



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2017 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 4.6%
US Unemployment Rate = 4.1%

Nonfarm jobs grow by 6,000 in December; unemployment rate unchanged at 4.6%

WETHERSFIELD, January 22, 2018 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state gained 6,000 net jobs (0.4%) in December 2017, to a level of 1,685,200, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 7,700 jobs (0.05%). November's originally-released job loss of 3,500 was revised by the BLS to a loss of 1,800 for the month. The number of the state's unemployed residents was unchanged from November, while the number of residents employed fell by 1,000 seasonally adjusted. As a result, Connecticut's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.6% in December, seasonally adjusted. Resident employment estimates include the self-employed and residents working out of state and are determined separately from the nonfarm payroll job estimates above.

"December job growth ended the year on a better note than in previous months," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "Preliminary data indicate that Connecticut grew 7,700 jobs on a seasonally-adjusted basis and 6,200 jobs on an average annual basis. This is actually better than the 5,000 average annual growth seen in 2016. However, this year's data are still subject to revision by the BLS as a result of the annual benchmark process to be released in March. Also noteworthy is the annual growth in the strategic manufacturing sector which has not seen an employment increase since 2010 and before that in 1997."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment grew by 6,000 (0.4%) to 1,454,400 jobs over the month in December, and by 10,800 seasonally adjusted jobs (0.7%) over the year. The **government supersector** was unchanged in December at 230,800 jobs last month, but over-the-year losses were at -3,100 or -1.3%. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public higher education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land.

Five of the ten major industry *supersectors* gained employment in December, while four declined. **Professional & business services** led growing industries with 2,700 net new jobs (1.2%, 219,000 total jobs). **Trade, transportation & utilities** was next with an increase of 2,600 jobs (0.9%, 300,300 total). There was surprising strength in the retail component. The **manufacturing supersector** ended the year on a strong note, gaining 2,000 jobs in December (1.3%, 160,300). **Leisure & hospitality** reversed its trend of recent losses, showing a 1,600 job gain in December (1.1%, 153,300 total) and **education & health services** saw a smaller gain of 400 jobs (0.1%, 334,900) based on gains in healthcare & social assistance.

On the downside, **other services** dropped an estimated 1,200 jobs in December (-1.8%, 66,400 total) and the **construction and mining** industry shed 1,000 jobs (-1.8%, 56,100). **Financial activities** lost 800 positions (-0.6%, 132,400 total) and the **information supersector** dropped 300 jobs (-1.0%, 31,100 total).

Connecticut has now recovered **76.4%** (91,000 jobs) of the 119,100 seasonally adjusted jobs lost in the Great Recession (3/08-2/10). The job recovery is into its 94th month and the state needs an additional 28,100 jobs to reach an overall nonfarm employment expansion. The state's **private sector** has now recovered **96.6%** (107,900) of the 111,700 private sector jobs lost in that same employment downturn.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Three of the six LMAs that are seasonally-adjusted by the BLS saw job increases in December 2017 and two saw declines. The **Hartford LMA** led growth in the state with 1,400 net new jobs (0.2%, 572,500 total). The **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** saw an increase of 500 jobs (0.4%, 128,500 total) and the **Danbury LMA** saw a smaller gain of 100 jobs (0.1%, 79,600 total).

Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk led declines in December with a loss of 700 jobs (-0.2%, 412,100 total). **Waterbury** was next with a loss of 200 jobs (-0.3%, 67,100) and the **New Haven LMA** saw a small decline of 100 jobs (-0.0%,

284,100 total). *Note: The six major Connecticut LMAs are estimated independently from the statewide data by the BLS and cover more than 90% of the nonfarm employment in the state. Thus, estimates will not fully sum to the statewide total.*

Hours and Earnings: The **private sector** workweek, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 33.9 hours in December 2017, up two-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$31.00, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.34 (1.1%) from the December 2016 estimate (\$30.66). The resultant average **private sector** weekly pay amounted to \$1,050.90, up \$17.66 from a year ago (1.7%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in December 2017 was 2.1%. Information for the manufacturing production workweek and earnings can be found in the table section of this release under the “Hours and Earnings” data category. *Current all-employee private sector hours and earnings estimates can be volatile due to fluctuating sample responses.*

Labor Force Data (residential household survey)

The December 2017 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **4.6%** (seasonally adjusted), unchanged from November 2017 and up two-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.4%. The US jobless rate in December 2017 was 4.1%, unchanged from November.

Based on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics model (LAUS - a statistical model using the CPS – Current Population Survey residential data), the number of Connecticut unemployed residents, seasonally adjusted, unchanged at 87,000 in December. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents increased by 4,900 (6.0%). The state’s labor force decreased by 1,000 (-0.05%) over the month, but continued to expand over the year (15,300, 0.8%).

December 2017 seasonally-adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut fell by 652 claimants (-16.6%) to 3,279 from November 2017, and were lower by 533 claims (14.0%) from the December 2016 level of 3,812.

*The nonfarm employment estimate, derived from a survey of businesses, is a measure of jobs in the state; the unemployment rate and labor force estimates are based on a household survey, and measure the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Overall, as the national and state economies recover, volatility in monthly numbers can be expected. **Job and employment estimates are best understood in the context of their movement over several months rather than observed changes in a single month’s value.***

Next Connecticut Labor Situation release: Friday, March 9, 2018 (January 2018 data on the new benchmark)

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01-22-18

Labor market information is available on the Internet at www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi
200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114 - www.ct.gov/dol
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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	December 2017 P	November 2017 R	October 2017	September 2017	December 2016	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,685,200	1,679,200	1,681,000	1,687,200	1,677,500	6,000	0.4%	7,700	0.5%
Total Private	1,454,400	1,448,400	1,450,000	1,455,300	1,443,600	6,000	0.4%	10,800	0.7%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	600	600	600	600	600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	56,100	57,100	58,400	56,500	58,000	-1,000	-1.8%	-1,900	-3.3%
Manufacturing	160,300	158,300	157,300	156,700	156,200	2,000	1.3%	4,100	2.6%
Durable Goods	125,800	124,100	123,100	122,500	122,500	1,700	1.4%	3,300	2.7%
Nondurable Goods	34,500	34,200	34,200	34,200	33,700	300	0.9%	800	2.4%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300,300	297,700	297,700	299,100	298,100	2,600	0.9%	2,200	0.7%
Wholesale	64,100	64,200	63,400	63,200	63,200	-100	-0.2%	900	1.4%
Retail	181,000	179,500	180,200	182,000	182,800	1,500	0.8%	-1,800	-1.0%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	55,200	54,000	54,100	53,900	52,100	1,200	2.2%	3,100	6.0%
Information	31,100	31,400	31,600	32,100	31,900	-300	-1.0%	-800	-2.5%
Financial Activities	132,400	133,200	132,600	133,400	130,200	-800	-0.6%	2,200	1.7%
Finance & Insurance	111,600	112,000	111,700	112,500	110,000	-400	-0.4%	1,600	1.5%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,800	21,200	20,900	20,900	20,200	-400	-1.9%	600	3.0%
Professional & Business Services	219,000	216,300	218,100	218,200	216,400	2,700	1.2%	2,600	1.2%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	97,600	97,700	98,100	97,900	96,600	-100	-0.1%	1,000	1.0%
Management of Companies	31,200	31,200	31,800	31,700	32,200	0	0.0%	-1,000	-3.1%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	90,200	87,400	88,200	88,600	87,600	2,800	3.2%	2,600	3.0%
Educational & Health Services	334,900	334,500	333,600	333,200	331,300	400	0.1%	3,600	1.1%
Educational Services	63,800	63,900	64,100	64,600	64,100	-100	-0.2%	-300	-0.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	271,100	270,600	269,500	268,600	267,200	500	0.2%	3,900	1.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	153,300	151,700	153,700	157,000	155,300	1,600	1.1%	-2,000	-1.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	27,900	26,800	28,100	28,500	26,300	1,100	4.1%	1,600	6.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	125,400	124,900	125,600	128,500	129,000	500	0.4%	-3,600	-2.8%
Other Services	66,400	67,600	66,400	68,500	65,600	-1,200	-1.8%	800	1.2%
Government**	230,800	230,800	231,000	231,900	233,900	0	0.0%	-3,100	-1.3%
UNITED STATES	147,380,000	147,232,000	146,980,000	146,769,000	145,325,000	148,000	0.1%	2,055,000	1.4%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

Labor Market Area employment estimates are made independently of Statewide estimates.

	December 2017 P	November 2017 R	October 2017	September 2017	December 2016	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	412,100	412,800	411,900	412,500	407,600	-700	-0.2%	4,500	1.1%
Danbury	79,600	79,500	79,100	79,900	78,900	100	0.1%	700	0.9%
Hartford	572,500	571,100	571,000	571,300	567,800	1,400	0.2%	4,700	0.8%
New Haven	284,100	284,200	285,000	286,500	282,600	-100	0.0%	1,500	0.5%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	128,500	128,000	129,000	129,400	129,300	500	0.4%	-800	-0.6%
Waterbury	67,100	67,300	67,000	67,000	66,700	-200	-0.3%	400	0.6%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	45,200	45,200	45,300	44,700	45,300	0	0.0%	-100	-0.2%
Torrington-Northwest	32,600	32,900	33,300	33,300	32,900	-300	-0.9%	-300	-0.9%
Danielson-Northeast	27,100	27,400	27,400	27,200	27,000	-300	-1.1%	100	0.4%

* Less than 0.05% ** Includes Native American tribal government employment

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

Starting with March, 2011, our monthly statewide and major LMA nonfarm job estimates have been taken over by the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the final phase of transition in this program, which began in 2008. As a result of changes in the estimation procedures, you are likely to see more variability in month-to-month estimates of job counts. Caution should be used in interpreting any single month's estimate. The data are best interpreted to identify trends and cycles over several months and quarters. If you have any questions about these changes, please email us at: dol.lmi@ct.gov. Danbury and Waterbury LMA's are now back to being seasonally adjusted.

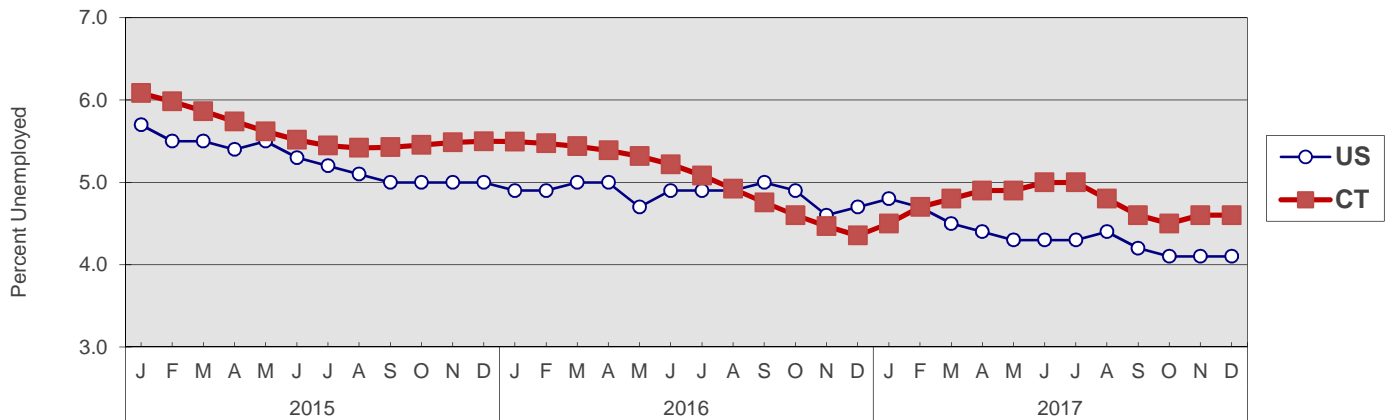
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	December 2017 P		December 2016 R		Change		November 2017 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	87,000	4.6	82,100	4.4	4,900	0.2	87,000	4.6
Labor Force	1,901,500		1,886,200		15,300		1,902,500	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,576,000	4.1	7,502,000	4.7	-926,000	-0.6	6,616,000	4.1
Labor Force	160,597,000		159,736,000		861,000		160,533,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2015 - 2017



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	December 2017 P		December 2016 R		Change		November 2017 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	17,800	3.8	18,000	3.9	-200	-0.1	20,000	4.3
Danbury	3,300	3.1	3,500	3.2	-200	-0.1	3,600	3.3
Danielson-Northeast*	1,800	4.1	1,700	4.1	100	0.0	1,900	4.4
Worcester NECTA	1,700	4.1	1,700	4.1	0	0.0	1,800	4.5
Hampton	100	3.4	100	3.5	0	-0.1	100	3.9
Enfield	1,900	3.8	2,000	4.0	-100	-0.2	2,100	4.1
Hartford	24,500	4.0	23,900	3.9	600	0.1	27,000	4.4
New Haven	12,500	3.9	12,300	3.8	200	0.1	14,100	4.3
Norwich-New London	5,600	4.0	5,800	4.1	-200	-0.1	6,000	4.3
Torrington-Northwest**	1,800	3.8	1,800	3.9	0	-0.1	1,900	4.1
Torrington NECTA	1,200	4.5	1,200	4.6	0	-0.1	1,300	4.9
Litchfield	600	3.0	600	3.0	0	0.0	700	3.2
Waterbury	5,500	5.0	5,300	4.9	200	0.1	6,000	5.4
CONNECTICUT	74,100	3.9	73,500	3.9	600	0.0	82,000	4.3
UNITED STATES	6,278,000	3.9	7,170,000	4.5	-892,000	-0.6	6,286,000	3.9

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

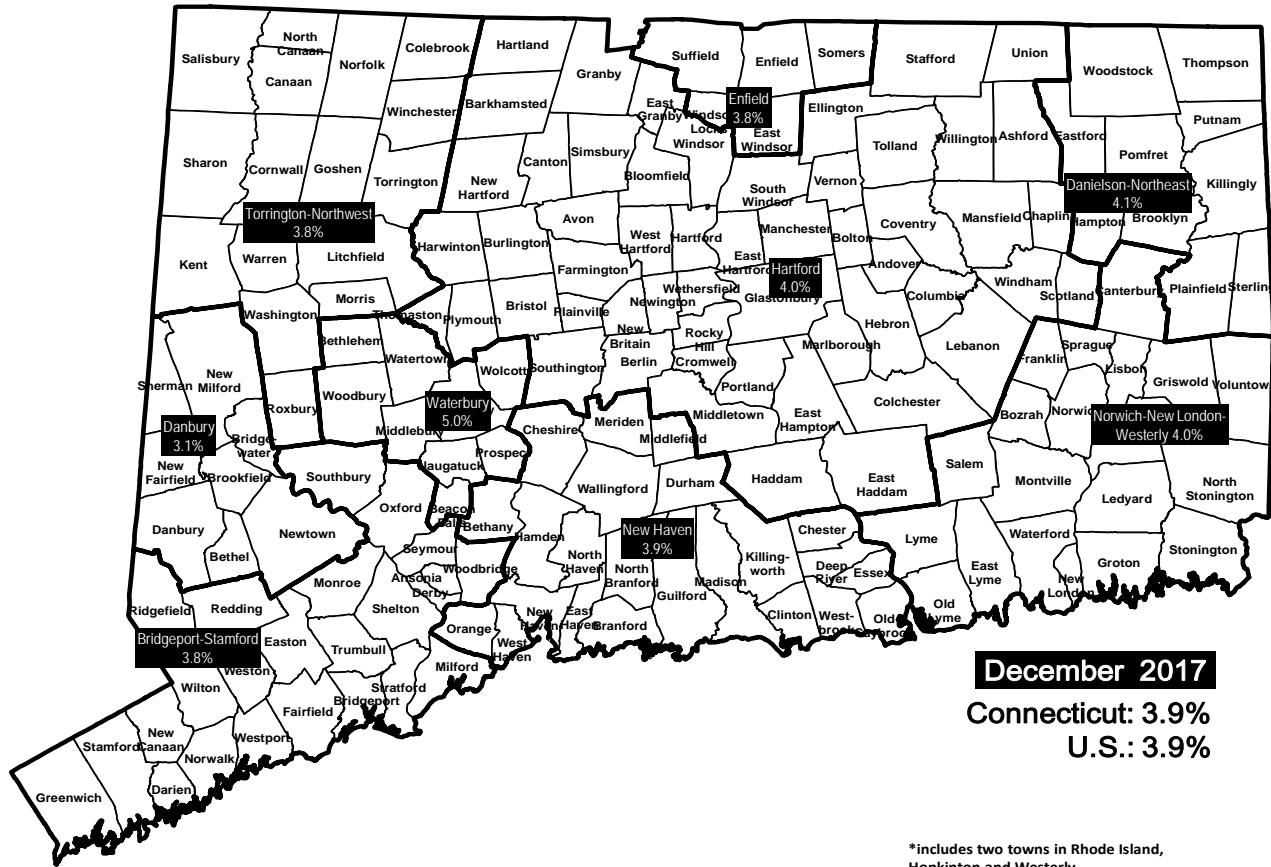
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined ** Torrington Metropolitan NECTA and Litchfield LMA are combined

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LABOR MARKET AREAS



HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Dec. 2017 P	Dec. 2016	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2017 R	Dec. 2017 P	Dec. 2016	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2017 R	Dec. 2017 P	Dec. 2016	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2017 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,050.90	\$1,033.24	\$17.66	\$1,053.66	33.9	33.7	0.2	34.0	\$31.00	\$30.66	\$0.34	\$30.99
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,006.95	\$1,085.33	-\$78.38	\$1,040.41	41.1	43.5	-2.4	41.5	\$24.50	\$24.95	-\$0.45	\$25.07

* Production worker data have been impacted by the loss of a large, high-paying manufacturer from the monthly sample.

P = Preliminary R = Revised

Hours and earnings are also developed for the state's major industry sectors and Labor Market Areas. They can be found on our website at: www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi.

TRENDS

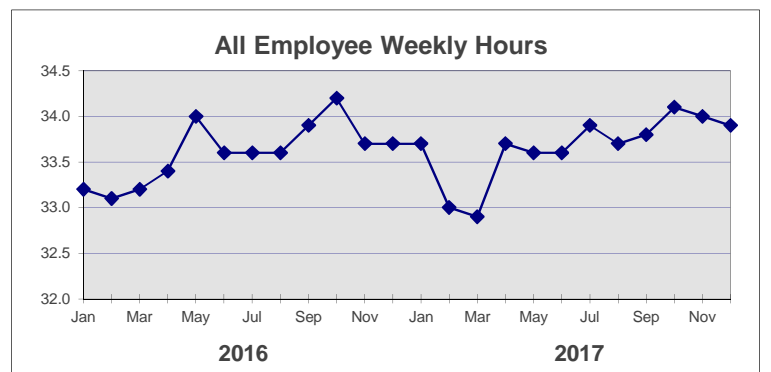
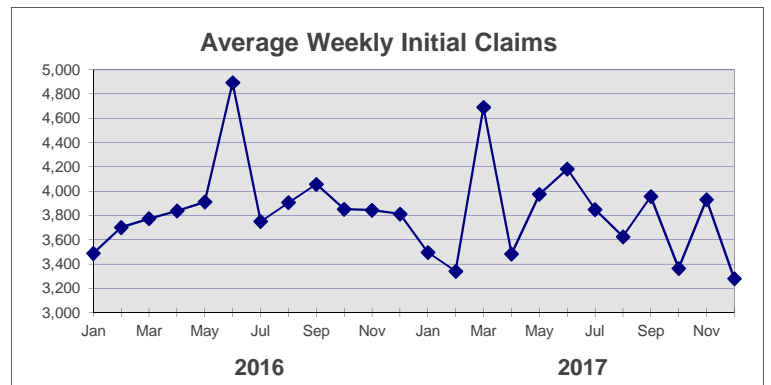
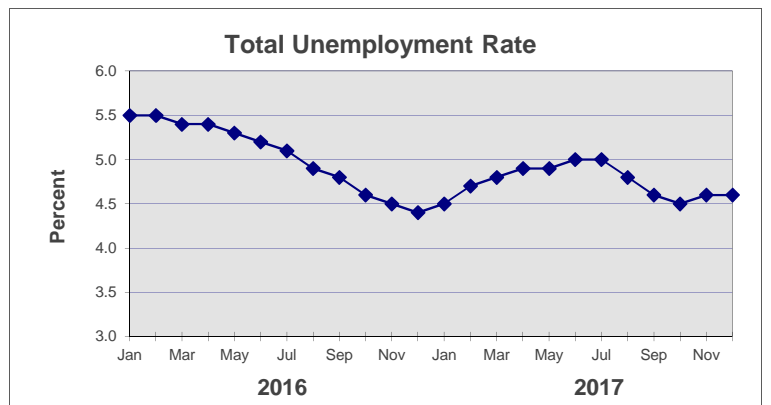
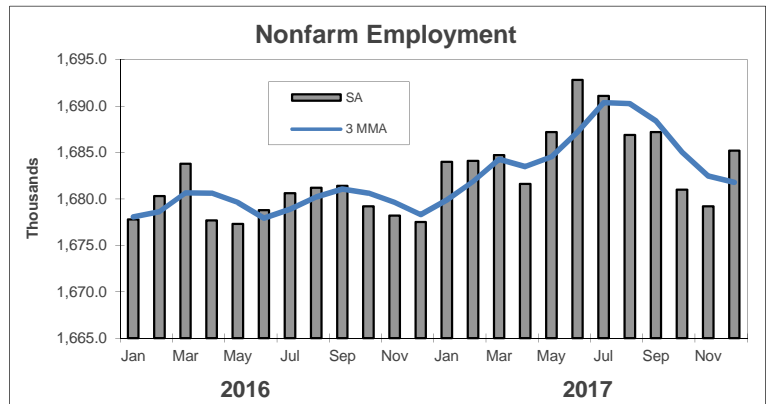
Seasonally Adjusted

	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2016		
Jan	1,677.8	5.5
Feb	1,680.3	5.5
Mar	1,683.8	5.4
Apr	1,677.7	5.4
May	1,677.3	5.3
Jun	1,678.8	5.2
Jul	1,680.6	5.1
Aug	1,681.2	4.9
Sep	1,681.4	4.8
Oct	1,679.2	4.6
Nov	1,678.2	4.5
Dec	1,677.5	4.4

2017		
Jan	1,684.0	4.5
Feb	1,684.1	4.7
Mar	1,684.7	4.8
Apr	1,681.6	4.9
May	1,687.2	4.9
Jun	1,692.8	5.0
Jul	1,691.1	5.0
Aug	1,686.9	4.8
Sep	1,687.2	4.6
Oct	1,681.0	4.5
Nov	1,679.2 R	4.6 R
Dec	1,685.2 P	4.6 P

	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2016		
Jan	3,488	33.2
Feb	3,702	33.1
Mar	3,774	33.2
Apr	3,838	33.4
May	3,911	34.0
Jun	4,894	33.6
Jul	3,750	33.6
Aug	3,906	33.6
Sep	4,057	33.9
Oct	3,852	34.2
Nov	3,844	33.7
Dec	3,812	33.7

2017		
Jan	3,496	33.7
Feb	3,341	33.0
Mar	4,691	32.9
Apr	3,483	33.7
May	3,974	33.6
Jun	4,182	33.6
Jul	3,849	33.9
Aug	3,625	33.7
Sep	3,956	33.8
Oct	3,365	34.1
Nov	3,931	34.0 R
Dec	3,279	33.9 P



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute