

Connecticut Career Resource Network UPDATE

Jobs That Are Adding Workers

Unless you're a celebrity, a CEO, or a lottery winner, you probably worry about the weak economy or employer downsizing and wouldn't mind finding a job that pays more money, right? So, to occupy the time until your big Hollywood break, check out these in-demand occupations based on Connecticut's 2006-2016 job growth projections and salary data from the Connecticut Department of Labor.

Top 10 Occupations (Highest Job Growth)

Retail Salespersons - Sell merchandise, e.g., furniture, motor vehicles, appliances, or apparel in a retail establishment.
average annual wage: **\$27,960** annual job openings: **2,253**

Customer Service Reps - Interact with customers to provide information in response to inquiries about products and services and to handle and resolve complaints.
average annual wage: **\$38,080** annual job openings: **1,448**

Registered Nurses - Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records.
average annual wage: **\$68,590** annual job openings: **1,114**

Combined Food Prep. & Serving Workers - Perform duties which combine both food preparation and food service, including fast food.
average annual wage: **\$20,050** annual job openings: **714**

Waiters & Waitresses - Take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons at tables in dining establishment.
average annual wage: **\$21,610** annual job openings: **1,788**

Janitors & Cleaners - Perform heavy cleaning duties, e.g., clean floors, shampoo rugs, wash walls/glass, & remove rubbish.
average annual wage: **\$27,800** annual job openings: **942**

Accountants & Auditors - Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records for the purpose of giving advice or preparing statements.
average annual wage: **\$70,540** annual job openings: **683**

Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants - Provide basic patient care under direction of nursing staff, e.g., feed, bathe, or move patients, or change linens.
average annual wage: **\$30,160** annual job openings: **513**

Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks - Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete.
average annual wage: **\$39,950** annual job openings: **715**

Home Health Aides - Provide routine, personal healthcare, e.g., bathing, dressing, or grooming, to patients in their home or residential care facility.
average annual wage: **\$28,400** annual job openings: **364**

Top 10 Occupations (Most Annual Openings)

Cashiers - Receive and disburse money in establishments; use electronic scanners, cash registers and related equipment.
average annual wage: **\$20,780** annual job openings: **2,265**

Retail Salespersons - Sell merchandise, e.g., furniture, motor vehicles, appliances, or apparel in a retail establishment.
average annual wage: **\$27,960** annual job openings: **2,253**

Waiters & Waitresses - Take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons at tables in dining establishment.
average annual wage: **\$21,610** annual job openings: **1,788**

Customer Service Reps - Interact with customers to provide information in response to inquiries about products and services and to handle and resolve complaints.
average annual wage: **\$38,080** annual job openings: **1,448**

Registered Nurses - Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records.
average annual wage: **\$68,590** annual job openings: **1,114**

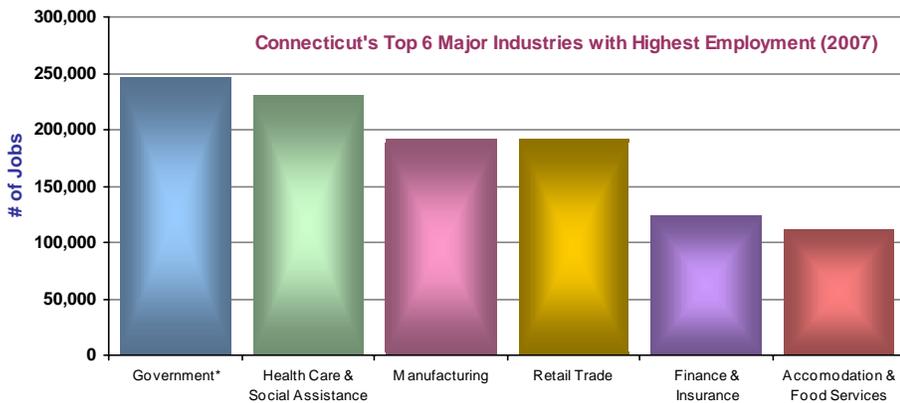
Janitors & Cleaners - Perform heavy cleaning duties, e.g., clean floors, shampoo rugs, wash walls/glass, & remove rubbish.
average annual wage: **\$27,800** annual job openings: **942**

Office Clerks - Perform office clerical duties requiring limited knowledge of office management systems and procedures, e.g., answering phones, bookkeeping, typing and filing.
average annual wage: **\$31,170** annual job openings: **876**

Food Preparation Workers - Perform food prep. duties other than cooking, e.g., preparing cold foods/shellfish, slicing meat, and brewing coffee or tea.
average annual wage: **\$22,890** annual job openings: **730**

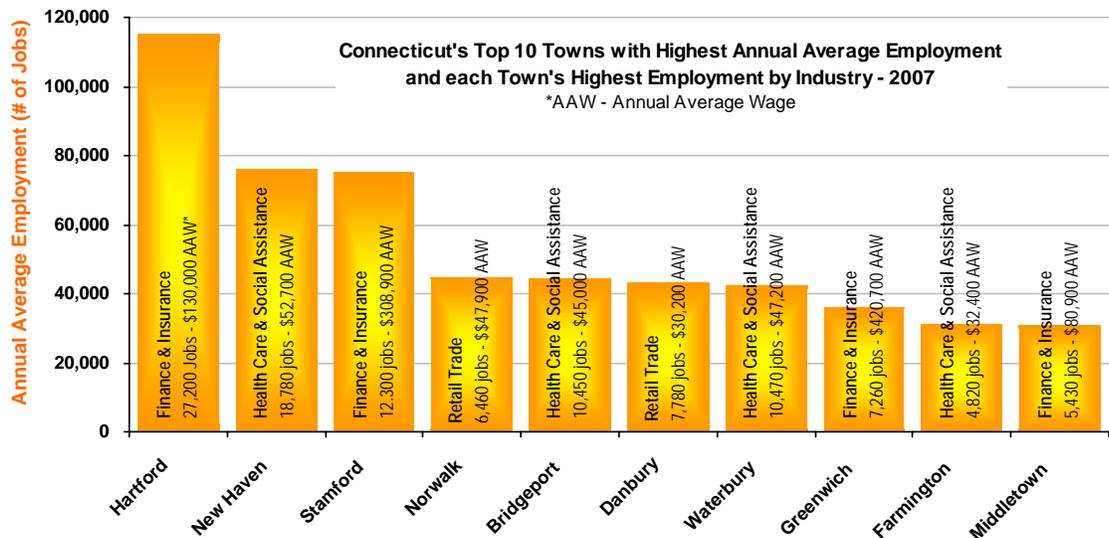
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks - Compute, classify, and record numerical data to maintain financial records.
average annual wage: **\$39,950** annual job openings: **715**

Combined Food Prep. & Serving Workers - Perform duties which combine both food prep. and food service, including fast-food.
average annual wage: **\$20,050** annual job openings: **714**



- In 2007, the average annual wages among all industry sectors in Connecticut was \$58,000. Those working in the Financial Activities sector (Finance & Insurance and Real Estate industries) earned the highest (\$132,700), followed by Professional & Business Services (\$72,900), Manufacturing (\$69,400) and Information (\$69,000).
- From 2006 to 2007, the Financial Activities sector had the largest increase in annual average wages (+\$9,900), followed by the Professional & Business Services sector (+\$6,100).

Source:
CT DOL, Office of
Research



- Manufacturing was the major industry for employment in forty-two of Connecticut's 169 towns. Among these towns, Windsor Locks (\$88,500) and Groton (\$88,100) reported the highest average annual wages. Another 28 towns reported Health Care & Social Assistance as the major employment industry sector. Among those towns, New Haven (\$52,700), and New London (\$50,500) had the highest average annual wages.
- Thirty-nine towns reported local/municipal government as the top employment industry sector. Among these towns, Madison (\$71,00) had the highest wages, followed by New Canaan (\$55,900) and Weston (\$55,700).

Join the Celebration!

NOVEMBER is CAREER DEVELOPMENT Month in Connecticut!

The CT Career Counseling and Development Association (CCDA), with support from various State agencies and organizations, is planning lots of activities and events guaranteed to raise career development awareness in schools, colleges, businesses, etc. Here are just some of the planned activities:

- * Professional development workshop for counselors and career specialists (Nov. 7th)
 - * Statewide Career Development Poetry and Poster Contest
 - * Career Development Month Idea Kit for school counselors
- * Outreach to all State, local & school libraries to highlight career-related resources

For all the latest information, visit the CT Counseling Association website at www.ccmain.org, or contact Linda Kobylarz at lindakoby@aol.com

We pamper them. We bring them wherever we go. We surprise them with new toys and treats on special occasions. We even dress them up for the holidays. They are our dogs and... **Dogs Rule!**

According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey, there are approximately 75 million owned dogs in the United States; and forty-five percent of all U.S. households own a dog. Among them, 63% households own at least one dog, while 37% own two or more. On average, dog owners spend \$219 each year on veterinary visits and quadruple that on food, toys & supplies, grooming, daycare & training, etc. All that TLC means our dogs are living longer. Today, 44% of dogs are older than 6, while in 1987 it was 32%.

"I rehabilitate dogs, and I train people... I am the Dog Whisperer" – Cesar Milan

My #1 guilty pleasure... sitting on the couch with my dog Dino and watching Dog Whisperer. I marvel at how Cesar Milan and his calm, submissive pit bull 'Daddy' are able to command absolute control over their seemingly unruly dog clients in each episode. Dino barks at all the dogs he sees on TV. Sshht! I tell Dino, just like Cesar does... but he doesn't listen as he goes behind the TV in effort to attack the animal he sees on the screen (Dino is cute, but obviously confused). Everyday when I come home from work, Dino jumps all over me; this was O.K. when he was a puppy but now – not so much. I say 'Dino Sit! Sit!' to absolutely no avail, so I decided... Dino needs an intervention, with a Dog Whisperer.

CCRN UPDATE Fall 2008

The next day I Googled 'Dog Trainers in Connecticut' and was amazed at the number of hits; this is big business in Connecticut! I contacted Ellen T., a dog trainer in my area, to get more information. Being in my profession, I had to ask Ellen why she chose this line of work. "My love for dogs made me venture into the challenging world of professional dog training." Growing up on a farm, Ellen had dogs all her life, but becoming a dog trainer wasn't always her plan. "I graduated from UCONN and majored in political science, and then went to law school, but realized that I did not want to sit behind a desk, or be stuck indoors all day. I decided to move my life in a totally different direction, and enrolled in dog training school." While taking courses at the Connecticut K-9 Education Center in Newington, she got a job at an accredited dog training center to gain hands-on experience with all kinds of dog breeds. "The most rewarding part of my job is getting to meet many types of people and interacting with their dogs. The most challenging part of my job is that very same fact! Everybody has different routines, schedules and commitments, let alone unique personalities. My approach is to teach the dog owner techniques and behaviors in order for them to train their dog." Ellen owns and operates her own dog training business now and said the demand for her services has grown immensely over the last few years. "People are treating their dogs like children and want them to be well-behaved, but you can't teach a dog like you teach a child, and that leads people to hire dog trainers."

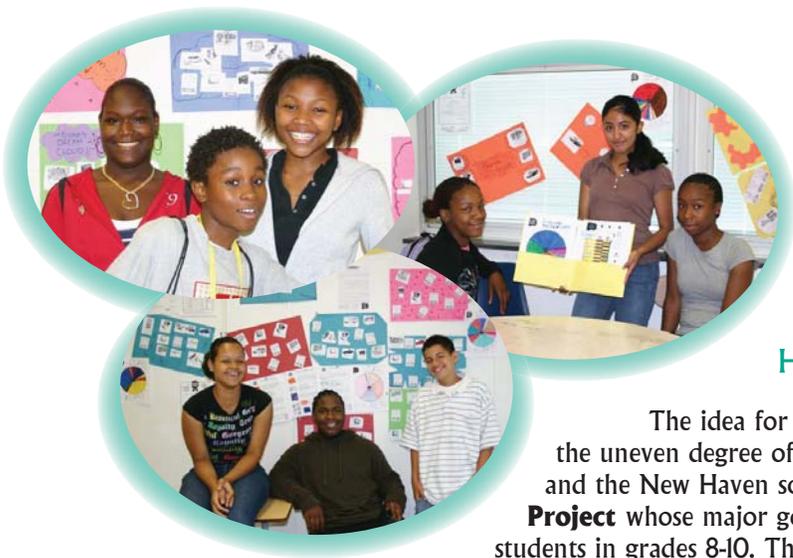
Brian Kurth, the founder of Vocation Vacations, a company that sets up apprenticeships for those interested in taking a potential career change 'test drive', said that dog training is one of the top occupations people want to try, right up there with sportscasting and winemaking. Rookie trainers are lured by the benefits, like spending time outdoors in the company of dogs, as well as flexible work hours for decent pay without having to spend years to be educated. However, he warns, "Being a dog trainer entails odd hours, emotional entanglements with distraught families and, occasionally, decisions that could end a troubled dog's life."

Ellen earns up to \$145 an hour (that's per dog!) for most services that include private and group dog training and obedience classes, doggy daycare, boarding, grooming, pet sitting, and more. Paul K., a former investment banker from Stamford gave up his \$100,000 a year job, attended seminars and took courses in dog training methods, and is now doing an apprenticeship with Ellen. He made up his mind to train puppies on that first day of job shadowing with Ellen. "It immediately felt right," Paul said. "I spent a long time planning and really looking at whether this career change was feasible. Would the numbers work? It certainly looked appealing due to the huge explosion of spending in the pet-care industry." Ellen says, "Paul is a natural, he charges \$95 an hour for private obedience and behavior training for puppies."

Ellen has been training Dino and me for about a month now, and I am very satisfied at how well Dino has responded. Ellen has taught me techniques, commands, and mannerisms that I use everyday to positively train Dino. He sits on command, stops barking when ordered, and no longer jumps up on people. However, when I tell Dino to go do the laundry, he just looks at me and tilts his head from side to side... we're still working on that one.

To find out more information about pursuing a career in Professional Dog Training, visit the CT Department of Labor's Education & Training Connection website at <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/etc/index.asp>

Real Game Series



Career Adventures Camp - Expanding Career Horizons - Stemming Summer Learning Loss

The **Career Adventures Camp (CAC)** is an exciting new summer bridge program piloted in New Haven with a group of thirty-five rising 8th graders.

The idea for the program came from two sources: Teachers concerns about the uneven degree of computer skills they found among students entering ninth grade; and the New Haven school district is a pilot school in the **Next Generation Careers Project** whose major goal is to implement expanded career exploration activities for students in grades 8-10. The **Career Adventures Camp** includes activities designed to expand students' career horizons.

The students were selected by their school principal, with input from teachers and career counselors. At the Camp, located at James Hillhouse High School in New Haven, students spent five weeks engaged in hands-on activities that focused on Academics/Technology, Career Exploration, and Entrepreneurship. For example, Business English was a key component of the program. The technology class included an introduction to computers and the Internet and skill development in Microsoft Office. Students used WORD to write their journals and field trip reflections; they used EXCEL to prepare business plans; and PowerPoint for team presentations.

Students took on roles of workers in **The Real Game** to learn about the realities of the world of work, explore occupations, and develop career decision-making skills. Every week, a career field trip or a guest speaker was included. Each student completed a career portfolio that captured the highlights of his/her career exploration. Students received a stipend of \$100 that was part of a contract of student "work" responsibilities and attendance.

Stephanie Paris-Cooper, NFTE teacher, shared the enthusiasm of her students for the program and remarked that many students asked if the Camp would be offered again next year. She said the students loved creating their businesses and selling their products.

Derrick Draughn, technology teacher, told about a student's journal entry, "I didn't know technology could be so much fun."

Aurora Grant, *The Real Game* facilitator, said it was a joy to see how the students became so involved with the 'Game' and how much they learned. Many students expressed interest in exploring more about careers.

Valarie Arrington-Steele, Business English and program lead teacher, was pleased with student progress in reading and writing skills. She noted that attendance was high and discipline problems were minimal.



MaryAnn O'Brien, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education Services, says that "next year promises to be bigger and better with more camp sites planned for the summer." She believes that the **Career Adventures Camp** experience will help students be better prepared to transition into ninth grade, make better career choices, connect with staff in the career centers and take advantage of the many opportunities offered through the centers.

For more information regarding the **Career Adventures Camp**, contact: MaryAnn O'Brien at maryann.o'brien@new-haven.k12.ct.us

For information on the **Next Generation Careers Project**, contact: Linda Kobylarz at lindakoby@aol.com; and for info on the **Real Game Series**, contact Carol Bridges at Carolyn.Bridges@ct.gov

CCRN UPDATE Fall 2008

Cynthia L. DeLisa, Editor

phone: 860-263-6279

email: cynthia.delisa@ct.gov

Opportunity • Guidance • Support



CT Department of Labor
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109
www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

SAVE THE DATE!

CT Learns & Works 15th Annual Conference

Friday - May 8th, 2009

Water's Edge Resort & Spa ~ Westbrook, CT

To find out more info on the 2009 event, visit:

www.ctlearnsandworks.org