



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2019 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 3.8%
US Unemployment Rate = 3.8%

Nonfarm jobs fall by 400 in February; unemployment rate unchanged at 3.8%

WETHERSFIELD, March 21, 2019 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state lost 400 net jobs (0.02%) in February 2019, to a level of 1,693,900 seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 4,600 jobs (0.3%). The January 2019 originally-released job gain of 1,000 was revised down sharply to a loss of 2,500. The number of the state's unemployed residents was estimated at 73,900, seasonally adjusted, unchanged from January. As a result, Connecticut's February unemployment rate is at 3.8%, seasonally adjusted, unchanged from the revised January level. Resident employment estimates include the self-employed and residents working out of state and are determined separately from the nonfarm payroll job estimates above. None of the movements in payroll job estimates or residential employment are considered statistically significant.

"February jobs saw a small decline of 400 jobs, essentially leaving Connecticut's labor market unchanged from January" said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "However, January's final revision was sharply down from our preliminary release, partly due to the normal revision process as more data became available for the sample, and partly due to a correction to estimates on our construction supersector."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment shrank by 500 (0.0%) to 1,456,900 jobs over the month in February, and remains up 4,400 (0.3%) seasonally adjusted jobs over the year. The **government supersector** was up slightly in February (100, 0.0%) to a total of 237,000, and is now up 200 jobs (0.1%) over the year.. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public higher education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land.

Five of the ten major industry supersectors gained employment in February, while four declined. **Professional & business services** led gainers with an increase of 800 jobs (0.4%, 217,600 total jobs). The **manufacturing supersector** was next, adding 600 (0.4%, 161,400). **Information** grew by 200 (0.6%, 33,100) while **government** (0.0%, 237,000) and **other services** (0.2%, 64,500) each added 100 positions.

The **trade, transportation & utilities supersector** led declines dropping 1,000 jobs (-0.3%), followed by **education & health services** with a decline of 600 (-0.2%). The **leisure & hospitality supersector** shed 400 positions (-0.2%), while **construction & mining** fell by 200 (-0.3%).

Connecticut has now recovered **80.7%** (97,100 jobs) of the 120,300 seasonally adjusted jobs lost in the "Great Recession" (3/08-1/10). The job recovery is into its 109th month and the state needs an additional 23,200 net new jobs to reach an overall nonfarm employment expansion. The state's **private sector** is at **99.6%** (111,500) of the 112,000 private sector jobs lost in that same employment downturn.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Two of the six LMAs seasonally adjusted by the BLS saw job increases in February 2019 and three saw declines. The **New Haven LMA** (0.2%, 288,200) led gainers with 500 net new jobs while the **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** posted a gain of 300 (0.1%, 410,200). **The Hartford LMA** saw a loss of 2,300 jobs (-0.4%, 581,600), while both the **Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI LMA** (-0.2%, 129,400) and the **Danbury LMA** (-0.3%, 77,600) saw small losses of 200. The **Waterbury LMA** (69,200) was unchanged.

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 33.1 hours in February

2019, down by six-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$32.68, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$1.10 (3.5%) from the February 2018 estimate (\$31.58). The resultant average **private sector** weekly pay amounted to \$1,081,71, up \$17.46 from a year ago (1.6%). 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 2019 was 1.5%. 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 2019 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **3.8%** (seasonally adjusted), unchanged from the revised January 2019 figure and down seven-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.5%. The US jobless rate in February 2019 was 3.8%, down three-tenths of a point 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 unchanged from January at 73,900. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents declined by 11,000 (-13.0%). The state’s labor force was unchanged over the month at 1,923,600, and is higher over the year by 34,900 (1.8%).

February 2019 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut fell by 389 claimants (-12.6%) to 2,707 from January 2019, and were lower by 932 claims (-25.6%) from the February 2018 level of 3,639.

*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 18, 2019. (March 2019 data)

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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

	February 2019 P	January 2019 R	December 2018	November 2018	February 2018	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,693,900	1,694,300	1,696,800	1,695,700	1,689,300	-400	0.0%	4,600	0.3%
Total Private	1,456,900	1,457,400	1,459,800	1,458,500	1,452,500	-500	0.0%	4,400	0.3%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	600	500	500	600	-100	-16.7%	-100	-16.7%
Construction	62,000	62,100	61,400	60,300	58,500	-100	-0.2%	3,500	6.0%
Manufacturing	161,400	160,800	160,400	160,400	160,000	600	0.4%	1,400	0.9%
Durable Goods	126,900	126,300	125,700	125,800	125,500	600	0.5%	1,400	1.1%
Nondurable Goods	34,500	34,500	34,700	34,600	34,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	294,100	295,100	296,100	295,600	298,000	-1,000	-0.3%	-3,900	-1.3%
Wholesale	60,900	61,000	60,900	61,100	61,600	-100	-0.2%	-700	-1.1%
Retail	177,700	178,400	179,700	179,500	182,600	-700	-0.4%	-4,900	-2.7%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	55,500	55,700	55,500	55,000	53,800	-200	-0.4%	1,700	3.2%
Information	33,100	32,900	32,700	32,500	32,000	200	0.6%	1,100	3.4%
Financial Activities	126,500	126,500	127,000	126,700	126,400	0	0.0%	100	0.1%
Finance & Insurance	106,100	106,100	106,600	106,400	106,500	0	0.0%	-400	-0.4%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,400	20,400	20,400	20,300	19,900	0	0.0%	500	2.5%
Professional & Business Services	217,600	216,800	219,500	221,200	220,800	800	0.4%	-3,200	-1.4%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	97,700	98,200	97,700	97,200	96,600	-500	-0.5%	1,100	1.1%
Management of Companies	32,900	32,700	32,800	32,600	34,100	200	0.6%	-1,200	-3.5%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	87,000	85,900	89,000	91,400	90,100	1,100	1.3%	-3,100	-3.4%
Educational & Health Services	336,200	336,800	336,900	336,100	334,100	-600	-0.2%	2,100	0.6%
Educational Services	67,000	66,900	67,100	66,500	65,100	100	0.1%	1,900	2.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	269,200	269,900	269,800	269,600	269,000	-700	-0.3%	200	0.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	161,000	161,400	160,500	159,700	157,100	-400	-0.2%	3,900	2.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,900	28,700	28,300	28,100	28,200	200	0.7%	700	2.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	132,100	132,700	132,200	131,600	128,900	-600	-0.5%	3,200	2.5%
Other Services	64,500	64,400	64,800	65,500	65,000	100	0.2%	-500	-0.8%
Government**	237,000	236,900	237,000	237,200	236,800	100	0.0%	200	0.1%
UNITED STATES	150,606,000	150,586,000	150,275,000	150,048,000	148,097,000	20,000	0.0%	2,509,000	1.7%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	February 2019 P	January 2019 R	December 2018	November 2018	February 2018	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	410,200	409,900	410,500	409,400	409,000	300	0.1%	1,200	0.3%
Danbury	77,600	77,800	77,600	77,600	77,800	-200	-0.3%	-200	-0.3%
Hartford	581,600	583,900	586,500	585,900	580,200	-2,300	-0.4%	1,400	0.2%
New Haven	288,200	287,700	287,600	286,900	285,200	500	0.2%	3,000	1.1%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	129,400	129,600	129,600	129,800	130,400	-200	-0.2%	-1,000	-0.8%
Waterbury	69,200	69,200	69,500	68,900	68,800	0	0.0%	400	0.6%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	44,300	44,700	45,700	45,500	44,100	-400	-0.9%	200	0.5%
Torrington-Northwest	32,000	32,100	32,800	32,800	31,700	-100	-0.3%	300	0.9%
Danielson-Northeast	26,300	26,300	26,800	26,800	26,200	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.

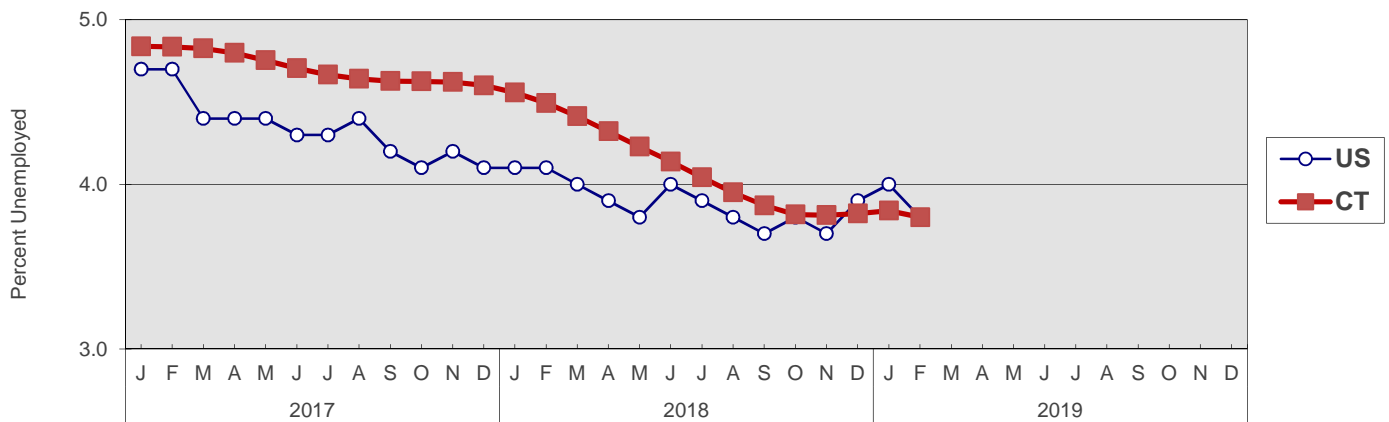
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2019 P		February 2018 R		Change		January 2019 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	73,900	3.8	84,900	4.5	-11,000	-0.7	73,900	3.8
Labor Force	1,923,600		1,888,700		34,900		1,923,600	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,235,000	3.8	6,687,000	4.1	-452,000	-0.3	6,535,000	4.0
Labor Force	163,184,000		161,900,000		1,284,000		163,229,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2017 - 2019



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2019 P		February 2018 R		Change		January 2019 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								
<p>Release of the February 2019 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, March 22, 2019. An updated <i>Connecticut Labor Situation</i> with these data will be available on our website at that time at: http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/laborsit.pdf.</p>								
CONNECTICUT	84,000	4.4	94,400	5.0	-10,400	-0.6	90,200	4.7
UNITED STATES	6,625,000	4.1	7,091,000	4.4	-466,000	-0.3	7,140,000	4.4

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

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<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. 2019 P	Feb. 2018	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2019 R	Feb. 2019 P	Feb. 2018	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2019 R	Feb. 2019 P	Feb. 2018	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2019 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,081.71	\$1,064.25	\$17.46	\$1,111.22	33.1	33.7	-0.6	33.4	\$32.68	\$31.58	\$1.10	\$33.27
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,124.24	\$1,031.09	\$93.15	\$1,192.98	41.5	40.9	0.6	42.5	\$27.09	\$25.21	\$1.88	\$28.07

* 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

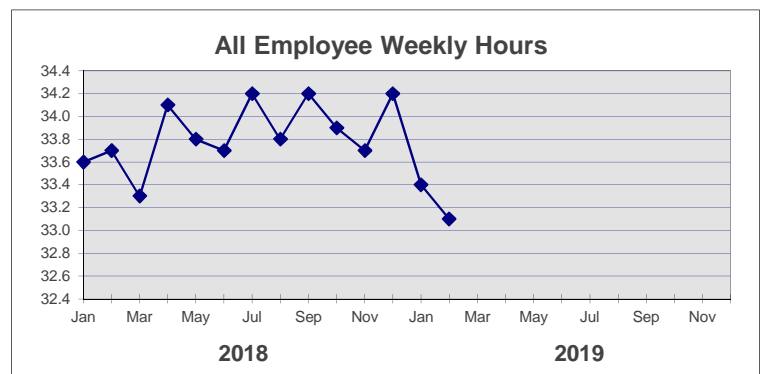
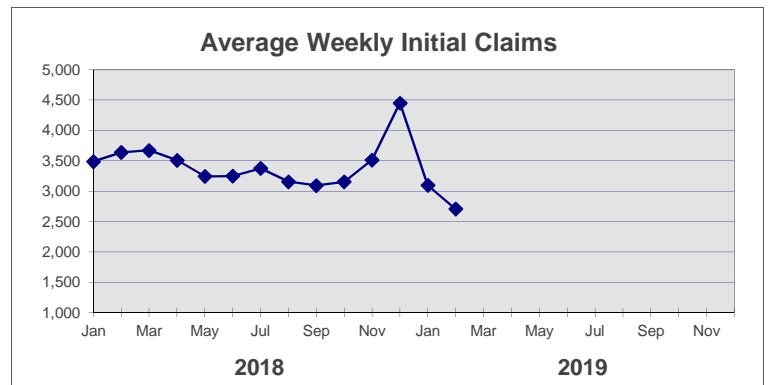
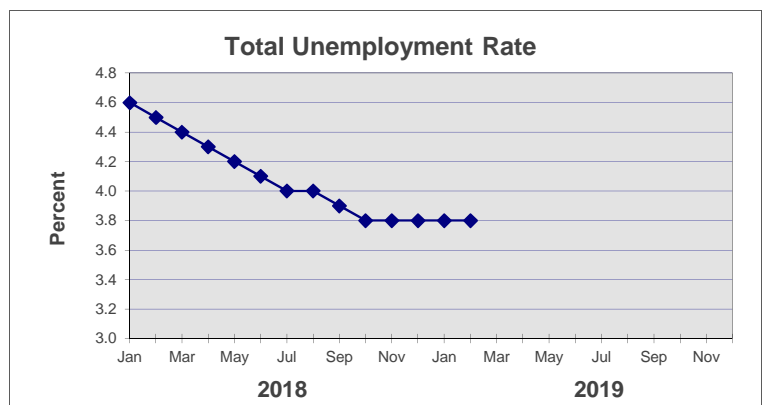
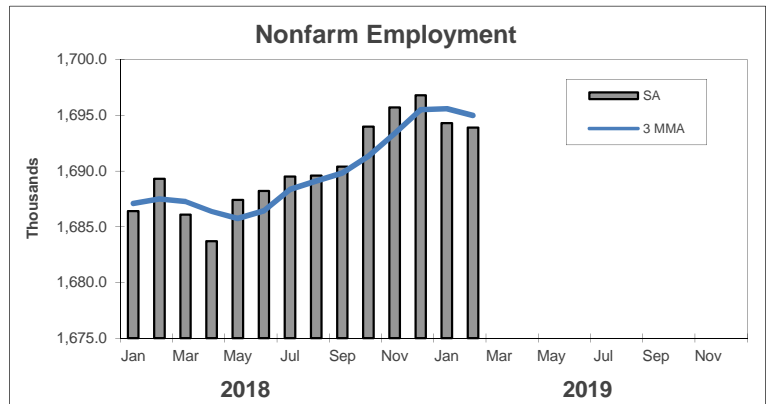
Seasonally Adjusted

	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2018		
Jan	1,686.4	4.6
Feb	1,689.3	4.5
Mar	1,686.1	4.4
Apr	1,683.7	4.3
May	1,687.4	4.2
Jun	1,688.2	4.1
Jul	1,689.5	4.0
Aug	1,689.6	4.0
Sep	1,690.4	3.9
Oct	1,694.0	3.8
Nov	1,695.7	3.8
Dec	1,696.8	3.8

2019		
Jan	1,694.3 R	3.8 R
Feb	1,693.9 P	3.8 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2018		
Jan	3,490	33.6
Feb	3,639	33.7
Mar	3,674	33.3
Apr	3,511	34.1
May	3,245	33.8
Jun	3,249	33.7
Jul	3,376	34.2
Aug	3,157	33.8
Sep	3,093	34.2
Oct	3,154	33.9
Nov	3,516	33.7
Dec	4,454	34.2

2019		
Jan	3,096	33.4 R
Feb	2,707	33.1 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

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** Labor-management dispute