

State of Connecticut

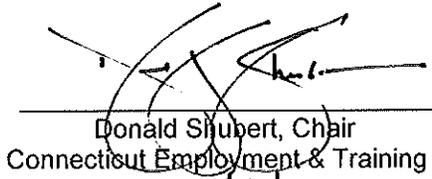
WORKFORCE INFORMATION ANNUAL REPORT – PY2014



Sharon Palmer, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Labor

9/17/15

Date



Donald Shupert, Chair
Connecticut Employment & Training Commission

10/6/15

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 2014-15 to support the State's workforce investment system using Workforce Information Grant support from ETA.

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

- Maintain and populated version 2.6 of the WID database as of 4/15
- Updated and populated the core data tables and licensing files in accordance with guidelines issued by the Analyst Resource Center (ARC)
- The Connecticut Office of Research is actively involved in the development, enhancement, and maintenance of the Workforce Information Database through the Analyst Resource Center. Our database manager, Dana Placzek is the current chair of the "structure committee in the ARC which has direct responsibility for all enhancements, upgrades and changes to the WID. Connecticut is actively involved in the work of the ARC with three active members. We are participating in the database structure committee, the web development committee and the policy steering committee and Andrew Condon is the chair of the LEWIS (Formerly EDS) Steering Committee.

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

- o Statewide short-term occupational and industry projections were completed timely and submitted to the Projections Partnership on 2/27/2015. They are published and available at: <http://www.projectionscentral.com/>.
- o Long-term sub state areas projections were completed in December of 2014 and are available on our website at: <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/projections.asp>. Connecticut does not produce short-term substrate projections.
- o Long-term projections are scheduled for the coming program year and will be completed at that time.
- o CT conducts its projections program on the following schedule:
 - o Long – term Statewide: Biannually
 - o Long – Term Sub Sate areas: Biannually in the off year from Statewide.
 - o Short-Term Statewide: Annually

iii. **Economic Analysis and Other Reports:** *Produce and Publish an annual economic analysis report.*

Statewide Annual Economic Analysis Report. Due to the retirement of our Senior Economist and the inability to fill the position due to a hiring freeze, Connecticut was unable to produce its annual Connecticut & U.S. Economic Outlook and Employment Forecast. In fulfillment of this deliverable and as permitted in the TEGL, Connecticut is submitting the entire body of published research and articles over the program year that was funded in part or in whole by the WIG. These publications appeared in our monthly Economic Digest publication or as occasional research papers published by our staff.

Articles & Publications Funded (in part or whole) with WIG grant:

Examining Education, Incomes, and the "Skills Gap"

By Patrick Flaherty, Assistant Director of Research, Department of Labor

While the unemployment rate has dropped sharply over the past few years, it remains higher than it was before the "great recession" began. On the other hand, the number and rate of job openings are higher than their prerecession levels. In March, there were five million job openings nationally despite an unemployment rate of 5.4%, a percentage point higher than prevailed in 2006 and 2007. Despite the pool of unemployed job-seekers, some business groups report that their members are having difficulty hiring employees with the skills and experience they are seeking. This has led some to conclude that there is a gap between the skills available in the labor force and the needs of employers

A Review of 2004-2014 Employment Projections

By Michael Fitzgerald, Research Analyst, Department of Labor

It will be years—not in my time—before a woman will become Prime Minister." That's a quote made by Margaret Thatcher in 1969, ten years before she took over as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 1979. In other words, projections—especially 10 years ahead of time—are difficult. Every two years, the Office of Research at the Connecticut Department of Labor creates 10-year employment projections for the state. Now that employment statistics for 2014 have been released, we are going to take a look at the 2004-2014 projections and see how well the projections fared. Statewide numbers for the Major Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) groupings and Occupation Employment Statistics data from 2014 will be what is focused on. There are a couple of things to bear in mind when looking at the original projections.

The Economic Impact of Tourism in Connecticut

Tourism Economics - Connecticut Department of Economic and Community

Development. Tourism is an important economic engine in Connecticut, and all business sectors in the state economy benefit from tourism activity directly and/or indirectly.

Visitors to Connecticut represent a significant economic benefit as they spend money in the local economy on items such as lodging, food and beverage, retail purchases, and recreation. Visitor spending has an even larger impact as it ripples through the statewide economy, generating revenues and jobs for businesses spanning a wide range of industries. Since the recession, Connecticut's tourism industry has created 5,000 new jobs. Visitors to Connecticut spent \$8.3 billion in 2013, generating a total economic impact of \$14.0 billion, supporting nearly 119,000 total jobs.

Connecticut Exports: 2014 in Review

By Laura Jaworski, Office of International and Domestic Affairs, Department of Economic and Community Development

Opening foreign markets to U.S. goods and services is critical for economic competitiveness, growth and job creation. As such, President Obama commenced the second phase of the National Export Initiative, "NEI/NEXT," to strengthen partnerships among the export community. At a May 2014 launch, U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker announced that through NEI/NEXT, federal agencies are developing policy improvements to "provide exporters more tailored assistance and information; streamline export reporting requirements; expand access to export financing; ensure market access and a level playing field; and collaborate with state and local organizations." [read more]

Occupational Employment and Wages: 2001-2013

By Matthew Krzyzek, Economist, Department of Labor

Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) estimates employer survey information into detailed wage data for 821 occupations that comprise 22 major categories. Extensive occupational earnings data make the survey useful to both employers and employees. This article utilizes data from 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, and 2013 to account for the 3-year OES survey cycle. Data is examined mostly at 2-digit Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) level but also dives deeper into 6 digit levels to explain broader changes.

Employment Recovery Continues for the Fourth Year

By Jungmin Charles Joo, Department of Labor

Last year was a continuation of modest employment recovery in Connecticut, with many economic indicators, including unemployment, pointing to positive directions. After our annual revision, Connecticut gained 12,500 jobs (+0.76%) in 2014, which was essentially the same pace as was in 2013, as unemployment rate fell further to 6.6%. During the March 2008-February 2010 recession, Connecticut lost 119,000 total nonfarm jobs, of which 76% are now recovered (+90,500), while the total private sector recovered 87%. Meanwhile, the nation has now fully regained all of the jobs lost in its last January 2008-February 2010 employment downturn and is on an expansionary path (+128%).

The 2015 Economic Outlook

By Mark Prisløe, Associate Economist, Department of Economic and Community Development

As we begin a new year, this issue of the Digest looks at the economic prospects for 2015. As usual, this annual outlook attempts to interpret recent data and their trends, and to offer some insights about what is likely for the U.S. and Connecticut economies in the year ahead.

The outlook for the U.S. economy in 2015 remains quite positive. A set-back in early 2014 resulting partially from weather-related factors that hampered overall growth was encouragingly offset by considerably stronger growth as the year progressed. Of note, except for a couple of minor dips, the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has now grown for five and a half years since the "Great Recession" ended in Q2-2009.

The Minimum Wage Debate: 2014 Update

By Daniel W. Kennedy, Ph.D., Senior Economist, Department of Labor

The first version of this article, "The Minimum Wage Debate: The Latest Rounds", appeared in the January 1999 issue of the Connecticut Economic Digest. It was motivated by Connecticut's new minimum-wage increase that went into effect January 1, 1999. It raised the State's minimum wage to \$5.65 per hour, and then to \$6.15 on January 1, 2000 (or to a value that was indexed to the Federal minimum wage, whichever is greater). Although there was not much opposition in Connecticut, it did spark a national debate and some vocal Congressional opposition, when President Clinton proposed raising the Federal minimum wage. Well, it's Baaack!

A Closer Look at Home Care Occupations

By Sarah Pilipaitis, Economist, Department of Labor

Every two years, the Connecticut Department of Labor produces long-term occupational projections. The 2012-2022 projections show that two of the fastest growing occupations in terms of percent and net change come from the Home Health Care industry. The fastest growing occupation in Connecticut in the ten-year timeframe by net change is projected to be Personal Care Aides with a growth of 38.1 percent and 8,846 jobs. Nearby on the list of fastest growing occupations in Connecticut is Home Health Aides with a projected growth rate of 38.1% and 3,195 jobs from 2012 to 2022. The rise in these two occupations warrants a closer look at what each of them entails.

Long Term Industry and Occupational Projections: 2012-2022

By Patrick Flaherty, Economist, Department of Labor

Every two years the Connecticut Department of Labor produces and publishes ten year projections by industry and occupation. This year's projections cover the period 2012-2022, which invites a comparison to the previous ten year period.

The 2002-2012 period spans the global financial and economic crisis that caused the worst national recession since the Great Depression. While employment started to increase after the first quarter of 2010, by 2012 employment in many industries was still below 2002 levels. Importantly, the industries that grew the most after the recovery started were not necessarily the same as those that lost the most during the recession, so the industry and occupational mix of the economy has changed. The long term projections help put these changes into perspective and peek over the horizon to see what the industry and occupational profile of the economy would look like if full employment could be achieved within the next decade.

Occupational Profile: Mechanical Engineers.

By Michael Fitzgerald, Research Analyst, Department of Labor

Mechanical Engineers work in a variety of industries developing, building and testing mechanical and thermal devices, including tools, engines and other machines.

Mechanical Engineers typically work in an office environment but occasionally travel into the field to inspect or fix equipment. They need at least a bachelor's degree and a graduate degree may be required for management. Mechanical Engineers must be licensed if they sell their services publicly. (Occupational Outlook Handbook)

State Housing Market Continued its Recovery in 2013.

By Kolie Sun, Senior Research Analyst, Department of Economic and Community Development

Connecticut's housing market continued on the path to recovery in 2013 with many economic indicators posting strong gains over the prior year. In this article, we will examine the state's housing industry and factors that led to stronger housing performance in 2013, most notably permits rising to pre-recession levels.

Business & Employment Changes Announced in the News Media

This publication lists start-ups, expansions, staff reductions, and layoffs reported by the media, both current and future. The report provides company name, the number of workers involved, date of the action, the principal product or service of the company, a brief synopsis of the action, and the source and date of the media article.

iv. Customer Consultations - Internet Information Delivery: Traffic, while quite good for a specialized site in a relatively small state, has dropped a bit over the last two years. While we attribute much of the decline to improving labor market conditions, we continue to look carefully to the various client groups who come to our site, to ensure we are providing the information they need in the format and context that best suits them.

Electronic Products: CT LMI Web Site Traffic Summary & Trends: PY2014

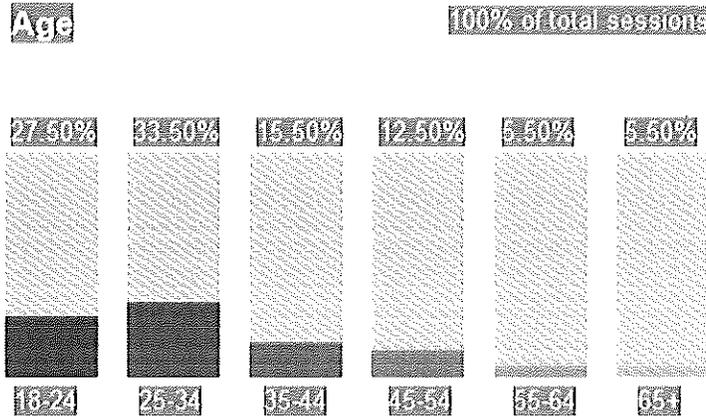
**Web Traffic Ct Office of Research: LMI Web Site
(Page Views)**

	PY 2014	PY 2013	PY 2012
CT LMI Site	638,224	638,936	772,865
Education & Training Connection	316,282	412,526	554,373
Reemployment Portal	24,072	37,324	81,992
Jobs & Career Connection	259,592	274,489	393,292
TOTAL	1,238,170	1,363,275	1,802,452

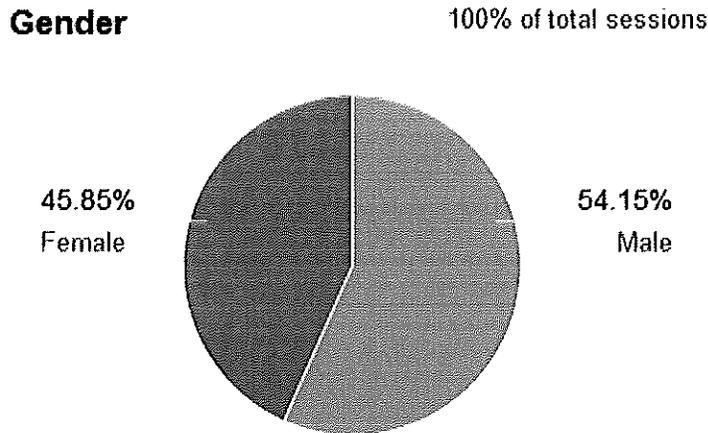
Top 10 LMI Site Traffic Areas (Page Views)	RANK PY2014	RANK PY2013
Employer Search	1	1
Long –Term Occupational Projections	2	3
Occupational Employment and Wages	3	4
Labor Situation (Monthly Press release)	4	9
CT Jobs Exchange (Job Search)	5	-
Economic Digest (Monthly periodical)	6	8
Career Paths (Student career information)	7	5
Local Area Unemployment Statistics	8	2
CES (Monthly Payroll Jobs Survey)	9	7
New Hires	10	10

Age Demographics of CT LMI Website (Note: not measured for <18 Years Old)
 Source: Google Analytics

Our audience skews young – Our content and visual appeal needs to reflect that.



Gender demographics
 Our users currently skew male, but only slightly.



vi. New Tools and Resources

The CT Office of Research completed its first Occupational Vacancy Survey in part with WIG funds. The original intent was to conduct two panels per year. However, sufficient permanent funding did not materialize. The results of the survey can be found here: <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/pubs/ConnecticutJobVacancySurvey.pdf>

vii. Support Partnerships and Collaborations:

In PY2013, 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 and support of the CETC (State WIB), including the preparation of employment outcomes for higher education and training program participants for the annual CETC employment and training report aka Legislative Report Card. The latest version of the Report Card can be found here:
<http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/pubs/LRC2014.pdf>

- **IWIP:** After continued discussions/meetings with the state's local Workforce Investment Board planning staff to help identify their information needs. We have changed the way we produce the "Information for Workforce Investment Planning" product, (IWIP). Instead of collecting data for each WIB region and waiting to publish a complete document, we have incorporated the IWIP data into our regional LMI tool online. We continue to make available a detailed labor market and economic profile of each WIB region which serves as a foundation for their planning. However, we now update each data set online as the new data becomes available. We also make available these data sets for download so that local WIB analysts have access to the data. We have developed occupational wage and employment estimates customized to each WIB's geography using the capabilities built into the Estimates Delivery System tool, now called LEWIS. These WIB-based occupational employment and wage estimates will be delivered by annually in December. IWIP data can be found here:
<http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/regional.asp>

- Labor Market Information Workshops:

In PY2014, the Office of Research conducted 65 LMI workshops, presentations, conferences and media interviews to varied audience of nearly 1,000 people throughout the state (not including media audiences). The audiences included, but were not limited to, employees of the One-Stop system, Workforce Investment Boards, business, postsecondary and secondary educators, networking groups, and faith-based service providers, business and economic development analysts, political leaders, legislators, students and job seekers.

- **WDQI Activities and the P_20_WIN data sharing network.** The Office of Research completed a pilot program this year with the State Department of Agriculture and the Connecticut Board of Regents (Administrative responsibility for the state's public Community Colleges and State Universities except UConn). We have successfully demonstrated the ability to share and produce reports using education data, higher education data and CTDOL wage records to relate educational programs to workforce

outcomes. This system is superior to the Legislative Report Card program we have conducted in the past in that each institution is building and maintaining databases that permit addressing a much wider variety of questions over a much longer period of time. P_20_WIN is evolving into an operational phase where legally compliant requests can be made for de identified data sets to address a variety of questions. CTDOL has received a WDQI grant which will be used to bring all relevant workforce databases in to a CTDOL warehouse and to enhance our ability to match to Education records that do not have SSN data.

viii. Activities undertaken to leverage LMI-WIG funding.

- See WDQI Activities above in vii.

ix. Recommendation's to ETA for changes and improvements to WIG requirements.

- No recommendations at this time.

x. Licensed occupations database update.

Our Biannual update of licensed occupations was updated and posted to the WID last year. We are working on a web search tool that is complimentary of other statewide efforts and integrated into our existing Job and Career Connection tools.