

## JUNE 1997

- Final housing permit data for 1996 showed a decrease of 6.7 percent from the previous year. (first article)
- The New Haven Labor Market Area's employment grew slightly less than the state's since 1992. (second article, p.4)
- This April's total nonfarm employment rose by 23,000 over the year. (p.6)
- The unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent in April, but continued to stand well below last year's level. (p.6)
- The number of new car registrations processed through April was 26 percent ahead of last year for the same period. (p.7)

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## Housing Permits Reviewed

by Kolie Sun Chang, Associate Research Analyst

**T**he Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the lead agency in matters related to housing, economic development and community development in Connecticut, monitors housing growth, analyzes trends, and collects data concerning the public and private sectors of the housing market. DECD annually publishes statistics on housing production in the State and distributes a monthly update to all interested parties.

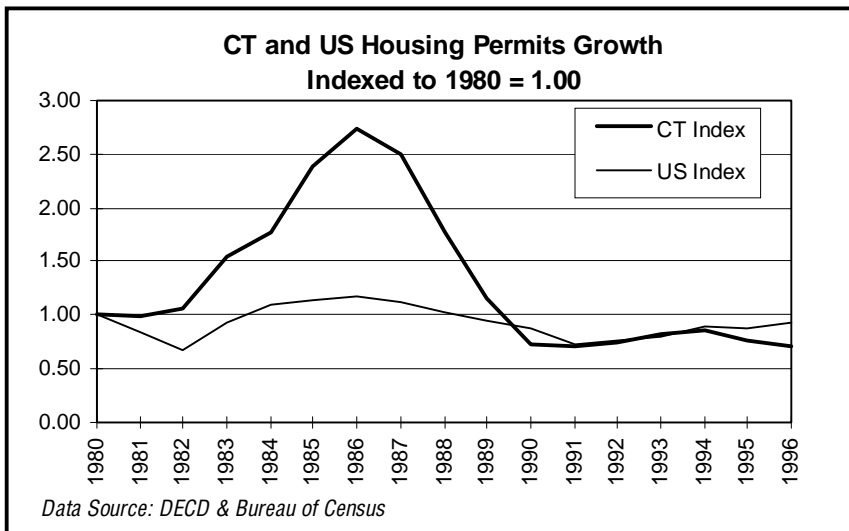
Beginning in 1996, the Bureau of the Census changed the reporting forms. Towns no longer report on permits for demolitions, additions, and alterations or distinguish between privately-owned and publicly-owned units. As a consequence, this information will not be included in the analysis. In some cases, however, towns did report demolitions and the information is included.

### Total Housing Production

In 1996, a total of 7,817 housing units were authorized to be added to the housing unit inventory in Connecticut. Compared with 1995 production, 557 fewer units were authorized in 1996, which represents a 6.7% decrease from the previous year. The first five months of 1996 showed consistent increases in permits issued, peaking in May, when 902 new units were authorized. The permit activity stabilized from June to October and showed decreases for the remainder of the year.

### Counties

A comparison of counties showed that Hartford county towns issued 1,809 permits for new residential construction, the highest number for any county in 1996. Fairfield and New Haven counties followed with 1,747 and 1,479 permits issued respec-



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tively. Litchfield, New London and Tolland counties showed an increase in permit activity in 1996 compared to 1995.

## Municipalities

Stamford led the state in net gain during 1996 with an increase of 286 housing units. This figure is down 50 percent from the town's 1995 total of 575 units. Newtown ranked second in 1996, issuing permits for a net gain of 199 units. This was a decrease of 4.8 percent from the municipality's 1995 number of 209. Southington finished third in 1996, issuing permits for a net gain of 179 units. This figure represented a 64.2 percent increase from last year. There are four Connecticut municipalities that recorded a net loss in housing units. The largest decline occurred in Bridgeport with a net loss of 129 units, followed by Mansfield (-15 units), Hartford (-9 units), and New Britain (-8 units).

## Net Gain

Connecticut's inventory of residential units was estimated to be 1,366,410 at the end of 1996. This estimate was based on a net

gain of 45,560 housing units authorized from January of 1991 through December of 1996, added to the base of 1,320,850 housing units reported in the 1990 census.

## Construction Value

The estimated value of total residential activity in 1996 was \$901 million, down 32 percent from the 1995 level of \$1.32 billion. The estimated value of authorized one-family detached construction in 1996 was \$826 million, or an average of \$127,171 per house. The total value was down 2.7 percent from the \$849 million value in 1995. The average showed an increase during 1996, up 0.14 percent from the \$126,991 per house in 1995.

## Average Annual Growth Rate

Average annual growth rates (AAGR), which show the percentage change from year to year, are calculated for the U.S., its regions, and the State of Connecticut in the table below. From 1980 to 1996, only the Midwest had a positive growth of 0.65 percent. The U.S. experienced a less than one percent decline of

CT and U.S. Housing Production: 1980 - 96

Year	CT Index	US Index	CT Total	US Total (000s)	Northeast (000s)	Midwest (000s)	South (000s)	West (000s)
1980	1.00	1.00	10,995	1,502	146	274	696	386
1981	0.99	0.84	10,855	1,266	127	218	626	294
1982	1.06	0.67	11,700	1,006	120	143	539	203
1983	1.54	0.93	16,927	1,390	139	201	746	305
1984	1.76	1.10	19,392	1,652	168	221	867	396
1985	2.39	1.13	26,246	1,703	214	230	812	447
1986	2.74	1.17	30,163	1,756	254	270	764	469
1987	2.49	1.11	27,415	1,669	257	302	660	449
1988	1.78	1.02	19,547	1,530	250	280	595	405
1989	1.15	0.95	12,610	1,423	219	267	549	387
1990	0.73	0.87	8,052	1,308	158	263	511	376
1991	0.70	0.73	7,745	1,091	120	240	439	291
1992	0.75	0.77	8,259	1,158	136	268	462	290
1993	0.82	0.79	8,969	1,193	118	273	512	290
1994	0.86	0.90	9,494	1,347	123	307	581	336
1995	0.76	0.87	8,374	1,313	127	288	581	317
1996	0.71	0.94	7,817	1,413	125	304	637	346
<b>Ann. Avg. Growth Rate</b>			<b>-2.11</b>	<b>-0.38</b>	<b>-0.97</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>-0.55</b>	<b>-0.68</b>

Data source: DECD & Bureau of Census

## THE CONNECTICUT

# ECONOMIC DIGEST

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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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# Housing Permits Reviewed

0.38 percent. The Northeast region experienced a 0.97 percent decline. However, Connecticut housing permits fell 2.11 percent on an average annual basis.

## **Connecticut vs. U.S. Housing Production**

While Connecticut's 1996 total housing permits decreased 6.7 percent from 8,374 to 7,817 units, U. S. total housing permits increased 7.6 percent from 1.31 to 1.41 million units in 1996. Connecticut and U. S. historical housing permit patterns can be compared using an index based on 1980 (1980 = 1.00) shown in the figure on the front page.

Connecticut annual permits peaked in 1986 at 30,163 units when the index stood at 2.74. This coincided with the U.S. peak

since 1980 when U.S. annual permits stood at 1.76 million units in 1986. The 1980s were a period of rapid housing stock expansion for Connecticut. As the index clearly shows, the Connecticut housing permit index far outpaced the U.S. permit index after the mid-80s. Since then, the index has leveled off.

Current housing permit activity as measured by the 1980 = 1.00 index, contrary to popular perception, does not diverge much from U.S. housing permit activity. Although the Connecticut 1996 index level is still below the national index level, there is a much closer alignment of the Connecticut and U.S. indices after 1990 than is commonly believed. The dramatic decline

since the 1989-92 "great recession" has not been reversed.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, the DECD's latest annual report published in May 1997 finalized the annual data for 1996. This report showed total housing production of 7,817 units. This was a revision of the 7,714 annual total reported in the February Economic Digest for 1996. Furthermore, the DECD began to report on a monthly basis the same data that is verified and released by the Census Bureau beginning with the March data in the May issue of the Digest. The full 1996 Annual Housing Production and Permit Authorized Construction report is available upon request by calling (860)566-1887. ■

## **HOUSING UPDATE**

### **April: housing permits increase**

**T**he Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 1,036 new housing units in April 1997, a 57% increase compared to April 1996 when 660 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 1,036 units permitted in April 1997 represent an increase of 14% from the 909 units permitted in March 1997, and that the year-to-date

permits are up 49%, from 1,942 through April 1996, to 2,894 through April 1997.

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Hartford County showed the greatest percentage increase in April compared to the same month a year ago: 150.6%, followed by Litchfield County with a 67.5% increase.

Hartford County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in April with

386. Fairfield County followed with 208 units and New Haven County had 163 units.

Manchester led all Connecticut communities with 194 units, followed by Farmington with 44, and Stamford with 34. ■

**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)270-8200.

# Job Outlook Improving for New Haven Area

by J. Charles Joo, Research Analyst

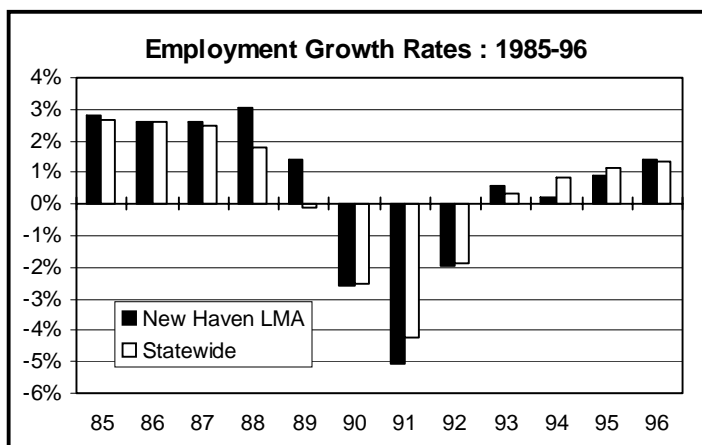
**A**fter dropping almost 10 percent from its peak employment level during the recession years, the New Haven Labor Market Area's economy has been improving since 1992, having added 7,400 jobs by the end of 1996. During the past four years of economic recovery, the area's employment gains have made up 13 percent of the State's total new jobs. During the eighties, the New Haven LMA outperformed the State in terms of job growth, but was struck more severely during the last recession, trailing the State as a whole during five of the six years between 1990 and 1995. (Figure on right)

The major industry groups that contributed to the New Haven LMA's employment increase since 1992 were services, retail trade and construction. The services industry created 10,400 jobs between 1992 and 1996, a growth of 14.0 percent, while jobs statewide grew by 13.8 percent. Most of the employment gain in the area occurred in the business services (such as software and internet services) and health services (skilled nursing and home health care) sectors.

The second largest job increase came in retail trade, with 1,700 new positions. This was almost in line with the State's 4.8 percent growth. The opening of the Factory Outlets in Clinton played a major role in retail's rapid job growth. The construction industry added 900 more jobs over the four year period, expanding almost twice as fast as in the State as a whole.

On the flip side, the region lost 3,300 manufacturing jobs between 1992 and 1996. The

largest loss came from manufacturers of transportation equipment (such as United Technologies Corporation), trimming 800 of their local workforce. Still, manufacturing employment in the New Haven LMA was not as greatly affected as it was in the State overall. Some sectors, such as electronic component manufacturers have actually increased the number of their employees by 20.5 percent. Plus, there is other good news related to manufacturing in the area. For example, Allied Signal (electronics navigation equipment) is expected to relocate to Cheshire from



Norwood, Massachusetts, creating 300 engineering, administrative, and manufacturing jobs some time this year. FireLite Alarms/Notifier of North Branford will be expanding, which will create opportunities for 100 to 200 more workers. When it comes to earnings, however, real manufacturing wages in the area have been declining since 1993, and workers have been paid at a lower rate than statewide.

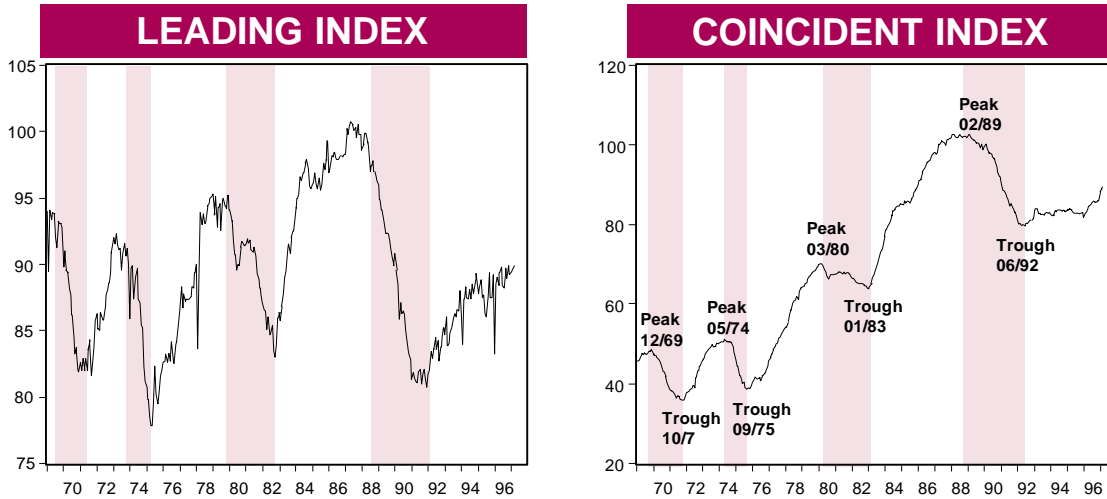
Another major industry group that faced a shrinking payroll was Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (FIRE). From 1992 to 1996 FIRE employers laid off 1,500 workers, affecting the New Haven area more harshly than in

the State as a whole. Employment in the Transportation and Public Utilities sector, which includes Southern New England Telephone in the region, has been flat, while the State experienced 7.5 percent job growth. Government sector employment decreased by 2.8 percent during the same period in the New Haven LMA, but the State's rose 7.8 percent. (However, Indian tribal government employment is included in the State figure. Without it, statewide government employment would have risen nominally at best.)

Although the New Haven Labor Market Area's employment growth has been slower than the State's in recent years, the prospect for the region is promising. By September this year, Omni Hotel is expected to operate the former Park Plaza in New Haven after it undergoes a \$23 million renovation which will add 250 jobs. Moreover, Williams Specialty Steel Inc., a new stain-

less steel plant, is to be built in New Haven, which will lift the manufacturing industry. Over the next two years, 3,000 construction jobs will be created to build the 250,000 square foot plant that will eventually add 350 permanent blue-collar jobs that pay \$40,000 or more annually. This will also stimulate nearly 1,000 additional "multiplier" jobs in the region to serve the plant and its employees. Plus, if the Marketplace at Long Wharf Mall opens up in New Haven by year 2000, it would create thousands of new construction, retail, and services jobs in the process. All this will help the economy of the New Haven Labor Market Area to prosper into the next millennium. ■

# LEADING AND COINCIDENT INDICATORS



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

## The Twin Peaks of the Current Recovery

**B**oth the Connecticut coincident and leading employment indexes, barometers of current and future employment activity, climbed to their respective peaks in the current expansion with the release of (preliminary) March data. The first quarter movements in the coincident index (see chart) experienced a more rapid growth rate than has been the norm during the current expansion, increasing by 3.6 percent in these three months (or just over 15 percent on an annual basis). This acceleration in the movement of the coincident index, which we mentioned in last month's report, mirrors a similar pattern in this index last year at about this time.

Connecticut's leading employment index rose in both January and March, but remained unchanged in February. As such, the leading index continues to bounce around, as we have reported in this space in previous months. 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 currently, however, has climbed to its peak in the current expansion.

The coincident and leading employment indexes continue to send signals consistent with a continuation of the current expansion. Except for the continuing lack of a clear upward movement in the leading index, no signs have appeared on the horizon indicating that the expansion may be in its final phase. Of course, Connecticut's economic vitality relies critically on the continued recovery of the national economy. Concerns about the Federal Reserve's recent attempts to head off inflationary pressures by applying the monetary brakes raise serious questions about the future of the national recovery. Connecticut's expansion will not likely continue for long after the national expansion heads south. But, as we noted in last month's story, our next recession may be much less severe than the last

because of the restructuring and downsizing that Connecticut experienced during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 83.2 in March 1996 to 89.2 in March 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 89.0 in March 1996 to 89.9 in March 1997. Three 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, and lower initial claims for unemployment insurance. Hartford help-wanted advertising remained unchanged on a year-over-year basis while 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]. Kathryn E. Parr [(860) 486-3022, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Total nonfarm employment increased by 23,000 from last year. Services and government sectors added 15,800 and 5,400 jobs, respectively, while the finance, insurance, and real estate and manufacturing industries continued to reduce their workforce.

## EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

	APR		CHANGE		MAR
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)					
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	1,599.9	1,576.9	23.0	1.5	1,598.6
<b>Private Sector</b>	1,371.4	1,353.8	17.6	1.3	1,373.3
Construction and Mining	54.2	52.3	1.9	3.6	53.9
Manufacturing	274.0	275.6	-1.6	-0.6	273.6
Transportation, Public Utilities	74.5	73.4	1.1	1.5	74.0
Wholesale, Retail Trade	347.1	344.9	2.2	0.6	349.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	128.9	130.7	-1.8	-1.4	129.0
Services	492.7	476.9	15.8	3.3	493.1
<b>Government</b>	228.5	223.1	5.4	2.4	225.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent from March, but was still well below last year's 5.7 percent. The number of employed residents of Connecticut continued to rise as the unemployed fell over the year.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

	APR		CHANGE		MAR
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
(Seasonally adjusted)					
<b>Unemployment Rate, resident (%)</b>	5.2	5.7	-0.5	---	4.9
<b>Labor Force, resident (000s)</b>	1,740.6	1,718.3	22.3	1.3	1,732.6
Employed (000s)	1,650.7	1,619.8	30.9	1.9	1,646.9
Unemployed (000s)	89.8	98.5	-8.7	-8.8	85.7
<b>Average Weekly Initial Claims*</b>	4,335	4,274	61	1.4	3,880
<b>Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)</b>	36	34	2	5.9	34
<b>Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)</b>	2.32	2.78	-0.46	---	2.44

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

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

Manufacturing average weekly earnings increased by 3.5 percent from last April. Output grew also, as both production worker hours and productivity rose over the year.

## MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	APR		CHANGE		MAR
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
(Not seasonally adjusted)					
<b>Average Weekly Hours</b>	42.5	42.0	0.5	1.2	42.4
<b>Average Hourly Earnings</b>	\$14.28	\$13.96	\$0.32	2.3	\$14.27
<b>Average Weekly Earnings</b>	\$606.90	\$586.32	\$20.58	3.5	\$605.05
<b>Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*</b>	120.8	117.6	3.2	2.7	116.9
<b>Production Worker Hours (000s)</b>	6,782	6,745	37	0.5	6,737
<b>Productivity Index (1982=100)*</b>	184.5	180.8	3.7	2.0	184.1

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

\*Seasonally adjusted

Inflation-adjusted personal income for second quarter 1997 is forecasted to grow 1.4 percent from a year ago.

## INCOME (Quarterly)

	2Q*		CHANGE		1Q*
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
(Seasonally adjusted)					
(Annualized; \$ Millions)					
<b>UI Covered Wages</b>	\$59,014	\$57,054	\$1,960	3.4	\$58,404
<b>Personal Income</b>	\$112,245	\$108,180	\$4,065	3.8	\$111,343
<b>Real Personal Income**</b>	\$70,066	\$69,125	\$941	1.4	\$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)

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 %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
New Housing Permits	APR 1997	1,036	57.0	2,894	1,942	49.0
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	FEB 1997	2,254	-7.7	4,879	5,091	-4.2
Retail Sales (Bil. \$)	FEB 1997	2.20	7.3	4.49	4.12	9.0
<b>Construction Contracts</b>						
Index (1980=100)	MAR 1997	205.7	-19.5	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	APR 1997	18,038	20.8	68,827	54,500	26.3
Air Cargo Tons	MAR 1997	12,368	21.0	37,181	29,699	25.2

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 57.0 percent compared with April 1996. Construction contracts were down from a prior year peak, but still higher than the previous month.

## BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	APR	% CHANGE		YEAR TO DATE	
	1997	M/M	Y/Y	NO.	% CHG
<b>STARTS</b>					
Secretary of the State	1,500	-17.5	33.6	5,727	13.2
Department of Labor	904	24.0	9.7	3,671	8.1
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>					
Secretary of the State	315	-11.5	67.6	1,273	58.1
Department of Labor	1,839	218.2	-45.8	4,488	-18.2

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 33.6 and 67.6 percent, respectively, compared with a year ago, for a net gain of 4,454 establishments so far this year.

## STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

	APR			FISCAL YEAR TOTALS		
	1997	APR 1996	% CHG	1996-97	1995-96	% CHG
(Millions of dollars)						
<b>TOTAL ALL TAXES*</b>	1,067.5	990.1	7.8	6,169.0	5,874.8	5.0
Corporate Tax	48.1	60.1	-20.0	485.9	533.8	-9.0
Personal Income Tax	566.7	476.7	18.9	2,436.8	2,217.9	9.9
Real Estate Conv. Tax	5.8	4.4	1.4	58.7	51.2	14.6
Sales & Use Tax	237.4	231.6	2.5	1,925.5	1,821.2	5.7

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 5.0 percent. Only corporate tax collections were down for a total of 9.0 percent.

## TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
Tourism Inquiries	APR 1997	26,941	-39.3	82,094	103,260	-20.5
Info Center Visitors	APR 1997	23,361	-18.8	90,440	95,283	-5.1
Major Attraction Visitors	APR 1997	150,503	12.9	445,077	344,791	29.1
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	APR 1997	74.4	7.4	65.8	63.9	3.0
Air Passenger Count	MAR 1997	474,401	-2.8	1,268,177	1,295,527	-2.1

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 12.9 percent for the month and 29.1 percent for the year to date. Hotel occupancy in April was also up 7.4 percent from the same month a year ago and 3.0 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)

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	MAR 1997	DEC 1996	3-Mo % Chg	MAR 1997	MAR 1996	12-Mo % Chg
<b>UNITED STATES TOTAL</b>	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
<b>NORTHEAST TOTAL</b>	---	---	---	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 cost of living as measured by the April annual inflation rate was 2.5 percent. U.S. and New England consumer confidence were up 11.5 and 51.9 percent, respectively, from April a year ago.

## CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	APR	MAR	APR	% CHG	
	1997	1997	1996	M/M	Y/Y
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)</b>					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	160.2	160.0	156.3	0.1	2.5
Northeast Region	167.1	167.3	162.9	-0.1	2.6
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	170.2	170.7	166.0	-0.3	2.5
Boston-Lawrence-Salem*	---	168.1	---	---	3.3
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	157.2	157.0	153.6	0.1	2.3
<b>CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)</b>					
U.S.	116.8	118.5	104.8	-1.4	11.5
New England	89.9	90.6	59.2	-0.8	51.9

\*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

Monetary restraint in March boosted all short- and long-term rates from the previous month and a year ago. The 30-year mortgage rate of 8.14 percent was also higher.

## INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	APR 1997	MAR 1997	APR 1996
Prime	8.50	8.30	8.25
Federal Funds	5.51	5.39	5.22
3 Month Treasury Bill	5.17	5.14	4.09
6 Month Treasury Bill	5.35	5.24	5.08
1 Year Treasury Bill	5.99	5.80	5.54
3 Year Treasury Bill	6.61	6.38	6.11
5 Year Treasury Bond	6.76	6.54	6.30
7 Year Treasury Bond	6.86	6.65	6.48
10 Year Treasury Bond	6.89	6.69	6.51
30 Year Treasury Bond	7.09	6.93	6.79
Conventional Mortgage	8.14	7.90	7.93

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.



## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	APR	APR	CHANGE		MAR
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
<b>Connecticut</b>	1,599.9	1,576.9	23.0	1.5	1,598.6
<b>Maine</b>	546.2	539.6	6.6	1.2	546.5
<b>Massachusetts</b>	3,091.8	3,017.2	74.6	2.5	3,083.3
<b>New Hampshire</b>	568.0	559.0	9.0	1.6	568.0
<b>New Jersey</b>	3,691.7	3,624.7	67.0	1.8	3,691.0
<b>New York</b>	7,982.6	7,899.4	83.2	1.1	7,977.3
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	5,409.9	5,296.7	113.2	2.1	5,393.0
<b>Rhode Island</b>	445.4	440.7	4.7	1.1	444.1
<b>Vermont</b>	277.5	275.0	2.5	0.9	277.2
<b>United States</b>	121,577.0	118,922.0	2,655.0	2.2	121,435.0

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

Over the year, Connecticut's employment grew 1.5 percent, which was slower than the nation's 2.2 percent.

## LABOR FORCE

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	APR	APR	CHANGE		MAR
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
<b>Connecticut</b>	1,740.6	1,718.3	22.3	1.3	1,732.6
<b>Maine</b>	668.7	665.5	3.2	0.5	672.6
<b>Massachusetts</b>	3,233.9	3,184.0	49.9	1.6	3,217.0
<b>New Hampshire</b>	643.8	626.2	17.6	2.8	640.9
<b>New Jersey</b>	4,138.7	4,108.0	30.7	0.7	4,132.6
<b>New York</b>	8,714.5	8,616.2	98.3	1.1	8,705.9
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	5,979.9	5,893.2	86.7	1.5	5,980.6
<b>Rhode Island</b>	500.8	492.8	8.0	1.6	498.2
<b>Vermont</b>	327.8	324.2	3.6	1.1	328.5
<b>United States</b>	136,098.0	133,427.0	2,671.0	2.0	136,319.0

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

Connecticut's labor force increased 1.3 percent from last year, while New Hampshire's grew the largest in the region at 2.8 percent.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

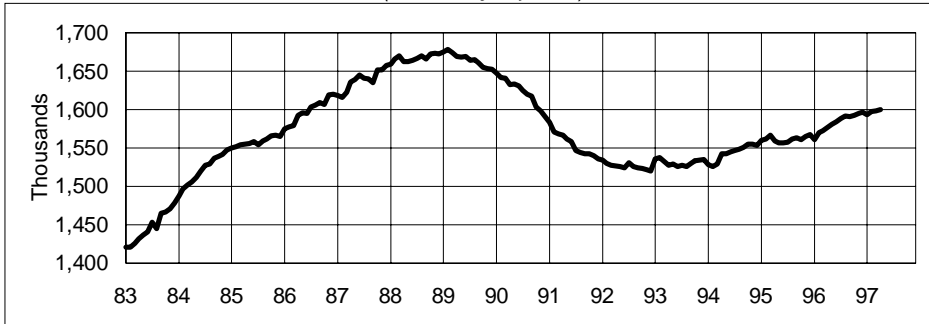
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	APR	APR	CHANGE	MAR
	1997	1996		1997
<b>Connecticut</b>	5.2	5.7	-0.5	4.9
<b>Maine</b>	4.7	5.2	-0.5	4.4
<b>Massachusetts</b>	4.1	4.6	-0.5	4.0
<b>New Hampshire</b>	2.7	4.2	-1.5	2.1
<b>New Jersey</b>	5.2	6.3	-1.1	5.5
<b>New York</b>	6.3	6.4	-0.1	6.3
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	5.3	5.5	-0.2	5.1
<b>Rhode Island</b>	5.1	5.2	-0.1	4.9
<b>Vermont</b>	3.9	4.5	-0.6	3.9
<b>United States</b>	4.9	5.5	-0.6	5.2

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

Connecticut's unemployment rate rose higher than the nation's in April. New York posted the highest rate, while New Hampshire experienced the lowest rate in the region.

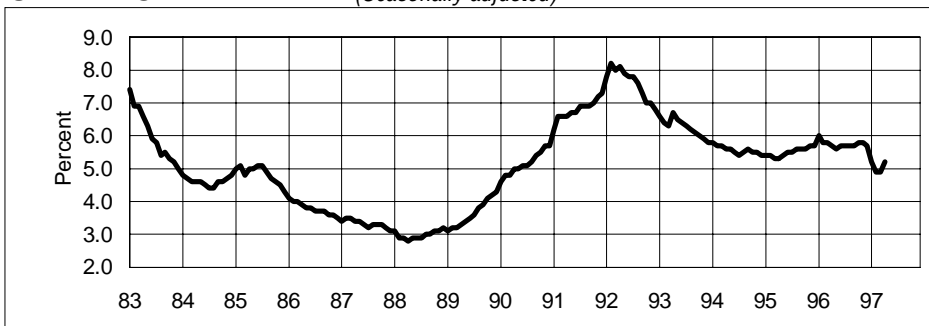
# ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



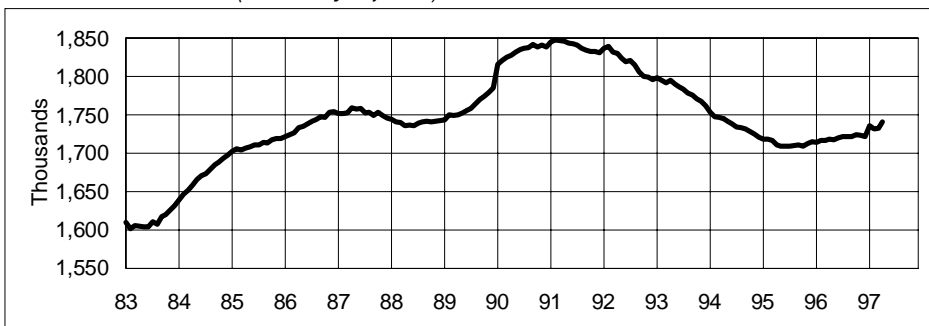
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	1,559.8	1,561.2	1,593.6
Feb	1,561.6	1,569.8	1,597.4
Mar	1,566.7	1,572.5	1,598.6
Apr	1,559.4	1,576.9	1,599.9
May	1,556.8	1,581.0	
Jun	1,556.8	1,584.2	
Jul	1,557.7	1,588.0	
Aug	1,561.9	1,591.9	
Sep	1,563.1	1,590.9	
Oct	1,560.8	1,592.5	
Nov	1,565.4	1,595.3	
Dec	1,567.2	1,596.5	

## 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	5.2
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	1,732.6
Apr	1,710.6	1,718.3	1,740.6
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	

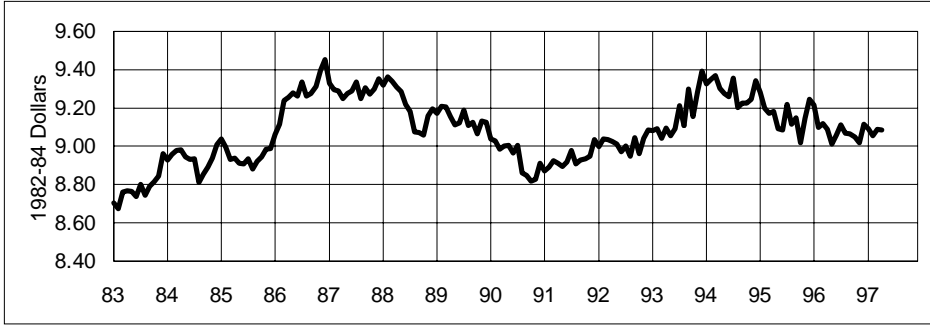
## AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS\* (Seasonally adjusted)



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	4,335
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	

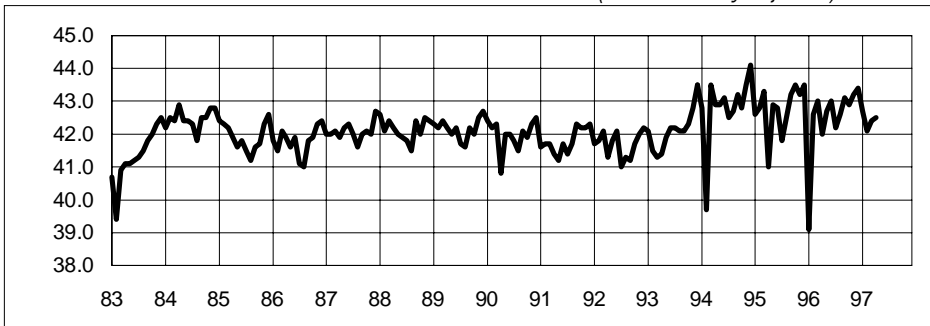
\* The methodology for this series has been revised; See Technical Notes, p.23.

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



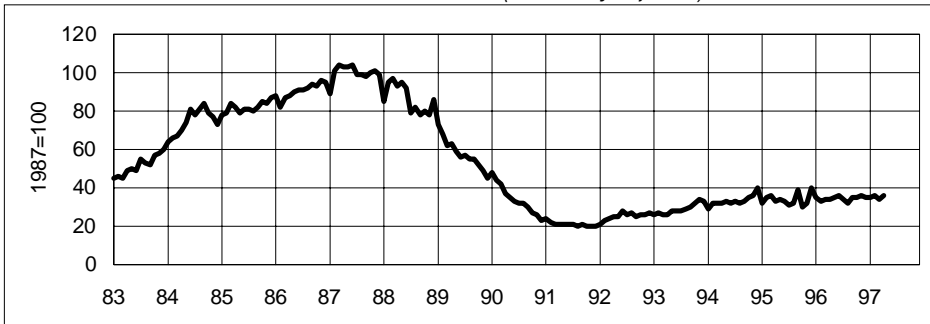
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	\$9.28	\$9.22	\$9.09
Feb	9.20	9.10	9.06
Mar	9.17	9.12	9.09
Apr	9.18	9.09	9.08
May	9.09	9.01	
Jun	9.09	9.06	
Jul	9.22	9.11	
Aug	9.11	9.07	
Sep	9.15	9.07	
Oct	9.02	9.05	
Nov	9.15	9.02	
Dec	9.24	9.11	

## AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



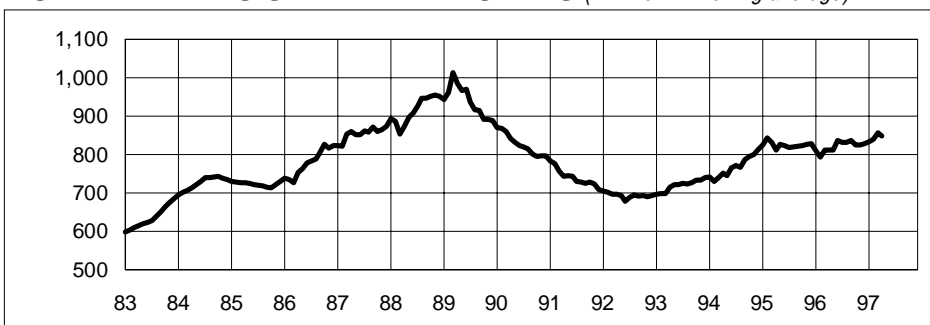
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	42.6	39.1	42.7
Feb	42.8	42.6	42.1
Mar	43.3	43.0	42.4
Apr	41.0	42.0	42.5
May	42.9	42.7	
Jun	42.8	43.0	
Jul	41.8	42.2	
Aug	42.5	42.6	
Sep	43.2	43.1	
Oct	43.5	42.9	
Nov	43.2	43.2	
Dec	43.5	43.4	

## 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	36
May	34	35	
Jun	33	36	
Jul	31	34	
Aug	32	32	
Sep	39	35	
Oct	30	35	
Nov	32	36	
Dec	40	35	

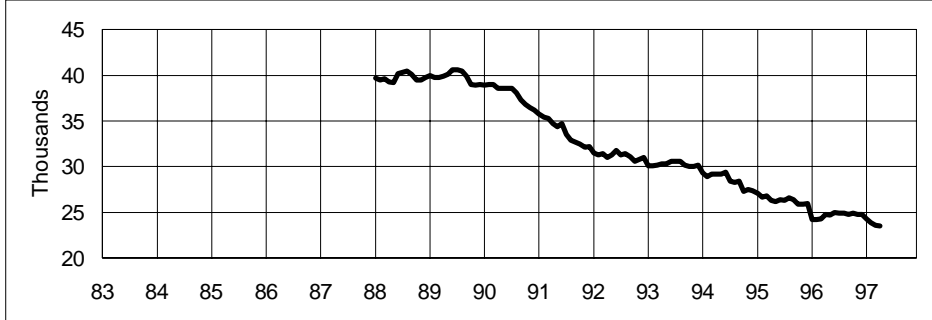
## DOL NEWLY REGISTERED EMPLOYERS *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	826	810	833
Feb	844	794	840
Mar	833	812	856
Apr	813	813	849
May	827	811	
Jun	824	838	
Jul	819	833	
Aug	821	833	
Sep	822	838	
Oct	823	825	
Nov	827	825	
Dec	828	828	

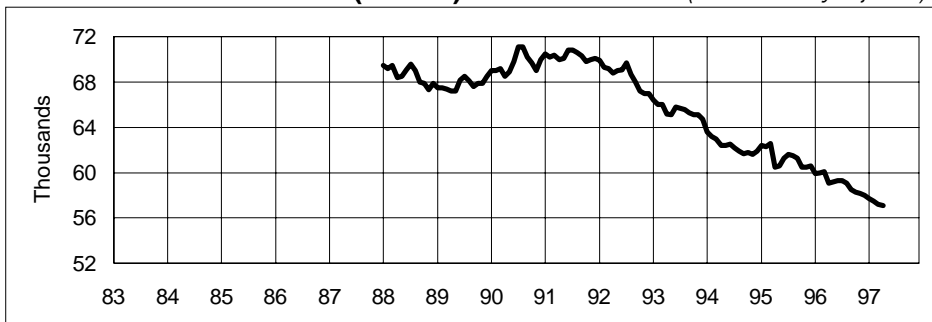
# ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

## DEPOSITORY BANKING (SIC 60) EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



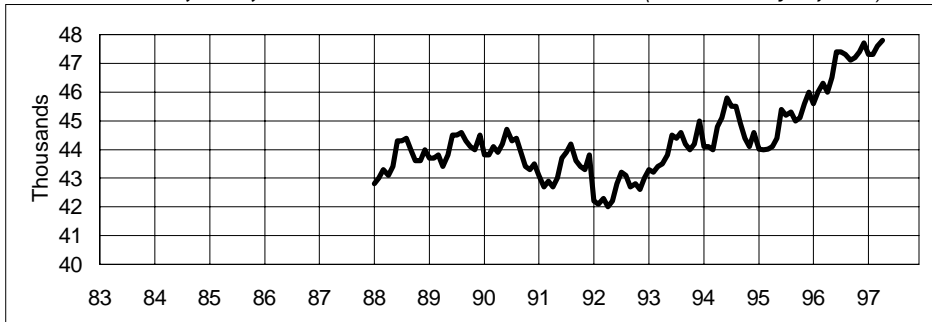
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	27.1	24.2	24.3
Feb	26.7	24.2	23.9
Mar	26.8	24.3	23.6
Apr	26.3	24.8	23.5
May	26.2	24.7	
Jun	26.4	25.0	
Jul	26.3	24.9	
Aug	26.6	24.9	
Sep	26.4	24.8	
Oct	25.9	24.9	
Nov	25.9	24.8	
Dec	26.0	24.8	

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



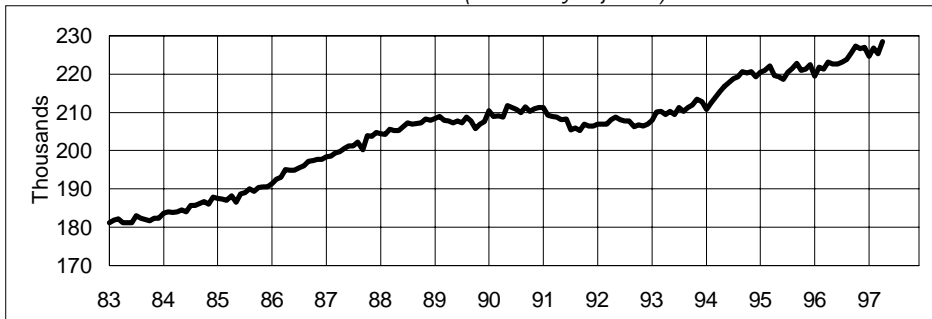
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	62.4	59.9	57.7
Feb	62.3	60.0	57.5
Mar	62.6	60.1	57.2
Apr	60.5	59.1	57.1
May	60.6	59.2	
Jun	61.3	59.3	
Jul	61.6	59.3	
Aug	61.5	59.1	
Sep	61.3	58.5	
Oct	60.5	58.3	
Nov	60.5	58.2	
Dec	60.6	58.0	

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



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	44.0	45.6	47.3
Feb	44.0	46.0	47.3
Mar	44.0	46.3	47.6
Apr	44.1	46.0	47.8
May	44.4	46.5	
Jun	45.4	47.4	
Jul	45.2	47.4	
Aug	45.3	47.3	
Sep	45.0	47.1	
Oct	45.1	47.2	
Nov	45.6	47.4	
Dec	46.0	47.7	

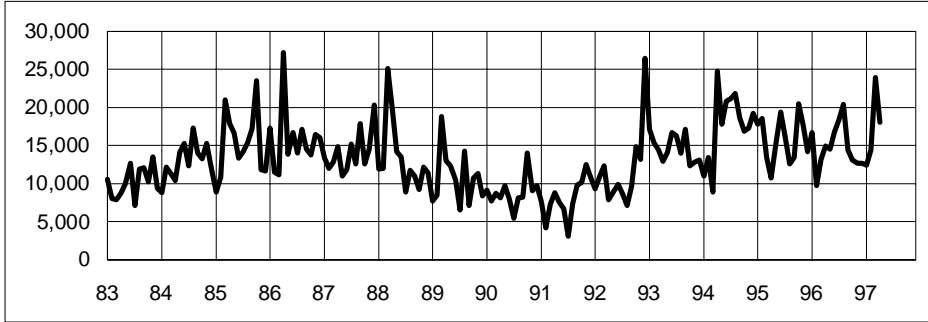
## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT\* *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	220.4	219.4	224.7
Feb	220.9	221.7	226.8
Mar	222.1	221.2	225.3
Apr	219.6	223.1	228.5
May	219.2	222.6	
Jun	218.6	222.6	
Jul	220.4	223.1	
Aug	221.4	223.7	
Sep	222.7	225.4	
Oct	221.0	227.3	
Nov	221.2	226.7	
Dec	222.5	227.0	

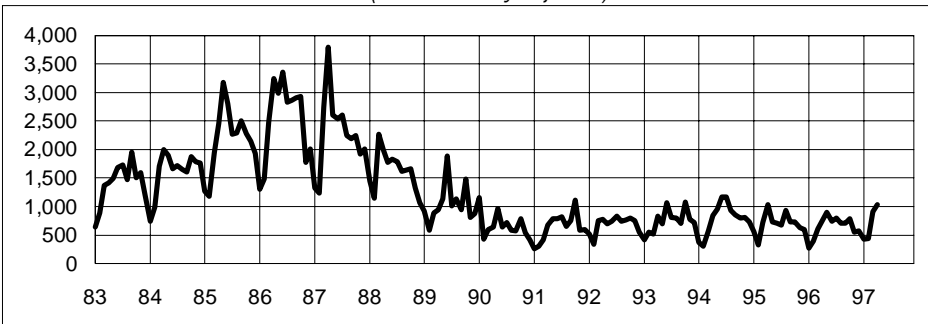
\*Includes Indian tribal government employment

## NEW AUTO REGISTRATIONS PROCESSED *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



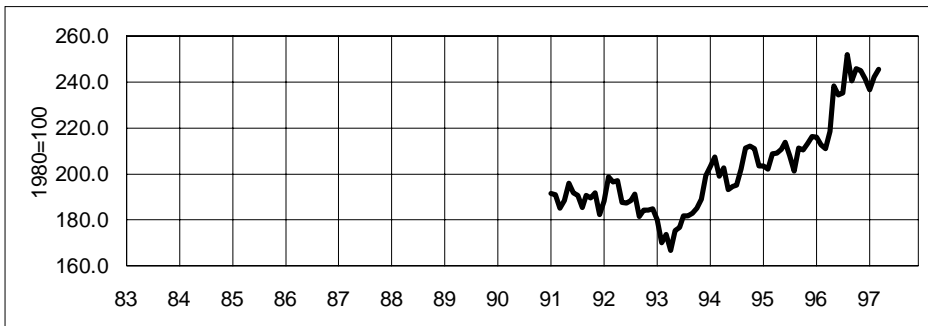
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	17,777	16,714	12,436
Feb	18,580	9,724	14,401
Mar	13,422	13,132	23,952
Apr	10,777	14,930	18,038
May	15,516	14,492	
Jun	19,419	16,812	
Jul	16,107	18,412	
Aug	12,552	20,409	
Sep	13,413	14,420	
Oct	20,463	13,059	
Nov	17,740	12,676	
Dec	14,196	12,684	

## NEW HOUSING PERMITS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



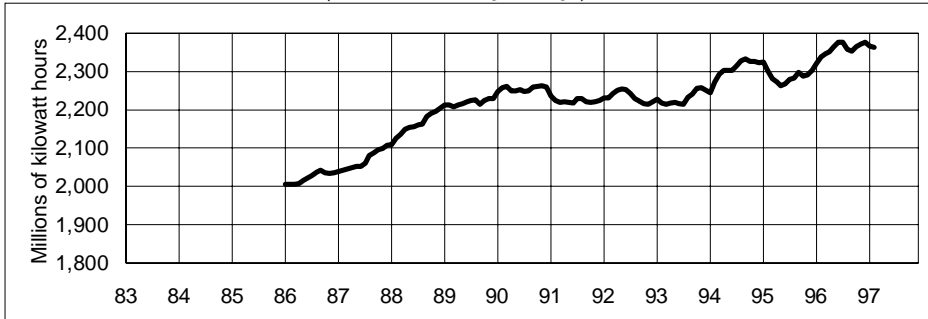
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	566	277	433
Feb	323	398	442
Mar	721	609	909
Apr	1,032	755	1,036
May	735	902	
Jun	709	744	
Jul	674	797	
Aug	934	707	
Sep	726	708	
Oct	727	792	
Nov	629	554	
Dec	598	574	

## CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS INDEX *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	203.5	216.2	236.8
Feb	202.3	212.9	242.4
Mar	208.8	211.1	245.7
Apr	209.2	218.5	
May	210.9	238.3	
Jun	213.9	234.4	
Jul	207.9	235.5	
Aug	201.4	251.9	
Sep	211.5	240.7	
Oct	210.6	245.8	
Nov	213.2	244.9	
Dec	216.5	241.5	

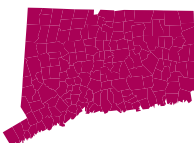
## ELECTRICITY SALES *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	2,324	2,321	2,366
Feb	2,301	2,338	2,364
Mar	2,282	2,347	
Apr	2,273	2,352	
May	2,263	2,365	
Jun	2,269	2,377	
Jul	2,279	2,376	
Aug	2,283	2,358	
Sep	2,299	2,354	
Oct	2,287	2,365	
Nov	2,291	2,371	
Dec	2,303	2,377	

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## CONNECTICUT



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				MAR 1997
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>1,596,400 *</b>	<b>1,571,800 *</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1,585,100 *</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>325,800</b>	<b>325,000 *</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>322,000</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>52,200</b>	<b>50,400</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>48,600</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>273,600</b>	<b>274,600 *</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>273,400</b>
<b>Durable</b> .....	<b>192,500</b>	<b>194,200</b>	<b>-1,700</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>192,400</b>
Lumber & Furniture .....	4,800	4,700	100	2.1	4,800
Stone, Clay & Glass .....	2,500	2,800	-300	-10.7	2,500
Primary Metals .....	9,100	9,100	0	0.0	9,200
Fabricated Metals .....	33,900	33,900	0	0.0	34,000
Machinery & Computer Equipment .....	35,800	35,500	300	0.8	35,700
Electronic & Electrical Equipment .....	28,700	28,400	300	1.1	28,400
Transportation Equipment .....	48,500	50,600	-2,100	-4.2	48,500
Instruments .....	22,800	22,700	100	0.4	22,900
Miscellaneous Manufacturing .....	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.5	6,400
<b>Nondurable</b> .....	<b>81,100</b>	<b>80,400 *</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>81,000</b>
Food .....	9,000	8,700	300	3.4	9,000
Textiles .....	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,000
Apparel .....	4,300	4,400	-100	-2.3	4,400
Paper .....	7,800	7,900	-100	-1.3	7,900
Printing & Publishing .....	25,500	24,800	700	2.8	25,500
Chemicals .....	19,400	19,800 *	-400	-2.0	19,400
Rubber & Plastics .....	10,800	10,600	200	1.9	10,600
Other Nondurable Manufacturing .....	2,300	2,100	200	9.5	2,200
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>1,270,600 *</b>	<b>1,246,800 *</b>	<b>23,800</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1,263,100 *</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>74,300</b>	<b>72,800</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>73,600</b>
Transportation .....	43,500	42,700	800	1.9	42,900
Motor Freight & Warehousing .....	11,700	11,800	-100	-0.8	11,500
Other Transportation .....	31,800	30,900	900	2.9	31,400
Communications .....	18,500	17,500	1,000	5.7	18,400
Utilities .....	12,300	12,600	-300	-2.4	12,300
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>343,100 *</b>	<b>339,700 *</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>342,400 *</b>
Wholesale .....	81,600 *	80,200 *	1,400	1.7	81,600 *
Retail .....	261,500	259,500	2,000	0.8	260,800
General Merchandise .....	27,200	26,600	600	2.3	27,600
Food Stores .....	50,400	50,400	0	0.0	50,500
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations .....	26,800	26,400	400	1.5	26,800
Restaurants .....	75,400	75,200	200	0.3	74,100
Other Retail Trade .....	81,700	80,900	800	1.0	81,800
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>128,400</b>	<b>129,900</b>	<b>-1,500</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>128,400</b>
Finance .....	45,100	45,300	-200	-0.4	45,000
Banking .....	23,500	24,800	-1,300	-5.2	23,600
Insurance .....	67,900	69,900	-2,000	-2.9	68,100
Insurance Carriers .....	57,100	59,100	-2,000	-3.4	57,200
Real Estate .....	15,400	14,700	700	4.8	15,400
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>492,200</b>	<b>475,900</b>	<b>16,300</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>487,700</b>
Hotels & Lodging Places .....	10,500	10,300	200	1.9	10,100
Personal Services .....	19,400	18,900	500	2.6	19,600
Business Services .....	100,100	91,400	8,700	9.5	99,900
Health Services .....	156,200	153,700	2,500	1.6	156,200
Legal & Professional Services .....	50,100	48,800	1,300	2.7	49,900
Educational Services .....	41,000	40,500	500	1.2	40,400
Other Services .....	114,900	112,300	2,600	2.3	111,600
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>232,600</b>	<b>228,500</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>231,000</b>
Federal .....	22,200	23,700	-1,500	-6.3	22,100
**State, Local & Other Government .....	210,400	204,800	5,600	2.7	208,900

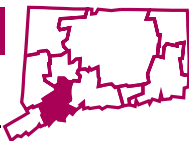
For further information contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 566-3470.

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.

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

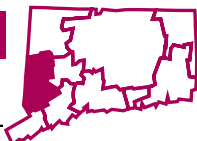
## BRIDGEPORT LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				MAR 1997
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>180,100</b>	<b>179,500</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>179,200</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>45,200</b>	<b>45,500</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>44,600</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,300</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>39,800</b>
Durable Goods .....	32,600	32,900	-300	-0.9	32,500
Fabricated Metals .....	4,400	4,200	200	4.8	4,400
Industrial Machinery .....	6,300	6,200	100	1.6	6,200
Electronic Equipment .....	6,300	6,500	-200	-3.1	6,200
Transportation Equipment .....	9,200	9,800	-600	-6.1	9,100
Nondurable Goods .....	7,400	7,400	0	0.0	7,300
Printing & Publishing .....	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,000
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>134,900</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>134,600</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>7,300</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>7,200</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>40,400</b>	<b>40,200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>39,800</b>
Wholesale .....	10,000	9,900	100	1.0	9,900
Retail .....	30,400	30,300	100	0.3	29,900
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>10,500</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>56,600</b>	<b>56,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>57,200</b>
Business Services .....	11,800	11,500	300	2.6	12,100
Health Services .....	18,900	19,200	-300	-1.6	19,100
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>20,100</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>19,900</b>
Federal .....	1,900	2,000	-100	-5.0	1,900
State & Local .....	18,200	18,100	100	0.6	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
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>83,800</b>	<b>82,300</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>84,200</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>21,900</b>	<b>21,700</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>21,900</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>19,000</b>	<b>18,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>19,100</b>
Durable Goods .....	10,000	9,800	200	2.0	10,000
Machinery & Electric Equipment .....	5,300	5,100	200	3.9	5,200
Instruments .....	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,800
Nondurable Goods .....	9,000	9,100	-100	-1.1	9,100
Printing & Publishing .....	2,700	2,600	100	3.8	2,800
Chemicals .....	3,200	3,400	-200	-5.9	3,300
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>61,900</b>	<b>60,600</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>62,300</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>21,400</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>21,700</b>
Wholesale .....	4,200	4,100	100	2.4	4,200
Retail .....	17,200	17,100	100	0.6	17,500
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>4,200</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>4,200</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>23,800</b>	<b>23,300</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>23,800</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>9,700</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>9,800</b>
Federal .....	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local .....	8,900	8,700	200	2.3	9,000

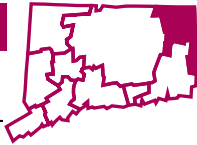
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

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.

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## DANIELSON LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1997
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>20,400</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>20,200</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,600</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>1,000</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>5,700</b>
Durable Goods .....	2,300	2,700	-400	-14.8	2,400
Nondurable Goods .....	3,300	3,100	200	6.5	3,300
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>13,800</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>13,600</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>500</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>5,100</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Wholesale .....	800	700	100	14.3	800
Retail .....	4,300	4,200	100	2.4	4,200
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,200</b>
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 Slepki at (860) 566-7823.

## HARTFORD LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1997
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>586,700</b>	<b>587,100</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>584,400</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>110,300</b>	<b>107,700</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>108,500</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>18,600</b>	<b>18,100</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>91,700</b>	<b>89,600</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>91,500</b>
Durable Goods .....	72,200	70,300	1,900	2.7	72,100
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	17,500	17,100	400	2.3	17,600
Industrial Machinery .....	15,700	15,200	500	3.3	15,700
Electronic Equipment .....	5,900	5,900	0	0.0	5,900
Transportation Equipment .....	25,000	24,100	900	3.7	24,900
Nondurable Goods .....	19,500	19,300	200	1.0	19,400
Printing & Publishing .....	7,500	7,500	0	0.0	7,500
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>476,400</b>	<b>479,400</b>	<b>-3,000</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>475,900</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>26,300</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>26,300</b>
Transportation .....	15,600	15,600	0	0.0	15,600
Communications & Utilities .....	10,700	10,100	600	5.9	10,700
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>119,600</b>	<b>121,700</b>	<b>-2,100</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>119,000</b>
Wholesale .....	28,800	28,600	200	0.7	28,800
Retail .....	90,800	93,100	-2,300	-2.5	90,200
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>66,400</b>	<b>69,600</b>	<b>-3,200</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>66,600</b>
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions .....	10,100	10,400	-300	-2.9	10,100
Insurance Carriers .....	43,900	47,100	-3,200	-6.8	43,900
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>168,700</b>	<b>164,700</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>168,900</b>
Health Services .....	58,200	57,900	300	0.5	58,400
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>95,400</b>	<b>97,700</b>	<b>-2,300</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>95,100</b>
Federal .....	8,600	8,700	-100	-1.1	8,500
State & Local .....	86,800	89,000	-2,200	-2.5	86,600

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

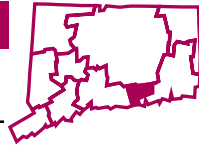
*Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.*

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



# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

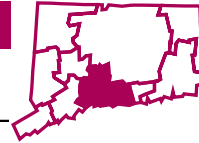
## LOWER RIVER LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				MAR 1997
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>9,300</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>9,300</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>3,500</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3,100</b>
Durable Goods .....	2,500	2,300	200	8.7	2,400
Electronic Equipment .....	800	800	0	0.0	800
Other Durable Goods .....	1,700	1,500	200	13.3	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
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>5,700</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5,800</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2,100</b>
Wholesale .....	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail .....	1,700	1,500	200	13.3	1,700
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-4.2</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>700</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-12.5</b>	<b>800</b>
Federal .....	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local .....	700	800	-100	-12.5	800

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

## NEW HAVEN LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				MAR 1997
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>246,800 *</b>	<b>242,100 *</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>244,000 *</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>47,600</b>	<b>47,200</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>47,000</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>8,900</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8,300</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>38,700</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>38,700</b>
Durable Goods .....	24,900	25,000	-100	-0.4	24,800
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	6,700	7,000	-300	-4.3	6,700
Electronic Equipment .....	5,200	5,300	-100	-1.9	5,200
Nondurable Goods .....	13,800	14,000	-200	-1.4	13,900
Paper, Printing & Publishing .....	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,300
Chemicals & Allied .....	5,000	5,100	-100	-2.0	5,000
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>199,200 *</b>	<b>194,900 *</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>197,000 *</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>15,900</b>	<b>15,700</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>15,800</b>
Communications & Utilities .....	8,300	8,600	-300	-3.5	8,200
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>51,800 *</b>	<b>49,700 *</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>51,800 *</b>
Wholesale .....	11,800 *	11,600 *	200	1.7	11,700 *
Retail .....	40,000	38,100	1,900	5.0	40,100
Eating & Drinking Places .....	12,400	11,100	1,300	11.7	11,900
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>13,700</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>13,800</b>
Finance .....	3,900	4,000	-100	-2.5	3,900
Insurance .....	7,800	7,400	400	5.4	7,800
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>86,300</b>	<b>84,500</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>83,800</b>
Business Services .....	12,200	11,400	800	7.0	12,000
Health Services .....	28,500	28,700	-200	-0.7	28,600
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>31,500</b>	<b>31,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>31,800</b>
Federal .....	5,500	5,600	-100	-1.8	5,500
State & Local .....	26,000	25,900	100	0.4	26,300

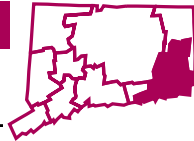
For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact J. Charles Joo at (860) 566-3470.

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

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

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

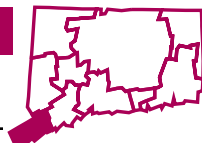
## NEW LONDON LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	%	MAR 1997
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>133,900</b>	<b>131,200</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>133,300</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>28,400</b>	<b>30,300</b>	<b>-1,900</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>28,500</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3,800</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>24,400</b>	<b>26,400</b>	<b>-2,000</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>24,700</b>
Durable Goods .....	15,300	17,200	-1,900	-11.0	15,400
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,200
Other Durable Goods .....	13,200	15,000	-1,800	-12.0	13,200
Nondurable Goods .....	9,100	9,200	-100	-1.1	9,300
Paper & Allied .....	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods .....	6,800	6,800	0	0.0	6,900
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>105,500</b>	<b>100,900</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>104,800</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>6,400</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>6,300</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>26,900</b>	<b>26,700</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>26,600</b>
Wholesale .....	3,000	2,900	100	3.4	3,000
Retail .....	23,900	23,800	100	0.4	23,600
Eating & Drinking Places .....	7,500	7,500	0	0.0	7,300
Other Retail .....	16,400	16,300	100	0.6	16,200
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3,600</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>33,600</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>33,400</b>
Personal & Business Services .....	6,400	6,300	100	1.6	6,500
Health Services .....	11,300	11,200	100	0.9	11,300
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>35,000</b>	<b>31,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>34,900</b>
Federal .....	2,700	3,700	-1,000	-27.0	2,700
State & Local .....	32,300	27,800	4,500	16.2	32,200
**Local .....	28,100	23,100	5,000	21.6	28,000

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

## STAMFORD LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	%	MAR 1997
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>196,900</b>	<b>193,300</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>196,800</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>33,400</b>	<b>33,500</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>33,500</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>28,200</b>	<b>28,400</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>28,500</b>
Durable Goods .....	14,900	15,200	-300	-2.0	15,100
Industrial Machinery .....	4,200	4,100	100	2.4	4,200
Electronic Equipment .....	2,800	2,600	200	7.7	2,800
Nondurable Goods .....	13,300	13,200	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 .....	3,800	4,100	-300	-7.3	3,900
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>163,500</b>	<b>159,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>163,300</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>9,900</b>
Communications & Utilities .....	3,100	3,000	100	3.3	3,100
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>43,800</b>	<b>43,100</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>43,900</b>
Wholesale .....	11,700	11,500	200	1.7	11,700
Retail .....	32,100	31,600	500	1.6	32,200
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>23,200</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>23,200</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>69,100</b>	<b>67,200</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>68,900</b>
Business Services .....	19,900	19,500	400	2.1	20,300
Engineering & Mgmt. Services .....	9,300	8,900	400	4.5	9,400
Other Services .....	39,900	38,800	1,100	2.8	39,200
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>17,600</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>17,400</b>
Federal .....	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
State & Local .....	15,700	15,800	-100	-0.6	15,500

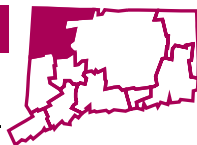
For further information on the Stamford Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 566-7823.

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.

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

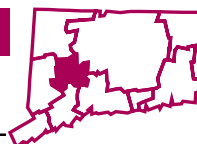
## TORRINGTON LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				MAR 1997
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>27,100</b>	<b>27,400</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>26,800</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>7,400</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>5,900</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>5,900</b>
Durable Goods .....	4,200	4,400	-200	-4.5	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	2,400	-100	-4.2	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
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>19,600</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>19,400</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>800</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>5,400</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>5,300</b>
Wholesale .....	700	700	0	0.0	600
Retail .....	4,700	4,900	-200	-4.1	4,700
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>800</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>9,100</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3,400</b>
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 Slepki at (860) 566-7823.

## WATERBURY LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				MAR 1997
	APR 1997	APR 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>84,000</b>	<b>82,900</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>83,900</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>21,400</b>	<b>21,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>21,300</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>18,400</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>18,500</b>
Durable Goods .....	14,200	14,500	-300	-2.1	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	4,800	-300	-6.3	4,500
Nondurable Goods .....	4,200	4,000	200	5.0	4,200
Paper, Printing & Publishing .....	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	1,200
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>62,600</b>	<b>61,600</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>62,600</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3,500</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>16,800</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>16,800</b>
Wholesale .....	2,900	3,000	-100	-3.3	2,900
Retail .....	13,900	13,500	400	3.0	13,900
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>25,100</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>25,200</b>
Personal & Business .....	6,500	5,900	600	10.2	6,600
Health Services .....	9,900	9,800	100	1.0	9,900
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>12,700</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,700</b>
Federal .....	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local .....	11,900	11,900	0	0.0	11,900

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

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

# LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	APR	APR	CHANGE		MAR
		1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>						
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	Civilian Labor Force	1,723,100	1,701,800	21,300	1.3	1,723,000
	Employed	1,639,200	1,609,100	30,100	1.9	1,635,400
	Unemployed	83,900	92,800	-8,900	-9.6	87,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.5	-0.6	---	5.1
<b>BRIDGEPORT LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	219,800	218,400	1,400	0.6	220,000
	Employed	207,200	204,800	2,400	1.2	206,900
	Unemployed	12,600	13,600	-1,000	-7.4	13,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.7	6.2	-0.5	---	5.9
<b>DANBURY LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	108,200	106,400	1,800	1.7	109,100
	Employed	104,800	102,300	2,500	2.4	105,500
	Unemployed	3,400	4,000	-600	-15.0	3,600
	Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.8	-0.7	---	3.3
<b>DANIELSON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	33,900	33,400	500	1.5	33,900
	Employed	31,900	31,100	800	2.6	31,700
	Unemployed	2,000	2,300	-300	-13.0	2,100
	Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.9	-1.0	---	6.3
<b>HARTFORD LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	588,900	588,300	600	0.1	590,000
	Employed	559,200	554,400	4,800	0.9	557,800
	Unemployed	29,800	33,900	-4,100	-12.1	32,200
	Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.8	-0.7	---	5.5
<b>LOWER RIVER LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	12,200	11,800	400	3.4	12,300
	Employed	11,800	11,300	500	4.4	11,800
	Unemployed	400	500	-100	-20.0	500
	Unemployment Rate	3.3	4.0	-0.7	---	4.1
<b>NEW HAVEN LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	275,600	269,100	6,500	2.4	272,400
	Employed	260,800	254,100	6,700	2.6	258,600
	Unemployed	14,800	15,000	-200	-1.3	13,800
	Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.6	-0.2	---	5.1
<b>NEW LONDON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	153,700	148,800	4,900	3.3	153,400
	Employed	146,200	141,000	5,200	3.7	145,600
	Unemployed	7,500	7,800	-300	-3.8	7,900
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.3	-0.4	---	5.1
<b>STAMFORD LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	191,200	186,600	4,600	2.5	192,100
	Employed	185,600	180,000	5,600	3.1	186,000
	Unemployed	5,600	6,600	-1,000	-15.2	6,100
	Unemployment Rate	2.9	3.5	-0.6	---	3.2
<b>TORRINGTON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	37,800	38,200	-400	-1.0	37,800
	Employed	36,300	36,300	0	0.0	36,000
	Unemployed	1,500	1,900	-400	-21.1	1,800
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.9	-0.8	---	4.8
<b>WATERBURY LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	117,700	116,100	1,600	1.4	118,100
	Employed	110,800	108,400	2,400	2.2	110,800
	Unemployed	6,900	7,600	-700	-9.2	7,300
	Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.6	-0.7	---	6.2
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Civilian Labor Force	135,180,000	132,512,000	2,668,000	2.0	135,524,000
	Employed	128,629,000	125,388,000	3,241,000	2.6	128,125,000
	Unemployed	6,551,000	7,124,000	-573,000	-8.0	7,399,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.4	-0.6	---	5.5

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

# MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	APR		CHG	MAR	APR		CHG	MAR	APR		CHG	MAR
	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>												
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>	\$606.90	\$586.32	\$20.58	\$605.05	42.5	42.0	0.5	42.4	\$14.28	\$13.96	\$0.32	\$14.27
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>	620.17	596.56	23.61	615.40	42.8	42.1	0.7	42.5	14.49	14.17	0.32	14.48
Lumber & Furniture	463.50	442.22	21.28	451.79	41.2	39.1	2.1	39.7	11.25	11.31	-0.06	11.38
Stone, Clay and Glass	577.30	597.32	-20.02	551.74	42.2	43.6	-1.4	40.9	13.68	13.70	-0.02	13.49
Primary Metals	602.99	584.50	18.50	584.98	44.6	45.1	-0.5	43.3	13.52	12.96	0.56	13.51
Fabricated Metals	582.28	558.41	23.87	578.72	43.1	42.4	0.7	42.9	13.51	13.17	0.34	13.49
Machinery	681.62	645.32	36.30	674.69	45.2	44.2	1.0	44.8	15.08	14.60	0.48	15.06
Electrical Equipment	487.86	477.76	10.10	486.79	41.1	41.4	-0.3	40.6	11.87	11.54	0.33	11.99
Trans. Equipment	775.64	721.20	54.43	773.53	42.2	40.7	1.5	42.2	18.38	17.72	0.66	18.33
Instruments	546.48	571.32	-24.84	555.82	41.4	41.4	0.0	42.3	13.20	13.80	-0.60	13.14
Miscellaneous Mfg	573.57	542.93	30.64	564.39	42.9	41.7	1.2	41.9	13.37	13.02	0.35	13.47
<b>NONDUR. GOODS</b>	574.75	558.27	16.48	577.08	41.8	41.6	0.2	42.0	13.75	13.42	0.33	13.74
Food	519.70	505.11	14.59	517.33	43.2	44.7	-1.5	43.4	12.03	11.30	0.73	11.92
Textiles	470.30	470.53	-0.23	455.43	41.4	42.2	-0.8	40.7	11.36	11.15	0.21	11.19
Apparel	334.90	334.36	0.54	337.81	38.1	38.3	-0.2	38.3	8.79	8.73	0.06	8.82
Paper	695.39	678.30	17.09	685.54	45.9	45.8	0.1	45.4	15.15	14.81	0.34	15.10
Printing & Publishing	554.66	527.30	27.36	565.00	38.2	38.1	0.1	39.1	14.52	13.84	0.68	14.45
Chemicals	779.61	752.48	27.12	796.63	44.6	43.8	0.8	45.6	17.48	17.18	0.30	17.47
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	506.94	463.56	43.38	490.95	42.6	40.1	2.5	41.5	11.90	11.56	0.34	11.83
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	773.12	732.72	40.40	740.92	41.7	39.8	1.9	39.6	18.54	18.41	0.13	18.71

## LMAs

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	APR		CHG	MAR	APR		CHG	MAR	APR		CHG	MAR
	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>												
Bridgeport	\$633.46	\$608.19	\$25.27	\$636.65	42.4	41.8	0.6	42.5	\$14.94	\$14.55	\$0.39	\$14.98
Danbury	645.98	650.93	-4.95	637.20	43.5	46.1	-2.6	43.2	14.85	14.12	0.73	14.75
Danielson	486.97	463.66	23.31	469.74	41.8	38.8	3.0	40.6	11.65	11.95	-0.30	11.57
Hartford	655.98	602.98	53.00	650.13	43.1	41.7	1.4	42.8	15.22	14.46	0.76	15.19
Lower River	512.50	470.44	42.06	517.12	41.0	39.8	1.2	40.4	12.50	11.82	0.68	12.80
New Haven	599.66	538.65	61.01	596.85	42.2	40.5	1.7	42.3	14.21	13.30	0.91	14.11
New London	633.63	591.86	41.77	628.78	42.9	40.4	2.5	42.6	14.77	14.65	0.12	14.76
Stamford	557.88	554.36	3.52	573.80	40.9	40.2	0.7	41.4	13.64	13.79	-0.15	13.86
Torrington	558.08	532.99	25.09	559.85	43.6	42.1	1.5	43.5	12.80	12.66	0.14	12.87
Waterbury	601.21	552.12	49.09	601.66	44.6	42.9	1.7	44.8	13.48	12.87	0.61	13.43

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

## NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	APR	APR	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		MAR
	1997	1996	UNITS	%	1997	1996	UNITS	%	1997
<b>Connecticut</b>	1,036	660	376	57.0	2,894	1,942	952	49.0	909
<b>Counties:</b>									
Fairfield	208	149	59	39.6	655	448	207	46.2	174
Hartford	386	154	232	150.6	778	412	366	88.8	226
Litchfield	67	40	27	67.5	180	138	42	30.4	48
Middlesex	51	47	4	8.5	169	129	40	31.0	58
New Haven	163	148	15	10.1	660	420	240	57.1	282
New London	78	60	18	30.0	233	201	32	15.9	60
Tolland	59	44	15	34.1	144	119	25	21.0	38
Windham	24	18	6	33.3	75	75	0	0.0	23

# HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	APR YR TO DATE			TOWN	APR YR TO DATE			TOWN	APR YR TO DATE		
	1997	1997	1996		1997	1997	1996		1997	1997	1996
Andover	2	11	9	Griswold	3	12	16	Preston	1	8	4
Ansonia	1	5	4	Groton	2	19	18	Prospect	5	13	13
Ashford	1	4	4	Guilford	9	37	23	Putnam	0	2	5
Avon	4	32	28	Haddam	3	5	5	Redding	3	8	9
Barkhamsted	1	4	3	Hamden	4	29	20	Ridgefield	12	42	28
Beacon Falls	3	7	3	Hampton	1	2	4	Rocky Hill	9	30	20
Berlin	11	25	25	Hartford	0	2	0	Roxbury	1	3	3
Bethany	2	9	6	Hartland	1	2	0	Salem	2	5	5
Bethel	5	11	8	Harwinton	4	8	3	Salisbury	0	0	1
Bethlehem	2	3	1	Hebron	6	17	5	Scotland	2	6	3
Bloomfield	0	17	2	Kent	0	4	0	Seymour	6	26	1
Bolton	2	7	6	Killingly	1	9	9	Sharon	0	0	2
Bozrah	0	0	0	Killingworth	2	12	13	Shelton	22	47	49
Branford	5	19	13	Lebanon	10	19	11	Sherman	2	5	3
Bridgeport	23	25	7	Ledyard	5	13	8	Simsbury	8	26	10
Bridgewater	0	0	0	Lisbon	2	7	6	Somers	5	10	7
Bristol	10	22	32	Litchfield	4	9	8	South Windsor	10	35	26
Brookfield	3	15	8	Lyme	2	3	0	Southbury	10	26	14
Brooklyn	0	0	6	Madison	10	24	24	Southington	22	41	35
Burlington	8	18	16	Manchester	194	268	23	Sprague	0	0	1
Canaan	1	1	0	Mansfield	1	12	16	Stafford	5	8	8
Canterbury	3	5	8	Marlborough	4	14	4	Stamford	34	76	85
Canton	5	10	7	Meriden	6	17	11	Sterling	2	5	1
Chaplin	1	4	4	Middlebury	2	6	6	Stonington	8	27	17
Cheshire	18	48	10	Middlefield	2	5	5	Stratford	10	26	9
Chester	3	8	4	Middletown	9	39	35	Suffield	8	13	10
Clinton	4	12	8	Milford	24	68	56	Thomaston	1	12	6
Colchester	8	34	13	Monroe	13	44	29	Thompson	2	8	10
Colebrook	0	0	2	Montville	4	8	13	Tolland	9	27	19
Columbia	3	7	5	Morris	0	1	3	Torrington	18	28	30
Cornwall	0	2	0	Naugatuck	2	10	14	Trumbull	13	31	15
Coventry	7	15	21	New Britain	1	3	9	Union	0	1	0
Cromwell	1	2	16	New Canaan	7	19	13	Vernon	9	10	9
Danbury	6	36	11	New Fairfield	4	15	10	Voluntown	2	5	2
Darien	2	8	5	New Hartford	3	9	6	Wallingford	11	35	57
Deep River	2	7	3	New Haven	0	0	14	Warren	1	1	4
Derby	2	9	4	New London	0	0	0	Washington	0	6	4
Durham	4	14	0	New Milford	8	24	30	Waterbury	6	14	17
East Granby	2	4	6	Newtown	5	8	2	Waterford	7	13	38
East Haddam	10	22	14	Newtown	13	52	16	Watertown	10	30	6
East Hampton	2	5	9	Norfolk	0	0	0	West Hartford	2	3	1
East Hartford	1	1	1	North Branford	5	24	17	West Haven	2	5	4
East Haven	1	16	15	North Canaan	3	3	9	Westbrook	3	7	4
East Lyme	6	26	18	North Haven	4	10	7	Weston	0	5	11
East Windsor	0	2	17	N. Stonington	3	10	6	Westport	3	10	5
Eastford	3	3	0	Norwalk	8	30	65	Wethersfield	9	29	45
Easton	3	12	0	Norwich	6	9	7	Willington	2	2	4
Ellington	8	17	10	Old Lyme	3	11	18	Wilton	9	32	10
Enfield	8	18	6	Old Saybrook	4	22	5	Winchester	1	2	2
Essex	2	6	7	Orange	3	10	6	Windham	2	5	0
Fairfield	4	40	37	Oxford	2	15	21	Windsor	3	12	0
Farmington	44	67	32	Plainfield	3	13	8	Windsor Locks	0	4	1
Franklin	4	4	0	Plainville	2	10	0	Wolcott	17	80	34
Glastonbury	11	49	43	Plymouth	0	5	8	Woodbridge	3	98	6
Goshen	4	9	2	Pomfret	2	6	8	Woodbury	5	16	5
Granby	4	13	11	Portland	0	3	1	Woodstock	1	3	5
Greenwich	9	66	15								

## **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)

<b>Leading Employment Index</b> .....	<b>+1.0</b>	<b>Business Activity</b>		<b>Tourism and Travel</b>	
<b>Coincident Employment Index</b> .....	<b>+7.2</b>	New Housing Permits .....	+57.0	Tourism Inquiries .....	-39.3
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b> .....	<b>+1.5</b>	Electricity Sales .....	-7.7	Tourism Info Centers .....	-18.8
<b>Unemployment</b> .....	<b>-0.5*</b>	Retail Sales .....	+7.3	Attraction Visitors .....	+12.9
Labor Force .....	+1.3	Construction Contracts Index .....	-19.5	Hotel-Motel Occupancy .....	+7.4
Employed .....	+1.9	New Auto Registrations .....	+20.8	Air Passenger Count .....	-2.8
Unemployed .....	-8.8	Air Cargo Tons .....	+21.0		
<b>Average Weekly Initial Claims</b> .....	<b>+1.4</b>	<b>Business Starts</b>		<b>Employment Cost Index</b>	
<b>Help Wanted Index -- Hartford</b> .....	<b>+5.9</b>	Secretary of the State .....	+33.6	Total .....	+3.0
<b>Average Ins. Unempl. Rate</b> .....	<b>-0.46*</b>	Dept. of Labor .....	+9.7	Wages & Salaries .....	+3.4
<b>Average Weekly Hours, Mfg</b> .....	<b>+1.2</b>	<b>Business Terminations</b>		Benefit Costs .....	+2.0
<b>Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg</b> .....	<b>+2.3</b>	Secretary of the State .....	+67.6	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	
<b>Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg</b> .....	<b>+3.5</b>	Dept. of Labor .....	-45.8	U.S. City Average .....	+2.5
<b>Manufacturing Output</b> .....	<b>+2.7</b>	<b>State Tax Collections</b> .....	<b>+7.8</b>	Northeast Region .....	+2.6
Production Worker Hours .....	+0.5	Corporate Tax .....	-20.0	NY-NJ-Long Island .....	+2.5
Productivity .....	+2.0	Personal Income Tax .....	+18.9	Boston-Lawrence-Salem .....	+3.3
<b>UI Covered Wages</b> .....	<b>+3.4</b>	Real Estate Conveyance Tax .....	+1.4	<b>Consumer Confidence</b>	
<b>Personal Income</b> .....	<b>+3.8</b>	Sales & Use Tax .....	+2.5	U.S. ....	+11.5
<b>Real Personal Income</b> .....	<b>+1.4</b>			New England .....	+51.9
				<b>Interest Rates</b>	
				Prime .....	+0.25*
				Conventional Mortgage .....	+0.21*

\*Percentage point change; \*\*Less than 0.05 percent

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