



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2018 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 4.6%
US Unemployment Rate = 4.1%

Nonfarm jobs grow by 2,600 in February; unemployment rate at 4.6%

WETHERSFIELD, March 22, 2018 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state gained 2,600 net jobs (0.2%) in February 2018, to a level of 1,692,000, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 8,100 jobs (0.5%). The January 2018 originally-released job gain of 3,400 was revised up 400 by the BLS to a gain of 3,800 for the month. The number of the state's unemployed residents was estimated at 86,900 seasonally adjusted, up 100 from January. As a result, Connecticut's unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of a point to 4.6% in February, seasonally adjusted. Resident employment estimates include the self-employed and residents working out of state and are determined separately from the nonfarm payroll job estimates above.

"February job estimates show us the fourth consecutive month of job gains in Connecticut," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "We saw particular strength in construction and leisure and hospitality, both of which have shown mixed results in the last six months."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment grew by 2,500 (0.2%) to 1,461,200 jobs over the month in February, and by 12,300 (0.8%) seasonally adjusted jobs over the year. The **government supersector** gained 100 positions in February to a total of 230,800, but over-the-year losses were at -4,200 or -1.8%. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public higher education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land.

Six of the ten major industry *supersectors* gained employment in February, while three declined and the **trade, transportation and utilities supersector** was unchanged. **Construction and mining** led growing industries with 1,500 net new jobs (2.6%, 59,200 total jobs). **Leisure & hospitality** was next with an increase of 1,100 jobs (0.7%, 155,800 total). **Financial activities** gained 700 (0.5%, 128,700). **Education & health services** added 300 jobs (0.1%, 337,900 total). Both the **other services** (0.2%, 65,600) and **government** (0.04%, 230,800) *supersectors* contributed 100 net new jobs in February 2018.

On the down side, **professional & business services** dropped 1,000 jobs (-0.5%, 220,100) in February and both the **manufacturing** (-0.1%, 163,100) and **information** (-0.3%, 30,600) *supersectors* each lost 100 positions.

Connecticut has now recovered **82.1%** (97,800 jobs) of the 119,100 seasonally adjusted jobs lost in the "Great Recession" (3/08-2/10). The job recovery is into its 96th month and the state needs an additional 21,300 jobs to reach an overall nonfarm employment expansion. The state's **private sector** has now recovered **102.7%** (114,700) of the private sector jobs lost in that same employment downturn and is now fully recovered.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Four of the six LMAs that are seasonally-adjusted by the BLS saw job increases in February 2018, one saw a decline and **Waterbury** was unchanged. The **New Haven LMA** led gainers with 1,500 net new jobs, (0.5%, 284,600) The **Bridgeport–Stamford–Norwalk LMA** was next with 1,400 net new jobs (0.3%, 407,900). The **Norwich–New London–Westerly RI LMA** gained 600 new jobs (0.5%, 130,900), and **Danbury** gained 300 positions, (0.4%, 79,000). Only the **Hartford LMA** lost jobs in February with a decline of 1,500 (-0.3%, 576,500).

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

Hours and Earnings: The **private sector** workweek, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 33.7 hours in February

2018, up seven-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$31.43, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.13 (0.4%) from the February 2017 estimate (\$31.30). The resultant average **private sector** weekly pay amounted to \$1,059.19, up \$26.29 from a year ago (2.6%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in February 2018 was 2.2%. Information for the manufacturing production workweek and earnings can be found in the table section of this release under the “Hours and Earnings” data category. *Current all-employee private sector hours and earnings estimates can be volatile due to fluctuating sample responses.*

Labor Force Data (residential household survey)

The February 2018 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **4.6%** (seasonally adjusted), up one-tenth of a point from January 2018 and down three-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.9%. The US jobless rate in February 2018 was 4.1%, unchanged from January 2018.

Based on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics model (LAUS - a statistical model using the CPS – Current Population Survey residential data), the number of Connecticut unemployed residents, seasonally adjusted, was up 200 from January at 86,900 in February. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents declined by 7,100 (-7.5%). The state’s labor force decreased by 1,700 (-0.09%) over the month, and is down over the year (-17,000, -0.9%).

February 2018 seasonally-adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut grew by 320 claimants (9.4%) to 3,729 from January 2018, and were higher by 308 claims (9.0%) from the February 2017 level of 3,421.

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

Next Connecticut Labor Situation release: Thursday, April 19, 2018.

Contact: Communications Office

(860) 263-6535

03-22-18

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

	February 2018 P	January 2018 R	December 2017	November 2017	February 2017	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,692,000	1,689,400	1,685,600	1,679,900	1,683,900	2,600	0.2%	8,100	0.5%
Total Private	1,461,200	1,458,700	1,454,500	1,448,700	1,448,900	2,500	0.2%	12,300	0.8%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	600	600	500	600	600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	58,600	57,100	57,300	58,000	58,700	1,500	2.6%	-100	-0.2%
Manufacturing	163,100	163,200	163,800	161,900	157,600	-100	-0.1%	5,500	3.5%
Durable Goods	127,900	128,100	128,500	126,900	123,300	-200	-0.2%	4,600	3.7%
Nondurable Goods	35,200	35,100	35,300	35,000	34,300	100	0.3%	900	2.6%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300,200	300,200	299,600	297,600	298,700	0	0.0%	1,500	0.5%
Wholesale	63,300	63,700	63,800	63,100	62,600	-400	-0.6%	700	1.1%
Retail	183,200	182,900	181,600	180,900	184,900	300	0.2%	-1,700	-0.9%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	53,700	53,600	54,200	53,600	51,200	100	0.2%	2,500	4.9%
Information	30,600	30,700	30,700	31,100	31,900	-100	-0.3%	-1,300	-4.1%
Financial Activities	128,700	128,000	127,800	128,000	128,300	700	0.5%	400	0.3%
Finance & Insurance	108,600	108,000	107,800	107,900	108,500	600	0.6%	100	0.1%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,100	20,000	20,000	20,100	19,800	100	0.5%	300	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	220,100	221,100	219,300	216,900	218,600	-1,000	-0.5%	1,500	0.7%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	97,100	97,600	96,400	96,200	96,400	-500	-0.5%	700	0.7%
Management of Companies	31,800	32,100	31,800	31,900	32,400	-300	-0.9%	-600	-1.9%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	91,200	91,400	91,100	88,800	89,800	-200	-0.2%	1,400	1.6%
Educational & Health Services	337,900	337,600	336,100	335,800	333,500	300	0.1%	4,400	1.3%
Educational Services	65,700	65,200	65,200	65,500	64,400	500	0.8%	1,300	2.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	272,200	272,400	270,900	270,300	269,100	-200	-0.1%	3,100	1.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	155,800	154,700	154,600	153,500	156,200	1,100	0.7%	-400	-0.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	26,000	26,600	27,200	26,500	28,300	-600	-2.3%	-2,300	-8.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	129,800	128,100	127,400	127,000	127,900	1,700	1.3%	1,900	1.5%
Other Services	65,600	65,500	64,800	65,300	64,800	100	0.2%	800	1.2%
Government**	230,800	230,700	231,100	231,200	235,000	100	0.0%	-4,200	-1.8%
UNITED STATES	148,177,000	147,864,000	147,625,000	147,450,000	145,896,000	313,000	0.2%	2,281,000	1.6%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	February 2018 P	January 2018 R	December 2017	November 2017	February 2017	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	407,900	406,500	405,600	405,200	408,300	1,400	0.3%	-400	-0.1%
Danbury	79,000	78,700	78,300	78,300	78,300	300	0.4%	700	0.9%
Hartford	576,500	578,000	576,500	575,200	571,900	-1,500	-0.3%	4,600	0.8%
New Haven	284,600	283,100	282,600	282,500	284,500	1,500	0.5%	100	0.0%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	130,900	130,300	130,700	130,700	129,900	600	0.5%	1,000	0.8%
Waterbury	66,700	66,700	66,900	67,100	66,900	0	0.0%	-200	-0.3%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	44,700	44,800	45,200	45,200	44,800	-100	-0.2%	-100	-0.2%
Torrington-Northwest	31,500	31,500	32,300	32,500	31,900	0	0.0%	-400	-1.3%
Danielson-Northeast	26,500	26,700	27,000	27,100	26,600	-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 back to being seasonally adjusted.

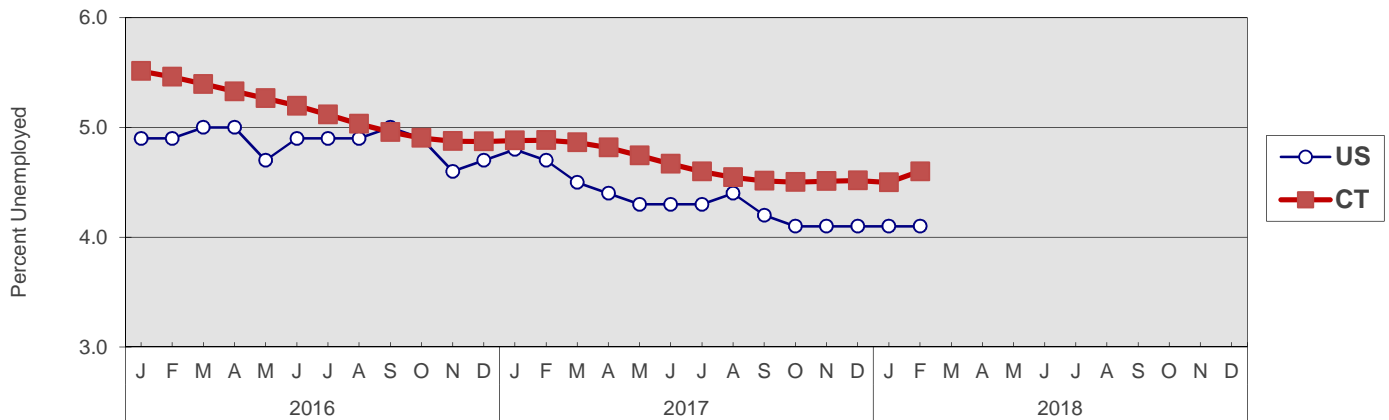
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2018 P		February 2017 R		Change		January 2018 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	86,900	4.6	94,000	4.9	-7,100	-0.3	86,800	4.5
Labor Force	1,908,200		1,925,100		-16,900		1,909,900	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,706,000	4.1	7,486,000	4.7	-780,000	-0.6	6,684,000	4.1
Labor Force	161,921,000		159,997,000		1,924,000		161,115,000	

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2018 P		February 2017 R		Change		January 2018 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford								
Danbury								
Danielson-Northeast*								
Worcester NECTA								
Hampton								
Enfield								
Hartford								
New Haven								
Norwich-New London								
Torrington-Northwest**								
Torrington NECTA								
Litchfield								
Waterbury								
CONNECTICUT	97,100	5.1	103,800	5.4	-6,700	-0.3	99,700	5.3
UNITED STATES	7,091,000	4.4	7,887,000	4.9	-796,000	-0.5	7,189,000	4.5

Release of the February 2018 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, March 23, 2018. An updated *Connecticut Labor Situation* with these data will be available on our website at that time at: <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/laborsit.pdf>.

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 Micropolitan NECTA and Litchfield LMA are combined

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Release of the February 2018 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, March 23, 2018. An updated *Connecticut Labor Situation* with these data will be available on our website at that time at:
<http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/laborsit.pdf>.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Feb. 2018 P	Feb. 2017	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2018 R	Feb. 2018 P	Feb. 2017	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2018 R	Feb. 2018 P	Feb. 2017	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2018 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,059.19	\$1,032.90	\$26.29	\$1,066.13	33.7	33.0	0.7	33.6	\$31.43	\$31.30	\$0.13	\$31.73
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,028.69	\$1,016.39	\$12.30	\$1,034.10	41.0	41.0	0.0	40.3	\$25.09	\$24.79	\$0.30	\$25.66

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

P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

TRENDS

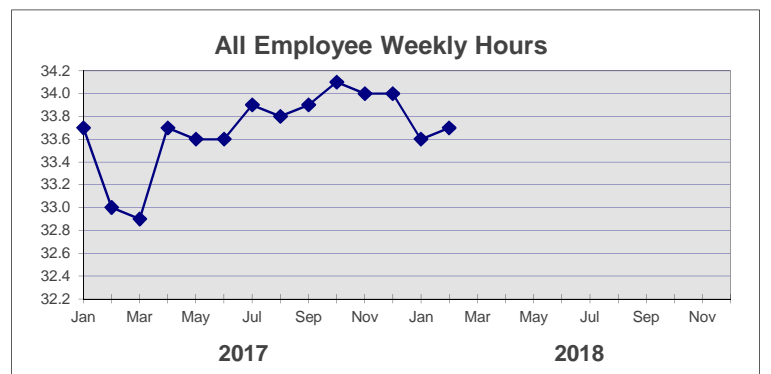
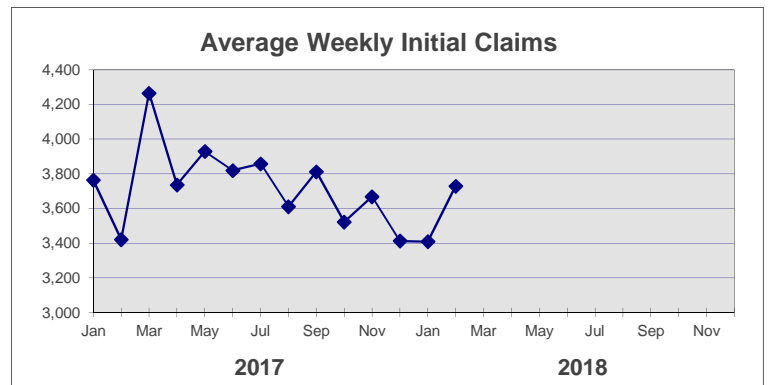
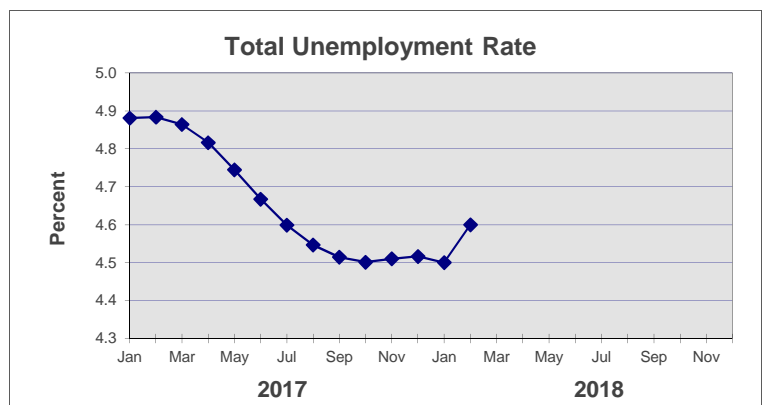
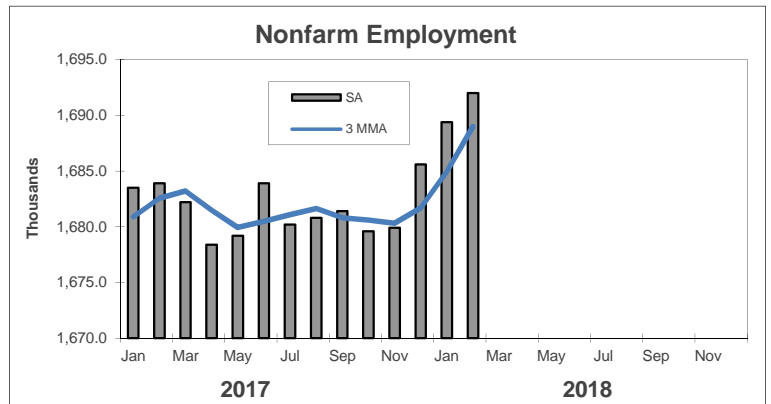
Seasonally Adjusted

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

2018		
Jan	1,689.4 R	4.5 R
Feb	1,692.0 P	4.6 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

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

2018		
Jan	3,409	33.6 R
Feb	3,729	33.7 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute