



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2017 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 4.7%
US Unemployment Rate = 4.7%

Nonfarm jobs down 1,600 in February; unemployment rate at 4.7%

WETHERSFIELD, March 23, 2017 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state lost 1,600 net jobs (-0.1%) in February 2017, to a level of 1,682,400, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 2,100 jobs (0.1%). January's originally-released job gain of 5,700 was revised upward to a 6,500 gain. Connecticut's unemployment rate for February moved by two tenths of a point to 4.7% - eight tenths of a point lower than it was a year ago. The number of the state's resident unemployed increased by 4,500, seasonally adjusted, in February.

"We saw a 1,600 job decline in February, although some of that loss may be attributable to very poor weather during the survey reference week," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "While the unemployment rate moved up to 4.7%, labor force also grew, indicating potential workers seeing opportunity in a low unemployment rate environment."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

February 2017 preliminary seasonally-adjusted nonfarm job estimates show a decrease of 1,600 (-0.1%).

Private sector employment declined by 1,500 (-0.1%, 1,448,800 jobs) in February, but remains up over the year by 6,600 jobs (0.5%). The **government supersector** remained relatively unchanged (-100, -0.04%, 233,600) last month and remains down over the year (-4,500, -1.9%). The government *supersector*, which includes all federal, state and local employment, including public higher education and Native American casinos located on tribal land, remains the largest contributor to job losses in 2017.

Three industry supersectors grew, while seven declined in February. The **education and health services** (3,100, 0.9%, 331,000 jobs) industry *supersector* added the most jobs last month, while construction was next with 1,200 jobs added (2.1%, 59,200). **Professional & business services** (900, 0.4%, 218,300 positions) also contributed to job growth.

Much of the job declines in February came from industries that can be weather affected and it should be noted that the survey reference week occurred during a particularly cold and snowy period. **Leisure & hospitality** led decliners (-3,200, -2.0%, 155,200) with equal impact from arts, entertainment & recreation and accommodations & food services. The **trade, transportation & utilities supersector** also lost jobs (-1,900, -0.6%, 300,500) with retail trade being the largest factor in the loss. **Financial activities** dropped 900 jobs (-0.7%, 130,700) and the **manufacturing** industry (-400, -0.3%, 155,700 jobs) was next. **Information** (-200, -0.6%, 31,300), **other services** (-100, -0.2%, 66,300) and **government** (-100, 0.0%, 233,600) each had small losses in February.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Please note: The Bureau of Labor Statistics has added Waterbury and Danbury back to the list of labor market areas with seasonally adjusted data. In February 2017, three LMAs were up, and three were down. The **New Haven LMA** (1,700, 0.6%, 280,800) led all regional LMAs in job growth in February 2017, while the **Waterbury LMA** (200, 0.3%, 67,000) was also up. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** was slightly higher (100, 0.1%, 129,700 jobs). The state's two largest labor markets, the **Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA** (-900, -0.2%, 570,900 jobs) and the **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-900, -0.2%, 408,900) lost 900 positions each while the **Danbury LMA** (-100, -0.1%, 79,100) was also lower in employment. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (1,200, 0.9%, OTY) is now the fastest growing LMA in percentage terms and magnitude since February 2016.

Note: 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 33.0 hours in February 2017, down one-tenth of an hour from the same month a year ago (33.1). Average hourly earnings at \$31.30, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.98, or 3.2%, from the February 2016 estimate (\$30.32). The resultant average **private sector** weekly pay amounted to \$1,032.90, up \$29.31, or 2.9% 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 February 2017 was 2.7%. 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)

The February 2017 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated at **4.7%** (seasonally adjusted), up two-tenths of a percentage point from January 2017 (4.5%) and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 5.5%. This is the same jobless rate as the nation for February 2017.

Unemployment: Based on the Local Area Unemployment Statistics model (LAUS - a statistical model applying the CPS – the Current Population Survey residential data), the number of Connecticut unemployed residents, seasonally adjusted, increased by 4,500 (5.3%) over the month to 89,500 in February. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents has decreased by 14,000 (-13.6%). The state’s labor force increased a strong 9,100 (0.5%) over the month, and continues to expand over the year (10,200, 0.5%).

February 2017 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut declined by 155 claimants (-4.4%) to 3,341 from January 2017, and were lower by 361 claims (-9.8%) from the February 2016 level of 3,702.

*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 20, 2017 (March 2017 data)

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03-23-17

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 2017 P	January 2017 R	December 2016	November 2016	February 2016	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,682,400	1,684,000	1,677,500	1,678,200	1,680,300	-1,600	-0.1%	2,100	0.1%
Total Private	1,448,800	1,450,300	1,443,600	1,443,900	1,442,200	-1,500	-0.1%	6,600	0.5%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	600	600	600	600	600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	59,200	58,000	58,000	58,100	59,600	1,200	2.1%	-400	-0.7%
Manufacturing	155,700	156,100	156,200	156,000	156,400	-400	-0.3%	-700	-0.4%
Durable Goods	122,000	122,400	122,500	122,600	123,000	-400	-0.3%	-1,000	-0.8%
Nondurable Goods	33,700	33,700	33,700	33,400	33,400	0	0.0%	300	0.9%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300,500	302,400	298,100	298,500	299,000	-1,900	-0.6%	1,500	0.5%
Wholesale	64,100	63,800	63,200	62,800	62,500	300	0.5%	1,600	2.6%
Retail	182,600	184,200	182,800	183,700	185,200	-1,600	-0.9%	-2,600	-1.4%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	53,800	54,400	52,100	52,000	51,300	-600	-1.1%	2,500	4.9%
Information	31,300	31,500	31,900	32,100	32,600	-200	-0.6%	-1,300	-4.0%
Financial Activities	130,700	131,600	130,200	130,200	129,900	-900	-0.7%	800	0.6%
Finance & Insurance	110,500	111,200	110,000	110,000	110,000	-700	-0.6%	500	0.5%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	20,200	20,400	20,200	20,200	19,900	-200	-1.0%	300	1.5%
Professional & Business Services	218,300	217,400	216,400	215,800	218,300	900	0.4%	0	0.0%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	97,600	96,600	96,600	96,200	97,200	1,000	1.0%	400	0.4%
Management of Companies	32,000	32,000	32,200	32,300	33,200	0	0.0%	-1,200	-3.6%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	88,700	88,800	87,600	87,300	87,900	-100	-0.1%	800	0.9%
Educational & Health Services	331,000	327,900	331,300	331,200	328,300	3,100	0.9%	2,700	0.8%
Educational Services	64,100	61,200	64,100	64,100	63,500	2,900	4.7%	600	0.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	266,900	266,700	267,200	267,100	264,800	200	0.1%	2,100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	155,200	158,400	155,300	155,300	153,100	-3,200	-2.0%	2,100	1.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	26,600	28,200	26,300	26,200	27,300	-1,600	-5.7%	-700	-2.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	128,600	130,200	129,000	129,100	125,800	-1,600	-1.2%	2,800	2.2%
Other Services	66,300	66,400	65,600	66,100	64,400	-100	-0.2%	1,900	3.0%
Government**	233,600	233,700	233,900	234,300	238,100	-100	0.0%	-4,500	-1.9%
UNITED STATES	145,798,000	145,563,000	145,325,000	145,170,000	143,448,000	235,000	0.2%	2,350,000	1.6%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

	February 2017 P	January 2017 R	December 2016	November 2016	February 2016	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	408,900	409,800	407,600	408,300	411,000	-900	-0.2%	-2,100	-0.5%
Danbury	79,100	79,200	78,900	79,000	79,000	-100	-0.1%	100	0.1%
Hartford	570,900	571,800	567,800	569,200	569,700	-900	-0.2%	1,200	0.2%
New Haven	280,800	279,100	282,600	282,900	281,300	1,700	0.6%	-500	-0.2%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	129,700	129,600	129,300	129,100	128,500	100	0.1%	1,200	0.9%
Waterbury	67,000	66,800	66,700	67,000	67,200	200	0.3%	-200	-0.3%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	44,700	44,700	45,300	45,300	44,900	0	0.0%	-200	-0.4%
Torrington-Northwest	31,700	32,000	32,900	33,000	32,000	-300	-0.9%	-300	-0.9%
Danielson-Northeast	26,700	26,800	27,000	27,300	26,700	-100	-0.4%	0	0.0%

* 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.

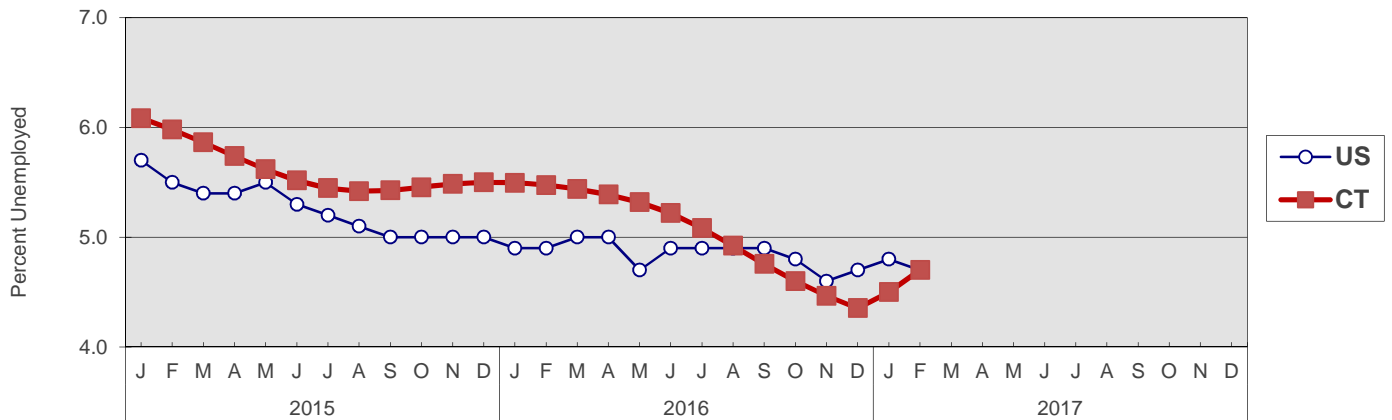
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2017 P		February 2016 R		Change		January 2017 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	89,500	4.7	103,500	5.5	-14,000	-0.8	85,000	4.5
Labor Force	1,901,400		1,891,200		10,200		1,892,200	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	7,528,000	4.7	7,845,000	4.9	-317,000	-0.2	7,635,000	4.8
Labor Force	160,056,000		158,888,000		1,168,000		159,716,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2015 - 2017



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2017 P		February 2016 R		Change		January 2017 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	105,000	5.5	113,300	6.0	-8,300	-0.5	102,200	5.4
UNITED STATES	7,887,000	4.9	8,219,000	5.2	-332,000	-0.3	8,149,000	5.1

Release of the February 2017 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, March 24, 2017. 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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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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HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Feb. 2017 P	Feb. 2016	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2017 R	Feb. 2017 P	Feb. 2016	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2017 R	Feb. 2017 P	Feb. 2016	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2017 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,032.90	\$1,003.59	\$29.31	\$1,056.83	33.0	33.1	-0.1	33.7	\$31.30	\$30.32	\$0.98	\$31.36
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,025.48	\$1,130.27	-\$104.79	\$1,049.13	41.4	41.6	-0.2	42.1	\$24.77	\$27.17	-\$2.40	\$24.92

* 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

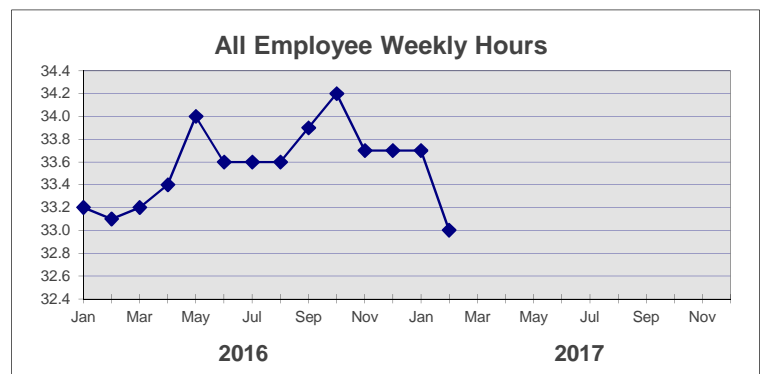
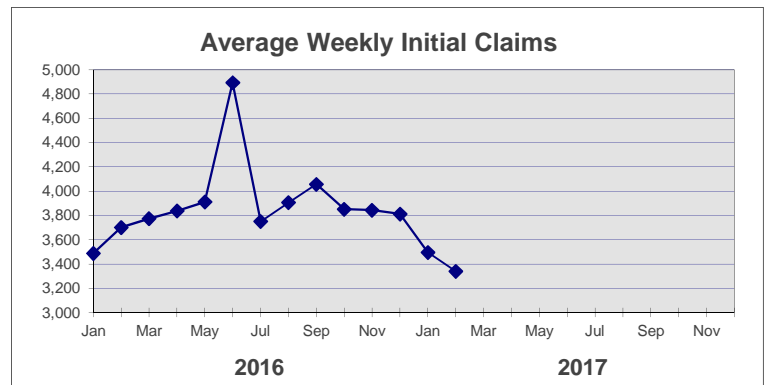
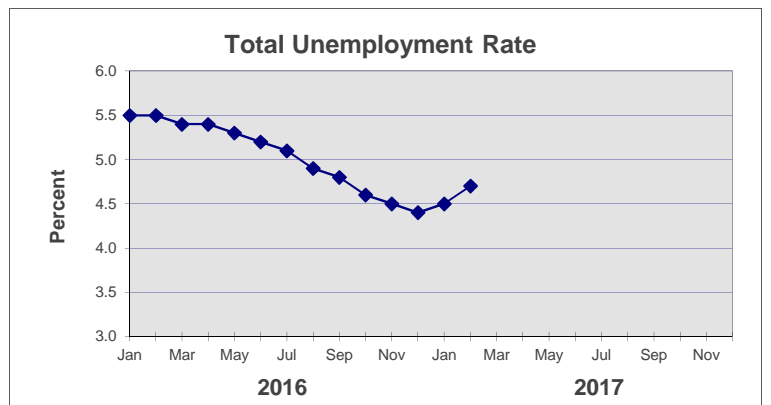
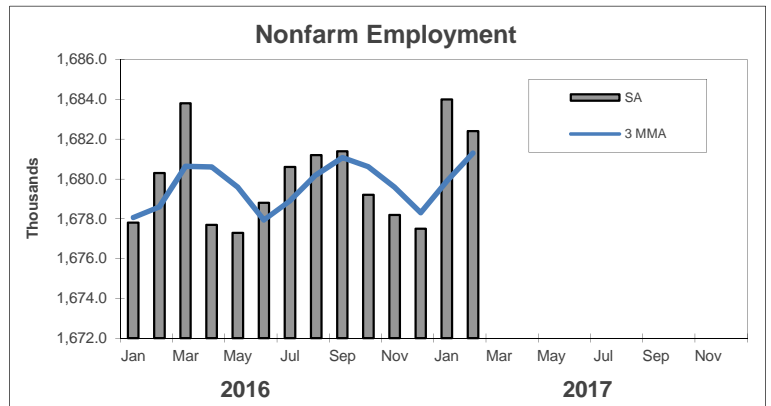
Seasonally Adjusted

	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2016		
Jan	1,677.8	5.5
Feb	1,680.3	5.5
Mar	1,683.8	5.4
Apr	1,677.7	5.4
May	1,677.3	5.3
Jun	1,678.8	5.2
Jul	1,680.6	5.1
Aug	1,681.2	4.9
Sep	1,681.4	4.8
Oct	1,679.2	4.6
Nov	1,678.2	4.5
Dec	1,677.5	4.4

2017		
Jan	1,684.0 R	4.5 R
Feb	1,682.4 P	4.7 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2016		
Jan	3,488	33.2
Feb	3,702	33.1
Mar	3,774	33.2
Apr	3,838	33.4
May	3,911	34.0
Jun	4,894	33.6
Jul	3,750	33.6
Aug	3,906	33.6
Sep	4,057	33.9
Oct	3,852	34.2
Nov	3,844	33.7
Dec	3,812	33.7

2017		
Jan	3,496	33.7 R
Feb	3,341	33.0 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

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** Labor-management dispute