



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2015 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 5.2%
US Unemployment Rate = 5.1%

September jobs decline by 7,600; state's unemployment rate continues to fall

WETHERSFIELD, October 19, 2015 – Preliminary September nonfarm employment estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) payroll survey indicate Connecticut lost 7,600 jobs (-0.45%), seasonally adjusted, last month to a level of 1,693,500. This is the first monthly state nonfarm jobs decline in five months. Connecticut is now estimated to have added a healthy 27,000 nonfarm positions (1.62%) over the year. August's initially estimated nonfarm job gain of 3,200 (0.19%) was revised much higher to a 5,400 (0.32%) job increase which put the state's estimated seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment above 1.7 million (1,701,100) for the first time in the state's employment recovery from the Great Recession.

The Connecticut unemployment rate, calculated using residential survey data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), was estimated at 5.2%, seasonally adjusted, for September 2015. This is down one-tenth of a percentage point from the revised August 2015 figure of 5.3% and down one and a tenth of a percentage point from the September 2014 unemployment rate of 6.3%. Connecticut's unemployment rate has not been this low since April 2008 (5.2%). The number of the state's unemployed residents has now fallen below 100,000 (98,651) for the first time since April 2008.

"September job losses were widespread, but annual job growth still remains relatively strong," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "Some of the apparent decline is due to technical seasonal adjustment issues and does not represent actual job loss. This is particularly true in the education-related sectors."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Initial September 2015 nonfarm job estimates reveal Connecticut gave up 7,600 positions (-0.45%), seasonally adjusted, as just two industry *supersectors* gained jobs, while seven declined and the **other services** *supersector* was unchanged. In the first nine months of 2015, nonagricultural jobs have increased 15,400, compared to 13,500 in the first nine months of 2014. Since September 2014, Connecticut's annualized nonfarm job gains are now measuring 27,000 (1.62%, 2,250 jobs per month) with only the **information** *supersector* (-400, -1.3%) lower in job counts over the year.

The **private sector** in the state also dropped 6,700 jobs (-0.46%) in September but it has still added 26,000 positions (1.82%, about 2,167 jobs per month) over the year to a level of 1,454,100, seasonally adjusted. The **government** *supersector* decreased employment in September (-900, -0.37%, 239,400) but continues to show a small job increase over the year (1,000, 0.42%).

Of the two major industry *supersectors* adding jobs in September, the **leisure and hospitality** (2,400, 1.5%) *supersector* was the leading employment gainer. The arts, entertainment, and recreation (400, 1.5%) and the accommodation and food services (2,000, 1.6%) components were both strong in this *supersector* last month. The **leisure and hospitality** (7,500, 5.0%) *supersector* also leads all major industry *supersector* job growth over the year. **Financial activities** (100, 0.1%) was the only *supersector* to grow in September. The **other services** *supersector* was unchanged last month.

The **education and health services** (-3,500, -1.0%) *supersector* was the largest of seven declining major industry *supersectors* in September, representing about 46.1% of the overall total monthly job decline. The **education services** (-1,700, -2.6%) and **health services** (-1,800, -0.7%) components were both seasonally weak, but together had posted a 3,100 gain in August that was offset in September as schools opened well before Labor Day. Because of this early start, it is likely that the seasonal adjustment process overstated education employment in August and understated September numbers. The **trade, transportation & utilities** (-2,500, -0.8%) *supersector* was the second largest job loser. Wholesale trade (-400, -0.6%), retail trade (-1,400, -0.7%), and transportation and utilities (-700,

-1.3%) segments were all lower. The combined **construction and mining** (-1,200, -2.0%) *supersector* also lost positions. The **professional and business services** (-1,100, -0.5%) *supersector* was lower, but remains the second largest job growing industry *supersector* over the year (4,900, 2.3%). The **government** (-900, -0.4%) *supersector* also lost jobs last month, primarily in local government entities (-1,200, -0.8%) which reversed strong gains from the prior month when schools opened earlier. Seasonal adjustment of public education was a factor here as well. The **manufacturing** *supersector* (-600, -0.4%) was lower in September as was the **information** *supersector* (-300, -0.9%).

Recession recovery: Connecticut has now recovered 99,500 positions, or 83.6% of the 119,000 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs that were lost in the state during the March 2008 - February 2010 employment recession. Connecticut's jobs recovery is now 67 months old and is averaging about 1,485 jobs per month since February 2010. There have been 46 monthly job gains (68.7%), 20 monthly job losses, and one unchanged month (November 2010) in the on-going recovery period. The **private sector** has recovered employment at a faster clip (approximately 1,572 per month) and has now regained 105,300 (94.4%) of the 111,600 private sector jobs that were lost during the same employment downturn. The state needs to reach the 1,713,000 job level to enter a full nonfarm employment expansionary phase. This will require an additional 19,500 nonfarm jobs. A total of 6,300 more private sector positions are needed to have a fully restored private sector.

Labor Market Areas (LMAs): The September 2015 preliminary nonfarm job statistics indicate that two of the four major Connecticut Labor Market Areas that are *seasonally adjusted* by the Bureau of Labor Statistics lost jobs while only the **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (400, 0.3%, 127,400) posted a seasonally adjusted job gain. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** was unchanged. The **Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA** (-3,000, -0.5%, 573,900) and the **New Haven LMA** (-2,500, -0.9%, 280,400) both lost jobs last month. The **Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA** (9,100, 1.6%), the largest LMA in the state, still leads all major employing regions in annual job growth magnitude while the **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (7,100, 1.7%) leads in percentage gain. *Note: The six major Connecticut LMAs are estimated independently (only the largest four LMAs are officially seasonally adjusted) from the statewide numbers by the BLS and cover over 90% of the nonfarm employment in the state. These estimates will not fully sum to the statewide total.*

Hours and Earnings: The **private sector** workweek, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 33.3 hours in September 2015, down six-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago (33.9, -1.8%). The Labor Day holiday occurred during the survey week this year, evidently influencing average hours worked. Average hourly earnings at \$29.57, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$1.31, or 4.6%, from the September 2014 estimate. The resulting average **private sector** weekly pay was figured at \$984.68, up \$26.67, or 2.8% higher than a year ago. The 12-month percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in September 2015 was 0.0% (unchanged). 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 September 2015 unemployment rate was estimated at **5.2%**, seasonally adjusted, for Connecticut, nearly matching the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.1%. Connecticut's rate is down one-tenth of a percentage point from the revised August 2015 unemployment rate of 5.3% and down one and one-tenth of a percentage point from the September 2014 unemployment rate of 6.3%. Connecticut's unemployment rate has not been this low since April 2008 (5.2%) when unemployment was rising at the start of the Great Recession employment decline (March 2008). However, the monthly unemployment rate decline is also occurring on a declining labor force (-4,324, -0.2%) as has been the case for the last four months since the state's labor force peaked at an all-time high in May 2015 (1,921,726*). Connecticut's labor force is still higher by 9,183 (0.5%) workers over the year, but the level is now below 1.9 million (1,899,079).

Unemployment: Based on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics model (LAUS - a statistical model using CPS residential survey data), the number of Connecticut unemployed, seasonally adjusted, declined by 1,414 (-1.4%) over the month to 98,651 in September 2015. The number of unemployed state residents has fallen by 21,109 (-17.6%) since September 2014, which is considered statistically significant.

The September 2015 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time Connecticut filers declined by 330 claimants (-8.1%) to 3,756, a new employment recovery low, and were down by 438 claims (-10.4%) from the September 2014 level of 4,194. One would have to go back to December 2000 (3,138) to find a lower level of initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in the state.

*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.***

** Consistent labor force estimates are available since 1976, and the May 2015 labor force was the largest recorded for the State of Connecticut in that time. Other data suggest that the labor force prior to 1976 was even smaller, so the May 2015 level was likely an all-time high.*

Next Connecticut Labor Situation release: Thursday, November 19, 2015 (October 2015 data)

Contact: Communications Office

(860) 263-6535

10-19-15

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
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	September 2015 P	August 2015 R	July 2015	June 2015	September 2014	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,693,500	1,701,100	1,695,700	1,691,900	1,666,500	-7,600	-0.4%	27,000	1.6%
Total Private	1,454,100	1,460,800	1,456,700	1,454,000	1,428,100	-6,700	-0.5%	26,000	1.8%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	600	500	500	600	600	100	20.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	57,500	58,800	58,600	60,500	56,400	-1,300	-2.2%	1,100	2.0%
Manufacturing	161,400	162,000	161,200	160,600	158,900	-600	-0.4%	2,500	1.6%
Durable Goods	126,200	126,100	125,600	125,000	123,600	100	0.1%	2,600	2.1%
Nondurable Goods	35,200	35,900	35,600	35,600	35,300	-700	-1.9%	-100	-0.3%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	305,000	307,500	306,600	306,900	300,900	-2,500	-0.8%	4,100	1.4%
Wholesale	62,800	63,200	62,900	62,500	63,100	-400	-0.6%	-300	-0.5%
Retail	189,200	190,600	190,600	190,700	185,000	-1,400	-0.7%	4,200	2.3%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	53,000	53,700	53,100	53,700	52,800	-700	-1.3%	200	0.4%
Information	31,400	31,700	31,700	32,000	31,800	-300	-0.9%	-400	-1.3%
Financial Activities	130,700	130,600	131,100	130,200	128,800	100	0.1%	1,900	1.5%
Finance & Insurance	110,800	110,700	111,100	110,400	109,300	100	0.1%	1,500	1.4%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,900	19,900	20,000	19,800	19,500	0	0.0%	400	2.1%
Professional & Business Services	216,400	217,500	217,100	214,400	211,500	-1,100	-0.5%	4,900	2.3%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	95,700	95,800	95,900	96,000	95,800	-100	-0.1%	-100	-0.1%
Management of Companies	30,100	29,800	29,800	30,100	30,300	300	1.0%	-200	-0.7%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	90,600	91,900	91,400	88,300	85,400	-1,300	-1.4%	5,200	6.1%
Educational & Health Services	330,000	333,500	330,400	329,000	326,200	-3,500	-1.0%	3,800	1.2%
Educational Services	63,200	64,900	63,400	62,800	63,400	-1,700	-2.6%	-200	-0.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	266,800	268,600	267,000	266,200	262,800	-1,800	-0.7%	4,000	1.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	157,500	155,100	155,800	156,100	150,000	2,400	1.5%	7,500	5.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	27,300	26,900	27,700	29,000	26,300	400	1.5%	1,000	3.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	130,200	128,200	128,100	127,100	123,700	2,000	1.6%	6,500	5.3%
Other Services	63,600	63,600	63,700	63,700	63,000	0	0.0%	600	1.0%
Government**	239,400	240,300	239,000	237,900	238,400	-900	-0.4%	1,000	0.4%
UNITED STATES	142,371,000	142,229,000	142,093,000	141,870,000	139,619,000	142,000	0.1%	2,752,000	2.0%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	September 2015 P	August 2015 R	July 2015	June 2015	September 2014	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	413,900	413,900	413,500	411,200	406,800	0	0.0%	7,100	1.7%
Hartford	573,900	576,900	578,800	574,900	564,800	-3,000	-0.5%	9,100	1.6%
New Haven	280,400	282,900	281,200	281,600	279,700	-2,500	-0.9%	700	0.3%
Norwich-New London-Westerly	127,400	127,000	127,300	127,300	127,800	400	0.3%	-400	-0.3%
Danbury - Not Seasonally Adjusted	78,300	77,600	78,100	79,600	78,500	700	0.9%	-200	-0.3%
Waterbury - Not Seasonally Adjusted	68,200	67,800	68,500	69,200	67,200	400	0.6%	1,000	1.5%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	45,800	45,700	45,600	46,100	45,000	100	0.2%	800	1.8%
Torrington-Northwest	34,700	34,700	35,000	34,700	34,300	0	0.0%	400	1.2%
Danielson-Northeast	27,300	27,500	27,100	27,700	27,400	-200	-0.7%	-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 not seasonally adjusted.

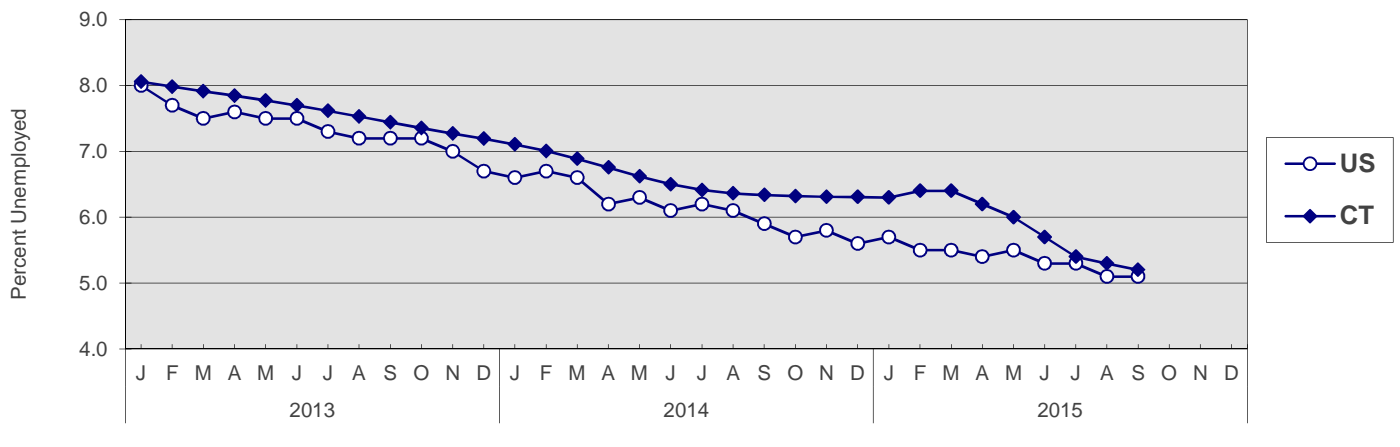
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	September 2015 P		September 2014 R		Change		August 2015 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	98,700	5.2	119,800	6.3	-21,100	-1.1	100,100	5.3
Labor Force	1,899,100		1,889,900		9,200		1,903,400	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	7,915,000	5.1	9,237,000	5.9	-1,322,000	-0.8	8,029,000	5.1
Labor Force	156,715,000		155,845,000		870,000		157,065,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2013 - 2015



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	September 2015 P		September 2014 R		Change		August 2015 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	23,000	5.0	27,800	6.0	-4,800	-1.0	25,100	5.3
Danbury	4,300	4.0	5,100	4.8	-800	-0.8	4,800	4.5
Danielson-Northeast*	2,400	5.5	2,800	6.6	-400	-1.1	2,500	5.7
Worcester NECTA	2,300	5.5	2,700	6.6	-400	-1.1	2,400	5.8
Hampton	100	3.9	100	4.9	0	-1.0	100	4.3
Enfield	2,300	4.6	2,800	5.7	-500	-1.1	2,600	5.2
Hartford	31,300	5.1	37,900	6.2	-6,600	-1.1	34,600	5.6
New Haven	16,700	5.2	20,500	6.4	-3,800	-1.2	18,400	5.6
Norwich-New London	7,500	5.3	9,300	6.5	-1,800	-1.2	8,300	5.8
Torrington-Northwest**	2,100	4.3	2,600	5.4	-500	-1.1	2,300	4.8
Torrington NECTA	1,400	5.2	1,700	6.5	-300	-1.3	1,600	5.7
Litchfield	700	3.2	900	4.1	-200	-0.9	800	3.6
Waterbury	7,200	6.4	8,600	7.7	-1,400	-1.3	7,700	6.8
CONNECTICUT	95,900	5.1	116,200	6.2	-20,300	-1.1	105,400	5.5
UNITED STATES	7,628,000	4.9	8,962,000	5.7	-1,334,000	-0.8	8,162,000	5.2

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

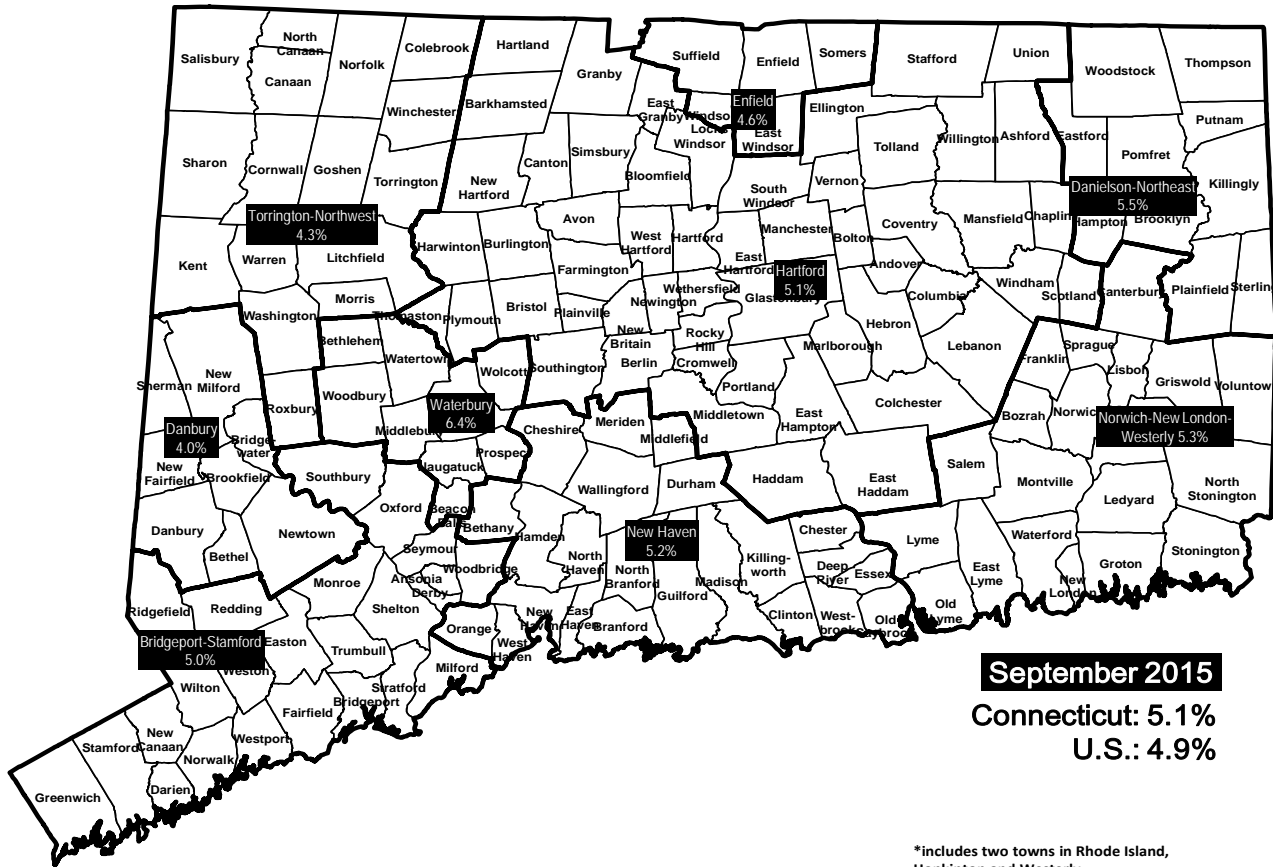
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* 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			
	Sept. 2015 P	Sept. 2014	Change over Yr.	Aug. 2015 R	Sept. 2015 P	Sept. 2014	Change over Yr.	Aug. 2015 R	Sept. 2015 P	Sept. 2014	Change over Yr.	Aug. 2015 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$984.68	\$958.01	\$26.67	\$997.90	33.3	33.9	-0.6	34.0	\$29.57	\$28.26	\$1.31	\$29.35
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,034.35	\$928.12	\$106.23	\$1,048.95	39.6	40.6	-1.0	40.5	\$26.12	\$22.86	\$3.26	\$25.90

* 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

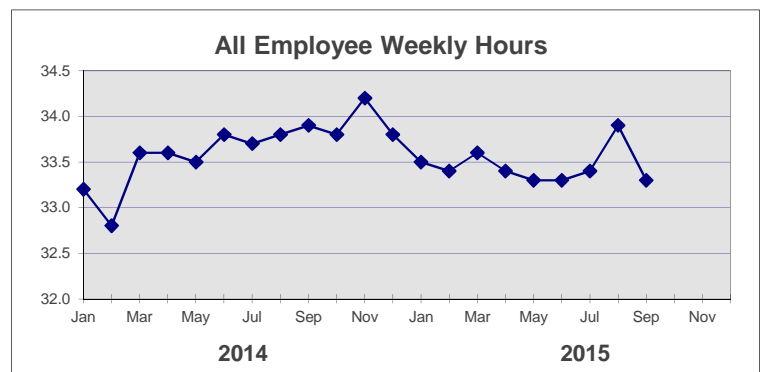
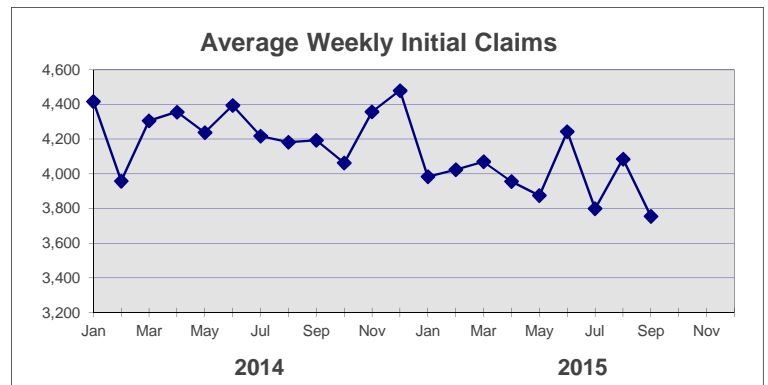
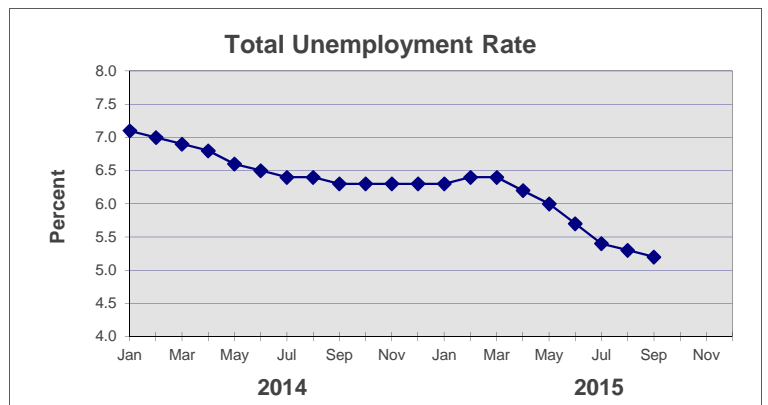
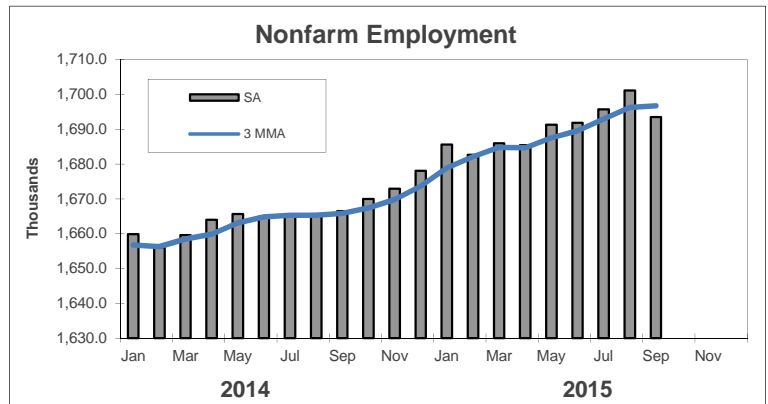
Seasonally Adjusted

	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2014		
Jan	1,659.9	7.1
Feb	1,656.1	7.0
Mar	1,659.6	6.9
Apr	1,664.0	6.8
May	1,665.7	6.6
Jun	1,664.9	6.5
Jul	1,665.4	6.4
Aug	1,665.7	6.4
Sep	1,666.5	6.3
Oct	1,670.0	6.3
Nov	1,672.9	6.3
Dec	1,678.1	6.3

2015		
Jan	1,685.6	6.3
Feb	1,682.7	6.4
Mar	1,686.0	6.4
Apr	1,685.4	6.2
May	1,691.3	6.0
Jun	1,691.9	5.7
Jul	1,695.7	5.4
Aug	1,701.1 R	5.3 R
Sep	1,693.5 P	5.2 P
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2014		
Jan	4,418	33.2
Feb	3,959	32.8
Mar	4,306	33.6
Apr	4,357	33.6
May	4,238	33.5
Jun	4,395	33.8
Jul	4,218	33.7
Aug	4,183	33.8
Sep	4,194	33.9
Oct	4,063	33.8
Nov	4,358	34.2
Dec	4,481	33.8

2015		
Jan	3,984	33.5
Feb	4,024	33.4
Mar	4,070	33.6
Apr	3,956	33.4
May	3,875	33.3
Jun	4,244	33.3
Jul	3,799	33.4
Aug	4,086	33.9 R
Sep	3,756	33.3 P
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute