Opportunity * Guidance * Support

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Glenn Marshall
Commissioner

LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2012 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 7.7%
US Unemployment Rate = 8.2%

Unemployment rate comes down one-tenth to 7.7 percent; jobs recede by 2,700

WETHERSFIELD, April 19, 2012 – Connecticut's labor market recovery departed from strong winter job growth in March by declining 2,700 total nonfarm jobs while the unemployment rate continued to fall. The unemployment rate declined one-tenth to 7.7% over the month and was down 1.4 percentage points over the year.

"The warm winter allowed many weather sensitive job sectors to remain active longer and show stronger growth than is typical. As a result, the normal seasonal upswings we see in the spring appear smaller than usual. Once seasonally adjusted, some of these sectors, including construction and trade, are now showing declines," observed Andy Condon, Director of Office of Research.

Nonfarm Jobs

The Connecticut March 2012 total nonfarm job estimate decreased by 2,700 positions to 1,632,200, or -0.2% below the February 2012 revised level. Over the year, the state has added 10,500 jobs, which indicates 0.6% job growth. The preliminary February 2012 jobs estimate of a 4,900 (0.3%) increase was revised higher to a 6,000 gain (0.4%, 1,634,900). With job counts now at 1,632,200, the March 2012 level now is just below the previous highpoint achieved in this recovery at 1,634,900 jobs in February 2012.

Due to the record-breaking warm weather, the seasonal adjustment methodology used for state employment statistics may be overemphasizing certain industry movements for this time of the year. Smaller-than-usual declines were seen in the core winter months of January and February, in seasonal industries such as construction and trade, which appear to have overstated job growth to start out the year. As a result, we are seeing smaller-than-usual rebounds in those sectors that when seasonally adjusted, look like declines. The three-month moving average of total nonfarm employment, used to smooth volatility in the monthly sample estimates, continued to show Connecticut is on a trend toward modest job growth (see page 7).

Four of Connecticut's ten major employing industry *supersectors* had job gains in March 2012, while four had declines and two were unchanged.

The job-gaining *supersectors* were led by ***professional and business services*** (600, 0.3%). Important sub-components had offsetting movements that were strong enough to be considered statistically significant. **Administrative and waste management services** (1,900, 2.4%), boosted by **services to buildings and dwellings**, grew robustly (an early seasonal upsurge). On the other hand, **professional, scientific, and technical services** (-1,400, -1.6%) fell significantly. The other sub-component, **management of companies and enterprises,** was higher by 100 (0.4%), helping to solidify an overall gain for the *supersector*. The ***financial activities*** *supersector* increased 400 positions (0.3%) for the first gain in five months. Both **finance and insurance** (200, 0.2%) and **real estate** (200, 1.1%) contributed similar increases for the finance-related *supersector*. The ***government*** *supersector* also added 400 jobs (0.2%) over the month. **Local government** led public sector job growth in March (300, 0.2%) and **state government** added 100 positions (0.2%), while **federal government** was flat. The ***information*** *supersector* was higher by 200 (0.6%). Collectively, all industry *supersector* gains were less than a 1,000 jobs.

The four job-declining *supersectors* in March were led by ***trade, transportation, and utilities*** (-2,300, -0.8%). The drop in all three seasonally adjusted sub-components caused this overall *supersector's* decline to be considered statistically significant. This included **wholesale trade,** down by 800 (-1.2%); **retail trade,** off by 1,000 (-0.6%); and **transportation, warehousing, and utilities,** down by 500 (-1.0%). ***Construction and closely related mining*** was the next biggest declining *supersector* (-1,300, -2.4%). After two months of sizable gains, propelled by a record warm winter, the seasonal building segment gave back some job gains in March. The ***manufacturing*** *supersector* lost 600 positions (-0.4%). **Durable goods** production (-100, -0.1%) held up better than ***non-durable goods*** (-500, -1.3%) production this month. The ***leisure and hospitality*** *supersector* experienced a small decline of 100 (-0.1%). An increase of 300 (0.3%) in **accommodation and food services (hotels and restaurants)** was counteracted by an **arts, entertainment, and recreation** loss (-400, -1.7%). Both ***other services*** and ***education and health services*** *supersectors* were unchanged in March.

Since March 2011, industry *supersector* job growth ranked as follows: 1. ***education and health services*** (8,700, 2.8%); 2. ***trade, transportation, and utilities*** (4,900, 1.7%); 3. ***professional and business services*** (3,400, 1.8%); 4. ***leisure and hospitality*** (1,900, 1.4%); 5. (three-way tie), ***information*** (300, 0.9%); ***construction and mining*** (300, 0.6%); and ***other services*** (300, 0.5%); 6. ***manufacturing*** (-1,100, -0.7%); 7. ***financial activities*** (-3,400, -2.5%); and 8. ***government*** (-4,800, -2.0%). Seven of ten *supersectors* had job gains over the year.

Recession recovery: Connecticut has now recovered 37,500, or 31.9%, of the 117,500 **total nonfarm** jobs lost in the March 2008 - February 2010 recession (-6.9% of total nonfarm payrolls lost). Two years and one month into the recovery, total **private sector** job recovery from the Connecticut employment recessionary period has been doing better than overall nonfarm growth. The **private sector** has regained 46,600 (42.3%) of the 110,200 private jobs lost in the recessionary downturn. The job decline in the **private sector** in March 2012 was -3,100 (-0.2%) but the **private sector** still maintained solid 15,300 position growth (1.1%) over the year.

Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Two of the six major Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs) exhibited job growth in March 2012. Major LMAs are estimated and seasonally adjusted separately from the statewide numbers. The western part of the state held sway with job growth this month. The ***Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA*** increased by 3,100 (0.8%) positions and led all labor areas in March job gains, while the smaller ***Danbury*** **LMA** also added jobs (200, 0.3%). The ***Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA*** led in labor market job losses over the month with a 1,200 position decline (-0.2%). The ***Norwich-New London LMA*** slipped by 1,100 (-0.9%) in employment. The ***Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA*** (5,900, 1.1%, in magnitude) and the ***Danbury*** **LMA** (1,600, 2.4%, in percentage terms) led the state in over-the-year job growth.

Hours and Earnings: The workweek for employees in the private sector, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 33.9 hours in March 2012, up 0.2 hours (0.6%) from the March 2011 figure of 33.7 hours. Average hourly earnings at $28.24, not seasonally adjusted, are now down five cents, or -0.2%, lower than last March. The resultant average private sector weekly pay estimate was $957.34, up just $3.97, or 0.4%, over the year. This compared unfavorably to the change in the Consumer Price Index – For All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) since last March (2.7%). 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.

Labor Force Data

Connecticut's **unemployment rate** was measured at 7.7% for March 2012. This is one-tenth lower than February 2012 (7.8%), and one and four-tenths percentage points lower than March 2011 (9.1%). The **unemployment rate** in Connecticut has not been this low since March 2009 when it was also 7.7%. Connecticut's seasonally adjusted labor force measured 1,913,000 in March 2012, down 8,400 over the year (-0.4%), and down 1,500 (-0.1%) from February 2012. Connecticut's labor force peaked just over a year ago in February 2011, with an all time high of 1,921,800, seasonally adjusted.

Unemployment: Based on the household survey, the estimate of people unemployed, seasonally adjusted, was down 600 from February 2012 to 148,000, and the unemployment rate decreased one-tenth to 7.7%, which is below the national rate of 8.2%. Last March, Connecticut's unemployment rate was 9.1%. Both the over-the-year drop in the number of unemployed (-26,000) and the decline in the unemployment rate (-1.4%) are considered a statistically significant change at the 95% confidence level. March's average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers increased firmly over the month by 625 (14.5%) to 4,923, but were down 174 claims from this time last year, or -3.4%.

The nonfarm employment estimate, derived from a survey of businesses, is a measure of jobs in the state; the unemployment rate, based on a household survey, is a measure of the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Overall, as the national and state economies recover, volatility in monthly numbers can be expected. Additionally, changes in methodology that culminated in March 2011 with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics assuming complete responsibility for estimating all states' monthly nonfarm job counts, have contributed to the month-to-month variability in the numbers. ***Jobs estimates are best understood in the context of their movement over several months rather than observed changes in a single month's estimate.***

Contact: Communications Office (860) 263-6535 04-19-12

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
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*

	Mar. 2012 P	Feb. 2012 R	Jan. 2012	Dec. 2011	Mar. 2011	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	**1,632,200**	**1,634,900**	**1,628,900**	**1,623,500**	**1,621,700**	**-2,700**	**-0.2%**	**10,500**	**0.6%**
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	500	600	0	0.0%	-100	-16.7%
Construction	51,800	53,100	52,000	49,200	51,400	-1,300	-2.4%	400	0.8%
Manufacturing	165,600	166,200	166,300	164,800	166,700	-600	-0.4%	-1,100	-0.7%
Durable Goods	127,600	127,700	127,900	126,700	128,600	-100	-0.1%	-1,000	-0.8%
Nondurable Goods	38,000	38,500	38,400	38,100	38,100	-500	-1.3%	-100	-0.3%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	297,400	299,700	297,600	295,300	292,500	-2,300	-0.8%	4,900	1.7%
Wholesale	65,300	66,100	65,300	64,600	62,900	-800	-1.2%	2,400	3.8%
Retail	181,000	182,000	180,700	179,900	180,000	-1,000	-0.5%	1,000	0.6%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	51,100	51,600	51,600	50,800	49,600	-500	-1.0%	1,500	3.0%
Information	31,900	31,700	31,800	31,600	31,600	200	0.6%	300	0.9%
Financial Activities	132,300	131,900	132,000	132,700	135,700	400	0.3%	-3,400	-2.5%
Finance & Insurance	114,000	113,800	113,900	114,300	117,000	200	0.2%	-3,000	-2.6%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	18,300	18,100	18,100	18,400	18,700	200	1.1%	-400	-2.1%
Professional & Business Services	196,700	196,100	194,800	196,400	193,300	600	0.3%	3,400	1.8%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	88,000	89,400	88,300	87,200	87,600	-1,400	-1.6%	400	0.5%
Management of Companies	26,900	26,800	26,800	27,200	27,000	100	0.4%	-100	-0.4%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	81,800	79,900	79,700	82,000	78,700	1,900	2.4%	3,100	3.9%
Educational & Health Services	321,200	321,200	318,300	317,600	312,500	0	0.0%	8,700	2.8%
Educational Services	62,400	62,300	61,400	61,800	61,000	100	0.2%	1,400	2.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	258,800	258,900	256,900	255,800	251,500	-100	0.0%	7,300	2.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	137,900	138,000	138,500	138,400	136,000	-100	-0.1%	1,900	1.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	23,700	24,100	24,000	24,300	23,700	-400	-1.7%	0	0.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	114,200	113,900	114,500	114,100	112,300	300	0.3%	1,900	1.7%
Other Services	60,700	60,700	60,700	60,000	60,400	0	0.0%	300	0.5%
Government**	236,200	235,800	236,400	237,000	241,000	400	0.2%	-4,800	-2.0%
UNITED STATES	132,821,000	132,701,000	132,461,000	132,186,000	130,922,000	120,000	0.1%	1,899,000	1.5%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	Mar. 2012 P	Feb. 2012 R	Jan. 2012	Dec. 2011	Mar. 2011	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	400,000	396,900	394,300	399,400	401,000	3,100	0.8%	-1,000	-0.2%
Danbury	68,200	68,000	67,400	68,000	66,600	200	0.3%	1,600	2.4%
Hartford	544,000	545,200	540,800	541,400	538,100	-1,200	-0.2%	5,900	1.1%
New Haven	266,200	266,600	266,900	267,500	265,100	-400	-0.2%	1,100	0.4%
Norwich-New London	126,100	127,200	126,700	125,600	129,400	-1,100	-0.9%	-3,300	-2.6%
Waterbury	61,900	62,600	62,100	62,500	62,200	-700	-1.1%	-300	-0.5%
Not Seasonally Adjusted data									
Enfield	43,900	44,300	44,400	45,200	43,600	-400	-0.9%	300	0.7%
Torrington	34,300	34,400	34,400	35,500	34,000	-100	-0.3%	300	0.9%
Willimantic-Danielson	35,500	35,700	35,500	36,400	35,300	-200	-0.6%	200	0.6%

* 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.

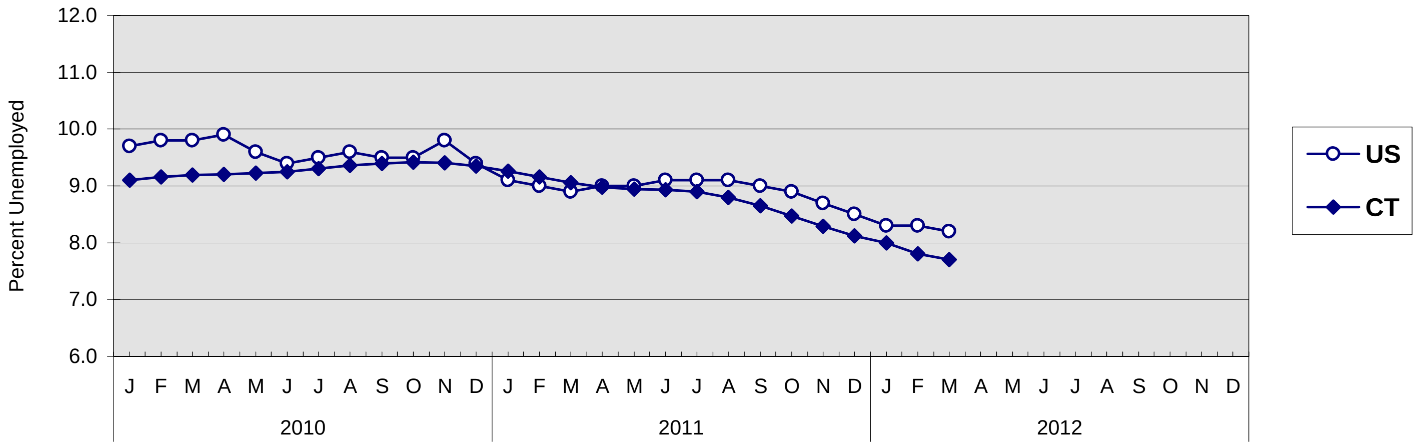
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*

	Mar. 2012 P		Mar. 2011 R		Change		Feb. 2012 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	*148,000*	*7.7*	*174,000*	*9.1*	*-26,000*	*-1.4*	*148,600*	*7.8*
Labor Force	*1,913,000*		*1,921,300*		*-8,300*		*1,914,500*	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	*12,673,000*	*8.2*	*13,628,000*	*9.0*	*-955,000*	*-0.8*	*12,806,000*	*8.3*
Labor Force	*154,707,000*		*153,392,000*		*1,315,000*		*154,871,000*	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - ***Seasonally Adjusted***
2010 - 2012



LABOR MARKET AREAS - *Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	Mar. 2012 P		Mar. 2011 R		Change		Feb. 2012 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	36,400	7.6	41,800	8.6	-5,400	-1.0	36,800	7.7
Danbury	6,200	6.6	7,000	7.5	-800	-0.9	6,200	6.7
Enfield	3,500	7.1	4,100	8.1	-600	-1.0	3,900	7.8
Hartford	48,800	8.1	56,500	9.3	-7,700	-1.2	49,100	8.1
New Haven	26,800	8.5	30,700	9.6	-3,900	-1.1	26,700	8.4
Norwich-New London	12,600	8.5	13,900	9.1	-1,300	-0.6	12,800	8.6
Torrington	4,300	7.9	5,200	9.5	-900	-1.6	4,400	8.0
Waterbury	11,000	10.8	12,700	12.3	-1,700	-1.5	11,100	10.8
Willimantic-Danielson	5,500	9.3	6,100	10.2	-600	-0.9	5,600	9.4
CONNECTICUT	153,800	8.1	176,500	9.2	-22,700	-1.1	155,200	8.2
UNITED STATES	12,904,000	8.4	14,060,000	9.2	-1,156,000	-0.8	13,430,000	8.7

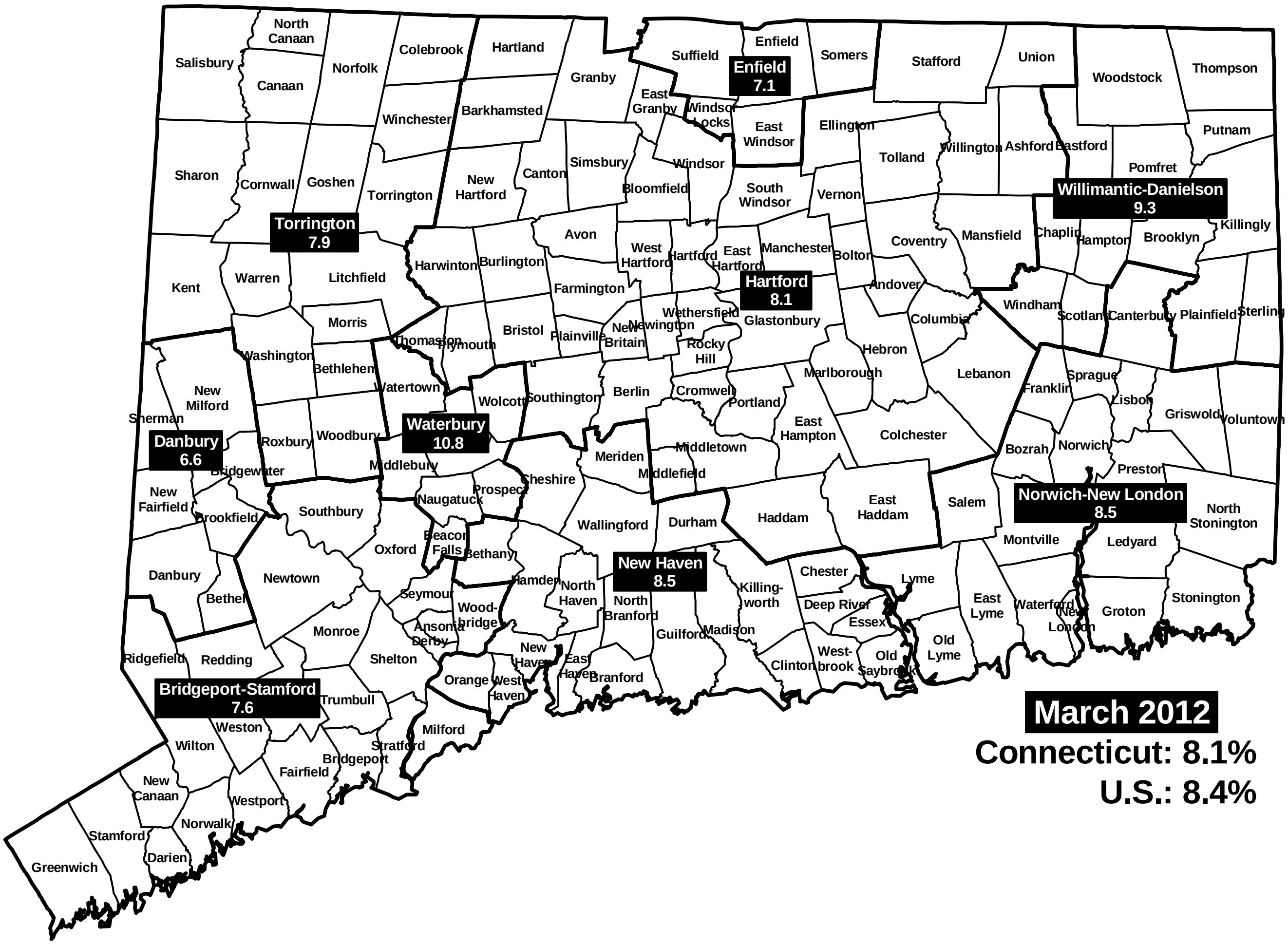
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LABOR MARKET AREAS



March 2012

Connecticut: 8.1%

U.S.: 8.4%

HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - *Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Mar. 2012 P	Mar. 2011	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2012 R	Mar. 2012 P	Mar. 2011	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2012 R	Mar. 2012 P	Mar. 2011	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2012 R
Private Industry All Employees	$957.34	$953.37	$3.97	$957.55	33.9	33.7	0.2	33.8	$28.24	$28.29	-$0.05	$28.33
Manufacturing Production Workers	$1,006.02	$1,020.51	-$14.49	$1,002.78	40.5	41.1	-0.6	40.5	$24.84	$24.83	$0.01	$24.76

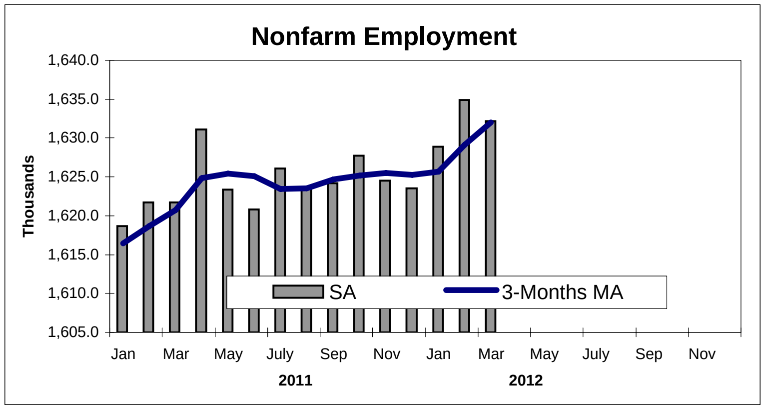
P = Preliminary R = Revised

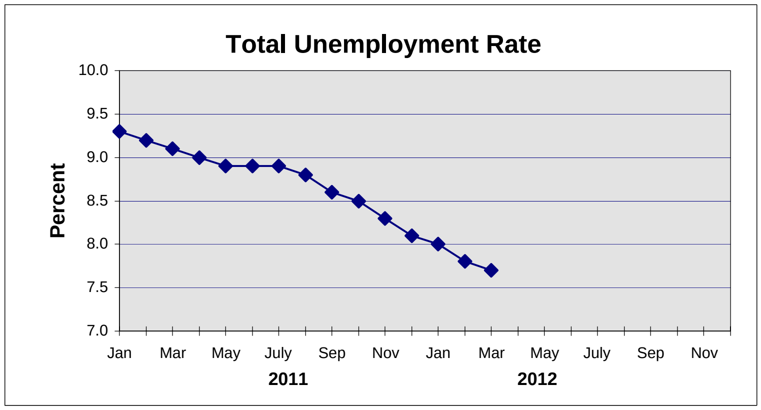
Hours and earnings are also developed for the state's major industry sectors and Labor Market Areas. They can be found on our website at: *www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi*.

TRENDS

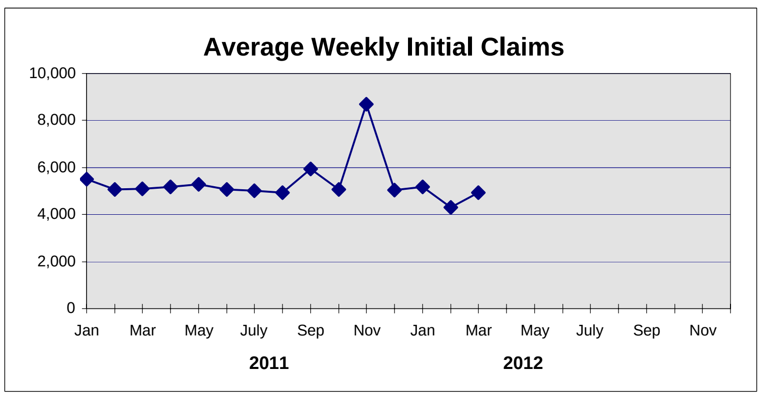
Seasonally Adjusted

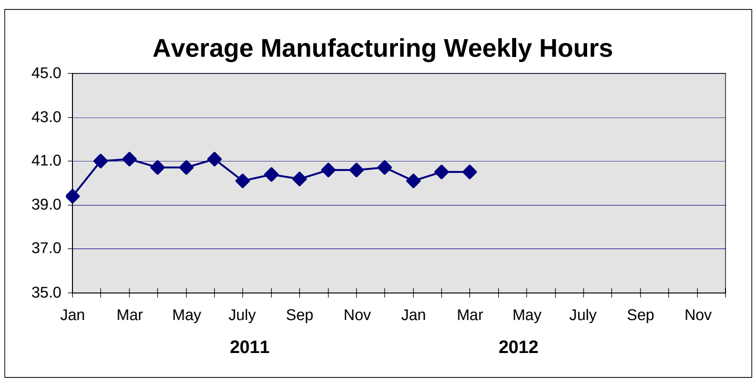
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2011		
Jan	1,618.7	9.3
Feb	1,621.7	9.2
Mar	1,621.7	9.1
Apr	1,631.1	9.0
May	1,623.4	8.9
Jun	1,620.8	8.9
July	1,626.1	8.9
Aug	1,623.7	8.8
Sep	1,624.2	8.6
Oct	1,627.7	8.5
Nov	1,624.5	8.3
Dec	1,623.5	8.1
2012		
Jan	1,628.9	8.0
Feb	1,634.9 R	7.8 R
Mar	1,632.2 P	7.7 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
July		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		





	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	Avg Manufacturing Weekly Hours*
2011		
Jan	5,506	39.4
Feb	5,057	41.0
Mar	5,097	41.1
Apr	5,176	40.7
May	5,290	40.7
Jun	5,079	41.1
July	5,022	40.1
Aug	4,924	40.4
Sep	5,927	40.2
Oct	5,070	40.6
Nov	8,694	40.6
Dec	5,052	40.7
2012		
Jan	5,191	40.1
Feb	4,298	40.5 R
Mar	4,923	40.5 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
July		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		





* Not seasonally adjusted   P = Preliminary   R = Revised   ** Labor-management dispute