

# ECONOMIC DIGEST

## NOVEMBER 1997

- The Waterbury area rebounds, with the turnaround in both population and employment in recent years. (first article, pp.1-2, 4)
- Computer services industry in Connecticut is expanding at a pentium speed. (second article, pp.3-4)
- Total nonfarm employment in September increased by 2,100 from August, and by 31,700 from a year ago. (p.6)
- The unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.6 percent in September. (p.6)
- Housing permits rose 3.2 percent over the year, and were up 23.7 percent through September from last year. (p.7)

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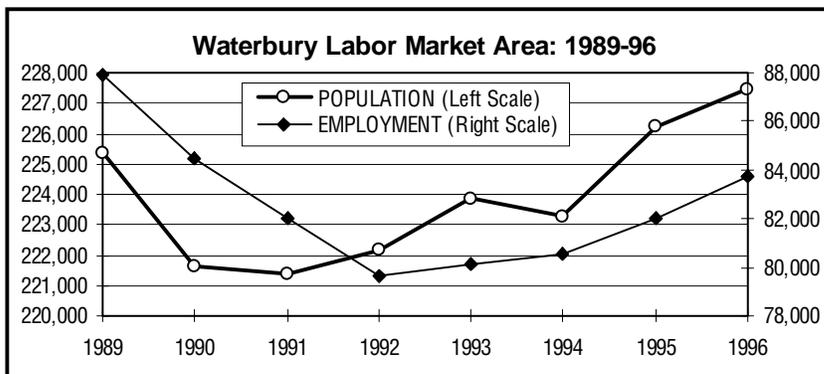
## The Transformation Of The Waterbury Area

Long considered as having a manufacturing driven economy, the Waterbury area began to undergo some major changes during the eighties. It was during that decade that long established companies such as Century Brass, Scovill, Timex and the Anaconda American Company either greatly reduced their workforce or shut their doors completely leaving thousands of workers jobless. Even though this was devastating to the local economy, the area still was able to hold its own during the mid to later eighties. Construction, retail trade and the service industry were thriving. Area residents were still able to shop at modern malls and shopping centers such as the Naugatuck Valley Mall and the Colonial Plaza; people could take in a minor league baseball game at Municipal Stadium; and due to employee stock options many manufacturing firms were able to remain in production. In 1989, almost 88,000 jobs existed in the Waterbury Labor Market Area,

with one-third of these being in the manufacturing industries.

### Point Of No Return

The recession of the early nineties would be devastating for the area and the "Brass City" in particular. Between 1989 and 1992, approximately 10,000 area jobs were lost, with half of these being manufacturing jobs. Last ditch efforts to save the old factories failed, leaving employees not only without a job but also minus the money that they personally invested in many of these businesses to help keep them afloat. It was also during this time that declining business led many downtown and suburban retail merchants to shut their doors, which in turn led to the neglect of many of these properties. Mall and shopping center operators were in such desperate straits that in order to entice merchants, leases were on a month-to-month basis. Despite these efforts, empty stores were still the norm. After years of disrepair, the Eastern League



(Continued from page 1)

pulled their baseball team out of Waterbury. The area had major problems. The sites where the old factories stood were virtually useless to developers because of the astronomical environmental clean-up costs. In 1992, the area unemployment rate reached 10.9 percent, while in the city of Waterbury, the rate would top out at 12.3 percent of the labor force. People were also leaving the area. By 1994, close to 2,000 fewer people were residing in the Waterbury area than in 1989. An even more somber statistic, however, occurred in the city of Waterbury where the population decreased by 4,000 during this five year period. Making matters worse were a municipal corruption scandal that engulfed the city of Waterbury, and the shutting down of local train service.

### **The Transformation**

When it seemed that the area had reached the point of no return, the economy began to turn around, helped by efforts involving both the private and public sectors. Waterbury-based Centerbank began the new show of faith by acquiring North Carolina-based First Union Bank. This initially led to layoffs in a financial industry that had already lost 600 employees, but in the past two years alone 500 new jobs have been created. Within the past year, strong volunteerism has enabled the Naugatuck Railroad to resume operations on a limited basis. If successful, this long abandoned route of transportation will be expanded. Government employment has regained almost all of the 600 jobs lost earlier in the decade, as jobs have increased at Naugatuck Valley Community-Technical College and at the Waterbury-based branch of the University of Connecticut. A new courthouse is being built on the site of the former Anaconda

American building and a new office building is under construction for the Department of Public Works. In addition to being a source of hundreds of construction jobs in the area, these state projects, which carry a \$52 million price tag, will provide future jobs in state government. As a result of financing by the city of Waterbury and the state of Connecticut, two million dollars were committed to the renovation of Waterbury's Municipal Stadium. The end result of this effort was the birth of the Waterbury Spirit professional baseball team in the Northeast League. At the end of their first season of operation, over 30,000 fans had come through the gates to watch baseball.

The single biggest happening in the Waterbury area, however, occurred at the 90 acre site that formerly housed the Scovill Manufacturing Company. Facing a costly environmental clean-up, the city of Waterbury along with the state of Connecticut and the United States Environmental Protection Agency jointly financed this operation. It was at this point that General Growth Corporation proposed building a major shopping mall at this site, strategically located off Interstate 84. The Brass Mill Center Mall which opened in September 1997 has more than 2,500 employees working at 150 stores which include national retailers and restaurants such as Old Navy, J.C. Penney, Ruby Tuesday, Toys R Us, Littman Jewelers and Bertucci's along with a 12-screen Hoyts Cinema. This explosion in retailing has also led to the construction of the Brass Mill Commons Shopping Plaza, which means additional stores and jobs.

### **Brighter Future Ahead**

Even without the mall, the Waterbury area has been rebounding. More than half of the jobs lost during the recession

(Continued on page 4)

## **THE CONNECTICUT**

# **ECONOMIC DIGEST**

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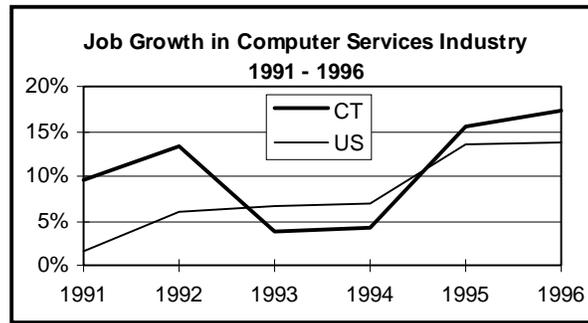
# Computer Services Industry Expanding At A Pentium Speed

by J. Charles Joo, Research Analyst

**T**he computer services industry in Connecticut has been growing rapidly since the start of this decade. From 1990 to 1996, this dynamic and ever-expanding industry's employment grew by 82 percent, adding almost 9,000 jobs. Workers in that industry also were paid well, with an annual average salary of \$60,555 in 1996, considerably higher than the \$36,590 average for all nonfarm workers.

In each of the last six years, the computer services industry has been adding jobs in both the nation and Connecticut.

As the graph below shows, Connecticut's job growth rate was above the nation's during 1991 and 1992. Even though 1991



was the worst year of the latest recession in the State, the computer industry countered the

trend with an almost 10 percent job growth that year. U.S. employment then grew faster during 1993 and 1994, but the State came back stronger in 1995 and 1996. Overall, between 1990 and 1996, Connecticut's computer services industry employment grew 82 percent, much faster than the nation's 58 percent growth.

The computer services industry is a small but rapidly increasing part of the services sector. Its employment made up 2.6 percent of total services sector employment in 1990, but it grew to 4.2

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## HOUSING UPDATE

### September: housing permits increase

**C**ommissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 740 new housing units in September 1997, a 3.2 percent increase compared to September of 1996 when 717 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 740 units permitted in September 1997 represent a decrease of 6.6 percent from the 792 units permitted in August 1997. The year-to-date permits are up 23.7

percent, however, from 5,672 through September 1996, to 7,019 through September 1997.

"The 23 percent rise in permits from last year suggests that the housing sector continues to enjoy significant strength," Commissioner Abromaitis said, "Connecticut's economy is strong and growing and we will certainly conclude 1997 with the largest percentage increase in permits in recent years."

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Middlesex County with 67.4 percent showed the greatest

percentage increase in September compared to the same month a year ago. Fairfield County followed with a 44.2 percent increase.

Fairfield County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in September with 173. Hartford County followed with 161 units and New Haven County had 130 units. Danbury led all Connecticut communities with 25 units, followed by Hartford with 23, and Stamford with 20. ■

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

The annual housing permit report for 1996 is available from the Department of Economic and Community Development. To obtain a copy, please call (860)270-8161 or fax requests to (860)270-8174.

(Computer Services Industry...Continued from page 3)

percent in 1996 to a workforce of almost 20,000. The extent of growth in both employment and wages in the computer services industry is uncanny. Between 1990 and 1996, Connecticut lost almost 55,000 jobs, or 3.4 percent, while experiencing a 26.3 percent increase in wages (during which time inflation grew 16.6%). The total services sector, on the other hand, gained 14.8 percent in jobs and 25.8 percent in wages. During that same period, the computer services industry experienced a whopping 82.1 percent rise in jobs, and an explosive 43.7 percent growth in wages. (See table below)

Looking at the components of the computer services industry,

the largest number of new jobs since 1990 occurred in the *other computer related services* sector (+4,700, +225%). This sector's growth reflects the great increase in the number of computer consultants and data base developers. *Computer programming services* came in second in most jobs created (+2,370, +131%). However, *computer rental and leasing* (-16%), and *computer maintenance* (-24%) businesses actually shrank as the sharply declining cost of computers enabled more and more consumers to buy rather than lease or fix. Employees in these industries had the highest wage rate, though, close to \$100,000 a year. The fastest growth in wages since 1990 transpired in *other computer related services* category (+50%),

while the weakest growth was in *computer maintenance* (+9%). *Data preparation and processing* industry workers were paid the lowest annual wage of \$34,542 in 1996, which was still above the total services industry average of \$32,300.

Computer services is a relatively young industry that has experienced rapid growth in employment and wages in the last six years. As computers are increasingly relied on by individuals and businesses, the demand for computer services should continue to be high. The Connecticut Labor Department projects this industry's employment to grow by 19 percent by 2005, faster than the total services and the all industries' rates of 14 and 9 percent, respectively. ■

### Computer Services Industry in Connecticut: 1990 and 1996

	Employment				Annual Wages		
	1990	1996	Chg	% Chg	1990	1996	% Chg
Total industries	1,618,562	1,563,917	-54,645	-3.4	\$28,982	\$36,590	26.3
Total services	409,730	470,468	60,738	14.8	\$25,672	\$32,300	25.8
Total computer services	10,791	19,649	8,858	82.1	\$42,141	\$60,555	43.7
Computer programming services	1,814	4,182	2,368	130.5	\$43,872	\$64,183	46.3
Prepackaged software	1,431	1,970	539	37.7	\$47,870	\$58,194	21.6
Computer integrated systems design	538	623	85	15.8	\$48,687	\$55,675	14.4
Data preparation & processing	2,836	3,564	728	25.7	\$28,325	\$34,542	21.9
Information retrieval services	1,040	1,263	223	21.4	\$38,537	\$46,923	21.8
Computer facilities management	334	754	420	125.7	\$37,575	\$49,880	32.7
Computer rental and leasing	274	229	-45	-16.4	\$83,136	\$99,448	19.6
Computer maintenance	679	515	-164	-24.2	\$43,806	\$47,562	8.6
Other computer related services	1,847	6,549	4,702	254.6	\$51,472	\$77,088	49.8

Source: Connecticut Labor Department

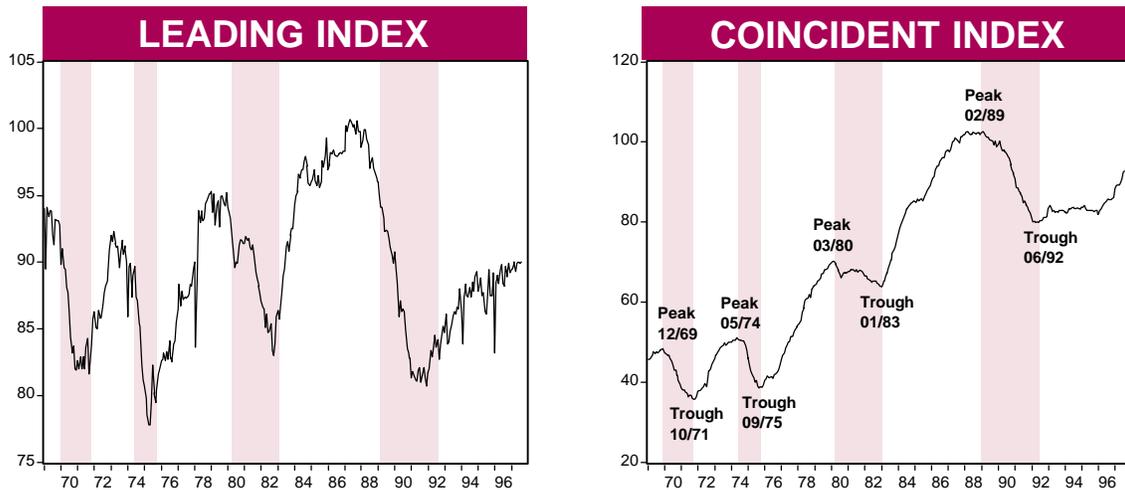
(Waterbury Area...Continued from page 2)

were already regained by June 1997, including 1,000 new construction jobs and 1,000 new wholesale and retail trade positions. The service industry actually expanded during the recession and employment in the sector has grown by 3,000 during this decade. The unemployment rate in August 1997, has gone down to 5.2 percent in the area and 6.4 percent in the city of

Waterbury, a far cry from the double-digit rates of just a few years ago. Also promising is the fact that people are coming back to live in the area. In the last two years, 1,000 people have returned to the city of Waterbury and an additional 1,000 are projected to reside in this city by the turn of the century. Population in the Labor Market Area has also increased by 4,000 during

the last two years, with an additional 8,000 projected to live in the area by the year 2000. The jobs are back, the people are back and the economy is back. The start of the twenty-first century looks very promising indeed for the Waterbury area. ■

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



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

## Coincident index continues its upward momentum

**T**he Connecticut coincident and leading employment indexes continue an upward pattern begun about one-and-a-half-years ago. The coincident index, a barometer of current employment activity, exhibits healthy growth compared to the earlier part of the current recovery. The most recent observation represents another new peak in the current expansion. The recent upward movement in the coincident index now matches more closely its movements in prior recoveries (see chart), unlike the first part of the current expansion.

The leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, continues to move up and down, although overall it maintains a modest upward trend. The leading index also reached its peak in the current expansion with the release of the (preliminary) August data. As mentioned last month, we continue to monitor carefully the leading

index as any sustained downward movement in this index may signal the next downturn in the Connecticut economy.

As noted previously on these pages, the recovery of the Connecticut economy relies on the strength of the national recovery. Connecticut's recovery from the last recession lagged behind the national recovery for several years. More recently, Connecticut's recovery has gained much more strength. Can this continue? Some economy watchers argue that the U.S. economy has entered a "new era" — low unemployment, low inflation, low interest rates, and healthy corporate profits. These new-era optimists foresee a bright economic future. The Federal Reserve, however, keeps close watch for any sign of inflation. If and when such a sign emerges, the Federal Reserve will apply the monetary brakes and the Connecticut economy may go into a skid.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 85.8 in August 1996 to 92.7 in August 1997. All four index components continue to point in a positive direction on a year-over-year basis with higher nonfarm employment, higher total employment, a lower insured unemployment rate, and a lower total unemployment rate.

The leading employment index rose from 88.6 in August 1996 to 90.0 in August 1997. Four index components sent positive signals on a year-over-year basis with a lower short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, higher total housing permits, lower initial claims for unemployment insurance, and higher Hartford help-wanted advertising. Finally, the fifth component of the index, the average workweek of manufacturing production workers, sent a negative signal as it fell on year-over-year basis. ■

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

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Total nonfarm employment increased by 2.0 percent over the year. The services sector rose 3.1 percent, while manufacturing employment declined by 0.2 percent.

## EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

	SEP		CHANGE		AUG
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>					
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	1,622.6	1,590.9	31.7	2.0	1,620.5
<b>Private Sector</b>	1,394.5	1,365.5	29.0	2.1	1,393.1
<b>Construction and Mining</b>	57.3	53.5	3.8	7.1	56.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	273.7	274.2	-0.5	-0.2	276.2
<b>Transportation, Public Utilities</b>	75.1	73.0	2.1	2.9	73.4
<b>Wholesale, Retail Trade</b>	355.8	347.4	8.4	2.4	355.5
<b>Finance, Insurance &amp; Real Estate</b>	130.4	130.5	-0.1	-0.1	130.3
<b>Services</b>	502.2	486.9	15.3	3.1	501.0
<b>Government</b>	228.1	225.4	2.7	1.2	227.4

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

Initial claims declined by 13.6 percent over the year, and the number of unemployed fell by almost 20 percent.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

	SEP		CHANGE		AUG
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>					
<b>Unemployment Rate, resident (%)</b>	4.6	5.7	-1.1	---	4.6
<b>Labor Force, resident (000s)</b>	1,742.8	1,721.5	21.3	1.2	1,741.5
<b>Employed (000s)</b>	1,663.5	1,622.9	40.6	2.5	1,661.7
<b>Unemployed (000s)</b>	79.3	98.5	-19.2	-19.5	79.8
<b>Average Weekly Initial Claims*</b>	3,627	4,199	-572	-13.6	3,858
<b>Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)</b>	36	35	1	2.9	34
<b>Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)</b>	2.14	2.63	-0.49	---	2.24

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

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

Manufacturing weekly earnings increased 3.7 percent over the year, while the output index rose 2.5 percent from last September.

## MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	SEP		CHANGE		AUG
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>					
<b>Average Weekly Hours</b>	43.0	43.1	-0.1	-0.2	42.2
<b>Average Hourly Earnings</b>	\$14.62	\$14.06	\$0.56	4.0	\$14.52
<b>Average Weekly Earnings</b>	\$628.66	\$605.99	\$22.67	3.7	\$612.74
<b>Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*</b>	121.7	118.7	3.0	2.5	120.6
<b>Production Worker Hours (000s)</b>	6,921	6,908	13	0.2	6,660
<b>Productivity Index (1982=100)*</b>	187.6	183.4	4.2	2.3	186.5

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

\*Seasonally adjusted

Personal income for fourth quarter 1997 is forecasted to increase 6.4 percent from a year ago. The wages component is expected to grow 8.4 percent.

## INCOME (Quarterly)

	4Q*		CHANGE		3Q*
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>					
<i>(Annualized; \$ Millions)</i>					
<b>UI Covered Wages</b>	\$63,773	\$58,830	\$4,943	8.4	\$62,686
<b>Personal Income</b>	\$120,144	\$112,912	\$7,232	6.4	\$118,474

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis; July 1997 release

\*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

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
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG	
New Housing Permits	SEP 1997	740	3.2	7,019	5,672	23.7	
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	JUL 1997	2,600	6.3	16,497	16,627	-0.8	
Retail Sales (Bil. \$)	JUL 1997	2.58	8.4	19.29	18.03	7.0	
<b>Construction Contracts</b>							
Index (1980=100)	AUG 1997	131.7	-44.6	---	---	---	
New Auto Registrations	SEP 1997	11,485	-20.4	134,736	139,045	-3.1	
Air Cargo Tons	AUG 1997	10,238	-9.2	86,884	80,789	7.5	

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

Both new housing permits and retail sales showed continued strength through September, up 23.7 and 7.0 percent, respectively on a year-to-date basis.

## BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	SEP 1997	% CHANGE		YEAR TO DATE		
		M/M	Y/Y	NO.	% CHG	
<b>STARTS</b>						
Secretary of the State	1,478	4.5	34.4	13,087	13.8	
Department of Labor	634	-39.8	10.3	8,111	3.9	
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>						
Secretary of the State	332	25.3	40.1	2,783	47.6	
Department of Labor	737	8.2	15.0	8,823	-11.9	

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 year-to-date gains of 13.8 and 47.6 percent, respectively, for a net gain of 10,304 establishments.

## STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

(Millions of dollars)	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS					
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	% CHG	1997-98	1996-97	% CHG
<b>TOTAL ALL TAXES*</b>	748.6	666.1	12.4	1,301.6	1,174.3	10.8
Corporate Tax	74.0	80.0	-7.5	80.3	87.3	-8.0
Personal Income Tax	316.8	271.4	16.7	517.9	449.2	15.3
Real Estate Conv. Tax	8.8	6.1	2.7	25.8	20.0	29.0
Sales & Use Tax	210.5	190.7	10.4	420.3	391.4	7.4

Source: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services

\*Includes all sources of tax revenue; Only selected taxes are displayed.

Fiscal year-to-date collections increased overall 10.8 percent. Only corporate tax collections were down by 8.0 percent.

## TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %		YEAR TO DATE		% CHG
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG	
Tourism Inquiries	SEP 1997	15,900	-26.4	269,251	336,432	-20.0	
Info Center Visitors	SEP 1997	68,806	-9.9	442,591	432,704	2.3	
Major Attraction Visitors	SEP 1997	75,216	2.5	1,524,092	1,441,333	5.7	
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	SEP 1997	80.1	0.1	72.8	70.4	3.4	
Air Passenger Count	AUG 1997	486,996	1.8	3,634,601	3,667,621	-0.9	

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

Major attractions showed continued visitor increases, up 5.7 percent for the year through September. Welcome center visitors were also up for the year 2.3 percent.

During the June-September 1997 period, the nation's total compensation costs for private industry workers increased 3.2 percent from the same period over the year.

## EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	SEP 1997	JUN 1997	3-Mo % Chg	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	12-Mo % Chg
<b>UNITED STATES TOTAL</b>	133.6	132.5	0.8	133.9	129.8	3.2
Wages and Salaries	130.9	129.7	0.9	131.0	126.5	3.6
Benefit Costs	140.4	139.7	0.5	140.8	138.1	2.0
<b>NORTHEAST TOTAL</b>	---	---	---	134.0	130.6	2.6
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	130.7	127.0	2.9

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

The inflation rate was 2.2 percent in the U.S., 2.3 percent in the Northeast, and 2.6 percent in Boston. The consumer confidence index gained 15.0 percent in the U.S. and 29.7 percent in New England.

## CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	SEP 1997	AUG 1997	SEP 1996	% CHG M/M Y/Y	
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)</b>					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	161.2	160.8	157.8	0.2	2.2
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=\$1.00)	\$0.620	\$0.622	\$0.634	-0.2	-2.1
Northeast Region	168.4	167.8	164.6	0.4	2.3
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	171.7	170.8	168.2	0.5	2.1
Boston-Lawrence-Salem*	167.8	---	163.5	---	2.6
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	158.3	157.8	155.1	0.3	2.1
<b>CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)</b>					
U.S.	128.6	127.6	111.8	0.8	15.0
New England	127.6	119.2	98.4	7.0	29.7

\*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

Unchanged prime and federal funds rates, as well as lower rates across the board, including a 7.43 percent 30-year mortgage rate, characterized September interest rates.

## INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	SEP 1997	AUG 1997	SEP 1996
<b>Prime</b>	8.50	8.50	8.25
<b>Federal Funds</b>	5.54	5.54	5.30
<b>3 Month Treasury Bill</b>	4.97	5.13	5.15
<b>6 Month Treasury Bill</b>	5.11	5.17	5.29
<b>1 Year Treasury Bill</b>	5.52	5.56	5.83
<b>3 Year Treasury Bill</b>	5.98	6.06	6.41
<b>5 Year Treasury Bond</b>	6.11	6.16	6.60
<b>7 Year Treasury Bond</b>	6.20	6.29	6.73
<b>10 Year Treasury Bond</b>	6.21	6.30	6.83
<b>30 Year Treasury Bond</b>	6.50	6.58	7.03
<b>Conventional Mortgage</b>	7.43	7.48	8.23

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
Connecticut	1,622.6	1,590.9	31.7	2.0	1,620.5
Maine	553.5	542.1	11.4	2.1	551.2
Massachusetts	3,128.0	3,058.9	69.1	2.3	3,117.6
New Hampshire	572.6	563.3	9.3	1.7	576.2
New Jersey	3,717.8	3,658.6	59.2	1.6	3,697.7
New York	8,041.4	7,939.9	101.5	1.3	8,018.1
Pennsylvania	5,450.2	5,339.7	110.5	2.1	5,414.6
Rhode Island	448.3	445.1	3.2	0.7	445.9
Vermont	278.6	274.6	4.0	1.5	278.2
United States	122,695.0	120,019.0	2,676.0	2.2	122,480.0

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

Among the states in the northeast, Massachusetts had the fastest job growth of 2.3 percent, surpassing the nation's growth of 2.2 percent over the year.

## LABOR FORCE

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	SEP	SEP	CHANGE		AUG
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
Connecticut	1,742.8	1,721.5	21.3	1.2	1,741.5
Maine	666.9	673.7	-6.8	-1.0	669.1
Massachusetts	3,242.5	3,193.7	48.8	1.5	3,244.5
New Hampshire	652.0	620.3	31.7	5.1	653.1
New Jersey	4,146.9	4,143.5	3.4	0.1	4,143.2
New York	8,799.2	8,654.8	144.4	1.7	8,779.3
Pennsylvania	5,997.9	5,915.5	82.4	1.4	6,002.3
Rhode Island	508.9	498.9	10.0	2.0	506.6
Vermont	330.1	324.8	5.3	1.6	331.1
United States	136,467.0	134,291.0	2,176.0	1.6	136,480.0

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

Connecticut's labor force grew by 1.2 percent over the year, while it was 1.6 percent for the nation.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

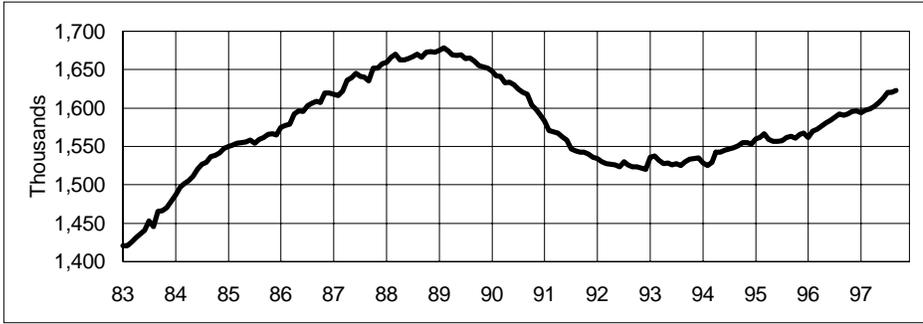
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	SEP	SEP	CHANGE	AUG
	1997	1996		1997
Connecticut	4.6	5.7	-1.1	4.6
Maine	4.7	5.0	-0.3	4.7
Massachusetts	4.0	4.1	-0.1	4.3
New Hampshire	2.8	4.3	-1.5	2.7
New Jersey	5.4	6.2	-0.8	5.2
New York	6.4	6.1	0.3	6.4
Pennsylvania	5.3	5.1	0.2	5.3
Rhode Island	4.9	4.9	0.0	4.9
Vermont	3.7	4.6	-0.9	3.8
United States	4.9	5.2	-0.3	4.9

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

New Hampshire experienced the largest drop (1.5 percentage points) in the unemployment rate over the year. New York and Pennsylvania's rates rose slightly from last year.

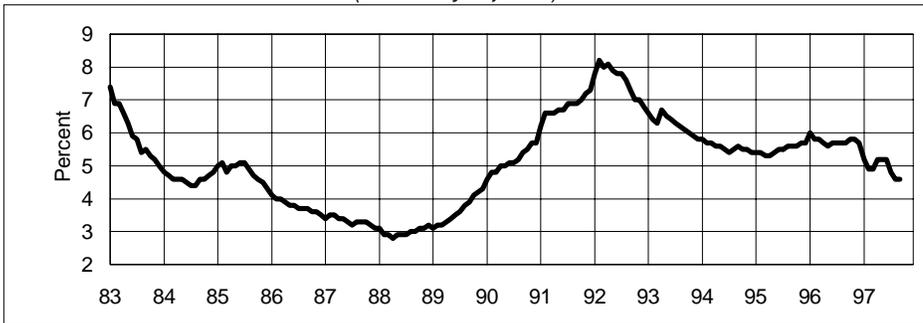
# ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



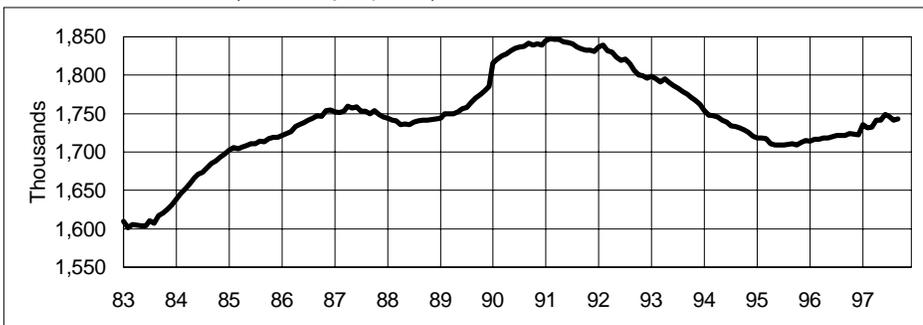
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	1,559.8	1,561.2	1,593.6
Feb	1,561.6	1,569.8	1,597.4
Mar	1,566.7	1,572.5	1,598.6
Apr	1,559.4	1,576.9	1,602.6
May	1,556.8	1,581.0	1,607.0
Jun	1,556.8	1,584.2	1,613.2
Jul	1,557.7	1,588.0	1,620.5
Aug	1,561.9	1,591.9	1,620.5
Sep	1,563.1	1,590.9	1,622.6
Oct	1,560.8	1,592.5	
Nov	1,565.4	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	5.2
Jun	5.5	5.7	5.2
Jul	5.5	5.7	4.8
Aug	5.6	5.7	4.6
Sep	5.6	5.7	4.6
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	1,741.5
May	1,709.3	1,717.9	1,741.7
Jun	1,709.0	1,719.7	1,749.2
Jul	1,709.1	1,721.6	1,746.6
Aug	1,710.3	1,721.9	1,741.5
Sep	1,711.1	1,721.5	1,742.8
Oct	1,709.3	1,724.1	
Nov	1,712.4	1,723.3	
Dec	1,714.8	1,722.0	

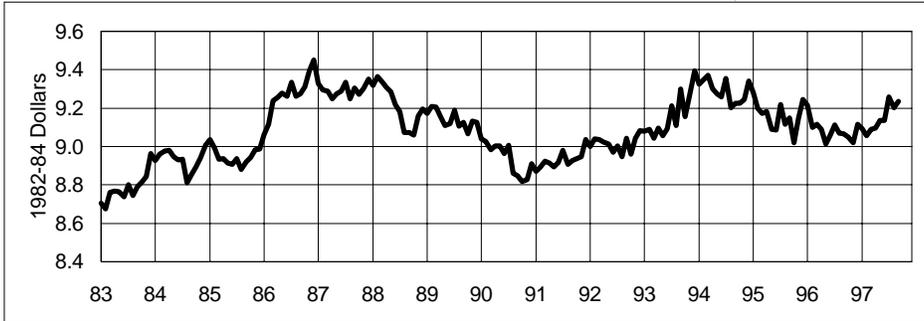
## AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS\* (Seasonally adjusted)



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	3,724
Jun	5,579	4,365	4,277
Jul	5,029	4,349	3,622
Aug	4,800	4,281	3,858
Sep	4,803	4,199	3,627
Oct	4,872	4,166	
Nov	4,986	3,907	
Dec	4,200	4,501	

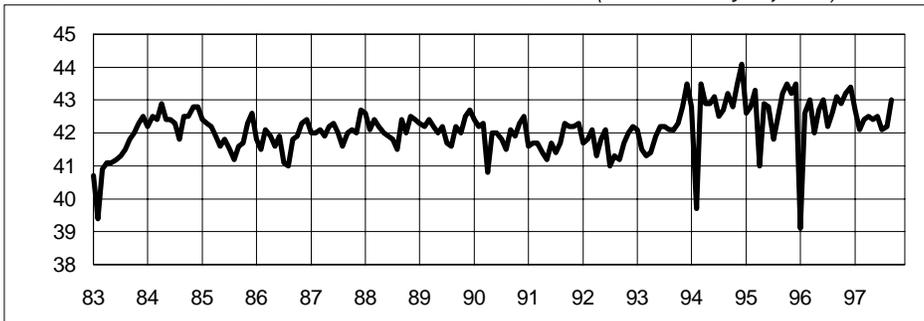
\* The methodology for this series has been revised; See Technical Notes, p.23.

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



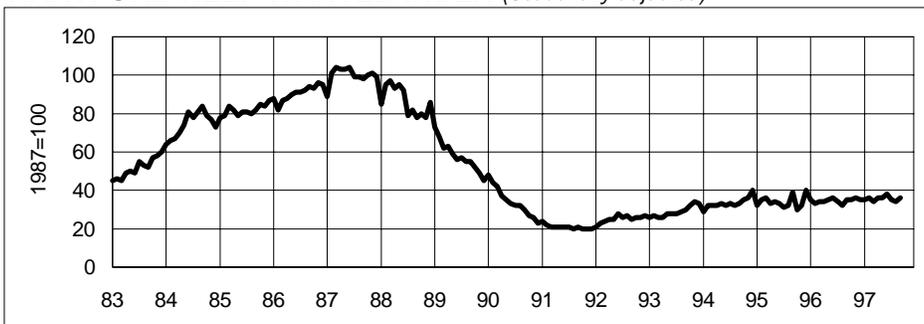
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	\$9.28	\$9.22	\$9.09
Feb	9.20	9.10	9.06
Mar	9.17	9.12	9.09
Apr	9.18	9.09	9.10
May	9.09	9.01	9.13
Jun	9.09	9.06	9.14
Jul	9.22	9.11	9.26
Aug	9.11	9.07	9.20
Sep	9.15	9.07	9.24
Oct	9.02	9.05	
Nov	9.15	9.02	
Dec	9.24	9.11	

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



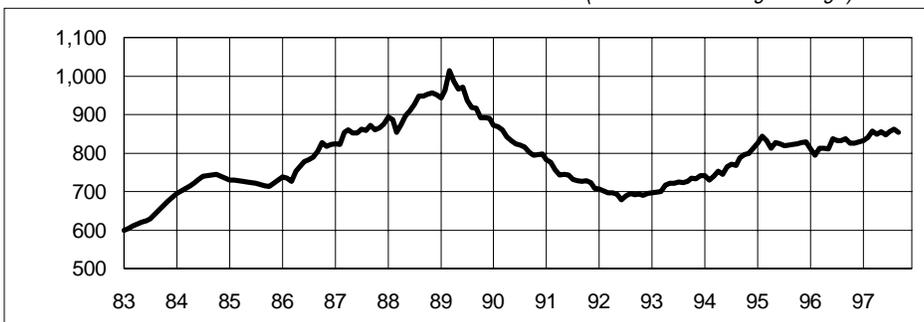
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	42.6	39.1	42.7
Feb	42.8	42.6	42.1
Mar	43.3	43.0	42.4
Apr	41.0	42.0	42.5
May	42.9	42.7	42.4
Jun	42.8	43.0	42.5
Jul	41.8	42.2	42.1
Aug	42.5	42.6	42.2
Sep	43.2	43.1	43.0
Oct	43.5	42.9	
Nov	43.2	43.2	
Dec	43.5	43.4	

## 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	36
Jun	33	36	38
Jul	31	34	35
Aug	32	32	34
Sep	39	35	36
Oct	30	35	
Nov	32	36	
Dec	40	35	

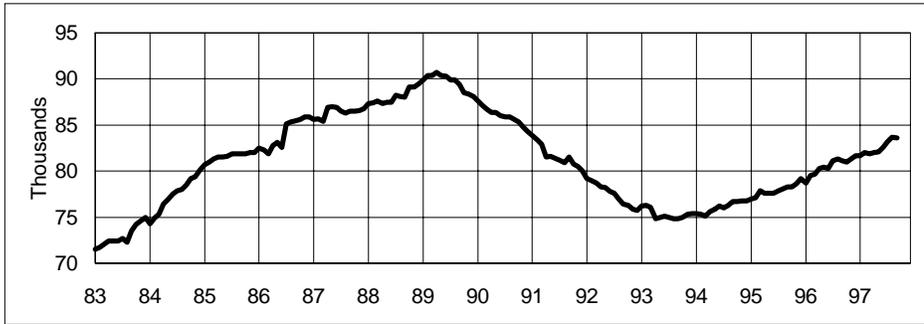
## DOL NEWLY REGISTERED EMPLOYERS *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	826	810	833
Feb	844	794	840
Mar	833	812	856
Apr	813	813	849
May	827	811	856
Jun	824	838	848
Jul	819	833	856
Aug	821	833	862
Sep	822	838	854
Oct	823	825	
Nov	827	825	
Dec	828	828	

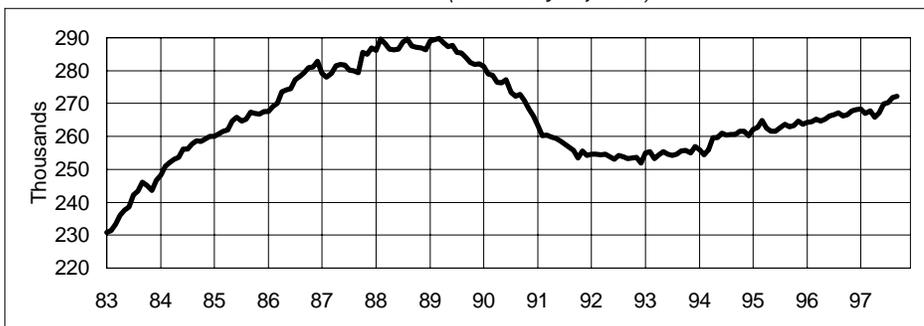
# ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

## WHOLESALE TRADE EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



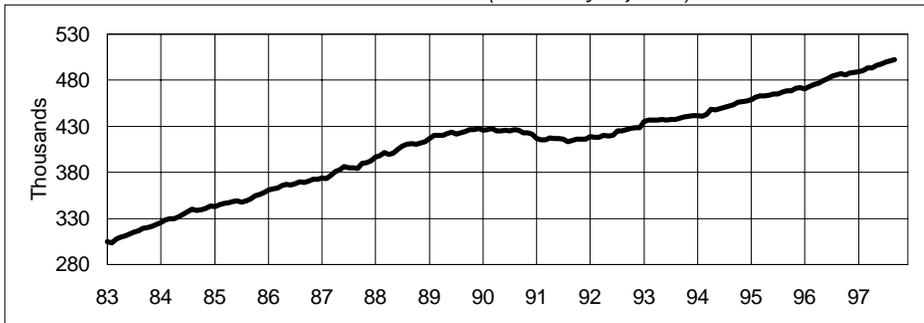
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	77.0	78.7	81.7
Feb	77.1	79.5	82.0
Mar	77.9	79.7	81.9
Apr	77.6	80.3	82.0
May	77.6	80.4	82.1
Jun	77.6	80.3	82.6
Jul	77.9	81.1	83.2
Aug	78.1	81.3	83.7
Sep	78.3	81.1	83.6
Oct	78.3	81.0	
Nov	78.6	81.3	
Dec	79.2	81.7	

## RETAIL TRADE EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



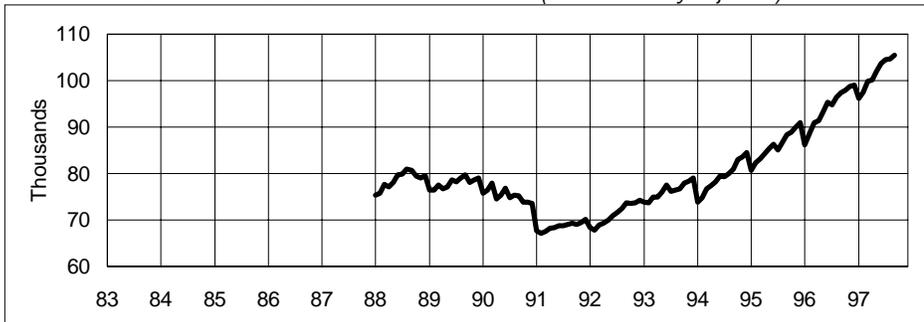
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	262.2	264.3	268.3
Feb	262.8	264.4	267.0
Mar	264.8	265.3	267.8
Apr	262.6	264.6	265.9
May	261.6	265.3	267.2
Jun	261.5	266.2	269.8
Jul	262.8	266.6	270.2
Aug	263.7	267.2	271.8
Sep	263.0	266.3	272.2
Oct	263.3	266.6	
Nov	264.6	267.8	
Dec	263.7	268.2	

## TOTAL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



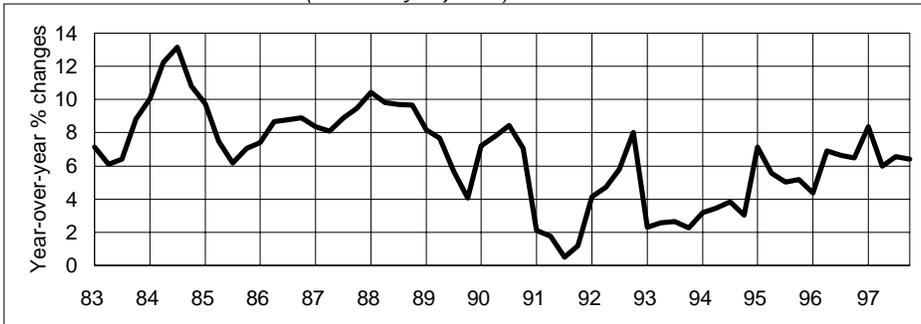
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	459.1	470.7	489.0
Feb	461.7	473.7	490.8
Mar	463.0	475.3	493.1
Apr	463.0	476.9	493.2
May	463.8	479.8	496.0
Jun	464.9	481.4	497.7
Jul	465.3	484.2	499.8
Aug	466.9	486.1	501.0
Sep	468.2	486.9	502.2
Oct	468.3	486.1	
Nov	471.0	487.7	
Dec	472.0	488.5	

## BUSINESS SERVICES EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



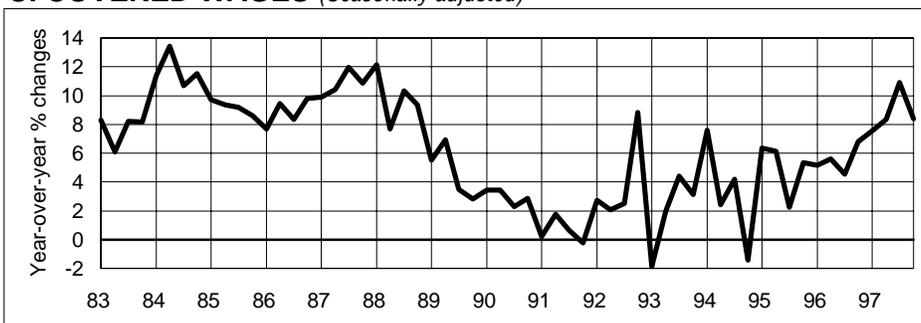
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	80.7	86.2	96.1
Feb	82.3	88.8	97.5
Mar	83.1	90.9	99.9
Apr	84.2	91.4	100.2
May	85.4	93.3	102.0
Jun	86.3	95.3	103.7
Jul	85.1	94.8	104.5
Aug	86.7	96.5	104.7
Sep	88.3	97.4	105.5
Oct	88.9	97.9	
Nov	90.0	98.7	
Dec	91.0	99.0	

## PERSONAL INCOME *(Seasonally adjusted)*



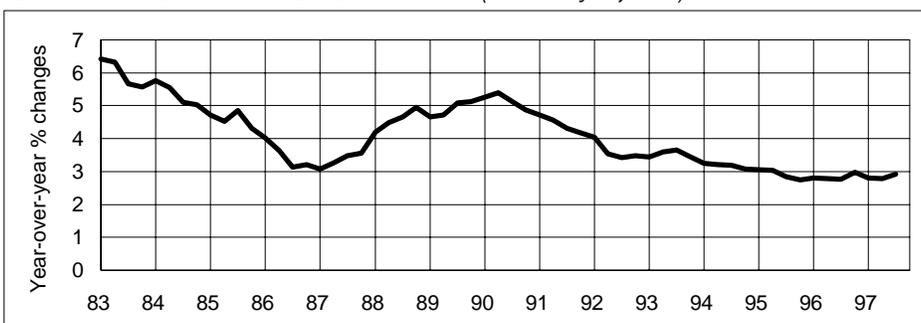
Quarter	1995	1996	1997
First	7.1	4.4	8.4
Second	5.6	4.9	6.0
Third	5.0	4.8	6.6
Fourth	5.2	5.5	6.4

## UI COVERED WAGES *(Seasonally adjusted)*



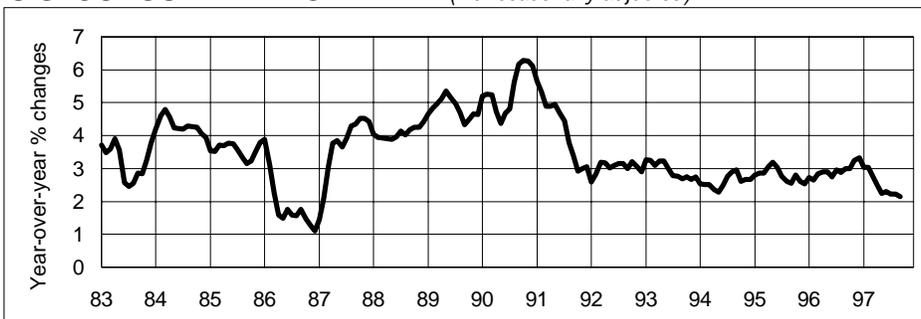
Quarter	1995	1996	1997
First	6.4	5.2	7.5
Second	6.1	5.4	8.3
Third	2.3	4.8	10.9
Fourth	5.3	6.8	8.4

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



Quarter	1995	1996	1997
First	3.1	2.8	2.8
Second	3.0	2.8	2.8
Third	2.8	2.8	2.9
Fourth	2.7	3.0	

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



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	2.8	2.7	3.0
Feb	2.9	2.7	3.0
Mar	2.9	2.8	2.8
Apr	3.1	2.9	2.5
May	3.2	2.9	2.2
Jun	3.0	2.8	2.3
Jul	2.8	3.0	2.2
Aug	2.6	2.9	2.2
Sep	2.5	3.0	2.2
Oct	2.8	3.0	
Nov	2.6	3.3	
Dec	2.5	3.3	

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## CONNECTICUT



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE		AUG 1997
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>1,629,100</b>	<b>1,597,200</b>	<b>31,900</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1,608,000 *</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>335,600</b>	<b>332,400</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>334,900</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>60,600</b>	<b>56,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>61,400</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>275,000</b>	<b>275,600</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>273,500</b>
<b>Durable</b> .....	<b>192,600</b>	<b>193,800</b>	<b>-1,200</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>192,100</b>
Lumber & Furniture .....	5,100	4,800	300	6.3	5,000
Stone, Clay & Glass .....	2,600	2,800	-200	-7.1	2,600
Primary Metals .....	9,100	9,300	-200	-2.2	9,100
Fabricated Metals .....	34,600	34,100	500	1.5	34,300
Machinery & Computer Equipment .....	35,400	35,500	-100	-0.3	35,300
Electronic & Electrical Equipment .....	28,700	28,300	400	1.4	28,600
Transportation Equipment .....	48,400	49,700	-1,300	-2.6	48,300
Instruments .....	22,300	22,900	-600	-2.6	22,400
Miscellaneous Manufacturing .....	6,400	6,400	0	0.0	6,500
<b>Nondurable</b> .....	<b>82,400</b>	<b>81,800</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>81,400</b>
Food .....	9,000	9,100	-100	-1.1	8,900
Textiles .....	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	1,900
Apparel .....	4,600	4,500	100	2.2	4,400
Paper .....	8,000	7,900	100	1.3	7,900
Printing & Publishing .....	25,800	25,300	500	2.0	25,700
Chemicals .....	19,600	19,900	-300	-1.5	19,500
Rubber & Plastics .....	10,900	10,700	200	1.9	10,700
Other Nondurable Manufacturing .....	2,400	2,300	100	4.3	2,400
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>1,293,500</b>	<b>1,264,800</b>	<b>28,700</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1,273,100 *</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>75,900</b>	<b>73,800</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>71,600</b>
Transportation .....	44,400	43,000	1,400	3.3	40,100
Motor Freight & Warehousing .....	11,800	11,800	0	0.0	12,200
Other Transportation .....	32,600	31,200	1,400	4.5	27,900 *
Communications .....	19,300	18,300	1,000	5.5	19,300
Utilities .....	12,200	12,500	-300	-2.4	12,200
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>356,800</b>	<b>348,400</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>356,000</b>
Wholesale .....	83,800	81,300	2,500	3.1	83,700
Retail .....	273,000	267,100	5,900	2.2	272,300
General Merchandise .....	29,200	27,600	1,600	5.8	28,400
Food Stores .....	52,100	51,400	700	1.4	52,500
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations .....	27,100	27,200	-100	-0.4	27,200
Restaurants .....	79,500	78,200	1,300	1.7	79,800
Other Retail Trade .....	85,100	82,700	2,400	2.9	84,400
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>130,300</b>	<b>130,400</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>131,200</b>
Finance .....	46,100	45,800	300	0.7	46,400
Banking .....	24,000	24,800	-800	-3.2	24,300
Insurance .....	68,100	69,300	-1,200	-1.7	68,300
Insurance Carriers .....	57,200	58,500	-1,300	-2.2	57,400
Real Estate .....	16,100	15,300	800	5.2	16,400
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>504,700</b>	<b>489,300</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>503,000</b>
Hotels & Lodging Places .....	11,100	10,900	200	1.8	12,100
Personal Services .....	18,500	18,100	400	2.2	18,400
Business Services .....	105,500	97,400	8,100	8.3	104,700
Health Services .....	157,500	156,300	1,200	0.8	157,200
Legal & Professional Services .....	50,900	49,100	1,800	3.7	51,300
Educational Services .....	42,000	40,700	1,300	3.2	35,600
Other Services .....	119,200	116,800	2,400	2.1	123,700
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>225,800</b>	<b>222,900</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>211,300</b>
Federal .....	22,200	23,300	-1,100	-4.7	22,200
**State, Local & Other Government .....	203,600	199,600	4,000	2.0	189,100

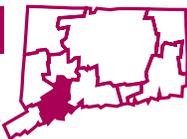
For further information contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 566-3470.

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

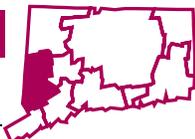
## BRIDGEPORT LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE NO. %	AUG 1997
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>181,300</b>	<b>180,500</b>	<b>800 0.4</b>	<b>179,800</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>45,900</b>	<b>45,700</b>	<b>200 0.4</b>	<b>45,700</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>100 1.7</b>	<b>5,800</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>40,000</b>	<b>39,900</b>	<b>100 0.3</b>	<b>39,900</b>
Durable Goods .....	32,500	32,500	0 0.0	32,500
Fabricated Metals .....	4,400	4,300	100 2.3	4,400
Industrial Machinery .....	6,300	6,100	200 3.3	6,300
Electronic Equipment .....	6,400	6,400	0 0.0	6,300
Transportation Equipment .....	9,100	9,400	-300 -3.2	9,100
Nondurable Goods .....	7,500	7,400	100 1.4	7,400
Printing & Publishing .....	2,100	2,100	0 0.0	2,200
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>135,400</b>	<b>134,800</b>	<b>600 0.4</b>	<b>134,100</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>7,300</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>0 0.0</b>	<b>7,400</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>41,000</b>	<b>40,700</b>	<b>300 0.7</b>	<b>40,700</b>
Wholesale .....	9,900	9,900	0 0.0	10,000
Retail .....	31,100	30,800	300 1.0	30,700
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>10,400</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>0 0.0</b>	<b>10,400</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>57,400</b>	<b>56,400</b>	<b>1,000 1.8</b>	<b>57,100</b>
Business Services .....	12,800	12,200	600 4.9	12,500
Health Services .....	19,500	19,100	400 2.1	19,200
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>19,300</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>-700 -3.5</b>	<b>18,500</b>
Federal .....	1,900	1,900	0 0.0	1,900
State & Local .....	17,400	18,100	-700 -3.9	16,600

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

## DANBURY LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE NO. %	AUG 1997
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>84,300</b>	<b>83,300</b>	<b>1,000 1.2</b>	<b>83,600</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>22,000</b>	<b>22,100</b>	<b>-100 -0.5</b>	<b>21,900</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>100 3.2</b>	<b>3,200</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>18,800</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>-200 -1.1</b>	<b>18,700</b>
Durable Goods .....	9,900	9,900	0 0.0	9,900
Machinery & Electric Equipment .....	5,100	5,200	-100 -1.9	5,100
Instruments .....	2,700	2,700	0 0.0	2,700
Nondurable Goods .....	8,900	9,100	-200 -2.2	8,800
Printing & Publishing .....	2,700	2,700	0 0.0	2,700
Chemicals .....	3,300	3,400	-100 -2.9	3,200
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>62,300</b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>1,100 1.8</b>	<b>61,700</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>100 3.6</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>21,800</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>-200 -0.9</b>	<b>22,100</b>
Wholesale .....	4,200	4,200	0 0.0	4,200
Retail .....	17,600	17,800	-200 -1.1	17,900
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>300 7.5</b>	<b>4,300</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>24,500</b>	<b>23,800</b>	<b>700 2.9</b>	<b>24,500</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>8,800</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>200 2.3</b>	<b>8,000</b>
Federal .....	800	800	0 0.0	800
State & Local .....	8,000	7,800	200 2.6	7,200

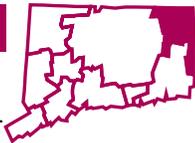
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

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

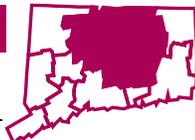
## DANIELSON LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE		AUG 1997
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>20,900</b>	<b>20,700</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>20,400</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>6,600</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>5,600</b>
Durable Goods .....	2,200	2,700	-500	-18.5	2,200
Nondurable Goods .....	3,400	3,100	300	9.7	3,400
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>14,200</b>	<b>13,900</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>13,800</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5,400</b>
Wholesale .....	900	700	200	28.6	900
Retail .....	4,600	4,500	100	2.2	4,500
<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>4,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2,900</b>
Federal .....	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local .....	3,000	3,000	0	0.0	2,800

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

## HARTFORD LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE		AUG 1997
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>596,500</b>	<b>588,000</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>580,500 *</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>112,500</b>	<b>111,500</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>111,900</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>19,800</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>92,700</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>91,900</b>
Durable Goods .....	72,800	71,500	1,300	1.8	72,500
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	17,400	17,500	-100	-0.6	17,300
Industrial Machinery .....	16,000	15,500	500	3.2	15,700
Electronic Equipment .....	6,000	5,900	100	1.7	6,000
Transportation Equipment .....	25,300	24,400	900	3.7	25,300
Nondurable Goods .....	19,900	19,500	400	2.1	19,400
Printing & Publishing .....	7,700	7,600	100	1.3	7,500
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>484,000</b>	<b>476,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>468,600 *</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>28,300</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>25,000</b>
Transportation .....	17,200	15,500	1,700	11.0	13,900 *
Communications & Utilities .....	11,100	10,500	600	5.7	11,100
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>123,800</b>	<b>122,700</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>120,600</b>
Wholesale .....	29,300	29,100	200	0.7	28,800
Retail .....	94,500	93,600	900	1.0	91,800
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>67,100</b>	<b>68,800</b>	<b>-1,700</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>67,200</b>
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions .....	10,100	10,200	-100	-1.0	10,300
Insurance Carriers .....	48,700	50,300	-1,600	-3.2	48,500
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>169,800</b>	<b>166,700</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>168,700</b>
Health Services .....	58,500	58,100	400	0.7	58,400
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>95,000</b>	<b>92,300</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>87,100</b>
Federal .....	8,500	8,600	-100	-1.2	8,500
State & Local .....	86,500	83,700	2,800	3.3	78,600

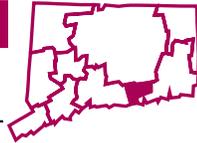
For further information on the Hartford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

*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>				AUG 1997
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>10,300</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3,800</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>3,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3,400</b>
Durable Goods .....	2,600	2,400	200	8.3	2,700
Electronic Equipment .....	800	800	0	0.0	900
Other Durable Goods .....	1,800	1,600	200	12.5	1,800
Nondurable Goods .....	600	700	-100	-14.3	700
Rubber & Plastics .....	300	300	0	0.0	300
Other Nondurable Goods .....	300	400	-100	-25.0	400
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>6,200</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6,500</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>2,400</b>
Wholesale .....	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail .....	1,800	1,600	200	12.5	2,000
<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>2,400</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>1,000</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>900</b>
Federal .....	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local .....	1,000	800	200	25.0	900

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

## NEW HAVEN LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				AUG 1997
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>248,300</b>	<b>245,800</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>244,400</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>47,800</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>47,300</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>10,000</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>10,100</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>37,800</b>	<b>39,300</b>	<b>-1,500</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>37,200</b>
Durable Goods .....	24,600	25,000	-400	-1.6	24,400
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	6,400	7,000	-600	-8.6	6,200
Electronic Equipment .....	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,200
Nondurable Goods .....	13,200	14,300	-1,100	-7.7	12,800
Paper, Printing & Publishing .....	5,300	5,500	-200	-3.6	5,200
Chemicals & Allied .....	4,200	5,200	-1,000	-19.2	4,100
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>200,500</b>	<b>197,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>197,100</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>16,200</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>16,000</b>
Communications & Utilities .....	8,500	8,500	0	0.0	8,500
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>53,400</b>	<b>50,800</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>53,400</b>
Wholesale .....	11,700	11,600	100	0.9	11,700
Retail .....	41,700	39,200	2,500	6.4	41,700
Eating & Drinking Places .....	13,400	11,800	1,600	13.6	13,500
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>13,700</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>13,700</b>
Finance .....	3,900	3,900	0	0.0	3,900
Insurance .....	7,900	7,600	300	3.9	7,900
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>87,600</b>	<b>86,000</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>84,700</b>
Business Services .....	13,500	12,500	1,000	8.0	13,300
Health Services .....	28,500	28,700	-200	-0.7	28,800
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>29,600</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>29,300</b>
Federal .....	5,400	5,300	100	1.9	5,500
State & Local .....	24,200	25,300	-1,100	-4.3	23,800

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			
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE NO. %	AUG 1997
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>138,500</b>	<b>132,900</b>	<b>5,600</b> <b>4.2</b>	<b>139,300</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>28,500</b>	<b>29,900</b>	<b>-1,400</b> <b>-4.7</b>	<b>28,600</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>400</b> <b>9.8</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>24,000</b>	<b>25,800</b>	<b>-1,800</b> <b>-7.0</b>	<b>24,100</b>
Durable Goods .....	14,700	16,600	-1,900 -11.4	14,700
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	2,200	2,300	-100 -4.3	2,200
Other Durable Goods .....	12,500	14,300	-1,800 -12.6	12,500
Nondurable Goods .....	9,300	9,200	100 1.1	9,400
Paper & Allied .....	1,000	1,000	0 0.0	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods .....	6,900	6,800	100 1.5	7,000
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>110,000</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>7,000</b> <b>6.8</b>	<b>110,700</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>200</b> <b>3.2</b>	<b>6,400</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>29,400</b>	<b>28,800</b>	<b>600</b> <b>2.1</b>	<b>30,000</b>
Wholesale .....	3,100	3,000	100 3.3	3,100
Retail .....	26,300	25,800	500 1.9	26,900
Eating & Drinking Places .....	8,700	8,600	100 1.2	9,400
Other Retail .....	17,600	17,200	400 2.3	17,500
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>100</b> <b>2.8</b>	<b>3,700</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>34,500</b>	<b>33,700</b>	<b>800</b> <b>2.4</b>	<b>34,500</b>
Personal & Business Services .....	6,500	6,200	300 4.8	6,300
Health Services .....	11,300	11,200	100 0.9	11,200
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>35,900</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>5,300</b> <b>17.3</b>	<b>36,100</b>
Federal .....	2,700	3,400	-700 -20.6	2,700
State & Local .....	33,200	27,200	6,000 22.1	33,400
**Local .....	29,200	22,700	6,500 28.6	29,400

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

## STAMFORD LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE NO. %	AUG 1997
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>200,200</b>	<b>197,300</b>	<b>2,900</b> <b>1.5</b>	<b>200,500</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>34,300</b>	<b>34,100</b>	<b>200</b> <b>0.6</b>	<b>34,400</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>6,200</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>200</b> <b>3.3</b>	<b>6,300</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>28,100</b>	<b>28,100</b>	<b>0</b> <b>0.0</b>	<b>28,100</b>
Durable Goods .....	14,600	14,800	-200 -1.4	14,500
Industrial Machinery .....	4,200	4,100	100 2.4	4,100
Electronic Equipment .....	2,700	2,700	0 0.0	2,800
Nondurable Goods .....	13,500	13,300	200 1.5	13,600
Paper, Printing & Publishing .....	6,300	5,900	400 6.8	6,300
Chemicals & Allied .....	3,500	3,400	100 2.9	3,500
Other Nondurable .....	3,700	4,000	-300 -7.5	3,800
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>165,900</b>	<b>163,200</b>	<b>2,700</b> <b>1.7</b>	<b>166,100</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>9,500</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>-500</b> <b>-5.0</b>	<b>9,500</b>
Communications & Utilities .....	2,500	3,200	-700 -21.9	2,800
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>44,600</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>500</b> <b>1.1</b>	<b>44,800</b>
Wholesale .....	11,800	11,500	300 2.6	11,900
Retail .....	32,800	32,600	200 0.6	32,900
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>24,000</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>1,100</b> <b>4.8</b>	<b>23,800</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>70,400</b>	<b>68,800</b>	<b>1,600</b> <b>2.3</b>	<b>71,400</b>
Business Services .....	20,800	20,300	500 2.5	20,600
Engineering & Mgmt. Services .....	9,200	8,900	300 3.4	9,200
Other Services .....	40,400	39,600	800 2.0	41,600
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>17,400</b>	<b>17,400</b>	<b>0</b> <b>0.0</b>	<b>16,600</b>
Federal .....	1,900	1,900	0 0.0	1,900
State & Local .....	15,500	15,500	0 0.0	14,700

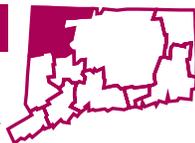
For further information on the Stamford Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepiski at (860) 566-7823.

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

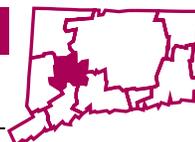
## TORRINGTON LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				AUG 1997
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>27,900</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>27,700</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,000</b>
Durable Goods .....	4,200	4,300	-100	-2.3	4,300
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	500	500	0	0.0	500
Industrial Machinery .....	1,100	1,100	0	0.0	1,100
Electronic Equipment .....	300	400	-100	-25.0	300
Other Durable Goods .....	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	2,400
Nondurable Goods .....	1,700	1,600	100	6.3	1,700
Rubber & Plastics .....	800	800	0	0.0	800
Other Nondurable Goods .....	900	800	100	12.5	900
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>19,900</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>19,700</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>800</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>5,400</b>
Wholesale .....	600	800	-200	-25.0	600
Retail .....	4,900	5,100	-200	-3.9	4,800
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>800</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>9,400</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,300</b>
Federal .....	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local .....	3,200	3,200	0	0.0	3,100

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

## WATERBURY LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				AUG 1997
	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>87,600</b>	<b>84,500</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>86,200</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>22,300</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>22,200</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>3,600</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>18,600</b>
Durable Goods .....	14,300	14,200	100	0.7	14,200
Primary Metals .....	700	700	0	0.0	700
Fabricated Metals .....	6,400	6,300	100	1.6	6,400
Machinery & Electric Equipment .....	4,400	4,500	-100	-2.2	4,400
Nondurable Goods .....	4,500	4,100	400	9.8	4,400
Paper, Printing & Publishing .....	1,300	1,200	100	8.3	1,200
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>65,300</b>	<b>63,100</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>64,000</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3,400</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>18,600</b>	<b>17,100</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>17,500</b>
Wholesale .....	2,900	3,100	-200	-6.5	2,800
Retail .....	15,700	14,000	1,700	12.1	14,700
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4,700</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>26,000</b>	<b>25,600</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>26,000</b>
Personal & Business .....	6,800	6,200	600	9.7	6,700
Health Services .....	10,100	10,000	100	1.0	10,000
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>12,600</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,400</b>
Federal .....	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local .....	11,800	11,800	0	0.0	11,600

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

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

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

# LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	SEP 1997	SEP 1996	CHANGE		AUG 1997
				NO.	%	
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>						
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	Civilian Labor Force	1,728,200	1,706,800	21,400	1.3	1,776,400
	Employed	1,658,500	1,619,100	39,400	2.4	1,691,600
	Unemployed	69,700	87,700	-18,000	-20.5	84,800
	Unemployment Rate	4.0	5.1	-1.1	---	4.8
<b>BRIDGEPORT LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	218,100	218,500	-400	-0.2	225,900
	Employed	207,500	205,100	2,400	1.2	213,200
	Unemployed	10,600	13,500	-2,900	-21.5	12,700
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	6.2	-1.3	---	5.6
<b>DANBURY LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	107,500	106,300	1,200	1.1	111,600
	Employed	104,700	102,600	2,100	2.0	107,700
	Unemployed	2,900	3,600	-700	-19.4	3,900
	Unemployment Rate	2.7	3.4	-0.7	---	3.5
<b>DANIELSON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	34,200	34,000	200	0.6	34,900
	Employed	32,300	31,800	500	1.6	32,800
	Unemployed	1,900	2,100	-200	-9.5	2,100
	Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.3	-0.8	---	6.1
<b>HARTFORD LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	590,500	584,800	5,700	1.0	599,200
	Employed	565,800	552,700	13,100	2.4	569,200
	Unemployed	24,700	32,100	-7,400	-23.1	30,100
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	5.5	-1.3	---	5.0
<b>LOWER RIVER LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	12,800	12,100	700	5.8	13,600
	Employed	12,400	11,600	800	6.9	13,100
	Unemployed	400	500	-100	-20.0	500
	Unemployment Rate	3.0	4.0	-1.0	---	3.3
<b>NEW HAVEN LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	272,700	271,100	1,600	0.6	279,800
	Employed	261,400	256,900	4,500	1.8	265,900
	Unemployed	11,300	14,200	-2,900	-20.4	13,900
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	5.2	-1.1	---	5.0
<b>NEW LONDON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	157,800	151,400	6,400	4.2	165,000
	Employed	150,600	143,400	7,200	5.0	156,600
	Unemployed	7,200	7,900	-700	-8.9	8,300
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.2	-0.6	---	5.1
<b>STAMFORD LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	193,000	189,900	3,100	1.6	200,400
	Employed	187,900	183,700	4,200	2.3	194,400
	Unemployed	5,100	6,200	-1,100	-17.7	6,000
	Unemployment Rate	2.7	3.3	-0.6	---	3.0
<b>TORRINGTON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	38,200	38,100	100	0.3	39,600
	Employed	37,100	36,600	500	1.4	38,100
	Unemployed	1,100	1,500	-400	-26.7	1,500
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	3.8	-1.0	---	3.8
<b>WATERBURY LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	120,000	116,400	3,600	3.1	123,600
	Employed	114,800	109,900	4,900	4.5	117,100
	Unemployed	5,200	6,500	-1,300	-20.0	6,500
	Unemployment Rate	4.3	5.6	-1.3	---	5.2
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Civilian Labor Force	136,375,000	134,230,000	2,145,000	1.6	137,460,000
	Employed	129,972,000	127,529,000	2,443,000	1.9	130,865,000
	Unemployed	6,403,000	6,700,000	-297,000	-4.4	6,594,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.0	-0.3	---	4.8

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			
	SEP		CHG	AUG	SEP		CHG	AUG	SEP		CHG	AUG
	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>												
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>	<b>\$628.66</b>	<b>\$625.81</b>	<b>\$2.85</b>	<b>\$593.33</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>\$14.62</b>	<b>\$14.52</b>	<b>\$0.10</b>	<b>\$14.06</b>
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>	<b>643.44</b>	<b>636.34</b>	<b>7.10</b>	<b>605.31</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>14.86</b>	<b>14.73</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>14.31</b>
Lumber & Furniture	467.43	471.42	-3.99	466.67	40.4	41.1	-0.7	40.9	11.57	11.47	0.10	11.41
Stone, Clay and Glass	592.41	627.46	-35.05	599.32	43.4	45.6	-2.2	44.1	13.65	13.76	-0.11	13.59
Primary Metals	630.14	617.87	12.27	580.32	46.3	45.1	1.2	43.6	13.61	13.70	-0.09	13.31
Fabricated Metals	607.75	599.13	8.62	571.33	44.2	43.7	0.5	42.7	13.75	13.71	0.04	13.38
Machinery	689.92	677.03	12.89	650.60	44.8	44.6	0.2	43.9	15.40	15.18	0.22	14.82
Electrical Equipment	502.23	512.73	-10.50	476.28	41.2	42.2	-1.0	40.5	12.19	12.15	0.04	11.76
Trans. Equipment	813.75	809.71	4.04	738.92	43.4	43.3	0.1	41.7	18.75	18.70	0.05	17.72
Instruments	583.57	562.22	21.35	575.40	41.3	40.8	0.5	42.0	14.13	13.78	0.35	13.70
Miscellaneous Mfg	561.08	563.72	-2.64	544.89	41.5	42.1	-0.6	41.0	13.52	13.39	0.13	13.29
<b>NONDUR. GOODS</b>	<b>593.89</b>	<b>600.60</b>	<b>-6.71</b>	<b>563.14</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>14.04</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>13.44</b>
Food	492.48	559.33	-66.85	474.71	40.4	45.4	-5.0	41.1	12.19	12.32	-0.13	11.55
Textiles	499.22	474.43	24.79	482.17	43.6	41.8	1.8	43.4	11.45	11.35	0.10	11.11
Apparel	345.26	341.35	3.91	338.45	40.1	39.6	0.5	39.4	8.61	8.62	-0.01	8.59
Paper	707.78	711.78	-4.01	676.95	45.9	46.1	-0.2	45.1	15.42	15.44	-0.02	15.01
Printing & Publishing	599.79	596.90	2.88	551.48	39.8	39.9	-0.1	38.7	15.07	14.96	0.11	14.25
Chemicals	796.02	790.55	5.47	766.89	45.1	45.2	-0.1	44.9	17.65	17.49	0.16	17.08
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	513.25	495.60	17.65	487.92	42.7	42.0	0.7	42.8	12.02	11.80	0.22	11.40
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>793.07</b>	<b>778.74</b>	<b>14.33</b>	<b>778.50</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>19.11</b>	<b>19.04</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>18.58</b>

## LMAs

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	SEP		CHG	AUG	SEP		CHG	AUG	SEP		CHG	AUG
	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>												
Bridgeport	\$646.91	\$633.57	\$13.34	\$628.42	42.7	43.1	-0.4	41.7	\$15.15	\$14.70	\$0.45	\$15.07
Danbury	669.53	665.34	4.19	663.99	45.3	45.2	0.1	45.2	14.78	14.72	0.06	14.69
Danielson	497.88	491.00	6.88	478.55	42.7	41.4	1.3	42.2	11.66	11.86	-0.20	11.34
Hartford	674.96	645.77	29.19	645.39	44.0	43.9	0.1	42.1	15.34	14.71	0.63	15.33
Lower River	521.64	496.40	25.24	514.59	42.0	40.0	2.0	41.6	12.42	12.41	0.01	12.37
New Haven	615.57	585.59	29.98	602.78	42.6	42.9	-0.3	41.6	14.45	13.65	0.80	14.49
New London	652.51	630.38	22.13	639.33	42.9	43.0	-0.1	42.2	15.21	14.66	0.55	15.15
Stamford	563.48	600.29	-36.81	553.15	41.1	41.6	-0.5	40.2	13.71	14.43	-0.72	13.76
Torrington	561.85	548.64	13.21	546.62	42.5	43.2	-0.7	41.6	13.22	12.70	0.52	13.14
Waterbury	591.98	587.81	4.17	592.19	43.4	44.7	-1.3	43.1	13.64	13.15	0.49	13.74

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

## NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	SEP	SEP	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		AUG
	1997	1996	UNITS	%	1997	1996	UNITS	%	1997
	<b>Connecticut</b>	740	717	23	3.2	7,019	5,672	1,347	23.7
<b>Counties:</b>									
Fairfield	173	120	53	44.2	1,539	1,111	428	38.5	166
Hartford	161	137	24	17.5	1,627	1,291	336	26.0	183
Litchfield	52	56	-4	-7.1	465	454	11	2.4	120
Middlesex	77	46	31	67.4	459	373	86	23.1	46
New Haven	130	155	-25	-16.1	1,607	1,173	434	37.0	131
New London	73	131	-58	-44.3	587	671	-84	-12.5	60
Tolland	45	47	-2	-4.3	398	381	17	4.5	51
Windham	29	25	4	16.0	237	218	19	8.7	35

# HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	SEP YR TO DATE			TOWN	SEP YR TO DATE			TOWN	SEP YR TO DATE		
	1997	1997	1996		1997	1997	1996		1997	1997	1996
Andover	1	21	22	Griswold	2	32	68	Preston	3	17	11
Ansonia	1	12	15	Groton	12	64	54	Prospect	4	37	23
Ashford	0	13	10	Guilford	12	102	80	Putnam	1	9	8
Avon	6	92	48	Haddam	4	21	19	Redding	3	23	19
Barkhamsted	4	20	14	Hamden	3	83	40	Ridgefield	11	98	61
Beacon Falls	0	19	16	Hampton	1	9	9	Rocky Hill	11	72	131
Berlin	5	55	59	Hartford	23	41	25	Roxbury	3	8	7
Bethany	0	17	21	Hartland	2	6	3	Salem	1	10	15
Bethel	4	28	26	Hartwinton	2	26	24	Salisbury	1	2	5
Bethlehem	0	6	10	Hebron	7	56	24	Scotland	1	12	8
Bloomfield	2	31	16	Kent	1	9	1	Seymour	4	50	17
Bolton	2	18	24	Killingly	4	26	20	Sharon	0	2	5
Bozrah	1	5	4	Killingworth	4	38	41	Shelton	13	120	133
Branford	4	36	35	Lebanon	2	32	28	Sherman	4	19	7
Bridgeport	2	52	17	Ledyard	4	37	38	Simsbury	2	45	47
Bridgewater	1	4	5	Lisbon	2	17	19	Somers	4	28	29
Bristol	9	72	83	Litchfield	0	90	26	South Windsor	10	93	63
Brookfield	7	39	32	Lyme	0	11	8	Southbury	9	73	43
Brooklyn	0	0	14	Madison	8	77	61	Southington	10	112	154
Burlington	1	36	53	Manchester	8	306	50	Sprague	1	4	3
Canaan	0	2	0	Mansfield	5	36	31	Stafford	3	22	21
Canterbury	2	14	18	Marlborough	0	25	27	Stamford	20	153	126
Canton	0	21	27	Meriden	5	31	20	Sterling	3	20	9
Chaplin	2	12	9	Middlebury	2	23	19	Stonington	8	59	40
Cheshire	8	154	69	Middlefield	4	15	11	Stratford	3	40	22
Chester	0	17	8	Middletown	14	92	100	Suffield	5	44	46
Clinton	4	27	21	Milford	4	125	118	Thomaston	2	26	18
Colchester	16	86	33	Monroe	10	101	101	Thompson	2	15	21
Colebrook	0	3	12	Montville	3	19	28	Tolland	7	75	56
Columbia	2	17	26	Morris	1	3	6	Torrington	0	53	58
Cornwall	0	5	0	Naugatuck	6	32	42	Trumbull	7	73	62
Coventry	5	50	52	New Britain	1	7	17	Union	0	4	0
Cromwell	9	26	40	New Canaan	8	47	38	Vernon	2	19	24
Danbury	25	185	33	New Fairfield	2	29	29	Voluntown	0	11	9
Darien	1	19	13	New Hartford	1	24	21	Wallingford	12	96	130
Deep River	1	11	9	New Haven	0	0	26	Warren	1	5	9
Derby	3	24	16	New London	0	0	0	Washington	1	11	8
Durham	7	36	11	New Milford	12	84	100	Waterbury	9	39	61
East Granby	0	15	26	Newington	7	44	9	Waterford	4	49	134
East Haddam	3	55	29	Newtown	18	137	83	Watertown	12	80	29
East Hampton	9	29	32	Norfolk	0	1	1	West Hartford	0	7	15
East Hartford	0	2	3	North Branford	7	58	51	West Haven	4	40	11
East Haven	8	130	27	North Canaan	0	5	19	Westbrook	9	32	8
East Lyme	7	60	48	North Haven	7	51	37	Weston	1	9	22
East Windsor	4	18	48	North Stoningtc	0	19	19	Westport	4	25	10
Eastford	0	6	1	Norwalk	8	74	101	Wethersfield	5	56	63
Easton	3	30	3	Norwich	2	21	56	Willington	2	7	12
Ellington	5	45	60	Old Lyme	4	29	56	Wilton	2	46	48
Enfield	8	64	31	Old Saybrook	2	29	26	Winchester	1	6	5
Essex	2	13	15	Orange	3	21	22	Windham	0	12	10
Fairfield	11	93	81	Oxford	3	43	50	Windsor	6	35	0
Farmington	11	113	93	Plainfield	4	37	39	Windsor Locks	2	14	5
Franklin	1	5	0	Plainville	1	24	0	Wolcott	1	119	105
Glastonbury	14	130	128	Plymouth	2	18	31	Woodbridge	3	115	18
Goshen	1	20	8	Pomfret	6	25	24	Woodbury	6	52	32
Granby	8	47	21	Portland	5	18	3	Woodstock	3	27	18
Greenwich	6	99	44								

## **BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS**

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

## **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**

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

## **EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX**

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

## **HOURS AND EARNINGS ESTIMATES**

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

## **INITIAL CLAIMS**

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

## **INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

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

## **LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES**

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

## **LABOR MARKET AREAS**

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

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

## **LEADING AND COINCIDENT EMPLOYMENT INDICES**

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

## **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES**

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

## **UI COVERED WAGES**

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

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT A GLANCE

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

<b>Leading Employment Index</b> .....	<b>+1.6</b>	<b>Business Activity</b>		<b>Tourism and Travel</b>	
<b>Coincident Employment Index</b> .....	<b>+8.0</b>	New Housing Permits .....	+3.2	Tourism Inquiries .....	-26.4
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b> .....	<b>+2.0</b>	Electricity Sales .....	+6.3	Tourism Info Centers .....	-9.9
<b>Unemployment</b> .....	<b>-1.1*</b>	Retail Sales .....	+8.4	Attraction Visitors .....	+2.5
Labor Force .....	+1.2	Construction Contracts Index .....	-44.6	Hotel-Motel Occupancy .....	+0.1
Employed .....	+2.5	New Auto Registrations .....	-20.4	Air Passenger Count .....	+1.8
Unemployed .....	-19.5	Air Cargo Tons .....	-9.2		
<b>Average Weekly Initial Claims</b> .....	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>Business Starts</b>		<b>Employment Cost Index (U.S.)</b>	
<b>Help Wanted Index -- Hartford</b> .....	<b>+2.9</b>	Secretary of the State .....	+34.4	Total .....	+3.2
<b>Average Ins. Unempl. Rate</b> .....	<b>-0.49*</b>	Dept. of Labor .....	+10.3	Wages & Salaries .....	+3.6
<b>Average Weekly Hours, Mfg</b> .....	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>Business Terminations</b>		Benefit Costs .....	+2.0
<b>Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg</b> .....	<b>+4.0</b>	Secretary of the State .....	+40.1	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	
<b>Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg</b> .....	<b>+3.7</b>	Dept. of Labor .....	+15.0	U.S. City Average .....	+2.2
<b>Manufacturing Output</b> .....	<b>+2.5</b>	<b>State Tax Collections</b> .....	<b>+12.4</b>	Northeast Region .....	+2.3
Production Worker Hours .....	+0.2	Corporate Tax .....	-7.5	NY-NJ-Long Island .....	+2.1
Productivity .....	+2.3	Personal Income Tax .....	+16.7	Boston-Lawrence-Salem .....	+2.6
<b>UI Covered Wages</b> .....	<b>+8.4</b>	Real Estate Conveyance Tax .....	+2.7	<b>Consumer Confidence</b>	
<b>Personal Income</b> .....	<b>+6.4</b>	Sales & Use Tax .....	+10.4	U.S. ....	+15.0
				New England .....	+29.7
				<b>Interest Rates</b>	
				Prime .....	+0.25*
				Conventional Mortgage .....	-0.80*

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

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