



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research
Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2020 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 3.8%
US Unemployment Rate = 3.5%

Nonfarm jobs grow by 4,000 in February; Unemployment rate at 3.8%

NOTE: February data will not reflect any impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.

WETHERSFIELD, March 26, 2020 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state gained 4,000 net jobs (0.2%) in February 2020, to a level of 1,700,800 seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state grew by 13,300 (0.8%) seasonally adjusted. The January 2020 originally-released job gain of 2,600 was revised up to a gain of 3,300. The number of the state's unemployed residents was estimated at 72,600, seasonally adjusted, up 400 from the revised January 2020 level. As a result, Connecticut's February unemployment rate is at 3.8%, seasonally adjusted, up one-tenth of a percent from the revised January 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 are considered statistically significant.

"February's payroll job numbers revealed a healthy increase of 4,000 jobs over January 2020," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. "In addition this was the sixth month in a row of payroll job growth. Unfortunately, with the impact of the spread of the COVID-19 virus we can expect payroll jobs to decline as a result of sharply increased layoffs and furloughs."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment grew by 3,300 (0.2%) to 1,463,00 jobs over the month in February, and are now up by 12,400 (0.9%) seasonally-adjusted jobs over February 2019. The **government supersector** rose by 700 jobs in February to a total of 237,500, and is up by 900 jobs (0.4%) over the year. Note that the growth in the government sector is largely due to the decennial census. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public higher education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land.

Eight of the ten major industry supersectors gained employment in February, and two declined. The **leisure and hospitality supersector** (1.4%, 157,900) led gains, adding 2,200 net new jobs. **Education and health services** (0.5%, 345,100) was next with 1,800 new positions. **Manufacturing** (0.6%, 162,500) added 900 positions while the **government supersector** (0.3%, 237,500), grew by 700. **Other services** (0.9%, 65,000) contributed 600 net new jobs and **financial activities** (0.4%, 124,500) added 500. The **construction supersector** (0.5%, 60,300) posted 300 new jobs while the **information supersector** (0.3%, 31,500) added a net 100.

On the down side, **trade, transportation & utilities** (-0.8%, 294,500) led declines in February, dropping 2,300 positions while the **professional & business services supersector** (-0.4%, 221,400) was next, shedding 800 positions.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Two of the six **LMAs** seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics saw job increases in February 2020, while three saw declines. The **Danbury LMA** (0.0%, 77,700) was unchanged. The **New Haven LMA** (0.6%, 294,400) led gains with an increase of 1,800 jobs while the **Hartford LMA** (0.2%, 589,400) grew by 1,300.

The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-0.3%, 406,800) led declines, losing 1,100 positions. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly RI LMA** (-0.2%, 129,700) and the **Waterbury LMA** (-0.3%, 68,500) both saw declines of 200 jobs.

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 33.7 hours in February

2020, up five-tenths of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$33.77, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.95 (2.9%) from the February 2019 estimate (\$32.82). The resultant average private sector weekly pay amounted to \$1,138.05, up \$48.43 from a year ago (4.4%). The 12-month percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted) in February 2020 was 2.3%. 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 2020 unemployment rate for Connecticut is estimated at **3.8%** (seasonally adjusted), up one-tenth of a point from the revised January 2020 figure and unchanged from a year ago when it was 3.8%. The US jobless rate in February 2020 was 3.5%, down three-tenths from February 2019.

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 400 from January at 72,600. Over the year, the number of the state’s jobless residents was up by 1,000 (1.4%). The state’s labor force grew an estimated 1,200 over the month at 1,930,500, and is up over the year by 26,500.

February 2020 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut was 2,927, up from January by 73 claims and down by 58 claims (-1.9%) from the February 2019 level of 2,985.

*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 16, 2020 (March 2020 data)

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03-26-20

Labor Market Information is available at: www1.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 2020 P	January 2020 R	December 2019	November 2019	February 2019	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,700,800	1,696,800	1,693,500	1,692,500	1,687,500	4,000	0.2%	13,300	0.8%
Total Private	1,463,300	1,460,000	1,457,100	1,455,600	1,450,900	3,300	0.2%	12,400	0.9%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	600	600	500	500	600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Construction	60,300	60,000	60,500	60,000	60,200	300	0.5%	100	0.2%
Manufacturing	162,500	161,600	161,200	162,300	161,800	900	0.6%	700	0.4%
Durable Goods	127,800	127,000	126,600	127,600	127,300	800	0.6%	500	0.4%
Nondurable Goods	34,700	34,600	34,600	34,700	34,500	100	0.3%	200	0.6%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	294,500	296,800	292,900	293,100	292,900	-2,300	-0.8%	1,600	0.5%
Wholesale	58,900	58,800	59,000	59,100	59,900	100	0.2%	-1,000	-1.7%
Retail	174,300	175,400	172,200	173,100	177,700	-1,100	-0.6%	-3,400	-1.9%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	61,300	62,600	61,700	60,900	55,300	-1,300	-2.1%	6,000	10.8%
Information	31,500	31,400	31,600	31,200	31,300	100	0.3%	200	0.6%
Financial Activities	124,500	124,000	124,200	123,500	124,100	500	0.4%	400	0.3%
Finance & Insurance	103,400	103,100	103,600	103,100	104,100	300	0.3%	-700	-0.7%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	21,100	20,900	20,600	20,400	20,000	200	1.0%	1,100	5.5%
Professional & Business Services	221,400	222,200	223,100	221,700	218,500	-800	-0.4%	2,900	1.3%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	96,800	95,800	97,400	96,900	95,800	1,000	1.0%	1,000	1.0%
Management of Companies	33,900	34,000	33,800	33,600	33,000	-100	-0.3%	900	2.7%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	90,700	92,400	91,900	91,200	89,700	-1,700	-1.8%	1,000	1.1%
Educational & Health Services	345,100	343,300	342,600	341,900	337,800	1,800	0.5%	7,300	2.2%
Educational Services	70,100	69,700	68,000	68,200	66,200	400	0.6%	3,900	5.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	275,000	273,600	274,600	273,700	271,600	1,400	0.5%	3,400	1.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	157,900	155,700	155,900	157,300	158,300	2,200	1.4%	-400	-0.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,000	27,600	27,700	28,300	28,900	400	1.4%	-900	-3.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	129,900	128,100	128,200	129,000	129,400	1,800	1.4%	500	0.4%
Other Services	65,000	64,400	64,600	64,100	65,400	600	0.9%	-400	-0.6%
Government**	237,500	236,800	236,400	236,900	236,600	700	0.3%	900	0.4%
UNITED STATES	152,544,000	152,271,000	151,998,000	151,814,000	150,135,000	273,000	0.2%	2,409,000	1.6%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

	February 2020 P	January 2020 R	December 2019	November 2019	February 2019	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	406,800	407,900	407,200	405,800	407,300	-1,100	-0.3%	-500	-0.1%
Danbury	77,700	77,700	77,600	77,600	77,600	0	0.0%	100	0.1%
Hartford	589,400	588,100	585,900	585,400	583,300	1,300	0.2%	6,100	1.0%
New Haven	294,400	292,600	291,000	290,500	287,700	1,800	0.6%	6,700	2.3%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	129,700	129,900	129,300	129,200	129,500	-200	-0.2%	200	0.2%
Waterbury	68,500	68,700	68,300	68,200	68,700	-200	-0.3%	-200	-0.3%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	43,500	43,900	45,000	44,900	43,800	-400	-0.9%	-300	-0.7%
Torrington-Northwest	31,900	32,200	33,200	33,100	31,900	-300	-0.9%	0	0.0%
Danielson-Northeast	26,800	27,200	27,600	27,500	26,600	-400	-1.5%	200	0.8%

* 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.

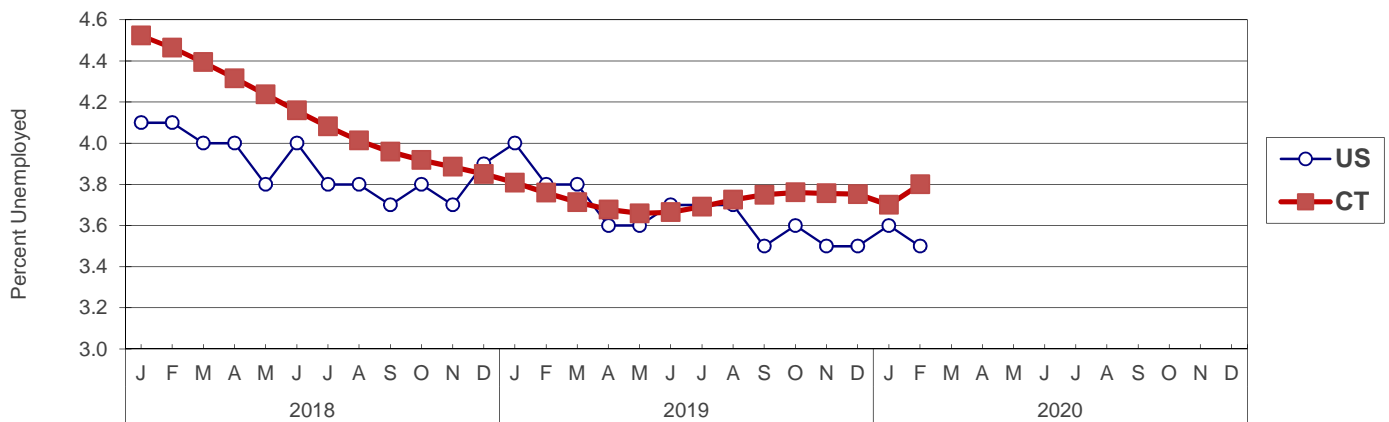
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Feb 2020 P		Feb 2019 R		Change		Jan 2020 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	72,600	3.8	71,600	3.8	1,000	0.0	72,200	3.7
Labor Force	1,930,500		1,904,000		26,500		1,929,300	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	5,787,000	3.5	6,181,000	3.8	-394,000	-0.3	5,892,000	3.6
Labor Force	164,546,000		163,047,000		1,499,000		164,606,000	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - Seasonally Adjusted 2018 - 2020



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Feb 2020 P		Feb 2019 R		Change		Jan 2020 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	84,700	4.4	81,700	4.3	3,000	0.1	85,200	4.4
UNITED STATES	6,218,000	3.8	6,625,000	4.1	-407,000	-0.3	6,504,000	4.0

Release of the February 2020 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, March 27, 2020. 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			
	Feb. 2020 P	Feb. 2019	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2020 R	Feb. 2020 P	Feb. 2019	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2020 R	Feb. 2020 P	Feb. 2019	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2020 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,138.05	\$1,089.62	\$48.43	\$1,122.25	33.7	33.2	0.5	33.5	\$33.77	\$32.82	\$0.95	\$33.50
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,176.17	\$1,113.86	\$62.31	\$1,163.25	41.4	41.5	-0.1	41.5	\$28.41	\$26.84	\$1.57	\$28.03

* 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: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

TRENDS

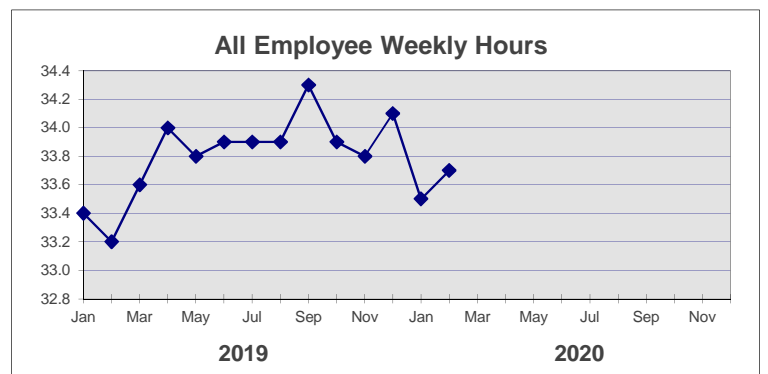
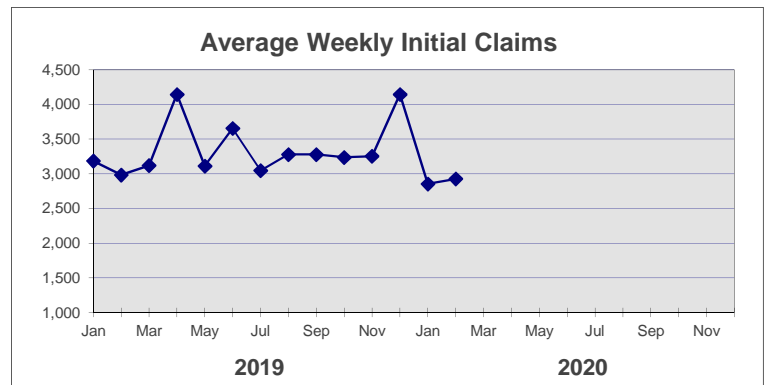
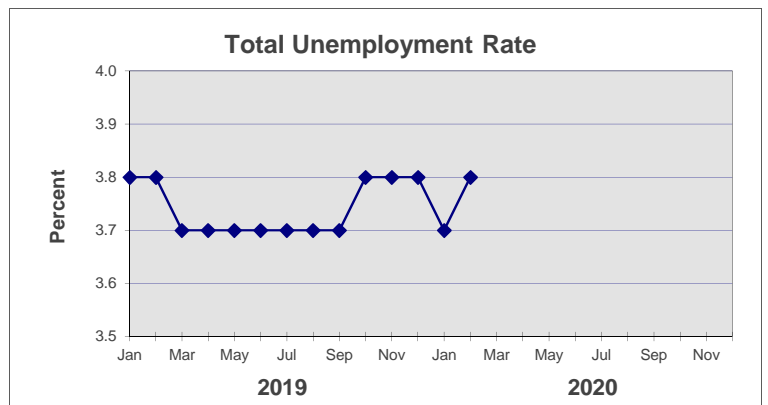
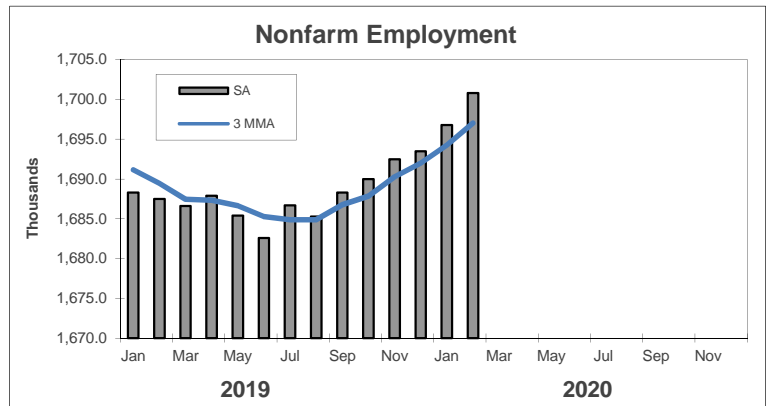
Seasonally Adjusted

	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2019		
Jan	1,688.3	3.8
Feb	1,687.5	3.8
Mar	1,686.6	3.7
Apr	1,687.9	3.7
May	1,685.4	3.7
Jun	1,682.6	3.7
Jul	1,686.7	3.7
Aug	1,685.3	3.7
Sep	1,688.3	3.7
Oct	1,690.0	3.8
Nov	1,692.5	3.8
Dec	1,693.5	3.8

2020		
Jan	1,696.8 R	3.7 R
Feb	1,700.8 P	3.8 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	All Employee Weekly Hours*
2019		
Jan	3,184	33.4
Feb	2,985	33.2
Mar	3,121	33.6
Apr	4,146	34.0
May	3,114	33.8
Jun	3,655	33.9
Jul	3,046	33.9
Aug	3,280	33.9
Sep	3,279	34.3
Oct	3,238	33.9
Nov	3,254	33.8
Dec	4,146	34.1

2020		
Jan	2,854	33.5 R
Feb	2,927	33.7 P
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

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** Labor-management dispute