Opportunity * Guidance * Support

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Glenn Marshall
Commissioner

LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2011 Data
CT Unemployment Rate = 8.4%
National Unemployment Rate = 8.6%

Unemployment Rate drops to 8.4 percent, Jobs essentially unchanged at 1,628,700

WETHERSFIELD, December 19, 2011 – Connecticut's job market plateaued a bit in November after three straight months of gains. Connecticut's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm job count reached 1,628,700, a monthly increase of 100 over an October level which was revised upward by 1,000 over preliminary estimates. Annually the level is up 7,500 jobs over a year ago or 0.5%. The state's unemployment rate continued its recent trend of declines falling to 8.4% or down three-tenths from October.

October's job gains came primarily from ***professional & business services sector***, ***leisure & hospitality***, ***manufacturing***, ***government*** and ***other services***. Declines were led by ***construction*** and ***trade, transportation & utilities***.

"Another healthy decline in Connecticut's unemployment rate reflects the cumulative impact of three straight months of improving job numbers," noted Andy Condon, Director of the Office of Research. "However, we were surprised to see that the jobs survey did not pick up any increased employment due to the emergency power line and tree remediation caused by the Halloween snow storm. It is possible that since much of the additional workforce came from out of state, the additional jobs will be reported in their home communities."

Nonfarm Jobs

November's total nonfarm job estimate was effectively unchanged as it grew by only 100 positions or less than 0.05%. Since November 2010, the state has added 7,500 jobs (0.5%) for a current employment level of 1,628,700. The October jobs estimate was revised higher by 1,000. The state has created 10,900 jobs or 0.7% growth since January 2011. Almost all of this gain has come since August (11,200) or after Storm Irene hit the state. Half of Connecticut's ten *supersectors* had gains and the other half had declines last month. As in the previous month, ***professional and business services*** led all major sector growth in November, adding 1,300 jobs, or 0.7%. Both administrative and support services (1,100, 1.3%) and professional, scientific, and technical services (200, 0.2%) contributed to the monthly gain in this sector. ***Leisure and hospitality*** (800, 0.6%) was the next biggest job gainer, with the smaller ***arts, entertainment, and recreation*** component adding 1,600 positions (6.9%). The much larger ***accommodation and food services*** segment declined (-800, -0.7%). The ***manufacturing*** sector broke a string of three straight declining months to add 300 jobs in November (0.2%). The non-durable goods production subdivision (400, 1.0%) advanced the sector last month while durable goods industries were slightly down (-100, -0.1%). The ***government*** division (200, 0.1%) was a bit higher in November and has been positive in the last three months after a large decline in August (-8,000). ***Other services*** added 100 jobs (0.2%). The ***repair and maintenance*** services segment has been busy lately because of the storm cleanup activity.

Recession recovery: Connecticut has now recouped 35,200, or 29.5% of the 119,200 nonfarm jobs lost in the March 2008 to January 2010 recession (-7.0% of total nonfarm payrolls). Connecticut's nonfarm job level is now at the highest level since the employment recession ended in January 2010.

The ***construction*** sector, which has become volatile as of late, shed 1,300 positions or -2.6% for the largest sector decline. A typical seasonal pullback is inherent in construction, but unseasonable weather and storm work has made this sector unpredictable. ***Financial activities*** (-600, -0.5%) is still revealing weakness. This sector has had only one positive month since March. ***Trade, transportation and utilities*** also declined by 400 jobs or 0.1% in November. The transportation, warehousing, and utilities subsector was flat whereas wholesale and retail trade were both down 200. ***Education and health services*** posted a rare decline (-200, -0.1%) with healthcare and social services declines (-700, -0.3%) eclipsing an education gain (500, 0.9%). ***Information*** had a negligible loss of 100 or -0.3%. ***Total private employment*** declined 100 positions or less than 0.05% in November, although the private sector has added 7,700 positions or 0.6% since November 2010. Since January 2011, the private sector has added 11,200 positions or 0.8%, with 6,900 coming since August.

The ***professional and business services*** grouping again led all supersectors in November with a 1,300 job gain or 0.7% growth. This sector is up 3,900 or 2.0% over the year and has the strongest over-the-year growth of all of the ten major supersectors in percentage terms. Monthly growth came mostly from the subcomponent that includes employment services (administrative and support, and waste management services, 1,100 or 1.3%) but also includes services to buildings and dwellings that may have been propped up seasonally from Storm Alfred remediation. Professional, scientific, and technical services also chipped in 200 positions (0.2%) last month while the management of companies and enterprises component was unchanged.

Leisure and hospitality gained 800 jobs (0.6%) in November and is back to unchanged over the year. A substantial gain (1,600, 6.9%) last month from the smaller arts, entertainment, and recreation portion overrode an 800 position decline (-0.7%) from the larger accommodation and food services component. Over the year, a small 400 gain (0.4%) in hotels and restaurants was offset by a 400 decline (-1.6%) in arts, entertainment, and recreation, resulting in no change for the sector.

Manufacturing increased 300 jobs or 0.2% this month but is now lower over the year (-800, -0.5%). Production industries were led by the smaller non-durable goods component last month (400, 1.0%). Yet durable goods declined by 100 jobs (-0.1%). Non-durable goods manufacturing is now up for the year (600, 1.6%), while the more capital intensive durable goods division has lost 1,400 jobs or -1.1%.

The ***government*** sector advanced 200 positions (0.1%) last month but is down 200 (-0.1%) since November 2010. State government added 300 jobs last month (0.4%) and is up the same over-the-year. Federal public administration declined 100 in November (-0.6%) and is off 400 since last November (-2.2%), mainly from postal service weakness. Local government was unchanged in employment in November and has now only lost 100 jobs or 0.1% over-the-year.

Other services added a small gain of 100 (0.2%) and are flat since last November. This sector had hit a recovery low in August 2011 at 59,800, but has since added 800 jobs to total 60,600. A subcomponent, repair and maintenance services, has seen increased activity since late August when Storm Irene hit the state.

The ***construction*** sector had the largest employment decline over the month, relinquishing 1,300 positions or -2.6%. This challenged sector is still up over the year (600, 1.2%) but is down in the January-November time frame (-1,300, -2.6%). The building sectors have been volatile lately probably due to the unseasonable weather and emergency roofing and repair work from the freak storms that hit the state in the second half of the year.

Financial activities segments continued to lose jobs in November, dropping 600 positions for a half of a percent decline. This has been the hardest hit supersector since November 2010 (-3,500, -2.6%). Finance and insurance was responsible for the entire loss this month (-600, -0.5%). Since last November, finance and insurance has lost 3,000 jobs (-2.6%) and real estate is lower by 500 (-2.6%).

The ***trade, transportation, and utilities*** industry combination was down 400 or -0.1% in November. Both wholesale (-0.3%) and retail (-0.1%) trade declined 200 positions while transportation, warehousing, and utilities was unaffected. The unchanged transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector was surprising, considering the large number of out-of-state crews in the state for Storm Alfred. Since last year, the trade, transportation, and utilities supersector has added 2,900 jobs or 1.0%. Annualized gains show wholesale trade adding 1,900 jobs (3.0%), retail trade accumulating 1,700 positions (1.0%), but transportation, warehousing, and utilities losing 700 jobs (-1.4%) since November 2010.

Private ***education and health services*** sectors declined by 200 jobs or 0.1% over the month. A 500 job gain (0.9%) from private education sectors was offset by an infrequent decline from the healthcare and social assistance category (-700, -0.3%). Since November 2010, this largest of all supersectors has added the most jobs of all of the ten major industry sectors (4,300, 1.4%), but is second to the professional and business sectors in percentage growth terms. Healthcare and social assistance has contributed all of the yearly gains (4,700, 1.9%) while private education has actually declined over the year (-400, -0.7%).

The ***information*** sector, which includes publishing industries such as newspapers, telecommunications, motion pictures, and sound recording industries, dropped 100 or -0.3%, and yet is higher by 300 jobs or up about 1.0% from a year ago.

Labor Market Areas (LMAs): In November, Connecticut Labor Market Areas, which are separately estimated from the state, showed declines in four of the six major labor markets (the LMAs that are Bureau of Labor Statistics recognized and seasonally adjusted). The Danbury LMA led all areas this month with a 300 position or a 0.5% gain while Norwich-New London led all decliners (-1,800, -1.4%). Since last November, among the larger LMAs, the Hartford area had the biggest job increase (3,800, 0.7%), while the Norwich-New London LMA experienced the biggest decline (-4,100, -3.2%).

Hours and Earnings: The workweek for employees in the private sector, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 34.0 hours in November, up 0.5 hours (1.5%) from the November 2010 figure of 33.5 hours. Average hourly earnings at $28.34, not seasonally adjusted, were $0.25 or 0.9% higher than last November. The resultant average private sector weekly pay estimate was $963.56, up $22.54, or 2.4% over the year. This compares less favorably to the change in the Consumer Price Index – For All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) since last November (3.4%). 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.

Labor Force Data

Connecticut’s seasonally adjusted labor force numbered 1,887,400 in November 2011, up 6,400 over the month (0.3%) and down 9,300 (-0.5%) from a year earlier, with 12,800 fewer unemployed people (-7.4%) than last year.

Unemployment: Based on the household survey, the estimate of people unemployed, seasonally adjusted, was down 4,700 from October at 159,200, and the unemployment rate decreased three-tenths to 8.4 percent. This was a particularly strong move as total labor force increased over the month. The November rate is below the national rate of 8.6 percent. Last November, Connecticut’s unemployment rate was 9.1 percent. The Connecticut unemployment rate has not been this low since June 2009. Average weekly initial unemployment claims in November 2011 for first-time filers increased over the month by 3,460 (67.7%) to 8,572 and were up 73.2 percent, or 3,624 claims from this time last year. The spike in claims is likely attributable to Storm Alfred and should be temporary.

The nonfarm employment estimate, derived from a survey of businesses, is a measure of jobs in the state; the unemployment rate, based on a household survey, is a measure of the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Overall, as the national and state economies recover, volatility in monthly numbers can be expected. Additionally, changes in methodology that culminated in March 2011 with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics assuming complete responsibility for estimating all states’ monthly nonfarm job counts, have contributed to the month-to-month variability in the numbers. ***Jobs estimates are best understood in the context of their movement over several months rather than observed changes in a single month’s estimate***

Contact: Communications Office (860) 263-6535 12-19-11

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

Jobs - by Place of Work

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*

	Nov. 2011 P	Oct. 2011 R	Sept. 2011	Aug. 2011	Nov. 2010	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	**1,628,700**	**1,628,600**	**1,621,100**	**1,617,500**	**1,621,200**	**100**	**0.0%**	**7,500**	**0.5%**
Goods Producing Industries									
Construction	49,300	50,600	48,700	50,200	48,700	-1,300	-2.6%	600	1.2%
Manufacturing	167,500	167,200	167,300	167,900	168,300	300	0.2%	-800	-0.5%
Durable Goods	128,100	128,200	128,400	128,700	129,500	-100	-0.1%	-1,400	-1.1%
Nondurable Goods	39,400	39,000	38,900	39,200	38,800	400	1.0%	600	1.5%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	292,700	293,100	293,400	293,100	289,800	-400	-0.1%	2,900	1.0%
Wholesale	64,700	64,900	65,200	63,900	62,800	-200	-0.3%	1,900	3.0%
Retail	179,700	179,900	179,200	179,200	178,000	-200	-0.1%	1,700	1.0%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	48,300	48,300	49,000	50,000	49,000	0	0.0%	-700	-1.4%
Information	31,900	32,000	31,500	31,700	31,600	-100	-0.3%	300	0.9%
Financial Activities	132,100	132,700	133,300	132,700	135,600	-600	-0.5%	-3,500	-2.6%
Finance & Insurance	113,400	114,000	114,500	114,000	116,400	-600	-0.5%	-3,000	-2.6%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	18,700	18,700	18,800	18,700	19,200	0	0.0%	-500	-2.6%
Professional & Business Services	196,900	195,600	192,600	193,100	193,000	1,300	0.7%	3,900	2.0%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	86,500	86,300	85,800	85,900	86,100	200	0.2%	400	0.5%
Management of Companies	25,800	25,800	25,600	25,700	26,000	0	0.0%	-200	-0.8%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	84,600	83,500	81,200	81,500	80,900	1,100	1.3%	3,700	4.6%
Educational & Health Services	316,700	316,900	316,400	316,100	312,400	-200	-0.1%	4,300	1.4%
Educational Services	58,900	58,400	59,200	58,900	59,300	500	0.9%	-400	-0.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	257,800	258,500	257,200	257,200	253,100	-700	-0.3%	4,700	1.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	137,800	137,000	135,600	134,000	137,800	800	0.6%	0	0.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	24,700	23,100	24,000	23,400	25,100	1,600	6.9%	-400	-1.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	113,100	113,900	111,600	110,600	112,700	-800	-0.7%	400	0.4%
Other Services	60,600	60,500	60,500	59,800	60,600	100	0.2%	0	0.0%
Government**	242,600	242,400	241,200	238,300	242,800	200	0.1%	-200	-0.1%
UNITED STATES	131,708,000	131,588,000	131,488,000	131,278,000	130,108,000	120,000	0.1%	1,600,000	1.2%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

Seasonally Adjusted data	Nov. 2011 P	Oct. 2011 R	Sept. 2011	Aug. 2011	Nov. 2010	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	394,800	395,600	395,000	398,200	397,700	-800	-0.2%	-2,900	-0.7%
Danbury	67,100	66,800	66,100	65,400	65,500	300	0.4%	1,600	2.4%
Hartford	538,300	539,700	535,900	535,400	534,500	-1,400	-0.3%	3,800	0.7%
New Haven	264,800	265,400	263,400	263,300	265,400	-600	-0.2%	-600	-0.2%
Norwich-New London	125,500	127,300	127,400	129,800	129,600	-1,800	-1.4%	-4,100	-3.2%
Waterbury	63,400	63,300	63,600	63,600	62,700	100	0.2%	700	1.1%
Not Seasonally Adjusted data									
Enfield	45,000	44,700	44,400	44,200	44,800	300	0.7%	200	0.4%
Torrington	35,500	35,600	35,800	35,100	35,400	-100	-0.3%	100	0.3%
Willimantic-Danielson	37,000	36,700	36,400	35,900	36,400	300	0.8%	600	1.6%

* 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.

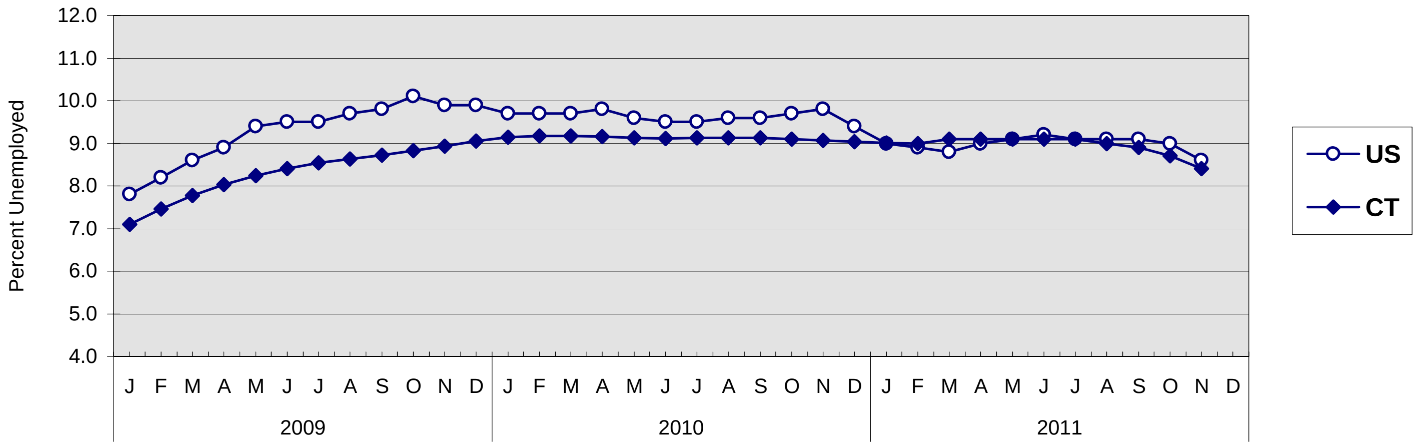
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*

	November 2011 P		November 2010		Change		October 2011 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	*159,200*	*8.4*	*172,000*	*9.1*	*-12,800*	*-0.7*	*163,900*	*8.7*
Labor Force	*1,887,400*		*1,896,700*		*-9,300*		*1,881,000*	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	*13,303,000*	*8.6*	*15,041,000*	*9.8*	*-1,738,000*	*-1.2*	*13,897,000*	*9.0*
Labor Force	*153,883,000*		*153,950,000*		*-67,000*		*154,198,000*	

U.S. AND CONNECTICUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - *Seasonally Adjusted*
2009 - 2011



LABOR MARKET AREAS - *Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	November 2011 P		November 2010		Change		October 2011 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	**35,200**	**7.4**	**39,600**	**8.3**	**-4,400**	**-0.9**	**37,000**	**7.8**
Danbury	**5,800**	**6.3**	**6,500**	**7.1**	**-700**	**-0.8**	**6,000**	**6.5**
Enfield	**3,800**	**7.5**	**4,500**	**8.9**	**-700**	**-1.4**	**4,100**	**8.2**
Hartford	**47,600**	**7.9**	**52,600**	**8.8**	**-5,000**	**-0.9**	**49,500**	**8.2**
New Haven	**26,000**	**8.3**	**28,900**	**9.1**	**-2,900**	**-0.8**	**27,200**	**8.6**
Norwich-New London	**12,100**	**8.2**	**13,200**	**8.7**	**-1,100**	**-0.5**	**12,500**	**8.3**
Torrington	**4,000**	**7.2**	**4,600**	**8.4**	**-600**	**-1.2**	**4,200**	**7.6**
Waterbury	**10,400**	**10.2**	**11,900**	**11.6**	**-1,500**	**-1.4**	**10,800**	**10.6**
Willimantic-Danielson	**5,300**	**9.0**	**6,000**	**10.1**	**-700**	**-1.1**	**5,400**	**9.1**
CONNECTICUT	**149,100**	**7.9**	**166,700**	**8.8**	**-17,600**	**-0.9**	**155,800**	**8.2**
UNITED STATES	**12,613,000**	**8.2**	**14,282,000**	**9.3**	**-1,669,000**	**-1.1**	**13,102,000**	**8.5**

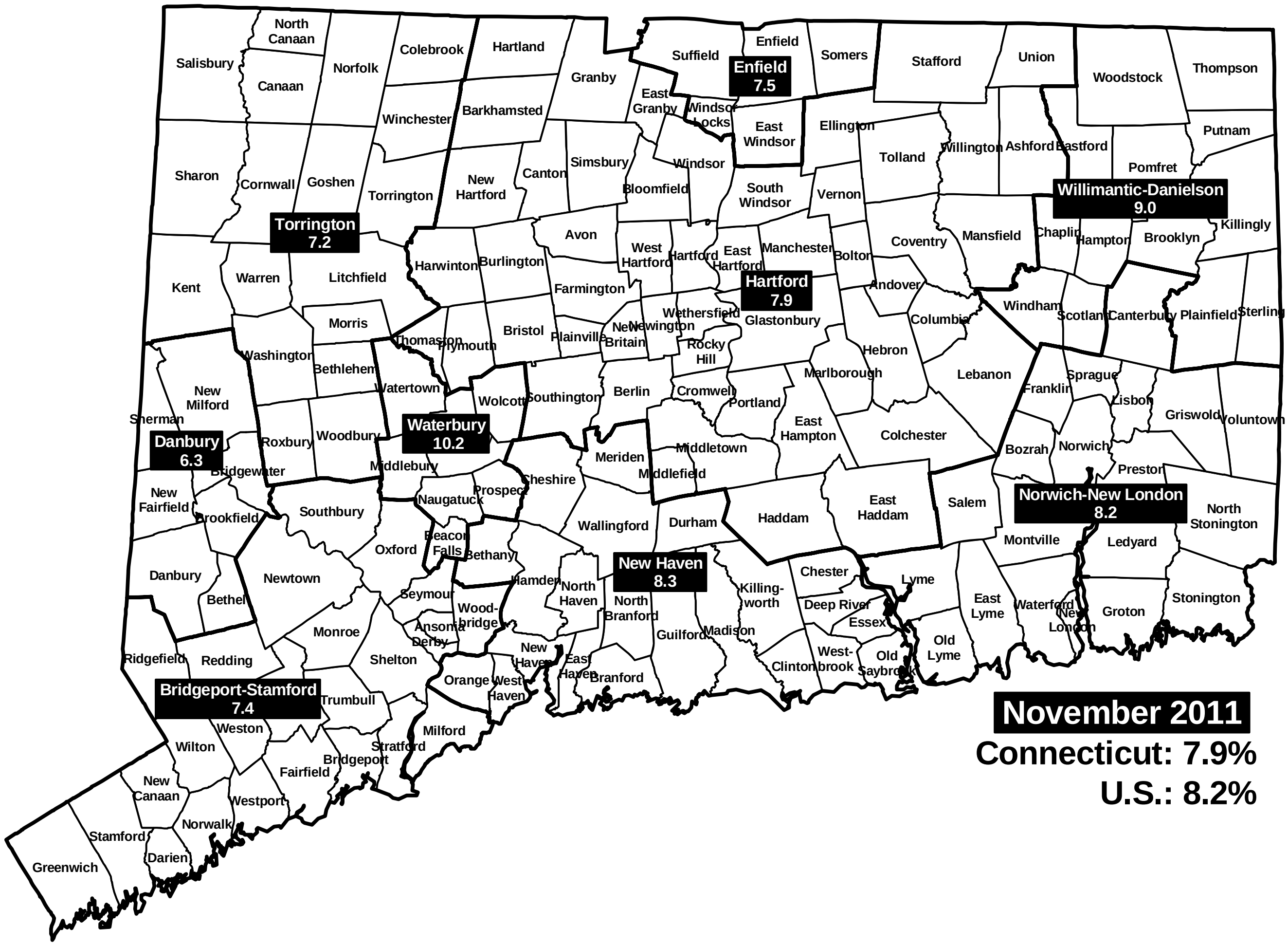
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LABOR MARKET AREAS



November 2011

Connecticut: 7.9%

U.S.: 8.2%

HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - *Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Nov. 2011 P	Nov. 2010	Change over Yr.	Oct. 2011 R	Nov. 2011 P	Nov. 2010	Change over Yr.	Oct. 2011 R	Nov. 2011 P	Nov. 2010	Change over Yr.	Oct. 2011 R
Private Industry All Employees	$963.56	$941.02	$22.54	$979.37	34.0	33.5	0.5	34.4	$28.34	$28.09	$0.25	$28.47
Manufacturing Production Workers	$1,012.10	$1,001.20	$10.90	$1,006.07	40.5	41.1	-0.6	40.6	$24.99	$24.36	$0.63	$24.78

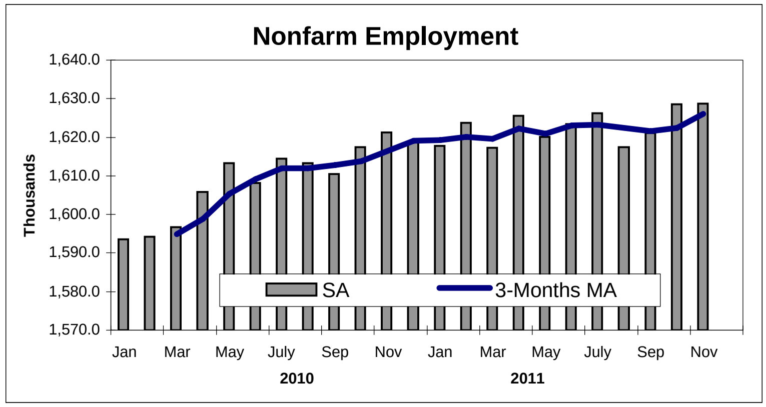
P = Preliminary R = Revised

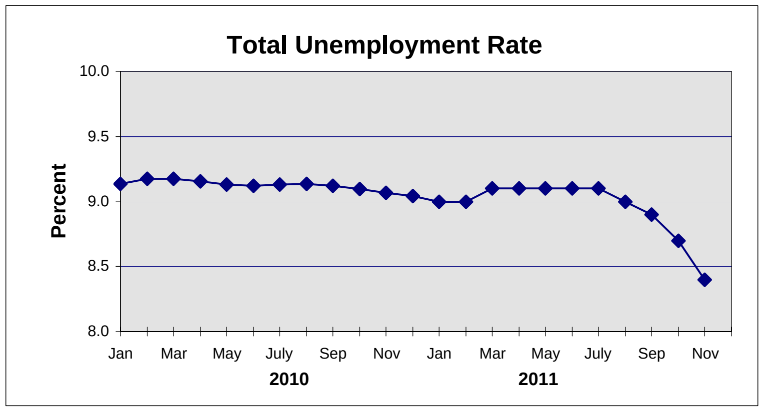
Hours and earnings are also developed for the state's major industry sectors and Labor Market Areas. They can be found on our website at: *www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi*.

TRENDS

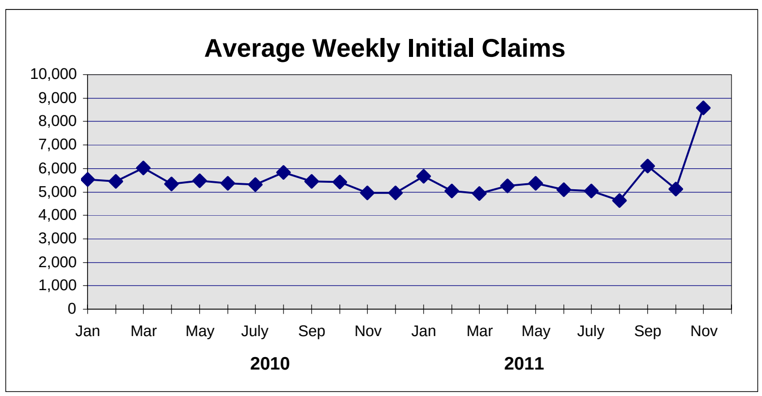
Seasonally Adjusted

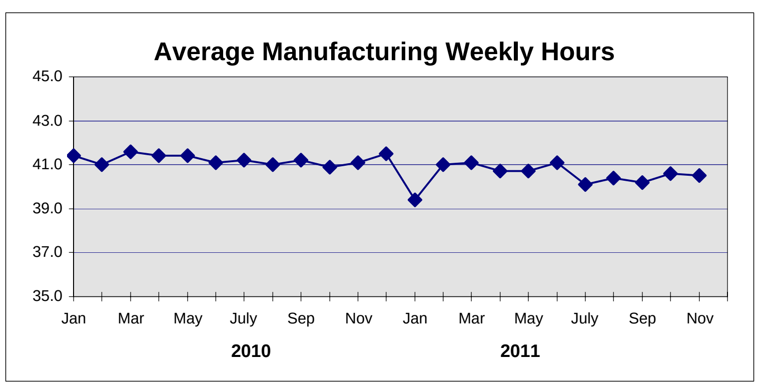
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2010		
Jan	1,593.5	9.1
Feb	1,594.3	9.2
Mar	1,596.7	9.2
Apr	1,605.8	9.2
May	1,613.3	9.1
Jun	1,608.2	9.1
July	1,614.4	9.1
Aug	1,613.3	9.1
Sep	1,610.5	9.1
Oct	1,617.5	9.1
Nov	1,621.2	9.1
Dec	1,618.8	9.0
2011		
Jan	1,617.8	9.0
Feb	1,623.8	9.0
Mar	1,617.2	9.1
Apr	1,625.6	9.1
May	1,620.1	9.1
Jun	1,623.4	9.1
July	1,626.3	9.1
Aug	1,617.5	9.0
Sep	1,621.1	8.9
Oct	1,628.6 R	8.7 R
Nov	1,628.7 P	8.4 P
Dec		





	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	Avg Manufacturing Weekly Hours*
2010		
Jan	5,539	41.4
Feb	5,443	41.0
Mar	6,011	41.6
Apr	5,351	41.4
May	5,467	41.4
Jun	5,357	41.1
July	5,313	41.2
Aug	5,821 R	41.0
Sep	5,450	41.2
Oct	5,432	40.9
Nov	4,948	41.1
Dec	4,972	41.5
2011		
Jan	5,665	39.4
Feb	5,046	41.0
Mar	4,924	41.1
Apr	5,262	40.7
May	5,378	40.7
Jun	5,103	41.1
July	5,039	40.1
Aug	4,642	40.4
Sep	6,110	40.2
Oct	5,112	40.6 R
Nov	8,572	40.5 P
Dec		





* Not seasonally adjusted P = Preliminary R = Revised ** Labor-management dispute