THE CONNECTICUT

ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.5 No.2 A joint publication of the Connecticut Department of Labor & the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

FEBRUARY 2000

- The New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury NECMA was the only sub-state region to outperform both the U.S. and Connecticut in the growth of nonfarm earnings-per-job over the 1993-97 period. (article, pp.1-4)
- Industry clusters: cluster activation-the first step.(p.3)
- Nonfarm employment increased by 4,400 in December, and was 22,900 higher than a year ago. (p.6)
- Unemployment rate in December: 2.7 percent, down from prior month and from last year. (p.6)
- New housing permits declined by 6.5 percent in 1999. (p.7)

• IN THIS ISSUE •

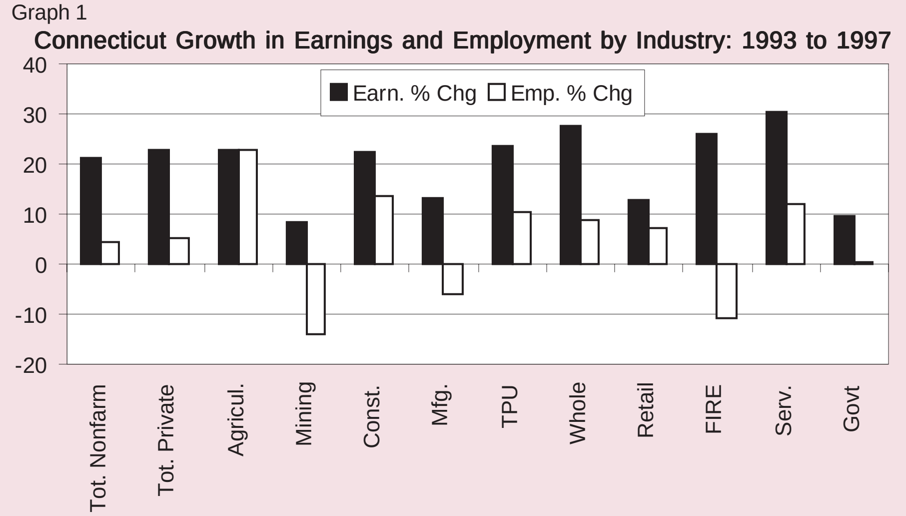
An Uneven Recovery, 1993-97

By Daniel W. Kennedy, Ph.D., Senior Economist

In May 1999, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released the *1997 Local Area Personal Income for Counties, Metropolitan Areas, and Nonmetropolitan Areas*. This article draws on that release for its analysis. For Connecticut, three metropolitan areas are designated, and defined by the BEA as New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMAs). The largest is the New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury NECMA, which is also part of New York City's Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). However, only the Connecticut portion will be discussed here. This NECMA is composed of Fairfield and New Haven Counties. The second NECMA analyzed is the Hartford NECMA, which is made up of Hartford, Tolland, and Middlesex Counties. The third NECMA in Connecticut is New London-Norwich, composed entirely of New London County.

Before continuing, there are a couple of definitions that must be discussed. The first is *Earnings*. BEA defines earnings as wages and salary disbursements, other labor income, and proprietor's income. Thus, earnings are a broader measure of monetary compensation than wages and salaries. *Employment* here is also that defined by BEA. It includes not only employment covered under the unemployment insurance program, but also the self-employed, those employed by religious organizations, and other employment not picked up by the Covered Employment and Wages (ES-202) program. There are also some methodological differences in BEA's employment series compared to that of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Thus,

Graph 1



THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

The Connecticut Economic Digest is published monthly by the Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Public and Government Relations Division. Its purpose is to regularly provide users with a comprehensive source for the most current, up-to-date data available on the workforce and economy of the state, within perspectives of the region and nation.

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

To receive this publication free of charge write to: ***The Connecticut Economic Digest***, Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research, 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114; or call: (860) 263-6275. Current subscribers who do not wish to continue receiving the publication or who have a change of address are asked to fill out the information on the back cover and return it to the above address.

Contributing DOL Staff: Salvatore DiPillo, Lincoln S. Dyer, Arthur Famiglietti, Noreen Passardi and Joseph Slepski. **Managing Editor:** Jungmin Charles Joo. **Contributing DECD Staff:** Todd Bentsen, Kolie Chang, Robert Damroth and Mark Prisloe. We would also like to thank our associates at the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut, for their contributions to the Digest.

Connecticut Department of Labor

James P. Butler, Commissioner
Jean E. Zurbrigen, Deputy Commissioner
Susan G. Townsley, Deputy Commissioner

Roger F. Therrien, Director
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
Phone: (860) 263-6275
Fax: (860) 263-6263
E-Mail: salvatore.dipillo@po.state.ct.us

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

James F. Abromaitis, Commissioner
Rita Zangari, Deputy Commissioner
Timothy H. Coppage, Deputy Commissioner

Public Affairs and Strategic Planning Division
Research Unit
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106-2502
Phone: (860) 270-8165
Fax: (860) 270-8188
E-Mail: decd@po.state.ct.us

the BEA series will be much larger than that of BLS's ES-202 series.

Earnings Growth

The period of analysis covers the first four years of Connecticut's recovery from the "Great Recession," 1993 to 1997. Graph 1 on the front page shows the percent change in earnings and employment by major Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) division for that period.

Connecticut's services division had the fastest growth in earnings over the 1993-97 period. In addition to services, earnings grew faster than average in agriculture, transportation and public utilities (TPU), wholesale trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE). The slowest growth in earnings was in the mining and government divisions. Employment growth outpaced the overall industry average in agriculture, construction, TPU, wholesale and retail trade, and services. Mining, manufacturing, and FIRE lost jobs over the period, and government employment growth over the period was flat. Save agriculture, employment growth lagged behind the earnings growth for all of Connecticut's SIC divisions over the 1993-97 period.

The consequences of the growth rates of earnings and employment over the first four years of recovery are presented in Graph 2 at the bottom of this page. It shows the growth in the *earnings-per-job*, by SIC division, over the 1993-97 period. The growth in earnings-per-job for the FIRE division, at 40.9%, was double or more the growth in every other division, except mining. Mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade, all had growth in the earnings-per-job that surpassed the average growth in all nonfarm earnings-per-job.

Table 1
Growth in CT Earnings and Employment Relative to the U.S.: 1993 to 1997

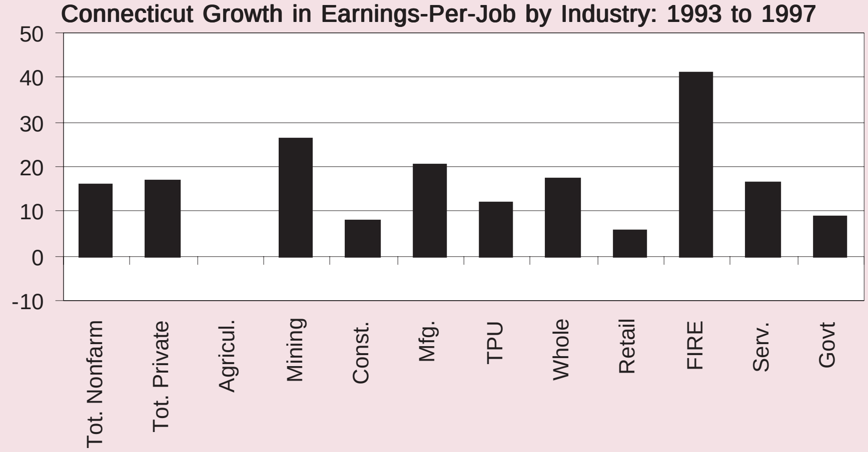
Earnings Growth	Employment Growth: *Greater than U.S.*	Employment Growth: *Less than U.S.*
Greater than U.S.	Agricul.	TPU Services Wholesale
Less than U.S.		Const. Retail Govt. *Mining** *Mfg.** *FIRE**

*employment actually declined

Table 1 above provides a summary of the growth in employment and earnings for Connecticut over the 1993-97 period, compared to the performance in the U.S. over the same period (keeping in mind that the U.S. came out of its recession in 1991).

Table 1 is set up as a contin-

Graph 2
Connecticut Growth in Earnings-Per-Job by Industry: 1993 to 1997



gency table. The column labeled "Earnings Growth" is divided between the top half, which indicates that earnings growth in Connecticut's SIC divisions exceeded its counterpart for the U.S., and the bottom half, indicating those divisions where growth lagged behind that of the U.S. Across the top is the employment growth comparison. There are two categories. "Greater than U.S." and "Less than U.S.," indicating that Connecticut employment in a given division grew faster or slower than its counterpart at the U.S. level. This type of table is also used to compare metropolitan area performance.

Table 1 shows that Connecticut's agriculture division had faster earnings growth *and* faster employment growth over the 1993-97 period than did the U.S. agriculture division. Though the TPU, services, and wholesale trade divisions had faster earnings growth over the period than their U.S. counterparts, they lagged behind in employment growth. Connecticut's construction, retail trade, and government divisions lagged behind their U.S. counterparts in *both* earnings growth *and* employment growth. Mining, FIRE, and manufacturing in Connecticut's also lagged behind their U.S. counterparts these areas, and experienced employment declines. In the case of mining, both the Connecticut and U.S. divisions experienced job losses; however, Connecticut's mining division suffered a greater decline.

Performance of the NECMAs

Following the form of Table 1, Tables 2, 3, and 4 compare the performance of earnings growth, employment growth, and earnings-per-job growth, respectively, in Connecticut's NECMAs with that of Connecticut and the U.S.

Table 2 on the next page shows that the New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury and the New London-Norwich NECMAs had faster

HOUSING UPDATE

1999 Permit Activity, Second Highest in the Decade

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 648 new housing units in December 1999, a 42.6 percent decrease compared to December of 1998 when 1,129 units were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 648 units permitted in December 1999 represent a decrease of 36.7 percent from the 1,023 units permitted in November 1999. The year-to-date permits are down 6.5 percent, from 11,541 through December 1998, to 10,794 through December 1999.

"Despite the December totals, 1999 was a very strong year for housing permit activity in Connecticut," said Commissioner Abromaitis. "As a matter of fact, the 10,794 permits authorized was the second highest total in the decade."

Hartford County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in December with 162. Fairfield County followed with 121 units and New Haven County had 117 units. Manchester led all Connecticut communities with 41 units, followed by Middletown with 22 and Tolland with 13. ■

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

Industry Clusters

Cluster Activation

In the latest "Industry Clusters Progress Report," the DECD's Industry Cluster and International Division summarizes progress achieved with the various clusters organized to date. The report's ten chapters start with the issue of "Cluster Activation."

Cluster activation is a critical first step toward realizing the potential of a group of industries. Clusters are activated when companies formally organized to collaborate, cooperate, and become competitive. Corporate leaders drive the cluster's activities and the public sector's role is support and facilitation. In Connecticut, BioScience, Aerospace Components Manufacturers, and Software/Information Technology clusters are up and running.

The DECD has provided seed funds totaling $425,000 to these three clusters and will leverage over $1 million in in-kind matches and private investment. A focused study of Connecticut Marine commerce is underway. Agriculture, Seafood, and Plastics are in the early stages, but progressing. Photonics is in the exploratory phase.

The ongoing challenges are to maintain each cluster's forward momentum while refining the program support elements appropriate to each one's developmental stage. This includes identifying outcomes to be achieved, meeting the State's goals by identifying and providing special attention required by key clusters, and simultaneously supporting Connecticut's major clusters such as finance/insurance/reinsurance, medical devices, and health services. ■

Table 2
Growth in Earnings for NECMAs Relative to CT and the U.S.: 1993 to 1997

Earnings	Greater than CT	Less than CT
Greater than U.S.	NH-Brid-Stam-Wat-Dan New London-Norwich	
Less than U.S.		Hartford Bal. of State

growth in nonfarm earnings than either Connecticut or the U.S. Further, these two also had faster nonfarm earnings growth than either the Hartford NECMA, or the nonmetropolitan portion of the State. The Hartford NECMA and the nonmetropolitan portion lagged behind both Connecticut and the U.S. in nonfarm earnings growth over the 1993-97 period.

Table 3 below shows that employment growth exceeded that for Connecticut, but lagged behind that for the U.S., in the New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury and New London-Norwich NECMAs, and the balance of the State (non-metropolitan portion). The Hartford NECMA lagged behind both the U.S. and Connecticut in job growth.

Table 3
Growth in Employment for NECMAs Relative to CT and the U.S.: 1993 to 1997

Employment	Greater than CT	Less than CT
Greater than U.S.		
Less than U.S.	NH-Brid-Stam-Wat-Dan New London-Norwich Bal. of State	Hartford

Table 4
Growth in Earnings-Per-Job for NECMAs Relative to CT and the U.S.: 1993 to 1997

Earnings Per Job	Greater than CT	Less than CT
Greater than U.S.	NH-Brid-Stam-Wat-Dan	New London-Norwich
Less than U.S.		Hartford Bal. of State

The comparison of the growth in nonfarm earnings-per-job is depicted in Table 4 above. The New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury NECMA was the only sub-state region to outperform both the U.S. and Connecticut in the growth of nonfarm earnings-per-job over the 1993-97 period. Though the New London-Norwich NECMA outperformed the U.S in earnings-per-job growth, it lagged behind Connecticut's growth. Again, the Hartford NECMA lagged behind both the U.S. and Connecticut. The non-metropolitan portion of the State also lagged behind the U.S. and Connecticut nonfarm earnings-per-job growth.

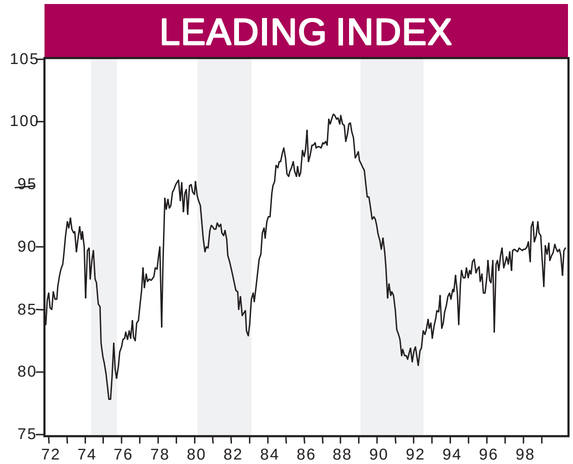
Clearly, the New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury experienced the strongest performance of Connecticut's sub-state regions in terms of the growth in earnings and earnings-per-job. Its performance was less stellar in the job-creation department, though certainly not a laggard. This performance probably has something to do with this area's connection to the greater New York City economy. The Hartford NECMA experienced the most difficulty over the 1993-97 recovery period, at least based on its comparative growth in nonfarm earnings, employment, and earnings-per-job. The New London-Norwich NECMA did well in earnings growth, and had modest performance in employment and earnings-per-job growth. The non-metropolitan portion of the State, though it performed slightly better than the Hartford NECMA, was, like the Hartford NECMA, struggling to jump-start nonfarm earnings and earnings-per-job during the first four years of the State's economic recovery. The State itself lagged behind the U.S. in nonfarm earnings and employment growth over 1993-97 (again, given that the U.S. recession was shorter and less severe, and that its recovery began in 1991).

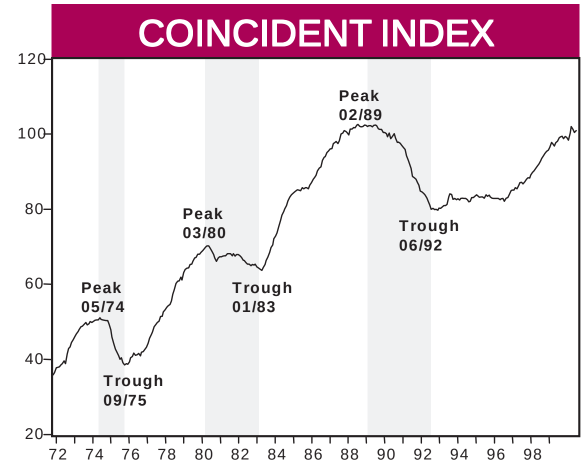
Earnings-Per-Job Growth by Industry for NECMAs

Why did the New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury NECMA have the State's best performance, and why did the Hartford NECMA lag behind the State? The following brief summary compares the two NECMA's industry mix and the role it played in their different experiences over the 1993-97 recovery period.

The New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury NECMA accounted for one-half to four-fifths of the shares of the State's earnings-per-job growth for the three fastest growing divisions: services, wholesale trade, and FIRE. The NECMA's growth in services earnings-per-job matched that of the State, and ranked second behind the New London-Norwich NECMA. FIRE earnings-per-job growth was faster than that for the State and the other two NECMA's. Though the New Haven-Bridgeport-Stamford-Waterbury-Danbury NECMA lost jobs in FIRE, its decline was only half that of the State's.

The Hartford NECMA experienced a decline in earnings-per-job for FIRE. Further, the Hartford NECMA's job losses in FIRE were much steeper than those for the State. The NECMA also lagged behind the State in earnings-per-job growth in services. Though the Hartford NECMA lost fewer manufacturing jobs than the other two NECMAs and had a decline that matched that of the State, earnings-per-job grew very slowly, and lagged behind that for the State. Similarly, Hartford's growth in construction earnings-per-job lagged behind the State's growth. ■





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.

Pop the Cork and Pass the Bubbly as the Party Rolls into 2000

The Connecticut coincident and leading employment indexes both increased with the release of (preliminary) November 1999 data. The rise in the coincident index reversed two consecutive monthly declines while the increase in the leading index was the second monthly rise since its large drop in September 1999.

The coincident index, a gauge of current employment activity, remains within hailing distance of its recent peak in August 1999. Focusing on its components, both total and nonfarm employment rose while both the total and insured unemployment rates fell on a month-over-month basis.

The leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, continues to dance along a plateau established in late 1996. See the accompanying chart. This month's release continued the leading index's rebound from its substantial month-to-month decline in September, primarily reflecting the large increase in total housing permits.

This month's release also represents a landmark among professional bean counters. Nonfarm employment finally, fully recovered all jobs lost during the Great Recession. That is, nonfarm employment rose to 1,678,600 jobs in November 1999, surpassing the previous peak 1,678,300 jobs recorded in February 1989. Now, this fact belies dramatic shifts in the job mix – manufacturing; wholesale and retail trade; and finance, insurance, and real estate jobs all dropped from their February 1989 counts, but the job increases in services (e.g., business and health) and government easily picked up the slack. (Remember that the increase in government jobs primarily reflects Native American tribal activity.)

As we go to press, a major unknown was what the Federal Reserve will do with interest rates at its February meeting. The decision not to raise rates in their last meeting before the new year for a smooth Y2K transition should not continue through the February meeting, as many analysts expect an interest rate increase. The secret will be divulged by the time this column appears in print.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 98.1 in November 1998 to 100.9 in November 1999. All four components of the index point in a positive direction on a year-over-year basis with higher nonfarm employment, higher total employment, a lower total unemployment rate, and a lower insured unemployment rate.

The leading employment index rose from 89.4 in November 1998 to 89.9 in November 1999. Three index components sent positive signals on a year-over-year basis with a lower short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, lower initial claims for unemployment insurance, and higher total housing permits. Two components sent negative signals on a your-over-year basis with a lower average workweek of manufacturing production workers and lower Hartford help wanted advertising.

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]. Stan McMillen, Kathryn Parr, and Hulya Varol [(860) 486-3022, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

Total employment increased by 22,900, or 1.4 percent, over the year.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
TOTAL NONFARM	1,683.2	1,660.3	22.9	1.4	1,678.8
Private Sector	1,446.4	1,430.6	15.8	1.1	1,443.5
Construction and Mining	62.8	61.3	1.5	2.4	61.9
Manufacturing	271.1	275.6	-4.5	-1.6	271.4
Transportation, Public Utilities	76.9	76.2	0.7	0.9	76.9
Wholesale, Retail Trade	362.1	358.9	3.2	0.9	360.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	140.5	138.5	2.0	1.4	140.8
Services	533.0	520.1	12.9	2.5	531.9
Government	236.8	229.7	7.1	3.1	235.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate dropped from a year ago. The number of initial claims declined over the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted)	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	2.7	3.2	-0.5	---	2.9
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,719.3	1,722.0	-2.7	-0.2	1,719.6
Employed (000s)	1,673.0	1,666.9	6.1	0.4	1,669.0
Unemployed (000s)	46.3	55.1	-8.8	-16.0	50.7
Average Weekly Initial Claims	3,012	3,394	-382	-11.3	3,503
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100	36	35	1	2.9	33
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	1.85	2.04	-0.19	---	1.71

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

Production worker weekly earnings increased while output fell over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

(Not seasonally adjusted)	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999	OCT 1999
Average Weekly Hours	43.4	43.2	0.2	0.5	42.9	--
Average Hourly Earnings	$15.93	$15.01	$0.92	6.1	$15.65	--
Average Weekly Earnings	$691.36	$648.43	$42.93	6.6	$671.39	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (1982=100)*	124.0	132.5	-8.5	-6.4	129.4	129.1
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,149	6,955	-806	-11.6	6,744	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)**	490	514	-24.0	-4.7	490	534

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Energy
**This new and improved index replaced the Manufacturing Output Index; Seasonally adjusted.*
***Latest two months are forecasted. See June 1999 Digest article for explanation; methodology or historical data back to 1982 is available by contacting the Connecticut Department of Labor, at (860)263-6293.*

Personal income for second quarter 2000 is forecasted to increase 5.9 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME (Quarterly)

(Seasonally adjusted) (Annualized; $ Millions)	2Q* 2000	2Q 1999	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	1Q* 2000
Personal Income	$137,023	$129,428	$7,595	5.9	$135,092
UI Covered Wages	$73,506	$69,326	$4,180	6.0	$72,284

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: January 2000 release
**Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor*

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Construction contracts were up 11.1 percent from a year ago.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE PRIOR	% CHG
New Housing Permits	DEC 1999	648	-42.6	10,794	11,541	-6.5
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	OCT 1999	2,275	1.9	24,862	23,969	3.7
Retail Sales (Bil. $)	OCT 1999	2.97	5.7	31.82	29.98	6.1
Construction Contracts						
Index (1980=100)	DEC 1999	250.9	11.1	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	DEC 1999	14,517	-25.1	228,895	212,060	7.9
Air Cargo Tons	NOV 1999	14,295	20.7	135,616	141,825	-4.4

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 formation, as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Secretary of the State, was up by 17,352 for 1999.

	DEC 1999	% CHANGE M/M	% CHANGE Y/Y	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE PRIOR	% CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	2,188	19.6	10.3	22,003	20,121	9.4
Department of Labor	511	-51.0	-18.0	10,454	9,966	4.9
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	898	118.5	-0.1	4,651	4,501	3.3
Department of Labor	510	-22.7	-3.2	11,658	12,227	-4.7

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 5.1 percent from a year ago; only corporate taxes were down by 9.7 percent for the same period.

(Millions of dollars)	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	% CHG	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 1998-99	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 1997-98	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	861.1	811.8	6.1	3,545.2	3,373.6	5.1
Corporate Tax	74.1	88.9	-16.6	194.3	215.2	-9.7
Personal Income Tax	431.2	378.8	13.8	1,473.1	1,348.6	9.2
Real Estate Conv. Tax	10.5	8.4	2.1	70.0	55.0	27.3
Sales & Use Tax	232.5	229.3	1.4	1,218.3	1,166.4	4.4

Source: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services
**Includes all sources of tax revenue; Only selected taxes are displayed; Most July collections are credited to the prior fiscal year and are not shown.*

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

Air passenger traffic increased 12.3 percent for the year to date through November.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE PRIOR	% CHG
Tourism Inquiries	DEC 1999	6,424	3.3	310,406	265,626	16.9
Info Center Visitors	DEC 1999	39,035	0.8	602,013	605,939	-0.6
Major Attraction Visitors	DEC 1999	89,893	1.3	1,969,019	2,017,705	-2.4
Hotel-Motel Occupancy*	OCT 1999	82.8	-1.4	74.4	75.7	-1.3
Air Passenger Count	NOV 1999	613,006	27.8	5,784,968	5,149,449	12.3

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 rose 3.4 percent over the year for the nation and the Northeast.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted DEC 1999	SEP 1999	3-Mo % Chg	Not Seasonally Adjusted DEC 1999	DEC 1998	12-Mo % Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	144.5	143.0	1.0	144.6	139.8	3.4
Wages and Salaries	142.3	140.9	1.0	142.2	137.4	3.5
Benefit Costs	150.1	148.1	1.4	150.2	145.2	3.4
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	144.3	139.5	3.4
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	140.9	136.4	3.3

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

U.S. inflation was 2.7 percent in December. Consumer confidence for both the U.S. and New England were up from their year-ago levels.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	DEC 1999	NOV 1999	DEC 1998	% CHG M/M	Y/Y
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	168.3	168.3	163.9	0.0	2.7
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=$1.00)	$0.594	$0.594	$0.610	0.0	-2.6
Northeast Region	175.5	175.5	171.2	0.0	2.5
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	178.6	178.8	174.7	-0.1	2.2
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	---	179.2	---	---	1.4
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	163.2	165.1	160.7	-1.2	1.6
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	141.4	137.0	126.7	3.2	11.6
New England	141.5	137.1	121.0	3.2	16.9

**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 higher in December from their year ago levels, including a higher conventional 30-year mortgage rate of 7.91 percent.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	DEC 1999	NOV 1999	DEC 1998
Prime	8.50	8.37	7.75
Federal Funds	5.30	5.42	4.68
3 Month Treasury Bill	5.23	5.07	4.42
6 Month Treasury Bill	5.43	5.17	4.43
1 Year Treasury Bill	5.84	5.55	4.52
3 Year Treasury Note	6.14	5.92	4.48
5 Year Treasury Note	6.19	5.97	4.45
7 Year Treasury Note	6.38	6.17	4.65
10 Year Treasury Note	6.28	6.03	4.62
30 Year Teasury Bond	6.35	6.15	5.06
Conventional Mortgage	7.91	7.74	6.72

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Maine led the region with the strongest job growth over the year.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
Connecticut	1,683.2	1,660.3	22.9	1.4	1,678.8
Maine	590.0	577.1	12.9	2.2	590.0
Massachusetts	3,248.2	3,198.5	49.7	1.6	3,233.6
New Hampshire	603.4	591.5	11.9	2.0	600.8
New Jersey	3,898.5	3,833.2	65.3	1.7	3,889.1
New York	8,473.5	8,312.9	160.6	1.9	8,454.9
Pennsylvania	5,532.3	5,526.4	5.9	0.1	5,544.3
Rhode Island	466.8	461.0	5.8	1.3	468.7
Vermont	294.6	288.6	6.0	2.1	293.4
United States	129,869.0	127,186.0	2,683.0	2.1	129,554.0

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

LABOR FORCE

Maine experienced the strongest labor force growth in the region from a year ago.

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
Connecticut	1,719.6	1,722.0	-2.4	-0.1	1,719.6
Maine	683.8	664.7	19.1	2.9	682.7
Massachusetts	3,288.5	3,259.5	29.0	0.9	3,286.1
New Hampshire	672.5	666.5	6.0	0.9	673.1
New Jersey	4,248.1	4,193.7	54.4	1.3	4,246.2
New York	8,895.9	8,874.4	21.5	0.2	8,898.6
Pennsylvania	5,963.2	5,930.2	33.0	0.6	5,952.8
Rhode Island	509.2	500.7	8.5	1.7	508.2
Vermont	338.4	335.8	2.6	0.8	337.1
United States	140,108.0	138,545.0	1,563.0	1.1	139,834.0

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

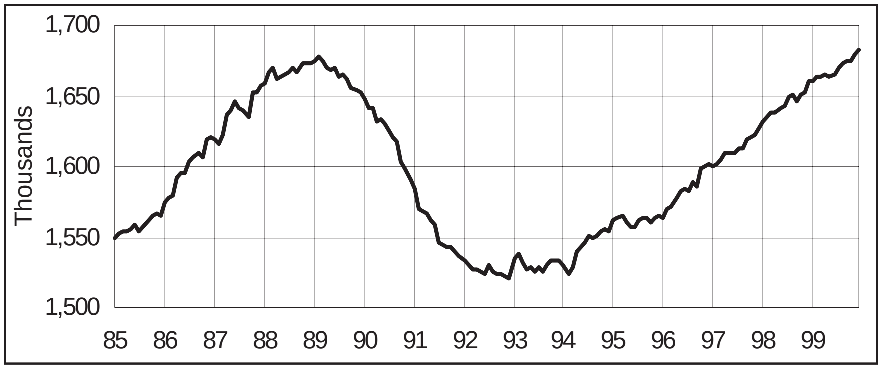
New Hampshire posted the lowest December unemployment rate in the region.

(Seasonally adjusted)	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE	NOV 1999
Connecticut	2.7	3.2	-0.5	2.9
Maine	3.6	3.8	-0.2	3.5
Massachusetts	3.2	3.1	0.1	3.2
New Hampshire	2.5	2.8	-0.3	2.7
New Jersey	4.1	4.4	-0.3	4.4
New York	4.8	5.4	-0.6	5.0
Pennsylvania	4.1	4.4	-0.3	4.3
Rhode Island	3.8	4.1	-0.3	3.9
Vermont	2.7	3.0	-0.3	2.7
United States	4.1	4.4	-0.3	4.1

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

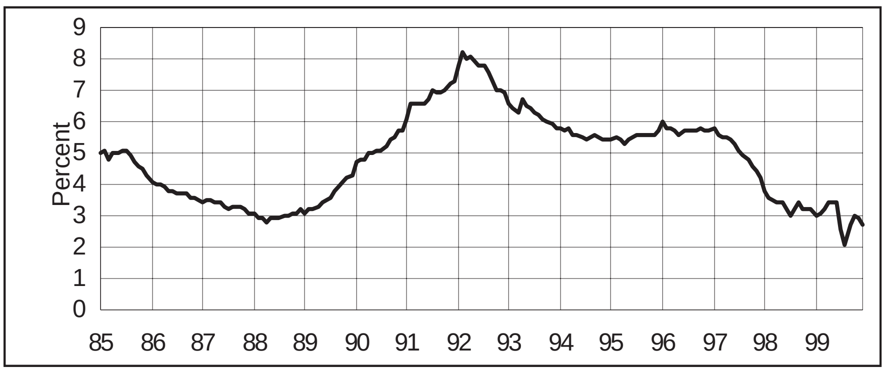
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



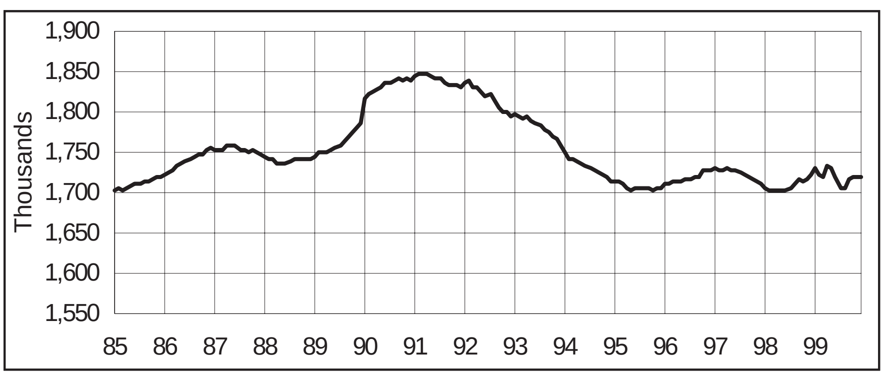
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,599.4	1,631.4	1,660.5
Feb	1,601.5	1,635.5	1,663.4
Mar	1,605.1	1,638.4	1,663.9
Apr	1,609.3	1,638.5	1,665.4
May	1,610.3	1,640.8	1,663.3
Jun	1,610.2	1,643.3	1,665.2
Jul	1,612.9	1,649.3	1,669.5
Aug	1,612.5	1,651.3	1,672.3
Sep	1,618.3	1,645.8	1,674.3
Oct	1,620.7	1,651.4	1,674.1
Nov	1,622.4	1,652.5	1,678.8
Dec	1,627.4	1,660.3	1,683.2

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	3.2
Apr	5.5	3.4	3.4
May	5.4	3.4	3.4
Jun	5.3	3.2	3.4
Jul	5.1	3.0	2.6
Aug	4.9	3.2	2.1
Sep	4.8	3.4	2.7
Oct	4.6	3.2	3.0
Nov	4.4	3.2	2.9
Dec	4.2	3.2	2.7

LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*

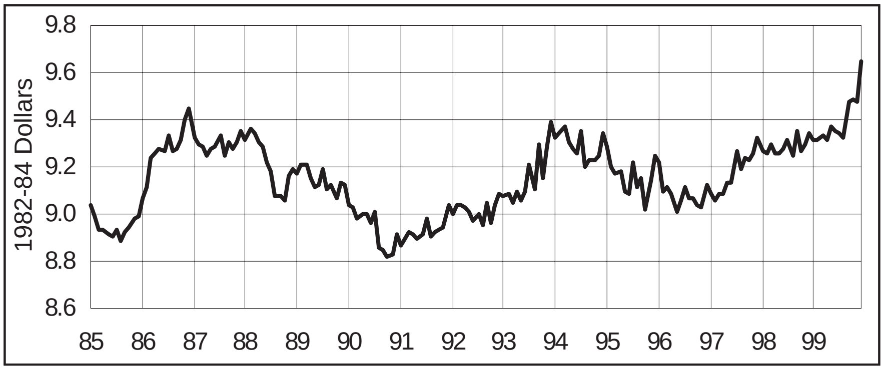


Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,729.2	1,706.3	1,729.5
Feb	1,728.2	1,703.2	1,722.8
Mar	1,728.1	1,704.0	1,718.6
Apr	1,729.9	1,702.9	1,732.6
May	1,727.6	1,703.4	1,731.2
Jun	1,726.9	1,704.1	1,719.2
Jul	1,724.3	1,706.7	1,706.5
Aug	1,721.1	1,710.0	1,705.8
Sep	1,720.0	1,715.8	1,718.0
Oct	1,718.0	1,714.2	1,719.4
Nov	1,713.7	1,718.0	1,719.6
Dec	1,712.0	1,722.0	1,719.3

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*

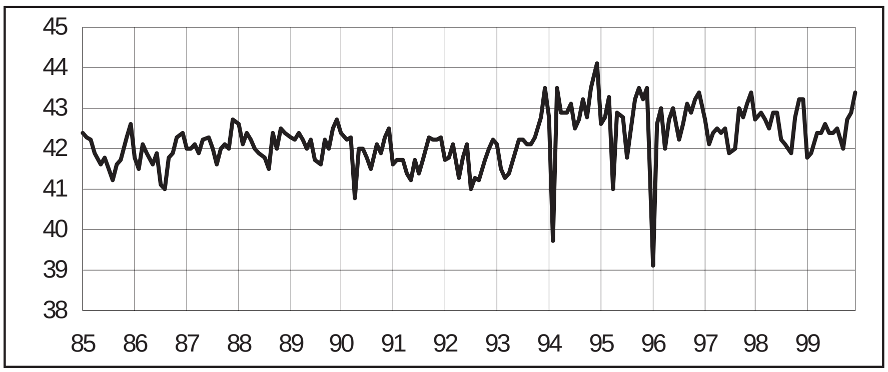
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	4,010	3,450	4,252
Feb	3,892	3,573	3,885
Mar	4,084	3,518	4,047
Apr	4,434	3,584	3,805
May	3,791	3,710	3,776
Jun	3,990	3,962	3,894
Jul	3,678	3,779	3,498
Aug	3,736	4,164	3,797
Sep	3,621	5,076	3,954
Oct	3,502	3,500	3,353
Nov	3,699	4,026	3,503
Dec	4,026	3,394	3,012

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



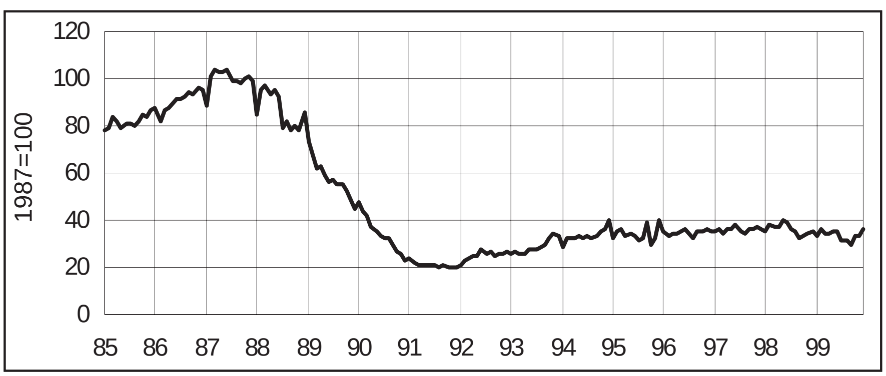
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	$9.09	$9.27	$9.32
Feb	9.06	9.26	9.31
Mar	9.08	9.29	9.33
Apr	9.09	9.26	9.32
May	9.13	9.25	9.37
Jun	9.14	9.27	9.36
Jul	9.26	9.32	9.34
Aug	9.20	9.24	9.32
Sep	9.24	9.35	9.47
Oct	9.22	9.27	9.48
Nov	9.26	9.30	9.48
Dec	9.32	9.34	9.65

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



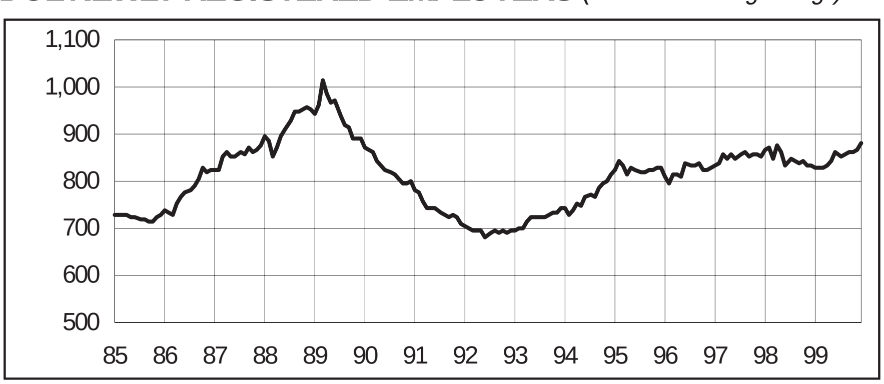
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	42.7	42.7	41.8
Feb	42.1	42.9	41.9
Mar	42.4	42.7	42.4
Apr	42.5	42.5	42.4
May	42.4	42.9	42.6
Jun	42.5	42.9	42.4
Jul	41.9	42.2	42.4
Aug	42.0	42.1	42.5
Sep	43.0	41.9	42.0
Oct	42.8	42.8	42.7
Nov	43.1	43.2	42.9
Dec	43.4	43.2	43.4

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



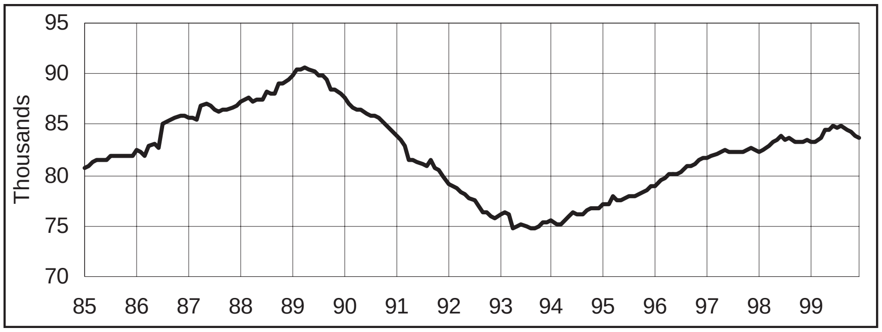
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	35	35	33
Feb	36	38	36
Mar	34	37	34
Apr	36	37	34
May	36	40	35
Jun	38	39	35
Jul	35	36	31
Aug	34	35	31
Sep	36	32	30
Oct	35	33	33
Nov	37	34	33
Dec	36	35	36

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



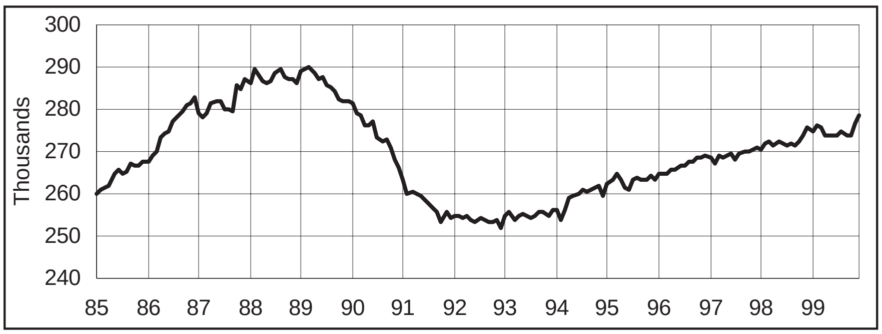
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	833	868	831
Feb	840	870	828
Mar	856	846	829
Apr	849	878	834
May	856	861	843
Jun	848	836	861
Jul	856	849	854
Aug	862	841	856
Sep	854	838	861
Oct	859	845	860
Nov	859	836	868
Dec	852	832	881

WHOLESALE TRADE EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



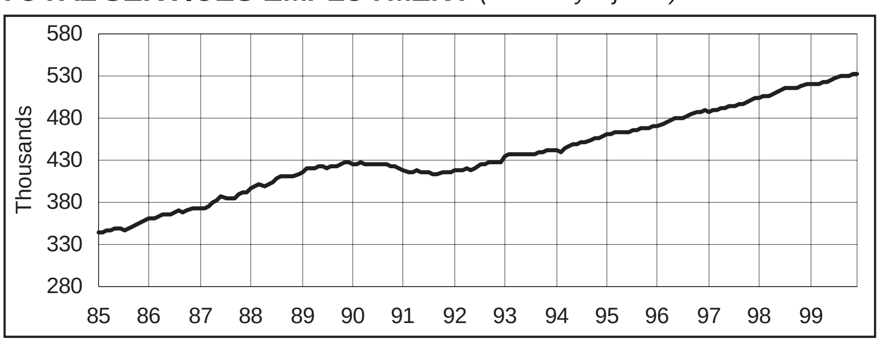
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	81.8	82.3	83.2
Feb	82.0	82.5	83.3
Mar	82.2	82.8	83.6
Apr	82.4	83.3	84.4
May	82.5	83.4	84.4
Jun	82.3	83.9	84.9
Jul	82.3	83.5	84.7
Aug	82.3	83.6	84.8
Sep	82.4	83.3	84.4
Oct	82.5	83.2	84.3
Nov	82.6	83.3	83.8
Dec	82.5	83.4	83.7

RETAIL TRADE EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



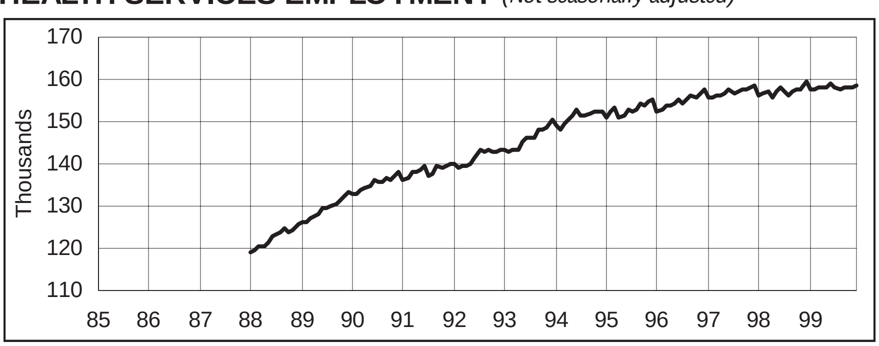
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	268.6	270.7	274.6
Feb	267.2	271.9	276.2
Mar	269.2	272.3	275.5
Apr	268.7	271.5	274.0
May	268.9	272.2	273.9
Jun	269.4	271.9	273.8
Jul	268.1	271.6	273.6
Aug	269.4	271.8	274.8
Sep	269.9	271.2	274.0
Oct	270.1	272.2	273.9
Nov	270.5	273.6	276.8
Dec	271.0	275.5	278.4

TOTAL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



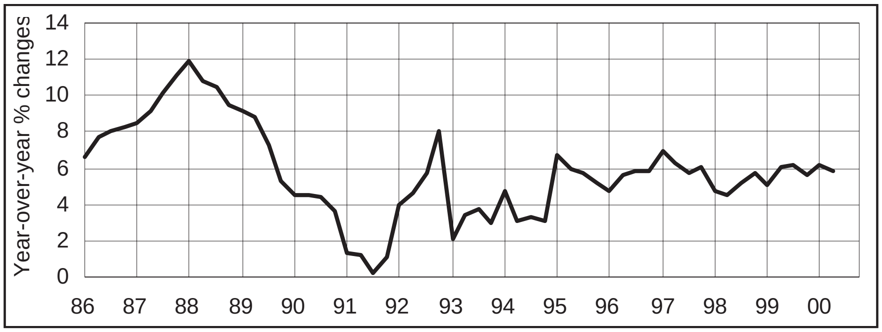
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	487.5	505.0	520.0
Feb	489.1	506.1	521.4
Mar	490.6	507.2	520.5
Apr	492.8	509.0	523.8
May	492.8	511.2	523.1
Jun	493.8	513.5	526.3
Jul	495.4	514.7	528.6
Aug	496.5	515.4	529.4
Sep	497.8	515.7	529.7
Oct	499.4	516.3	530.0
Nov	501.0	517.0	531.9
Dec	503.4	520.1	533.0

HEALTH SERVICES EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



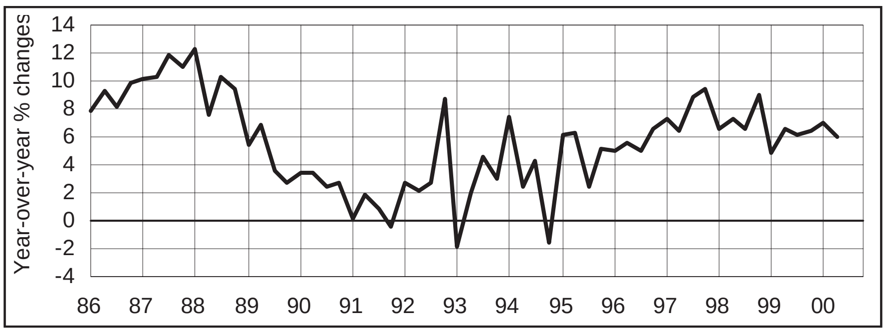
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	155.7	156.1	157.4
Feb	155.6	156.5	157.8
Mar	156.2	157.0	157.9
Apr	156.0	155.8	157.9
May	156.7	157.0	158.1
Jun	157.5	158.1	158.9
Jul	156.9	157.0	158.3
Aug	157.0	156.2	157.5
Sep	157.8	157.2	158.0
Oct	157.4	157.7	158.1
Nov	157.9	157.8	158.3
Dec	158.6	159.4	158.5

PERSONAL INCOME *(Seasonally adjusted)*



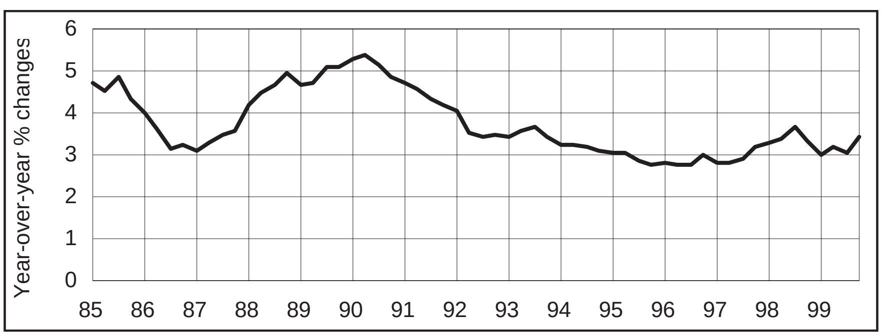
Quarter	1998	1999	2000
First	4.7	4.7	6.2
Second	4.6	5.3	5.9
Third	5.2	5.6	
Fourth	5.8	4.7	

UI COVERED WAGES *(Seasonally adjusted)*



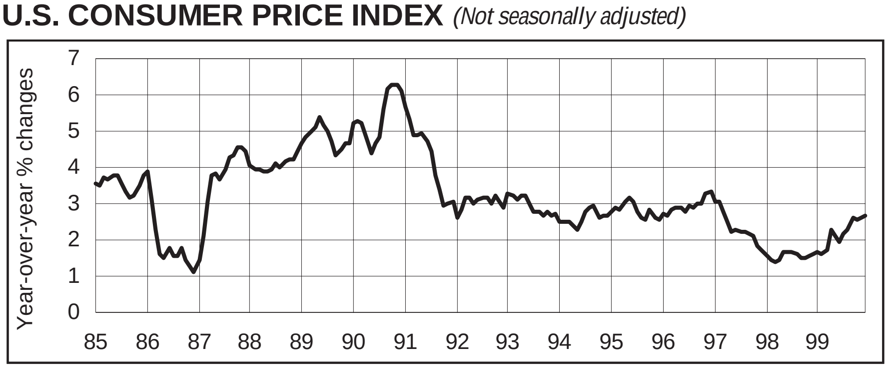
Quarter	1998	1999	2000
First	6.5	5.0	7.0
Second	7.3	5.8	6.0
Third	6.6	4.4	
Fourth	9.1	1.4	

U.S. EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Quarter	1997	1998	1999
First	2.8	3.3	3.0
Second	2.8	3.4	3.2
Third	2.9	3.7	3.0
Fourth	3.2	3.3	3.4

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	3.0	1.6	1.7
Feb	3.0	1.4	1.6
Mar	2.8	1.4	1.7
Apr	2.5	1.4	2.3
May	2.2	1.7	2.1
Jun	2.3	1.7	2.0
Jul	2.2	1.7	2.1
Aug	2.2	1.6	2.3
Sep	2.2	1.5	2.6
Oct	2.1	1.5	2.6
Nov	1.8	1.5	2.6
Dec	1.7	1.6	2.7

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

CONNECTICUT

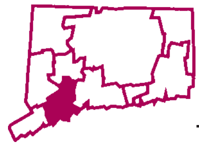
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**1,705,900**	**1,684,100**	**21,800**	**1.3**	**1,698,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**334,300**	**337,300**	**-3,000**	**-0.9**	**336,200**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**62,200**	**60,400**	**1,800**	**3.0**	**63,700**
MANUFACTURING	**272,100**	**276,900**	**-4,800**	**-1.7**	**272,500**
Durable	**191,100**	**194,900**	**-3,800**	**-1.9**	**191,300**
Lumber & Furniture	5,400	5,200	200	3.8	5,500
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,800	2,800	0	0.0	2,800
Primary Metals	9,300	9,400	-100	-1.1	9,300
Fabricated Metals	34,700	35,400	-700	-2.0	34,700
Machinery & Computer Equipment	34,200	34,700	-500	-1.4	34,200
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	28,300	28,800	-500	-1.7	28,400
Transportation Equipment	48,700	50,100	-1,400	-2.8	48,500
Instruments	21,500	22,100	-600	-2.7	21,700
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1	6,200
Nondurable	**81,000**	**82,000**	**-1,000**	**-1.2**	**81,200**
Food	8,200	7,900	300	3.8	8,200
Textiles	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	1,900
Apparel	3,900	4,200	-300	-7.1	3,900
Paper	7,700	7,700	0	0.0	7,700
Printing & Publishing	25,900	26,400	-500	-1.9	25,800
Chemicals	20,900	21,000	-100	-0.5	21,000
Rubber & Plastics	10,700	10,700	0	0.0	10,600
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	1,700	2,100	-400	-19.0	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**1,371,600**	**1,346,800**	**24,800**	**1.8**	**1,362,600**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**77,600**	**76,700**	**900**	**1.2**	**77,400**
Transportation	46,200	44,900	1,300	2.9	46,000
Motor Freight & Warehousing	12,400	12,300	100	0.8	12,400
Other Transportation	33,800	32,600	1,200	3.7	33,600
Communications	19,200	19,600	-400	-2.0	19,200
Utilities	12,200	12,200	0	0.0	12,200
TRADE	**374,200**	**372,300**	**1,900**	**0.5**	**367,500**
Wholesale	84,100	84,100	0	0.0	84,100
Retail	290,100	288,200	1,900	0.7	283,400
General Merchandise	29,700	31,400	-1,700	-5.4	28,700
Food Stores	53,900	53,800	100	0.2	53,400
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	27,600	27,300	300	1.1	27,600
Restaurants	78,600	77,900	700	0.9	77,800
Other Retail Trade	100,300	97,800	2,500	2.6	95,900
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**141,200**	**138,700**	**2,500**	**1.8**	**140,400**
Finance	53,200	51,800	1,400	2.7	52,800
Banking	25,800	25,300	500	2.0	25,500
Securities	13,700	12,900	800	6.2	13,600
Insurance	71,500	70,900	600	0.8	71,100
Insurance Carriers	60,100	59,600	500	0.8	59,700
Real Estate	16,500	16,000	500	3.1	16,500
SERVICES	**536,200**	**523,800**	**12,400**	**2.4**	**534,600**
Hotels & Lodging Places	11,600	11,500	100	0.9	11,600
Personal Services	18,900	18,800	100	0.5	18,500
Business Services	114,300	110,200	4,100	3.7	113,100
Health Services	158,500	159,400	-900	-0.6	158,300
Legal & Engineering Services	57,100	55,800	1,300	2.3	56,900
Educational Services	46,500	44,500	2,000	4.5	47,000
Other Services	129,300	123,600	5,700	4.6	129,200
GOVERNMENT	**242,400**	**235,300**	**7,100**	**3.0**	**242,700**
Federal	23,000	22,900	100	0.4	22,400
**State, Local & Other Government	219,400	212,400	7,000	3.3	220,300

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

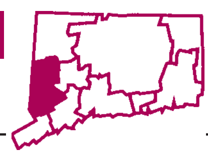


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**191,400**	**191,800**	**-400**	**-0.2**	**189,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**45,000**	**45,600**	**-600**	**-1.3**	**44,800**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**6,900**	**6,800**	**100**	**1.5**	**7,100**
MANUFACTURING	**38,100**	**38,800**	**-700**	**-1.8**	**37,700**
Durable Goods	30,700	31,500	-800	-2.5	30,400
Fabricated Metals	4,100	4,500	-400	-8.9	4,000
Industrial Machinery	6,100	6,300	-200	-3.2	6,200
Electronic Equipment	6,300	6,100	200	3.3	6,300
Transportation Equipment	8,200	8,300	-100	-1.2	7,900
Nondurable Goods	7,400	7,300	100	1.4	7,300
Printing & Publishing	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**146,400**	**146,200**	**200**	**0.1**	**144,700**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**7,000**	**7,100**	**-100**	**-1.4**	**7,000**
TRADE	**43,500**	**43,900**	**-400**	**-0.9**	**42,400**
Wholesale	10,500	10,400	100	1.0	10,400
Retail	33,000	33,500	-500	-1.5	32,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**11,000**	**10,700**	**300**	**2.8**	**11,000**
SERVICES	**63,600**	**63,300**	**300**	**0.5**	**63,000**
Business Services	15,800	15,700	100	0.6	15,500
Health Services	19,800	20,000	-200	-1.0	19,700
GOVERNMENT	**21,300**	**21,200**	**100**	**0.5**	**21,300**
Federal	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,000
State & Local	19,300	19,100	200	1.0	19,300

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

DANBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

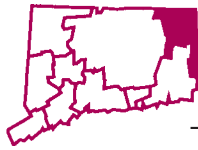
	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**91,100**	**91,000**	**100**	**0.1**	**90,100**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,700**	**23,500**	**-800**	**-3.4**	**22,700**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**4,100**	**4,000**	**100**	**2.5**	**4,100**
MANUFACTURING	**18,600**	**19,500**	**-900**	**-4.6**	**18,600**
Durable Goods	10,000	10,700	-700	-6.5	10,100
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,200	5,600	-400	-7.1	5,300
Instruments & Related	2,400	2,800	-400	-14.3	2,400
Nondurable Goods	8,600	8,800	-200	-2.3	8,500
Printing & Publishing	2,400	2,600	-200	-7.7	2,400
Chemicals	3,500	3,500	0	0.0	3,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**68,400**	**67,500**	**900**	**1.3**	**67,400**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**2,900**	**3,000**	**-100**	**-3.3**	**3,000**
TRADE	**23,300**	**23,400**	**-100**	**-0.4**	**22,600**
Wholesale	3,400	3,600	-200	-5.6	3,400
Retail	19,900	19,800	100	0.5	19,200
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**5,100**	**4,900**	**200**	**4.1**	**5,000**
SERVICES	**25,900**	**25,300**	**600**	**2.4**	**25,700**
GOVERNMENT	**11,200**	**10,900**	**300**	**2.8**	**11,100**
Federal	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
State & Local	10,400	10,000	400	4.0	10,300

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.*

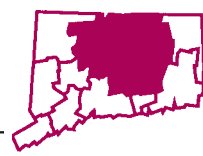
DANIELSON LMA



	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**20,500**	**20,300**	**200**	**1.0**	**20,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**6,400**	**6,600**	**-200**	**-3.0**	**6,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**900**	**900**	**0**	**0.0**	**900**
MANUFACTURING	**5,500**	**5,700**	**-200**	**-3.5**	**5,500**
Durable Goods	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.3	2,200
Nondurable Goods	3,300	3,400	-100	-2.9	3,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**14,100**	**13,700**	**400**	**2.9**	**14,100**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**500**	**500**	**0**	**0.0**	**500**
TRADE	**5,000**	**4,900**	**100**	**2.0**	**5,000**
Wholesale	1,000	900	100	11.1	1,000
Retail	4,000	4,000	0	0.0	4,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**600**	**600**	**0**	**0.0**	**600**
SERVICES	**4,900**	**4,700**	**200**	**4.3**	**4,900**
GOVERNMENT	**3,100**	**3,000**	**100**	**3.3**	**3,100**
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	3,000	2,900	100	3.4	3,000

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

HARTFORD LMA



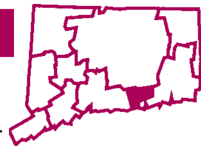
	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**618,100**	**615,100**	**3,000**	**0.5**	**617,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**115,600**	**116,000**	**-400**	**-0.3**	**116,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**21,600**	**20,300**	**1,300**	**6.4**	**22,300**
MANUFACTURING	**94,000**	**95,700**	**-1,700**	**-1.8**	**94,000**
Durable Goods	73,600	75,200	-1,600	-2.1	73,600
Primary & Fabricated Metals	18,900	18,700	200	1.1	18,800
Industrial Machinery	13,700	14,500	-800	-5.5	13,800
Electronic Equipment	6,100	6,300	-200	-3.2	6,200
Transportation Equipment	26,300	27,300	-1,000	-3.7	26,200
Nondurable Goods	20,400	20,500	-100	-0.5	20,400
Printing & Publishing	8,900	8,900	0	0.0	8,800
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**502,500**	**499,100**	**3,400**	**0.7**	**501,500**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**27,900**	**27,200**	**700**	**2.6**	**27,500**
Transportation	16,600	15,900	700	4.4	16,200
Communications & Utilities	11,300	11,300	0	0.0	11,300
TRADE	**127,400**	**128,000**	**-600**	**-0.5**	**126,900**
Wholesale	30,000	29,800	200	0.7	29,800
Retail	97,400	98,200	-800	-0.8	97,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**71,300**	**71,300**	**0**	**0.0**	**70,800**
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	12,100	11,700	400	3.4	12,000
Insurance Carriers	46,300	46,700	-400	-0.9	45,900
SERVICES	**178,500**	**176,200**	**2,300**	**1.3**	**177,600**
Business Services	35,700	33,800	1,900	5.6	35,500
Health Services	58,600	58,900	-300	-0.5	58,500
GOVERNMENT	**97,400**	**96,400**	**1,000**	**1.0**	**98,700**
Federal	7,800	8,000	-200	-2.5	7,700
State & Local	89,600	88,400	1,200	1.4	91,000

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

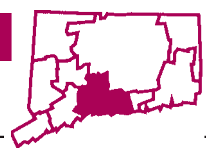


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**9,800**	**9,700**	**100**	**1.0**	**9,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**3,400**	**3,300**	**100**	**3.0**	**3,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**500**	**400**	**100**	**25.0**	**500**
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	**6,400**	**6,400**	**0**	**0.0**	**6,300**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**300**	**400**	**-100**	**-25.0**	**300**
TRADE	**2,200**	**2,100**	**100**	**4.8**	**2,100**
Wholesale	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail	1,800	1,700	100	5.9	1,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**400**	**400**	**0**	**0.0**	**400**
SERVICES	**2,700**	**2,600**	**100**	**3.8**	**2,700**
GOVERNMENT	**800**	**900**	**-100**	**-11.1**	**800**
Federal	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local	800	900	-100	-11.1	800

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

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**260,400**	**259,900**	**500**	**0.2**	**260,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**50,400**	**50,200**	**200**	**0.4**	**50,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**10,100**	**9,900**	**200**	**2.0**	**10,200**
MANUFACTURING	**40,300**	**40,300**	**0**	**0.0**	**40,200**
Durable Goods	25,900	25,800	100	0.4	25,800
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,700	6,700	0	0.0	6,700
Electronic Equipment	5,400	5,300	100	1.9	5,400
Nondurable Goods	14,400	14,500	-100	-0.7	14,400
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	5,200
Chemicals & Allied	5,400	5,400	0	0.0	5,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**210,000**	**209,700**	**300**	**0.1**	**210,400**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**16,500**	**17,000**	**-500**	**-2.9**	**16,500**
Communications & Utilities	8,700	9,000	-300	-3.3	8,700
TRADE	**55,300**	**55,100**	**200**	**0.4**	**54,900**
Wholesale	14,300	14,000	300	2.1	14,300
Retail	41,000	41,100	-100	-0.2	40,600
Eating & Drinking Places	11,300	11,400	-100	-0.9	11,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**13,700**	**13,700**	**0**	**0.0**	**13,700**
Finance	4,300	4,100	200	4.9	4,300
Insurance	7,300	7,500	-200	-2.7	7,300
SERVICES	**93,600**	**92,300**	**1,300**	**1.4**	**94,000**
Business Services	13,100	13,100	0	0.0	12,800
Health Services	28,800	28,700	100	0.3	28,700
GOVERNMENT	**30,900**	**31,600**	**-700**	**-2.2**	**31,300**
Federal	5,200	5,600	-400	-7.1	5,100
State & Local	25,700	26,000	-300	-1.2	26,200

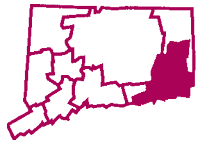
For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact Jungmin Charles Joo at (860) 263-6293.

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

NEW LONDON LMA

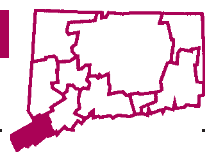


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**142,000**	**140,200**	**1,800**	**1.3**	**141,900**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**29,100**	**29,000**	**100**	**0.3**	**28,900**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**5,000**	**4,900**	**100**	**2.0**	**5,000**
MANUFACTURING	**24,100**	**24,100**	**0**	**0.0**	**23,900**
Durable Goods	13,600	14,100	-500	-3.5	13,600
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.3	2,200
Other Durable Goods	11,400	11,800	-400	-3.4	11,400
Nondurable Goods	10,500	10,000	500	5.0	10,300
Paper & Allied	900	900	0	0.0	900
Other Nondurable Goods	8,300	7,800	500	6.4	8,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**112,900**	**111,200**	**1,700**	**1.5**	**113,000**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**6,800**	**6,700**	**100**	**1.5**	**6,800**
TRADE	**29,400**	**29,000**	**400**	**1.4**	**29,300**
Wholesale	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
Retail	26,700	26,300	400	1.5	26,600
Eating & Drinking Places	7,800	7,500	300	4.0	7,900
Other Retail	18,900	18,800	100	0.5	18,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**3,800**	**3,700**	**100**	**2.7**	**3,800**
SERVICES	**35,800**	**35,500**	**300**	**0.8**	**35,900**
Personal & Business Services	6,400	6,400	0	0.0	6,300
Health Services	11,900	11,900	0	0.0	12,000
GOVERNMENT	**37,100**	**36,300**	**800**	**2.2**	**37,200**
Federal	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
State & Local	34,400	33,600	800	2.4	34,500
**Local	29,900	29,200	700	2.4	30,000

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

STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

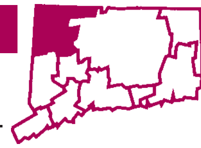
	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**210,200**	**209,600**	**600**	**0.3**	**208,400**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**32,400**	**32,800**	**-400**	**-1.2**	**32,600**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**6,000**	**6,000**	**0**	**0.0**	**6,100**
MANUFACTURING	**26,400**	**26,800**	**-400**	**-1.5**	**26,500**
Durable Goods	14,500	14,400	100	0.7	14,500
Industrial Machinery	3,600	3,600	0	0.0	3,600
Electronic Equipment	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.3	2,200
Nondurable Goods	11,900	12,400	-500	-4.0	12,000
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,600	5,900	-300	-5.1	5,700
Chemicals & Allied	3,100	3,100	0	0.0	3,100
Other Nondurable	3,200	3,400	-200	-5.9	3,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**177,800**	**176,800**	**1,000**	**0.6**	**175,800**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**10,000**	**10,500**	**-500**	**-4.8**	**10,000**
Communications & Utilities	2,700	3,000	-300	-10.0	2,700
TRADE	**44,800**	**46,100**	**-1,300**	**-2.8**	**44,000**
Wholesale	11,500	11,500	0	0.0	11,500
Retail	33,300	34,600	-1,300	-3.8	32,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**26,300**	**25,400**	**900**	**3.5**	**26,000**
SERVICES	**78,800**	**76,700**	**2,100**	**2.7**	**78,100**
Business Services	23,600	23,200	400	1.7	23,500
Engineering & Mgmnt. Services	11,300	11,100	200	1.8	11,200
Other Services	43,900	42,400	1,500	3.5	43,400
GOVERNMENT	**17,900**	**18,100**	**-200**	**-1.1**	**17,700**
Federal	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	1,900
State & Local	15,900	16,000	-100	-0.6	15,800

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.*

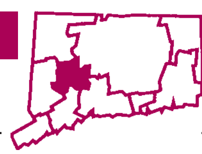
TORRINGTON LMA



	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**29,700**	**30,100**	**-400**	**-1.3**	**29,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**8,100**	**8,400**	**-300**	**-3.6**	**8,000**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**2,000**	**2,100**	**-100**	**-4.8**	**2,100**
MANUFACTURING	**6,100**	**6,300**	**-200**	**-3.2**	**5,900**
Durable Goods	4,300	4,400	-100	-2.3	4,200
Primary & Fabricated Metals	700	600	100	16.7	700
Industrial Machinery	900	1,200	-300	-25.0	900
Electronic Equipment	500	500	0	0.0	400
Other Durable Goods	2,200	2,100	100	4.8	2,200
Nondurable Goods	1,800	1,900	-100	-5.3	1,700
Rubber & Plastics	800	1,000	-200	-20.0	800
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	900	100	11.1	900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**21,600**	**21,700**	**-100**	**-0.5**	**21,500**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**900**	**900**	**0**	**0.0**	**900**
TRADE	**7,000**	**6,700**	**300**	**4.5**	**6,900**
Wholesale	600	700	-100	-14.3	600
Retail	6,400	6,000	400	6.7	6,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**800**	**800**	**0**	**0.0**	**800**
SERVICES	**9,600**	**9,900**	**-300**	**-3.0**	**9,600**
GOVERNMENT	**3,300**	**3,400**	**-100**	**-2.9**	**3,300**
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,100	3,200	-100	-3.1	3,100

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

WATERBURY LMA



	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**88,300**	**88,100**	**200**	**0.2**	**87,900**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,300**	**22,100**	**200**	**0.9**	**22,200**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**3,500**	**3,500**	**0**	**0.0**	**3,600**
MANUFACTURING	**18,800**	**18,600**	**200**	**1.1**	**18,600**
Durable Goods	14,900	14,500	400	2.8	14,700
Primary Metals	900	800	100	12.5	900
Fabricated Metals	6,500	6,400	100	1.6	6,500
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,900	4,900	0	0.0	4,800
Nondurable Goods	3,900	4,100	-200	-4.9	3,900
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,200	1,300	-100	-7.7	1,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**66,000**	**66,000**	**0**	**0.0**	**65,700**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**3,800**	**3,700**	**100**	**2.7**	**3,800**
TRADE	**19,600**	**19,300**	**300**	**1.6**	**19,200**
Wholesale	2,800	3,100	-300	-9.7	2,800
Retail	16,800	16,200	600	3.7	16,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**3,700**	**3,600**	**100**	**2.8**	**3,700**
SERVICES	**26,800**	**27,100**	**-300**	**-1.1**	**26,800**
Personal & Business	7,300	7,200	100	1.4	7,200
Health Services	10,700	10,700	0	0.0	10,700
GOVERNMENT	**12,100**	**12,300**	**-200**	**-1.6**	**12,200**
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,300	11,500	-200	-1.7	11,400

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

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	NOV 1999
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,704,100	1,706,700	-2,600	-0.2	1,716,200
	Employed	1,664,600	1,659,000	5,600	0.3	1,670,600
	Unemployed	39,500	47,700	-8,200	-17.2	45,600
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.8	-0.5	---	2.7
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	217,400	219,600	-2,200	-1.0	217,800
	Employed	211,500	212,200	-700	-0.3	210,800
	Unemployed	6,000	7,500	-1,500	-20.0	7,000
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	3.4	-0.6	---	3.2
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	110,400	110,900	-500	-0.5	110,400
	Employed	108,700	108,900	-200	-0.2	108,400
	Unemployed	1,600	2,100	-500	-23.8	1,900
	Unemployment Rate	1.5	1.9	-0.4	---	1.8
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	31,900	31,800	100	0.3	32,300
	Employed	31,000	30,600	400	1.3	31,200
	Unemployed	900	1,200	-300	-25.0	1,100
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	3.9	-1.1	---	3.3
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	579,400	579,400	0	0.0	584,300
	Employed	565,000	562,900	2,100	0.4	568,000
	Unemployed	14,400	16,600	-2,200	-13.3	16,200
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	2.9	-0.4	---	2.8
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,100	11,900	200	1.7	12,300
	Employed	12,000	11,700	300	2.6	12,000
	Unemployed	200	300	-100	-33.3	200
	Unemployment Rate	1.6	2.3	-0.7	---	1.9
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	271,000	271,300	-300	-0.1	274,400
	Employed	264,800	263,700	1,100	0.4	267,100
	Unemployed	6,200	7,600	-1,400	-18.4	7,300
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.8	-0.5	---	2.7
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	152,700	150,900	1,800	1.2	154,300
	Employed	148,800	146,300	2,500	1.7	150,000
	Unemployed	3,900	4,500	-600	-13.3	4,400
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	3.0	-0.5	---	2.8
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	192,700	192,700	0	0.0	193,300
	Employed	189,600	188,900	700	0.4	189,700
	Unemployed	3,100	3,800	-700	-18.4	3,700
	Unemployment Rate	1.6	2.0	-0.4	---	1.9
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	38,300	39,000	-700	-1.8	38,600
	Employed	37,700	38,200	-500	-1.3	37,900
	Unemployed	700	800	-100	-12.5	700
	Unemployment Rate	1.7	2.1	-0.4	---	1.9
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	114,700	115,400	-700	-0.6	115,200
	Employed	111,700	111,500	200	0.2	111,800
	Unemployed	3,000	3,900	-900	-23.1	3,500
	Unemployment Rate	2.6	3.4	-0.8	---	3.0
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	139,941,000	138,297,000	1,644,000	1.2	139,895,000
	Employed	134,696,000	132,732,000	1,964,000	1.5	134,515,000
	Unemployed	5,245,000	5,565,000	-320,000	-5.8	5,380,000
	Unemployment Rate	3.7	4.0	-0.3	---	3.8

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 DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHG Y/Y	NOV 1999	AVG WEEKLY HOURS DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHG Y/Y	NOV 1999	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHG Y/Y	NOV 1999
MANUFACTURING	**$691.36**	**$648.43**	**$42.93**	**$671.39**	**43.4**	**43.2**	**0.2**	**42.9**	**$15.93**	**$15.01**	**$0.92**	**$15.65**
DURABLE GOODS	**721.48**	**667.07**	**54.40**	**693.39**	**44.1**	**43.8**	**0.3**	**43.5**	**16.36**	**15.23**	**1.13**	**15.94**
Lumber & Furniture	545.31	519.72	25.59	525.26	41.5	42.6	-1.1	41.1	13.14	12.20	0.94	12.78
Stone, Clay and Glass	655.04	615.79	39.25	647.36	48.2	46.3	1.9	47.6	13.59	13.30	0.29	13.60
Primary Metals	669.41	637.55	31.86	657.71	45.2	45.9	-0.7	44.5	14.81	13.89	0.92	14.78
Fabricated Metals	649.35	617.84	31.51	615.62	45.0	44.1	0.9	42.9	14.43	14.01	0.42	14.35
Machinery	739.05	719.14	19.92	733.21	44.9	45.4	-0.5	45.4	16.46	15.84	0.62	16.15
Electrical Equipment	570.70	531.71	38.99	558.94	43.9	41.9	2.0	42.7	13.00	12.69	0.31	13.09
Trans. Equipment	911.80	833.36	78.44	895.11	43.9	43.7	0.2	43.6	20.77	19.07	1.70	20.53
Instruments	645.12	604.34	40.78	643.81	42.0	42.8	-0.8	42.3	15.36	14.12	1.24	15.22
Miscellaneous Mfg	718.68	606.32	112.36	646.52	45.2	41.7	3.5	41.9	15.90	14.54	1.36	15.43
NONDUR. GOODS	**628.74**	**602.57**	**26.18**	**619.42**	**42.0**	**41.7**	**0.3**	**41.6**	**14.97**	**14.45**	**0.52**	**14.89**
Food	568.11	551.06	17.05	542.72	43.5	43.7	-0.2	42.4	13.06	12.61	0.45	12.80
Textiles	499.70	496.17	3.53	506.72	41.4	41.8	-0.4	41.5	12.07	11.87	0.20	12.21
Apparel	352.88	342.05	10.83	340.34	40.1	40.1	0.0	39.3	8.80	8.53	0.27	8.66
Paper	757.10	718.40	38.70	751.30	45.2	44.9	0.3	44.8	16.75	16.00	0.75	16.77
Printing & Publishing	644.40	593.94	50.46	620.80	40.3	38.0	2.3	38.8	15.99	15.63	0.36	16.00
Chemicals	778.96	781.46	-2.50	787.09	42.8	44.2	-1.4	43.8	18.20	17.68	0.52	17.97
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	549.73	530.56	19.17	543.86	41.9	43.1	-1.2	41.9	13.12	12.31	0.81	12.98
CONSTRUCTION	**842.87**	**825.66**	**17.20**	**860.46**	**41.5**	**41.7**	**-0.2**	**42.2**	**20.31**	**19.80**	**0.51**	**20.39**

LMAs

MANUFACTURING	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHG Y/Y	NOV 1999	AVG WEEKLY HOURS DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHG Y/Y	NOV 1999	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHG Y/Y	NOV 1999
Bridgeport	$722.75	$655.78	$66.97	$669.81	45.2	42.5	2.7	42.1	$15.99	$15.43	$0.56	$15.91
Danbury	669.54	631.18	38.36	674.95	42.7	41.8	0.9	43.1	15.68	15.10	0.58	15.66
Danielson	542.22	500.40	41.82	529.15	42.0	41.7	0.3	41.6	12.91	12.00	0.91	12.72
Hartford	744.33	703.48	40.85	706.06	44.2	44.3	-0.1	43.0	16.84	15.88	0.96	16.42
Lower River	545.88	543.17	2.71	545.94	39.7	41.4	-1.7	40.5	13.75	13.12	0.63	13.48
New Haven	652.94	639.84	13.10	636.42	42.9	43.0	-0.1	42.4	15.22	14.88	0.34	15.01
New London	702.19	672.52	29.67	690.69	43.0	43.0	0.0	42.9	16.33	15.64	0.69	16.10
Stamford	540.88	548.26	-7.38	533.32	39.8	39.7	0.1	39.8	13.59	13.81	-0.22	13.40
Torrington	593.26	545.58	47.68	599.83	41.4	42.0	-0.6	41.8	14.33	12.99	1.34	14.35
Waterbury	623.04	638.32	-15.28	660.35	43.6	44.7	-1.1	44.8	14.29	14.28	0.01	14.74

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

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	DEC 1999	DEC 1998	CHANGE Y/Y UNITS	CHANGE Y/Y %	YTD 1999	YTD 1998	CHANGE YTD UNITS	CHANGE YTD %	NOV 1999
Connecticut	648	1,129	-481	-42.6	10,794	11,541	-747	-6.5	1,023
Counties:									
Fairfield	121	374	-253	-67.6	2,362	3,080	-718	-23.3	336
Hartford	162	186	-24	-12.9	2,213	2,791	-578	-20.7	178
Litchfield	53	62	-9	-14.5	833	784	49	6.3	63
Middlesex	72	118	-46	-39.0	905	795	110	13.8	51
New Haven	117	147	-30	-20.4	2,413	1,947	466	23.9	211
New London	51	74	-23	-31.1	893	987	-94	-9.5	75
Tolland	54	57	-3	-5.3	770	714	56	7.8	75
Windham	18	111	-93	-83.8	405	443	-38	-8.6	34

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	DEC 1999	YR TO DATE 1999	YR TO DATE 1998
Andover	1	21	24
Ansonia	1	40	33
Ashford	0	17	32
Avon	7	172	188
Barkhamsted	1	19	26
Beacon Falls	5	49	24
Berlin	6	97	91
Bethany	2	27	29
Bethel	3	46	43
Bethlehem	0	20	14
Bloomfield	0	40	39
Bolton	3	35	26
Bozrah	1	15	8
Branford	3	54	39
Bridgeport	9	68	103
Bridgewater	0	7	14
Bristol	7	92	93
Brookfield	1	72	138
Brooklyn	3	50	96
Burlington	6	66	51
Canaan	0	5	3
Canterbury	0	18	25
Canton	2	65	44
Chaplin	2	17	17
Cheshire	5	107	99
Chester	1	26	9
Clinton	6	81	74
Colchester	7	107	106
Colebrook	0	6	11
Columbia	1	31	30
Cornwall	0	8	5
Coventry	4	68	64
Cromwell	2	59	126
Danbury	12	321	926
Darien	3	31	27
Deep River	5	26	24
Derby	1	26	32
Durham	3	58	42
East Granby	5	25	24
East Haddam	4	91	80
East Hampton	9	83	49
East Hartford	2	7	4
East Haven	7	42	75
East Lyme	2	88	149
East Windsor	1	17	28
Eastford	0	3	9
Easton	4	40	46
Ellington	12	138	162
Enfield	3	62	86
Essex	2	50	40
Fairfield	3	77	140
Farmington	10	138	166
Franklin	1	1	2
Glastonbury	8	187	246
Goshen	2	31	15
Granby	3	73	48
Greenwich	8	120	141
Griswold	5	46	49
Groton	8	138	138
Guilford	8	112	139
Haddam	3	42	26
Hamden	4	336	94
Hampton	1	17	16
Hartford	1	76	92
Hartland	0	2	4
Harwinton	1	26	22
Hebron	6	79	78
Kent	0	13	12
Killingly	2	36	29
Killingworth	5	73	59
Lebanon	1	39	28
Ledyard	0	47	68
Lisbon	1	25	24
Litchfield	3	45	38
Lyme	2	17	16
Madison	7	82	100
Manchester	41	147	483
Mansfield	5	86	58
Marlborough	1	38	35
Meriden	2	43	53
Middlebury	2	29	32
Middlefield	0	27	20
Middletown	22	177	153
Milford	12	258	181
Monroe	2	69	111
Montville	4	40	45
Morris	0	16	11
Naugatuck	4	64	57
New Britain	0	10	6
New Canaan	6	56	56
New Fairfield	2	30	31
New Hartford	2	30	31
New Haven	0	234	68
New London	0	0	1
New Milford	11	181	127
Newington	5	94	118
Newtown	9	221	252
Norfolk	0	4	2
North Branford	4	29	54
North Canaan	0	7	3
North Haven	10	180	101
No. Stonington	3	33	42
Norwalk	6	151	132
Norwich	3	28	24
Old Lyme	3	41	54
Old Saybrook	2	19	26
Orange	1	15	17
Oxford	3	74	95
Plainfield	3	51	41
Plainville	4	38	41
Plymouth	3	56	35
Pomfret	2	34	33
Portland	5	44	13
Preston	1	20	19
Prospect	5	62	57
Putnam	0	15	13
Redding	4	42	40
Ridgefield	8	121	132
Rocky Hill	6	95	111
Roxbury	0	29	28
Salem	0	17	24
Salisbury	1	5	13
Scotland	1	10	13
Seymour	0	48	56
Sharon	1	7	3
Shelton	10	166	218
Sherman	1	25	23
Simsbury	9	68	73
Somers	3	40	45
South Windsor	10	106	134
Southbury	3	107	104
Southington	9	265	229
Sprague	0	4	2
Stafford	3	49	37
Stamford	2	451	222
Sterling	1	25	22
Stonington	3	90	88
Stratford	1	38	57
Suffield	6	90	196
Thomaston	7	55	50
Thompson	1	39	23
Tolland	13	149	133
Torrington	9	110	81
Trumbull	9	98	133
Union	0	4	6
Vernon	3	60	36
Voluntown	1	27	27
Wallingford	10	186	195
Warren	1	10	9
Washington	1	12	14
Waterbury	11	66	57
Waterford	5	70	73
Watertown	6	69	84
West Hartford	3	32	25
West Haven	3	47	33
Westbrook	3	49	54
Weston	2	20	18
Westport	4	57	47
Wethersfield	4	44	73
Willington	0	10	15
Wilton	12	42	44
Winchester	1	18	62
Windham	0	36	23
Windsor	3	49	52
Windsor Locks	0	18	11
Wolcott	1	67	85
Woodbridge	3	29	38
Woodbury	3	44	71
Woodstock	2	37	51

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	**+0.6**
Coincident Employment Index	**+2.9**
Total Nonfarm Employment	**+1.4**
Unemployment	**-0.5***
Labor Force	-0.2
Employed	+0.4
Unemployed	-16.0
Average Weekly Initial Claims	**-11.3**
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford	**+2.9**
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate	**-0.19***
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg	**+0.5**
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg	**+6.1**
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg	**+6.6**
CT Mfg. Production Index	**-6.4**
Production Worker Hours	-11.6
Industrial Electricity Sales	-4.7
Personal Income	**+5.9**
UI Covered Wages	**+6.0**

Business Activity	
New Housing Permits	-42.6
Electricity Sales	+1.9
Retail Sales	+5.7
Construction Contracts Index	+11.1
New Auto Registrations	-25.1
Air Cargo Tons	+20.7
Business Starts	
Secretary of the State	+10.3
Dept. of Labor	-18.0
Business Terminations	
Secretary of the State	-0.1
Dept. of Labor	-3.2
State Tax Collections	**+6.1**
Corporate Tax	-16.6
Personal Income Tax	+13.8
Real Estate Conveyance Tax	+2.1
Sales & Use Tax	+1.4

Tourism and Travel	
Tourism Inquiries	+3.3
Tourism Info Centers	+0.8
Attraction Visitors	+1.3
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	-1.4*
Air Passenger Count	+27.8
Employment Cost Index (U.S.)	
Total	+3.4
Wages & Salaries	+3.5
Benefit Costs	+3.4
Consumer Price Index	
U.S. City Average	+2.7
Northeast Region	+2.5
NY-NJ-Long Island	+2.2
Boston-Brockton-Nashua	+1.4
Consumer Confidence	
U.S.	+11.6
New England	+16.9
Interest Rates	
Prime	+0.75*
Conventional Mortgage	+1.19*

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

THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

A joint publication of
The Connecticut Departments of Labor and Economic and Community Development

Mailing address:

Connecticut Economic Digest
Connecticut Department of Labor
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114

The Connecticut Economic Digest
is available on the internet at:
http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us
or
http://www.state.ct.us/ecd/research

❑ If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, please check here and return this page to the address at left.

❑ If your address has changed, please check here, make the necessary changes to your address label and return this page to the address at left.

❑ If you receive more than one copy of this publication, please check here and return this page from the duplicate copy to the address at left.