

# Led by schools, health care, Connecticut adds 5K jobs

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## FULL TEXT

The COVID-19 infection rate has been edging up, but the state Department of Labor reported Thursday that Connecticut employers in October added 5,300 jobs across numerous industries.

Schools, health care, financial activities and leisure and hospitality each gained more than 1,000 jobs. Economists also revised upward job gains in September by 1,800, to a gain of 6,500 jobs.

The unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 6.4%. The U.S. rate in October was 4.6%.

Employers in the private sector added 5,900 jobs, with 40,300 more jobs than in October 2020.

The number of government positions fell by 600 in comparison with last year when the federal government hired temporary Census workers.

"Job growth has been broad-based across industries and accelerated each calendar quarter in the first three quarters of 2021. October's gains add to that growth," said Patrick Flaherty, the Labor Department's research director.

A fall in the unemployment rate by 0.4 percentage points each month in four of the past five months is a "rapid decline by historic standards," he said.

Interim Labor Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo said the improving labor force is due partly to Connecticut residents who "have taken the virus seriously and responded admirably by wearing masks, getting vaccinated and socially distancing."

"This has helped keep the virus in check and our economy is stronger for it," she said.

Gov. Ned Lamont on Wednesday urged residents to get a booster shot to protect against COVID-19. The weekly average for positive cases has been rising in Connecticut since late September.

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