

## SEPTEMBER 1998

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## The Torrington Area: A Diamond In The Rough

By Joseph Slepski, Research Analyst

**N**estled in the northwestern part of the State, the Torrington Labor Market Area spans fourteen towns that spread out over 572 square miles. This quaintness is emphasized by the fact that just two percent of the State's population reside in the Area.

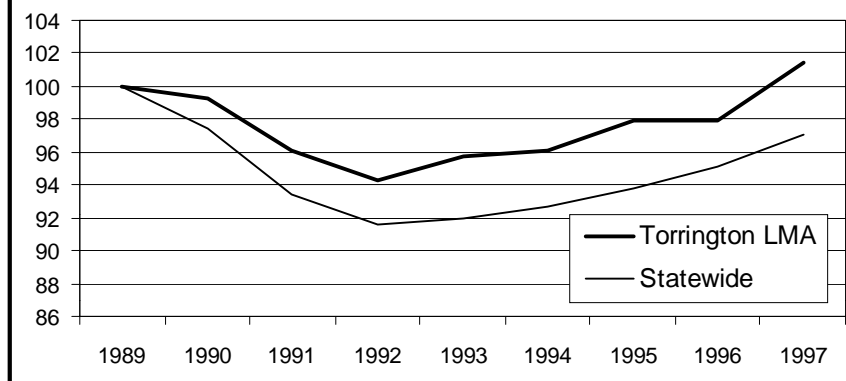
As sparsely populated as it is, however, the Torrington Labor Market Area has many unique and interesting characteristics. Only two percent of all jobs statewide are located in the Area. This means that most residents work outside of the Area. According to the 1990 Census over one third of the Area's residents commuted at least thirty minutes each way to their place of employment. Many of these people are working in the Hartford area with increasingly larger numbers heading into Fairfield County and also New York. With so many people

working outside the Labor Market Area, Torrington attracts people by factors other than the promise of a job or a short commute to work. The way of life is instead its main appeal.

### Population

As of 1996, 70,120 people were residing in the Torrington Area. Unlike other areas which experienced a drop in population as the recession began and a rebound as the economy began to improve, the Torrington Labor Market Area has had a remarkably stable population base. In the boom times of the late eighties, through the recovery of the mid-nineties, Area population has been virtually unchanged, its level between 68,600 to 70,120. Even more proof of a stable population base is the fact that projections show that the area population is expected to increase by just two percent by the

Employment Index (1989=100): 1989-97



beginning of the twenty-first century. The Area, however, did follow the statewide trend when it came to the real estate market. From a median sales price of \$175,000 ten years ago, this average went down by almost \$50,000 before going up to approximately \$160,000.

### **Economy**

The Area unemployment rate also bore similarities with the State. In 1988, the Area unemployment rate went down to a low of two percent of the labor force. Four years later this number shot up to nine percent before beginning a downward trend that reached 2.7 percent in mid-1998. Employment in the Torrington Labor Market Area reached a high of 28,900 in June 1989. Three years later, 2,300 of these jobs had been lost. Half of these were factory jobs, with construction, trade and service positions also being eliminated. As of mid-1997, all of these jobs had been regained. Construction, trade and service industries have led the recovery, while Area factories have begun hiring again during the last two years.

### **Quality Of Life**

While the economy of the Area has improved, its primary attraction is the quality of life. Torrington houses no fewer than eleven museums along with countless numbers of public libraries. The historic Warner Theater, which was built in the early twenties, was completely renovated three years ago and now shows theatrical productions along with popular feature films.

The Area also houses the Lime Rock Race Track along with the Skip Barber Racing School. Every Memorial Day, hundreds of thousands of spectators come to watch the best auto racing in the world, featuring not only the best drivers but also world famous celebrities. Other races occur at the track throughout the summer and early fall.

When the City of Torrington renovated Fussenich Field two years ago, the idea was to try to entice professional baseball to come to the city. The cost of this proved to be prohibitive, however, so the City instead turned to the New England Collegiate Baseball League. The result was the Torrington Twisters, who drew over 100,000 fans last summer to watch baseball at affordable prices, without any beer or other alcoholic beverages being sold. Torrington was also one of the first cities in the state to hold a First Night celebration. Every year on December 31, tens of thousands of families descend upon Torrington for a safe, alcohol-free New Year's Eve gala.

### **Location, Location, Location**

Location is also an advantage for the Area. Hartford is accessible via Route 44, while both Route 8 and Interstate Route 84 lead to Fairfield County and New York City. The Area itself borders New York State, while the Berkshires in Massachusetts are nearby. Many celebrities and executives who work in New York choose to live in the Torrington Area as real estate prices are lower than in Fairfield County, while the rural setting of the Area gives one the feel of living in the country.

### **A Diamond In The Rough**

Three years ago, a group consisting of entertainers, athletes, business leaders and television network executives who live in the Area bought two local radio stations. With a show of commitment such as this, along with location and family oriented activities, it might be hard to keep this little diamond in the rough a secret much longer. ■

*For the most recent employment data on the Torrington Labor Market Area, see page 19.*

## **THE CONNECTICUT**

# **ECONOMIC DIGEST**

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

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# Job Fairs: For Employers And Jobseekers

By Joseph Slepski, Research Analyst

**W**ith the economy moving along at a brisk pace, the number of people who are out of a job is at a lower level. When this occurs, employers have a harder time finding qualified applicants for their positions. Companies looking for workers put ads in the newspapers, offer cash bonuses and other inducements, and participate at various employment and trade shows at a cost of hundreds of dollars. Although the unemployment rate might be at a relatively low level, there are still people out there who are looking for a first job, a new job, or a better job. The key then is to match employers who need to fill jobs with people looking for them. The Connecticut Department of

Labor serves not only jobseekers but businesses as well. With this mission in mind, the Department of Labor embarked on a plan to match people looking for work with companies that are seeking to hire qualified individuals in a way that would augment traditional and electronic means, such as the Job Bank and Talent Bank.

In the summer of 1997, the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce approached the Labor Department with the possibility of hosting a Job Fair where local employers could meet with prospective employees. On October 1, 1997 at the Dock and Dine restaurant in Old Saybrook, the local Chamber of Commerce and the Connecticut Department of Labor hosted a Job

*Continued on page 4*

## HOUSING UPDATE

### July Housing Permits Increase 48.9%

**C**ommissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 1,297 new housing units in July 1998, a 48.9 percent increase compared to July of 1997 when 871 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 1,297 units permitted in July 1998 represent an increase of 7.8 percent from the 1,203 units permitted in June 1998. The year-to-date permits are up 20.5 percent, from 5,487 through July 1997, to 6,610 through July 1998.

"A 20.5 percent increase through seven months of 1998 is remarkable coming after a 1997 that recorded the highest permit growth in a decade," Commissioner

Abromaitis said. "Connecticut's economy continues to be strong, and the housing sector reflects that overall strength."

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Fairfield County with 175.4 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in July compared to the same month a year ago. Hartford County followed with a 39.6 percent increase.

Fairfield County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in July with 548. Hartford County followed with 261 units and New Haven County had 170 units. Danbury led all Connecticut communities with 282 units, followed by Brookfield with 97 and Manchester with 69. ■

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

## Industry Clusters

### "Cluster-Based" Exports Proposed

**T**he DECD's Industry Cluster/International Division was recently represented at the Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC). The Eastern Regional Conference includes the 10 Mid-Atlantic and New England States from Delaware to Maine, plus Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Quebec. More than 800 legislators and other officials convened last month in Wilmington, Delaware on issues such as school financing, electric deregulation, workforce and economic development.

The primary purpose of the DECD's invited attendance was regional cooperation in export promotion. A joint-state task force meeting looked at ways the region could increase exports to strengthen the regional export economy. A draft report prepared for the Council was presented and indicated that the region was lagging the U.S. Connecticut's own first-quarter 1998 exports declined 0.3 percent compared with the same quarter in 1997. A regional task force is now seeking to identify three industries at the three-digit Standard Industry Classification (SIC) level for promotion. Among targeted and/or potential export industries could be medical devices (SIC 384), electronic components (SIC 367), or fabricated metals (SIC 346).

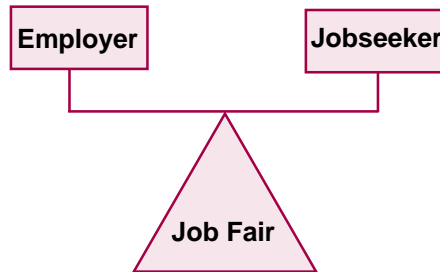
A "cluster-based" approach to regional export promotion was proposed and discussed. The feasibility of local and regional videoconferences to facilitate business-to-business contact by small and medium-sized businesses with foreign markets is being planned. ■

Fair. Thirty companies signed up for this event and approximately 300 people attended. Employers were greatly satisfied with the turnout as they were able to identify numerous qualified applicants and the attendees were happy too, as several people found jobs on the spot. This event was so successful that on December 16, 1997 the Department along with the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce hosted another Job Fair at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell. Despite the approaching holiday season, another thirty companies signed up and over 200 people attended.

With the success of these two Job Fairs, other local groups and organizations began working with the Labor Department and the Office of Research to organize more functions like these. In March 1998, the Labor Department co-hosted a Job Fair in New Haven with United States Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. Over sixty companies signed up and close to 800 people attended this event at the New Haven Lawn Club. Also, this past winter a major shoreline employer shut its doors leaving hundreds of people jobless. The Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce along with the Labor Department decided to sponsor another Job Fair. Despite having only a two-week period to organize and publicize this event, twenty-five companies participated and approximately 200 people attended. In April, the Department continued an annual event by co-hosting a Job Fair along with Manchester Community-Technical College. Close to 1,000 jobseekers and eighty companies attended this event on a Saturday in the spring.

In view of the success of these events and in a continuing effort to serve the needs of both workers and companies, Governor Rowland proclaimed June 1998 to be Jobs Month in Connecticut. In accordance with this, Connecticut

Works, a partnership of the Department of Labor, local Regional Work Force Development Boards, local businesses and community based organizations, hosted Job Fairs in Waterbury, Norwich, Norwalk and Danbury. In addition to these, the Department participated in Job Fairs in Hartford and Danielson. Each one of these Job Fairs hosted at least sixty companies and attendance ranged between 400-500. Surveys taken during these fairs indicate that over ninety percent of the companies that signed up were satisfied, and over 97 percent of prospective jobseekers were also satisfied, with nearly all of these people indicating they would return to any future event hosted by the Department.



The companies that sign up for these Job Fairs are representative of all different industries and are looking for individuals who are trained in health care, technical, computer related, managerial, clerical, construction, sales and manufacturing skills. The jobseekers come from a variety of backgrounds. Ranging in years from teens to senior citizens, some are college graduates just entering the workforce; others are currently employed but seeking a different position; some are looking for part-time work; still others have experienced a layoff due to downsizing. They have been employed in managerial, professional and technical; sales and retail; production; clerical and administrative; and service occupations.

The success of these events has led to more Job Fairs being scheduled. From the last week of September until the last week of October, area Job Fairs are scheduled for Torrington, Middlesex County, Hartford, New Haven and New Britain. The Labor Department handles employer registrations and all advertising for each event. Ads are placed in the newspapers and are also aired on the local radio and public access television stations. In addition, Job Fair representatives will visit local schools, libraries, and commercial establishments in each community to publicize the event.

Companies are urged to register as soon as possible as space is limited and some companies have been turned away in the past. Each employer is provided with a six to eight foot banquet table and a tablecloth. Electrical hookups are available and coffee and danish are also provided. Companies can bring a sign or banner identifying themselves along with any other pertinent literature and job applications.

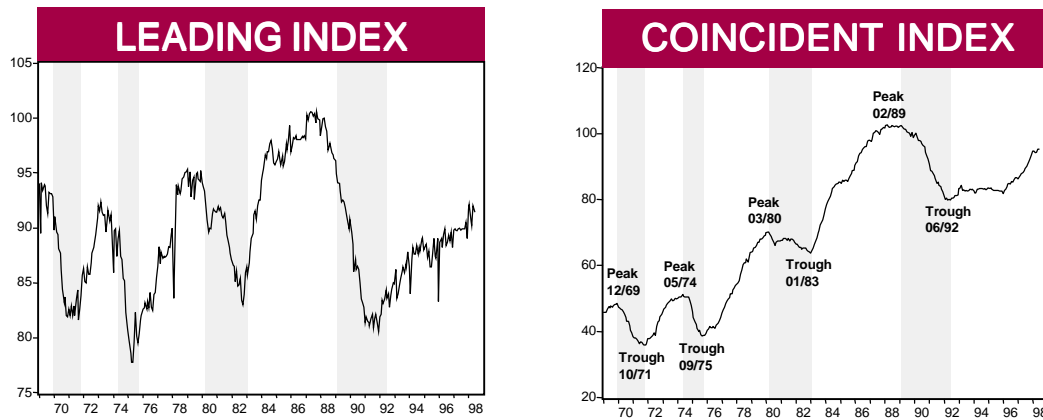
Jobseekers are advised to dress professionally as companies will be interviewing, and in some cases hiring, on the spot. Applicants are also advised to bring at least twenty copies of their resumes. As the dates of these Job Fairs approach, the local newspapers will be running announcements concerning the time, dates and locations. ■

## JOBSEEKER

**O**  
**B**  
**F**  
**A**  
**I**  
**EMPLOYER**

Information and registration forms are available by calling the Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research at (860) 566-7823. Information can also be obtained from the Agency's website: [www.ctdol.state.ct.us](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us).

# 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.

## Connecticut Economy Continues To Hum A Happy Refrain

**T**he Connecticut coincident and leading employment indexes provide on-going evidence that the Connecticut economy should continue to sing an upbeat, expansionary song. A downturn in the leading index, that is, a reversal of direction of movement for at least three consecutive months, generally precedes a change in the direction of the economy by six months to a year. We do not see any evidence suggesting that the leading index will soon croon a dour, recessionary tune. As a result, we see continued expansion of the Connecticut economy, at least well into 1999.

The coincident index, a barometer of current employment activity, reached another new peak with the release of (preliminary) June data. As mentioned in this space in July, some analysts see the labor force, which has been shrinking throughout much of the 1990s, as a potential barrier to continued growth in Connecticut.

In fact, labor markets in other parts of the country are even tighter than they are in Connecticut. Thus, near-term events in other states may provide some signal as to Connecticut's short-term future. The Summer 1998 issue of *The Connecticut Economy* continues its discussion of this issue. (See "Are Labor Shortages Going to Kill the Expansion?" by Will McEachern)

The leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, backed off slightly from its new peak in May with the release of (preliminary) June data. An increase in the initial claims for unemployment insurance was the major cause of the slight decline in the leading index. The other four components of this index moved in the positive direction. With all this said, it behooves us to keep a close watch on future movements in the leading index as they will signal future movements in the Connecticut economy.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 88.7 in June 1997 to 95.3 in June 1998. 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 90.0 in June 1997 to 91.4 in June 1998. Four of the five index components sent positive signals on a year-over-year basis with a lower short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, higher Hartford help-wanted advertising, higher total housing permits, and a longer average work week of manufacturing production workers. The other component sent a negative signal on a year-over-year basis with higher initial claims for unemployment insurance and from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. ■

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) 486-3022, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Total nonfarm employment increased by 31,800 over the year, or 2.0 percent. The services sector added 15,500 jobs from last year.

## EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

	JUL		CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)					
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	1,643.7	1,611.9	31.8	2.0	1,644.9
<b>Private Sector</b>	1,418.6	1,388.4	30.2	2.2	1,418.9
Construction and Mining	59.2	57.0	2.2	3.9	59.2
Manufacturing	277.3	278.2	-0.9	-0.3	276.4
Transportation, Public Utilities	76.3	74.2	2.1	2.8	76.4
Wholesale, Retail Trade	359.2	352.7	6.5	1.8	358.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	135.7	130.9	4.8	3.7	135.6
Services	510.9	495.4	15.5	3.1	512.9
<b>Government</b>	225.1	223.5	1.6	0.7	226.0

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate fell by 1.7 percentage points from last year to 3.4 percent in July. Initial claims data rose by 2.3 percent over the year.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

	JUL		CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
(Seasonally adjusted)					
<b>Unemployment Rate, resident (%)</b>	3.4	5.1	-1.7	---	3.8
<b>Labor Force, resident (000s)</b>	1,709.1	1,722.0	-12.9	-0.7	1,718.0
Employed (000s)	1,650.3	1,634.9	15.4	0.9	1,652.7
Unemployed (000s)	58.8	87.1	-28.3	-32.5	65.3
<b>Average Weekly Initial Claims</b>	3,703	3,621	82	2.3	4,093
<b>Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)</b>	36	35	1	2.9	39
<b>Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)</b>	2.08	2.29	-0.21	---	1.84

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

The average weekly production worker earnings rose 3.2 percent from a year ago. Output increased 3.0 percent over the year.

## MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	JUL		CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
(Not seasonally adjusted)					
<b>Average Weekly Hours</b>	42.4	41.9	0.5	1.2	43.0
<b>Average Hourly Earnings</b>	\$14.87	\$14.58	\$0.29	2.0	\$14.79
<b>Average Weekly Earnings</b>	\$630.49	\$610.90	\$19.59	3.2	\$635.97
<b>Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*</b>	126.1	122.4	3.7	3.0	123.9
<b>Production Worker Hours (000s)</b>	6,630	6,601	29	0.4	6,918
<b>Productivity Index (1982=100)*</b>	189.9	185.2	4.7	2.5	190.4

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

\*Seasonally adjusted

Personal income for fourth quarter 1998 is forecasted to increase 6.1 percent from a year ago. The wages component is expected to grow 7.7 percent.

## INCOME (Quarterly)

	4Q*		CHANGE		3Q*
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
(Seasonally adjusted)					
(Annualized; \$ Millions)					
<b>Personal Income</b>	\$129,851	\$122,410	\$7,441	6.1	\$128,105
<b>UI Covered Wages</b>	\$69,273	\$64,324	\$4,949	7.7	\$68,309

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis; July 1998 release

\*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

## BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
<b>New Housing Permits</b>	JUL 1998	1,297	48.9	6,610	5,487	20.5
<b>Electricity Sales (mil kWh)</b>	MAY 1998	2,239	6.0	11,657	11,530	1.1
<b>Retail Sales (Bil. \$)</b>	MAY 1998	2.87	10.8	13.99	13.07	7.0
<b>Construction Contracts Index (1980=100)</b>	JUN 1998	246.6	-32.3	---	---	---
<b>New Auto Registrations</b>	JUL 1998	12,812	23.4	123,095	112,041	9.9
<b>Air Cargo Tons</b>	JUN 1998	12,648	31.4	68,363	66,841	2.3

Retail sales were up 7.0 percent from their year-to-date level a year ago. Electricity sales for the year are up 1.1 percent.

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

	JUL 1998	% CHANGE		YEAR TO DATE		
		M/M	Y/Y	NO.	% CHG	
<b>STARTS</b>						
<b>Secretary of the State</b>	1,604	-11.0	8.3	12,082	18.5	
<b>Department of Labor</b>	676	-25.4	-12.0	6,103	-5.0	
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>						
<b>Secretary of the State</b>	298	-14.4	-2.0	2,256	3.2	
<b>Department of Labor</b>	1,699	94.8	15.3	8,191	10.6	

Net business starts as reported by the Connecticut Department of Labor declined by 2,088 for the first seven months 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)	JUL 1998	JUL 1997	%	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS		
				CHG	1997-98	1996-97
<b>TOTAL ALL TAXES*</b>	57.9	56.0	3.4	57.9	56.0	3.4
<b>Corporate Tax</b>	0.0	0.0	---	0.0	0.0	---
<b>Personal Income Tax</b>	13.8	12.0	15.0	13.8	12.0	15.0
<b>Real Estate Conv. Tax</b>	11.8	8.6	3.2	11.8	8.6	37.2
<b>Sales &amp; Use Tax</b>	2.9	4.0	-27.5	2.9	4.0	-27.5

The new fiscal year started with an increase of 3.4 percent in overall tax collections, compared to the start of last fiscal year. The largest gains were in personal income taxes, up 15.0 percent, and real estate conveyance taxes, up 37.2 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
<b>Tourism Inquiries</b>	JUL 1998	29,838	-42.7	220,120	215,303	2.2
<b>Info Center Visitors</b>	JUL 1998	102,462	12.8	310,562	293,857	5.7
<b>Major Attraction Visitors</b>	JUL 1998	331,321	14.4	1,143,258	1,007,395	13.5
<b>Hotel-Motel Occupancy</b>	JUL 1998	80.9	2.1	72.1	72.6	-0.7
<b>Air Passenger Count</b>	JUN 1998	475,205	5.8	2,701,426	2,666,834	1.3

Positive year-to-date tourism indicators included a 13.5 percent gain in major attraction visitors, a 5.7 percent increase in information center visitors, and a 2.2 percent increase in inquiries.

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

Compensation costs for the nation rose 3.5 percent over the year, while the Northeast's increased by 2.9 percent.

## EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	JUN 1998	MAR 1997	3-Mo %Chg	JUN 1998	JUN 1997	12-Mo %Chg
<b>Private Industry Workers</b> (June 1989=100)						
<b>UNITED STATES TOTAL</b>	137.2	136.0	0.9	137.5	132.8	3.5
Wages and Salaries	134.9	133.6	1.0	134.9	129.7	4.0
Benefit Costs	143.2	142.1	0.8	143.7	140.1	2.6
<b>NORTHEAST TOTAL</b>	---	---	---	137.0	133.1	2.9
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	133.8	129.8	3.1

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

The U.S. inflation rate for July remained at 1.7 percent while the Northeast region price level increased only 1.4 percent, with a 2.2 percent increase for the Boston area.

## CONSUMER NEWS

	JUL	JUN	JUL	%CHG	
	1998	1998	1997	M/M	Y/Y
(Not seasonally adjusted)					
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)</b>					
<b>All Urban Consumers</b>					
U.S. City Average	163.2	163	160.5	0.1	1.7
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=\$1.00)	\$0.613	\$0.613	\$0.623	-0.1	-1.7
Northeast Region	169.9	169.9	167.6	0.0	1.4
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	173.6	173.1	170.8	0.3	1.6
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	170.7	---	167.1		2.2
<b>Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers</b>					
U.S. City Average	159.8	159.7	157.5	0.1	1.5
<b>CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)</b>					
U.S.	135.4	138.2	126.3	-2.0	7.2
New England	124.9	128.1	104.9	-2.5	19.1

\*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

Except for a constant prime rate and slightly higher federal funds rate, all interest rates were uniformly lower than a year ago. The 30-year conventional mortgage rate dropped below its month-ago level of 7.00 percent to 6.95 percent.

## INTEREST RATES

	JUL	JUN	JUL
(Percent)	1998	1998	1997
<b>Prime</b>	8.50	8.50	8.50
<b>Federal Funds</b>	5.54	5.56	5.52
<b>3 Month Treasury Bill</b>	4.96	4.99	5.07
<b>6 Month Treasury Bill</b>	5.03	5.12	5.12
<b>1 Year Treasury Bill</b>	5.36	5.41	5.54
<b>3 Year Treasury Note</b>	5.47	5.52	6.00
<b>5 Year Treasury Note</b>	5.46	5.52	6.12
<b>7 Year Treasury Note</b>	5.52	5.56	6.20
<b>10 Year Treasury Note</b>	5.46	5.50	6.22
<b>30 Year Treasury Bond</b>	5.68	5.70	6.51
<b>Conventional Mortgage</b>	6.95	7.00	7.50

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.



# COMPARATIVE REGIONAL DATA

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	JUL	JUL	CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
Connecticut	1,643.7	1,611.9	31.8	2.0	1,644.9
Maine	564.1	554.6	9.5	1.7	562.3
Massachusetts	3,210.7	3,121.3	89.4	2.9	3,205.1
New Hampshire	576.0	573.8	2.2	0.4	573.9
New Jersey	3,794.6	3,728.0	66.6	1.8	3,801.8
New York	8,138.8	8,030.1	108.7	1.4	8,146.4
Pennsylvania	5,452.2	5,396.8	55.4	1.0	5,444.0
Rhode Island	454.3	449.8	4.5	1.0	455.0
Vermont	282.7	279.7	3.0	1.1	283.8
United States	125,824.0	122,811.0	3,013.0	2.5	125,758.0

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

Massachusetts showed the strongest job growth in the region over the past year.

## LABOR FORCE

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	JUL	JUL	CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
Connecticut	1,709.1	1,722.0	-12.9	-0.7	1,718.0
Maine	651.3	655.1	-3.8	-0.6	650.6
Massachusetts	3,253.6	3,269.7	-16.1	-0.5	3,255.7
New Hampshire	653.6	650.9	2.7	0.4	653.8
New Jersey	4,185.4	4,203.0	-17.6	-0.4	4,193.9
New York	8,769.2	8,841.6	-72.4	-0.8	8,781.1
Pennsylvania	5,979.0	5,986.2	-7.2	-0.1	5,962.1
Rhode Island	499.8	505.5	-5.7	-1.1	498.4
Vermont	333.1	325.4	7.7	2.4	330.4
United States	137,296.0	136,294.0	1,002.0	0.7	137,447.0

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

Seven of the nine states in the region experienced declines in the labor force from last year.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

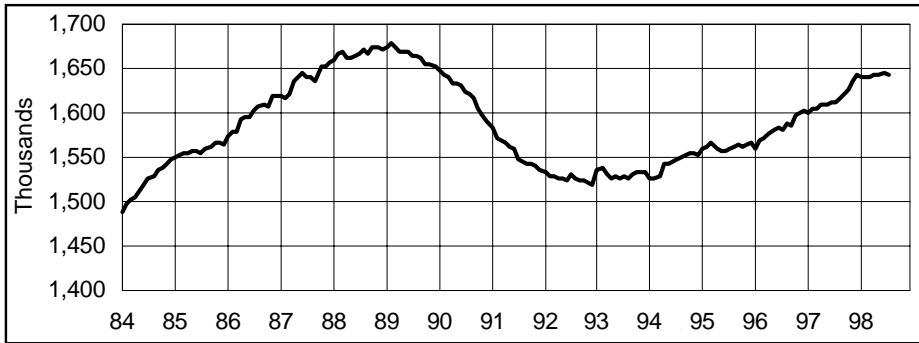
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	JUL	JUL	CHANGE	JUN
	1998	1997		1998
Connecticut	3.4	5.1	-1.7	3.8
Maine	4.5	5.4	-0.9	4.0
Massachusetts	3.1	4.0	-0.9	3.4
New Hampshire	2.4	3.1	-0.7	2.7
New Jersey	4.8	5.1	-0.3	4.8
New York	5.5	6.5	-1.0	5.5
Pennsylvania	4.5	5.3	-0.8	4.4
Rhode Island	4.4	5.4	-1.0	4.1
Vermont	3.5	3.9	-0.4	3.5
United States	4.5	4.9	-0.4	4.5

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

The unemployment rates in all states in the region and the nation were lower than the previous year's.

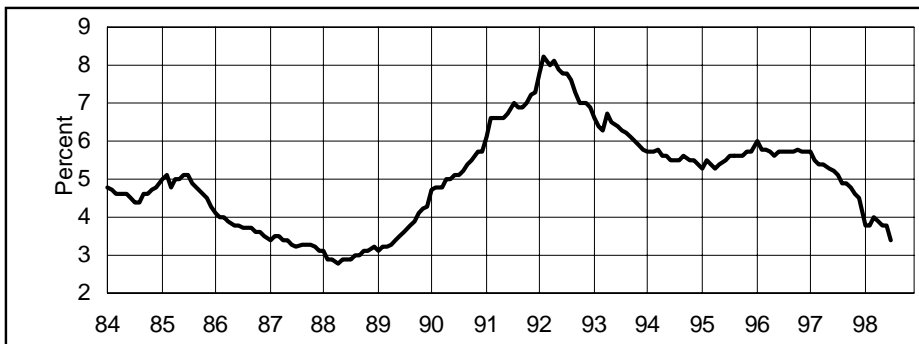
# ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	1,560.2	1,600.5	1,639.6
Feb	1,570.2	1,603.9	1,641.2
Mar	1,571.3	1,605.6	1,639.6
Apr	1,576.8	1,608.8	1,641.9
May	1,581.5	1,609.3	1,641.8
Jun	1,583.9	1,611.1	1,644.9
Jul	1,580.7	1,611.9	1,643.7
Aug	1,588.9	1,616.1	
Sep	1,586.7	1,621.7	
Oct	1,598.2	1,627.2	
Nov	1,600.4	1,634.6	
Dec	1,601.9	1,642.6	

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Seasonally adjusted)



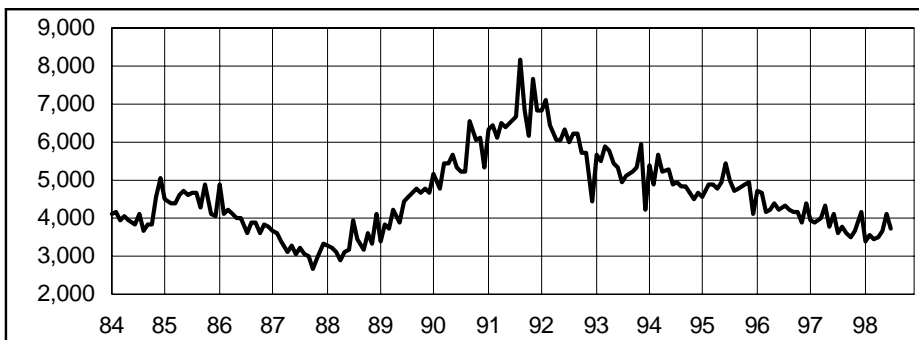
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	6.0	5.7	3.8
Feb	5.8	5.5	3.8
Mar	5.8	5.4	4.0
Apr	5.7	5.4	3.9
May	5.6	5.3	3.8
Jun	5.7	5.2	3.8
Jul	5.7	5.1	3.4
Aug	5.7	4.9	
Sep	5.7	4.9	
Oct	5.8	4.8	
Nov	5.7	4.6	
Dec	5.7	4.5	

## LABOR FORCE (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	1,714.4	1,723.6	1,720.0
Feb	1,717.2	1,720.8	1,716.8
Mar	1,717.7	1,720.5	1,722.4
Apr	1,718.5	1,722.2	1,714.9
May	1,719.2	1,721.0	1,721.1
Jun	1,721.5	1,721.7	1,718.0
Jul	1,721.0	1,722.0	1,709.1
Aug	1,722.4	1,722.9	
Sep	1,722.0	1,723.9	
Oct	1,727.1	1,725.7	
Nov	1,726.9	1,726.6	
Dec	1,726.1	1,728.2	

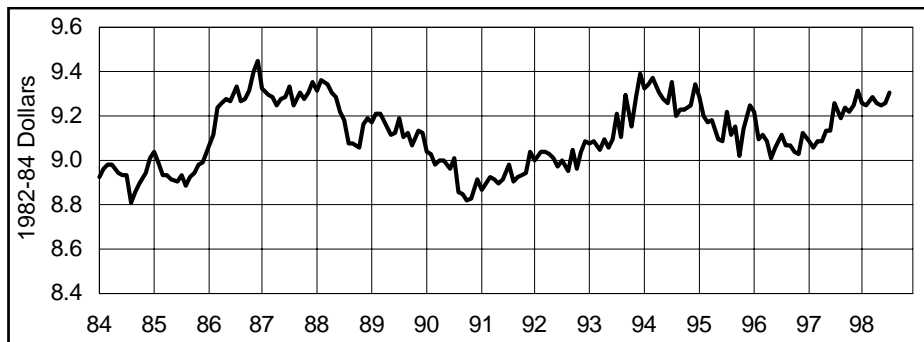
## AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	4,702	3,946	3,386
Feb	4,666	3,903	3,578
Mar	4,192	4,012	3,444
Apr	4,250	4,326	3,493
May	4,374	3,768	3,677
Jun	4,211	4,100	4,093
Jul	4,355	3,621	3,703
Aug	4,223	3,799	
Sep	4,194	3,629	
Oct	4,193	3,503	
Nov	3,881	3,670	
Dec	4,383	4,178	

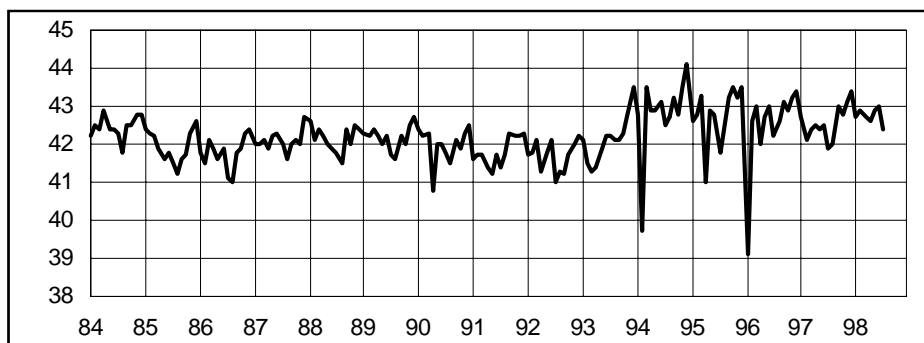
# ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

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



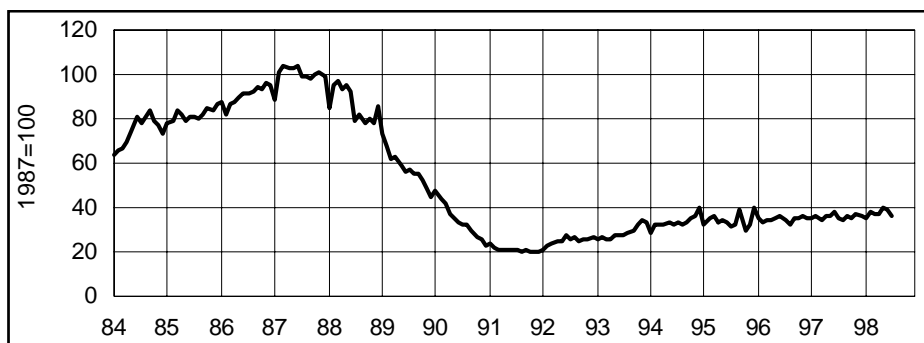
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	\$9.22	\$9.09	\$9.26
Feb	9.10	9.06	9.25
Mar	9.12	9.08	9.29
Apr	9.09	9.09	9.26
May	9.01	9.13	9.25
Jun	9.06	9.14	9.26
Jul	9.12	9.26	9.31
Aug	9.07	9.19	
Sep	9.07	9.24	
Oct	9.04	9.22	
Nov	9.03	9.25	
Dec	9.12	9.32	

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



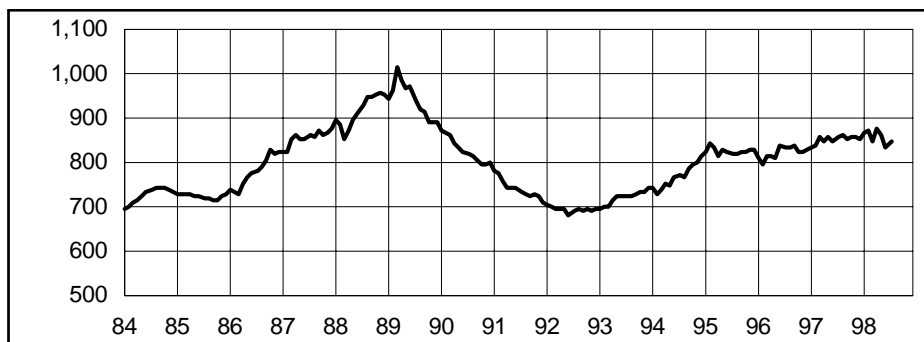
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	39.1	42.7	42.7
Feb	42.6	42.1	42.9
Mar	43.0	42.4	42.7
Apr	42.0	42.5	42.6
May	42.7	42.4	42.9
Jun	43.0	42.5	43.0
Jul	42.2	41.9	42.4
Aug	42.6	42.0	
Sep	43.1	43.0	
Oct	42.9	42.8	
Nov	43.2	43.1	
Dec	43.4	43.4	

**HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX** (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	35	35	35
Feb	33	36	38
Mar	34	34	37
Apr	34	36	37
May	35	36	40
Jun	36	38	39
Jul	34	35	36
Aug	32	34	
Sep	35	36	
Oct	35	35	
Nov	36	37	
Dec	35	36	

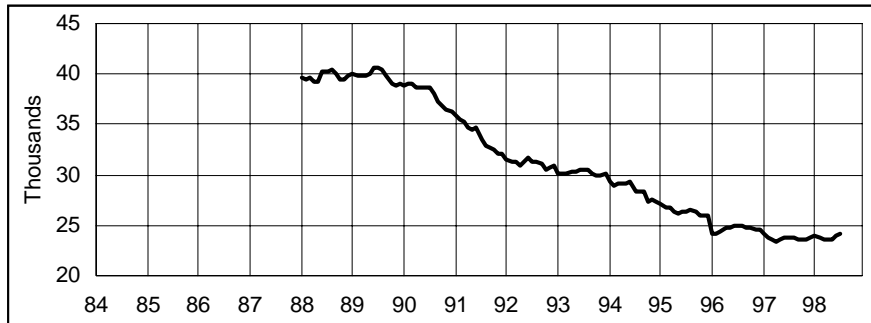
**DOL NEWLY REGISTERED EMPLOYERS** (12-month moving average)



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	810	833	868
Feb	794	840	870
Mar	812	856	846
Apr	813	849	878
May	811	856	861
Jun	838	848	836
Jul	833	856	849
Aug	833	862	
Sep	838	854	
Oct	825	859	
Nov	825	859	
Dec	828	852	

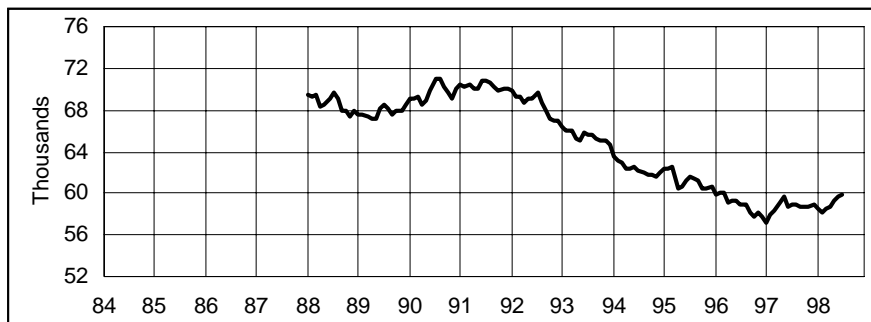
# ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

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



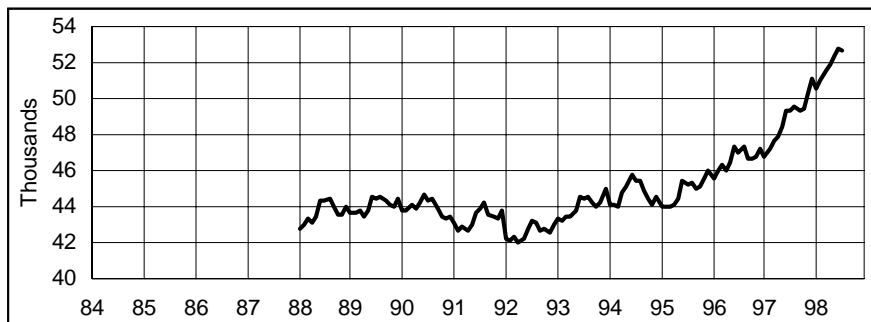
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	24.2	24.1	23.9
Feb	24.2	23.7	23.7
Mar	24.3	23.5	23.6
Apr	24.8	23.4	23.5
May	24.7	23.5	23.6
Jun	25.0	23.7	24.0
Jul	24.9	23.7	24.2
Aug	24.9	23.8	
Sep	24.7	23.5	
Oct	24.8	23.5	
Nov	24.6	23.6	
Dec	24.6	23.8	

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



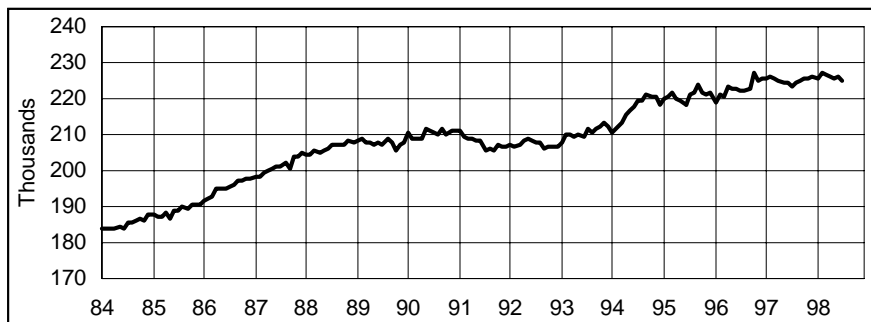
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	59.9	57.1	58.5
Feb	60.0	57.9	58.2
Mar	60.1	58.4	58.6
Apr	59.1	59.1	58.8
May	59.2	59.7	59.3
Jun	59.3	58.7	59.6
Jul	58.9	59.0	59.8
Aug	58.9	58.9	
Sep	58.1	58.8	
Oct	57.7	58.7	
Nov	58.2	58.7	
Dec	57.7	58.9	

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



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	45.6	46.8	50.6
Feb	46.0	47.2	51.0
Mar	46.3	47.7	51.6
Apr	46.0	47.9	51.9
May	46.5	48.4	52.3
Jun	47.3	49.3	52.8
Jul	47.0	49.3	52.7
Aug	47.3	49.6	
Sep	46.7	49.3	
Oct	46.7	49.4	
Nov	46.8	50.3	
Dec	47.2	51.1	

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

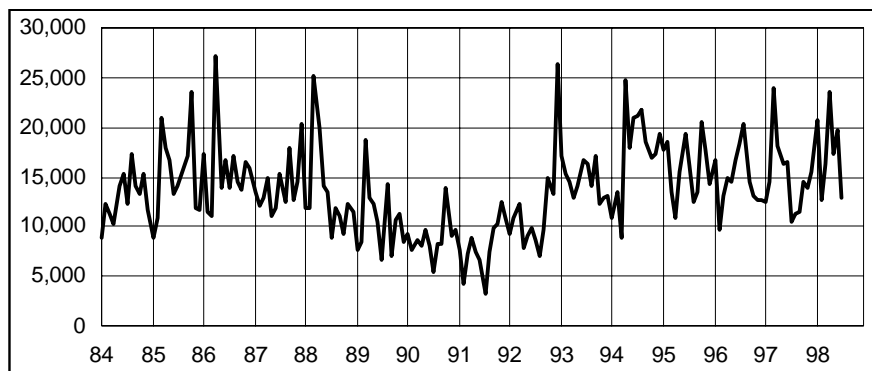


Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	218.9	225.4	225.8
Feb	221.0	226.1	227.0
Mar	220.3	225.6	226.8
Apr	223.4	224.8	226.2
May	222.8	224.5	225.3
Jun	222.6	224.4	226.0
Jul	222.0	223.5	225.1
Aug	222.5	224.2	
Sep	222.7	225.2	
Oct	227.4	225.3	
Nov	224.8	225.6	
Dec	225.3	226.3	

\*Includes Indian tribal government employment

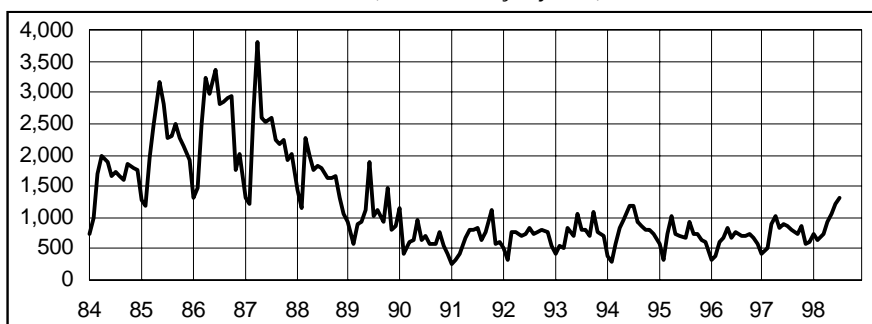
# ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

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



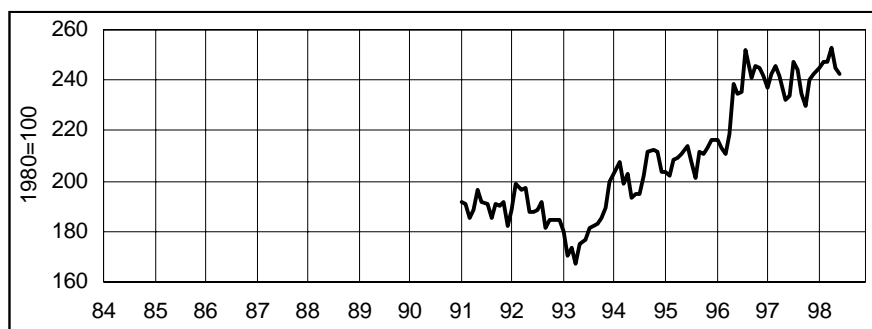
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	16,714	12,436	20,753
Feb	9,724	14,401	12,604
Mar	13,132	23,952	16,313
Apr	14,930	18,038	23,500
May	14,492	16,364	17,300
Jun	16,812	16,464	19,813
Jul	18,412	10,386	12,812
Aug	20,409	11,210	
Sep	14,420	11,485	
Oct	13,059	14,563	
Nov	12,676	13,884	
Dec	12,684	15,416	

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



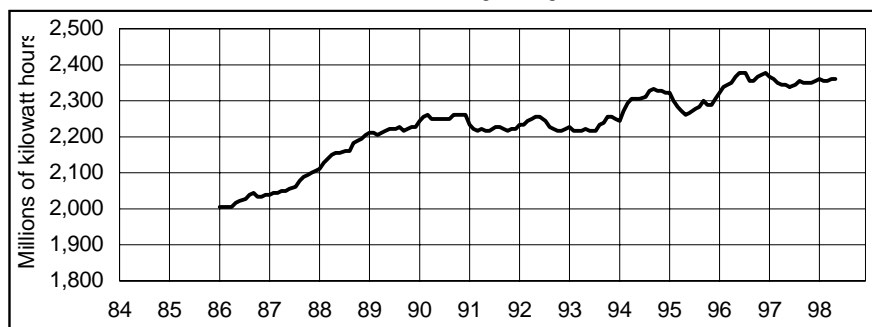
Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	315	427	737
Feb	385	520	647
Mar	593	911	747
Apr	660	1,036	928
May	846	836	1,051
Jun	684	886	1,203
Jul	764	871	1,297
Aug	710	792	
Sep	717	740	
Oct	746	852	
Nov	683	561	
Dec	589	622	

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



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	216.2	236.8	245.1
Feb	212.9	242.4	247.1
Mar	211.1	245.7	247.2
Apr	218.5	241.5	252.5
May	238.3	232.2	245.0
Jun	234.4	234.0	242.7
Jul	235.5	244.7	
Aug	251.9	241.4	
Sep	240.7	232.4	
Oct	245.8	230.0	
Nov	244.9	239.9	
Dec	241.5	242.3	

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



Month	1996	1997	1998
Jan	2,321	2,366	2,363
Feb	2,338	2,364	2,354
Mar	2,347	2,348	2,354
Apr	2,352	2,346	2,361
May	2,365	2,344	2,362
Jun	2,377	2,338	
Jul	2,376	2,342	
Aug	2,358	2,355	
Sep	2,354	2,350	
Oct	2,365	2,349	
Nov	2,371	2,352	
Dec	2,377	2,354	

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## CONNECTICUT



Not Seasonally Adjusted

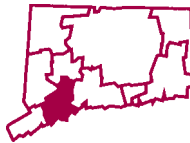
	JUL	JUL	CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> . . . . .	<b>1,637,700</b>	<b>1,605,800</b>	<b>31,900</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1,658,900</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> . . . . .	<b>338,700</b>	<b>336,300</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>341,200</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> . . . . .	<b>64,200</b>	<b>61,700</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>63,200</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> . . . . .	<b>274,500</b>	<b>274,600</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>278,000</b>
<b>Durable</b> . . . . .	<b>192,900</b>	<b>192,200</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>194,700</b>
Lumber & Furniture . . . . .	5,300	5,200	100	1.9	5,400
Stone, Clay & Glass . . . . .	3,000	3,000	0	0.0	3,100
Primary Metals . . . . .	8,900	8,900	0	0.0	9,000
Fabricated Metals . . . . .	34,000	33,900	100	0.3	34,900
Machinery & Computer Equipment . . . . .	34,900	33,900	1,000	2.9	34,900
Electronic & Electrical Equipment . . . . .	29,100	28,500	600	2.1	29,300
Transportation Equipment . . . . .	49,400	50,200	-800	-1.6	49,400
Instruments . . . . .	22,100	22,400	-300	-1.3	22,200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing . . . . .	6,200	6,200	0	0.0	6,500
<b>Nondurable</b> . . . . .	<b>81,600</b>	<b>82,400</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>83,300</b>
Food . . . . .	8,600	8,400	200	2.4	8,600
Textiles . . . . .	2,000	1,900	100	5.3	2,100
Apparel . . . . .	4,200	4,500	-300	-6.7	4,400
Paper . . . . .	7,700	7,900	-200	-2.5	7,900
Printing & Publishing . . . . .	25,300	25,700	-400	-1.6	25,500
Chemicals . . . . .	21,200	21,100	100	0.5	21,300
Rubber & Plastics . . . . .	10,400	10,600	-200	-1.9	11,100
Other Nondurable Manufacturing . . . . .	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.3	2,400
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> . . . . .	<b>1,299,000</b>	<b>1,269,500</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1,317,700</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> . . . . .	<b>75,000</b>	<b>72,900</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>77,500</b>
Transportation . . . . .	42,800	41,800	1,000	2.4	45,400
Motor Freight & Warehousing . . . . .	11,700	11,900	-200	-1.7	11,600
Other Transportation . . . . .	31,100	29,900	1,200	4.0	33,800
Communications . . . . .	20,000	18,800	1,200	6.4	19,900
Utilities . . . . .	12,200	12,300	-100	-0.8	12,200
<b>TRADE</b> . . . . .	<b>359,700</b>	<b>353,000</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>361,800</b>
Wholesale . . . . .	86,400	83,800	2,600	3.1	85,900
Retail . . . . .	273,300	269,200	4,100	1.5	275,900
General Merchandise . . . . .	27,000	26,800	200	0.7	27,300
Food Stores . . . . .	52,600	52,000	600	1.2	52,400
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations . . . . .	26,900	27,200	-300	-1.1	27,200
Restaurants . . . . .	79,400	79,200	200	0.3	81,300
Other Retail Trade . . . . .	87,400	84,000	3,400	4.0	87,700
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE.</b> . . . .	<b>136,700</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>136,400</b>
Finance . . . . .	49,200	45,900	3,300	7.2	48,900
Banking . . . . .	24,200	23,700	500	2.1	24,000
Insurance . . . . .	71,100	70,100	1,000	1.4	71,000
Insurance Carriers . . . . .	59,800	59,000	800	1.4	59,600
Real Estate . . . . .	16,300	16,000	300	1.9	16,500
<b>SERVICES</b> . . . . .	<b>515,500</b>	<b>500,300</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>517,000</b>
Hotels & Lodging Places . . . . .	11,900	11,500	400	3.5	11,500
Personal Services . . . . .	17,300	17,200	100	0.6	18,000
Business Services . . . . .	107,300	100,700	6,600	6.6	108,100
Health Services . . . . .	157,900	156,700	1,200	0.8	159,200
Legal & Professional Services . . . . .	53,800	51,800	2,000	3.9	53,700
Educational Services . . . . .	38,200	37,000	1,200	3.2	39,300
Other Services . . . . .	129,100	125,400	3,700	3.0	127,200
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> . . . . .	<b>212,100</b>	<b>211,300</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>225,000</b>
Federal . . . . .	22,400	22,500	-100	-0.4	22,600
**State, Local & Other Government . . . . .	189,700	188,800	900	0.5	202,400

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

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

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## BRIDGEPORT LMA

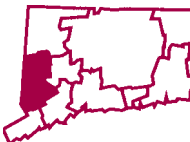


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL 1998	JUL 1997	CHANGE		JUN 1998
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>182,700</b>	<b>181,700</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>185,700</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>46,300</b>	<b>45,800</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>46,900</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>7,100</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>39,200</b>	<b>38,900</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>39,900</b>
Durable Goods .....	32,200	31,900	300	0.9	32,700
Fabricated Metals .....	4,300	4,200	100	2.4	4,400
Industrial Machinery .....	6,400	6,300	100	1.6	6,400
Electronic Equipment .....	6,600	6,300	300	4.8	6,600
Transportation Equipment .....	8,500	8,700	-200	-2.3	8,800
Nondurable Goods .....	7,000	7,000	0	0.0	7,200
Printing & Publishing .....	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,100
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>136,400</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>138,800</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>7,100</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>7,200</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>40,800</b>	<b>40,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>41,500</b>
Wholesale .....	9,700	9,900	-200	-2.0	9,700
Retail .....	31,100	30,800	300	1.0	31,800
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>10,300</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>10,300</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>58,100</b>	<b>58,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>58,800</b>
Business Services .....	13,900	13,400	500	3.7	14,000
Health Services .....	20,100	19,700	400	2.0	21,000
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>20,100</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>21,000</b>
Federal .....	2,200	2,200	0	0.0	2,300
State & Local .....	17,900	17,500	400	2.3	18,700

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

## DANBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL 1998	JUL 1997	CHANGE		JUN 1998
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>86,700</b>	<b>85,400</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>87,600</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>22,500</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>22,800</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>18,500</b>	<b>18,700</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>18,800</b>
Durable Goods .....	9,800	9,800	0	0.0	9,800
Machinery & Electric Equipment .....	4,800	4,800	0	0.0	4,800
Instruments .....	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,700
Nondurable Goods .....	8,700	8,900	-200	-2.2	9,000
Printing & Publishing .....	2,500	2,600	-100	-3.8	2,600
Chemicals .....	3,400	3,300	100	3.0	3,600
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>64,200</b>	<b>63,000</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>64,800</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>21,800</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>22,000</b>
Wholesale .....	4,100	4,000	100	2.5	4,000
Retail .....	17,700	18,000	-300	-1.7	18,000
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>4,900</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>4,900</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>25,900</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>25,700</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>9,100</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>9,700</b>
Federal .....	900	800	100	12.5	800
State & Local .....	8,200	8,300	-100	-1.2	8,900

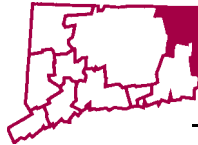
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

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

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## DANIELSON LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL	JUL	CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>20,700</b>	<b>19,900</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>21,000</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>7,100</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>7,200</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>1,000</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>6,100</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6,200</b>
Durable Goods .....	2,700	2,500	200	8.0	2,700
Nondurable Goods .....	3,400	3,300	100	3.0	3,500
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>13,600</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>3.0</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>4,700</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>4,800</b>
Wholesale .....	700	700	0	0.0	700
Retail .....	4,000	3,900	100	2.6	4,100
<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>4,800</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,100</b>
Federal .....	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local .....	2,900	2,900	0	0.0	3,000

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

## HARTFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL	JUL	CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>595,100</b>	<b>592,100</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>601,600</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>114,400</b>	<b>112,800</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>115,800</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>20,700</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>20,700</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>93,700</b>	<b>91,600</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>95,100</b>
Durable Goods .....	74,900	72,400	2,500	3.5	75,600
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	17,900	17,200	700	4.1	18,300
Industrial Machinery .....	14,500	14,300	200	1.4	14,600
Electronic Equipment .....	6,200	6,300	-100	-1.6	6,300
Transportation Equipment .....	27,900	26,400	1,500	5.7	27,700
Nondurable Goods .....	18,800	19,200	-400	-2.1	19,500
Printing & Publishing .....	7,500	7,600	-100	-1.3	7,600
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>480,700</b>	<b>479,300</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>485,800</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>26,400</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>27,300</b>
Transportation .....	15,200	15,000	200	1.3	16,200
Communications & Utilities .....	11,200	10,900	300	2.8	11,100
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>123,300</b>	<b>123,700</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>124,000</b>
Wholesale .....	30,700	30,700	0	0.0	30,500
Retail .....	92,600	93,000	-400	-0.4	93,500
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>69,100</b>	<b>69,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>68,500</b>
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions .....	9,700	9,500	200	2.1	9,700
Insurance Carriers .....	46,400	46,700	-300	-0.6	45,800
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>172,900</b>	<b>172,100</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>173,500</b>
Business Services .....	31,900	32,100	-200	-0.6	31,800
Health Services .....	59,300	59,200	100	0.2	60,000
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>89,000</b>	<b>88,600</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>92,500</b>
Federal .....	8,000	8,100	-100	-1.2	8,000
State & Local .....	81,000	80,500	500	0.6	84,500

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

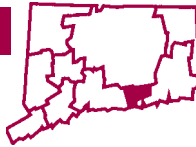
Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

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



# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## LOWER RIVER LMA

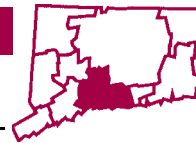


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL	JUL	CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>9,900</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>3,400</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>3,100</b>
Durable Goods .....	2,400	2,500	-100	-4.0	2,400
Electronic Equipment .....	800	800	0	0.0	800
Other Durable Goods .....	1,600	1,700	-100	-5.9	1,600
Nondurable Goods .....	700	700	0	0.0	700
Rubber & Plastics .....	300	300	0	0.0	300
Other Nondurable Goods .....	400	400	0	0.0	400
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,600</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2,300</b>
Wholesale .....	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail .....	1,900	1,800	100	5.6	1,900
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>2,600</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>800</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>900</b>
Federal .....	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local .....	800	800	0	0.0	900

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

## NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL	JUL	CHANGE		JUN
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>247,700</b>	<b>248,300</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>250,500</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>48,400</b>	<b>48,600</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>48,900</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>9,900</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>9,600</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>38,500</b>	<b>38,700</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>39,300</b>
Durable Goods .....	24,100	24,100	0	0.0	24,800
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	6,500	6,600	-100	-1.5	6,500
Electronic Equipment .....	5,100	5,000	100	2.0	5,100
Nondurable Goods .....	14,400	14,600	-200	-1.4	14,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing .....	5,000	5,100	-100	-2.0	5,100
Chemicals & Allied .....	6,300	6,100	200	3.3	6,200
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>199,300</b>	<b>199,700</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>201,600</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>16,100</b>	<b>15,700</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>16,400</b>
Communications & Utilities .....	9,000	8,600	400	4.7	9,000
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>52,700</b>	<b>52,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>53,400</b>
Wholesale .....	13,300	12,900	400	3.1	13,300
Retail .....	39,400	39,800	-400	-1.0	40,100
Eating & Drinking Places .....	10,800	11,500	-700	-6.1	11,400
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>13,000</b>
Finance .....	3,800	4,000	-200	-5.0	3,800
Insurance .....	7,100	7,000	100	1.4	7,100
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>87,500</b>	<b>87,800</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>87,700</b>
Business Services .....	12,400	12,700	-300	-2.4	12,100
Health Services .....	29,100	29,100	0	0.0	29,200
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,400</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>31,100</b>
Federal .....	5,300	5,700	-400	-7.0	5,300
State & Local .....	24,700	24,700	0	0.0	25,800

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 1997.

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

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## NEW LONDON LMA

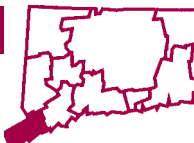


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL 1998	JUL 1997	CHANGE		JUN 1998
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>141,300</b>	<b>139,200</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>141,300</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>29,000</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>29,200</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>4,900</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>24,100</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>24,400</b>
Durable Goods .....	14,500	15,300	-800	-5.2	14,600
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	2,200	2,100	100	4.8	2,300
Other Durable Goods .....	12,300	13,200	-900	-6.8	12,300
Nondurable Goods .....	9,600	9,500	100	1.1	9,800
Paper & Allied .....	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods .....	7,500	7,300	200	2.7	7,500
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>112,300</b>	<b>109,700</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>112,100</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>6,800</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>29,000</b>	<b>28,800</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>28,900</b>
Wholesale .....	2,800	2,700	100	3.7	2,800
Retail .....	26,200	26,100	100	0.4	26,100
Eating & Drinking Places .....	8,900	8,900	0	0.0	8,800
Other Retail .....	17,400	17,200	200	1.2	17,300
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>3,900</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>36,000</b>	<b>35,100</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>36,000</b>
Personal & Business Services .....	6,700	6,300	400	6.3	6,800
Health Services .....	11,700	11,400	300	2.6	11,700
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>36,600</b>	<b>35,600</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>36,500</b>
Federal .....	2,700	2,800	-100	-3.6	2,700
State & Local .....	33,900	32,800	1,100	3.4	33,800
**Local .....	30,200	29,000	1,200	4.1	30,000

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

## STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL 1998	JUL 1997	CHANGE		JUN 1998
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>210,800</b>	<b>205,600</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>211,100</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>32,700</b>	<b>34,300</b>	<b>-1,600</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>33,200</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>5,900</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>26,700</b>	<b>28,200</b>	<b>-1,500</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>27,300</b>
Durable Goods .....	14,300	14,700	-400	-2.7	14,400
Industrial Machinery .....	3,800	3,700	100	2.7	3,800
Electronic Equipment .....	2,600	2,500	100	4.0	2,600
Nondurable Goods .....	12,400	13,500	-1,100	-8.1	12,900
Paper, Printing & Publishing .....	6,100	6,400	-300	-4.7	6,200
Chemicals & Allied .....	3,100	3,400	-300	-8.8	3,200
Other Nondurable .....	3,200	3,700	-500	-13.5	3,500
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>178,100</b>	<b>171,300</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>177,900</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Communications & Utilities .....	3,000	3,000	0	0.0	3,000
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>47,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>47,100</b>
Wholesale .....	12,100	12,100	0	0.0	12,200
Retail .....	34,900	33,900	1,000	2.9	34,900
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>26,700</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>26,700</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>76,800</b>	<b>74,200</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>76,100</b>
Business Services .....	22,800	21,700	1,100	5.1	22,600
Engineering & Mgmt. Services .....	11,000	10,200	800	7.8	10,800
Other Services .....	43,000	42,300	700	1.7	42,700
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>17,600</b>	<b>17,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>18,000</b>
Federal .....	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
State & Local .....	15,700	15,500	200	1.3	16,100

For further information on the Stamford 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 1997.

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

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

## TORRINGTON LMA

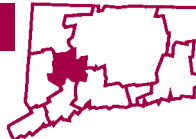


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL 1998	JUL 1997	CHANGE		JUN 1998
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>29,100</b>	<b>28,700</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>29,500</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>8,600</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>8,600</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>6,300</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,300</b>
Durable Goods .....	4,400	4,300	100	2.3	4,400
Primary & Fabricated Metals .....	500	500	0	0.0	500
Industrial Machinery .....	1,200	1,100	100	9.1	1,200
Electronic Equipment .....	500	500	0	0.0	500
Other Durable Goods .....	2,200	2,200	0	0.0	2,200
Nondurable Goods .....	1,900	2,000	-100	-5.0	1,900
Rubber & Plastics .....	900	1,000	-100	-10.0	900
Other Nondurable Goods .....	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	1,000
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>20,500</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>20,900</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-16.7</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6,600</b>
Wholesale .....	700	700	0	0.0	700
Retail .....	5,900	5,500	400	7.3	5,900
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>9,300</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,500</b>
Federal .....	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local .....	3,100	3,100	0	0.0	3,300

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

## WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUL 1998	JUL 1997	CHANGE		JUN 1998
			NO.	%	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>88,200</b>	<b>86,200</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>89,500</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>22,400</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>22,900</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MINING</b> .....	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>3,600</b>
<b>MANUFACTURING</b> .....	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>19,300</b>
Durable Goods .....	14,800	14,500	300	2.1	15,100
Primary Metals .....	700	700	0	0.0	700
Fabricated Metals .....	6,500	6,300	200	3.2	6,800
Machinery & Electric Equipment .....	5,000	4,900	100	2.0	5,000
Nondurable Goods .....	4,000	4,100	-100	-2.4	4,200
Paper, Printing & Publishing .....	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	1,300
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b> .....	<b>65,800</b>	<b>64,200</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>66,600</b>
<b>TRANS., COMM. &amp; UTILITIES</b> .....	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>3,700</b>
<b>TRADE</b> .....	<b>18,600</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>18,900</b>
Wholesale .....	3,000	3,200	-200	-6.3	2,900
Retail .....	15,600	14,100	1,500	10.6	16,000
<b>FINANCE, INS. &amp; REAL ESTATE</b> .....	<b>4,200</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>4,300</b>
<b>SERVICES</b> .....	<b>27,100</b>	<b>26,800</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>27,200</b>
Personal & Business .....	7,200	6,700	500	7.5	7,400
Health Services .....	10,300	10,300	0	0.0	10,200
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>12,200</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,500</b>
Federal .....	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local .....	11,400	11,400	0	0.0	11,700

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 1997.

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

# LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	JUL	JUL	CHANGE		JUN
		1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	Civilian Labor Force	1,762,800	1,774,800	-12,000	-0.7	1,746,200
	Employed	1,693,200	1,677,200	16,000	1.0	1,675,800
	Unemployed	69,600	97,600	-28,000	-28.7	70,400
	Unemployment Rate	4.0	5.5	-1.5	---	4.0
<b>BRIDGEPORT LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	222,500	224,400	-1,900	-0.8	221,600
	Employed	211,800	209,900	1,900	0.9	210,800
	Unemployed	10,700	14,500	-3,800	-26.2	10,800
	Unemployment Rate	4.8	6.5	-1.7	---	4.9
<b>DANBURY LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	112,300	111,600	700	0.6	111,000
	Employed	109,100	107,100	2,000	1.9	108,000
	Unemployed	3,200	4,500	-1,300	-28.9	3,000
	Unemployment Rate	2.9	4.0	-1.1	---	2.7
<b>DANIELSON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	34,600	34,200	400	1.2	34,500
	Employed	32,700	31,600	1,100	3.5	32,500
	Unemployed	1,900	2,600	-700	-26.9	2,100
	Unemployment Rate	5.4	7.6	-2.3	---	5.9
<b>HARTFORD LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	594,600	601,100	-6,500	-1.1	589,800
	Employed	570,600	566,500	4,100	0.7	565,100
	Unemployed	24,000	34,600	-10,600	-30.6	24,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.0	5.8	-1.8	---	4.2
<b>LOWER RIVER LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	13,000	13,200	-200	-1.5	12,700
	Employed	12,700	12,600	100	0.8	12,300
	Unemployed	400	500	-100	-20.0	400
	Unemployment Rate	2.9	4.1	-1.2	---	3.0
<b>NEW HAVEN LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	274,000	280,600	-6,600	-2.4	271,600
	Employed	263,000	264,600	-1,600	-0.6	260,900
	Unemployed	11,000	16,000	-5,000	-31.3	10,700
	Unemployment Rate	4.0	5.7	-1.7	---	4.0
<b>NEW LONDON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	161,500	162,600	-1,100	-0.7	158,700
	Employed	154,400	153,300	1,100	0.7	151,600
	Unemployed	7,100	9,300	-2,200	-23.7	7,100
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	5.7	-1.3	---	4.5
<b>STAMFORD LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	204,300	202,400	1,900	0.9	201,000
	Employed	199,200	195,600	3,600	1.8	195,600
	Unemployed	5,200	6,800	-1,600	-23.5	5,300
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	3.3	-0.8	---	2.6
<b>TORRINGTON LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	40,400	40,200	200	0.5	39,800
	Employed	39,300	38,400	900	2.3	38,800
	Unemployed	1,100	1,800	-700	-38.9	1,100
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	4.4	-1.6	---	2.7
<b>WATERBURY LMA</b>	Civilian Labor Force	122,600	121,800	800	0.7	122,000
	Employed	117,000	114,100	2,900	2.5	116,500
	Unemployed	5,600	7,600	-2,000	-26.3	5,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	6.3	-1.7	---	4.6
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Civilian Labor Force	139,336,000	138,331,000	1,005,000	0.7	138,798,000
	Employed	132,769,000	131,350,000	1,419,000	1.1	132,265,000
	Unemployed	6,567,000	6,981,000	-414,000	-5.9	6,534,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.0	-0.3	---	4.7

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

# MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	JUL		CHG	JUN	JUL		CHG	JUN	JUL		CHG	JUN
	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>												
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>	<b>\$630.49</b>	<b>\$610.90</b>	<b>\$19.59</b>	<b>\$635.97</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>\$14.87</b>	<b>\$14.58</b>	<b>\$0.29</b>	<b>\$14.79</b>
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>	<b>642.18</b>	<b>622.44</b>	<b>19.73</b>	<b>652.10</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>15.11</b>	<b>14.82</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>15.06</b>
Lumber & Furniture	495.85	478.97	16.88	497.87	42.2	42.2	0.0	42.3	11.75	11.35	0.40	11.77
Stone, Clay and Glass	616.07	592.78	23.29	639.72	45.5	43.3	2.2	46.9	13.54	13.69	-0.15	13.64
Primary Metals	629.64	610.50	19.14	628.24	44.0	44.4	-0.4	45.1	14.31	13.75	0.56	13.93
Fabricated Metals	580.32	581.20	-0.88	597.46	41.6	42.3	-0.7	43.2	13.95	13.74	0.21	13.83
Machinery	673.32	656.00	17.32	702.45	43.3	43.3	0.0	45.0	15.55	15.15	0.40	15.61
Electrical Equipment	507.99	488.74	19.25	505.51	41.0	39.8	1.2	40.8	12.39	12.28	0.11	12.39
Trans. Equipment	813.02	792.52	20.51	821.37	43.2	42.2	1.0	43.9	18.82	18.78	0.04	18.71
Instruments	598.88	552.62	46.27	595.53	42.9	39.9	3.0	41.5	13.96	13.85	0.11	14.35
Miscellaneous Mfg	604.20	579.87	24.33	596.43	41.9	42.7	-0.8	42.3	14.42	13.58	0.84	14.10
<b>NONDUR. GOODS</b>	<b>600.18</b>	<b>584.22</b>	<b>15.96</b>	<b>596.71</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>14.29</b>	<b>14.01</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>14.14</b>
Food	532.10	507.91	24.19	552.76	42.5	41.7	0.8	43.8	12.52	12.18	0.34	12.62
Textiles	478.38	455.26	23.12	485.94	40.2	39.9	0.3	42.0	11.90	11.41	0.49	11.57
Apparel	319.66	329.61	-9.96	342.14	36.7	39.1	-2.4	39.6	8.71	8.43	0.28	8.64
Paper	705.02	718.71	-13.69	692.74	45.9	46.7	-0.8	43.9	15.36	15.39	-0.03	15.78
Printing & Publishing	602.77	564.93	37.84	569.98	40.4	38.8	1.6	38.1	14.92	14.56	0.36	14.96
Chemicals	834.90	812.14	22.76	805.05	46.0	45.6	0.4	45.0	18.15	17.81	0.34	17.89
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	478.00	475.21	2.79	526.68	39.8	39.9	-0.1	44.0	12.01	11.91	0.10	11.97
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>833.00</b>	<b>800.51</b>	<b>32.49</b>	<b>823.90</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>19.60</b>	<b>18.88</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>19.57</b>

## LMAs

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	JUL		CHG	JUN	JUL		CHG	JUN	JUL		CHG	JUN
	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998	1998	1997	Y/Y	1998
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>												
Bridgeport	\$634.77	\$633.29	\$1.48	\$653.48	40.9	41.5	-0.6	42.6	\$15.52	\$15.26	\$0.26	\$15.34
Danbury	646.93	638.58	8.35	645.17	43.8	42.8	1.0	43.3	14.77	14.92	-0.15	14.90
Danielson	440.63	429.46	11.17	469.17	37.5	36.8	0.7	40.1	11.75	11.67	0.08	11.70
Hartford	677.38	653.96	23.42	672.02	43.2	42.3	0.9	43.3	15.68	15.46	0.22	15.52
Lower River	523.00	525.85	-2.85	536.61	40.2	41.9	-1.7	40.9	13.01	12.55	0.46	13.12
New Haven	617.40	608.60	8.80	628.12	42.0	42.5	-0.5	42.7	14.70	14.32	0.38	14.71
New London	652.38	632.76	19.62	647.35	41.9	42.1	-0.2	42.2	15.57	15.03	0.54	15.34
Stamford	555.20	548.44	6.76	551.71	40.0	39.8	0.2	40.3	13.88	13.78	0.10	13.69
Torrington	533.81	543.54	-9.73	547.36	41.9	42.2	-0.3	42.3	12.74	12.88	-0.14	12.94
Waterbury	595.58	579.79	15.79	612.76	42.3	42.6	-0.3	43.8	14.08	13.61	0.47	13.99

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1997.

## NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	JUL	JUL	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		JUN
	1998	1997	UNITS	%	1998	1997	UNITS	%	1998
	<b>Connecticut</b>	1,297	871	426	48.9	6,610	5,487	1,123	20.5
<b>Counties:</b>									
Fairfield	548	199	349	175.4	1,819	1,196	623	52.1	353
Hartford	261	187	74	39.6	1,708	1,285	423	32.9	277
Litchfield	73	75	-2	-2.7	413	394	19	4.8	70
Middlesex	61	58	3	5.2	398	336	62	18.5	75
New Haven	170	176	-6	-3.4	1,131	1,342	-211	-15.7	179
New London	92	79	13	16.5	532	454	78	17.2	92
Tolland	56	65	-9	-13.8	406	303	103	34.0	123
Windham	36	32	4	12.5	203	177	26	14.7	34

# HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	JUL YR TO DATE			TOWN	JUL YR TO DATE			TOWN	JUL YR TO DATE		
	1998	1998	1997		1998	1998	1997		1998	1998	1997
Andover	1	14	18	Griswold	4	20	30	Preston	3	11	13
Ansonia	2	11	9	Groton	11	74	45	Prospect	6	32	30
Ashford	7	21	11	Guilford	8	89	80	Putnam	1	7	7
Avon	11	132	74	Haddam	0	9	15	Redding	4	26	17
Barkhamsted	0	17	15	Hamden	5	62	74	Ridgefield	13	81	75
Beacon Falls	3	17	17	Hampton	2	10	8	Rocky Hill	11	62	48
Berlin	14	56	43	Hartford	5	67	6	Roxbury	4	16	5
Bethany	1	16	15	Hartland	0	3	3	Salem	5	14	8
Bethel	3	22	23	Harwinton	2	12	19	Salisbury	0	6	1
Bethlehem	3	9	6	Hebron	7	45	38	Scotland	0	10	9
Bloomfield	2	19	28	Kent	1	7	7	Seymour	9	33	43
Bolton	2	11	15	Killingly	1	15	23	Sharon	0	2	1
Bozrah	0	4	5	Killingworth	5	33	30	Shelton	18	140	99
Branford	2	19	30	Lebanon	1	15	26	Sherman	0	9	12
Bridgeport	4	80	47	Ledyard	4	46	29	Simsbury	9	53	39
Bridgewater	1	6	2	Lisbon	2	13	13	Somers	3	20	22
Bristol	7	51	52	Litchfield	4	23	22	South Windsor	17	91	69
Brookfield	97	116	32	Lyme	2	10	9	Southbury	9	62	56
Brooklyn	1	5	1	Madison	3	57	57	Southington	17	132	80
Burlington	5	26	31	Manchester	69	331	290	Sprague	0	1	2
Canaan	0	0	2	Mansfield	5	31	27	Stafford	3	22	17
Canterbury	2	13	10	Marlborough	1	18	24	Stamford	25	141	122
Canton	7	25	14	Meriden	3	31	22	Sterling	3	10	14
Chaplin	1	10	8	Middlebury	3	13	14	Stonington	8	53	49
Cheshire	7	60	135	Middlefield	1	8	10	Stratford	4	27	34
Chester	1	7	16	Middletown	11	79	68	Suffield	17	156	33
Clinton	6	48	21	Milford	22	83	114	Thomaston	4	26	20
Colchester	21	71	58	Monroe	3	62	85	Thompson	1	12	11
Colebrook	1	7	1	Montville	3	26	14	Tolland	17	75	57
Columbia	2	17	11	Morris	0	4	1	Torrington	7	41	48
Cornwall	0	4	5	Naugatuck	2	29	22	Trumbull	16	85	63
Coventry	6	34	41	New Britain	1	4	6	Union	1	3	2
Cromwell	5	30	15	New Canaan	10	35	31	Vernon	3	16	16
Danbury	282	497	106	New Fairfield	2	16	24	Voluntown	1	13	10
Darien	1	12	18	New Hartford	5	18	20	Wallingford	18	112	75
Deep River	3	14	9	New Haven	8	58	0	Warren	1	5	4
Derby	3	18	17	New London	0	1	0	Washington	1	6	9
Durham	4	26	26	New Milford	11	65	66	Waterbury	4	34	27
East Granby	3	12	14	Newington	6	64	31	Waterford	7	47	36
East Haddam	6	40	43	Newtown	17	158	106	Watertown	11	49	60
East Hampton	5	27	17	Norfolk	0	1	1	West Hartford	1	9	7
East Hartford	1	2	2	North Branford	4	37	46	West Haven	5	15	34
East Haven	3	34	118	North Canaan	1	3	5	Westbrook	6	38	18
East Lyme	9	49	47	North Haven	6	74	39	Weston	3	11	7
East Windsor	0	14	13	No. Stonington	4	26	18	Westport	4	27	19
Eastford	0	6	5	Norwalk	15	78	53	Wethersfield	5	52	47
Easton	3	25	20	Norwich	1	16	17	Willington	1	8	4
Ellington	5	110	35	Old Lyme	6	22	21	Wilton	4	26	42
Enfield	7	42	48	Old Saybrook	4	15	25	Winchester	0	6	5
Essex	3	18	11	Orange	1	11	16	Windham	2	17	8
Fairfield	5	74	74	Oxford	6	53	29	Windsor	3	27	28
Farmington	5	71	94	Plainfield	3	20	22	Windsor Locks	0	5	10
Franklin	0	0	4	Plainville	2	15	21	Wolcott	13	45	114
Glastonbury	31	142	96	Plymouth	8	25	13	Woodbridge	14	26	109
Goshen	1	8	19	Pomfret	6	19	18	Woodbury	7	47	37
Granby	4	27	34	Portland	1	6	12	Woodstock	6	28	22
Greenwich	15	71	87								

## **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>+7.4</b>	New Housing Permits .....	+48.9	Tourism Inquiries .....	-42.7
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b> .....	<b>+2.0</b>	Electricity Sales .....	+6.0	Tourism Info Centers .....	+12.8
<b>Unemployment</b> .....	<b>-1.7*</b>	Retail Sales .....	+10.8	Attraction Visitors .....	+14.4
Labor Force .....	-0.7	Construction Contracts Index .....	-32.3	Hotel-Motel Occupancy .....	+2.1
Employed .....	+0.9	New Auto Registrations .....	+23.4	Air Passenger Count .....	+5.8
Unemployed .....	-32.5	Air Cargo Tons .....	+31.4		
<b>Average Weekly Initial Claims</b> .....	<b>+2.3</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 .....	+8.3	Total .....	+3.5
<b>Average Ins. Unempl. Rate</b> .....	<b>-0.21*</b>	Dept. of Labor .....	-12.0	Wages & Salaries .....	+4.0
<b>Average Weekly Hours, Mfg</b> .....	<b>+1.2</b>	<b>Business Terminations</b>		Benefit Costs .....	+2.6
<b>Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg</b> .....	<b>+2.0</b>	Secretary of the State .....	-2.0	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	
<b>Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg</b> .....	<b>+3.2</b>	Dept. of Labor .....	+15.3	U.S. City Average .....	+1.7
<b>Manufacturing Output</b> .....	<b>+3.0</b>	<b>State Tax Collections</b> .....	<b>+3.4</b>	Northeast Region .....	+1.4
Production Worker Hours .....	+0.4	Corporate Tax .....	0.0	NY-NJ-Long Island .....	+1.6
Productivity .....	+2.5	Personal Income Tax .....	+15.0	Boston-Brockton-Nashua .....	+2.2
<b>Personal Income</b> .....	<b>+6.1</b>	Real Estate Conveyance Tax .....	+3.2	<b>Consumer Confidence</b>	
<b>UI Covered Wages</b> .....	<b>+7.7</b>	Sales & Use Tax .....	-27.5	U.S. ....	+7.2
				New England .....	+19.1
				<b>Interest Rates</b>	
				Prime .....	0.0*
				Conventional Mortgage .....	-0.55*

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