3.0 percent.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

	Seasor	nally Ad	justed	Not Seaso	onally A	djusted
Private Industry Workers	DEC	SEP	3-Mo	DEC	DEC	12-Mo
(June 1989=100)	1997	1997	% Chg	1997	1996	% Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	135.2	133.6	1.2	135.1	130.6	3.4
Wages and Salaries	132.5	130.9	1.2	132.3	127.3	3.9
Benefit Costs	141.9	140.4	1.1	141.8	138.6	2.3
NORTHEAST TOTAL				135.0	131.1	3.0
Wages and Salaries				131.6	127.7	3.1

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

The inflation rate in January was 1.6 percent for the U.S. and the Northeast, and 2.1 percent in the Boston area. Consumer confidence gained 7.2 percent in the U.S. and 16.0 percent in New England.

CONSUMER NEWS					
	JAN	DEC	JAN	% C	HG
(Not seasonally adjusted)	1998	1997	1997	M/M	Y/Y
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=	100)				
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	161.6	161.3	159.1	0.2	1.6
Purchasing Power of Consumer					
Dollar: (1982-84=\$1.00)	\$0.619	\$0.620	\$0.629	-0.2	-1.5
Northeast Region	168.8	167.6	166.2	0.7	1.6
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	172.1	171.9	169.1	0.1	1.8
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	171.2		167.7		2.1
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical World	kers				
U.S. City Average	158.4	158.2	156.3	0.1	1.3
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	127.3	136.2	118.7	-6.5	7.2
New England	111.2	132.8	95.9	-16.3	16.0

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

January interest rates were generally lower than a year ago. The 30-year conventional mortgage rate declined to below 7.0 percent.

INTEREST RATES			
	JAN	DEC	JAN
(Percent)	1998	1997	1997
Prime	8.50	8.50	8.25
Federal Funds	5.56	5.50	5.25
3 Month Treasury Bill	5.09	5.16	5.05
6 Month Treasury Bill	5.07	5.24	5.11
1 Year Treasury Bill	5.24	5.53	5.61
3 Year Treasury Bill	5.38	5.74	6.16
5 Year Treasury Bond	5.42	5.77	6.33
7 Year Treasury Bond	5.53	5.83	6.47
10 Year Treasury Bond	5.54	5.81	6.58
30 Year Teasury Bond	5.81	5.99	6.83
Conventional Mortgage	6.99	7.10	7.82
Commerce Fordered Document Fordered Hom			

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

COMPARATIVE REGIONAL DATA

	NONFARM EMPLOYMENT				
	JAN	JAN CHANGE		DEC	
(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
Connecticut	1,639.2	1,600.5	38.7	2.4	1,642.6
Maine	558.4	546.3	12.1	2.2	561.4
Massachusetts	3,173.0	3,081.7	91.3	3.0	3,168.4
New Hampshire	574.1	562.2	11.9	2.1	570.0
New Jersey	3,772.6	3,688.5	84.1	2.3	3,766.5
New York	8,086.7	7,967.7	119.0	1.5	8,095.6
Pennsylvania	5,454.7	5,371.7	83.0	1.5	5,446.5
Rhode Island	452.9	445.5	7.4	1.7	453.4
Vermont	279.8	275.7	4.1	1.5	281.4
United States	124,225.0	120,909.0	3,316.0	2.7	123,867.0

Massachusetts experienced the largest employment growth of 3 percent in the region over the year.

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

			LAI	3OR	FORCE
	JAN	JAN	CH	ANGE	DEC
(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
Connecticut	1,719.5	1,723.6	-4.1	-0.2	1,728.2
Maine	659.1	664.0	-4.9	-0.7	661.1
Massachusetts	3,257.9	3,233.6	24.3	0.8	3,254.5
New Hampshire	654.0	631.4	22.6	3.6	651.2
New Jersey	4,181.6	4,182.7	-1.1	0.0	4,178.1
New York	8,789.8	8,755.5	34.3	0.4	8,775.9
Pennsylvania	5,978.4	5,973.9	4.5	0.1	5,991.7
Rhode Island	508.3	500.2	8.1	1.6	507.5
Vermont	329.4	322.1	7.3	2.3	330.3
United States	137,493.0	135,729.0	1,764.0	1.3	137,169.0

New Hampshire's labor force grew the most, while Maine experienced the least increase in the region.

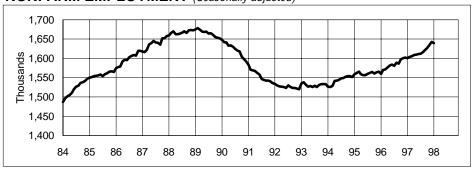
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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	JAN	JAN		DEC
(Seasonally adjusted)	1998	1997	CHANGE	1997
Connecticut	3.8	5.7	-1.9	4.5
Maine	4.8	5.3	-0.5	5.3
Massachusetts	3.6	4.0	-0.4	3.8
New Hampshire	2.7	3.5	-0.8	2.9
New Jersey	4.9	5.5	-0.6	4.9
New York	6.0	6.5	-0.5	6.1
Pennsylvania	4.6	5.3	-0.7	4.8
Rhode Island	4.7	5.3	-0.6	4.9
Vermont	3.6	4.2	-0.6	3.7
United States	4.7	5.3	-0.6	4.7

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

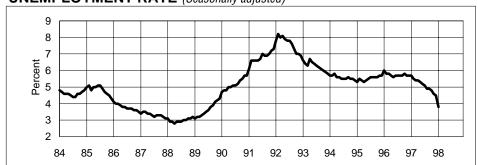
New Hampshire's 2.7 percent in January was the lowest unemployment rate in the region.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



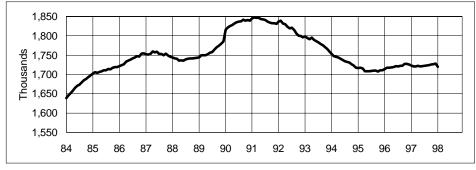
Month	1996	<u>1997</u>	1998
Jan	1,560.2	1,600.5	1,639.2
Feb	1,570.2	1,603.9	
Mar	1,571.3	1,605.6	
Apr	1,576.8	1,608.8	
May	1,581.5	1,609.3	
Jun	1,583.9	1,611.1	
Jul	1,580.7	1,611.9	
Aug	1,588.9	1,616.1	
Sep	1,586.7	1,621.7	
Oct	1,598.2	1,627.2	
Nov	1,600.4	1,634.6	
Dec	1,601.9	1,642.6	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Seasonally adjusted)



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

LABOR FORCE (Seasonally adjusted)



<u>Month</u>	<u>1996</u>	1997	<u>1998</u>
Jan	1,714.4	1,723.6	1,719.5
Feb	1,717.2	1,720.8	
Mar	1,717.7	1,720.5	
Apr	1,718.5	1,722.2	
May	1,719.2	1,721.0	
Jun	1,721.5	1,721.7	
Jul	1,721.0	1,722.0	
Aug	1,722.4	1,722.9	
Sep	1,722.0	1,723.9	
Oct	1,727.1	1,725.7	
Nov	1,726.9	1,726.6	
Dec	1,726.1	1,728.2	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS (Seasonally adjusted)



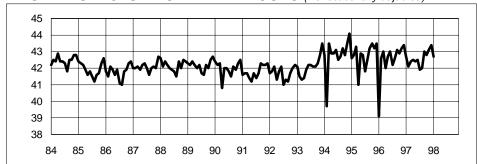
<u>Month</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	1998
Jan	4,702	3,946	3,386
Feb	4,666	3,903	
Mar	4,192	4,012	
Apr	4,250	4,326	
May	4,374	3,768	
Jun	4,211	4,100	
Jul	4,355	3,621	
Aug	4,223	3,799	
Sep	4,194	3,629	
Oct	4,193	3,503	
Nov	3,881	3,670	
Dec	4,383	4,178	

REAL AVG MANUFACTURING HOURLY EARNINGS (Not seasonally adjusted)



<u>Month</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Jan	\$9.22	\$9.09	\$9.27
Feb	9.10	9.06	
Mar	9.12	9.08	
Apr	9.09	9.09	
May	9.01	9.13	
Jun	9.06	9.14	
Jul	9.12	9.26	
Aug	9.07	9.19	
Sep	9.07	9.24	
Oct	9.04	9.22	
Nov	9.03	9.25	
Dec	9.12	9.32	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS (Not seasonally adjusted)



<u>Month</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	199
Jan	39.1	42.7	42.
Feb	42.6	42.1	
Mar	43.0	42.4	
Apr	42.0	42.5	
May	42.7	42.4	
Jun	43.0	42.5	
Jul	42.2	41.9	
Aug	42.6	42.0	
Sep	43.1	43.0	
Oct	42.9	42.8	
Nov	43.2	43.1	
Dec	43.4	43.4	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	1998
Jan	35	35	35
Feb	33	36	
Mar	34	34	
Apr	34	36	
May	35	36	
Jun	36	38	
Jul	34	35	
Aug	32	34	
Sep	35	36	
Oct	35	35	
Nov	36	37	
Dec	35	36	

DOL NEWLY REGISTERED EMPLOYERS (12-month moving average)



Month	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	1998
Jan	810	833	868
Feb	794	840	
Mar	812	856	
Apr	813	849	
May	811	856	
Jun	838	848	
Jul	833	856	
Aug	833	862	
Sep	838	854	
Oct	825	859	
Nov	825	859	
Dec	828	852	



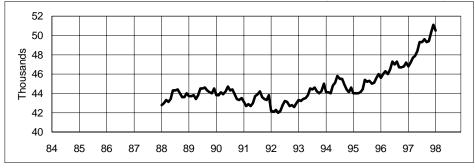
Month	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Jan	24.2	24.1	23.9
Feb	24.2	23.7	
Mar	24.3	23.5	
Apr	24.8	23.4	
May	24.7	23.5	
Jun	25.0	23.7	
Jul	24.9	23.7	
Aug	24.9	23.8	
Sep	24.7	23.5	
Oct	24.8	23.5	
Nov	24.6	23.6	
Dec	24.6	23.8	

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



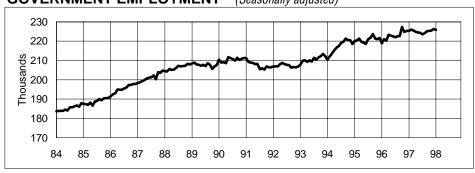
<u>Month</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Jan	59.9	57.1	58.5
Feb	60.0	57.9	
Mar	60.1	58.4	
Apr	59.1	59.1	
May	59.2	59.7	
Jun	59.3	58.7	
Jul	58.9	59.0	
Aug	58.9	58.9	
Sep	58.1	58.8	
Oct	57.7	58.7	
Nov	58.2	58.7	
Dec	57.7	58.9	

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



<u>Month</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Jan	45.6	46.8	50.5
Feb	46.0	47.2	
Mar	46.3	47.7	
Apr	46.0	47.9	
May	46.5	48.4	
Jun	47.3	49.3	
Jul	47.0	49.3	
Aug	47.3	49.6	
Sep	46.7	49.3	
Oct	46.7	49.4	
Nov	46.8	50.3	
Dec	47.2	51.1	

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT* (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	1998
Jan	218.9	225.4	225.8
Feb	221.0	226.1	
Mar	220.3	225.6	
Apr	223.4	224.8	
May	222.8	224.5	
Jun	222.6	224.4	
Jul	222.0	223.5	
Aug	222.5	224.2	
Sep	222.7	225.2	
Oct	227.4	225.3	
Nov	224.8	225.6	
Dec	225.3	226.3	

^{*}Includes Indian tribal government employment

30,000 25,000 15,000 10,000 5,000

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94 95

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97 98

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<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
16,714	12,436	20,753
9,724	14,401	
13,132	23,952	
14,930	18,038	
14,492	16,364	
16,812	16,464	
18,412	10,386	
20,409	11,210	
14,420	11,485	
13,059	14,563	
12,676	13,884	
12,684	15,416	
	16,714 9,724 13,132 14,930 14,492 16,812 18,412 20,409 14,420 13,059 12,676	16,714 12,436 9,724 14,401 13,132 23,952 14,930 18,038 14,492 16,364 16,812 16,464 18,412 10,386 20,409 11,210 14,420 11,485 13,059 14,563 12,676 13,884

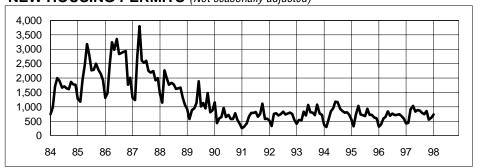
NEW HOUSING PERMITS (Not seasonally adjusted)

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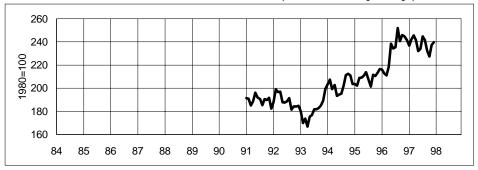
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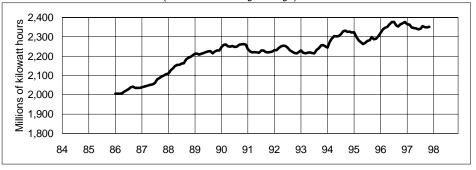
<u>Month</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	1998
Jan	315	427	737
Feb	385	442	
Mar	593	909	
Apr	660	1,036	
May	846	836	
Jun	684	886	
Jul	764	871	
Aug	710	792	
Sep	717	740	
Oct	746	852	
Nov	683	561	
Dec	589	622	

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS INDEX (12-month moving average)



Month	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Jan	216.2	236.8	
Feb	212.9	242.4	
Mar	211.1	245.7	
Apr	218.5	241.5	
May	238.3	232.2	
Jun	234.4	234.0	
Jul	235.5	244.7	
Aug	251.9	241.4	
Sep	240.7	232.4	
Oct	245.8	227.5	
Nov	244.9	237.4	
Dec	241.5	239.8	

ELECTRICITY SALES (12-month moving average)



<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
2,321	2,366	
2,338	2,364	
2,347	2,348	
2,352	2,346	
2,365	2,344	
2,377	2,338	
2,376	2,342	
2,358	2,355	
2,354	2,350	
2,365	2,349	
2,371	2,352	
2,377		
	2,321 2,338 2,347 2,352 2,365 2,377 2,376 2,358 2,354 2,365 2,371	2,321 2,366 2,338 2,364 2,347 2,348 2,352 2,346 2,365 2,344 2,377 2,338 2,376 2,342 2,358 2,355 2,354 2,350 2,365 2,349 2,371 2,352

CONNECTICUT

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JAN 1998	JAN 1997	CHA NO.	NGE %	DEC 1997
TOTAL NONEARM EMPLOYMENT					
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	1,612,400 330,400	1,571,300 323,600	41,100 6,800	2.6 2.1	1,665,500 336,900
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	53,500	49,400	4,100	8.3	58,700
MANUFACTURING	276,900	274,200	2,700	1.0	278,200
Durable	194,100	192,800	1,300	0.7	195,000
Lumber & Furniture	5,200	4,900	300	6.1	5,200
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,900	2,800	100	3.6	2,900
Primary Metals	9,100	8,900	200	2.2	9,200
Fabricated Metals	34,600	34,600	0	0.0	34,700
Machinery & Computer Equipment	34,800	34,300	500	1.5	35,100
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	29,100	28,600	500	1.7	29,100
Transportation Equipment	49,700	50,100	-400	-0.8	50,000
Instruments	22,200	22,200	0	0.0	22,300
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,500	6,400	100	1.6	6,500
Nondurable	82,800	81,400	1,400	1.7	83,200
Food	8,500	8,500	0	0.0	8,400
Textiles	2,200	2,100	100	4.8	2,200
Apparel	4,700	4,600	100	2.2	4,800
Paper	8,000	7,900	100	1.3	7,900
Printing & Publishing	25,500	25,300	200	0.8	25,600
Chemicals	21,000	20,300	700	3.4	21,000
Rubber & Plastics	10,900	10,600	300	2.8	11,000
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,282,000	1,247,700	34,300	2.7	1,328,600
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	75,100	73,600	1,500	2.0	76,500
Transportation	43,800	42,400 11,300	1,400 0	3.3	45,000
Other Transportation	11,300 32,500	31,100	1,400	0.0 4.5	11,900 33,100
Communications	19,100	18,800	300	1.6	19,200
Utilities	12,200	12,400	-200	-1.6	12,300
TRADE	355,900	346,200	9,700	2.8	374,400
Wholesale	83,800	81,000	2,800	3.5	85,300
Retail	272,100	265,200	6,900	2.6	289,100
General Merchandise	28,800	28,600	200	0.7	32,400
Food Stores	53,000	51,700	1,300	2.5	54,200
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	27,000	26,900	100	0.4	27,300
Restaurants	74,500	73,000	1,500	2.1	78,900
Other Retail Trade	88,800	85,000	3,800	4.5	96,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	132,900	128,000	4,900	3.8	133,800
Finance	47,600	45,100	2,500	5.5	47,600
Banking	23,900	24,100	-200	-0.8	23,800
Insurance	69,400	67,900	1,500	2.2	69,900
Insurance Carriers	58,500	57,100	1,400	2.5	58,900
Real Estate	15,900	15,000	900	6.0	16,300
SERVICES	495,300	477,300	18,000	3.8	511,600
Hotels & Lodging Places	9,700 18,600	9,600 18,800	100 -200	1.0 -1.1	10,400
Business Services	18,600 104,100	95,100	9,000	9.5	18,600 108,500
Health Services	157,200	155,700	1,500	1.0	158,800
Legal & Professional Services	51,900	48,800	3,100	6.4	53,100
Educational Services	40,000	39,700	300	0.8	43,500
Other Services	113,800	109,600	4,200	3.8	118,700
GOVERNMENT	222,800	222,600	200	0.1	232,300
Federal	22,600	22,900	-300	-1.3	23,600
**State, Local & Other Government	200,200	199,700	500	0.3	208,700

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997. *Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.

BRIDGEPORT LMA	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
[[]	JAN	JAN	CHA	NGE	DEC
and the standard	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
- Carried					
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	181,800	179,400	2,400	1.3	186,500
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	45,400	44,600	800	1.8	46,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	5,700	5,200	500	9.6	6,500
MANUFACTURING	39,700	39,400	300	8.0	40,000
Durable Goods	32,500	32,200	300	0.9	32,700
Fabricated Metals	4,400	4,300	100	2.3	4,400
Industrial Machinery	6,400	6,300	100	1.6	6,500
Electronic Equipment	6,400	6,200	200	3.2	6,500
Transportation Equipment	9,000	9,300	-300	-3.2	9,000
Nondurable Goods	7,200	7,200	0	0.0	7,300
Printing & Publishing	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	136,400	134,800	1,600	1.2	140,000
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	7,100	7,100	0	0.0	7,200
TRADE	41,100	40,800	300	0.7	42,700
Wholesale	9,700	9,600	100	1.0	9,900
Retail	31,400	31,200	200	0.6	32,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	10,400	10,300	100	1.0	10,400
SERVICES	56,700	56,200	500	0.9	58,600
Business Services	13,600	12,500	1,100	8.8	13,900
Health Services	18,900	19,100	-200	-1.0	19,300
GOVERNMENT	21,100	20,400	700	3.4	21,100
Federal	2,300	2,200	100	4.5	2,300
State & Local	18,800	18,200	600	3.3	18,800

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

DANBURY LMA	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
ال كمسيالتي	JAN	JAN	CHA	NGE	DEC
The state of the s	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	85,800	83,200	2,600	3.1	88,700
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,200	21,400	800	3.7	22,600
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,300	3,000	300	10.0	3,600
MANUFACTURING	18,900	18,400	500	2.7	19,000
Durable Goods	9,800	9,300	500	5.4	9,800
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,800	4,700	100	2.1	4,800
Instruments	2,700	2,500	200	8.0	2,700
Nondurable Goods	9,100	9,100	0	0.0	9,200
Printing & Publishing	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
Chemicals	3,500	3,500	0	0.0	3,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	63,600	61,800	1,800	2.9	66,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	2,400	2,600	-200	-7.7	2,500
TRADE	22,000	21,900	100	0.5	23,400
Wholesale	4,000	3,900	100	2.6	3,900
Retail	18,000	18,000	0	0.0	19,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4,700	4,300	400	9.3	4,800
SERVICES	24,500	23,500	1,000	4.3	24,800
GOVERNMENT	10,000	9,500	500	5.3	10,600
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	9,200	8,700	500	5.7	9,800

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

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997. *Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.

DANIELSON LMA	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
	JAN	JAN	CHA	NGE	DEC
John Jane	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
- Careta					
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	20,200	19,800	400	2.0	20,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,800	6,700	100	1.5	7,000
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	800	800	0	0.0	800
MANUFACTURING	6,000	5,900	100	1.7	6,200
Durable Goods	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,800
Nondurable Goods	3,300	3,200	100	3.1	3,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	13,400	13,100	300	2.3	13,600
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	500	500	0	0.0	500
TRADE	4,500	4,500	0	0.0	4,700
Wholesale	700	700	0	0.0	700
Retail	3,800	3,800	0	0.0	4,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	600	600	0	0.0	600
SERVICES	4,700	4,300	400	9.3	4,700
GOVERNMENT	3,100	3,200	-100	-3.1	3,100
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	3,000	3,100	-100	-3.2	3,000

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

HARTFORD LMA		Not Sea	asonally Adj	iusted	
	JAN	JAN	СНА	NGE	DEC
Jan January San Jacker	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	592,100	586,100	6,000	1.0	607,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	111,800	108,900	2,900	2.7	113,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	18,100	17,200	900	5.2	19,500
MANUFACTURING	93,700	91,700	2,000	2.2	93,900
Durable Goods	74,400	72,300	2,100	2.9	74,400
Primary & Fabricated Metals	18,200	17,900	300	1.7	18,200
Industrial Machinery	14,600	14,700	-100	-0.7	14,800
Electronic Equipment	6,400	6,100	300	4.9	6,400
Transportation Equipment	26,800	25,400	1,400	5.5	26,600
Nondurable Goods	19,300	19,400	-100	-0.5	19,500
Printing & Publishing	7,800	7,800	0	0.0	7,900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	480,300	477,200	3,100	0.6	493,600
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	27,000	26,800	200	0.7	27,400
Transportation	16,000	15,900	100	0.6	16,400
Communications & Utilities	11,000	10,900	100	0.9	11,000
TRADE	122,400	123,800	-1,400	-1.1	128,900
Wholesale	29,900	29,400	500	1.7	30,400
Retail	92,500	94,400	-1,900	-2.0	98,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	68,700	67,200	1,500	2.2	68,700
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	9,600	9,700	-100	-1.0	9,400
Insurance Carriers	46,500	45,400	1,100	2.4	46,700
SERVICES	168,600	165,000	3,600	2.2	173,200
Business Services	31,800	30,900	900	2.9	33,100
Health Services	59,400	58,800	600	1.0	59,900
GOVERNMENT	93,600	94,400	-800	-0.8	95,400
Federal	8,000	8,100	-100	-1.2	8,200
State & Local	85,600	86,300	-700	-0.8	87,200

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

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

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

LOWER RIVER LMA		Not Seas	onally Ad	justed	
[[]	JAN	JAN	CHA	NGE	DEC
and the state of t	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
- Carlott					
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	9,400	9,100	300	3.3	9,500
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,400	3,400	0	0.0	3,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	300	300	0	0.0	300
MANUFACTURING	3,100	3,100	0	0.0	3,100
Durable Goods	2,400	2,400	0	0.0	2,400
Electronic Equipment	800	800	0	0.0	800
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	0	0.0	1,600
Nondurable Goods	700	700	0	0.0	700
Rubber & Plastics	300	300	0	0.0	300
Other Nondurable Goods	400	400	0	0.0	400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,000	5,700	300	5.3	6,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	300	300	0	0.0	300
TRADE	2,100	2,000	100	5.0	2,100
Wholesale	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail	1,700	1,600	100	6.3	1,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	300	300	0	0.0	300
SERVICES	2,400	2,300	100	4.3	2,500
GOVERNMENT	900	800	100	12.5	900
Federal	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local	900	800	100	12.5	900

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

NEW HAVEN LMA		Not Seas	sonally Ad	justed	
	JAN	JAN	СНА	NGE	DEC
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
	0.40.000	0.40.000	2 222	4.0	050 000
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	246,200	243,300	2,900	1.2	253,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	47,500	47,300	200	0.4	48,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	8,400	8,100	300	3.7	9,300
MANUFACTURING	39,100	39,200	-100	-0.3	39,400
Durable Goods	24,700	24,800	-100	-0.4	24,900
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,500	6,600	-100	-1.5	6,700
Electronic Equipment	5,000	5,100	-100	-2.0	5,000
Nondurable Goods	14,400	14,400	0	0.0	14,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,200
Chemicals & Allied	6,000	5,500	500	9.1	6,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	198,700	196,000	2,700	1.4	204,300
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	15,800	15,600	200	1.3	16,300
Communications & Utilities	8,700	8,600	100	1.2	8,700
TRADE	52,200	51,200	1,000	2.0	54,200
Wholesale	13,200	12,300	900	7.3	13,100
Retail	39,000	38,900	100	0.3	41,100
Eating & Drinking Places	10,200	10,400	-200	-1.9	10,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	12,700	12,900	-200	-1.6	12,800
Finance	3,800	4,000	-200	-5.0	3,800
Insurance	6,900	6,800	100	1.5	6,900
SERVICES	87,300	85,600	1,700	2.0	89,800
Business Services	12,400	11,600	800	6.9	13,300
Health Services	28,800	29,100	-300	-1.0	28,700
GOVERNMENT	30,700	30,700	0	0.0	31,200
Federal	5,400	5,700	-300	-5.3	5,500
State & Local	25,300	25,000	300	1.2	25,700

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

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997. *Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.

NEW LONDON LMA		Not Sea	asonally Adj	iusted	
	JAN	JAN	CHA	NGE	DEC
Jan	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	135,600	132,300	3,300	2.5	138,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	28,900	29,200	-300	-1.0	29,000
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	4,400	3,900	500	12.8	4,600
MANUFACTURING	24,500	25,300	-800	-3.2	24,400
Durable Goods	14,800	15,800	-1,000	-6.3	14,800
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,300	2,200	100	4.5	2,300
Other Durable Goods	12,500	13,600	-1,100	-8.1	12,500
Nondurable Goods	9,700	9,500	200	2.1	9,600
Paper & Allied	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods	7,300	7,100	200	2.8	7,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	106,700	103,100	3,600	3.5	109,600
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	6,300	6,200	100	1.6	6,400
TRADE	27,100	26,300	800	3.0	29,000
Wholesale	2,700	2,600	100	3.8	2,700
Retail	24,400	23,700	700	3.0	26,300
Eating & Drinking Places	7,200	6,900	300	4.3	7,800
Other Retail	17,200	16,800	400	2.4	18,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3,700	3,500	200	5.7	3,700
SERVICES	33,500	32,400	1,100	3.4	34,300
Personal & Business Services	6,600	6,300	300	4.8	6,500
Health Services	11,500	11,200	300	2.7	11,600
GOVERNMENT	36,100	34,700	1,400	4.0	36,200
Federal	2,700	3,000	-300	-10.0	2,700
State & Local	33,400	31,700	1,700	5.4	33,500
**Local	29,700	27,800	1,900	6.8	29,700

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

STAMFORD LMA		Not Seas	onally Ad	ljusted	
	JAN	JAN	CHA	ANGE	DEC
La Terra	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	203,000	194,500	8,500	4.4	210,200
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	32,900	33,500	-600	-1.8	33,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	5,400	5,200	200	3.8	6,000
MANUFACTURING	27,500	28,300	-800	-2.8	27,400
Durable Goods	14,400	15,000	-600	-4.0	14,600
Industrial Machinery	3,700	3,700	0	0.0	3,800
Electronic Equipment	2,500	2,700	-200	-7.4	2,500
Nondurable Goods	13,100	13,300	-200	-1.5	12,800
Paper, Printing & Publishing	6,300	6,100	200	3.3	6,200
Chemicals & Allied	3,400	3,400	0	0.0	3,300
Other Nondurable	3,400	3,800	-400	-10.5	3,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	170,100	161,000	9,100	5.7	176,800
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	10,000	9,800	200	2.0	10,100
Communications & Utilities	3,000	3,100	-100	-3.2	3,000
TRADE	45,800	44,200	1,600	3.6	48,300
Wholesale	11,800	11,500	300	2.6	12,500
Retail	34,000	32,700	1,300	4.0	35,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	25,500	22,400	3,100	13.8	25,400
SERVICES	71,000	67,500	3,500	5.2	74,700
Business Services	21,200	19,700	1,500	7.6	23,100
Engineering & Mgmnt. Services	10,400	9,500	900	9.5	10,700
Other Services	39,400	38,300	1,100	2.9	40,900
GOVERNMENT	17,800	17,100	700	4.1	18,300
Federal	1,800	1,900	-100	-5.3	2,000
State & Local	16,000	15,200	800	5.3	16,300

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

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997. *Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.

TORRINGTON LMA	Not Seasonally Adjusted							
[[[]	JAN	JAN	CHA	NGE	DEC			
had fundament	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997			
- Carlott								
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	28,400	27,900	500	1.8	29,200			
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	8,200	8,100	100	1.2	8,600			
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	1,900	1,700	200	11.8	2,200			
MANUFACTURING	6,300	6,400	-100	-1.6	6,400			
Durable Goods	4,400	4,400	0	0.0	4,400			
Primary & Fabricated Metals	500	500	0	0.0	500			
Industrial Machinery	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	1,200			
Electronic Equipment	500	500	0	0.0	500			
Other Durable Goods	2,200	2,200	0	0.0	2,200			
Nondurable Goods	1,900	2,000	-100	-5.0	2,000			
Rubber & Plastics	900	1,000	-100	-10.0	1,000			
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	1,000			
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	20,200	19,800	400	2.0	20,600			
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	600	600	0	0.0	600			
TRADE	6,300	6,000	300	5.0	6.600			
Wholesale	700	700	0	0.0	700			
Retail	5,600	5,300	300	5.7	5,900			
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	900	800	100	12.5	900			
SERVICES	9,000	9,000	0	0.0	9,100			
GOVERNMENT	3,400	3,400	0	0.0	3,400			
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200			
State & Local	3,200	3,200	0	0.0	3,200			

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

WATERBURY LMA		Not Sea	asonally Ad	justed	
	JAN	JAN	CHA	NGE	DEC
July July July July July July July July	1998	1997	NO.	%	1997
- Christian					
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	87,600	83,400	4,200	5.0	89,200
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,300	21,200	1,100	5.2	22,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,000	2,700	300	11.1	3,400
MANUFACTURING	19,300	18,500	800	4.3	19,300
Durable Goods	15,000	14,600	400	2.7	14,900
Primary Metals	700	700	0	0.0	700
Fabricated Metals	6,700	6,500	200	3.1	6,600
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,000	5,000	0	0.0	5,000
Nondurable Goods	4,300	3,900	400	10.3	4,400
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,300	1,100	200	18.2	1,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	65,300	62,200	3,100	5.0	66,500
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	3,600	3,500	100	2.9	3,600
TRADE	19,000	17,000	2,000	11.8	19,700
Wholesale	3,100	3,000	100	3.3	3,100
Retail	15,900	14,000	1,900	13.6	16,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4,300	4,200	100	2.4	4,400
SERVICES	26,200	25,300	900	3.6	26,500
Personal & Business	6,900	6,400	500	7.8	7,400
Health Services	10,000	10,300	-300	-2.9	10,100
GOVERNMENT	12,200	12,200	0	0.0	12,300
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,400	11,400	0	0.0	11,500

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

 $\textit{Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to \textit{March 1997}.$

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

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)	EMPLOYMENT	JAN	JAN	CHANGE	DEC
	STATUS	1998	1997	NO. %	1997
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,695,300	1,700,000	-4,700 -0.3	1,714,400
	Employed	1,618,100	1,590,600	27,500 1.7	1,642,000
	Unemployed	77,200	109,400	-32,200 -29.4	72,400
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	6.4	-1.8	4.2
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	215,400	218,000	-2,600 -1.2	217,500
	Employed	204,000	201,800	2,200 1.1	206,800
	Unemployed	11,500	16,300	-4,800 -29.4	10,800
	Unemployment Rate	5.3	7.5	-2.2	4.9
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	107,500	106,200	1,300 1.2	109,300
	Employed	104,300	101,700	2,600 2.6	106,600
	Unemployed	3,300	4,500	-1,200 -26.7	2,700
	Unemployment Rate	3.0	4.3	-1.3	2.5
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	33,100	33,000	100 0.3	33,600
	Employed	30,800	30,200	600 2.0	31,300
	Unemployed	2,300	2,800	-500 -17.9	2,300
	Unemployment Rate	6.9	8.4	-1.5	6.8
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	576,700	585,300	-8,600 -1.5	582,500
	Employed	548,900	545,200	3,700 0.7	556,300
	Unemployed	27,900	40,100	-12,200 -30.4	26,200
	Unemployment Rate	4.8	6.9	-2.1	4.5
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,000	11,800	200 1.7	12,100
	Employed	11,500	11,200	300 2.7	11,700
	Unemployed	500	600	-100 -16.7	400
	Unemployment Rate	3.8	5.4	-1.6	3.3
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	266,000	268,600	-2,600 -1.0	269,300
	Employed	254,300	251,400	2,900 1.2	258,100
	Unemployed	11,700	17,200	-5,500 -32.0	11,200
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	6.4	-2.0	4.2
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	152,400	151,400	1,000 0.7	153,400
	Employed	144,500	141,000	3,500 2.5	146,000
	Unemployed	7,900	10,400	-2,500 -24.0	7,500
	Unemployment Rate	5.2	6.9	-1.7	4.9
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	192,000	187,100	4,900 2.6	196,200
	Employed	186,600	179,600	7,000 3.9	191,000
	Unemployed	5,400	7,400	-2,000 -27.0	5,200
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	4.0	-1.2	2.7
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	39,000	38,600	400 1.0	38,200
	Employed	37,400	36,400	1,000 2.7	36,900
	Unemployed	1,600	2,200	-600 -27.3	1,300
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	5.7	-1.6	3.4
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	118,600	116,100	2,500 2.2	118,800
	Employed	112,400	107,500	4,900 4.6	113,200
	Unemployed	6,200	8,600	-2,400 -27.9	5,500
	Unemployment Rate	5.2	7.4	-2.2	4.7
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	135,951,000	134,317,000	1,634,000 1.2	136,742,000
	Employed	128,882,000	126,384,000	2,498,000 2.0	130,785,000
	Unemployed	7,069,000	7,933,000	-864,000 -10.9	5,957,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.9	-0.7	4.4

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

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVG V	AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	JA	N	CHG	DEC	JA	۸N	CHG	DEC	J	AN	CHG	DEC
(Not seasonally adjusted)	1998	1997	Y/Y	1997	1998	1997	Y/Y	1997	1998	1997	Y/Y	1997
MANUFACTURING	\$626.84	\$606.34	\$20.50	\$639.72	42.7	42.7	0.0	43.4	\$14.68	\$14.20	\$0.48	\$14.74
DURABLE GOODS	639.86	621.93	17.93	654.87	42.8	43.1	-0.3	43.6	14.95	14.43	0.52	15.02
Lumber & Furniture	462.38	448.67	13.71	492.40	41.1	39.6	1.5	41.8	11.25	11.33	-0.08	11.78
Stone, Clay and Glass	596.88	555.17	41.71	586.01	43.6	41.4	2.2	42.9	13.69	13.41	0.28	13.66
Primary Metals	609.13	584.76	24.37	646.81	44.3	44.3	0.0	46.3	13.75	13.20	0.55	13.97
Fabricated Metals	584.89	577.54	7.35	599.35	42.2	43.1	-0.9	43.4	13.86	13.40	0.46	13.81
Machinery	698.64	671.26	27.39	707.83	44.9	44.9	0.0	45.2	15.56	14.95	0.61	15.66
Electrical Equipment	497.76	489.76	8.00	519.12	40.7	41.4	-0.7	42.0	12.23	11.83	0.40	12.36
Trans. Equipment	808.89	790.40	18.49	832.06	43.7	43.5	0.2	44.4	18.51	18.17	0.34	18.74
Instruments	591.55	573.82	17.73	589.64	41.6	42.6	-1.0	41.7	14.22	13.47	0.75	14.14
Miscellaneous Mfg	581.70	543.40	38.30	580.86	42.0	41.8	0.2	42.0	13.85	13.00	0.85	13.83
NONDUR. GOODS	594.45	571.10	23.35	600.36	42.4	41.9	0.5	42.7	14.02	13.63	0.39	14.06
Food	535.58	512.43	23.15	535.33	43.9	43.5	0.4	43.7	12.20	11.78	0.42	12.25
Textiles	475.69	442.20	33.49	495.52	41.4	40.2	1.2	42.1	11.49	11.00	0.49	11.77
Apparel	334.66	344.16	-9.49	332.43	38.6	38.8	-0.2	38.7	8.67	8.87	-0.20	8.59
Paper	709.78	685.63	24.15	726.65	46.0	45.8	0.2	46.7	15.43	14.97	0.46	15.56
Printing & Publishing	572.88	546.92	25.95	581.48	39.4	38.3	1.1	39.8	14.54	14.28	0.26	14.61
Chemicals	806.34	781.26	25.08	812.22	44.5	44.9	-0.4	44.8	18.12	17.40	0.72	18.13
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	512.74	494.76	17.98	514.03	42.8	42.0	0.8	42.8	11.98	11.78	0.20	12.01
CONSTRUCTION	762.89	740.68	22.21	781.44	39.9	39.8	0.1	40.7	19.12	18.61	0.51	19.20

LMAs	AVG WEEK	LY EARN	NINGS	AVG WEEK	LY HOURS A			G HOURLY EARNINGS		
	JAN	CHG	DEC	JAN	CHG	DEC	JA	٩N	CHG	DEC
MANUFACTURING	1998 199	Y/Y	1997	1998 1997	Y/Y	1997	1998	1997	Y/Y	1997
Bridgeport	\$658.33 \$639.80	\$18.47	\$672.11	43.0 42.8	0.2	43.9	\$15.31	\$14.95	\$0.36	\$15.31
Danbury	625.98 652.5	-26.55	657.53	42.7 43.3	-0.6	44.1	14.66	15.07	-0.41	14.91
Danielson	477.30 483.6	-6.32	484.26	40.9 41.3	-0.4	40.9	11.67	11.71	-0.04	11.84
Hartford	678.11 653.40	24.71	708.50	43.0 43.1	-0.1	44.7	15.77	15.16	0.61	15.85
Lower River	515.77 506.2	9.52	506.48	40.2 40.5	-0.3	39.6	12.83	12.50	0.33	12.79
New Haven	613.18 602.1	11.07	633.04	41.6 43.1	-1.5	42.6	14.74	13.97	0.77	14.86
New London	643.21 619.93	23.29	644.77	42.4 42.2	0.2	42.7	15.17	14.69	0.48	15.10
Stamford	554.36 569.38	-15.02	557.17	39.4 41.2	-1.8	40.2	14.07	13.82	0.25	13.86
Torrington	544.00 544.0	-0.07	554.70	42.5 43.7	-1.2	43.1	12.80	12.45	0.35	12.87
Waterbury	615.93 597.63	18.30	595.35	44.6 44.8	-0.2	44.1	13.81	13.34	0.47	13.50

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

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	JAN	JAN	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		DEC
	1998	1997	UNITS	%	1998	1997	UNITS	%	1997
Connecticut	737	427	310	72.6	737	427	310	72.6	622
Counties:									
Fairfield	165	107	58	54.2	165	107	58	54.2	165
Hartford	297	89	208	233.7	297	89	208	233.7	136
Litchfield	31	32	-1	-3.1	31	32	-1	-3.1	45
Middlesex	39	28	11	39.3	39	28	11	39.3	46
New Haven	102	92	10	10.9	102	92	10	10.9	118
New London	52	38	14	36.8	52	38	14	36.8	48
Tolland	32	24	8	33.3	32	24	8	33.3	37
Windham	19	17	2	11.8	19	17	2	11.8	27

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	JAN 1998	YR TO 1998	DATE 1997	TOWN	JAN 1998	YR TO 1998	DATE 1997	TOWN	JAN 1998	YR TO 1998	DATE 1997
Andover Ansonia Ashford Avon Barkhamsted Beacon Falls Berlin Bethany Bethel Bethlehem	3 2 4 5 0 0 5 1 3	3 2 4 5 0 0 5 1 3	3 0 1 3 2 2 2 1 2 3 1	Griswold Groton Guilford Haddam Hamden Hampton Hartford Hartland Harwinton Hebron	1 8 11 1 9 1 13 0 1 4	1 8 11 1 9 1 13 0 1 4	0 5 5 0 4 1 1 0 1 3	Preston Prospect Putnam Redding Ridgefield Rocky Hill Roxbury Salem Salisbury Scotland	2 0 0 4 11 2 1 1 0 3	2 0 0 4 11 2 1 1 0 3	0 0 0 2 7 4 0 0
Bloomfield Bolton Bozrah Branford Bridgeport Bridgewater Bristol Brookfield Brooklyn Burlington	5 2 0 4 17 0 2 0 0	5 2 0 4 17 0 2 0 0	14 0 1 6 0 0 1 6 1 2	Kent Killingly Killingworth Lebanon Ledyard Lisbon Litchfield Lyme Madison Manchester	0 1 4 0 4 2 0 0 12 87	0 1 4 0 4 2 0 0 12 87	1 3 3 1 3 2 1 0 3 5	Seymour Sharon Shelton Sherman Simsbury Somers South Windsor Southbury Southington Sprague	3 1 19 1 7 1 13 7 8 0	3 1 19 1 7 1 13 7 8 0	8 0 8 2 4 1 3 4 7
Canaan Canterbury Canton Chaplin Cheshire Chester Clinton Colchester Colebrook Columbia	0 2 2 1 3 0 4 4 1 1	0 2 2 1 3 0 4 4 1 1	0 0 1 1 7 1 2 3 0	Mansfield Marlborough Meriden Middlebury Middlefield Middletown Milford Monroe Montville Morris	6 1 2 2 1 13 3 5 3	6 1 2 2 1 13 3 5 3	3 6 2 0 9 6 8 0	Stafford Stamford Sterling Stonington Stratford Suffield Thomaston Thompson Tolland Torrington	1 5 1 6 1 100 2 3 7	1 5 1 6 1 100 2 3 7 0	0 5 0 9 7 0 1 5 5
Cornwall Coventry Cromwell Danbury Darien Deep River Derby Durham East Granby East Haddam	1 4 3 13 0 1 2 2 1 4	1 4 3 13 0 1 2 2 1 4	1 3 0 4 2 2 2 2 2 0 0	Naugatuck New Britain New Canaan New Fairfield New Hartford New Haven New London New Milford Newington Newtown	3 0 3 3 1 0 0 8 1 18	3 0 3 3 1 0 0 8 1	0 0 5 1 2 0 0 3 2 7	Trumbull Union Vernon Voluntown Wallingford Warren Washington Waterbury Waterford Watertown	18 0 2 0 16 1 0 5 5	18 0 2 0 16 1 0 5 5	4 0 0 0 12 1 1 3 0 8
East Hampton East Hartford East Haven East Lyme East Windsor Eastford Easton Ellington Enfield Essex	2 0 2 5 2 1 3 1 2 4	2 0 2 5 2 1 3 1 2 4	0 0 4 10 1 0 0 6 0 3	Norfolk North Branford North Canaan North Haven No. Stonington Norwalk Norwich Old Lyme Old Saybrook Orange	0 4 0 3 4 14 6 1 0	0 4 0 3 4 14 6 1 0	0 0 0 3 1 8 1 2 4	West Hartford West Haven Westbrook Weston Westport Wethersfield Willington Wilton Winchester Windham	0 1 0 2 3 15 0 4 0	0 1 0 2 3 15 0 4 0	1 1 1 1 5 0 10 0
Fairfield Farmington Franklin Glastonbury Goshen Granby Greenwich	12 7 0 9 1 3 6	12 7 0 9 1 3 6	13 7 0 14 0 3 3	Oxford Plainfield Plainville Plymouth Pomfret Portland	3 2 1 2 0	3 2 1 2 0 0	3 2 2 3 1	Windsor Windsor Locks Wolcott Woodbridge Woodbury Woodstock	4 0 2 2 2 0 0	4 0 2 2 0 0	2 0 12 1 4 1

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

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

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

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

HOURS AND EARNINGS ESTIMATES

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

INITIAL CLAIMS

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

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

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

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

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

LABOR MARKET AREAS

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

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

LEADING AND COINCIDENT EMPLOYMENT INDICES

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

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

UI COVERED WAGES

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

ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT A GLANCE

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

Leading Employment Index +0.7	Business Activity	Tourism and Travel
Coincident Employment Index +8.0	New Housing Permits+72.6	Tourism Inquiries31.0
	Electricity Sales+0.5	Tourism Info Centers24.5
Total Nonfarm Employment +2.4	Retail Sales+3.1	Attraction Visitors+16.3
	Construction Contracts Index +25.4	Hotel-Motel Occupancy+3.1
Unemployment1.9*	New Auto Registrations +66.9	Air Passenger Count+0.2
Labor Force4.1	Air Cargo Tons+15.0	
Employed+28.3		Employment Cost Index (U.S.)
Unemployed32.4		Total+3.4
	Business Starts	Wages & Salaries+3.9
Average Weekly Initial Claims14.2	Secretary of the State+28.9	Benefit Costs+2.3
Help Wanted Index Hartford 0.0	Dept. of Labor +4.2	
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate0.24*	•	Consumer Price Index
	Business Terminations	U.S. City Average+1.6
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg 0.0	Secretary of the State+9.1	Northeast Region+1.6
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg +3.4	Dept. of Labor+2.7	NY-NJ-Long Island +1.8
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg +3.4	•	Boston-Brockton-Nashua+2.1
Manufacturing Output+4.0		Consumer Confidence
Production Worker Hours +1.2	State Tax Collections+5.6	U.S+7.2
Productivity+2.7	Corporate Tax6.3	New England+16.0
•	Personal Income Tax+19.7	_
Personal Income+6.0	Real Estate Conveyance Tax +1.8	Interest Rates
UI Covered Wages+4.4	Sales & Use Tax+3.9	Prime+0.25*
S		Conventional Mortgage0.83*
*Percentage point change: **Less than 0.05 percent: NA = I	Not Available	

THE CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC DIGEST

March 1998



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

Mailing address:

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200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109

The Connecticut Economic Digest is available on the internet at:
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