



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2019 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 3.9%
US Unemployment Rate = 3.8%

Nonfarm jobs fall by 1,300 in March; unemployment rate at 3.9%

WETHERSFIELD, April 18, 2019 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state lost 1,300 net jobs (-0.08%) in March 2019, to a level of 1,693,400 seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 7,300 jobs (0.4%). The February 2019 originally-released job loss of 400 was revised up 800 to a gain of 400. The number of the state's unemployed residents was estimated at 74,100, seasonally adjusted, up 200 from February. As a result, Connecticut's March unemployment rate is at 3.9%, seasonally adjusted, up one-tenth from the revised February 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.

"With the March decline of 1,300 jobs the three-month average of job growth is now negative," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "However, annual job growth has actually improved as the first quarter of 2018 was very weak."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment shrank by 1,100 (-0.1%) to 1,456,500 jobs over the month in March, and remains up 7,300 (0.5%) seasonally-adjusted jobs over March 2018. The **government supersector** was down slightly in March (-200, -0.1%) to a total of 236,900, and is now flat 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.

Four of the ten major industry supersectors gained employment in March, while five declined. **Financial activities** led gainers with an increase of 700 jobs (0.6%, 127,400 total jobs). The **trade, transportation & utilities** (0.1%, 294,300) and **education & health** (0.1%, 337,300) *supersectors* both gained 200 jobs, while the **other services supersector** added 100 positions (0.2%, 64,300). **Manufacturing** was unchanged (0.0%, 161,500).

The **construction & mining supersector** led declines, dropping 900 jobs (-1.5%, 61,200), followed by **leisure & hospitality** with a decline of 700 (-0.4%, 160,500). **Professional & business services** dropped 600 (-0.3%, 217,200) while the **information supersector** lost 100 positions, (0.3%, 32,800).

Connecticut has now recovered **80.3%** (96,600 jobs) of the 120,300 seasonally adjusted jobs lost in the "Great Recession" (3/08-1/10). The job recovery is into its 110th month and the state needs an additional 23,700 net new jobs to reach an overall nonfarm employment expansion. The state's private sector is at **99.2%** (111,100) of the 112,000 private sector jobs lost in that same employment downturn.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Three of the six LMAs seasonally adjusted by the BLS saw job increases in March 2019 and three saw declines. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI LMA** (0.5%, 130,300) led gainers with 600 net new jobs while the **Danbury LMA** (0.3%, 77,800) and the **Waterbury LMA** (0.3%, 69,500) each posted gains of 200. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** saw a loss of 600 jobs (-0.1%, 409,100), while the **New Haven LMA** fell by 300 (-0.1%, 287,900) and the **Hartford LMA** lost 200 (-0.0%, 581,900).

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 33.5 hours in March 2019, up by two-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$32.72, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.89 (2.8%) from the March 2018 estimate (\$31.83). The resultant average private sector weekly pay amounted to \$1,096.12, up \$36.18 from a year ago (3.4%). 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 2019 was 1.9%. 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 2019 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **3.9%** (seasonally adjusted), up one tenth from the revised February 2019 figure and down five-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.4%. The US jobless rate in March 2019 was 3.8%, down two-tenths of a point from March 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 February at 74,100. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents declined by 9,300 (-11.2%). The state’s labor force was down 2,800 over the month at 1,920,800, but is higher over the year by 30,500 (1.6%).

March 2019 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut grew by 121 claimants (4.5%) to 2,828 from February 2019, but were lower by 846 claims (-23.0%) from the March 2018 level of 3,674.

*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 16, 2019 (April 2019 data)

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04-18-19

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 2019 P	February 2019 R	January 2019	December 2018	March 2018	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,693,400	1,694,700	1,694,300	1,696,800	1,686,100	-1,300	-0.1%	7,300	0.4%
Total Private	1,456,500	1,457,600	1,457,400	1,459,800	1,449,200	-1,100	-0.1%	7,300	0.5%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	600	500	600	0	0.0%	-100	-16.7%
Construction	60,700	61,600	62,100	61,400	58,200	-900	-1.5%	2,500	4.3%
Manufacturing	161,500	161,500	160,800	160,400	159,800	0	0.0%	1,700	1.1%
Durable Goods	126,900	127,000	126,300	125,700	125,500	-100	-0.1%	1,400	1.1%
Nondurable Goods	34,600	34,500	34,500	34,700	34,300	100	0.3%	300	0.9%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	294,300	294,100	295,100	296,100	297,100	200	0.1%	-2,800	-0.9%
Wholesale	61,400	61,000	61,000	60,900	61,800	400	0.7%	-400	-0.6%
Retail	177,800	177,700	178,400	179,700	181,600	100	0.1%	-3,800	-2.1%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	55,100	55,400	55,700	55,500	53,700	-300	-0.5%	1,400	2.6%
Information	32,800	32,900	32,900	32,700	31,700	-100	-0.3%	1,100	3.5%
Financial Activities	127,400	126,700	126,500	127,000	126,200	700	0.6%	1,200	1.0%
Finance & Insurance	106,800	106,300	106,100	106,600	106,300	500	0.5%	500	0.5%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,600	20,400	20,400	20,400	19,900	200	1.0%	700	3.5%
Professional & Business Services	217,200	217,800	216,800	219,500	220,300	-600	-0.3%	-3,100	-1.4%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	98,100	97,800	98,200	97,700	96,400	300	0.3%	1,700	1.8%
Management of Companies	32,900	32,900	32,700	32,800	34,000	0	0.0%	-1,100	-3.2%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	86,200	87,100	85,900	89,000	89,900	-900	-1.0%	-3,700	-4.1%
Educational & Health Services	337,300	337,100	336,800	336,900	334,000	200	0.1%	3,300	1.0%
Educational Services	66,700	67,500	66,900	67,100	64,900	-800	-1.2%	1,800	2.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	270,600	269,600	269,900	269,800	269,100	1,000	0.4%	1,500	0.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	160,500	161,200	161,400	160,500	156,000	-700	-0.4%	4,500	2.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,200	28,800	28,700	28,300	28,100	-600	-2.1%	100	0.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	132,300	132,400	132,700	132,200	127,900	-100	-0.1%	4,400	3.4%
Other Services	64,300	64,200	64,400	64,800	65,300	100	0.2%	-1,000	-1.5%
Government**	236,900	237,100	236,900	237,000	236,900	-200	-0.1%	0	0.0%
UNITED STATES	150,816,000	150,620,000	150,587,000	150,275,000	148,279,000	196,000	0.1%	2,537,000	1.7%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

	March 2019 P	February 2019 R	January 2019	December 2018	March 2018	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	409,100	409,700	409,900	410,500	407,900	-600	-0.1%	1,200	0.3%
Danbury	77,800	77,600	77,800	77,600	77,500	200	0.3%	300	0.4%
Hartford	581,900	582,100	583,900	586,500	580,000	-200	0.0%	1,900	0.3%
New Haven	287,900	288,200	287,700	287,600	284,500	-300	-0.1%	3,400	1.2%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	130,300	129,700	129,600	129,600	130,000	600	0.5%	300	0.2%
Waterbury	69,500	69,300	69,200	69,500	69,200	200	0.3%	300	0.4%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	44,500	44,400	44,700	45,700	44,400	100	0.2%	100	0.2%
Torrington-Northwest	32,100	32,100	32,100	32,800	31,700	0	0.0%	400	1.3%
Danielson-Northeast	26,500	26,400	26,300	26,800	26,400	100	0.4%	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.

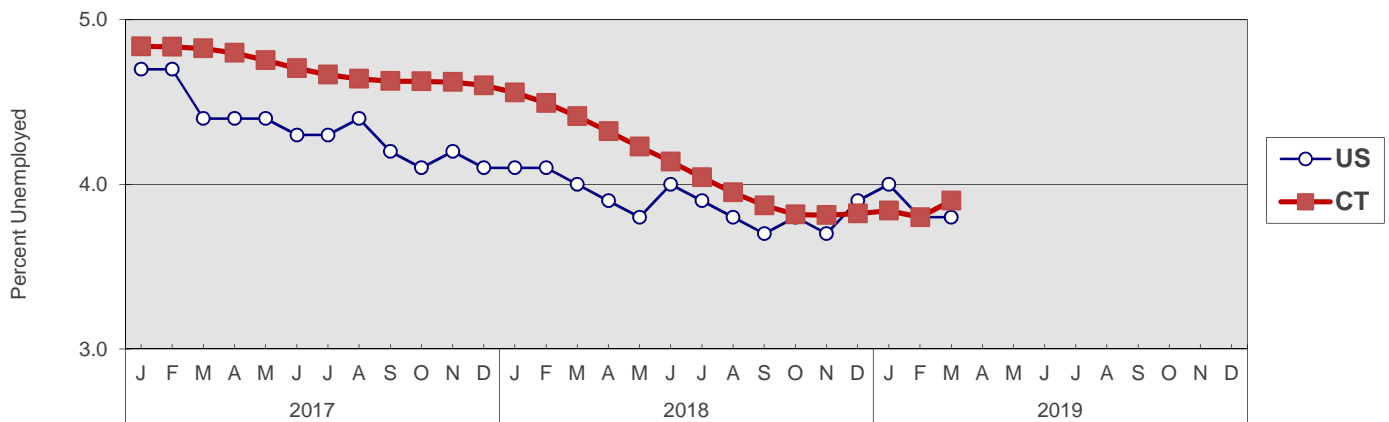
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2019 P		Mar 2018 R		Change		Feb 2019 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	74,100	3.9	83,400	4.4	-9,300	-0.5	73,900	3.8
Labor Force	1,920,800		1,890,300		30,500		1,923,600	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	6,211,000	3.8	6,486,000	4.0	-275,000	-0.2	6,235,000	3.8
Labor Force	162,960,000		161,646,000		1,314,000		163,184,000	

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar 2019 P		Mar 2018 R		Change		Feb 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								
CONNECTICUT	79,700	4.2	88,000	4.7	-8,300	-0.5	83,700	4.4
UNITED STATES	6,382,000	3.9	6,671,000	4.1	-289,000	-0.2	6,625,000	4.1

Release of the March 2019 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Monday, April 22, 2019. 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. 2019 P	Mar. 2018	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2019 R	Mar. 2019 P	Mar. 2018	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2019 R	Mar. 2019 P	Mar. 2018	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2019 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,096.12	\$1,059.94	\$36.18	\$1,087.96	33.5	33.3	0.2	33.2	\$32.72	\$31.83	\$0.89	\$32.77
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,136.84	\$1,038.31	\$98.53	\$1,131.29	41.4	39.6	1.8	41.5	\$27.46	\$26.22	\$1.24	\$27.26

* 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

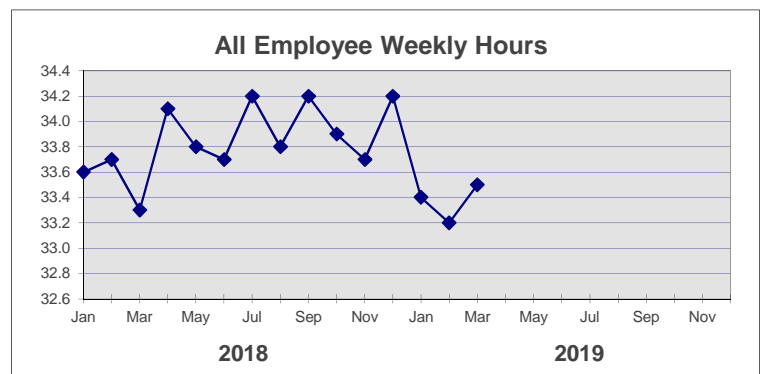
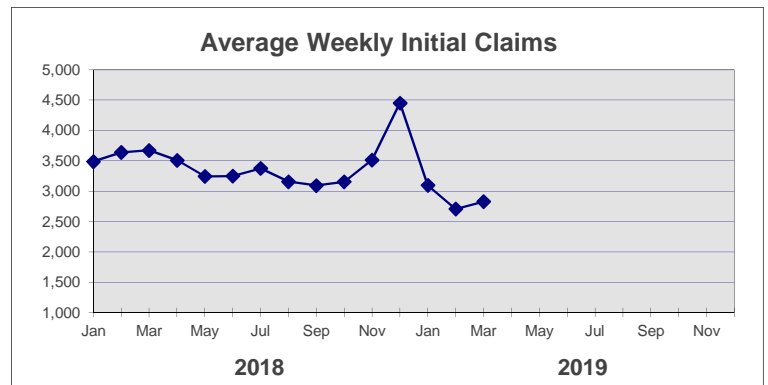
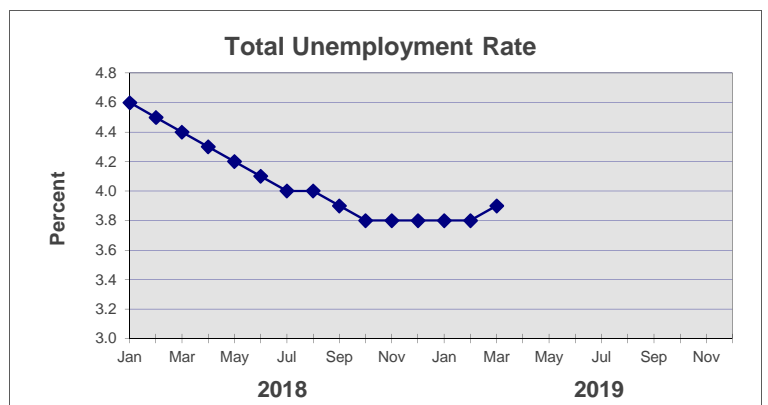
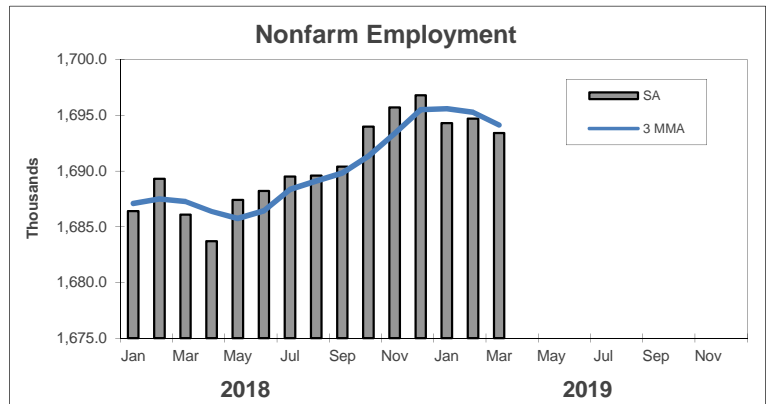
Seasonally Adjusted

	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	3.8
Feb	1,694.7 R	3.8 R
Mar	1,693.4 P	3.9 P
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
Feb	2,707	33.2 R
Mar	2,828	33.5 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

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** Labor-management dispute