



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2019 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 3.8%
US Unemployment Rate = 3.6%

Nonfarm jobs increase by 300 in April; unemployment rate drops to 3.8%

WETHERSFIELD, May 16, 2019 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state gained 300 net jobs (0.02%) in April 2019, to a level of 1,695,300 seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 11,600 jobs (0.7%). The March 2019 originally-released job loss of 1,300 was revised up by 1,600 to a gain of 300. The number of the state's unemployed residents was estimated at 72,500, seasonally adjusted, down 1,600 from March. As a result, Connecticut's March unemployment rate is at 3.8%, seasonally adjusted, down one-tenth from the revised March 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 small increase in April and the larger positive revision of March data, the 2019 job growth picture has changed from one of slight declines to slight growth," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "Annual job growth is actually stronger than last year at this time, as the first four months of 2018 were very weak."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment grew by 500 (0.03%) to 1,458,700 jobs over the month in April, and remains up 10,800 (0.7%) seasonally-adjusted jobs over April 2018. The **government supersector** was down slightly in April (-200, -0.1%) to a total of 236,600, but is now up 800 jobs (0.3%) 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 April, while four declined and the **information supersector** remained unchanged. **Professional & business services** led gainers with an increase of 1,600 jobs (0.7%, 218,700 total jobs). The **trade, transportation & utilities** (0.2%, 295,600) was next with a gain of 700 jobs despite continued losses in the retail component. The **education & health** (0.2%, 338,200) **supersector** picked up 600 jobs while **leisure and hospitality** grew by 400 (0.2%, 160,700). Finally, the **other services supersector** added 100 positions (0.2%, 64,400).

Once again, the **construction & mining supersector** led declines, dropping 2,300 jobs (-3.7%, 60,500). The cold wet spring may be a factor, delaying the start of the traditional construction season. **Manufacturing** was next, losing 500 positions (-0.3%, 160,800). Lastly, financial activities saw a small decline of 100 jobs (-0.1%, 127,000).

Connecticut has now recovered **81.9%** (98,500 jobs) of the 120,300 seasonally adjusted jobs lost in the "Great Recession" (3/08-1/10). The job recovery is into its 111th month and the state needs an additional 21,800 net new jobs to reach an overall nonfarm employment expansion. The state's private sector continues fully recovered at **101.2%** (113,300) of the 112,000 private sector jobs lost in that same employment downturn.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Only one of the six LMAs seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics saw job increases in April 2019 and five saw declines. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** saw an increase of 300 jobs (0.1%, 410,300). The **Hartford** (-0.1%, 581,300) and **New Haven** (-0.3%, 286,600) **LMAs** each saw declines of 800. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI LMA** (-0.5%, 129,700) dropped 500 net jobs while the **Danbury LMA** (-0.1%, 77,600) and the **Waterbury LMA** (-0.1%, 69,300) each posted each posted small losses of 100.

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 34.0 hours in April 2019, down by one-tenth of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$32.76, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.70 (2.2%) from the April 2018 estimate (\$32.06). The resultant average private sector weekly pay amounted to \$1,113.84, up \$20.59 from a year ago (1.9%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in April 2019 was 2.0%. 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 April 2019 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **3.8%** (seasonally adjusted), down one tenth from the revised March 2019 figure and down five-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.3%. The US jobless rate in April 2019 was 3.6%, down three-tenths of a point from April 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 1,600 from March at 74,100. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents declined by 9,300 (-11.3%). The state’s labor force was down an estimated 5,400 over the month at 1,915,500, but is higher over the year by 22,700 (1.2%). This annual growth margin in the state’s labor force has been shrinking in recent months.

April 2019 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut was 4,319 - up from March by 1,491 claims and higher by 808 claims (23%) from the April 2018 level of 3,511. Note that this month’s claims include those impacted by the Stop & Shop strike.

*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, June 20, 2019 (May 2019 data)

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05-16-19

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

	April 2019 P	March 2019 R	February 2019	January 2019	April 2018	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,695,300	1,695,000	1,694,700	1,694,300	1,683,700	300	0.0%	11,600	0.7%
Total Private	1,458,700	1,458,200	1,457,600	1,457,400	1,447,900	500	0.0%	10,800	0.7%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	500	500	600	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	60,000	62,300	61,600	62,100	58,100	-2,300	-3.7%	1,900	3.3%
Manufacturing	160,800	161,300	161,500	160,800	160,100	-500	-0.3%	700	0.4%
Durable Goods	126,400	126,800	127,000	126,300	125,800	-400	-0.3%	600	0.5%
Nondurable Goods	34,400	34,500	34,500	34,500	34,300	-100	-0.3%	100	0.3%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	295,600	294,900	294,100	295,100	294,900	700	0.2%	700	0.2%
Wholesale	62,600	61,800	61,000	61,000	61,600	800	1.3%	1,000	1.6%
Retail	177,300	177,900	177,700	178,400	181,100	-600	-0.3%	-3,800	-2.1%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	55,700	55,200	55,400	55,700	52,200	500	0.9%	3,500	6.7%
Information	32,800	32,800	32,900	32,900	31,800	0	0.0%	1,000	3.1%
Financial Activities	127,000	127,100	126,700	126,500	125,800	-100	-0.1%	1,200	1.0%
Finance & Insurance	106,500	106,600	106,300	106,100	105,900	-100	-0.1%	600	0.6%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,500	20,500	20,400	20,400	19,900	0	0.0%	600	3.0%
Professional & Business Services	218,700	217,100	217,800	216,800	219,700	1,600	0.7%	-1,000	-0.5%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	97,700	98,400	97,800	98,200	96,300	-700	-0.7%	1,400	1.5%
Management of Companies	32,800	32,900	32,900	32,700	33,900	-100	-0.3%	-1,100	-3.2%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	88,200	85,800	87,100	85,900	89,500	2,400	2.8%	-1,300	-1.5%
Educational & Health Services	338,200	337,600	337,100	336,800	334,600	600	0.2%	3,600	1.1%
Educational Services	67,300	67,200	67,500	66,900	65,300	100	0.1%	2,000	3.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	270,900	270,400	269,600	269,900	269,300	500	0.2%	1,600	0.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	160,700	160,300	161,200	161,400	156,500	400	0.2%	4,200	2.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,500	28,300	28,800	28,700	27,800	200	0.7%	700	2.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	132,200	132,000	132,400	132,700	128,700	200	0.2%	3,500	2.7%
Other Services	64,400	64,300	64,200	64,400	65,900	100	0.2%	-1,500	-2.3%
Government**	236,600	236,800	237,100	236,900	235,800	-200	-0.1%	800	0.3%
UNITED STATES	151,095,000	150,832,000	150,643,000	150,587,000	148,475,000	263,000	0.2%	2,620,000	1.8%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	April 2019 P	March 2019 R	February 2019	January 2019	April 2018	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	410,300	410,000	409,700	409,900	407,700	300	0.1%	2,600	0.6%
Danbury	77,600	77,700	77,600	77,800	77,300	-100	-0.1%	300	0.4%
Hartford	581,300	582,100	582,100	583,900	578,700	-800	-0.1%	2,600	0.4%
New Haven	286,600	287,400	288,200	287,700	284,900	-800	-0.3%	1,700	0.6%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	129,700	130,200	129,700	129,600	129,500	-500	-0.4%	200	0.2%
Waterbury	69,300	69,400	69,300	69,200	68,600	-100	-0.1%	700	1.0%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	45,400	44,600	44,400	44,700	45,200	800	1.8%	200	0.4%
Torrington-Northwest	32,700	32,200	32,100	32,100	32,200	500	1.6%	500	1.6%
Danielson-Northeast	26,900	26,500	26,400	26,300	26,600	400	1.5%	300	1.1%

* 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.

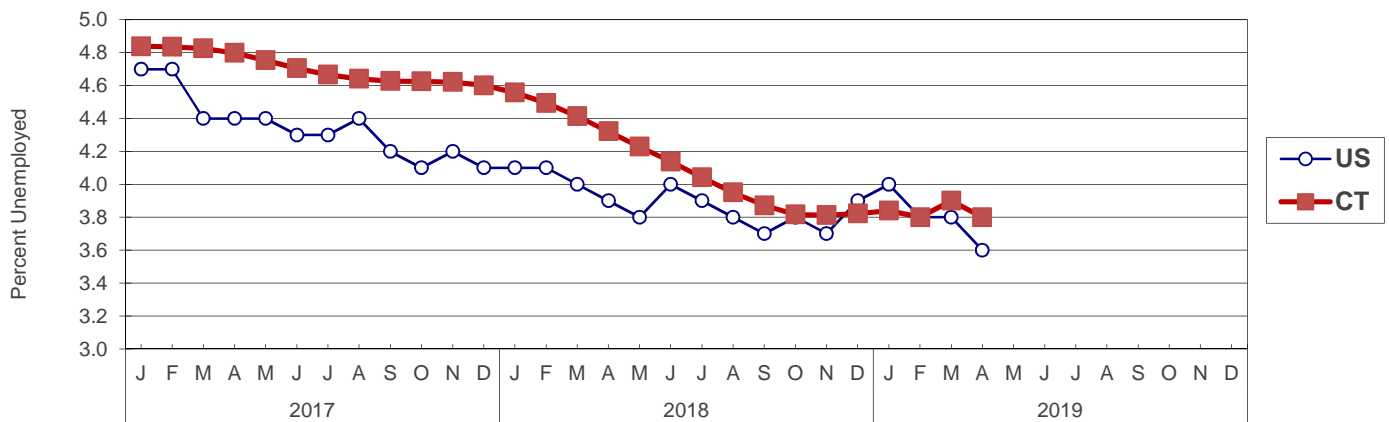
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 2019 P		Apr 2018 R		Change		Mar 2019 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	72,500	3.8	81,800	4.3	-9,300	-0.5	74,100	3.9
Labor Force	1,915,500		1,892,800		22,700		1,920,900	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	5,824,000	3.6	6,335,000	3.9	-511,000	-0.3	6,211,000	3.8
Labor Force	162,470,000		161,551,000		919,000		162,960,000	

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 2019 P		Apr 2018 R		Change		Mar 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	61,700	3.3	78,000	4.1	-16,300	-0.8	79,400	4.2
UNITED STATES	5,387,000	3.3	5,932,000	3.7	-545,000	-0.4	6,382,000	3.9

Release of the April 2019 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, May 17, 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			
	Apr. 2019 P	Apr. 2018	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2019 R	Apr. 2019 P	Apr. 2018	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2019 R	Apr. 2019 P	Apr. 2018	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2019 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,113.84	\$1,093.25	\$20.59	\$1,106.78	34.0	34.1	-0.1	33.6	\$32.76	\$32.06	\$0.70	\$32.94
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,185.51	\$1,060.95	\$124.56	\$1,146.75	43.0	40.9	2.1	41.7	\$27.57	\$25.94	\$1.63	\$27.50

* 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

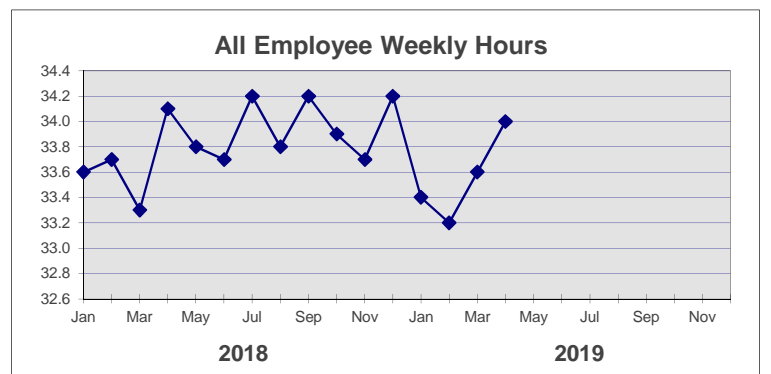
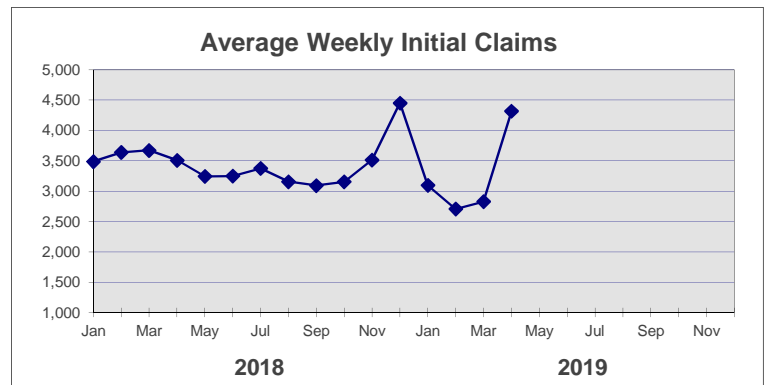
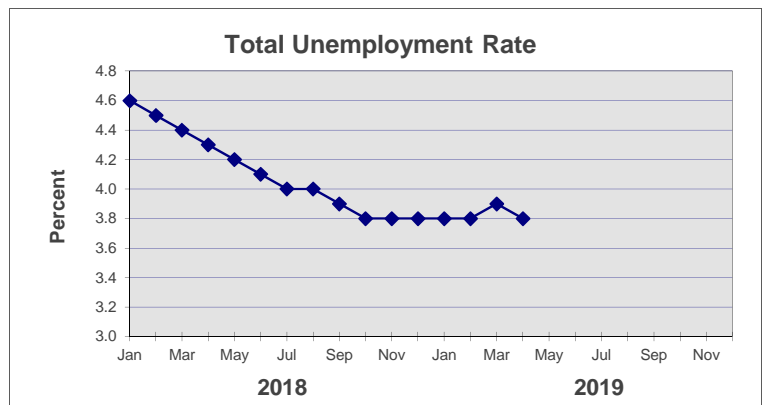
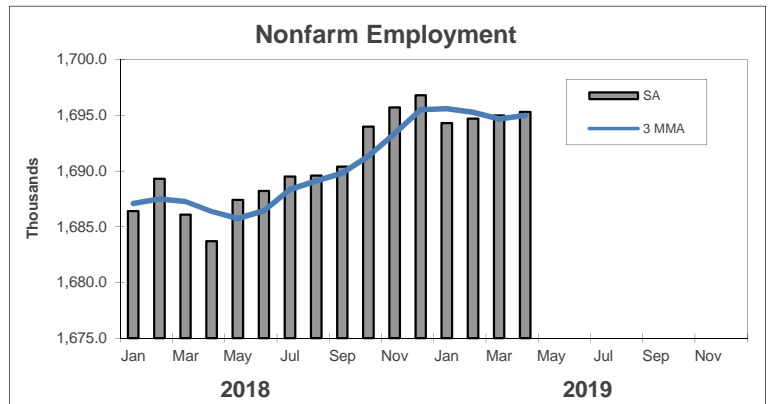
Seasonally Adjusted

	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	3.8
Mar	1,695.0 R	3.9 R
Apr	1,695.3 P	3.8 P
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
Mar	2,828	33.6 R
Apr	4,319	34.0 P
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

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** Labor-management dispute