



LABOR SITUATION

Office of Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2011 Data

CT Unemployment Rate = 9.1%

National Unemployment Rate = 8.8%

State Reverses Job Gains; Unemployment Rate increases to 9.1 Percent

WETHERSFIELD, April 18, 2011 – Connecticut reversed its February job gains, bringing employment back to January levels. With 6,000 fewer jobs estimated for March, this brings the state's nonfarm employment to 1,617,800. On a seasonally adjusted basis, this represents an increase of 21,100 jobs over the year, when nonfarm employment totaled 1,596,700. The state's unemployment rate increased to 9.1 percent, which is above the national rate of 8.8 percent.

"While the loss of jobs in March was a disappointment, this occurrence of monthly job losses and gains reinforces the importance of looking at trends in data over the course of several months," said Labor Statistics Supervisor Salvatore DiPillo. "With this in mind, a number of other indicators do point to an improved Connecticut economy over this past year - fewer new claims for unemployment, fewer unemployed people and job growth overall, and a longer private sector workweek."

Nonfarm Employment

Jobs in the **professional and business services** sector were down 3,700 jobs in March, and **construction** employment was off by 1,600. To some extent, these losses were a reversal of temporary hiring of construction and temporary workers due to bad weather in February. There were also 1,000 fewer jobs in the **leisure and hospitality** sector in March, while **government** added 600 jobs. The other major industry sectors either gained or lost 200 jobs over the month. While estimates of Connecticut jobs showed a loss in March, most industry sectors managed to add jobs over the past year.

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, are expected to contribute 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.

Among those sectors that have added employment over the year is **professional and business services**, which, after losing nearly 11 percent of its employment between the beginning of 2008 and the fall of 2009, and has been steadily adding jobs in most months since. Over the past year, the sector has added 9,200 jobs to now total 195,600. Many of these additional positions are in the **employment services** industry, including **temporary help agencies**.

Employment in the **educational and health services** sector showed resilience during the recession and this sector continues to add jobs. Since last March this sector has added 7,400 positions, and now totals 311,700. Gains in the **healthcare and social assistance** industries over the year numbered 6,300, while **education services** added 1,100 jobs.

Over the past year the **leisure and hospitality** sector added 1,000 jobs, with employment now at 132,600. 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. This sector's employment is up by 900 from March 2010, now with 166,100 jobs. Over-the-year gains were seen in both the **durable goods** and **nondurable goods** industries that make up the **manufacturing** sector.

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, before it started turning around. March's loss followed a busier than usual winter due to repair work caused by this winter's storms. Overall the **construction** sector's employment is up 1,200 jobs over the year, totaling 51,000.

Employment in the **financial activities** sector peaked in January 2007, and lost 11,000 jobs before starting to show gains in the summer of 2010. With 136,000 jobs in March, **financial activities** is up by 1,100 from March 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 February 2010. This sector has added 600 jobs in the past year to now total 60,900.

The **government** sector's employment had a temporary boost in 2010 with the hiring of several thousand federal Census workers, but their work was mostly done by the fall months. The number of **federal** employees, at 17,900, is down 800 from March 2010 – largely the result of post office staff reductions. Employment in **state government**, at 68,600, is up 1,700 from March 2010, while **local government** (which includes **tribal governments** and their **gaming establishments**) dropped 500 jobs over the year. Employment in **local government** peaked in May 2008 and since then is down 5,900 to total 157,600 jobs.

The **trade, transportation and utilities** sector lost 27,500 positions, or 8.7 percent of its employment, between January 2008 and February 2010. The sector added jobs in much of 2010 before taking a downward turn. Employment in this sector now totals 287,900 with all of the sector's growth over the past year occurring in the **wholesale** and **retail trade** industries, with 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 job losses have moderated, and with 31,400 jobs in March, this sector is down just 400 positions from a year earlier.

Labor Market Areas (LMAs): Since January of 2010 when the state overall began adding jobs, there were gains in the Hartford (+10,000), the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA (+7,000), the Danbury LMA (+1,200), and the Waterbury LMA (+1,200). Job losses were reported in the New Haven and Norwich-New London LMAs.

Hours and Earnings: The workweek for employees in the private sector, not seasonally adjusted, averaged 33.6 hours in March, up 0.5 hours from the March 2010 figure of 33.1 hours. Average hourly earnings at \$28.13, not seasonally adjusted, were up \$0.09 from a year ago at this time when the number was \$28.04. This resulted in an average weekly wage for private sector employees of \$945.17, up \$17.05 over the year, representing an increase of 1.8 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 March 2011, at 1,898,000, was down 500 from a year ago; with 1,800 more employed people and 2,300 fewer unemployed people than there were in March 2010.

Unemployment: Based on the household survey, the estimate of people unemployed, seasonally adjusted, was up 500 from February at 171,900 and the unemployment rate increased to 9.1 percent. This is three-tenths of a percentage point less than the national rate of 8.8 percent. Compared to the state's unemployment rate of 9.2 percent in March 2010, this month's rate represents a decrease of 0.1 percentage points over the year. Average weekly initial unemployment claims in March 2011 for first-time filers decreased over the month by 122 to 4,924,

and were down 18.1 percent, or 1,087 claims from this time last year.

Unemployment rates and the number of unemployed people, not seasonally adjusted, were down over the year in six of the labor market areas (LMA), and up or unchanged in three. The Danbury LMA had the lowest unemployment rate at 7.7 percent, followed by the Enfield LMA at 8.2 percent, the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA at 8.7 percent, the Norwich-New London LMA at 9.2 percent, and the Hartford LMA at 9.3 percent. The Waterbury LMA experienced the highest rate of unemployment at 12.2 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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Labor market information is available on the Internet at www.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

	Mar. 2011 P	Feb. 2011 R	Jan. 2011	Dec. 2010	Mar. 2010	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
CONNECTICUT	1,617,800	1,623,800	1,617,800	1,618,800	1,596,700	-6,000	-0.4%	21,100	1.3%
Goods Producing Industries									
Construction	51,000	52,600	50,600	48,600	49,800	-1,600	-3.0%	1,200	2.4%
Manufacturing	166,100	166,300	167,200	168,100	165,200	-200	-0.1%	900	0.5%
Durable Goods	127,500	127,500	128,200	129,400	127,100	0	0.0%	400	0.3%
Nondurable Goods	38,600	38,800	39,000	38,700	38,100	-200	-0.5%	500	1.3%
Service Providing Industries									
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	287,900	287,700	287,500	289,500	288,200	200	0.1%	-300	-0.1%
Wholesale	62,800	63,000	62,400	62,700	62,400	-200	-0.3%	400	0.6%
Retail	177,100	176,900	177,200	177,300	177,000	200	0.1%	100	0.1%
Transp, Warehousing & Utilities	48,000	47,800	47,900	49,500	48,800	200	0.4%	-800	-1.6%
Information	31,400	31,600	31,700	31,600	31,800	-200	-0.6%	-400	-1.3%
Financial Activities	136,000	136,200	136,200	135,500	134,900	-200	-0.1%	1,100	0.8%
Finance & Insurance	116,800	116,900	116,800	116,200	116,000	-100	-0.1%	800	0.7%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	19,200	19,300	19,400	19,300	18,900	-100	-0.5%	300	1.6%
Professional & Business Services	195,600	199,300	195,800	192,200	186,400	-3,700	-1.9%	9,200	4.9%
Prof, Scientific & Tech Services	88,200	87,900	86,600	85,900	85,100	300	0.3%	3,100	3.6%
Management of Companies	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Admn & Support & Waste Mgt Serv	81,400	85,400	83,200	80,300	75,300	-4,000	-4.7%	6,100	8.1%
Educational & Health Services	311,700	311,900	311,000	312,200	304,300	-200	-0.1%	7,400	2.4%
Educational Services	59,500	58,700	58,400	59,000	58,400	800	1.4%	1,100	1.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	252,200	253,200	252,600	253,200	245,900	-1,000	-0.4%	6,300	2.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	132,600	133,600	133,700	137,200	131,600	-1,000	-0.7%	1,000	0.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	23,800	23,900	23,800	24,900	23,200	-100	-0.4%	600	2.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	108,800	109,700	109,900	112,300	108,400	-900	-0.8%	400	0.4%
Other Services	60,900	60,700	60,700	60,700	60,300	200	0.3%	600	1.0%
Government**	244,100	243,500	242,900	242,600	243,700	600	0.2%	400	0.2%
UNITED STATES	130,738,000	130,522,000	130,328,000	130,260,000	129,438,000	216,000	0.2%	1,300,000	1.0%

LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMA)

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

	Mar. 2011 P	Feb. 2011 R	Jan. 2011	Dec. 2010	Mar. 2010	Over Month Change	Over Month Rate	Over Year Change	Over Year Rate
<i>Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Bridgeport-Stamford	399,600	400,700	399,700	398,000	393,500	-1,100	-0.3%	6,100	1.6%
Danbury	65,100	66,500	65,800	65,600	64,300	-1,400	-2.1%	800	1.2%
Hartford	538,600	538,000	534,800	532,400	530,100	600	0.1%	8,500	1.6%
New Haven	261,900	262,900	265,600	266,400	263,000	-1,000	-0.4%	-1,100	-0.4%
Norwich-New London	127,100	128,100	128,600	129,400	129,300	-1,000	-0.8%	-2,200	-1.7%
Waterbury	62,600	62,200	62,100	62,700	61,600	400	0.6%	1,000	1.6%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted data</i>									
Enfield	44,100	44,000	44,200	45,100	43,400	100	0.2%	700	1.6%
Torrington	34,400	33,700	33,900	35,300	33,200	700	2.1%	1,200	3.6%
Willimantic-Danielson	35,000	35,000	35,300	36,400	34,900	0	0.0%	100	0.3%

* 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.

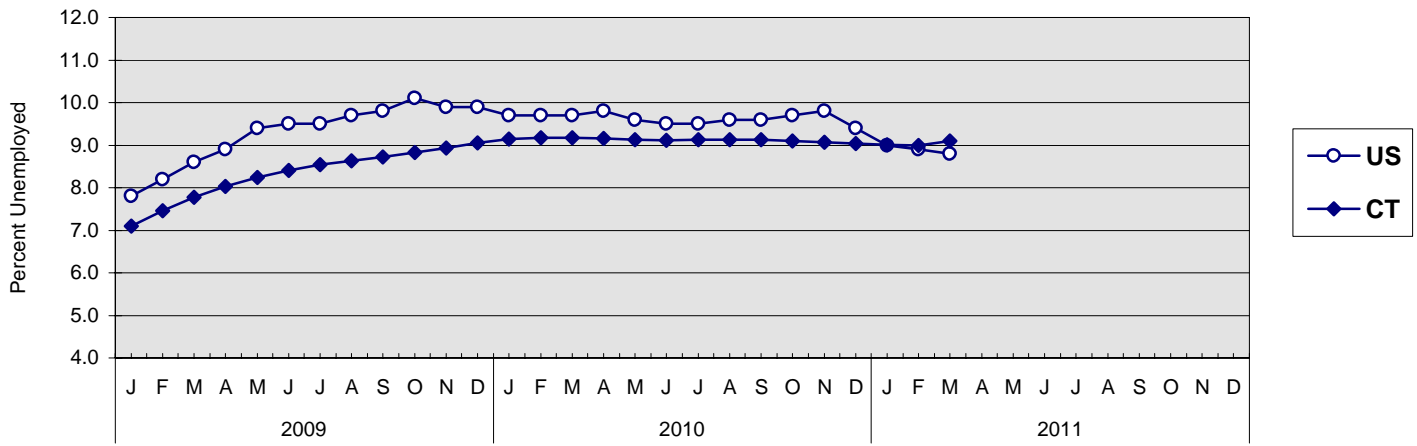
UNEMPLOYMENT

Persons Unemployed - by Place of Residence

CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES - Seasonally Adjusted

	March 2011 P		March 2010		Change		February 2011 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
CONNECTICUT								
Unemployed	171,900	9.1	174,200	9.2	-2,300	-0.1	171,400	9.0
Labor Force	1,898,000		1,898,500		-500		1,896,800	
UNITED STATES								
Unemployed	13,542,000	8.8	14,943,000	9.7	-1,401,000	-0.9	13,673,000	8.9
Labor Force	153,406,000		153,895,000		-489,000		153,246,000	

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



LABOR MARKET AREAS - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	March 2011 P		March 2010		Change		February 2011 R	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Points	Number	Rate
Bridgeport-Stamford	41,500	8.7	41,200	8.7	300	0.0	43,000	9.0
Danbury	7,000	7.7	7,400	8.2	-400	-0.5	7,300	8.1
Enfield	4,100	8.2	4,400	8.8	-300	-0.6	4,300	8.7
Hartford	56,000	9.3	57,800	9.6	-1,800	-0.3	57,600	9.6
New Haven	30,300	9.6	29,900	9.5	400	0.1	31,300	10.0
Norwich-New London	13,800	9.2	13,800	9.1	0	0.1	14,400	9.6
Torrington	5,200	9.5	5,500	10.1	-300	-0.6	5,400	10.0
Waterbury	12,500	12.2	13,000	12.7	-500	-0.5	12,900	12.6
Willimantic-Danielson	6,000	10.2	6,400	10.8	-400	-0.6	6,200	10.7
CONNECTICUT	174,900	9.3	178,000	9.4	-3,100	-0.1	180,900	9.6
UNITED STATES	14,060,000	9.2	15,678,000	10.2	-1,618,000	-1.0	14,542,000	9.5

P = Preliminary

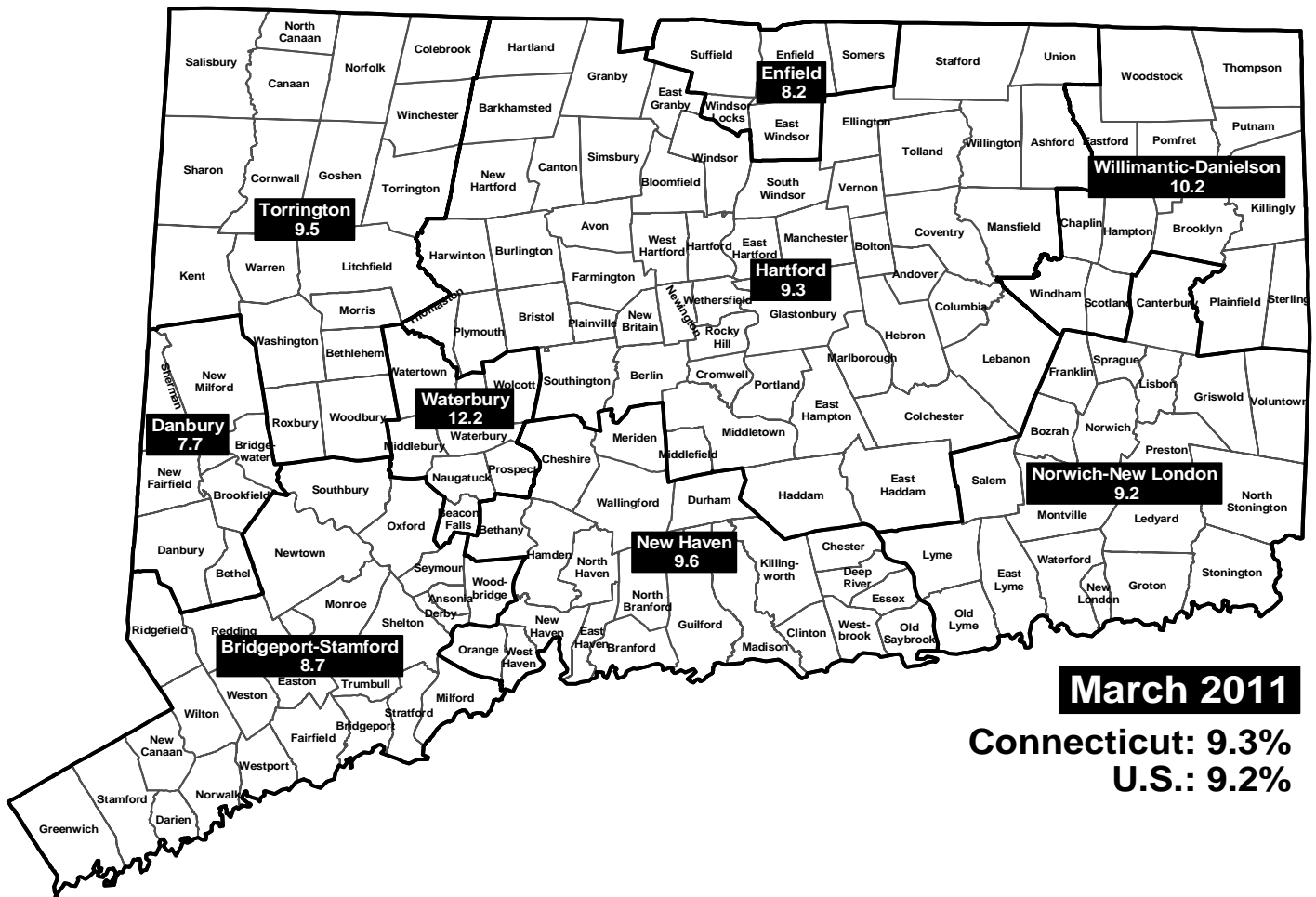
R = Revised

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



HOURS AND EARNINGS

CONNECTICUT Statewide - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Average Weekly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Mar. 2011 P	Mar. 2010	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2011 R	Mar. 2011 P	Mar. 2010	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2011 R	Mar. 2011 P	Mar. 2010	Change over Yr.	Feb. 2011 R
Private Industry All Employees	\$945.17	\$928.12	\$17.05	\$952.56	33.6	33.1	0.5	33.6	\$28.13	\$28.04	\$0.09	\$28.35
Manufacturing Production Workers	\$1,023.41	\$959.71	\$63.70	\$1,003.68	41.3	41.6	-0.3	41.0	\$24.78	\$23.07	\$1.71	\$24.48

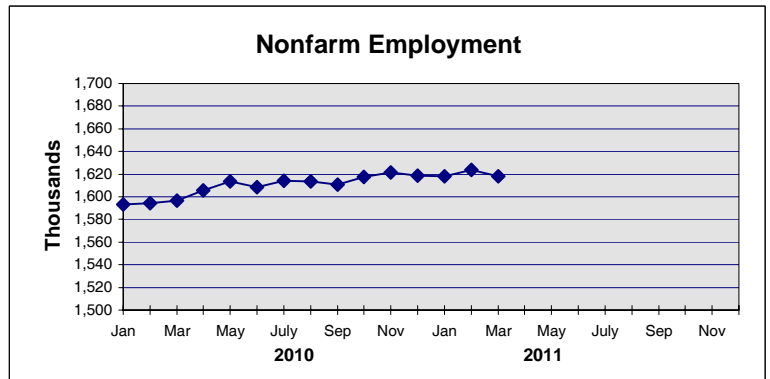
P = Preliminary R = Revised

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.

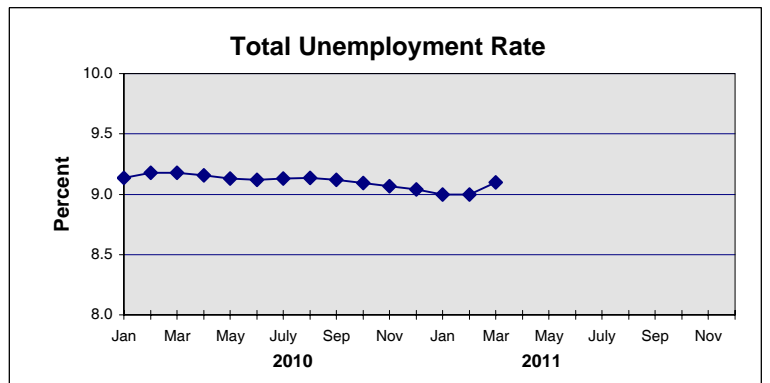
TRENDS

Seasonally Adjusted

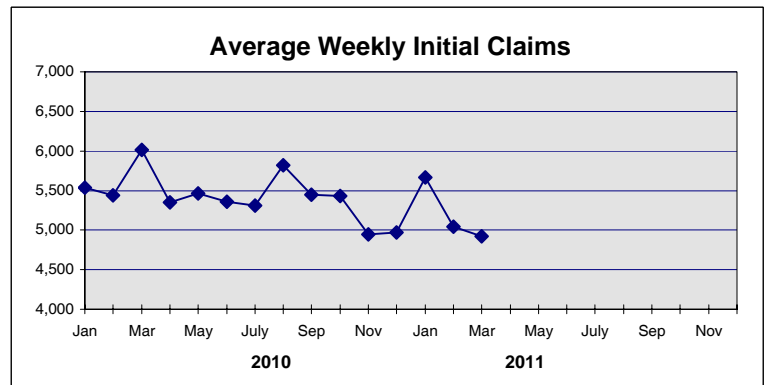
	Nonfarm Employment (000s)	Total Unemployment Rate
2010		
Jan	1,593.5	9.1
Feb	1,594.3	9.2
Mar	1,596.7	9.2
Apr	1,605.8	9.2
May	1,613.3	9.1
Jun	1,608.2	9.1
July	1,614.4	9.1
Aug	1,613.3	9.1
Sep	1,610.5	9.1
Oct	1,617.5	9.1
Nov	1,621.2	9.1
Dec	1,618.8	9.0



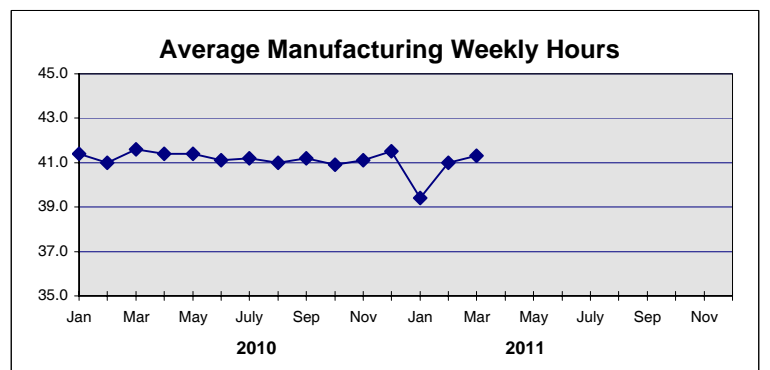
2011		
Jan	1,617.8	9.0
Feb	1,623.8 R	9.0 R
Mar	1,617.8 P	9.1 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
July		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



	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	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 R	41.0 R
Mar	4,924 P	41.3 P
Apr		
May		
Jun		
July		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		



* Not seasonally adjusted

P = Preliminary

R = Revised

** Labor-management dispute