

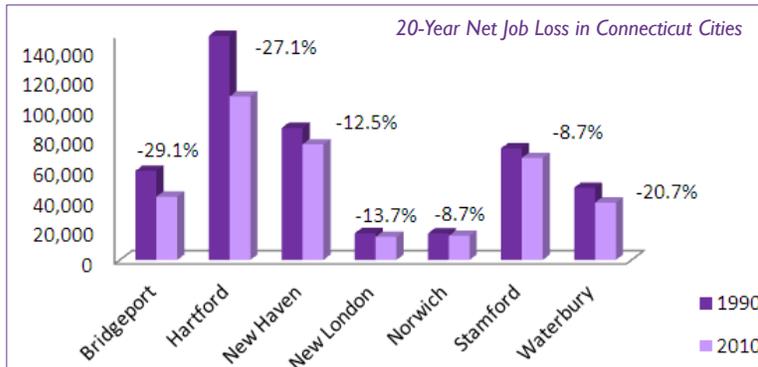


# REVERSING JOB LOSSES IN CONNECTICUT CITIES

In the not-so-distant past, Connecticut cities were the epicenters of economic growth and family-supporting jobs. Beginning in the 1970s, however, Connecticut's urban landscapes began to change as business and industry moved to the suburbs. Connecticut's cities continue to experience an erosion of jobs, contributing to high unemployment and economic disparities for urban residents.

## URBAN JOB LOSS 19.6%

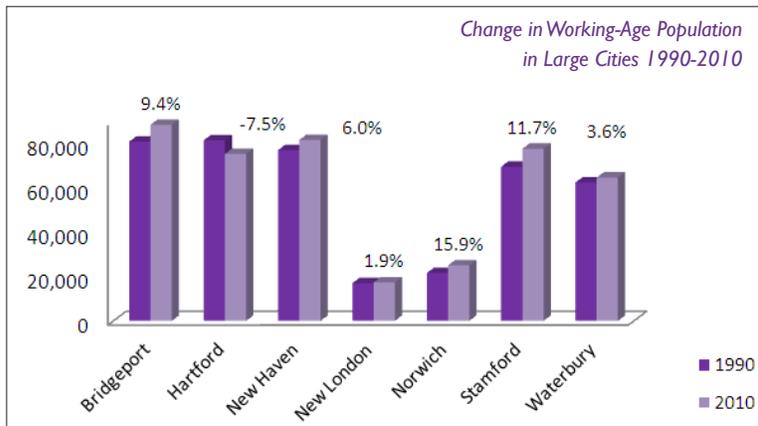
Between 1990 and 2010, Connecticut cities (i.e., Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, New London, Norwich, Stamford, and Waterbury) lost almost **90,000 jobs** (19.6 percent), while the number of jobs in the state remained relatively constant (i.e., overall Connecticut had a job loss of 1.4 percent). The largest percentage losses occurred in Bridgeport, Hartford, and Waterbury.



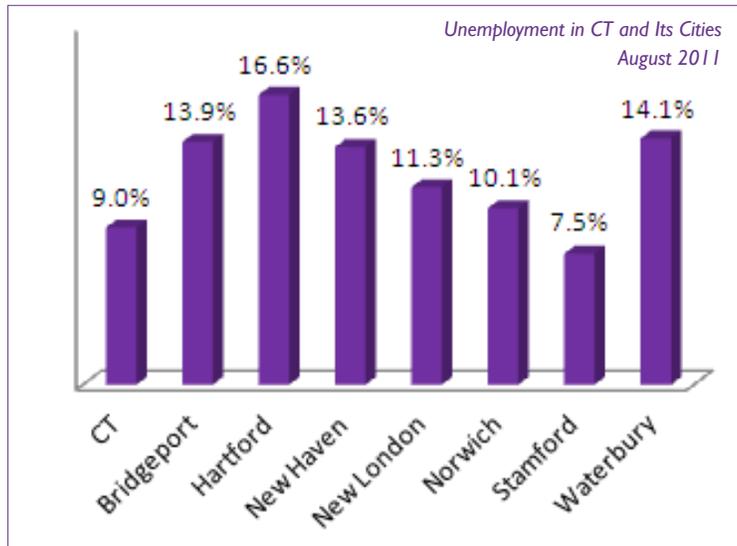
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. CT Department of Labor.

## FEWER JOBS, MORE WORKERS

In each of these cities, except Hartford, the working-age population increased while the number of jobs was dropping. The state's working age population increased by 7.7% during this time.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, Demographic Profile Data, Table DP-1. Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 and 1990 Decennial Census, Summary File 1, Table P001. Persons.



Source: The Office of Research, CT Department of Labor. (2011). *CT Labor Market Information, Local Area Unemployment Statistics*.

## URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT

The substantial loss of jobs in Connecticut's central cities over the past 20 years contributes to the significantly higher rates of unemployment in these cities, compared to the state as a whole. Median household income in many cities, meanwhile, is dramatically lower - \$29,190 in Hartford, \$39,832 in Waterbury and \$40,530 in Bridgeport -- compared to \$67,721 for the state as a whole.

The loss of jobs in central cities is a problem for urban residents. More must travel to suburbs for work where jobs are growing, but it is sometimes not worthwhile to do so, especially for the low-wage, part-time jobs low-skill urban workers can obtain. Connecticut's lack of public transportation between cities and suburbs makes some suburban jobs inaccessible for urban residents who don't own a car.

Loss of urban jobs is also a problem for the state's economy, since cities historically in Connecticut, and elsewhere, are the engines of economic growth and magnets for young people. **Turning the curve on job loss in our big cities will contribute to overall economic growth statewide and increase employment for urban residents.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Require hiring of urban residents in publicly-funded infrastructure projects
- Provide cities with a state bonding pool or other financing to use on selected projects that create permanent jobs for city residents
- Use CT Department of Labor's Jobs Funnels to train under-educated and un- and under-employed workers in urban centers
- Expand funnels to include high-growth industries such as health care and manufacturing as well as construction
- Close the achievement gap between urban and suburban schools—a longer-term issue that CAHS will comment on further for the 2012 legislative session, which will focus on education
- Create an Urban Job Growth agenda
- Create small business incubators in each large city to encourage small business creation, growth, and success

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN SERVICES (CAHS) WORKS TO END POVERTY AND ADVOCATES FOR POLICIES THAT PROMOTE INCOME EQUALITY AND ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

**REVERSING JOB LOSSES** IS PART OF A SERIES OF DATA AND POLICY BRIEFS ON JOBS AND EDUCATION.

VISIT [WWW.CAHS.ORG](http://WWW.CAHS.ORG) FOR OTHER BRIEFS AND UPDATES.