

ECONOMIC DIGEST

DECEMBER 1997

- Covered employment grew 2.6 percent in the first quarter of 1997 from a year ago. (first article, pp.1-3)
- Connecticut had 21 Labor Surplus Areas in 1997, up from 15 in the previous year. (second article, p.4)
- Total nonfarm employment in October decreased by 700 from September, but gained 29,500 jobs over the year. (p.6)
- The unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.7 percent in October, but remained well below the last year's rate of 5.8 percent. (p.6)
- Housing permits rose 14.2 percent over the year, with the Middlesex County showing the fastest growth of 53.5 percent. (p.7)

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Employment And Wages Grew In 1Q97

by Edward T. Doukas Jr., Research Analyst

First quarter 1997 (1Q97) employment figures compiled through the ES-202 Covered Employment and Wages Program, which provides the largest available universe of monthly employment and quarterly wage information, show that Connecticut is continuing to gradually regain employment lost during the "Great Recession" of the early 1990s. Connecticut's Unemployment Insurance covered employment averaged 1,567,019 during 1Q97, an increase of 2.6 percent over 1Q96. The 1Q97 increase marked the third consecutive over-the-year rise in first quarter employment, and was the highest figure recorded for the period since 1990 when total employment averaged 1,616,915. Average employment in 1Q97 remained five percent lower than in 1989, when first quarter employment peaked at 1,648,725.

Comparing 1Q97 private industry employment to 1Q96 shows that two industry divisions registered decreases: manufacturing dipped 0.04 percent, and finance, insurance, and real estate declined 0.8 percent. The construction division showed the greatest employment gain from 1Q96, expanding 12.9 percent. Services and wholesale trade followed, growing 5.6 percent and 3.6 percent respectively. Other employment divisions showed the following increases: transportation and public utilities, 2.5 percent; mining, 2.1 percent; retail trade, 1.7 percent; and agriculture, forestry and fishing, 0.9 percent.

A factor that influenced the year-over-year increase in construction industry employment was the relatively mild winter Connecticut experienced in 1997. The favorable building conditions enabled contractors to continue

Connecticut Average Weekly Wages: 1Q97 - 1Q96

Employment Division	1Q97	1Q96	Chg	% Chg
TOTAL	\$746	\$711	\$35	4.9%
PRIVATE	750	709	41	5.7%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	404	391	13	3.3%
Mining	1,014	1,008	6	0.6%
Construction	703	679	23	3.4%
Manufacturing	994	930	64	6.9%
Durable Goods	987	917	70	7.6%
Nondurable Goods	1,011	960	51	5.3%
Transportation and Public Utilities	844	818	25	3.1%
Wholesale Trade	986	945	41	4.3%
Retail Trade	336	328	9	2.6%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1,430	1,248	183	14.6%
Services	612	591	21	3.6%
Government	725	726	-1	-0.2%

outside work throughout the early months of the year as opposed to 1996 when the State was blanketed with record snowfall. Building permit figures compiled by the Department of Economic and Community Development illustrate this point. The 1,858 new residential housing units authorized for construction during 1Q97 represented a 44.9 percent increase from the 1,282 units authorized in 1Q96. Construction contracts in February 1997 also increased 23.8 percent from February 1996.

A look at major industry groups with average employment of 1,000 or more during 1Q97 reveals that business services showed the greatest number growth from 1Q96, increasing by 8,610. Included in business services is help supply services, establishments primarily engaged in providing temporary or continuing help on a contract or fee basis. Help supply services registered an increase of 3,820 in average employment from 1Q96. Establishments that provide temporary or continuing help are becoming increasingly significant in Connecticut. Employment in help supply services grew 30.4 percent from 1Q89, while the number of establishments increased 40.6 percent.

Quarterly Wages

During 1Q97, the average weekly wage for all industries increased 4.9 percent from 1Q96, \$746 compared to \$711. The weekly wage figure for private sector industries increased 5.7 percent to \$750. At \$725, the weekly wage for public sector industries decreased 0.2 percent from 1Q96.

All private industry divisions showed increased average weekly wages in 1Q97 compared to the same period the prior year. With a weekly average wage of \$1,430, the finance, insurance and real estate division had the largest percentage increase over 1Q96, 14.6 percent. Manufacturing had the next highest percentage increase at 6.9

percent and wholesale trade was third, 4.3 percent. Table on the front page displays weekly wages in Connecticut by industry division for 1Q97 and 1Q96.

Employment By Size Of Establishment

While 1Q97 total employment remained five percent below the level reached in 1Q89, the number of establishments grew 3.2 percent. A review of total employment figures by employer size reveals that employment in smaller establishments has increased, while employment in establishments classified in larger size classes has registered a notable decline. For comparative purposes, 1Q89 employment by establishment size data is utilized. One reason for choosing 1Q89 is that first quarter average employment peaked during that period. Therefore, it is interesting to see how employment characteristics have evolved in relation to the height of the State's economic prosperity. A second reason is that beginning in 1989, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics placed increased emphasis on collecting employment data on a worksite basis. Worksite data provides a more accurate assessment of employment by size of establishment. Comparing current employment by size of establishment data to periods prior to 1989 could give a misleading representation of employment trends by the size of establishment.

In March 1997, employment in the four smallest size groupings increased compared to March 1989. Employment in establishments with less than five employees showed the greatest percentage increase from March 1989, expanding 9.6 percent. The number of establishments in this size classification grew 3.4 percent. Establishments with less than five employees accounted for 59.6 percent of total establishments in 1Q97.

Conversely, the three largest size classes showed decreased

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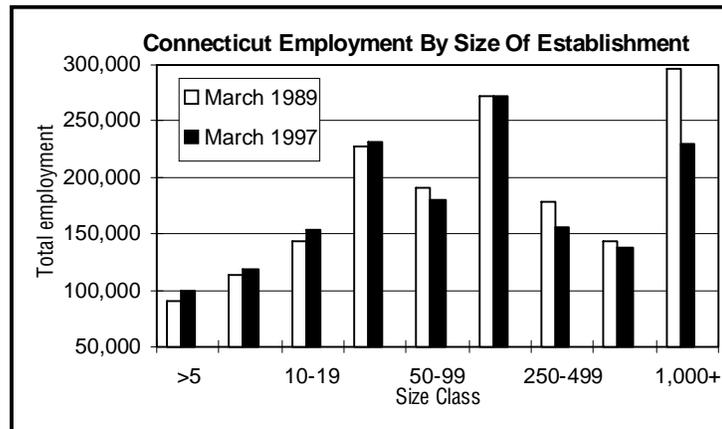
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employment compared to March 1989. With a 22.4 percent decrease, establishments with 1,000 or more employees showed the greatest reduction. The number of establishments with 1,000 or more employees dropped 19.5 percent. In 1Q97, establishments with 1,000 or more employees accounted for only 0.1 percent of total establishments. Chart displays the changes in Connecticut's total employment by establishment size between March 1997 and March 1989.

An analysis of wage data by size of establishment reveals that during 1Q97, the average weekly wage in establishments with less

than five employees was \$648, 13.1 percent below the weekly wage for total covered industries. The average weekly wage in estab-



lishments with 1,000 or more employees was \$978, 31.1 percent higher than the weekly wage for total industries and 50.9 percent higher than the average weekly

wage in establishments with less than five employees.

Clearly, the expansion of small business establishments has contributed significantly to Connecticut's rebounding employment. It is also clear that the employment opportunities small establishments offer are vital to Connecticut's economic stability. However, it is disconcerting that the employer size class that pays the highest weekly wage is also the one showing the largest employment decreases.

Will the employment opportunities small businesses offer be substantial enough to compensate for the diminishing positions in larger establishments? Time will tell. ■

HOUSING UPDATE

October housing permits up 14.2%

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 852 new housing units in October 1997, a 14.2 percent increase compared to October of 1996 when 746 were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 852 units permitted in October 1997 represent an increase of 15.1 percent from the 740 units permitted in September 1997.

The year-to-date permits also are up; 22.6 percent, from 6,418 through October 1996, to 7,871 through October 1997.

"The housing sector is enjoying significant strength," Commissioner Abromaitis said. "The year-over-year increase in permits indicates that long-term economic improvement is continuing."

Reports from municipal officials throughout the state indicate that Middlesex County with 53.5 percent showed the greatest percentage increase in

October compared to the same month a year ago. Tolland County followed with a 41.7 percent increase.

Hartford County documented the largest number of new, authorized units in October with 236. Fairfield County followed with 171 units and New Haven County had 152 units. Southington led all Connecticut communities with 45 units, followed by Avon with 33, and Shelton with 31. ■

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

The annual housing permit report for 1996 is available from the Department of Economic and Community Development. To obtain a copy, please call (860)270-8161 or fax requests to (860)270-8174.

Labor Surplus Areas Offer Advantages To Businesses

by Rachel Meyerhoff, Research Analyst Supervisor

A new list of labor surplus areas was recently released by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. In effect from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998, it includes the following 21 Connecticut municipalities: Ansonia, Bridgeport, Derby, East Hartford, Hartford, Killingly, Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwich, Plainfield, Plymouth, Putnam, Sprague, Sterling, Voluntown, Waterbury, Winchester, and Windham. This is the first time since 1979 that Middletown is on the list; in contrast, the town of Winchester has the distinction of being listed during 14 of the last 19 years.

The main objective of classifying labor surplus areas is to direct federal procurement contracts toward areas that have experienced high unemployment. Employers located in such areas are then eligible for preference in bidding on federal government contracts. Additionally, to aim federal contract dollars more precisely to locations experiencing high unemployment, labor surplus areas are determined on the basis of civil jurisdictions (counties or cities and towns with a population of 25,000 or more) rather than on the broader metropolitan or labor market area basis.

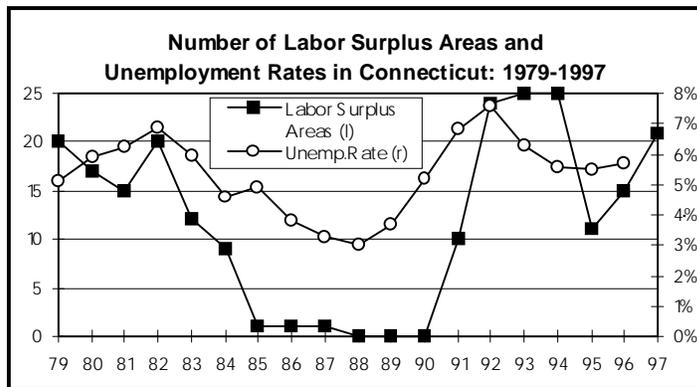
The concept of classifying labor surplus areas dates back to the early 1950s. It was intended to address concerns that high unemployment rates and under-utilization of plants and equipment in some regions would lead to erosion of the mobilization base and adversely affect essential production during the Korean War. Labor surplus areas were at first determined on a monthly basis, then quarterly, and finally on an annual basis beginning in June 1979. Criteria for selection, as well as area definitions, have also undergone a number of legislative and regulatory changes over the years.

The U.S. Department of Labor's primary role has been to determine the areas that qualify, and to disseminate the list of labor surplus areas to State Employment Security Agencies via the *Area Trends in Employment and Unemployment* publication. Area selection depends primarily on

the current conditions and that the exceptional circumstance event has already occurred.

As the chart indicates, no Connecticut areas were listed during the three years beginning October 1988, 1989 and 1990, when statewide unemployment rates on which eligibility was based averaged below 4.0 percent during calendar years 1986 through 1989. Since then, the list has included as many as 25 municipalities (during the two years beginning October 1993 and 1994), the largest number of Connecticut areas since 1979.

The current list includes 1,406 labor surplus areas nationwide, up from last year's total of 1,370. Only two states (Delaware and Iowa) were determined to have no qualifying areas. California has the largest number of areas, 146 in 1997. Among New England states, Massachusetts has the largest number of labor surplus areas listed; Connecticut is second. ■

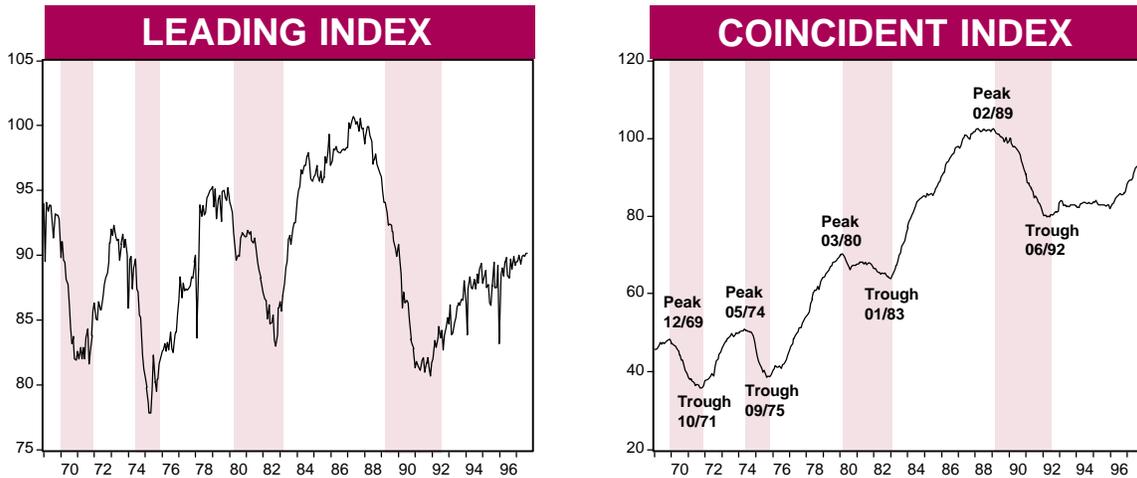


national (for this purpose, the national rate includes Puerto Rico) and local area unemployment rates during the prior two calendar years, where the local area's average unemployment rate for the period must have been at least 20 percent above the national average. In order to qualify for the current list, an area's average unemployment rate needed to be at least 6.7 percent during the period from January 1995 through December 1996; the national average unemployment rate was 5.6 percent for that period.

The U.S. Department of Labor, at its discretion, may waive the eligibility criteria in areas where a sudden, unforeseen rise in unemployment has occurred which is not temporary or seasonal, and is not reflected in the area's average unemployment rate during the reference period. The exceptional circumstance criteria include natural disasters, plant closings, contract cancellations, etc., that can have a substantial impact on an area's unemployment. The State Employment Security Agency must then submit a petition requesting such classification to the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, providing documented information that the area meets

Number of Labor Surplus Areas		
New England States	1996	1997
Massachusetts	61	31
Connecticut	15	21
Rhode Island	13	8
Maine	8	6
Vermont	1	3
New Hampshire	0	1
Total	98	70

The list of Connecticut Labor Surplus Areas is updated annually on the Department of Labor's Web site at: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/dol/lisareas.htm>. Employers may contact the Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research, at (860) 566-7823, to inquire about labor surplus areas in other states; and the Superintendent of Documents, at (202) 512-1800, to request a single issue (or a full year's subscription) of *Area Trends in Employment and Unemployment*. Employers located in labor surplus areas and interested in bidding on Federal contracts should consult the *Commerce Business Daily*, which lists Federal contract requirements and indicates those to be awarded under preference procedure. It is available through the Superintendent of Documents, as well as through the *Commerce Business Daily* Web site at: <http://cbdnet.access.gpo.gov/>.



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.

The Good Times Keep Rolling Along

The Connecticut coincident and leading employment indexes continue to sing an upbeat tune about the current and expected future states of the Connecticut economy. The coincident index, a barometer of current employment activity, reached another new peak with the release of (preliminary) September data. The recent upward movement in the coincident index indicates a much stronger recovery than in the first part of the current expansion (see chart).

The leading index, a barometer of future employment activity, continues its modest upward trend at a slower pace than the coincident index. The leading index also reached its peak in the current expansion with the release of the (preliminary) September data. We will continue to monitor carefully the leading index as any sustained downward movement in this index may signal the next downturn in the Connecticut economy.

As we write this report, the stock market has recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the October 1987 crash with an over 500 point one-day drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average. This one-day decline, although large in absolute terms, was not so big on a percentage basis. That is, the October 1987 one-day fall in the Dow was almost 24 percent. The one-day drop in October 1997 was under 7 percent. The notable feature in the recent stock market gyrations was the low-key reaction of Chairman Greenspan and the Federal Reserve. In October 1987, Greenspan immediately made a public statement, pledging that the Federal Reserve was ready to provide any required liquidity. The nearly non-response in 1997 indicated that Greenspan and the Federal Reserve are not too concerned about the current and expected future state of the national economy. If their view is accurate, then this is good news for the Connecticut economy.

In summary, the coincident employment index rose from 85.6 in September 1996 to 93.0 in September 1997. All four index components continue to 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 rose from 89.4 in September 1996 to 90.1 in September 1997. 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 Hartford help-wanted advertising. The other two components of the index sent negative signals with a lower average workweek of manufacturing production workers and lower total housing permits on year-over-year basis. ■

Source: Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut. Developed by Pami Dua [(203) 461-6644, Stamford Campus (on leave)] and Stephen M. Miller [(860) 486-3853, Storrs Campus]. Kathryn E. Parr [(860) 486-0485, Storrs Campus] provided research support.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased by 29,500 over the year. Services and trade industries gained 16,700 and 7,900 workers, respectively.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)					
TOTAL NONFARM	1,622.0	1,592.5	29.5	1.9	1,622.7
Private Sector	1,395.7	1,365.2	30.5	2.2	1,394.6
Construction and Mining	57.7	53.1	4.6	8.7	57.3
Manufacturing	274.4	274.7	-0.3	-0.1	273.6
Transportation, Public Utilities	74.9	73.2	1.7	2.3	75.1
Wholesale, Retail Trade	355.5	347.6	7.9	2.3	355.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	130.4	130.5	-0.1	-0.1	130.5
Services	502.8	486.1	16.7	3.4	502.3
Government	226.3	227.3	-1.0	-0.4	228.1

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

October's unemployment rate of 4.7 percent remained well below last year's 5.8 percent. Help wanted index rose 2.9 percent from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
(Seasonally adjusted)					
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	4.7	5.8	-1.1	---	4.6
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,738.7	1,724.1	14.6	0.8	1,742.9
Employed (000s)	1,656.8	1,624.4	32.4	2.0	1,663.5
Unemployed (000s)	81.9	99.6	-17.7	-17.8	79.3
Average Weekly Initial Claims*	3,470	4,166	-696	-16.7	3,627
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	36	35	1	2.9	36
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.13	2.52	-0.39	---	2.14

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

*The methodology for this series has been revised; See Technical Notes, p.23.

Manufacturing weekly earnings rose by \$22.56 and the output index increased 2.1 percent over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
(Not seasonally adjusted)					
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	42.9	-0.1	-0.2	43.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$14.63	\$14.07	\$0.56	4.0	\$14.63
Average Weekly Earnings	\$626.16	\$603.60	\$22.56	3.7	\$629.09
Mfg. Output Index (1982=100)*	122.8	120.3	2.5	2.1	121.1
Production Worker Hours (000s)	6,881	6,895	-14	-0.2	6,890
Productivity Index (1982=100)*	187.9	183.6	4.3	2.3	187.6

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

*Seasonally adjusted

Personal income for second quarter 1998 is forecasted to increase 5.5 percent from a year ago. The wages component is expected to grow 6.8 percent.

INCOME (Quarterly)

	2Q*	2Q	CHANGE		1Q*
	1998	1997	NO.	%	1998
(Seasonally adjusted)					
(Annualized; \$ Millions)					
Personal Income	\$123,555	\$117,084	\$6,471	5.5	\$121,838
UI Covered Wages	\$65,834	\$61,656 *	\$4,178	6.8	\$64,815

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: October 1997 release

*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

Note: The estimates for 1969:Q1 to 1989:Q4 have been revised by BEA in the second half of 1997. The series is now consistent from 1969:Q1 to 1997:Q2 (The most current quarter available)

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %		YEAR TO DATE		% CHG
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG	
New Housing Permits	OCT 1997	852	14.2	7,871	6,418	22.6	
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	AUG 1997	2,479	-2.3	18,976	19,163	-1.0	
Retail Sales (Bil. \$)	AUG 1997	2.58	4.9	22.00	20.74	6.1	
Construction Contracts							
Index (1980=100)	SEP 1997	238.2	-16.8	---	---	---	
New Auto Registrations	OCT 1997	14,563	11.5	149,299	152,104	-1.8	
Air Cargo Tons	SEP 1997	10,769	-12.7	97,654	93,123	4.9	

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

Both retail sales and air cargo tons showed continued strength through October, up 6.1 and 4.9 percent, respectively, on a year-to-date basis.

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	OCT 1997	% CHANGE		YEAR TO DATE		
		M/M	Y/Y	NO.	% CHG	
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	1,566	6.0	17.7	14,653	13.3	
Department of Labor	726	14.5	0.6	8,837	3.6	
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	407	22.6	49.1	3,190	46.2	
Department of Labor	1,408	91.0	1.0	10,231	-10.3	

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

Business starts and terminations registered with the Secretary of the State showed year-to-date gains of 13.3 and 46.2 percent, respectively, for a net gain of 11,463 establishments.

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

(Millions of dollars)	FISCAL YEAR TOTALS					
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	% CHG	1997-98	1996-97	% CHG
TOTAL ALL TAXES*	672.0	663.9	1.2	1,973.6	1,838.2	7.4
Corporate Tax	23.0	24.6	-6.5	103.3	111.9	-7.7
Personal Income Tax	217.4	192.3	13.1	735.3	641.4	14.6
Real Estate Conv. Tax	7.4	6.6	0.8	33.3	26.6	25.2
Sales & Use Tax	262.5	248.8	5.5	682.8	640.2	6.7

Source: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services

*Includes all sources of tax revenue; Only selected taxes are displayed.

Fiscal year-to-date tax collections increased overall 7.4 percent. Only corporate tax collections were down by 7.7 percent.

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %		YEAR TO DATE		% CHG
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG	
Tourism Inquiries	OCT 1997	13,281	-44.5	282,532	360,364	-21.6	
Info Center Visitors	OCT 1997	48,918	-5.6	491,509	484,518	1.4	
Major Attraction Visitors	OCT 1997	103,467	17.4	1,626,208	1,529,486	6.3	
Hotel-Motel Occupancy	OCT 1997	84.3	-0.1	74.1	71.9	3.1	
Air Passenger Count	SEP 1997	412,556	6.0	4,047,157	4,056,971	-0.2	

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

Air passenger travel was up 6.0 percent for September, but was down 0.2 percent for the year to date.

During the June-September 1997 period, the nation's total compensation costs for private industry workers increased 3.2 percent from the same period over the year.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX (Quarterly)

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	SEP	JUN	3-Mo	SEP	SEP	12-Mo
	1997	1997	% Chg	1997	1996	% Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	133.6	132.5	0.8	133.9	129.8	3.2
Wages and Salaries	130.9	129.7	0.9	131.0	126.5	3.6
Benefit Costs	140.4	139.7	0.5	140.8	138.1	2.0
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	134.0	130.6	2.6
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	130.7	127.0	2.9

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

The inflation rate was 2.1 percent for the U.S. in October, 2.2 percent for the Northeast, and 2.6 percent (as of September) for Boston. The consumer confidence index gained 14.9 percent for the U.S. and 10.0 percent for New England.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	OCT	SEP	OCT	% CHG	
	1997	1997	1996	M/M	Y/Y
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1982-1984=100)					
All Urban Consumers					
U.S. City Average	161.6	161.2	158.3	0.2	2.1
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: (1982-84=\$1.00)	\$0.619	\$0.620	\$0.632	-0.2	-2.0
Northeast Region	168.7	168.4	165.1	0.2	2.2
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	172.3	171.1	168.2	0.7	2.4
Boston-Lawrence-Salem*	---	167.8	---	---	2.6
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
U.S. City Average	158.5	158.3	155.5	0.1	1.9
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)					
U.S.	123.3	130.2	107.3	-5.3	14.9
New England	120.0	126.9	109.1	-5.4	10.0

*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

Except for the unchanged prime rate, October interest rates were lower across the board from a month ago, including a 30-year conventional mortgage rate of 7.29 percent.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	OCT	SEP	OCT
	1997	1997	1996
Prime	8.50	8.50	8.25
Federal Funds	5.50	5.54	5.24
3 Month Treasury Bill	4.95	4.97	5.01
6 Month Treasury Bill	5.09	5.11	5.12
1 Year Treasury Bill	5.46	5.52	5.55
3 Year Treasury Bill	5.84	5.98	6.08
5 Year Treasury Bond	5.93	6.11	6.27
7 Year Treasury Bond	6.05	6.20	6.42
10 Year Treasury Bond	6.03	6.21	6.53
30 Year Treasury Bond	6.33	6.50	6.81
Conventional Mortgage	7.29	7.43	7.92

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
Connecticut	1,622.0	1,592.5	29.5	1.9	1,622.7
Maine	552.9	541.0	11.9	2.2	553.2
Massachusetts	3,139.7	3,064.7	75.0	2.4	3,130.5
New Hampshire	575.1	565.9	9.2	1.6	573.0
New Jersey	3,724.4	3,660.8	63.6	1.7	3,717.9
New York	8,060.6	7,952.0	108.6	1.4	8,042.0
Pennsylvania	5,461.0	5,345.0	116.0	2.2	5,451.4
Rhode Island	448.4	444.2	4.2	0.9	448.1
Vermont	279.8	276.2	3.6	1.3	278.2
United States	123,045.0	120,248.0	2,797.0	2.3	122,761.0

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

All the states in the region gained jobs over the year, with Massachusetts leading the growth.

LABOR FORCE

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
	1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
Connecticut	1,738.7	1,724.1	14.6	0.8	1,742.9
Maine	667.2	673.8	-6.6	-1.0	667.1
Massachusetts	3,248.5	3,200.4	48.1	1.5	3,244.4
New Hampshire	655.2	622.1	33.1	5.3	652.3
New Jersey	4,151.0	4,150.6	0.4	0.0	4,147.1
New York	8,809.4	8,667.8	141.6	1.6	8,799.8
Pennsylvania	5,958.9	5,922.3	36.6	0.6	5,998.3
Rhode Island	507.8	499.5	8.3	1.7	508.8
Vermont	332.2	325.4	6.8	2.1	329.9
United States	136,361.0	134,636.0	1,725.0	1.3	136,467.0

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

Maine experienced a labor force decline over the year, while other states in the region posted increases.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

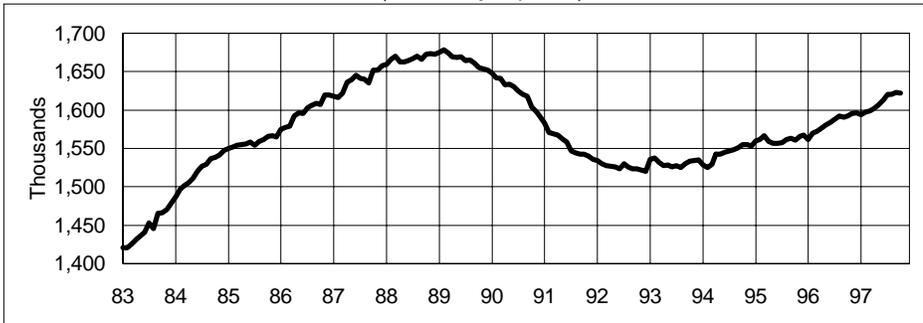
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	OCT	OCT	CHANGE	SEP
	1997	1996		1997
Connecticut	4.7	5.8	-1.1	4.6
Maine	4.9	4.9	0.0	4.8
Massachusetts	3.7	4.0	-0.3	4.0
New Hampshire	2.8	4.2	-1.4	2.8
New Jersey	5.2	6.2	-1.0	5.4
New York	6.4	6.1	0.3	6.4
Pennsylvania	4.8	5.0	-0.2	5.3
Rhode Island	5.0	4.8	0.2	4.9
Vermont	3.8	4.6	-0.8	3.7
United States	4.7	5.2	-0.5	4.9

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

Connecticut's unemployment rate was on par with the national rate at 4.7 percent in October. New York and Rhode Island's rates rose over the year.

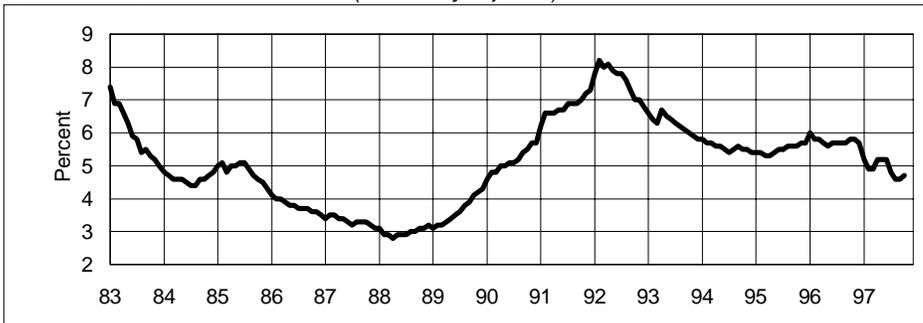
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)



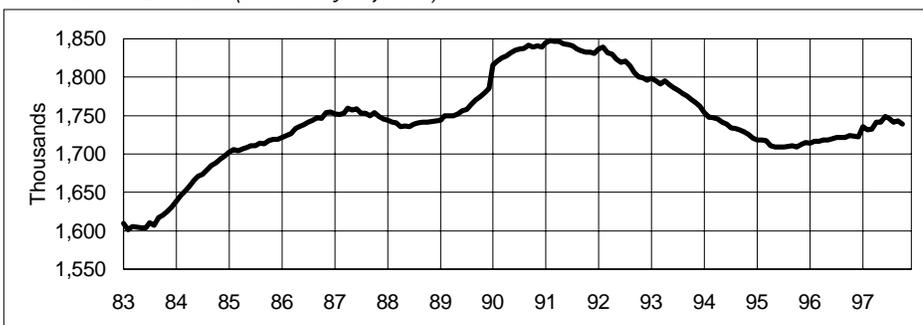
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	1,559.8	1,561.2	1,593.6
Feb	1,561.6	1,569.8	1,597.4
Mar	1,566.7	1,572.5	1,598.6
Apr	1,559.4	1,576.9	1,602.6
May	1,556.8	1,581.0	1,607.0
Jun	1,556.8	1,584.2	1,613.2
Jul	1,557.7	1,588.0	1,620.5
Aug	1,561.9	1,591.9	1,620.5
Sep	1,563.1	1,590.9	1,622.7
Oct	1,560.8	1,592.5	1,622.0
Nov	1,565.4	1,595.3	
Dec	1,567.2	1,596.5	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	5.4	6.0	5.2
Feb	5.4	5.8	4.9
Mar	5.3	5.8	4.9
Apr	5.3	5.7	5.2
May	5.4	5.6	5.2
Jun	5.5	5.7	5.2
Jul	5.5	5.7	4.8
Aug	5.6	5.7	4.6
Sep	5.6	5.7	4.6
Oct	5.6	5.8	4.7
Nov	5.7	5.8	
Dec	5.7	5.7	

LABOR FORCE (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	1,718.6	1,714.4	1,735.6
Feb	1,718.6	1,716.6	1,731.4
Mar	1,717.0	1,716.7	1,732.6
Apr	1,710.6	1,718.3	1,741.5
May	1,709.3	1,717.9	1,741.7
Jun	1,709.0	1,719.7	1,749.2
Jul	1,709.1	1,721.6	1,746.6
Aug	1,710.3	1,721.9	1,741.5
Sep	1,711.1	1,721.5	1,742.9
Oct	1,709.3	1,724.1	1,738.7
Nov	1,712.4	1,723.3	
Dec	1,714.8	1,722.0	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS* (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	4,534	4,651	3,890
Feb	4,756	4,517	3,795
Mar	4,790	4,082	3,880
Apr	4,797	4,274	4,335
May	4,940	4,334	3,724
Jun	5,579	4,365	4,277
Jul	5,029	4,349	3,622
Aug	4,800	4,281	3,858
Sep	4,803	4,199	3,627
Oct	4,872	4,166	3,470
Nov	4,986	3,907	
Dec	4,200	4,501	

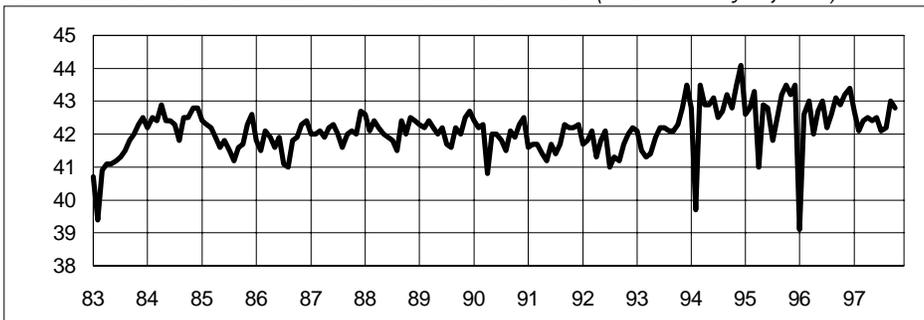
* The methodology for this series has been revised; See Technical Notes, p.23.

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



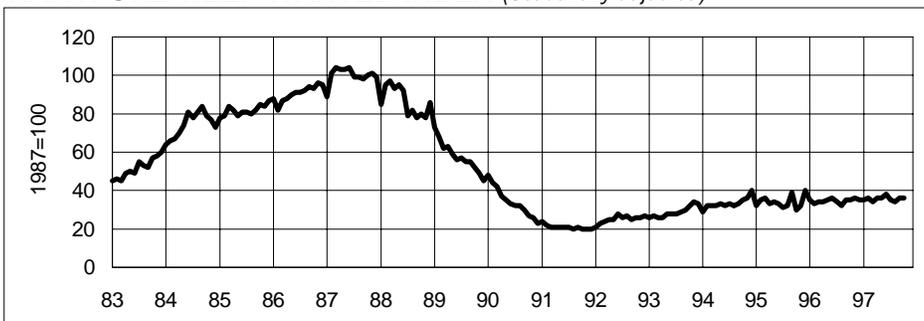
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	\$9.28	\$9.22	\$9.09
Feb	9.20	9.10	9.06
Mar	9.17	9.12	9.09
Apr	9.18	9.09	9.10
May	9.09	9.01	9.13
Jun	9.09	9.06	9.14
Jul	9.22	9.11	9.26
Aug	9.11	9.07	9.20
Sep	9.15	9.07	9.24
Oct	9.02	9.05	9.23
Nov	9.15	9.02	
Dec	9.24	9.11	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



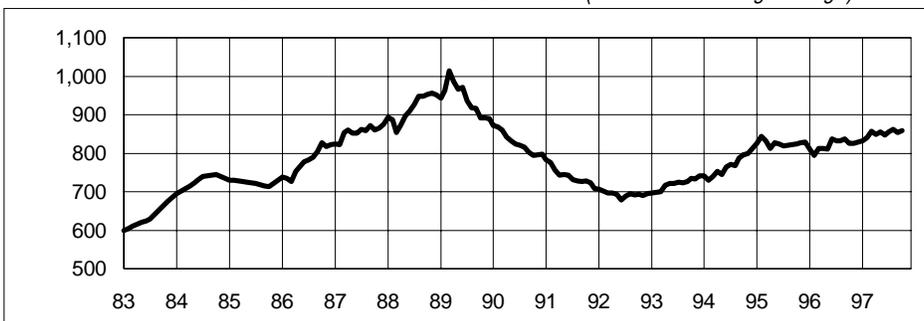
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	42.6	39.1	42.7
Feb	42.8	42.6	42.1
Mar	43.3	43.0	42.4
Apr	41.0	42.0	42.5
May	42.9	42.7	42.4
Jun	42.8	43.0	42.5
Jul	41.8	42.2	42.1
Aug	42.5	42.6	42.2
Sep	43.2	43.1	43.0
Oct	43.5	42.9	42.8
Nov	43.2	43.2	
Dec	43.5	43.4	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	32	35	35
Feb	35	33	36
Mar	36	34	34
Apr	33	34	36
May	34	35	36
Jun	33	36	38
Jul	31	34	35
Aug	32	32	34
Sep	39	35	36
Oct	30	35	36
Nov	32	36	
Dec	40	35	

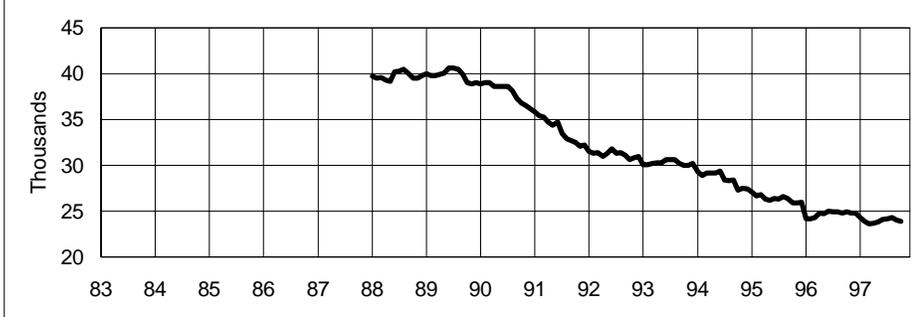
DOL NEWLY REGISTERED EMPLOYERS *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	826	810	833
Feb	844	794	840
Mar	833	812	856
Apr	813	813	849
May	827	811	856
Jun	824	838	848
Jul	819	833	856
Aug	821	833	862
Sep	822	838	854
Oct	823	825	859
Nov	827	825	
Dec	828	828	

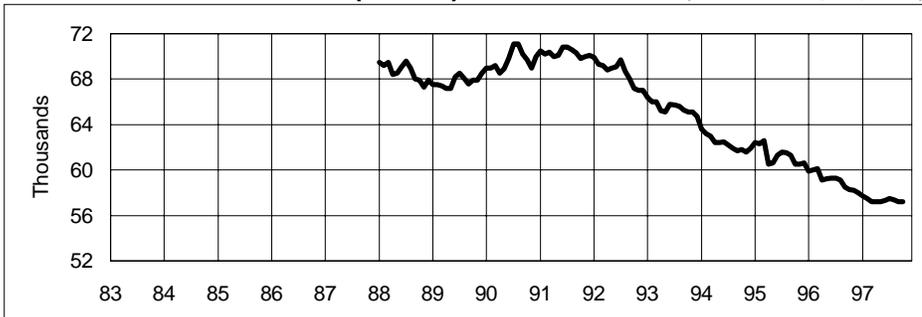
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

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



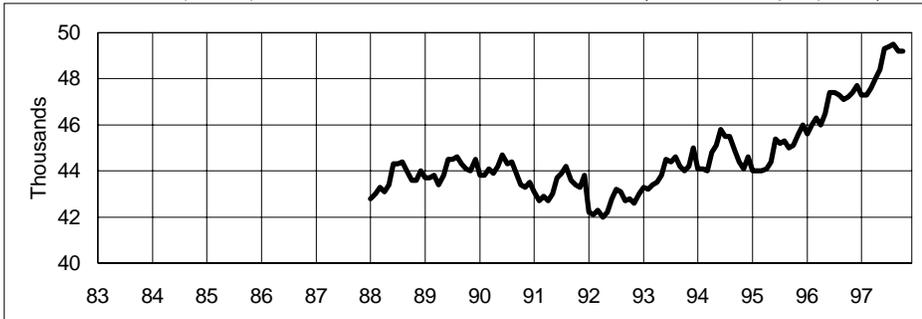
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	27.1	24.2	24.3
Feb	26.7	24.2	23.9
Mar	26.8	24.3	23.6
Apr	26.3	24.8	23.7
May	26.2	24.7	23.8
Jun	26.4	25.0	24.1
Jul	26.3	24.9	24.2
Aug	26.6	24.9	24.3
Sep	26.4	24.8	24.0
Oct	25.9	24.9	23.9
Nov	25.9	24.8	
Dec	26.0	24.8	

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



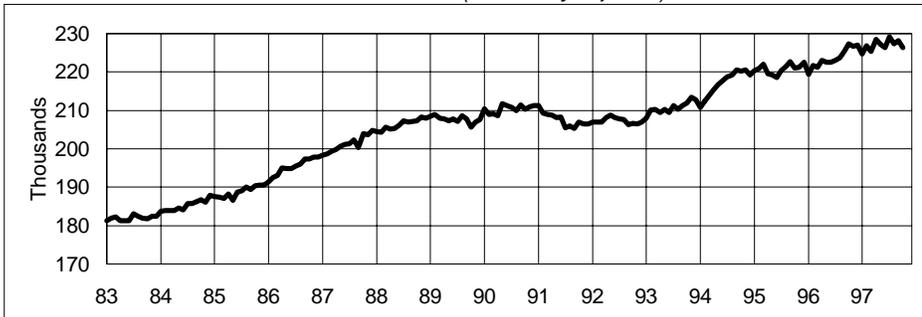
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	62.4	59.9	57.7
Feb	62.3	60.0	57.5
Mar	62.6	60.1	57.2
Apr	60.5	59.1	57.2
May	60.6	59.2	57.2
Jun	61.3	59.3	57.3
Jul	61.6	59.3	57.5
Aug	61.5	59.1	57.4
Sep	61.3	58.5	57.2
Oct	60.5	58.3	57.2
Nov	60.5	58.2	
Dec	60.6	58.0	

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



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	44.0	45.6	47.3
Feb	44.0	46.0	47.3
Mar	44.0	46.3	47.6
Apr	44.1	46.0	48.0
May	44.4	46.5	48.4
Jun	45.4	47.4	49.3
Jul	45.2	47.4	49.4
Aug	45.3	47.3	49.5
Sep	45.0	47.1	49.2
Oct	45.1	47.2	49.2
Nov	45.6	47.4	
Dec	46.0	47.7	

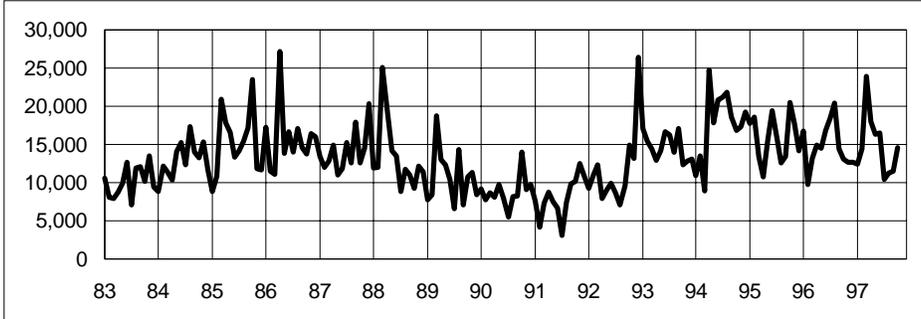
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT* *(Seasonally adjusted)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	220.4	219.4	224.7
Feb	220.9	221.7	226.8
Mar	222.1	221.2	225.3
Apr	219.6	223.1	228.5
May	219.2	222.6	227.1
Jun	218.6	222.6	226.3
Jul	220.4	223.1	229.1
Aug	221.4	223.7	227.4
Sep	222.7	225.4	228.1
Oct	221.0	227.3	226.3
Nov	221.2	226.7	
Dec	222.5	227.0	

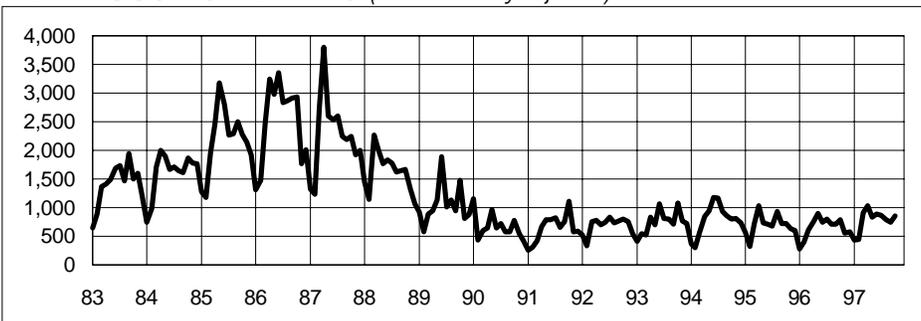
*Includes Indian tribal government employment

NEW AUTO REGISTRATIONS PROCESSED *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



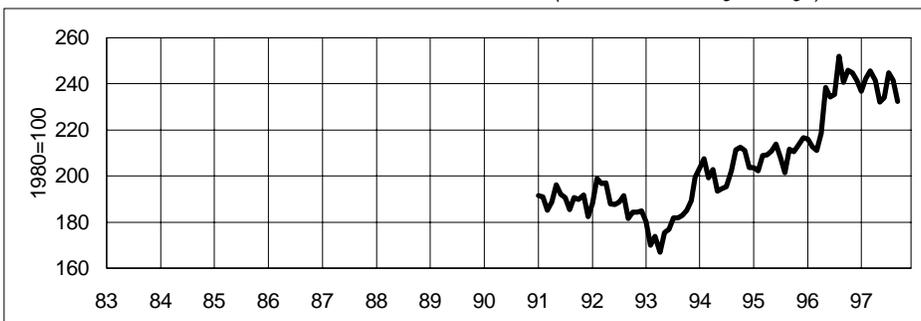
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	17,777	16,714	12,436
Feb	18,580	9,724	14,401
Mar	13,422	13,132	23,952
Apr	10,777	14,930	18,038
May	15,516	14,492	16,364
Jun	19,419	16,812	16,464
Jul	16,107	18,412	10,386
Aug	12,552	20,409	11,210
Sep	13,413	14,420	11,485
Oct	20,463	13,059	14,563
Nov	17,740	12,676	
Dec	14,196	12,684	

NEW HOUSING PERMITS *(Not seasonally adjusted)*



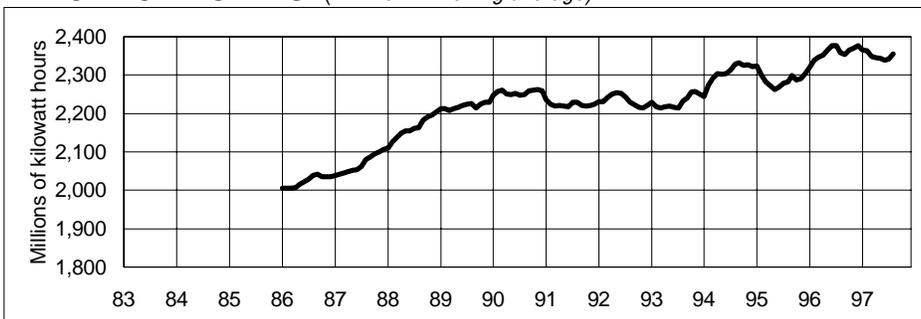
Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	566	277	433
Feb	323	398	442
Mar	721	609	909
Apr	1,032	755	1,036
May	735	902	836
Jun	709	744	886
Jul	674	797	871
Aug	934	707	792
Sep	726	708	740
Oct	727	792	852
Nov	629	554	
Dec	598	574	

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



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	203.5	216.2	236.8
Feb	202.3	212.9	242.4
Mar	208.8	211.1	245.7
Apr	209.2	218.5	241.5
May	210.9	238.3	232.2
Jun	213.9	234.4	234.0
Jul	207.9	235.5	244.7
Aug	201.4	251.9	241.4
Sep	211.5	240.7	232.4
Oct	210.6	245.8	
Nov	213.2	244.9	
Dec	216.5	241.5	

ELECTRICITY SALES *(12-month moving average)*



Month	1995	1996	1997
Jan	2,324	2,321	2,366
Feb	2,301	2,338	2,364
Mar	2,282	2,347	2,348
Apr	2,273	2,352	2,346
May	2,263	2,365	2,344
Jun	2,269	2,377	2,338
Jul	2,279	2,376	2,342
Aug	2,283	2,358	2,355
Sep	2,299	2,354	
Oct	2,287	2,365	
Nov	2,291	2,371	
Dec	2,303	2,377	

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

CONNECTICUT



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE		SEP 1997
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	1,636,500	1,606,900	29,600	1.8	1,629,200
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	335,800	331,500	4,300	1.3	335,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	60,300	55,700	4,600	8.3	60,600
MANUFACTURING	275,500	275,800	-300	-0.1	274,900
Durable	193,200	193,900	-700	-0.4	192,500
Lumber & Furniture	5,100	4,800	300	6.3	5,100
Stone, Clay & Glass	2,700	2,800	-100	-3.6	2,600
Primary Metals	9,100	9,200	-100	-1.1	9,100
Fabricated Metals	34,800	34,300	500	1.5	34,600
Machinery & Computer Equipment	35,700	35,700	0	0.0	35,400
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	28,900	28,500	400	1.4	28,700
Transportation Equipment	48,100	49,200	-1,100	-2.2	48,300
Instruments	22,400	23,000	-600	-2.6	22,300
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,400	6,400	0	0.0	6,400
Nondurable	82,300	81,900	400	0.5	82,400
Food	8,800	9,000	-200	-2.2	9,000
Textiles	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,100
Apparel	4,700	4,600	100	2.2	4,600
Paper	8,000	8,000	0	0.0	8,000
Printing & Publishing	25,700	25,400	300	1.2	25,800
Chemicals	19,800	19,700	100	0.5	19,600
Rubber & Plastics	11,000	10,900	100	0.9	10,900
Other Nondurable Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	0	0.0	2,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,300,700	1,275,400	25,300	2.0	1,293,700
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	75,800	74,100	1,700	2.3	75,900
Transportation	44,400	43,100	1,300	3.0	44,400
Motor Freight & Warehousing	12,000	11,900	100	0.8	11,800
Other Transportation	32,400	31,200	1,200	3.8	32,600
Communications	19,200	18,500	700	3.8	19,300
Utilities	12,200	12,500	-300	-2.4	12,200
TRADE	358,000	350,100	7,900	2.3	356,800
Wholesale	83,900	81,300	2,600	3.2	83,800
Retail	274,100	268,800	5,300	2.0	273,000
General Merchandise	29,500	28,700	800	2.8	29,200
Food Stores	52,600	51,600	1,000	1.9	52,200
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	27,200	27,000	200	0.7	27,100
Restaurants	78,700	77,500	1,200	1.5	79,400
Other Retail Trade	86,100	84,000	2,100	2.5	85,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	130,300	130,400	-100	-0.1	130,400
Finance	46,400	46,000	400	0.9	46,200
Banking	23,900	24,900	-1,000	-4.0	24,000
Insurance	68,000	69,200	-1,200	-1.7	68,100
Insurance Carriers	57,200	58,300	-1,100	-1.9	57,200
Real Estate	16,000	15,200	800	5.3	16,100
SERVICES	506,800	490,200	16,600	3.4	504,800
Hotels & Lodging Places	11,000	10,700	300	2.8	11,100
Personal Services	18,400	18,200	200	1.1	18,500
Business Services	106,200	97,900	8,300	8.5	105,400
Health Services	158,000	156,400	1,600	1.0	157,500
Legal & Professional Services	51,200	49,200	2,000	4.1	51,000
Educational Services	43,400	42,700	700	1.6	42,000
Other Services	118,600	115,100	3,500	3.0	119,300
GOVERNMENT	229,800	230,600	-800	-0.3	225,800
Federal	22,100	22,900	-800	-3.5	22,200
**State, Local & Other Government	207,700	207,700	0	0.0	203,600

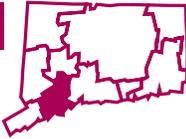
For further information contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 566-3470.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

BRIDGEPORT LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO. %	SEP 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	183,100	181,300	1,800 1.0	182,400
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	45,900	45,900	0 0.0	45,900
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	5,700	5,700	0 0.0	5,800
MANUFACTURING	40,200	40,200	0 0.0	40,100
Durable Goods	32,700	32,700	0 0.0	32,600
Fabricated Metals	4,400	4,300	100 2.3	4,400
Industrial Machinery	6,300	6,200	100 1.6	6,300
Electronic Equipment	6,400	6,500	-100 -1.5	6,400
Transportation Equipment	9,100	9,400	-300 -3.2	9,100
Nondurable Goods	7,500	7,500	0 0.0	7,500
Printing & Publishing	2,100	2,100	0 0.0	2,100
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	137,200	135,400	1,800 1.3	136,500
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	7,300	7,400	-100 -1.4	7,300
TRADE	41,200	40,700	500 1.2	41,000
Wholesale	10,000	9,800	200 2.0	9,900
Retail	31,200	30,900	300 1.0	31,100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	10,300	10,400	-100 -1.0	10,400
SERVICES	57,700	56,700	1,000 1.8	57,600
Business Services	12,800	12,100	700 5.8	12,700
Health Services	19,500	19,200	300 1.6	19,500
GOVERNMENT	20,700	20,200	500 2.5	20,200
Federal	1,900	1,900	0 0.0	1,900
State & Local	18,800	18,300	500 2.7	18,300

For further information on the Bridgeport Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

DANBURY LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO. %	SEP 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	84,500	84,400	100 0.1	84,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,000	22,200	-200 -0.9	21,800
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,200	3,100	100 3.2	3,200
MANUFACTURING	18,800	19,100	-300 -1.6	18,600
Durable Goods	9,900	9,900	0 0.0	9,800
Machinery & Electric Equipment	5,200	5,200	0 0.0	5,100
Instruments	2,800	2,700	100 3.7	2,800
Nondurable Goods	8,900	9,200	-300 -3.3	8,800
Printing & Publishing	2,700	2,700	0 0.0	2,700
Chemicals	3,200	3,400	-200 -5.9	3,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	62,500	62,200	300 0.5	62,200
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	2,800	2,900	-100 -3.4	2,800
TRADE	21,900	22,200	-300 -1.4	21,800
Wholesale	4,100	4,300	-200 -4.7	4,200
Retail	17,800	17,900	-100 -0.6	17,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4,400	4,100	300 7.3	4,300
SERVICES	24,100	23,800	300 1.3	24,300
GOVERNMENT	9,300	9,200	100 1.1	9,000
Federal	800	800	0 0.0	800
State & Local	8,500	8,400	100 1.2	8,200

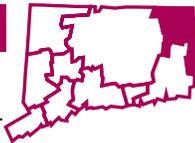
For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

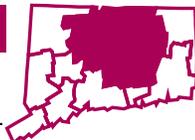
DANIELSON LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				SEP 1997
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	20,600	20,700	-100	-0.5	20,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,600	6,800	-200	-2.9	6,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	1,000	900	100	11.1	1,100
MANUFACTURING	5,600	5,900	-300	-5.1	5,600
Durable Goods	2,200	2,700	-500	-18.5	2,200
Nondurable Goods	3,400	3,200	200	6.3	3,400
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	14,000	13,900	100	0.7	14,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	500	400	100	25.0	500
TRADE	5,400	5,300	100	1.9	5,400
Wholesale	800	700	100	14.3	900
Retail	4,600	4,600	0	0.0	4,500
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	600	600	0	0.0	600
SERVICES	4,400	4,400	0	0.0	4,500
GOVERNMENT	3,100	3,200	-100	-3.1	3,100
Federal	100	100	0	0.0	100
State & Local	3,000	3,100	-100	-3.2	3,000

For further information on the Danielson Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 566-3470.

HARTFORD LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>				SEP 1997
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	605,600	594,300	11,300	1.9	598,300
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	112,900	111,600	1,300	1.2	112,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	19,900	20,200	-300	-1.5	19,800
MANUFACTURING	93,000	91,400	1,600	1.8	92,700
Durable Goods	73,100	71,700	1,400	2.0	72,900
Primary & Fabricated Metals	17,600	17,500	100	0.6	17,500
Industrial Machinery	16,100	15,600	500	3.2	16,000
Electronic Equipment	6,000	5,900	100	1.7	6,000
Transportation Equipment	25,300	24,700	600	2.4	25,300
Nondurable Goods	19,900	19,700	200	1.0	19,800
Printing & Publishing	7,600	7,700	-100	-1.3	7,700
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	492,700	482,700	10,000	2.1	485,800
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	28,400	26,200	2,200	8.4	28,300
Transportation	17,300	15,600	1,700	10.9	17,200
Communications & Utilities	11,100	10,600	500	4.7	11,100
TRADE	125,100	123,900	1,200	1.0	123,700
Wholesale	28,800	29,000	-200	-0.7	29,300
Retail	96,300	94,900	1,400	1.5	94,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	67,000	68,400	-1,400	-2.0	67,100
Deposit & Nondeposit Institutions	10,200	10,200	0	0.0	10,100
Insurance Carriers	48,600	50,000	-1,400	-2.8	48,700
SERVICES	171,900	168,600	3,300	2.0	169,200
Business Services	34,300	32,400	1,900	5.9	33,400
Health Services	58,100	58,300	-200	-0.3	58,400
GOVERNMENT	100,300	95,600	4,700	4.9	97,500
Federal	8,500	8,600	-100	-1.2	8,500
State & Local	91,800	87,000	4,800	5.5	89,000

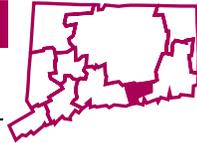
For further information on the Hartford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 566-3472.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

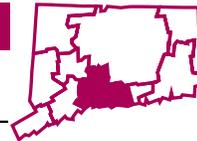
LOWER RIVER LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO. %	SEP 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	9,600	9,400	200 2.1	9,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,500	3,600	-100 -2.8	3,500
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	400	500	-100 -20.0	400
MANUFACTURING	3,100	3,100	0 0.0	3,100
Durable Goods	2,500	2,400	100 4.2	2,500
Electronic Equipment	800	800	0 0.0	800
Other Durable Goods	1,700	1,600	100 6.3	1,700
Nondurable Goods	600	700	-100 -14.3	600
Rubber & Plastics	300	300	0 0.0	300
Other Nondurable Goods	300	400	-100 -25.0	300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	6,100	5,800	300 5.2	6,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	300	300	0 0.0	300
TRADE	2,200	2,000	200 10.0	2,200
Wholesale	400	400	0 0.0	400
Retail	1,800	1,600	200 12.5	1,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	300	300	0 0.0	300
SERVICES	2,400	2,400	0 0.0	2,400
GOVERNMENT	900	800	100 12.5	900
Federal	0	0	0 0.0	0
State & Local	900	800	100 12.5	900

For further information on the Lower River Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 566-3470.

NEW HAVEN LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO. %	SEP 1997
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	251,700	248,300	3,400 1.4	248,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	47,400	48,500	-1,100 -2.3	47,700
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	9,900	9,200	700 7.6	10,100
MANUFACTURING	37,500	39,300	-1,800 -4.6	37,600
Durable Goods	24,400	25,200	-800 -3.2	24,500
Primary & Fabricated Metals	6,300	7,100	-800 -11.3	6,400
Electronic Equipment	5,200	5,200	0 0.0	5,200
Nondurable Goods	13,100	14,100	-1,000 -7.1	13,100
Paper, Printing & Publishing	5,300	5,400	-100 -1.9	5,300
Chemicals & Allied	4,200	5,100	-900 -17.6	4,200
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	204,300	199,800	4,500 2.3	201,100
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	16,200	16,300	-100 -0.6	16,200
Communications & Utilities	8,500	8,600	-100 -1.2	8,500
TRADE	53,800	51,000	2,800 5.5	53,400
Wholesale	11,800	11,600	200 1.7	11,700
Retail	42,000	39,400	2,600 6.6	41,700
Eating & Drinking Places	13,300	11,700	1,600 13.7	13,400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13,600	13,500	100 0.7	13,600
Finance	3,800	3,800	0 0.0	3,800
Insurance	7,900	7,600	300 3.9	7,900
SERVICES	89,100	87,600	1,500 1.7	87,500
Business Services	13,700	12,300	1,400 11.4	13,500
Health Services	28,300	28,700	-400 -1.4	28,500
GOVERNMENT	31,600	31,400	200 0.6	30,400
Federal	5,400	5,400	0 0.0	5,400
State & Local	26,200	26,000	200 0.8	25,000

For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact J. Charles Joo at (860) 566-3470.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

NEW LONDON LMA



			Not Seasonally Adjusted		SEP 1997
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	138,200	136,000	2,200	1.6	138,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	28,200	28,900	-700	-2.4	28,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	4,500	4,000	500	12.5	4,500
MANUFACTURING	23,700	24,900	-1,200	-4.8	23,900
Durable Goods	14,500	15,800	-1,300	-8.2	14,600
Primary & Fabricated Metals	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.3	2,200
Other Durable Goods	12,300	13,500	-1,200	-8.9	12,400
Nondurable Goods	9,200	9,100	100	1.1	9,300
Paper & Allied	1,000	1,000	0	0.0	1,000
Other Nondurable Goods	6,800	6,700	100	1.5	6,900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	110,000	107,100	2,900	2.7	110,200
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	6,600	6,300	300	4.8	6,500
TRADE	29,300	28,500	800	2.8	29,400
Wholesale	3,100	3,000	100	3.3	3,100
Retail	26,200	25,500	700	2.7	26,300
Eating & Drinking Places	8,300	8,200	100	1.2	8,700
Other Retail	17,900	17,300	600	3.5	17,600
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	3,600	3,600	0	0.0	3,700
SERVICES	34,600	33,600	1,000	3.0	34,600
Personal & Business Services	6,500	6,200	300	4.8	6,500
Health Services	11,400	11,200	200	1.8	11,300
GOVERNMENT	35,900	35,100	800	2.3	36,000
Federal	2,600	3,200	-600	-18.8	2,700
State & Local	33,300	31,900	1,400	4.4	33,300
**Local	29,300	27,600	1,700	6.2	29,300

For further information on the New London Labor Market Area contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 566-3470.

STAMFORD LMA



			Not Seasonally Adjusted		SEP 1997
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	201,300	197,600	3,700	1.9	200,200
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	34,700	34,200	500	1.5	34,400
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	6,300	5,900	400	6.8	6,200
MANUFACTURING	28,400	28,300	100	0.4	28,200
Durable Goods	14,800	15,000	-200	-1.3	14,600
Industrial Machinery	4,200	4,200	0	0.0	4,200
Electronic Equipment	2,800	2,800	0	0.0	2,800
Nondurable Goods	13,600	13,300	300	2.3	13,600
Paper, Printing & Publishing	6,200	6,000	200	3.3	6,300
Chemicals & Allied	3,500	3,400	100	2.9	3,500
Other Nondurable	3,900	3,900	0	0.0	3,800
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	166,600	163,400	3,200	2.0	165,800
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	9,400	10,100	-700	-6.9	9,500
Communications & Utilities	2,600	3,300	-700	-21.2	2,500
TRADE	44,800	44,200	600	1.4	44,700
Wholesale	11,900	11,500	400	3.5	11,900
Retail	32,900	32,700	200	0.6	32,800
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE.	24,400	22,900	1,500	6.6	23,900
SERVICES	70,300	68,700	1,600	2.3	70,300
Business Services	20,800	20,300	500	2.5	20,700
Engineering & Mgmt. Services	9,300	9,000	300	3.3	9,200
Other Services	40,200	39,400	800	2.0	40,400
GOVERNMENT	17,700	17,500	200	1.1	17,400
Federal	1,800	1,900	-100	-5.3	1,900
State & Local	15,900	15,600	300	1.9	15,500

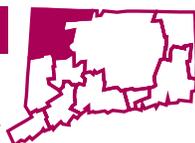
For further information on the Stamford Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 566-7823.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

TORRINGTON LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				SEP 1997
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	28,100	28,000	100	0.4	27,900
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	8,100	7,800	300	3.8	8,000
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	2,100	1,900	200	10.5	2,100
MANUFACTURING	6,000	5,900	100	1.7	5,900
Durable Goods	4,300	4,300	0	0.0	4,200
Primary & Fabricated Metals	500	500	0	0.0	500
Industrial Machinery	1,100	1,100	0	0.0	1,100
Electronic Equipment	300	400	-100	-25.0	300
Other Durable Goods	2,400	2,300	100	4.3	2,300
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,600	100	6.3	1,700
Rubber & Plastics	800	800	0	0.0	800
Other Nondurable Goods	900	800	100	12.5	900
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	20,000	20,200	-200	-1.0	19,900
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	800	800	0	0.0	800
TRADE	5,700	5,900	-200	-3.4	5,600
Wholesale	700	800	-100	-12.5	700
Retail	5,000	5,100	-100	-2.0	4,900
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	800	900	-100	-11.1	800
SERVICES	9,300	9,200	100	1.1	9,300
GOVERNMENT	3,400	3,400	0	0.0	3,400
Federal	200	200	0	0.0	200
State & Local	3,200	3,200	0	0.0	3,200

For further information on the Torrington Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepki at (860) 566-7823.

WATERBURY LMA



	Not Seasonally Adjusted				SEP 1997
	OCT 1997	OCT 1996	CHANGE NO.	CHANGE %	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	87,600	84,400	3,200	3.8	87,400
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	22,400	21,700	700	3.2	22,200
CONSTRUCTION & MINING	3,600	3,300	300	9.1	3,500
MANUFACTURING	18,800	18,400	400	2.2	18,700
Durable Goods	14,400	14,300	100	0.7	14,200
Primary Metals	700	700	0	0.0	700
Fabricated Metals	6,500	6,400	100	1.6	6,400
Machinery & Electric Equipment	4,500	4,500	0	0.0	4,400
Nondurable Goods	4,400	4,100	300	7.3	4,500
Paper, Printing & Publishing	1,300	1,300	0	0.0	1,300
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	65,200	62,700	2,500	4.0	65,200
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	3,500	3,500	0	0.0	3,500
TRADE	18,700	17,200	1,500	8.7	18,600
Wholesale	2,900	3,100	-200	-6.5	2,900
Retail	15,800	14,100	1,700	12.1	15,700
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4,600	4,400	200	4.5	4,600
SERVICES	25,800	24,900	900	3.6	26,000
Personal & Business	6,900	6,300	600	9.5	6,800
Health Services	10,100	9,900	200	2.0	10,100
GOVERNMENT	12,600	12,700	-100	-0.8	12,500
Federal	800	800	0	0.0	800
State & Local	11,800	11,900	-100	-0.8	11,700

For further information on the Waterbury Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepki at (860) 566-7823.

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

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	OCT	OCT	CHANGE		SEP
		1997	1996	NO.	%	1997
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,734,800	1,720,600	14,200	0.8	1,728,300
	Employed	1,661,800	1,631,400	30,400	1.9	1,658,600
	Unemployed	73,000	89,300	-16,300	-18.3	69,700
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	5.2	-1.0	---	4.0
BRIDGEPORT LMA	Civilian Labor Force	219,400	219,100	300	0.1	218,900
	Employed	208,300	205,700	2,600	1.3	208,300
	Unemployed	11,100	13,400	-2,300	-17.2	10,600
	Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.1	-1.0	---	4.8
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	107,100	107,300	-200	-0.2	107,100
	Employed	104,200	103,600	600	0.6	104,200
	Unemployed	2,900	3,700	-800	-21.6	2,900
	Unemployment Rate	2.7	3.4	-0.7	---	2.7
DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	33,900	34,100	-200	-0.6	34,100
	Employed	31,900	31,900	0	0.0	32,200
	Unemployed	2,000	2,200	-200	-9.1	1,900
	Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.6	-0.7	---	5.5
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	595,900	589,900	6,000	1.0	591,200
	Employed	570,300	557,700	12,600	2.3	566,500
	Unemployed	25,600	32,100	-6,500	-20.2	24,700
	Unemployment Rate	4.3	5.4	-1.1	---	4.2
LOWER RIVER LMA	Civilian Labor Force	12,600	12,200	400	3.3	12,600
	Employed	12,200	11,700	500	4.3	12,200
	Unemployed	400	500	-100	-20.0	400
	Unemployment Rate	3.3	4.1	-0.8	---	3.1
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	275,000	274,000	1,000	0.4	273,000
	Employed	263,300	259,500	3,800	1.5	261,700
	Unemployed	11,700	14,400	-2,700	-18.8	11,300
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	5.3	-1.1	---	4.1
NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	157,000	155,100	1,900	1.2	157,900
	Employed	149,300	146,500	2,800	1.9	150,700
	Unemployed	7,700	8,600	-900	-10.5	7,200
	Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.6	-0.7	---	4.6
STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	192,900	190,600	2,300	1.2	192,600
	Employed	187,400	184,200	3,200	1.7	187,400
	Unemployed	5,400	6,400	-1,000	-15.6	5,100
	Unemployment Rate	2.8	3.4	-0.6	---	2.7
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	37,900	38,100	-200	-0.5	38,000
	Employed	36,800	36,700	100	0.3	37,000
	Unemployed	1,100	1,400	-300	-21.4	1,000
	Unemployment Rate	2.9	3.8	-0.9	---	2.7
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	119,900	116,200	3,700	3.2	119,700
	Employed	114,200	109,400	4,800	4.4	114,500
	Unemployed	5,600	6,800	-1,200	-17.6	5,200
	Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.8	-1.1	---	4.3
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	136,665,000	135,015,000	1,650,000	1.2	136,375,000
	Employed	130,671,000	128,439,000	2,232,000	1.7	129,972,000
	Unemployed	5,995,000	6,577,000	-582,000	-8.8	6,403,000
	Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.9	-0.5	---	4.7

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MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	OCT		CHG	SEP	OCT		CHG	SEP	OCT		CHG	SEP
	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997
MANUFACTURING	\$626.16	\$603.60	\$22.56	\$629.09	42.8	42.9	-0.1	43.0	\$14.63	\$14.07	\$0.56	\$14.63
DURABLE GOODS	639.21	613.04	26.17	643.87	42.9	42.9	0.0	43.3	14.90	14.29	0.61	14.87
Lumber & Furniture	476.14	472.06	4.08	467.43	40.8	40.8	0.0	40.4	11.67	11.57	0.10	11.57
Stone, Clay and Glass	612.00	592.26	19.74	592.84	45.3	44.1	1.2	43.4	13.51	13.43	0.08	13.66
Primary Metals	627.38	578.09	49.29	630.19	45.2	43.4	1.8	46.1	13.88	13.32	0.56	13.67
Fabricated Metals	601.37	582.08	19.29	608.14	43.8	43.7	0.1	44.1	13.73	13.32	0.41	13.79
Machinery	689.47	660.83	28.65	690.30	44.8	44.5	0.3	45.0	15.39	14.85	0.54	15.34
Electrical Equipment	497.76	489.90	7.86	503.46	40.6	41.8	-1.2	41.2	12.26	11.72	0.54	12.22
Trans. Equipment	804.53	761.93	42.60	819.39	42.5	42.4	0.1	43.4	18.93	17.97	0.96	18.88
Instruments	579.96	558.36	21.60	583.16	40.9	41.7	-0.8	41.3	14.18	13.39	0.79	14.12
Miscellaneous Mfg	555.79	558.41	-2.62	554.94	41.2	42.4	-1.2	41.6	13.49	13.17	0.32	13.34
NONDUR. GOODS	594.58	576.88	17.70	593.47	42.5	42.7	-0.2	42.3	13.99	13.51	0.48	14.03
Food	533.75	510.30	23.45	493.70	42.7	43.1	-0.4	40.5	12.50	11.84	0.66	12.19
Textiles	495.22	455.39	39.83	502.66	43.1	41.1	2.0	43.9	11.49	11.08	0.41	11.45
Apparel	340.17	335.16	5.01	344.80	39.1	39.2	-0.1	40.0	8.70	8.55	0.15	8.62
Paper	705.79	704.62	1.17	706.86	46.1	47.1	-1.0	45.9	15.31	14.96	0.35	15.40
Printing & Publishing	596.17	570.33	25.83	599.79	40.2	39.8	0.4	39.8	14.83	14.33	0.50	15.07
Chemicals	793.41	774.37	19.04	796.02	44.8	45.1	-0.3	45.1	17.71	17.17	0.54	17.65
Rubber & Misc. Plast.	497.12	487.05	10.07	512.83	42.2	42.5	-0.3	42.7	11.78	11.46	0.32	12.01
CONSTRUCTION	788.83	768.59	20.24	786.60	41.3	41.3	0.0	41.4	19.10	18.61	0.49	19.00

LMA's

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS			
	OCT		CHG	SEP	OCT		CHG	SEP	OCT		CHG	SEP
	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997	1997	1996	Y/Y	1997
MANUFACTURING	\$629.85	\$629.52	\$0.33	\$647.14	42.5	43.0	-0.5	42.8	\$14.82	\$14.64	\$0.18	\$15.12
Bridgeport	661.05	664.10	-3.05	669.53	45.0	45.3	-0.3	45.3	14.69	14.66	0.03	14.78
Danbury	492.46	468.33	24.13	494.70	42.6	40.2	2.4	42.5	11.56	11.65	-0.09	11.64
Danielson	676.27	646.70	29.57	672.77	43.8	43.2	0.6	43.8	15.44	14.97	0.47	15.36
Hartford	500.21	502.14	-1.93	536.36	40.9	40.3	0.6	42.4	12.23	12.46	-0.23	12.65
Lower River	609.42	582.89	26.53	621.46	42.0	42.3	-0.3	42.8	14.51	13.78	0.73	14.52
New Haven	647.56	618.19	29.37	648.19	42.8	42.9	-0.1	42.7	15.13	14.41	0.72	15.18
New London	565.80	585.31	-19.51	564.30	41.0	41.6	-0.6	41.1	13.80	14.07	-0.27	13.73
Stamford	559.02	549.48	9.54	561.85	42.0	43.3	-1.3	42.5	13.31	12.69	0.62	13.22
Torrington	589.61	584.32	5.29	591.91	43.1	44.3	-1.2	43.3	13.68	13.19	0.49	13.67
Waterbury												

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 1996.

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

	OCT	OCT	CHANGE Y/Y		YTD		CHANGE YTD		SEP
	1997	1996	UNITS	%	1997	1996	UNITS	%	1997
	Connecticut	852	746	106	14.2	7,871	6,418	1,453	22.6
Counties:									
Fairfield	171	225	-54	-24.0	1,710	1,336	374	28.0	173
Hartford	236	169	67	39.6	1,863	1,460	403	27.6	161
Litchfield	60	51	9	17.6	625	505	120	23.8	52
Middlesex	66	43	23	53.5	525	416	109	26.2	77
New Haven	152	113	39	34.5	1,759	1,286	473	36.8	130
New London	65	71	-6	-8.5	652	742	-90	-12.1	73
Tolland	68	48	20	41.7	466	429	37	8.6	45
Windham	34	26	8	30.8	271	244	27	11.1	29

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	OCT 1997	YR TO DATE 1997	YR TO DATE 1996	TOWN	OCT 1997	YR TO DATE 1997	YR TO DATE 1996	TOWN	OCT 1997	YR TO DATE 1997	YR TO DATE 1996
Andover	3	24	28	Griswold	4	36	74	Preston	3	20	13
Ansonia	1	13	16	Groton	2	66	62	Prospect	9	46	28
Ashford	2	15	10	Guilford	12	114	89	Putnam	1	10	8
Avon	33	125	69	Haddam	4	25	22	Redding	5	28	21
Barkhamsted	1	21	16	Hamden	2	85	44	Ridgefield	13	111	67
Beacon Falls	3	22	19	Hampton	1	10	10	Rocky Hill	14	86	135
Berlin	7	62	63	Hartford	14	55	28	Roxbury	3	11	9
Bethany	1	18	30	Hartland	0	6	3	Salem	2	12	16
Bethel	3	31	29	Harwinton	1	27	26	Salisbury	1	3	5
Bethlehem	1	7	12	Hebron	7	63	26	Scotland	1	13	9
Bloomfield	1	32	23	Kent	1	10	1	Seymour	7	57	26
Bolton	3	21	25	Killingly	3	29	22	Sharon	0	2	5
Bozrah	1	6	6	Killingworth	5	43	46	Shelton	31	151	146
Branford	4	40	35	Lebanon	4	36	28	Sherman	0	19	8
Bridgeport	3	55	18	Ledyard	5	42	42	Simsbury	2	47	57
Bridgewater	0	4	7	Lisbon	2	19	21	Somers	3	31	32
Bristol	6	78	90	Litchfield	2	92	31	South Windsor	8	101	75
Brookfield	3	42	32	Lyme	0	11	11	Southbury	5	78	47
Brooklyn	0	0	15	Madison	8	85	69	Southington	45	157	162
Burlington	8	44	57	Manchester	2	308	70	Sprague	1	5	3
Canaan	1	3	0	Mansfield	4	40	33	Stafford	3	25	25
Canterbury	2	16	20	Marlborough	3	28	28	Stamford	12	165	248
Canton	4	25	30	Meriden	2	33	22	Sterling	3	23	10
Chaplin	1	13	10	Middlebury	1	24	19	Stonington	8	67	50
Cheshire	8	162	77	Middlefield	2	17	12	Stratford	2	42	22
Chester	1	18	8	Middletown	20	112	106	Suffield	13	57	51
Clinton	3	30	24	Milford	13	138	127	Thomaston	4	30	19
Colchester	4	90	62	Monroe	11	112	104	Thompson	0	15	22
Colebrook	1	4	12	Montville	2	21	28	Tolland	11	86	68
Columbia	1	18	28	Morris	0	3	7	Torrington	3	56	59
Cornwall	0	5	0	Naugatuck	6	38	48	Trumbull	2	75	69
Coventry	5	55	57	New Britain	1	8	19	Union	1	5	0
Cromwell	3	29	43	New Canaan	4	51	45	Vernon	3	22	26
Danbury	13	198	36	New Fairfield	4	33	35	Voluntown	0	11	10
Darien	5	24	14	New Hartford	4	28	24	Wallingford	10	106	140
Deep River	2	13	9	New Haven	0	0	26	Warren	2	7	10
Derby	3	27	18	New London	0	0	0	Washington	1	12	9
Durham	3	39	15	New Milford	10	94	113	Waterbury	5	44	64
East Granby	3	18	28	Newington	5	49	14	Waterford	8	57	142
East Haddam	6	61	38	Newtown	21	158	91	Watertown	10	90	38
East Hampton	5	34	33	Norfolk	1	2	1	West Hartford	1	8	17
East Hartford	0	2	3	North Branford	4	62	56	West Haven	2	42	12
East Haven	14	144	30	North Canaan	1	6	19	Westbrook	2	34	9
East Lyme	8	68	55	North Haven	9	60	39	Weston	1	10	24
East Windsor	0	18	51	North Stoningtc	3	22	19	Westport	4	29	11
Eastford	1	7	1	Norwalk	8	82	112	Wethersfield	12	68	67
Easton	4	34	3	Norwich	0	21	57	Willington	1	8	14
Ellington	23	68	67	Old Lyme	8	37	63	Wilton	1	47	57
Enfield	10	74	41	Old Saybrook	4	33	30	Winchester	1	7	5
Essex	4	17	17	Orange	2	23	24	Windham	1	13	11
Fairfield	13	106	96	Oxford	10	53	51	Windsor	9	44	2
Farmington	17	130	100	Plainfield	9	46	46	Windsor Locks	0	14	8
Franklin	0	5	0	Plainville	2	26	1	Wolcott	5	124	112
Glastonbury	11	141	145	Plymouth	2	20	33	Woodbridge	6	121	18
Goshen	1	21	10	Pomfret	6	31	30	Woodbury	8	60	34
Granby	5	52	23	Portland	2	20	4	Woodstock	3	30	20
Greenwich	8	107	48								

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 takes 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) 566-7823 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 +0.8	Business Activity	Tourism and Travel
Coincident Employment Index +8.6	New Housing Permits +14.2	Tourism Inquiries -44.5
Total Nonfarm Employment +1.9	Electricity Sales -2.3	Tourism Info Centers -5.6
Unemployment -1.1*	Retail Sales +4.9	Attraction Visitors +17.4
Labor Force +0.8	Construction Contracts Index -16.8	Hotel-Motel Occupancy -0.1
Employed +2.0	New Auto Registrations +11.5	Air Passenger Count +6.0
Unemployed -17.8	Air Cargo Tons -12.7	
Average Weekly Initial Claims -16.7	Business Starts	Employment Cost Index (U.S.)
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford +2.9	Secretary of the State +17.7	Total +3.2
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate -0.39*	Dept. of Labor +0.6	Wages & Salaries +3.6
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg -0.2	Business Terminations	Benefit Costs +2.0
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg +4.0	Secretary of the State +49.1	Consumer Price Index
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg +3.7	Dept. of Labor +1.0	U.S. City Average +2.1
Manufacturing Output +2.1	State Tax Collections +1.2	Northeast Region +2.2
Production Worker Hours -0.2	Corporate Tax -6.5	NY-NJ-Long Island +2.4
Productivity +2.3	Personal Income Tax +13.1	Boston-Lawrence-Salem +2.6
Personal Income +5.5	Real Estate Conveyance Tax +0.8	Consumer Confidence
UI Covered Wages +6.8	Sales & Use Tax +5.5	U.S. +14.9
		New England +10.0
		Interest Rates
		Prime +0.25*
		Conventional Mortgage -0.63*

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

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