



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

Kurt Westby, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2020 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 7.9%*

US Unemployment Rate = 14.7%

Nonfarm jobs decline by 266,300 in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic

***NOTE: Connecticut's official unemployment rate for April produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) must be considered inaccurate. Data collection and misclassification issues in the Current Population Survey, the foundation of the state's residential labor force statistics, caused residential unemployment to be severely underestimated.**

WETHERSFIELD, May 21, 2020 – Preliminary Connecticut nonfarm job estimates from the business payroll survey administered by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the state lost a historic 266,300 net jobs (-15.9%) in April 2020, to a level of 1,411,100 seasonally adjusted. Over the year, nonagricultural employment in the state fell by 276,800 (-16.4%) seasonally adjusted. The March 2020 originally-released job loss of 7,600 was revised down sharply to a loss of 22,100 jobs. All of the movements in payroll job estimates are considered statistically significant.

"Connecticut and the nation saw a rapid and unprecedented level of job loss in April due to the pandemic," said Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor. "All industries saw significant declines, but the hardest hit included leisure & hospitality, retail trade, and education & health services. What remains to be seen is how many of these jobs were suspended and will return when public safety permits and how many were permanently lost."

Nonfarm Jobs Detail (business establishment survey)

Private sector employment fell by 246,400 (-17.1%) to 1,195,900 jobs over the month in April, and are now down by 256,100 (-17.6%) seasonally-adjusted jobs over April 2019. The **government supersector** fell by 19,900 jobs in April to a total of 215,200, and is down by 20,700 jobs (-8.8%) over the year. The **government supersector** includes all federal, state and local employment, including public education and Native American casino employment located on tribal land.

All of the ten major industry *supersectors* lost significant employment in April. The **leisure & hospitality supersector** (-50.1%, 72,100), was hardest hit, losing 72,500 positions. **Trade transportation and utilities** (-17.3%, 241,400) was next with a loss of 50,400 net jobs. **Education & health** (-13.3%, 294,100) dropped 45,200 jobs. The **professional & business services supersector** (-11.7%, 197,800) shed 26,300, while **other services** (-37.4%, 40,400) fell by 24,100. **Manufacturing** (-8.2%, 149,500) lost 13,300 while **construction and mining** (-17.6%, 50,100) declined by 10,700. The **financial activities supersector** (-2.1%, 120,400) was hit less hard, losing 2,600 jobs while the **information supersector** (-4.1%, 30,100) fell by 1,300.

Connecticut Labor Market Areas (LMAs): All six **LMAs** seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics saw large losses in April 2020. The **Hartford LMA** (-12.9%, 507,600) led declines, dropping 75,500 jobs. The **Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk LMA** (-17.6%, 331,100) fell by 70,800 net jobs, while the **New Haven LMA** (-14.3%, 248,600) lost 41,400. The **Norwich-New London-Westerly RI LMA** (-26.7%, 93,700) shed 34,200 positions while the **Danbury LMA** (-17.3%, 63,400) dropped 13,300 positions. The **Waterbury LMA** (-14.7%, 58,000) saw a decline of 10,000 net 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 33.9 hours in April 2020, down one-tenth of an hour from the same month a year ago. Average hourly earnings at \$35.14, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$2.11 (6.4%) from the April 2019 estimate (\$33.03). The resultant average private sector weekly pay amounted to \$1,191.25, up \$68.23 from a year ago (6.1%). 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 2020 was 0.3%. 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 April 2020 official unemployment rate for Connecticut was estimated by the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) to be 7.9% (seasonally adjusted), The US jobless rate in April 2020 was 14.7%, up 10.3 points from March.

The Connecticut unemployment rate appears severely underestimated due to challenges encountered in the collection of data for the April Current Population Survey (CPS) which is the foundation of the statistical model used to determine all states' unemployment rates. In addition to a poor response rate in an already small sample size in Connecticut, certain key questions appear to have been misinterpreted and misclassified. Specifically, a significant number of respondents who should have been classified as *temporarily out of work and therefore unemployed* were, instead classified as *employed*, but away from work (e.g. sick).

The Office of Research estimates the unemployment rate to be in the range of 17.5% for the mid-March to Mid-April period (same time frame as the BLS estimate). This estimate was made using Connecticut residential unemployment insurance claims and adding similar factor for the unemployed self-employed.

April 2020 seasonally adjusted average weekly initial unemployment claims for first-time filers in Connecticut was 44,075, up from March by 20,811 claims and up by 39,929 claims (963%) from the April 2019 level of 4,146. Note: April 2020 average weekly claims could be revised up due to significant delays in processing the current volume.

*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 18, 2020 (May Preliminary 2020 data)

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05-21-20

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

	April 2020 P	March 2020 R	February 2020	January 2020	April 2019	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,411,100	1,677,400	1,699,500	1,696,800	1,687,900	-266,300	-15.9%	-276,800	-16.4%
Total Private	1,195,900	1,442,300	1,462,200	1,460,000	1,452,000	-246,400	-17.1%	-256,100	-17.6%
Goods Producing Industries									
Mining	500	600	600	600	500	-100	-16.7%	0	0.0%
Construction	49,600	60,200	60,500	60,000	60,700	-10,600	-17.6%	-11,100	-18.3%
Manufacturing	149,500	162,800	162,500	161,600	162,000	-13,300	-8.2%	-12,500	-7.7%
Durable Goods	118,100	128,200	127,800	127,000	127,500	-10,100	-7.9%	-9,400	-7.4%
Nondurable Goods	31,400	34,600	34,700	34,600	34,500	-3,200	-9.2%	-3,100	-9.0%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	241,400	291,800	293,700	296,800	291,800	-50,400	-17.3%	-50,400	-17.3%
Wholesale	57,400	59,000	59,000	58,800	60,000	-1,600	-2.7%	-2,600	-4.3%
Retail	133,700	171,900	173,500	175,400	176,400	-38,200	-22.2%	-42,700	-24.2%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	50,300	60,900	61,200	62,600	55,400	-10,600	-17.4%	-5,100	-9.2%
Information	30,100	31,400	31,500	31,400	31,300	-1,300	-4.1%	-1,200	-3.8%
Financial Activities	120,400	123,000	124,300	124,000	123,800	-2,600	-2.1%	-3,400	-2.7%
Finance & Insurance	101,700	102,500	103,200	103,100	103,700	-800	-0.8%	-2,000	-1.9%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	18,700	20,500	21,100	20,900	20,100	-1,800	-8.8%	-1,400	-7.0%
Professional & Business Services	197,800	224,100	222,500	222,200	219,600	-26,300	-11.7%	-21,800	-9.9%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	89,500	97,000	96,800	95,800	95,800	-7,500	-7.7%	-6,300	-6.6%
Management of Companies	32,200	34,100	34,000	34,000	32,900	-1,900	-5.6%	-700	-2.1%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	76,100	93,000	91,700	92,400	90,900	-16,900	-18.2%	-14,800	-16.3%
Educational & Health Services	294,100	339,300	344,000	343,300	338,200	-45,200	-13.3%	-44,100	-13.0%
Educational Services	62,200	67,200	68,900	69,700	66,600	-5,000	-7.4%	-4,400	-6.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	231,900	272,100	275,100	273,600	271,600	-40,200	-14.8%	-39,700	-14.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	72,100	144,600	157,900	155,700	158,600	-72,500	-50.1%	-86,500	-54.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,300	27,200	27,900	27,600	28,800	-14,900	-54.8%	-16,500	-57.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	59,800	117,400	130,000	128,100	129,800	-57,600	-49.1%	-70,000	-53.9%
Other Services	40,400	64,500	64,700	64,400	65,500	-24,100	-37.4%	-25,100	-38.3%
Government**	215,200	235,100	237,300	236,800	235,900	-19,900	-8.5%	-20,700	-8.8%
UNITED STATES	131,045,000	151,582,000	152,463,000	152,212,000	150,492,000	-20,537,000	-13.5%	-19,447,000	-12.9%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	April 2020 P	March 2020 R	February 2020	January 2020	April 2019	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk	331,100	401,900	406,400	407,900	406,900	-70,800	-17.6%	-75,800	-18.6%
Danbury	63,400	76,700	77,700	77,700	77,900	-13,300	-17.3%	-14,500	-18.6%
Hartford	507,600	583,100	589,900	588,100	583,300	-75,500	-12.9%	-75,700	-13.0%
New Haven	248,600	290,000	294,000	292,600	287,900	-41,400	-14.3%	-39,300	-13.7%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, RI	93,700	127,900	129,600	129,900	129,400	-34,200	-26.7%	-35,700	-27.6%
Waterbury	58,000	68,000	68,500	68,700	68,100	-10,000	-14.7%	-10,100	-14.8%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data (Non-Classified Areas, State estimated not BLS)</i>									
Enfield	37,700	43,200	43,300	43,900	44,700	-5,500	-12.7%	-7,000	-15.7%
Torrington-Northwest	26,900	31,600	31,900	32,200	32,600	-4,700	-14.9%	-5,700	-17.5%
Danielson-Northeast	22,800	26,500	26,700	27,200	27,000	-3,700	-14.0%	-4,200	-15.6%

* 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.

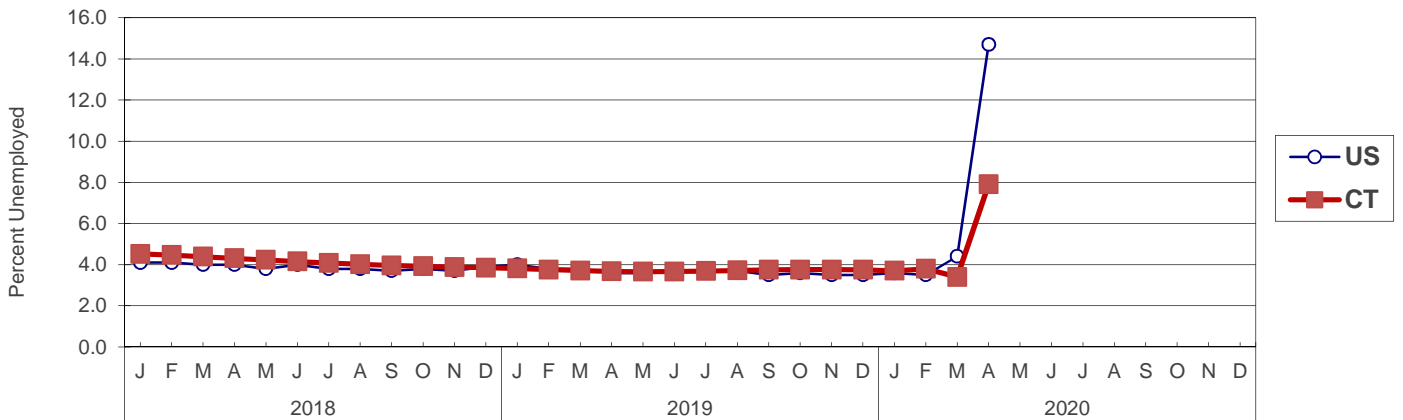
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 2020 P		Apr 2019 R		Change		Mar 2020 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	140,700	7.9	69,900	3.7	70,800	4.2	65,600	3.4
Labor Force	1,788,400		1,901,100		-112,700		1,930,800	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	23,078,000	14.7	5,850,000	3.6	17,228,000	11.1	7,140,000	4.4
Labor Force	156,481,000		162,546,000		-6,065,000		162,913,000	

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 2020 P		Apr 2019 R		Change		Mar 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	140,700	8.0	62,600	3.3	78,100	4.7	69,100	3.6
UNITED STATES	22,504,000	14.4	5,387,000	3.3	17,117,000	11.1	7,370,000	4.5

Release of the March 2020 sub-state labor force data is restricted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics until Friday, May 22, 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 Micropolitan 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			
	Apr. 2020 P	Apr. 2019	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2020 R	Apr. 2020 P	Apr. 2019	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2020 R	Apr. 2020 P	Apr. 2019	Change over Yr.	Mar. 2020 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$1,191.25	\$1,123.02	\$68.23	\$1,131.97	33.9	34.0	-0.1	33.5	\$35.14	\$33.03	\$2.11	\$33.79
Manufacturing*												
Production Workers	\$1,165.02	\$1,140.62	\$24.40	\$1,192.74	39.2	42.8	-3.6	41.3	\$29.72	\$26.65	\$3.07	\$28.88

* Production worker data have been impacted by the loss of a large, high-paying manufacturer from the monthly sample.

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

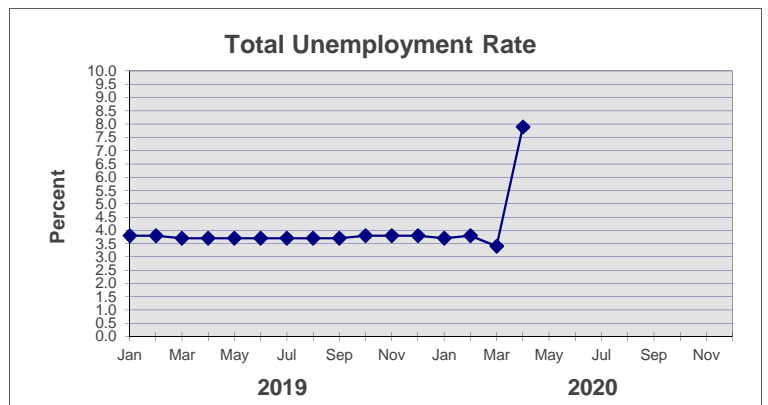
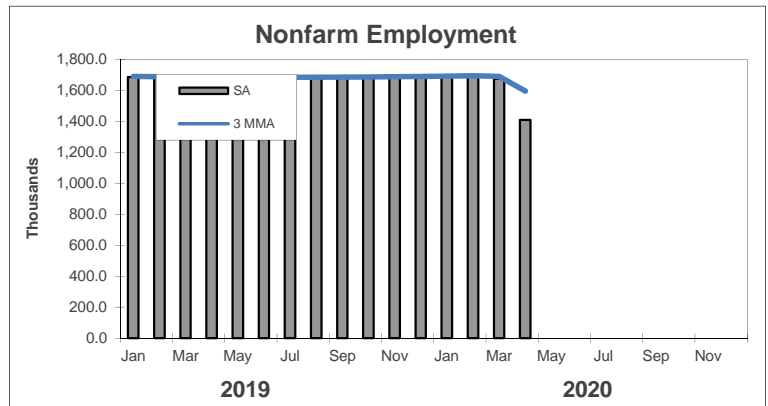
Hours and earnings are also developed for the state's major industry sectors and Labor Market Areas. They can be found on our website at: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

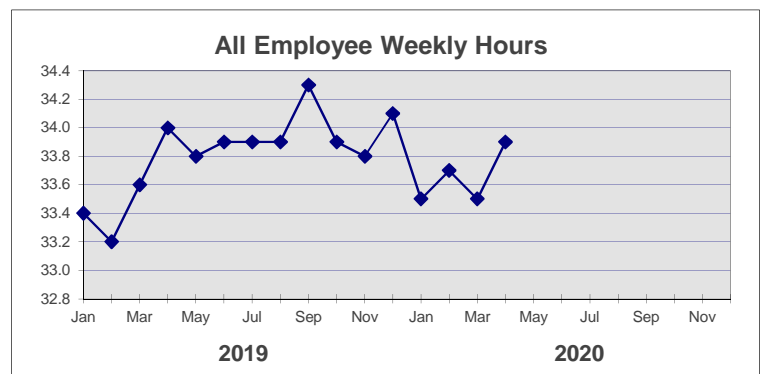
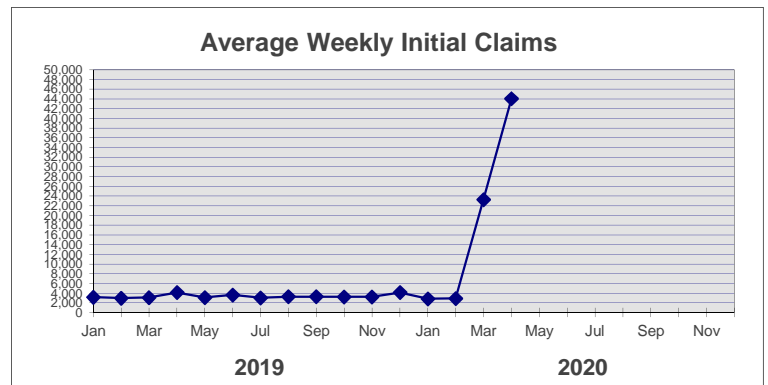
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2019		
Jan	1,688.3	3.8
Feb	1,687.5	3.8
Mar	1,686.6	3.7
Apr	1,687.9	3.7
May	1,685.4	3.7
Jun	1,682.6	3.7
Jul	1,686.7	3.7
Aug	1,685.3	3.7
Sep	1,688.3	3.7
Oct	1,690.0	3.8
Nov	1,692.5	3.8
Dec	1,693.5	3.8

2020		
Jan	1,696.8	3.7
Feb	1,699.5	3.8
Mar	1,677.4 R	3.4 R
Apr	1,411.1 P	7.9 P
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
Feb	2,927	33.7
Mar	23,264	33.5 R
Apr	44,075	33.9 P
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute