



# LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 2011 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 9.0%

National Unemployment Rate = 8.9%

## **State Adds 5,400 Jobs in February; Unemployment Rate Remains at 9.0 Percent**

WETHERSFIELD, March 24, 2011 – Connecticut gained 5,400 jobs in February, bringing the state's nonfarm employment to 1,623,200. On a seasonally adjusted basis, this represents an increase of 28,900 jobs over the year, when nonfarm employment totaled 1,594,300. The state's unemployment rate remained at 9.0 percent, which is just above the national rate of 8.9 percent.

"While Connecticut's unemployment rate has remained at, or around nine percent for the past year, other economic indicators have shown improvement in that time," said Labor Statistics Supervisor Salvatore DiPillo. "Since the beginning of 2010, initial claims for unemployment insurance are down nine percent; private sector employees, on average are working longer hours; and if these trends hold up, we've recovered nearly 25 percent of the jobs we lost during the course of the recession."

### **Nonfarm Employment**

Connecticut rebounded from January's job losses, despite continued severe winter conditions. The sector that added the most in February was **professional and business services** with a gain of 3,100 jobs. The **construction** sector added 2,100 jobs, while **educational and health services** added 1,000. Employment in the **government** sector was up 500, and **trade, transportation and utilities** added 200 jobs. The **manufacturing** sector was estimated to have 1,100 fewer jobs in February, while **information** and **other services** were each down by 200. Employment in the **financial activities** and **leisure and hospitality** sectors were mostly unchanged over the month.

Overall, as the national and state economies recover, volatility in monthly numbers can be expected. Jobs estimates are best understood in the context of their movement over several months rather than observed changes in a single month's estimate. Despite month-to-month shifts in employment levels, most industry sectors in Connecticut have added jobs since the beginning of 2010.

Leading those sectors that have added employment over the year is **professional and business services**, which after losing nearly 11 percent of its positions between the beginning of 2008 and the fall of 2009, has steadily added jobs since. Over the past year, the sector has added 12,600 jobs to now total 198,900. Many of these additional positions are in the **employment services** industry, including **temporary help agencies**.

Employment in the **educational and health services** sector was largely resilient to the effects of the recession and continues to add jobs. Since last February this sector has increased by 9,100, and now totals 312,000 jobs. Gains in the **healthcare and social assistance** industries over the year numbered 7,700, while **education services** added 1,400 positions.

Over the past year the **leisure and hospitality** sector added 2,900 jobs, with employment now at 133,800. There have been gains in both of this sector's component industries – **arts, entertainment and recreation** and **accommodations and food services**. This sector is rebounding from the recession fairly well in Connecticut.

The **manufacturing** sector experienced some growth throughout much of 2010 after years of a long and steady decline. With 166,100 jobs, this sector's employment is up by 1,000 from February 2010. Both the **durable goods** and **nondurable goods** industries that make up the **manufacturing** sector added positions over the year.

The **construction** sector, which began losing jobs in July of 2007, lost 20,500, or 30 percent of its jobs between that time and December 2010. With February's gain, **construction** employment is up 2,900 over the year, totaling 52,700 positions. The construction industry was busier than usual this winter due to repair work caused by this winter's storms.

Employment in **financial activities** peaked in January 2007, and lost 11,000 jobs before starting to show gains in the summer of 2010. At 136,200 jobs in February, **financial activities** is up by 1,400 from February 2010.

The **other services** sector, which includes **repair and maintenance services, personal and laundry services** and **religious, grantmaking, civic, and professional organizations**, saw its employment peak in December 2006 and lost 6.8 percent of its jobs before turning around in March 2010. Employment in this sector, at 60,500, is up 400 from February 2010.

The **government** sector's employment had a temporary boost in the spring and summer months of 2010 with the hiring of several thousand federal Census workers, but their work was mostly completed by the fall. The number of **federal** employees, at 18,000, is down 700 from February 2010 – largely the result of post office staff reductions. Employment in **state government**, at 68,200, is up 400 from February 2010, while **local government** (which includes **tribal governments** and their **gaming establishments**) dropped 1,100 jobs over the year. The **local government** sector's employment peaked in May 2008 and since then is down 6,300, to total 157,200 jobs.

The **trade, transportation and utilities** sector lost 27,500 positions, or 8.7 percent of its employment, between 2008 and 2010. The sector added jobs in much of 2010, before taking a downward turn. Employment in this sector now totals 287,700, with all of the sector's growth in the past year in the **wholesale** and **retail trade** industries, and losses in the **transportation and utilities** industries.

The **information** sector, which includes **publishing industries** including **newspapers**, began losing jobs in 2000 – well before the current recession began. In the past year however, job losses have moderated, and at 31,500 jobs in February, this sector is down just 300 positions from a year earlier.

**Labor Market Areas:** Since January of 2010 when the state overall began adding jobs, there were gains in the Hartford LMA (+8,200); the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA (+8,100); and the Danbury LMA (+2,500). There were also job gains in the New Haven and Waterbury LMAs. Losses were reported in the Norwich-New London LMA.

**Hours and Earnings:** The workweek for employees in the private sector, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 33.7 hours in February, up 1.2 hours from the February 2010 figure of 32.5 hours. Average hourly earnings at \$28.33, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.11 from a year ago at this time when the number was \$28.22. This resulted in an average weekly wage for private sector employees of \$954.72, up \$37.57 over the year, representing an increase of 4.1 percent. 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 in February 2011, at 1,896,600, was up 500 from a year ago, with 3,200 more employed people, and 2,700 fewer unemployed people than there were in February 2010.

**Unemployment:** Based on the household survey, the estimate of people unemployed, seasonally adjusted, was up 400 from January at 171,300 and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 9.0 percent. This is one-tenth of a percentage point less than the national rate of 8.9 percent. Compared to the state's unemployment rate of 9.2 percent in February 2010, this month's rate represents a decrease of 0.2 percentage points over the year. Average weekly initial unemployment claims in February 2011 for first-time filers decreased over the month by 619 to 5,046,

and were down 7.3 percent, or 397 claims from this time last year.

Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted, were down over the year in six of the labor market areas, and up or unchanged in three. The Danbury LMA had the lowest unemployment rate at 8.1 percent, followed by the Enfield LMA at 8.6 percent; the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA at 9.0 percent; and the Hartford and Norwich-New London LMAs at 9.6 percent. The Waterbury LMA represents the highest unemployment rate at 12.6 percent.

*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.*

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3-24-11

Labor market information is available on the Internet at [www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi)  
200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114 - [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol)  
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# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

## Jobs - by Place of Work

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	Feb. 2011	Jan. 2011	Dec. 2010	Nov. 2010	Feb. 2010	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>1,623,200</b>	<b>1,617,800</b>	<b>1,618,800</b>	<b>1,621,200</b>	<b>1,594,300</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>28,900</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>									
Construction	52,700	50,600	48,600	48,700	49,800	2,100	4.2%	2,900	5.8%
Manufacturing	166,100	167,200	168,100	168,300	165,100	-1,100	-0.7%	1,000	0.6%
Durable Goods	127,600	128,200	129,400	129,500	127,000	-600	-0.5%	600	0.5%
Nondurable Goods	38,500	39,000	38,700	38,800	38,100	-500	-1.3%	400	1.0%
<b>Service Providing Industries</b>									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	287,700	287,500	289,500	289,800	287,300	200	0.1%	400	0.1%
Wholesale	63,100	62,400	62,700	62,800	62,200	700	1.1%	900	1.4%
Retail	176,900	177,200	177,300	178,000	176,300	-300	-0.2%	600	0.3%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	47,700	47,900	49,500	49,000	48,800	-200	-0.4%	-1,100	-2.3%
Information	31,500	31,700	31,600	31,600	31,800	-200	-0.6%	-300	-0.9%
Financial Activities	136,200	136,200	135,500	135,600	134,800	0	0.0%	1,400	1.0%
Finance & Insurance	116,800	116,800	116,200	116,400	116,000	0	0.0%	800	0.7%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,400	19,400	19,300	19,200	18,800	0	0.0%	600	3.2%
Professional & Business Services	198,900	195,800	192,200	193,000	186,300	3,100	1.6%	12,600	6.8%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	87,600	86,600	85,900	86,100	84,900	1,000	1.2%	2,700	3.2%
Management of Companies	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	85,300	83,200	80,300	80,900	75,400	2,100	2.5%	9,900	13.1%
Educational & Health Services	312,000	311,000	312,200	312,400	302,900	1,000	0.3%	9,100	3.0%
Educational Services	59,000	58,400	59,000	59,300	57,600	600	1.0%	1,400	2.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	253,000	252,600	253,200	253,100	245,300	400	0.2%	7,700	3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	133,800	133,700	137,200	137,800	130,900	100	0.1%	2,900	2.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	24,100	23,800	24,900	25,100	22,900	300	1.3%	1,200	5.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	109,700	109,900	112,300	112,700	108,000	-200	-0.2%	1,700	1.6%
Other Services	60,500	60,700	60,700	60,600	60,100	-200	-0.3%	400	0.7%
Government**	243,400	242,900	242,600	242,800	244,800	500	0.2%	-1,400	-0.6%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>130,515,000</b>	<b>130,323,000</b>	<b>130,260,000</b>	<b>130,108,000</b>	<b>129,246,000</b>	<b>192,000</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>1,269,000</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

### LABOR MARKET AREAS

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

	Feb. 2011	Jan. 2011	Dec. 2010	Nov. 2010	Feb. 2010	Over Month Change	Rate	Over Year Change	Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
<b>Bridgeport-Stamford</b>	400,700	399,700	398,000	397,700	392,500	1,000	0.3%	8,200	2.1%
<b>Danbury</b>	66,400	65,800	65,600	65,500	64,200	600	0.9%	2,200	3.4%
<b>Hartford</b>	536,600	534,800	532,400	534,500	528,700	1,800	0.3%	7,900	1.5%
<b>New Haven</b>	263,000	265,600	266,400	265,400	262,800	-2,600	-1.0%	200	0.1%
<b>Norwich-New London</b>	128,700	128,600	129,400	129,600	129,500	100	0.1%	-800	-0.6%
<b>Waterbury</b>	62,300	62,100	62,700	62,700	61,300	200	0.3%	1,000	1.6%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
<b>Enfield</b>	44,100	44,200	45,100	44,800	43,300	-100	-0.2%	800	1.8%
<b>Torrington</b>	33,700	33,900	35,300	35,400	33,100	-200	-0.6%	600	1.8%
<b>Willimantic-Danielson</b>	35,100	35,300	36,400	36,400	34,500	-200	-0.6%	600	1.7%

\* Less than 0.05%      \*\* Includes Native American tribal government employment

Data in this publication are benchmarked to March 2010. Current month's nonfarm employment data are preliminary, previous months' data are revised. Nonfarm employment, hours and earnings, and labor force data included in this publication are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

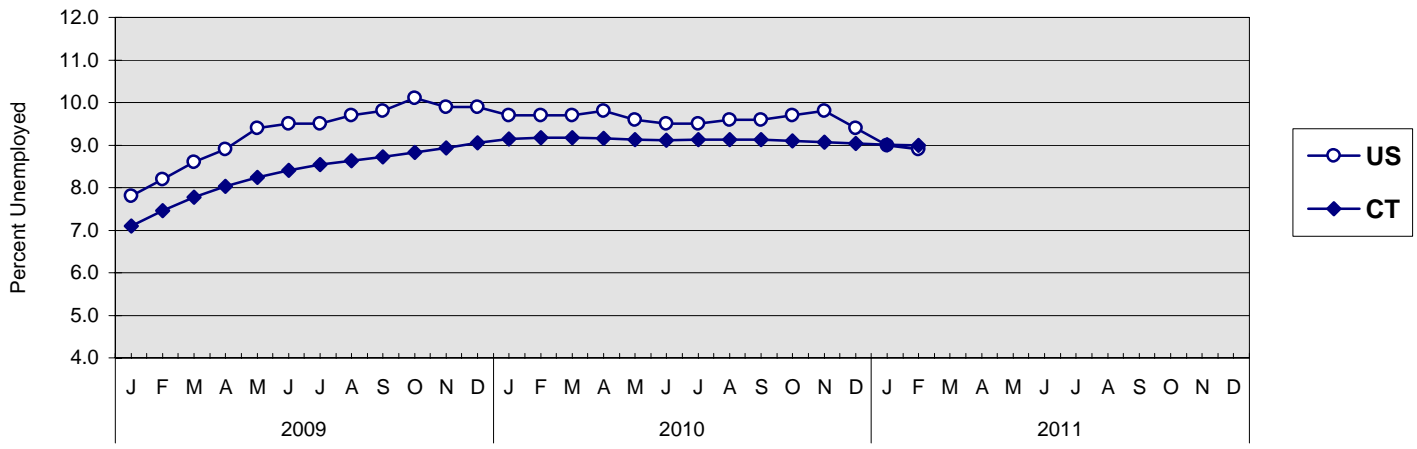
# UNEMPLOYMENT

## Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

### CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2011		February 2010		Change		January 2011	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>								
Unemployed	171,300	9.0	174,000	9.2	-2,700	-0.2	170,900	9.0
Labor Force	1,896,600		1,896,100		500		1,896,600	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
Unemployed	13,673,000	8.9	14,860,000	9.7	-1,187,000	-0.8	13,863,000	9.0
Labor Force	153,246,000		153,558,000		-312,000		153,186,000	

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



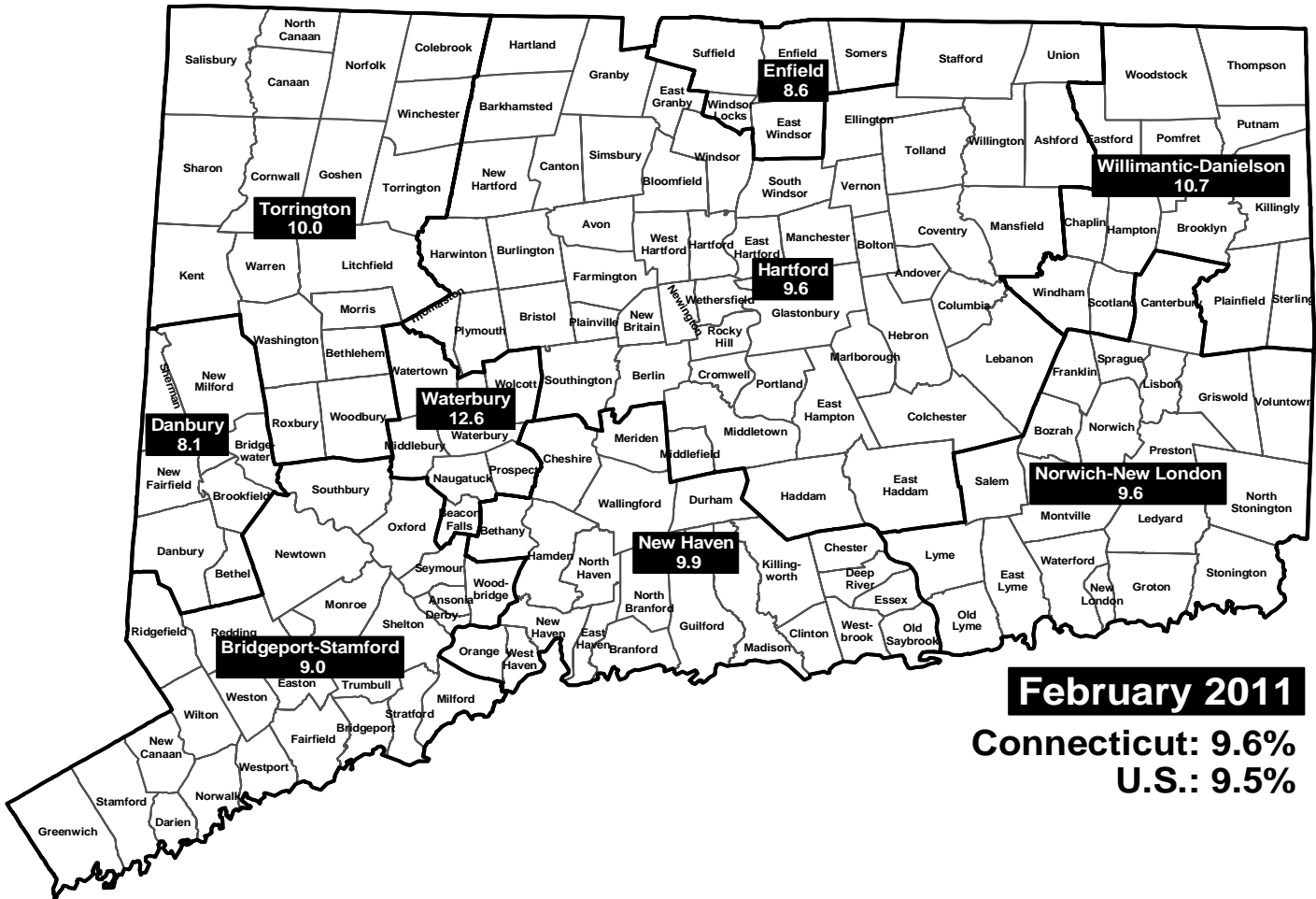
### LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2011		February 2010		Change		January 2011	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	42,900	9.0	42,700	9.0	200	0.0	42,600	8.9
Danbury	7,300	8.1	7,700	8.5	-400	-0.4	7,300	8.0
Enfield	4,300	8.6	5,000	9.9	-700	-1.3	4,500	9.2
Hartford	57,500	9.6	59,800	10.0	-2,300	-0.4	57,300	9.6
New Haven	31,300	9.9	30,900	9.8	400	0.1	31,500	10.0
Norwich-New London	14,400	9.6	14,300	9.4	100	0.2	14,300	9.4
Torrington	5,400	10.0	5,700	10.6	-300	-0.6	5,400	9.9
Waterbury	12,800	12.6	13,700	13.4	-900	-0.8	13,000	12.8
Willimantic-Danielson	6,200	10.7	6,900	11.6	-700	-0.9	6,300	10.8
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>180,700</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>185,200</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>-4,500</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>180,800</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>14,542,000</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>15,991,000</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>-1,449,000</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>14,937,000</b>	<b>9.8</b>

# UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Not Seasonally Adjusted

## LABOR MARKET AREAS



# HOURS AND EARNINGS

## CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

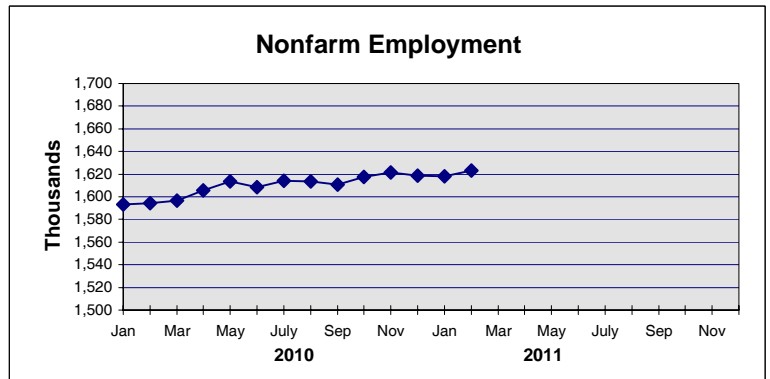
	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Feb. 2011	Feb. 2010	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2011	Feb. 2011	Feb. 2010	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2011	Feb. 2011	Feb. 2010	Change over Yr.	Jan. 2011
<b>Private Industry All Employees</b>	\$954.72	\$917.15	\$37.57	\$942.55	33.7	32.5	1.2	33.2	\$28.33	\$28.22	\$0.11	\$28.39
<b>Manufacturing Production Workers</b>	\$1,004.91	\$951.61	\$53.30	\$970.82	41.0	41.0	0.0	39.4	\$24.51	\$23.21	\$1.30	\$24.64

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).

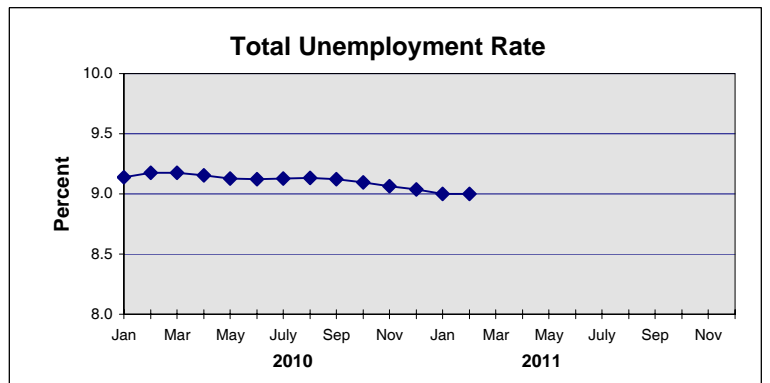
# TRENDS

## Seasonally Adjusted

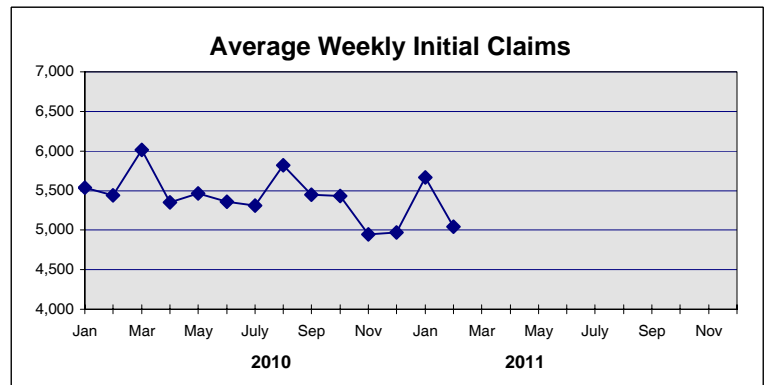
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
<b>2010</b>		
Jan	1,593.5	9.1
Feb	1,594.3	9.2
Mar	1,596.7	9.2
Apr	1,605.8	9.2
May	1,613.3	9.1
Jun	1,608.2	9.1
July	1,614.4	9.1
Aug	1,613.3	9.1
Sep	1,610.5	9.1
Oct	1,617.5	9.1
Nov	1,621.2	9.1
Dec	1,618.8	9.0



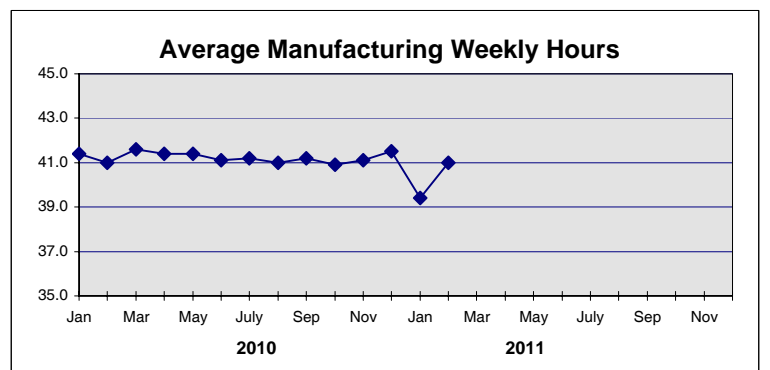
<b>2011</b>		
Jan	1,617.8	9.0
Feb	1,623.2	9.0
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
July		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	Avg Weekly Initial Claims	Avg Manufacturing Weekly Hours*
<b>2010</b>		
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	41.0
Sep	5,450	41.2
Oct	5,432	40.9
Nov	4,948	41.1
Dec	4,972	41.5



<b>2011</b>		
Jan	5,665	39.4
Feb	5,046	41.0
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
July		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



\* Not seasonally adjusted

\*\* Labor-management dispute