# Town Unemployment Rates Remain Low in 2024

*By Jungmin Charles Joo, CT Department of Labor*

**I**n 2024, the annual average statewide unemployment rate was 3.2%, unchanged over the year. After two years of strong labor force growth when unemployment rates fell sharply in most towns, most towns saw small changes (up or down) in 2024, with 39 towns seeing no change from the 2023 level. The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) underwent a major change reflecting new geographies, so all 169 cities and towns were revised for 2016-2024.

## 2023 to 2024

The unemployment rate in 60% of the cities and towns in the state fell in 2024. Roxbury had the lowest unemployment rate of 1.9%, while the residents of both Hartford and Waterbury experienced the highest rate of 5.0% last year (see table on page 3 for the complete town data). Overall, a total of 129 cities and towns had jobless rates below the 2024 statewide figure of 3.2%, 29 had rates above it, and 11 had rates equal to it. By comparison, 122 cities and towns had rates below the 2023 statewide average of 3.2%, 39 above it, and 8 were the same.
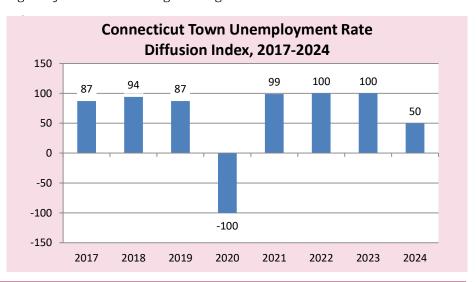
Of the five largest cities in the state with a population of 100,000 or more, Stamford had the lowest unemployment rate of 2.8% in 2024. Hartford and Waterbury posted the highest jobless rate among the large cities at 5.0%. All but Stamford experienced over-the-year unemployment rate increases.

## Town Unemployment Rate Diffusion Index

The Town Unemployment Rate Diffusion Index is calculated by subtracting the share of towns that experienced increases in their unemployment rates from the share that had rate decreases over the year.

The 2020 diffusion index value plunged to -100, as all 169 cities and towns experienced an increase in unemployment rate from the impact of the pandemic. However, the index bounced back in 2021 and completely in 2022 and continued in 2023 with +100, reflecting a strong labor market recovery. Last year, however, this robust momentum was halved, as the index fell to +50 (chart). And in the first months of 2025, the statewide unemployment rate started to trend up from unsustainably low levels. While there are persistent uncertainties regarding inflation and the national economy, Connecticut's unemployment rate has remained below 4.0% since mid-2022 through the first eight months of 2025 and has been below the national average for 32 months.■

### Connecticut Town Unemployment Rate Diffusion Index, 2017-2024

| Year | Index |
|------|-------|
| 2017 | 87 |
| 2018 | 94 |
| 2019 | 87 |
| 2020 | -100 |
| 2021 | 99 |
| 2022 | 100 |
| 2023 | 100 |
| 2024 | 50 |

## Annual Average Unemployment Rate by Town, 2020-2024

| Town/City | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Town/City | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Town/City | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andover | 7.1 | 5.1 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 2.5 | Griswold | 9.9 | 7.5 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 3.2 | Prospect | 7.0 | 5.8 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| Ansonia | 9.6 | 8.0 | 4.9 | 3.9 | 4.0 | Groton | 8.7 | 6.6 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 2.7 | Putnam | 8.5 | 6.5 | 4.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Ashford | 7.9 | 6.2 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | Guilford | 6.1 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 2.4 | Redding | 6.4 | 5.0 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| Avon | 5.3 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.4 | Haddam | 6.3 | 5.1 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.7 | Ridgefield | 5.5 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.5 |
| Barkhamsted | 7.0 | 6.0 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 2.4 | Hamden | 7.3 | 6.0 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 | Rocky Hill | 6.4 | 5.2 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Beacon Falls | 6.9 | 5.6 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.9 | Hampton | 6.3 | 6.5 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 2.9 | Roxbury | 4.7 | 4.3 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 1.9 |
| Berlin | 6.5 | 5.5 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 2.7 | Hartford | 12.5 | 10.5 | 5.9 | 4.6 | 5.0 | Salem | 8.1 | 5.6 | 4.0 | 2.9 | 2.6 |
| Bethany | 5.6 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 2.5 | Hartland | 5.5 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.6 | Salisbury | 4.7 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Bethel | 7.3 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.7 | Harwinton | 5.6 | 4.5 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 2.6 | Scotland | 7.6 | 6.5 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 2.9 |
| Bethlehem | 6.7 | 5.7 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 3.1 | Hebron | 6.7 | 5.6 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 2.5 | Seymour | 7.6 | 5.8 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 3.2 |
| Bloomfield | 8.5 | 7.2 | 4.7 | 3.3 | 3.5 | Kent | 6.0 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 2.7 | 2.5 | Sharon | 4.3 | 3.8 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| Bolton | 6.0 | 5.5 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.6 | Killingly | 8.4 | 6.9 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 3.5 | Shelton | 7.7 | 5.9 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 3.1 |
| Bozrah | 8.5 | 6.3 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 2.7 | Killingworth | 6.4 | 5.7 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 | Sherman | 6.1 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Branford | 7.1 | 5.6 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.7 | Lebanon | 7.6 | 6.9 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | Simsbury | 5.7 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.4 |
| Bridgeport | 11.0 | 9.2 | 5.2 | 4.0 | 4.3 | Ledyard | 9.3 | 6.2 | 3.9 | 2.7 | 2.7 | Somers | 6.8 | 5.4 | 4.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| Bridgewater | 6.1 | 4.9 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 3.3 | Lisbon | 9.9 | 7.9 | 5.3 | 3.6 | 3.2 | South Windsor | 6.5 | 5.0 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 2.6 |
| Bristol | 8.5 | 7.1 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 3.5 | Litchfield | 6.2 | 5.5 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 2.5 | Southbury | 6.4 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 2.7 |
| Brookfield | 7.4 | 5.7 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.9 | Lyme | 4.8 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 2.4 | Southington | 6.7 | 5.2 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 2.7 |
| Brooklyn | 7.5 | 5.9 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 3.0 | Madison | 5.5 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.3 | Sprague | 9.5 | 7.6 | 4.7 | 3.4 | 3.0 |
| Burlington | 6.2 | 5.4 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 2.6 | Manchester | 8.7 | 6.8 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 3.3 | Stafford | 7.9 | 6.7 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 3.2 |
| Canaan | 7.1 | 5.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 2.5 | Mansfield | 6.0 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 3.2 | Stamford | 7.4 | 5.4 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Canterbury | 7.7 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 3.1 | Marlborough | 6.2 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.9 | Sterling | 9.5 | 7.6 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 3.9 |
| Canton | 6.5 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 2.7 | Meriden | 9.2 | 8.1 | 4.7 | 3.8 | 4.0 | Stonington | 7.5 | 5.4 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 2.7 |
| Chaplin | 7.5 | 6.6 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.7 | Middlebury | 6.6 | 5.0 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.7 | Stratford | 9.1 | 7.4 | 4.6 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| Cheshire | 6.0 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 2.5 | Middlefield | 7.2 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | Suffield | 6.0 | 5.1 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 2.5 |
| Chester | 7.6 | 5.7 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 2.8 | Middletown | 7.3 | 6.3 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 | Thomaston | 7.2 | 6.0 | 4.0 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Clinton | 6.7 | 5.0 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 2.5 | Milford | 7.2 | 5.6 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 2.6 | Thompson | 6.7 | 5.7 | 3.9 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| Colchester | 7.2 | 5.9 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 2.7 | Monroe | 6.7 | 5.3 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 2.8 | Tolland | 5.6 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| Colebrook | 6.2 | 5.4 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 2.6 | Montville | 9.4 | 6.1 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | Torrington | 8.4 | 7.0 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| Columbia | 6.8 | 5.6 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 2.6 | Morris | 6.4 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 2.5 | Trumbull | 7.1 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 2.9 |
| Cornwall | 5.5 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 2.1 | Naugatuck | 8.0 | 6.6 | 4.2 | 3.5 | 3.5 | Union | 6.0 | 5.5 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 2.2 |
| Coventry | 7.0 | 6.0 | 4.3 | 3.1 | 3.1 | New Britain | 10.9 | 9.9 | 5.6 | 4.2 | 4.5 | Vernon | 8.3 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 |
| Cromwell | 7.4 | 5.7 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 2.9 | New Canaan | 5.3 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.6 | Voluntown | 7.9 | 6.1 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 2.4 |
| Danbury | 7.3 | 5.6 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 2.8 | New Fairfield | 7.4 | 5.8 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | Wallingford | 7.0 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 2.7 |
| Darien | 4.7 | 4.2 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.4 | New Hartford | 6.0 | 5.1 | 3.2 | 2.6 | 2.4 | Warren | 6.1 | 5.9 | 4.1 | 2.9 | 2.3 |
| Deep River | 6.6 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | New Haven | 8.7 | 7.8 | 4.5 | 3.4 | 3.6 | Washington | 5.5 | 4.9 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| Derby | 9.6 | 7.7 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 4.4 | New London | 12.1 | 9.1 | 5.0 | 3.7 | 3.7 | Waterbury | 11.3 | 10.0 | 5.9 | 4.8 | 5.0 |
| Durham | 5.1 | 3.8 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 2.2 | New Milford | 7.6 | 6.0 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | Waterford | 8.3 | 6.2 | 4.1 | 3.0 | 2.9 |
| East Granby | 7.0 | 5.8 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 2.9 | Newington | 7.5 | 5.6 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 2.6 | Watertown | 7.0 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| East Haddam | 7.3 | 5.8 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 2.9 | Newtown | 6.4 | 5.3 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.8 | West Hartford | 6.1 | 4.9 | 3.2 | 2.6 | 2.5 |
| East Hampton | 6.9 | 5.9 | 3.9 | 2.7 | 2.9 | Norfolk | 6.4 | 4.9 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.9 | West Haven | 9.3 | 7.5 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| East Hartford | 10.8 | 9.0 | 5.2 | 4.0 | 4.2 | North Branford | 6.6 | 5.6 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | Westbrook | 6.5 | 5.3 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.3 |
| East Haven | 8.4 | 6.9 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 3.4 | North Canaan | 8.0 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 3.2 | Weston | 5.4 | 4.4 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.6 |
| East Lyme | 7.5 | 5.8 | 3.7 | 2.7 | 2.5 | North Haven | 6.9 | 5.2 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 2.7 | Westport | 5.7 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 2.7 |
| East Windsor | 7.5 | 6.3 | 4.3 | 3.1 | 3.2 | North Stonington | 7.3 | 5.7 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 2.7 | Wethersfield | 7.0 | 5.8 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 2.7 |
| Eastford | 6.0 | 5.3 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 2.4 | Norwalk | 8.0 | 6.0 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 3.0 | Willington | 7.5 | 6.6 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| Easton | 6.1 | 5.0 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.6 | Norwich | 13.9 | 8.9 | 4.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | Wilton | 5.2 | 4.3 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Ellington | 6.5 | 5.5 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 2.8 | Old Lyme | 6.2 | 5.0 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.6 | Winchester | 8.9 | 7.2 | 4.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| Enfield | 7.7 | 6.3 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | Old Saybrook | 6.1 | 5.1 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | Windham | 10.0 | 9.4 | 5.7 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| Essex | 5.6 | 4.1 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.2 | Orange | 6.3 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.3 | Windsor | 8.1 | 6.8 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 3.2 |
| Fairfield | 6.6 | 5.1 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 2.9 | Oxford | 6.5 | 5.3 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 2.8 | Windsor Locks | 8.3 | 6.7 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| Farmington | 5.7 | 4.6 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 2.4 | Plainfield | 9.0 | 6.6 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 3.2 | Wolcott | 7.1 | 5.8 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 3.0 |
| Franklin | 8.3 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 3.0 | 2.9 | Plainville | 7.9 | 6.6 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 3.2 | Woodbridge | 5.6 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 2.3 |
| Glastonbury | 5.6 | 4.3 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.3 | Plymouth | 8.2 | 6.9 | 4.9 | 3.7 | 3.7 | Woodbury | 6.7 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Goshen | 5.0 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 2.1 | Pomfret | 5.4 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 | Woodstock | 6.7 | 5.2 | 3.9 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| Granby | 5.9 | 5.2 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.5 | Portland | 6.9 | 5.4 | 3.8 | 3.1 | 2.9 | | | | | | |
| Greenwich | 5.6 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.5 | Preston | 9.9 | 7.0 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 2.9 | CONNECTICUT | 8.0 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 3.2 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research