

MAY 1999

- Connecticut's occupational employment data for the seven largest Labor Market Areas are analyzed. (article, pp.1-2)
- Three different employment measures produced by the Connecticut Labor Department are defined. (article, pp.3-4)
- Industry clusters: Urban clusters. (p.3)
- Employment grew by 100 in March, and by 25,100 from a year ago. (p.6)
- Unemployment rate in March: 3.1 percent, unchanged from February. (p.6)
- March's new housing permits were up 47.9 percent over the year. (Business Activity, p.7)

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Connecticut's Occupational Structure: A Regional View

By Michael Polzella and Michael Zotos, Associate Research Analysts

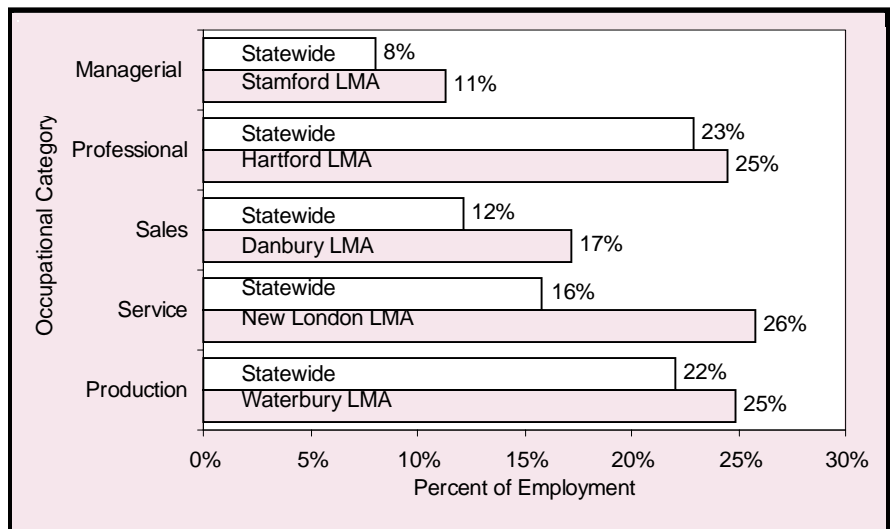
For the first time, the Connecticut Labor Department, Office of Research, has produced comprehensive occupational employment and wage data for the seven largest Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in the State. The LMAs for which this data is now available are the Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, New London, Stamford and Waterbury LMAs.

The Office of Research, in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, conducts the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program, a yearly mail survey designed to produce estimates of employment and wage rates by occupation. The 1997-98 Statewide and LMA estimates represent the combining of two survey rounds of data gathered through contacts with

more than 14,000 employers in the State. A close look at the 1997-98 estimates reveals some noteworthy characteristics of the occupational structure in Connecticut.

The estimates show the Stamford LMA as having the highest concentration of people in Managerial and Administrative occupations in the State. This can be attributed to the large corporate presence in the Stamford LMA. Occupations found in the Managerial and Administrative category include general managers/top executives, financial managers, purchasing managers, and administrative service managers.

Despite company mergers and downsizing in the Hartford LMA, the area still remains the leader



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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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in the number of professional, paraprofessional and technical workers in the State. Occupations included in this division deal with theoretical or practical aspects of such fields as science, art, education, law and business relations where substantial postsecondary education preparation or equivalent on-the-job training or experience is required. Accountants, insurance underwriters, engineers, professors, teachers and physicians/surgeons are just a few of the types of professional occupations found in abundance in the Hartford LMA.

The Sales and Related category of the OES occupational structure includes people selling goods or services as well as other occupations directly related to sales. Sales jobs in this division range from sales engineers, insurance sales agents, real estate agents, securities agents to retail salespersons, cashiers and stock clerks. A careful review of the estimates show the Danbury LMA with the largest percentage of employment in this category. This statistic coincides with another strength of the Danbury area's economy. Year to year, the Danbury area consistently has the greatest volume of retail sales in the State.

With the presence of casino gambling in the southeastern part of the State, it is no surprise that the largest percentage of people working in service occupations can be found in the New London LMA. The service category includes workers in occupations relating to protective services, food services, health assisting services, cleaning and building maintenance services and personal services. The shift from a manufacturing driven economy to a service driven economy is more evident in the New London LMA than anywhere else in the State.

An accurate description of the Waterbury LMA might be "the more things change, the more they stay the same." As our current estimates show, the Waterbury LMA ranks first on the percent of workers in the Production, Construction, Operating, Maintenance and Material Handling occupational division. This division includes all skilled, semiskilled, and unskilled workers performing machine and manual tasks involving production, construction, operating, maintenance, repair, and material handling operations. Examples of occupations in this category are mechanics, installers and repairers, construction trades, machine setters, set-up operators, operators and tenders, as well as hand working occupations such as assemblers. Over the years Waterbury has faded as the "Brass Capital of the World", yet the area still shines with talented and skilled crafts workers prepared for the future.

The 1997-98 estimates show Connecticut's economy as diverse, with most regions very specialized in their occupational make-up. These occupational employment estimates are very useful to job seekers, counselors, students, planners and economic developers. As well as identifying the types of skilled workers in the market, the data can be used to evaluate occupational trends by industry, classify emerging or declining occupations and evaluate the impact of technology on occupations. ■

To obtain a free copy of *Connecticut Occupational Employment and Wages, Statewide* or for the *Labor Market Areas*, contact the Department of Labor, Office of Research at (860) 263-6285. The information is also available on our website at: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/misc/oesarea.htm>.

Defining Employment

By Salvatore A. DiPillo, Research Analyst Supervisor

We often hear data users express some confusion or misunderstanding about the three employment data series produced by the Department of Labor's Office of Research. In this article, we will attempt to clarify the conceptual differences among them.

Perhaps the most important concept to understand is whether the employment data are providing information regarding *jobs* or *people*. The nonfarm employment estimates and the data on workers covered by unemployment insurance are based on employer-provided information about the number of employees on company payrolls during a specified time period. These payroll sources equate employment with *jobs*. The labor force statistics are based largely on a household survey that identifies whether the residents of the household are working or not and, thus, they reflect the employ-

ment status of *people*. The circumstances under which these data are developed are described below.

Nonfarm Employment from the Establishment Survey

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey collects data each month from a sample of about 5,000 nonfarm establishments in Connecticut. From these data, employment, hours, and earnings estimates for the State and labor market areas are prepared and published. Employment reported is the total number of persons on the payroll, full or part time, during any part of the pay period that includes the 12th day of the month.

The nonfarm employment estimates are benchmarked annually to a more complete count of employment. The basic source of benchmark data for the CES survey is data on "all employees" collected as a byproduct of the

HOUSING UPDATE

March Housing Permits Up 47.9%

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 1,105 new housing units in March 1999, a 47.9 percent increase compared to March of 1998 when 747 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 1,105 units permitted in March 1999 represent an increase of 113 percent from the 518 units permitted in February 1999. The year-to-date permits are up 11.3 percent, from 2,131 through March 1998, to 2,372 through March 1999.

"Permit activity is on the upswing, both in terms of the monthly and year-to-date totals,"

Commissioner Abromaitis said, "This is continued good news for the housing market as we move into the summer months."

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Middlesex and Fairfield Counties both with 96.4 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in March compared to the same month a year ago. Tolland County followed with a 57.1 percent increase.

Fairfield County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in March with 330. Hartford County followed with 239 units and New Haven County had 158 units. Stamford led all Connecticut communities with 172 units, followed by Southington with 56 and Middletown with 54. ■

Industry Clusters

Urban Clusters

Can industry clusters play a role in inner city economic development? Most assuredly, according to Professor Michael Porter of the Harvard Business School.

Over the past few years Porter has turned his attention to the problem of inner cities with a focus on the role of business and industry in turning the economic tide. In his widely disseminated article, "The Competitive Advantage of the Inner City", Porter argues that inner-city distress is as much an economic problem as a social one. A sustainable economic approach must focus on making inner cities competitive as business locations and on integrating these areas into the regional and national economy.

Porter has identified four competitive strengths of inner cities and maintains that building on these inherent advantages is necessary in order to restore prosperity in inner cities. The four strengths include: strategic location; unmet local demand; available workforce; and integration with regional clusters. Economic progress in inner cities will only come, Porter argues, from recognizing and enhancing these inherent advantages and building on the base of existing companies.

Over the next few months, this column will look at each of these competitive strengths in a little more detail.

Job CONNect '99 Job Fairs

Stamford – May 19th
Meriden – May 27th
Waterbury – June 9th

If you would like to participate, visit our Web site at www.ctdol.state.ct.us or call (860) 263-6279.

unemployment insurance (UI) program. Connecticut receives quarterly reports from each employer subject to the UI laws showing employment in each month of the quarter and the quarterly wages paid to all employees. For the few industries exempt from mandatory UI coverage, other sources are used for benchmark information. For example, data published by the Bureau of the Census in *County Business Patterns* are used to augment the UI data for religious organizations, private schools, and other organizations not covered by unemployment insurance.

Employment and Wages Covered by Unemployment Insurance

The Covered Employment and Wages program, commonly called the ES-202 program, compiles employment and wage data from quarterly reports from employers covered by UI laws and provides a comprehensive source of data by industry, at the State and county level. Employment data represent the number of workers on the payroll during the pay period including the 12th day of the month. The ES-202 program differs from the CES program in that it provides total quarterly payroll data for all employees, unrelated to hours paid, while CES provides average weekly earnings for production workers in manufacturing. The ES-202 covers some agricultural services and household employment not covered by the CES program. Also, the ES-202 data are available quarterly, lagging the reference quarter by five to six months, whereas CES program data are available monthly.

Labor Force Data derived from the Current Population Survey

Each month, statistics on the labor force, the employed, and the unemployed are developed as part of the Labor Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. A major component of the LAUS methodology is data from the Current

Comparison of Employment Measures

Program	Current Employment Statistics (CES)	Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)	Covered Employment and Wages (ES-202)
Basic Unit	Job	Individual	Job
Definition	Place of work	Place of residence	Place of work
Coverage	Wage and salary employees on the payrolls of nonfarm establishments	Wage and salary workers (<i>including</i> agricultural, domestic and other private household workers), self-employed persons, unpaid workers	Wage and salary employees on the payrolls of establishments (<i>excluding</i> some workers in agriculture, domestic services, railroad employees, student workers, elected officials, and religious organizations, and self employed and unpaid family workers)
Data Sources	Monthly establishment survey; ES-202	Current Population Survey (CPS), Current Employment Statistics (CES), Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims	Quarterly UI reports from employers
Detail	Statewide, Labor Market Area	Statewide, Labor Market Area, town	Statewide, County, Labor Market Area, town
Published	Monthly / one month lag	Monthly / one month lag	Quarterly: data available upon request, but not published / five months lag
Data	Employment, hours and earnings	Labor force, employed, unemployed, unemployment rate	Business establishments, employment, wages

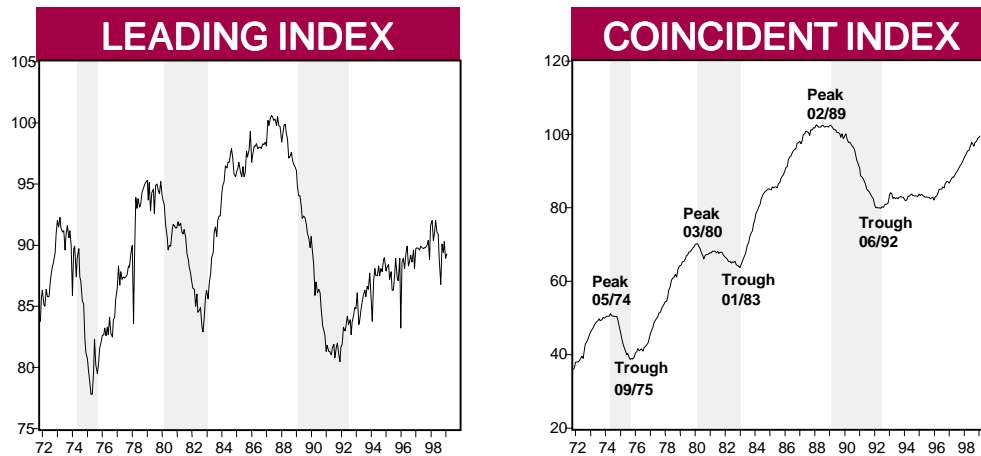
Population Survey (CPS). The CPS provides information on the labor force status (whether people are employed, unemployed or not in the labor force) of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. The CPS is collected each month from a probability sample of between 500 and 600 Connecticut households. The survey period is a calendar week including the 12th day of the month. Each employed person is counted only once, even if they hold more than one job. Multiple jobholders are counted in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the reference week.

The CPS sample includes categories of workers entirely or partly excluded from the ES-202 program: among these are the self-employed, employees of certain nonprofit organizations, and railroad workers. The household survey counts a person only once, and classifies him or her according to the major activity, while the payroll data (CES and ES-202) counts a person who is employed by two or more establishments at each place of employment. As a household survey, the CPS's focus

is on individuals, whereas the CES and ES-202 focus on jobs. When providing geographic information, the CPS program tabulates data by the location of the residence; the CES and ES-202 programs provide State and labor market area data by the location of the job. Both labor force and nonfarm employment data are released within one month of the reference period; ES-202 data become available several months after the reference quarter.

The household survey also provides much information on the demographic characteristics (sex, age, race) of the labor force. (These are available for Connecticut as annual averages in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' publication, *Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment*.) The establishment data provide limited information on personal characteristics of workers; however, they are excellent sources for detailed industrial and geographic data. In addition, they provide hours and earnings information, which relates directly to the employment figures. The payroll and household surveys thus complement each other. ■

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.

Long-Term Future Of Current Expansion: A Question Mark?

The Connecticut coincident employment index increased, once again, to a new peak with the release of (preliminary) February data. This month's report coincides with the annual benchmark revisions. These revisions generally affect the most recent observations, tending to smooth the more exaggerated movements. Using the newly revised data, the coincident index fell in only two months — August and September — during the last twelve. The coincident index now stands at a level not seen since February 1990 and not too far from its prior peak in February 1989. The Connecticut leading employment index continues to send mixed signals about the future path of the Connecticut economy. The leading index last reached its current high in February 1998. Since then, the index has increased in five months and decreased in the remaining seven months. Over the past six months, the leading index has risen one month and fallen the next. The index rose with the most recent

February 1999 estimate. We have carefully monitored the leading index over the past year because its movements have raised some concern about the possibility of an impending slowdown in the Connecticut economy.

If we look at some of the key indicators included the indices, on a positive note, the last twelve months have witnessed a 1.74 percent increase in nonfarm employment, or 28,400, and a 1.69 percent increase in total employment, or 27,700. In addition, the total unemployment rate declined from 3.6 to 3.1 percent, a substantial improvement in the unemployment rate. On the negative side, initial claims for unemployment insurance increased by 8.86 percent in February 1999 over February 1998 while total housing permits fell by 36.31 percent when comparing the same two months.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 94.3 in February 1998 to 99.5 in February 1999. All four components of the index 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 decreased from 92.0 in February 1998 to 89.3 in February 1999. All five index components, once again, sent negative signals on a year-over-year basis with a higher short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, higher initial claims for unemployment insurance, a shorter average work week of manufacturing production workers, lower total housing permits, and lower Hartford help-wanted advertising. This is the second time (last month and this month) since we began reporting the leading index that all five components sent negative signals on a year-over-year basis in the same month. Despite these numbers, the leading index increased this month over last month by a small amount. ■

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]. Kathryn E. Parr and Hulya Varol [(860) 486-0485, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Total employment increased by 25,100 over the year, or 1.5 percent. The manufacturing sector employment declined by 1.3 percent from last year.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

	MAR		CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)					
TOTAL NONFARM	1,663.5	1,638.4	25.1	1.5	1,663.4
Private Sector	1,433.4	1,412.2	21.2	1.5	1,434.2
Construction and Mining	61.7	60.0	1.7	2.8	61.9
Manufacturing	276.5	280.0	-3.5	-1.3	276.0
Transportation, Public Utilities	76.4	75.8	0.6	0.8	76.6
Wholesale, Retail Trade	359.4	355.1	4.3	1.2	359.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	138.8	134.1	4.7	3.5	138.8
Services	520.6	507.2	13.4	2.6	521.4
Government	230.1	226.2	3.9	1.7	229.2

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate dropped, as the labor force rose from a year ago. The number of initial claims increased over the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

	MAR		CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
(Seasonally adjusted)					
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	3.1	3.5	-0.4	---	3.1
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,718.5	1,704.0	14.5	0.9	1,722.8
Employed (000s)	1,664.3	1,643.9	20.4	1.2	1,669.6
Unemployed (000s)	54.1	60.1	-6.0	-10.0	53.3
Average Weekly Initial Claims	4,047	3,518	529	15.0	3,885
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	34	37	-3	-8.1	36
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	1.88	2.06	-0.18	---	2.08

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

Production worker weekly earnings increased while the output fell from a year ago.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	MAR		CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
(Not seasonally adjusted)					
Average Weekly Hours	42.4	42.7	-0.3	-0.7	41.9
Average Hourly Earnings	\$15.08	\$14.75	\$0.33	2.2	\$15.00
Average Weekly Earnings	\$639.39	\$629.83	\$9.57	1.5	\$628.50
Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*	124.2	125.2	-1.0	-0.8	123.0
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,775	6,951	-176	-2.5	6,689
Productivity Index (1982=100)*	192.7	189.5	3.2	1.7	191.9

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

*Seasonally adjusted

Personal income for third quarter 1999 is forecasted to increase 4.0 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME (Quarterly)

	3Q*		CHANGE		2Q*
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
(Seasonally adjusted)					
(Annualized; \$ Millions)					
Personal Income	\$128,582	\$123,680	\$4,902	4.0	\$127,484
UI Covered Wages	\$68,977	\$66,017	\$2,960	4.5	\$68,464

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis; April 1999 release

*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

NA= Not Available

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
New Housing Permits	MAR 1999	1,105	47.9	2,372	2,131	11.3
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	JAN 1999	2,677	6.0	2,677	2,526	6.0
Retail Sales (Bil. \$)	JAN 1999	2.50	6.4	2.50	2.35	6.4
Construction Contracts Index (1980=100)	FEB 1999	210.1	-4.3	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	MAR 1999	23,425	43.6	64,321	49,670	29.5
Air Cargo Tons	FEB 1999	9,727	-9.4	19,937	21,312	-6.5

Electricity sales grew by six percent from last January's sales.

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

	MAR	% CHANGE		YEAR TO DATE		%
	1999	M/M	Y/Y	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	2,069	21.6	12.8	5,596	5,345	4.7
Department of Labor	1,171	14.2	5.3	2,932	2,889	1.5
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	387	30.3	22.5	1,038	1,016	2.2
Department of Labor	985	31.7	10.5	3,194	3,022	5.7

Net business formations as measured by starts minus stops registered with the State Department of Labor declined by 262 for the first quarter of this year.

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

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

(Millions of dollars)				FISCAL YEAR TOTALS		
	MAR 1999	MAR 1998	% CHG	1998-99	1997-98	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	759.1	758.7	0.1	5,658.2	5,490.0	3.1
Corporate Tax	148.6	172.2	-13.7	397.4	424.4	-6.4
Personal Income Tax	249.4	237.6	5.0	2,305.8	2,150.4	7.2
Real Estate Conv. Tax	6.8	5.7	1.1	76.0	66.7	13.9
Sales & Use Tax	201.7	188.6	6.9	1,897.7	1,790.1	6.0

Overall taxes were up by 3.1 percent through the fiscal year March. The largest gain was the Real Estate Conveyance tax, up 13.9 percent.

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

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
Tourism Inquiries	MAR 1999	20,156	55.6	32,737	27,585	18.7
Info Center Visitors	MAR 1999	34,673	16.1	81,889	70,180	16.7
Major Attraction Visitors	MAR 1999	51,053	-27.0	161,061	198,255	-18.8
Hotel-Motel Occupancy*	FEB 1999	67.1	2.4	64.0	62.0	2.0
Air Passenger Count	FEB 1999	453,889	11.2	872,490	795,973	9.6

Air passenger traffic was up 11.2 percent in February compared to the same month a year ago.

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 the nation rose 3.0 percent over the year, while the Northeast's increased by 3.3 percent.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	MAR	DEC	3-Mo	MAR	MAR	12-Mo
	1999	1998	% Chg	1999	1998	% Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	140.2	139.7	0.4	140.4	136.3	3.0
Wages and Salaries	138.1	137.5	0.4	138.1	133.7	3.3
Benefit Costs	145.4	145.1	0.2	145.8	142.6	2.2
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	140.5	136.0	3.3
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	137.1	132.6	3.4

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

The U.S. inflation rate in March was 1.7 percent, and 1.5 percent for the Northeast region. Consumer Confidence in New England was up 1.4 percent from a month ago.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	MAR	FEB	MAR	% CHG	
	1999	1999	1998	M/M	Y/Y
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
<i>All Urban Consumers</i>					
U.S. City Average	165.0	164.5	162.2	0.3	1.7
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=\$1.00)	\$0.606	\$0.608	\$0.617	-0.3	-1.7
Northeast Region	171.9	171.6	169.3	0.2	1.5
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	175.5	175.1	173.0	0.2	1.4
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	174.8	---	171.3	---	2.0
<i>Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers</i>					
U.S. City Average	161.4	161.1	158.7	0.2	1.7
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	133.9	133.1	133.8	0.6	0.1
New England	133.1	131.2	136.4	1.4	-2.4

*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

Interest rates were uniformly lower than their year-ago levels, including a prime rate of 7.75 percent and a 30-year conventional mortgage rate of 7.04 percent.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	MAR	FEB	MAR
	1999	1999	1998
Prime	7.75	7.75	8.50
Federal Funds	4.81	4.76	5.49
3 Month Treasury Bill	4.48	4.45	5.03
6 Month Treasury Bill	4.52	4.43	5.04
1 Year Treasury Bill	4.78	4.70	5.39
3 Year Treasury Note	5.11	4.90	5.57
5 Year Treasury Note	5.14	4.91	5.61
7 Year Treasury Note	5.36	5.10	5.71
10 Year Treasury Note	5.23	5.00	5.65
30 Year Treasury Bond	5.58	5.37	5.95
Conventional Mortgage	7.04	6.79	7.13

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

COMPARATIVE REGIONAL DATA

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

All states in the region posted job gains over the year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
Connecticut	1,663.5	1,638.4	25.1	1.5	1,663.4
Maine	580.8	565.5	15.3	2.7	579.9
Massachusetts	3,211.0	3,163.0	48.0	1.5	3,203.9
New Hampshire	596.6	587.0	9.6	1.6	595.7
New Jersey	3,846.7	3,780.0	66.7	1.8	3,840.3
New York	8,333.2	8,193.3	139.9	1.7	8,328.0
Pennsylvania	5,536.9	5,480.4	56.5	1.0	5,532.1
Rhode Island	460.8	455.7	5.1	1.1	459.9
Vermont	289.6	284.6	5.0	1.8	288.8
United States	127,678.0	124,914.0	2,764.0	2.2	127,632.0

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

LABOR FORCE

All but Massachusetts and New York in the region experienced increases in the labor force from last year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
Connecticut	1,718.5	1,704.0	14.5	0.9	1,722.8
Maine	662.9	644.6	18.3	2.8	663.8
Massachusetts	3,264.4	3,279.9	-15.5	-0.5	3,265.2
New Hampshire	673.5	648.8	24.7	3.8	673.7
New Jersey	4,216.1	4,144.4	71.7	1.7	4,219.1
New York	8,858.2	8,878.0	-19.8	-0.2	8,878.1
Pennsylvania	6,003.9	5,945.4	58.5	1.0	5,986.5
Rhode Island	502.6	498.3	4.3	0.9	497.7
Vermont	339.5	328.2	11.3	3.4	338.7
United States	138,816.0	137,340.0	1,476.0	1.1	139,271.0

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

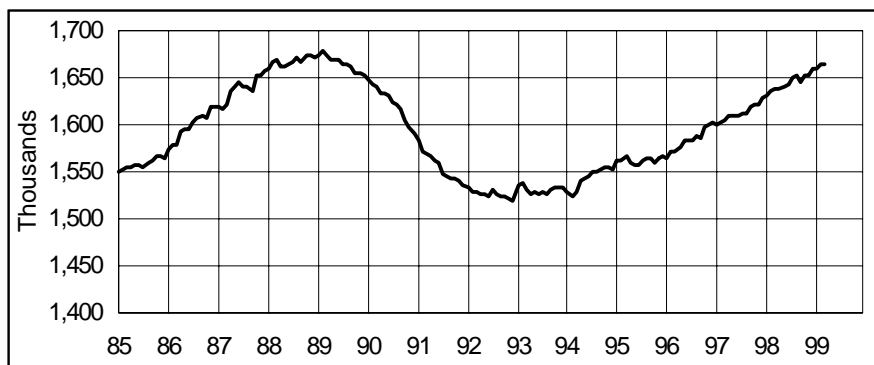
All states in the region posted lower unemployment rates than last year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	MAR	MAR	CHANGE	FEB
	1999	1998		1999
Connecticut	3.1	3.5	-0.4	3.1
Maine	3.4	4.6	-1.2	3.3
Massachusetts	2.8	3.5	-0.7	2.9
New Hampshire	3.0	3.1	-0.1	3.0
New Jersey	4.5	4.7	-0.2	4.1
New York	5.0	5.8	-0.8	5.3
Pennsylvania	4.4	4.8	-0.4	4.4
Rhode Island	3.0	5.3	-2.3	3.9
Vermont	3.1	3.6	-0.5	3.2
United States	4.2	4.7	-0.5	4.4

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

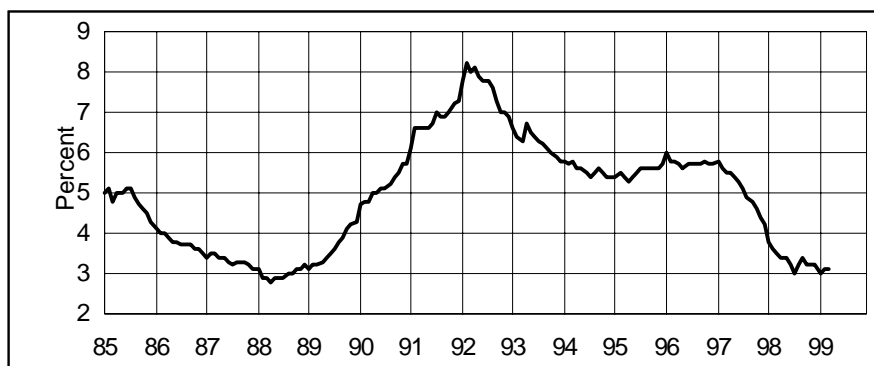
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



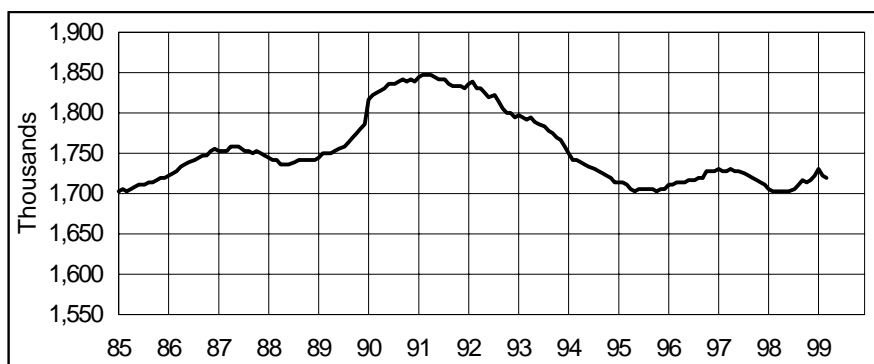
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,599.4	1,631.4	1,660.5
Feb	1,601.5	1,635.5	1,663.4
Mar	1,605.1	1,638.4	1,663.5
Apr	1,609.3	1,638.5	
May	1,610.3	1,640.8	
Jun	1,610.2	1,643.3	
Jul	1,612.9	1,649.3	
Aug	1,612.5	1,651.3	
Sep	1,618.3	1,645.8	
Oct	1,620.7	1,651.4	
Nov	1,622.4	1,652.5	
Dec	1,627.4	1,660.3	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



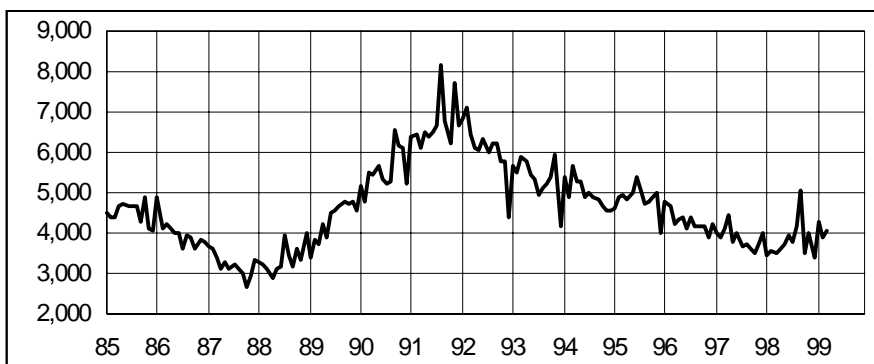
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	5.8	3.8	3.0
Feb	5.6	3.6	3.1
Mar	5.5	3.5	3.1
Apr	5.5	3.4	
May	5.4	3.4	
Jun	5.3	3.2	
Jul	5.1	3.0	
Aug	4.9	3.2	
Sep	4.8	3.4	
Oct	4.6	3.2	
Nov	4.4	3.2	
Dec	4.2	3.2	

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	1,718.5
Apr	1,729.9	1,702.9	
May	1,727.6	1,703.4	
Jun	1,726.9	1,704.1	
Jul	1,724.3	1,706.7	
Aug	1,721.1	1,710.0	
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	

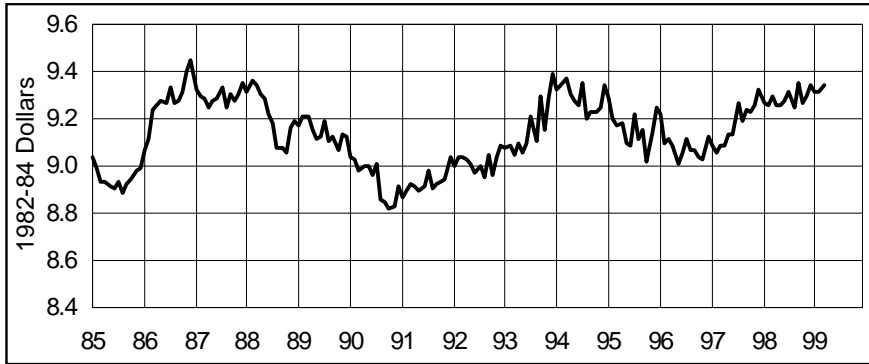
AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*



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	
May	3,791	3,710	
Jun	3,990	3,962	
Jul	3,678	3,779	
Aug	3,736	4,164	
Sep	3,621	5,076	
Oct	3,502	3,500	
Nov	3,699	4,026	
Dec	4,026	3,394	

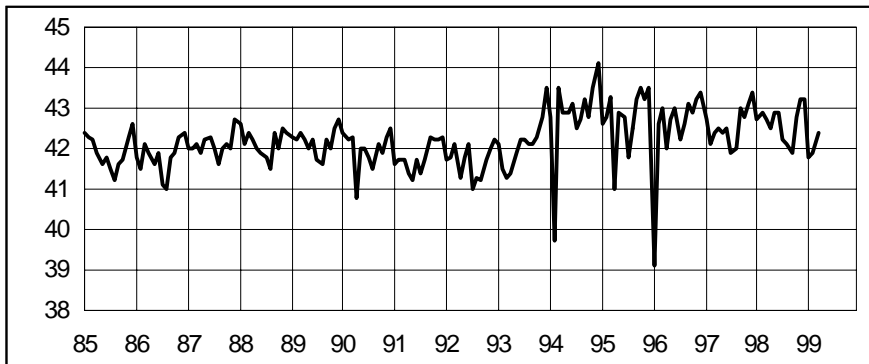
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

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



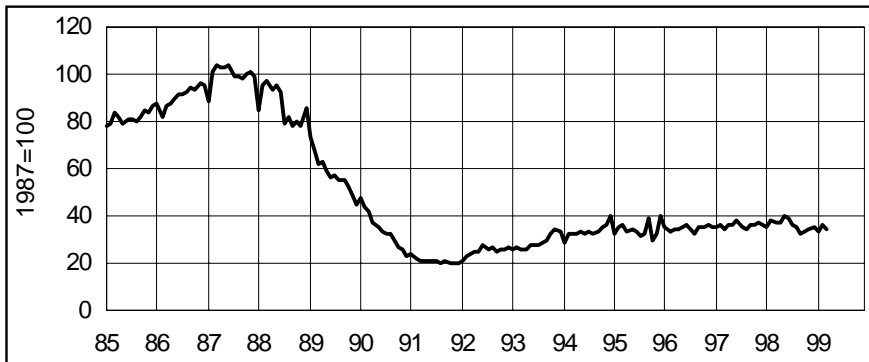
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	\$9.09	\$9.27	\$9.32
Feb	9.06	9.26	9.31
Mar	9.08	9.29	9.34
Apr	9.09	9.26	
May	9.13	9.25	
Jun	9.14	9.27	
Jul	9.26	9.32	
Aug	9.20	9.24	
Sep	9.24	9.35	
Oct	9.22	9.27	
Nov	9.26	9.30	
Dec	9.32	9.34	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



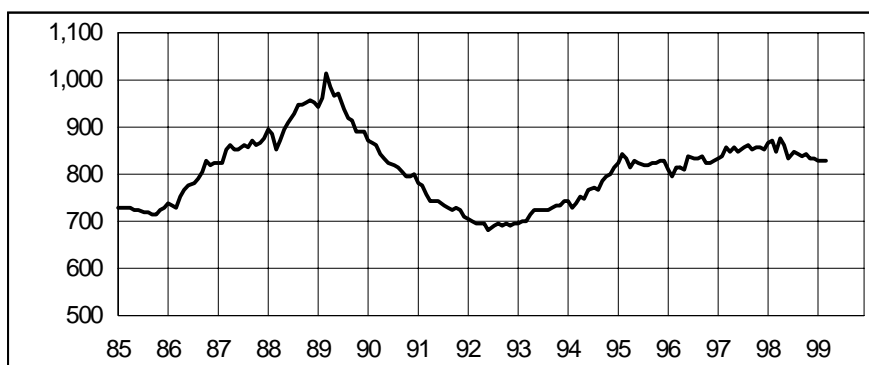
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	42.7	42.7	41.8
Feb	42.1	42.9	41.9
Mar	42.4	42.7	42.4
Apr	42.5	42.5	
May	42.4	42.9	
Jun	42.5	42.9	
Jul	41.9	42.2	
Aug	42.0	42.1	
Sep	43.0	41.9	
Oct	42.8	42.8	
Nov	43.1	43.2	
Dec	43.4	43.2	

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	
May	36	40	
Jun	38	39	
Jul	35	36	
Aug	34	35	
Sep	36	32	
Oct	35	33	
Nov	37	34	
Dec	36	35	

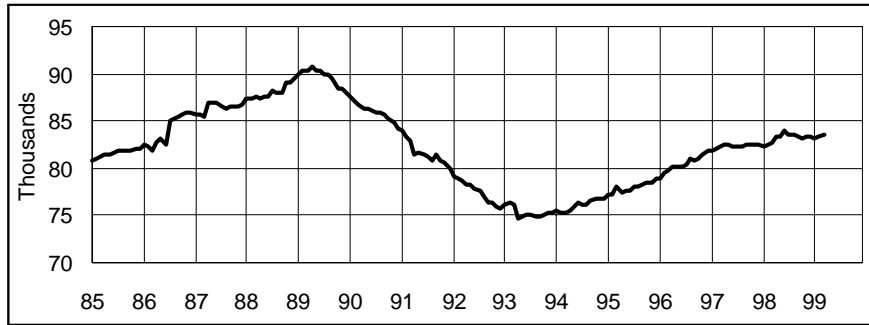
DOL NEWLY REGISTERED EMPLOYERS *(12-month moving average)*



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

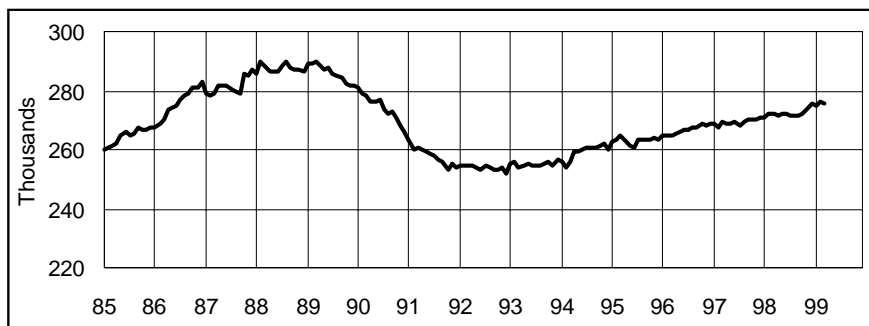
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

WHOLESALE TRADE EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



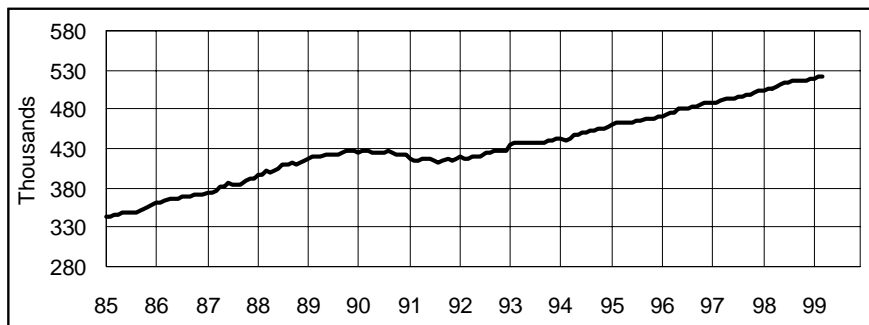
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	81.8	82.3	83.2
Feb	82.0	82.5	83.3
Mar	82.2	82.8	83.6
Apr	82.4	83.3	
May	82.5	83.4	
Jun	82.3	83.9	
Jul	82.3	83.5	
Aug	82.3	83.6	
Sep	82.4	83.3	
Oct	82.5	83.2	
Nov	82.6	83.3	
Dec	82.5	83.4	

RETAIL TRADE EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



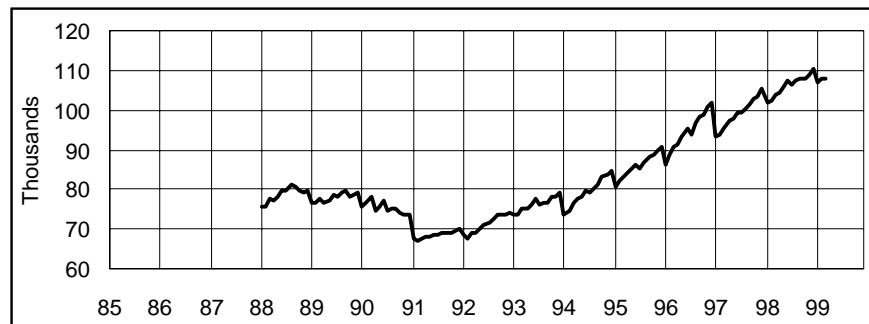
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	268.6	270.7	274.6
Feb	267.2	271.9	276.2
Mar	269.2	272.3	275.8
Apr	268.7	271.5	
May	268.9	272.2	
Jun	269.4	271.9	
Jul	268.1	271.6	
Aug	269.4	271.8	
Sep	269.9	271.2	
Oct	270.1	272.2	
Nov	270.5	273.6	
Dec	271.0	275.5	

TOTAL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



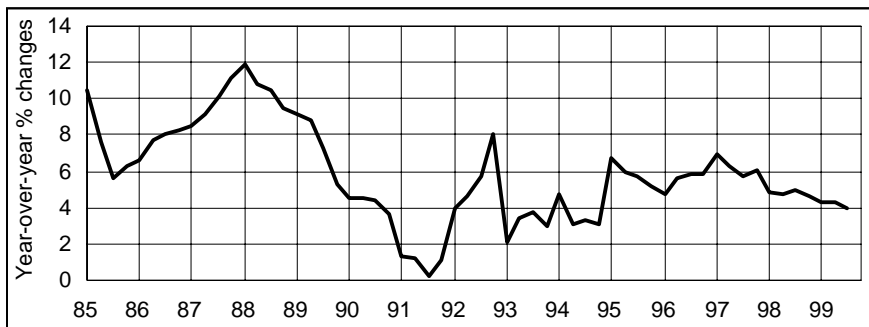
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	487.5	505.0	520.0
Feb	489.1	506.1	521.4
Mar	490.6	507.2	520.6
Apr	492.8	509.0	
May	492.8	511.2	
Jun	493.8	513.5	
Jul	495.4	514.7	
Aug	496.5	515.4	
Sep	497.8	515.7	
Oct	499.4	516.3	
Nov	501.0	517.0	
Dec	503.4	520.1	

BUSINESS SERVICES EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



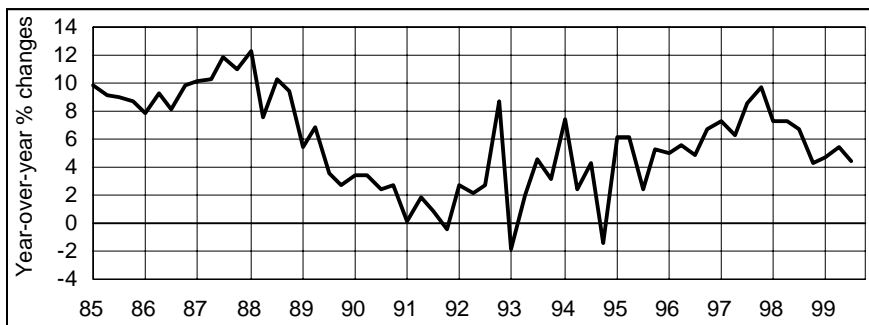
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	93.1	102.0	106.8
Feb	94.0	102.4	107.7
Mar	95.4	103.7	108.0
Apr	97.1	104.5	
May	98.0	106.0	
Jun	99.2	107.3	
Jul	99.5	106.6	
Aug	100.1	107.4	
Sep	101.1	107.9	
Oct	102.9	108.0	
Nov	103.6	108.8	
Dec	105.3	110.2	

PERSONAL INCOME *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Quarter	1997	1998	1999
First	6.9	4.9	4.3
Second	6.3	4.7	4.3
Third	5.7	5.0	4.0
Fourth	6.1	4.6	

UI COVERED WAGES *(Seasonally adjusted)*



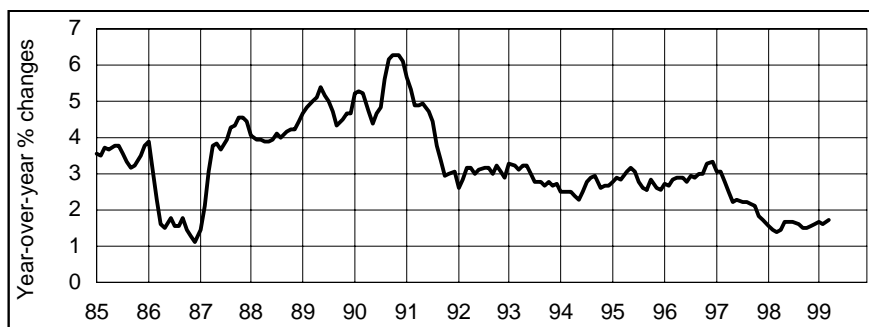
Quarter	1997	1998	1999
First	7.3	7.3	4.7
Second	6.3	7.3	5.4
Third	8.6	6.6	4.5
Fourth	9.7	4.4	

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



Quarter	1997	1998	1999
First	2.8	3.3	3.0
Second	2.8	3.4	
Third	2.9	3.7	
Fourth	3.2	3.3	

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



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	3.0	1.6	1.7
Feb	3.0	1.4	1.6
Mar	2.8	1.4	1.7
Apr	2.5	1.4	
May	2.2	1.7	
Jun	2.3	1.7	
Jul	2.2	1.7	
Aug	2.2	1.6	
Sep	2.2	1.5	
Oct	2.1	1.5	
Nov	1.8	1.5	
Dec	1.7	1.6	

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

CONNECTICUT



Not Seasonally Adjusted

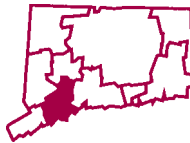
	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	1,647,300	1,625,200	22,100	1.4	1,640,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	331,600	333,600	-2,000	-0.6	330,100
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	55,600	53,900	1,700	3.2	54,800
MANUFACTURING	276,000	279,700	-3,700	-1.3	275,300
Durable	194,300	196,500	-2,200	-1.1	193,700
Lumber & Furniture	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,200
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
Primary Metals	9,400	9,400	0	0.0	9,400
Fabricated Metals	35,400	35,500	-100	-0.3	35,400
Machinery & Computer Equipment	34,600	35,400	-800	-2.3	34,600
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	28,700	28,900	-200	-0.7	28,800
Transportation Equipment	49,700	50,500	-800	-1.6	49,100
Instruments	22,200	22,300	-100	-0.4	22,100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,400	6,600	-200	-3.0	6,400
Nondurable	81,700	83,200	-1,500	-1.8	81,600
Food	8,100	8,000	100	1.3	8,000
Textiles	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	2,000
Apparel	4,000	4,700	-700	-14.9	4,000
Paper	7,700	8,100	-400	-4.9	7,700
Printing & Publishing	26,300	26,900	-600	-2.2	26,300
Chemicals	21,000	20,600	400	1.9	21,100
Rubber & Plastics	10,600	10,800	-200	-1.9	10,700
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	1,800
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,315,700	1,291,600	24,100	1.9	1,309,900
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	75,800	75,300	500	0.7	75,800
Transportation	44,100	44,000	100	0.2	44,000
Motor Freight & Warehousing	11,800	11,900	-100	-0.8	11,800
Other Transportation	32,300	32,100	200	0.6	32,200
Communications	19,500	18,900	600	3.2	19,600
Utilities	12,200	12,400	-200	-1.6	12,200
TRADE	352,000	348,800	3,200	0.9	350,200
Wholesale	83,100	82,600	500	0.6	82,600
Retail	268,900	266,200	2,700	1.0	267,600
General Merchandise	25,300	26,700	-1,400	-5.2	25,500
Food Stores	53,000	51,900	1,100	2.1	52,900
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	27,100	26,400	700	2.7	27,100
Restaurants	75,100	75,100	0	0.0	74,000
Other Retail Trade	88,400	86,100	2,300	2.7	88,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	138,100	134,400	3,700	2.8	137,600
Finance	51,900	49,700	2,200	4.4	51,800
Banking	25,500	25,100	400	1.6	25,300
Insurance	70,300	69,000	1,300	1.9	70,100
Insurance Carriers	59,100	57,900	1,200	2.1	59,000
Real Estate	15,900	15,700	200	1.3	15,800
SERVICES	514,400	500,800	13,600	2.7	513,100
Hotels & Lodging Places	11,100	10,500	600	5.7	11,000
Personal Services	19,400	19,200	200	1.0	19,300
Business Services	108,000	103,700	4,300	4.1	107,700
Health Services	157,900	157,000	900	0.6	157,800
Legal & Engineering Services	55,900	52,900	3,000	5.7	55,600
Educational Services	43,200	41,700	1,500	3.6	44,700
Other Services	118,900	115,800	3,100	2.7	117,000
GOVERNMENT	235,400	232,300	3,100	1.3	233,200
Federal	21,900	22,100	-200	-0.9	22,000
**State, Local & Other Government	213,500	210,200	3,300	1.6	211,200

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.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

BRIDGEPORT LMA

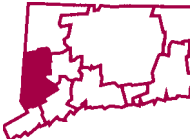


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	186,200	186,700	-500	-0.3	185,100
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	44,200	45,300	-1,100	-2.4	44,300
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	5,900	5,700	200	3.5	5,900
MANUFACTURING	38,300	39,600	-1,300	-3.3	38,400
Durable Goods	31,000	32,300	-1,300	-4.0	31,100
Fabricated Metals	4,400	4,600	-200	-4.3	4,400
Industrial Machinery	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1	6,200
Electronic Equipment	6,000	6,200	-200	-3.2	6,000
Transportation Equipment	8,100	8,700	-600	-6.9	8,300
Nondurable Goods	7,300	7,300	0	0.0	7,300
Printing & Publishing	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	2,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	142,000	141,400	600	0.4	140,800
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	7,000	7,000	0	0.0	7,000
TRADE	41,600	41,600	0	0.0	41,400
Wholesale	10,400	10,200	200	2.0	10,400
Retail	31,200	31,400	-200	-0.6	31,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	10,600	10,500	100	1.0	10,400
SERVICES	61,400	60,400	1,000	1.7	60,700
Business Services	15,100	14,900	200	1.3	14,700
Health Services	19,800	19,800	0	0.0	19,800
GOVERNMENT	21,400	21,900	-500	-2.3	21,300
Federal	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,100
State & Local	19,300	19,800	-500	-2.5	19,200

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

DANBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	87,300	87,100	200	0.2	87,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,500	23,200	-700	-3.0	22,600
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,600	3,500	100	2.9	3,500
MANUFACTURING	18,900	19,700	-800	-4.1	19,100
Durable Goods	10,200	10,600	-400	-3.8	10,300
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,400	5,600	-200	-3.6	5,500
Instruments	2,400	2,700	-300	-11.1	2,400
Nondurable Goods	8,700	9,100	-400	-4.4	8,800
Printing & Publishing	2,500	2,600	-100	-3.8	2,500
Chemicals	3,500	3,500	0	0.0	3,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	64,800	63,900	900	1.4	64,400
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
TRADE	21,300	21,300	0	0.0	21,200
Wholesale	3,400	3,600	-200	-5.6	3,400
Retail	17,900	17,700	200	1.1	17,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	5,000	4,700	300	6.4	4,900
SERVICES	25,400	24,600	800	3.3	25,200
GOVERNMENT	10,400	10,600	-200	-1.9	10,400
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	900
State & Local	9,600	9,800	-200	-2.0	9,500

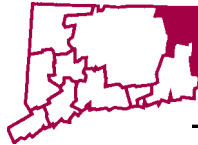
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

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

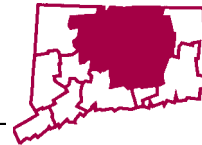


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	20,000	20,500	-500	-2.4	20,100
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,300	6,700	-400	-6.0	6,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	700	800	-100	-12.5	700
MANUFACTURING	5,600	5,900	-300	-5.1	5,700
Durable Goods	2,300	2,500	-200	-8.0	2,300
Nondurable Goods	3,300	3,400	-100	-2.9	3,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	13,700	13,800	-100	-0.7	13,700
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	500	500	0	0.0	500
TRADE	4,900	4,800	100	2.1	4,900
Wholesale	900	800	100	12.5	900
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	3,000	3,300	-300	-9.1	3,000
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	2,900	3,200	-300	-9.4	2,900

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

HARTFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	606,200	601,700	4,500	0.7	601,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	113,300	114,300	-1,000	-0.9	112,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	17,900	18,300	-400	-2.2	17,700
MANUFACTURING	95,400	96,000	-600	-0.6	94,700
Durable Goods	74,800	75,600	-800	-1.1	74,100
Primary & Fabricated Metals	18,600	18,600	0	0.0	18,600
Industrial Machinery	13,900	14,600	-700	-4.8	13,900
Electronic Equipment	6,200	6,500	-300	-4.6	6,300
Transportation Equipment	27,400	27,300	100	0.4	26,600
Nondurable Goods	20,600	20,400	200	1.0	20,600
Printing & Publishing	9,000	8,900	100	1.1	9,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	492,900	487,400	5,500	1.1	489,400
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	27,000	26,300	700	2.7	27,100
Transportation	15,700	15,400	300	1.9	15,800
Communications & Utilities	11,300	10,900	400	3.7	11,300
TRADE	124,100	122,400	1,700	1.4	123,100
Wholesale	30,300	29,600	700	2.4	29,800
Retail	93,800	92,800	1,000	1.1	93,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	70,900	70,100	800	1.1	70,400
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	11,700	11,900	-200	-1.7	11,700
Insurance Carriers	46,300	45,200	1,100	2.4	46,100
SERVICES	174,100	172,900	1,200	0.7	173,300
Business Services	34,000	32,800	1,200	3.7	33,800
Health Services	57,700	59,300	-1,600	-2.7	57,700
GOVERNMENT	96,800	95,700	1,100	1.1	95,500
Federal	7,800	8,000	-200	-2.5	7,800
State & Local	89,000	87,700	1,300	1.5	87,700

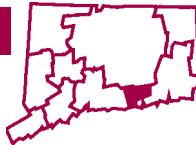
For further information on the Hartford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

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.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

LOWER RIVER LMA

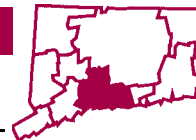


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	9,500	9,100	400	4.4	9,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,300	3,200	100	3.1	3,300
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	400	300	100	33.3	400
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	6,200	5,900	300	5.1	6,300
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	400	300	100	33.3	400
TRADE	2,100	1,900	200	10.5	2,100
Wholesale	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail	1,700	1,500	200	13.3	1,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	300	300	0	0.0	300
SERVICES	2,600	2,500	100	4.0	2,600
GOVERNMENT	800	900	-100	-11.1	900
Federal	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local	800	900	-100	-11.1	900

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

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	254,600	250,700	3,900	1.6	254,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	49,600	48,700	900	1.8	49,200
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	9,100	8,900	200	2.2	9,000
MANUFACTURING	40,500	39,800	700	1.8	40,200
Durable Goods	25,900	25,300	600	2.4	25,700
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,800	6,700	100	1.5	6,800
Electronic Equipment	5,300	5,100	200	3.9	5,300
Nondurable Goods	14,600	14,500	100	0.7	14,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,200	5,400	-200	-3.7	5,200
Chemicals & Allied	5,400	5,300	100	1.9	5,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	205,000	202,000	3,000	1.5	205,400
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	16,700	16,200	500	3.1	16,600
Communications & Utilities	8,900	8,500	400	4.7	8,900
TRADE	53,000	52,900	100	0.2	52,900
Wholesale	13,800	13,700	100	0.7	13,700
Retail	39,200	39,200	0	0.0	39,200
Eating & Drinking Places	11,100	11,000	100	0.9	11,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13,500	13,500	0	0.0	13,600
Finance	4,100	4,200	-100	-2.4	4,200
Insurance	7,300	7,200	100	1.4	7,400
SERVICES	90,800	88,000	2,800	3.2	91,400
Business Services	12,400	12,300	100	0.8	12,600
Health Services	28,500	28,500	0	0.0	28,600
GOVERNMENT	31,000	31,400	-400	-1.3	30,900
Federal	5,200	5,500	-300	-5.5	5,200
State & Local	25,800	25,900	-100	-0.4	25,700

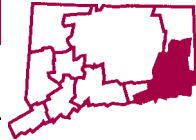
For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact J. Charles Joo at (860) 263-6293.

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

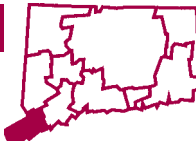


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	137,000	135,800	1,200	0.9	136,700
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	28,300	28,800	-500	-1.7	28,100
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	4,400	4,300	100	2.3	4,400
MANUFACTURING	23,900	24,500	-600	-2.4	23,700
Durable Goods	13,900	14,800	-900	-6.1	13,900
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	2,300
Other Durable Goods	11,600	12,500	-900	-7.2	11,600
Nondurable Goods	10,000	9,700	300	3.1	9,800
Paper & Allied	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
Other Nondurable Goods	7,900	7,400	500	6.8	7,800
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	108,700	107,000	1,700	1.6	108,600
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	6,500	6,600	-100	-1.5	6,500
TRADE	27,200	27,000	200	0.7	27,200
Wholesale	2,700	2,600	100	3.8	2,600
Retail	24,500	24,400	100	0.4	24,600
Eating & Drinking Places	7,200	7,300	-100	-1.4	7,000
Other Retail	17,400	17,100	300	1.8	17,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3,800	3,800	0	0.0	3,800
SERVICES	35,000	34,200	800	2.3	34,900
Personal & Business Services	6,200	6,300	-100	-1.6	6,300
Health Services	11,900	11,600	300	2.6	11,900
GOVERNMENT	36,200	35,400	800	2.3	36,200
Federal	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
State & Local	33,500	32,700	800	2.4	33,500
**Local	29,000	28,400	600	2.1	29,000

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

STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	203,400	203,100	300	0.1	202,100
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	32,100	33,600	-1,500	-4.5	31,900
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	5,500	5,500	0	0.0	5,400
MANUFACTURING	26,600	28,100	-1,500	-5.3	26,500
Durable Goods	14,100	14,700	-600	-4.1	14,100
Industrial Machinery	3,600	3,800	-200	-5.3	3,600
Electronic Equipment	2,300	2,500	-200	-8.0	2,300
Nondurable Goods	12,500	13,400	-900	-6.7	12,400
Paper, Printing & Publishing	6,100	6,500	-400	-6.2	6,100
Chemicals & Allied	3,100	3,300	-200	-6.1	3,100
Other Nondurable	3,300	3,600	-300	-8.3	3,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	171,300	169,500	1,800	1.1	170,200
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	10,100	10,600	-500	-4.7	10,100
Communications & Utilities	2,800	3,300	-500	-15.2	2,800
TRADE	42,800	43,400	-600	-1.4	42,700
Wholesale	11,300	11,300	0	0.0	11,300
Retail	31,500	32,100	-600	-1.9	31,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	25,400	24,900	500	2.0	25,300
SERVICES	75,300	72,600	2,700	3.7	74,500
Business Services	22,400	21,800	600	2.8	22,200
Engineering & Mgmt. Services	11,100	10,700	400	3.7	11,100
Other Services	41,800	40,100	1,700	4.2	41,200
GOVERNMENT	17,700	18,000	-300	-1.7	17,600
Federal	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
State & Local	15,800	16,100	-300	-1.9	15,700

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

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

TORRINGTON LMA

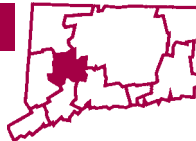


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	29,000	28,600	400	1.4	28,500
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	7,900	8,100	-200	-2.5	7,600
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	1,800	1,900	-100	-5.3	1,800
MANUFACTURING	6,100	6,200	-100	-1.6	5,800
Durable Goods	4,200	4,400	-200	-4.5	4,100
Primary & Fabricated Metals	600	600	0	0.0	600
Industrial Machinery	1,100	1,200	-100	-8.3	1,100
Electronic Equipment	500	500	0	0.0	400
Other Durable Goods	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,000
Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,800	100	5.6	1,700
Rubber & Plastics	1,000	900	100	11.1	900
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	0	0.0	800
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	21,100	20,500	600	2.9	20,900
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	900	800	100	12.5	900
TRADE	6,300	6,100	200	3.3	6,200
Wholesale	600	700	-100	-14.3	600
Retail	5,700	5,400	300	5.6	5,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
SERVICES	9,700	9,400	300	3.2	9,600
GOVERNMENT	3,400	3,300	100	3.0	3,400
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,200	3,100	100	3.2	3,200

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

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
	1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	85,100	85,200	-100	-0.1	85,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	21,600	21,900	-300	-1.4	21,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,200	3,000	200	6.7	3,000
MANUFACTURING	18,400	18,900	-500	-2.6	18,400
Durable Goods	14,400	14,700	-300	-2.0	14,400
Primary Metals	800	800	0	0.0	800
Fabricated Metals	6,300	6,500	-200	-3.1	6,300
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,700	5,000	-300	-6.0	4,700
Nondurable Goods	4,000	4,200	-200	-4.8	4,000
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,300	1,100	200	18.2	1,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	63,500	63,300	200	0.3	63,600
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	3,700	3,700	0	0.0	3,700
TRADE	17,900	17,700	200	1.1	18,000
Wholesale	3,000	3,100	-100	-3.2	3,000
Retail	14,900	14,600	300	2.1	15,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	3,600	3,500	100	2.9	3,600
SERVICES	26,400	26,100	300	1.1	26,300
Personal & Business	7,100	6,900	200	2.9	7,000
Health Services	10,500	10,500	0	0.0	10,500
GOVERNMENT	11,900	12,300	-400	-3.3	12,000
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,100	11,500	-400	-3.5	11,200

For further information on the Waterbury Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepiski 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

<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	MAR	MAR	CHANGE		FEB
		1999	1998	NO.	%	1999
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,708,700	1,694,900	13,800	0.8	1,698,600
	Employed	1,652,700	1,632,700	20,000	1.2	1,636,200
	Unemployed	56,000	62,200	-6,200	-10.0	62,500
	Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.7	-0.4	---	3.7
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	218,400	218,500	-100	0.0	217,100
	Employed	209,500	209,200	300	0.1	207,400
	Unemployed	8,800	9,300	-500	-5.4	9,700
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.3	-0.2	---	4.5
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	109,200	108,500	700	0.6	108,400
	Employed	106,400	105,800	600	0.6	105,300
	Unemployed	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	3,100
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	2.5	0.0	---	2.9
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	32,200	32,900	-700	-2.1	32,000
	Employed	30,700	31,100	-400	-1.3	30,400
	Unemployed	1,400	1,900	-500	-26.3	1,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.5	5.7	-1.2	---	4.9
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	584,600	578,800	5,800	1.0	580,100
	Employed	564,800	556,900	7,900	1.4	557,900
	Unemployed	19,900	21,900	-2,000	-9.1	22,200
	Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.8	-0.4	---	3.8
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,100	11,700	400	3.4	12,100
	Employed	11,800	11,400	400	3.5	11,800
	Unemployed	300	400	-100	-25.0	300
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	3.1	-0.6	---	2.8
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	272,300	267,300	5,000	1.9	272,200
	Employed	264,000	257,900	6,100	2.4	263,000
	Unemployed	8,200	9,400	-1,200	-12.8	9,200
	Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.5	-0.5	---	3.4
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	151,000	149,900	1,100	0.7	150,600
	Employed	146,100	143,500	2,600	1.8	144,800
	Unemployed	4,900	6,400	-1,500	-23.4	5,800
	Unemployment Rate	3.2	4.3	-1.1	---	3.8
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	191,800	190,500	1,300	0.7	190,000
	Employed	187,400	186,000	1,400	0.8	185,100
	Unemployed	4,400	4,600	-200	-4.3	4,800
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.4	-0.1	---	2.6
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	38,600	38,200	400	1.0	38,200
	Employed	37,500	37,000	500	1.4	36,900
	Unemployed	1,100	1,200	-100	-8.3	1,200
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	3.3	-0.5	---	3.2
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	114,700	114,500	200	0.2	114,300
	Employed	109,900	109,300	600	0.5	109,100
	Unemployed	4,800	5,200	-400	-7.7	5,300
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.6	-0.4	---	4.6
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	138,418,000	136,967,000	1,451,000	1.1	138,202,000
	Employed	132,299,000	130,150,000	2,149,000	1.7	131,639,000
	Unemployed	6,119,000	6,816,000	-697,000	-10.2	6,563,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	5.0	-0.6	---	4.7

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MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	MAR		CHG	FEB	MAR		CHG	FEB	MAR		CHG	FEB
	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999
MANUFACTURING	\$639.39	\$629.83	\$9.57	\$628.50	42.4	42.7	-0.3	41.9	\$15.08	\$14.75	\$0.33	\$15.00
DURABLE GOODS	657.90	645.22	12.68	642.11	43.0	42.9	0.1	42.3	15.30	15.04	0.26	15.18
Lumber & Furniture	480.52	472.53	7.99	484.81	41.0	40.7	0.3	40.2	11.72	11.61	0.11	12.06
Stone, Clay and Glass	594.52	618.43	-23.91	592.16	44.6	44.3	0.3	45.1	13.33	13.96	-0.63	13.13
Primary Metals	613.50	601.31	12.18	603.24	44.2	43.7	0.5	44.0	13.88	13.76	0.12	13.71
Fabricated Metals	599.20	594.38	4.82	579.06	42.8	42.7	0.1	41.9	14.00	13.92	0.08	13.82
Machinery	711.23	697.09	14.14	682.54	45.1	44.8	0.3	42.9	15.77	15.56	0.21	15.91
Electrical Equipment	524.98	494.10	30.87	513.70	41.5	40.6	0.9	40.9	12.65	12.17	0.48	12.56
Trans. Equipment	827.09	823.44	3.65	813.13	43.1	43.8	-0.7	43.0	19.19	18.80	0.39	18.91
Instruments	604.66	597.82	6.84	605.05	41.5	42.1	-0.6	42.4	14.57	14.20	0.37	14.27
Miscellaneous Mfg	620.96	544.71	76.25	624.42	41.9	40.2	1.7	41.6	14.82	13.55	1.27	15.01
NONDUR. GOODS	596.77	592.07	4.71	594.69	41.1	42.2	-1.1	40.9	14.52	14.03	0.49	14.54
Food	537.07	531.91	5.16	515.81	43.7	43.0	0.7	41.8	12.29	12.37	-0.08	12.34
Textiles	461.38	488.33	-26.94	479.12	39.1	42.5	-3.4	40.5	11.80	11.49	0.31	11.83
Apparel	331.27	325.37	5.90	331.38	38.7	38.1	0.6	37.7	8.56	8.54	0.02	8.79
Paper	709.85	701.04	8.81	716.48	44.2	45.7	-1.5	44.2	16.06	15.34	0.72	16.21
Printing & Publishing	593.18	579.86	13.32	590.52	38.0	39.5	-1.5	38.0	15.61	14.68	0.93	15.54
Chemicals	778.53	803.69	-25.16	776.86	43.3	44.6	-1.3	43.4	17.98	18.02	-0.04	17.90
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	515.01	504.64	10.37	505.94	41.6	42.3	-0.7	41.2	12.38	11.93	0.45	12.28
CONSTRUCTION	806.62	776.40	30.22	809.17	40.8	40.0	0.8	41.2	19.77	19.41	0.36	19.64

LMAs

MANUFACTURING	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	MAR		CHG	FEB	MAR		CHG	FEB	MAR		CHG	FEB
	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999	1999	1998	Y/Y	1999
Bridgeport	\$638.56	\$641.51	-\$2.95	\$625.13	41.6	42.4	-0.8	41.1	\$15.35	\$15.13	\$0.22	\$15.21
Danbury	611.31	638.12	-26.81	609.76	41.0	43.0	-2.0	41.2	14.91	14.84	0.07	14.80
Danielson	484.79	475.51	9.28	483.09	40.5	40.4	0.1	39.5	11.97	11.77	0.20	12.23
Hartford	684.80	686.16	-1.36	676.18	42.8	43.9	-1.1	42.5	16.00	15.63	0.37	15.91
Lower River	544.16	506.57	37.59	538.07	41.1	39.7	1.4	41.2	13.24	12.76	0.48	13.06
New Haven	633.89	614.80	19.09	615.92	42.6	42.4	0.2	42.1	14.88	14.50	0.38	14.63
New London	669.25	644.39	24.86	664.83	42.6	42.2	0.4	42.4	15.71	15.27	0.44	15.68
Stamford	528.69	555.10	-26.41	539.15	38.2	40.4	-2.2	38.9	13.84	13.74	0.10	13.86
Torrington	561.50	551.69	9.81	567.67	41.5	42.9	-1.4	42.3	13.53	12.86	0.67	13.42
Waterbury	634.71	599.56	35.15	631.95	44.2	43.7	0.5	44.1	14.36	13.72	0.64	14.33

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

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

Connecticut Counties:	MAR	MAR	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		FEB
	1999	1998	UNITS	%	1999	1998	UNITS	%	1999
		1,105	747	358	47.9	2,372	2,131	241	11.3
Fairfield	330	168	162	96.4	553	482	71	14.7	113
Hartford	239	190	49	25.8	474	634	-160	-25.2	118
Litchfield	85	62	23	37.1	153	125	28	22.4	46
Middlesex	108	55	53	96.4	204	136	68	50.0	53
New Haven	158	137	21	15.3	630	402	228	56.7	103
New London	88	68	20	29.4	161	173	-12	-6.9	35
Tolland	66	42	24	57.1	135	119	16	13.4	31
Windham	31	25	6	24.0	62	60	2	3.3	19

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	MAR 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998	TOWN	MAR 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998	TOWN	MAR 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998
Andover	3	5	7	Griswold	5	8	7	Preston	5	7	3
Ansonia	8	8	6	Groton	10	20	21	Prospect	0	6	5
Ashford	3	4	7	Guilford	5	19	32	Putnam	1	2	0
Avon	12	34	27	Haddam	3	6	3	Redding	3	6	11
Barkhamsted	1	1	6	Hamden	4	16	42	Ridgefield	13	31	28
Beacon Falls	2	9	9	Hampton	1	2	2	Rocky Hill	14	21	20
Berlin	6	18	23	Hartford	5	13	51	Roxbury	1	2	1
Bethany	3	3	8	Hartland	0	0	1	Salem	1	2	4
Bethel	6	9	8	Harwinton	3	4	4	Salisbury	1	2	1
Bethlehem	1	4	1	Hebron	7	17	16	Scotland	1	2	4
Bloomfield	3	7	7	Kent	1	2	2	Seymour	9	15	9
Bolton	2	5	4	Killingly	1	4	5	Sharon	0	1	2
Bozrah	3	3	1	Killingworth	4	13	16	Shelton	18	40	65
Branford	4	15	8	Lebanon	9	11	2	Sherman	1	5	3
Bridgeport	0	12	19	Ledyard	7	9	19	Simsbury	14	24	18
Bridgewater	1	1	3	Lisbon	2	6	5	Somers	3	6	7
Bristol	6	12	14	Litchfield	2	4	4	South Windsor	9	19	30
Brookfield	10	22	8	Lyme	1	4	1	Southbury	13	17	24
Brooklyn	3	5	0	Madison	10	18	28	Southington	56	76	56
Burlington	6	9	9	Manchester	5	12	93	Sprague	1	2	1
Canaan	0	0	0	Mansfield	8	12	8	Stafford	5	8	5
Canterbury	2	3	6	Marlborough	2	6	5	Stamford	172	185	58
Canton	13	17	9	Meriden	0	8	13	Sterling	2	5	4
Chaplin	1	3	4	Middlebury	2	5	3	Stonington	7	20	20
Cheshire	7	11	19	Middlefield	3	8	4	Stratford	5	12	6
Chester	1	2	1	Middletown	54	74	29	Suffield	7	12	115
Clinton	4	16	14	Milford	16	135	27	Thomaston	6	9	5
Colchester	9	15	16	Monroe	5	21	26	Thompson	2	4	6
Colebrook	2	2	2	Montville	3	6	6	Tolland	14	32	16
Columbia	4	6	10	Morris	1	4	1	Torrington	4	20	5
Cornwall	0	1	2	Naugatuck	4	8	7	Trumbull	17	25	39
Coventry	3	13	6	New Britain	2	2	1	Union	0	1	0
Cromwell	8	12	14	New Canaan	5	8	7	Vernon	9	11	6
Danbury	13	28	25	New Fairfield	2	6	6	Voluntown	5	5	4
Darien	3	5	4	New Hartford	4	4	7	Wallingford	32	52	36
Deep River	2	3	3	New Haven	0	197	41	Warren	1	2	1
Derby	2	6	6	New London	0	0	1	Washington	1	3	2
Durham	3	11	8	New Milford	24	42	28	Waterbury	2	8	9
East Granby	1	3	4	Newington	15	26	22	Waterford	7	13	17
East Haddam	7	15	13	Newtown	19	49	41	Watertown	4	12	18
East Hampton	5	11	6	Norfolk	1	1	0	West Hartford	2	4	6
East Hartford	1	2	0	North Branford	1	6	10	West Haven	5	10	2
East Haven	6	11	16	North Canaan	0	0	1	Westbrook	7	14	12
East Lyme	6	13	16	North Haven	7	13	6	Weston	2	4	5
East Windsor	3	4	5	No. Stonington	1	3	9	Westport	4	9	9
Eastford	0	1	2	Norwalk	12	27	42	Wethersfield	1	8	28
Easton	4	5	9	Norwich	3	6	10	Willington	1	2	1
Ellington	7	17	33	Old Lyme	3	8	10	Wilton	1	5	10
Enfield	12	17	8	Old Saybrook	2	4	7	Winchester	2	3	2
Essex	2	8	5	Orange	1	3	4	Windham	2	4	5
Fairfield	1	11	32	Oxford	9	14	16	Windsor	5	13	8
Farmington	14	33	28	Plainfield	3	9	8	Windsor Locks	0	2	1
Franklin	0	0	0	Plainville	3	4	3	Wolcott	4	10	10
Glastonbury	16	61	32	Plymouth	17	18	6	Woodbridge	2	7	6
Goshen	1	3	5	Pomfret	5	10	2	Woodbury	6	8	16
Granby	6	15	10	Portland	3	7	1	Woodstock	4	4	5
Greenwich	14	28	21								

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-2.9	Business Activity	Tourism and Travel
Coincident Employment Index+5.5	New Housing Permits +47.9	Tourism Inquiries +55.6
Total Nonfarm Employment+1.5	Electricity Sales +6.0	Tourism Info Centers +16.1
Unemployment -0.4*	Retail Sales +6.4	Attraction Visitors -27.0
Labor Force +0.9	Construction Contracts Index -4.3	Hotel-Motel Occupancy +2.4*
Employed +1.2	New Auto Registrations +43.6	Air Passenger Count +11.2
Unemployed -10.0	Air Cargo Tons -9.4	
Average Weekly Initial Claims +15.0	Business Starts	Employment Cost Index (U.S.)
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford -8.1	Secretary of the State +12.8	Total +3.0
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate -0.18*	Dept. of Labor +5.3	Wages & Salaries +3.3
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg -0.7	Business Terminations	Benefit Costs +2.2
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg +2.2	Secretary of the State +22.5	Consumer Price Index
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg +1.5	Dept. of Labor +10.5	U.S. City Average +1.7
Manufacturing Output-0.8	State Tax Collections +0.1	Northeast Region +1.5
Production Worker Hours -2.5	Corporate Tax -13.7	NY-NJ-Long Island +1.4
Productivity +1.7	Personal Income Tax +5.0	Boston-Brockton-Nashua +2.0
Personal Income+4.0	Real Estate Conveyance Tax +1.1	Consumer Confidence
UI Covered Wages+4.5	Sales & Use Tax +6.9	U.S. +0.1
		New England -2.4
		Interest Rates
		Prime -0.75*
		Conventional Mortgage -0.09*

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

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