THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

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- Connecticut exports increased by 4.2 percent in 1998 to an all-time high value of $8.1 billion. (article, pp.1-2, 4)
- Industry clusters: cluster supply chains. (p.3)
- Job CONNect '99: new job fairs announced. (p.3)
- Employment increased in February by 3,400, and 28,400 above a year ago. (p.6)
- Unemployment rate in February: 3.1 percent, up from 3.0 percent in January. (p.6)
- February's new housing permits were down 19.9 percent over the year. (Business Activity, p.7)

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1998 Exports Reach All-Time High

By Mark R. Prisloe, Associate Economist

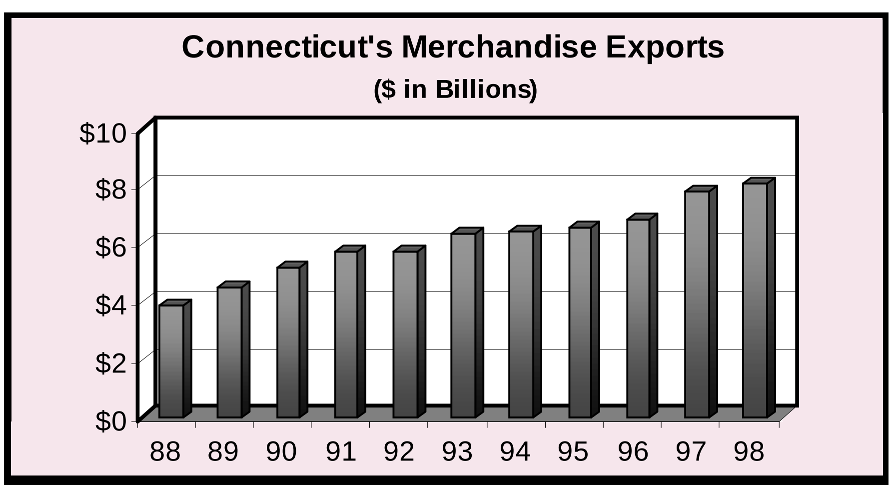
Merchandise exports from Connecticut businesses to foreign markets increased by 4.2 percent in 1998 to an all-time high value of $8.1 billion. The 1998 increase of $328 million outpaced U.S. exports for the same period, which decreased 1.0 percent. Connecticut's export growth marked a decade-long trend of annual increases and exceeded all but one New England state (Maine, up 4.5 percent) and such major northeastern exporting states as New York (down 0.4 percent), New Jersey (up 2.1 percent), and Pennsylvania (down 1.4 percent).

Export Growth

Export growth is a strongly encouraging economic indicator revealing the competitiveness of Connecticut companies in world markets, the overall strength of Connecticut's economy, and efforts of the Department's Industry Cluster and International Division. Connecticut's favorable export performance in 1998, significantly, is closing a gap in export growth compared with the U.S. as a whole that has been observed in the quarterly data since 1988.

Strategic Plan

To address this, in 1997, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) sought to expand international export growth by establishing goals in its *International Strategic Action Plan*. Among other things, the *Plan* set quantifiable targets for export growth. Interestingly, the 1998 exports repre-



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

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Table 1

Connecticut Export Industries	Value of Exports ($ in millions)
Transportation Equipment	$3,002.1
Industrial Machinery and Computer Equipment	954.1
Instruments and Related Products	940.9
Electronic, Electric Equipment, excluding Computers	615.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	588.7
Fabricated Metal Products	291.9
Primary Metal Industries	244.5
Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastic Products	190.8
Paper and Allied Products	149.3
Scrap and Waste	127.4
Apparel and Other Textile Products	124.2
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	117.2

sented 6.7 percent of the State's estimated $121 billion total output as measured by Gross State Product (GSP), up from 6.5 percent in 1997, at the time of the DECD's *Strategic Plan*. U.S. exports averaged 8.0 percent of Gross Domestic Product. In addition, Connecticut now has trade representatives in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Africa, China, and Israel.

Data Source

The source of export data is the U.S. Department of Commerce, which releases the data quarterly, based on the merchandise export data from Shippers Export Declarations. The state-level estimates are produced by the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER). No comparable state statistics on imports are available and no estimates of service exports by state are made. Although MISER makes available data for both the "zip code of exporter" and "state of origin of movement," only the later data are referenced in this report.

Export Industries

Transportation equipment such as aircraft, aircraft engines and parts, helicopters, and other ship and aerospace products and parts lead Connecticut's merchandise exports. Their total dollar value exceeds $3 billion, and was up 32.8 percent in 1998 alone. While this is undoubtedly Connecticut's major export industry, the diversification of exports can be exemplified by shipments of industrial machinery and computer equipment of nearly $1 billion, instruments and related products valued at over $940 million, electronic and electrical equipment above $615 million, and chemicals and allied products of $589 million. The top ten leading Connecticut export industries and their dollar values in millions are shown in Table 1 above.

Export Countries

Connecticut exported to 176 destination countries in 1998. Canada continued to be Connecticut's leading export market with a 2.2 percent increase over the year to $1.9 billion. Also among Connecticut's top five trading partners are France, up 133.9 percent to $937 million; Germany, up 6.0 percent to $497 million; Japan, down 13.5 to $488 million; and United Kingdom, down 28.3 percent to $469 million. The top ten leading export destinations and their dollar value in millions are shown in Table 2 on page 4.

Continued on page 4

Job CONNect '99 — New Job Fairs Announced

STAMFORD	Stamford UCONN Campus May 19th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
MERIDEN	Meriden Business & Learning Center May 27th, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
WATERBURY	To Be Announced

Register on line through our web site at ***www.ctdol.state.ct.us*** *or* call the **Job Fair Hotline at (860)263-6306**.

HOUSING UPDATE

February Housing Permits Down 19.9%

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 518 new housing units in February 1999, a 19.9 percent decrease compared to February of 1998 when 647 were authorized.

"Record high levels of permit activity in 1998 make the comparisons for this month and year-to-date appear less robust than warranted," Commissioner Abromaitis said. "Strong permit activity will continue to hinge on positive economic growth."

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Litchfield County with 43.8 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in February compared to the same month a year ago. Middlesex County followed with a 26.2 percent increase.

Hartford County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in February with 118. Fairfield County followed with 113 units and New Haven County had 103 units. Glastonbury led all Connecticut communities with 24 units, followed by Newtown with 14 and Bridgeport, Middletown and New Milford tied at 12. ■

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

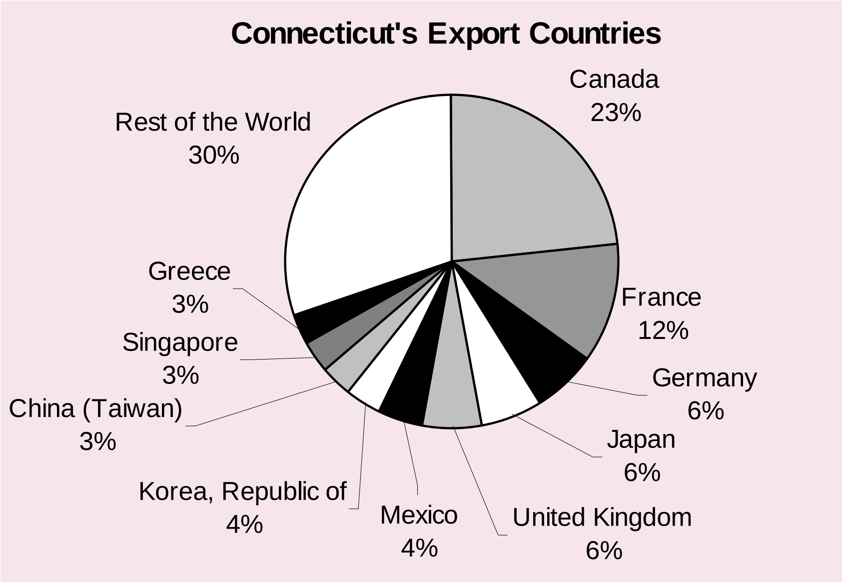
Industry Clusters

Cluster Supply Chains

Central to the concept of an industry cluster is the notion of traded sector or economic base. Briefly, economic base refers to those industries which sell most or all of their products and services outside of the regional economy. These external sales generate revenue that flows back into the regional economy to purchase labor, specialized services, intermediate goods and raw materials (indirect effect). These payments into the local economy, in turn, tend to get spent locally on housing, clothing, food, entertainment and other local business suppliers and service firms (induced effect). The overall impact of any cluster on the regional economy is due, in large part, to the dollar volume of its local supply chain, that is, what share of total industry cluster consumption firms in the region are supplying.

The total amount of goods and services consumed by any industry, as well as the proportion of those goods and services provided by local industry, can be estimated through the use of input/output (I/O) tables. I/O tables describe interindustry linkages by quantifying the buy-sell relationship between and among each industry in the regional economy. In addition, the I/O table estimates the amount of total demand supplied locally and reports this as a regional purchase coefficient (RPC). The RPC can range from 0.0, in the case where none of the demand is being supplied locally, to 1.0, where all industry demand for a given product or service is being supplied by local firms. Thus, for a given industry, one could estimate the dollar value of the supply chain being supplied locally by multiplying the RPC by the total dollar demand.

Using the I/O table for Connecticut, the State will shortly begin developing a more comprehensive and updated definition of selected industry clusters by identifying the key local supply chains. This process will result in a better understanding of the structure and composition of Connecticut's industry clusters and help expand the level of participation in the cluster initiative.



Traditional Trade Partners

Connecticut's top ten trading partners have traditionally included the European Union nations of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Although exports to the U.K. were down in 1998, Connecticut exports to France were up significantly. An examination of industries shows a major boost came from transportation equipment. Similarly, Connecticut exports to Germany were dominated by relatively large but even increases in orders in industrial machinery, chemicals, fabricated metals, as well as transportation equipment. Overall, the State's European exports of $3.3 billion grew 18.6 percent, faster than the U.S. growth rate of 4.5 percent in 1998.

Asian and Eastern Markets

Although much attention was paid in 1998 to the emerging markets, especially Asia, and Connecticut's exports to these markets were down 12.6 percent compared to a year ago, there is some surprising strength in this region. Taiwan, for example, is a notable exception with Connecticut exports exceeding $256 million, up 44.7 percent; exports to Singapore, at $242 million, were also up 0.6 percent. Connecticut's exports to the People's Republic of China were down 23.6 percent. Although overall Connecticut exports to Japan were down 13.5 percent, exports of a few specific industries increased, notably fabricated metals, up 65.8 percent. The State's exports to Russia were up 12.0 percent.

Table 2
Connecticut Export Countries

Country	($ in millions)
Canada	$1,895.2
France	937.2
Germany	496.5
Japan	487.6
United Kingdom	468.9
Mexico	332.0
Korea, Republic of	285.3
China (Taiwan)	255.8
Singapore	246.5
Greece	242.0
Rest of the World	$2,465.3

Latin American Markets

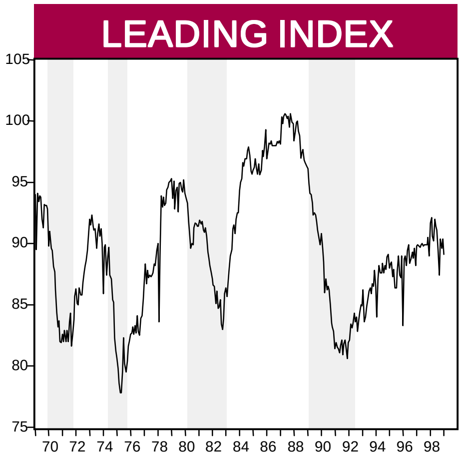
Exports to Mexico, a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partner were down 8.9 percent, but still exceeded $332 million in 1998. Connecticut exports to NAFTA partners are up 24.2 percent since the implementation of the treaty in 1994, whereas U.S. NAFTA exports are up 64.4 percent since then. One of the world's emerging markets, namely Brazil, imported $80 million from Connecticut, down 7.6 percent in 1998. Yet, Connecticut exports to the Mercosur countries overall (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) in 1998 were up 7.2 percent in contrast to the U.S. decrease of 3.2 percent. Connecticut exports to Argentina alone were $52 million, up a notable 41.7 percent. Connecticut also increased exports to Peru, a total of $13 million, up 36.5, and to Chile $36 million, up 49.1 percent.

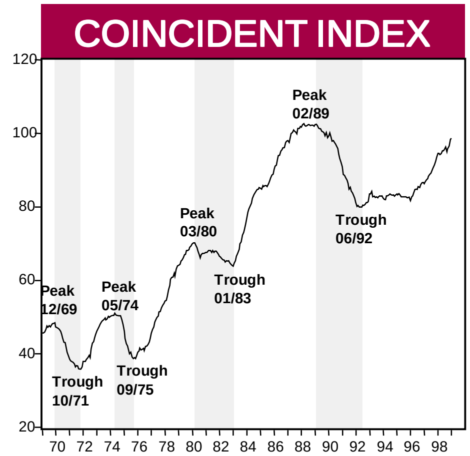
Export Jobs

A recent report for the American Council for Capital Formation cites 12 million of 67 million U.S. employees whose employment is export-related. Applying the same percentage to Connecticut nonfarm employment implies that 292,000 in-state jobs are directly or indirectly related to exports. Alternatively, if there are 36 jobs for each $1 million of export value, this means that the 1998 increase of $328 million in exports supported approximately 12,000 additional jobs statewide in 1998, underscoring the importance of increased exports to the further expansion of jobs in the State.

Export Services

In a concerted effort to promote Connecticut in foreign markets, the Department of Economic and Community Development launched "Access International," a new service to give businesses considering exporting and international investment a single point-of-entry to the resources – both public and private – they may need to succeed. The program is offered in collaboration with the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC). For more information, call the Access International line at 1-800-392-2122. ■





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

Coincident Index Bullish; Leading Index Mixed

The Connecticut coincident employment index, once again, moved to a new peak with the release of (preliminary) January data. During the past year, the coincident index fell in only two months — March and September. The coincident index now stands a level not seen since March 1990 and not too far from its prior peak in February 1989. The Connecticut leading employment index continued to send mixed signals about the future path of the Connecticut economy by falling in January. This past year, the leading index moved higher in three of the first four months and then fell for four consecutive months. It has bounced around since then, moving up in October, down in November, up in December, and finally down in January. We have carefully monitored the leading index over the past year because its movements have raised some concern about the possibility of an impending slowdown in the Connecticut economy. The January number, as already noted, provides continuing uncertainty about the probable next systematic move in the leading index — higher, signaling continued expansion, or lower, signaling a future slowdown or downturn.

This month, we compare the level of the coincident index today with its previous peak in February 1989. Currently, the coincident index lies 3.7 percent below its prior peak of 102.5. Only one component of the coincident index, the unemployment rate, is more bullish today than at the previous peak — 3.0 percent now versus 3.2 percent then. The other components were more bullish in February 1989 — non-farm employment was 1,678,300 then and 1,660,500 now; total employment, 1,693,800 then and 1,667,400 now; and the insured unemployment rate, 1.53 percent then and 2.06 percent now. To accurately evaluate these numbers, we need to remember that the labor force in the state fell by about 100,000 during the 1990s. In sum, the Connecticut economy has nearly recovered from the Great Recession of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 94.6 in January 1998 to 98.7 in January 1999. All four components of the index, once again, point in a positive direction on a year-over-year basis with higher nonfarm employment, higher total employment, a lower insured unemployment rate, and a lower total unemployment rate.

The leading employment index decreased from 91.7 in January 1998 to 89.1 in January 1999. All five index components sent negative signals on a year-over-year basis with a higher short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, higher initial claims for unemployment insurance, a shorter average work week of manufacturing production workers, lower total housing permits, and lower Hartford help-wanted advertising. This is the first time since we began reporting the leading index that all five components sent negative signals on a year-over-year basis in the same month. ■

Source: Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut. Developed by Pami Dua [Economic Cycle Research Center; NY, NY] and Stephen M. Miller [(860) 486-3853, Storrs Campus]. Kathryn E. Parr and Hulya Varol [(860) 486-3022, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Total employment increased by 28,400 over the year, or 1.7 percent. The finance, insurance, & real estate sector experienced the biggest percent job growth from last year.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM	1,663.9	1,635.5	28.4	1.7	1,660.5
Private Sector	1,434.6	1,410.2	24.4	1.7	1,430.9
Construction and Mining	61.9	60.4	1.5	2.5	61.8
Manufacturing	276.0	279.7	-3.7	-1.3	276.3
Transportation, Public Utilities	76.7	75.9	0.8	1.1	76.2
Wholesale, Retail Trade	359.7	354.4	5.3	1.5	357.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	138.8	133.7	5.1	3.8	138.8
Services	521.5	506.1	15.4	3.0	520.0
Government	229.3	225.3	4.0	1.8	229.6

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

February's unemployment rate fell, as the labor force increased from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted)	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	3.1	3.6	-0.5	---	3.0
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,722.7	1,703.2	19.5	1.1	1,729.5
Employed (000s)	1,669.7	1,642.0	27.7	1.7	1,677.4
Unemployed (000s)	53.0	61.2	-8.2	-13.4	52.2
Average Weekly Initial Claims	3,885	3,573	312	8.7	4,252
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100	36	38	-2	-5.3	33
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.08	2.09	-0.01	---	2.15

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

Both production worker weekly earnings and output decreased over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

(Not seasonally adjusted)	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
Average Weekly Hours	41.9	42.9	-1.0	-2.3	41.8
Average Hourly Earnings	$15.01	$14.68	$0.33	2.2	$15.00
Average Weekly Earnings	$628.92	$629.77	-$0.85	-0.1	$627.00
Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*	123.7	126.2	-2.5	-2.0	121.6
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,724	6,966	-242	-3.5	6,654
Productivity Index (1982=100)*	191.9	189.2	2.7	1.4	191.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor
**Seasonally adjusted*

Personal income for second quarter 1999 is forecasted to increase 4.5 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME (Quarterly)

(Seasonally adjusted) (Annualized; $ Millions)	2Q* 1999	2Q 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	1Q* 1999
Personal Income	$127,531	$122,060	$5,471	4.5	$126,605
UI Covered Wages	$70,226	$65,298	$4,928	7.5	$69,531

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: January 1999 release
**Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor*
NA= Not Available

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Retail sales grew by 6.8 percent last year.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
New Housing Permits	FEB 1999	518	-19.9	1,267	1,384	-8.5
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	DEC 1998	2,716	6.2	28,952	28,387	2.0
Retail Sales (Bil. $)	DEC 1998	5.65	6.8	38.88	36.41	6.8
Construction Contracts						
Index (1980=100)	JAN 1999	167.6	-34.9	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	FEB 1999	16,524	31.1	40,896	33,357	22.6
Air Cargo Tons	JAN 1999	8,867	-16.2	8,867	10,581	-16.2

Sources: Department of Economic and Community Development; U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration; Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; F.W. Dodge; Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles; Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

Net business formations as measured by starts minus stops registered with the State Department of Labor declined by 448 for the first two months of this year.

	FEB 1999	% CHANGE M/M	Y/Y	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	1,702	-6.7	2.3	3,526	3,509	0.5
Department of Labor	1,025	39.3	1.7	1,761	1,777	-0.9
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	297	-16.3	-2.9	651	655	-0.6
Department of Labor	748	-48.8	-8.0	2,209	2,131	3.7

Sources: Connecticut Secretary of the State -- corporations and other legal entities
Connecticut Department of Labor -- unemployment insurance program registrations

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

Overall tax collections were up 3.5 percent through the fiscal year to February. The largest gain was the real estate conveyance tax, up 13.6 percent.

(Millions of dollars)	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	% CHG	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 1998-99	1997-98	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	589.7	562.7	4.8	4,899.1	4,731.4	3.5
Corporate Tax	12.8	12.0	6.7	248.8	252.2	-1.3
Personal Income Tax	235.3	217.7	8.1	1,696.0	1,601.5	5.9
Real Estate Conv. Tax	6.6	5.8	0.8	69.3	61.0	13.6
Sales & Use Tax	196.9	189.2	4.1	1,696.0	1,601.5	5.9

Source: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services
**Includes all sources of tax revenue; Only selected taxes are displayed.*

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

Air passenger traffic was up 7.9 percent in January compared with the same month a year ago.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
Tourism Inquiries	FEB 1999	7,428	-21.0	12,581	14,632	-14.0
Info Center Visitors	FEB 1999	26,464	22.0	47,216	40,314	17.1
Major Attraction Visitors	FEB 1999	61,525	-19.2	110,008	128,307	-14.3
Hotel-Motel Occupancy*	JAN 1999	59.6	1.3	59.6	58.3	1.3
Air Passenger Count	JAN 1999	418,601	7.9	418,601	387,875	7.9

Sources: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports; Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; Connecticut Lodging & Attractions Association
**Hotel-Motel Occupancy rate changes are in percentage points.*

Compensation costs for the nation rose 3.5 percent over the year, while the Northeast's increased by 3.3 percent.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
Private Industry Workers	**DEC**	**SEP**	**3-Mo**	**DEC**	**DEC**	**12-Mo**
(June 1989=100)	**1998**	**1998**	**% Chg**	**1998**	**1997**	**% Chg**
UNITED STATES TOTAL	139.7	138.7	0.7	139.8	135.1	3.5
Wages and Salaries	137.6	136.6	0.7	137.4	132.3	3.9
Benefit Costs	145.1	144.2	0.6	145.2	141.8	2.4
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	139.5	135.0	3.3
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	136.4	131.6	3.6

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

The U.S. inflation rate in February was 1.6 percent, and 1.5 percent for the Northeast region. Consumer confidence in New England was up 0.9 percent from a year ago.

CONSUMER NEWS

	FEB	JAN	FEB	% CHG	
(Not seasonally adjusted)	**1999**	**1999**	**1998**	**M/M**	**Y/Y**
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	164.5	164.3	161.9	0.1	1.6
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=$1.00)	$0.608	$0.609	$0.618	-0.1	-1.6
Northeast Region	171.6	171.4	169.1	0.1	1.5
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	175.1	175.0	172.7	0.1	1.4
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	---	174.1	---		1.7
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	161.1	161.0	158.5	0.1	1.6
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	132.1	128.9	137.4	2.5	-3.9
New England	136.4	136.8	135.2	-0.3	0.9

**The Boston CPI can be used as a proxy for New England and is measured every other month.*
Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; The Conference Board

Interest rates were uniformly lower than their year-ago levels including a prime rate of 7.75 and a constant 6.79 percent 30-year conventional mortgage rate.

INTEREST RATES

	FEB	JAN	FEB
(Percent)	**1999**	**1999**	**1998**
Prime	7.75	7.75	8.50
Federal Funds	4.76	4.63	5.51
3 Month Treasury Bill	4.45	4.34	5.11
6 Month Treasury Bill	4.43	4.36	5.07
1 Year Treasury Bill	4.70	4.51	5.31
3 Year Treasury Note	4.90	4.61	5.43
5 Year Treasury Note	4.91	4.60	5.49
7 Year Treasury Note	5.10	4.80	5.60
10 Year Treasury Note	5.00	4.72	5.57
30 Year Teasury Bond	5.37	5.16	5.89
Conventional Mortgage	6.79	6.79	7.04

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

All states in the region experienced job gains over the year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
Connecticut	1,663.9	1,635.5	28.4	1.7	1,660.5
Maine	579.7	565.2	14.5	2.6	578.6
Massachusetts	3,203.7	3,156.6	47.1	1.5	3,193.9
New Hampshire	595.2	584.2	11.0	1.9	593.7
New Jersey	3,842.0	3,779.7	62.3	1.6	3,832.7
New York	8,325.9	8,188.5	137.4	1.7	8,303.3
Pennsylvania	5,535.6	5,476.0	59.6	1.1	5,518.8
Rhode Island	460.4	455.5	4.9	1.1	458.3
Vermont	288.3	283.5	4.8	1.7	288.9
United States	127,610.0	124,832.0	2,778.0	2.2	127,335.0

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

LABOR FORCE

Six of the nine states in the region posted increases in the labor force from last year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
Connecticut	1,722.7	1,703.2	19.5	1.1	1,729.5
Maine	664.1	645.3	18.8	2.9	660.5
Massachusetts	3,264.5	3,279.3	-14.8	-0.5	3,264.6
New Hampshire	673.6	649.2	24.4	3.8	669.6
New Jersey	4,219.6	4,153.5	66.1	1.6	4,216.3
New York	8,876.8	8,890.6	-13.8	-0.2	8,857.0
Pennsylvania	5,987.7	5,949.6	38.1	0.6	5,945.7
Rhode Island	497.7	498.9	-1.2	-0.2	499.0
Vermont	338.2	327.5	10.7	3.3	336.1
United States	139,271.0	137,384.0	1,887.0	1.4	139,347.0

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

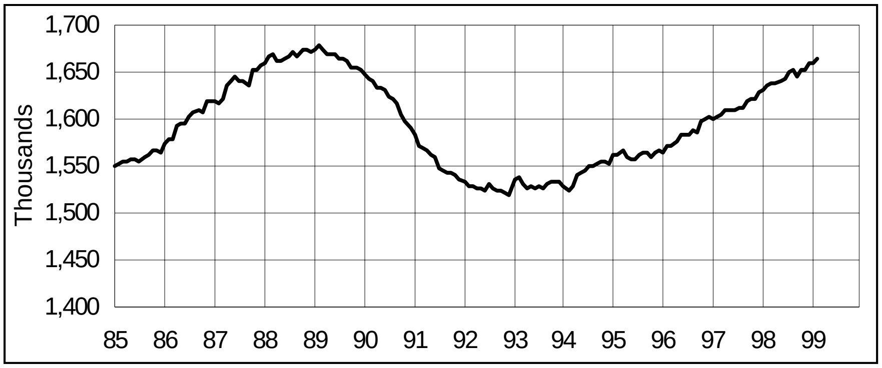
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Massachusetts posted the lowest February unemployment rate in the region.

(Seasonally adjusted)	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE	JAN 1999
Connecticut	3.1	3.6	-0.5	3.0
Maine	3.4	4.7	-1.3	3.5
Massachusetts	2.9	3.5	-0.6	3.2
New Hampshire	3.0	3.1	-0.1	2.7
New Jersey	4.1	4.7	-0.6	4.4
New York	5.3	6.0	-0.7	5.2
Pennsylvania	4.3	4.8	-0.5	4.4
Rhode Island	3.9	5.3	-1.4	4.5
Vermont	3.2	3.7	-0.5	3.1
United States	4.4	4.6	-0.2	4.3

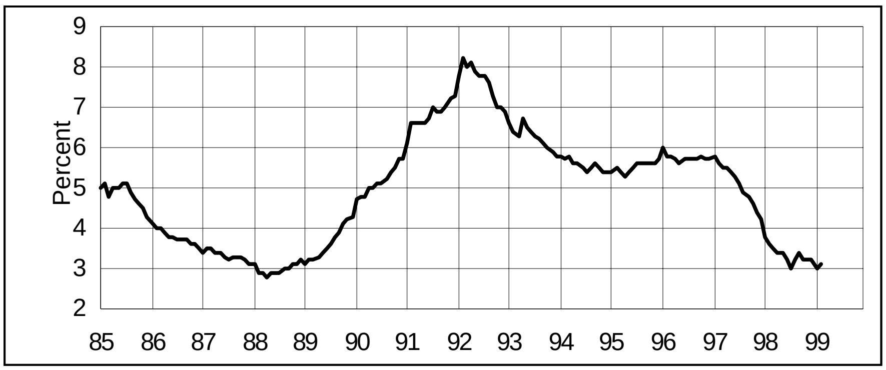
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



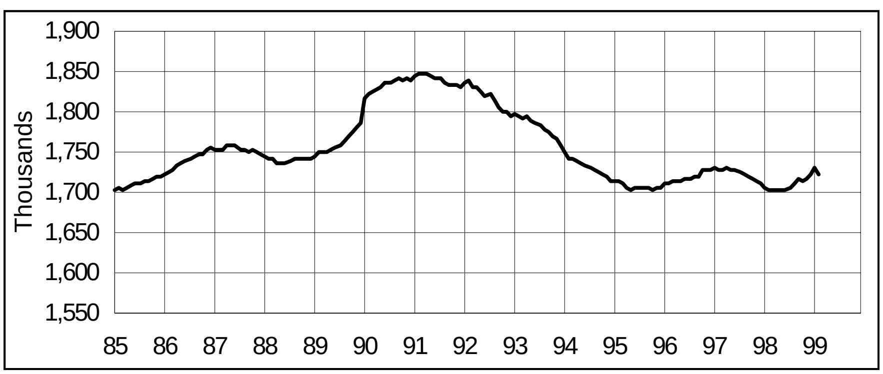
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,599.4	1,631.4	1,660.5
Feb	1,601.5	1,635.5	1,663.9
Mar	1,605.1	1,638.4	
Apr	1,609.3	1,638.5	
May	1,610.3	1,640.8	
Jun	1,610.2	1,643.3	
Jul	1,612.9	1,649.3	
Aug	1,612.5	1,651.3	
Sep	1,618.3	1,645.8	
Oct	1,620.7	1,651.4	
Nov	1,622.4	1,652.5	
Dec	1,627.4	1,660.3	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	5.8	3.8	3.0
Feb	5.6	3.6	3.1
Mar	5.5	3.5	
Apr	5.5	3.4	
May	5.4	3.4	
Jun	5.3	3.2	
Jul	5.1	3.0	
Aug	4.9	3.2	
Sep	4.8	3.4	
Oct	4.6	3.2	
Nov	4.4	3.2	
Dec	4.2	3.2	

LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*

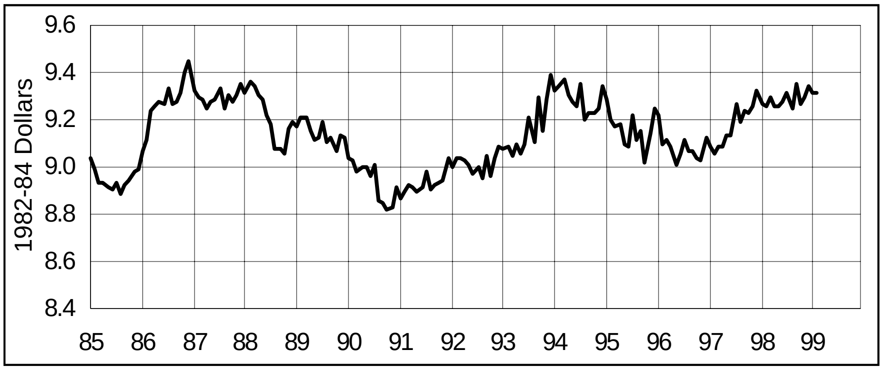


Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,729.2	1,706.3	1,729.5
Feb	1,728.2	1,703.2	1,722.7
Mar	1,728.1	1,704.0	
Apr	1,729.9	1,702.9	
May	1,727.6	1,703.4	
Jun	1,726.9	1,704.1	
Jul	1,724.3	1,706.7	
Aug	1,721.1	1,710.0	
Sep	1,720.0	1,715.8	
Oct	1,718.0	1,714.2	
Nov	1,713.7	1,718.0	
Dec	1,712.0	1,722.0	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*

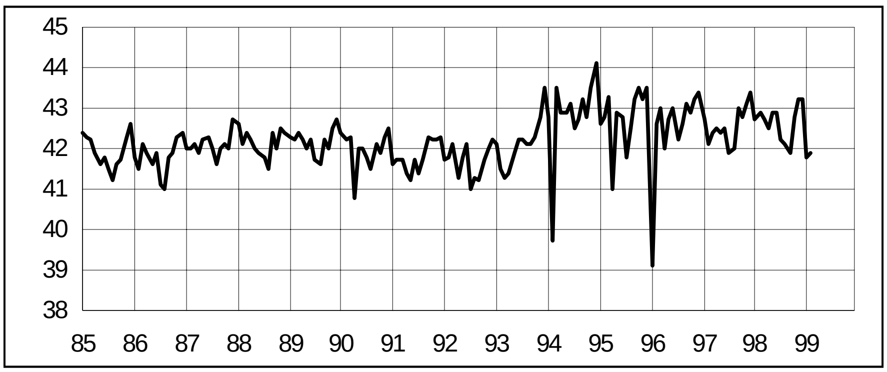
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	4,010	3,450	4,252
Feb	3,892	3,573	3,885
Mar	4,084	3,518	
Apr	4,434	3,584	
May	3,791	3,710	
Jun	3,990	3,962	
Jul	3,678	3,779	
Aug	3,736	4,164	
Sep	3,621	5,076	
Oct	3,502	3,500	
Nov	3,699	4,026	
Dec	4,026	3,394	

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



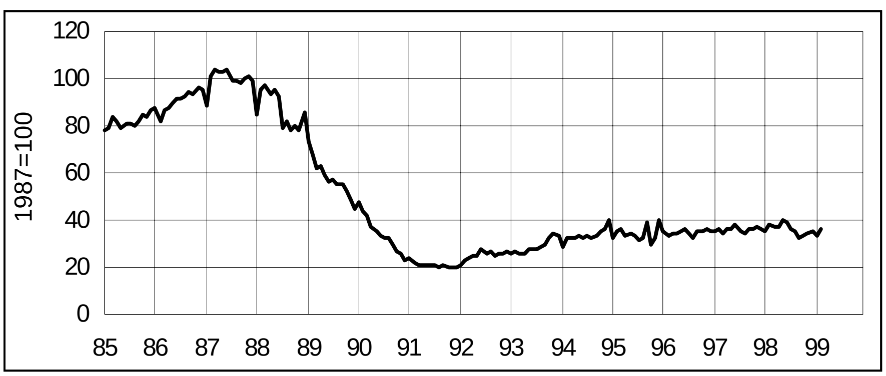
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	$9.09	$9.27	$9.32
Feb	9.06	9.26	9.32
Mar	9.08	9.29	
Apr	9.09	9.26	
May	9.13	9.25	
Jun	9.14	9.27	
Jul	9.26	9.32	
Aug	9.20	9.24	
Sep	9.24	9.35	
Oct	9.22	9.27	
Nov	9.26	9.30	
Dec	9.32	9.34	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



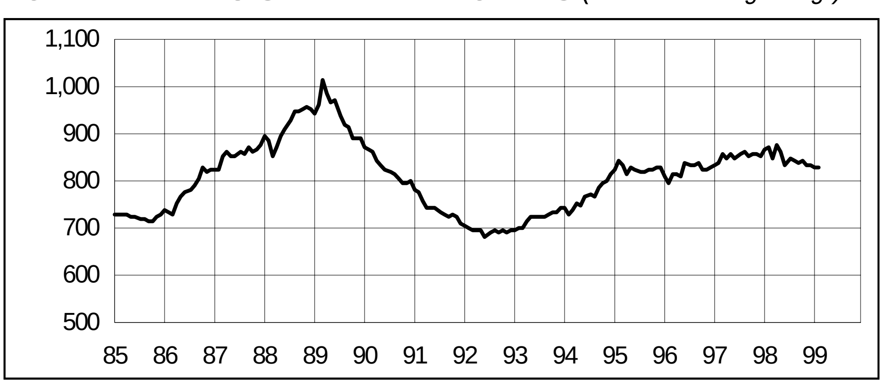
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	42.7	42.7	41.8
Feb	42.1	42.9	41.9
Mar	42.4	42.7	
Apr	42.5	42.5	
May	42.4	42.9	
Jun	42.5	42.9	
Jul	41.9	42.2	
Aug	42.0	42.1	
Sep	43.0	41.9	
Oct	42.8	42.8	
Nov	43.1	43.2	
Dec	43.4	43.2	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



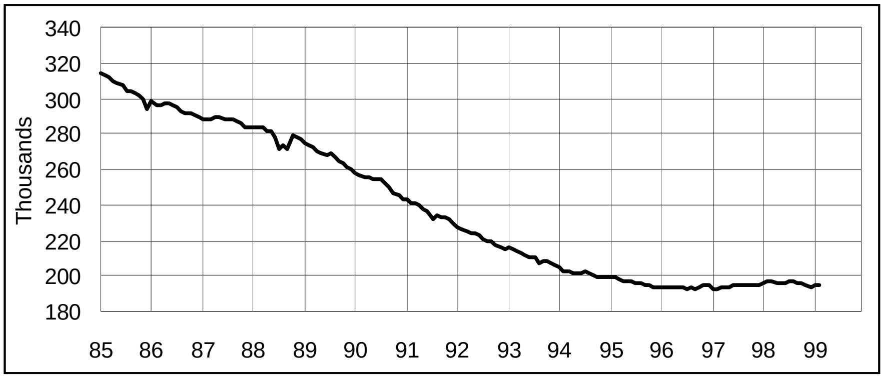
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	35	35	33
Feb	36	38	36
Mar	34	37	
Apr	36	37	
May	36	40	
Jun	38	39	
Jul	35	36	
Aug	34	35	
Sep	36	32	
Oct	35	33	
Nov	37	34	
Dec	36	35	

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



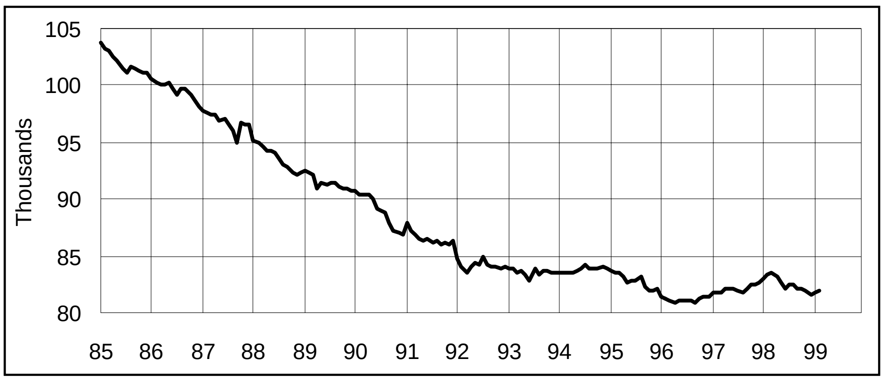
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	833	868	831
Feb	840	870	828
Mar	856	846	
Apr	849	878	
May	856	861	
Jun	848	836	
Jul	856	849	
Aug	862	841	
Sep	854	838	
Oct	859	845	
Nov	859	836	
Dec	852	832	

DURABLE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



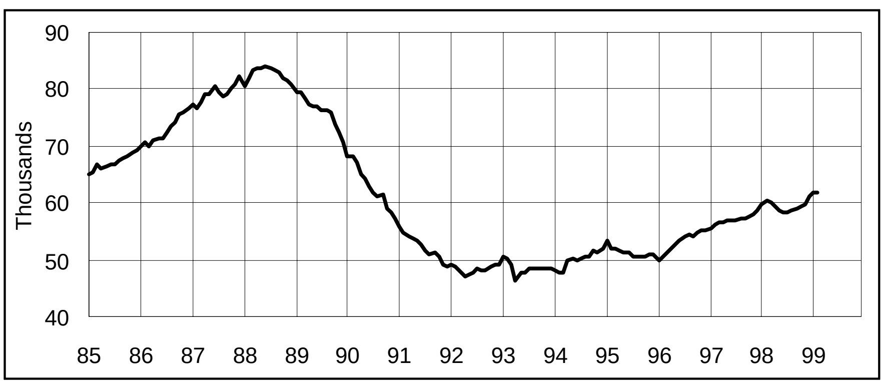
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	192.6	196.1	194.6
Feb	192.9	196.4	194.1
Mar	193.1	196.4	
Apr	193.5	196.2	
May	193.8	195.7	
Jun	194.2	195.5	
Jul	195.0	196.7	
Aug	194.3	196.9	
Sep	194.5	195.8	
Oct	194.8	195.3	
Nov	194.6	194.5	
Dec	195.0	194.0	

NONDURABLE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



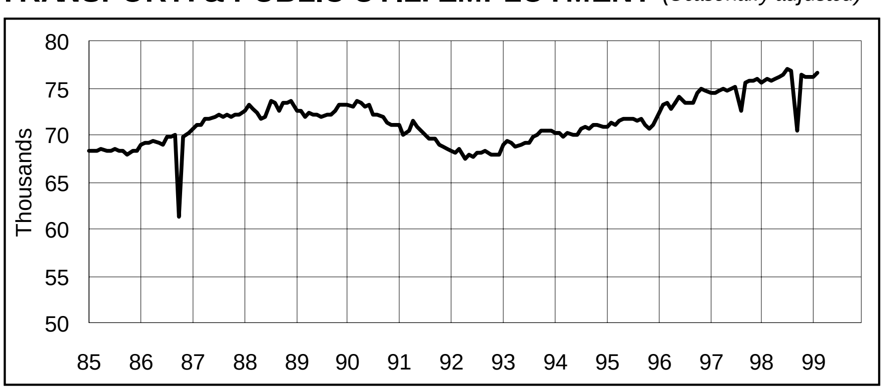
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	81.7	83.0	81.7
Feb	81.7	83.3	81.9
Mar	81.7	83.6	
Apr	82.1	83.1	
May	82.1	82.7	
Jun	82.1	82.2	
Jul	82.0	82.5	
Aug	81.8	82.4	
Sep	82.1	82.2	
Oct	82.4	82.1	
Nov	82.4	81.9	
Dec	82.6	81.6	

CONSTRUCTION & MINING EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



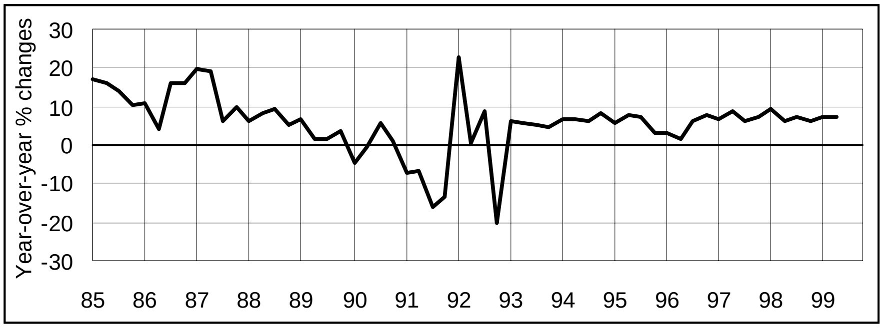
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	55.5	59.6	61.8
Feb	56.3	60.4	61.9
Mar	56.6	60.0	
Apr	56.6	59.2	
May	56.8	58.7	
Jun	56.8	58.4	
Jul	56.9	58.3	
Aug	57.1	58.5	
Sep	57.3	59.1	
Oct	57.6	59.2	
Nov	57.9	59.6	
Dec	58.6	61.3	

TRANSPORT. & PUBLIC UTIL. EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



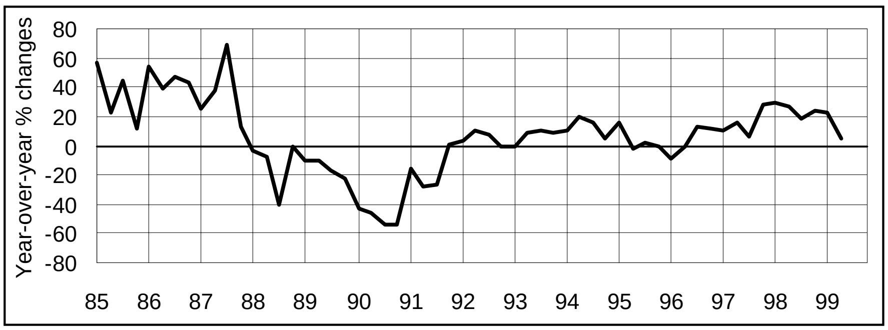
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	74.5	75.6	76.2
Feb	74.5	75.9	76.7
Mar	74.6	75.8	
Apr	74.9	76.0	
May	74.7	76.2	
Jun	75.0	76.3	
Jul	75.2	77.0	
Aug	72.6	76.8	
Sep	75.6	70.5	
Oct	75.8	76.4	
Nov	75.8	76.2	
Dec	75.9	76.2	

SALES TAX



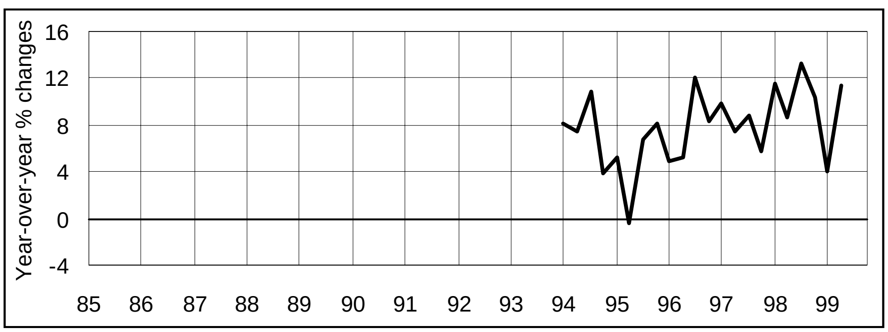
Quarter	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First	6.5	9.5	7.5
Second	8.7	6.0	7.4
Third	6.3	7.0	
Fourth	7.0	6.4	

REAL ESTATE TAX



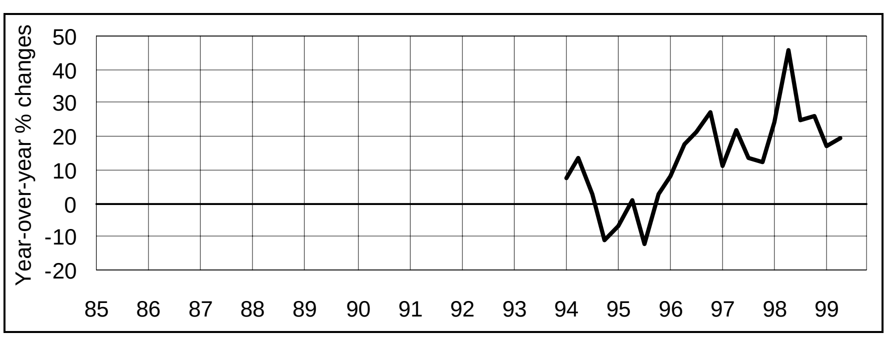
Quarter	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First	10.3	29.8	21.9
Second	15.4	26.0	4.7
Third	6.8	18.2	
Fourth	28.1	23.9	

PERSONAL INCOME TAX : SALARIES & WAGES



Quarter	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First	9.9	11.6	4.1
Second	7.4	8.6	11.3
Third	8.8	13.3	
Fourth	5.7	10.4	

PERSONAL INCOME TAX : ALL OTHER SOURCES



Quarter	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First	11.2	24.1	17.1
Second	22.1	45.9	19.6
Third	13.7	24.8	
Fourth	12.6	25.9	

Note: *These economic growth rates were derived by the Office of Fiscal Analysis and were made by comparing tax collections in each quarter with the same quarter in the previous year and were adjusted for legislative changes*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

CONNECTICUT

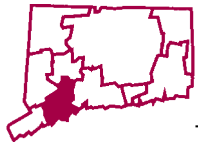
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**1,640,600**	**1,613,100**	**27,500**	**1.7**	**1,631,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**330,100**	**331,800**	**-1,700**	**-0.5**	**330,900**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**54,800**	**52,800**	**2,000**	**3.8**	**54,900**
MANUFACTURING	**275,300**	**279,000**	**-3,700**	**-1.3**	**276,000**
Durable	**193,700**	**196,200**	**-2,500**	**-1.3**	**194,600**
Lumber & Furniture	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,200
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,800
Primary Metals	9,400	9,400	0	0.0	9,400
Fabricated Metals	35,400	35,400	0	0.0	35,500
Machinery & Computer Equipment	34,600	35,300	-700	-2.0	34,700
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	28,800	29,000	-200	-0.7	28,800
Transportation Equipment	49,100	50,400	-1,300	-2.6	50,000
Instruments	22,100	22,200	-100	-0.5	21,800
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,400	6,600	-200	-3.0	6,400
Nondurable	**81,600**	**82,800**	**-1,200**	**-1.4**	**81,400**
Food	8,000	7,900	100	1.3	8,000
Textiles	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,000
Apparel	4,000	4,500	-500	-11.1	4,000
Paper	7,700	8,100	-400	-4.9	7,700
Printing & Publishing	26,300	26,700	-400	-1.5	26,100
Chemicals	21,100	20,600	500	2.4	21,100
Rubber & Plastics	10,600	10,800	-200	-1.9	10,600
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	1,900	2,100	-200	-9.5	1,900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**1,310,500**	**1,281,300**	**29,200**	**2.3**	**1,300,900**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**75,900**	**74,900**	**1,000**	**1.3**	**75,600**
Transportation	44,100	43,700	400	0.9	43,800
Motor Freight & Warehousing	11,800	11,800	0	0.0	11,800
Other Transportation	32,300	31,900	400	1.3	32,000
Communications	19,600	18,800	800	4.3	19,600
Utilities	12,200	12,400	-200	-1.6	12,200
TRADE	**350,400**	**346,400**	**4,000**	**1.2**	**353,700**
Wholesale	82,700	81,700	1,000	1.2	82,700
Retail	267,700	264,700	3,000	1.1	271,000
General Merchandise	25,500	26,800	-1,300	-4.9	27,400
Food Stores	52,900	51,600	1,300	2.5	52,800
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	27,100	26,400	700	2.7	27,000
Restaurants	74,000	74,000	0	0.0	73,200
Other Retail Trade	88,200	85,900	2,300	2.7	90,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**137,600**	**133,000**	**4,600**	**3.5**	**137,800**
Finance	51,700	48,800	2,900	5.9	51,900
Banking	25,300	24,800	500	2.0	25,600
Insurance	70,100	68,600	1,500	2.2	70,200
Insurance Carriers	59,000	57,600	1,400	2.4	59,100
Real Estate	15,800	15,500	300	1.9	15,800
SERVICES	**513,200**	**497,600**	**15,600**	**3.1**	**508,000**
Hotels & Lodging Places	11,000	10,300	700	6.8	10,900
Personal Services	19,300	19,000	300	1.6	19,000
Business Services	107,700	102,400	5,300	5.2	106,800
Health Services	157,900	156,500	1,400	0.9	157,400
Legal & Engineering Services	55,600	52,500	3,100	5.9	55,300
Educational Services	44,700	43,100	1,600	3.7	41,500
Other Services	117,000	113,800	3,200	2.8	117,100
GOVERNMENT	**233,400**	**229,400**	**4,000**	**1.7**	**225,800**
Federal	22,000	22,100	-100	-0.5	22,000
**State, Local & Other Government	211,400	207,300	4,100	2.0	203,800

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

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

BRIDGEPORT LMA

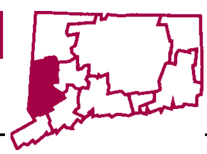


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**185,300**	**185,000**	**300**	**0.2**	**184,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**44,400**	**45,200**	**-800**	**-1.8**	**44,500**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**5,900**	**5,600**	**300**	**5.4**	**5,800**
MANUFACTURING	**38,500**	**39,600**	**-1,100**	**-2.8**	**38,700**
Durable Goods	31,100	32,300	-1,200	-3.7	31,400
Fabricated Metals	4,400	4,600	-200	-4.3	4,500
Industrial Machinery	6,200	6,300	-100	-1.6	6,300
Electronic Equipment	6,000	6,200	-200	-3.2	6,100
Transportation Equipment	8,300	8,800	-500	-5.7	8,300
Nondurable Goods	7,400	7,300	100	1.4	7,300
Printing & Publishing	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	2,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**140,900**	**139,800**	**1,100**	**0.8**	**140,200**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**7,000**	**7,000**	**0**	**0.0**	**7,000**
TRADE	**41,400**	**41,400**	**0**	**0.0**	**42,000**
Wholesale	10,400	10,200	200	2.0	10,500
Retail	31,000	31,200	-200	-0.6	31,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**10,400**	**10,300**	**100**	**1.0**	**10,700**
SERVICES	**60,600**	**59,300**	**1,300**	**2.2**	**59,600**
Business Services	14,700	14,600	100	0.7	14,500
Health Services	19,800	19,700	100	0.5	19,700
GOVERNMENT	**21,500**	**21,800**	**-300**	**-1.4**	**20,900**
Federal	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,100
State & Local	19,400	19,600	-200	-1.0	18,800

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

DANBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**86,800**	**86,500**	**300**	**0.3**	**87,200**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,900**	**23,100**	**-200**	**-0.9**	**22,800**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**3,500**	**3,400**	**100**	**2.9**	**3,700**
MANUFACTURING	**19,400**	**19,700**	**-300**	**-1.5**	**19,100**
Durable Goods	10,600	10,500	100	1.0	10,400
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,500	5,600	-100	-1.8	5,600
Instruments	2,700	2,600	100	3.8	2,400
Nondurable Goods	8,800	9,200	-400	-4.3	8,700
Printing & Publishing	2,500	2,700	-200	-7.4	2,500
Chemicals	3,500	3,500	0	0.0	3,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**63,900**	**63,400**	**500**	**0.8**	**64,400**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**2,700**	**2,600**	**100**	**3.8**	**2,700**
TRADE	**21,300**	**21,200**	**100**	**0.5**	**21,700**
Wholesale	3,400	3,600	-200	-5.6	3,600
Retail	17,900	17,600	300	1.7	18,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**4,900**	**4,600**	**300**	**6.5**	**4,900**
SERVICES	**24,900**	**24,500**	**400**	**1.6**	**25,000**
GOVERNMENT	**10,100**	**10,500**	**-400**	**-3.8**	**10,100**
Federal	900	900	0	0.0	900
State & Local	9,200	9,600	-400	-4.2	9,200

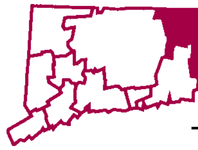
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

DANIELSON LMA

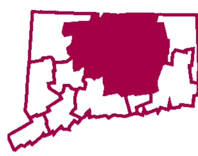


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**20,100**	**20,200**	**-100**	**-0.5**	**20,000**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**6,400**	**6,600**	**-200**	**-3.0**	**6,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**700**	**800**	**-100**	**-12.5**	**700**
MANUFACTURING	**5,700**	**5,800**	**-100**	**-1.7**	**5,700**
Durable Goods	2,300	2,400	-100	-4.2	2,300
Nondurable Goods	3,400	3,400	0	0.0	3,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**13,700**	**13,600**	**100**	**0.7**	**13,600**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**500**	**500**	**0**	**0.0**	**500**
TRADE	**4,900**	**4,800**	**100**	**2.1**	**4,900**
Wholesale	900	800	100	12.5	900
Retail	4,000	4,000	0	0.0	4,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**600**	**600**	**0**	**0.0**	**600**
SERVICES	**4,700**	**4,500**	**200**	**4.4**	**4,600**
GOVERNMENT	**3,000**	**3,200**	**-200**	**-6.3**	**3,000**
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	2,900	3,100	-200	-6.5	2,900

For further information on the Danielson Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 263-6299.

HARTFORD LMA



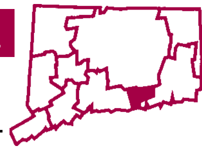
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**597,400**	**596,300**	**1,100**	**0.2**	**595,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**112,300**	**113,300**	**-1,000**	**-0.9**	**113,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**17,700**	**17,800**	**-100**	**-0.6**	**18,200**
MANUFACTURING	**94,600**	**95,500**	**-900**	**-0.9**	**95,100**
Durable Goods	74,000	75,300	-1,300	-1.7	75,000
Primary & Fabricated Metals	18,600	18,500	100	0.5	18,700
Industrial Machinery	13,900	14,500	-600	-4.1	14,100
Electronic Equipment	6,300	6,500	-200	-3.1	6,300
Transportation Equipment	26,500	27,200	-700	-2.6	27,400
Nondurable Goods	20,600	20,200	400	2.0	20,100
Printing & Publishing	9,000	8,900	100	1.1	8,700
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**485,100**	**483,000**	**2,100**	**0.4**	**482,500**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**27,100**	**26,300**	**800**	**3.0**	**27,000**
Transportation	15,800	15,400	400	2.6	15,700
Communications & Utilities	11,300	10,900	400	3.7	11,300
TRADE	**122,800**	**121,700**	**1,100**	**0.9**	**123,100**
Wholesale	29,500	29,100	400	1.4	29,800
Retail	93,300	92,600	700	0.8	93,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**70,400**	**69,500**	**900**	**1.3**	**70,100**
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	11,700	11,600	100	0.9	11,800
Insurance Carriers	46,100	44,900	1,200	2.7	45,600
SERVICES	**172,400**	**171,300**	**1,100**	**0.6**	**170,900**
Business Services	33,300	32,400	900	2.8	33,200
Health Services	57,900	59,100	-1,200	-2.0	58,000
GOVERNMENT	**92,400**	**94,200**	**-1,800**	**-1.9**	**91,400**
Federal	7,800	8,000	-200	-2.5	7,800
State & Local	84,600	86,200	-1,600	-1.9	83,600

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 1998.
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LOWER RIVER LMA

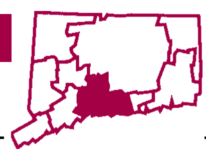


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**9,600**	**9,000**	**600**	**6.7**	**9,600**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**3,300**	**3,200**	**100**	**3.1**	**3,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**400**	**300**	**100**	**33.3**	**400**
MANUFACTURING	**2,900**	**2,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,900**
Durable Goods	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	2,300
Electronic Equipment	700	700	0	0.0	700
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	0	0.0	1,600
Nondurable Goods	600	600	0	0.0	600
Rubber & Plastics	300	300	0	0.0	300
Other Nondurable Goods	300	300	0	0.0	300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**6,300**	**5,800**	**500**	**8.6**	**6,300**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**400**	**300**	**100**	**33.3**	**400**
TRADE	**2,100**	**1,900**	**200**	**10.5**	**2,100**
Wholesale	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail	1,700	1,500	200	13.3	1,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**300**	**300**	**0**	**0.0**	**400**
SERVICES	**2,600**	**2,500**	**100**	**4.0**	**2,600**
GOVERNMENT	**900**	**800**	**100**	**12.5**	**800**
Federal	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local	900	800	100	12.5	800

For further information on the Lower River Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 263-6299.

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**254,900**	**250,700**	**4,200**	**1.7**	**253,600**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**49,300**	**48,300**	**1,000**	**2.1**	**49,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**9,000**	**8,600**	**400**	**4.7**	**9,000**
MANUFACTURING	**40,300**	**39,700**	**600**	**1.5**	**40,300**
Durable Goods	25,700	25,200	500	2.0	25,800
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,800	6,700	100	1.5	6,800
Electronic Equipment	5,300	5,100	200	3.9	5,300
Nondurable Goods	14,600	14,500	100	0.7	14,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,200	5,300	-100	-1.9	5,200
Chemicals & Allied	5,400	5,300	100	1.9	5,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**205,600**	**202,400**	**3,200**	**1.6**	**204,300**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**16,700**	**16,200**	**500**	**3.1**	**16,600**
Communications & Utilities	8,900	8,500	400	4.7	8,900
TRADE	**53,000**	**52,500**	**500**	**1.0**	**52,800**
Wholesale	13,800	13,500	300	2.2	13,700
Retail	39,200	39,000	200	0.5	39,100
Eating & Drinking Places	10,900	10,900	0	0.0	10,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**13,600**	**13,400**	**200**	**1.5**	**13,800**
Finance	4,200	4,200	0	0.0	4,200
Insurance	7,400	7,200	200	2.8	7,500
SERVICES	**91,400**	**89,200**	**2,200**	**2.5**	**90,400**
Business Services	12,600	12,400	200	1.6	12,600
Health Services	28,600	28,500	100	0.4	28,700
GOVERNMENT	**30,900**	**31,100**	**-200**	**-0.6**	**30,700**
Federal	5,200	5,500	-300	-5.5	5,200
State & Local	25,700	25,600	100	0.4	25,500

For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact J. Charles Joo at (860) 263-6293.

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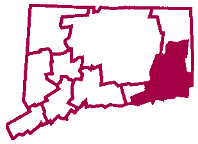
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

NEW LONDON LMA

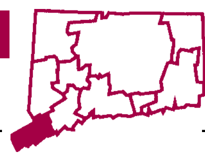


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**136,800**	**134,800**	**2,000**	**1.5**	**136,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**28,100**	**28,700**	**-600**	**-2.1**	**28,200**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**4,400**	**4,300**	**100**	**2.3**	**4,400**
MANUFACTURING	**23,700**	**24,400**	**-700**	**-2.9**	**23,800**
Durable Goods	13,900	14,700	-800	-5.4	13,900
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	2,300
Other Durable Goods	11,600	12,400	-800	-6.5	11,600
Nondurable Goods	9,800	9,700	100	1.0	9,900
Paper & Allied	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
Other Nondurable Goods	7,800	7,400	400	5.4	7,800
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**108,700**	**106,100**	**2,600**	**2.5**	**108,600**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**6,500**	**6,500**	**0**	**0.0**	**6,500**
TRADE	**27,300**	**26,700**	**600**	**2.2**	**27,600**
Wholesale	2,600	2,500	100	4.0	2,600
Retail	24,700	24,200	500	2.1	25,000
Eating & Drinking Places	7,000	6,900	100	1.4	7,000
Other Retail	17,700	17,300	400	2.3	18,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**3,800**	**3,700**	**100**	**2.7**	**3,800**
SERVICES	**34,900**	**33,900**	**1,000**	**2.9**	**34,700**
Personal & Business Services	6,300	6,300	0	0.0	6,300
Health Services	11,900	11,500	400	3.5	11,800
GOVERNMENT	**36,200**	**35,300**	**900**	**2.5**	**36,000**
Federal	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
State & Local	33,500	32,600	900	2.8	33,300
**Local	29,100	28,300	800	2.8	29,000

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

STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

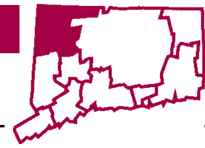
	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**202,500**	**201,100**	**1,400**	**0.7**	**203,000**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**32,000**	**33,400**	**-1,400**	**-4.2**	**32,000**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**5,400**	**5,400**	**0**	**0.0**	**5,600**
MANUFACTURING	**26,600**	**28,000**	**-1,400**	**-5.0**	**26,400**
Durable Goods	14,100	14,700	-600	-4.1	14,000
Industrial Machinery	3,600	3,800	-200	-5.3	3,600
Electronic Equipment	2,300	2,500	-200	-8.0	2,200
Nondurable Goods	12,500	13,300	-800	-6.0	12,400
Paper, Printing & Publishing	6,100	6,500	-400	-6.2	6,000
Chemicals & Allied	3,100	3,300	-200	-6.1	3,100
Other Nondurable	3,300	3,500	-200	-5.7	3,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**170,500**	**167,700**	**2,800**	**1.7**	**171,000**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**10,100**	**10,400**	**-300**	**-2.9**	**10,100**
Communications & Utilities	2,800	3,200	-400	-12.5	2,800
TRADE	**42,800**	**43,200**	**-400**	**-0.9**	**43,700**
Wholesale	11,300	11,300	0	0.0	11,300
Retail	31,500	31,900	-400	-1.3	32,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**25,300**	**24,700**	**600**	**2.4**	**25,300**
SERVICES	**74,700**	**71,600**	**3,100**	**4.3**	**74,300**
Business Services	22,300	21,400	900	4.2	22,100
Engineering & Mgmnt. Services	11,200	10,700	500	4.7	11,000
Other Services	41,200	39,500	1,700	4.3	41,200
GOVERNMENT	**17,600**	**17,800**	**-200**	**-1.1**	**17,600**
Federal	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	2,000
State & Local	15,700	15,900	-200	-1.3	15,600

For further information on the Stamford 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 1998.

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

TORRINGTON LMA

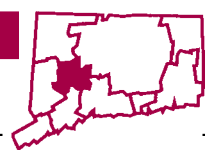


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**28,600**	**28,500**	**100**	**0.4**	**29,200**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**7,600**	**8,000**	**-400**	**-5.0**	**8,100**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**1,800**	**1,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**1,800**
MANUFACTURING	**5,800**	**6,200**	**-400**	**-6.5**	**6,300**
Durable Goods	4,100	4,400	-300	-6.8	4,400
Primary & Fabricated Metals	600	600	0	0.0	700
Industrial Machinery	1,100	1,200	-100	-8.3	1,100
Electronic Equipment	400	500	-100	-20.0	500
Other Durable Goods	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,100
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,800	-100	-5.6	1,900
Rubber & Plastics	900	1,000	-100	-10.0	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	0	0.0	900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**21,000**	**20,500**	**500**	**2.4**	**21,100**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**900**	**800**	**100**	**12.5**	**900**
TRADE	**6,200**	**6,100**	**100**	**1.6**	**6,400**
Wholesale	600	700	-100	-14.3	700
Retail	5,600	5,400	200	3.7	5,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**800**	**900**	**-100**	**-11.1**	**800**
SERVICES	**9,700**	**9,400**	**300**	**3.2**	**9,600**
GOVERNMENT	**3,400**	**3,300**	**100**	**3.0**	**3,400**
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,200	3,100	100	3.2	3,200

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

WATERBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**85,000**	**84,800**	**200**	**0.2**	**85,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**21,200**	**21,800**	**-600**	**-2.8**	**21,600**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**3,000**	**2,900**	**100**	**3.4**	**3,100**
MANUFACTURING	**18,200**	**18,900**	**-700**	**-3.7**	**18,500**
Durable Goods	14,300	14,700	-400	-2.7	14,500
Primary Metals	900	800	100	12.5	800
Fabricated Metals	6,300	6,500	-200	-3.1	6,400
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,700	5,000	-300	-6.0	4,800
Nondurable Goods	3,900	4,200	-300	-7.1	4,000
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	1,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**63,800**	**63,000**	**800**	**1.3**	**63,700**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**3,700**	**3,800**	**-100**	**-2.6**	**3,700**
TRADE	**18,100**	**17,600**	**500**	**2.8**	**18,400**
Wholesale	3,000	3,100	-100	-3.2	3,000
Retail	15,100	14,500	600	4.1	15,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**3,600**	**3,500**	**100**	**2.9**	**3,600**
SERVICES	**26,300**	**26,000**	**300**	**1.2**	**26,100**
Personal & Business	7,000	6,800	200	2.9	6,800
Health Services	10,500	10,500	0	0.0	10,500
GOVERNMENT	**12,100**	**12,100**	**0**	**0.0**	**11,900**
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,300	11,300	0	0.0	11,100

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

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

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	JAN 1999
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,698,600	1,679,800	18,800	1.1	1,701,600
	Employed	1,636,300	1,609,200	27,100	1.7	1,640,500
	Unemployed	62,200	70,700	-8,500	-12.0	61,100
	Unemployment Rate	3.7	4.2	-0.5	---	3.6
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	217,800	216,000	1,800	0.8	217,500
	Employed	208,100	205,500	2,600	1.3	208,100
	Unemployed	9,600	10,500	-900	-8.6	9,400
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.9	-0.5	---	4.3
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	108,100	107,000	1,100	1.0	108,600
	Employed	105,000	104,000	1,000	1.0	105,800
	Unemployed	3,100	3,000	100	3.3	2,800
	Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.8	0.1	---	2.6
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	32,100	32,600	-500	-1.5	32,200
	Employed	30,500	30,400	100	0.3	30,600
	Unemployed	1,600	2,100	-500	-23.8	1,600
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	6.5	-1.6	---	4.9
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	577,100	572,900	4,200	0.7	577,200
	Employed	554,900	547,800	7,100	1.3	555,300
	Unemployed	22,100	25,200	-3,100	-12.3	21,900
	Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.4	-0.6	---	3.8
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,200	11,600	600	5.2	12,100
	Employed	11,800	11,200	600	5.4	11,800
	Unemployed	300	400	-100	-25.0	400
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	3.4	-0.6	---	2.9
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	272,900	267,100	5,800	2.2	272,600
	Employed	263,700	256,500	7,200	2.8	263,300
	Unemployed	9,200	10,600	-1,400	-13.2	9,300
	Unemployment Rate	3.4	4.0	-0.6	---	3.4
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	151,200	149,200	2,000	1.3	151,700
	Employed	145,400	141,900	3,500	2.5	145,900
	Unemployed	5,700	7,300	-1,600	-21.9	5,800
	Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.9	-1.1	---	3.8
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	190,800	188,300	2,500	1.3	191,800
	Employed	186,000	183,200	2,800	1.5	187,300
	Unemployed	4,800	5,200	-400	-7.7	4,500
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	2.7	-0.2	---	2.4
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	38,300	37,700	600	1.6	38,800
	Employed	37,000	36,300	700	1.9	37,600
	Unemployed	1,200	1,500	-300	-20.0	1,200
	Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.9	-0.7	---	3.1
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	114,700	113,600	1,100	1.0	115,300
	Employed	109,400	107,800	1,600	1.5	110,300
	Unemployed	5,300	5,800	-500	-8.6	5,100
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.1	-0.5	---	4.4
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	138,202,000	136,286,000	1,916,000	1.4	137,943,000
	Employed	131,639,000	129,482,000	2,157,000	1.7	131,339,000
	Unemployed	6,563,000	6,804,000	-241,000	-3.5	6,604,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.0	-0.3	---	4.8

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHG Y/Y	JAN 1999	AVG WEEKLY HOURS FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHG Y/Y	JAN 1999	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHG Y/Y	JAN 1999
MANUFACTURING	**$628.92**	**$629.77**	**-$0.85**	**$627.00**	**41.9**	**42.9**	**-1.0**	**41.8**	**$15.01**	**$14.68**	**$0.33**	**$15.00**
DURABLE GOODS	**643.63**	**646.04**	**-2.40**	**638.24**	**42.4**	**43.3**	**-0.9**	**42.1**	**15.18**	**14.92**	**0.26**	**15.16**
Lumber & Furniture	483.61	457.00	26.60	491.88	40.2	40.3	-0.1	41.3	12.03	11.34	0.69	11.91
Stone, Clay and Glass	586.75	607.07	-20.32	560.73	45.1	43.8	1.3	43.4	13.01	13.86	-0.85	12.92
Primary Metals	604.56	605.22	-0.66	578.66	44.0	44.6	-0.6	42.8	13.74	13.57	0.17	13.52
Fabricated Metals	579.60	596.41	-16.81	581.02	42.0	43.0	-1.0	41.8	13.80	13.87	-0.07	13.90
Machinery	683.83	702.86	-19.03	691.93	42.9	45.2	-2.3	43.3	15.94	15.55	0.39	15.98
Electrical Equipment	513.30	498.04	15.25	503.44	40.9	41.4	-0.5	40.6	12.55	12.03	0.52	12.40
Trans. Equipment	814.59	823.62	-9.03	798.42	43.1	44.4	-1.3	42.0	18.90	18.55	0.35	19.01
Instruments	597.55	586.14	11.41	601.77	42.2	41.6	0.6	42.8	14.16	14.09	0.07	14.06
Miscellaneous Mfg	624.42	567.88	56.54	619.09	41.6	41.3	0.3	41.3	15.01	13.75	1.26	14.99
NONDUR. GOODS	**594.86**	**592.77**	**2.10**	**597.14**	**40.8**	**42.1**	**-1.3**	**40.9**	**14.58**	**14.08**	**0.50**	**14.60**
Food	506.69	532.99	-26.30	512.93	41.6	42.1	-0.5	41.1	12.18	12.66	-0.48	12.48
Textiles	479.12	473.88	5.23	460.12	40.5	41.1	-0.6	39.7	11.83	11.53	0.30	11.59
Apparel	332.34	328.95	3.39	333.90	37.3	38.7	-1.4	37.9	8.91	8.50	0.41	8.81
Paper	722.53	708.89	13.64	722.80	44.3	45.5	-1.2	44.7	16.31	15.58	0.73	16.17
Printing & Publishing	593.94	581.94	12.00	600.22	38.0	39.4	-1.4	38.5	15.63	14.77	0.86	15.59
Chemicals	776.86	797.00	-20.14	777.24	43.4	44.5	-1.1	43.3	17.90	17.91	-0.01	17.95
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	505.94	504.08	1.86	514.18	41.2	42.9	-1.7	41.2	12.28	11.75	0.53	12.48
CONSTRUCTION	**809.99**	**784.89**	**25.10**	**772.62**	**41.2**	**40.5**	**0.7**	**39.1**	**19.66**	**19.38**	**0.28**	**19.76**

LMAs

MANUFACTURING	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHG Y/Y	JAN 1999	AVG WEEKLY HOURS FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHG Y/Y	JAN 1999	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHG Y/Y	JAN 1999
Bridgeport	$622.09	$646.91	-$24.82	$631.48	40.9	42.7	-1.8	41.3	$15.21	$15.15	$0.06	$15.29
Danbury	603.84	636.83	-32.99	611.15	40.8	43.0	-2.2	40.5	14.80	14.81	-0.01	15.09
Danielson	483.09	467.23	15.86	476.71	39.5	39.9	-0.4	39.3	12.23	11.71	0.52	12.13
Hartford	679.90	692.81	-12.91	671.50	42.6	44.1	-1.5	42.1	15.96	15.71	0.25	15.95
Lower River	538.07	511.92	26.15	523.06	41.2	39.9	1.3	40.8	13.06	12.83	0.23	12.82
New Haven	618.00	614.20	3.80	600.06	42.3	42.3	0.0	41.1	14.61	14.52	0.09	14.60
New London	668.53	634.20	34.33	664.96	42.5	42.0	0.5	42.3	15.73	15.10	0.63	15.72
Stamford	546.45	546.29	0.16	542.88	39.2	39.5	-0.3	39.0	13.94	13.83	0.11	13.92
Torrington	567.67	548.26	19.41	549.46	42.3	42.6	-0.3	41.5	13.42	12.87	0.55	13.24
Waterbury	628.52	618.32	10.20	632.72	44.2	45.1	-0.9	44.0	14.22	13.71	0.51	14.38

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1998.

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	FEB 1999	FEB 1998	CHANGE Y/Y UNITS	%	YTD 1999	YTD 1998	CHANGE YTD UNITS	%	JAN 1999
Connecticut	518	647	-129	-19.9	1,267	1,384	-117	-8.5	749
Counties:									
Fairfield	113	149	-36	-24.2	223	314	-91	-29.0	110
Hartford	118	147	-29	-19.7	235	444	-209	-47.1	117
Litchfield	46	32	14	43.8	68	63	5	7.9	22
Middlesex	53	42	11	26.2	96	81	15	18.5	43
New Haven	103	163	-60	-36.8	472	265	207	78.1	369
New London	35	53	-18	-34.0	73	105	-32	-30.5	38
Tolland	31	45	-14	-31.1	69	77	-8	-10.4	38
Windham	19	16	3	18.8	31	35	-4	-11.4	12

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	FEB 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998
Andover	1	2	5
Ansonia	0	0	5
Ashford	0	1	5
Avon	10	22	16
Barkhamsted	0	0	0
Beacon Falls	3	7	3
Berlin	6	12	7
Bethany	0	0	3
Bethel	1	3	4
Bethlehem	2	3	0
Bloomfield	2	4	5
Bolton	2	3	3
Bozrah	0	0	0
Branford	10	11	6
Bridgeport	12	12	19
Bridgewater	0	0	0
Bristol	3	6	6
Brookfield	8	12	3
Brooklyn	0	2	0
Burlington	1	3	5
Canaan	0	0	0
Canterbury	1	1	4
Canton	4	4	5
Chaplin	1	2	2
Cheshire	3	4	9
Chester	1	1	0
Clinton	8	12	12
Colchester	3	6	10
Colebrook	0	0	2
Columbia	2	2	8
Cornwall	1	1	2
Coventry	2	10	6
Cromwell	2	4	7
Danbury	7	15	18
Darien	2	2	2
Deep River	1	1	2
Derby	2	4	4
Durham	4	8	4
East Granby	1	2	3
East Haddam	6	8	6
East Hampton	1	6	3
East Hartford	0	1	0
East Haven	3	5	4
East Lyme	3	7	10
East Windsor	1	1	2
Eastford	0	1	2
Easton	1	1	5
Ellington	5	10	23
Enfield	1	5	4
Essex	2	6	5
Fairfield	6	10	21
Farmington	8	19	13
Franklin	0	0	0
Glastonbury	24	45	17
Goshen	2	2	2
Granby	6	9	5
Greenwich	7	14	13
Griswold	2	3	4
Groton	3	10	12
Guilford	7	14	20
Haddam	3	3	3
Hamden	9	12	40
Hampton	1	1	2
Hartford	4	8	51
Hartland	0	0	0
Harwinton	1	1	2
Hebron	5	10	9
Kent	1	1	1
Killingly	3	3	2
Killingworth	6	9	8
Lebanon	0	2	0
Ledyard	1	2	15
Lisbon	2	4	3
Litchfield	2	2	0
Lyme	3	3	0
Madison	5	8	19
Manchester	6	7	87
Mansfield	1	4	6
Marlborough	2	4	2
Meriden	4	8	6
Middlebury	2	3	3
Middlefield	3	5	2
Middletown	12	20	20
Milford	7	119	18
Monroe	5	16	13
Montville	2	3	4
Morris	3	3	1
Naugatuck	3	4	5
New Britain	0	0	1
New Canaan	2	3	5
New Fairfield	3	4	4
New Hartford	0	0	5
New Haven	2	197	40
New London	0	0	0
New Milford	12	18	12
Newington	6	11	11
Newtown	14	30	24
Norfolk	0	0	0
North Branford	2	5	5
North Canaan	0	0	0
North Haven	6	6	5
No. Stonington	2	2	6
Norwalk	7	15	35
Norwich	1	3	8
Old Lyme	3	5	4
Old Saybrook	1	2	4
Orange	1	2	2
Oxford	3	5	7
Plainfield	5	6	2
Plainville	0	1	1
Plymouth	0	1	4
Pomfret	4	5	2
Portland	3	4	1
Preston	2	2	2
Prospect	2	6	2
Putnam	0	1	0
Redding	3	3	8
Ridgefield	9	18	17
Rocky Hill	5	7	7
Roxbury	1	1	1
Salem	0	1	2
Salisbury	1	1	0
Scotland	1	1	3
Seymour	4	6	6
Sharon	1	1	1
Shelton	7	22	39
Sherman	0	4	2
Simsbury	4	10	16
Somers	2	3	2
South Windsor	3	10	19
Southbury	4	4	14
Southington	9	20	24
Sprague	1	1	0
Stafford	1	3	2
Stamford	6	13	36
Sterling	2	3	3
Stonington	3	13	12
Stratford	3	7	4
Suffield	3	5	107
Thomaston	2	3	3
Thompson	1	2	4
Tolland	8	18	9
Torrington	8	16	2
Trumbull	5	8	26
Union	0	1	0
Vernon	1	2	4
Voluntown	0	0	0
Wallingford	11	20	23
Warren	1	1	1
Washington	1	2	1
Waterbury	1	6	7
Waterford	4	6	13
Watertown	5	8	15
West Hartford	2	2	2
West Haven	3	5	2
Westbrook	0	7	4
Weston	1	2	4
Westport	2	5	5
Wethersfield	1	7	20
Willington	1	1	0
Wilton	2	4	7
Winchester	1	1	1
Windham	0	2	3
Windsor	4	8	7
Windsor Locks	2	2	1
Wolcott	2	6	3
Woodbridge	4	5	4
Woodbury	1	2	7
Woodstock	0	0	1

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

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

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

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

INITIAL CLAIMS
Average weekly initial claims are calculated by dividing the total number of new claims for unemployment insurance received in the month by the number of weeks in the month. A minor change in methodology 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 multiple variable coefficient regression model, which uses results from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of Connecticut households, counts of claimants for unemployment benefits, and establishment employment estimates. Due to the small size of the sample taken in Connecticut, the CPS results are subject to significant sampling error and produce considerable month-to-month fluctuations in estimates derived from the sample. In general, the CPS estimates, at the 90 percent confidence level, have an error range of about 1.5 percentage points on a rate of 6.0 percent. An accepted method for calculating the error range for model estimates is currently not available. Labor force data, reflecting persons employed by place of residence, are not directly comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. In the labor force estimates, workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. The labor force data also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics and the self-employed. Because of these conceptual differences, total labor force employment is almost always different from nonfarm wage and salary employment.

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

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

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

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

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

ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT A GLANCE

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

Leading Employment Index	**-2.8**
Coincident Employment Index	**+4.3**
Total Nonfarm Employment	**+1.7**
Unemployment	**-0.5***
Labor Force	+1.1
Employed	+1.7
Unemployed	-13.4
Average Weekly Initial Claims	**+8.7**
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford	**-5.3**
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate	**-0.01***
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg	**-2.3**
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg	**+2.2**
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg	**-0.1**
Manufacturing Output	**-2.0**
Production Worker Hours	-3.5
Productivity	+1.4
Personal Income	**+4.5**
UI Covered Wages	**+7.5**

Business Activity	
New Housing Permits	-19.9
Electricity Sales	+6.2
Retail Sales	+6.8
Construction Contracts Index	-34.9
New Auto Registrations	+31.1
Air Cargo Tons	-16.2
Business Starts	
Secretary of the State	+2.3
Dept. of Labor	+1.7
Business Terminations	
Secretary of the State	-2.9
Dept. of Labor	-8.0
State Tax Collections	**+4.8**
Corporate Tax	+6.7
Personal Income Tax	+8.1
Real Estate Conveyance Tax	+0.8
Sales & Use Tax	+4.1

Tourism and Travel	
Tourism Inquiries	-21.0
Tourism Info Centers	+22.0
Attraction Visitors	-19.2
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	+1.3*
Air Passenger Count	+7.9
Employment Cost Index (U.S.)	
Total	+3.5
Wages & Salaries	+3.9
Benefit Costs	+2.4
Consumer Price Index	
U.S. City Average	+1.6
Northeast Region	+1.5
NY-NJ-Long Island	+1.4
Boston-Brockton-Nashua	+1.7
Consumer Confidence	
U.S.	-3.9
New England	+0.9
Interest Rates	
Prime	-0.75*
Conventional Mortgage	-0.25*

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

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