SEAN SCANLON STATE COMPTROLLER

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TARA DOWNES DEPUTY COMPTROLLER



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106

January 2, 2025

The Honorable Ned Lamont Governor of the State of Connecticut Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Governor Lamont,

I write to provide you with financial statements for the General Fund and the Transportation Fund through November 30, 2024. The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) is projecting the General Fund will end Fiscal Year 2025 with a \$178.8 million surplus and the Special Transportation Fund will end Fiscal Year 2025 with a \$158.1 million surplus. OSC is in general agreement with the Office of Policy and Management's (OPM's) General Fund and Special Transportation Fund projections. The following analysis of the financial statements furnished by OPM is provided pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 3-115.

The General Fund (GF) surplus for FY 2025 is projected at \$178.8 million, which is \$119.0 million lower than budgeted. The entire decrease from last month is due to upward revisions to net expenditure projections of \$11.5 million, comprised of \$19.7 million of additional shortfalls partially offset by \$8.2 million of additional lapses. The largest change was an increase of \$20.0 million to the Medicaid account shortfall. *See page two for more information.*

The Special Transportation Fund (STF) is projected to close FY 2025 with a \$158.1 million operating surplus, an increase of \$90.0 million from the budgeted amount. The surplus projection increased by \$9.1 million this month due to expenditure reductions of \$12.0 million (largely related to lower debt service) more than offsetting a -\$2.9 million revision to Federal Grant revenue. The STF closing balance is projected to be \$567.9 million (24.9% of net appropriations) as of June 30, 2025. *See page two for more information*.

The Budget Reserve Fund (BRF), also known as the "Rainy Day Fund," is currently at its statutory cap of 18% of current year net GF appropriations. It is projected to temporarily reach 24.9% of FY 2025 net GF appropriations following the projected transfer of \$1,403.5 million for the volatility cap transfer and \$178.8 million from the GF surplus. Additional transfers to the retirement funds during the closeout of FY 2025 are therefore expected.

If you have any questions on this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Sean Scanlon State Comptroller

This month in Numbers

General Fund Surplus \$178.8 million -11.5 million this month

Transportation Fund Surplus \$158.1 million +9.1 million this month

Projected BRF Transfer at FY 2025 Year-End \$1,582.3 million *-11.5 million this month*

General Fund Revenue \$23,379.9 million *No change this month*

General Fund Expenditures \$23,201.1 million +11.5 million this month, decreasing the surplus

STF Revenue \$2,353.4 million -2.9 million this month, decreasing the surplus

STF Expenditures \$2,195.3 million -12.0 million this month, increasing the surplus

General Fund Snapshot

Revenue forecasts are up but expenditures are up by more. The largest expenditure changes this month were to Medicaid (shortfall up \$20.0 million), Adjudicated Claims (shortfall up \$6.0 million), and OSC-Fringe Benefits (shortfall down \$17.9 million across various accounts).

Key Drivers in Projected Deficiencies:

-Department of Social Services Medicaid, resulting primarily from higher caseloads. -OSC-Fringe Benefits Higher Education Alternative Retirement System account, primarily caused by a change in accounting method.

Key Drivers in Revenue Changes:

-No changes this month -Revenues are projected to exceed the budget by \$276.2 million.

Special Transportation Fund Snapshot

Projected expenditures are down more than revenues, improving the surplus. Most notably, debt service costs were revised \$20.0 million lower (partly due to savings from using \$556.6 million of the fund balance to pay off indebtedness) and Federal Grants revenue is expected to be lower by \$2.9 million due to the retirement of some federally subsidized bonds.

Projected Closing Balance: \$569.7 million

Transfer to reduce indebtedness pursuant to PA 24-151: \$556.6 million

Budget Reserve Fund Snapshot

The BRF transfer projection decreased slightly this month due to the downward revision to the General Fund surplus.

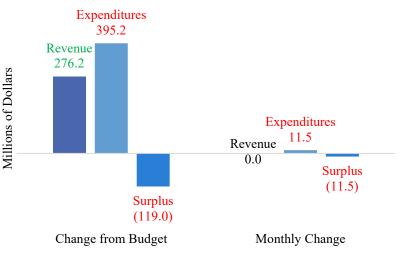
Transfers to State Employees' and Teachers' Retirement systems for FY 2024 closeout: \$933 million

BRF Balance (% of FY 2025 GF budget): \$4,105.1 million (at the statutory cap of 18%)

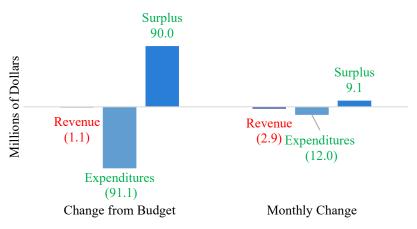
Projected FY 2025 Year-end Balance Before Transfers (% of FY 2025 GF budget): \$5,687.4 million (24.9%)

Excess funds above the FY 2026 18% cap will result in additional transfers to the pension funds in 2025.

How do GF current projections compare to the budget and what changed this month?

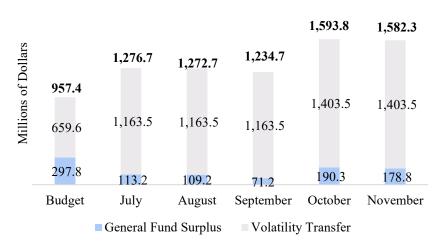


How do STF current projections compare to the budget and what changed this month?



Note: Green labels denote improvements to balance, red labels denote deterioration.

What is the projected FY 2025 year-end transfer to the Budget Reserve Fund?



Figures reflect the projected General Fund balance and volatility transfer to the Budget Reserve Fund at fiscal year-end according to the financial statements dated as of the end of the month shown.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2024

(In Thousands)

ASSETS	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 319,165
Accounts Receivable	2,204
Accrued Taxes Receivable	-
Due from Other Funds	-
Loans Receivable	3,412
Unrealized Revenue - Exhibit C	 16,252,880
Total Assets	\$ 16,577,661
LIABILITIES, RESERVES, APPROPRIATIONS AND SURPLUS	
LIABILITIES	
Deficiency in Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ -
Accounts Payable	2,689
Due to Other Funds	 2,513
Total Liabilities	5,202
RESERVES	
Reserve for Petty Cash	998
Reserve Future Carryforwards	213,400
Reserved for Future Use	24,899
Reserved Fund Balance	-
Reserve for Receivables	3,412
Total Reserves	242,709
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance Due to Change in Accounting Method (FY 2014)	909,369
Total Fund Balance	 909,369
Unexpended Appropriations - Exhibit D	15,241,586
Unappropriated Surplus (Deficit) - Exhibit B	 178,795
Total Liabilities, Reserves, Fund Balance, Appropriations and Surplus	\$ 16,577,661

<u>Exhibit A</u>

STATE OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL FUND ANALYSIS OF UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2024

(In Thousands)

<u>Exhibit B</u>

	Budget <u>Plan</u>	BudgetaryOtherIncreasesIncreases(Decreases)(Decreases)		Revised <u>Estimates</u>
BUDGETED REVENUE - EXHIBIT C				
Taxes	\$ 20,326,300	\$ 761,400	\$ -	\$ 21,087,700
Other Revenue	1,514,200	65,700	-	1,579,900
Other Sources	1,263,200	(550,900)		712,300
Total Budgeted Revenue	23,103,700	276,200		23,379,900
APPROPRIATIONS - EXHIBIT D				
Budgeted Appropriations	23,427,500	(9,776)	468,168	23,885,892
Continued from Prior Year	438,900			438,900
Current Year Appropriations	22,988,600	(9,776)	468,168	23,446,992
Estimated Lapses	(182,700)	(63,187)		(245,887)
Net Appropriations	22,805,900	(72,963)	468,168	23,201,105
Surplus (Deficit) from Operations	297,800	349,163	(468,168)	178,795
Miscellaneous Adjustments	-	-	-	-
Surplus (Deficit), July 1, 2024				<u> </u>
Projected Surplus (Deficit), June 30, 2025	\$ 297,800	\$ 349,163	\$ (468,168)	\$ 178,795

STATE OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED AND REALIZED REVENUE FOR THE FOUR MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2024

(In Thousands)

	Estimated <u>Revenue</u>	Increases or <u>(Decreases)</u>	Revised <u>Estimates</u>	Realized <u>Revenue</u>	Unrealized <u>Revenue</u>
TAXES					
Personal Income - Withholding	\$ 8,530,400	\$ 358,70	00 \$ 8,889,100	\$ 2,523,099	\$ 6,366,001
Personal Income - Estimates and Finals	2,703,000	570,5	3,273,500	635,784	2,637,716
Sales and Use	5,428,200	(324,70	5,103,500	1,639,983	3,463,517
Corporations	1,526,500	34,20	00 1,560,700	277,611	1,283,089
Pass-through Entity Tax	1,877,300	182,0	2,059,300	438,927	1,620,373
Public Service Corporations	296,800	15,10	311,900	90,693	221,207
Inheritance and Estate	182,200	(10,3)	00) 171,900	74,863	97,037
Insurance Companies	266,800	34,9	301,700	74,026	227,674
Cigarettes and Tobacco	262,000	(17,3)	244,700	94,976	149,724
Real Estate Conveyance	292,600	(15,0	277,600	93,898	183,702
Alcoholic Beverages	78,800		- 78,800	21,885	56,915
Admissions, Dues and Cabaret	31,000	8,5	39,500	13,275	26,225
Health Provider	957,400	(66,4	00) 891,000	226,982	664,018
Miscellaneous Taxes	69,200	(47,8	21,400	7,807	13,593
Totals	22,502,200	722,4	23,224,600	6,213,809	17,010,791
Less Refunds of Taxes	(1,971,900)	39,00	, ,	(529,570)	(1,403,330)
Less Income Tax Credit	(196,200))-	- (196,200)	-	(196,200)
Less R & D Credit Exchange	(7,800)		- (7,800)	(4,336)	(3,464)
Net Taxes	20,326,300	761,4		5,679,903	15,407,797
OTHER REVENUE					
Transfers - Special Revenue	411,900	(28,5)	00) 383,400	139,782	243,618
Indian Gaming Payments	286,000	22,6	308,600	106,371	202,229
Licenses, Permits and Fees	330,700		- 330,700	122,040	208,660
Sales of Commodities and Services	17,800	20	18,000	5,354	12,646
Rents, Fines and Escheats	175,200	13,6	00 188,800	17,566	171,234
Investment Income	201,700	51,6	253,300	139,030	114,270
Miscellaneous Other	158,000	26,3	184,300	81,988	102,312
Total Other Revenue	1,581,300	85,8	1,667,100	612,131	1,054,969
Less Refunds of Payments	(67,100)	(20,10	00) (87,200)	(58,491)	(28,709)
Net Other Revenue	1,514,200	65,70	<u> </u>	553,640	1,026,260
OTHER SOURCES					
Federal Grants	1,886,500	79,60	00 1,966,100	688,477	1,277,623
Transfer from the Tobacco Settlement Fund	(70,400)	179,8	109,400	-	109,400
Transfer to/from the Resources of the General Fund	106,700	(66,40		205,000	(164,700)
Transfers to BRF - Volatility Adjustment	(659,600)	(743,9	,	-	(1,403,500)
Total Other Sources	1,263,200	(550,90		893,477	(181,177)
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$ 23,103,700	\$ 276,20	00 \$ 23,379,900	\$ 7,127,020	\$ 16,252,880

Exhibit C

STATE OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FOUR MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2024

(In Thousands)

Lance in the part of the		Continued and Initial	Increases or	Estimated Additional	Total		Estimated	Unexpended
Lipplative Management \$ 9 92,335 \$ 0111 \$ > \$ 92,444 \$ 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,455 93,469 93,457 93,466 93,457 93,46		Appropriations	(Decreases)	Requirements	Appropriations	Expenditures	Lapses	Appropriations
Lipplative Management \$ 9 92,335 \$ 0111 \$ > \$ 92,444 \$ 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 92,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,453 93,469 93,455 93,469 93,457 93,466 93,457 93,46	LECISLATIVE							
Wann, Childran, Skann, Fugily & Opportunity 1.200 - 1.200 101 0.01 CRURL OVERNITY 1.139 0.11 1.139 0.10 1.139 0.133 CRURL OVERNITY 1.137 1.137 1.137 1.137 1.133 Contract Office 5.225 0.3381 - 1.147 1.137 1.133 Contract Office 1.137 1.137 1.137 1.133 1.131 1.131 Contract Office 1.137 1.131 1		\$ 95,355	\$ (211)	\$ -	\$ 95,144	\$ 32,459	\$ 5,000	\$ 57,685
Intel Lagisative III.285 (210) . III.286 33.00 67.242 GNLGAL GOVERNINT .	Auditors of Public Accounts	15,040	-	-	15,040	6,024	150	8,866
GNNRAL GOVERNINT Image: constraint of the state 1,437 107 - 1,338 Gavemary of Restar 13,34 2.25 1,437 1.07 - 1,338 Lemmary of Restar 13,44 2.23 - 7.29 2.33 - 4.43 Lemmary of Restar 14,44 2.31 - 7.29 2.33 4.00 1.43 Editor State Editor 11,444 2.010 - 2.338 1.30 0.2375 State Treamer 47,410 4,141 - 2.24,13 1.30 0.23,15 1.13,12 - 4.303 1.3375 0.13,15 1.13,12 - 4.303 1.333 1.335 1.333 1.335 </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>								
Generator Office 5.235 (J.837) 1.437 1.437 1.437 1.437 Leaceant Governo's Office 765 22 777 3.63 - 424 Leaceant Governo's Office 781 3.53 - 424 - 424 Leaceant Governo's Office 1.944 3.01 - 2.245 7.74 - 1.040 Define of State Bits 1.944 3.01 - 2.245 7.74 - 1.040 State Computitie 1.944 1.944 - 8.245 1.913 - 5.847 Office of Niloy and Managenern 2.66,648 (13.247) - 1.154 1.040 2.06 1.355 Department of Admingenern 2.66,648 (13.247) - 1.351 - 2.849 1.156 - 2.849 1.155 - 2.849 1.155 - 2.8497 1.155 - 2.8497 1.155 - 2.8497 1.155 - 2.8497 1.155 -	Total Legislative	111,595	(211)		111,384	38,840	5,300	67,244
Sector of the Same 13,24 225 11,222 73,733 500 741 Electon Electorenet Commission 4,04 2,13 - 6,19 22,38 400 3,51 Electon Electorenet Commission 2,12 1,72 - 2,33 1,33 300 2,351 Evolven Information Commission 2,212 1,72 - 2,333 1,33 300 2,351 Disc Corporation 6,339 1,446 - 2,353 1,640 300 1,885 Disc Corporation 6,339 1,73 - 1,354 1,860 300 1,885 Digentume of Venenci Aleximuth 2,6608 (133,947) - 1,1,641 34,345 4,343 1,350 - 2,349 Digentum of Venenci Aleximuth Aleximuth Science 2,341 1,350 - 2,349 1,351 - 2,349 Digentum of Multinitation Science 2,345 1,422 3,4541 2,355 7,451 4,429 Digentum of Multinitation Science	GENERAL GOVERNMENT							
Leasement Communic Co	Governor's Office	5,275	(3,838)	-	1,437	107	-	1,330
Election Commission 4,64 2,113 - 6,219 2.228 400 3.581 Differ of Stare Elemin 1,964 301 - 2,255 774 - 1,971 Bate Trenum 47,910 4,441 - 5,255 1,923 - 64,691 State Trenum 47,910 4,441 - 5,251 1,932 - 64,691 State Comparison 2,630 (13,447) - 1,2241 1,3441 4,3483 4,3391 Office of haly and Management 2,264,68 (13,347) - 1,12441 4,441 4,3483 - Oppartment of Vacantaction Services - <	-			-			500	
Office of Succession Commission 1.944 -00 - 2.253 774 - 1.491 State Treasmer 47,910 4,141 - 52,251 52,880 300 2,2375 State Compression 47,910 4,141 - 52,251 52,080 300 2,2375 State Compression 66,359 (4,440) 534 62,027 22,230 - 58,771 Office of Non-marked Accountal Million 21,373 797 - 3,135 1,400 31,438 44,343 Office of Non-marked Accountal Million 21,373 7978 5,502 23,539 1,304 1,3145 1,3145 1,3145 1,3145 1,3145 1,3145 1,3145 1,3151 - 2,507 1,3145 1,3245 2,3175 2,4051 1,315 - 2,507 1,3175 1,4002 1,315 - 2,507 1,517 - 1,517 1,517 4,4023 1,411 1,22597 5,506 1,508 3,508 3,507 1,5				-			-	
Fresher Orfammianian 2,212 1,726 . 3,938 1,203 3,00 2,373 State Treasmer 41,700 1,441 . 52,8451 26,809 300 2,4871 State Compoller 81,709 1,446 . 42,815 101,802 . 65,807 Office of Normannal Accountability 3,078 .7 . 3,155 1,040 200 1,835 Department of Administry Services 22,849 307 . 23,151 1,040 . 1,726 Department of Administry Services 22,849 307 . 23,071 24,311 1,030 . 1,726 Department of Administry Services 30,607 1,151 . 22,071 24,311 31,552 1,042,924 24,001 22,8407 106,212 . 13,552 22,076 . 37,552 22,0782 <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>400</td> <td></td>				-			400	
State Creanization 41,910 4,441 - 52,031 22,830 300 24,471 Degunitation (Revenues Services 66,359 (4,460) 534 62,027 22,259 - 58,771 Office of Nulex and Accountability 3,078 77 - 3,355 1,060 200 1,083 Office of Nulex and Accountability 3,078 77 - 3,355 1,040 34,485 44,815 Department of Accountability 3,0178 500 53,399 20,044 34,385 44,815 Department of Accountability 3,01,878 5,000 53,399 20,0451 52,067 Division of Criminal Jonice 63,166 1,038 - 65,071 22,071 16,64 40,02 Department of Munitability Services and Paklis Protection 22,723 1,246 40,00 23,8607 100,215 - 1,359 Department Consumer Protection 16,362 246 16,082 2,786 - 3,729 Department Consumer Protection 10,364 </td <td></td> <td>,</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>,</td> <td></td> <td>300</td> <td><i>'</i></td>		,		-	,		300	<i>'</i>
Department of Revens Services 66.339 (4)440 514 62.027 23.250 - 38.777 Office of Noisy and Management 24.668 (133.477) - 12.661 34.461 34.385 45.815 Department of Vacamistant Services 22.849 30.137 5.02 26.849 11.344 - 17.045 Department of Vacamistant Services 22.849 30.037 1.151 -				-				
Office of Covernmental Accountability 3.078 7.7 - 3.155 1.040 200 1.985 Office of Obligs of Munigances 2.246.08 (13,347) - 11.266 3.44.61 3.435 4.84.51 Department of Automa' Allinis 2.23.71 9.78 - 2.8.59 2.08.48 1.350 -	State Comptroller	81,769	1,046	-	82,815	19,122	-	63,693
Office of Daily and Managament 246,000 (13347) 12,601 34,401 34,385 44,3115 Department of Administant's strvises 223,71 978 5,062 553,399 10,350 125,515 1 1,300 252,501 Construction Services 39,057 1,151 - 40,009 26,571 24,711 116 40,203 Total Circuit Government 814,41 172,557 5,556 1,009,294 374,541 375,51 97,992 RECULTION AND PROFECTION Total Givern Government 62,02 0,00 6,232 2,296 - 3,255 Department of Veckoles - <td< td=""><td>*</td><td></td><td></td><td>534</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td<>	*			534				
Department of Vorsma' Affinia 27,71 978 - 23,849 11,304 - 17,945 Department of Animarbitive Services 23,459 301,878 5,062 353,599 20,648 1.30 322,501 Devision of Criminal Justice 63,166 1,905 -	-			-				
Dependent of Administrative Services 228,499 301,378 5,062 553,39 205,548 1,350 225,501 Attemps General 39,057 1,151 - 422,371 116 40,224 Teal General Government 831,431 172,597 5,596 1,009,984 374,541 375,518 597,892 EEGLATION AND PEOTECTION Department for Services and Public Notection 274,251 6,400 -	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							,
Contraction Services -								
Division of Criminal Junice 61,166 1,005 - 65,271 24,731 116 40,228 Tetal General Government 811,031 172,997 5.596 J,009,984 374,541 372,551 597,892 EGULATION ND PROTECTION Department of Mont Values 2 2 0 6,538 2,796 - 333,92 Department of Mont Values 6,630 2 900 6,538 2,796 - 333,92 Department of None Values 6,630 2 900 6,538 2,796 - 333,92 Department of None Values 10,544 907 - 105,548 3,391 7 11,10 Department of None Nation Statistics 10,323 2,58 - 10,548 3,395 400 6,531 Conservation 378,007 (1,037) 4.400 381,370 151,485 1,50 228,375 Conservation Diversition 376,467 (1,037) 4.400 381,370 4.51 2.53 1.51,455 2.50,61 5,000	*		-		-			
Total General Gaverancet B31,431 172,957 5,596 1,009,984 374,541 37,551 997,892 BEGULATION AND PROTECTION Deprinted Todow Valicies 237,253 (2,446) 4,000 238,007 105,215 - 133,592 Deprinted Todow Valicies 6,420 (222) 400 6,528 2,776 - 3,123 Labor Department Organization 10,6644 897 - 10,628 3,329 400 6,591 Commission of Human Rights & Opportunities 10,258 - <td>Attorney General</td> <td>39,057</td> <td>1,151</td> <td>-</td> <td>40,208</td> <td>15,151</td> <td>-</td> <td>25,057</td>	Attorney General	39,057	1,151	-	40,208	15,151	-	25,057
REGULATION AND PROTECTION Deprinter of Moor Vehicles Description 237,253 (2,446) 4,000 238,807 105,215 - 133,592 Deprinterint of Moor Vehicles - 105,56 35,95 400 6,591 Frotecine Advaces of bressons with Disabilities 10,328 25,857 ILB 34,65 11,159 228,375 ILB 24,650 4,858 ILB 23,946 350 4,858 ILB 24,750 14,151 13,151 14,151 10,151 14,151 11,151 </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				-				
Dept of Emergency Services and Public Protection 237,253 (2,446) 4,000 238,007 105,215 - 133,392 Department of More Valicies 6,420 (292) 400 6,528 2,796 - <t< td=""><td>Total General Government</td><td>831,431</td><td>172,957</td><td>5,596</td><td>1,009,984</td><td>374,541</td><td>37,551</td><td>597,892</td></t<>	Total General Government	831,431	172,957	5,596	1,009,984	374,541	37,551	597,892
Dept of Emergency Services and Public Protection 237,253 (2,446) 4,000 238,007 105,215 - 133,392 Department of More Valicies 6,420 (292) 400 6,528 2,796 - <t< td=""><td>RECULATION AND PROTECTION</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>	RECULATION AND PROTECTION							
Department of Motor Vahiels .<		237.253	(2.446)	4.000	238.807	105.215	-	133,592
Department Consume Protection 18,362 546 - 18,008 7,048 77.01 11,110 Labor Department 10,564 897 - 10,586 3,595 400 6,591 Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities - <td></td> <td></td> <td>(_,,)</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td>			(_,,)	-			-	
Labor Department 105,644 897 - 106,541 33,391 - 73,250 Commission on Human Rights Roportunities 10,328 258 - 10,586 3,595 400 6,591 Total Regulation and Protection 378,607 (10,037) 4,400 381,270 151,845 1,150 228,275 CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT Department of Activation Review Science 9,099 145 9,154 3,946 350 4,858 Department of Exergy and Environmental Protection 77,654 1,615 79,269 25,601 5,300 48,368 Council on Environmental Protection 77,654 1,615 79,269 25,601 5,300 48,368 Council on Environmental Drotection 78,602 202 38,914 18,398 500 20,016 Department of Housing 114,521 (3,934) 40,000 251,074 97,933 6,159 146,991 Total Conservation and Development 248,710 (16,456) 4,000 251,074 97,933 6,159 146,99	Military Department	6,420	(292)	400	6,528	2,796	-	3,732
Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities 10.323 258 - 10.586 3.595 400 6.591 Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities -	Department of Consumer Protection	18,362		-			750	
Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities . <	-							
Total Regulation and Protection 378,007 (1,037) 4.400 381,370 151,845 1,150 228,375 CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT Department of Agriculture 9,009 145 - 9,154 3,946 350 4,558 Department of Energy and Environmental Potection 77,654 1,615 - 79,269 25,601 5,300 48,568 Concol on Environmental Quality -		10,328	258	-	10,586	3,595	400	6,591
CONSERVATION AND EVELOPMENT Department of Agriculture 9,009 145 - 9,154 3,946 350 4,858 Department of Agriculture 9,009 145 - 79,269 25,601 5,300 48,368 Conscil on Environmental Quality -		378.007	(1.037)	4.400	381,370	151.845	1.150	228.375
Department of Agriculture 9,009 145 - 9,154 3,946 350 4,858 Department of Energy and Environmental Potection 77,654 1,615 - 79,269 25,601 5,300 48,368 Conculo on Environmental Quality -			())					-)
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Council on Environmental Quality - <		,		-	,			
Department of Economic & Community Development 38,622 292 - 38,914 18,398 500 20,016 Department of Housing 114,521 (3,334) 4,000 114,587 46,069 - 68,518 Agricultural Experiment Station 8,904 246 - 9,150 3,919 - 5,231 Total Conservation and Development 248,710 (1,636) 4,000 251,074 97,933 6,150 146,991 HEALTH AND HOSPITALS 11,318 4,309 100 6,909 Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services 749,671 (22,718) 34,550 761,503 313,603 - 447,900 Department of Wental Health & Addiction Services 749,671 (22,718) 34,550 761,503 313,603 - 228 Office of Health Strategy 4,829 (44) 147 4,932 1,711 - 3,221 Department of Developmental Service 1,583,794 (249,347) 248,200 1,582,647 553,877 2,170		77,654		-		25,601		48,368
Department of Housing 114.521 (3,934) 4,000 114.587 46,069 - 68,518 Agricultural Experiment Station 8,904 246 - 9,150 3,919 - 5,231 Total Conservation and Development 248,710 (1,636) 4,000 251,074 97,933 6,150 146,991 HEALTH AND HOSPITALS 4,000 251,074 97,933 6,150 146,991 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner 11,118 200 - 11,318 4,309 100 6,909 Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services 749,671 (22,718) 34,550 761,503 313,603 - 447,900 Psychiatric Security Review Board 375 13 - 388 160 - 228 Department of Public Health 80,104 1,275 - 81,379 32,523 1,710 432,647 Total Health and Hospitals 2,429,891 (270,621) 282,897 2,442,167 906,183		38.622		-		18.398		20.016
Agricultural Experiment Station 8,904 246 9,150 3,919 5231 Total Conservation and Development 248,710 (1,636) 4,000 251,074 97,933 6,150 146,991 HEALTH AND HOSPITALS 0 - 11,318 4,309 100 6,909 Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services 749,671 (22,718) 34,550 761,503 313,603 - 447,900 Psychiatric Security Review Board 375 13 - 388 160 - 228 Office of Health Strategy 4,829 (44) 147 4,932 1,711 - 3,221 Department of Public Health 80,104 1,275 - 81,379 32,523 1,700 47,156 Department of Developmental Service 1,583,794 (249,437) 248,200 1,582,647 553,877 2,170 1/20,26,000 Total Health and Hospitals 2,429,891 (270,621) 282,897 2,442,167 906,183 3,970 1,532,014 Department				4,000			-	,
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Total Health and Hospitals 2,429,891 (270,621) 282,897 2,442,167 906,183 3,970 1,532,014 TRANSPORTATION Department of Transportation -	-	80,104	1,275	-		32,523	1,700	47,156
TRANSPORTATION Department of Transportation -	* *							
Department of Transportation -	Total Health and Hospitals	2,429,891	(270,621)	282,897	2,442,167	906,183	3,970	1,532,014
Department of Transportation -	TRANSPORTATION							
Total Transportation -		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Social Services 4,618,864 5,054 - 4,623,918 2,249,907 - 2,374,011 State Department on Aging - - - - - - - - - 2,374,011 State Department of Aging and Disability Services 34,803 350 - 35,153 11,321 415 23,417 Total Human Services 4,653,667 5,404 - 4,659,071 2,261,228 415 2,397,428 EDUCATION, MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES Department of Education 3,386,631 916 - 3,387,547 868,208 12,424 2,506,915 Office of Early Childhood 395,663 288 - 395,951 138,445 550 256,956		-			-	-	-	-
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State Department on Aging - <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>								
Department of Aging and Disability Services 34,803 350 - 35,153 11,321 415 23,417 Total Human Services 4,653,667 5,404 - 4,659,071 2,261,228 415 2,397,428 EDUCATION, MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES Department of Education 3,386,631 916 - 3,387,547 868,208 12,424 2,506,915 Office of Early Childhood 395,663 288 - 395,951 138,445 550 256,956	*	4,618,864	5,054	-	4,623,918	2,249,907	-	2,374,011
Total Human Services 4,653,667 5,404 - 4,659,071 2,261,228 415 2,397,428 EDUCATION, MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES Department of Education 3,386,631 916 - 3,387,547 868,208 12,424 2,506,915 Office of Early Childhood 395,663 288 - 395,951 138,445 550 256,956			-	-	-	-	-	-
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Office of Early Childhood 395,663 288 - 395,951 138,445 550 256,956	EDUCATION, MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES							
	*			-				
Connecticut Lechnical Education and Career System 191,823 (9,704) 16,200 198,319 84,121 - 114,198				-			550	
	Connecticut Technical Education and Career System	191,823	(9,704)	16,200	198,319	84,121	-	114,198

State Library	10,991	187	-	11,178	3,760	-	7,418
Office of Higher Education	56,095	136	-	56,231	5,565	175	50,491
University of Connecticut	239,638	7,811	-	247,449	104,817	-	142,632
University of Connecticut Health Center	131,390	4,085	-	135,475	54,161	-	81,314
Teachers' Retirement Board	1,587,527	33,616	8,900	1,630,043	788,505	-	841,538
Connecticut State Colleges and Universities	469,180	15,912		485,092	160,591		324,501
Total Education, Museums, Libraries	6,468,938	53,247	25,100	6,547,285	2,208,173	13,149	4,325,963
CORRECTIONS							
	713,044	(10,775)	31,050	733,319	316,873		416,446
Department of Correction Department of Children and Families	817,601	(309,141)	51,050	508,460	239,274	4,570	264,616
Total Corrections	1,530,645		31,050	1,241,779	556,147	4,570	681,062
Total Corrections	1,550,045	(319,916)	51,050	1,241,779	550,147	4,570	081,002
JUDICIAL							
Judicial Department	609,817	4,977	9,000	623,794	270,568	5,000	348,226
Public Defender Services Commission	89,492	1,016	667	91,175	36,592	-	54,583
Total Judicial	699,309	5,993	9,667	714,969	307,160	5,000	402,809
NON-FUNCTIONAL							
Governor's Contingency Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	1,985,729	(28,300)	-	1,957,429	580,059	50,592	1,326,778
UConn 2000 - Debt Service	226,542	-	-	226,542	55,279	-	171,263
CHEFA Day Care Security	4,000	-	-	4,000	(299)	-	4,299
Pension Obligation Bonds - TRB	330,191	-	-	330,191	54,520	-	275,671
Municipal Restructuring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserve for Salary Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workers' Compensation Claims	8,260	-	-	8,260	7,413	-	847
Workers' Compensation Claims - UCONN	2,271	-	-	2,271	1,817	-	454
Workers' Compensation Claims - UCHC	3,461	-	-	3,461	2,769	-	692
Workers' Compensation Claims - CSCU	3,289	-	-	3,289	2,631	-	658
Workers' Compensation Claims - DCF	10,287	-	-	10,287	8,230	-	2,057
Workers' Compensation Claims - DMHAS	18,561	-	-	18,561	14,849	-	3,712
Workers' Compensation Claims - DESPP	3,723	-	-	3,723	2,979	-	744
Workers' Compensation Claims - DDS	15,773	-	-	15,773	12,619	-	3,154
Workers' Compensation Claims - DOC Adjudicated Claims	34,123 4,000	5,000	-	34,123 9,000	27,298 7,452	-	6,825 1,548
•	4,000	5,000	-	9,000	15	-	1,548
Death Benefits for State Employees	29	-	-	29	15	-	14
Reimburse Towns-Tax Loss-State Property Grants to Towns	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reimburse Towns-Tax Loss-Tax Exempt Property					_	_	
Unemployment Compensation	5,055			5,055	1,937	_	3,118
Higher Education Alternative Retirement System	15,396	_	_	15,396	34,735	_	(19,339)
Pensions and Retirements - Other Statutory	2,189			2,189	928	-	1,261
Judges & Compensation Commissioners Retirement	37,436	(6,976)	-	30,460	14,726	-	15,734
Insurance - Group Life	10,428	(0,570)	-	10,428	3,804	-	6,624
Tuition Reimbursement - Training & Travel	-	11,323	-	11,323	1,747	-	9,576
Employers Social Security	198,254	7,137	-	205,391	82,608	-	122,783
State Employees Health Service	708,257	(24,444)	-	683,813	264,145	-	419,668
Retired State Employees Health Service Cost	738,000	-	-	738,000	296,075	-	441,925
Other Post Employment Benefits	43,946	1,582	-	45,528	28,065	-	17,463
Insurance Recoveries		-	-	-	· -	-	-
SERS Defined Contribution Match	24,500	-	-	24,500	6,591	-	17,909
SERS Contributions- Normal Cost	182,006	2,267	-	184,273	76,340	-	107,933
SERS Contributions-UAL	1,420,805	29,154	-	1,449,959	598,481	-	851,478
Employees Retirement Contributions	2,181	-	-	2,181	-	-	2,181
Retirement Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CT Premium Pay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Functional Change to Accruals-Fringe	38,999	(99,458)	99,458	38,999	(691,444)	-	730,443
Miscellaneous Adjustments/Rounding	(2,384)	448,759	6,000	452,375		118,040	334,335
Total Non-Functional	6,075,307	346,044	105,458	6,526,809	1,496,369	168,632	4,861,808
Total Budgeted Appropriations	\$ 23,427,500	\$ (9,776)	\$ 468,168	\$ 23,885,892	\$ 8,398,419	\$ 245,887	\$ 15,241,586

STATE OF CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION FUND BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2024

(In Thousands)

<u>Exhibit E</u>

ASSETS

Cash and Short Term Investments Accrued Taxes Receivable	\$ 564,185 3,867
Due from Other Funds Unrealized Revenue - Exhibit G	- 1,990,684
Total Assets	\$ 2,558,736

APPROPRIATIONS, LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Misc Adjustments	\$ 33,371
Reserved to Reduce STO Indebtedness	526,896
Unexpended Appropriations - Exhibit H	1,426,731
Liabilities	307
Due To Other Funds	157
Unappropriated Surplus - Exhibit F	 571,274
Total Appropriations, Liabilities and Surplus	\$ 2,558,736

STATE OF CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION FUND ANALYSIS OF UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2024

(In Thousands)

Exhibit F

	Budget <u>Plan</u>	Budgetary Increases <u>(Decreases)</u>	Other Increases <u>(Decreases)</u>	Revised <u>Estimates</u>
BUDGETED REVENUE - EXHIBIT G				
Taxes	\$ 1,931,100	\$ (37,200)	\$-	\$ 1,893,900
Other Revenue	423,400	36,100		459,500
Total Budgeted Revenue	2,354,500	(1,100)		2,353,400
APPROPRIATIONS - EXHIBIT H				
Budgeted Appropriations	2,448,403	(137)	1,500	2,449,766
Continued from Prior Year	150,000			150,000
Current Year Appropriations	2,298,403	(137)	1,500	2,299,766
Estimated Lapses	(12,000)	(94,040)	-	(106,040)
Restricted Grants Affecting Surplus				
Net Appropriations	2,286,403	(94,177)	1,500	2,193,726
Surplus from Operations	68,097	93,077	(1,500)	159,674
Miscellaneous Adjustments	-	-	-	-
Surplus, July 1, 2024	411,600			411,600
Projected Surplus, June 30, 2025	<u>\$ 479,697</u>	<u>\$ 93,077</u>	<u>\$ (1,500)</u>	<u>\$ 571,274</u>

STATE OF CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION FUND STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED AND REALIZED REVENUE FOR THE FOUR MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2024

(In Thousands)

Exhibit G

	Estimated <u>Revenue</u>	Increases or <u>(Decreases)</u>	Revised <u>Estimates</u>	Realized <u>Revenue</u>	Unrealized <u>Revenue</u>
TAXES					
Motor Fuels Tax	\$ 506,700	\$ 4,000	\$ 510,700	\$ 191,095	\$ 319,605
Oil Companies	357,200	(20,500)	336,700	86,357	250,343
Sales and Use Tax	883,200	(4,000)	879,200	218,770	660,430
Sales Tax DMV	106,500	11,300	117,800	49,563	68,237
Highway Use	94,100	(33,300)	60,800	-	60,800
Totals	1,947,700	(42,500)	1,905,200	545,785	1,359,415
Less Refunds of Taxes	(16,600)	5,300	(11,300)	(3,360)	(7,940)
Net Taxes	1,931,100	(37,200)	1,893,900	542,425	1,351,475
OTHER REVENUE					
Motor Vehicle Receipts	255,400	25,200	280,600	113,847	166,753
Licenses, Permits and Fees	126,100	7,800	133,900	54,031	79,869
Interest Income	51,000	12,600	63,600	27,362	36,238
Federal Grants	8,100	(2,900)	5,200	4,424	776
Transfer to/from Other Funds	(13,500)	-	(13,500)	(370,915)	357,415
Transfer to Emissions Enterprise Fund	-	-	-	(2,750)	2,750
Totals	427,100	42,700	469,800	(174,001)	643,801
Less Refunds of Payments	(3,700)	(6,600)	(10,300)	(5,708)	(4,592)
Net Other Revenue	423,400	36,100	459,500	(179,709)	639,209
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$ 2,354,500	\$ (1,100)	\$ 2,353,400	\$ 362,716	\$ 1,990,684

STATE OF CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION FUND STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FOUR MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2024 (In Thousands)

	Continued and Initial <u>Appropriations</u>	Increases or <u>(Decreases)</u>	Estimated Additional <u>Requirements</u>	Total <u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	Estimated <u>Lapses</u>	Unexpended <u>Appropriations</u>
Department of Transportation	\$ 1,323,617	\$ (223,736)	\$ -	\$ 1,099,881	\$ 440,785	\$ 3,900	\$ 655,196
Department of Motor Vehicles	88,563	1,582	-	90,145	30,237	10,000	49,908
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	17,971	(3,515)	-	14,456	1,762	10,000	2,694
Office of Policy and Management	9,853	(9,090)	-	763	292	-	471
Debt Service - State Treasurer	951,116	(3,260)	-	947,856	361,960	80,000	505,896
Reserve for Salary Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-		-
Workers' Compensation Claims	6,723	-	-	6,723	5,089	-	1,634
Department of Administrative Services	(216,334)	234,414	1,500	19,580	7,155	500	11,925
Unemployment Compensation	360	-	-	360	118	-	242
Higher Ed Alternatve Ret Syst	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance - Group Life	414	-	-	414	154	-	260
Employers Social Security Tax	19,026	100	-	19,126	7,981	-	11,145
State Employees Health Service	71,541	-	-	71,541	27,493	-	44,048
Other Post Employment Benefits	2,989	108	-	3,097	1,600	-	1,497
SERS Defined Contribution Match	1,539	-	-	1,539	426	-	1,113
SERS Contributions- Normal Cost	21,096	262	-	21,358	8,848	-	12,510
SERS Contributions-UAL	146,129	2,998	-	149,127	61,553	-	87,574
Non-Functional-Change to Accruals	3,800	-	-	3,800	(38,458)	1,640	40,618
Insurance Recoveries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated	-			-	-	-	-
Total Budgeted Appropriations	\$ 2,448,403	\$ (137)	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,449,766	\$ 916,995	\$ 106,040	\$ 1,426,731



OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC UPDATE

In this month's edition

Outlook: The envy of other major economies, the U.S. economy is expected to continue growing at a moderate pace, and Connecticut's along with it. The U.S. economy has grown faster than expected this year, thanks in part to higher productivity. Conversely, China is still grappling with the fallout of a domestic real estate crisis and growth is slower in Europe.

Major changes ahead in trade policy: The incoming Trump administration has threatened broad 25% tariffs on our neighbors and the European Union and 10% additional tariffs on all Chinese imports, which could result in higher costs for businesses and consumers. Tariffs can harm the state's exporters as well, thanks to exchange rate fluctuation and retaliation. The threats may just be a negotiating tactic, but Trump started a trade war with China in his first term.

Interest rates expected to gradually decline: The Federal Reserve cut interest rates by another 25 basis points in December, with gradual further cutting (about 50 bps) anticipated in 2025. Central bankers now anticipate inflation lingering above their 2% target for longer (until 2026) amid faster economic growth. Consumer prices grew 2.7% year-over-year in November.

New England consumer prices are rising faster (3.1% y/y) than the U.S. average, though the gap has decreased from last month. New England consumer prices are up a cumulative 19.2% since 2019.

Connecticut home prices and rents continue to rise: Connecticut saw a 5.3% y/y increase in median rent for new leases in November according to Apartment List. The median sale price rose 7.0% y/y in November according to Redfin. Affordability challenges are expected to continue in 2025.

The holiday shopping season is expected to be solid for retailers, supported by growing average incomes. U.S. disposable personal incomes grew 2.6% year-over-year in November while personal consumption expenditures grew 2.9%, with both measures adjusted for inflation.

Connecticut's GDP grew 3.0% in 2024Q3 (seasonally adjusted annual rate), just below U.S. growth of 3.1% in the July-September period. The Retail Trade industry accounted for the most growth – about one-third of the total, with the Information and Manufacturing sectors also performing well.

Labor markets have cooled but remain healthy: The national labor market added a solid 227,000 new jobs in November after a below-trend 36,000 job gain in October. Connecticut gained 300 net jobs for the month and kept its unemployment rate at 3.0%. The strong jobs market is supporting abovebudget Personal Income Tax revenue growth.

KEY DATES THIS MONTH

1/10 – December U.S. jobs report
1/15 – December CPI inflation report
1/15 – January CT Consensus Revenues
1/27 – December CT jobs report
1/28-1/29 – Federal Reserve FOMC interest rate-setting meeting
1/30 – U.S. 2024Q4 GDP first estimate

Did you know?

The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) publishes detailed, up-to-date information on state expenditures and revenue collections in our transparency tool, <u>Open Connecticut</u>. You can drill down to see payments to specific vendors. It also includes employee-level payroll and pension information on the state workforce.

About OSC

Sean Scanlon, State Comptroller Tara Downes, Deputy State Comptroller

The mission of OSC is to provide accounting and financial services, to administer employee and retiree benefits, to develop accounting policy and exercise accounting oversight, and to prepare financial reports for state, federal and municipal governments and the public.

Questions about this report? Email: Michelle Parlos OSC Economist michelle.c.parlos@ct.gov



Sean Scanlon State Comptroller JANUARY 2025

WHAT'S UP WITH TARIFFS?

This month we dive deeper into Connecticut's involvement in international trade, as we anticipate impacts from the incoming Trump possible Administration's trade policies. Broad tariffs are likely to impact both importers and exporters. According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, a total of 5,360 companies exported from Connecticut locations in 2022 (the latest data available). Of those, 4,680 (87%) were small and medium sized businesses with fewer than 500 employees (accounting for 47.8% of goods exports). Connecticut imported \$22.0 billion in goods from the world in 2023, with 42.7% of that coming from Canada and Mexico, our top import markets. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on those country's imports, which if enacted, would likely scramble supply chains and drive-up costs for many businesses and consumers. Higher tariffs on Chinese goods, and maybe European, are expected too.

Tariffs are a tax on imports from other countries, which make those goods more expensive. Imports can be final goods, like an avocado or washing machine, or intermediate goods that Connecticut businesses use in their production, like metal parts for a jet engine, farming machinery, or Canadian lumber for building homes. The higher cost for inputs can lead to lower profit margins for U.S. businesses, be passed on as higher costs for consumers (contributing to inflation), or force the foreign exporters to lower their wholesale prices. Tariffs will be welcomed by some Connecticut companies as a way to make their domestically made products more competitive with cheaper foreign goods. The value of the

BILION OF DOLARS

CONNECTICUT IMPORTS

U.S. dollar against other currencies is likely to change in the face of broad tariffs, and we have already seen the dollar strengthening on expectations for these policies. A stronger dollar and tariff protection from competition may lessen the pain for importers that sell to U.S. customers, but a stronger dollar will hurt exporters by making their products more expensive overseas. Exporters may also face retaliatory tariffs on their sales to foreign markets.

Transportation equipment and primary metal manufactures are the largest categories of goods imports for Connecticut. Connecticut reduced its imports from China by 37.1% from 2019 to 2023, as businesses sought to reduce reliance on Chinese goods in their supply chains following the trade war with China in Trump's first term and the COVID-19 pandemic.

RISKS AND EVENTS WE'RE WATCHING

Sweeping policy changes in Washington are possible given Republican control of the next Congress and the White House after January 20. Possible changes include deregulation, corporate tax relief, broad tariffs on major trading partners, and mass deportations of illegal immigrants. If enacted, such policies are likely to have a major impact on Connecticut businesses, especially in trade-related industries such as manufacturing or foreign-labor intensive industries such as construction and hospitality.

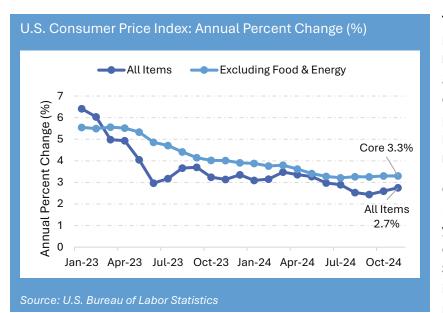
Fighting in Ukraine and the Middle East remains a risk, should fighting escalate or impact the oil supply and thus oil prices. The rapid overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria last month introduces new uncertainty.

There is elevated uncertainty on **future federal government funding** for various programs that directly impact Connecticut residents and the state budget.



INTEREST RATES AND INFLATION

The Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted to reduce the federal funds rate by 25 basis points at their December meeting, bringing the target range to 4.25-4.50%. That range is down 100 basis points (one full percentage point) since this summer. The FOMC first cut its key interest rate by 50 basis points in September, followed by another 25 basis points in November. The Federal Reserve raised rates aggressively in 2022-2023 to combat the highest inflation in forty years and has now begun to loosen monetary policy to prevent unemployment. The resilient U.S. economy is giving policymakers an opportunity to proceed cautiously, with on average two small cuts projected during 2025. The labor market continues to cool down from its post-pandemic fever pitch but appears healthy overall.



The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.3% in November, putting annual inflation at 2.7%. The last two months have seen slight increases in the annual rate, in line with economists' expectations. Core CPI, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, rose 3.3% for the year in November and has been flat at that rate for months, thanks largely to stubborn housing and services inflation.

One bright spot in the CPI report was that the New England CPI fell from 3.3% to 3.1% in November, year-over-year. That rate is still higher than the U.S. city average, but the gap has been closing since September. New Englanders have seen less inflation in grocery prices in the past twelve months than the U.S. as a whole. On the other

hand, New Englanders continue to experience faster price increases for housing, medical care, and education and communication services.

The speed of price growth has slowed dramatically since peaking at 7.9% for the New England region in June 2022, but that is small comfort for everyone experiencing the accumulated price increases of the past five years. Thanks to faster inflation in 2021 and 2022, average hourly wage growth failed to keep up with price growth in those years, causing significant strain. While average hourly wages have been growing faster than inflation the past two years, average hourly wages have grown less than prices over the past five years as a whole. Average hourly

Year	New England CPI Inflation Annual % Change	Average Hourly Earnings Private Sector Employees in CT Annual % Change	Difference: Avg. Hourly Earnings Growth and Inflation Rate
2019	1.9	3.0	1.1
2020	0.9	3.1	2.2
2021	3.6	(0.6)	(4.2)
2022	7.1	2.5	(4.6)
2023	2.9	3.8	0.9
2024 (Jan-Nov)	3.1	5.2	2.0
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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

wages for private sector employees in Connecticut rose 14.6% from November 2019 to November 2024, while New England consumer prices rose 19.2% over that time. That means that if people are working the same number of hours, the average hourly wage earner can afford less food, housing, insurance, and other essentials now than they could in 2019, unless they have other forms of income with faster growth to make up the difference.



CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

While high interest rates have dampened some residential construction activity, a higher value of nonresidential and heavy engineering construction projects have started in Connecticut this year. ConstructConnect reports that the value of year-todate project starts through November is up 10.8%. Connecticut growth is faster than New England (10.5%) and overall U.S. starts growth (0.1%). COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE With the Federal Reserve now projecting 0.5 percentage points of rate cuts in 2025, lower-quality office buildings with high vacancy rates are vulnerable to foreclosure. Demand has shifted towards smaller, high-end spaces, lowering the value of less desirable space. Continued high interest rates spell trouble for underperforming commercial properties that need to be refinanced in the next few years.

Connecticut Housing Market Trends November 2024

+5.1%

Homes Sold YoY Redfin

+8.9%

Active Listings YoY Realtor.com

+1

Days on Market YoY Realtor.com

\$423,000

Median Sales Price Redfin

6.72%

Freddie Mac 30-Year Fixed Rate Mortgage Average for the week ending 12/19

+5.3% Statewide Median Rent YoY Apartment List

CONNECTICUT HOUSING MARKET

November home sales increased on a year-over-year basis, likely in response to mortgage rates dipping below 6.1% in September and slightly more inventory on the market. Connecticut's pick up was in line with national trends, as the National Association of Realtors reported that U.S. November existing home sales increased 4.8% from October and 6.1% from last year.

More generally, home sales activity remains below 2019 levels and median prices are up by around 60%. The mortgage rate "lock in" effect is keeping homeowners with very low interest rates from listing their homes, which has pushed up prices for homes that are available to buy. For those who already own, higher home values make people feel wealthier, which fuels consumer spending and economic growth.

For those looking to buy for the first time, starter homes are increasingly unaffordable as prices have risen far faster than wage growth and interest rates are high (though down from their recent peaks). One positive is that recent data suggests Connecticut's supply-constrained housing market may finally have seen inventory levels bottom out.

The average 30-year fixed rate mortgage rate was 6.72% in mid-December. Due to inflation and federal deficit expectations under the next administration, mortgage rates are not expected to fall significantly in 2025, keeping homes expensive to finance. Not enough homes to meet demand is expected to continue pushing up home prices in the state. The median sales price increased 9.3% year-to-date in 2024 according to Redfin.

The state taxes conveyances of real estate, including homes, so fewer sales typically translate to lower collections for the General Fund. The surge of home sales at higher prices more than doubled collections of conveyance tax in FY 2021 to \$385.0 million. Collections in 2025 are projected to reach \$277.6 million due to lower sales activity, despite rising prices.

Connecticut continues to see some of the highest year-over-year rent growth in the nation, with the Hartford metro area ranked second nationally among large metros by Apartment List, with growth of 4.6%. The average asking rent in Connecticut for the third quarter of 2024 was \$1,886, according to CoStar Group data provided by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority.



OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC UPDATE

Sean Scanlon State Comptroller JANUARY 2025

CONSUMER SPENDING

Consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of the economy, so the health of the American Consumer says a lot. Incomes are rising and early reports for the 2024 holiday shopping season suggest that consumers are still spending, albeit in a more value-conscious way. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. disposable personal incomes grew 2.6% year-over-

year in November while personal consumption expenditures grew 2.9%. with both measures adjusted for inflation. Spending was especially strong on durable goods (think cars and washing machines), which have seen prices come down in the past year. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is shorter this year, which could lead to lower holiday spending.

Several trends suggest retail sales in Connecticut will be solid this season. Average weekly earnings for Connecticut private sector employees have grown 5.0% this year. Strong stock market gains and rising home values are making some Connecticut residents feel wealthier and more willing to spend. However, lowerincome households are likely to be limited in their



spending given the accumulated cost increases for housing and other essentials, as well as still-high interest rates for financing purchases.

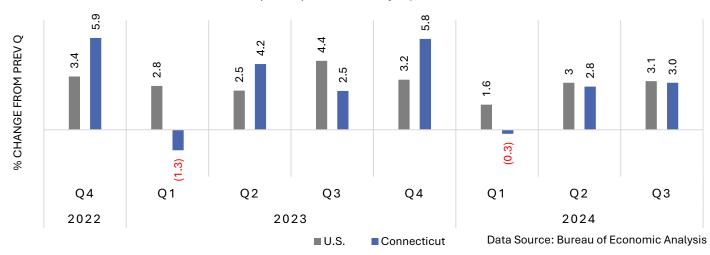
ECONOMIC GROWTH

Connecticut's economy grew at nearly the same pace as the nation's in 2024Q3 (July to September): 3.0% for Connecticut versus 3.1% nationally, at seasonally

> adjusted annual rates. Current U.S. forecasts for Q4 suggest that the strong growth has likely continued.

> The Retail Trade industry accounted for the most growth – about one-third of the total, in both Connecticut and the U.S in Q3. The Information and Manufacturing sectors contributed the next highest amounts to growth.

In Connecticut, the private sector grew at a 3.14% annual rate in Q3, while the state and local governments' contribution to the economy actually shrank, lowering total growth. Labor market data also indicate that the private sector is growing here, while the public sector has shed some workers in recent months.



Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth by Quarter: US & CT



OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC UPDATE

CONNECTICUT LABOR MARKET SUMMARY

Unemployment remains extremely low at 3.0% in November-below the U.S. average of 4.2%. Connecticut's labor force is up by 3,500 workers (0.2%) compared to last November, which is good news for companies looking for workers to fill some 73,000 open jobs. The state added a small number of positions (+300) in November, with gains in finance and insurance as well as healthcare offsetting losses in professional and business services and retail this month, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The private sector gained 1,900 jobs (0.1%) over the past two months while fewer state education jobs are driving public-sector employment declines.

The Connecticut job opening rate has been trending downwards, as it has nationally.1 Companies aren't looking to hire as many new workers as in 2021-2023.

Openings remain above pre-pandemic levels while the number of unemployed persons per job opening (0.8) remains slightly lower than in 2019. The difference between new hires and job openings suggests that around 20,000 job openings have gone unfilled in recent months. Despite an increase earlier this year, the rate of layoffs and discharges remains relatively low.

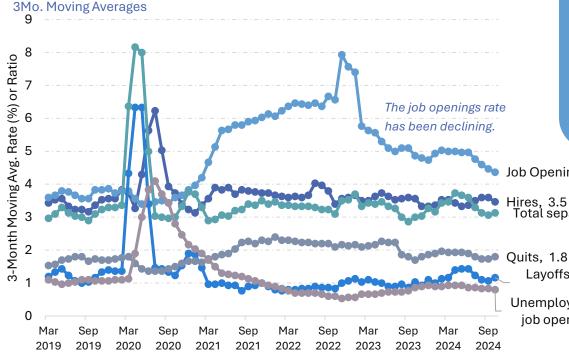


In October, there were 57,700 unemployed people and 73,000 job openings in the state.

See the appendix for more detailed industry information.



Layoffs and discharges, 1.2 Unemployed persons per job opening ratio, 0.8



¹ The job opening rate is equal to the number of job openings on the last business day of the month as a percent of total employment plus job openings.



APPENDIX

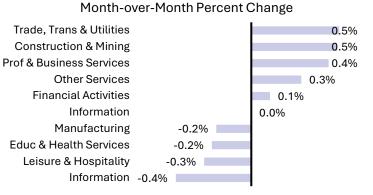
Connecticut Housing Market	Nov-24	Nov-23	% Change or Change
Home Sales (Redfin)	3,191	3,036	5.1%
Median Sales Price (Redfin)	422,500	395,000	7.0%
Active Listing Count (Realtor.com)	4,610	4,234	8.9%
New Listing Count (Realtor.com)	2,496	2,726	-8.4%
Freddie Mac U.S. 30-Year Fixed Rate Mortgage Average (Week ending 12/19/24 and 12/21/23)	6.72	6.67	0.7%
Median Days on Market (from listing to close, Realtor.com)	46	45	1
Average Sale-to-List Price Ratio (Redfin)	101.9%	102.6%	-0.7%
Median Rent for New Leases (Apartment List)	1,674	1,590	5.3%
Single-family Housing Permits Year-to-date (U.S. Census Bureau)	1,954	1,821	7.3%
2+ Unit Structures Housing Permits Year-to-date (U.S. Census Bureau)	2,904	3,022	-3.9%

Some Data Retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

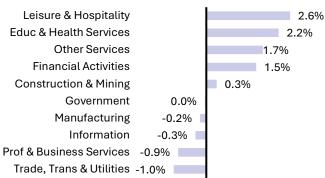
Connecticut Labor Market	Nov-24	Oct-24	Nov-23
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.0%	4.2%
Total Unemployed	56,900	57,700	80,300
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,709,300	1,709,000	1,699,700
Job Growth	+300	-300	-1,000
Job Openings to Unemployed Ratio	-	1.3	1.1
Quit Rate	-	1.8	1.7
Average Monthly Initial Unemployment Claims	2,837	2,269	2,354
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.1%	64.1%	64.3%
Average Hourly Wage	\$38.32	\$38.44	\$36.62

Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics & CT Department of Labor

Connecticut Industry Sector Nonfarm Payroll Employment



Year-over-Year Percent Change



Data Source: CT Department of Labor

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