THE CONNECTICUT
ECONOMIC DIGEST

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JUNE 1999

- A new economic indicator points to a very healthy manufacturing sector. (article, pp.1-2)
- Connecticut agriculture: a growing industry. (article, pp.3-4)
- Industry clusters: urban clusters as drivers of inner city economic development, part 2. (p.3)
- Nonfarm employment grew by 900 in April, and by 26,300 from a year ago. (p.6)
- Unemployment rate in April: 3.4 percent, up from 3.2 percent in March. (p.6)
- April's new housing permits were up 10.6 percent over the year. (Business Activity, p.7)

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Introducing the Connecticut Manufacturing Production Index

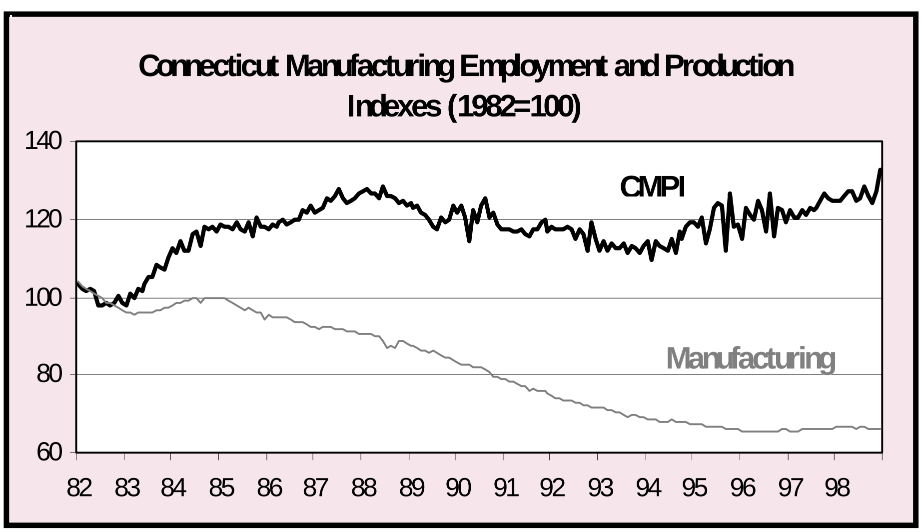
By J. Charles Joo, Research Analyst

This article introduces a new monthly State economic indicator called the *Connecticut Manufacturing Production Index* (CMPI), which replaces our current *Manufacturing Output Index* (MOI). The CMPI (1982=100), by utilizing a new model that captures the trend of rising manufacturing productivity in recent years, provides a better measure than the MOI of overall economic activity in the State's manufacturing sector.

Although manufacturing employment has been declining in the last decade, output (in terms of value added in dollars) did not necessarily do so, primarily because of rising productivity (output per hour) from advances in computers and other innovations. Manufacturing activity is still a very important barometer of current economic conditions in Connecticut as well as for the nation. In 1996, manufacturing accounted for almost one-fifth of the real Gross State Product (GSP), and was third largest in terms of output behind the finance, insurance, & real estate and the services sectors.

Constructing CMPI

Even though measures of manufacturing employment have always been available, this new index is constructed in a way that combines a measure of the industry's use of capital with a measure of employment. Based on the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's *Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing Index*, the CMPI employs a production-function methodology in which output is a function of the inputs. Two inputs are assumed: labor and capital. The labor input is represented by the



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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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State's manufacturing production worker hours, and industrial electricity sales are used as a proxy for capital. For a more complete explanation of the methodology, contact the Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research, at (860) 263-6293.

Productivity Matters

Connecticut's last recession, which lasted nearly four years, concluded by the end of 1992. Over the course of the next six years, aggregate nonfarm employment climbed back to near its pre-recession level. Jobs in the manufacturing sector, however, saw continuous declines from 1985 through 1996, as the once heavily defense-dependent industry began to be dismantled after the end of the Cold War. But, as the chart on the cover page shows, the CMPI diverges sharply from the manufacturing employment index starting in the early 1980s. Manufacturing output grew rapidly every year between 1985 and 1988, while its employment fell in each year of that period. Then, after reaching a peak in 1988, manufacturing sector production declined during the recession years to a low in 1993. From 1994, the level of output started to rise again and reached a new peak in 1998, further widening the gap between the two indexes.

From 1993 to 1996, Connecticut's manufacturing sector lost on average 1.6 percent of its jobs annually, but the CMPI measure of production, which takes into account the use of capital, showed an actual average *gain* of 1.8 percent yearly. Such a difference between employment and production is attributed to the increases in labor productivity over this period. Despite the downward trend in employment through 1996, as the manufacturing sector restructured and diversified into non-military products and continued to invest extensively in sophisticated machines and fast computers, labor productivity began to increase accordingly, hence producing more with less manpower. In 1997 and 1998, Connecticut manufacturing employment finally turned the corner with 0.5 and 0.9 percent growth. The combination of increased manufacturing employment and continued rise in productivity contributed to the increase of 1.9 and 2.8 percent in the CMPI in those two years.

The annual CMPI was as low as 104.2 in 1983, but reached a record high of 126.5 last year, indicating that Connecticut's manufacturers produced a dollar value of goods and services nearly one third more in 1998 than in 1982. By contrast, a third of Connecticut's manufacturing jobs were eliminated in the last 16 years.

CMPI: A New Economic Indicator

The seasonally adjusted CMPI number of 127.1 in March of this year was 1.0 percent higher than a year ago, while manufacturing employment decreased 1.3 percent. This reflects that our State's manufacturing sector production level actually rose because of the rise in labor productivity, despite the declines in production manhours.

The new index is updated on a monthly basis, and the previous two months' numbers get revised each month (see page 6, under *Manufacturing Activity*, for the latest data; monthly historical data back to 1982 are available upon request). This new economic indicator will not only offer a timely and comprehensive measure of the State's manufacturing activity that employment alone would not reveal, but also will provide us with another perspective on the health of the Connecticut's aggregate economy.■

Connecticut Agriculture: A Growing Industry

By Mark Prisloe, Associate Economist

In 1998, Connecticut reached agreement to become one of three states able to export oysters to Japan. Connecticut oysters are a $62 million dollar industry – larger in total dollar value than the "Bay State" of Massachusetts (output of $9 million), the "lobster" State of Maine (output of $55 million), and the "Ocean State" of Rhode Island (output of $83,000).

Strength of Aquaculture

Connecticut agriculture and aquaculture industries are competing in an emerging global market. Oysters are just one indication of this. Statistically, the $62 million Connecticut oyster industry represents 94 percent of the entire Northeast regional oyster production and six percent of the entire U.S. aquaculture production of $980 million. Even though it is only 0.2 percent of world production, farm-raised products increased to 20 percent of global output in 1998 with the research support of bioscience. Thus farm-raised oysters will be an important contributor to world food sources in the future. The State participates in the Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC), one of only five created by Congress in 1987 to increase competitiveness in an emerging global market.

HOUSING UPDATE

March Housing Permits Up 10.6%

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development today announced that Connecticut communities authorized 1,026 new housing units in April 1999, a 10.6 percent increase compared to April of 1998 when 928 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 1,026 units permitted in April 1999 represent a decrease of seven percent from the 1,105 units permitted in March 1999. The year-to-date permits are up 11.1 percent, from 3,059 through April 1998, to 3,398 through April 1999.

"1999 continues to be a strong year for the housing market in Connecticut," Commissioner Abromaitis said, "I'm encouraged that we continue to surpass 1998 totals."

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Tolland County with 40.7 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in April compared to the same month a year ago. Litchfield County followed with a 33.8 percent increase.

Hartford County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in April with 239. Fairfield County followed with 206 units and New Haven County had 195 units. South Windsor led all Connecticut communities with 41 units, followed by Norwalk with 38 and Hamden with 32. ■

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

Industry Clusters

Urban Clusters II

Last month in this space we began discussing Michael Porter's concept of industry clusters as drivers of inner city economic development with implications for Connecticut's urban initiative. Cities, according to Porter, possess four competitive strengths that form the base for inner city development. Inner city competitive assets include: strategic location; integration with regional clusters; unmet local demand and human resources. This month we discuss the value of strategic location.

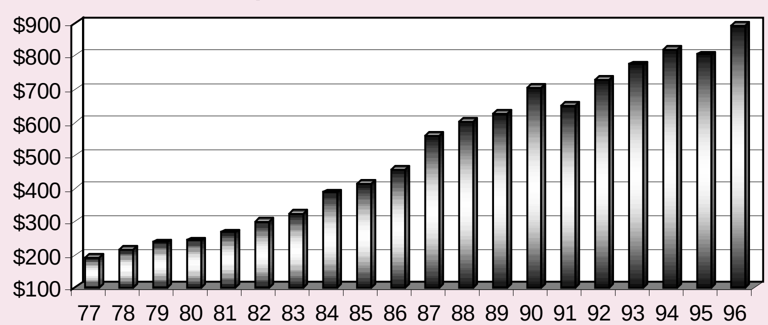
Despite the decentralization of some industries due to technological advances, many businesses are still location-sensitive as they strive to compete in a just-in-time, service intensive economy. An inner city location typically offers a unique set of advantages for many types of businesses including advanced transportation infrastructure, proximity to a high concentration of businesses, communications nodes, and entertainment complexes.

Businesses located in the inner city can make rapid deliveries and provide downtown buyers with exceptional convenience. Land, although possibly more costly than in the suburbs, can also be cheaper in the inner city than it is downtown. Such factors produce concentrations of successful inner city businesses. Porter cites examples of food processing and distribution, as well as world-class medical facilities in Boston, or logistics and storage businesses in both Los Angeles and Chicago.

Dollar Value of Output

Overall, the State's Department of Agriculture estimates total output today at $2 billion dollars. Connecticut's agriculture industry produced $893 million in gross state product (GSP) in 1996 (the latest year for which U.S. government data are available), up 11 percent from the previous year's $804 million in GSP. The State's total output as measured by GSP in 1996 was $124 billion. Although agricultural output is less than one percent of this total GSP, it was a growing contributor to the State's economy. The average annual rate of GSP growth for the agriculture industry was 5.3 percent, outpacing the statewide average annual GSP growth rate of 4.9 percent for the period from 1987 to 1996.

Connecticut's Agriculture Gross State Product
(Millions of current dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Employment

Agricultural employment was at 7,799 in 1996 compared with 2,393 in 1975. Employment also increased six percent from 1995 when it was 7,356. The largest share of these workers were employed in agricultural services, establishments primarily engaged in supplying soil preparation services, crop services, landscape and horticultural services, veterinary and other animal services, and farm labor and management services. Less than 100 were classified as employed in fishing, hunting, and trapping. This figure does not include family labor, seasonal workers, or those in food distribution and retail.

Farms

According to the 1997 Census of Agriculture, the number of full time farms decreased slightly from 1,828 in 1992 to 1,824 in 1997. The total number of farms increased from 3,427 in 1992 to 3,687 in 1997. The amount of land in farms increased from 358,743 acres in 1992 to 359,313 in 1997. The average size of farms decreased slightly from 105 acres in 1992 to 97 acres in 1997.

Establishments

The U.S. Commerce Department defines an establishment as any single physical location of business. On this basis, agricultural establishments numbered 2,127 in 1996 compared with 696 in 1975. The major share of these was in agricultural services. Fairfield County had the largest number of establishments at 781, followed by Hartford County at 442. Windham County, with 38, had the smallest number of agricultural establishments.

"Green Industry" Leader

Connecticut leads the East in horticultural and floricultural sales (the "green industry"), and is home to the largest rhododendron grower in the country. Connecticut also leads New England in the production of eggs, pears, peaches, and mushrooms. According to the State Department of Agriculture, Connecticut's oyster crop is the most valuable in the nation and second only to Louisiana in quantity. There are more horses per square mile here than in any other state, and more milk per cow is produced in Connecticut than in any state east of Michigan.

Earnings

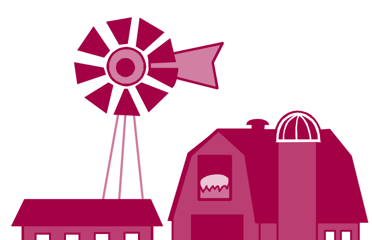
According to the *County Business Patterns*, Connecticut's annual agriculture payroll in 1996 exceeded $199 million. Thus earnings per employee were $25,619. This compared favorably with the national level of only $20,000.

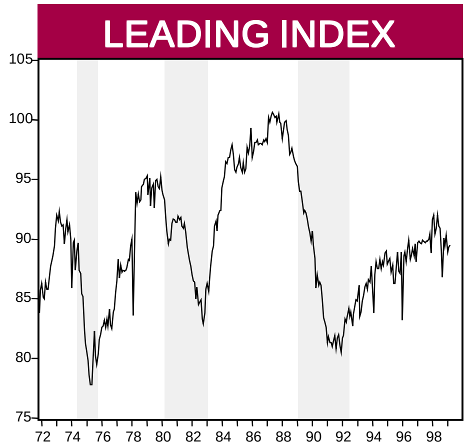
Exports

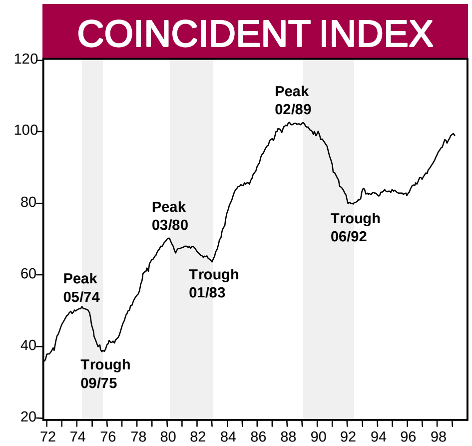
Connecticut's 1998 agriculture-related exports totalled $152 million. The share of agricultural exports accounted for more than two percent of the State's total $8 billion in exports. The largest share of agriculture exports was in crops, totaling $114 million in dollar value.

Conclusion

The agriculture industry is a significant contributor to the State's economy. While Connecticut is often not perceived as an agricultural State, it's share of output, growth rate, employment, and the kinds of products in which it leads the nation characterize it as one of measurable potential. ■







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.

Employment: A Tale of Two Series

The Connecticut coincident employment index fell slightly from its February peak with the release of (preliminary) March data. The index, however, rose by 4.4 percent over the last twelve months. The Connecticut leading employment index continues to send mixed signals about the future of the Connecticut economy, although the index did increase slightly in both February and March. Those increases ended a six-month period where the leading index rose one month and fell the next.

Many analysts doubt the sustainability of the current expansion in Connecticut. From where will the new workers come to fill the new jobs? The unemployment rate is extremely low and the labor force, except for last year, has grown little in recent years. Measures of employment come from two sources, total employment and nonfarm employment. The labor force, total employment (included in our coincident index), and unemployment rate (in coincident index) numbers depend largely on the national survey each month that samples 500 to 600 Connecticut households. Nonfarm employment (in coincident index) comes from a monthly survey of about 5,000 Connecticut employers. The March ratio of nonfarm to total employment in Connecticut is 99.99 percent (i.e., the two numbers differ by only 800). The national ratio is 95.97 percent. As such, this difference between the national and Connecticut ratios, other things equal, implies an implausibly small pool of the self-employed in Connecticut or large group of multiple job holders. Thus, this difference may raise some question about what the labor force, total employment, and unemployment rate numbers in Connecticut mean. Could the labor force be larger than reported? The smaller sample of households when compared to the much larger sample of firms suggests that more noise may exist in the household survey results. For a more thorough discussion of these and related issues, see the recent articles by Will McEachern, "Are Labor Shortages Killing the Current Expansion" (*The Connecticut Economy*, Summer 1998, pp. 12-13) and Salvatore DiPillo "Defining Employment" (*The Connecticut Economic Digest*, May 1999, pp. 3-4).

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 94.8 in March 1998 to 99.0 in March 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 insured unemployment rate, and a lower total unemployment rate.

The leading employment index fell slightly from 90.4 in March 1998 to 89.5 in March 1999. Four 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, and lower Hartford help-wanted advertising. The fifth component sent a positive signal on a year-over-year basis with higher total housing permits. ■

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) 486-0485, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Total employment increased by 26,300 over the year, or 1.6 percent. All but manufacturing and transportation & public utilities sectors experienced job growth from last year.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	%	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM	1,664.8	1,638.5	26.3	1.6	1,663.9
Private Sector	1,434.6	1,412.3	22.3	1.6	1,433.7
Construction and Mining	62.0	59.2	2.8	4.7	61.8
Manufacturing	276.4	279.3	-2.9	-1.0	276.7
Transportation, Public Utilities	75.9	76.0	-0.1	-0.1	76.5
Wholesale, Retail Trade	358.0	354.8	3.2	0.9	359.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	138.6	134.0	4.6	3.4	139.1
Services	523.7	509.0	14.7	2.9	520.5
Government	230.2	226.2	4.0	1.8	230.2

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate increased, as the labor force rose from a year ago. The number of initial claims expanded over the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Seasonally adjusted)	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	%	MAR 1999
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	3.4	3.4	0.0	---	3.2
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,732.4	1,702.9	29.5	1.7	1,718.6
Employed (000s)	1,674.4	1,644.8	29.6	1.8	1,664.4
Unemployed (000s)	58.1	58.2	-0.1	-0.2	54.2
Average Weekly Initial Claims	3,805	3,584	221	6.2	4,047
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100	34	37	-3	-8.1	34
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.15	2.01	0.14	---	1.88

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

Both production worker weekly earnings and the new production index showed increases from a year ago.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

(Not seasonally adjusted)	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	%	MAR 1999	FEB 1999
Average Weekly Hours	42.4	42.5	-0.1	-0.2	42.4	--
Average Hourly Earnings	$15.15	$14.73	$0.42	2.9	$15.06	--
Average Weekly Earnings	$642.36	$626.03	$16.34	2.6	$638.54	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (1982=100)*	128.2	127.0	1.2	0.9	127.1	126.2
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,780	6,909	-129	-1.9	6,770	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	468	469	-1.0	-0.2	499	469

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

Personal income for third quarter 1999 is forecasted to increase 4.0 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME (Quarterly)

(Seasonally adjusted) (Annualized; $ Millions)	3Q* 1999	3Q 1998	CHANGE NO.	%	2Q* 1999
Personal Income	$128,582	$123,680	$4,902	4.0	$127,484
UI Covered Wages	$68,977	$66,017	$2,960	4.5	$68,464

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

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Year-to-date retail sales were up 6.6 percent from last year.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
New Housing Permits	APR 1999	1,026	10.6	3,398	3,059	11.1
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	FEB 1999	2,329	3.8	5,006	4,770	4.9
Retail Sales(Bil. $)	FEB 1999	2.49	6.9	4.99	4.68	6.6
Construction Contracts						
Index (1980=100)	MAR 1999	357.7	14.6	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	APR 1999	18,173	-22.7	82,494	73,170	12.7
Air Cargo Tons	MAR 1999	14,056	23.8	33,993	32,670	4.0

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 1,219 for the first four months of this year.

	APR 1999	% CHANGE M/M	Y/Y	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	1,764	-14.7	2.1	7,360	7,072	4.1
Department of Labor	807	-31.1	15.6	3,739	3,587	4.2
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	340	-12.1	1.5	1,378	1,351	2.0
Department of Labor	1,764	79.1	-5.7	4,958	4,892	1.3

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

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

Overall, taxes were up 2.5 percent through the fiscal year in April.. The largest gain was the real estate conveyance tax, up 15.3 percent.

(Millions of dollars)	APR 1999	APR 1998	% CHG	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS 1998-99	1997-98	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	1,210.6	1,214.0	-0.3	6,869.7	6,704.1	2.5
Corporate Tax	63.5	50.9	24.8	460.9	475.3	-3.0
Personal Income Tax	664.4	696.2	-4.6	2,907.2	2,846.6	2.1
Real Estate Conv. Tax	8.9	7.0	1.9	85.0	73.7	15.3
Sales & Use Tax	274.6	256.0	7.3	2,172.3	2,046.0	6.2

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 10.8 percent through March compared to the same period a year ago.

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y % CHG	YEAR TO DATE CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
Tourism Inquiries	APR 1999	53,815	71.9	86,552	58,883	47.0
Info Center Visitors	APR 1999	37,360	19.5	119,239	101,438	17.5
Major Attraction Visitors	APR 1999	163,845	-2.5	324,906	366,232	-11.3
Hotel-Motel Occupancy*	MAR 1999	69.4	-0.7	65.8	65.1	0.7
Air Passenger Count	MAR 1999	532,110	12.4	1,406,760	1,269,315	10.8

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 3.0 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 *(June 1989=100)*	**MAR 1999**	**DEC 1998**	**3-Mo % Chg**	**MAR 1999**	**MAR 1998**	**12-Mo % Chg**
UNITED STATES TOTAL	140.2	139.7	0.4	140.4	136.3	3.0
Wages and Salaries	138.1	137.5	0.4	138.1	133.7	3.3
Benefit Costs	145.4	145.1	0.2	145.8	142.6	2.2
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	140.5	136.0	3.3
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	137.1	132.6	3.4

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

The U.S. inflation rate in April was 2.3 percent, and 1.9 percent for the Northeast region. Consumer Confidence in New England was down slightly from a year ago.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	**APR 1999**	**MAR 1999**	**APR 1998**	**% CHG M/M**	**% CHG Y/Y**
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	166.2	165.0	162.5	0.7	2.3
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=$1.00)	$0.602	$0.606	$0.615	-0.7	-2.2
Northeast Region	172.8	171.9	169.5	0.5	1.9
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	176.0	175.5	173.0	0.3	1.7
Boston-Brockton-Nashua*	---	174.8	---	---	2.0
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	162.7	161.4	159.1	0.8	2.3
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	134.9	134.0	137.2	0.7	-1.7
New England	136.2	135.5	136.5	0.5	-0.2

**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 percent and a 30-years conventional mortgage rate of 6.92 percent.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	**APR 1999**	**MAR 1999**	**APR 1998**
Prime	7.75	7.75	8.50
Federal Funds	4.74	4.81	5.45
3 Month Treasury Bill	4.28	4.48	5.00
6 Month Treasury Bill	4.36	4.52	5.08
1 Year Treasury Bill	4.69	4.78	5.38
3 Year Treasury Note	5.03	5.11	5.58
5 Year Treasury Note	5.08	5.14	5.61
7 Year Treasury Note	5.28	5.36	5.70
10 Year Treasury Note	5.18	5.23	5.64
30 Year Teasury Bond	5.55	5.58	5.92
Conventional Mortgage	6.92	7.04	7.14

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)	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
Connecticut	1,664.8	1,638.5	26.3	1.6	1,663.9
Maine	581.5	567.3	14.2	2.5	580.8
Massachusetts	3,218.2	3,166.6	51.6	1.6	3,209.9
New Hampshire	596.3	585.9	10.4	1.8	597.5
New Jersey	3,855.8	3,789.8	66.0	1.7	3,846.7
New York	8,345.2	8,198.2	147.0	1.8	8,336.5
Pennsylvania	5,532.9	5,483.9	49.0	0.9	5,528.1
Rhode Island	464.0	454.8	9.2	2.0	461.1
Vermont	290.8	285.6	5.2	1.8	290.1
United States	127,911.0	125,234.0	2,677.0	2.1	127,677.0

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

LABOR FORCE

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

(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
Connecticut	1,732.4	1,702.9	29.5	1.7	1,718.6
Maine	663.2	643.6	19.6	3.0	662.8
Massachusetts	3,272.3	3,272.9	-0.6	0.0	3,264.7
New Hampshire	672.0	648.1	23.9	3.7	674.3
New Jersey	4,232.7	4,147.0	85.7	2.1	4,217.2
New York	8,849.0	8,868.2	-19.2	-0.2	8,860.8
Pennsylvania	5,984.1	5,937.5	46.6	0.8	6,000.2
Rhode Island	505.1	497.3	7.8	1.6	502.8
Vermont	338.2	327.6	10.6	3.2	339.7
United States	139,091.0	137,232.0	1,859.0	1.4	138,816.0

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

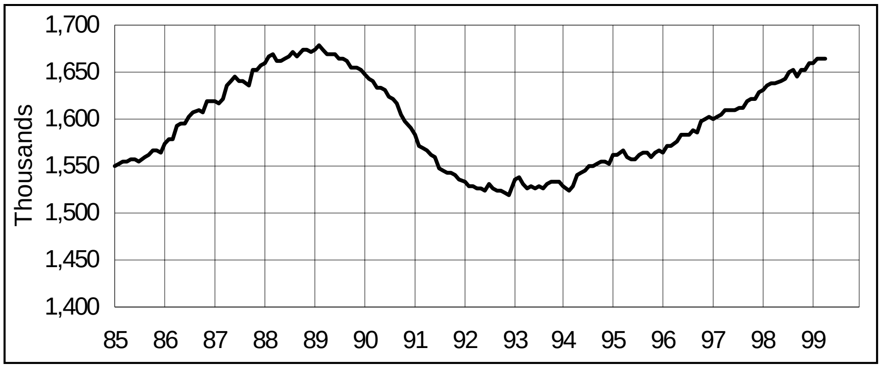
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

New Hampshire also posted the lowest April unemployment rate in the region.

(Seasonally adjusted)	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE	MAR 1999
Connecticut	3.4	3.4	0.0	3.2
Maine	3.6	4.2	-0.6	3.4
Massachusetts	2.9	3.2	-0.3	2.8
New Hampshire	2.4	3.0	-0.6	3.0
New Jersey	4.5	4.7	-0.2	4.5
New York	5.0	5.7	-0.7	5.0
Pennsylvania	4.2	4.6	-0.4	4.4
Rhode Island	3.1	5.2	-2.1	3.0
Vermont	2.6	3.2	-0.6	3.1
United States	4.3	4.3	0.0	4.2

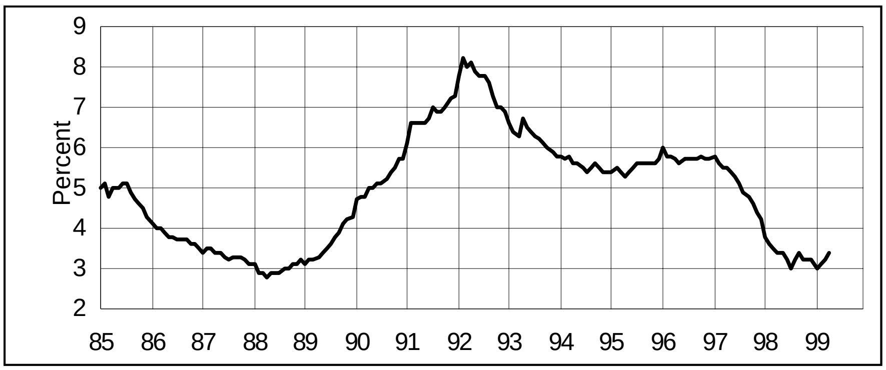
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*



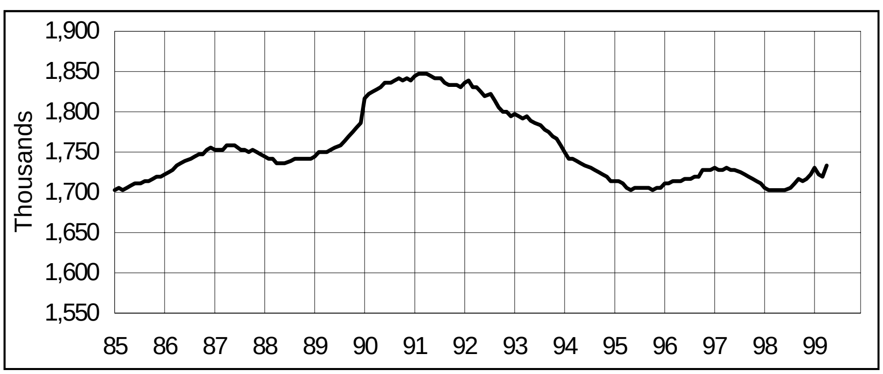
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,599.4	1,631.4	1,660.5
Feb	1,601.5	1,635.5	1,663.4
Mar	1,605.1	1,638.4	1,663.9
Apr	1,609.3	1,638.5	1,664.8
May	1,610.3	1,640.8	
Jun	1,610.2	1,643.3	
Jul	1,612.9	1,649.3	
Aug	1,612.5	1,651.3	
Sep	1,618.3	1,645.8	
Oct	1,620.7	1,651.4	
Nov	1,622.4	1,652.5	
Dec	1,627.4	1,660.3	

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	3.2
Apr	5.5	3.4	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)*

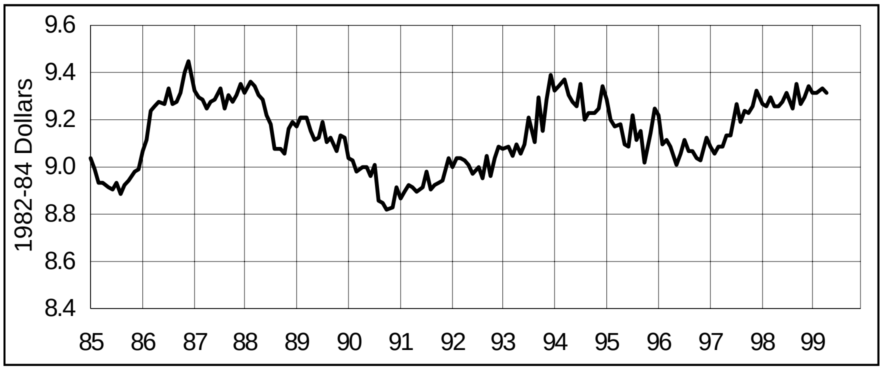


Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	1,729.2	1,706.3	1,729.5
Feb	1,728.2	1,703.2	1,722.8
Mar	1,728.1	1,704.0	1,718.6
Apr	1,729.9	1,702.9	1,732.4
May	1,727.6	1,703.4	
Jun	1,726.9	1,704.1	
Jul	1,724.3	1,706.7	
Aug	1,721.1	1,710.0	
Sep	1,720.0	1,715.8	
Oct	1,718.0	1,714.2	
Nov	1,713.7	1,718.0	
Dec	1,712.0	1,722.0	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*

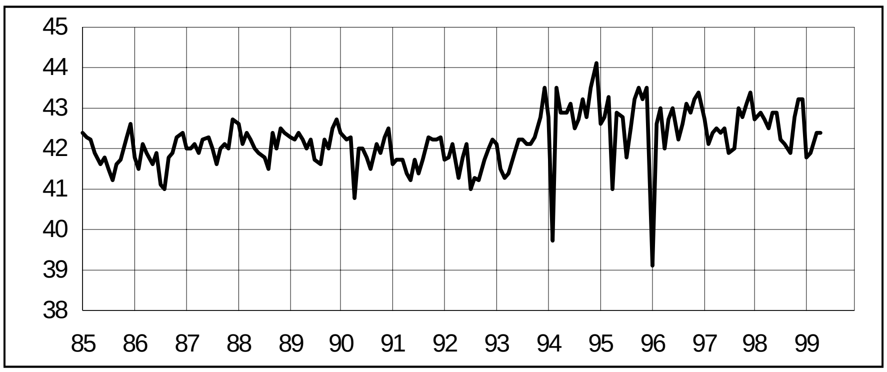
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	4,010	3,450	4,252
Feb	3,892	3,573	3,885
Mar	4,084	3,518	4,047
Apr	4,434	3,584	3,805
May	3,791	3,710	
Jun	3,990	3,962	
Jul	3,678	3,779	
Aug	3,736	4,164	
Sep	3,621	5,076	
Oct	3,502	3,500	
Nov	3,699	4,026	
Dec	4,026	3,394	

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



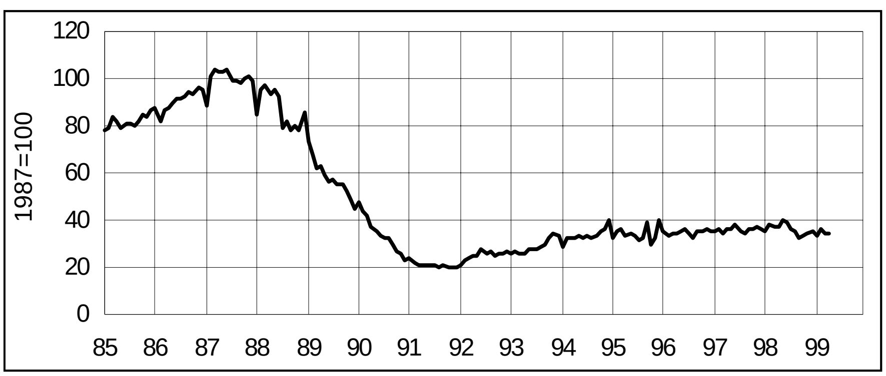
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	$9.09	$9.27	$9.32
Feb	9.06	9.26	9.31
Mar	9.08	9.29	9.33
Apr	9.09	9.26	9.31
May	9.13	9.25	
Jun	9.14	9.27	
Jul	9.26	9.32	
Aug	9.20	9.24	
Sep	9.24	9.35	
Oct	9.22	9.27	
Nov	9.26	9.30	
Dec	9.32	9.34	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



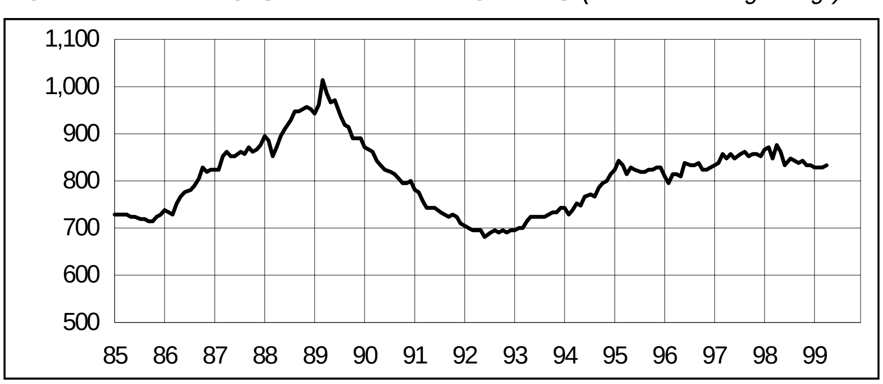
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	42.7	42.7	41.8
Feb	42.1	42.9	41.9
Mar	42.4	42.7	42.4
Apr	42.5	42.5	42.4
May	42.4	42.9	
Jun	42.5	42.9	
Jul	41.9	42.2	
Aug	42.0	42.1	
Sep	43.0	41.9	
Oct	42.8	42.8	
Nov	43.1	43.2	
Dec	43.4	43.2	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



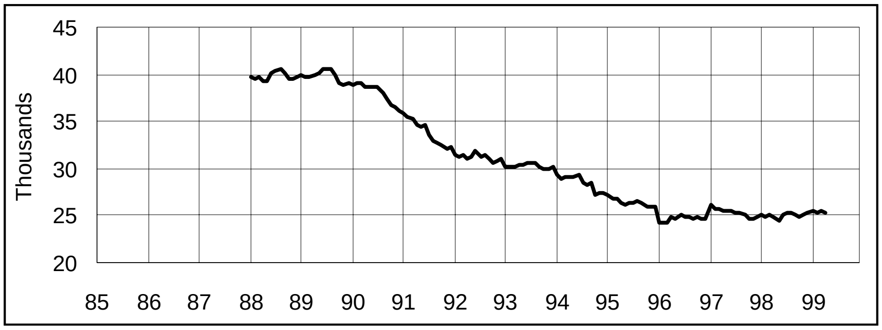
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	35	35	33
Feb	36	38	36
Mar	34	37	34
Apr	36	37	34
May	36	40	
Jun	38	39	
Jul	35	36	
Aug	34	35	
Sep	36	32	
Oct	35	33	
Nov	37	34	
Dec	36	35	

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



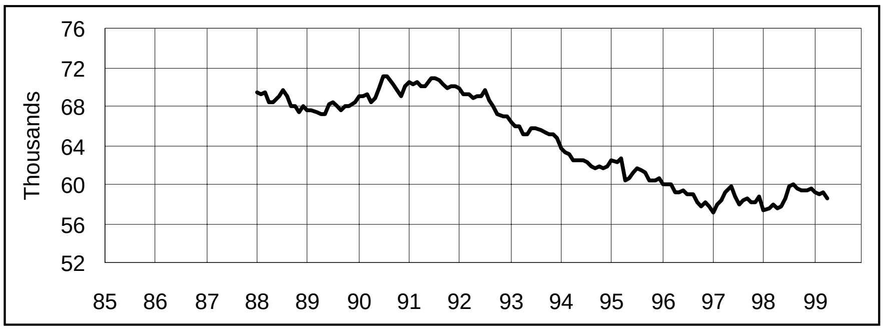
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	833	868	831
Feb	840	870	828
Mar	856	846	829
Apr	849	878	834
May	856	861	
Jun	848	836	
Jul	856	849	
Aug	862	841	
Sep	854	838	
Oct	859	845	
Nov	859	836	
Dec	852	832	

DEPOSITORY BANKING (SIC 60) EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



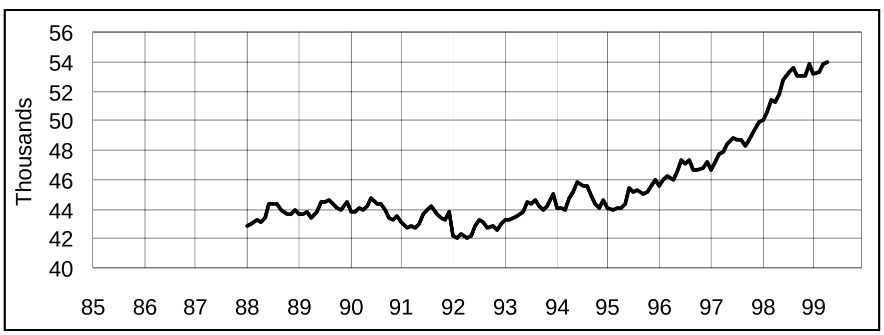
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	26.2	25.1	25.6
Feb	25.8	24.8	25.3
Mar	25.7	25.1	25.5
Apr	25.6	24.8	25.4
May	25.5	24.5	
Jun	25.6	25.0	
Jul	25.4	25.4	
Aug	25.3	25.4	
Sep	25.0	25.0	
Oct	24.7	24.9	
Nov	24.6	25.1	
Dec	24.9	25.3	

INSURANCE CARRIERS (SIC 63) EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



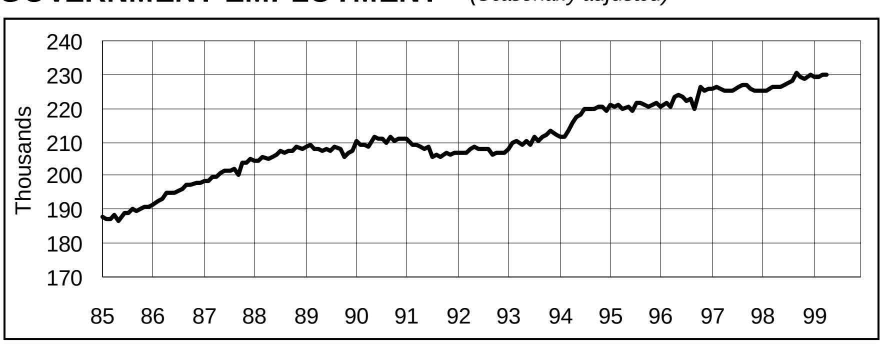
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	57.1	57.4	59.1
Feb	57.9	57.6	59.0
Mar	58.4	57.9	59.1
Apr	59.1	57.6	58.6
May	59.7	57.8	
Jun	58.8	58.6	
Jul	58.0	59.7	
Aug	58.4	60.0	
Sep	58.5	59.6	
Oct	58.2	59.4	
Nov	58.2	59.4	
Dec	58.8	59.6	

OTHER FIN., INS., REAL EST. EMPLOYMENT *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	46.7	50.1	53.1
Feb	47.2	50.6	53.3
Mar	47.7	51.4	53.8
Apr	47.9	51.2	54.0
May	48.4	51.8	
Jun	48.8	52.8	
Jul	48.7	53.3	
Aug	48.7	53.5	
Sep	48.3	53.0	
Oct	48.7	53.0	
Nov	49.2	53.0	
Dec	49.9	53.8	

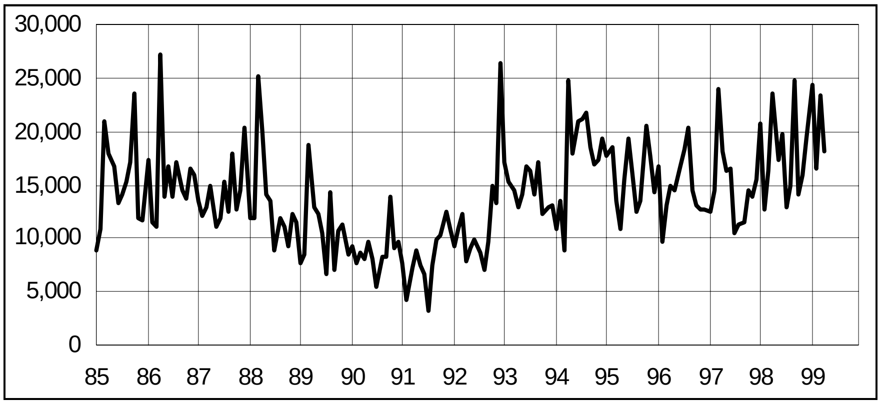
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT* *(Seasonally adjusted)*



**Includes Indian tribal government employment*

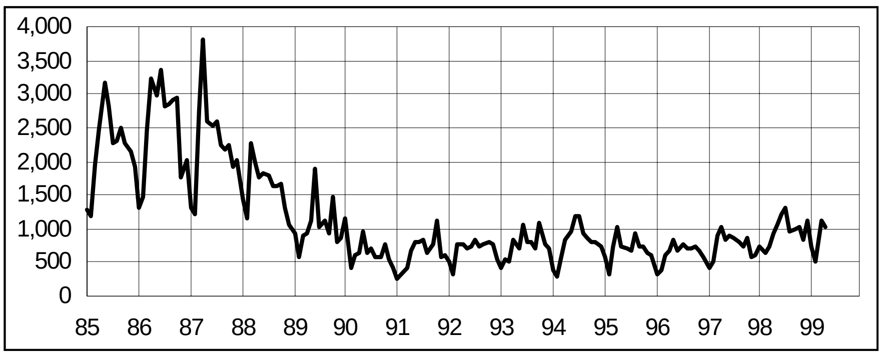
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	226.0	225.3	229.6
Feb	226.2	225.3	229.2
Mar	225.5	226.2	230.2
Apr	225.2	226.2	230.2
May	225.4	226.4	
Jun	225.0	226.8	
Jul	226.4	227.8	
Aug	226.9	228.4	
Sep	226.7	230.5	
Oct	225.6	229.1	
Nov	225.0	228.6	
Dec	225.2	229.7	

NEW AUTO REGISTRATIONS PROCESSED *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



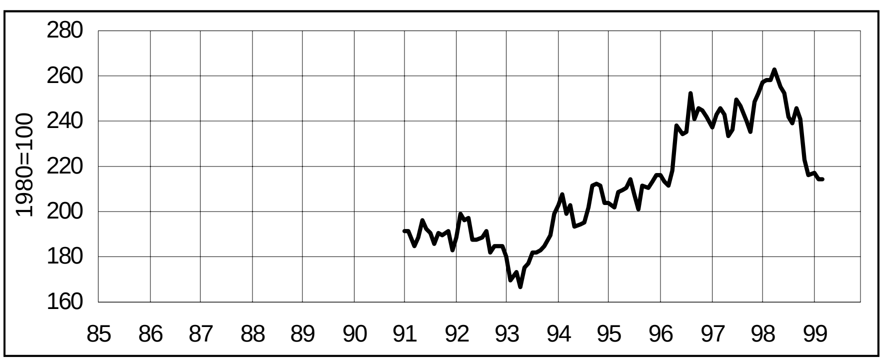
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	12,436	20,753	24,372
Feb	14,401	12,604	16,524
Mar	23,952	16,313	23,425
Apr	18,038	23,500	18,173
May	16,364	17,300	
Jun	16,464	19,813	
Jul	10,386	12,812	
Aug	11,210	14,992	
Sep	11,485	24,688	
Oct	14,563	14,106	
Nov	13,884	15,806	
Dec	15,416	19,373	

NEW HOUSING PERMITS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



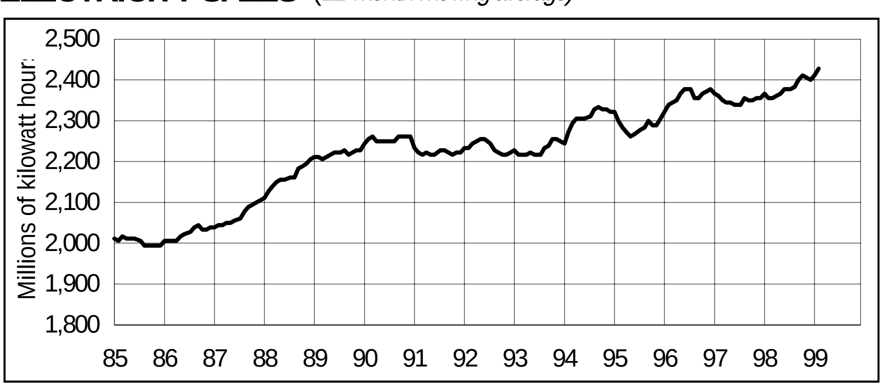
Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	427	737	749
Feb	520	647	518
Mar	911	747	1,105
Apr	1,036	928	1,026
May	836	1,051	
Jun	886	1,203	
Jul	871	1,297	
Aug	792	976	
Sep	740	984	
Oct	852	1,025	
Nov	561	817	
Dec	622	1,129	

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS INDEX *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	236.8	256.7	217.5
Feb	242.8	258.2	213.9
Mar	246.1	258.4	214.2
Apr	242.9	262.7	
May	233.5	255.2	
Jun	236.2	252.1	
Jul	249.3	242.3	
Aug	247.0	238.7	
Sep	239.9	246.0	
Oct	235.5	241.4	
Nov	248.7	223.0	
Dec	252.5	216.1	

ELECTRICITY SALES *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1997	1998	1999
Jan	2,366	2,366	2,413
Feb	2,364	2,357	2,425
Mar	2,348	2,356	
Apr	2,345	2,364	
May	2,344	2,366	
Jun	2,338	2,376	
Jul	2,342	2,379	
Aug	2,355	2,384	
Sep	2,350	2,402	
Oct	2,349	2,410	
Nov	2,355	2,406	
Dec	2,356	2,399	

CONNECTICUT

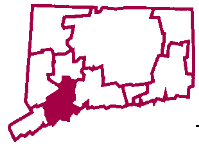
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**1,659,100**	**1,635,700**	**23,400**	**1.4**	**1,647,700**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**335,600**	**337,000**	**-1,400**	**-0.4**	**331,900**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**59,600**	**57,700**	**1,900**	**3.3**	**55,700**
MANUFACTURING	**276,000**	**279,300**	**-3,300**	**-1.2**	**276,200**
Durable	**194,400**	**196,200**	**-1,800**	**-0.9**	**194,400**
Lumber & Furniture	5,200	5,300	-100	-1.9	5,200
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,800	2,800	0	0.0	2,800
Primary Metals	9,400	9,400	0	0.0	9,400
Fabricated Metals	35,400	35,700	-300	-0.8	35,400
Machinery & Computer Equipment	34,600	35,500	-900	-2.5	34,600
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	28,700	29,000	-300	-1.0	28,800
Transportation Equipment	49,700	49,800	-100	-0.2	49,700
Instruments	22,200	22,200	0	0.0	22,100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.5	6,400
Nondurable	**81,600**	**83,100**	**-1,500**	**-1.8**	**81,800**
Food	8,100	8,000	100	1.3	8,100
Textiles	2,000	2,100	-100	-4.8	2,000
Apparel	4,000	4,600	-600	-13.0	4,000
Paper	7,700	7,800	-100	-1.3	7,700
Printing & Publishing	26,200	26,800	-600	-2.2	26,200
Chemicals	21,000	20,800	200	1.0	21,100
Rubber & Plastics	10,600	10,800	-200	-1.9	10,600
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	2,000	2,200	-200	-9.1	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**1,323,500**	**1,298,700**	**24,800**	**1.9**	**1,315,800**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**75,500**	**74,800**	**700**	**0.9**	**75,900**
Transportation	43,900	43,400	500	1.2	44,200
Motor Freight & Warehousing	11,800	12,000	-200	-1.7	11,900
Other Transportation	32,100	31,400	700	2.2	32,300
Communications	19,400	19,000	400	2.1	19,500
Utilities	12,200	12,400	-200	-1.6	12,200
TRADE	**351,900**	**349,800**	**2,100**	**0.6**	**351,700**
Wholesale	83,900	83,500	400	0.5	83,100
Retail	268,000	266,300	1,700	0.6	268,600
General Merchandise	23,700	25,300	-1,600	-6.3	25,200
Food Stores	52,400	51,700	700	1.4	52,900
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	27,200	27,000	200	0.7	27,100
Restaurants	76,000	76,000	0	0.0	75,100
Other Retail Trade	88,700	86,300	2,400	2.8	88,300
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**138,000**	**133,600**	**4,400**	**3.3**	**138,400**
Finance	52,100	49,500	2,600	5.3	52,100
Banking	25,400	24,800	600	2.4	25,500
Insurance	69,900	68,600	1,300	1.9	70,300
Insurance Carriers	58,600	57,600	1,000	1.7	59,100
Real Estate	16,100	15,400	700	4.5	15,900
SERVICES	**523,200**	**509,600**	**13,600**	**2.7**	**514,300**
Hotels & Lodging Places	11,400	10,900	500	4.6	11,100
Personal Services	19,500	19,400	100	0.5	19,400
Business Services	107,700	104,500	3,200	3.1	107,800
Health Services	157,900	155,800	2,100	1.3	157,900
Legal & Engineering Services	56,000	53,300	2,700	5.1	55,900
Educational Services	45,300	44,000	1,300	3.0	43,200
Other Services	125,400	121,700	3,700	3.0	119,000
GOVERNMENT	**234,900**	**230,900**	**4,000**	**1.7**	**235,500**
Federal	22,000	22,100	-100	-0.5	22,000
**State, Local & Other Government	212,900	208,800	4,100	2.0	213,500

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

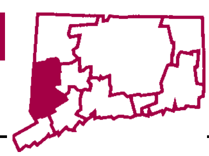


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**186,700**	**186,400**	**300**	**0.2**	**185,400**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**44,900**	**45,400**	**-500**	**-1.1**	**44,100**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**6,600**	**6,200**	**400**	**6.5**	**5,900**
MANUFACTURING	**38,300**	**39,200**	**-900**	**-2.3**	**38,200**
Durable Goods	31,000	31,900	-900	-2.8	30,900
Fabricated Metals	4,400	4,600	-200	-4.3	4,400
Industrial Machinery	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1	6,200
Electronic Equipment	6,000	6,200	-200	-3.2	6,000
Transportation Equipment	8,200	8,300	-100	-1.2	8,100
Nondurable Goods	7,300	7,300	0	0.0	7,300
Printing & Publishing	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	2,000
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**141,800**	**141,000**	**800**	**0.6**	**141,300**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**6,900**	**7,000**	**-100**	**-1.4**	**7,000**
TRADE	**41,000**	**41,600**	**-600**	**-1.4**	**41,300**
Wholesale	10,200	10,300	-100	-1.0	10,200
Retail	30,800	31,300	-500	-1.6	31,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**10,600**	**10,400**	**200**	**1.9**	**10,600**
SERVICES	**61,700**	**60,200**	**1,500**	**2.5**	**61,000**
Business Services	14,900	14,900	0	0.0	14,700
Health Services	19,800	19,300	500	2.6	19,800
GOVERNMENT	**21,600**	**21,800**	**-200**	**-0.9**	**21,400**
Federal	2,100	2,200	-100	-4.5	2,100
State & Local	19,500	19,600	-100	-0.5	19,300

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

DANBURY LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**87,800**	**88,000**	**-200**	**-0.2**	**87,400**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,600**	**23,500**	**-900**	**-3.8**	**22,500**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**3,800**	**3,700**	**100**	**2.7**	**3,600**
MANUFACTURING	**18,800**	**19,800**	**-1,000**	**-5.1**	**18,900**
Durable Goods	10,100	10,700	-600	-5.6	10,200
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,400	5,700	-300	-5.3	5,400
Instruments	2,400	2,700	-300	-11.1	2,400
Nondurable Goods	8,700	9,100	-400	-4.4	8,700
Printing & Publishing	2,500	2,600	-100	-3.8	2,500
Chemicals	3,500	3,600	-100	-2.8	3,500
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**65,200**	**64,500**	**700**	**1.1**	**64,900**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**2,700**	**2,700**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,700**
TRADE	**21,500**	**21,500**	**0**	**0.0**	**21,400**
Wholesale	3,500	3,600	-100	-2.8	3,400
Retail	18,000	17,900	100	0.6	18,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**4,900**	**4,600**	**300**	**6.5**	**5,000**
SERVICES	**25,600**	**25,200**	**400**	**1.6**	**25,100**
GOVERNMENT	**10,500**	**10,500**	**0**	**0.0**	**10,700**
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	9,700	9,700	0	0.0	9,900

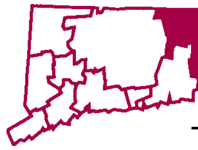
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

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

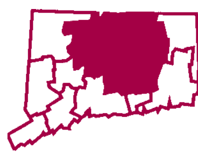
DANIELSON LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
	APR 1999	**APR 1998**	**CHANGE NO.**	**CHANGE %**	**MAR 1999**
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**20,000**	**20,700**	**-700**	**-3.4**	**20,000**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**6,400**	**6,800**	**-400**	**-5.9**	**6,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**800**	**900**	**-100**	**-11.1**	**700**
MANUFACTURING	**5,600**	**5,900**	**-300**	**-5.1**	**5,600**
Durable Goods	2,300	2,500	-200	-8.0	2,300
Nondurable Goods	3,300	3,400	-100	-2.9	3,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**13,600**	**13,900**	**-300**	**-2.2**	**13,700**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**500**	**500**	**0**	**0.0**	**500**
TRADE	**4,900**	**4,900**	**0**	**0.0**	**4,900**
Wholesale	900	900	0	0.0	900
Retail	4,000	4,000	0	0.0	4,000
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**600**	**600**	**0**	**0.0**	**600**
SERVICES	**4,700**	**4,700**	**0**	**0.0**	**4,700**
GOVERNMENT	**2,900**	**3,200**	**-300**	**-9.4**	**3,000**
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	2,800	3,100	-300	-9.7	2,900

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

HARTFORD LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				
	APR 1999	**APR 1998**	**CHANGE NO.**	**CHANGE %**	**MAR 1999**
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**606,800**	**603,200**	**3,600**	**0.6**	**606,800**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**114,400**	**115,100**	**-700**	**-0.6**	**113,400**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**19,300**	**19,500**	**-200**	**-1.0**	**17,900**
MANUFACTURING	**95,100**	**95,600**	**-500**	**-0.5**	**95,500**
Durable Goods	74,700	75,100	-400	-0.5	74,700
Primary & Fabricated Metals	18,600	18,700	-100	-0.5	18,600
Industrial Machinery	13,800	14,600	-800	-5.5	13,800
Electronic Equipment	6,100	6,600	-500	-7.6	6,200
Transportation Equipment	27,400	26,800	600	2.2	27,400
Nondurable Goods	20,400	20,500	-100	-0.5	20,800
Printing & Publishing	9,100	8,900	200	2.2	9,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**492,400**	**488,100**	**4,300**	**0.9**	**493,400**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**26,600**	**26,000**	**600**	**2.3**	**27,000**
Transportation	15,300	15,100	200	1.3	15,700
Communications & Utilities	11,300	10,900	400	3.7	11,300
TRADE	**122,900**	**122,400**	**500**	**0.4**	**123,400**
Wholesale	30,200	29,800	400	1.3	30,000
Retail	92,700	92,600	100	0.1	93,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**70,200**	**69,800**	**400**	**0.6**	**70,900**
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	11,700	11,900	-200	-1.7	11,700
Insurance Carriers	45,400	45,000	400	0.9	46,300
SERVICES	**175,800**	**174,600**	**1,200**	**0.7**	**174,400**
Business Services	33,900	33,100	800	2.4	34,000
Health Services	57,800	58,600	-800	-1.4	57,800
GOVERNMENT	**96,900**	**95,300**	**1,600**	**1.7**	**97,700**
Federal	7,700	8,000	-300	-3.8	7,800
State & Local	89,200	87,300	1,900	2.2	89,900

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

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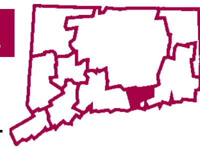
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LOWER RIVER LMA

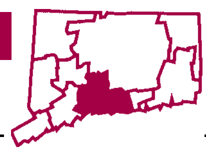


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**9,600**	**9,300**	**300**	**3.2**	**9,500**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**3,400**	**3,300**	**100**	**3.0**	**3,300**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**500**	**400**	**100**	**25.0**	**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	**6,200**	**6,000**	**200**	**3.3**	**6,200**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**400**	**300**	**100**	**33.3**	**400**
TRADE	**2,100**	**2,000**	**100**	**5.0**	**2,100**
Wholesale	400	400	0	0.0	400
Retail	1,700	1,600	100	6.3	1,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**300**	**300**	**0**	**0.0**	**300**
SERVICES	**2,600**	**2,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**2,600**
GOVERNMENT	**800**	**800**	**0**	**0.0**	**800**
Federal	0	0	0	0.0	0
State & Local	800	800	0	0.0	800

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

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**257,000**	**254,200**	**2,800**	**1.1**	**255,000**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**50,100**	**49,400**	**700**	**1.4**	**49,600**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**9,600**	**9,400**	**200**	**2.1**	**9,100**
MANUFACTURING	**40,500**	**40,000**	**500**	**1.3**	**40,500**
Durable Goods	25,800	25,400	400	1.6	25,900
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	14,700	14,600	100	0.7	14,600
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,200	5,300	-100	-1.9	5,300
Chemicals & Allied	5,500	5,500	0	0.0	5,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**206,900**	**204,800**	**2,100**	**1.0**	**205,400**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**16,600**	**16,100**	**500**	**3.1**	**16,700**
Communications & Utilities	8,900	8,500	400	4.7	8,900
TRADE	**53,600**	**53,200**	**400**	**0.8**	**53,300**
Wholesale	13,900	13,600	300	2.2	13,900
Retail	39,700	39,600	100	0.3	39,400
Eating & Drinking Places	11,400	11,300	100	0.9	11,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**13,500**	**13,400**	**100**	**0.7**	**13,500**
Finance	4,100	4,100	0	0.0	4,100
Insurance	7,300	7,200	100	1.4	7,300
SERVICES	**92,300**	**91,000**	**1,300**	**1.4**	**90,900**
Business Services	12,500	12,400	100	0.8	12,400
Health Services	28,600	28,400	200	0.7	28,500
GOVERNMENT	**30,900**	**31,100**	**-200**	**-0.6**	**31,000**
Federal	5,200	5,500	-300	-5.5	5,200
State & Local	25,700	25,600	100	0.4	25,800

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

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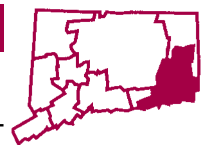
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

NEW LONDON LMA

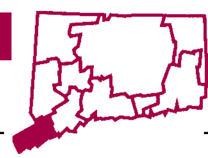


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**137,900**	**135,700**	**2,200**	**1.6**	**137,300**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**28,700**	**28,700**	**0**	**0.0**	**28,500**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**4,600**	**4,500**	**100**	**2.2**	**4,400**
MANUFACTURING	**24,100**	**24,200**	**-100**	**-0.4**	**24,100**
Durable Goods	14,000	14,400	-400	-2.8	14,000
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,300	2,300	0	0.0	2,300
Other Durable Goods	11,700	12,100	-400	-3.3	11,700
Nondurable Goods.	10,100	9,800	300	3.1	10,100
Paper & Allied	900	1,000	-100	-10.0	900
Other Nondurable Goods	7,900	7,400	500	6.8	7,900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**109,200**	**107,000**	**2,200**	**2.1**	**108,800**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**6,700**	**6,600**	**100**	**1.5**	**6,600**
TRADE	**27,000**	**26,700**	**300**	**1.1**	**27,200**
Wholesale	2,700	2,600	100	3.8	2,700
Retail	24,300	24,100	200	0.8	24,500
Eating & Drinking Places	7,200	7,300	-100	-1.4	7,200
Other Retail	17,000	16,800	200	1.2	17,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	**3,800**	**3,600**	**200**	**5.6**	**3,800**
SERVICES	**35,600**	**35,000**	**600**	**1.7**	**35,000**
Personal & Business Services	6,300	6,300	0	0.0	6,200
Health Services	11,800	11,600	200	1.7	11,900
GOVERNMENT	**36,100**	**35,100**	**1,000**	**2.8**	**36,200**
Federal	2,700	2,700	0	0.0	2,700
State & Local	33,400	32,400	1,000	3.1	33,500
**Local	29,000	28,100	900	3.2	29,000

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

STAMFORD LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**204,800**	**205,000**	**-200**	**-0.1**	**203,200**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**32,200**	**33,600**	**-1,400**	**-4.2**	**32,100**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**5,800**	**5,800**	**0**	**0.0**	**5,600**
MANUFACTURING	**26,400**	**27,800**	**-1,400**	**-5.0**	**26,500**
Durable Goods	14,100	14,700	-600	-4.1	14,100
Industrial Machinery	3,600	3,700	-100	-2.7	3,600
Electronic Equipment	2,200	2,500	-300	-12.0	2,300
Nondurable Goods.	12,300	13,100	-800	-6.1	12,400
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,900	6,200	-300	-4.8	6,000
Chemicals & Allied	3,100	3,400	-300	-8.8	3,100
Other Nondurable	3,300	3,500	-200	-5.7	3,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**172,600**	**171,400**	**1,200**	**0.7**	**171,100**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**10,100**	**10,400**	**-300**	**-2.9**	**10,100**
Communications & Utilities	2,800	3,200	-400	-12.5	2,800
TRADE	**42,400**	**43,600**	**-1,200**	**-2.8**	**42,700**
Wholesale	11,300	11,600	-300	-2.6	11,200
Retail	31,100	32,000	-900	-2.8	31,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	**25,300**	**24,700**	**600**	**2.4**	**25,500**
SERVICES	**77,000**	**74,600**	**2,400**	**3.2**	**75,200**
Business Services	22,700	22,200	500	2.3	22,300
Engineering & Mgmnt. Services	11,200	10,800	400	3.7	11,100
Other Services	43,100	41,600	1,500	3.6	41,800
GOVERNMENT	**17,800**	**18,100**	**-300**	**-1.7**	**17,600**
Federal	1,900	1,900	0	0.0	1,900
State & Local	15,900	16,200	-300	-1.9	15,700

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

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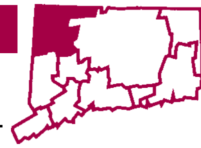
**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

TORRINGTON LMA

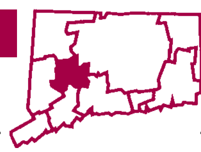


Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**29,100**	**29,200**	**-100**	**-0.3**	**28,900**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**7,900**	**8,300**	**-400**	**-4.8**	**7,900**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**1,900**	**2,100**	**-200**	**-9.5**	**1,800**
MANUFACTURING	**6,000**	**6,200**	**-200**	**-3.2**	**6,100**
Durable Goods	4,100	4,400	-300	-6.8	4,200
Primary & Fabricated Metals	700	600	100	16.7	600
Industrial Machinery	1,000	1,200	-200	-16.7	1,100
Electronic Equipment	400	400	0	0.0	500
Other Durable Goods	2,000	2,200	-200	-9.1	2,000
Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,800	100	5.6	1,900
Rubber & Plastics	1,000	900	100	11.1	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	0	0.0	900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**21,200**	**20,900**	**300**	**1.4**	**21,000**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**900**	**800**	**100**	**12.5**	**900**
TRADE	**6,500**	**6,300**	**200**	**3.2**	**6,300**
Wholesale	700	700	0	0.0	600
Retail	5,800	5,600	200	3.6	5,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**800**	**900**	**-100**	**-11.1**	**800**
SERVICES	**9,600**	**9,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**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

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	**85,500**	**86,000**	**-500**	**-0.6**	**85,600**
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**22,100**	**22,200**	**-100**	**-0.5**	**21,800**
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	**3,500**	**3,300**	**200**	**6.1**	**3,200**
MANUFACTURING	**18,600**	**18,900**	**-300**	**-1.6**	**18,600**
Durable Goods	14,600	14,700	-100	-0.7	14,600
Primary Metals	900	800	100	12.5	800
Fabricated Metals	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.5	6,300
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,900	5,000	-100	-2.0	4,900
Nondurable Goods	4,000	4,200	-200	-4.8	4,000
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	1,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	**63,400**	**63,800**	**-400**	**-0.6**	**63,800**
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	**3,700**	**3,600**	**100**	**2.8**	**3,700**
TRADE	**17,900**	**17,700**	**200**	**1.1**	**18,100**
Wholesale	2,900	3,100	-200	-6.5	3,000
Retail	15,000	14,600	400	2.7	15,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	**3,600**	**3,600**	**0**	**0.0**	**3,700**
SERVICES	**26,400**	**26,600**	**-200**	**-0.8**	**26,300**
Personal & Business	7,000	6,900	100	1.4	7,100
Health Services	10,500	10,600	-100	-0.9	10,500
GOVERNMENT	**11,800**	**12,300**	**-500**	**-4.1**	**12,000**
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,000	11,500	-500	-4.3	11,200

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	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	MAR 1999
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,715,700	1,687,100	28,600	1.7	1,708,800
	Employed	1,662,600	1,633,900	28,700	1.8	1,652,700
	Unemployed	53,100	53,200	-100	-0.2	56,100
	Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.2	-0.1	---	3.3
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	218,400	215,200	3,200	1.5	217,600
	Employed	210,300	207,500	2,800	1.3	208,700
	Unemployed	8,100	7,700	400	5.2	8,900
	Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.6	0.1	---	4.1
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	109,800	108,700	1,100	1.0	109,400
	Employed	107,200	106,200	1,000	0.9	106,600
	Unemployed	2,600	2,500	100	4.0	2,800
	Unemployment Rate	2.4	2.3	0.1	---	2.5
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	32,300	32,900	-600	-1.8	32,100
	Employed	31,000	31,300	-300	-1.0	30,700
	Unemployed	1,300	1,600	-300	-18.8	1,500
	Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.7	-0.7	---	4.5
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	584,500	573,600	10,900	1.9	585,100
	Employed	566,200	555,600	10,600	1.9	565,200
	Unemployed	18,300	18,000	300	1.7	19,900
	Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.1	0.0	---	3.4
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,300	11,900	400	3.4	12,100
	Employed	12,000	11,600	400	3.4	11,800
	Unemployed	300	300	0	0.0	300
	Unemployment Rate	2.4	2.5	-0.1	---	2.5
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	275,200	268,800	6,400	2.4	272,700
	Employed	266,900	260,200	6,700	2.6	264,400
	Unemployed	8,200	8,600	-400	-4.7	8,300
	Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.2	-0.2	---	3.0
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	152,000	148,600	3,400	2.3	151,000
	Employed	147,300	142,900	4,400	3.1	146,200
	Unemployed	4,700	5,700	-1,000	-17.5	4,900
	Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.8	-0.7	---	3.2
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	193,100	190,500	2,600	1.4	191,400
	Employed	189,100	186,700	2,400	1.3	187,100
	Unemployed	4,000	3,800	200	5.3	4,300
	Unemployment Rate	2.1	2.0	0.1	---	2.3
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	38,900	38,600	300	0.8	38,400
	Employed	37,900	37,500	400	1.1	37,300
	Unemployed	1,000	1,100	-100	-9.1	1,100
	Unemployment Rate	2.6	2.8	-0.2	---	2.8
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	115,100	114,000	1,100	1.0	115,100
	Employed	110,400	109,600	800	0.7	110,400
	Unemployed	4,800	4,400	400	9.1	4,800
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	3.9	0.2	---	4.1
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	138,240,000	136,379,000	1,861,000	1.4	138,418,000
	Employed	132,552,000	130,735,000	1,817,000	1.4	132,299,000
	Unemployed	5,688,000	5,643,000	45,000	0.8	6,119,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	0.0	---	4.4

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 APR 1999	APR 1998	CHG Y/Y	MAR 1999	AVG WEEKLY HOURS APR 1999	APR 1998	CHG Y/Y	MAR 1999	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS APR 1999	APR 1998	CHG Y/Y	MAR 1999
MANUFACTURING	**$642.36**	**$626.03**	**$16.34**	**$638.54**	**42.4**	**42.5**	**-0.1**	**42.4**	**$15.15**	**$14.73**	**$0.42**	**$15.06**
DURABLE GOODS	**661.34**	**642.43**	**18.91**	**655.94**	**43.0**	**42.8**	**0.2**	**42.9**	**15.38**	**15.01**	**0.37**	**15.29**
Lumber & Furniture	480.74	472.99	7.74	483.69	40.5	40.6	-0.1	41.2	11.87	11.65	0.22	11.74
Stone, Clay and Glass	622.36	619.31	3.05	599.87	46.9	44.3	2.6	44.7	13.27	13.98	-0.71	13.42
Primary Metals	625.01	604.00	21.01	615.77	44.9	43.8	1.1	44.3	13.92	13.79	0.13	13.90
Fabricated Metals	597.49	594.38	3.10	597.55	42.8	42.7	0.1	42.5	13.96	13.92	0.04	14.06
Machinery	715.90	689.27	26.63	713.03	44.8	44.7	0.1	45.1	15.98	15.42	0.56	15.81
Electrical Equipment	527.09	492.03	35.06	517.09	41.7	40.1	1.6	41.5	12.64	12.27	0.37	12.46
Trans. Equipment	824.31	815.63	8.69	826.23	42.6	43.5	-0.9	43.1	19.35	18.75	0.60	19.17
Instruments	627.73	600.35	27.39	604.86	42.3	42.1	0.2	41.6	14.84	14.26	0.58	14.54
Miscellaneous Mfg	647.02	552.84	94.18	620.67	42.4	40.8	1.6	41.6	15.26	13.55	1.71	14.92
NONDUR. GOODS	**599.87**	**590.52**	**9.35**	**596.58**	**41.2**	**42.0**	**-0.8**	**41.2**	**14.56**	**14.06**	**0.50**	**14.48**
Food	535.06	536.21	-1.15	537.07	42.6	43.0	-0.4	43.7	12.56	12.47	0.09	12.29
Textiles	467.48	481.80	-14.32	490.77	40.3	42.3	-2.0	41.0	11.60	11.39	0.21	11.97
Apparel	344.18	324.56	19.62	335.87	39.2	38.5	0.7	39.1	8.78	8.43	0.35	8.59
Paper	714.76	707.62	7.14	701.78	42.8	44.9	-2.1	43.4	16.70	15.76	0.94	16.17
Printing & Publishing	600.24	581.44	18.80	595.58	38.7	39.5	-0.8	38.4	15.51	14.72	0.79	15.51
Chemicals	759.98	793.86	-33.87	771.61	42.6	44.3	-1.7	43.3	17.84	17.92	-0.08	17.82
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	532.82	506.26	26.56	519.56	42.9	42.4	0.5	41.9	12.42	11.94	0.48	12.40
CONSTRUCTION	**817.48**	**792.74**	**24.74**	**804.64**	**41.1**	**40.8**	**0.3**	**40.7**	**19.89**	**19.43**	**0.46**	**19.77**

LMAs

MANUFACTURING	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS APR 1999	APR 1998	CHG Y/Y	MAR 1999	AVG WEEKLY HOURS APR 1999	APR 1998	CHG Y/Y	MAR 1999	AVG HOURLY EARNINGS APR 1999	APR 1998	CHG Y/Y	MAR 1999
Bridgeport	$631.89	$615.95	$15.94	$636.61	41.3	40.9	0.4	41.5	$15.30	$15.06	$0.24	$15.34
Danbury	609.76	620.96	-11.20	604.13	41.2	42.3	-1.1	40.6	14.80	14.68	0.12	14.88
Danielson	499.20	459.75	39.45	482.39	41.6	40.4	1.2	40.3	12.00	11.38	0.62	11.97
Hartford	682.88	644.38	38.50	682.35	42.6	41.6	1.0	42.7	16.03	15.49	0.54	15.98
Lower River	550.09	510.72	39.37	544.75	41.8	39.9	1.9	41.3	13.16	12.80	0.36	13.19
New Haven	630.49	601.70	28.79	629.22	42.4	41.1	1.3	42.4	14.87	14.64	0.23	14.84
New London	662.96	626.48	36.48	669.54	42.2	41.0	1.2	42.7	15.71	15.28	0.43	15.68
Stamford	543.71	540.71	3.00	532.51	39.6	39.7	-0.1	38.7	13.73	13.62	0.11	13.76
Torrington	572.42	553.82	18.60	560.44	41.6	42.7	-1.1	41.3	13.76	12.97	0.79	13.57
Waterbury	627.98	588.41	39.57	633.39	44.1	42.7	1.4	44.2	14.24	13.78	0.46	14.33

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

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	APR 1999	APR 1998	CHANGE Y/Y UNITS	%	YTD 1999	1998	CHANGE YTD UNITS	%	MAR 1999
Connecticut	1,026	928	98	10.6	3,398	3,059	339	11.1	1,105
Counties:									
Fairfield	206	193	13	6.7	759	675	84	12.4	330
Hartford	239	206	33	16.0	713	840	-127	-15.1	239
Litchfield	99	74	25	33.8	252	199	53	26.6	85
Middlesex	72	75	-3	-4.0	276	211	65	30.8	108
New Haven	195	197	-2	-1.0	825	599	226	37.7	158
New London	95	92	3	3.3	256	265	-9	-3.4	88
Tolland	76	54	22	40.7	211	173	38	22.0	66
Windham	44	37	7	18.9	106	97	9	9.3	31

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	APR	YR TO DATE	
	1999	1999	1998
Andover	3	8	9
Ansonia	2	10	6
Ashford	2	6	11
Avon	13	47	35
Barkhamsted	5	6	6
Beacon Falls	5	14	13
Berlin	9	27	29
Bethany	4	7	12
Bethel	2	11	12
Bethlehem	3	7	2
Bloomfield	2	9	11
Bolton	6	11	7
Bozrah	2	5	2
Branford	5	20	8
Bridgeport	8	20	26
Bridgewater	0	1	5
Bristol	10	22	21
Brookfield	5	27	16
Brooklyn	7	12	1
Burlington	7	16	13
Canaan	0	0	0
Canterbury	2	5	8
Canton	6	23	13
Chaplin	1	4	5
Cheshire	9	20	32
Chester	2	4	3
Clinton	4	20	18
Colchester	11	26	27
Colebrook	1	3	2
Columbia	3	9	11
Cornwall	1	2	2
Coventry	3	16	14
Cromwell	5	17	20
Danbury	29	57	34
Darien	3	8	10
Deep River	3	6	7
Derby	3	9	9
Durham	8	19	13
East Granby	1	4	5
East Haddam	12	27	21
East Hampton	11	22	15
East Hartford	1	3	0
East Haven	0	11	23
East Lyme	5	18	24
East Windsor	4	8	10
Eastford	0	1	3
Easton	4	9	13
Ellington	6	23	37
Enfield	7	24	19
Essex	1	9	10
Fairfield	14	25	50
Farmington	12	45	38
Franklin	0	0	0
Glastonbury	9	70	54
Goshen	3	6	5
Granby	6	21	11
Greenwich	11	39	31
Griswold	10	18	10
Groton	16	36	40
Guilford	18	37	46
Haddam	2	8	4
Hamden	32	48	47
Hampton	2	4	4
Hartford	8	21	56
Hartland	0	0	2
Harwinton	3	7	7
Hebron	8	25	23
Kent	2	4	3
Killingly	3	7	8
Killingworth	3	16	20
Lebanon	4	15	4
Ledyard	6	15	24
Lisbon	3	9	7
Litchfield	5	9	13
Lyme	0	4	3
Madison	13	31	39
Manchester	15	27	109
Mansfield	3	15	12
Marlborough	3	9	8
Meriden	3	11	15
Middlebury	3	8	4
Middlefield	1	9	5
Middletown	15	89	42
Milford	5	140	36
Monroe	6	27	39
Montville	4	10	11
Morris	0	4	3
Naugatuck	5	13	11
New Britain	1	3	1
New Canaan	3	11	14
New Fairfield	5	11	9
New Hartford	3	7	8
New Haven	2	199	41
New London	0	0	1
New Milford	20	62	38
Newington	7	33	35
Newtown	14	63	59
Norfolk	0	1	0
North Branford	5	11	17
North Canaan	2	2	2
North Haven	3	16	52
No. Stonington	2	5	13
Norwalk	38	65	50
Norwich	1	7	12
Old Lyme	3	11	14
Old Saybrook	1	5	10
Orange	2	5	8
Oxford	7	21	24
Plainfield	8	17	12
Plainville	7	11	6
Plymouth	13	31	11
Pomfret	4	14	8
Portland	3	10	2
Preston	1	8	5
Prospect	5	11	7
Putnam	2	4	2
Redding	3	9	15
Ridgefield	11	42	41
Rocky Hill	12	33	29
Roxbury	2	4	5
Salem	3	5	6
Salisbury	0	2	3
Scotland	0	2	7
Seymour	7	22	12
Sharon	1	2	2
Shelton	9	49	91
Sherman	0	5	5
Simsbury	6	30	24
Somers	4	10	9
South Windsor	41	60	52
Southbury	12	29	33
Southington	21	97	79
Sprague	0	2	1
Stafford	7	15	9
Stamford	14	199	69
Sterling	3	8	5
Stonington	10	30	29
Stratford	2	14	10
Suffield	17	29	123
Thomaston	9	18	11
Thompson	6	10	7
Tolland	15	47	27
Torrington	13	33	12
Trumbull	12	37	48
Union	0	1	0
Vernon	18	29	9
Voluntown	3	8	7
Wallingford	21	73	63
Warren	1	3	2
Washington	1	4	3
Waterbury	9	17	15
Waterford	11	24	25
Watertown	5	17	23
West Hartford	4	8	7
West Haven	5	15	7
Westbrook	1	15	21
Weston	2	6	6
Westport	6	15	14
Wethersfield	4	12	37
Willington	0	2	6
Wilton	5	10	13
Winchester	1	4	4
Windham	1	5	5
Windsor	4	17	11
Windsor Locks	2	4	2
Wolcott	5	15	12
Woodbridge	5	12	7
Woodbury	5	13	27
Woodstock	3	7	11

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	**-1.0**
Coincident Employment Index	**+4.4**
Total Nonfarm Employment	**+1.6**
Unemployment	**0.0***
Labor Force	+1.7
Employed	+1.8
Unemployed	-0.2
Average Weekly Initial Claims	**+6.2**
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford	**-8.1**
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate	**+0.14***
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg	**-0.2**
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg	**+2.9**
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg	**+2.6**
CT Mfg. Production Index	**+0.9**
Production Worker Hours	-1.9
Industrial Electricity Sales	-0.2
Personal Income	**+4.0**
UI Covered Wages	**+4.5**

Business Activity	
New Housing Permits	+10.6
Electricity Sales	+3.8
Retail Sales	+6.9
Construction Contracts Index	+14.6
New Auto Registrations	-22.7
Air Cargo Tons	+23.8
Business Starts	
Secretary of the State	+2.1
Dept. of Labor	+15.6
Business Terminations	
Secretary of the State	+1.5
Dept. of Labor	-5.7
State Tax Collections	**-0.3**
Corporate Tax	+24.8
Personal Income Tax	-4.6
Real Estate Conveyance Tax	+1.9
Sales & Use Tax	+7.3

Tourism and Travel	
Tourism Inquiries	+71.9
Tourism Info Centers	+19.5
Attraction Visitors	-2.5
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	-0.7*
Air Passenger Count	+12.4
Employment Cost Index (U.S.)	
Total	+3.0
Wages & Salaries	+3.3
Benefit Costs	+2.2
Consumer Price Index	
U.S. City Average	+2.3
Northeast Region	+1.9
NY-NJ-Long Island	+1.7
Boston-Brockton-Nashua	+2.0
Consumer Confidence	
U.S.	-1.7
New England	-0.2
Interest Rates	
Prime	-0.75*
Conventional Mortgage	-0.22*

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

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