THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.4 No.10 A joint publication of the Connecticut Department of Labor & the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

OCTOBER 1999

- Connecticut's Information Technology producing industry employment grew three times faster than employment in total non-farm industries since 1994. (article, pp.1-4)
- Industry clusters: second quarter exports. (p.3)
- Nonfarm employment increased by 2,500 in August, and was 20,700 higher than a year ago. (p.6)
- Unemployment rate in August: 2.1 percent, down from prior month and from last year. (p.6)
- August's new housing permits were up 1.5 percent over the year. (Business Activity, p.7)

• IN THIS ISSUE •

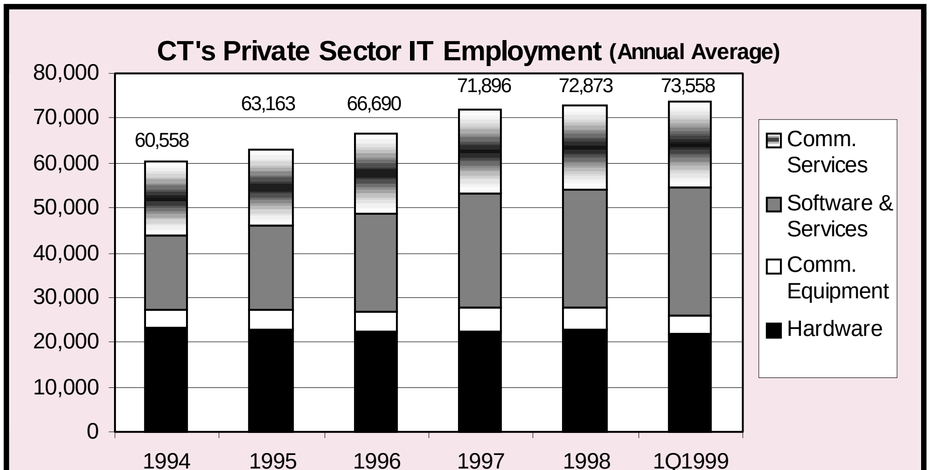
Information Technology Helps Pace Job Growth

By Lincoln S. Dyer, Economist

The "Land of Steady Habits" is progressively embracing the productivity enhancement and cost containment properties of the "information technology revolution." This fundamental shift in the economy toward high technology processes is materially lifting output of goods and services while garnering efficiencies and, in due course, forcing greater competition in the marketplace. IT and its rapidly changing attributes have unleashed fresh growth prospects for the state of Connecticut and are re-energizing all of America.

The Info-Tech Within

Information technology is a supporting industry that penetrates all aspects of the economy and is characterized by rapidly changing technology, frequent new product introductions, increasing automation, evolving industry standards, instantaneous information flows, and broadening disintermediation (cutting out of the middleman). It could be argued that information technology is currently providing a "positive supply shock" or "upside growth catalyst" to the country's economy and is transforming the way many things are accomplished by providing better mobility of ideas and capital. This affirmative supply shock is also currently modifying the output-inflation trade-off in the economy for the better. It is also assisting the state of Connecticut in restructuring its industrial makeup with a more suitable balance. The Baby Boomers may have some far-reaching implications for the economy, but the information technology industries and the internet economy are surely the synergists of the present growth as we prepare for the next millennium.



THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

The Connecticut Economic Digest is published monthly by the Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, 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 06109-1114; or call: (860) 263-6275. 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.

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

Connecticut Department of Labor

James P. Butler, Commissioner
Jean E. Zurbrigen, Deputy Commissioner
Susan G. Townsley, Deputy Commissioner

Roger F. Therrien, Director
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
Phone: (860) 263-6275
Fax: (860) 263-6263
E-Mail: salvatore.dipillo@po.state.ct.us

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

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

Public and Government Relations Division
Research Unit
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106-2502
Phone: (860) 270-8165
Fax: (860) 270-8188
E-Mail: decd@po.state.ct.us

PRIVATE SECTOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

Hardware
Computers and Equipment (SIC 3571,2,5,7)
Wholesale Trade of Computers and Equipment (Pt. SIC 5045)
Retail Trade of Computers and Equipment (Pt. SIC 5734)
Calculating and Office Machines, NEC (SIC 3578,9)
Magnetic and Optical Recording Media (SIC 3695)
Electron Tubes (SIC 3671)
Printed Circuit Boards (SIC 3672)
Semiconductors (SIC 3674)
Passive Electronic Components (SIC 3675,6,7,8,9)
Industrial Instruments for Measurement (SIC 3823)
Instruments for Measuring Electricity (SIC 3825)
Laboratory Analytical Instruments (SIC 3826)

Communications Equipment
Household Audio and Video Equipment (SIC 3651)
Telephone and Telegraph Equipment (SIC 3661)
Radio and TV and Communications Equipment (SIC 3663)

Software and Services
Computer Programming Services (SIC 7371)
Prepackaged Software (SIC 7372)
Wholesale Trade of Software (Pt. SIC 5045)
Retail Trade of Software (Pt. SIC 5734)
Computer Integrated Design (SIC 7373)
Computer Processing, Data Preparation (SIC 7374)
Information Retrieval Services (SIC 7375)
Computer Services Management (SIC 7376)
Computer Rental and Leasing (SIC 7377)
Computer Maintenance and Repair (SIC 7378)
Computer Related Services, NEC (SIC 7379)

Communications Services
Telephone and Telegraph Communications (SIC 481,22, 99)
Radio Broadcasting (SIC 4832)
Television Broadcasting (SIC 4833)
Cable and other Pay TV Services (SIC 4841)

Speed Limit has been Raised

While most economic observers are still considering Connecticut's growth prospects in the more methodic 55-MPH confines, it is conspicuous that the new 65-MPH growth potential of our economy has not fully sunk in. While the evidence of the emerging digital way of life is readily apparent in the big picture, it can be sometimes hard to document and analyze. Some think this *new economy* is starting to come into view, however. The Federal Reserve Board Chairman has acknowledged as much: "The newest innovations, which we label information technologies, have begun to alter the manner in which we do business and create value, often in ways not readily foreseeable five years ago." Better flows of information and capital are enabling globalization and providing more accurate pricing information coupled with a convergence of technological breakthroughs that have boosted productivity – perhaps permanently. Is this the "the productivity dividend" – a higher sustainable rate of economic growth without significant inflation pressures?

This appealing outlook could conceivably intensify as firms respond to their current limited pricing power by investing even more in technological innovation to boost productivity, which in-turn acts as more stimulus to the economy. With little pricing power, companies have to become more efficient to bolster the bottom line. It has been recognized that as much as 50 percent of all new expenditures on capital equipment are now concentrated in the information technology segment.

IT Paradox - "The Yearn to Churn"

This wide and powerful integration of computer hardware and software products and services with communications equipment and services into one dynamic market force has outrun typical market logic. The fits and bursts of growth instigated by information technology producing industries are very difficult to ascertain and forecast. This is part of the IT paradox. Successful information technology producing industries attract new capital and employment growth with technological advances, although it is obvious that these perpetual breakthroughs also coincide with some adaptation of obsolescence for existing equipment and service. Bear in mind, information technology is best utilized as a complement to labor allowing efficiencies and creativity, but it also can be a direct substitute for labor, causing sweeping job dislocations and corporate restructurings. This "churning" phenomenon is readily measurable in the employment counts of the *information technology producing industries* identified by the U.S. Department of Commerce. One easily discernible example of this would be the decline in the early-to-mid 1990's of the impact of the mainframe computer hardware sub-group while software and services grew very swiftly. While information technology is being rapidly diffused throughout the economy bolstering almost all industries, core information technology producing industries are defined as the actual *producers* of computer hardware and software and services, communications equipment and services, and instruments. (See table opposite)

Four on the Floor

Information technology producing industries are broken down into four sub-categories: hardware; software and services; communications equipment; and communications services. These higher paying industries are really instigating an economic reformation by steadily increasing value-added-per-worker across many other sectors and providing synergies among industries that may have not existed before. They especially enhance Connecticut's economic infrastructure as Connecticut is considered a heavy *user* of information technology based on its current industrial makeup. The State has a high proportion of employment in industry segments like insurance, money management, pharmaceutical research and healthcare, advertising, wholesale and retail trade, and production design - industries that have all thrived from technological enhancement. With an augmented value-added-per-worker, we can preserve our national lead in higher salaries and incomes.

Connecticut Benefits and Grasps New Growth Domain

Information technology producing industry employment in

HOUSING UPDATE

August Housing Permits Up 1.4%

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 991 new housing units in August 1999, a 1.5 percent increase compared to August of 1998 when 976 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 991 units permitted in August 1999 represent an increase of 1.4 percent from the 977 units permitted in July 1999. The year-to-date permits are down 1.4 percent, from 7,586 through August 1998, to 7,482 through August 1999.

"Permits activity for 1999 continues to keep pace with 1998, which was the highest level in the last ten years," Commissioner Abromaitis said.

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that New Haven County with 40.1 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in August compared to the same month a year ago. Middlesex County followed with a 36.2 percent increase.

Fairfield County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in August with 232. New Haven County followed with 206 units and Fairfield County had 205 units. Danbury led all Connecticut communities with 67 units, followed by Hamden with 40 and Stamford with 33. ■

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

Industry Clusters

Q2 YTD Exports Even

Connecticut's merchandise exports for the year-to-date through the month of June kept an even pace with the same period last year, the Industry Cluster/International Division announced. Total exports of $3.8 billion matched last year's figure. U.S. exports through the second quarter were down 1.6 percent. New England exports, as a whole were up 3.6 percent for the same period.

Connecticut's largest export industry, transportation equipment, was up 14.6 percent, ahead of last year's 13.7 percent. Increases were observed in industrial machinery including computer equipment, up 0.4 percent, and fabricated metal products, up 10.7 percent. In addition, among Connecticut's five largest exports for the period were: instruments, $464 million; electronic equipment, $283 million; and chemicals and allied products, $272 million.

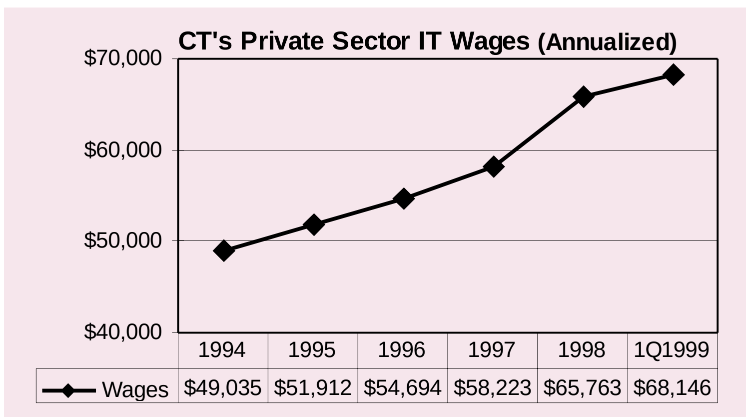
The State's largest trading partners for the period were Canada, France, Japan, Korea, and the United Kingdom. Rounding out the top ten were Germany, Mexico, Turkey, Taiwan, and the Netherlands. The single largest increases through the second quarter were with Turkey, Korea, and France.

Among all states Connecticut ranked 24th in the volume of its merchandise exports, ahead of all but Massachusetts in New England. Connecticut's growth exceeded that of New York, down 7.5 percent; Pennsylvania, down 2.9 percent; and New Jersey, down 5.1 percent. ■

Connecticut has grown at a better than twenty percent rate over the last five years, outpacing the overall Statewide nonfarm employment growth rate since 1994 by over three times. Growth in information technology producing jobs in 1998 would have been stronger, but a major communications strike lowered growth by about 500 positions. In the first quarter of 1999, job gains continued in the information technology producing sector at close to the annual four-percent pace set in the last five years.

Changing Emphasis

Sustained job demand in information technology has pushed the average annualized wage paid in the first quarter in that grouping to an estimated $68,146 compared to the $40,926 annualized average for the State's. *Software and services* components have provided the majority of job growth in the information technology arena over the last five years (due to Y2K preparation), followed by the *communications services* segment that has benefited from the rise of the internet and telecommunications deregulation. The *hardware* components of information technology, which mostly fall in the manufacturing division, have had a decline in jobs, but at a lower rate than some production industries that were defense-related. *Communications equipment* aggregates had risen at a swift pace in the mid-1990's, but fell over the last year or so as some companies cut their payrolls, partly due to the Asian crisis which caused greater export competition.



Information technology producing industries have still grown quite impressively considering the "creative destruction" that goes on in their ranks. While one component of IT is growing, another is either getting priced out of the market, automated out of existence, or becoming obsolete.

Information technology is comparable in some ways to the construction division of the State. Both support a similar number of jobs in the State, both are experiencing labor shortages and booming demand, both are high-paying sectors, both are large areas for capital spending, and both supply strong earnings and employment multipliers or "ripple effects" to other sectors of the State's economy. The difference comes in the fact that one sector is more physical and product-based while the other is mostly service-oriented and knowledge-based.

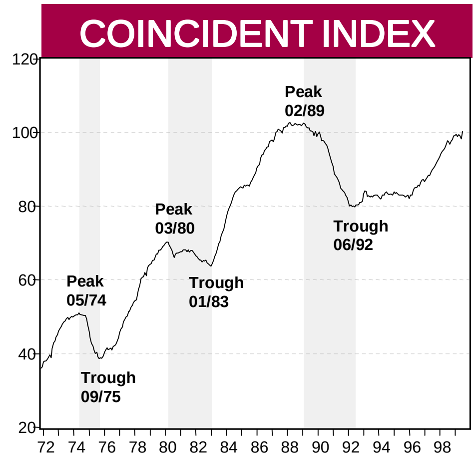
The distinct emergence and growth of information technology may balance some future downturn from another high multiplier sector such as construction. However, positive aspects of any industry could eventually reverse and cause multiplying downside effects to the economy as well. Incidentally, more emphasis will be put on tracking these information technology sub-sectors in the upcoming release of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Technological Boundaries

Inevitably some technological boundaries will be reached: Moore's Law (the doubling of computer processing capacity over each new product cycle or about 18 months) will not hold up forever and computing productivity cannot increase indefinitely. An economy also needs strong production growth (higher output) to keep up healthy productivity gains and we are quite far along in the business cycle to continue such strong gains. Hopefully, though, productivity gains will stay above the rate of wage increases, therefore limiting inflation's re-emergence.

Dividend Boost?

The "productivity dividend" concept is itself still being debated. Questions on the benefits of billions of dollars spent on Y2K (not much net dividend when it has to be spent on fixing transitory problems) and the costs of the learning curves associated with new technology are difficult to answer. But corporate Y2K spending in most cases results in system upgrades that really could provide exponential economic payback in the near future. It also now seems apparent that the Internet economy and E-commerce will pick up the baton as Y2K worries soften, and this should continue to sustain the substantial impact that information technology has had on the business cycle. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, "Beginning in 1994, …. the IT sector contributed twice its share of the economy to overall nominal economic growth." Hopefully this continues and, combined with other high-tech initiatives, Connecticut embraces the knowledge-based economy and cultivates more diverse, high-multiplier industry segments that spread economic benefits to all citizens of the State. ■



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.

Coincident Index Surges; Leading Index Drifts

The Connecticut coincident employment index jumped to a new peak in the current expansion with the release of (preliminary) July data. The Connecticut leading employment index continued to drift, increasing just slightly in July.

The coincident index, a gauge of current employment activity, rose to a level not seen since November 1989, near the peak of the 1980s expansion. The current expansion has encompassed several phases. The economy experienced lackluster growth from 1992 to 1995 as seen in the accompanying chart. Then between 1996 and 1998 the economy's growth accelerated and the movement in the coincident index mirrored its movements in past expansions. Finally, in 1999, the coincident index slowed considerably, but nevertheless, as just noted, now stands at its peak in the current expansion.

The leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, has bounced around considerably during the last several years. As the accompanying chart reveals, the leading index rose steadily, albeit with some volatility, during the initial phase of the current expansion. Since late 1996 and early 1997, however, it has remained in the neighborhood of its current level. The leading index's signal light definitely began flashing yellow a few years ago. We continue to monitor the leading index's signal light for its next change to green or red.

The July data continue to document the unusual event noted in last month's column — total employment falls below nonfarm employment, now by a larger amount. These two series are developed from different sources of information – the employer survey for nonfarm employment and the household survey for total employment. In addition, July's release saw a large drop in the total unemployment rate, also developed from the household survey, to 2.6 percent, a level that many analysts think may not stand up to future revisions in the data.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 97.8 in July 1998 to 100.2 in July 1999. Three components of the index point in a positive direction on a year-over-year basis with higher nonfarm employment, higher total employment, and a lower total unemployment rate. The other component points in a negative direction on a year-over-year basis with a higher insured unemployment rate.

The leading employment index fell from 90.9 in July 1998 to 89.9 in July 1999. Three index components sent negative signals on a year-over-year basis with lower Hartford help wanted advertising, a higher short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, and lower total housing permits. Two components sent positive signals on a year-over-year basis with lower initial claims for unemployment insurance, and a higher average workweek of manufacturing production workers. ■

Source: Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut. Developed by Pami Dua [Economic Cycle Research Center; NY, NY] and Stephen M. Miller [(860) 486-3853, Storrs Campus]. Stan McMillen and Hulya Varol [(860) 486-3022, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Total employment increased by 20,700 over the year, or 1.3 percent.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM	1,672.0	1,651.3	20.7	1.3	1,669.5
Private Sector	1,438.3	1,422.9	15.4	1.1	1,436.5
Construction and Mining	60.9	58.5	2.4	4.1	60.8
Manufacturing	273.5	279.3	-5.8	-2.1	273.3
Transportation, Public Utilities	75.9	76.8	-0.9	-1.2	76.1
Wholesale, Retail Trade	359.7	355.4	4.3	1.2	358.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	139.1	137.5	1.6	1.2	139.4
Services	529.2	515.4	13.8	2.7	528.6
Government	233.7	228.4	5.3	2.3	233.0

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

Both the unemployment rate and the labor force decreased from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted)	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	2.1	3.2	-1.1	---	2.6
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,705.6	1,710.0	-4.4	-0.3	1,706.5
Employed (000s)	1,670.0	1,655.6	14.4	0.9	1,661.7
Unemployed (000s)	35.6	54.4	-18.8	-34.6	44.8
Average Weekly Initial Claims	3,797	4,164	-367	-8.8	3,498
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100	31	35	-4	-11.4	31
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.04	2.08	-0.04	---	2.07

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

Both production worker weekly earnings and output increased over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999	JUN 1999
Average Weekly Hours	42.5	42.1	0.4	1.0	42.4	--
Average Hourly Earnings	$15.19	$14.79	$0.40	2.7	$15.26	--
Average Weekly Earnings	$645.58	$622.66	$22.92	3.7	$647.02	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (1982=100)*	128.9	128.5	0.4	0.3	128.6	127.7
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,622	6,696	-74	-1.1	6,505	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)**	546	556	-10.0	-1.8	521	552

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Energy
**This new and improved index replaced the Manufacturing Output Index; Seasonally adjusted.*
***Latest two months are forecasted. See June 1999 Digest article for explanation; methodology or historical data back to 1982 is available by contacting Connecticut Department of Labor, at (860)263-6293.*

Personal income for fourth quarter 1999 is forecasted to increase 5.2 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME (Quarterly)

(Seasonally adjusted) (Annualized; $ Millions)	4Q* 1999	4Q 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	3Q* 1999
Personal Income	$133,199	$126,664	$6,535	5.2	$131,507
UI Covered Wages	$73,600	$69,639	$3,961	5.7	$72,507

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: July 1999 release
**Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor*
NA= Not Available

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Housing permits were up 1.5 percent compared with the same month a year ago.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
New Housing Permits	AUG 1999	991	1.5	7,482	7,586	-1.4
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	JUN 1999	2,564	7.0	14,504	14,047	3.3
Retail Sales (Bil. $)	JUN 1999	4.10	36.7	18.80	17.80	5.6
Construction Contracts						
Index (1980=100)	AUG 1999	235.7	-22.5	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	AUG 1999	16,219	8.2	155,652	138,087	12.7
Air Cargo Tons	JUN 1999	12,558	-0.7	70,649	68,363	3.3

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

Net business formation as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Secretary of the State was up by 11,717 for the year through August.

	AUG 1999	% CHANGE M/M	Y/Y	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	1,705	0.8	18.9	14,365	13,516	6.3
Department of Labor	1,090	56.4	6.9	7,493	7,123	5.2
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	311	5.4	-6.6	2,648	2,589	2.3
Department of Labor	836	-39.6	-3.5	8,676	9,057	-4.2

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

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

State total tax collections were up 4.8 percent compared with the same month a year ago.

(Millions of dollars)	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	% CHG	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 1998-99	1997-98	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	550.3	525.1	4.8	598.6	583.3	2.6
Corporate Tax	13.6	9.8	38.8	13.6	9.8	38.8
Personal Income Tax	202.0	193.8	4.2	214.3	207.6	3.2
Real Estate Conv. Tax	12.2	10.6	1.6	23.7	22.4	5.8
Sales & Use Tax	233.1	223.9	4.1	237.4	228.8	3.8

Source: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services
**Includes all sources of tax revenue; Only selected taxes are displayed; Most July collections are credited to the prior fiscal year and are not shown.*

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

The tourism inquiries were up 74.3 percent in August compared to August one year ago and up 15.7 percent for the year through August.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
Tourism Inquiries	AUG 1999	21,337	74.3	268,717	232,324	15.7
Info Center Visitors	AUG 1999	81,823	-5.5	405,002	379,190	6.8
Major Attraction Visitors	AUG 1999	384,178	1.4	1,466,950	1,522,316	-3.6
Hotel-Motel Occupancy*	JUL 1999	79.0	-1.8	71.4	72.5	-1.1
Air Passenger Count	JUN 1999	566,341	12.6	3,559,305	3,204,445	11.1

Sources: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports; Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; Connecticut Lodging & Attractions Association
**Hotel-Motel Occupancy rate changes are in percentage points.*

Compensation costs for both the nation and Northeast rose 3.3 percent over the year.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted JUN 1999	MAR 1999	3-Mo % Chg	Not Seasonally Adjusted JUN 1999	JUN 1998	12-Mo % Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	141.8	140.2	1.1	142.0	137.5	3.3
Wages and Salaries	139.8	138.1	1.2	139.7	134.9	3.6
Benefit Costs	146.8	145.4	1.0	147.3	143.7	2.5
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	141.5	137.0	3.3
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	138.2	133.8	3.3

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

U.S. inflation went up slightly to 2.3 percent in August. Only the Boston rate of 2.7 percent was accelerating compared with the Northeast and New York.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AUG 1999	JUL 1999	AUG 1998	% CHG M/M	% CHG Y/Y
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	167.1	166.7	163.4	0.2	2.3
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=$1.00)	$0.598	$0.600	$0.612	-0.2	-2.2
Northeast Region	174.1	173.4	170.5	0.4	2.1
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	177.6	177.2	174.2	0.2	2.0
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	---	175.3	---	---	2.7
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	163.8	163.3	160.0	0.3	2.4
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	135.8	136.2	133.1	-0.3	2.0
New England	139.6	135.1	128.6	3.3	8.6

**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

The prime rate edged up 8.06 percent in August. Short-term rates were lower and long-term rates were higher, including the conventional 30-year mortgage rate, now up to 7.94 percent.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	AUG 1999	JUL 1999	AUG 1998
Prime	8.06	8.00	8.50
Federal Funds	5.07	4.99	5.55
3 Month Treasury Bill	4.76	4.60	4.94
6 Month Treasury Bill	4.88	4.62	4.97
1 Year Treasury Bill	5.20	5.03	5.21
3 Year Treasury Note	5.77	5.62	5.24
5 Year Treasury Note	5.84	5.68	5.27
7 Year Treasury Note	6.15	5.94	5.36
10 Year Treasury Note	5.94	5.79	5.34
30 Year Teasury Bond	6.07	5.98	5.54
Conventional Mortgage	7.94	7.63	6.92

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Maine led the region with the strongest job growth over the year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
Connecticut	1,672.0	1,651.3	20.7	1.3	1,669.5
Maine	584.6	570.2	14.4	2.5	583.5
Massachusetts	3,228.6	3,185.8	42.8	1.3	3,225.8
New Hampshire	600.4	586.7	13.7	2.3	598.1
New Jersey	3,873.9	3,808.7	65.2	1.7	3,871.6
New York	8,395.1	8,257.2	137.9	1.7	8,386.1
Pennsylvania	5,527.3	5,508.2	19.1	0.3	5,537.3
Rhode Island	465.0	459.9	5.1	1.1	464.8
Vermont	292.0	286.8	5.2	1.8	291.2
United States	128,905.0	126,170.0	2,735.0	2.2	128,781.0

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

LABOR FORCE

New Hampshire experienced the strongest labor force growth in the region from a year ago.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
Connecticut	1,705.6	1,710.0	-4.4	-0.3	1,706.5
Maine	669.4	650.4	19.0	2.9	670.0
Massachusetts	3,279.9	3,270.0	9.9	0.3	3,286.7
New Hampshire	669.7	648.9	20.8	3.2	671.3
New Jersey	4,255.8	4,141.9	113.9	2.7	4,250.9
New York	8,904.6	8,854.9	49.7	0.6	8,910.2
Pennsylvania	5,985.0	5,930.8	54.2	0.9	5,979.2
Rhode Island	509.0	497.1	11.9	2.4	509.4
Vermont	340.0	331.1	8.9	2.7	340.0
United States	139,264.0	137,481.0	1,783.0	1.3	139,254.0

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

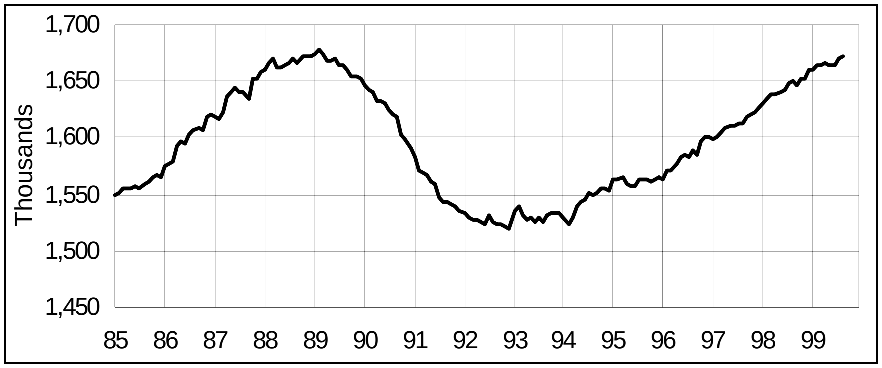
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Connecticut posted the lowest August unemployment rate in the region.

(Seasonally adjusted)	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE	JUL 1999
Connecticut	2.1	3.2	-1.1	2.6
Maine	4.2	4.4	-0.2	4.2
Massachusetts	3.1	3.2	-0.1	3.2
New Hampshire	2.3	2.7	-0.4	2.5
New Jersey	4.7	4.6	0.1	4.8
New York	5.1	5.4	-0.3	5.2
Pennsylvania	4.5	4.6	-0.1	4.3
Rhode Island	4.3	4.9	-0.6	4.1
Vermont	2.9	3.3	-0.4	3.2
United States	4.2	4.5	-0.3	4.3

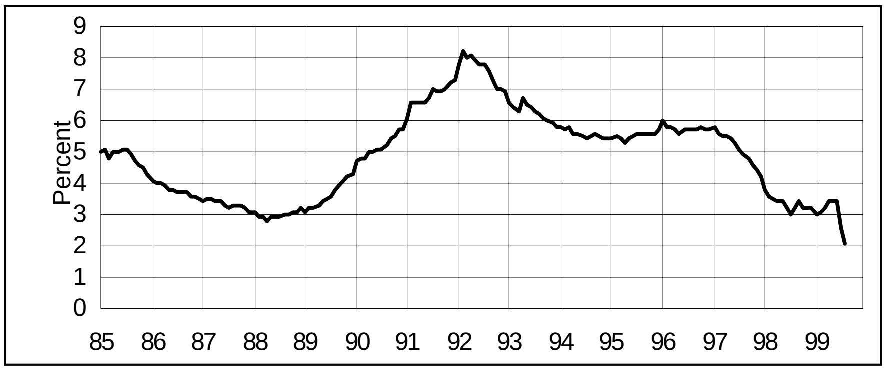
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



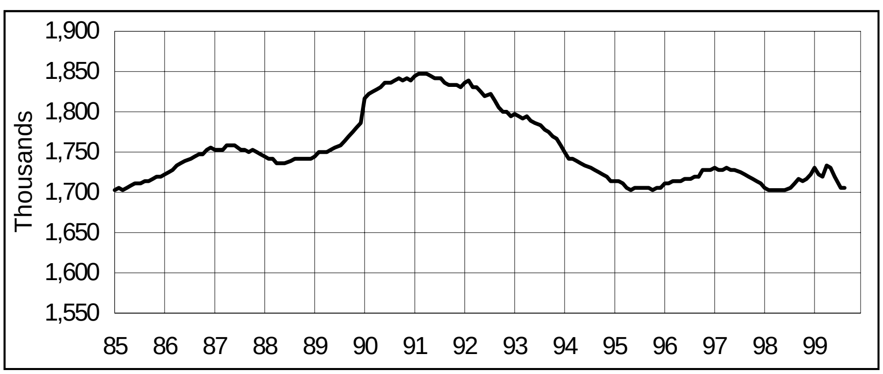
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,599.4	1,631.4	1,660.5
Feb	1,601.5	1,635.5	1,663.4
Mar	1,605.1	1,638.4	1,663.9
Apr	1,609.3	1,638.5	1,665.4
May	1,610.3	1,640.8	1,663.3
Jun	1,610.2	1,643.3	1,665.2
Jul	1,612.9	1,649.3	1,669.5
Aug	1,612.5	1,651.3	1,672.0
Sep	1,618.3	1,645.8	
Oct	1,620.7	1,651.4	
Nov	1,622.4	1,652.5	
Dec	1,627.4	1,660.3	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	5.8	3.8	3.0
Feb	5.6	3.6	3.1
Mar	5.5	3.5	3.2
Apr	5.5	3.4	3.4
May	5.4	3.4	3.4
Jun	5.3	3.2	3.4
Jul	5.1	3.0	2.6
Aug	4.9	3.2	2.1
Sep	4.8	3.4	
Oct	4.6	3.2	
Nov	4.4	3.2	
Dec	4.2	3.2	

LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*

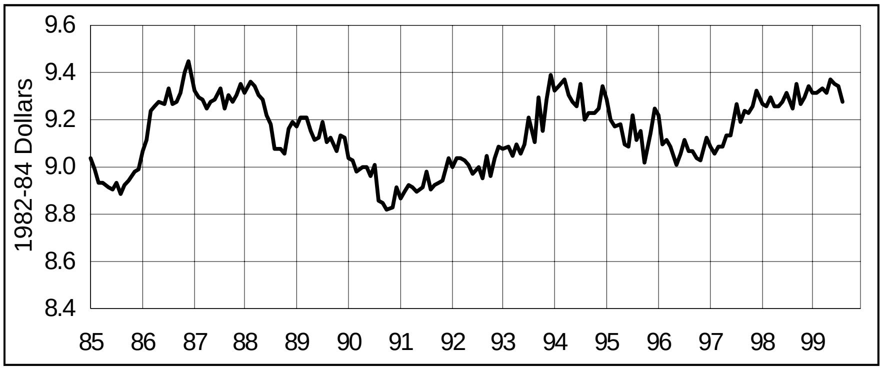


Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,729.2	1,706.3	1,729.5
Feb	1,728.2	1,703.2	1,722.8
Mar	1,728.1	1,704.0	1,718.6
Apr	1,729.9	1,702.9	1,732.6
May	1,727.6	1,703.4	1,731.2
Jun	1,726.9	1,704.1	1,719.2
Jul	1,724.3	1,706.7	1,706.5
Aug	1,721.1	1,710.0	1,705.6
Sep	1,720.0	1,715.8	
Oct	1,718.0	1,714.2	
Nov	1,713.7	1,718.0	
Dec	1,712.0	1,722.0	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*

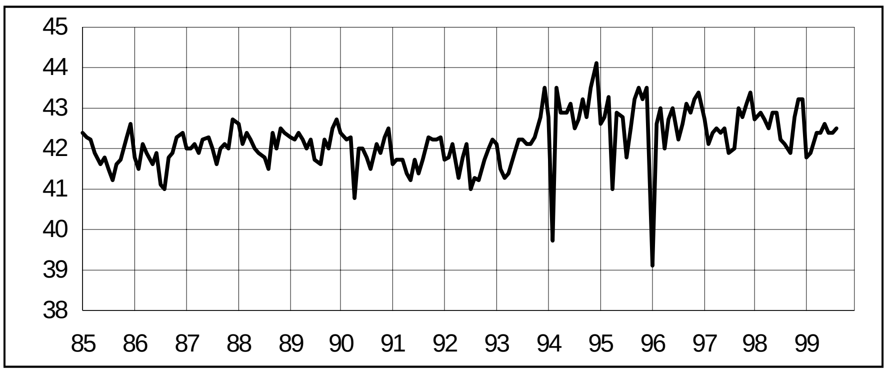
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	4,010	3,450	4,252
Feb	3,892	3,573	3,885
Mar	4,084	3,518	4,047
Apr	4,434	3,584	3,805
May	3,791	3,710	3,776
Jun	3,990	3,962	3,894
Jul	3,678	3,779	3,498
Aug	3,736	4,164	3,797
Sep	3,621	5,076	
Oct	3,502	3,500	
Nov	3,699	4,026	
Dec	4,026	3,394	

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



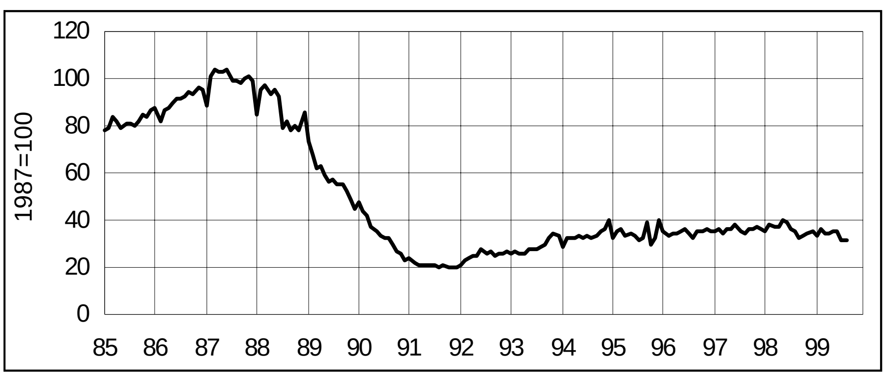
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	$9.09	$9.27	$9.32
Feb	9.06	9.26	9.31
Mar	9.08	9.29	9.33
Apr	9.09	9.26	9.32
May	9.13	9.25	9.37
Jun	9.14	9.27	9.36
Jul	9.26	9.32	9.34
Aug	9.20	9.24	9.27
Sep	9.24	9.35	
Oct	9.22	9.27	
Nov	9.26	9.30	
Dec	9.32	9.34	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



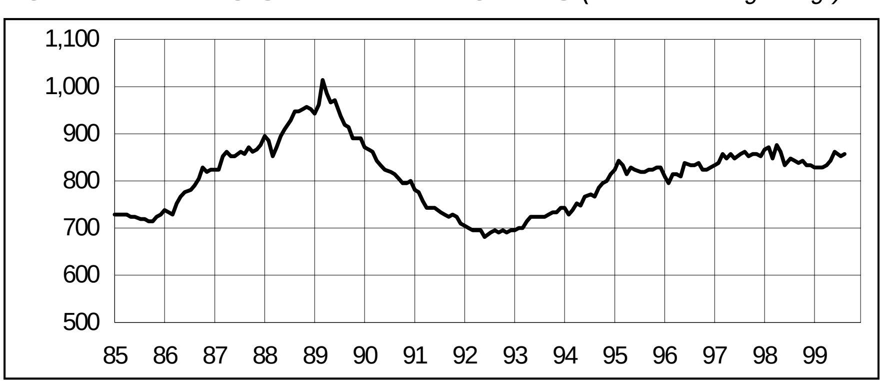
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	42.7	42.7	41.8
Feb	42.1	42.9	41.9
Mar	42.4	42.7	42.4
Apr	42.5	42.5	42.4
May	42.4	42.9	42.6
Jun	42.5	42.9	42.4
Jul	41.9	42.2	42.4
Aug	42.0	42.1	42.5
Sep	43.0	41.9	
Oct	42.8	42.8	
Nov	43.1	43.2	
Dec	43.4	43.2	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



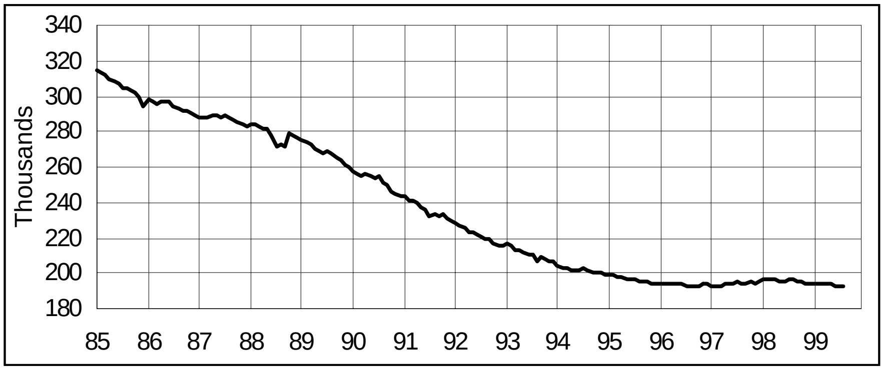
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	35	35	33
Feb	36	38	36
Mar	34	37	34
Apr	36	37	34
May	36	40	35
Jun	38	39	35
Jul	35	36	31
Aug	34	35	31
Sep	36	32	
Oct	35	33	
Nov	37	34	
Dec	36	35	

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



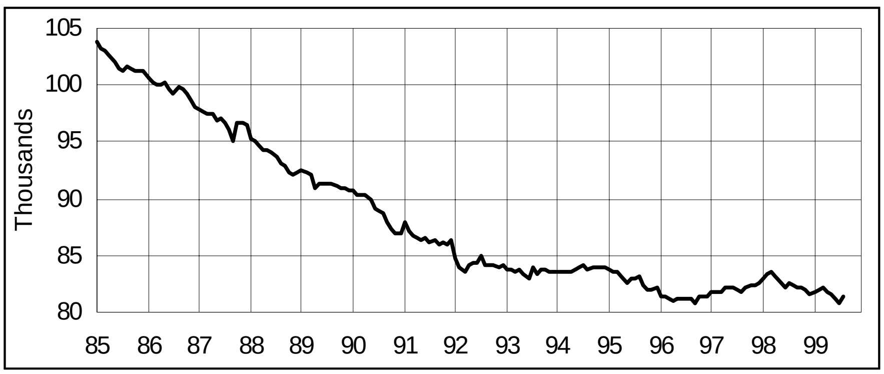
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	833	868	831
Feb	840	870	828
Mar	856	846	829
Apr	849	878	834
May	856	861	843
Jun	848	836	861
Jul	856	849	854
Aug	862	841	856
Sep	854	838	
Oct	859	845	
Nov	859	836	
Dec	852	832	

DURABLE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



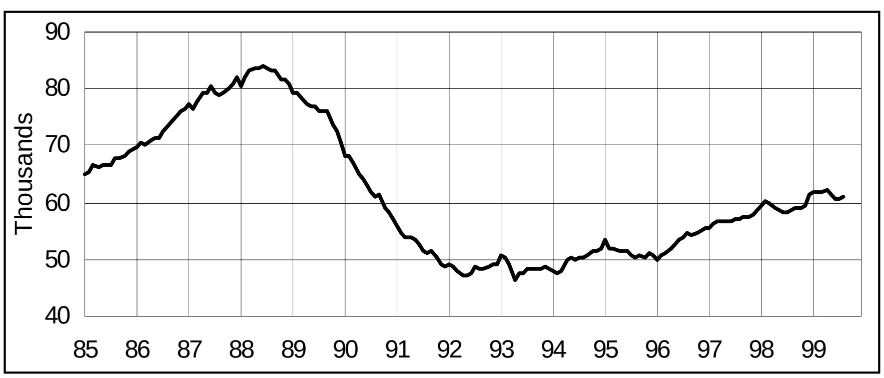
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	192.6	196.1	194.6
Feb	192.9	196.4	194.1
Mar	193.1	196.4	194.6
Apr	193.5	196.2	194.6
May	193.8	195.7	194.3
Jun	194.2	195.5	193.0
Jul	195.0	196.7	192.5
Aug	194.3	196.9	192.2
Sep	194.5	195.8	
Oct	194.8	195.3	
Nov	194.6	194.5	
Dec	195.0	194.0	

NONDURABLE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



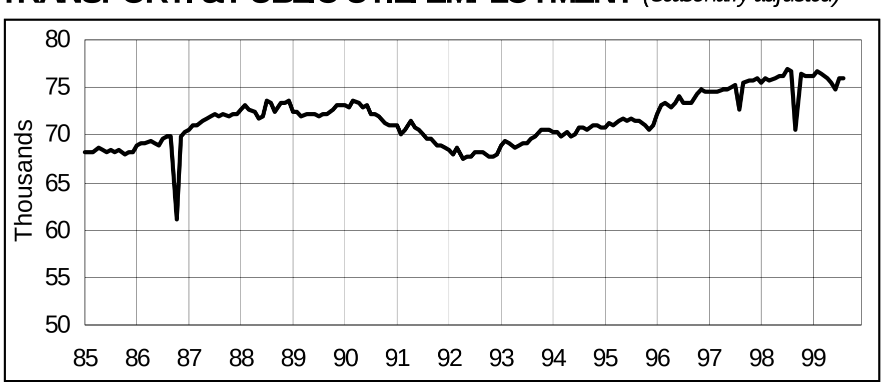
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	81.7	83.0	81.7
Feb	81.7	83.3	81.9
Mar	81.7	83.6	82.1
Apr	82.1	83.1	81.7
May	82.1	82.7	81.5
Jun	82.1	82.2	81.1
Jul	82.0	82.5	80.8
Aug	81.8	82.4	81.3
Sep	82.1	82.2	
Oct	82.4	82.1	
Nov	82.4	81.9	
Dec	82.6	81.6	

CONSTRUCTION & MINING EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



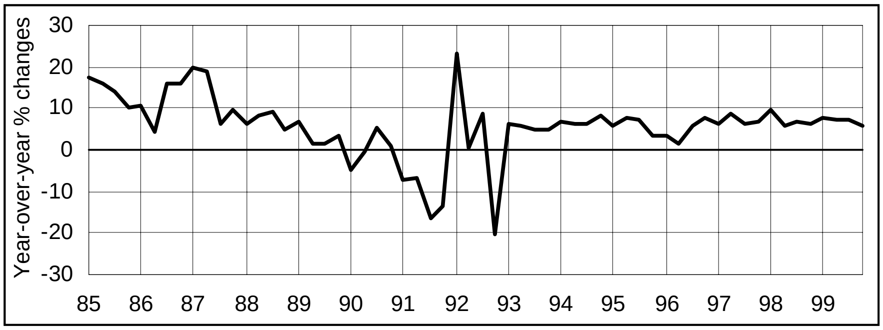
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	55.5	59.6	61.8
Feb	56.3	60.4	61.9
Mar	56.6	60.0	61.8
Apr	56.6	59.2	62.1
May	56.8	58.7	61.5
Jun	56.8	58.4	60.8
Jul	56.9	58.3	60.8
Aug	57.1	58.5	60.9
Sep	57.3	59.1	
Oct	57.6	59.2	
Nov	57.9	59.6	
Dec	58.6	61.3	

TRANSPORT. & PUBLIC UTIL. EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



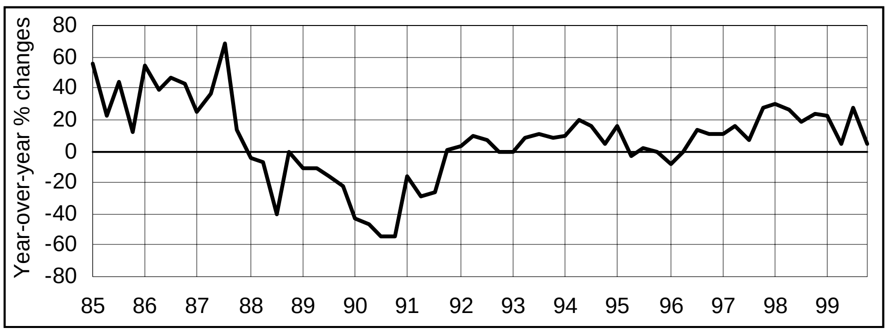
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	74.5	75.6	76.2
Feb	74.5	75.9	76.6
Mar	74.6	75.8	76.5
Apr	74.9	76.0	75.9
May	74.7	76.2	75.6
Jun	75.0	76.3	74.9
Jul	75.2	77.0	76.1
Aug	72.6	76.8	75.9
Sep	75.6	70.5	
Oct	75.8	76.4	
Nov	75.8	76.2	
Dec	75.9	76.2	

SALES TAX



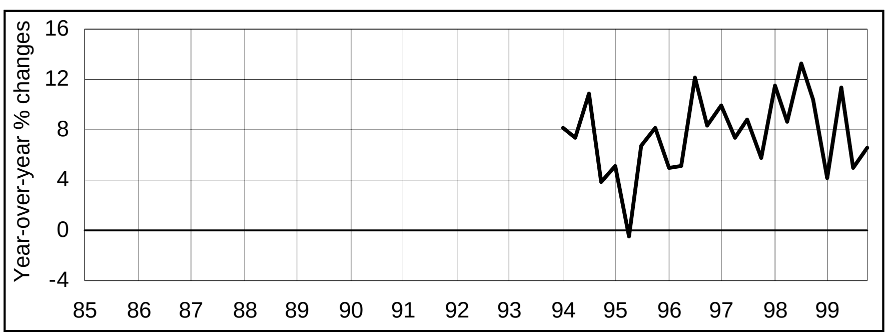
Quarter	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First	6.5	9.5	7.5
Second	8.7	6.0	7.4
Third	6.3	7.0	7.3
Fourth	7.0	6.4	5.8

REAL ESTATE TAX



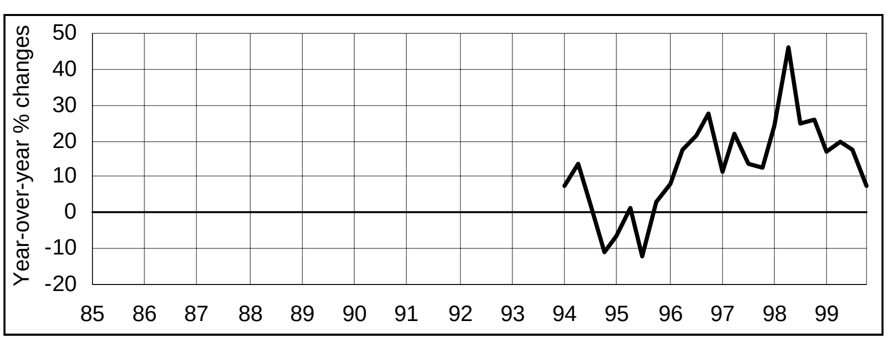
Quarter	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First	10.3	29.8	21.9
Second	15.4	26.0	4.7
Third	6.8	18.2	28.1
Fourth	28.1	23.9	4.8

PERSONAL INCOME TAX : SALARIES & WAGES



Quarter	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First	9.9	11.6	4.1
Second	7.4	8.6	11.3
Third	8.8	13.3	5.0
Fourth	5.7	10.4	6.6

PERSONAL INCOME TAX : ALL OTHER SOURCES



Quarter	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First	11.2	24.1	17.1
Second	22.1	45.9	19.6
Third	13.7	24.8	17.3
Fourth	12.6	25.9	7.6

Note*: These economic growth rates were derived by the Office of Fiscal Analysis and were made by comparing tax collections in each quarter with the same quarter in the previous year and were adjusted for legislative changes*

CONNECTICUT

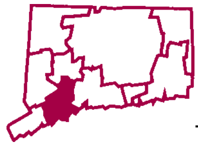
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**1,660,900**	**1,640,200**	**20,700**	**1.3**	**1,665,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**338,300**	**341,500**	**-3,200**	**-0.9**	**337,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**66,200**	**63,700**	**2,500**	**3.9**	**65,800**
MANUFACTURING	**272,100**	**277,800**	**-5,700**	**-2.1**	**271,500**
Durable	**191,000**	**195,600**	**-4,600**	**-2.4**	**191,500**
Lumber & Furniture	5,200	5,300	-100	-1.9	5,300
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,800	2,800	0	0.0	2,900
Primary Metals	9,200	9,300	-100	-1.1	9,100
Fabricated Metals	34,900	35,300	-400	-1.1	34,300
Machinery & Computer Equipment	33,800	34,800	-1,000	-2.9	34,500
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	28,700	29,200	-500	-1.7	28,900
Transportation Equipment	48,400	50,300	-1,900	-3.8	48,600
Instruments	21,800	22,200	-400	-1.8	22,000
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1	5,900
Nondurable	**81,100**	**82,200**	**-1,100**	**-1.3**	**80,000**
Food	8,000	8,000	0	0.0	8,000
Textiles	1,800	1,900	-100	-5.3	1,700
Apparel	4,100	4,400	-300	-6.8	3,900
Paper	7,700	7,800	-100	-1.3	7,500
Printing & Publishing	25,900	26,400	-500	-1.9	25,900
Chemicals	21,000	20,900	100	0.5	20,900
Rubber & Plastics	10,500	10,600	-100	-0.9	10,100
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**1,322,600**	**1,298,700**	**23,900**	**1.8**	**1,328,000**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**74,500**	**75,300**	**-800**	**-1.1**	**75,000**
Transportation	42,900	43,400	-500	-1.2	43,300
Motor Freight & Warehousing	12,100	12,500	-400	-3.2	12,100
Other Transportation	30,800	30,900	-100	-0.3	31,200
Communications	19,400	19,600	-200	-1.0	19,500
Utilities	12,200	12,300	-100	-0.8	12,200
TRADE	**360,200**	**356,000**	**4,200**	**1.2**	**359,000**
Wholesale	85,100	83,800	1,300	1.6	85,100
Retail	275,100	272,200	2,900	1.1	273,900
General Merchandise	25,000	26,500	-1,500	-5.7	24,800
Food Stores	53,200	53,000	200	0.4	52,700
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	27,300	27,100	200	0.7	27,400
Restaurants	78,600	77,800	800	1.0	78,600
Other Retail Trade	91,000	87,800	3,200	3.6	90,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**140,500**	**138,900**	**1,600**	**1.2**	**140,700**
Finance	53,000	51,700	1,300	2.5	53,200
Banking	25,900	25,400	500	2.0	26,100
Insurance	70,900	71,200	-300	-0.4	70,800
Insurance Carriers	59,400	60,000	-600	-1.0	59,300
Real Estate	16,700	16,000	700	4.4	16,700
SERVICES	**530,800**	**516,800**	**14,000**	**2.7**	**533,900**
Hotels & Lodging Places	12,900	12,600	300	2.4	13,000
Personal Services	18,100	17,500	600	3.4	18,100
Business Services	110,500	107,400	3,100	2.9	110,000
Health Services	157,500	156,200	1,300	0.8	158,300
Legal & Engineering Services	56,900	55,000	1,900	3.5	56,900
Educational Services	39,100	37,700	1,400	3.7	39,600
Other Services	135,800	130,400	5,400	4.1	138,000
GOVERNMENT	**216,600**	**211,700**	**4,900**	**2.3**	**219,400**
Federal	22,300	22,400	-100	-0.4	22,100
**State, Local & Other Government	194,300	189,300	5,000	2.6	197,300

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

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

BRIDGEPORT LMA

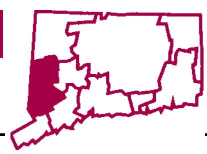


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**184,500**	**183,800**	**700**	**0.4**	**184,900**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**45,000**	**45,400**	**-400**	**-0.9**	**44,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**7,300**	**6,900**	**400**	**5.8**	**7,100**
MANUFACTURING	**37,700**	**38,500**	**-800**	**-2.1**	**37,200**
Durable Goods	30,400	31,400	-1,000	-3.2	30,100
Fabricated Metals	4,300	4,500	-200	-4.4	4,000
Industrial Machinery	6,100	6,300	-200	-3.2	6,000
Electronic Equipment	6,200	6,000	200	3.3	6,300
Transportation Equipment	7,800	8,300	-500	-6.0	7,700
Nondurable Goods	7,300	7,100	200	2.8	7,100
Printing & Publishing	2,100	2,000	100	5.0	2,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**139,500**	**138,400**	**1,100**	**0.8**	**140,600**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**6,800**	**6,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**6,900**
TRADE	**40,900**	**41,000**	**-100**	**-0.2**	**41,100**
Wholesale	10,200	10,200	0	0.0	10,300
Retail	30,700	30,800	-100	-0.3	30,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**10,800**	**10,600**	**200**	**1.9**	**10,700**
SERVICES	**60,700**	**60,600**	**100**	**0.2**	**61,400**
Business Services	14,900	14,900	0	0.0	15,400
Health Services	19,500	19,500	0	0.0	19,700
GOVERNMENT	**20,300**	**19,400**	**900**	**4.6**	**20,500**
Federal	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,100
State & Local	18,300	17,300	1,000	5.8	18,400

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

DANBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**87,600**	**87,500**	**100**	**0.1**	**87,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,600**	**23,500**	**-900**	**-3.8**	**22,600**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**4,100**	**4,000**	**100**	**2.5**	**4,100**
MANUFACTURING	**18,500**	**19,500**	**-1,000**	**-5.1**	**18,500**
Durable Goods	10,100	10,700	-600	-5.6	10,200
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,300	5,600	-300	-5.4	5,400
Instruments & Related	2,400	2,700	-300	-11.1	2,400
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,800	-400	-4.5	8,300
Printing & Publishing	2,400	2,500	-100	-4.0	2,400
Chemicals	3,400	3,400	0	0.0	3,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**65,000**	**64,000**	**1,000**	**1.6**	**65,200**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**2,600**	**2,400**	**200**	**8.3**	**2,700**
TRADE	**22,100**	**21,900**	**200**	**0.9**	**22,000**
Wholesale	3,400	3,500	-100	-2.9	3,400
Retail	18,700	18,400	300	1.6	18,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**5,100**	**4,800**	**300**	**6.3**	**5,000**
SERVICES	**26,200**	**25,800**	**400**	**1.6**	**26,200**
GOVERNMENT	**9,000**	**9,100**	**-100**	**-1.1**	**9,300**
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	8,200	8,300	-100	-1.2	8,500

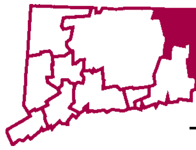
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

DANIELSON LMA

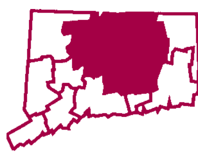


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**19,900**	**19,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**19,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**6,400**	**6,600**	**-200**	**-3.0**	**6,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**900**	**900**	**0**	**0.0**	**800**
MANUFACTURING	**5,500**	**5,700**	**-200**	**-3.5**	**5,500**
Durable Goods	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.3	2,200
Nondurable Goods	3,300	3,400	-100	-2.9	3,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**13,500**	**13,300**	**200**	**1.5**	**13,500**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**500**	**500**	**0**	**0.0**	**500**
TRADE	**5,000**	**4,800**	**200**	**4.2**	**5,000**
Wholesale	1,000	800	200	25.0	1,000
Retail	4,000	4,000	0	0.0	4,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**600**	**600**	**0**	**0.0**	**600**
SERVICES	**4,700**	**4,600**	**100**	**2.2**	**4,700**
GOVERNMENT	**2,700**	**2,800**	**-100**	**-3.6**	**2,700**
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	2,600	2,700	-100	-3.7	2,600

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

HARTFORD LMA



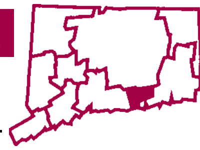
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**600,100**	**598,500**	**1,600**	**0.3**	**602,100**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**115,600**	**116,000**	**-400**	**-0.3**	**115,000**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**22,000**	**21,200**	**800**	**3.8**	**21,800**
MANUFACTURING	**93,600**	**94,800**	**-1,200**	**-1.3**	**93,200**
Durable Goods	73,500	74,900	-1,400	-1.9	73,000
Primary & Fabricated Metals	18,800	18,300	500	2.7	18,100
Industrial Machinery	13,600	14,200	-600	-4.2	13,900
Electronic Equipment	6,300	6,600	-300	-4.5	6,200
Transportation Equipment	26,300	27,400	-1,100	-4.0	26,600
Nondurable Goods	20,100	19,900	200	1.0	20,200
Printing & Publishing	8,900	8,600	300	3.5	9,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**484,500**	**482,500**	**2,000**	**0.4**	**487,100**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**25,300**	**25,100**	**200**	**0.8**	**25,900**
Transportation	14,000	14,000	0	0.0	14,500
Communications & Utilities	11,300	11,100	200	1.8	11,400
TRADE	**124,700**	**123,700**	**1,000**	**0.8**	**123,600**
Wholesale	30,400	30,100	300	1.0	30,400
Retail	94,300	93,600	700	0.7	93,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**71,200**	**71,900**	**-700**	**-1.0**	**70,600**
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	11,800	11,900	-100	-0.8	11,800
Insurance Carriers	46,000	46,800	-800	-1.7	45,300
SERVICES	**175,300**	**175,000**	**300**	**0.2**	**178,100**
Business Services	34,400	33,200	1,200	3.6	34,800
Health Services	56,900	58,900	-2,000	-3.4	57,700
GOVERNMENT	**88,000**	**86,800**	**1,200**	**1.4**	**88,900**
Federal	7,600	7,900	-300	-3.8	7,700
State & Local	80,400	78,900	1,500	1.9	81,200

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

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LOWER RIVER LMA

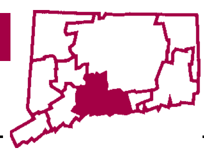


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**9,500**	**9,800**	**-300**	**-3.1**	**9,600**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**3,400**	**3,400**	**0**	**0.0**	**3,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**500**	**500**	**0**	**0.0**	**500**
MANUFACTURING	**2,900**	**2,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,900**
Durable Goods	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	2,300
Electronic Equipment	700	700	0	0.0	700
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	0	0.0	1,600
Nondurable Goods	600	600	0	0.0	600
Rubber & Plastics	300	300	0	0.0	300
Other Nondurable Goods	300	300	0	0.0	300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**6,100**	**6,400**	**-300**	**-4.7**	**6,200**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**400**	**400**	**0**	**0.0**	**400**
TRADE	**2,100**	**2,200**	**-100**	**-4.5**	**2,100**
Wholesale	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail	1,700	1,800	-100	-5.6	1,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**300**	**300**	**0**	**0.0**	**300**
SERVICES	**2,600**	**2,700**	**-100**	**-3.7**	**2,700**
GOVERNMENT	**700**	**800**	**-100**	**-12.5**	**700**
Federal	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local	700	800	-100	-12.5	700

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

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**254,500**	**253,000**	**1,500**	**0.6**	**256,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**50,500**	**50,600**	**-100**	**-0.2**	**50,800**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**10,600**	**10,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**10,600**
MANUFACTURING	**39,900**	**40,000**	**-100**	**-0.3**	**40,200**
Durable Goods	25,500	25,500	0	0.0	25,700
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,600	6,700	-100	-1.5	6,700
Electronic Equipment	5,300	5,200	100	1.9	5,300
Nondurable Goods	14,400	14,500	-100	-0.7	14,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,200	5,300	-100	-1.9	5,200
Chemicals & Allied	5,400	5,400	0	0.0	5,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**204,000**	**202,400**	**1,600**	**0.8**	**205,700**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**16,400**	**16,200**	**200**	**1.2**	**16,500**
Communications & Utilities	8,900	8,700	200	2.3	8,900
TRADE	**54,900**	**54,500**	**400**	**0.7**	**54,800**
Wholesale	14,200	13,800	400	2.9	14,200
Retail	40,700	40,700	0	0.0	40,600
Eating & Drinking Places	11,800	11,900	-100	-0.8	11,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**13,700**	**13,700**	**0**	**0.0**	**13,800**
Finance	4,200	4,200	0	0.0	4,200
Insurance	7,400	7,400	0	0.0	7,400
SERVICES	**89,500**	**88,200**	**1,300**	**1.5**	**90,400**
Business Services	12,400	12,500	-100	-0.8	12,300
Health Services	28,700	28,700	0	0.0	28,800
GOVERNMENT	**29,500**	**29,800**	**-300**	**-1.0**	**30,200**
Federal	5,100	5,400	-300	-5.6	5,100
State & Local	24,400	24,400	0	0.0	25,100

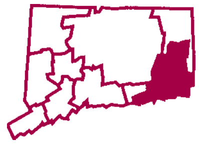
For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact J. Charles Joo at (860) 263-6293.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

NEW LONDON LMA

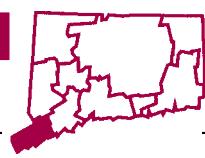


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**141,700**	**139,900**	**1,800**	**1.3**	**141,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**29,200**	**29,000**	**200**	**0.7**	**29,000**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**5,100**	**4,900**	**200**	**4.1**	**5,100**
MANUFACTURING	**24,100**	**24,100**	**0**	**0.0**	**23,900**
Durable Goods	13,900	14,200	-300	-2.1	13,900
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,200
Other Durable Goods	11,800	12,000	-200	-1.7	11,700
Nondurable Goods	10,200	9,900	300	3.0	10,000
Paper & Allied	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
Other Nondurable Goods	8,100	7,700	400	5.2	8,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**112,500**	**110,900**	**1,600**	**1.4**	**112,700**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**6,800**	**6,600**	**200**	**3.0**	**6,900**
TRADE	**28,900**	**28,800**	**100**	**0.3**	**28,700**
Wholesale	2,900	2,700	200	7.4	2,800
Retail	26,000	26,100	-100	-0.4	25,900
Eating & Drinking Places	8,500	8,700	-200	-2.3	8,500
Other Retail	17,500	17,400	100	0.6	17,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**3,900**	**3,800**	**100**	**2.6**	**3,900**
SERVICES	**36,500**	**36,100**	**400**	**1.1**	**36,700**
Personal & Business Services	6,300	6,300	0	0.0	6,400
Health Services	11,800	11,700	100	0.9	11,700
GOVERNMENT	**36,400**	**35,600**	**800**	**2.2**	**36,500**
Federal	2,700	2,800	-100	-3.6	2,700
State & Local	33,700	32,800	900	2.7	33,800
**Local	29,400	28,600	800	2.8	29,600

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

STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

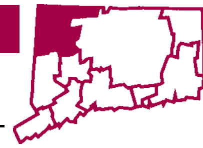
	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**207,700**	**208,000**	**-300**	**-0.1**	**208,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**32,500**	**33,600**	**-1,100**	**-3.3**	**32,700**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**6,100**	**6,500**	**-400**	**-6.2**	**6,000**
MANUFACTURING	**26,400**	**27,100**	**-700**	**-2.6**	**26,700**
Durable Goods	14,200	14,400	-200	-1.4	14,600
Industrial Machinery	3,300	3,600	-300	-8.3	3,700
Electronic Equipment	2,200	2,500	-300	-12.0	2,300
Nondurable Goods	12,200	12,700	-500	-3.9	12,100
Paper, Printing & Publishing	6,000	6,100	-100	-1.6	6,000
Chemicals & Allied	3,100	3,200	-100	-3.1	3,100
Other Nondurable	3,100	3,400	-300	-8.8	3,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**175,200**	**174,400**	**800**	**0.5**	**176,100**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**10,000**	**10,700**	**-700**	**-6.5**	**10,000**
Communications & Utilities	2,800	3,500	-700	-20.0	2,800
TRADE	**43,000**	**44,200**	**-1,200**	**-2.7**	**43,000**
Wholesale	11,300	11,600	-300	-2.6	11,300
Retail	31,700	32,600	-900	-2.8	31,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**25,800**	**25,200**	**600**	**2.4**	**25,800**
SERVICES	**79,400**	**77,100**	**2,300**	**3.0**	**79,800**
Business Services	23,600	23,200	400	1.7	23,300
Engineering & Mgmnt. Services	11,200	11,000	200	1.8	11,200
Other Services	44,600	42,900	1,700	4.0	45,300
GOVERNMENT	**17,000**	**17,200**	**-200**	**-1.2**	**17,500**
Federal	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
State & Local	15,100	15,300	-200	-1.3	15,600

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

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

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

TORRINGTON LMA

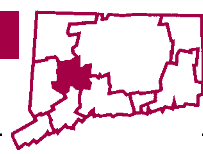


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**29,900**	**30,000**	**-100**	**-0.3**	**29,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**8,000**	**8,500**	**-500**	**-5.9**	**7,900**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**2,100**	**2,300**	**-200**	**-8.7**	**2,100**
MANUFACTURING	**5,900**	**6,200**	**-300**	**-4.8**	**5,800**
Durable Goods	4,200	4,400	-200	-4.5	4,100
Primary & Fabricated Metals	700	600	100	16.7	600
Industrial Machinery	900	1,200	-300	-25.0	1,000
Electronic Equipment	500	500	0	0.0	400
Other Durable Goods	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,100
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,800	-100	-5.6	1,700
Rubber & Plastics	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	0	0.0	900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**21,900**	**21,500**	**400**	**1.9**	**21,800**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**900**	**800**	**100**	**12.5**	**900**
TRADE	**6,800**	**6,400**	**400**	**6.3**	**6,800**
Wholesale	600	700	-100	-14.3	600
Retail	6,200	5,700	500	8.8	6,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**800**	**900**	**-100**	**-11.1**	**800**
SERVICES	**10,100**	**10,100**	**0**	**0.0**	**10,000**
GOVERNMENT	**3,300**	**3,300**	**0**	**0.0**	**3,300**
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,100	3,100	0	0.0	3,100

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

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**86,600**	**86,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**86,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,300**	**22,100**	**200**	**0.9**	**22,000**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**3,700**	**3,500**	**200**	**5.7**	**3,600**
MANUFACTURING	**18,600**	**18,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**18,400**
Durable Goods	14,700	14,500	200	1.4	14,600
Primary Metals	900	800	100	12.5	900
Fabricated Metals	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.5	6,200
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,800	4,900	-100	-2.0	4,800
Nondurable Goods	3,900	4,100	-200	-4.9	3,800
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,200	1,300	-100	-7.7	1,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**64,300**	**64,500**	**-200**	**-0.3**	**64,300**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**3,300**	**3,400**	**-100**	**-2.9**	**3,400**
TRADE	**18,400**	**18,100**	**300**	**1.7**	**18,100**
Wholesale	2,800	3,200	-400	-12.5	2,900
Retail	15,600	14,900	700	4.7	15,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**3,600**	**3,700**	**-100**	**-2.7**	**3,600**
SERVICES	**27,300**	**27,300**	**0**	**0.0**	**27,300**
Personal & Business	7,200	7,100	100	1.4	7,200
Health Services	10,700	10,700	0	0.0	10,700
GOVERNMENT	**11,700**	**12,000**	**-300**	**-2.5**	**11,900**
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	10,900	11,200	-300	-2.7	11,100

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

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

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

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JUL 1999
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,735,900	1,741,000	-5,100	-0.3	1,756,000
	Employed	1,700,000	1,686,500	13,500	0.8	1,701,600
	Unemployed	35,900	54,500	-18,600	-34.1	54,500
	Unemployment Rate	2.1	3.1	-1.0	---	3.1
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	218,900	220,400	-1,500	-0.7	221,600
	Employed	213,200	211,600	1,600	0.8	213,000
	Unemployed	5,700	8,700	-3,000	-34.5	8,600
	Unemployment Rate	2.6	4.0	-1.4	---	3.9
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	111,100	111,900	-800	-0.7	112,200
	Employed	109,500	109,300	200	0.2	109,600
	Unemployed	1,600	2,600	-1,000	-38.5	2,700
	Unemployment Rate	1.5	2.3	-0.8	---	2.4
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	32,200	32,800	-600	-1.8	32,600
	Employed	31,500	31,500	0	0.0	31,400
	Unemployed	700	1,300	-600	-46.2	1,200
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	3.9	-1.6	---	3.6
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	586,500	588,700	-2,200	-0.4	593,100
	Employed	573,900	569,800	4,100	0.7	574,100
	Unemployed	12,600	18,900	-6,300	-33.3	19,000
	Unemployment Rate	2.1	3.2	-1.1	---	3.2
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,500	12,800	-300	-2.3	12,700
	Employed	12,400	12,500	-100	-0.8	12,400
	Unemployed	200	300	-100	-33.3	300
	Unemployment Rate	1.5	2.4	-0.9	---	2.2
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	276,300	275,400	900	0.3	281,000
	Employed	270,400	266,900	3,500	1.3	272,200
	Unemployed	5,800	8,600	-2,800	-32.6	8,800
	Unemployment Rate	2.1	3.1	-1.0	---	3.1
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	158,400	157,200	1,200	0.8	160,100
	Employed	154,800	151,600	3,200	2.1	155,100
	Unemployed	3,600	5,500	-1,900	-34.5	5,000
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	3.5	-1.2	---	3.2
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	199,000	199,100	-100	-0.1	201,000
	Employed	196,400	195,000	1,400	0.7	197,000
	Unemployed	2,600	4,000	-1,400	-35.0	4,000
	Unemployment Rate	1.3	2.0	-0.7	---	2.0
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	40,500	40,900	-400	-1.0	40,600
	Employed	39,800	40,000	-200	-0.5	39,600
	Unemployed	600	900	-300	-33.3	1,000
	Unemployment Rate	1.6	2.2	-0.6	---	2.4
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	117,300	118,400	-1,100	-0.9	118,000
	Employed	114,500	114,100	400	0.4	113,700
	Unemployed	2,800	4,200	-1,400	-33.3	4,400
	Unemployment Rate	2.4	3.6	-1.2	---	3.7
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	140,090,000	138,379,000	1,711,000	1.2	141,119,000
	Employed	134,264,000	132,206,000	2,058,000	1.6	134,800,000
	Unemployed	5,826,000	6,173,000	-347,000	-5.6	6,319,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.5	-0.3	---	4.5

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHG Y/Y	JUL 1999	AVG WEEKLY HOURS AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHG Y/Y	JUL 1999	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHG Y/Y	JUL 1999
MANUFACTURING	**$645.58**	**$622.66**	**$22.92**	**$647.02**	**42.5**	**42.1**	**0.4**	**42.4**	**$15.19**	**$14.79**	**$0.40**	**$15.26**
DURABLE GOODS	**661.95**	**634.69**	**27.26**	**664.52**	**42.9**	**42.2**	**0.7**	**42.9**	**15.43**	**15.04**	**0.39**	**15.49**
Lumber & Furniture	514.74	485.62	29.12	508.98	42.4	41.9	0.5	42.7	12.14	11.59	0.55	11.92
Stone, Clay and Glass	649.38	617.10	32.28	626.18	47.4	44.3	3.1	44.6	13.70	13.93	-0.23	14.04
Primary Metals	628.79	582.20	46.59	638.36	42.4	40.6	1.8	44.3	14.83	14.34	0.49	14.41
Fabricated Metals	599.74	571.86	27.89	591.18	42.9	41.2	1.7	42.5	13.98	13.88	0.10	13.91
Machinery	675.38	670.35	5.02	681.35	44.2	43.9	0.3	44.1	15.28	15.27	0.01	15.45
Electrical Equipment	528.71	512.04	16.67	542.69	41.5	40.8	0.7	42.2	12.74	12.55	0.19	12.86
Trans. Equipment	857.15	799.85	57.30	874.25	43.4	42.5	0.9	43.8	19.75	18.82	0.93	19.96
Instruments	606.96	600.14	6.82	605.73	40.9	43.3	-2.4	40.9	14.84	13.86	0.98	14.81
Miscellaneous Mfg	660.53	611.74	48.79	597.53	44.6	41.9	2.7	38.7	14.81	14.60	0.21	15.44
NONDUR. GOODS	**605.49**	**594.56**	**10.92**	**605.05**	**41.5**	**41.9**	**-0.4**	**41.3**	**14.59**	**14.19**	**0.40**	**14.65**
Food	522.92	536.92	-14.00	524.91	41.8	43.3	-1.5	42.4	12.51	12.40	0.11	12.38
Textiles	483.95	481.03	2.92	479.04	40.6	40.8	-0.2	40.7	11.92	11.79	0.13	11.77
Apparel	336.76	314.16	22.60	344.57	39.9	37.4	2.5	39.2	8.44	8.40	0.04	8.79
Paper	756.33	705.94	50.39	719.65	45.1	45.9	-0.8	43.3	16.77	15.38	1.39	16.62
Printing & Publishing	622.50	602.50	19.99	608.01	39.7	39.2	0.5	39.0	15.68	15.37	0.31	15.59
Chemicals	741.01	784.74	-43.73	779.52	41.7	45.1	-3.4	43.5	17.77	17.40	0.37	17.92
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	524.99	504.64	20.35	535.92	41.6	41.5	0.1	42.0	12.62	12.16	0.46	12.76
CONSTRUCTION	**866.91**	**827.94**	**38.97**	**865.16**	**42.6**	**41.9**	**0.7**	**43.0**	**20.35**	**19.76**	**0.59**	**20.12**

LMAs

MANUFACTURING	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHG Y/Y	JUL 1999	AVG WEEKLY HOURS AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHG Y/Y	JUL 1999	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHG Y/Y	JUL 1999
Bridgeport	$637.67	$633.01	$4.66	$628.62	41.3	41.4	-0.1	40.4	$15.44	$15.29	$0.15	$15.56
Danbury	629.93	633.14	-3.21	622.58	41.8	43.1	-1.3	41.7	15.07	14.69	0.38	14.93
Danielson	519.09	477.50	41.59	507.47	42.1	40.5	1.6	40.5	12.33	11.79	0.54	12.53
Hartford	691.98	654.08	37.90	687.23	42.9	42.5	0.4	42.5	16.13	15.39	0.74	16.17
Lower River	534.56	541.01	-6.45	532.52	40.9	40.8	0.1	40.9	13.07	13.26	-0.19	13.02
New Haven	623.24	610.27	12.97	622.63	41.8	41.6	0.2	41.9	14.91	14.67	0.24	14.86
New London	687.80	659.32	28.48	674.86	42.8	42.4	0.4	42.1	16.07	15.55	0.52	16.03
Stamford	512.03	532.15	-20.12	547.67	39.6	38.9	0.7	39.6	12.93	13.68	-0.75	13.83
Torrington	590.37	526.68	63.69	562.00	41.9	41.9	0.0	40.2	14.09	12.57	1.52	13.98
Waterbury	627.42	596.43	30.99	621.65	43.3	42.3	1.0	43.2	14.49	14.10	0.39	14.39

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	AUG 1999	AUG 1998	CHANGE Y/Y UNITS	CHANGE Y/Y %	YTD 1999	YTD 1998	CHANGE YTD UNITS	CHANGE YTD %	JUL 1999
Connecticut	991	976	15	1.5	7,482	7,586	-104	-1.4	977
Counties:									
Fairfield	232	260	-28	-10.8	1,547	2,079	-532	-25.6	153
Hartford	205	214	-9	-4.2	1,527	1,922	-395	-20.6	166
Litchfield	68	119	-51	-42.9	593	532	61	11.5	79
Middlesex	94	69	25	36.2	638	467	171	36.6	105
New Haven	206	147	59	40.1	1,762	1,278	484	37.9	227
New London	85	73	12	16.4	619	605	14	2.3	90
Tolland	53	57	-4	-7.0	529	463	66	14.3	126
Windham	48	37	11	29.7	267	240	27	11.3	31

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	AUG 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998
Andover	3	20	17
Ansonia	6	30	18
Ashford	0	14	25
Avon	7	130	148
Barkhamsted	1	13	20
Beacon Falls	1	27	19
Berlin	8	61	62
Bethany	3	19	17
Bethel	4	25	25
Bethlehem	3	15	12
Bloomfield	4	30	21
Bolton	1	23	14
Bozrah	1	13	4
Branford	4	40	25
Bridgeport	4	34	83
Bridgewater	0	4	6
Bristol	11	62	61
Brookfield	8	48	124
Brooklyn	9	39	5
Burlington	5	42	31
Canaan	0	3	2
Canterbury	2	11	15
Canton	8	51	29
Chaplin	2	11	11
Cheshire	6	86	66
Chester	2	7	7
Clinton	6	46	54
Colchester	11	73	75
Colebrook	0	5	9
Columbia	3	24	19
Cornwall	1	4	4
Coventry	0	36	39
Cromwell	6	42	37
Danbury	67	184	553
Darien	3	22	15
Deep River	2	16	17
Derby	2	19	21
Durham	5	42	28
East Granby	2	16	14
East Haddam	7	67	58
East Hampton	10	56	30
East Hartford	0	4	2
East Haven	2	26	47
East Lyme	12	65	57
East Windsor	0	13	17
Eastford	1	2	6
Easton	5	27	29
Ellington	13	104	113
Enfield	4	44	49
Essex	11	38	20
Fairfield	6	52	86
Farmington	18	88	80
Franklin	0	0	0
Glastonbury	9	140	159
Goshen	3	21	9
Granby	6	49	32
Greenwich	10	80	85
Griswold	3	29	28
Groton	4	86	88
Guilford	6	75	96
Haddam	6	29	11
Hamden	40	215	66
Hampton	1	11	11
Hartford	8	54	70
Hartland	0	0	3
Harwinton	2	19	14
Hebron	7	55	52
Kent	2	10	8
Killingly	3	20	20
Killingworth	7	50	38
Lebanon	4	31	16
Ledyard	3	36	51
Lisbon	3	18	15
Litchfield	1	37	26
Lyme	1	11	12
Madison	7	54	66
Manchester	9	66	349
Mansfield	2	45	37
Marlborough	2	22	21
Meriden	4	27	32
Middlebury	3	17	16
Middlefield	3	22	10
Middletown	22	153	90
Milford	15	206	99
Monroe	7	53	68
Montville	4	27	28
Morris	1	12	5
Naugatuck	4	36	33
New Britain	1	6	5
New Canaan	8	38	44
New Fairfield	4	24	16
New Hartford	1	20	23
New Haven	1	233	58
New London	0	0	1
New Milford	20	124	75
Newington	11	64	67
Newtown	16	167	177
Norfolk	1	3	2
North Branford	1	21	38
North Canaan	0	6	3
North Haven	5	138	75
No. Stonington	3	18	28
Norwalk	9	105	90
Norwich	3	16	16
Old Lyme	5	25	24
Old Saybrook	1	13	18
Orange	2	11	12
Oxford	6	50	66
Plainfield	3	32	26
Plainville	2	22	27
Plymouth	2	47	27
Pomfret	2	26	23
Portland	3	26	8
Preston	2	15	13
Prospect	11	36	37
Putnam	1	12	8
Redding	2	20	28
Ridgefield	11	87	94
Rocky Hill	9	71	78
Roxbury	4	18	20
Salem	6	12	17
Salisbury	1	3	6
Scotland	1	6	11
Seymour	10	38	38
Sharon	1	4	3
Shelton	14	127	149
Sherman	1	12	11
Simsbury	4	46	58
Somers	5	27	31
South Windsor	3	84	103
Southbury	23	75	71
Southington	32	200	163
Sprague	0	2	1
Stafford	3	34	25
Stamford	33	262	195
Sterling	3	14	13
Stonington	8	72	59
Stratford	2	32	33
Suffield	16	64	167
Thomaston	4	36	29
Thompson	8	25	15
Tolland	11	107	84
Torrington	9	81	50
Trumbull	11	77	100
Union	0	4	4
Vernon	5	46	17
Voluntown	1	17	15
Wallingford	22	144	120
Warren	1	7	6
Washington	1	8	8
Waterbury	7	33	36
Waterford	11	53	57
Watertown	6	49	56
West Hartford	7	25	10
West Haven	1	31	19
Westbrook	3	31	41
Weston	1	12	12
Westport	6	39	31
Wethersfield	8	25	57
Willington	0	4	11
Wilton	0	20	31
Winchester	0	11	55
Windham	8	22	19
Windsor	5	35	34
Windsor Locks	6	13	5
Wolcott	12	55	58
Woodbridge	2	20	29
Woodbury	3	33	54
Woodstock	4	22	32

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 took effect with data published in the March 1997 issue of the DIGEST. Data have been revised back to January 1980.

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

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

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

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

LEADING AND COINCIDENT EMPLOYMENT INDICES
The *leading employment index* is a composite of 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) 263-6275 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	**-1.1**
Coincident Employment Index	**+2.5**
Total Nonfarm Employment	**+1.3**
Unemployment	**-1.1***
Labor Force	-0.3
Employed	+0.9
Unemployed	-34.6
Average Weekly Initial Claims	**-8.8**
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford	**-11.4**
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate	**-0.04***
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg	**+1.0**
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg	**+2.7**
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg	**+3.7**
CT Mfg. Production Index	**+0.3**
Production Worker Hours	-1.1
Industrial Electricity Sales	-1.8
Personal Income	**+5.2**
UI Covered Wages	**+5.7**

Business Activity	
New Housing Permits	+1.5
Electricity Sales	+7.0
Retail Sales	+36.7
Construction Contracts Index	-22.5
New Auto Registrations	+8.2
Air Cargo Tons	-0.7
Business Starts	
Secretary of the State	+18.9
Dept. of Labor	+6.9
Business Terminations	
Secretary of the State	-6.6
Dept. of Labor	-3.5
State Tax Collections	**+4.8**
Corporate Tax	+38.8
Personal Income Tax	+4.2
Real Estate Conveyance Tax	+1.6
Sales & Use Tax	+4.1

Tourism and Travel	
Tourism Inquiries	+74.3
Tourism Info Centers	-5.5
Attraction Visitors	+1.4
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	-1.8*
Air Passenger Count	+12.6
Employment Cost Index (U.S.)	
Total	+3.3
Wages & Salaries	+3.6
Benefit Costs	+2.5
Consumer Price Index	
U.S. City Average	+2.3
Northeast Region	+2.1
NY-NJ-Long Island	+2.0
Boston-Brockton-Nashua	+2.7
Consumer Confidence	
U.S.	+2.0
New England	+8.6
Interest Rates	
Prime	-0.44*
Conventional Mortgage	+1.02*

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

THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

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

Mailing address:

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

The Connecticut Economic Digest
is available on the internet at:
http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us
or
http://www.state.ct.us/ecd/research

❑ If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, please check here and return this page to the address at left.

❑ If your address has changed, please check here, make the necessary changes to your address label and return this page to the address at left.

❑ If you receive more than one copy of this publication, please check here and return this page from the duplicate copy to the address at left.