THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

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IN THIS ISSUE...

In February...

Nonfarm Employment
Connecticut 1,671,600
Change over month 0.14%
Change over year 0.7%

United States 134,789,000
Change over month 0.18%
Change over year 1.5%

Unemployment Rate
Connecticut 4.5%
United States 4.8%

Consumer Price Index
United States 198.7
Change over year 3.6%

New Gains for Exports: 2005 Connecticut Exports in Review

By Laura Jaworski, Trade Specialist, DECD

In today's global economy, it is important to know one's position in the international marketplace. Exports are a key ingredient for business success in an increasingly interconnected world and the new opportunities created through market globalization have resulted in new gains for exporters. This is especially true for Connecticut exporters whose product sales reached new highs in 2005. To describe the State's 2005 export story, a review of several export categories follows.

Annual Export Figures

Between 2004-2005, Connecticut's annual exports grew a remarkable 13.2%, from $8.56 billion in 2004 to $9.69 billion in 2005. State export data collected across industry sectors from 2003 to the present indicate a steady and healthy upward trend. By comparison, for the same period total U.S. exports grew by 10.6%.

Connecticut's exports in 2005 represented roughly the same percentage of total U.S. exports as they did in 2004, 1.0%. Among the 50 states, Connecticut ranks 28th. Its rank has remained relatively stable throughout the past few years. Among the New England states, only Massachusetts' exports rank higher than Connecticut's as a percentage of total U.S. exports. Although Connecticut is a small state geographically, the State's export sector is sizable, and outperforms national export figures. According to a recent report prepared for the Eastern Trade Council, an organization in which Connecticut is a member state, Connecticut's trade value in dollars increased 40.0% between 1996-2004, while the U.S. figure increased 31.0% over the same time period. Connecticut's continued growth in exports is a positive sign for the State's economy.

State Export Partners

Connecticut's core export partners have remained unchanged for the past several years. In 2005, the State's top ten export destinations, as expected, were Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Japan, the

Table A: Connecticut Exports by Country

Rank	Code	Description	ANNUAL 2004	ANNUAL 2005	2004-05 %
		TOTAL ALL COUNTRIES	8,559,237,269	9,687,291,825	13.2
1	1220	CANADA	1,472,483,112	1,680,077,135	14.1
2	4279	FRANCE	1,181,671,113	1,602,190,862	35.6
3	4280	GERMANY	762,242,985	832,232,504	9.2
4	4120	UNITED KINGDOM	547,771,616	696,946,466	27.2
5	2010	MEXICO	586,305,613	559,772,543	-4.5
6	5880	JAPAN	501,516,365	436,807,306	-12.9
7	4210	NETHERLANDS	270,109,697	364,540,439	35.0
8	5700	CHINA (MAINLAND)	204,500,674	337,202,240	64.9
9	4231	BELGIUM	227,902,577	262,851,054	15.3
10	5590	SINGAPORE	340,949,009	246,578,873	-27.7

THE CONNECTICUT
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Netherlands, China, Belgium, and Singapore. Connecticut increased trade with its top ten trade partners in 2005, with the exception of Mexico, Japan and Singapore. As a reference, mix of top trade partners for the U.S. and the New England states are similar in composition to Connecticut's. The U.S.'s top five export destinations in 2005 were Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, and the United Kingdom, while the top export markets for the New England region were Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom.

The China Factor & Canadian Popularity

Not surprising is the fact that among its top partners, Connecticut's trade increased most substantially with China. Between 2004-2005, Connecticut's annual exports to China grew 65.9% to $337 million. In comparison, U.S. exports to China increased 20.5%, from $34.72 billion in 2004 to $41.84 billion in 2005.

With much recent discussion of China's tremendous economic growth and its rising position in the world economy, there is often much confusion as to the country's status and rank as one of Connecticut's trade partners. Despite China's growth, it is not the State's—nor New England's, nor the U.S.'s—number one trade partner. That export distinction belongs to Canada, and holds true for New England and U.S. exports as well. China ranked 8th among Connecticut's trade partners in 2005.

Canada's popularity as an export market owes to the lack of a language barrier for trade dealings and, for Connecticut businesses, its proximity; a large geographic portion of the Canadian market is accessible within several hours' drive. For those companies who are new to exporting and the intricacies of such transactions, it is often recommended to first explore the Canadian market before investigating more challenging markets around the world. Connecticut's exports to Canada increased 14.1% in 2005 to $1.68 billion, up from $1.47 billion in 2004. In 2005, 17.0% of Connecticut's exports were destined for Canada. U.S. exports to Canada increased 11.8%, up from $189.10 billion in 2004 to $211.42 billion in 2005. Canada claimed close to one quarter, 23.0%, of all U.S. exports in 2005. These figures are similar for the New England states as well. Twenty percent of all New England exports went to Canada in 2005. Among the six New England states, trade with Canada was up 11.9% in 2005 to $8.61 billion. Canada is a steadfast trading partner.

Potential Future Export Partners For Connecticut

Free trade agreements, both newly enacted and proposed, with the Central American Free Trade Agreement member countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic) and others such as Thailand, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates are worth watching. The impact of such agreements and their effects on duties and tariffs could boost future export figures. Other potential markets to watch include Belgium, Brazil, China, Malaysia and the Netherlands.

Composition of Connecticut's Exports

Connecticut's top exports mirror the State's historic strengths. As with Connecticut's top export partners, there is a demonstrated consistency among the State's top export industries. In 2005, the State's top five export sectors were transportation equipment, machinery, computers and electronic products, chemicals and miscellaneous manufactured commodities. Electrical equipment, fabricated metal products and paper also ranked high among the State's export industries.

Transportation equipment led all exports in 2005. This sector increased 23.9%, growing from $3.18 billion in 2004 to $3.94 billion in 2005. Volatility in sales in the aircraft and spacecraft

--Continued on page 5--

OCCUPATION PROFILE

FIREFIGHTERS

By Michael Polzella, Associate Research Analyst, and Andrew Callahan, Research Intern, DOL

Overview

Every year, fires and other emergencies take thousands of lives and destroy property worth billions of dollars. Firefighters help protect the public against these dangers by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel at the scene of a traffic accident or medical emergency and may be called upon to put out a fire, treat injuries, or perform other vital functions. In many cases a fire crew is nearer to an emergency than an ambulance or paramedic unit. Most new firefighters are trained as emergency medical technicians, and candidates with previous paramedic experience are desirable. Firefighters work in a variety of settings, including urban and suburban areas, airports, chemical plants, other industrial sites, and rural areas like grasslands and forests. Among the personal qualities firefighters need are mental alertness, self-discipline, courage, mechanical aptitude, endurance, strength, and a sense of public service.

Job Descriptions

Firefighters control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk. Duties may include fire prevention, emergency medical service, hazardous material response, search and rescue, and disaster management. When an alarm sounds, firefighters respond rapidly, regardless of the weather or hour. Firefighting involves risk of death or injury from sudden cave-ins of floors, toppling walls, traffic accidents when responding to calls, and exposure to flames and smoke. The United States Fire Administration announced recently that there were 106 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States in 2005.

Training, Other Qualifications, and Advancement

Applicants for municipal firefighting jobs generally must pass a written exam; tests of strength, physical stamina, coordination, and agility; and a medical examination that includes drug screening. Written examinations are generally open to persons who are at least 18 years of age and have a high school education or the equivalent. Many fire departments in Connecticut utilize the nationally accredited Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT), which is conducted by the Connecticut Fire Academy. The CPAT is a practical exam used to test a candidate's physical ability to perform a job task related to firefighting. It was developed to allow fire departments to obtain pools of trainable candidates who are physically able to perform essential job tasks on the fire scene.

Fire departments frequently conduct training programs, and some firefighters attend training sessions sponsored by the U.S. National Fire Academy. These training sessions cover topics including executive development, anti-arson techniques, disaster preparedness, hazardous materials control, and public fire safety and education. The larger fire departments may have battalions and divisions, with lieutenants, captains, battalion chiefs, division chiefs, fire marshals, and investigators, with substantial pay hikes for those making it into senior positions. To progress to higher-level positions, they acquire expertise in advanced firefighting equipment and techniques, building construction, emergency medical technology, writing, public speaking, management and budgeting procedures, and public relations.

Average hourly wage for firefighters by selected states, 2005

Employment Outlook and Average Wages

Employment figures in this article include only paid career firefighters—they do not cover volunteer firefighters, who perform the same duties and may comprise the majority of firefighters in a residential area. According the United States Fire Administration, over 70 percent of fire companies are staffed by volunteer firefighters.

Employment of firefighters is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2012 as fire departments continue to compete with other public safety providers for funding. Most job growth will occur as volunteer firefighting positions are converted to paid positions.

Firefighters in Connecticut earned an average hourly and annual salary of $23.26 and $48,379, respectively in 2005. Connecticut's current employment figures indicate that in 2005 there were approximately 3,650 firefighters employed in the State. Employment projections made in 2005 suggest that in 2012 there would be 4,290 firefighters employed in the State, approximately a 13.7% increase.

Across the nation, firefighters earned approximately $8,400 less per year than their peers in Connecticut, with an average hourly and annual salary of $19.22 and $39,980, respectively. Recent employment figures indicate that in 2004 there were approximately 282,000 firefighters employed in the United States and projected employment of 351,000 by 2014. ■

(The EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS feature will return next month.)

TOWN/CITY PROFILE

FARMINGTON

By Cynthia L. DeLisa, Research Analyst, DOL

"As my husband and I drove into this quaint community a sense of belonging came over me. This is the epitome of early hometown America if there was ever one." Emilia Beth Mink

The Town of Farmington was founded in 1640, and incorporated in December 1645 from the Tunxis Plantation, one of the largest single grants in the colonies. Known as the "Mother Town," after Farmington was subdivided into the towns of Avon, Bristol, Plainville, New Britain, Berlin, Southington, and Burlington, today Farmington comprises 28.7 square miles along the Farmington River. The town's official slogan, "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow," appropriately describes Farmington's unique balance of old world charisma and contemporary setting.

Historic Farmington Village

The town's center, commonly known as "the Village," is like a window into the past with its well-preserved Colonial homes and significant museums. Settled in 1640, some early Farmington families were affirmed abolitionists whose homes played an important part in the Underground Railroad. In 1841, thirty-eight Mendi Africans and Cinque, the leader of their famous Amistad slave revolt, lived and were educated in Farmington while funds were raised for their eventual return to Africa. Today these homes are part of the Connecticut Freedom Trail. The Hill-Stead Museum is one of Farmington's most scenic spots as well as the Farmington Valley's premier tourist attraction.

Miss Porter's School, whose buildings occupy much of the Village, is a significant historic and cultural institution. Founded in 1843 by educational reformer Sarah Porter, Miss Porter's has long been considered one of the finest girls' prep schools in the country. Some well-known alumnae include: Ruth Hanna McCormick (1897), the first woman to run for U.S. Senate; Helen Coley Nauts (1925), founder of the Cancer Research Institute; and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (1947), First Lady of the United States.

Economy

Farmington had a population of 24,682 in 2004, growing almost 20 percent since 1994. Farmington's total labor force was 12,334, of which 11,847 were employed, with an unemployment rate of 3.9%. The number of new housing permits authorized in the town has averaged about 140 each year over the last decade.

In 2004, as the table below shows, there were about 28,400 jobs in the town, down slightly from the prior two years. The town's five principal industries were financial activities, trade, transportation and utilities, professional and business services, educational and health services, and manufacturing. The total number of businesses in Farmington, however, increased between 2002 and 2004. The average annual wage for workers in all industries also rose to $49,774 in 2004. Professional and business services sector employees working in Farmington were paid the highest average annual wage at $67,512. On the other hand, those in leisure and hospitality, with many working part-time, were paid $19,753.

In 2004, Farmington's three major employers were: **UCONN Health Center**, which houses the state's medical and dental schools, a teaching hospital, a regional medical reference library, and the Valley's only Emergency Room; **The Hartford Financial Services Group**, a leading provider of investment products; and **Otis Elevator–World Headquarters**, which has attracted the largest hotel to the Valley (Farmington Marriott). In 2004, the top three grand list taxpayers were: **Westfarms Mall**, located on the Farmington/West Hartford town line, is a premiere shopping center that features 160 fine shops and services, many unique to its trade area; **United Technologies Corp.**, spans the commercial building, aerospace, and fire and security industries, and has been ranked by *Forbes* magazine as one of the seven Best-Managed Companies in America in the conglomerate sector; and the **TRUMPF Corporation** which is a world leader in production technology.

Farmington, a town with one of the lowest mill rates (23.3 in FY 2004-5) in the Hartford County boasts 73% of its total housing as owner-occupied. In FY 2003-04, the average single-family home sales price was $440,000. In 2005, the median household income was $74,979, which was about $15,000 higher than the statewide median household income of $59,761.

Did You Know?

Founded in 1892, the well-regarded Farmington Country Club is nationally recognized as one of the first 100 golf clubs established in the U.S. ■

Farmington economic trends

Industry Sector	2002			2003			2004		
	Estab.	Jobs	Wages	Estab.	Jobs	Wages	Estab.	Jobs	Wages
Total	1,155	29,274	$46,538	1,171	28,779	$47,937	1,178	28,354	$49,774
Construction	84	1,054	$64,154	80	988	$64,974	77	1,014	$65,081
Manufacturing	50	2,871	$50,578	45	2,729	$51,381	46	2,799	$54,664
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	242	5,073	$32,221	243	4,458	$36,476	238	4,259	$28,239
Information	19	368	$64,384	18	365	$59,641	17	376	$60,499
Financial Activities	200	4,869	$57,727	203	5,195	$59,367	207	4,861	$64,878
Professional and Business Services	240	4,164	$58,811	242	4,120	$58,139	247	3,833	$67,512
Educational and Health Services	111	3,276	$38,866	119	3,254	$35,798	121	3,499	$35,733
Leisure and Hospitality	77	1,902	$18,597	88	1,944	$19,163	80	1,925	$19,753
Other Services	105	397	$26,486	107	413	$27,493	117	430	$30,897
Government	24	5,291	$49,584	24	5,307	$52,153	24	5,346	$55,707

Economic Indicators \ Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Population	20,692	20,808	20,880	20,942	21,161	21,299	23,641	23,969	24,189	24,507	24,682
Labor Force	11,817	10,880	10,950	10,920	10,843	11,026	11,986	12,071	12,210	12,355	12,334
Employed	11,415	10,475	10,513	10,557	10,622	10,765	11,757	11,792	11,788	11,803	11,847
Unemployed	402	405	437	363	221	261	229	279	422	552	487
Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.7	4.0	3.3	2.0	2.4	1.9	2.3	3.5	4.5	3.9
New Housing Permits	150	91	115	144	166	138	100	115	143	115	126
Retail Sales ($mil.)	390.5	393.1	412.1	480.0	339.2	370.6	374.1	515.8	547.9	NA	NA

Table B: Connecticut Exports by Industry

Rank	Code	Description	ANNUAL 2004	ANNUAL 2005	04-05 %
		TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	8,559,237,269	9,687,291,825	13.2
1	336	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	3,177,827,619	3,936,716,835	23.9
2	333	MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	1,106,773,395	1,129,158,212	2.0
3	334	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	803,610,886	885,393,225	10.2
4	325	CHEMICALS	608,180,192	590,389,432	-2.9
5	339	MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED COMMODITIES	606,202,640	562,071,320	-7.3
6	335	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, APPLIANCES, AND COMPONENT	469,688,632	432,977,758	-7.8
7	332	FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, NESOI	406,459,831	408,245,001	0.4
8	331	PRIMARY METAL MANUFACTURING	275,741,165	325,880,523	18.2
9	990	SPECIAL CLASSIFICATION PROVISIONS, NESOI	197,556,465	253,198,637	28.2
10	322	PAPER	165,849,925	219,841,365	32.6

--Continued from page 2--

sector, however, makes the transportation sector an industry to continuously monitor. This sector's growth in 2005 followed decreased exports in 2003 and 2004, after a peak in 2002. In 2005, large growth was also experienced in the computer and electronic sector. Between 2004-2005, this industry grew 10.2%, with State exports increasing from $8.03 million to $8.85 million. According to the Eastern Trade Council report, future industry sectors to watch include pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals, medical devices, integrated circuits, iron and steel, and plastics.

By means of background, the top export industries for the U.S. and the New England states in 2005 were again similar to Connecticut's. The top five U.S. exports included computer and electronic products, transportation equipment, chemicals, machinery, and miscellaneous manufactured commodities. The top five export sectors for New England in 2005 were nearly identical, although chemicals ranked higher than transportation equipment for the region.

Challenges

The volatility and unpredictability of global issues in the future, will undoubtedly impact trade relations and exports. Issues to monitor include the national trade deficit, future bilateral trade agreement negotiations, Chinese currency valuation issues, the war in Iraq and the continued fallout from energy imports as a result of the Gulf Coast hurricanes. Enforcement of intellectual property right protections in key offender countries (i.e., China, Russia) may also play a potential factor and impact trade. Will companies shy away from trade with countries that fail to protect copyright, trademark and patent laws? While all this remains to be seen, what is known is that exports will continue to be a sizable component in the State's economic future. In today's economy, globalization is a reality; international market opportunities must be explored.

Export Assistance

Exports will continue to be an engine of growth for Connecticut and, as such, the importance of exports to the State's economy cannot be understated. For help in reaching new markets and to learn more about Connecticut's international trade programs and services, businesses can contact Laura Jaworski at (860) 270-8068. ■

Data appearing in this article comes from the World Institute for Social and Economic Research unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

(Seasonally adjusted)	4Q 2005	4Q 2004	CHANGE NO.	%	3Q 2005
Employment Indexes (1992=100)*					
Leading	118.8	117.3	1.5	1.3	118.6
Coincident	108.9	108.0	0.9	0.8	108.0
General Drift Indicator (1986=100)*					
Leading	104.6	103.8	0.8	0.8	104.2
Coincident	103.2	103.1	0.1	0.1	103.2
Banknorth Business Barometer (1992=100)**	120.6	120.0	0.6	0.5	119.9

*Sources: *The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut*
***Banknorth Bank*

The Connecticut Economy's **General Drift Indicators** are composite measures of the four-quarter change in three coincident (Connecticut Manufacturing Production Index, nonfarm employment, and real personal income) and four leading (housing permits, manufacturing average weekly hours, Hartford help-wanted advertising, and initial unemployment claims) economic variables, and are indexed so 1986 = 100.

The **Banknorth Business Barometer** is a measure of overall economic growth in the state of Connecticut that is derived from non-manufacturing employment, real disposable personal income, and manufacturing production.

Total nonfarm employment increased over the year.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM	1,671.6	1,659.6	12.0	0.7	1,669.2
Natural Res & Mining (Not Sea. Adj.)	0.7	0.6	0.1	16.7	0.7
Construction	66.1	66.6	-0.5	-0.8	66.2
Manufacturing	193.7	196.5	-2.8	-1.4	193.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	313.4	311.2	2.2	0.7	313.8
Information	38.2	38.8	-0.6	-1.5	38.2
Financial Activities	143.6	141.7	1.9	1.3	143.4
Professional and Business Services	201.5	198.5	3.0	1.5	200.4
Educational and Health Services	274.3	271.6	2.7	1.0	273.8
Leisure and Hospitality Services	131.2	128.9	2.3	1.8	130.6
Other Services	62.9	62.7	0.2	0.3	62.4
Government*	246	242.5	3.5	1.4	245.8

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor ** Includes Native American tribal government employment*

Initial claims for unemployment insurance rose from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted)	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	4.5	5.0	-0.5	---	4.6
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,829.4	1,811.8	17.6	1.0	1,820.0
Employed (000s)	1,746.8	1,722.1	24.7	1.4	1,737.1
Unemployed (000s)	82.6	89.7	-7.1	-7.9	82.9
Average Weekly Initial Claims	4,281	4,046	235	5.8	3,524
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	12	11	1	9.1	12
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.46	2.67	-0.21	---	2.47

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

The production worker weekly earnings rose over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

(Not seasonally adjusted)	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006	DEC 2005
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	41.9	0.4	1.0	42.5	--
Average Hourly Earnings	19.52	18.82	0.70	3.7	19.46	--
Average Weekly Earnings	825.70	788.56	37.14	4.7	827.05	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (2000=100)	95.8	90.5	5.3	5.8	94.6	98.1
Production Worker Hours (000s)	4,904	4,947	-43	-0.9	4,945	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)*	391	366	25.3	6.9	382	403

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Energy
**Latest two months are forecasted.*

Personal income for second quarter 2006 is forecasted to increase 4.6 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME

(Seasonally adjusted) (Annualized; $ Millions)	2Q* 2006	2Q 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	1Q* 2006
Personal Income	$174,250	$166,524	$7,726	4.6	$172,810
UI Covered Wages	$88,976	$85,412	$3,564	4.2	$88,260

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: January 2006 release
**Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor*

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

New auto registrations declined over the year.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
New Housing Permits*	FEB 2006	674	23.2	1,219	1,198	1.8
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	DEC 2005	2,953	7.7	33,086	32,215	2.7
Retail Sales (Bil. $)	OCT 2003	3.28	-0.6	34.19	34.55	-1.0
Construction Contracts Index (1980=100)	FEB 2006	335.8	35.7	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	FEB 2006	12,710	-29.0	28,876	34,059	-15.2
Air Cargo Tons	FEB 2006	12,554	4.5	22,782	23,834	-4.4
Exports (Bil. $)	4Q 2005	2.62	17.5	9.69	8.56	13.2

Sources: Connecticut 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

** Estimated by the Bureau of the Census*

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

Net business formation, as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Department of Labor, was up over the year.

	MO/QTR	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	DEC 2005	2,168	-1.4	29,642	28,593	3.7
Department of Labor*	3Q 2005	2,113	-3.6	7,319	7,429	-1.5
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	DEC 2005	1,811	4.0	9,554	9,482	0.8
Department of Labor*	3Q 2005	1,234	-25.3	4,183	5,381	-22.3

Sources: Connecticut Secretary of the State; Connecticut Department of Labor

** Revised methodology applied back to 1996; 3-months total*

STATE REVENUES

Total revenues were up from a year ago.

(Millions of dollars)	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	% CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
TOTAL ALL REVENUES*	753.1	718.4	4.8	2184.7	1939.9	12.6
Corporate Tax	33.4	24.4	36.9	63.4	36.9	71.8
Personal Income Tax	371.4	346.2	7.3	1125.9	991.8	13.5
Real Estate Conv. Tax	12.0	11.0	9.1	26.1	25.7	1.6
Sales & Use Tax	231.5	218.2	6.1	620.5	589.4	5.3
Indian Gaming Payments**	34.1	33.8	1.0	67.0	63.4	5.7

Sources: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; Division of Special Revenue

**Includes all sources of revenue; Only selected sources are displayed; Most July receipts are credited to the prior fiscal year and are not shown. **See page 23 for explanation.*

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

Gaming slots fell over the year.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
Info Center Visitors	FEB 2006	16,184	0.6	31,749	32,128	-1.2
Major Attraction Visitors	FEB 2006	100,378	7.7	171,520	149,288	14.9
Air Passenger Count	FEB 2006	529,043	-3.5	1,043,604	1,079,340	-3.3
Indian Gaming Slots (Mil.$)*	FEB 2006	1,548	-1.4	3,052	3,018	1.1
Travel and Tourism Index**	4Q 2005	---	1.6	---	---	---

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

**See page 23 for explanation*

***The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut*

Compensation cost for the nation rose 3.0 percent over the year.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted DEC 2005	SEP 2005	3-Mo % Chg	Not Seasonally Adjusted DEC 2005	DEC 2004	12-Mo % Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	181.2	179.8	0.8	180.4	175.2	3.0
Wages and Salaries	170.5	169.4	0.6	170.4	166.2	2.5
Benefit Costs	208.1	206.2	0.9	206.9	198.7	4.1
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	180.2	174.2	3.4
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	169.7	165.0	2.8

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

U.S. inflation rate increased 3.6 percent over the year.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	MO/QTR	LEVEL	% CHANGE Y/Y	P/P*
CONSUMER PRICES				
CPI-U (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	FEB 2006	198.7	3.6	0.2
Purchasing Power of $ (1982-84=$1.00)	FEB 2006	$0.503	-3.5	-0.2
Northeast Region	FEB 2006	211.6	3.9	0.3
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	FEB 2006	216.4	3.6	0.2
Boston-Brockton-Nashua**	JAN 2006	220.5	4.4	0.9
CPI-W (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	FEB 2006	194.2	3.7	0.1
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)				
Connecticut***	4Q 2005	NA	NA	NA
New England	FEB 2006	86.8	-16.9	-5.9
U.S.	FEB 2006	101.7	-7.3	-4.8

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; The Conference Board
**Change over prior monthly or quarterly period*
***The Boston CPI can be used as a proxy for New England and is measured every other month.*
****The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut*

Conventional mortgage rate rose to 6.25 percent over the month.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	FEB 2006	JAN 2006	FEB 2005
Prime	7.50	7.26	5.49
Federal Funds	4.49	4.29	2.50
3 Month Treasury Bill	4.54	4.34	2.58
6 Month Treasury Bill	4.69	4.47	2.85
1 Year Treasury Bill	4.68	4.45	3.03
3 Year Treasury Note	4.64	4.35	3.54
5 Year Treasury Note	4.57	4.35	3.77
7 Year Treasury Note	4.56	4.37	3.97
10 Year Treasury Note	4.57	4.42	4.17
20 Year Treasury Note	4.73	4.65	4.61
Conventional Mortgage	6.25	6.15	5.63

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

All nine states in the region added jobs over the year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
Connecticut	1,671.6	1,659.6	12.0	0.7	1,669.2
Maine	611.4	611.2	0.2	0.0	611.3
Massachusetts	3,212.0	3,192.2	19.8	0.6	3,203.1
New Hampshire	637.8	633.3	4.5	0.7	639.4
New Jersey	4,066.7	4,026.5	40.2	1.0	4,062.0
New York	8,572.5	8,500.6	71.9	0.8	8,565.8
Pennsylvania	5,747.5	5,683.3	64.2	1.1	5,743.5
Rhode Island	492.9	490.3	2.6	0.5	490.8
Vermont	306.0	304.7	1.3	0.4	306.4
United States	134,789.0	132,736.0	2,053.0	1.5	134,546.0

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

LABOR FORCE

All nine states posted increases in the labor force from last year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
Connecticut	1,829.4	1,811.8	17.6	1.0	1,820.0
Maine	717.4	705.6	11.8	1.7	715.3
Massachusetts	3,365.6	3,364.6	1.0	0.0	3,359.7
New Hampshire	735.9	729.8	6.1	0.8	736.2
New Jersey	4,479.1	4,399.5	79.6	1.8	4,481.8
New York	9,517.4	9,374.5	142.9	1.5	9,494.7
Pennsylvania	6,311.5	6,287.8	23.7	0.4	6,290.6
Rhode Island	574.9	564.5	10.4	1.8	574.2
Vermont	362.6	354.3	8.3	2.3	360.9
United States	150,449.0	148,271.0	2,178.0	1.5	150,114.0

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

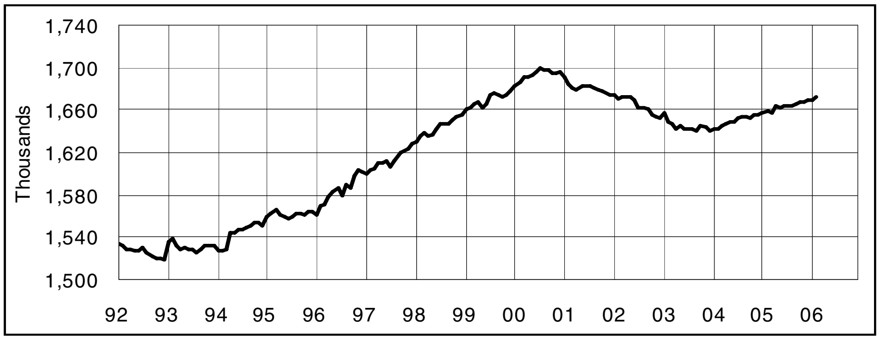
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Six of nine states showed a decrease in its unemployment rate over the year.

(Seasonally adjusted)	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE	JAN 2006
Connecticut	4.5	5.0	-0.5	4.6
Maine	4.6	4.8	-0.2	4.5
Massachusetts	5.0	4.9	0.1	4.6
New Hampshire	3.5	3.7	-0.2	3.3
New Jersey	4.7	4.4	0.3	4.5
New York	4.7	5.1	-0.4	4.6
Pennsylvania	4.5	5.2	-0.7	4.3
Rhode Island	5.1	5.0	0.1	4.7
Vermont	3.5	3.6	-0.1	3.4
United States	4.8	5.4	-0.6	4.7

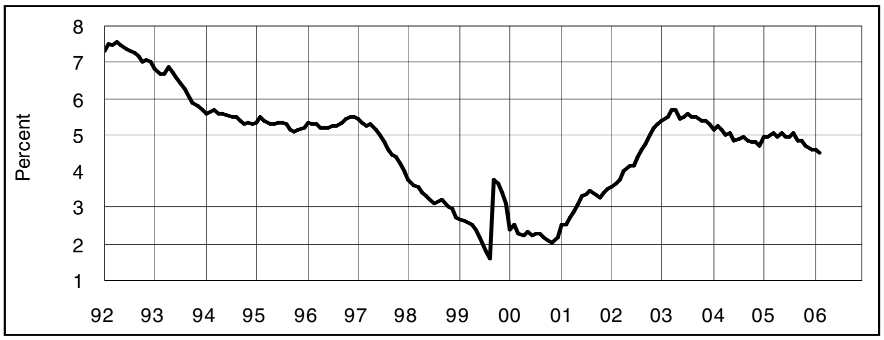
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



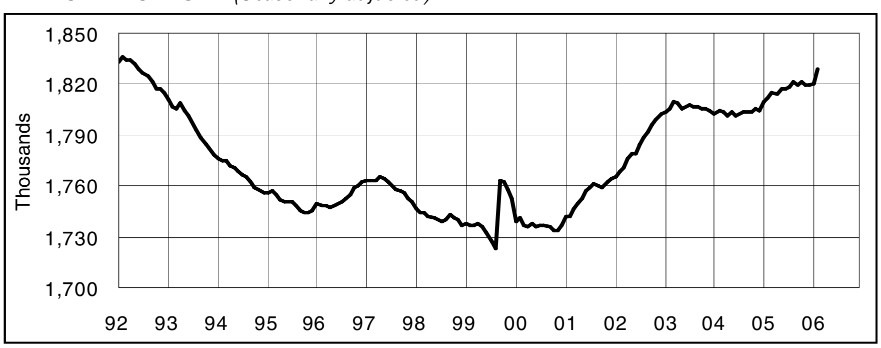
Month	2004	2005	2006
Jan	1,642.6	1,656.6	1,669.2
Feb	1,641.9	1,659.6	1,671.6
Mar	1,644.7	1,657.3	
Apr	1,646.5	1,664.3	
May	1,649.0	1,661.6	
Jun	1,649.2	1,663.9	
Jul	1,652.6	1,663.8	
Aug	1,653.3	1,663.7	
Sep	1,653.0	1,665.4	
Oct	1,652.8	1,667.6	
Nov	1,655.3	1,667.7	
Dec	1,656.1	1,668.6	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



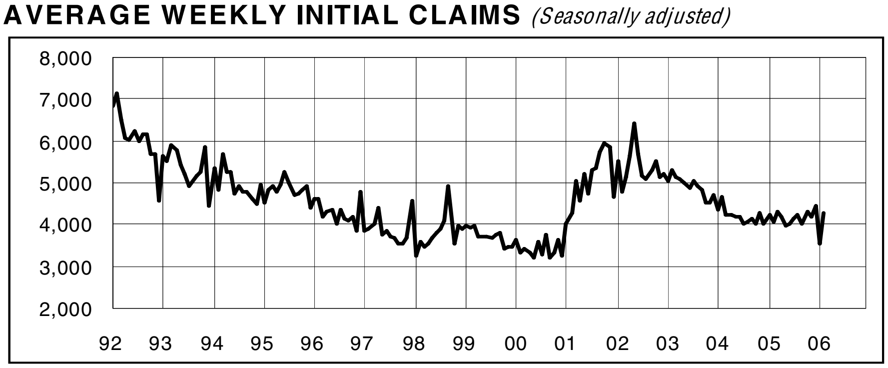
Month	2004	2005	2006
Jan	5.1	4.9	4.6
Feb	5.2	5.0	4.5
Mar	5.2	5.1	
Apr	5.0	4.9	
May	5.0	5.0	
Jun	4.9	4.9	
Jul	4.9	4.9	
Aug	4.9	5.0	
Sep	4.8	4.9	
Oct	4.8	4.9	
Nov	4.8	4.7	
Dec	4.7	4.6	

LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



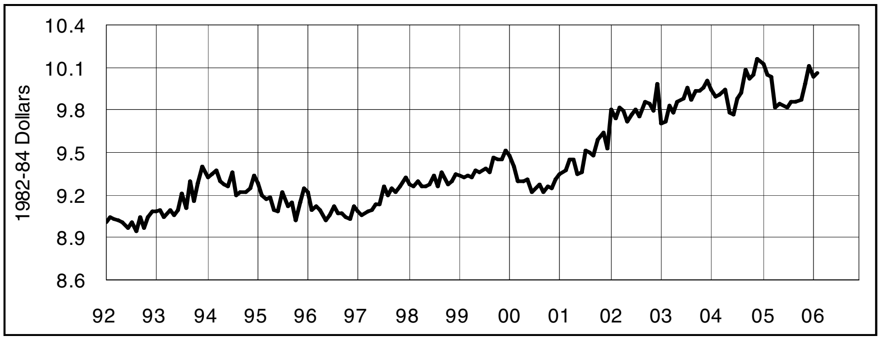
Month	2004	2005	2006
Jan	1,802.0	1,810.1	1,820.0
Feb	1,804.5	1,811.8	1,829.4
Mar	1,803.8	1,815.1	
Apr	1,801.1	1,814.2	
May	1,803.1	1,817.7	
Jun	1,800.9	1,817.2	
Jul	1,802.3	1,818.1	
Aug	1,803.8	1,821.3	
Sep	1,803.1	1,819.5	
Oct	1,803.9	1,821.0	
Nov	1,805.1	1,819.2	
Dec	1,804.2	1,818.9	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*



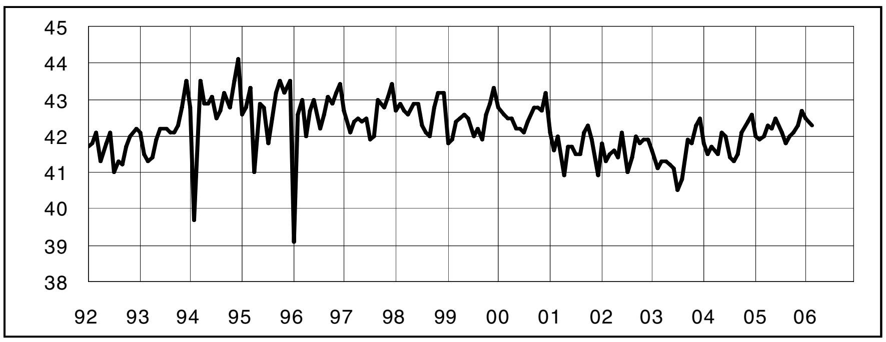
Month	2004	2005	2006
Jan	4,355	4,248	3,524
Feb	4,669	4,046	4,281
Mar	4,223	4,298	
Apr	4,240	4,203	
May	4,166	3,972	
Jun	4,199	3,995	
Jul	4,000	4,160	
Aug	4,049	4,232	
Sep	4,162	4,022	
Oct	4,025	4,294	
Nov	4,271	4,175	
Dec	4,020	4,435	

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



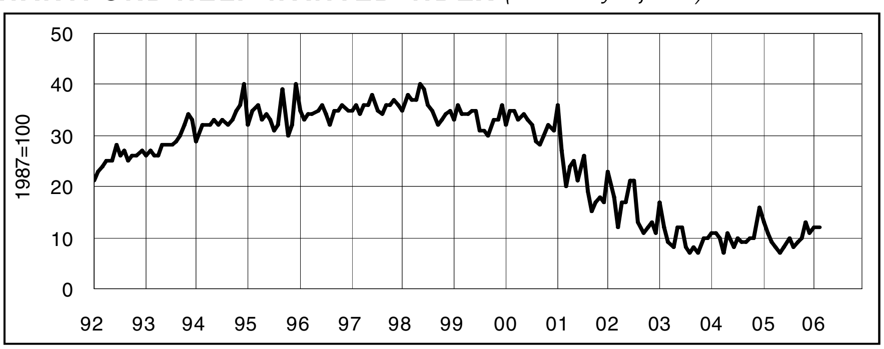
Month	2004	2005	2006
Jan	$9.94	$10.12	$10.03
Feb	$9.89	$10.05	$10.05
Mar	$9.90	$10.04	
Apr	$9.94	$9.82	
May	$9.78	$9.84	
Jun	$9.76	$9.83	
Jul	$9.88	$9.82	
Aug	$9.92	$9.85	
Sep	$10.08	$9.85	
Oct	$10.02	$9.86	
Nov	$10.05	$9.98	
Dec	$10.16	$10.11	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



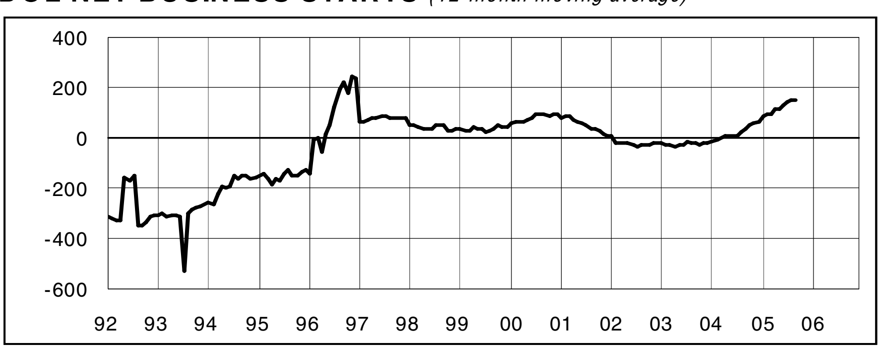
Month	2004	2005	2006
Jan	41.8	42.0	42.5
Feb	41.5	41.9	42.3
Mar	41.7	42.0	
Apr	41.5	42.3	
May	42.1	42.2	
Jun	42.0	42.5	
Jul	41.4	42.1	
Aug	41.3	41.8	
Sep	41.5	42.0	
Oct	42.1	42.1	
Nov	42.4	42.3	
Dec	42.6	42.7	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	2004	2005	2006
Jan	11	13	12
Feb	11	11	12
Mar	10	9	
Apr	7	8	
May	11	7	
Jun	8	8	
Jul	10	10	
Aug	9	8	
Sep	9	9	
Oct	10	10	
Nov	10	13	
Dec	16	11	

DOL NET BUSINESS STARTS *(12-month moving average)***



Month	2004	2005	2006
Jan	-12	84	
Feb	-9	94	
Mar	1	95	
Apr	5	112	
May	9	118	
Jun	9	130	
Jul	8	146	
Aug	24	150	
Sep	34	153	
Oct	51		
Nov	57		
Dec	63		

*New series began in 2001; prior years are not directly comparable

**New series began in 1996; prior years are not directly comparable

CONNECTICUT

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**1,648,900**	**1,636,000**	**12,900**	**0.8**	**1,644,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**253,300**	**255,900**	**-2,600**	**-1.0**	**254,800**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**59,800**	**60,200**	**-400**	**-0.7**	**60,900**
MANUFACTURING	**193,500**	**195,700**	**-2,200**	**-1.1**	**193,900**
Durable Goods	**144,300**	**145,900**	**-1,600**	**-1.1**	**144,600**
Fabricated Metal	33,400	33,800	-400	-1.2	33,400
Machinery	17,800	18,500	-700	-3.8	17,800
Computer and Electronic Product	14,700	15,200	-500	-3.3	14,700
Electrical Equipment	10,700	10,500	200	1.9	10,600
Transportation Equipment	43,200	43,200	0	0.0	43,300
Aerospace Product and Parts	30,200	29,900	300	1.0	30,200
Non-Durable Goods	**49,200**	**49,800**	**-600**	**-1.2**	**49,300**
Printing and Related	7,900	8,200	-300	-3.7	7,900
Chemical	16,900	17,200	-300	-1.7	17,000
Plastics and Rubber Products	7,400	7,600	-200	-2.6	7,400
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**1,395,600**	**1,380,100**	**15,500**	**1.1**	**1,389,900**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**308,200**	**306,300**	**1,900**	**0.6**	**312,500**
Wholesale Trade	66,800	65,400	1,400	2.1	66,800
Retail Trade	188,400	189,300	-900	-0.5	192,600
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	22,600	22,400	200	0.9	22,500
Building Material	14,400	14,500	-100	-0.7	14,800
Food and Beverage Stores	42,000	42,800	-800	-1.9	42,200
General Merchandise Stores	25,400	25,300	100	0.4	26,500
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	53,000	51,600	1,400	2.7	53,100
Utilities	8,400	8,600	-200	-2.3	8,500
Transportation and Warehousing	44,600	43,000	1,600	3.7	44,600
INFORMATION	**38,000**	**38,600**	**-600**	**-1.6**	**37,900**
Telecommunications	12,700	13,500	-800	-5.9	12,700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**142,800**	**140,500**	**2,300**	**1.6**	**142,600**
Finance and Insurance	122,200	120,400	1,800	1.5	121,900
Credit Intermediation	32,000	31,700	300	0.9	31,800
Securities and Commodity Contracts	20,000	18,700	1,300	7.0	20,100
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	65,200	65,200	0	0.0	65,100
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	20,600	20,100	500	2.5	20,700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**196,700**	**193,200**	**3,500**	**1.8**	**195,700**
Professional, Scientific	89,300	88,400	900	1.0	89,000
Legal Services	14,100	14,400	-300	-2.1	14,200
Computer Systems Design	18,900	18,500	400	2.2	19,000
Management of Companies	25,000	25,100	-100	-0.4	24,700
Administrative and Support	82,400	79,700	2,700	3.4	82,000
Employment Services	30,200	28,600	1,600	5.6	29,800
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**276,200**	**273,400**	**2,800**	**1.0**	**271,900**
Educational Services	54,600	54,100	500	0.9	50,000
Health Care and Social Assistance	221,600	219,300	2,300	1.0	221,900
Hospitals	55,800	55,300	500	0.9	56,200
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	57,200	56,900	300	0.5	57,100
Social Assistance	36,600	35,600	1,000	2.8	36,500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**121,800**	**119,500**	**2,300**	**1.9**	**122,000**
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	20,100	20,200	-100	-0.5	20,000
Accommodation and Food Services	101,700	99,300	2,400	2.4	102,000
Food Serv., Restaurants, Drinking Places	90,300	88,900	1,400	1.6	90,500
OTHER SERVICES	**62,000**	**61,700**	**300**	**0.5**	**61,800**
GOVERNMENT	**249,900**	**246,900**	**3,000**	**1.2**	**245,500**
Federal Government	19,700	19,800	-100	-0.5	19,700
State Government	67,600	65,800	1,800	2.7	64,000
**Local Government	162,600	161,300	1,300	0.8	161,800

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2005.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

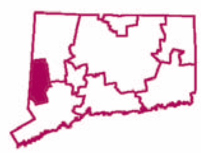
BRIDGEPORT - STAMFORD LMA

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**406,600**	**402,900**	**3,700**	**0.9**	**406,600**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**54,500**	**54,900**	**-400**	**-0.7**	**54,800**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**13,600**	**13,400**	**200**	**1.5**	**13,800**
MANUFACTURING	**40,900**	**41,500**	**-600**	**-1.4**	**41,000**
Durable Goods	**29,700**	**30,200**	**-500**	**-1.7**	**29,800**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**352,100**	**348,000**	**4,100**	**1.2**	**351,800**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**73,700**	**74,100**	**-400**	**-0.5**	**74,900**
Wholesale Trade	14,600	14,700	-100	-0.7	14,700
Retail Trade	48,500	49,000	-500	-1.0	49,600
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	10,600	10,400	200	1.9	10,600
INFORMATION	**11,200**	**11,600**	**-400**	**-3.4**	**11,200**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**43,900**	**42,300**	**1,600**	**3.8**	**43,900**
Finance and Insurance	37,400	36,000	1,400	3.9	37,300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**68,100**	**67,100**	**1,000**	**1.5**	**68,000**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**59,800**	**59,600**	**200**	**0.3**	**59,000**
Health Care and Social Assistance	50,700	50,200	500	1.0	50,800
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**30,700**	**29,800**	**900**	**3.0**	**30,700**
Accommodation and Food Services	23,400	22,800	600	2.6	23,300
OTHER SERVICES	**16,800**	**16,500**	**300**	**1.8**	**16,700**
GOVERNMENT	**47,900**	**47,000**	**900**	**1.9**	**47,400**
Federal	3,500	3,500	0	0.0	3,500
State & Local	44,400	43,500	900	2.1	43,900

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

DANBURY LMA



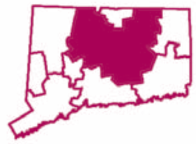
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**68,300**	**67,500**	**800**	**1.2**	**68,400**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**12,500**	**12,600**	**-100**	**-0.8**	**12,500**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**55,800**	**54,900**	**900**	**1.6**	**55,900**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**15,400**	**15,300**	**100**	**0.7**	**15,800**
Retail Trade	11,400	11,600	-200	-1.7	11,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**8,200**	**8,200**	**0**	**0.0**	**8,200**
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**4,700**	**4,900**	**-200**	**-4.1**	**4,700**
GOVERNMENT	**8,500**	**8,200**	**300**	**3.7**	**8,300**
Federal	600	600	0	0.0	600
State & Local	7,900	7,600	300	3.9	7,700

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

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2005.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

HARTFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**541,800**	**536,200**	**5,600**	**1.0**	**540,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**82,800**	**83,100**	**-300**	**-0.4**	**83,400**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**19,600**	**19,500**	**100**	**0.5**	**20,000**
MANUFACTURING	**63,200**	**63,600**	**-400**	**-0.6**	**63,400**
Durable Goods	**52,900**	**53,300**	**-400**	**-0.8**	**53,100**
Transportation Equipment	18,300	18,300	0	0.0	18,300
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**459,000**	**453,100**	**5,900**	**1.3**	**456,900**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**89,600**	**89,100**	**500**	**0.6**	**90,600**
Wholesale Trade	19,300	19,000	300	1.6	19,400
Retail Trade	55,500	55,400	100	0.2	56,300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	14,800	14,700	100	0.7	14,900
Transportation and Warehousing	11,200	11,000	200	1.8	11,300
INFORMATION	**11,500**	**11,400**	**100**	**0.9**	**11,500**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**67,500**	**67,800**	**-300**	**-0.4**	**67,700**
Depository Credit Institutions	7,500	7,700	-200	-2.6	7,500
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	45,700	46,100	-400	-0.9	45,900
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**57,900**	**56,800**	**1,100**	**1.9**	**58,000**
Professional, Scientific	27,700	27,500	200	0.7	27,800
Administrative and Support	24,400	23,600	800	3.4	24,500
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**85,600**	**84,100**	**1,500**	**1.8**	**85,100**
Health Care and Social Assistance	74,200	72,900	1,300	1.8	74,200
Ambulatory Health Care	22,600	22,100	500	2.3	22,600
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**37,500**	**36,300**	**1,200**	**3.3**	**37,400**
Accommodation and Food Services	31,700	30,300	1,400	4.6	31,600
OTHER SERVICES	**20,400**	**20,400**	**0**	**0.0**	**20,400**
GOVERNMENT	**89,000**	**87,200**	**1,800**	**2.1**	**86,200**
Federal	5,900	6,000	-100	-1.7	5,900
State & Local	83,100	81,200	1,900	2.3	80,300

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

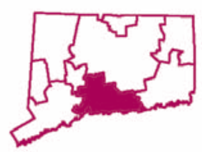
Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2005.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS

- **Trends in retirement plan coverage**
  Although there has been only a slight decline in overall retirement plan coverage, employer-sponsored plans have changed considerably in the last decade (in U.S.). Participation in defined contribution plans has eclipsed participation in defined benefit plans. In 1992-93, 32 percent of private-industry workers participated in a defined benefit plan, while 35 percent participated in a defined contribution plan. By 2005, the percentage of employees participating in defined contribution plans had increased to 42 percent, while the percentage participating in defined benefit plans had fallen to 21 percent. One explanation given for the changes in retirement coverage is the shift in the labor force toward different occupations and industries over the last decade. Particularly relevant is the relative decline in employment among full-time workers, union workers, and workers in goods-producing establishments. Traditionally, employers in good-producing industries, especially mining and manufacturing, have offered defined benefit plans more so than service-producing industries have. Data in this article are from the BLS National Compensation Survey program. For additional information, see "Trends in retirement plan coverage over the last decade," by Stephanie L. Costo, Monthly Labor Review, February 2006. (The Editor's Desk, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 10, 2006)

--Continued on the following page--

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**271,700**	**270,700**	**1,000**	**0.4**	**269,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**42,600**	**43,400**	**-800**	**-1.8**	**42,900**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**9,700**	**9,700**	**0**	**0.0**	**10,100**
MANUFACTURING	**32,900**	**33,700**	**-800**	**-2.4**	**32,800**
Durable Goods	**22,500**	**22,900**	**-400**	**-1.7**	**22,300**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**229,100**	**227,300**	**1,800**	**0.8**	**226,800**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**51,500**	**50,300**	**1,200**	**2.4**	**51,800**
Wholesale Trade	11,700	11,300	400	3.5	11,600
Retail Trade	30,300	29,700	600	2.0	30,700
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	9,500	9,300	200	2.2	9,500
INFORMATION	**8,800**	**8,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**8,500**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**13,700**	**13,800**	**-100**	**-0.7**	**13,800**
Finance and Insurance	10,300	10,300	0	0.0	10,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**24,900**	**24,700**	**200**	**0.8**	**24,900**
Administrative and Support	11,800	11,200	600	5.4	12,100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**65,400**	**65,000**	**400**	**0.6**	**63,300**
Educational Services	24,100	24,300	-200	-0.8	21,700
Health Care and Social Assistance	41,300	40,700	600	1.5	41,600
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**19,300**	**18,800**	**500**	**2.7**	**19,100**
Accommodation and Food Services	16,000	15,900	100	0.6	16,200
OTHER SERVICES	**10,300**	**10,700**	**-400**	**-3.7**	**10,600**
GOVERNMENT	**35,200**	**35,200**	**0**	**0.0**	**34,800**
Federal	5,400	5,400	0	0.0	5,400
State & Local	29,800	29,800	0	0.0	29,400

For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2005.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Value less than 50*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS (Cont.)

- **Long-term unemployment in recent recessions**
  The incidence and persistence of long-term joblessness associated with each of the last four downturns varied. In November 1975, the share of persons jobless for more than half a year (in U.S.) peaked at 2.1 percent of the labor force, 8 months after the end of the 1973-75 recession. In June 1983, 7 months after the official end of the 1981-82 recession, the long-term jobless rate peaked at 3.1 percent, the highest recorded in the post-World War II era. Although the downturn of 1990-91 more closely resembled that of the mid-1970s in terms of the magnitude of the long-term unemployment rate-just over 2 percent in October 1992-the rate did not peak until 19 months after the official end of the recession (March 1991). Following the 2001 downturn, the long-term jobless rate peaked at 1.4 percent in September 2003, 22 months after the official end. The most obvious reason for the slow improvement in long-term unemployment following the two most recent contractions was the relatively slower pace of job growth. Following each of the recessions of the mid-1970s and early 1980s, employment rose by 1.5 percent within a year. In contrast, employment was virtually unchanged in the year following the 1990-91 and 2001 recessions. These data are from the Current Population Survey and are seasonally adjusted. For this analysis, the long-term jobless rate is defined as the proportion of the labor force (rather than of unemployment) that has been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer. For more information, see "A glance at long-term unemployment in recent recessions," (PDF) Summary 06-01, Issues in Labor Statistics, January 2006. (The Editor's Desk, Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 28, 2006)

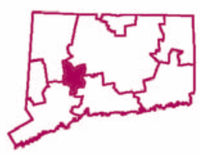
NORWICH - NEW LONDON LMA

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**133,100**	**132,800**	**300**	**0.2**	**133,400**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,400**	**22,300**	**100**	**0.4**	**22,500**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**4,500**	**4,400**	**100**	**2.3**	**4,600**
MANUFACTURING	**17,900**	**17,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**17,900**
Durable Goods	**11,500**	**11,300**	**200**	**1.8**	**11,500**
Non-Durable Goods	**6,400**	**6,600**	**-200**	**-3.0**	**6,400**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**110,700**	**110,500**	**200**	**0.2**	**110,900**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**21,900**	**21,800**	**100**	**0.5**	**22,000**
Wholesale Trade	2,000	1,900	100	5.3	2,000
Retail Trade	15,500	15,700	-200	-1.3	15,700
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	4,400	4,200	200	4.8	4,300
INFORMATION	**2,000**	**2,000**	**0**	**0.0**	**1,900**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**3,600**	**3,400**	**200**	**5.9**	**3,600**
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**9,400**	**9,600**	**-200**	**-2.1**	**9,400**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**19,100**	**18,500**	**600**	**3.2**	**19,000**
Health Care and Social Assistance	16,500	15,900	600	3.8	16,500
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**11,300**	**11,400**	**-100**	**-0.9**	**11,400**
Accommodation and Food Services	9,500	9,700	-200	-2.1	9,700
Food Serv., Restaurants, Drinking Places	7,900	8,000	-100	-1.3	8,000
OTHER SERVICES	**3,500**	**3,600**	**-100**	**-2.8**	**3,600**
GOVERNMENT	**39,900**	**40,200**	**-300**	**-0.7**	**40,000**
Federal	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	2,400
**State & Local	37,600	37,900	-300	-0.8	37,600

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

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**68,100**	**68,700**	**-600**	**-0.9**	**67,900**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**12,800**	**13,200**	**-400**	**-3.0**	**12,800**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**2,600**	**2,700**	**-100**	**-3.7**	**2,600**
MANUFACTURING	**10,200**	**10,500**	**-300**	**-2.9**	**10,200**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**55,300**	**55,500**	**-200**	**-0.4**	**55,100**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**13,500**	**13,600**	**-100**	**-0.7**	**13,800**
Wholesale Trade	2,200	2,200	0	0.0	2,200
Retail Trade	9,300	9,300	0	0.0	9,600
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,000
INFORMATION	**900**	**1,000**	**-100**	**-10.0**	**900**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**2,600**	**2,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,600**
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**6,700**	**6,300**	**400**	**6.3**	**6,500**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**14,000**	**14,400**	**-400**	**-2.8**	**14,000**
Health Care and Social Assistance	12,800	12,900	-100	-0.8	12,800
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**4,700**	**4,600**	**100**	**2.2**	**4,700**
OTHER SERVICES	**2,700**	**2,600**	**100**	**3.8**	**2,700**
GOVERNMENT	**10,200**	**10,400**	**-200**	**-1.9**	**9,900**
Federal	600	600	0	0.0	600
State & Local	9,600	9,800	-200	-2.0	9,300

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

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2005.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

SMALLER LMAS

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT					
ENFIELD LMA	**46,500**	**46,000**	**500**	**1.1**	**47,100**
TORRINGTON LMA	**36,800**	**35,900**	**900**	**2.5**	**36,900**
WILLIMANTIC - DANIELSON LMA	**36,700**	**36,000**	**700**	**1.9**	**36,600**

NOTE: More industry detail data is available for the State and its nine labor market areas at: http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/202/covered.htm. The data published there differ from the data in the preceding tables in that they are developed from a near-universe count of Connecticut employment covered by the unemployment insurance (UI) program, while the data here is sample-based. The data drawn from the UI program does not contain estimates of employment not covered by unemployment insurance, and is lagged several months behind the current employment estimates presented here.

SPRINGFIELD, MA-CT NECTA*

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**291,200**	**290,200**	**1,000**	**0.3**	**289,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**47,400**	**47,000**	**400**	**0.9**	**47,700**
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	**9,300**	**8,900**	**400**	**4.5**	**9,700**
MANUFACTURING	**38,100**	**38,100**	**0**	**0.0**	**38,000**
Durable Goods	**24,000**	**23,900**	**100**	**0.4**	**23,900**
Non-Durable Goods	**14,100**	**14,200**	**-100**	**-0.7**	**14,100**
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	**243,800**	**243,200**	**600**	**0.2**	**242,100**
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	**60,800**	**60,900**	**-100**	**-0.2**	**61,300**
Wholesale Trade	11,500	11,500	0	0.0	11,500
Retail Trade	35,700	35,900	-200	-0.6	36,300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	13,600	13,500	100	0.7	13,500
INFORMATION	**4,400**	**4,600**	**-200**	**-4.3**	**4,500**
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**15,800**	**15,600**	**200**	**1.3**	**15,900**
Finance and Insurance	12,100	11,900	200	1.7	12,100
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	7,300	7,200	100	1.4	7,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	**23,200**	**22,900**	**300**	**1.3**	**23,300**
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	**54,900**	**54,500**	**400**	**0.7**	**53,200**
Educational Services	13,100	12,600	500	4.0	11,300
Health Care and Social Assistance	41,800	41,900	-100	-0.2	41,900
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	**24,300**	**24,500**	**-200**	**-0.8**	**24,200**
OTHER SERVICES	**11,700**	**11,200**	**500**	**4.5**	**11,700**
GOVERNMENT	**48,700**	**49,000**	**-300**	**-0.6**	**48,000**
Federal	6,600	6,800	-200	-2.9	6,600
State & Local	42,100	42,200	-100	-0.2	41,400

* New England City and Town Area

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2005.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LMA LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	FEB 2006	FEB 2005	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 2006
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,811,900	1,790,300	21,600	1.2	1,803,100
	Employed	1,720,500	1,691,800	28,700	1.7	1,711,700
	Unemployed	91,400	98,600	-7,200	-7.3	91,300
	Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.5	-0.5	---	5.1
BRIDGEPORT - STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	458,500	452,400	6,100	1.3	457,900
	Employed	437,400	429,600	7,800	1.8	435,800
	Unemployed	21,000	22,900	-1,900	-8.3	22,200
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.1	-0.5	---	4.8
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	89,300	87,900	1,400	1.6	88,900
	Employed	85,800	84,200	1,600	1.9	85,600
	Unemployed	3,400	3,800	-400	-10.5	3,400
	Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.3	-0.5	---	3.8
ENFIELD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	48,100	47,700	400	0.8	47,300
	Employed	45,500	44,900	600	1.3	45,000
	Unemployed	2,500	2,700	-200	-7.4	2,300
	Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.7	-0.5	---	4.9
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	570,000	562,300	7,700	1.4	566,200
	Employed	539,800	529,800	10,000	1.9	536,600
	Unemployed	30,200	32,500	-2,300	-7.1	29,600
	Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.8	-0.5	---	5.2
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	302,300	299,600	2,700	0.9	299,100
	Employed	287,200	283,200	4,000	1.4	284,200
	Unemployed	15,100	16,400	-1,300	-7.9	15,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.5	-0.5	---	5.0
NORWICH - NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	147,600	146,000	1,600	1.1	147,500
	Employed	140,400	138,800	1,600	1.2	140,400
	Unemployed	7,200	7,300	-100	-1.4	7,100
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.0	-0.1	---	4.8
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	54,200	52,900	1,300	2.5	54,400
	Employed	51,500	49,900	1,600	3.2	51,700
	Unemployed	2,700	3,100	-400	-12.9	2,700
	Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.8	-0.8	---	4.9
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	99,700	99,600	100	0.1	99,500
	Employed	93,100	92,400	700	0.8	93,000
	Unemployed	6,500	7,200	-700	-9.7	6,500
	Unemployment Rate	6.6	7.2	-0.6	---	6.5
WILLIMANTIC-DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	55,800	55,000	800	1.5	55,600
	Employed	52,300	51,500	800	1.6	52,200
	Unemployed	3,400	3,500	-100	-2.9	3,400
	Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.4	-0.2	---	6.1
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	149,686,000	147,649,000	2,037,000	1.4	149,090,000
	Employed	141,994,000	139,100,000	2,894,000	2.1	141,481,000
	Unemployed	7,692,000	8,549,000	-857,000	-10.0	7,608,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.8	-0.7	---	5.1

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2005.

CONNECTICUT

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS FEB 2006	2005	CHG Y/Y	JAN 2006	AVG WEEKLY HOURS FEB 2006	2005	CHG Y/Y	JAN 2006	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS FEB 2006	2005	CHG Y/Y	JAN 2006
MANUFACTURING	**$825.70**	**$788.56**	**$37.14**	**$827.05**	**42.3**	**41.9**	**0.4**	**42.5**	**$19.52**	**$18.82**	**$0.70**	**$19.46**
DURABLE GOODS	**853.71**	**816.48**	**37.23**	**848.42**	**42.2**	**42.0**	**0.2**	**42.4**	**20.23**	**19.44**	**0.79**	**20.01**
Fabricated Metal	759.29	733.56	25.72	761.96	42.3	43.1	-0.8	43.0	17.95	17.02	0.93	17.72
Machinery	789.97	755.30	34.67	811.74	40.1	39.4	0.7	41.5	19.70	19.17	0.53	19.56
Computer & Electronic	663.60	638.78	24.82	672.40	40.0	40.2	-0.2	41.0	16.59	15.89	0.70	16.40
Transport. Equipment	1,045.72	1,018.64	27.08	1,045.66	42.2	42.8	-0.6	42.3	24.78	23.80	0.98	24.72
NON-DUR. GOODS	**752.68**	**714.22**	**38.46**	**771.59**	**42.5**	**41.5**	**1.0**	**42.7**	**17.71**	**17.21**	**0.50**	**18.07**
CONSTRUCTION	**885.87**	**865.96**	**19.91**	**865.80**	**38.6**	**38.3**	**0.3**	**38.6**	**22.95**	**22.61**	**0.34**	**22.43**

LMAs

MANUFACTURING	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS FEB 2006	2005	CHG Y/Y	JAN 2006	AVG WEEKLY HOURS FEB 2006	2005	CHG Y/Y	JAN 2006	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS FEB 2006	2005	CHG Y/Y	JAN 2006
Bridgeport - Stamford	$808.24	$827.12	-$18.88	$860.66	41.3	42.2	-0.9	41.8	$19.57	$19.60	-$0.03	$20.59
New Haven	646.41	637.99	8.42	617.21	39.2	40.1	-0.9	38.6	16.49	15.91	0.58	15.99
Norwich - New London	819.52	787.27	32.25	820.25	42.2	42.1	0.1	42.5	19.42	18.70	0.72	19.30

Due to constraints of the sample upon which estimates are made, manufacturing hours and earnings estimates for the Hartford and Waterbury labor market areas are being suspended.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2005.

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN THE NEWS MEDIA

- February 2006 had the announcement that Geno Auriemma's Fast Break restaurant will open in the Mohegan Sun Casino this spring and employ 70 people. As a result of acquiring Hudson United Bancorp, New Britain based TD Banknorth will be adding 50-60 new jobs. In early 2007, Stew Leonard's will open a new retail food store in Newington which will employ 400 people. Direct Mortgage Services of Naugatuck is looking to add 50 new employees by the end of 2006. In June, the Bank of Greenwich is scheduled to open employing 17 people.

- On February 2, 2006 True North Salmon Company shut down their fish processing plant in Stratford leaving 30 people jobless. February 7, 2006 saw a layoff of 28 workers at Pfizer, Inc. in Groton. Global downsizing was cited as the reason for the layoff at this pharmaceutical manufacturer. As a result of having to perform an environmental cleanup, the Durham Manufacturing company will move 100 jobs to Mexico.

Business & Employment Changes Announced in the News Media lists start-ups, expansions, staff reductions, and layoffs reported by the media, both current and future. The report provides company name, the number of workers involved, date of the action, the principal product or service of the company, a brief synopsis of the action, and the source and date of the media article. This publication is available in both HTML and PDF formats at the Connecticut Department of Labor Web site, http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/busemp.htm.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES BY TOWN

(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

FEBRUARY 2006

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
BRIDGEPORT-STAMFORD				
	458,451	**437,425**	**21,026**	**4.6**
Ansonia	9,784	9,177	607	6.2
Bridgeport	61,741	56,809	4,932	8.0
Darien	8,972	8,685	287	3.2
Derby	6,756	6,358	398	5.9
Easton	3,667	3,541	126	3.4
Fairfield	27,530	26,466	1,064	3.9
Greenwich	29,425	28,473	952	3.2
Milford	30,499	29,195	1,304	4.3
Monroe	10,391	9,991	400	3.8
New Canaan	8,648	8,398	250	2.9
Newtown	13,782	13,324	458	3.3
Norwalk	47,392	45,304	2,088	4.4
Oxford	6,389	6,133	256	4.0
Redding	4,431	4,295	136	3.1
Ridgefield	11,426	11,087	339	3.0
Seymour	8,935	8,478	457	5.1
Shelton	21,899	20,928	971	4.4
Southbury	8,774	8,408	366	4.2
Stamford	64,980	62,296	2,684	4.1
Stratford	25,592	24,245	1,347	5.3
Trumbull	17,473	16,801	672	3.8
Weston	4,765	4,643	122	2.6
Westport	12,304	11,897	407	3.3
Wilton	8,131	7,873	258	3.2
Woodbridge	4,768	4,623	145	3.0
DANBURY	**89,264**	**85,835**	**3,429**	**3.8**
Bethel	10,690	10,308	382	3.6
Bridgewater	1,011	985	26	2.6
Brookfield	8,800	8,484	316	3.6
Danbury	43,173	41,407	1,766	4.1
New Fairfield	7,462	7,207	255	3.4
New Milford	16,020	15,406	614	3.8
Sherman	2,107	2,037	70	3.3
ENFIELD	**48,054**	**45,541**	**2,513**	**5.2**
East Windsor	5,939	5,581	358	6.0
Enfield	23,585	22,337	1,248	5.3
Somers	4,613	4,377	236	5.1
Suffield	7,069	6,749	320	4.5
Windsor Locks	6,848	6,497	351	5.1
HARTFORD	**570,013**	**539,780**	**30,233**	**5.3**
Andover	1,933	1,851	82	4.2
Ashford	2,527	2,419	108	4.3
Avon	8,885	8,579	306	3.4
Barkhamsted	2,193	2,080	113	5.2
Berlin	10,784	10,278	506	4.7
Bloomfield	9,765	9,204	561	5.7
Bolton	2,996	2,888	108	3.6
Bristol	33,629	31,587	2,042	6.1
Burlington	5,153	4,958	195	3.8

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
HARTFORD cont....				
Canton	5,382	5,185	197	3.7
Colchester	8,603	8,193	410	4.8
Columbia	2,967	2,851	116	3.9
Coventry	6,880	6,556	324	4.7
Cromwell	7,658	7,310	348	4.5
East Granby	2,865	2,733	132	4.6
East Haddam	5,025	4,823	202	4.0
East Hampton	6,615	6,228	387	5.9
East Hartford	25,021	23,410	1,611	6.4
Ellington	8,441	8,078	363	4.3
Farmington	12,529	12,033	496	4.0
Glastonbury	17,726	17,110	616	3.5
Granby	6,104	5,862	242	4.0
Haddam	4,629	4,453	176	3.8
Hartford	48,167	43,375	4,792	9.9
Hartland	1,184	1,133	51	4.3
Harwinton	3,085	2,940	145	4.7
Hebron	5,323	5,108	215	4.0
Lebanon	4,191	3,993	198	4.7
Manchester	31,238	29,728	1,510	4.8
Mansfield	12,462	12,001	461	3.7
Marlborough	3,494	3,349	145	4.1
Middlefield	2,352	2,248	104	4.4
Middletown	25,721	24,549	1,172	4.6
New Britain	34,356	31,698	2,658	7.7
New Hartford	3,693	3,523	170	4.6
Newington	16,314	15,586	728	4.5
Plainville	9,968	9,404	564	5.7
Plymouth	6,749	6,313	436	6.5
Portland	5,127	4,901	226	4.4
Rocky Hill	10,466	10,003	463	4.4
Simsbury	11,750	11,347	403	3.4
Southington	23,520	22,428	1,092	4.6
South Windsor	14,290	13,743	547	3.8
Stafford	6,691	6,343	348	5.2
Thomaston	4,592	4,299	293	6.4
Tolland	8,083	7,783	300	3.7
Union	454	442	12	2.6
Vernon	16,802	15,994	808	4.8
West Hartford	28,791	27,590	1,201	4.2
Wethersfield	13,241	12,597	644	4.9
Willington	3,834	3,687	147	3.8
Windsor	15,765	15,006	759	4.8

All Labor Market Areas(LMAs) in Connecticut except three are federally-designated areas for developing labor statistics.For the sake of simplicity, the federal Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk NECTA is referred to in Connecticut DOL publications as the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA, and the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford NECTA is the Hartford LMA.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified 17 towns in the northwest part of the state as a separate area for reporting labor force data. For the convenience of our data users, these towns are included in the Torrington LMA. For the same purpose, five towns which are part of the Springfield, MA area are published as the Enfield LMA. Similarly the towns of Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock-part of the Worcester, MA area-plus four towns estimated separately are included in the Willimantic-Danielson LMA.

LABOR FORCE CONCEPTS

The **civilian labor force** comprises all state residents age 16 years and older classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with criteria described below. Excluded are members of the military and persons in institutions (correctional and mental health, for example).

The **employed** are all persons who did any work as paid employees or in their own business during the survey week, or who have worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member. Persons temporarily absent from a job because of illness, bad weather, strike or for personal reasons are also counted as employed whether they were paid by their employer or were seeking other jobs.

The **unemployed** are all persons who did not work, but were available for work during the survey week (except for temporary illness) and made specific efforts to find a job in the prior four weeks. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES BY TOWN

Town

(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

FEBRUARY 2006

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
NEW HAVEN	**302,280**	**287,169**	**15,111**	**5.0**
Bethany	2,974	2,875	99	3.3
Branford	16,969	16,297	672	4.0
Cheshire	14,421	13,903	518	3.6
Chester	2,224	2,150	74	3.3
Clinton	7,813	7,469	344	4.4
Deep River	2,558	2,438	120	4.7
Durham	4,093	3,945	148	3.6
East Haven	15,788	14,967	821	5.2
Essex	3,724	3,586	138	3.7
Guilford	12,629	12,204	425	3.4
Hamden	30,240	28,895	1,345	4.4
Killingworth	3,503	3,371	132	3.8
Madison	9,830	9,525	305	3.1
Meriden	30,745	28,881	1,864	6.1
New Haven	54,316	50,447	3,869	7.1
North Branford	8,165	7,780	385	4.7
North Haven	12,700	12,160	540	4.3
Old Saybrook	5,371	5,141	230	4.3
Orange	6,975	6,715	260	3.7
Wallingford	24,677	23,556	1,121	4.5
Westbrook	3,572	3,438	134	3.8
West Haven	28,992	27,427	1,565	5.4
***NORWICH-NEW LONDON**				
	134,142	**127,785**	**6,357**	**4.7**
Bozrah	1,457	1,375	82	5.6
Canterbury	3,109	2,929	180	5.8
East Lyme	9,474	9,091	383	4.0
Franklin	1,168	1,122	46	3.9
Griswold	6,938	6,556	382	5.5
Groton	19,016	18,135	881	4.6
Ledyard	8,330	8,034	296	3.6
Lisbon	2,512	2,409	103	4.1
Lyme	1,131	1,093	38	3.4
Montville	10,728	10,256	472	4.4
New London	13,391	12,590	801	6.0
No. Stonington	3,196	3,061	135	4.2
Norwich	20,239	19,094	1,145	5.7
Old Lyme	4,167	4,016	151	3.6
Preston	2,772	2,649	123	4.4
Salem	2,535	2,427	108	4.3
Sprague	1,791	1,664	127	7.1
Stonington	10,246	9,911	335	3.3
Voluntown	1,580	1,506	74	4.7
Waterford	10,360	9,865	495	4.8

*Connecticut portion only. For whole NECTA, including Rhode Island town, see below.

NORWICH-NEW LONDON				
	147,571	**140,398**	**7,173**	**4.9**
Westerly, RI	13,429	12,613	816	6.1

Labor Force estimates are prepared following statistical procedures developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
TORRINGTON	**54,229**	**51,524**	**2,705**	**5.0**
Bethlehem	2,036	1,941	95	4.7
Canaan	612	581	31	5.1
Colebrook	821	800	21	2.6
Cornwall	830	795	35	4.2
Goshen	1,534	1,478	56	3.7
Kent	1,575	1,521	54	3.4
Litchfield	4,339	4,142	197	4.5
Morris	1,303	1,248	55	4.2
Norfolk	958	914	44	4.6
North Canaan	1,740	1,653	87	5.0
Roxbury	1,357	1,312	45	3.3
Salisbury	1,994	1,908	86	4.3
Sharon	1,542	1,501	41	2.7
Torrington	19,459	18,274	1,185	6.1
Warren	726	692	34	4.7
Washington	1,932	1,865	67	3.5
Winchester	6,038	5,654	384	6.4
Woodbury	5,431	5,244	187	3.4
WATERBURY	**99,682**	**93,146**	**6,536**	**6.6**
Beacon Falls	3,175	3,011	164	5.2
Middlebury	3,653	3,512	141	3.9
Naugatuck	16,909	15,922	987	5.8
Prospect	5,186	4,952	234	4.5
Waterbury	49,734	45,746	3,988	8.0
Watertown	12,200	11,600	600	4.9
Wolcott	8,826	8,403	423	4.8
WILLIMANTIC-DANIELSON				
	55,776	**52,331**	**3,445**	**6.2**
Brooklyn	3,716	3,527	189	5.1
Chaplin	1,390	1,312	78	5.6
Eastford	955	913	42	4.4
Hampton	1,138	1,067	71	6.2
Killingly	9,154	8,535	619	6.8
Plainfield	8,244	7,709	535	6.5
Pomfret	2,223	2,104	119	5.4
Putnam	5,061	4,743	318	6.3
Scotland	956	926	30	3.1
Sterling	1,897	1,777	120	6.3
Thompson	5,215	4,911	304	5.8
Windham	11,424	10,623	801	7.0
Woodstock	4,402	4,184	218	5.0

Not Seasonally Adjusted:				
CONNECTICUT	1,811,900	1,720,500	91,400	5.0
UNITED STATES	149,686,000	141,994,000	7,692,000	5.1
Seasonally Adjusted:				
CONNECTICUT	1,829,400	1,746,800	82,600	4.5
UNITED STATES	150,449,000	143,257,000	7,193,000	4.8

LABOR FORCE CONCEPTS (Continued)

The **unemployment rate** represents the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

With the exception of those persons temporarily absent from a job or waiting to be recalled to one, persons with no job and who are not actively looking for one are counted as "not in the labor force".

Over the course of a year, the size of the labor force and the levels of employment undergo fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays and the opening and closing of schools. Because these seasonal events follow a regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the monthly statistics. **Seasonal Adjustment** makes it easier to observe cyclical and other nonseasonal developments.

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	Feb 2006	YR TO DATE 2006	YR TO DATE 2005
Andover	0	1	0
Ansonia	0	0	1
Ashford	1	2	3
Avon	2	6	4
Barkhamsted	na	na	na
Beacon Falls	na	na	na
Berlin	7	7	5
Bethany	na	na	na
Bethel	3	3	1
Bethlehem	na	na	na
Bloomfield	na	na	na
Bolton	2	3	1
Bozrah	1	3	2
Branford	na	na	na
Bridgeport	15	25	9
Bridgewater	na	na	na
Bristol	1	6	2
Brookfield	na	na	na
Brooklyn	4	6	4
Burlington	0	0	2
Canaan	0	0	0
Canterbury	1	6	1
Canton	1	2	12
Chaplin	1	2	2
Cheshire	5	6	3
Chester	na	na	na
Clinton	0	1	4
Colchester	5	9	5
Colebrook	0	0	1
Columbia	2	2	4
Cornwall	1	2	0
Coventry	7	12	4
Cromwell	0	0	1
Danbury	33	39	46
Darien	na	na	na
Deep River	1	1	0
Derby	na	na	na
Durham	3	6	6
East Granby	0	1	2
East Haddam	2	2	3
East Hampton	1	4	26
East Hartford	na	na	na
East Haven	3	5	1
East Lyme	9	14	7
East Windsor	4	6	3
Eastford	0	2	2
Easton	1	1	0
Ellington	7	14	8
Enfield	na	na	na
Essex	1	1	0
Fairfield	5	20	22
Farmington	29	41	3
Franklin	0	0	0
Glastonbury	3	30	9
Goshen	2	5	3
Granby	2	4	10
Greenwich	15	31	16
Griswold	na	na	na
Groton	2	7	68
Guilford	6	13	6
Haddam	5	11	2
Hamden	1	3	3
Hampton	1	2	1
Hartford	134	134	46
Hartland	na	na	na
Harwinton	2	4	2
Hebron	na	na	na
Kent	1	2	2
Killingly	6	28	10
Killingworth	na	na	na
Lebanon	0	3	5
Ledyard	0	2	5
Lisbon	1	1	2
Litchfield	na	na	na
Lyme	0	1	0
Madison	6	10	3
Manchester	7	14	23
Mansfield	2	8	8
Marlborough	2	4	2
Meriden	1	2	11
Middlebury	na	na	na
Middlefield	0	0	0
Middletown	14	28	31
Milford	23	44	25
Monroe	0	2	7
Montville	3	5	5
Morris	0	0	1
Naugatuck	4	8	9
New Britain	na	na	na
New Canaan	5	8	8
New Fairfield	na	na	na
New Hartford	1	3	4
New Haven	4	15	2
New London	5	10	6
New Milford	5	7	11
Newington	22	25	4
Newtown	2	5	6
Norfolk	0	0	0
North Branford	na	na	na
North Canaan	0	0	0
North Haven	2	2	8
North Stonington	2	3	0
Norwalk	12	17	25
Norwich	4	5	85
Old Lyme	na	na	na
Old Saybrook	0	0	13
Orange	na	na	na
Oxford	10	14	27
Plainfield	1	4	3
Plainville	0	0	2
Plymouth	2	3	2
Pomfret	2	3	2
Portland	2	10	7
Preston	1	3	2
Prospect	na	na	na
Putnam	2	4	4
Redding	na	na	na
Ridgefield	3	6	6
Rocky Hill	6	12	5
Roxbury	na	na	na
Salem	0	2	2
Salisbury	na	na	na
Scotland	1	2	2
Seymour	10	11	0
Sharon	0	0	1
Shelton	8	19	30
Sherman	na	na	na
Simsbury	2	8	9
Somers	2	6	5
South Windsor	9	19	4
Southbury	1	3	10
Southington	5	10	17
Sprague	0	2	2
Stafford	na	na	na
Stamford	11	20	16
Sterling	na	na	na
Stonington	4	12	11
Stratford	1	4	4
Suffield	3	4	15
Thomaston	na	na	na
Thompson	na	na	na
Tolland	4	10	7
Torrington	2	7	6
Trumbull	1	4	3
Union	0	0	1
Vernon	14	27	27
Voluntown	0	2	1
Wallingford	2	5	22
Warren	0	1	1
Washington	na	na	na
Waterbury	15	18	17
Waterford	0	5	3
Watertown	5	11	7
West Hartford	36	42	1
West Haven	na	na	na
Westbrook	1	1	9
Weston	na	na	na
Westport	6	13	16
Wethersfield	na	na	na
Willington	0	0	3
Wilton	na	na	na
Winchester	2	2	2
Windham	1	3	5
Windsor	na	na	na
Windsor Locks	na	na	na
Wolcott	5	6	4
Woodbridge	na	na	na
Woodbury	1	1	3
Woodstock	1	5	5

For further information on the housing permit data, contact Kolie Sun of DECD at (860) 270-8167.

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

Registrations and terminations of business entities as recorded with the Secretary of the State and the Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) are an indication of new business formation and activity. DOL business starts include new employers which have become liable for unemployment insurance taxes during the quarter, as well as new establishments opened by existing employers. DOL business terminations are those accounts discontinued due to inactivity (no employees) or business closure, and accounts for individual business establishments that are closed by still active employers. The Secretary of the State 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.

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. These data are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

INDIAN GAMING DATA

Indian Gaming Payments are amounts received by the State as a result of the slot compact with the two Federally recognized tribes in Connecticut, which calls for 25 percent of net slot receipts to be remitted to the State. Indian Gaming Slots are the total net revenues from slot machines only received by the two Federally recognized Indian tribes.

INITIAL CLAIMS

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

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

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

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

Labor force estimates are a measure of the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Prepared under the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the statewide estimates are the product of a signal-plus noise 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. Beginning with the publication of January 2005 data, an improved methodology is being used to develop labor force estimates, by which monthly state model-based employment and unemployment estimates are controlled to add to the national CPS levels. This will ensure that national economic events are reflected in the state estimates, and it will significantly reduce end-of-year revisions. (For more information, please see the Connecticut Economic Digest, December 2004 issue.) 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 (LMAs) in Connecticut except three are federally-designated areas for developing labor statistics. For the sake of simplicity, the federal Bridgeport-Norwalk-Stamford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is referred to in Connecticut Department of Labor publications as the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA, and the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford MSA is called the Hartford LMA. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified the 17 towns in the in the northwestern part of the state 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 LMA. For the same purpose, data for the towns of East Windsor, Enfield, Somers, Suffield and Windsor Locks, which are officially part of the Springfield MSA, are published as the Enfield LMA. Similarly, the towns of Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock - part of the Worcester MSA - are included in the Willimantic-Danielson LMA. Also, data for Westerly, Rhode Island are included in the Norwich-New London LMA. Industry employment and labor force data estimates contained in Connecticut Department of Labor publications are prepared following the same statistical procedures developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, whether for federally designated or state-determined areas.

LEADING AND COINCIDENT EMPLOYMENT INDICES

The leading employment index is a composite of six individual largely employment-related series -- the average workweek of manufacturing production and construction workers, Hartford help-wanted advertising index, short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, initial claims for unemployment insurance, total housing permits, and Moody's BAA corporate bond yield. While not employment-sector variables, housing permits are closely related to construction employment and the corporate bond yield adds important information about the movement in interest rates. The coincident employment index is a composite indicator of four individual employment-related series -- the total unemployment rate, nonfarm employment (employer survey), total employment (state residents employed measured by a household survey), and the insured unemployment rate. All data are seasonally adjusted and come from the Connecticut Labor Department, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

Nonfarm employment estimates are derived from a survey of businesses to measure *jobs* by industry. The estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Excluded from these estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees and unpaid family workers. In some cases, due to space constraints, all industry estimates are not shown. Call (860) 263-6275 for a more comprehensive breakout of nonfarm employment estimates. These data are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 5-8 for reference months or quarters)

Leading Employment Index	**+0.7**
Coincident Employment Index	**+1.2**
Leading General Drift Indicator	**+0.8**
Coincident General Drift Indicator	**+0.1**
Banknorth Business Barometer	**+0.5**
Total Nonfarm Employment	**+0.7**
Unemployment Rate	**-0.5**
Labor Force	+1.0
Employed	+1.4
Unemployed	-7.9
Average Weekly Initial Claims	**+5.8**
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford	**+9.1**
Avg Insured Unempl. Rate	**-0.21***
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg	**+1.0**
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg	**+3.7**
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg	**+4.7**
CT Mfg. Production Index	**+5.8**
Production Worker Hours	-0.9
Industrial Electricity Sales	+6.9
Personal Income	**+4.6**
UI Covered Wages	**+4.2**

Business Activity	
New Housing Permits	+23.2
Electricity Sales	+7.7
Retail Sales	-0.6
Construction Contracts Index	+35.7
New Auto Registrations	-29.0
Air Cargo Tons	+4.5
Exports	+17.5
Business Starts	
Secretary of the State	-1.4
Dept. of Labor	-3.6
Business Terminations	
Secretary of the State	+4.0
Dept. of Labor	-25.3
State Revenues	**+4.8**
Corporate Tax	+36.9
Personal Income Tax	+7.3
Real Estate Conveyance Tax	+9.1
Sales & Use Tax	+6.1
Indian Gaming Payments	+1.0

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

Tourism and Travel	
Info Center Visitors	+0.6
Attraction Visitors	+7.7
Air Passenger Count	-3.5
Indian Gaming Slots	-1.4
Travel and Tourism Index	+1.6
Employment Cost Index (U.S.)	
Total	+3.0
Wages & Salaries	+2.5
Benefit Costs	+4.1
Consumer Prices	
U.S. City Average	+3.6
Northeast Region	+3.9
NY-NJ-Long Island	+3.6
Boston-Brockton-Nashua	+4.4
Consumer Confidence	
Connecticut	NA
New England	-16.9
U.S.	-7.3
Interest Rates	
Prime	+2.01*
Conventional Mortgage	+0.62*

THE CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC DIGEST

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- **What article topics would you like to see covered in future issues?**
- **What additional data would you like to see included in the Digest?**

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