

# A Look at Connecticut's Entry-Level Occupations



## A Guide To Help With Your Work Search



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*The Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Research has prepared [A Look at Connecticut's Entry-Level Occupations](#) for people who want or need to find work immediately, but don't know where to start.*

### **WAGES**

**Special points of interest:** *To give jobseekers an idea of the wage they can expect, a range of statewide hourly wages is provided. The wage range encompasses 80 percent of the workers in the occupation, and excludes the 10 percent of workers who earned less than the low end of the range and the 10 percent that earned more than the high end of the range. This is not a guarantee that you would automatically make this amount, merely a guideline as to what you may reasonably expect to be paid.*

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# Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics

## Job Description

Automotive service technicians and mechanics, often called service technicians or service techs, inspect, maintain, and repair cars and light trucks. Most automotive service technicians and mechanics work in well-ventilated and well-lit repair shops. Although technicians often identify and fix automotive problems with computers, they commonly work with greasy parts and tools, sometimes in uncomfortable positions.



## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 9,906 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 10,133 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 288 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Employers prefer that automotive service technicians and mechanics complete a formal training program at a postsecondary institution. Industry certification is usually required once the person is employed.

## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$15.10  
average wage: \$21.15  
wage range: \$13.67 - \$30.29

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Torrington

### Related Jobs:

- Automotive Master Mechanics
- Automotive Specialty Technicians

## Industries with most job postings

New Car Dealers  
Tire Dealers  
All Other Auto. Repair and Maintenance  
Automotive Parts and Accessories Stores  
General Automotive Repair

# Bartenders

## Job Description

Bartenders mix drinks and serve them directly to customers or through wait staff. Bartenders work at restaurants, bars, clubs, hotels, and other food service and drinking establishments. During busy hours, they are under pressure to serve customers quickly and efficiently. They often work late evenings, weekends, and holidays. About 4 in 10 worked part time in 2014.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$9.46**  
**average wage: \$10.40**  
**wage range: \$9.36 - \$11.98**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 7,574 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 8,170 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 345 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most bartenders learn their skills through short-term on-the-job training usually lasting a few weeks. No formal education is required.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Norwich, New London  
New Haven

Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk

### Related Jobs:

- Gaming Dealers
- Gaming and Sports Book Writers and Runners
- Gaming Change Persons and Booth Cashiers
- Gaming Cage Workers

## Industries with most job postings

Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels  
Office Administrative Services  
Full Service Restaurants  
All Other Support Services  
Caterers  
Drinking Places (Alcoholic Beverages)

# Carpenters

## Job Description

Carpenters construct and repair building frameworks and structures—such as stairways, doorframes, partitions, rafters, and bridge supports—made from wood and other materials. Because they are involved in many types of construction, from building highways and bridges to installing kitchen cabinets, they work both indoors and outdoors. The work is sometimes strenuous, and have a higher rate of injuries than the national average.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$20.41**  
**average wage: \$33.19**  
**wage range: \$19.77 - \$55.28**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 15,104 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 16,315 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 295 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Although most carpenters learn their trade through an apprenticeship, some learn on the job, starting as a helper.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Construction Carpenters
- Rough Carpenters

## Industries with most job postings

All Other Specialty Trade Contractors  
Metal Window and Door Manufacturing  
Commercial and Institutional Building Construction  
Concrete Product Manufacturing  
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction  
Other Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers

# Cashiers

## Job Description

Cashiers receive and disburse money in establishments other than financial institutions. May use electronic scanners, cash registers, or related equipment and process credit or debit card transactions and validate checks. Advances in technology, such as self-service checkout stands in retail stores and increasing online sales, will continue to limit the need for cashiers.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$9.54**  
**average wage: \$10.95**  
**wage range: \$9.33 - \$13.73**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 38,741 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 39,083 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 1,682 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Cashiers are trained on the job. There are no formal education requirements to become a cashier.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Waiters and Waitresses
- Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop
- Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers
- Counter and Rental Clerks
- Stock Clerks, Sales Floor

## Industries with most job postings

Discount Department Stores  
Supermarkets and Other Grocery (except Convenience Stores)  
Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels  
All Other General Merchandise Stores  
Pet and Pet Supplies Stores  
Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters

# Childcare Workers

## Job Description

Childcare workers provide care for children when parents and other family members are unavailable. They attend to children's basic needs, such as bathing and feeding. In addition, some help children prepare for kindergarten or help older children with homework. Childcare workers care for children in childcare centers, their own home, or the homes of the children in their care.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$9.88**  
**average wage: \$13.02**  
**wage range: \$9.47 - \$18.70**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 17,986 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 20,210 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 753 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Education and training requirements vary by setting, state, and employer. They range from no formal education to certification in early childhood education.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education
- Home Health Aides
- Physical Therapist Aides
- Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers
- Personal Care Aides

## Industries with most job postings

Discount Department Stores  
Supermarkets/Other Grocery (except Convenience Stores)  
Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels  
All Other General Merchandise Stores  
Pet and Pet Supplies Stores  
Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters

# Cooks, Restaurant

## Job Description

Cooks prepare, season, and cook dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, or desserts in restaurants. May order supplies, keep records and accounts, price items on menu, or plan menu. Overall employment of cooks is projected to grow 4 percent from 2014 to 2024, slower than the average for all occupations. Individual growth rates will vary by specialty.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$10.33**  
**average wage: \$15.42**  
**wage range: \$9.65 - \$22.33**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 13,056 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 14,979 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 537 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most cooks learn their skills through on-the-job training and related work experience. Although no formal education is required, some attend culinary school.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria
- Food Preparation Workers
- Bakers
- Butchers and Meat Cutters
- Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders

## Industries with most job postings

Supermarkets/Other Grocery (except Convenience Stores)  
Food Service Contractors  
Nursing Care Facilities  
Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels  
Limited Service Restaurants  
Other Residential Care Facilities  
Elementary and Secondary Schools  
Full Service Restaurants



# Electricians

## Job Description

Electricians install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Electricians work indoors and outdoors in nearly every type of facility. Almost all electricians work full time, which may include evenings and weekends.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$17.85**  
**average wage: \$27.24**  
**wage range: \$15.13 - \$39.77**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 8,077 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 9,107 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 226 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Although most electricians learn through an apprenticeship, some start out by attending a technical school. Most states require electricians to be licensed.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Torrington

### Related Jobs:

- Pipefitters and Steamfitters
- Elevator Installers and Repairers
- Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines
- Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanics and Installers
- Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers

## Industries with most job postings

Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning Contractors  
Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation  
Computer Systems Design Services  
Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools  
Construction, Mining, and Forestry Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing  
Residential Remodelers

# Firefighters

## Job Description

Firefighters control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk. Duties may include fire prevention, emergency medical service, hazardous material response, search and rescue, and disaster assistance. When on the scenes of fires and other emergencies, the work can be very dangerous.



## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$20.77  
average wage: \$29.12  
wage range: \$17.58 - \$38.00

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 2,999 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 3,050 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 92 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Firefighters typically need a high school diploma and training in emergency medical services. Most receive training at a fire academy, must pass written and physical tests, complete a series of interviews, and hold an emergency medical technician (EMT) certification.

## Firefighters

For Information on Firefighter Training Programs:

1. Visit [www.ct.gov/cfpc](http://www.ct.gov/cfpc)
2. Click on "Recruit Firefighter Programs"

Or call

The Dept. of Emergency Service & Public Protection  
860-627-6363

# Fitness Trainers and Instructors

## Job Description

Fitness trainers and instructors lead, instruct, and motivate individuals or groups in exercise activities, including cardiovascular exercises (exercises for the heart and blood circulation), strength training, and stretching. They work with people of all ages and skill levels. Demonstrate techniques and form, observe participants, and explain to them corrective measures necessary to improve their skills.



## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$11.76  
average wage: \$23.44  
wage range: \$10.47 - \$40.30

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 4,546 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 4,905 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 120 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

The education and training required for fitness trainers and instructors varies by type of specialty, and employers often hire those with certification.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Vocational Education Teachers, Postsecondary
- Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education
- Self-Enrichment Education Teachers
- Teacher Assistants
- Physical Therapist Assistants

## Industries with most job postings

Elementary and Secondary Schools  
Child Day Care Services  
All Other Miscellaneous Schools and Instruction  
Civic and Social Organizations  
Nursing Care facilities  
Other Individual and Family Services

# Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists

## Job Description

Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists provide beauty services, such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair, and massaging and treating scalp. May apply makeup, dress wigs, perform hair removal, and provide nail and skin care services. They work mostly in a barbershop or salon, many work full time, but part-time positions are also common.



## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 10,279 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 11,154 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 352 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

A high school diploma or equivalent is required for some positions. In addition, every state requires that barbers, hairdressers, and cosmetologists complete a program in a state-licensed barber or cosmetology school. Programs in hairstyling, skin care, and other personal appearance services are available in postsecondary vocational schools.

## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$9.77  
average wage: \$14.88  
wage range: \$9.46 - \$23.18

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Dental Assistants
- Barbers
- Manicurists and Pedicurists
- Skincare Specialists
- Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors

## Industries with most job postings

Beauty Salons  
Department Stores (except Discount Department Stores)  
Cosmetics, Beauty Supplies, and Perfume Stores  
Barber Shops

# Home Health Aides

## Job Description

Home health aides help people with disabilities, chronic illness, or cognitive impairment with activities of daily living. They often help older adults who need assistance. In some states, home health aides may be able to give a client medication or check the client's vital signs under the direction of a nurse or other healthcare practitioner. May also provide personal care such as bathing, dressing, and grooming of patient.



## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 8,709 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 10,774 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 403 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

There are no formal education requirements for home health aides, but most have at least a high school diploma. Home health aides working in certified home health or hospice agencies must complete formal training and pass a standardized test.

## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$10.56**  
**average wage: \$13.21**  
**wage range: \$9.87 - \$15.93**

## Areas with most job postings

Home Health Aides and Related Jobs  
Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Psychiatric Aides
- Occupational Therapy Aides
- Physical Therapist Aides
- Childcare Workers
- Personal Care Aides
- Childcare Workers
- Personal Care Aides

## Industries with most job postings

Home Health Care Services  
Other Residential Care Facilities  
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)  
Residential Mental Health and Substance Abuse Facilities

# Janitors and Building Cleaners

## Job Description

Janitors and building cleaners keep buildings in clean and orderly condition. Perform heavy cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, shampooing rugs, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Duties may include tending furnace and boiler, performing routine maintenance activities, notifying management of need for repairs, and cleaning snow or debris from sidewalk.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$10.07**  
**average wage: \$15.38**  
**wage range: \$9.51 - \$24.44**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 31,669 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 33,193 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 781 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most janitors and building cleaners learn on the job. Formal education is not required. However, high school courses in shop can be helpful for jobs involving repair work.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Food Preparation Workers
- Food Servers, Nonrestaurant
- Dishwashers
- Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
- Helpers, Painters, Paperhangers, Plasterers, and Stucco Masons

## Industries with most job postings

Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels  
Elementary and Secondary Schools  
Supermarkets and Other Grocery Stores  
Food Service Contractors  
Office Administrative Services

# Laborers and Material Movers

## Job Description

Hand laborers and material movers manually move freight, stock, or other materials. Others feed or remove material to and from machines, clean vehicles, pick up unwanted household goods, and pack materials for moving. Although their specific duties may vary, most work in warehouses, some retrieve products from storage and move them to loading areas, and some load and unload cargo from a truck.



## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 22,797 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 24,525 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 851 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Formal education is not usually required to become a hand laborer or material mover. Employers typically require only that applicants be physically able to perform the work. Most positions for this job require less than 1 month of on-the-job training.

## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$10.40  
average wage: \$15.09  
wage range: \$9.70 - \$22.60

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Willimantic

### Related Jobs:

- Molding and Casting Workers
- Rail-Track Laying and Maintenance Equipment Operators
- Fence Erectors
- Reinforcing Iron and Rebar Workers
- Meter Readers, Utilities

## Industries with most job postings

Local Messengers and Local Delivery  
Temporary Help Services  
Other Business Service Centers (Including Copy Shops)  
Couriers and Express Delivery Services  
Home Centers  
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Truckload

# Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers

## Job Description

Landscaping and groundskeeping workers landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks, which may include any combination of the following: sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking, sprinkler installation, and installation of mortarless segmental concrete masonry wall units.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$11.35**  
**average wage: \$16.41**  
**wage range: \$10.09 - \$23.74**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 17,372 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 18,663 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 442 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most grounds maintenance workers need no formal education and are trained on the job. Most states require licensing for workers who apply pesticides or fertilizers.

## Job Postings by County, Area 2016

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Torrington

### Related Jobs:

- Nursery Workers
- Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals
- Logging Equipment Operators
- Pipelayers
- Tire Repairers and Changers

## Industries with most job postings

Landscaping Services  
Landscape Architectural Services  
Elementary and Secondary Schools  
Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters  
Flower, Nursery Stock, and Florists' Supplies Wholesalers



# Machinists

## Job Description

Machinists set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify, or repair mechanical instruments. May also fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout, and machining procedures.



## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 7,530 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 8,644 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 329 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Machinists train in apprenticeship programs, vocational schools, community and technical colleges, or on the job. Tool and die makers receive several years of technical instruction and on-the-job training. A high school diploma is necessary.

## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$14.78  
average wage: \$22.75  
wage range: \$13.28 - \$32.21

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic
- Milling and Planing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic
- Model Makers, Metal and Plastic
- Patternmakers, Metal and Plastic
- Tool and Die Makers

## Industries with most job postings

Engineering Services  
Aircraft Engine and Engine Parts Manufacturing  
Machine Shops  
Aircraft Parts and Auxiliary Equipment Manufacturing  
Aircraft Manufacturing  
Industrial Supplies Merchant Wholesalers

# Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners

## Job Description

Maids and housekeeping cleaners perform any combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households or commercial establishments, such as hotels and hospitals, in a clean and orderly manner. Duties may include making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms and halls, and vacuuming.



## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$10.02  
average wage: \$12.27  
wage range: \$9.49 - \$16.44

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 19,659 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 22,566 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 760 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most maids and housekeeping cleaners need no formal education and are trained on the job.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Food Preparation Workers
- Food Servers, Nonrestaurant
- Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers
- Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
- Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers

## Industries with most job postings

Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels  
Elementary and Secondary Schools  
Other Residential Care Facilities  
Nursing Care Facilities  
Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools

# Massage Therapists

## Job Description

Massage therapists treat clients by using touch to manipulate the muscles and other soft tissues of the body. With their touch, therapists relieve pain, help heal injuries, improve circulation, relieve stress, increase relaxation, and aid in the general wellness of clients.



## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 2,317 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 2,775 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 63 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Massage therapists typically complete a postsecondary education program of 500 or more hours of study and experience, although standards and requirements vary by state or other jurisdictions. Most states regulate massage therapy and require massage therapists to have a license or certification.

## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$13.11**  
**average wage: \$25.78**  
**wage range: \$10.60 - \$49.75**

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Torrington

### Related Jobs:

- Self-Enrichment Education Teachers
- Barbers
- Skincare Specialists
- Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors
- File Clerks

## Industries with most job postings

Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels  
Fitness and Recreation Sports Centers  
Other Personal Care Service  
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)  
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals

# Medical Assistants

## Job Description

Medical Assistants perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing, and coding information for insurance purposes. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by physician.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$13.13**  
**average wage: \$17.54**  
**wage range: \$12.60 - \$24.05**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 7,251 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 8,486 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 275 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most medical assistants have postsecondary education such as a certificate. Others enter the occupation with a high school diploma and learn through on-the-job training.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Pharmacy Technicians
- Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
- Neurodiagnostic Technologists
- Occupational Therapy Assistants
- Physical Therapist Assistants

## Industries with most job postings

Pharmacies and Drug Stores  
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)  
Home Health Care Services  
Drugs and Druggists' Sundries Wholesalers  
Nursing Care Facilities  
General and Surgical Hospitals

# Nursing Assistants

## Job Description

Nursing assistants, sometimes called nursing aides, help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes. Orderlies transport patients and clean treatment areas. Nursing assistants help patients with activities of daily living like eating and bathing. They are frequently physically active and may need to help lift or move patients.



## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$12.83

average wage: \$15.63

wage range: \$12.20 - \$20.23

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 22,826 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 24,059 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 639 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Nursing assistants must complete a state-approved education program and must pass their state's competency exam to become certified. Orderlies generally have at least a high school diploma.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Torrington

## Industries with most job postings

Nursing Care Facilities  
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)  
Continuing Care Retirement Communities  
Home Health Care Services  
General and Surgical Hospitals

# Personal Care Aides

## Job Description

Personal care aides help clients with self-care and everyday tasks. They also provide social supports and assistance that enable clients to participate in their communities. Personal care aides perform tasks that are similar to those of home health aides. However, personal care aides cannot provide any medical services, whereas home health aides may provide basic medical services.



## Hourly Wages

starting wage: \$10.34  
average wage: \$12.94  
wage range: \$9.62 - \$17.24

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 27,084 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 33,501 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 861 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most personal care aides are trained on the job. There are no formal education requirements for personal care aides, but most aides have a high school diploma.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
New Haven  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Home Health Aides
- Physical Therapist Aides
- Funeral Attendants
- Childcare Workers
- Transportation Attendants, Except Flight Attendants

## Industries with most job postings

Home Health Care Services  
Other Residential Care Facilities  
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)  
Residential Mental Health and Substance Abuse Facilities

# Retail Salespersons

## Job Description

Retail sales workers include both those who sell retail merchandise, such as clothing, furniture, and automobiles, (called retail salespersons) and those who sell spare and replacement parts and equipment, especially car parts (called parts salespersons). Both types of retail sales workers help customers find the products they want and process customers' payments.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$9.61**  
**average wage: \$13.59**  
**wage range: \$9.36 - \$20.98**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 54,243 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 56,059 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 2,062 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Typically, there are no formal education requirements for retail sales workers. Most receive on-the-job training, which usually lasts a few days to a few months.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Concierges
- First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
- Counter and Rental Clerks
- Parts Salespersons
- Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks

## Industries with most job postings

Department Stores (except Discount Department Stores)  
Pharmacies and Drug Stores  
All Other Miscellaneous Store Retailers (except Tobacco Stores)  
Furniture Stores  
New Car Dealers  
Pet and Pet Supplies Stores  
Discount Department Stores

# Security Guards

## Job Description

Security guards and gaming surveillance officers patrol and protect property against theft, vandalism, terrorism, and illegal activity. Security guards work in a wide variety of places, including public buildings, stores, and office buildings. Guards who work during the day may have a great deal of contact with other employees and the public.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$10.58**  
**average wage: \$14.66**  
**wage range: \$9.98 - \$21.55**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 11,429 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 11,795 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 198 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most security guard jobs require a high school diploma. Most states require guards to be registered with the state, especially if they carry a firearm.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Bailiffs
- Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers
- Baggage Porters and Bellhops
- Couriers and Messengers<sup>43</sup>
- Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators

## Industries with most job postings

Security Guards and Patrol Services  
Armored Car Services  
Software Publishers  
Elementary and Secondary Schools



# Waiters and waitresses

## Job Description

Waiters and waitresses take orders and serve food and beverages to customers in dining establishments. They work in restaurants, bars, hotels, and other food-serving and drinking establishments. Work schedules include early mornings, late evenings, weekends, and holidays. During busy hours, they may be under pressure to serve customers quickly and efficiently.



## Hourly Wages

**starting wage: \$9.46**  
**average wage: \$11.29**  
**wage range: \$9.37 - \$15.26**

## Employment & Job Openings

### employment:

Current estimated employment in Connecticut is 27,224 for this occupation. Employment for this occupation is projected to be 28,101 in 2024.

### job openings:

An average of 1,398 job openings per year is estimated for this occupation.

## Education/On-the-Job Training Requirement

Most waiter and waitress jobs are entry level, and workers learn through short-term on-the-job training. No formal education or previous work experience is required to enter the occupation.

## Areas with most job postings

Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford  
Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk  
New Haven  
Norwich, New London

### Related Jobs:

- Cooks, Fast Food
- Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers
- Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers
- Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop
- Cashiers

## Industries with most job postings

Limited-Service Restaurants  
Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels  
Food Service Contractors  
Full-Service Restaurants



*For further information, contact:*

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