



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2018 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 4.0%
US Unemployment Rate = 3.9%

Nonfarm jobs grow by 1,100 in December; unemployment rate falls to 4.0%

WETHERSFIELD, January 17, 2019 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state gains 1,100 net jobs (0.1%) in December 2018, to a level of 1,705,500, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 19,900 jobs (1.2%). The November 2018 originally-released job loss of 500 was revised up by 1,500 jobs to a gain of 1,000 over the month. The number of the state's unemployed residents was estimated at 76,200, seasonally adjusted - a decline of 1,500 from November. As a result, Connecticut's December unemployment rate declined by one-tenth at 4.0%, seasonally adjusted. Resident employment estimates include the self-employed and residents working out of state and are determined separately from the nonfarm payroll job estimates above. The changes in labor force, residential employed, residential unemployed and the unemployment rate were considered statistically significant.

"The December jobs report ends the year on a high note," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "Preliminary numbers indicate that we saw job growth in almost every major industry sector in the state's labor market. Unemployment fell five-tenths of a point since December 2017 to 4.0%. However, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual benchmark revisions to our jobs numbers will be completed in March and we have seen significant downward revisions in recent years."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment grew by 1,600 (0.1%) to 1,478,000 jobs over the month in December, and added 23,500 (1.6%) seasonally-adjusted jobs over the year. The **government supersector** lost 500 jobs in December to a total of 227,500, with over-the-year losses now at 3,600 or -1.6%. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public higher education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land.

Six of the ten major industry *supersectors* gained employment in December, while four declined. **Construction & mining** led growing sectors with 2,100 net new jobs (3.2%, 67,500). **Education & health services** was next, adding 1,100 jobs (0.3 %, 343,100). The **leisure & hospitality supersector** contributed 500 new positions (0.3%, 160,500); while **trade, transportation & utilities** (0.1%, 295,000) added 400 and **information** grew by 200 jobs (0.6%, 31,300). Finally, **financial activities** added 100 jobs to the state's total in December (0.1%, 130,400).

The **professional & business services supersector** led declines in December, losing 1,800 jobs (-0.8%, 220,800). **Other services** was next, losing 700 positions (-1.1%, 65,300). The above mentioned **government supersector** dropped 500 jobs while **manufacturing** (-0.2%, 164,100) saw a 300 job loss.

Connecticut has now recovered **93.5%** (111,300 jobs) of the 119,100 seasonally adjusted jobs lost in the "Great Recession" (3/08-2/10). The job recovery is into its 106th month and the state needs an additional 7,800 net new jobs to reach an overall nonfarm employment expansion. The state's **private sector** continues its expansion from the recession and is at **117.7%** (131,500) of the private sector jobs lost in that same employment downturn.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Three of the six LMAs seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics saw job increases in December 2018 and three saw declines. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** posted 1,000 net new positions (0.2%, 412,400). The **New Haven LMA** (0.1%, 286,600) added 400 net new positions while the **Waterbury LMA** (0.1%, 66,900) added 100 jobs to the total. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI LMA** (-0.2%, 132,300) and the **Hartford LMA** (-0.1%, 584,600) both saw declines in December, each dropping 300 jobs. The **Danbury LMA** (-0.1%, 79,500) saw a small loss of 100 positions.

Note: The six major Connecticut LMAs are estimated independently from the statewide data by the BLS and cover more than 90% of the nonfarm employment in the state. Thus, estimates will not fully sum to the statewide total.

Hours and Earnings: The **private sector** workweek, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 34.1 hours in December 2018, up one-tenth of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$33.48, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$2.30 (7.4%) from the December 2017 estimate (\$31.18). The resultant average **private sector** weekly pay amounted to \$1,141.67, up \$81.55 from a year ago (7.7%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in December 2018 was 2.2%. Information for the manufacturing production workweek and earnings can be found in the table section of this release under the “Hours and Earnings” data category. *Current all-employee private sector hours and earnings estimates can be volatile due to fluctuating sample responses.*

Labor Force Data (residential household survey)

The December 2018 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **4.0%** (seasonally adjusted), down one-tenth from November 2018 and down five-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.5%. The US jobless rate in December 2018 was 3.9%, up two-tenths of a point from November 2018.

Based on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics model (LAUS - a statistical model using the CPS – Current Population Survey residential data), the number of Connecticut unemployed residents, seasonally adjusted, was down 1,500 from November at 76,200. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents declined by 10,200 (-11.8%). The state’s labor force increased for the sixth month in a row by 7,000 (0.4%) over the month, and is now higher over the year by 11,000 (0.6%).

December 2018 seasonally-adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut grew by 844 claimants (23.7%) to 4,399 from November 2018, and were higher by 986 claims (28.9%) from the December 2017 level of 3,413.

*The nonfarm employment estimate, derived from a survey of businesses, is a measure of jobs in the state; the unemployment rate and labor force estimates are based on a household survey, and measure the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Overall, as the national and state economies recover, volatility in monthly numbers can be expected. **Job and employment estimates are best understood in the context of their movement over several months rather than observed changes in a single month’s value.***

Next Connecticut Labor Situation release: Friday, March 08, 2019. (New benchmark released)

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01-17-19

Labor market information is available on the Internet at www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi
200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114 - www.ct.gov/dol
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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	December 2018 P	November 2018 R	October 2018	September 2018	December 2017	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,705,500	1,704,400	1,703,400	1,700,400	1,685,600	1,100	0.1%	19,900	1.2%
Total Private	1,478,000	1,476,400	1,475,500	1,472,900	1,454,500	1,600	0.1%	23,500	1.6%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	600	600	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	67,000	64,900	63,700	62,900	57,300	2,100	3.2%	9,700	16.9%
Manufacturing	164,100	164,400	164,700	164,400	163,800	-300	-0.2%	300	0.2%
Durable Goods	128,300	128,700	129,100	129,100	128,500	-400	-0.3%	-200	-0.2%
Nondurable Goods	35,800	35,700	35,600	35,300	35,300	100	0.3%	500	1.4%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	295,000	294,600	295,400	296,200	299,600	400	0.1%	-4,600	-1.5%
Wholesale	61,500	61,400	61,600	62,100	63,800	100	0.2%	-2,300	-3.6%
Retail	178,100	178,600	179,400	179,400	181,600	-500	-0.3%	-3,500	-1.9%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	55,400	54,600	54,400	54,700	54,200	800	1.5%	1,200	2.2%
Information	31,300	31,100	30,800	30,400	30,700	200	0.6%	600	2.0%
Financial Activities	130,400	130,300	129,900	128,800	127,800	100	0.1%	2,600	2.0%
Finance & Insurance	109,900	109,800	109,500	108,500	107,800	100	0.1%	2,100	1.9%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,500	20,500	20,400	20,300	20,000	0	0.0%	500	2.5%
Professional & Business Services	220,800	222,600	223,300	222,300	219,300	-1,800	-0.8%	1,500	0.7%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	99,100	99,100	99,100	98,500	96,400	0	0.0%	2,700	2.8%
Management of Companies	30,600	30,600	30,700	30,800	31,800	0	0.0%	-1,200	-3.8%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	91,100	92,900	93,500	93,000	91,100	-1,800	-1.9%	0	0.0%
Educational & Health Services	343,100	342,000	342,100	341,800	336,100	1,100	0.3%	7,000	2.1%
Educational Services	68,300	67,100	67,100	67,300	65,200	1,200	1.8%	3,100	4.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	274,800	274,900	275,000	274,500	270,900	-100	0.0%	3,900	1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	160,500	160,000	159,400	159,700	154,600	500	0.3%	5,900	3.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	26,400	26,300	26,600	26,600	27,200	100	0.4%	-800	-2.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	134,100	133,700	132,800	133,100	127,400	400	0.3%	6,700	5.3%
Other Services	65,300	66,000	65,600	65,800	64,800	-700	-1.1%	500	0.8%
Government**	227,500	228,000	227,900	227,500	231,100	-500	-0.2%	-3,600	-1.6%
UNITED STATES	150,263,000	149,951,000	149,775,000	149,501,000	147,625,000	312,000	0.2%	2,638,000	1.8%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	December 2018 P	November 2018 R	October 2018	September 2018	December 2017	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	412,400	411,400	409,800	409,000	405,600	1,000	0.2%	6,800	1.7%
Danbury	79,500	79,600	79,400	79,100	78,300	-100	-0.1%	1,200	1.5%
Hartford	584,600	584,900	583,600	581,700	576,500	-300	-0.1%	8,100	1.4%
New Haven	286,600	286,200	287,200	286,000	282,600	400	0.1%	4,000	1.4%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	132,300	132,600	132,800	132,400	130,700	-300	-0.2%	1,600	1.2%
Waterbury	66,900	66,800	66,900	67,100	66,900	100	0.1%	0	0.0%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	45,500	45,400	45,100	45,200	45,200	100	0.2%	300	0.7%
Torrington-Northwest	32,600	32,900	33,100	33,200	32,300	-300	-0.9%	300	0.9%
Danielson-Northeast	26,900	27,000	27,000	26,900	27,000	-100	-0.4%	-100	-0.4%

* Less than 0.05% ** Includes Native American tribal government employment

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

Starting with March, 2011, our monthly statewide and major LMA nonfarm job estimates have been taken over by the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the final phase of transition in this program, which began in 2008. As a result of changes in the estimation procedures, you are likely to see more variability in month-to-month estimates of job counts. Caution should be used in interpreting any single month's estimate. The data are best interpreted to identify trends and cycles over several months and quarters. If you have any questions about these changes, please email us at: dol.lmi@ct.gov. Danbury and Waterbury LMA's are now back to being seasonally adjusted.

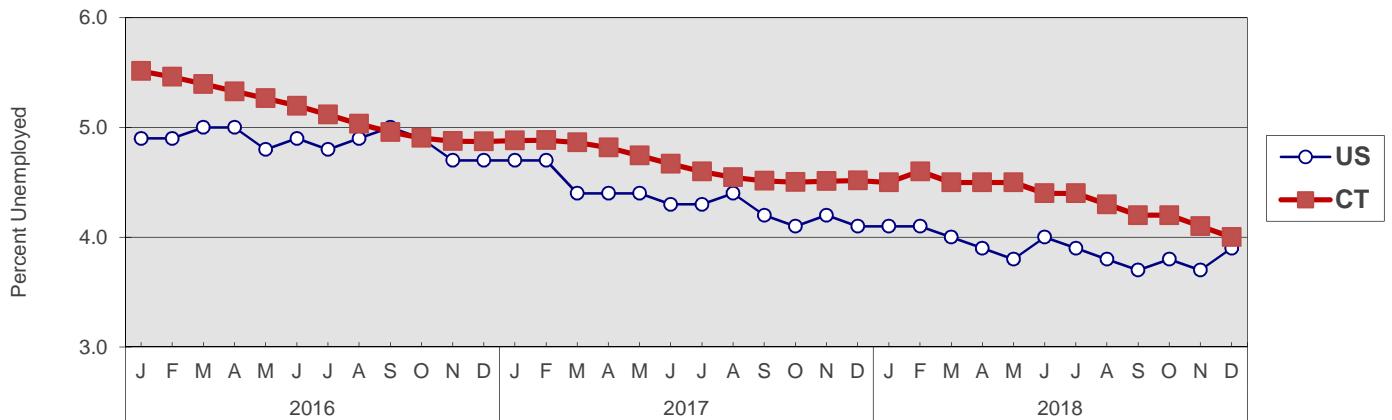
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	December 2018 P		December 2017 R		Change		November 2018 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	76,200	4.0	86,400	4.5	-10,200	-0.5	77,700	4.1
Labor Force	1,923,600		1,912,600		11,000		1,916,600	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,294,000	3.9	6,572,000	4.1	-278,000	-0.2	6,018,000	3.7
Labor Force	163,240,000		160,636,000		2,604,000		162,821,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2016 - 2018



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	December 2018 P		December 2017 R		Change		November 2018 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	15,200	3.2	18,200	3.9	-3,000	-0.7	14,400	3.0
Danbury	2,900	2.7	3,400	3.1	-500	-0.4	2,700	2.5
Danielson-Northeast*	1,500	3.4	1,800	4.1	-300	-0.7	1,400	3.2
Worcester NECTA	1,500	3.5	1,700	4.2	-200	-0.7	1,400	3.3
Hampton	100	3.0	100	3.5	0	-0.5	100	2.9
Enfield	1,600	3.1	2,000	3.9	-400	-0.8	1,400	2.8
Hartford	20,500	3.3	24,900	4.0	-4,400	-0.7	19,100	3.0
New Haven	10,300	3.1	12,700	3.9	-2,400	-0.8	9,800	3.0
Norwich-New London	4,700	3.3	5,700	4.0	-1,000	-0.7	4,400	3.0
Torrington-Northwest**	1,500	3.2	1,800	3.9	-300	-0.7	1,300	2.7
Torrington NECTA	1,000	3.7	1,200	4.6	-200	-0.9	900	3.3
Litchfield	500	2.5	600	3.0	-100	-0.5	400	2.0
Waterbury	4,600	4.1	5,600	5.1	-1,000	-1.0	4,400	3.9
CONNECTICUT	62,300	3.2	75,200	4.0	-12,900	-0.8	58,400	3.0
UNITED STATES	6,029,000	3.7	6,278,000	3.9	-249,000	-0.2	5,650,000	3.5

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

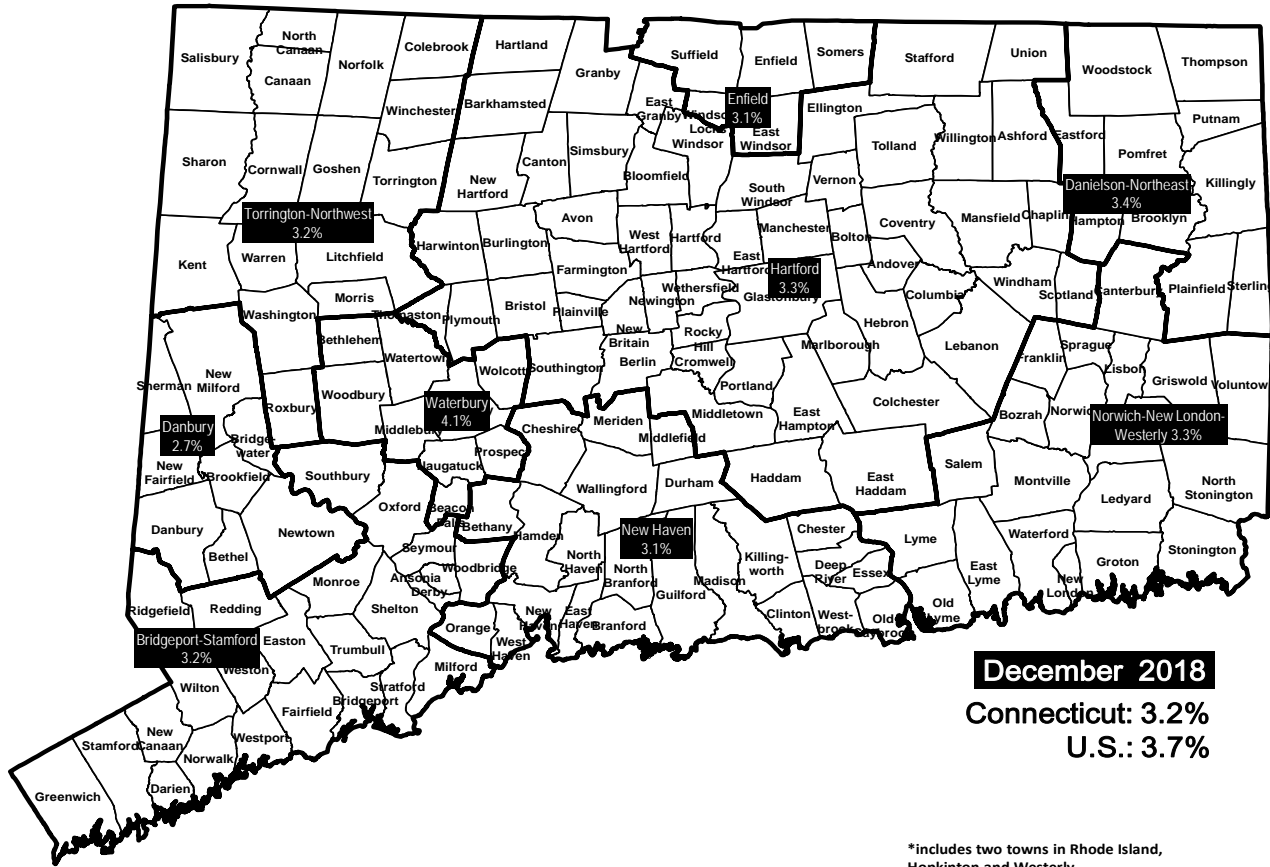
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined ** Torrington Metropolitan NECTA and Litchfield LMA are combined

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LABOR MARKET AREAS



HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Dec. 2018 P	Dec. 2017	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2018 R	Dec. 2018 P	Dec. 2017	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2018 R	Dec. 2018 P	Dec. 2017	Change over Yr.	Nov. 2018 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,141.67	\$1,060.12	\$81.55	\$1,095.46	34.1	34.0	0.1	33.8	\$33.48	\$31.18	\$2.30	\$32.41
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,156.70	\$1,082.39	\$74.31	\$1,128.69	43.0	42.1	0.9	42.4	\$26.90	\$25.71	\$1.19	\$26.62

* Production worker data have been impacted by the loss of a large, high-paying manufacturer from the monthly sample.

P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

TRENDS

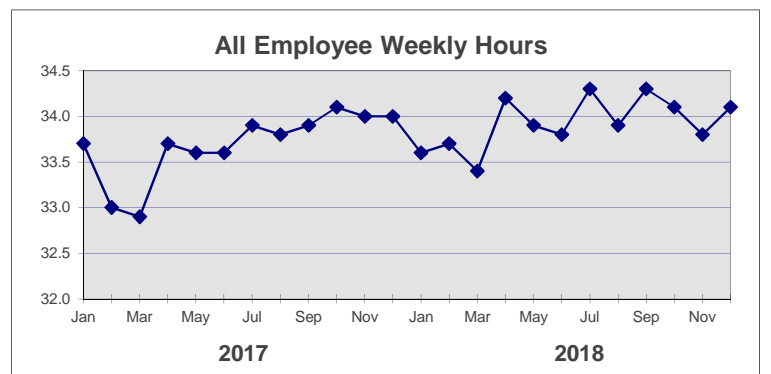
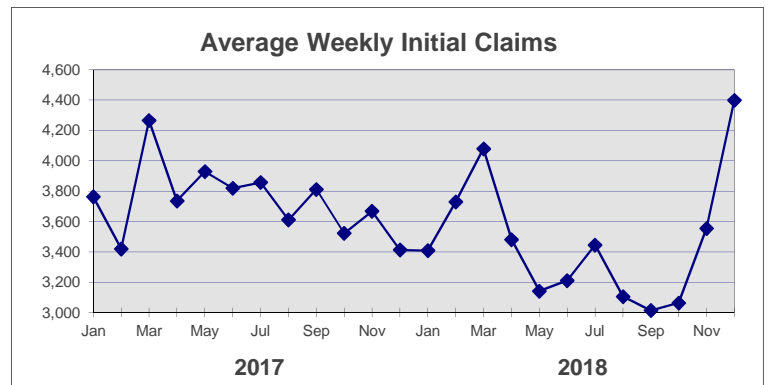
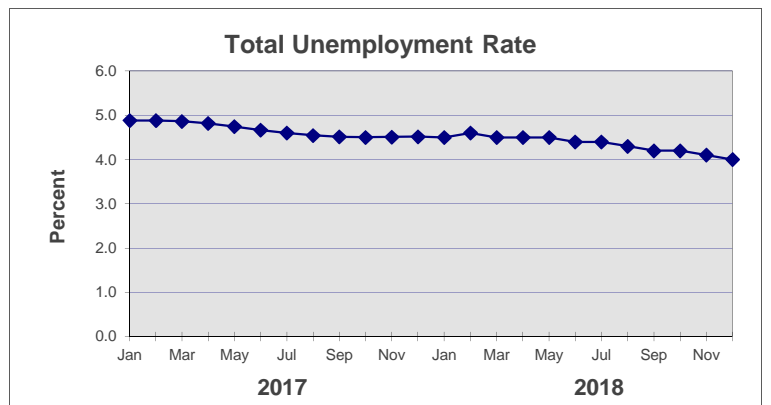
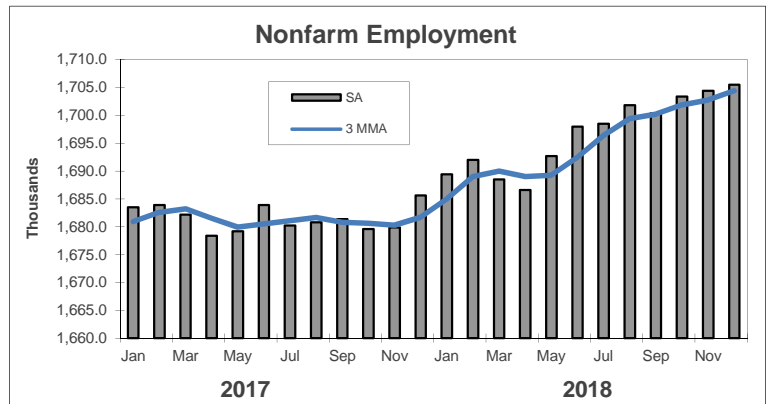
Seasonally Adjusted

	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2017		
Jan	1,683.5	4.9
Feb	1,683.9	4.9
Mar	1,682.2	4.9
Apr	1,678.4	4.8
May	1,679.2	4.7
Jun	1,683.9	4.7
Jul	1,680.2	4.6
Aug	1,680.8	4.5
Sep	1,681.4	4.5
Oct	1,679.6	4.5
Nov	1,679.9	4.5
Dec	1,685.6	4.5

2018		
Jan	1,689.4	4.5
Feb	1,692.0	4.6
Mar	1,688.5	4.5
Apr	1,686.6	4.5
May	1,692.7	4.5
Jun	1,698.0	4.4
Jul	1,698.5	4.4
Aug	1,701.8	4.3
Sep	1,700.4	4.2
Oct	1,703.4	4.2
Nov	1,704.4 R	4.1 R
Dec	1,705.5 P	4.0 P

	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2017		
Jan	3,763	33.7
Feb	3,421	33.0
Mar	4,266	32.9
Apr	3,736	33.7
May	3,929	33.6
Jun	3,820	33.6
Jul	3,858	33.9
Aug	3,611	33.8
Sep	3,812	33.9
Oct	3,523	34.1
Nov	3,668	34.0
Dec	3,413	34.0

2018		
Jan	3,409	33.6
Feb	3,729	33.7
Mar	4,080	33.4
Apr	3,481	34.2
May	3,142	33.9
Jun	3,211	33.8
Jul	3,445	34.3
Aug	3,106	33.9
Sep	3,014	34.3
Oct	3,064	34.1
Nov	3,555	33.8 R
Dec	4,399	34.1 P



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute