



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2018 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 4.5%
US Unemployment Rate = 4.1%

Nonfarm jobs fall by 2,000 in March; unemployment rate at 4.5%

WETHERSFIELD, April 19, 2018 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state lost 2,000 net jobs (-0.1%) in March 2018, to a level of 1,690,000, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 7,800 jobs (0.5%). The February 2018 originally-released job gain of 2,600 was unchanged after revision. The number of the state's unemployed residents was estimated at 86,381 seasonally adjusted, down 527 from February. As a result, Connecticut's unemployment rate decreased by one-tenth of a point to 4.5% in March, 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.

"March's decline of 2,000 jobs was the first down month the state has seen since last October," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "The largest declines were in **retail trade** and **accommodations and food services**, both of which may have been adversely affected by the nor'easters last month."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment fell by 1,900 (-0.1%) to 1,459,600 jobs over the month in March, but remains up by 12,200 (0.8%) seasonally adjusted jobs over the year. The **government supersector** lost 100 positions in March to a total of 230,400, but over-the-year losses were at -4,400 or -1.9%. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public higher education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land.

Four of the ten major industry *supersectors* gained employment in March, while five declined and the **financial activities supersector** was unchanged (0.0%, 128,900). **Professional & business services** led growing industries with 700 net new jobs (0.3%, 221,200 total jobs). The **construction/mining** (0.8%, 60,000) and **education & health services** (0.1%, 339,000) *supersectors* were next with 500 new jobs each. **Information** saw an increase of 200 net new jobs (0.7%, 30,800).

On the down side, **trade, transportation and utilities** dropped 1,500 jobs (-0.5%, 298,700) in March and **leisure & hospitality** saw a loss of 1,300 (-0.8%, 153,900). Both these sectors are sensitive to bad weather and the survey reference week included one of March's three nor'easters. **Other services** dropped 800 jobs (-1.2%, 64,500) and **manufacturing** saw a small decline of 200 (-0.1%, 162,600), all of which, came from non-durable goods.

Connecticut has now recovered **80.4%** (95,800 jobs) of the 119,100 seasonally adjusted jobs lost in the "Great Recession" (3/08-2/10). The job recovery is into its 97th month and the state needs an additional 23,300 jobs to reach an overall nonfarm employment expansion. The state's **private sector** has now recovered **101.3%** (113,100) of the private sector jobs lost in that same employment downturn and is now fully recovered.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Two of the six LMAs that are seasonally-adjusted by the BLS saw job increases in March 2018, while four saw declines. The **Hartford LMA** led gainers with 600 net new jobs, (0.1%, 577,600), while the **Danbury LMA** saw an increase of 200 (0.3%, 79,100). **New Haven** saw the largest decline, shedding 1,700 jobs (-0.6%, 283,300). The **Bridgeport–Stamford–Norwalk LMA** was next with 300 net loss (0.3%, 407,400). The **Norwich–New London–Westerly RI LMA** and Waterbury LMA's each dropped 200 positions in March.

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 33.3 hours in March 2018, up four-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$31.76, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.37 (1.2%) from the March 2017 estimate (\$31.39). The resultant average **private sector** weekly pay amounted to \$1,057.61, up \$24.88 from a year ago (2.4%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in March 2018 was 2.4%. 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 March 2018 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **4.5%** (seasonally adjusted), down one-tenth of a point from February 2018 and down four-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.9%. The US jobless rate in March 2018 was 4.1%, unchanged from February 2018.

Based on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics model (LAUS - a statistical model using the CPS – Current Population Survey residential data), the number of Connecticut unemployed residents, seasonally adjusted, was down 500 from February at 86,400 in March. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents declined by 7,300 (-7.8%). The state’s labor force decreased by 3,400 (-0.018%) over the month, and is down over the year (-21,100, -1.1%).

March 2018 seasonally-adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut grew by 351 claimants (9.4%) to 4,080 from February 2018, and were lower by 186 claims (-4.4%) from the March 2017 level of 4,266.

*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, May 17, 2018.

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04-19-18

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
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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	March 2018 P	February 2018 R	January 2018	December 2017	March 2017	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,690,000	1,692,000	1,689,400	1,685,600	1,682,200	-2,000	-0.1%	7,800	0.5%
Total Private	1,459,600	1,461,500	1,458,700	1,454,500	1,447,400	-1,900	-0.1%	12,200	0.8%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	600	600	600	500	600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	59,400	58,900	57,100	57,300	58,400	500	0.8%	1,000	1.7%
Manufacturing	162,600	162,800	163,200	163,800	158,100	-200	-0.1%	4,500	2.8%
Durable Goods	127,800	127,700	128,100	128,500	123,700	100	0.1%	4,100	3.3%
Nondurable Goods	34,800	35,100	35,100	35,300	34,400	-300	-0.9%	400	1.2%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	298,700	300,200	300,200	299,600	297,400	-1,500	-0.5%	1,300	0.4%
Wholesale	63,300	63,300	63,700	63,800	62,500	0	0.0%	800	1.3%
Retail	182,400	183,400	182,900	181,600	183,800	-1,000	-0.5%	-1,400	-0.8%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	53,000	53,500	53,600	54,200	51,100	-500	-0.9%	1,900	3.7%
Information	30,800	30,600	30,700	30,700	31,900	200	0.7%	-1,100	-3.4%
Financial Activities	128,900	128,900	128,000	127,800	128,100	0	0.0%	800	0.6%
Finance & Insurance	108,600	108,700	108,000	107,800	108,300	-100	-0.1%	300	0.3%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,300	20,200	20,000	20,000	19,800	100	0.5%	500	2.5%
Professional & Business Services	221,200	220,500	221,100	219,300	218,800	700	0.3%	2,400	1.1%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	97,600	97,100	97,600	96,400	96,300	500	0.5%	1,300	1.3%
Management of Companies	31,800	31,900	32,100	31,800	32,200	-100	-0.3%	-400	-1.2%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	91,800	91,500	91,400	91,100	90,300	300	0.3%	1,500	1.7%
Educational & Health Services	339,000	338,500	337,600	336,100	333,500	500	0.1%	5,500	1.6%
Educational Services	65,800	65,700	65,200	65,200	64,600	100	0.2%	1,200	1.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	273,200	272,800	272,400	270,900	268,900	400	0.1%	4,300	1.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	153,900	155,200	154,700	154,600	155,800	-1,300	-0.8%	-1,900	-1.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	25,700	25,700	26,600	27,200	28,300	0	0.0%	-2,600	-9.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	128,200	129,500	128,100	127,400	127,500	-1,300	-1.0%	700	0.5%
Other Services	64,500	65,300	65,500	64,800	64,800	-800	-1.2%	-300	-0.5%
Government**	230,400	230,500	230,700	231,100	234,800	-100	0.0%	-4,400	-1.9%
UNITED STATES	148,230,000	148,127,000	147,801,000	147,625,000	145,969,000	103,000	0.1%	2,261,000	1.5%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	March 2018 P	February 2018 R	January 2018	December 2017	March 2017	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	407,400	407,700	406,500	405,600	407,600	-300	-0.1%	-200	0.0%
Danbury	79,100	78,900	78,700	78,300	77,900	200	0.3%	1,200	1.5%
Hartford	577,600	577,000	578,000	576,500	571,500	600	0.1%	6,100	1.1%
New Haven	283,300	285,000	283,100	282,600	284,100	-1,700	-0.6%	-800	-0.3%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	130,600	130,800	130,300	130,700	130,200	-200	-0.2%	400	0.3%
Waterbury	66,500	66,700	66,700	66,900	67,000	-200	-0.3%	-500	-0.7%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	44,700	44,700	44,800	45,200	44,600	0	0.0%	100	0.2%
Torrington-Northwest	31,600	31,600	31,500	32,300	31,700	0	0.0%	-100	-0.3%
Danielson-Northeast	26,500	26,500	26,700	27,000	26,600	0	0.0%	-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.

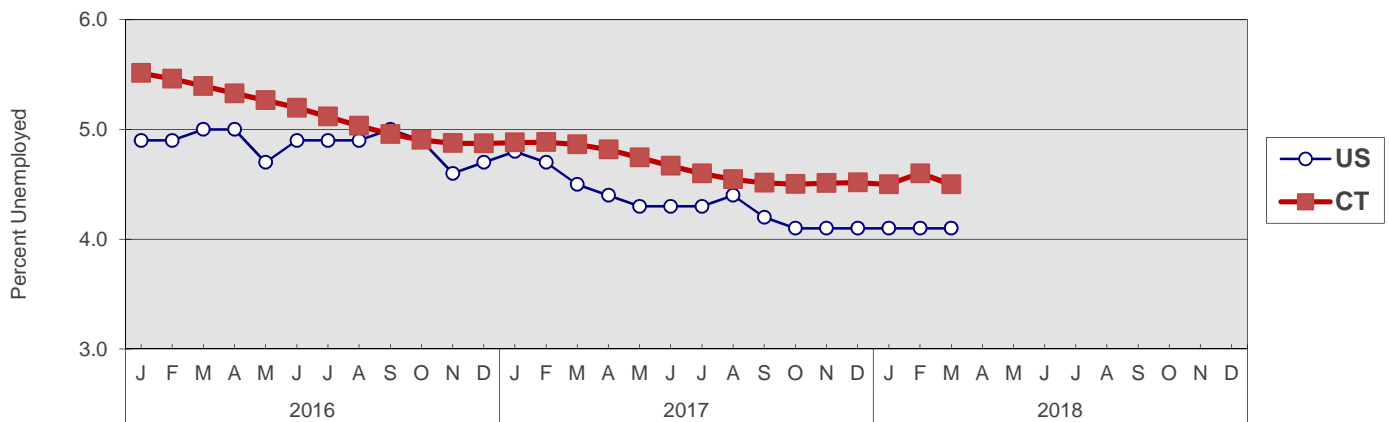
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	March 2018 P		March 2017 R		Change		February 2018 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	86,400	4.5	93,700	4.9	-7,300	-0.4	86,900	4.6
Labor Force	1,904,700		1,925,800		-21,100		1,908,200	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,585,000	4.1	7,171,000	4.5	-586,000	-0.4	6,706,000	4.1
Labor Force	161,763,000		160,235,000		1,528,000		161,921,000	

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	March 2018 P		March 2017 R		Change		February 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	88,300	4.7	97,700	5.1	-9,400	-0.4	96,900	5.1
UNITED STATES	6,671,000	4.1	7,284,000	4.6	-613,000	-0.5	7,091,000	4.4

Release of the March 2018 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, April 20, 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>.

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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

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HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Mar. 2018 P	Mar. 2017	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2018 R	Mar. 2018 P	Mar. 2017	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2018 R	Mar. 2018 P	Mar. 2017	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2018 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,057.61	\$1,032.73	\$24.88	\$1,064.25	33.3	32.9	0.4	33.7	\$31.76	\$31.39	\$0.37	\$31.58
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,021.87	\$993.87	\$28.00	\$1,031.09	39.5	40.9	-1.4	40.9	\$25.87	\$24.30	\$1.57	\$25.21

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

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

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

TRENDS

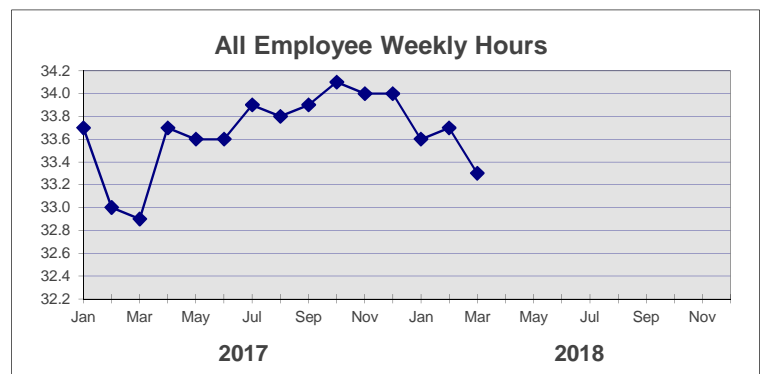
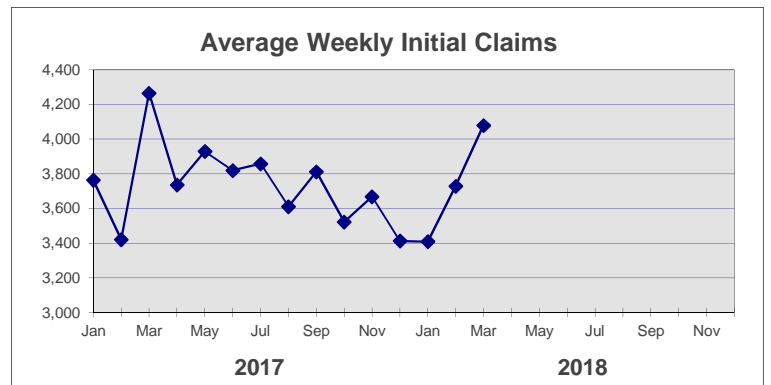
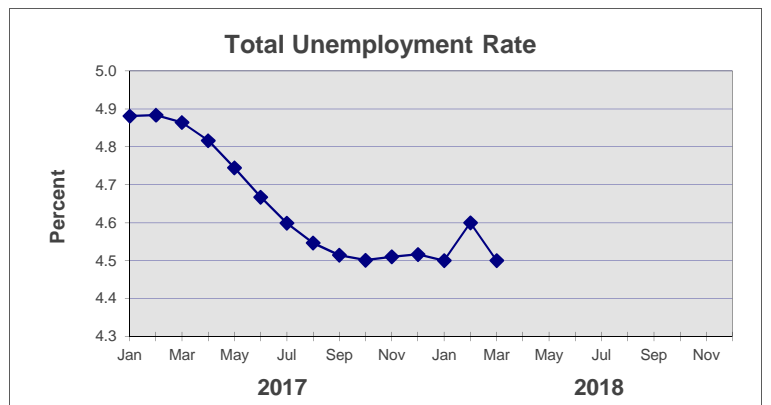
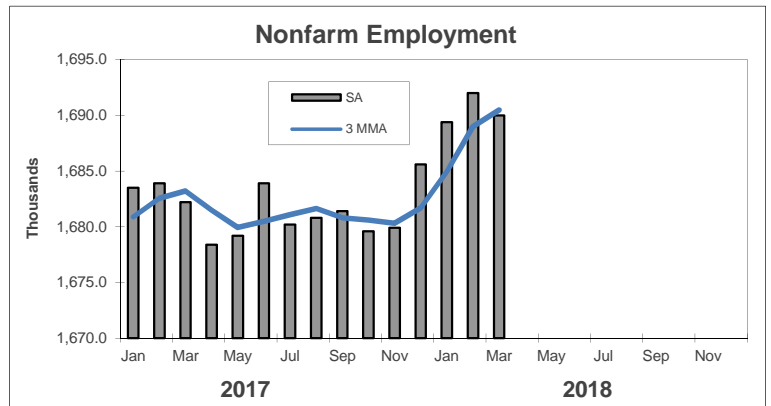
Seasonally Adjusted

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

2018		
Jan	1,689.4	4.5
Feb	1,692.0 R	4.6 R
Mar	1,690.0 P	4.5 P
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
Feb	3,729	33.7 R
Mar	4,080	33.3 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

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** Labor-management dispute