

The Employment Situation in Connecticut

December 2022

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Summary

In December 2022, **nonfarm employment** in Connecticut decreased by 1,600 jobs, and the November 2022 estimate was revised downward by 3,300 jobs, putting the shortfall since February 2020, the pre-pandemic-induced recession baseline, at 31,100 jobs. Based on an average monthly increase of 2,600 jobs over the past six months, Connecticut is on track to close its job shortfall in December 2023, slower than last month's projection of June 2023 and a slower recovery compared to August 2022 for the U.S. as a whole.

In December 2022, employment increased in the following major sectors/industries: **federal government** (100 jobs), **manufacturing** (800 jobs), **trade, transportation, and utilities** (200 jobs), **financial activities** (100 jobs), **education and health services** (1,000 jobs), and **leisure and hospitality** (1,000 jobs). Employment decreased in the following major sectors/industries: **local government** (-1,600 jobs), **state government** (-100 jobs), **construction** (-1,100 jobs), **information** (-300 jobs), **professional and business services** (-1,300 jobs), and **other services** (-400 jobs).

Since February 2020, employment has increased in the following major sectors/industries: **construction** (2,700 jobs), **manufacturing** (200 jobs), **trade, transportation, and utilities** (4,100 jobs), and **professional and business services** (1,400). Employment has decreased in the following major sectors/industries: **local government** (-5,100 jobs), **state government** (-4,700 jobs), **federal government** (-200 jobs), **information** (-700 jobs), **financial activities** (-6,300 jobs), **education and health services** (-8,700 jobs), **leisure and hospitality** (-7,800 jobs), and **other services** (-5,900 jobs).

The **labor force participation rate** in Connecticut was 64.2 percent in December 2022, down from 64.3 percent in November 2022, and down from 66.9 percent in February 2020. In December 2022, the labor force participation rate for the following demographic groups was higher than or equal to the overall rate: **men** (69.5 percent), **white** (64.2 percent), **Black** (64.3 percent), **Asian** (65.1 percent), **Hispanic or Latino/a/x** (65.1 percent), **20 to 24 years old** (66.5 percent), **25 to 54 years old** (86.5 percent). The labor force participation rate for the following groups was lower than the overall rate: **women** (59.2 percent), **16 to 19 years old** (30.3 percent), and **55 years old and over** (42.0 percent).

The **employment-population ratio** in Connecticut was 61.5 percent in December 2022, down from 61.6 percent in November 2022, and down from 64.6 percent in February 2020. In December 2022, the employment-population ratio for the following demographic groups was higher than or equal to the overall ratio: **men** (66.7 percent), **white** (61.9 percent), **Asian** (63.0 percent), and **25 to 54 years**

old (83.2 percent). The employment-population ratio for the following demographic groups was lower than the overall ratio: **women** (56.7 percent), **Black** (59.3 percent), **Hispanic or Latino/a/x** (61.1 percent), **16 to 19 years old** (26.6 percent), **20 to 24 years old** (61.0 percent), and **55 years old and over** (40.7 percent).

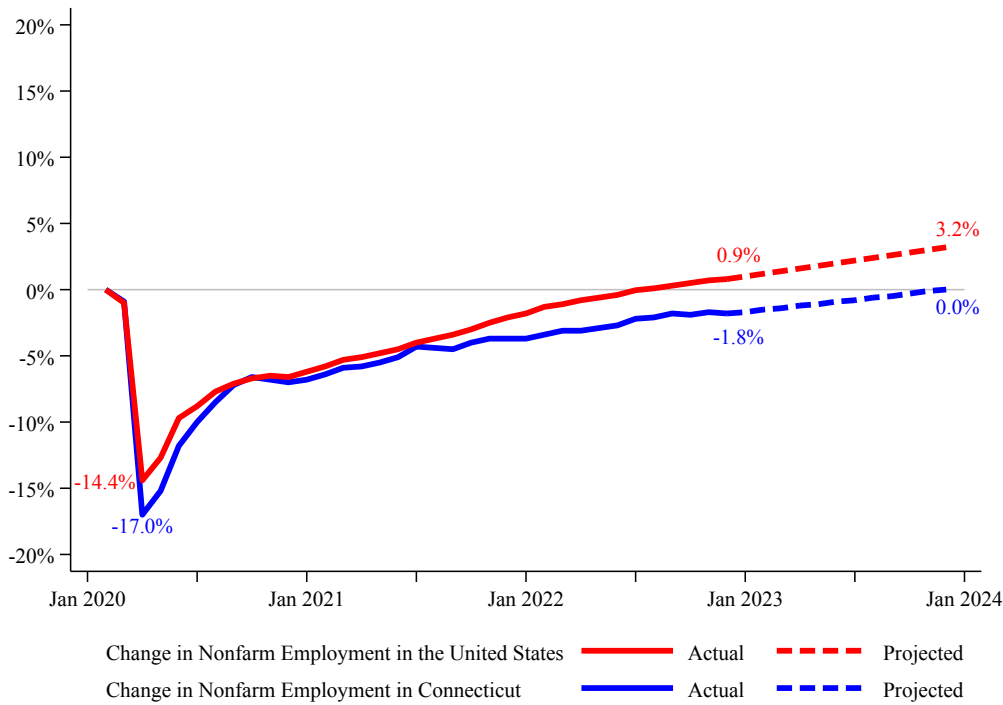
The **unemployment rate** in Connecticut was 4.2 percent in December 2022, the same as in November 2022, and up from 3.4 percent in February 2020. In December 2022, the unemployment rate for the following demographic groups was equal to or lower than the overall rate: **men** (4.0 percent), **white** (3.4 percent), **Asian** (3.0 percent), **25 to 54 years old** (3.7 percent), and **55 years old and over** (2.8 percent). The unemployment rate for the following demographic groups was higher than the overall rate: **women** (4.4 percent), **Black** (8.6 percent), **Hispanic or Latino/a/x** (6.5 percent), **16 to 19 years old** (13.9 percent), and **20 to 24 years old** (9.1 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 provides national employment data from two surveys. The establishment survey provides an overview of nonfarm employment overall and by major sector and industry. 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 data, the state-level data include an overview of nonfarm employment overall and by major sector and industry, and they also include employment status overall. Unlike the national data, the state-level data include no breakdown of employment status by major demographic group.

To fill the state-level data shortfall, which is essential for designing effective public policy in Connecticut, Connecticut Voices for Children publishes this 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 and industry 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, detailed measures of employment status in Connecticut are calculated as follows: 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 Current Population Survey (i.e., household survey) public use microdata 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 closely 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 Seasonally Adjusted



Recovery Date
U.S.: August 2022
CT: Dec. 2023 (Projected)

Average Change in
 Nonfarm Employment,
 Past Six Months
U.S.: 306,667 (0.20%)
CT: 2,600 (0.16%)

Job Openings
U.S.: 10.5 million (Nov.)
CT: 102,000 (Nov.)

Job Openings Per
 Unemployed Persons
U.S.: 1.8 (Nov./Dec.)
CT: 1.3 (Nov./Dec.)

Change in Nonfarm Employment by Major Sector & Industry, Connecticut Seasonally Adjusted

Major Sector and Industry	February 2020	November 2022	December 2022	Month to Month Change		Change Since February 2020	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,699,000	1,669,500	1,667,900	-1,600	-0.1%	-31,100	-1.8%
Public Sector	236,700	228,300	226,700	-1,600	-0.7%	-10,000	-4.2%
Local Government	146,200	142,700	141,100	-1,600	-1.1%	-5,100	-3.5%
State Government	71,900	67,300	67,200	-100	-0.1%	-4,700	-6.5%
Federal Government	18,600	18,300	18,400	100	0.5%	-200	-1.1%
Private Sector	1,462,300	1,441,200	1,441,200	0	0.0%	-21,100	-1.4%
Construction	59,500	63,300	62,200	-1,100	-1.7%	2,700	4.5%
Manufacturing	161,000	160,400	161,200	800	0.5%	200	0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	293,500	297,400	297,600	200	0.1%	4,100	1.4%
Information	31,500	31,100	30,800	-300	-1.0%	-700	-2.2%
Financial Activities	122,600	116,200	116,300	100	0.1%	-6,300	-5.1%
Professional and Business Services	216,400	219,100	217,800	-1,300	-0.6%	1,400	0.6%
Education and Health Services	351,700	342,000	343,000	1,000	0.3%	-8,700	-2.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	159,500	150,700	151,700	1,000	0.7%	-7,800	-4.9%
Other Services	66,000	60,500	60,100	-400	-0.7%	-5,900	-8.9%

Employment Status Overall and by Demographic Group Seasonally Adjusted

Employment Status Indicator and Major Demographic Group	United States			Connecticut		
	February	November	December	February	November	December
	2020	2022	2022	2020	2022	2022
Labor Force Participation Rate	63.3	62.2	62.3	66.9	64.3	64.2
Men	69.1	68.1	68.1	73.1	70.2	69.5
Women	57.9	56.5	56.8	61.2	58.8	59.2
White	63.2	61.8	62.1	67.1	64.2	64.2
Black	63.1	62.3	62.4	65.7	63.9	64.3
Asian	64.5	64.8	64.2	66.8	67.6	65.1
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	67.9	65.7	66.3	69.6	64.9	65.1
16 to 19 Years Old	36.7	37.8	37.0	30.4	31.7	30.3
20 to 24 Years Old	73.1	70.6	71.3	74.1	66.1	66.5
25 to 54 Years Old	83.0	82.3	82.4	88.2	86.3	86.5
55 Years Old and Over	40.3	38.6	38.8	44.1	41.9	42.0
Employment-Population Ratio	61.1	59.9	60.1	64.6	61.6	61.5
Men	66.7	65.6	65.8	70.1	67.3	66.7
Women	55.9	54.5	54.8	59.5	56.3	56.7
White	61.3	59.8	60.2	64.9	61.9	61.9
Black	59.3	58.8	58.9	62.2	59.0	59.3
Asian	62.8	63.0	62.7	65.6	65.1	63.0
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	65.0	63.1	63.5	66.1	61.5	61.1
16 to 19 Years Old	32.5	33.5	33.1	26.6	28.1	26.6
20 to 24 Years Old	68.4	65.8	66.1	69.4	60.5	61.0
25 to 54 Years Old	80.5	79.7	80.1	85.7	83.0	83.2
55 Years Old and Over	39.3	37.6	37.8	42.9	40.7	40.7
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.4	4.2	4.2
Men	3.5	3.7	3.4	4.0	4.1	4.0
Women	3.4	3.6	3.6	2.7	4.3	4.4
White	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4
Black	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.2	8.6	8.6
Asian	2.6	2.6	2.4	1.8	3.5	3.0
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	4.4	4.0	4.1	5.0	5.4	6.5
16 to 19 Years Old	11.4	11.3	10.4	12.0	12.9	13.9
20 to 24 Years Old	6.5	6.8	7.3	6.2	9.5	9.1
25 to 54 Years Old	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.8	3.7
55 Years Old and Over	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.8

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.