



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Dennis C. Murphy, Acting Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2015 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 5.2%
US Unemployment Rate = 5.0%

Connecticut job growth flat in December (+300) as unemployment rate rises to 5.2%

WETHERSFIELD, January 25, 2016 – The preliminary December U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) payroll survey for Connecticut's nonfarm employment showed Connecticut added 300 jobs (0.02%) last month to a level of 1,700,700, seasonally adjusted. Connecticut has now increased nonfarm employment by 22,600 (1.35%, about 1,883 jobs per month) over the year with eight job-gaining months and four down months in 2015 (pre-benchmark). The preliminary November 2015 estimated nonfarm employment gain of 5,100 (0.30%) was raised to a 5,800 (0.34%) job gain for the previous month.

Connecticut's unemployment rate was calculated at 5.2%, for December 2015, seasonally adjusted. This is a one-tenth of a percentage point increase from November's revised rate of 5.1% but down one and one-tenth of a percentage point from the December 2014 unemployment rate of 6.3%. This was the first uptick in the unemployment rate since February 2015 when the unemployment rate was 6.4%.

"It looks like Connecticut ended the year with healthy annual job growth across most industry sectors," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "However, we now go through an annual benchmark revision process to be released in March to determine if these preliminary estimates hold up."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Preliminary nonfarm employment estimates for December 2015 indicate Connecticut increased nonfarm jobs by 300 (0.02%) positions, seasonally adjusted. All of the state's industry *supersector* job gains in December 2015 were less than a thousand. Since December 2014, Connecticut nonfarm employment has increased by 22,600 (1.35%) positions with only the **government supersector** (-400, -0.17%) losing jobs out of the ten major industry *supersectors*.

Connecticut's **private sector** added 500 jobs (0.03%) in December and has now added 23,000 positions (1.60%, about 1,917 jobs per month) over the year to a level of 1,463,400, seasonally adjusted. The **government supersector** declined 200 jobs (-0.08%) last month to a level of 237,300.

Six of ten major industry *supersectors* generated jobs in December, with the **other services** (800, 1.3%) *supersector* coming in as the largest monthly gainer. This was followed by **leisure and hospitality** (300, 0.2%). The *supersector* apparently continued to experience job growth in restaurants and accommodations (+900, 0.7%) but exhibited a decline in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-600, -2.1%) last month. Three smaller monthly employment gains of 200 each were seen in the information (0.6%), **professional and business services** (0.1%), and the **trade, transportation & utilities** (0.1%) *supersectors*. In trade, **transportation & utilities** retail trade (-1,300, -0.7%) weakness in December was offset by wholesale trade (800, 1.3%) and transportation and utilities (700, 1.3%). The **financial activities** (100, 0.8%) *supersector* also added a small gain.

The largest supersector, education and health services (-500, -0.1%) showed the largest decline in December 2015. The two goods-producing segments, the **manufacturing** (-400, -0.2%) and the combined **construction and mining** (-400, -0.7%) *supersectors*, were the next, each losing 400 jobs. **Government** (-200, -0.1%) was also slightly lower.

The twelve-month pace of nonagricultural job growth in Connecticut for 2015 is estimated at 22,600 (8 up, and 4 down months, for about 1,883 jobs per month) against 25,100 (10 up, and 2 down months, about 2,092 jobs per month) for the twelve months of 2014 (all pre-benchmark).

Recession recovery: Connecticut has now recovered 106,700 positions, or 89.7% of the 119,000 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs that were lost in the state during the March 2008 - February 2010 employment recession (pre-benchmark). The state needs to reach the 1,713,000 job level to enter a clear nonfarm employment expansionary phase. This will require an additional 12,300 nonfarm jobs. Connecticut's nonfarm jobs recovery is now 70 months old and is averaging about 1,524 jobs per month since February 2010. There have been 48 monthly job gains (68.6%), 21 monthly job losses, and one unchanged month (November 2010) during this period.

The state's **private sector** has recovered employment at a faster pace and has now recouped 114,600 (102.7%) of the 111,600 private sector positions that were lost in the same employment downturn. Connecticut's private sector nonfarm employment is now anticipated to have fully recovered all the jobs lost in the Great Recession and is in an expansionary phase (before pending benchmark revisions). The state's **government supersector**, which includes Indian casino employment on federally-recognized reservations, has continued to lose employment (-7,900 net) even after the overall statewide employment recovery began in February 2010.

Labor Market Areas (LMAs): The December 2015 regional preliminary nonfarm job numbers indicate that three of Connecticut's Labor Market Areas that are *seasonally adjusted* by the Bureau of Labor Statistics lost jobs last month while just the **New Haven LMA** (900, 0.3%, 283,500) grew. The **Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA** (-1,800, -0.3%, 574,300), the **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-500, -0.1%, 416,600), and the **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (-400, -0.3%, 127,500, includes Westerly and Hopkinton, RI, based on commuter patterns) all shed jobs. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (6,600, 1.6%) now leads all major labor markets in 2015 job growth in annual percentage terms. *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 33.6 hours in December 2015, down two-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago (33.8 hours, -0.6%). Average hourly earnings at \$29.64, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$1.17, or 4.1%, from the December 2014 hourly earnings estimate. The resultant average **private sector** weekly pay was calculated at \$995.90, up \$36.46, or 3.8% higher than a year ago. The 12-month percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in December 2015 was 0.7%. 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)

Connecticut's December 2015 unemployment rate was estimated at **5.2%**, seasonally adjusted. This is up one-tenth of a percentage point from the revised November 2015 unemployment rate (5.1%), but down one and one-tenth of a percentage point from the December 2014 unemployment rate of 6.3%. This was the first rise in the state's unemployment rate since February 2015. The civilian labor force – the available labor supply in the state, did rise slightly last month (533) for the first time in six months. Connecticut's unemployment rate had hit a recovery low point in the prior two months at 5.1%. The US unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0% for December, and down six-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago.

Unemployment: Based on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics model (LAUS - a statistical model using CPS – the Current Population Survey residential survey data), the number of Connecticut unemployed residents, seasonally adjusted, increased by 2,635 (2.7%) over the month to 99,049 in December 2015. This was the first rise in the number of the state's unemployed residents since March 2015. The drop in the number of the state's unemployed residents since December 2014 (-20,812, -17.4%), however, is still considered statistically significant as is the decline in the state's unemployment rate (-1.1% from 6.3%).

The December 2015 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time Connecticut filers increased by 249 claimants (7.1%) to 3,777, but were down by 704 claims (-15.7%) from the December 2014 level of 4,481.

*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: Friday, March 11, 2016 (January 2016 data on the new benchmark)

Contact: Communications Office

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01-25-16

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

| | December 2015 P | November 2015 R | October 2015 | September 2015 | December 2014 | Over Month Change | Over Month Rate | Over Year Change | Over Year Rate |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| CONNECTICUT | 1,700,700 | 1,700,400 | 1,694,600 | 1,696,300 | 1,678,100 | 300 | 0.0% | 22,600 | 1.3% |
| Total Private | 1,463,400 | 1,462,900 | 1,457,000 | 1,456,900 | 1,440,400 | 500 | 0.0% | 23,000 | 1.6% |
| Goods Producing Industries | | | | | | | | | |
| Mining | 500 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | -100 | -16.7% | -100 | -16.7% |
| Construction | 57,100 | 57,400 | 57,100 | 57,300 | 54,900 | -300 | -0.5% | 2,200 | 4.0% |
| Manufacturing | 161,300 | 161,700 | 161,000 | 161,800 | 159,700 | -400 | -0.2% | 1,600 | 1.0% |
| Durable Goods | 125,300 | 125,900 | 125,400 | 126,200 | 124,200 | -600 | -0.5% | 1,100 | 0.9% |
| Nondurable Goods | 36,000 | 35,800 | 35,600 | 35,600 | 35,500 | 200 | 0.6% | 500 | 1.4% |
| Service Providing Industries | | | | | | | | | |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 308,800 | 308,600 | 306,900 | 305,900 | 304,100 | 200 | 0.1% | 4,700 | 1.5% |
| Wholesale | 64,200 | 63,400 | 63,000 | 62,800 | 62,400 | 800 | 1.3% | 1,800 | 2.9% |
| Retail | 189,700 | 191,000 | 190,100 | 189,300 | 188,300 | -1,300 | -0.7% | 1,400 | 0.7% |
| Transp, Warehousing & Utilities | 54,900 | 54,200 | 53,800 | 53,800 | 53,400 | 700 | 1.3% | 1,500 | 2.8% |
| Information | 32,000 | 31,800 | 32,200 | 31,500 | 31,400 | 200 | 0.6% | 600 | 1.9% |
| Financial Activities | 130,900 | 130,800 | 130,700 | 130,700 | 128,300 | 100 | 0.1% | 2,600 | 2.0% |
| Finance & Insurance | 110,900 | 110,800 | 110,900 | 110,800 | 108,900 | 100 | 0.1% | 2,000 | 1.8% |
| Real Estate, Rental & Leasing | 20,000 | 20,000 | 19,800 | 19,900 | 19,400 | 0 | 0.0% | 600 | 3.1% |
| Professional & Business Services | 217,200 | 217,000 | 216,000 | 216,600 | 214,700 | 200 | 0.1% | 2,500 | 1.2% |
| Prof, Scientific & Tech Services | 96,000 | 96,700 | 95,000 | 95,700 | 96,500 | -700 | -0.7% | -500 | -0.5% |
| Management of Companies | 29,600 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 29,900 | 30,400 | -400 | -1.3% | -800 | -2.6% |
| Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv | 91,600 | 90,300 | 91,000 | 91,000 | 87,800 | 1,300 | 1.4% | 3,800 | 4.3% |
| Educational & Health Services | 332,900 | 333,400 | 332,700 | 332,000 | 328,700 | -500 | -0.1% | 4,200 | 1.3% |
| Educational Services | 66,000 | 64,700 | 64,300 | 63,900 | 63,500 | 1,300 | 2.0% | 2,500 | 3.9% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 266,900 | 268,700 | 268,400 | 268,100 | 265,200 | -1,800 | -0.7% | 1,700 | 0.6% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 159,100 | 158,800 | 157,900 | 157,500 | 155,000 | 300 | 0.2% | 4,100 | 2.6% |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 28,300 | 28,900 | 28,400 | 28,100 | 28,300 | -600 | -2.1% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 130,800 | 129,900 | 129,500 | 129,400 | 126,700 | 900 | 0.7% | 4,100 | 3.2% |
| Other Services | 63,600 | 62,800 | 61,900 | 63,000 | 63,000 | 800 | 1.3% | 600 | 1.0% |
| Government** | 237,300 | 237,500 | 237,600 | 239,400 | 237,700 | -200 | -0.1% | -400 | -0.2% |
| UNITED STATES | 143,242,000 | 142,950,000 | 142,698,000 | 142,391,000 | 140,592,000 | 292,000 | 0.2% | 2,650,000 | 1.9% |

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

| Seasonally Adjusted data | December 2015 P | November 2015 R | October 2015 | September 2015 | December 2014 | Over Month Change | Over Month Rate | Over Year Change | Over Year Rate |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk | 417,600 | 418,100 | 415,800 | 415,800 | 411,000 | -500 | -0.1% | 6,600 | 1.6% |
| Hartford | 574,300 | 576,100 | 574,500 | 574,500 | 568,600 | -1,800 | -0.3% | 5,700 | 1.0% |
| New Haven | 283,500 | 282,600 | 281,000 | 281,000 | 281,100 | 900 | 0.3% | 2,400 | 0.9% |
| Norwich-New London-Westerly | 127,500 | 127,900 | 127,300 | 127,300 | 128,300 | -400 | -0.3% | -800 | -0.6% |
| Danbury - Not Seasonally Adjusted | 80,100 | 79,700 | 78,900 | 78,400 | 80,600 | 400 | 0.5% | -500 | -0.6% |
| Waterbury - Not Seasonally Adjusted | 69,200 | 68,900 | 68,200 | 68,000 | 69,200 | 300 | 0.4% | 0 | 0.0% |
| <i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Enfield | 46,100 | 46,100 | 46,000 | 45,700 | 45,800 | 0 | 0.0% | 300 | 0.7% |
| Torrington-Northwest | 34,000 | 33,900 | 34,200 | 34,600 | 33,900 | 100 | 0.3% | 100 | 0.3% |
| Danielson-Northeast | 27,500 | 27,600 | 27,600 | 27,300 | 27,600 | -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 not seasonally adjusted.

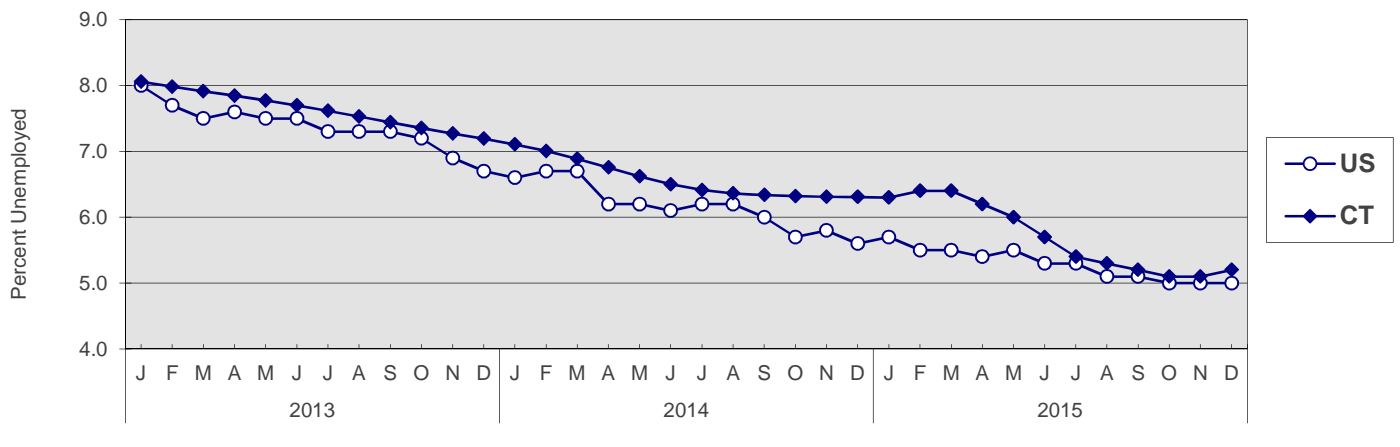
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

| | December 2015 P | | December 2014 R | | Change | | November 2015 R | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------|--------|-----------------|------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Points | Number | Rate |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | |
| Unemployed | 99,000 | 5.2 | 119,900 | 6.3 | -20,900 | -1.1 | 96,400 | 5.1 |
| Labor Force | 1,893,600 | | 1,899,400 | | -5,800 | | 1,893,100 | |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | | | |
| Unemployed | 7,904,000 | 5.0 | 8,704,000 | 5.6 | -800,000 | -0.6 | 7,924,000 | 5.0 |
| Labor Force | 157,833,000 | | 156,142,000 | | 1,691,000 | | 157,367,000 | |

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2013 - 2015



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

| | December 2015 P | | December 2014 R | | Change | | November 2015 R | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Points | Number | Rate |
| Bridgeport-Stamford | 22,200 | 4.8 | 24,900 | 5.4 | -2,700 | -0.6 | 21,600 | 4.7 |
| Danbury | 4,300 | 4.0 | 4,600 | 4.3 | -300 | -0.3 | 4,000 | 3.8 |
| Danielson-Northeast* | 2,300 | 5.4 | 2,700 | 6.3 | -400 | -0.9 | 2,200 | 5.2 |
| Worcester NECTA | 2,300 | 5.5 | 2,600 | 6.4 | -300 | -0.9 | 2,200 | 5.2 |
| Hampton | 100 | 3.9 | 100 | 4.7 | 0 | -0.8 | 100 | 3.8 |
| Enfield | 2,300 | 4.7 | 2,600 | 5.4 | -300 | -0.7 | 2,200 | 4.4 |
| Hartford | 30,700 | 5.0 | 34,900 | 5.7 | -4,200 | -0.7 | 29,600 | 4.8 |
| New Haven | 15,900 | 4.9 | 18,100 | 5.6 | -2,200 | -0.7 | 15,800 | 4.9 |
| Norwich-New London | 7,500 | 5.4 | 8,800 | 6.2 | -1,300 | -0.8 | 7,300 | 5.2 |
| Torrington-Northwest** | 2,200 | 4.7 | 2,500 | 5.3 | -300 | -0.6 | 2,000 | 4.3 |
| Torrington NECTA | 1,500 | 5.5 | 1,700 | 6.2 | -200 | -0.7 | 1,400 | 5.2 |
| Litchfield | 800 | 3.7 | 900 | 4.3 | -100 | -0.6 | 700 | 3.2 |
| Waterbury | 6,800 | 6.1 | 7,900 | 7.0 | -1,100 | -0.9 | 6,700 | 6.0 |
| CONNECTICUT | 93,300 | 5.0 | 105,900 | 5.6 | -12,600 | -0.6 | 90,500 | 4.8 |
| UNITED STATES | 7,542,000 | 4.8 | 8,331,000 | 5.4 | -789,000 | -0.6 | 7,573,000 | 4.8 |

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

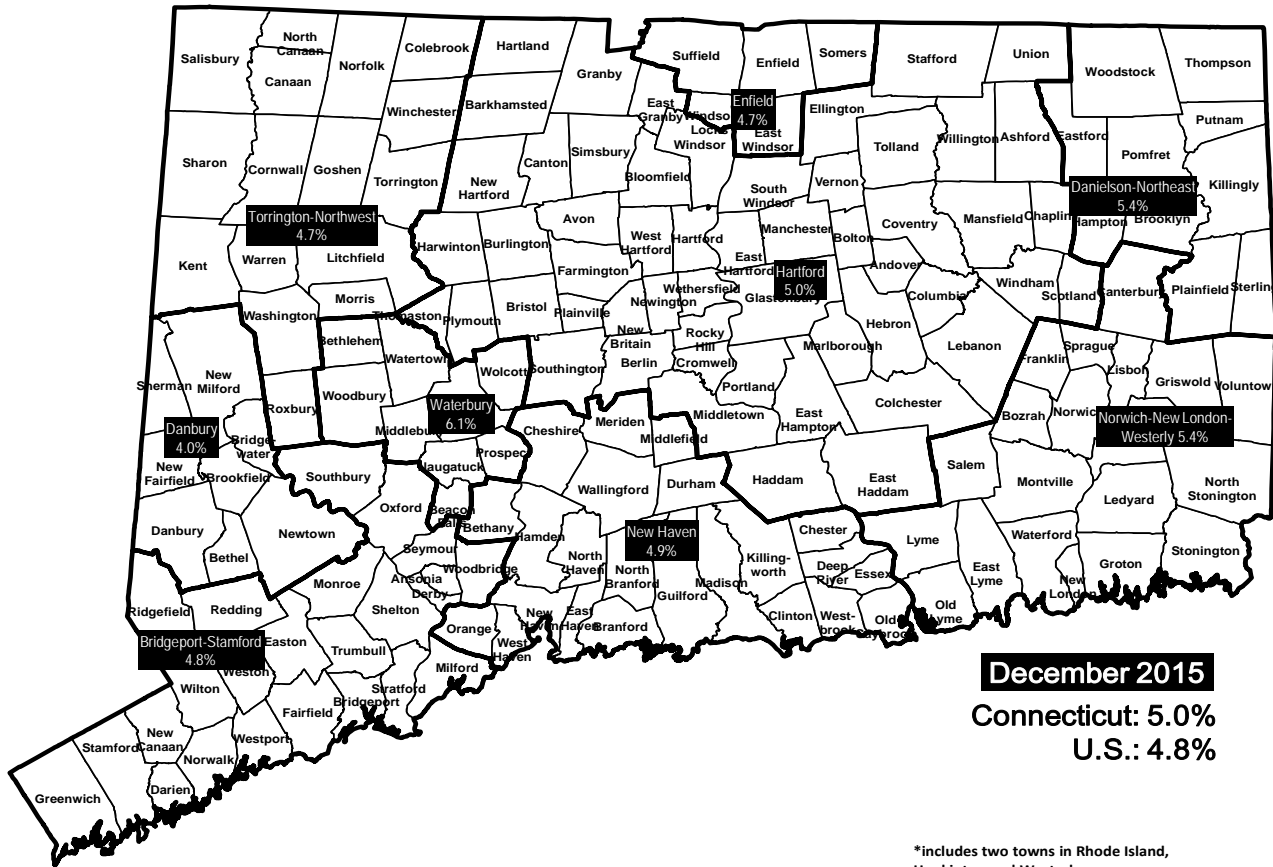
Labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Worcester NECTA, CT part and Hampton LMA are combined ** Torrington Metropolitan NECTA and Litchfield LMA are combined

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LABOR MARKET AREAS



HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

| | Average Weekly Earnings | | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | | Average Hourly Earnings | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Dec. 2015 P | Dec. 2014 | Change over Yr. | Nov. 2015 R | Dec. 2015 P | Dec. 2014 | Change over Yr. | Nov. 2015 R | Dec. 2015 P | Dec. 2014 | Change over Yr. | Nov. 2015 R |
| Private Industry All Employees | \$995.90 | \$959.44 | \$36.46 | \$1,008.93 | 33.6 | 33.8 | -0.2 | 33.8 | \$29.64 | \$28.47 | \$1.17 | \$29.85 |
| Manufacturing* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Production Workers | \$1,148.87 | \$981.60 | \$167.27 | \$1,123.23 | 42.3 | 40.9 | 1.4 | 42.1 | \$27.16 | \$24.00 | \$3.16 | \$26.68 |

* 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

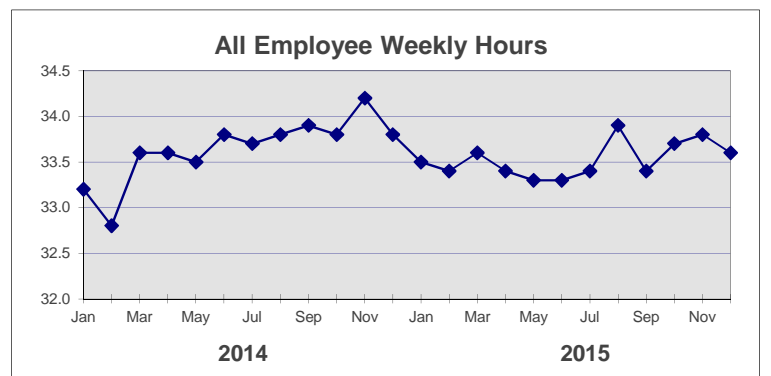
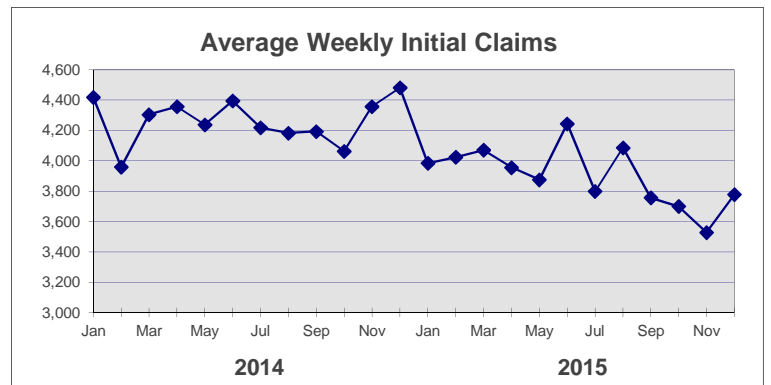
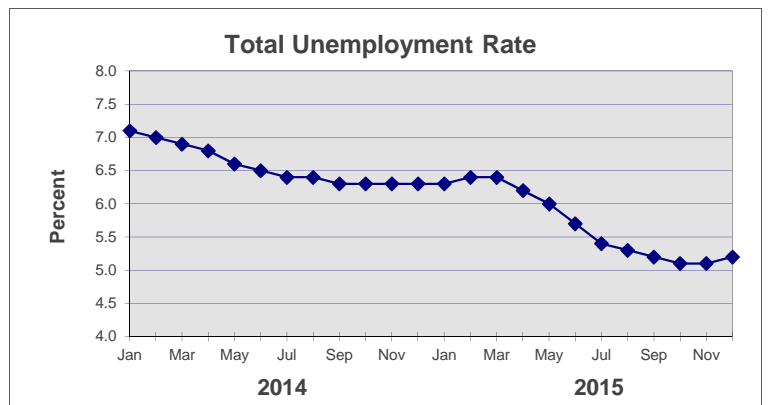
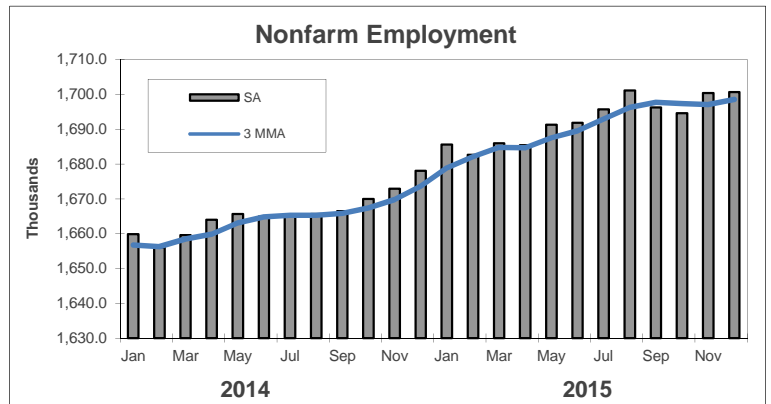
Seasonally Adjusted

| | Nonfarm Employment (000s) | Total Unemployment Rate |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2014 | | |
| Jan | 1,659.9 | 7.1 |
| Feb | 1,656.1 | 7.0 |
| Mar | 1,659.6 | 6.9 |
| Apr | 1,664.0 | 6.8 |
| May | 1,665.7 | 6.6 |
| Jun | 1,664.9 | 6.5 |
| Jul | 1,665.4 | 6.4 |
| Aug | 1,665.7 | 6.4 |
| Sep | 1,666.5 | 6.3 |
| Oct | 1,670.0 | 6.3 |
| Nov | 1,672.9 | 6.3 |
| Dec | 1,678.1 | 6.3 |

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 2015 | | |
| Jan | 1,685.6 | 6.3 |
| Feb | 1,682.7 | 6.4 |
| Mar | 1,686.0 | 6.4 |
| Apr | 1,685.4 | 6.2 |
| May | 1,691.3 | 6.0 |
| Jun | 1,691.9 | 5.7 |
| Jul | 1,695.7 | 5.4 |
| Aug | 1,701.1 | 5.3 |
| Sep | 1,696.3 | 5.2 |
| Oct | 1,694.6 | 5.1 |
| Nov | 1,700.4 R | 5.1 R |
| Dec | 1,700.7 P | 5.2 P |

| | Avg Weekly Initial Claims | All Employee Weekly Hours* |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2014 | | |
| Jan | 4,418 | 33.2 |
| Feb | 3,959 | 32.8 |
| Mar | 4,306 | 33.6 |
| Apr | 4,357 | 33.6 |
| May | 4,238 | 33.5 |
| Jun | 4,395 | 33.8 |
| Jul | 4,218 | 33.7 |
| Aug | 4,183 | 33.8 |
| Sep | 4,194 | 33.9 |
| Oct | 4,063 | 33.8 |
| Nov | 4,358 | 34.2 |
| Dec | 4,481 | 33.8 |

| | | |
|-------------|-------|--------|
| 2015 | | |
| Jan | 3,984 | 33.5 |
| Feb | 4,024 | 33.4 |
| Mar | 4,070 | 33.6 |
| Apr | 3,956 | 33.4 |
| May | 3,875 | 33.3 |
| Jun | 4,244 | 33.3 |
| Jul | 3,799 | 33.4 |
| Aug | 4,086 | 33.9 |
| Sep | 3,756 | 33.4 |
| Oct | 3,699 | 33.7 |
| Nov | 3,528 | 33.8 R |
| Dec | 3,777 | 33.6 P |



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute