

***State of Connecticut***  
**WORKFORCE INFORMATION ANNUAL REPORT – PY2008**

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Date

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Date

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This report identifies the information products and services that the Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research developed and provided during program year 2008 to support the State's workforce investment system.

**A. Accomplishments:****1. Workforce Information Database (WIDb): *Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database with state and local data.***

- Maintained version 2.4 of the database
- Updated and populated the core data tables and licensing files in accordance with guidelines issued by the Analyst Resource Center (ARC)
- Contributed to the development, enhancement, and maintenance of the Workforce Information Database through the Analyst Resource Center workgroup

**2. Employment Projections: *Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.***

- Produced and disseminated:
  - o Sub-state, long-term industry and occupational employment projections to 2016 through the *Labor Market Information* Web site and the Workforce Information Database.
  - o Long-term data was submitted for public dissemination following procedures established by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership.
- Plans are being made to participate in training offered in the fall of 2009 by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership.

Note: State short-term occupational employment projections for 2008 to 2010 were not published in PY2008. To combat the state's budget crisis, an early retirement incentive resulted in the loss of key staff - most notably, staff that analyzed, produced and disseminated the employment projections data. Newly hired Office of Research staff did produce State short-term occupational employment projections to 2010. However, the outcomes included significant fluctuations and surges in the data that our Office could not support. For these reasons, and to not jeopardize the integrity of the data produced by the Office of Research, we made a determination to not publish the State short-term occupational employment projections in PY2008.

**3. Economic Analysis:** *Publish an annual economic analysis report.*

The following economic analysis reports were produced:

- *A 2010 Landing: The Connecticut Employment Outlook to 2010*
  - Reviews Connecticut's economy over the previous year including: economic expansion, employment and employment changes by major industry and labor market area
  - Includes employment forecasts and expected performance for 2010 and beyond
  - Report was lead article in June issue of the *Connecticut Economic Digest*
- *U. S. and CT Economic Outlook: 2008 to 2010*
  - Evaluation of the recent, and expected near future, performance of the U.S. and state economies, with an emphasis on the relationship between the behaviors of the U.S. labor market and its impact on Connecticut's job growth
  - Includes focus on U.S. and Connecticut financial market crisis

We also completed an analysis of historical, current, and forecasted behavior of critical economic indicators to determine the Connecticut economy's overall performance, and the stage of the economic cycle that most likely characterized the expected conditions affecting Connecticut's job growth over the forecast horizon.

The analyses were produced in consultation with economists from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC), the University of Connecticut, Fairfield University, Perna Associates, Office of Research staff, and other secondary resources.

**4. Internet Information Delivery:** Post products, information, and reports on the Internet.

Below are the many initiatives the Office of Research completed in PY2008 to improve the quantity, accessibility, understandability, and/or ease of use of data and information delivered via the Internet.

Electronic Products:

- *Labor Market Information* ([www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol), select *Labor Market Information*)
  - upgraded Web development software platform to ease development efforts

- updates:
  - o maintained currency of data
  - o posted new data and reports, as available
  - o ongoing site maintenance and redesigned Home page
  - o *Employer Search, Workforce Employment Dynamics (WED)* tools
  - o initiated on-line availability of regional economic profiles
  - o ongoing site maintenance
- *Connecticut Job & Career ConneCTion (JCC)* ([www.ctjobandcareer.org](http://www.ctjobandcareer.org))
  - ongoing site maintenance
  - updated career exploration and planning information including:
    - o assessment tools
    - o occupation descriptions and wages
    - o employment outlook
    - o education and training programs and providers
    - o licensing/certification authority
    - o job listings through *Connecticut JOBCentral*
    - o business listings through the *Potential Employer Search*
    - o job search tools and resources
    - o *VETCentral* Web site
- *Connecticut Education & Training ConneCTion (ETC)* ([www.cttraining.info](http://www.cttraining.info))
  - ongoing site maintenance
  - updated training program and provider information:
    - o course schedules/duration, completion credential, WIA-certification
- *WIA Training Program Management System*
  - maintained currency of program and provider content
  - technical improvements through elimination of duplicate programs
  - ongoing technical assistance to Workforce Investment Board staff
- *Education & Training Planners' Resource*

The *Training and Education Planning System (TEPS)* is designed to aid the analysis and discussion of the demand and supply of talent in Connecticut's workforce through the identification of skill shortages and surpluses in the labor market.

  - completed development and published through *Labor Market Information* Web site
- Print products:
  - *Business and Employment Changes Announced in the News Media*
  - *Business Employment Dynamics*
  - *Connecticut Economic Digest*
  - *Connecticut Career Resource Network Newsletter*
  - *Connecticut Labor Market Information At-A-Glance*

- *Connecticut Occupational Employment and Wages*
- *Your Job Search Guide*
  - o re-designed to include most comprehensive work search/career planning advice
  - o Agency's most referenced product by One-Stop staff

**5. Workforce Investment Support:** Partner and *consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards and key talent development partners and stakeholders.*

In PY2008, the Office of Research continued to produce workforce information reports, studies, and electronic and print products to support the state's workforce system. All of these efforts helped to increase the scope and utility of workforce information to inform talent and economic development strategies and enhance career guidance by collaborating with economic development, education and workforce development partners to gather and analyze a wide variety of workforce and economic data to drive strategic planning, track economic conditions, benchmark competitiveness, and measure outcomes. These collaborations included:

- Participation on the CETC Planning and Performance Committee, including the preparation of employment outcomes for public employment education and training program participants for the annual CETC employment and training report.
- Continued discussions/meetings with the state's Workforce Investment Board planning staff to help identify their information needs. The feedback was used and incorporated into the *2009 Information for Workforce Investment Planning (IWIP)* publication.
- Assistance to local workforce investment boards, community colleges and others with information for grant applications
- Developing profiles of the economy and workforce for sub-state regions
- Labor Market Information Workshops:
  - In PY2008, the Office of Research conducted 61 LMI workshops and training sessions for more than 3,200 participants. The audience included, but was not limited to, employees of the One-Stop system, business, post-secondary and secondary education, networking groups, and faith-based service providers.

- *Connecticut Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Careers Partnership*
  - Through this partnership, the Office of Research initiated the development of a “doorway” to Connecticut’s STEM occupations including descriptions, tools and technology requirements, wages, outlook, and employment listings. The collaboration will create a statewide virtual STEM center to raise general awareness of education, training, and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
  
- Ongoing technical assistance/collaborative efforts:
  - Assisting with Agency’s Rapid Response business downsizing support
  - Assisting with state and local entities’ economic development and business expansion activities

**6. Special Studies:** *Conduct special studies and economic analyses.*

The Office of Research completes special state, local, or sub-state regional studies and economic analyses to provide information support for economic transition, workforce development initiatives, education program analysis and development, and responses to major layoffs or disasters.

In PY 2008, the Office of Research conducted and assisted others, in special state, regional or local studies and economic analyses. These efforts provided information support for communities in economic transition, state and sub-state talent development initiatives, and responses to major layoffs or disasters. These included:

- Support to the local workforce boards, community colleges and others with information for grant applications:
  - *Connecticut's Early Warning System*  
This statewide early warning system was designed to identify declining and transforming industries and businesses so that appropriate resources could be aligned to respond. This project was built upon the existing rapid response system, and helped to form a statewide Business Retention Network comprised of five local area Business Retention Alliances. The identification of declining industries and businesses allows service teams made up of Department of Labor Business Services Consultants and others to reach out to businesses and their workers that may need assistance in order to avoid layoffs or closure.
  - *The Effect of Wagner-Peyser Services on Dislocated Workers*  
Near completion, this study will explore the feasibility of Workforce Investment Act-approved training programs for dislocated workers by analyzing the employment and earnings outcomes for persons receiving public employment services (WIA-funded training)
  - *Connecticut Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics*  
Provides statewide data on employment, wages, and educational attainment in STEM occupations, and compares Connecticut's employment concentration in STEM industries with the U.S.
  - *Connecticut's Middle Skill Jobs*  
Report provides wages, current employment and projected job openings; typical workplaces & industries that employ middle skill jobs.

- *Mass Layoffs' Impact on Earnings During Recessions and Expansions*  
Collaboration with the University of Connecticut's Center for Population Research, this study examines the earnings losses of workers displaced due to mass layoff at different points in the business cycle using administrative records from the state of Connecticut.
- *The Financial Services Industry in Greater NYC*  
A Connecticut, New York, New Jersey collaborative project in conjunction with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. This analysis evaluates the impacts of the turbulence in the finance industry on the region's labor markets, focusing on the economic spillover and feedback affects both by industry and geography.
- *How Green is Connecticut's Economy*  
A lead article for the *Connecticut Economic Digest*, this addresses the impact of the "greening" phenomenon and its affect on Connecticut's economy. The report quantifies the number of "green" jobs in the state's economy and forecasts how the employment numbers will fare over time. Study uses data from the Office of Research's participation in a multi-state-federal workgroup that are working collaboratively to better understand and promote the effects of clean and green technology on our economy. Detailed information on "green" occupations, their expected growth, wages, education and training providers, and licensing requirements was provided to several groups working on green initiatives in workforce development, including the Governor's Green Collar Jobs Council, the Energy Workforce Development Commission, and the local workforce investment boards.
- *Higher Education...Building Connecticut's Workforce*  
Updated to include labor market outcomes for graduates of the state's public colleges. The report summarizes employment and earnings results for students who graduated from one of the state's 18 public colleges during the 2007 school year, and provides detailed information on the employed graduates by industry sector, college and degree program.