

State of Connecticut

WORKFORCE INFORMATION ANNUAL REPORT – PY2015-16

Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Labor

Date

Donald Shubert, Chair
Connecticut Employment & Training Commission

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 2015-16 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 6/16
- 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 2015-2017 occupational and industry projections were completed timely and submitted to the Projections Partnership in February, 2016. They are published and available at:
<http://www.projectionscentral.com/Projections/ShortTerm>
- o State-Wide Long-term 2014 – 2024 projections were completed and submitted In June of 2016 and can be found at
<http://www.projectionscentral.com/Projections/LongTerm> . In addition, our long-term projections website is located at
<http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/projections.asp>
- o Long-term sub-state projections will be completed in PY2016-17
- 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. Connecticut's Short-Term Employment Outlook, 2015-2017 was prepared in PY2015-2016 and published in July. The document can be located here:

<http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/pubs/ConditionsandOutlook2015to2017.pdf>

It contains our detailed assessment of the US & Connecticut economy and forecasts of Connecticut's vital economic statistics and labor market.

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

[2015 Legislative Report Card ~ Connecticut Employment and Training Commission](#)

A comprehensive report on employment outcomes for graduates of the public college system. Provides a summary of employment and earnings experience for students who graduated from one of Connecticut's 18 public colleges in 2013-14, as well as more detailed information on these employed graduates by industry sector, college and degree program.

[Connecticut Career Paths: 2016](#)

Narrative descriptions of over 150 occupations with number employed, job openings, training required, education & training sites and salary info. Includes articles on writing a great résumé, using the Internet for career & job development, choosing a career, hot jobs in CT, health occupations, CT's school-to-career initiative, and programs & resources available to help people with job and career decisions.

[Business & Employment Changes Announced in the News Media](#) (Quarterly)

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

[Connecticut Labor Force Data for Affirmative Action Plan](#) (Quarterly)

Provides quarterly labor force information for Connecticut and its nine labor market areas. Includes statewide and labor market area estimates of total labor force, unemployment rates, and unemployed women and minorities. Information on the broad occupational skills of women and minority job seekers registered with the CTWorks Career Centers can also be found here.

[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.

[Labor Market Information - At-A-Glance](#) (monthly)

The Office of Research gathers, analyzes, and disseminates information on the economy, workforce and careers that is used to evaluate the economic health of CT, to support and promote state workforce development activities, and to assist students and job seekers in making career choices. At-A-Glance is a monthly pamphlet that contains the latest updates for data items most frequently requested.

Labor Force Participation Rate and Employment-Population Ratio, 1976-2016

By [Jungmin Charles Joo](#), Department of Labor

The Connecticut Economic Digest now publishes the monthly labor force participation rate and employment-population ratio, which are found under the "Unemployment" table on page 6. These two data, produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), provide additional perspectives to the unemployment rate data in assessing the current economic condition. This article also looks at their entire historical trends.

Annual Town Unemployment Rates, 2011-2015

By [Jungmin Charles Joo](#), Department of Labor. Unemployment rates come from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. There are total of 169 cities and towns in Connecticut for which labor force estimates are produced monthly by the Connecticut Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). For a brief explanation of the methodology of LAUS, see "Labor Force Estimates" on page 23. In July 2015 Digest, 2010-2014 annual average town unemployment rate estimates were published. This year, revised 2011-2015 data are analyzed.

Connecticut's Short-Term Employment Outlook to 2017

By [Sarah Pilipaitis](#), Economist, Department of Labor

Connecticut is now into its sixth year of recovery from the recession that took its toll on the state from 2008 to 2010. Over the recession, Connecticut lost over 5% of its nonfarm employment, roughly 91,100 jobs based on annual averages. The annual average nonfarm employment reached its peak in 2008 at 1,699,100 jobs. By the time it reached the trough in 2010, the state's employment had fallen to 1,608,000 jobs. The largest losses came from the construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation and utilities, and the professional and business services sectors. Those four sectors alone accounted for 80% of the lost jobs. The lone sector that was able to create jobs during the recession was education and health services, expanding by about 10,000 jobs from the peak to trough years.

Occupational Profile: Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

By [Lisa D'Acunto](#), Research Analyst, Department of Labor

Diagnostic medical sonographers operate special imaging equipment to create images or conduct tests that help physicians assess and diagnose medical conditions. They specialize in creating images of the body's organs and tissues known as sonograms or ultrasounds. High frequency sound waves are used by a diagnostic sonographer to produce images of the inside of the body. An instrument called an ultrasound transducer is used on the parts of the patient's body that are being examined. Pulses of sound are emitted from the transducer that bounce back and cause echoes. Those echoes are

then sent to the ultrasound machine, which processes them and displays them as images used by physicians for diagnosis

Employment Grew for the Fifth Year

By [Jungmin Charles Joo](#), Department of Labor

Although not yet completely recovered from the latest employment recession, 2015 was a year of continued moderate economic growth for Connecticut. For the fifth year in a row, our State's total nonfarm employment grew. The unemployment rate fell for five straight years. Real personal income rose for the second year. The majority of the other economic indicators also showed that our overall economy performed well.

Nonfarm Employment

After our annual revision, Connecticut gained (based on annual average, not seasonally adjusted data) 12,500 jobs (+0.75%) in 2015, which was slightly more than the 11,400 jobs (+0.69%) in 2014. Nationally, employment grew faster at 1.9% in 2014 and 2.1% in 2015. Connecticut has now recovered 73% (+86,700) of the total nonfarm jobs lost during the March 2008-February 2010 employment recession (-119,100), while the total private sector regained 86% of its job loss. By contrast, the nation has not only fully regained all of the jobs lost during its January 2008-February 2010 employment downturn, but has also added 56% more jobs by January of this year.

Economic Status of People with Disabilities

By [Al Sylvestre](#), Research Analyst, Department of Labor

In the eight years since the recession that began in 2008, conditions in Connecticut's labor market continue to improve. As a segment of the working-age population age 16 years and older that constitutes 5% of the work force, among whom 44% are employed full time according to the US Census Bureau's most recent (2014) American Community Survey (ACS), people with disabilities are becoming increasingly visible in the labor market. What follows is a brief examination of this population's economic characteristics as well as some of the programs and services that provide access to opportunities for its members to attach to the labor force and retain employment in response to changes in disability status.

Connecticut's Work-Related Fatalities, 1992-2014

By [Erin C. Wilkins](#), Associate Research Analyst, Department of Labor

In 2014, America lost 4,679 people to work-related deaths. Thirty-three of those deaths were in Connecticut. Connecticut's "low" number is primarily due to low employment in high-risk industries. However, it cannot be stressed enough that what is statistically unremarkable has a devastating impact on loved ones. One work-related death is one too many.

Connecticut's so-called Misery Index Falling as of Late

By [Lincoln S. Dyer](#), Economist, Department of Labor

A straight forward Misery Index was developed in the 1960's by Yale economist Arthur Okun, who is primarily known for formulating Okun's Law – a perceived inverse relationship between a country's unemployment rate and its national output – gross

domestic product (GDP). As a nation's unemployment rate declined, Okun's Law inferred that a country's gross product/output increased with some degree of regularity, and/or vice versa. This fundamental supposition of Okun's Law has held up pretty well over time. Okun's Misery Index, aptly an economic indicator that similarly is utilizing the unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted), is essentially the unemployment rate added to the annualized inflation rate (UR+CPI U annualized). These are two statistics our federal/state cooperating partner, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, produces on a monthly basis. The Office of Research shares in the development of the state's unemployment rate.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization in Connecticut, 2003-2014

By [Jungmin Charles Joo](#) and [Sarah Pilipaitis](#), Department of Labor

In addition to the official unemployment rate, the Connecticut Economic Digest has been publishing the "U-6 rate" each quarter on page 6 under the "Unemployment" table. As introduced in the February 2010 issue (page 3), there are six alternative measures of labor underutilization produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), of which U-6 is the broadest measure, capturing not only the "official" unemployed, but also workers employed part-time for economic reasons, and those marginally attached to the labor force.

Introducing the Connecticut Town Economic Index (CTEI)

By [Jungmin Charles Joo](#), Department of Labor

The Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research developed the Connecticut Town Economic Index (CTEI), an annual composite index of all 169 cities and towns in Connecticut. This index measures each town or city's overall economic health, which can be ranked and compared to others to gain perspective of its performance each year. Four annual average town economic indicators were used as components, which are total covered business establishments, total covered employment, real covered wages, and the unemployment rate. [[read more](#)]

Occupational Profile: Information Security Analysts

By [Sarah Pilipaitis](#), Economist, Department of Labor

Information security analysts plan, implement, upgrade, or monitor security measures for the protection of computer networks and information. They may ensure appropriate security controls are in place that will safeguard digital files and vital electronic infrastructure. Additionally, information security analysts may respond to computer security breaches and viruses.

Connecticut Job Vacancy Survey

By [Andy Condon Ph.D.](#), Director of Research, Department of Labor

In 2014, the Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research, in partnership with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, conducted a survey of Connecticut employers designed to estimate hiring demand and job vacancy characteristics by industry and occupation.

Survey Sample - Information was gathered through the survey of a stratified sample of 10,300 firms in five Labor Market Areas. Firms excluded from the sampling process include Government entities and businesses with no employees. The sample was stratified by industry “supersector,” Labor Market Area and firm employment size.

Covered Employment and Wages: A 2014 Annual Review

By [Jonathan Kuchta](#), Research Analyst, Department of Labor

The number of workers in Connecticut covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) increased by 0.8 percent during 2014, according to most recent data published from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. This increase continues the trend started back in 2011. Total private industry employment, constituting 85.7 percent of the State’s covered employment total, increased by 0.9 percent. Government employment increased by 0.3 percent year-over-year. [[read more](#)]

Construction Occupational Employment Trend, 2005-2013

By [Matthew Krzyzek](#), Economist, Department of Labor

The bursting of the housing bubble hit certain areas of the economy harder than others. Though Connecticut was not an epicenter of the housing bubble and bust, its impact can be seen when examining construction occupational employment. This article uses data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) as it provides estimates of labor market variables not captured in other datasets, including unemployment by occupation and prior occupation of those not in the labor force. From this we can get a generalized idea of how construction occupations in Connecticut have fared during the recession and recovery.

Annual Town Unemployment Rates, 2010-2014

By [Jungmin Charles Joo](#), Department of Labor

Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. There are total of 169 cities and towns in Connecticut for which labor force estimates are produced monthly by the Connecticut Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Recently LAUS underwent a major revision back to 2010.

iv. Customer Consultations - Internet Information Delivery: We have added a strong social media presence which incorporates Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr. The sites include sharing LMI data, Analysis and job information. Partition is quite good for such a targeted purpose.

Electronic Products: CT LMI Web Site Traffic Summary & Trends: PY2015

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

	PY 2016*	PY 2015	PY 2014
CT LMI Site	506,420	638,224	638,936
Education & Training Connection	326,525	316,282	412,526
Reemployment Portal	18,518	24,072	37,324
Jobs & Career Connection	185,628	259,592	274,489
TOTAL	1,037,091	1,238,170	1,363,275

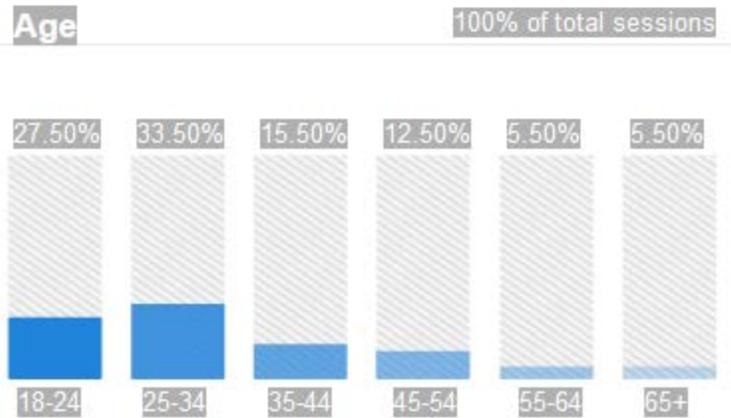
- *The CT LMI webserver was down for five weeks in early 2016 due to a possible security flaw that required a complete server system redesign. If traffic during the missing weeks equaled trend monthly traffic, our total annual page views would have been flat to 2015. We attribute the plateau mainly to improving labor market conditions in the state. However we are also seeking funds to improve the graphic appeal and navigation of the site to reflect the preferences of our younger skewing demographic. Despite the outage, traffic on our Education & Training Connection Web site actually increased over PY 2015. We are also seeking funds to build a mobile device friendly version of our web-site.*

Top 10 LMI Site Traffic Areas (Page Views)	RANK PY2015	RANK PY2014
Employer Search	1	1
Misc. LMI Data products (New category)	2	n/a
Occupational Projections	3	2
Local Area Unemployment Statistics	4	8
Occupational Employment and Wages	5	3
Career Paths / Career Development Info	6	7
Regional LMI (newly organized category)	7	n/a
CES (Monthly Payroll Jobs Survey)	8	9
Labor Situation (Monthly data press release)	9	4
Economic Digest (Monthly periodical)	10	6

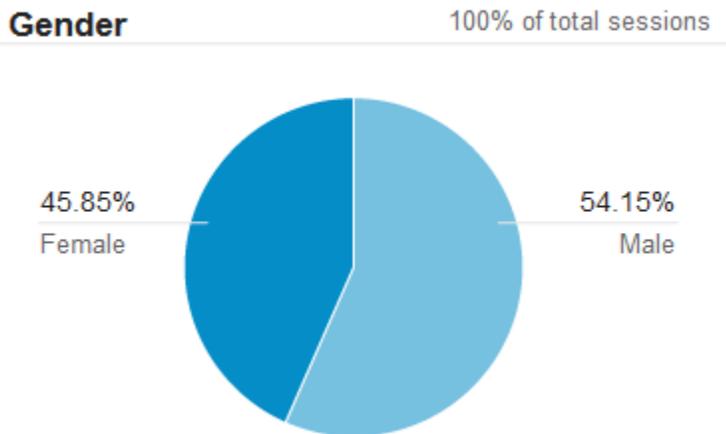
Age Demographics of CT LMI Website (Note: not measured for <18 Years Old)

Source: Google Analytics

Use of our website by age group is unchanged from 2014-15 (Google analytics uses long period averages to determine demographics). Our audience skews younger (61% are under 35) – 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 now has a subscription to HWOL to supplement our information on job vacancies. As part of the grant under which this subscription is funded we are attempting to determine where HWOL data can be most helpful and where it may be inadequate or misleading. As part of the grant we are also working with the CT Workforce Development Boards to assist them in understanding the best uses of electronic – “real time” job vacancy data. Our monthly HWOL publication can be found here: <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/HWOL.asp>

vii. Support Partnerships and Collaborations:

In PY2015, 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.

- **WIOA State Plan:** A great deal of effort was dedicated this year to supporting the transition to WIOA and assisting our Office of Workforce Competitiveness and Employment Services Division in the development of Connecticut's WIOA state plan

- 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/LRC2015.pdf>

- **IWIP / Regional LMI data:** After continued discussions/meetings with the state's local Workforce Development Boards 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 WDB region and waiting to publish an annual complete document, we have incorporated the IWIP data into our reimagined regional LMI data tool online. We continue to make available a detailed labor market and economic profile of each WDB 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 timely access to the data. We have developed occupational wage and employment estimates customized to each WDB's geography using the capabilities built into the LEWIS system. 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 PY2015, the Office of Research conducted 50 LMI workshops, presentations, conferences and media interviews to varied audience of over 2,000 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 continues to work on improving our workforce training data warehouse. We are working with our core WIOA partners to build a "unique identifier database which will generate a

common identifier and permit each agency to know if a client is enrolled in any other WIOA/ WP program. The system will return client wage records to the partner agencies for reporting purposes. We hope to expand this program to SNAP and TANF clients in the coming year.

We continue to produce P-20-WIN datasets linking education and workforce records for a variety of reports and research projects. A detailed summary of P_20_Win activity can be found here: <http://www.ct.edu/initiatives/p20win>

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

- No recommendations at this time.