



# LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research  
Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2017 Data  
CT Unemployment Rate = 4.8%  
US Unemployment Rate = 4.5%

## Nonfarm jobs climb 1,300 in March; unemployment rate at 4.8%

WETHERSFIELD, April 20, 2017 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state gained 1,300 net jobs (0.1%) in March 2017, to a level of 1,685,400, seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 1,600 jobs (0.1%). February's originally-released job loss of 1,600 was revised upward to a 100 job gain. Connecticut's unemployment rate for March increased by one tenth of a point to 4.8% - six tenths of a point lower than it was a year ago. The number of the state's unemployed residents increased by 2,368, seasonally adjusted, in March and the number of residents employed grew by 8,061. Resident employment estimates include the self-employed and residents working out of state and are determined separately from the nonfarm job estimates above.

"With March's 1,300 job increase, we have seen job growth in each month of the first quarter putting us ahead of last year's pace," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "While the unemployment rate moved up to 4.8%, the labor force also grew, indicating workers are seeing opportunity in a low unemployment rate environment."

### Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

**Private sector employment** grew by 1,200 (0.1%, 1,451,700 jobs) in March, and is up over the year by 5,900 jobs (0.4%). The **government supersector** remained relatively unchanged (100, 0.0%, 233,700) last month and remains down over the year (-4,300, -1.8%). 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.

Six of the ten major industry *supersectors* increased employment in March 2017 while four declined, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The **other services** (1,300, 2.0%, 67,300 positions) *supersector* led gainers last month and also led in percentage growth over the year (2,600, 4.0%). This was followed by the **leisure and hospitality** (1,100, 0.7%, 156,700 jobs) *supersector* which now leads in numerical growth over the year (3,400, 2.2%). The **manufacturing** (800, 0.5%, 156,500 positions) industry *supersector* was higher in job counts as well, with both the durable goods industry (500, 0.4%, 122,500 jobs) and the nondurable components (300, 0.9%, 34,000 jobs) adding to job gains. The **information** (400, 1.3%, 31,600 jobs) and the **financial activities** (400, 0.3%, 131,500) *supersectors* both added 400 jobs. The **government** (100, 0.04%, 233,700) *supersector* was just slightly higher, although the state government portion was lower (-400, -0.6%, 65,600) again last month.

**Trade, transportation & utilities** (-1,500, -0.5%, 299,100 jobs) was lower again in March 2017, heading last month's four job declining industry *supersectors*. The **private education and health services** (-700, -0.2%, 331,100 jobs) *supersector* was also lower in March, while smaller losses of 300 each came from **construction and mining** (-300, -0.5%, 59,600) and the **professional and business services** *supersector* (-300, -0.1%, 218,300). The government sector (federal-state-local) remains the largest declining major *supersector* in the state (-4,300, -1.8%) since March 2016, while the **construction and mining** (-1,800, -2.9%) *supersector* leads in percentage decline over the year. This may be due to exceptionally warm weather in March of 2016.

**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 March 2017, three LMAs were up, two were down, and the **Waterbury LMA** was unchanged. The **Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA** (3,000, 0.5%, 574,900) led all regional LMAs in job growth last month, while the **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (600, 0.5%, 130,400) was also up, and the **Danbury LMA** was higher (200, 0.3%, 79,300) as well. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-1,300, -0.3%, 408,300 jobs) and the **New Haven LMA** (-200, -0.1%, 281,000)

lost ground. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly LMA** (1,900, 1.5% OTY) is now the fastest growing LMA in percentage terms while the **Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford LMA** (4,800, 0.8% OTY) leads in numeric gains since March 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 32.9 hours in March 2017, down three-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago (33.2). Average hourly earnings at \$31.34, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$1.24, or 4.1%, from the March 2016 estimate (\$30.10). The resultant average **private sector** weekly pay amounted to \$1,031.09, up \$31.77, or 3.2% higher than a year ago. 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 2017 was 2.4%. 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 2017 unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated at **4.8%** (seasonally adjusted), up one-tenth of a percentage point from February 2017 (4.7%) and down six-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago when it was 5.4%. The U.S. jobless rate in March 2017 was 4.5%.

**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 2,400 (2.7%) over the month to 91,800 in March. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents has decreased by 11,100 (-10.8%). The state’s labor force increased a strong 10,400 (0.6%) over the month, and continues to expand over the year (20,100, 1.1%).

March 2017 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut increased by 1,350 claimants (40.4%) to 4,691 from February 2017, and were higher by 917 claims (24.3%) from the March 2016 level of 3,774.

*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 18, 2017 (April 2017 data)*

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04-20-17

Labor market information is available on the Internet at [www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi)  
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# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

## Jobs - by Place of Work

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

|                                     | March<br>2017 P    | February<br>2017 R | January<br>2017    | December<br>2016   | March<br>2016      | Over Month<br>Change | Over Month<br>Rate | Over Year<br>Change | Over Year<br>Rate |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>CONNECTICUT</b>                  | <b>1,685,400</b>   | <b>1,684,100</b>   | <b>1,684,000</b>   | <b>1,677,500</b>   | <b>1,683,800</b>   | <b>1,300</b>         | <b>0.1%</b>        | <b>1,600</b>        | <b>0.1%</b>       |
| <b>Total Private</b>                | <b>1,451,700</b>   | <b>1,450,500</b>   | <b>1,450,300</b>   | <b>1,443,600</b>   | <b>1,445,800</b>   | <b>1,200</b>         | <b>0.1%</b>        | <b>5,900</b>        | <b>0.4%</b>       |
| <b>Goods Producing Industries</b>   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |                    |                     |                   |
| Mining                              | 600                | 600                | 600                | 600                | 600                | 0                    | 0.0%               | 0                   | 0.0%              |
| Construction                        | 59,000             | 59,300             | 58,000             | 58,000             | 60,800             | -300                 | -0.5%              | -1,800              | -3.0%             |
| Manufacturing                       | 156,500            | 155,700            | 156,100            | 156,200            | 156,300            | 800                  | 0.5%               | 200                 | 0.1%              |
| Durable Goods                       | 122,500            | 122,000            | 122,400            | 122,500            | 122,800            | 500                  | 0.4%               | -300                | -0.2%             |
| Nondurable Goods                    | 34,000             | 33,700             | 33,700             | 33,700             | 33,500             | 300                  | 0.9%               | 500                 | 1.5%              |
| <b>Service Providing Industries</b> |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |                    |                     |                   |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities   | 299,100            | 300,600            | 302,400            | 298,100            | 299,300            | -1,500               | -0.5%              | -200                | -0.1%             |
| Wholesale                           | 63,300             | 63,800             | 63,800             | 63,200             | 62,500             | -500                 | -0.8%              | 800                 | 1.3%              |
| Retail                              | 183,000            | 183,000            | 184,200            | 182,800            | 185,700            | 0                    | 0.0%               | -2,700              | -1.5%             |
| Transp, Warehousing & Utilities     | 52,800             | 53,800             | 54,400             | 52,100             | 51,100             | -1,000               | -1.9%              | 1,700               | 3.3%              |
| Information                         | 31,600             | 31,200             | 31,500             | 31,900             | 32,400             | 400                  | 1.3%               | -800                | -2.5%             |
| Financial Activities                | 131,500            | 131,100            | 131,600            | 130,200            | 130,300            | 400                  | 0.3%               | 1,200               | 0.9%              |
| Finance & Insurance                 | 111,000            | 110,800            | 111,200            | 110,000            | 110,200            | 200                  | 0.2%               | 800                 | 0.7%              |
| Real Estate, Rental & Leasing       | 20,500             | 20,300             | 20,400             | 20,200             | 20,100             | 200                  | 1.0%               | 400                 | 2.0%              |
| Professional & Business Services    | 218,300            | 218,600            | 217,400            | 216,400            | 218,700            | -300                 | -0.1%              | -400                | -0.2%             |
| Prof, Scientific & Tech Services    | 98,400             | 97,600             | 96,600             | 96,600             | 97,100             | 800                  | 0.8%               | 1,300               | 1.3%              |
| Management of Companies             | 32,000             | 31,900             | 32,000             | 32,200             | 33,200             | 100                  | 0.3%               | -1,200              | -3.6%             |
| Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv     | 87,900             | 89,100             | 88,800             | 87,600             | 88,400             | -1,200               | -1.3%              | -500                | -0.6%             |
| Educational & Health Services       | 331,100            | 331,800            | 327,900            | 331,300            | 329,400            | -700                 | -0.2%              | 1,700               | 0.5%              |
| Educational Services                | 64,500             | 64,100             | 61,200             | 64,100             | 64,500             | 400                  | 0.6%               | 0                   | 0.0%              |
| Health Care & Social Assistance     | 266,600            | 267,700            | 266,700            | 267,200            | 264,900            | -1,100               | -0.4%              | 1,700               | 0.6%              |
| Leisure and Hospitality             | 156,700            | 155,600            | 158,400            | 155,300            | 153,300            | 1,100                | 0.7%               | 3,400               | 2.2%              |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation    | 26,600             | 26,600             | 28,200             | 26,300             | 27,400             | 0                    | 0.0%               | -800                | -2.9%             |
| Accommodation & Food Services       | 130,100            | 129,000            | 130,200            | 129,000            | 125,900            | 1,100                | 0.9%               | 4,200               | 3.3%              |
| Other Services                      | 67,300             | 66,000             | 66,400             | 65,600             | 64,700             | 1,300                | 2.0%               | 2,600               | 4.0%              |
| Government**                        | 233,700            | 233,600            | 233,700            | 233,900            | 238,000            | 100                  | 0.0%               | -4,300              | -1.8%             |
| <b>UNITED STATES</b>                | <b>145,858,000</b> | <b>145,760,000</b> | <b>145,541,000</b> | <b>145,325,000</b> | <b>143,673,000</b> | <b>98,000</b>        | <b>0.1%</b>        | <b>2,185,000</b>    | <b>1.5%</b>       |

### LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

| Seasonally Adjusted data  | March<br>2017 P | February<br>2017 R | January<br>2017 | December<br>2016 | March<br>2016 | Over Month<br>Change | Over Month<br>Rate | Over Year<br>Change | Over Year<br>Rate |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk</b>  | 408,300         | 409,600            | 409,800         | 407,600          | 411,300       | -1,300               | -0.3%              | -3,000              | -0.7%             |
| <b>Danbury</b>  | 79,300          | 79,100             | 79,200          | 78,900           | 79,200        | 200                  | 0.3%               | 100                 | 0.1%              |
| <b>Hartford</b>   | 574,900         | 571,900            | 571,800         | 567,800          | 570,100       | 3,000                | 0.5%               | 4,800               | 0.8%              |
| <b>New Haven</b>  | 281,000         | 281,200            | 279,100         | 282,600          | 283,000       | -200                 | -0.1%              | -2,000              | -0.7%             |
| <b>Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI</b>  | 130,400         | 129,800            | 129,600         | 129,300          | 128,500       | 600                  | 0.5%               | 1,900               | 1.5%              |
| <b>Waterbury</b>  | 66,900          | 66,900             | 66,800          | 66,700           | 67,500        | 0                    | 0.0%               | -600                | -0.9%             |
| <i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i> |                 |                    |                 |                  |               |                      |                    |                     |                   |
| <b>Enfield</b>  | 44,500          | 44,700             | 44,700          | 45,300           | 44,700        | -200                 | -0.4%              | -200                | -0.4%             |
| <b>Torrington-Northwest</b>   | 31,900          | 31,700             | 32,000          | 32,900           | 32,300        | 200                  | 0.6%               | -400                | -1.2%             |
| <b>Danielson-Northeast</b>  | 27,000          | 26,700             | 26,800          | 27,000           | 26,800        | 300                  | 1.1%               | 200                 | 0.7%              |

\* 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](mailto:dol.lmi@ct.gov). Danbury and Waterbury LMA's are now back to being seasonally adjusted.

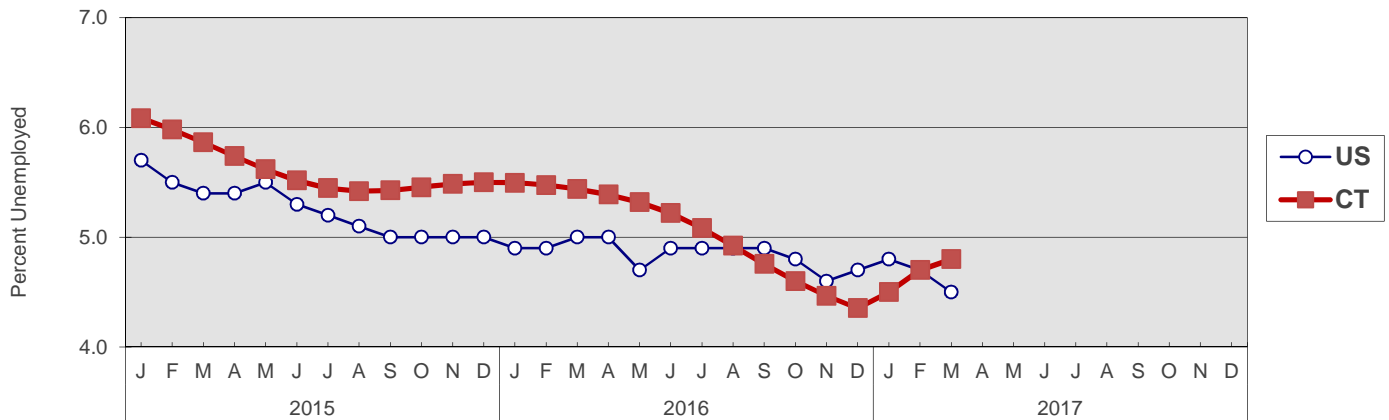
# UNEMPLOYMENT

## Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

|                      | March 2017 P |      | March 2016 R |      | Change   |        | February 2017 R |      |
|----------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|----------|--------|-----------------|------|
|                      | Number       | Rate | Number       | Rate | Number   | Points | Number          | Rate |
| <b>CONNECTICUT</b>   |              |      |              |      |          |        |                 |      |
| Unemployed           | 91,800       | 4.8  | 102,900      | 5.4  | -11,100  | -0.6   | 89,400          | 4.7  |
| Labor Force          | 1,911,800    |      | 1,891,700    |      | 20,100   |        | 1,901,400       |      |
| <b>UNITED STATES</b> |              |      |              |      |          |        |                 |      |
| Unemployed           | 7,202,000    | 4.5  | 7,977,000    | 5.0  | -775,000 | -0.5   | 7,528,000       | 4.7  |
| Labor Force          | 160,201,000  |      | 159,278,000  |      | 923,000  |        | 160,056,000     |      |

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



### LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

|                        | March 2017 P |      | March 2016 R |      | Change   |        | February 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            | 98,000       | 5.1  | 110,700      | 5.9  | -12,700  | -0.8   | 104,700         | 5.5  |
| UNITED STATES          | 7,284,000    | 4.6  | 8,116,000    | 5.1  | -832,000 | -0.5   | 7,887,000       | 4.9  |

Release of the March 2017 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, April 21, 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>.

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 |           |                 |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
|                                       | Mar. 2017 P             | Mar. 2016  | Change over Yr. | Feb. 2017 R | Mar. 2017 P          | Mar. 2016 | Change over Yr. | Feb. 2017 R | Mar. 2017 P             | Mar. 2016 | Change over Yr. | Feb. 2017 R |
| <b>Private Industry All Employees</b> | \$1,031.09              | \$999.32   | \$31.77         | \$1,032.90  | 32.9                 | 33.2      | -0.3            | 33.0        | \$31.34                 | \$30.10   | \$1.24          | \$31.30     |
| <b>Manufacturing*</b>                 |                         |            |                 |             |                      |           |                 |             |                         |           |                 |             |
| <b>Production Workers</b>             | \$992.26                | \$1,153.74 | -\$161.48       | \$1,016.80  | 40.8                 | 42.0      | -1.2            | 41.0        | \$24.32                 | \$27.47   | -\$3.15         | \$24.80     |

\* 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](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi).

# TRENDS

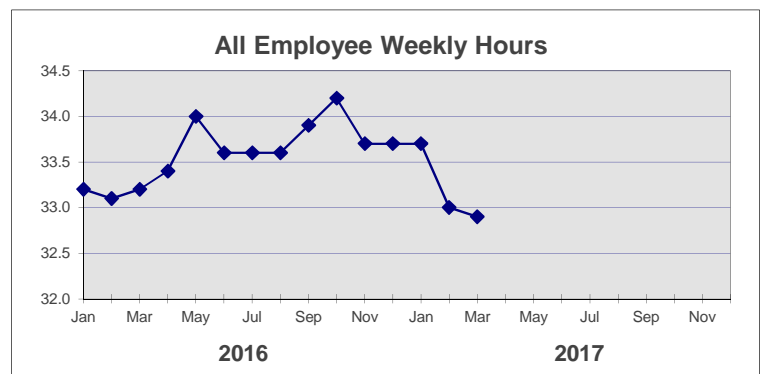
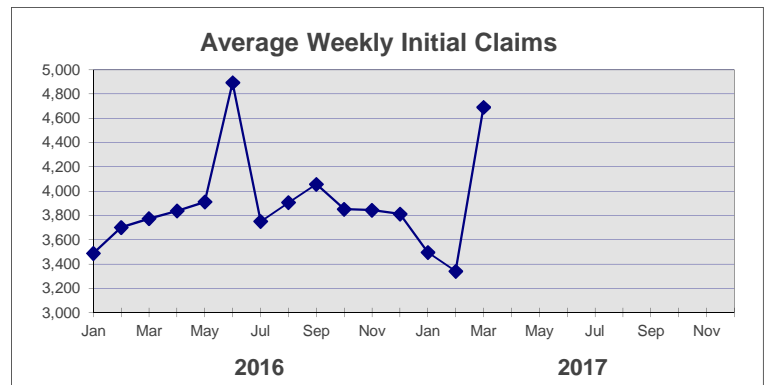
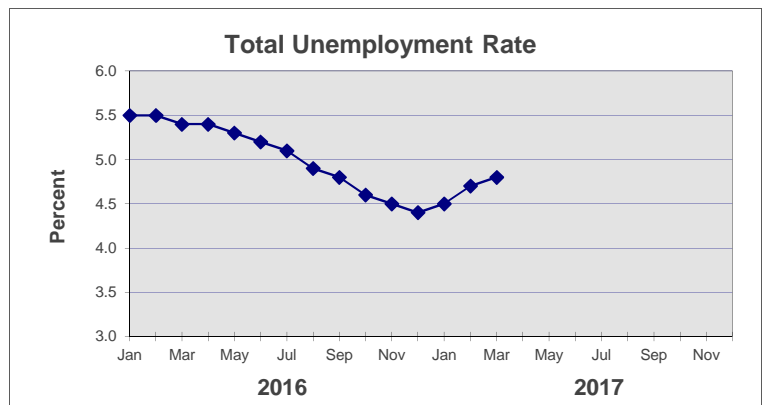
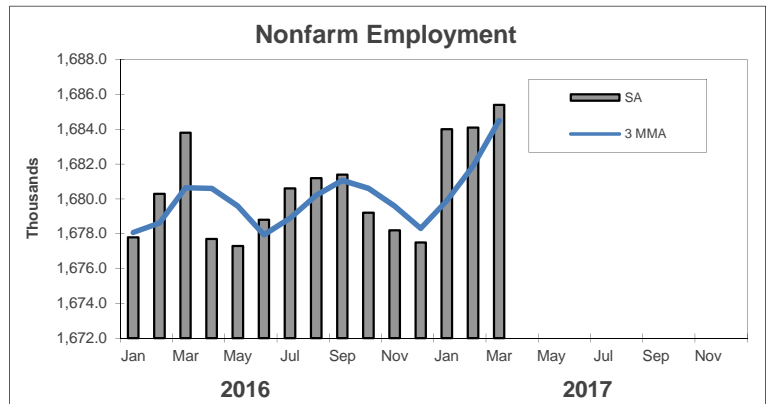
## Seasonally Adjusted

|             | Nonfarm<br>Employment (000s) | Total Unemployment<br>Rate |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>2016</b> |                              |                            |
| 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                        |

|             |           |       |
|-------------|-----------|-------|
| <b>2017</b> |           |       |
| Jan         | 1,684.0   | 4.5   |
| Feb         | 1,684.1 R | 4.7 R |
| Mar         | 1,685.4 P | 4.8 P |
| Apr         |           |       |
| May         |           |       |
| Jun         |           |       |
| Jul         |           |       |
| Aug         |           |       |
| Sep         |           |       |
| Oct         |           |       |
| Nov         |           |       |
| Dec         |           |       |

|             | Avg Weekly<br>Initial Claims | All Employee<br>Weekly Hours* |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>2016</b> |                              |                               |
| 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                          |

|             |       |        |
|-------------|-------|--------|
| <b>2017</b> |       |        |
| Jan         | 3,496 | 33.7   |
| Feb         | 3,341 | 33.0 R |
| Mar         | 4,691 | 32.9 P |
| Apr         |       |        |
| May         |       |        |
| Jun         |       |        |
| Jul         |       |        |
| Aug         |       |        |
| Sep         |       |        |
| Oct         |       |        |
| Nov         |       |        |
| Dec         |       |        |



\* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

\*\* Labor-management dispute