

The Employment Situation in Connecticut

May 2022

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Summary

In May 2022, **nonfarm employment** in Connecticut increased by 1,600 jobs, and the April estimate was revised down by 200 jobs, putting the shortfall since the start of the pandemic-induced recession in February 2020 at 50,500 jobs. Based on an average monthly increase of 2,033 jobs over the past six months, Connecticut is on track to close its job shortfall in June 2024, a slower recovery compared to last month's projection of January 2024 and a slower recovery compared to the current projection of July 2022 for the U.S. as a whole.

In May 2022, employment in Connecticut increased in the following major sectors: **trade, transportation, and utilities** (400 jobs), **information** (500 jobs), **financial activities** (300 jobs), **professional and business services** (1,400 jobs), **education and health services** (800 jobs), **leisure and hospitality** (500 jobs), and **other services** (500 jobs). Employment in Connecticut decreased in the following major sectors: **local government** (-400 jobs), **state government** (-900 jobs), **construction** (-1,300 jobs), and **manufacturing** (-200 jobs).

Since the start of the pandemic-induced recession in February 2020, employment in Connecticut has increased in the following major sectors: **construction** (1,900 jobs), **trade, transportation, and utilities** (1,800 jobs), and **professional and business services** (800). Employment in Connecticut has decreased in the following major sectors: **local government** (-9,700 jobs), **state government** (-4,200 jobs), **federal government** (-300 jobs), **manufacturing** (-2,000 jobs), **information** (-1,100 jobs), **financial activities** (-4,200 jobs), **education and health services** (-16,900 jobs), **leisure and hospitality** (-11,300 jobs), and **other services** (-5,200 jobs).

The **labor force participation rate** in Connecticut was 64.4 percent in May 2022, up from 64.2 percent April 2022, but still down from 66.9 percent in February 2020. The labor force participation rate in May 2022 was highest for workers in the following major demographic groups: **men** (69.7 percent), **white** (64.8 percent), **Hispanic or Latino/a/x** (64.7 percent), and **25 to 54 years old** (86.5 percent). The labor force participation rate was lowest for workers in the following major demographic groups: **women** (59.5 percent), **Black** (63.3 percent), **Asian** (61.6 percent), **16 to 19 years old** (31 percent), **20 to 24 years old** (63.6 percent), and **55 years old and over** (42.5 percent).

The **employment-population ratio** in Connecticut was 61.8 percent in May 2022, up from 61.4 percent in April 2022, but still down from 64.6 percent in February 2020. The employment-population ratio in May 2022 was highest for workers in the following demographic groups: **men** (66.5 percent),

white (62.6 percent), and **25 to 54 years old** (83.6 percent). The employment-population ratio was lowest for workers in the following major demographic groups: **women** (57.4 percent), **Black** (58.4 percent), **Asian** (59.4 percent), **Hispanic or Latino/a/x** (61.3 percent), **16 to 19 years old** (27 percent), **20 to 24 years old** (56.9 percent), and **55 years old and over** (41.3 percent).

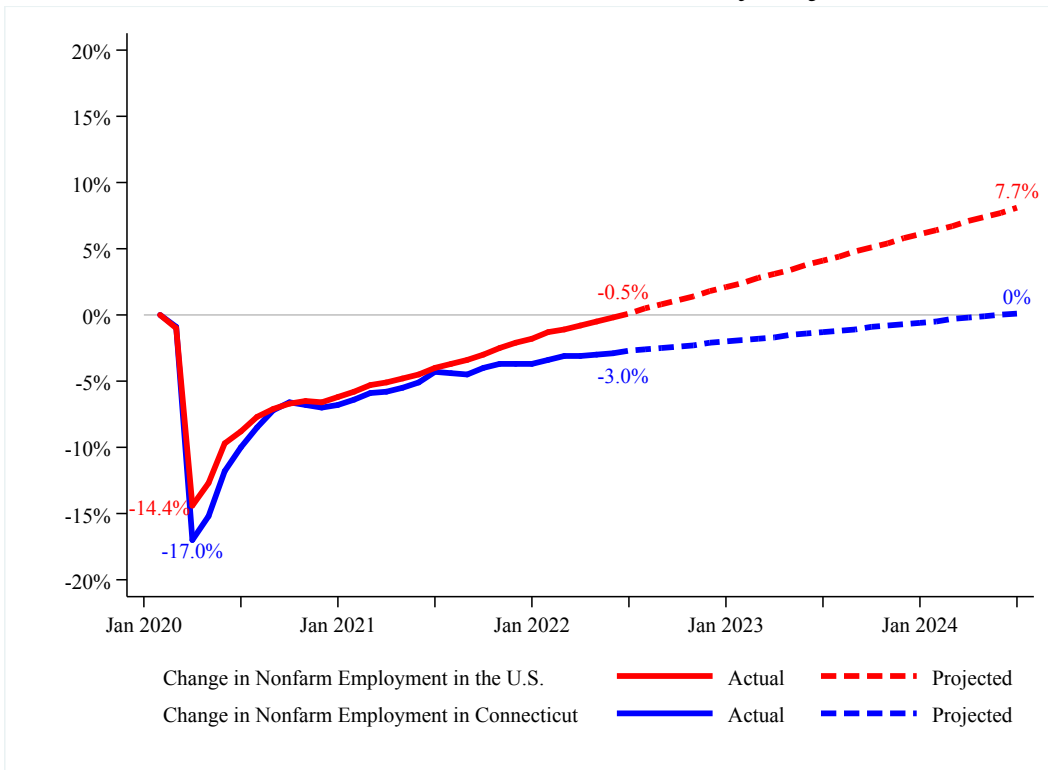
The **unemployment rate** in Connecticut was 4.2 percent in May 2022, down from 4.4 percent in April 2022, but still up from 3.4 percent in February 2020. The unemployment rate in May 2022 was lowest for workers in the following major demographic groups: **women** (3.6 percent), **white** (3.5 percent), **Asian** (3.7 percent), **25 to 54 years old** (3.5 percent), and **55 years old and over** (2.9 percent). The unemployment rate was highest for workers in the following major demographic groups: **men** (4.7 percent), **Black** (8 percent), **Hispanic or Latino/a/x** (5.5 percent), **16 to 19 years old** (13.1 percent), and **20 to 24 years old** (10.7 percent).

Background and Methodology

On the first Friday of each month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes “The Employment Situation” news release, which presents national data from two surveys. The establishment survey provides an overview of nonfarm employment overall and by major sector. The household survey provides an overview of employment status (labor force participation rate, employment-population ratio, and unemployment rate) overall and by major demographic group. Later each month, the BLS’ Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program provides state and local data from the above surveys and other sources. Like the national analysis, the state-level analysis includes an overview of nonfarm employment overall and by major sector. It also includes an overview of employment status overall. Unlike the national analysis, the state-level analysis includes no overview of employment status by major demographic group.

To fill the state-level analysis shortfall, which is essential for designing effective public policy in Connecticut and responding in a timely manner, Connecticut Voices for Children is publishing a monthly news release, “The Employment Situation in Connecticut.” This includes an overview of the change in total nonfarm employment in the U.S. and Connecticut as well as the change in nonfarm employment by major sector in Connecticut. It also includes an overview of employment status in the U.S. and Connecticut by major demographic group, which no other organization in Connecticut currently provides on a monthly basis. These new measures of employment status in Connecticut by major demographic group are calculated using the following methodology: The monthly estimate that the BLS provides for each overall employment status indicator in Connecticut (labor force participation rate, employment-population ratio, and unemployment rate) is multiplied by the employment status ratio for each major demographic group. The latter is calculated using the Economic Policy Institute’s publicly-available extracts of the BLS’ national household survey data for the preceding three-month period for Connecticut and its bordering states, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, which are the state labor markets most connected to Connecticut’s labor market. The expansion of the time period and the labor market area for calculating the employment status ratios for the major demographic groups is necessary to increase the sample size.

Change in Total Nonfarm Employment, U.S. and Connecticut Seasonally Adjusted



Projected Recovery Date

U.S.: July 2022

CT: June 2024

Average Change in Nonfarm Employment, Past Six Months

U.S.: 505,000 (0.3%)

CT: 2,033 (0.1%)

Job Openings

U.S.: 11.4 million (Apr.)

CT: 110,000 (Mar.)

Unemployed Persons

Per Job Opening

U.S.: 0.5 (May/Apr.)

CT: 0.7 (May/Mar.)

Change in Nonfarm Employment by Major Sector, Connecticut Seasonally Adjusted

Major Sector	February 2020	April 2022	May 2022	Month to Month Change		Change Since February 2020	
				Number	%	Number	%
Government Employment	236,700	223,800	222,500	-1,300	-0.6%	-14,200	-6.0%
Local Government	146,200	136,900	136,500	-400	-0.3%	-9,700	-6.6%
State Government	71,900	68,600	67,700	-900	-1.3%	-4,200	-5.8%
Federal Government	18,600	18,300	18,300	0	0.0%	-300	-1.6%
Private Sector Employment	1,462,300	1,423,100	1,426,000	2,900	0.2%	-36,300	-2.5%
Construction	59,500	62,700	61,400	-1,300	-2.1%	1,900	3.2%
Manufacturing	161,000	159,200	159,000	-200	-0.1%	-2,000	-1.2%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	293,500	294,900	295,300	400	0.1%	1,800	0.6%
Information	31,500	29,900	30,400	500	1.7%	-1,100	-3.5%
Financial Activities	122,600	118,100	118,400	300	0.3%	-4,200	-3.4%
Professional & Business Services	216,400	215,800	217,200	1,400	0.6%	800	0.4%
Education & Health Services	351,700	334,000	334,800	800	0.2%	-16,900	-4.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	159,500	147,700	148,200	500	0.3%	-11,300	-7.1%
Other Services	66,000	60,300	60,800	500	0.8%	-5,200	-7.9%
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,699,000	1,646,900	1,648,500	1,600	0.1%	-50,500	-3.0%

Employment Status by Major Demographic Group, U.S. and Connecticut Seasonally Adjusted

Employment Status Indicator and Major Demographic Group	United States			Connecticut		
	February 2020	April 2022	May 2022	February 2020	April 2022	May 2022
Labor Force Participation Rate						
Total	63.4	62.2	62.3	66.9	64.2	64.4
Men	69.3	68.0	68.0	73.1	68.9	69.7
Women	57.9	56.7	57.0	61.2	59.8	59.5
White	63.3	61.9	61.9	67.1	64.8	64.8
Black	63.2	62.3	63.0	65.7	62.3	63.3
Asian	64.2	64.4	64.9	66.8	61.5	61.6
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	68.0	66.1	66.5	69.6	64.5	64.7
16 to 19 Years Old	36.6	36.6	36.5	30.4	29.8	31.0
20 to 24 Years Old	73.2	70.4	70.7	74.1	63.3	63.6
25 to 54 Years Old	83.0	82.4	82.6	88.2	86.3	86.5
55 Years Old and Over	40.3	38.7	38.9	44.1	42.7	42.5
Employment-Population Ratio						
Total	61.2	60.0	60.1	64.6	61.4	61.8
Men	66.8	65.5	65.6	70.1	65.5	66.5
Women	55.9	54.8	54.9	59.5	57.6	57.4
White	61.4	59.9	60.0	64.9	62.4	62.6
Black	59.4	58.6	59.1	62.2	57.0	58.4
Asian	62.5	62.4	63.3	65.6	59.1	59.4
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	65.0	63.4	63.6	66.1	61.3	61.3
16 to 19 Years Old	32.5	32.9	32.7	26.6	25.7	27.0
20 to 24 Years Old	68.4	65.5	66.0	69.4	56.7	56.9
25 to 54 Years Old	80.5	79.9	80.0	85.7	83.0	83.6
55 Years Old and Over	39.3	37.7	37.8	42.9	41.5	41.3
Unemployment Rate						
Total	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.4	4.4	4.2
Men	3.5	3.8	3.6	4.0	5.0	4.7
Women	3.4	3.5	3.6	2.7	3.7	3.6
White	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.5
Black	6.0	5.9	6.2	5.2	8.7	8.0
Asian	2.5	3.1	2.4	1.8	3.9	3.7
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	4.4	4.1	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.5
16 to 19 Years Old	11.3	10.2	10.4	12.0	13.7	13.1
20 to 24 Years Old	6.5	6.9	6.7	6.2	10.5	10.7
25 to 54 Years Old	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.9	3.5
55 Years Old and Over	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9

The **labor force participation rate** measures the percentage of the population that is working or actively looking for work. The **employment-population ratio** measures the percentage of the population that is currently working. The **unemployment rate** measures the percentage of the population that is unemployed and actively looking for work.