THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

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MAY 1997

- The New London-Norwich Labor Market Area currently has the fastest growing labor force in the state. (article)
- Total nonfarm employment increased by 25,700 over the year. (p.6)
- The unemployment rate stood at 4.9 percent again in March. (p.6)
- Housing permits rose 53.3 percent over the year, with the New Haven County showing the largest increase of 168.6 percent. (p.7)
- Second quarter personal income is forecasted to grow 3.8 percent over the same period in 1996. (p.6)
- Northeast's first quarter Employment Cost Index increased 2.6 percent. (p.8)

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Southeastern Connecticut Economic Secrets Revealed

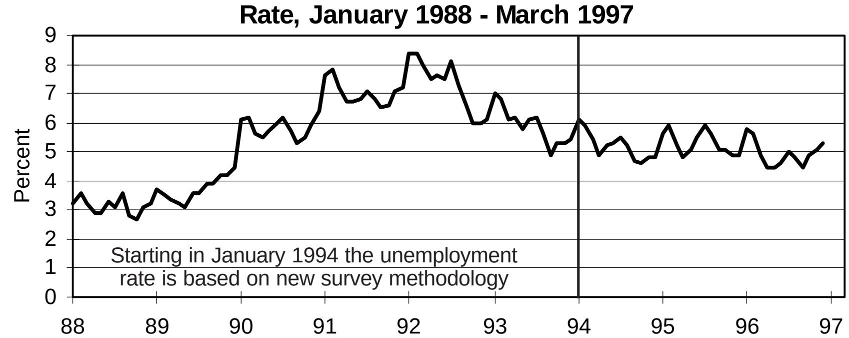
by Lincoln S. Dyer, Research Analyst

The peace dividend for the southeastern part of the state in the early 1990's was an alarmingly stagnant economy. The outlook was gloomy for *"the submarine capital of the world,"* which was one of the most defense dependent districts in the nation. The old United Nuclear Corporation in Uncasville (the Mohegan Sun Casino is now located on the site of this former submarine component builder) was shutting down, idling over 1,000 workers. Electric Boat in Groton had strategic plans to cut its workforce to 7,500 from 15,000 or more by the end of 1997 (cuts are still on schedule). The Groton Naval Submarine Base was on the Defense Base Closure list, and the long established New England Savings Bank was heading for bankruptcy. Commissioned regional economic forecasters, as late as May 1993, were spinning tales of 25% unemployment, 32,000 jobs lost, and 40,000 people outmigrating from New London county under a worst-case scenario by 1998. Even the best-case scenario of these forecasters had the region losing 20,000 jobs by the end of 1997. What these forecasters failed to anticipate was Yankee and Indian ingenuity.

What actually transpired was that the region banded together as best it could with its available resources to fight and slow down the eventual defense money squeeze. This gave the area time to adjust while the Indian governments stepped in with casino development and job creation to pacify the defense-related recession. The opening of the Mashantucket Pequot's Foxwoods Casino in February 1992 with 2,500 employees really initiated the road to economic recovery for the southeast and, for a while, employment at the fast-growing casino made up most of the job gains for the entire state.

Looking back just a few years ago, it was as if the federal government had its own defense diversification plans in mind

Fig. 1: New London-Norwich LMA Unemployment Rate, January 1988 - March 1997



Southeastern Connecticut...

when it recognized these local tribes as separate governments. Under the Indian Gaming Act of 1988 came the opening of the door to casino gaming and economic self-determinism. It would not even be costly for the federal government. What these Indian casinos spawned was not only jobs (around 17,000 on reservations by early 1997, never mind the thousands of construction jobs that have been created), but also a renewed drive and focus on tourism that suddenly became one of the cornerstones for the economic revitalization of the entire state. In addition, a slot machine agreement was reached with the State that has provided State government coffers with over $500 million since the agreement was signed in January 1993. Other benefits include job multiplier effects extended to other sectors like construction, wholesale trade, transportation, real estate and services.

The land of Uncas, Sachem of the Wolf People (Mohegans), and the birthplace of Benedict Arnold has always had a seasonal tourism aspect to it with attractions like Mystic Seaport and Aquarium, the Nautilus, the bark Eagle, proximity to Long Island Sound and Rhode Island beaches, and great Indian, colonial, and whaling history. Now, with the addition of the Indian casinos (Foxwoods is amongst the world's largest), the area is attracting a whole new influx of people to market to and make the region a distinct destination. The labor market area, which extends from the easternmost point of Westerly, R.I. to Old Saybrook and north to Plainfield, has seen bonafide hotel growth, restaurant and retail expansion, a New York Yankee minor league team and stadium, and a surge in new development proposals that could include a Six Flags Theme Park.

The Indians are also diversifying from gaming and broadening their reach into other sectors of the economy. The Mashantucket Pequots have bought other hotels and restaurants, started a high-speed ferry building facility, a wholesale pharmaceutical enterprise, a trout hatchery, and a gravel operation. The Mashantucket Pequots are also leading a $15 million refurbishment of downtown Norwich and are hoping to use local financing. In mid-1998 they plan to open a $135 million American Indian Museum. The newly up-and-running Mohegans have also laid the groundwork for alternative businesses like shell fish aquaculture in the Thames River and Long Island Sound. The tribes also have more hotel and gaming expansions on their reservations in mind with sections of New England's largest hotel at Mashantucket opening this summer. This new phase of enlargement at Foxwoods will eventually employ another 2,000 people.

Elsewhere, existing companies outside of defense contract work have steadied their presence in the area with leading employers like Pfizer streamlining some production, but also expanding its research campus in Groton for future growth and better paying jobs (adding 700 researchers over the next few years). Mariner Health has also grown and expanded its presence into downtown New London. Let's not forget the small employers who have generated opportunities and have adapted to the changing business climate while also backfilling lost defense positions.

The area still faces some high economic hurdles, including dealing with the loss of the Naval Underwater Warfare Center in New London. This defense research facility was on the defense consolidation list (over 1,000

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

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Contributing DOL Staff: Salvatore DiPillo, Lincoln S. Dyer, Arthur Famiglietti and Joseph Slepski. **Managing Editor:** J. Charles Joo. **Contributing DECD Staff:** Sandy Bergin, Kolie Chang, William Hesse and Mark Prisloe. We would also like to thank our associates at the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut, for their contributions to the Digest.

Connecticut Department of Labor

James P. Butler, Commissioner
William R. Bellotti, Deputy Commissioner
John E. Saunders, Deputy Commissioner
Jean E. Zurbrigen, Deputy Commissioner

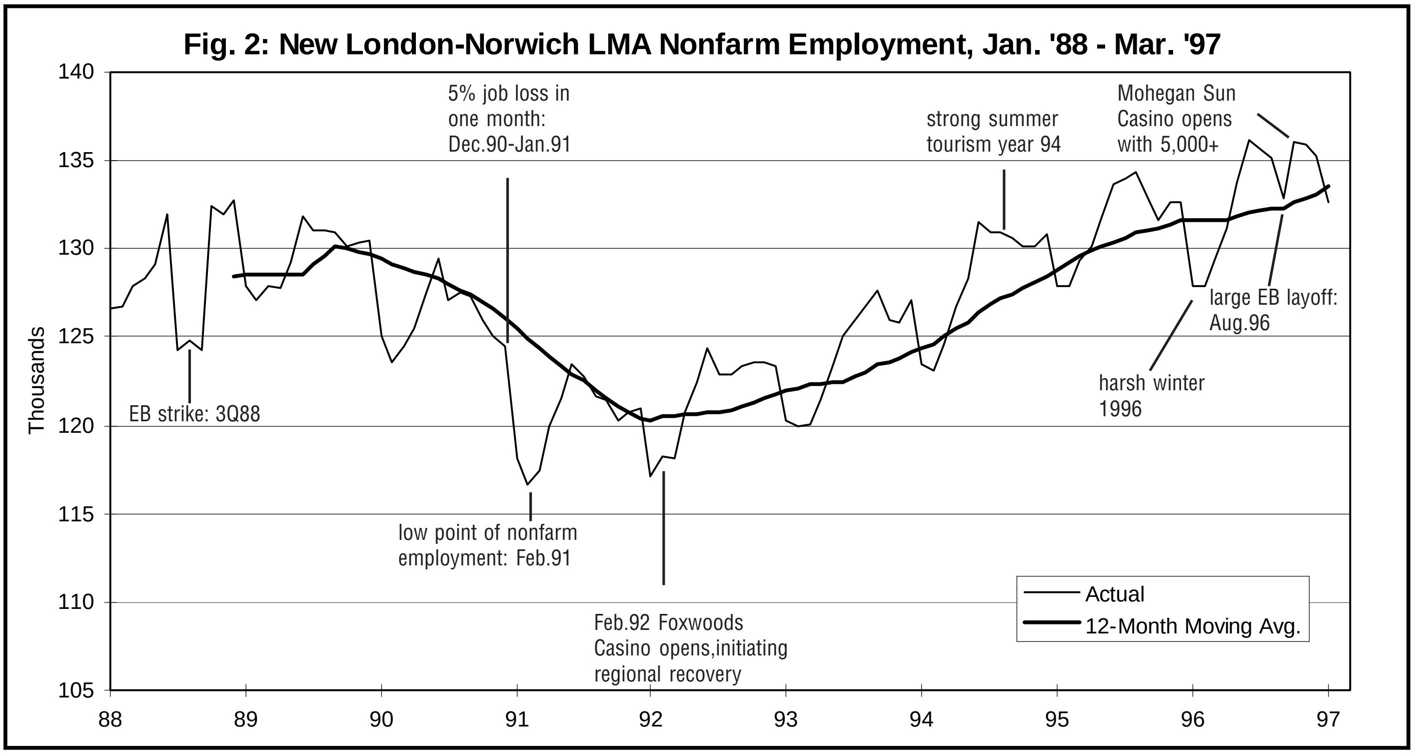
Roger F. Therrien, Director
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Phone: (860) 566-7823
Fax: (860) 566-7963
E-Mail: salvatore.dipillo@po.state.ct.us

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

Peter N. Ellef, Commissioner
Larry Alibozek, Deputy Commissioner
Richard M. Cianci, Deputy Commissioner

Program Planning & Evaluation Division
865 Brook Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Phone: (860) 258-4238
Fax: (860) 258-4322
E-Mail: decd@po.state.ct.us

Southeastern Connecticut Secrets...



While the state has gained back about 50% of the jobs it lost during the 1989-92 recession, this area has gained them all back and then some.

HOUSING UPDATE

March: housing permits increase

The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 909 new housing units in March 1997, a 53.3% increase compared to March 1996 when 593 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 909 units permitted in March 1997 represent an increase of 105.6% from the 442 units permitted in February 1997, and that the year-to-date permits are up 44.9% from 1,282 through March 1996, to 1,858 through March 1997.

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that New Haven County showed the greatest percentage increase in March compared to the same month a year ago: 168.6%, followed by Middlesex County with a 65.7% increase.

New Haven County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in March with 282. Hartford County followed with 226 units and Fairfield County had 174 units. Woodbridge led all Connecticut communities with 93 units, followed by Manchester with 66, and Wolcott with 51. ■

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)566-1887 or fax requests to (860)566-8600.

personnel moved to Newport, R.I.). The remaining facility, Fort Trumbull, is a choice waterfront parcel. Although it did not get the promised submarine school expansion, the sub base was spared. It will be the eastern port for the Seawolf class of subs, which are being built at Electric Boat. The second of the three planned Seawolf subs will be named the **Connecticut.**

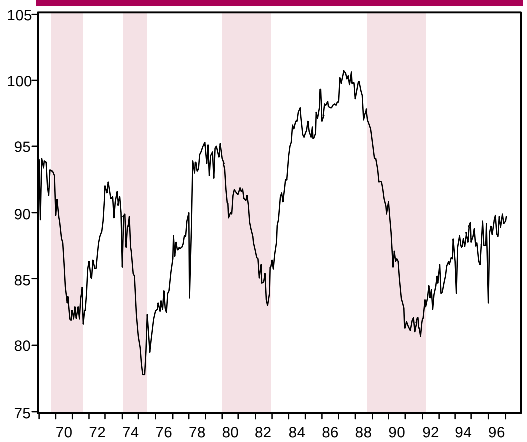
The closures and consolidation of some state mental facilities will also hurt the area initially, but may eventually be beneficial because of the possibilities these prime pieces of land present for future development. Some area manufacturers are feeling the pressures of Connecticut's higher costs and are moving south. This is to be expected with NAFTA in full gear, causing some of the less sophisticated production sectors like textiles to head for lower wage locales. There are other concerns, too, like Northeast Utilities' Millstone nuclear complex in Waterford that has all three reactors off line right now with safety issues to address before they restart, as well as deregulation to contend with. A recent phenomenon that may be adverse is labor shortages appearing in the area in the less skilled job areas like kitchen help and retail sales. And an all encompassing anxiety of the area is that it will become too reliant on gaming, similar to the dependence the region had on defense contracts in the past. The area suddenly became the third largest in the nation for square footage in gaming space behind Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Southeastern Connecticut has been lucky so far because Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York have not really opened their states to full expanded gaming, keeping the high per capita income market of the Northeast fairly exclusive to Connecticut's federally recognized tribes.

Looking back to the heydays of the late 1980's when unemployment rates were below 3% (Fig. 1) and employment peaked in the New London-Norwich Labor Market (Fig. 2) and then to the swift decline of jobs in the early 1990's, one can easily see the stabilizing effect that Indian gaming employment has had on the area's nonfarm payrolls and the region's unemployed. And instead of the predicted outmigration, the area currently has the fastest growing labor force in the state. The mix of jobs, however, has shifted from a goods producing-based labor market, that averaged close to 28% of nonfarm employment derived from manufacturing positions in 1988, to more of a service producing labor region that gets less than 20% of nonagricultural employment from production sectors in 1996. This shift will persist as defense downsizing continues. One concern is the quality of new jobs being created in terms of pay and skills. These new casino and other Indian-related jobs, which require a wide range of skills, appear to average well over $20,000 per year with generous benefit packages included. You be the judge, but do not forget that better paying manufacturing positions have been lost all across the nation and are very hard to replace in the nation's advancing service economy. This is especially true with leaner defense spending budgets, which had artificially kept wages high, becoming the norm.

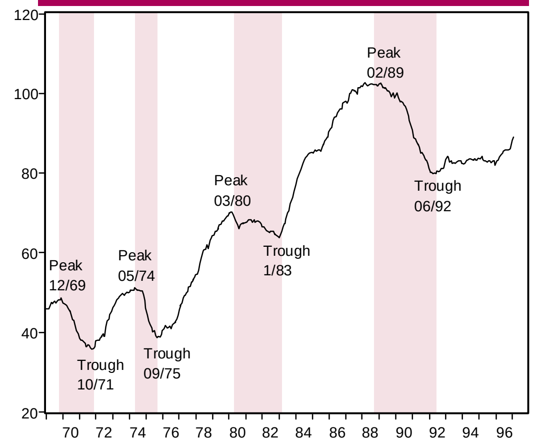
...the New London-Norwich Labor Market Area currently has the fastest growing labor force in the state.

If the region can play its cards right, it could end up with a more balanced economy that provides jobs from many specialized sectors. One can envision a tourist destination with beaches and recreation areas that include gaming, fine historical attractions, amusement parks, an expanded aquarium, minor league baseball, affordable lodging, and varied dining experiences. This could be built on a core base economy that still consists of the traditional defense manufacturing and subcontracting, stabilized by an augmented pharmaceutical and marine research sector, and complemented by other long-standing production industries like paper, printing, primary and fabricated metals, and instruments and machinery. The banking sector has endured, consolidated, and is now strengthening to help provide the needed capital for growth. Add some modern engines of growth like motion picture production (scenes for Spielberg's **Amistad** were recently filmed in the region), aquaculture, water transportation and shipping, computer and internet services, financial services, and healthcare to steady the seasonal job fluctuations and for future job evolution. The area has a well-established educational base to draw upon that includes a branch of the state university, a wide serving community-technical college, the Coast Guard Academy, Connecticut College, and advanced degree programs from University of New Haven and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). A well developed and diversified economy could emerge that would prosper in future economic downturns. Connecticut's best kept secret is getting out ! ■

LEADING INDEX



COINCIDENT INDEX



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.

Is it deja vu all over again, Yogi?

With the release of the revised employment data by the Labor Department last month, we indicated that Connecticut's economic growth in 1996, as tracked by Connecticut's coincident employment index, was more restrained than what we had reported previously. We noted, in addition, that the coincident index, a barometer of current employment activity, still rose more in 1996 than in prior years of the current expansion despite these revisions. Now, with the release of (preliminary) February data, the January and February movements in the coincident index (see chart) have returned to a more rapid growth rate, increasing by 3.3 percent in these two months (or just over 20 percent on an annual basis). This acceleration in the movement of the coincident index mirrors a similar pattern in this index last year at about this time.

Connecticut's leading employment index also rose in both January and February. Nevertheless, the leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, continues to bounce around. The leading index has still not moved in the same direction, either up or down, for more than two consecutive months since December 1994. It presently is near its November 1996 peak in the current expansion.

Together the coincident and leading employment indexes are sending signals consistent with a continuation of the current expansion. Of course, Connecticut's recovery hinges critically on the continued recovery of the national economy. Current concerns about if, and when, the Federal Reserve will apply more of the monetary breaks to head off inflationary pressures raise serious questions about the future of the national recovery. If the national recovery heads south, then the Connecticut recovery will most likely follow. But some analysts see our next recession as much less severe than the last due to the restructuring and downsizing experienced in Connecticut during the late 1980s and early 1990s. (See, for example, *The Connecticut Economy,* Winter 1997)

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 82.9 in February 1996 to 89.0 in February 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 88.5 in February 1996 to 89.7 in February 1997. Four index components sent positive signals on a year-over-year basis with a lower short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, higher total housing permits, lower initial claims for unemployment insurance, and higher Hartford help-wanted advertising. The lone negative signal came from a shorter average work week of manufacturing production workers. ■

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]. Tara Blois [(860) 486-4752, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Nonfarm employment grew by 25,700 over the year. The trade sector added 4,300 jobs, while the Finance, Insurance & Real Estate industry lost 1,900 workers.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	%	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM	1,598.2	1,572.5	25.7	1.6	1,597.4
Private Sector	1,373.0	1,351.3	21.7	1.6	1,370.6
Construction and Mining	53.9	51.8	2.1	4.1	53.4
Manufacturing	273.9	274.9	-1.0	-0.4	274.4
Transportation, Public Utilities	73.9	73.2	0.7	1.0	73.7
Wholesale, Retail Trade	349.3	345.0	4.3	1.2	349.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	129.2	131.1	-1.9	-1.4	129.3
Services	492.8	475.3	17.5	3.7	490.8
Government	225.2	221.2	4.0	1.8	226.8

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate dropped by 0.9 percentage point, while the labor force rose 15.7 percent over the year. Initial claims declined by 4.9 percent from last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	%	FEB 1997
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	4.9	5.8	-0.9	---	4.9
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,732.4	1,716.7	15.7	0.9	1,731.4
Employed (000s)	1,646.8	1,617.8	29.0	1.8	1,646.0
Unemployed (000s)	85.6	98.9	-13.3	-13.4	85.4
Average Weekly Initial Claims*	3,880	4,082	-202	-4.9	3,795
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	34	34	0	0.0	36
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.44	2.99	-0.55	---	2.54

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board
**The methodology for this series has been revised; See Technical Notes, p.23.*

Manufacturing production worker average hourly wages rose by 34 cents from last March. Output fell slightly over the year, as the decline in production worker hours outpaced the increase in productivity.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

(Not seasonally adjusted)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	%	FEB 1997
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	43.0	-0.7	-1.6	42.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$14.28	$13.94	$0.34	2.4	$14.20
Average Weekly Earnings	$604.04	$599.42	$4.62	0.8	$597.82
Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*	117.0	117.7	-0.7	-0.6	117.6
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,744	6,900	-156	-2.3	6,706
Productivity Index (1982=100)*	184.0	180.8	3.2	1.8	183.6

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor
**Seasonally adjusted*

Nominal personal income for second quarter 1997 is forecasted to grow 3.8 percent over the prior year.

INCOME (Quarterly)

(Seasonally adjusted) (Annualized; $ Millions)	2Q* 1997	2Q 1996	CHANGE NO.	%	1Q* 1997
UI Covered Wages	$59,014	$57,054	$1,960	3.4	$58,404
Personal Income	$112,245	$108,180	$4,065	3.8	$111,343
Real Personal Income**	NA	$69,125	---	---	$69,764

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: April 1997 release
**Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor*
***Adjusted with Consumer Price Index -- All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average (CPI-U)*
NA= Not Available

Note: Beginning with the November 1996 release, all estimates for 1990:Q1 through 1996:Q3 are no longer consistent with 1969:Q1 to 1989:Q4. The estimates for 1969:Q1 to 1989:Q4 will be revised by BEA in the second half of 1997.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE PRIOR	% CHG
New Housing Permits	MAR 1997	909	53.3	1,858	1,282	44.9
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	JAN 1997	2,625	-0.9	2,625	2,650	-0.9
Retail Sales (Bil. $)	JAN 1997	2.29	10.6	2.29	2.07	10.6
Construction Contracts						
Index (1980=100)	FEB 1997	205.0	23.8	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	MAR 1997	23,952	82.4	50,789	39,570	28.4
Air Cargo Tons	FEB 1997	11,804	14.0	24,812	19,474	27.4

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

New housing permits were up 53.3 percent compared with March 1996. Construction contracts showed an increase of 23.8 percent from February 1996.

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	MAR 1997	% CHANGE M/M	% CHANGE Y/Y	YEAR TO DATE NO.	YEAR TO DATE % CHG
STARTS					
Secretary of the State	1,518	24.8	13.5	4,227	7.3
Department of Labor	729	-43.9	-10.3	2,767	7.6
TERMINATIONS					
Secretary of the State	356	38.0	101.1	957	55.1
Department of Labor	578	-26.6	-18.2	2,649	26.4

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

Business starts and terminations registered with the Secretary of the State showed increases of 13.5 and 101.1 percent, respectively compared with a year ago, for a net gain of 3,270 establishments so far this year.

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

(Millions of dollars)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	% CHG	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 1996-97	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 1995-96	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	716.9	691.9	3.6	5,101.5	4,884.8	4.4
Corporate Tax	181.1	185.6	-2.4	437.8	473.7	-7.6
Personal Income Tax	205.7	199.9	2.9	1,872.1	1,741.1	7.5
Real Estate Conv. Tax	5.7	4.1	1.6	52.9	46.7	13.3
Sales & Use Tax	171.8	168.8	1.8	1,688.0	1,589.5	6.2

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

Total tax collections for the fiscal year to date were up 4.4 percent. Only corporate tax collections were down a total of 7.6 percent.

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE PRIOR	% CHG
Tourism Inquiries	MAR 1997	37,423	-4.4	55,153	58,856	-6.3
Info Center Visitors	MAR 1997	26,748	-3.1	67,079	66,556	0.8
Major Attraction Visitors	MAR 1997	112,928	39.7	294,574	211,509	39.3
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	MAR 1997	65.2	-1.2	63.1	62.2	1.4
Air Passenger Count	FEB 1997	405,916	-6.8	785,789	807,263	-2.7

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

Major attraction visitors increased 39.7 percent for the month and 39.3 percent for the year to date.

Compensation costs for the Northeast rose 2.6 percent over the year, while the nation's increased by 3.0 percent.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
Private Industry Workers	**MAR**	**DEC**	**3-Mo**	**MAR**	**MAR**	**12-Mo**
(June 1989=100)	**1997**	**1996**	**% Chg**	**1997**	**1996**	**% Chg**
UNITED STATES TOTAL	131.4	130.6	0.6	131.7	127.9	3.0
Wages and Salaries	128.5	127.4	0.9	128.6	124.4	3.4
Benefit Costs	138.7	138.7	0.0	139.4	136.6	2.0
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	132.2	128.9	2.6
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	128.8	124.9	3.1

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

The U.S. city average inflation rate in March was 2.8 percent on an annual basis. U.S. and New England consumer confidence were up 20.4 and 31.3 percent, respectively, from March a year ago.

CONSUMER NEWS

	MAR	FEB	MAR	% CHG	
(Not seasonally adjusted)	**1997**	**1997**	**1996**	**M/M**	**Y/Y**
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	160.0	159.6	155.7	0.3	2.8
Northeast Region	167.3	166.9	162.8	0.2	2.8
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	170.7	170.1	166.5	0.4	2.5
Boston-Lawrence-Salem*	168.1	---	162.8	---	3.3
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	157.0	156.8	152.9	0.1	2.7
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	118.5	118.9	98.4	-0.3	20.4
New England	144.4	144.3	110.0	0.1	31.3

**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

An increase in the prime rate in March boosted all short- and long-term rates from the previous month and a year ago. The 30-year mortgage rate of 7.9 percent was also up from the previous month.

INTEREST RATES

	MAR	FEB	MAR
(Percent)	**1997**	**1997**	**1996**
Prime	8.30	8.25	8.25
Federal Funds	5.39	5.19	5.22
3 Month Treasury Bill	5.15	5.00	4.09
6 Month Treasury Bill	5.24	5.05	5.08
1 Year Treasury Bill	5.80	5.53	5.54
3 Year Treasury Bill	6.38	6.03	6.11
5 Year Treasury Bond	6.54	6.20	6.30
7 Year Treasury Bond	6.65	6.32	6.48
10 Year Treasury Bond	6.69	6.42	6.51
30 Year Teasury Bond	6.93	6.69	6.79
Conventional Mortgage	7.90	7.65	7.93

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
Connecticut	1,598.2	1,572.5	25.7	1.6	1,597.4
Maine	546.4	539.5	6.9	1.3	545.7
Massachusetts	3,082.6	3,014.4	68.2	2.3	3,075.7
New Hampshire	567.8	551.1	16.7	3.0	566.4
New Jersey	3,690.1	3,626.6	63.5	1.8	3,686.1
New York	7,974.8	7,903.3	71.5	0.9	7,958.0
Pennsylvania	5,398.0	5,286.3	111.7	2.1	5,391.5
Rhode Island	443.9	440.7	3.2	0.7	442.5
Vermont	277.2	273.9	3.3	1.2	277.6
United States	121,450.0	118,750.0	2,700.0	2.3	121,275.0

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

Connecticut's employment grew 1.6 percent over the year, while the nation's rose by 2.3 percent.

LABOR FORCE

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
Connecticut	1,732.4	1,716.7	15.7	0.9	1,731.4
Maine	672.2	663.5	8.7	1.3	666.8
Massachusetts	3,215.4	3,180.8	34.6	1.1	3,213.8
New Hampshire	640.9	624.4	16.5	2.6	648.5
New Jersey	4,130.9	4,104.3	26.6	0.6	4,142.7
New York	8,704.0	8,614.1	89.9	1.0	8,691.9
Pennsylvania	5,984.8	5,889.7	95.1	1.6	5,980.9
Rhode Island	497.9	492.0	5.9	1.2	495.3
Vermont	328.6	323.7	4.9	1.5	329.0
United States	136,319.0	133,464.0	2,855.0	2.1	135,634.0

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

Connecticut experienced the second slowest labor force growth (next to New Jersey) in the region over the year.

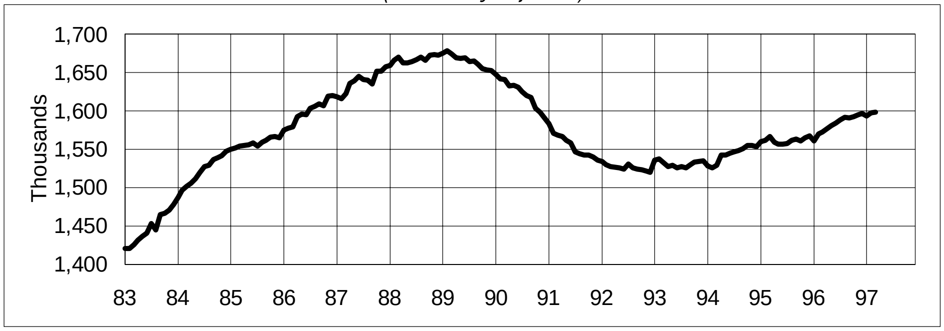
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

(Seasonally adjusted)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE	FEB 1997
Connecticut	4.9	5.8	-0.9	4.9
Maine	4.3	5.2	-0.9	4.3
Massachusetts	3.9	4.6	-0.7	3.8
New Hampshire	2.1	4.1	-2.0	3.4
New Jersey	5.5	6.3	-0.8	5.6
New York	6.3	6.4	-0.1	6.3
Pennsylvania	5.1	5.6	-0.5	4.9
Rhode Island	4.8	5.4	-0.6	4.7
Vermont	3.9	4.6	-0.7	3.9
United States	5.2	5.5	-0.3	5.3

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

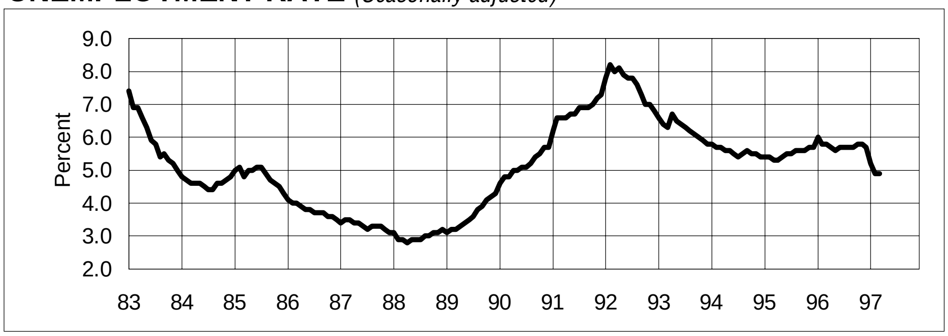
Connecticut's unemployment rate remained below the nation's in March. New Hampshire's rate dropped by two percentage points to 2.1 percent from last year!

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



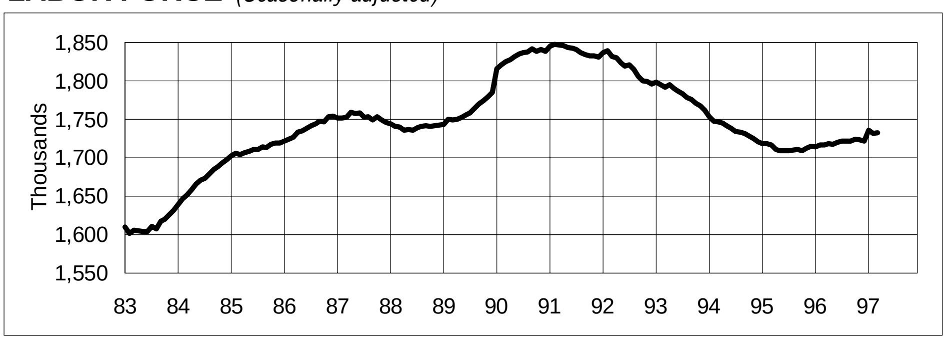
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	1,559.8	1,561.2	1,593.6
Feb	1,561.6	1,569.8	1,597.4
Mar	1,566.7	1,572.5	1,598.2
Apr	1,559.4	1,576.9	
May	1,556.8	1,581.0	
Jun	1,556.8	1,584.2	
Jul	1,557.7	1,588.0	
Aug	1,561.9	1,591.9	
Sep	1,563.1	1,590.9	
Oct	1,560.8	1,592.5	
Nov	1,565.4	1,595.3	
Dec	1,567.2	1,596.5	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



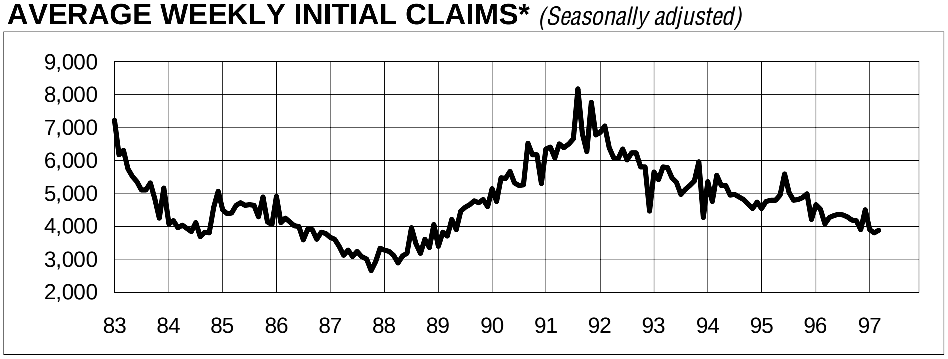
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	5.4	6.0	5.2
Feb	5.4	5.8	4.9
Mar	5.3	5.8	4.9
Apr	5.3	5.7	
May	5.4	5.6	
Jun	5.5	5.7	
Jul	5.5	5.7	
Aug	5.6	5.7	
Sep	5.6	5.7	
Oct	5.6	5.8	
Nov	5.7	5.8	
Dec	5.7	5.7	

LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	1,718.6	1,714.4	1,735.6
Feb	1,718.6	1,716.6	1,731.4
Mar	1,717.0	1,716.7	1,732.4
Apr	1,710.6	1,718.3	
May	1,709.3	1,717.9	
Jun	1,709.0	1,719.7	
Jul	1,709.1	1,721.6	
Aug	1,710.3	1,721.9	
Sep	1,711.1	1,721.5	
Oct	1,709.3	1,724.1	
Nov	1,712.4	1,723.3	
Dec	1,714.8	1,722.0	

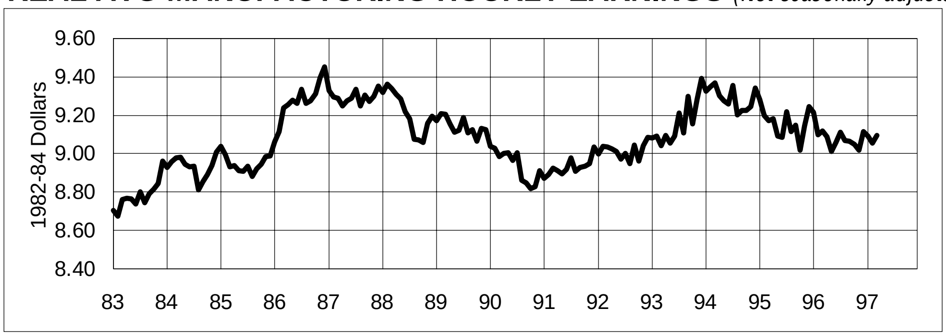
AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS* *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	4,534	4,651	3,890
Feb	4,756	4,517	3,795
Mar	4,790	4,082	3,880
Apr	4,797	4,274	
May	4,940	4,334	
Jun	5,579	4,365	
Jul	5,029	4,349	
Aug	4,800	4,281	
Sep	4,803	4,199	
Oct	4,872	4,166	
Nov	4,986	3,907	
Dec	4,200	4,501	

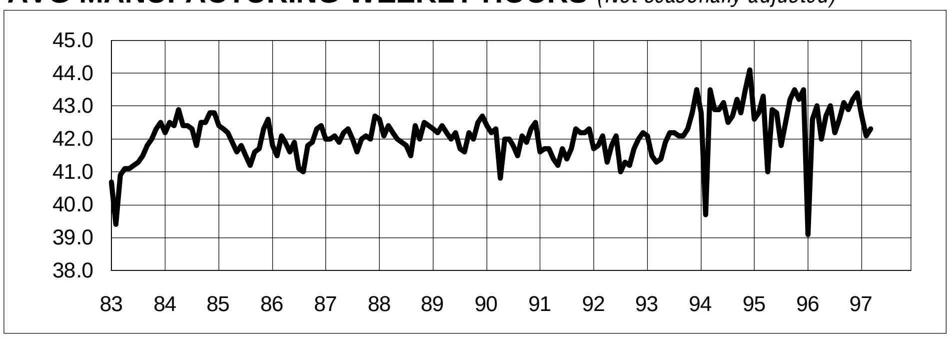
** The methodology for this series has been revised; See Technical Notes, p.23.*

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



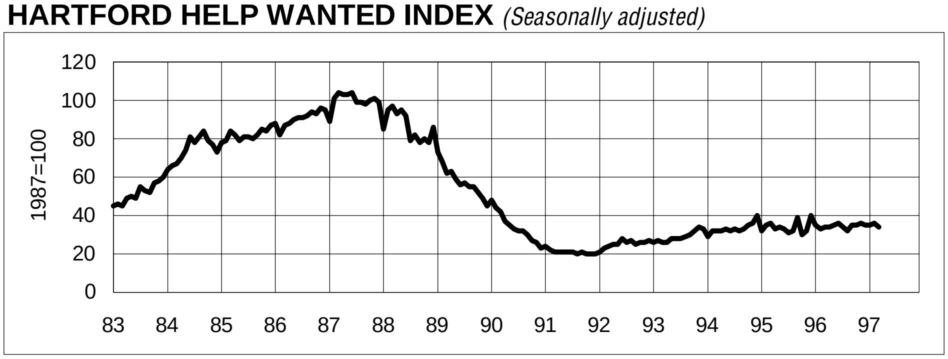
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	$9.28	$9.22	$9.09
Feb	9.20	9.10	9.06
Mar	9.17	9.12	9.10
Apr	9.18	9.09	
May	9.09	9.01	
Jun	9.09	9.06	
Jul	9.22	9.11	
Aug	9.11	9.07	
Sep	9.15	9.07	
Oct	9.02	9.05	
Nov	9.15	9.02	
Dec	9.24	9.11	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



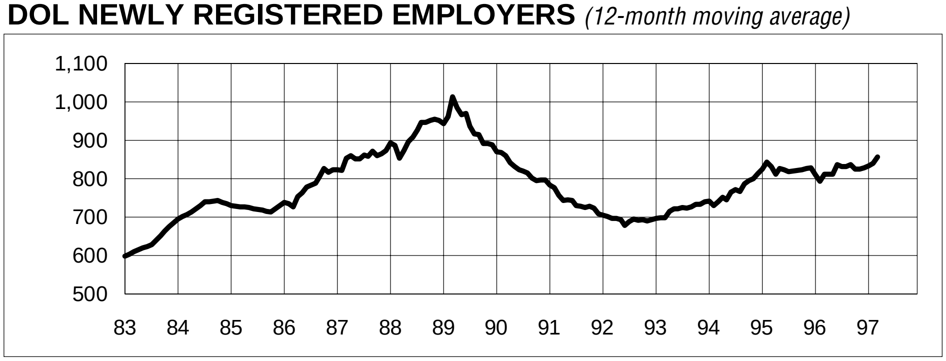
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	42.6	39.1	42.7
Feb	42.8	42.6	42.1
Mar	43.3	43.0	42.3
Apr	41.0	42.0	
May	42.9	42.7	
Jun	42.8	43.0	
Jul	41.8	42.2	
Aug	42.5	42.6	
Sep	43.2	43.1	
Oct	43.5	42.9	
Nov	43.2	43.2	
Dec	43.5	43.4	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



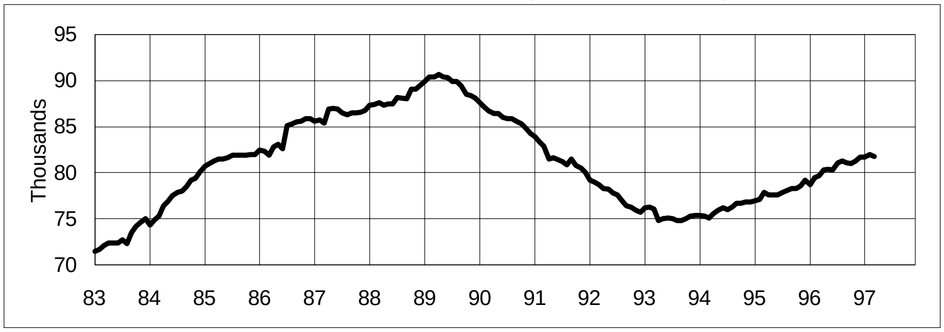
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	32	35	35
Feb	35	33	36
Mar	36	34	34
Apr	33	34	
May	34	35	
Jun	33	36	
Jul	31	34	
Aug	32	32	
Sep	39	35	
Oct	30	35	
Nov	32	36	
Dec	40	35	

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



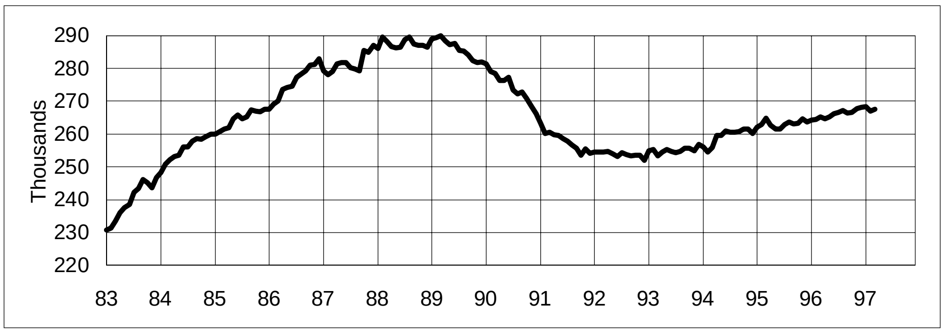
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	826	810	833
Feb	844	794	840
Mar	833	812	856
Apr	813	813	
May	827	811	
Jun	824	838	
Jul	819	833	
Aug	821	833	
Sep	822	838	
Oct	823	825	
Nov	827	825	
Dec	828	828	

WHOLESALE TRADE EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



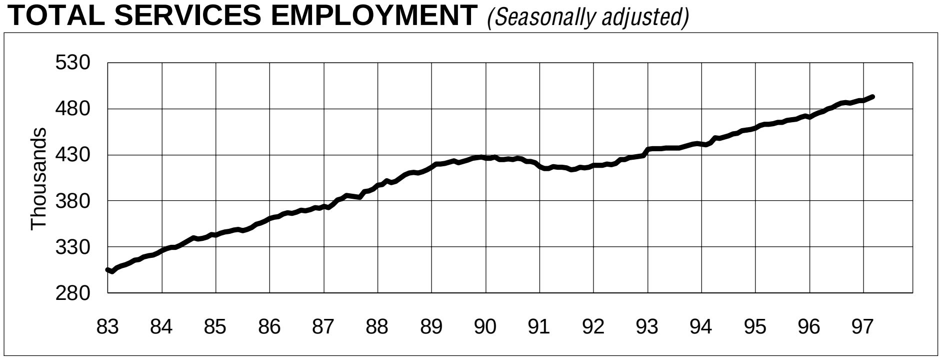
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	77.0	78.7	81.7
Feb	77.1	79.5	82.0
Mar	77.9	79.7	81.8
Apr	77.6	80.3	
May	77.6	80.4	
Jun	77.6	80.3	
Jul	77.9	81.1	
Aug	78.1	81.3	
Sep	78.3	81.1	
Oct	78.3	81.0	
Nov	78.6	81.3	
Dec	79.2	81.7	

RETAIL TRADE EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	262.2	264.3	268.3
Feb	262.8	264.4	267.0
Mar	264.8	265.3	267.5
Apr	262.6	264.6	
May	261.6	265.3	
Jun	261.5	266.2	
Jul	262.8	266.6	
Aug	263.7	267.2	
Sep	263.0	266.3	
Oct	263.3	266.6	
Nov	264.6	267.8	
Dec	263.7	268.2	

TOTAL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*

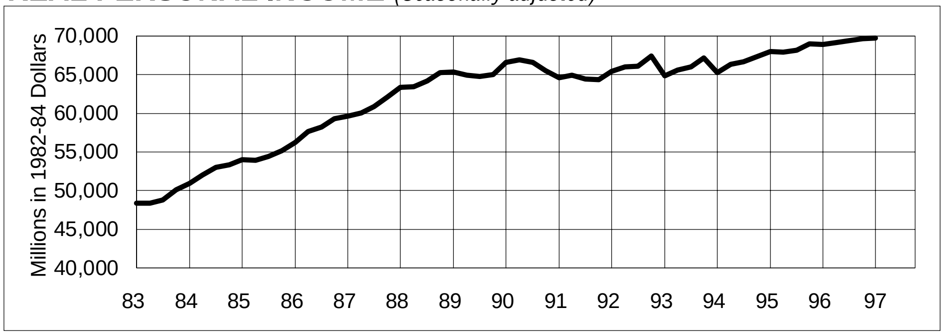


Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	459.1	470.7	489.0
Feb	461.7	473.7	490.8
Mar	463.0	475.3	492.8
Apr	463.0	476.9	
May	463.8	479.8	
Jun	464.9	481.4	
Jul	465.3	484.2	
Aug	466.9	486.1	
Sep	468.2	486.9	
Oct	468.3	486.1	
Nov	471.0	487.7	
Dec	472.0	488.5	

BUSINESS SERVICES EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*

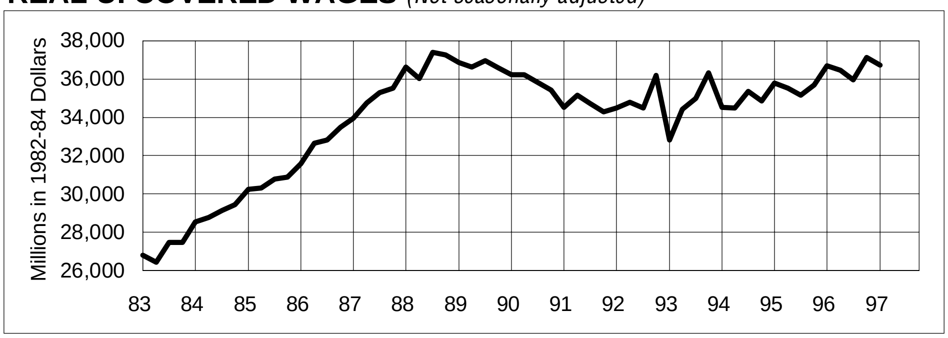
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	80.7	86.2	96.1
Feb	82.3	88.8	97.5
Mar	83.1	90.9	99.7
Apr	84.2	91.4	
May	85.4	93.3	
Jun	86.3	95.3	
Jul	85.1	94.8	
Aug	86.7	96.5	
Sep	88.3	97.4	
Oct	88.9	97.9	
Nov	90.0	98.7	
Dec	91.0	99.0	

REAL PERSONAL INCOME *(Seasonally adjusted)*



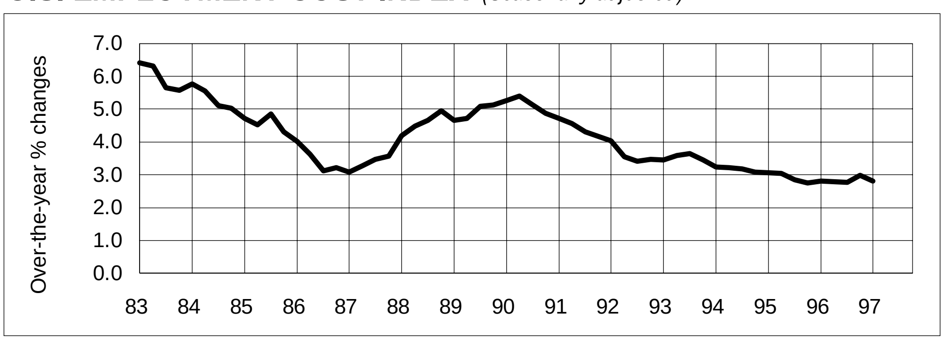
Quarter	1995	1996	1997
First	$68,000	$68,944	$69,764
Second	67,910	69,125	
Third	68,197	69,364	
Fourth	69,026	69,685	

REAL UI COVERED WAGES *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



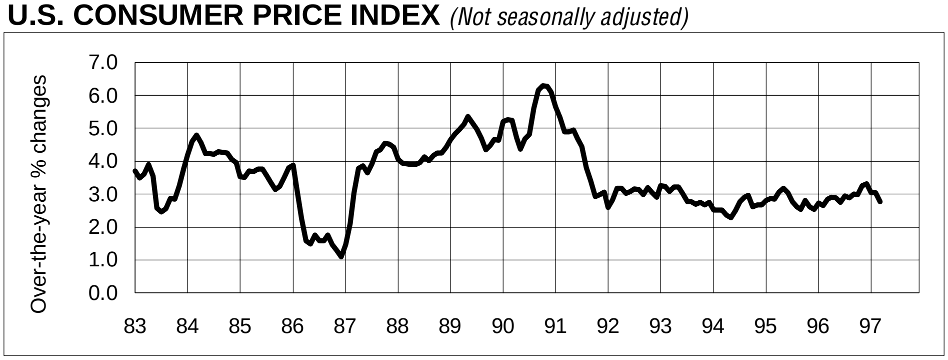
Quarter	1995	1996	1997
First	$35,784	$36,702	$36,709
Second	35,513	36,446	
Third	35,155	35,955	
Fourth	35,699	37,117	

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



Quarter	1995	1996	1997
First	3.1	2.8	2.8
Second	3.0	2.8	
Third	2.8	2.8	
Fourth	2.7	3.0	

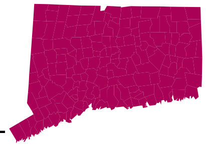
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	2.8	2.7	3.0
Feb	2.9	2.7	3.0
Mar	2.9	2.8	2.8
Apr	3.1	2.9	
May	3.2	2.9	
Jun	3.0	2.8	
Jul	2.8	3.0	
Aug	2.6	2.9	
Sep	2.5	3.0	
Oct	2.8	3.0	
Nov	2.6	3.3	
Dec	2.5	3.3	

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

CONNECTICUT



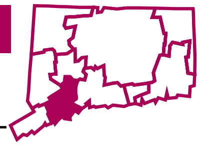
(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**1,584,700 ***	**1,557,800 ***	**26,900**	**1.7**	**1,576,800 ***
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**322,300**	**319,800 ***	**2,500**	**0.8**	**320,900**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**48,600**	**45,500**	**3,100**	**6.8**	**46,900**
MANUFACTURING	**273,700**	**274,300 ***	**-600**	**-0.2**	**274,000**
Durable	**192,500**	**193,700**	**-1,200**	**-0.6**	**192,700**
Lumber & Furniture	4,800	4,700	100	2.1	4,700
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,500	2,600	-100	-3.8	2,600
Primary Metals	9,200	9,100	100	1.1	9,200
Fabricated Metals	34,000	33,800	200	0.6	34,000
Machinery & Computer Equipment	35,800	35,300	500	1.4	35,700
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	28,300	27,800	500	1.8	28,200
Transportation Equipment	48,500	50,800	-2,300	-4.5	48,700
Instruments	22,900	23,100	-200	-0.9	23,100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,500	6,500	0	0.0	6,500
Nondurable	**81,200**	**80,600 ***	**600**	**0.7**	**81,300**
Food	9,100	8,800	300	3.4	9,100
Textiles.	2,000	1,900	100	5.3	2,000
Apparel	4,400	4,300	100	2.3	4,500
Paper	7,900	7,800	100	1.3	7,900
Printing & Publishing	25,500	25,200	300	1.2	25,500
Chemicals	19,400	20,000 *	-600	-3.0	19,500
Rubber & Plastics	10,700	10,500	200	1.9	10,700
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	2,200	2,100	100	4.8	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**1,262,400 ***	**1,238,000 ***	**24,400**	**2.0**	**1,255,900 ***
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**73,500**	**72,800**	**700**	**1.0**	**73,200**
Transportation	42,800	42,600	200	0.5	42,400
Motor Freight & Warehousing	11,500	11,500	0	0.0	11,400
Other Transportation	31,300	31,100	200	0.6	31,000
Communications	18,400	17,500	900	5.1	18,400
Utilities	12,300	12,700	-400	-3.1	12,400
TRADE	**342,000 ***	**337,800 ***	**4,200**	**1.2**	**340,000 ***
Wholesale	81,500 *	79,600 *	1,900	2.4	81,500 *
Retail	260,500	258,200	2,300	0.9	258,500
General Merchandise	27,500	27,300	200	0.7	27,600
Food Stores	50,400	50,400	0	0.0	50,100
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	26,800	26,100	700	2.7	26,600
Restaurants	74,100	73,900	200	0.3	72,100
Other Retail Trade	81,700	80,500	1,200	1.5	82,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	**128,600**	**130,700**	**-2,100**	**-1.6**	**128,700**
Finance	45,100	44,900	200	0.4	45,200
Banking	23,600	24,300	-700	-2.9	23,900
Insurance	68,200	71,000	-2,800	-3.9	68,400
Insurance Carriers	57,200	60,100	-2,900	-4.8	57,500
Real Estate	15,400	14,700	700	4.8	15,200
SERVICES	**487,400**	**470,600**	**16,800**	**3.6**	**483,900**
Hotels & Lodging Places	10,200	9,900	300	3.0	10,000
Personal Services	19,600	19,100	500	2.6	19,500
Business Services	99,700	90,900	8,800	9.7	97,500
Health Services	156,300	153,700	2,600	1.7	155,800
Legal & Professional Services	49,900	48,600	1,300	2.7	49,800
Educational Services	40,400	39,900	500	1.3	41,900
Other Services	111,300	108,500	2,800	2.6	109,400
GOVERNMENT	**230,900**	**226,100**	**4,800**	**2.1**	**230,100**
Federal	22,200	23,600	-1,400	-5.9	22,200
**State, Local & Other Government	208,700	202,500	6,200	3.1	207,900

For further information contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 566-3470.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

BRIDGEPORT LMA

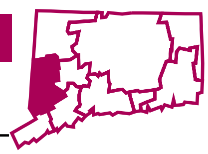


(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**179,400**	**177,200**	**2,200**	**1.2**	**178,100**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**44,700**	**44,700**	**0**	**0.0**	**44,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**4,800**	**4,700**	**100**	**2.1**	**4,500**
MANUFACTURING	**39,900**	**40,000**	**-100**	**-0.3**	**39,800**
Durable Goods	32,500	32,500	0	0.0	32,500
Fabricated Metals	4,400	4,300	100	2.3	4,400
Industrial Machinery	6,200	6,200	0	0.0	6,200
Electronic Equipment	6,200	5,800	400	6.9	6,100
Transportation Equipment	9,100	10,000	-900	-9.0	9,200
Nondurable Goods	7,400	7,500	-100	-1.3	7,300
Printing & Publishing	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**134,700**	**132,500**	**2,200**	**1.7**	**133,800**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**7,200**	**7,000**	**200**	**2.9**	**7,200**
TRADE	**39,600**	**39,500**	**100**	**0.3**	**39,600**
Wholesale	9,800	9,700	100	1.0	10,000
Retail	29,800	29,800	0	0.0	29,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**10,500**	**10,200**	**300**	**2.9**	**10,400**
SERVICES	**57,400**	**56,000**	**1,400**	**2.5**	**56,700**
Business Services	12,300	11,200	1,100	9.8	12,100
Health Services	19,000	19,200	-200	-1.0	19,000
GOVERNMENT	**20,000**	**19,800**	**200**	**1.0**	**19,900**
Federal	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
State & Local	18,100	17,900	200	1.1	18,000

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

DANBURY LMA



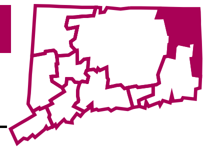
(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**84,100**	**82,800**	**1,300**	**1.6**	**83,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**21,900**	**21,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**21,800**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**2,800**	**2,700**	**100**	**3.7**	**2,800**
MANUFACTURING	**19,100**	**19,200**	**-100**	**-0.5**	**19,000**
Durable Goods	10,000	10,000	0	0.0	9,900
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,200
Instruments	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,800
Nondurable Goods	9,100	9,200	-100	-1.1	9,100
Printing & Publishing	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,800
Chemicals	3,300	3,400	-100	-2.9	3,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**62,200**	**60,900**	**1,300**	**2.1**	**61,700**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**2,800**	**2,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,800**
TRADE	**21,700**	**21,500**	**200**	**0.9**	**21,500**
Wholesale	4,200	4,100	100	2.4	4,200
Retail	17,500	17,400	100	0.6	17,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**4,200**	**3,900**	**300**	**7.7**	**4,100**
SERVICES	**23,700**	**22,900**	**800**	**3.5**	**23,700**
GOVERNMENT	**9,800**	**9,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**9,600**
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	9,000	9,000	0	0.0	8,800

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 1996.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

DANIELSON LMA

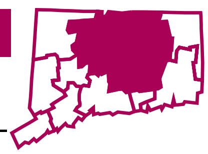


(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**20,200**	**19,800**	**400**	**2.0**	**20,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**6,600**	**6,400**	**200**	**3.1**	**6,600**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**900**	**700**	**200**	**28.6**	**900**
MANUFACTURING	**5,700**	**5,700**	**0**	**0.0**	**5,700**
Durable Goods	2,400	2,700	-300	-11.1	2,500
Nondurable Goods	3,300	3,000	300	10.0	3,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**13,600**	**13,400**	**200**	**1.5**	**13,700**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**400**	**400**	**0**	**0.0**	**500**
TRADE	**5,000**	**4,900**	**100**	**2.0**	**5,100**
Wholesale	800	700	100	14.3	800
Retail	4,200	4,200	0	0.0	4,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**600**	**600**	**0**	**0.0**	**600**
SERVICES	**4,400**	**4,300**	**100**	**2.3**	**4,300**
GOVERNMENT	**3,200**	**3,200**	**0**	**0.0**	**3,200**
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	3,100	3,100	0	0.0	3,100

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

HARTFORD LMA



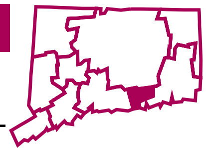
(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**583,800**	**583,100**	**700**	**0.1**	**581,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**108,400**	**105,300**	**3,100**	**2.9**	**108,200**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**17,000**	**15,900**	**1,100**	**6.9**	**16,800**
MANUFACTURING	**91,400**	**89,400**	**2,000**	**2.2**	**91,400**
Durable Goods	72,000	70,200	1,800	2.6	72,000
Primary & Fabricated Metals	17,500	17,000	500	2.9	17,600
Industrial Machinery	15,700	15,100	600	4.0	15,600
Electronic Equipment	5,900	6,100	-200	-3.3	5,900
Transportation Equipment	24,900	23,800	1,100	4.6	25,000
Nondurable Goods	19,400	19,200	200	1.0	19,400
Printing & Publishing	7,500	7,600	-100	-1.3	7,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**475,400**	**477,800**	**-2,400**	**-0.5**	**473,300**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**26,200**	**25,800**	**400**	**1.6**	**26,100**
Transportation	15,600	15,600	0	0.0	15,500
Communications & Utilities	10,600	10,200	400	3.9	10,600
TRADE	**119,100**	**121,000**	**-1,900**	**-1.6**	**118,800**
Wholesale	28,900	28,400	500	1.8	28,800
Retail	90,200	92,600	-2,400	-2.6	90,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**66,600**	**70,500**	**-3,900**	**-5.5**	**66,800**
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	10,100	10,300	-200	-1.9	10,100
Insurance Carriers	48,100	52,400	-4,300	-8.2	48,600
SERVICES	**167,700**	**163,200**	**4,500**	**2.8**	**166,700**
Health Services	58,300	57,500	800	1.4	58,200
GOVERNMENT	**95,800**	**97,300**	**-1,500**	**-1.5**	**94,900**
Federal	8,500	8,500	0	0.0	8,500
State & Local	87,300	88,800	-1,500	-1.7	86,400

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 1996.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LOWER RIVER LMA

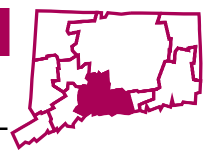


(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**9,300**	**8,900**	**400**	**4.5**	**9,200**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**3,500**	**3,400**	**100**	**2.9**	**3,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**400**	**400**	**0**	**0.0**	**300**
MANUFACTURING	**3,100**	**3,000**	**100**	**3.3**	**3,100**
Durable Goods	2,400	2,300	100	4.3	2,400
Electronic Equipment	800	800	0	0.0	800
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,500	100	6.7	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	**5,800**	**5,500**	**300**	**5.5**	**5,800**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**300**	**300**	**0**	**0.0**	**300**
TRADE	**2,100**	**1,800**	**300**	**16.7**	**2,100**
Wholesale	400	300	100	33.3	400
Retail	1,700	1,500	200	13.3	1,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**300**	**300**	**0**	**0.0**	**300**
SERVICES	**2,300**	**2,300**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,300**
GOVERNMENT	**800**	**800**	**0**	**0.0**	**800**
Federal	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local	800	800	0	0.0	800

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

NEW HAVEN LMA



(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**244,200 ***	**241,000 ***	**3,200**	**1.3**	**243,700 ***
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**47,100**	**46,700**	**400**	**0.9**	**46,600**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**8,300**	**7,500**	**800**	**10.7**	**7,900**
MANUFACTURING	**38,800**	**39,200**	**-400**	**-1.0**	**38,700**
Durable Goods	24,900	24,900	0	0.0	24,700
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,700	7,000	-300	-4.3	6,600
Electronic Equipment	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,200
Nondurable Goods	13,900	14,300	-400	-2.8	14,000
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,300	5,500	-200	-3.6	5,400
Chemicals & Allied	5,000	5,200	-200	-3.8	5,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**197,100 ***	**194,300 ***	**2,800**	**1.4**	**197,100 ***
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**15,800**	**15,700**	**100**	**0.6**	**15,800**
Communications & Utilities	8,200	8,500	-300	-3.5	8,200
TRADE	**51,900 ***	**50,000 ***	**1,900**	**3.8**	**51,800 ***
Wholesale	11,700 *	11,500 *	200	1.7	11,800 *
Retail	40,200	38,500	1,700	4.4	40,000
Eating & Drinking Places	11,900	10,600	1,300	12.3	11,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**13,800**	**13,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**13,700**
Finance	3,900	4,100	-200	-4.9	3,900
Insurance	7,800	7,500	300	4.0	7,700
SERVICES	**83,800**	**83,300**	**500**	**0.6**	**84,000**
Business Services	12,000	11,100	900	8.1	11,800
Health Services	28,600	29,000	-400	-1.4	28,300
GOVERNMENT	**31,800**	**31,500**	**300**	**1.0**	**31,800**
Federal	5,500	5,500	0	0.0	5,600
State & Local	26,300	26,000	300	1.2	26,200

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

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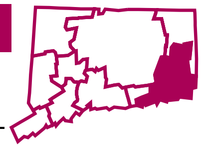
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

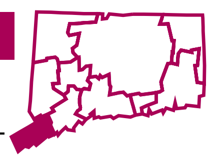
NEW LONDON LMA



(Not seasonally adjusted)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**133,000**	**129,500**	**3,500**	**2.7**	**132,400**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**28,500**	**30,500**	**-2,000**	**-6.6**	**28,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**3,800**	**3,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**3,500**
MANUFACTURING	**24,700**	**26,700**	**-2,000**	**-7.5**	**24,900**
Durable Goods	15,400	17,500	-2,100	-12.0	15,600
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,200	2,100	100	4.8	2,300
Other Durable Goods	13,200	15,400	-2,200	-14.3	13,300
Nondurable Goods	9,300	9,200	100	1.1	9,300
Paper & Allied	1,000	900	100	11.1	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods	6,900	6,900	0	0.0	6,900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**104,500**	**99,000**	**5,500**	**5.6**	**104,000**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**6,300**	**6,400**	**-100**	**-1.6**	**6,300**
TRADE	**26,500**	**25,900**	**600**	**2.3**	**26,300**
Wholesale	3,000	2,800	200	7.1	3,000
Retail	23,500	23,100	400	1.7	23,300
Eating & Drinking Places	7,300	7,100	200	2.8	7,100
Other Retail	16,200	16,000	200	1.3	16,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**3,600**	**3,400**	**200**	**5.9**	**3,600**
SERVICES	**33,300**	**32,500**	**800**	**2.5**	**32,900**
Personal & Business Services	6,500	6,300	200	3.2	6,200
Health Services	11,200	11,100	100	0.9	11,300
GOVERNMENT	**34,800**	**30,800**	**4,000**	**13.0**	**34,900**
Federal	2,700	3,800	-1,100	-28.9	2,900
State & Local	32,100	27,000	5,100	18.9	32,000
**Local	27,900	22,300	5,600	25.1	27,700

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

STAMFORD LMA

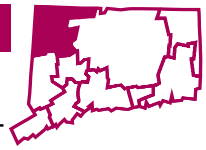


(Not seasonally adjusted)	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**196,500**	**192,400**	**4,100**	**2.1**	**194,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**33,500**	**33,200**	**300**	**0.9**	**33,200**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**5,000**	**4,600**	**400**	**8.7**	**4,800**
MANUFACTURING	**28,500**	**28,600**	**-100**	**-0.3**	**28,400**
Durable Goods	15,100	15,300	-200	-1.3	15,000
Industrial Machinery	4,200	4,100	100	2.4	4,100
Electronic Equipment	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,800
Nondurable Goods	13,400	13,300	100	0.8	13,400
Paper, Printing & Publishing	6,200	5,800	400	6.9	6,200
Chemicals & Allied	3,300	3,300	0	0.0	3,300
Other Nondurable	3,900	4,200	-300	-7.1	3,900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**163,000**	**159,200**	**3,800**	**2.4**	**161,100**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**9,800**	**9,500**	**300**	**3.2**	**9,900**
Communications & Utilities	3,100	3,000	100	3.3	3,100
TRADE	**43,700**	**43,200**	**500**	**1.2**	**43,100**
Wholesale	11,600	11,500	100	0.9	11,600
Retail	32,100	31,700	400	1.3	31,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**23,200**	**22,300**	**900**	**4.0**	**23,200**
SERVICES	**68,900**	**66,700**	**2,200**	**3.3**	**67,500**
Business Services	20,300	19,700	600	3.0	19,700
Engineering & Mgmnt. Services	9,400	9,000	400	4.4	9,300
Other Services	39,200	38,000	1,200	3.2	38,500
GOVERNMENT	**17,400**	**17,500**	**-100**	**-0.6**	**17,400**
Federal	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
State & Local	15,500	15,600	-100	-0.6	15,500

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 1996.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

TORRINGTON LMA

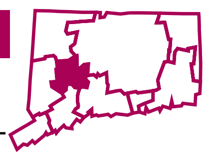


(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**26,700**	**26,900**	**-200**	**-0.7**	**26,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**7,400**	**7,500**	**-100**	**-1.3**	**7,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**1,500**	**1,500**	**0**	**0.0**	**1,500**
MANUFACTURING	**5,900**	**6,000**	**-100**	**-1.7**	**5,900**
Durable Goods	4,200	4,300	-100	-2.3	4,200
Primary & Fabricated Metals	500	500	0	0.0	500
Industrial Machinery	1,100	1,100	0	0.0	1,100
Electronic Equipment	300	400	-100	-25.0	300
Other Durable Goods	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	2,300
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,700	0	0.0	1,700
Rubber & Plastics	800	800	0	0.0	800
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	0	0.0	900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**19,300**	**19,400**	**-100**	**-0.5**	**19,300**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**800**	**800**	**0**	**0.0**	**800**
TRADE	**5,200**	**5,500**	**-300**	**-5.5**	**5,300**
Wholesale	600	700	-100	-14.3	600
Retail	4,600	4,800	-200	-4.2	4,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**800**	**900**	**-100**	**-11.1**	**800**
SERVICES	**9,100**	**8,900**	**200**	**2.2**	**9,000**
GOVERNMENT	**3,400**	**3,300**	**100**	**3.0**	**3,400**
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,200	3,100	100	3.2	3,200

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

WATERBURY LMA



(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**83,800**	**81,700**	**2,100**	**2.6**	**83,200**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**21,200**	**20,600**	**600**	**2.9**	**21,200**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**2,800**	**2,400**	**400**	**16.7**	**2,700**
MANUFACTURING	**18,400**	**18,200**	**200**	**1.1**	**18,500**
Durable Goods	14,200	14,400	-200	-1.4	14,300
Primary Metals	700	800	-100	-12.5	700
Fabricated Metals	6,300	6,400	-100	-1.6	6,300
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,500	4,700	-200	-4.3	4,500
Nondurable Goods	4,200	3,800	400	10.5	4,200
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	1,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**62,600**	**61,100**	**1,500**	**2.5**	**62,000**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**3,500**	**3,400**	**100**	**2.9**	**3,500**
TRADE	**16,800**	**16,400**	**400**	**2.4**	**16,700**
Wholesale	2,900	3,000	-100	-3.3	2,900
Retail	13,900	13,400	500	3.7	13,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**4,400**	**4,200**	**200**	**4.8**	**4,400**
SERVICES	**25,200**	**24,500**	**700**	**2.9**	**24,700**
Personal & Business	6,600	6,000	600	10.0	6,300
Health Services	9,900	9,900	0	0.0	9,800
GOVERNMENT	**12,700**	**12,600**	**100**	**0.8**	**12,700**
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,900	11,800	100	0.8	11,900

For further information on the Waterbury 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 1996.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	FEB 1997
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,722,800	1,707,400	15,400	0.9	1,708,100
	Employed	1,635,200	1,606,600	28,600	1.8	1,613,100
	Unemployed	87,600	100,800	-13,200	-13.1	95,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.9	-0.8	---	5.6
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	220,200	218,400	1,800	0.8	218,200
	Employed	207,200	203,600	3,600	1.8	204,000
	Unemployed	13,100	14,800	-1,700	-11.5	14,200
	Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.8	-0.9	---	6.5
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	109,100	107,700	1,400	1.3	107,700
	Employed	105,500	103,400	2,100	2.0	103,800
	Unemployed	3,600	4,400	-800	-18.2	4,000
	Unemployment Rate	3.3	4.0	-0.7	---	3.7
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	33,800	33,400	400	1.2	33,700
	Employed	31,700	30,900	800	2.6	31,400
	Unemployed	2,100	2,500	-400	-16.0	2,300
	Unemployment Rate	6.3	7.6	-1.3	---	6.8
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	589,700	591,500	-1,800	-0.3	585,800
	Employed	557,500	554,100	3,400	0.6	551,000
	Unemployed	32,200	37,500	-5,300	-14.1	34,900
	Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.3	-0.8	---	6.0
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,200	11,900	300	2.5	12,000
	Employed	11,700	11,300	400	3.5	11,400
	Unemployed	500	600	-100	-16.7	600
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.7	-0.6	---	4.7
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	272,700	269,700	3,000	1.1	271,400
	Employed	258,900	253,600	5,300	2.1	256,500
	Unemployed	13,800	16,100	-2,300	-14.3	15,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.0	6.0	-1.0	---	5.5
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	153,200	148,500	4,700	3.2	152,200
	Employed	145,400	140,100	5,300	3.8	143,500
	Unemployed	7,900	8,400	-500	-6.0	8,800
	Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.6	-0.5	---	5.8
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	191,900	188,000	3,900	2.1	188,800
	Employed	185,900	180,700	5,200	2.9	182,200
	Unemployed	6,000	7,300	-1,300	-17.8	6,600
	Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.9	-0.7	---	3.5
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	37,800	38,200	-400	-1.0	37,400
	Employed	36,000	35,900	100	0.3	35,500
	Unemployed	1,800	2,200	-400	-18.2	1,900
	Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.8	-1.1	---	5.2
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	118,100	115,400	2,700	2.3	116,900
	Employed	110,800	107,500	3,300	3.1	109,200
	Unemployed	7,300	7,900	-600	-7.6	7,700
	Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.9	-0.7	---	6.6
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	135,524,000	132,692,000	2,832,000	2.1	134,535,000
	Employed	128,125,000	124,992,000	3,133,000	2.5	126,887,000
	Unemployed	7,399,000	7,700,000	-301,000	-3.9	7,647,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.8	-0.3	---	5.7

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS MAR 1997	1996	CHG Y/Y	FEB 1997	AVG WEEKLY HOURS MAR 1997	1996	CHG Y/Y	FEB 1997	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS MAR 1997	1996	CHG Y/Y	FEB 1997
MANUFACTURING	**$604.04**	**$599.42**	**$4.62**	**$597.82**	**42.3**	**43.0**	**-0.7**	**42.1**	**$14.28**	**$13.94**	**$0.34**	**$14.20**
DURABLE GOODS	**617.70**	**611.28**	**6.42**	**609.37**	**42.6**	**43.2**	**-0.6**	**42.2**	**14.50**	**14.15**	**0.35**	**14.44**
Lumber & Furniture	451.39	443.45	7.94	447.23	39.7	39.7	0.0	39.3	11.37	11.17	0.20	11.38
Stone, Clay and Glass	552.56	589.37	-36.81	541.63	40.9	43.4	-2.5	40.3	13.51	13.58	-0.07	13.44
Primary Metals	587.95	580.44	7.51	588.64	43.2	45.1	-1.9	43.7	13.61	12.87	0.74	13.47
Fabricated Metals	580.07	567.67	12.40	568.71	43.0	43.4	-0.4	42.6	13.49	13.08	0.41	13.35
Machinery	675.14	665.10	10.04	666.00	44.8	45.0	-0.2	44.4	15.07	14.78	0.29	15.00
Electrical Equipment	486.79	484.03	2.76	484.74	40.6	42.2	-1.6	40.7	11.99	11.47	0.52	11.91
Trans. Equipment	772.68	754.65	18.03	757.79	42.2	43.0	-0.8	41.5	18.31	17.55	0.76	18.26
Instruments	558.36	570.99	-12.63	566.29	42.3	41.8	0.5	41.7	13.20	13.66	-0.46	13.58
Miscellaneous Mfg	559.52	546.13	13.40	559.30	41.6	42.5	-0.9	42.5	13.45	12.85	0.60	13.16
NONDUR. GOODS	**574.75**	**567.24**	**7.51**	**570.26**	**41.8**	**42.3**	**-0.5**	**41.9**	**13.75**	**13.41**	**0.34**	**13.61**
Food	506.68	530.08	-23.40	511.72	42.4	45.5	-3.1	44.0	11.95	11.65	0.30	11.63
Textiles	456.96	471.75	-14.79	454.98	40.8	43.6	-2.8	41.1	11.20	10.82	0.38	11.07
Apparel	337.81	343.30	-5.49	329.95	38.3	39.1	-0.8	38.1	8.82	8.78	0.04	8.66
Paper	684.33	673.06	11.27	680.09	45.2	46.1	-0.9	45.4	15.14	14.60	0.54	14.98
Printing & Publishing	564.60	537.16	27.45	558.16	39.1	38.7	0.4	38.6	14.44	13.88	0.56	14.46
Chemicals	796.63	762.94	33.69	786.60	45.6	44.8	0.8	45.0	17.47	17.03	0.44	17.48
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	491.42	477.84	13.58	495.18	41.4	41.3	0.1	42.0	11.87	11.57	0.30	11.79
CONSTRUCTION	**743.86**	**763.64**	**-19.78**	**758.45**	**39.8**	**41.1**	**-1.3**	**40.3**	**18.69**	**18.58**	**0.11**	**18.82**

LMAs

(Not seasonally adjusted) MANUFACTURING	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS MAR 1997	1996	CHG Y/Y	FEB 1997	AVG WEEKLY HOURS MAR 1997	1996	CHG Y/Y	FEB 1997	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS MAR 1997	1996	CHG Y/Y	FEB 1997
Bridgeport	$636.65	$615.57	$21.08	$636.44	42.5	42.6	-0.1	42.8	$14.98	$14.45	$0.53	$14.87
Danbury	636.40	656.59	-20.19	644.74	43.0	46.6	-3.6	43.8	14.80	14.09	0.71	14.72
Danielson	467.88	486.01	-18.13	464.66	40.3	40.4	-0.1	40.3	11.61	12.03	-0.42	11.53
Hartford	650.36	617.76	32.60	631.68	42.9	42.9	0.0	42.0	15.16	14.40	0.76	15.04
Lower River	515.21	471.60	43.61	522.47	40.6	40.0	0.6	41.4	12.69	11.79	0.90	12.62
New Haven	593.61	546.40	47.21	589.82	42.1	41.3	0.8	42.1	14.10	13.23	0.87	14.01
New London	626.45	633.91	-7.46	616.73	42.5	43.3	-0.8	42.3	14.74	14.64	0.10	14.58
Stamford	575.19	557.20	17.99	581.57	41.5	40.0	1.5	41.9	13.86	13.93	-0.07	13.88
Torrington	559.86	529.15	30.71	544.84	43.4	41.6	1.8	42.8	12.90	12.72	0.18	12.73
Waterbury	603.90	566.35	37.55	598.97	44.8	43.7	1.1	44.5	13.48	12.96	0.52	13.46

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	CHANGE Y/Y UNITS	CHANGE Y/Y %	YTD 1997	YTD 1996	CHANGE YTD UNITS	CHANGE YTD %	FEB 1997
Connecticut	909	593	316	53.3	1,858	1,282	576	44.9	442
Counties:									
Fairfield	174	131	43	32.8	447	299	148	49.5	112
Hartford	226	145	81	55.9	392	258	134	51.9	77
Litchfield	48	30	18	60.0	113	98	15	15.3	34
Middlesex	58	35	23	65.7	118	82	36	43.9	32
New Haven	282	105	177	168.6	497	272	225	82.7	103
New London	60	78	-18	-23.1	155	141	14	9.9	45
Tolland	38	39	-1	-2.6	85	75	10	13.3	24
Windham	23	30	-7	-23.3	51	57	-6	-10.5	15

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	MAR 1997	YR TO DATE 1997	YR TO DATE 1996
Andover	5	9	6
Ansonia	3	4	2
Ashford	0	3	4
Avon	20	28	9
Barkhamsted	1	3	0
Beacon Falls	1	4	0
Berlin	5	14	18
Bethany	3	7	4
Bethel	3	6	6
Bethlehem	0	1	1
Bloomfield	1	17	2
Bolton	3	5	3
Bozrah	0	0	0
Branford	3	14	9
Bridgeport	1	2	3
Bridgewater	0	0	0
Bristol	7	12	17
Brookfield	1	12	5
Brooklyn	0	0	5
Burlington	4	10	6
Canaan	0	0	0
Canterbury	2	2	6
Canton	3	5	5
Chaplin	1	3	3
Cheshire	14	30	8
Chester	3	5	2
Clinton	3	8	6
Colchester	8	26	10
Colebrook	0	0	2
Columbia	3	4	2
Cornwall	1	2	0
Coventry	3	8	17
Cromwell	0	1	13
Danbury	23	30	9
Darien	3	6	4
Deep River	2	5	2
Derby	3	7	3
Durham	6	10	0
East Granby	1	2	5
East Haddam	6	12	9
East Hampton	3	3	6
East Hartford	0	0	1
East Haven	9	15	13
East Lyme	7	20	14
East Windsor	0	2	7
Eastford	0	0	0
Easton	4	9	0
Ellington	2	9	4
Enfield	4	10	5
Essex	0	4	5
Fairfield	13	36	27
Farmington	14	23	21
Franklin	0	0	0
Glastonbury	17	38	21
Goshen	2	5	1
Granby	4	9	8
Greenwich	4	57	12
Griswold	4	9	10
Groton	6	17	11
Guilford	16	28	13
Haddam	1	2	4
Hamden	11	25	16
Hampton	1	1	3
Hartford	1	2	0
Hartland	1	1	0
Harwinton	2	4	3
Hebron	6	11	4
Kent	2	4	0
Killingly	4	8	7
Killingworth	5	10	6
Lebanon	6	9	8
Ledyard	2	8	6
Lisbon	2	5	5
Litchfield	3	5	5
Lyme	1	1	0
Madison	6	14	20
Manchester	66	74	16
Mansfield	5	11	9
Marlborough	3	10	2
Meriden	3	11	7
Middlebury	0	4	2
Middlefield	3	3	0
Middletown	16	30	22
Milford	18	44	38
Monroe	11	31	19
Montville	3	4	8
Morris	0	1	2
Naugatuck	4	8	6
New Britain	1	2	7
New Canaan	4	12	9
New Fairfield	4	11	7
New Hartford	1	6	5
New Haven	0	0	11
New London	0	0	0
New Milford	6	16	19
Newington	3	3	1
Newtown	16	39	13
Norfolk	0	0	0
North Branford	2	19	13
North Canaan	0	0	7
North Haven	2	6	5
N. Stonington	1	7	4
Norwalk	6	22	58
Norwich	1	3	5
Old Lyme	3	8	8
Old Saybrook	8	18	4
Orange	5	7	5
Oxford	5	13	13
Plainfield	4	10	6
Plainville	3	8	0
Plymouth	2	5	6
Pomfret	2	4	4
Portland	0	3	0
Preston	1	7	4
Prospect	5	8	8
Putnam	1	2	4
Redding	3	5	7
Ridgefield	12	30	22
Rocky Hill	11	21	11
Roxbury	1	2	2
Salem	2	3	3
Salisbury	0	0	1
Scotland	3	4	1
Seymour	6	20	0
Sharon	0	0	1
Shelton	8	25	37
Sherman	1	3	3
Simsbury	8	18	7
Somers	2	5	4
South Windsor	11	25	18
Southbury	9	16	11
Southington	10	19	29
Sprague	0	0	0
Stafford	1	3	3
Stamford	32	42	23
Sterling	2	3	1
Stonington	4	19	10
Stratford	7	16	8
Suffield	3	5	5
Thomaston	9	11	4
Thompson	1	6	8
Tolland	7	18	15
Torrington	3	10	24
Trumbull	9	18	7
Union	0	1	0
Vernon	1	1	6
Voluntown	3	3	2
Wallingford	7	24	38
Warren	0	0	3
Washington	3	6	3
Waterbury	2	8	9
Waterford	6	6	33
Watertown	5	20	5
West Hartford	0	1	1
West Haven	1	3	3
Westbrook	2	4	3
Weston	3	5	8
Westport	3	7	4
Wethersfield	15	20	35
Willington	0	0	2
Wilton	3	23	8
Winchester	0	1	1
Windham	1	3	0
Windsor	7	9	0
Windsor Locks	3	4	1
Wolcott	51	63	12
Woodbridge	93	95	3
Woodbury	7	11	3
Woodstock	1	2	5

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. 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.

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	**+1.4**
Coincident Employment Index	**+7.4**
Total Nonfarm Employment	**+1.6**
Unemployment	**-0.9***
Labor Force	+0.9
Employed	+1.8
Unemployed	-13.4
Average Weekly Initial Claims	**-4.9**
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford	**0.0**
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate	**-0.55***
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg	**-1.6**
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg	**+2.4**
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg	**+0.8**
Manufacturing Output	**-0.6**
Production Worker Hours	-2.3
Productivity	+1.8
UI Covered Wages	**+3.4**
Personal Income	**+3.8**
Real Personal Income	**NA**

Business Activity	
New Housing Permits	+53.3
Electricity Sales	-0.9
Retail Sales	+10.6
Construction Contracts Index	+23.8
New Auto Registrations	+82.4
Air Cargo Tons	+14.0
Business Starts	
Secretary of the State	+13.5
Dept. of Labor	-10.3
Business Terminations	
Secretary of the State	+101.1
Dept. of Labor	-18.2
State Tax Collections	**+3.6**
Corporate Tax	-2.4
Personal Income Tax	+2.9
Real Estate Conveyance Tax	+1.6
Sales & Use Tax	+1.8

Tourism and Travel	
Tourism Inquiries	-4.4
Tourism Info Centers	-3.1
Attraction Visitors	+39.7
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	-1.2
Air Passenger Count	-6.8
Employment Cost Index	
Total	+3.0
Wages & Salaries	+3.4
Benefit Costs	+2.0
Consumer Price Index	
U.S. City Average	+2.8
Northeast Region	+2.8
NY-NJ-Long Island	+2.5
Boston-Lawrence-Salem	+3.3
Consumer Confidence	
U.S.	+20.4
New England	+31.3
Interest Rates	
Prime	+0.05*
Conventional Mortgage	-0.03*

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

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