Connecticut Industry Employment Outlook to Fourth Quarter 2003

By Daniel W. Kennedy, Ph.D., Senior Economist, and Noreen P. Passardi, M.A., Economist, DOL

Introduction of Two-Year Employment Outlook

This is the first of what will be semi-annual outlooks on Connecticut industry employment covering a two-year forecast horizon (eight quarters). Each outlook published in September or October will present the forecasts from fourth quarter to fourth quarter. The current outlook covers the forecast period fourth quarter 2001 (2001:Q4), to 2003:Q4. The outlooks published in May or June will cover the mid-year forecast periods. For instance, the next outlook will present forecasts for the 2002:Q2 - 2004:Q2 period. In addition, the next outlook will present the forecasts in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This will be the only outlook presented under the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) System, as the SIC-to-NAICS conversion is currently underway.

The next section briefly reviews recent U.S. and Connecticut labor market conditions. The following section presents the industry employment outlook for Connecticut over the forecast period. The detailed outlook for the major SIC divisions is then discussed. Finally, the risks to the forecast are briefly outlined.

Current Conditions I: U.S. Labor Markets

So far, in U.S. labor markets, there has been a repeat of the

In August...

- Employment .......... up 1,200
- Unemployment rate .......... 4.0%
- Housing permits . . down 23.1%
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The views expressed by authors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect those of the Departments of Labor or Economic and Community Development.

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jobless recovery of the early nineties. However, the August employment data, released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), did suggest brighter prospects for labor markets. BLS revised payroll employment gains for the two previous months by 29,000. Since its recent low in April, employment has edged up by 162,000. Surprisingly, the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 5.7 percent. Nevertheless, layoffs may be on the rise again. In the week ending August 31, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial unemployment claims was 403,000, a decrease of 8,000 from the previous week's revised figure of 411,000. However, the four-week moving average returned to the threshold 400,000 level. This is an increase of 5,250 from the previous week's revised average of 394,750. Further, initial claims jumped by 19,000 to 426,000 in the first week of September, bringing the four-week moving average up to 409,500. This, coupled with other data, indicates that the current U.S. economic recovery is rapidly decelerating.

**Recent Historical Employment Trends**

The following discussion is based on the unadjusted employment series. Seasonally adjusted series are not available at the industry detail level that is used to forecast short-term employment. This should be kept in mind when interpreting the forecasts. The short-term forecasts have a two-year forecast horizon. Therefore, the following analysis will look at the historical and forecast periods in terms of two-year analysis periods.

Graph 1 on the front page depicts the Connecticut employment time series covering the historical period 1997:Q4 - 2001:Q4, and the forecast period 2001:Q4 - 2003:Q4. For the unadjusted nonfarm series, the peak of the last expansion was 2000:Q4, or one quarter later than the peak observed in the seasonally adjusted series (and, it is the seasonally adjusted series that is used to identify turning points in the State’s business cycle). The rise in employment during the 1997:Q4 - 1999:Q4 boom period is quite apparent. Employment rose to 1.695 million in that period. More than 50,000 jobs were added on an unadjusted basis as shown in the table next page.
the long-run shift to a service economy, coupled with the boost from the late nineties boom, a little more than 57 percent, or 29,000 of the newly created jobs over this period were in the services division. Financial deregulation and innovation and the boom in the stock market, among other factors, fueled growth in employment in the finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) division, especially in finance. Of the more than 8,000 jobs created in the FIRE division over 6,000 of those were in the finance sector. Retail trade added 8,000 jobs over this period, driven by the rapid expansion of suburban retail centers such as the Buckland Hills Mall. Construction added 6,000 jobs and government (which includes Indian tribal government), added over 11,000 jobs. Two critical divisions contributed to the net loss of jobs. Between 18,000 and 19,000 jobs were lost in the manufacturing division over this two-year period. In addition to the long-run trend job decline in manufacturing, the current recession was led by the sudden collapse of business investment-demand due to the Dot.Com bust and over-investment in some sectors, such as telecommunications. This resulted in massive layoffs to shore up bottom lines and maintain productivity levels. Though not as heavily exposed to the semiconductor and durable goods sectors as other regions, the Connecticut economy still experienced significant job losses in manufacturing. The job losses in durable goods in Connecticut were about the same as those during the previous 1997Q4 - 1999Q4 boom period. Thus, durable goods still accounted for the largest number of lost manufacturing jobs. However, in relative terms, it was the non-durable goods sector that was hit hardest with job losses over the 1999Q4 - 2001Q4 period, where employment losses were four times those of the losses over the previous two-year period. The retail trade division shed 1,500 jobs as a result of the recession and industry trends that resulted in the closing of traditional “big boxes” such as Caldor and Lechmere. Wholesale trade lost 3,000 jobs over the 1999Q4 -

Connecticut Nonfarm Employment by Industry: History and Forecasts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDUSTRY</th>
<th>HISTORICAL</th>
<th>FORECAST</th>
<th>NUMERICAL CHANGES</th>
<th>PERCENT CHANGES</th>
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<td>2001Q4:2003Q4</td>
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<td>99Q4-01Q4</td>
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<td>890</td>
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<td>64,342</td>
<td>65,978</td>
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<td>265,612</td>
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<td>20,599</td>
<td>21,168</td>
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<td>13,018</td>
<td>11,080</td>
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<td>81,633</td>
<td>78,300</td>
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<td>16,521</td>
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<td>52,893</td>
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<td>Other Services**</td>
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<td>83,230</td>
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<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
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<td>241,900</td>
<td>251,984</td>
<td>251,990</td>
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* SIC's 70, 78, 79, and 84 ** SIC's 07, 72, 75, 76, 81, 86, 88, and 89

SOURCE: Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research
2001:Q4 period. Though the services division did not actually lose employment, job gains slowed to only one-fourth of the gains in the previous two-year period. This eliminated an engine of growth that could have mitigated job losses in other divisions. Over 15,000 jobs were lost in the travel, tourism, and leisure sector, especially in transportation and advertising, due to the recession and then the September 11th terrorist attacks. In addition, 1,200 jobs were lost in the business services sector due to the Dot.Com bust and the manufacturing-led recession. The net result was a reduction in the gain in services from 29,000 during the 1997:Q4 - 1999:Q4 period to just under 7,000 jobs over the 1999:Q4 - 2001:Q4 period.

**Forecast for the Major Industry Divisions: 2001:Q4 - 2003:Q4**

Referring again to Graph 1, Connecticut employment is expected to decline from its 2001:Q4 level of 1.691 million, to a level of 1.683 million in 2002:Q4, a loss of over 8,000 jobs over the first half of the forecast period. The forecast for jobs in 2003:Q4 is 1.693 million, a gain of approximately 10,000 over the second half of the forecast period. The net change over the entire two-year forecast period is an increase of just over 1,700 jobs. This amounts to recouping nearly 43 percent of the 4,173 jobs lost over the recent historical period, but nowhere near the previous gain of over 50,000 jobs experienced over the 1997:Q4 to 1999:Q4 period.

Graph 2 above presents the year-to-year (YTY) percent change in Connecticut employment over the sixteen quarter historical period, the first two quarters of 2002 for which preliminary data are available, and the forecasts for remaining six quarters of the forecast period. As depicted in Graph 2, the employment losses are expected to decelerate for the last half of 2002, and into 2003. Positive job-growth is expected to return at the end of 2003. The rebound can also be observed in the forecast region of the employment series presented in Graph 1.

Job gains over the 2001:Q4 - 2003:Q4 forecast period are confined to two divisions: services and retail trade, which together will account for 50 percent of all jobs. The services division is expected to add between 8,000 and 9,000 jobs. These gains will be concentrated in other services (5,000), and travel, tourism, and leisure (just under 2,900), which will experience a slight rebound in jobs, but still leaves the level of employment far below its 1999:Q4 level and only slightly above its 2001:Q4 level. Also, health services is projected to see a gain of 1,300 jobs. This modest growth is predicated on the expected net result of two countervailing trends that are exerting opposing forces on employment growth in health services. Clearly, the aging of the baby boomers, and the increased longevity of the population in general, is increasing the need for health services and therefore increased demand for workers in the health services sector. However, putting downward pressure on that job-growth is the return of rapidly increasing health-care costs, especially driven by increases in the cost of prescription drugs, the current Federal cap on Medicare payments, and the dropping of elderly subscribers by HMO's. This should mute what would otherwise be robust growth in health services employment over the forecast period. The only other division forecasted to add jobs over the 2001:Q4 - 2003:Q4 forecast period is the retail trade division. Just under 3,000 retail jobs are expected to be added. This will be largely due to the growth of employment in eating and drinking places, especially the chain establishments like Outback Steak House and Applebee’s. In addition, “mega-boxes” such as Wal-Mart, and big-box specialty stores such as Target and Kohl’s should continue to add jobs. Forecasted growth in retail trade could be optimistic if the saturation point is reached, especially in the Hartford market. Growth in the retail trade sectors is also expected to come from building materials and garden supply adding 1,167 jobs.

Substantial gains in the services and retail trade sectors will be somewhat offset as manufacturing is expected to return to its long-run trend of employment losses as firms continue to replace labor with new-technology-based investment and contract out remaining labor-intensive functions. However, the losses are
expected to be somewhat smaller than those of even the 1997:Q4 - 1999:Q4 boom period. The current and planned increases in expendi-
tures on defense and homeland security should particularly benefit Connecticut. Thus, manu-
facturing job losses over the forecast period should be under 10,000, compared to over 12,000 during the boom period. Durable goods manufacturing is expected to level at 165,554 after an esti-
ated loss of 7,521 jobs. An optimistic outlook for manufactur-
ing is that restructuring is slowing; hopefully the bulk of firms have completed the process of imple-
menting new technology and/or the outsourcing of accounting functions, thus leading to a de-
creasing rate of job loss and eventual stability within the industry.

Projected employment changes for the other major industry sectors are expected to be small. Construction will have a small gain (+312) over the forecast period, but will essentially be flat. Some large projects, like Adriaen’s Landing in Hartford, will increase construction jobs over the forecast period. However, the large-scale casino projects that fueled the boom in construction employment in the nineties will not be there, unless the new tribal petitions make it past current State challenges. Even then, such projects would not break ground well beyond the forecast period. Government jobs are expected to remain stable. FIRE is expected to experience a slight decline in employment (-87), particularly in the finance sector. Industries with fewer projected jobs are wholesale trade (-747); transportation, communications, and utilities (-133). Mining is expected to decline by 13 jobs.

Risks to the Forecast

There are a number of events that would make the preceding forecast pessimistic. These include the following: GDP grows by 3.0% or more in 2002:Q3 and 2002:Q4; the stock market begins to recover and consumer confidence re-
bounds; war with Iraq is averted and oil prices fall back to around $25/bbl by 2003:Q1; U.S. export growth accelerates; the unemployment rate drops by another 0.25 percentage points or more; or U.S. employment experiences back-to-
back increases of 50,000 or more.

A number of domestic economic events could result in the fore-
casts being optimistic. They in-
clude: the economy continues its August slowdown and sinks into another recession; the stock market continues its slide and further drags down U.S. con-
sumer confidence, as well as world markets along with it; the national unemployment rate increases 0.25 to 0.50 percentage points and the level rises above 6.5 percent; or a return to back-
to-back declines of 50,000 or more in employment.

Some economic events on the international scene that could render the forecasts optimistic include an economic crisis in Latin America originating in Brazil and Argentina; or the dollar continues to slide, and is exacer-
bated as speculation moves from shorting stocks to shorting the dollar. And, in response, the Fed raises interest rates to defend the dollar in an effort to prevent further capital flight from U.S. markets.

Specific to Connecticut, the State budget is once again sliding into deficit. This could seriously and negatively impact the State’s economy. Further, effects of the stock market’s decline and rising house prices could severely con-
strain Connecticut household spending.

The biggest and most likely non-
economic event that could make the forecast overly optimistic is the growing likelihood that the U.S. and Britain will invade Iraq and fight a protracted ground war involving a large and long commitment of ground troops. This could potentially push oil prices up toward $40/bbl or more. This especially seems likely in light of OPEC’s backing off its original promises to boost production in the event of a U.S. war with Iraq, and Russia’s recent newly signed agreements with Iraq. An invasion of Iraq would also result in a further plunge in consumer confi-
dence. Further, with former coal-
tion members not kicking in to help defray costs, as in the Gulf War, the effects on the Federal Budget deficit could be severe. Other non-economic factors that present a risk to the forecast include another domestic terrorist attack, the re-igniting of Indian-
Pakistani tensions, and a contin-
ed deterioration of the situation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

For the complete paper with forecast methodology contact Daniel Kennedy at 860-263-6288, or email daniel.kennedy@po.state.ct.us.
Connecticut Economy Treaded Water in July

Alan Greenspan’s appearance before the Senate Budget Committee on September 12 was decidedly uninspiring. While acknowledging that the U.S. economy was weaker than expected, he offered nothing that would instill confidence in the consumers. Rather, he warned against the mounting Federal budget deficit, and suggested that it could cause interest rates to rise. This is rather puzzling because the link between budget deficits and interest rates is tenuous at best. This could only serve to further erode confidence in the economic recovery. Adding to the uncertainty is the mounting tension between U.S. and Iraq. Should hostilities break out between U.S. and Iraq, oil prices are certain to rise. We may be facing the unpleasant prospect of a weak economy and rising inflation rate.

In what is becoming a pattern, the CCEA-ECRI coincident and leading employment indexes turned in a mixed performance for July 2002. The CCEA-ECRI coincident employment index fell on a year-to-year basis from 109.3 in July 2001 to 107.9 in July 2002. All four components are negative contributors to the index, with a higher insured unemployment rate, a higher total unemployment rate, lower total nonfarm employment, and lower total employment. On a sequential month-to-month basis, the CCEA-ECRI Connecticut coincident employment index remained stable at 107.9 for June and July 2002. Total employment is the only positive contributor, while the insured unemployment rate, total unemployment rate, and total nonfarm employment are negative contributors. Year-to-date, the CCEA-ECRI Connecticut coincident employment index has risen twice – in January and May 2002.

The CCEA-ECRI Connecticut leading employment index, rose from 113.0 in July 2001 to 114.1 in July 2002. Three components of this index are negative contributors, with higher initial claims for unemployment insurance, a higher short duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, and a lower Hartford help-wanted advertising index. The three positive contributors are a lower Moody’s Baa corporate bond yield, higher total housing permits, and higher average weekly hours worked in manufacturing and construction. On a sequential month-to-month basis, the leading employment index also rose from 113.0 in June to 114.1 in July 2002. On this basis, three components are positive contributors, with a lower Moody’s Baa corporate bond yield, higher total housing permits, and a lower short duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate. Two components are negative contributors, with higher initial claims for unemployment insurance, and lower average weekly hours worked in manufacturing and construction, while the Hartford help-wanted index remained the same from a month earlier. Year-to-date, the CCEA-ECRI Connecticut leading employment index has risen five months out of seven, in January, February, April, June and July.

Although the situation in July in Connecticut is not much changed from the previous month, I am encouraged by the second consecutive rise in July in the CCEA-ECRI Connecticut leading employment index. Finally, as we observe the first anniversary of September 11, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to be living in a free country like the U.S. and the price that we have to pay to ensure our freedom.
**Year-to-Date August Permits Up 0.6 Percent**

Commissioner James F. Abromaitis of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Connecticut communities authorized 811 new housing units in August 2002, a 23.1 percent decrease compared to August of 2001 when 1,055 units were authorized.

The Department further indicated that the 811 units permitted in August 2002 represent a 12.5 percent decrease from the 927 units permitted in July 2002. The year-to-date permits are up 0.6 percent, from 6,494 through August 2001, to 6,534 through August 2002.

Only the Danielson and Waterbury Labor Market Areas (LMAs) showed a slight gain in permits while the remaining eight LMAs had decreases compared to a year ago. Farmington led all Connecticut communities with 43 units, followed by Southington with 30 and Middletown with 18. From a county perspective, Hartford County had the largest gain (19.2 percent) compared to a year ago.

See data tables on pages 23 and 26.

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**Industry Clusters**

Grant Establishes Greater Valley Manufacturing Training Network

The industry cluster initiative has from its inception focused on industry collaboration, most importantly to meet the need for workforce training and development. That collaboration was extended late this summer with the announcement of the 11th Connecticut Business Training Network (CBTN). A $10,000 grant was awarded to establish the Greater Valley Manufacturing Training Network among Naugatuck River Valley manufacturers.

An assessment report prepared for the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and its Valley Advisory Committee cited the need for the development of such a demand-driven training program for Valley manufacturers. Provided by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the grant will be used to assess the employee training needs and identify training sources to meet them on a collaborative basis.

The network includes: Spectrum Plastics Molding, Inc.; Shaw Mudge & Company; OEM Controls, Inc.; Inline Plastics Corp.; H. George Gaspari, Inc.; Peabody Engineering; Perkin Elmer Instruments; Fluidyne Ansonia; Hasler, Inc.; and Firing Circuits. The Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce will serve as the organizational center for the network.

The CBTN program is a direct result of a partnership among the DECD, the Connecticut Department of Labor, and the Governor’s Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology. The Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) administers the program. Since its establishment in 2000, the program has helped 87 businesses employing over 12,800 workers.

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**General Economic Indicators**

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<td></td>
<td>118.1</td>
<td>118.4</td>
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Sources: *The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut**

**The Connecticut Economy's General Drift Indicators** are composite measures of the four-quarter change in three coincident (Connecticut Manufacturing Production Index, nonfarm employment, and real personal income) and four leading (housing permits, manufacturing average weekly hours, Hartford help-wanted advertising, and initial unemployment claims) economic variables, and are indexed so 1986 = 100.

**The People’s Bank Business Barometer** is a measure of overall economic growth in the state of Connecticut that is derived from non-manufacturing employment, real disposable personal income, and manufacturing production. The index is calculated by DataCore Partners, Inc for People’s Bank.
EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

<table>
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<th>AUG 2002</th>
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<td>250.6</td>
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<td>142.8</td>
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<td>2.3 0.4 541.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>249.7</td>
<td>244.6</td>
<td>5.1 2.1 248.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

UNEMPLOYMENT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>AUG 2002</th>
<th>AUG 2001</th>
<th>CHANGE NO. % 2002</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate, resident (%)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>0.4 --- 3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Force, resident (000s)</td>
<td>1,717.7</td>
<td>1,714.7</td>
<td>3.0 0.2 1,717.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employed (000s)</td>
<td>1,649.8</td>
<td>1,652.8</td>
<td>-3.0 -0.2 1,652.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployed (000s)</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>6.0 9.7 65.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Initial Claims</td>
<td>4,794</td>
<td>5,060</td>
<td>-266 -5.3 5,026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-3 -15.8 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>0.59 --- 3.02</td>
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Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

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<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Hours</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>42.4</td>
<td>-0.4 -0.9 41.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Hourly Earnings</td>
<td>16.15</td>
<td>16.14</td>
<td>0.01 0.1 16.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Earnings</td>
<td>678.30</td>
<td>684.34</td>
<td>-6.04 -0.9 680.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT Mfg. Production Index (1986=100)*</td>
<td>107.2</td>
<td>111.3</td>
<td>-4.1 -3.7 107.3</td>
<td>108.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production Worker Hours (000s)</td>
<td>5,512</td>
<td>5,856</td>
<td>-344 -5.9 5,492</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)**</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>-29.0 -5.5 448</td>
<td>519</td>
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</table>

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Energy
*Seasonally adjusted.
**Latest two months are forecasted.

INCOME

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>4Q* 2002</th>
<th>4Q* 2001</th>
<th>CHANGE NO. % 2002</th>
<th>3Q* 2002</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Income</td>
<td>$146,563</td>
<td>$141,435</td>
<td>$5,128 3.6 $145,370</td>
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<tr>
<td>UI Covered Wages</td>
<td>$80,479</td>
<td>$76,052</td>
<td>$4,427 5.8 $79,938</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: July 2002 release
*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

The unemployment rate rose while initial claims for unemployment insurance fell from a year ago.

Both production worker weekly earnings and output decreased over the year.

Personal income for fourth quarter 2002 is forecasted to increase 3.6 percent from a year earlier.
BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Year-to-date new auto registrations declined 2.5 percent through August.

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

Net business formation, as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Secretary of the State, was up 17.2 percent to 14,095 from the same period last year.

STATE REVENUES

Year-to-date state revenues were down 10.7 percent over the same period a year ago.

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

August's year-to-date air passenger traffic was down 35.3 percent from the same period a year ago.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration; Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; F.W. Dodge; Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles; Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports

* Revised methodology applied back to 1996; 3-months total

Sources: Connecticut Secretary of the State; Connecticut Department of Labor

*See page 27 for explanation

**The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut
Compensation costs for both the nation and Northeast rose 4.0 percent over the year.

The August U.S. inflation rate was 1.8 percent, while the U.S. and New England consumer confidence decreased 18.0 and 31.7 percent, respectively.

With the Fed holding interest rates steady, most rates remained much lower than a year ago, including the 30-year conventional mortgage rate at 6.29 percent.

# EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)</th>
<th>Seasonally Adjusted</th>
<th>Not Seasonally Adjusted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNITED STATES TOTAL</td>
<td>160.4</td>
<td>158.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wages and Salaries</td>
<td>156.3</td>
<td>154.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefit Costs</td>
<td>170.9</td>
<td>168.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTHEAST TOTAL</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wages and Salaries</td>
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Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

# CONSUMER NEWS

## CONSUMER PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Not seasonally adjusted)</th>
<th>MO/QTR</th>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>CONSUMER PRICES</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut**</td>
<td>4Q 2000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPI-U (1982-84=100)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. City Average</td>
<td>AUG 2002</td>
<td>180.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchasing Power of ($) (1982-84=$1.00)</td>
<td>AUG 2002</td>
<td>$0.553</td>
<td>-1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td>AUG 2002</td>
<td>189.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY-Northern NJ-Long Island</td>
<td>AUG 2002</td>
<td>193.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston-Brockton-Nashua***</td>
<td>JUL 2002</td>
<td>195.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPI-W (1982-84=100)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. City Average</td>
<td>AUG 2002</td>
<td>176.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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### Consumer Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSUMER PRICES</th>
<th>MO/QTR</th>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPI-U (1982-84=100)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. City Average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing Power of ($) (1982-84=$1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY-Northern NJ-Long Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston-Brockton-Nashua***</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Consumer Confidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)</th>
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<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; The Conference Board
*Change over prior monthly or quarterly period
**The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut
***The Boston CPI can be used as a proxy for New England and is measured every other month.

# INTEREST RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Percent)</th>
<th>AUG 2002</th>
<th>JUL 2002</th>
<th>AUG 2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prime</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>6.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funds</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Month Treasury Bill</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Month Treasury Bill</td>
<td>1.64</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Year Treasury Bill</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>3.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Year Treasury Note</td>
<td>3.08</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>4.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Year Treasury Note</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>4.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Year Treasury Note</td>
<td>4.37</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>4.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Year Treasury Note</td>
<td>4.81</td>
<td>5.17</td>
<td>4.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Year Treasury Bond</td>
<td>5.54</td>
<td>5.87</td>
<td>5.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional Mortgage</td>
<td>6.29</td>
<td>6.49</td>
<td>6.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.
Six out of the nine states in the region lost jobs over the year.

All states posted increases in the labor force from last year.

All but Maine showed an increase in its unemployment rate over the year.
ECONOMIC INDICATOR TRENDS

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>1,682.3</td>
<td>1,697.6</td>
<td>1,676.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>1,686.3</td>
<td>1,691.3</td>
<td>1,675.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>1,690.7</td>
<td>1,687.8</td>
<td>1,673.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>1,694.3</td>
<td>1,685.8</td>
<td>1,673.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1,697.0</td>
<td>1,687.0</td>
<td>1,679.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>1,698.0</td>
<td>1,686.5</td>
<td>1,675.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>1,701.0</td>
<td>1,681.1</td>
<td>1,674.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>1,697.2</td>
<td>1,680.0</td>
<td>1,675.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>1,695.2</td>
<td>1,678.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>1,693.8</td>
<td>1,673.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>1,682.5</td>
<td>1,672.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>1,694.2</td>
<td>1,672.1</td>
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</table>

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Seasonally adjusted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>2.1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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LABOR FORCE (Seasonally adjusted)

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1,736.2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,740.5</td>
<td>1,728.0</td>
<td>1,711.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>1,743.1</td>
<td>1,723.8</td>
<td>1,708.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>1,747.6</td>
<td>1,719.8</td>
<td>1,711.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1,752.1</td>
<td>1,719.0</td>
<td>1,714.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>1,753.0</td>
<td>1,717.2</td>
<td>1,710.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>1,753.3</td>
<td>1,715.5</td>
<td>1,717.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>1,752.2</td>
<td>1,714.7</td>
<td>1,717.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>1,751.7</td>
<td>1,710.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>1,746.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>1,742.9</td>
<td>1,709.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>1,740.0</td>
<td>1,708.8</td>
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AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS (Seasonally adjusted)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<th>2002</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3,612</td>
<td>4,003</td>
<td>5,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>3,351</td>
<td>4,312</td>
<td>4,842</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>3,276</td>
<td>4,761</td>
<td>4,764</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>3,387</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>3,182</td>
<td>5,138</td>
<td>6,243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>3,601</td>
<td>4,738</td>
<td>5,603</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>3,233</td>
<td>5,182</td>
<td>5,026</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
<td>3,607</td>
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<td>4,794</td>
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<td>Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
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<td>5,791</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>3,479</td>
<td>5,099</td>
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</table>
**REAL AVG MANUFACTURING HOURLY EARNINGS** (Not seasonally adjusted)

<table>
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<th>Month</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>$9.47</td>
<td>$9.25</td>
<td>$9.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>9.39</td>
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<td>9.31</td>
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<td>Mar</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>9.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>9.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>9.31</td>
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<td>Jun</td>
<td>9.23</td>
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<td>9.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>9.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>9.31</td>
<td>9.21</td>
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**AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS** (Not seasonally adjusted)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>42.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>42.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>42.4</td>
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**HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX** (Seasonally adjusted)

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**DOL NET BUSINESS STARTS** (12-month moving average)*

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*New series began in 1996; prior years are not directly comparable
## DURABLE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)

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## NONDURABLE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)

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## CONSTRUCTION & MINING EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)

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## TRANSPORT. & PUBLIC UTIL. EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally adjusted)

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Note: These economic growth rates were derived by the Office of Fiscal Analysis and were made by comparing tax collections in each quarter with the same quarter in the previous year and were adjusted for legislative changes.
### Connecticut Nonfarm Employment Estimates

### Not Seasonally Adjusted

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Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.  **Includes Indian tribal government employment.
### Bridgeport LMA

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For further information on the Bridgeport Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

### Danbury LMA

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For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months’ data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.
### DANIELSON LMA

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For further information on the Danielson Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 263-6299.

### HARTFORD LMA

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For further information on the Hartford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month’s data are preliminary. Prior months’ data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

* Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.
### Lower River LMA

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<th>JUL 2002</th>
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For further information on the Lower River Labor Market Area contact Noreen Passardi at (860) 263-6299.

### New Haven LMA

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For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact Jungmin Charles Joo at (860) 263-6293.
### NEW LONDON LMA

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For further information on the New London Labor Market Area contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 263-6292.

### STAMFORD LMA

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<th>JUL</th>
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<td>-2.4</td>
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</table>

For further information on the Stamford Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 263-6278.

Current month’s data are preliminary. Prior months’ data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.
## Nonfarm Employment Estimates

### Torrington LMA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>AUG 2002</th>
<th>AUG 2001</th>
<th>CHANGE NO.</th>
<th>CHANGE %</th>
<th>JUL 2002</th>
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For further information on the Torrington Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 263-6278.

### Waterbury LMA

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<th>CHANGE %</th>
<th>JUL 2002</th>
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For further information on the Waterbury Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepski at (860) 263-6278.

Current month’s data are preliminary. Prior months’ data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

* Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.
## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)

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<th>AUG 2001</th>
<th>CHANGE NO.</th>
<th>CHANGE %</th>
<th>JUL 2002</th>
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Current month’s data are preliminary. Prior months’ data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.
## Manufacturing Hours and Earnings

### Connecticut

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<th>Avg Weekly Hours</th>
<th>Avg Hourly Earnings</th>
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### LMA

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Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2001.

## New Housing Permits

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Additional data by town are on page 26.
The civilian labor force comprises all state residents age 16 years and older classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with criteria described below. Excluded are members of the military and persons in institutions (correctional and mental health, for example).

The employed are all persons who did any work as paid employees or in their own business during the survey week, or who have worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member. Persons temporarily absent from a job because of illness, bad weather, strike or for personal reasons are also counted as employed whether they were paid by their employer or were seeking other jobs.

The unemployed are all persons who did not work, but were available for work during the survey week (except for temporary illness) and made specific efforts to find a job in the prior four weeks. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

### LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES BY TOWN

#### AUGUST 2002

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<th>Town</th>
<th>LMA/TOWNS LABOR FORCE</th>
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#### DANBURY

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#### DANIENSON

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#### HARTFORD

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<th>UNEMPLOYED</th>
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#### LABOR FORCE CONCEPTS

The civilian labor force comprises all state residents age 16 years and older classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with criteria described below. Excluded are members of the military and persons in institutions (correctional and mental health, for example).

The employed are all persons who did any work as paid employees or in their own business during the survey week, or who have worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member. Persons temporarily absent from a job because of illness, bad weather, strike or for personal reasons are also counted as employed whether they were paid by their employer or were seeking other jobs.

The unemployed are all persons who did not work, but were available for work during the survey week (except for temporary illness) and made specific efforts to find a job in the prior four weeks. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.
The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

With the exception of those persons temporarily absent from a job or waiting to be recalled to one, persons with no job and who are not actively looking for one are counted as "not in the labor force".

Over the course of a year, the size of the labor force and the levels of employment undergo fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays and the opening and closing of schools. Because these seasonal events follow a regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the monthly statistics. Seasonal Adjustment makes it easier to observe cyclical and other nonseasonal developments.

### Labor Force Estimates by Town

#### (By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Labor Force</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>%</th>
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*NEW LONDON* 147,084 142,055 5,029 3.4

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*Connecticut portion only. For whole MSA, including Rhode Island towns, see below.

**NEW LONDON** 164,568 159,077 5,491 3.3

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Town</th>
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<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>%</th>
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**Labor Force Concepts (Continued)**

The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

With the exception of those persons temporarily absent from a job or waiting to be recalled to one, persons with no job and who are not actively looking for one are counted as "not in the labor force".

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For further information on the housing permit data, contact Kolie Chang of DECD at (860) 270-8167.
BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS
Registrations and terminations of business entities as recorded with the Secretary of the State and the Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) are an indication of new business formation and activity. DOL business starts mark new establishments which have become liable for unemployment insurance taxes during the quarter, as well as new establishments opened by existing employers. DOL business terminations are those accounts discontinued due to inactivity (no employees) or business closure, and accounts for individual business establishments that are closed by still active employers. The Secretary of the State registrations include limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and foreign-owned (out-of-state) and domestic-owned (in-state) corporations.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
The Consumer Price Index (CPI), computed and published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors’ and dentists’ services, drugs and other goods and services that people buy for their day-to-day living. The Northeast region is comprised of the New England states, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX
The Employment Cost Index (ECI) covers both wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits for all occupations and establishments in both the private nonfarm sector and state and local government. The ECI measures employers’ labor costs free from the influences of employment shifts among industries and occupations. The base period for all data is June 1989 when the ECI is 100.

HOURLS AND EARNINGS ESTIMATES
Production worker earnings and hours estimates include full- and part-time employees working within manufacturing industries. Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month. Average hourly earnings are affected by such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings. These data are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

INDIAN GAMING DATA
Indian Gaming Payments are amounts received by the State as a result of the slot compact with the two Federally recognized tribes in Connecticut, which calls for 25 percent of net slot receipts to be remitted to the State. Indian Gaming Slots are the total net revenues from slot machines only received by the two Federally recognized Indian tribes.

INITIAL CLAIMS
Average weekly initial claims are calculated by dividing the total number of new claims for unemployment insurance received in the month by the number of weeks in the month. A minor change in methodology took effect with data published in the March 1997 issue of the DIGEST. Data have been revised back to January 1980.

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Primarily a measure of unemployment insurance program activity, the insured unemployment rate is the 13-week average of the number of people claiming unemployment benefits divided by the number of workers covered by the unemployment insurance system.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
Labor force estimates are a measure of the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Prepared under the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the statewide estimates are the product of a multiple variable coefficient regression model, which uses results from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of Connecticut households, counts of claimants for unemployment benefits, and establishment employment estimates. Due to the small size of the sample taken in Connecticut, the CPS results are subject to significant sampling error and produce considerable month-to-month fluctuations in estimates derived from the sample. In general, the CPS estimates, at the 90 percent confidence level, have an error range of about 1.5 percentage points on a rate of 6.0 percent. An accepted method for calculating the error range for model estimates is currently not available. Labor force data, reflecting persons employed by place of residence, are not directly comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. In the labor force estimates, workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. The labor force data also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics and the self-employed. Because of these conceptual differences, total labor force employment is almost always different from nonfarm wage and salary employment.

LABOR MARKET AREAS
All Labor Market Areas in Connecticut except three are federally designated areas for developing labor statistics. Industry employment data for the Danielson, Lower River and Torrington Labor Market Areas are prepared exclusively by the Connecticut Department of Labor, following the same statistical procedures used to prepare estimates for the other Labor Market Areas, which are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified the five towns of Canaan, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon as a separate area for reporting labor force data. For the convenience of our data users, data for these towns are included in the Torrington Labor Market Area. For the same purpose, data for the town of Thompson, which is officially part of the Worcester Metropolitan Statistical Area, are included in the Danielson Labor Market Area. Also, data for Hopkinton and Westerly, Rhode Island are included in the New London Labor Market Area.

LEADING AND COINCIDENT EMPLOYMENT INDICES
The leading employment index is a composite of six individual largely employment-related series -- the average workweek of manufacturing production and construction workers, Hartford help-wanted advertising index, short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, initial claims for unemployment insurance, total housing permits, and Moody’s BAA corporate bond yield. While not employment-sector variables, housing permits are closely related to construction employment and the corporate bond yield adds important information about the movement in interest rates. The coincident employment index is a composite indicator of four individual employment-related series -- the total unemployment rate, nonfarm employment (employer survey), total employment (state residents employed measured by a household survey), and the insured unemployment rate. All data are seasonally adjusted and come from the Connecticut Labor Department, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
Nonfarm employment estimates are derived from a survey of businesses to measure jobs by industry. The estimates include all full- and part-time employees in nonfarm establishments, both wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Excluded from these estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees and unpaid family workers. In some cases, due to space constraints, all industry estimates are not shown. Call (860) 263-6275 for a more comprehensive breakout of nonfarm employment estimates. These data are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

UI COVERED WAGES
UI covered wages is the total amount paid to those employees who are covered under the Connecticut’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) law for services performed during the quarter. The fluctuations in the 1992-93 period reflect the effect of the changes in the tax law and the massive restructuring in the state’s economy.
### ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT A GLANCE

(Percent change from prior year; see pages 6-10 for reference months or quarters)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coincident Employment Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading General Drift Indicator</td>
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<td>Coincident General Drift Indicator</td>
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<td>Business Barometer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Nonfarm Employment</td>
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<td>Unemployment</td>
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<td>Labor Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Initial Claims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help Wanted Index -- Hartford</td>
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<td>Average Ins. Unempl. Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Hours, Mfg</td>
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<td>Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg</td>
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<td>Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg</td>
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<td>CT Mfg. Production Index</td>
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<td>Production Worker Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial Electricity Sales</td>
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<td>Personal Income</td>
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### Business Activity

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<td>Electricity Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Sales</td>
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<td>Construction Contracts Index</td>
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### Business Starts

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### Business Terminations

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### Employment Cost Index (U.S.)

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<tr>
<td>Wages &amp; Salaries</td>
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<td>Benefit Costs</td>
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<tr>
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### Consumer Confidence

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<td>Conventional Mortgage</td>
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### THE CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC DIGEST

October 2002

We would appreciate your input:

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- What additional data would you like to see included in the Digest?

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