



FALL 2004 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY HEADCOUNTS IN CONNECTICUT

Total headcount enrollment at Connecticut's colleges and universities reached 172,735 students in fall 2004, representing the third straight year of an all-time record. This year's growth of 2,111 students, or 1.2 percent, was larger than last year's more tepid gain of 0.5 percent, or 876 students.

This report analyzes fall 2004 headcount enrollment as reported by Connecticut's public and independent colleges and universities. It presents data on students enrolled for credit at 47 institutions¹, with details on their status, level and sector of higher education. (The Appendix has institutional data.) A later report will have demographic detail on race/ethnicity, gender, age, residence, etc., as well as full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment.

For the rest of this report, all references to years are to enrollment in the fall of that year.

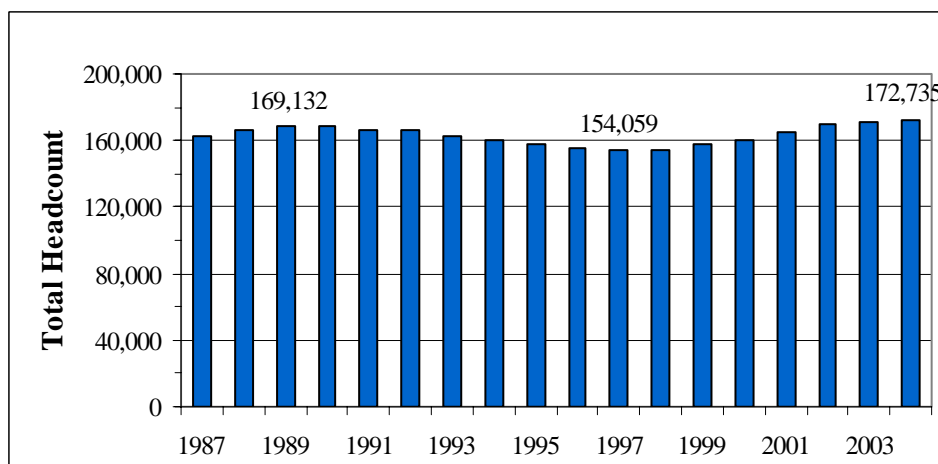
STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

OVERALL TRENDS

The 2004 total of 172,735 is the highest ever and represents the third straight year of record enrollment. The last three years in turn beat a 15-year-old record of 169,132 students set in 1989 (see Figure 1).

This year also marks seven consecutive years of growth since 1997, when total enrollment (154,059) stood at the lowest of the last

FIGURE 1: ENROLLMENT HISTORY
CONNECTICUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



¹A new two-year college (Legion of Christ College of Humanities, in Cheshire) is operating this academic year. Another institution (Briarwood College, in Southington) has switched from a two-year college to a four-year college, also effective this fall. Because this report focuses heavily on changing enrollment over the last several years, Briarwood in this analysis is still counted as a two-year college.

quarter century. Over that seven-year period, enrollment rose by 18,676 or 12 percent.

Enrollment grew by 2,111 students (or 1.2%) between 2003 and 2004. That growth, in both headcounts and percentages, was slightly below the average of the last seven years. (Growth in that period ranged from an anemic increase of 170 students in 1998 to the 5,071 student surge in 2002.)

The 1.2 percent overall growth in 2004 masks an increase of 3.4 percent in full-time enrollment and a decrease of 2.3 percent in part-time enrollment. Because of this divergence, the overall headcount increase of 1.2 percent almost certainly will result in a much larger growth in full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment. (By way of example, the 0.5% increase in headcount enrollment in fall 2003 yielded a 2.1% increase in FTE enrollment.)

As expected, the ranks of traditional college students continue to grow, with the number of full-time undergraduates climbing by 32 percent between 1997 and 2004 (see below). The overall 12 percent increase in all students during that time reflects both the growth in full-time undergraduates somewhat offset by a net decline of five percent among other types of students. In those six years, full-time undergraduates rose from 45 percent to 54 percent of total enrollment.

STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT 1997-2004

	1997	2004	# Change	% Change
Full-Time Undergraduates	69,999	92,708	22,709	32%
All Other Students	84,060	80,027	-4,033	-5%
Total	154,059	172,735	18,676	12%
Full-Time Undergraduates as % of Total	45%	54%		

Based on the 2000 Census, the total of 172,735 students equals 6.7 percent of Connecticut's adult population; in other words, about one in 15 adults in this state are matriculated college students. This is an underestimate of the share of the population attending college, because the 172,735 are students enrolled for credit and excludes non-credit students enrolled for professional development, licensure for some fields, self-improvement, etc.

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

Of the statewide total, 110,000 (64%) attend full-time and 62,735 (36%) attend part-time. As already noted, full-time enrollment this fall increased by 3.4 percent (or 3,573 students) over 2003, while the number of part-time students fell by 2.3 percent (or 1,462 students).

Although total counts have grown every year since 1997, full-time enrollment has been rising every year since 1994, driven largely at the undergraduate level. In 1993 and 1994, full-time

enrollment declined less than part-time enrollment did, meaning that full-time students as a percentage of total enrollment was rising. (Part-time enrollment consistently fell over that period, except for a slight up-tick in 2002.)

As a result, the full-time share has risen every year since 1992 (when it was 51% full-time) to 2004 (64% full-time), to create the startling shift depicted below:

**STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT
1992-2004**

	1992	2004	# Change	% Change
Full-Time	84,035	110,000	25,965	31%
Part-Time	81,760	62,735	-19,025	-23%
Total	165,795	172,735	6,940	4%
Full-Time as % of Total	51%	64%		

The 64 percent share for full-timers is the highest in at least 18 years, and the 12th consecutive gain since 1992. It is remarkable that Connecticut higher education in just 12 years shifted from a bare majority full-time to approach two-thirds full-time.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

The statewide total is comprised of 138,734 (80%) undergraduates, 30,475 (18%) graduate students and 3,526 (2%) first-professional students.² This percentage split among these three levels has remained very steady over the last 18 years.

Compared to last year, undergraduate and first-professional enrollment grew (by 1.8% and 1.7%, respectively) and graduate enrollment declined slightly (1.2%). All three levels followed the pattern in overall enrollment by showing growth in full-time students and a drop in part-time.

Since the overall trough year of 1997, enrollment is up 15 percent among undergraduates, two percent among graduate students and three percent among first-professionals, respectively.

A vast majority of both first-professional students (88%) and undergraduates (67%) attend full-time, but a minority (47%) of graduate students are full-timers. The full-time share among undergraduates has risen for 12 consecutive years (from 54% in 1992 to the 67% this year) and that share among graduate students has grown consistently for at least 17 years (from 29% full-time in 1987 to 47% this year.) The full-time share among first-professionals has been flat.

²First-professional programs train lawyers, medical doctors (broadly defined) and clergy and enroll students at only five of the state’s 47 colleges and universities.

PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SECTORS

Public institutions (including the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, or USCGA) enrolled 109,853 students in 2004 and independent institutions enrolled 62,882. The 64 percent share for the publics this year is the historical norm.

The share of students who are full-time is 56 percent at the publics (the fourth consecutive year of full-timers being a majority, after being a minority for at least 15 years) and 76 percent at the independents.

Figure 2 plots statewide enrollment shares in 2004 with further detail by sector.³ The 12 community colleges enrolled 26 percent of the state's students and the 18 regional independents captured another 23 percent of all students, with those two sectors combined falling just short of a majority (49.96%) of college students in Connecticut. The four institutions in the CSU system are not far behind, with 21 percent of the state's enrollment. UConn (16%) and the four national independents (11%) round out the lion's share of enrollment. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the six two-year independents combined contribute the remaining three percent of the statewide total.

FIGURE 2
FALL 2004 ENROLLMENT BY SECTOR

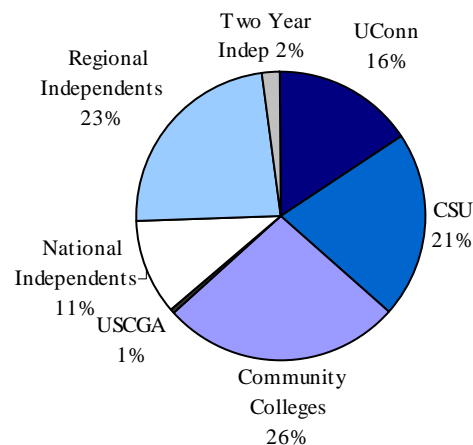
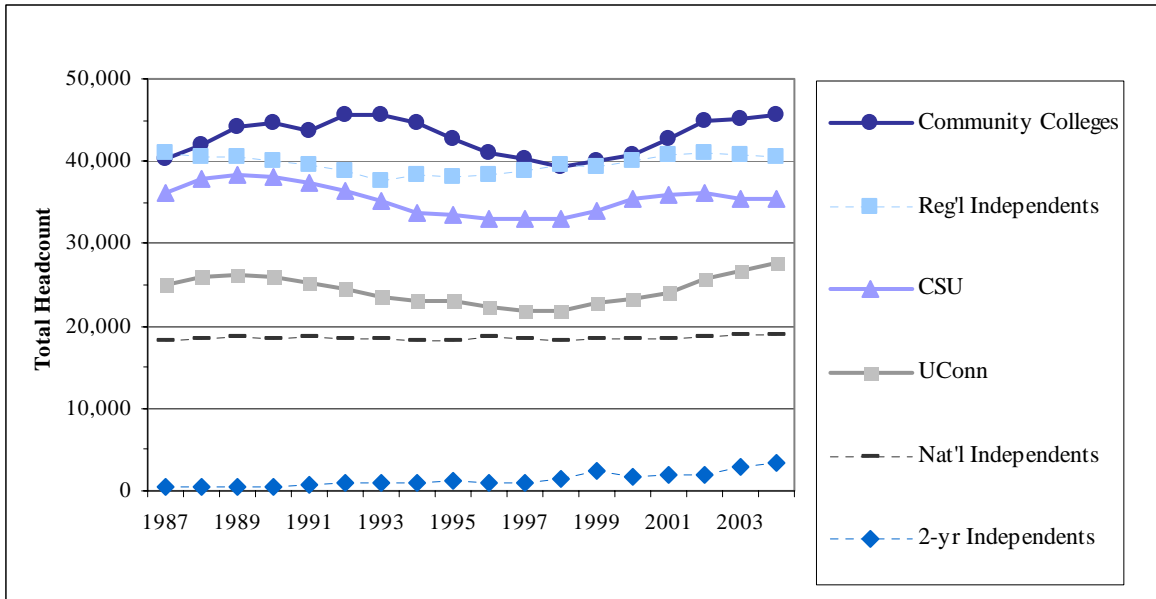


Figure 3 plots historical data on enrollment (as headcount, rather than share of the statewide total) for the six major sectors over the last 18 years. These data are described more fully under each section below, but Figure 3 displays two patterns. First, the relative shares of these sectors have remained remarkably stable over time. Second, with the exception of a virtually flat line for the national independents, enrollment by sector has gone up and down, sometimes in tandem and sometimes not.

³The state component of the public sector has three parts: a) the University of Connecticut (the main Storrs campus, three branch campuses, and the medical and dental schools at the Health Center in Farmington); b) four Connecticut State Universities (Central, Eastern, Southern and Western); and c) 12 Community Colleges. (The Coast Guard Academy is *sui generis* as a Federal institution; see page 11 for Charter Oak State College, which is the 19th public college.) The 28 independent institutions are split into: a) four national independents (recruiting students from a national pool), b) 18 regional independents and c) six two-year independents.

**FIGURE 3
ENROLLMENT BY SECTOR: 1987-2004**



A final perspective on the public and independent sectors comes from Table 1, which sorts the 47 institutions and breaks out UConn enrollment by campus. The 10 largest colleges enroll a solid majority (56%) of the state’s students, and the 10 smallest colleges educate one percent of college students in Connecticut.

Table 1 also separates publics from independents. The three institutions with the most students are public, as are 10 of the top 15. Excluding the UConn Health Center as a stand-alone medical/dental school, 12 of the 28 independents are smaller than the smallest public. The median size of the 22 public institutions (which counts UConn branches separately) is 3,853 students; the median of the 28 independents is 1,069.

**TABLE 1
FALL 2004 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, SORTED HIGH-TO-LOW**

PUBLICS	Fall 2004 Enrollment Total	INDEPENDENTS
UConn-Storrs	22,694	
Central CSU	12,320	
Southern CSU	12,177	
	11,441	Yale University
	7,246	University of Hartford
	7,220	Quinnipiac University
Manchester CC	5,906	
Western CSU	5,884	
Norwalk CC	5,790	

**TABLE 1 (CONT'D.)
FALL 2004 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, SORTED HIGH-TO-LOW**

PUBLICS	Fall 2004 Enrollment Total	INDEPENDENTS
	5,657	Sacred Heart University
Gateway CC	5,595	
Naugatuck Valley CC	5,514	
Eastern CSU	5,156	
	5,060	Fairfield University
Housatonic CC	4,701	
	4,173	University of New Haven
Tunxis CC	3,942	
Three Rivers CC	3,764	
Capital CC	3,436	
	3,274	University of Bridgeport
	3,217	Wesleyan University
UConn-Tri-Campus	2,391	
	2,390	Trinity College
	2,361	Albertus Magnus College
Middlesex CC	2,354	
	1,905	Connecticut College
	1,792	St. Joseph College
Quinebaug Valley CC	1,721	
Northwestern CT CC	1,516	
Asnuntuck CC	1,504	
UConn-Stamford	1,236	
	1,207	Gibbs College
	1,198	Teikyo Post University
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	994	
	940	Goodwin College
	806	Rensselaer at Hartford
UConn-Avery Point	773	
	700	Mitchell College
	637	Briarwood College
UConn-Health Center	485	
	407	St. Vincent's College
	306	Paier College of Art
	261	Holy Apostles College
	164	LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts
	160	Graduate Institute, The
	147	Hartford Seminary
	93	Int'l College of Hospitality Management
	91	Legion of Christ College of Humanities
	18	St. Thomas Seminary
	11	St. Basil's College

PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The 22 public institutions (21 state colleges, including UConn branches and the federal USCGA) enrolled 109,853 students, an increase of 1,633 students (1.5%) over 2003. Full-time students rose 5.2 percent and part-time students fell 2.9 percent. Excluding the Coast Guard Academy, state-supported institutions enrolled 108,859 students and saw virtually the same 1.5 percent growth. This is the sixth consecutive year of increases in both the public and state sectors.

For the fourth consecutive time in at least 21 years, full-time students represent a majority (56%) of total enrollment at the public institutions. This full-time share at the publics first became a majority (51%) in 2001.

The breakdown by level for public institutions is 94,633 undergraduates (86% of the total), 13,815 graduate students (13%) and 1,375 first-professional students (1%).

As noted above, the public sector enrolled 64 percent of all students in higher education. That share, however, is far from uniform because it enrolled 56 percent of the state's full-time students and 76 percent of those attending part-time. The public sector contains more than two-thirds (68%) of Connecticut undergraduates but less than half of both the state's graduate students (45%) and first-professional students (39%).

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT (UConn – FIVE CAMPUSES)

UConn as a whole enrolled 27,579 students this year, an increase of 950 students (3.6%) over last year. UConn breaks from the general pattern this year in seeing growth in both full-time (up 3.6%) and part-time (up 3.3%) students.

The main campus at Storrs has 22,694 students, up 2.9 percent over last year. Storrs represents 82 percent of the total enrollment for the state's flagship university, down slightly from the 83 percent share for the past four years.

The three branch campuses provides another 16 percent of university-wide enrollment. Avery Point registered 773 students (the same as last year), but both Stamford (1,236 students) and the Tri-Campus (2,391 students, with locations in Hartford, Torrington and Waterbury) grew nine percent this year. All three branch campuses have a majority of full-time students.

The UConn Health Center, with the state's public medical and dental schools, represents the last two percent of UConn enrollment. It has 485 students this year, up 12 students from 2003.

Those five entities, and the entire university, have the following profiles for their students in 2004. (Percentages read across by college.)

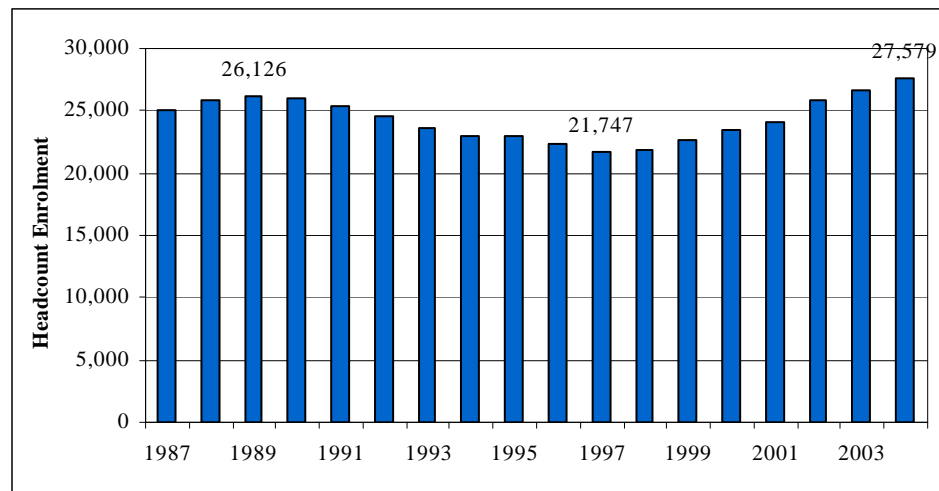
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
All of UConn	80%	20%	73%	22%	5%
Storrs	83%	17%	69%	27%	4%
Avery Point	59%	41%	100%	—	—
Tri-Campus	65%	35%	100%	—	—
Stamford	55%	45%	100%	—	—
Health Center	99%	1%	—	—	100%

There are 4,275 first-time freshmen (both full-time and part-time) across the UConn campuses, up four percent over last year and up 55 percent since the overall trough year of 1997. Those freshmen represent 21 percent of UConn undergraduates. Although UConn does not recruit freshmen solely from recent high school graduates, the UConn freshmen totals have closely mirrored the pool of Connecticut public high school graduates, which is projected in the next four years to rise another 11 percent until it peaks in the year 2008, and then decline five percent during the next five years until 2013.

As noted above, Storrs enrolls 82 percent of all UConn students. That Storrs’s share is 78 percent among undergraduates (85% among full-time undergraduates), 100 percent among graduate students (which reflects a policy change on where to count part-time graduate students rather than where they are actually enrolled) and 65 percent among first-professional students.

Figure 4, which plots UConn’s total enrollment over the last 18 years, shows a pattern similar to that in Figure 1 for statewide enrollment – a peak in 1989, a trough in 1997 and increases since then, with UConn in 2003 surpassing that earlier 1989 peak and setting another new record in 2004. The decline at

FIGURE 4
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT UCONN: 1987-2004



UConn between 1989 and 1997 was 4,379 students or 17 percent (higher than the statewide drop of 9%); the increase in the last six years is 5,832 students or 27 percent (also higher than the statewide gain of 12%).

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU – FOUR INSTITUTIONS)

CSU has 35,537 students, for a gain of 89 students (0.3%) over 2003. Full-time students were up 4.4 percent and part-time students were down 6.6 percent. Western saw a decline of 195 students (3.2%) from 2003, after being the only CSU last year to see a gain. The other three CSUs saw modest gains ranging from 0.3 percent at Southern to 1.6 percent at Central.

Central again is the largest CSU institution (12,320 students), after losing that distinction last year to Southern (12,177 students this year) for the first time in at least 18 years. Central enrolled 35 percent of all CSU students, Southern enrolled 34 percent, Western (5,884 students) added another 17 percent of CSU students and Eastern (5,156 students) provided the remaining 15 percent.

A summary profile of this year’s student body for the system and its four components is as follows: (Percentages again read across by college.)

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate
All of CSU	65%	35%	78%	22%
Central	63%	37%	78%	22%
Eastern	73%	27%	92%	8%
Southern	62%	38%	68%	32%
Western	67%	33%	87%	13%

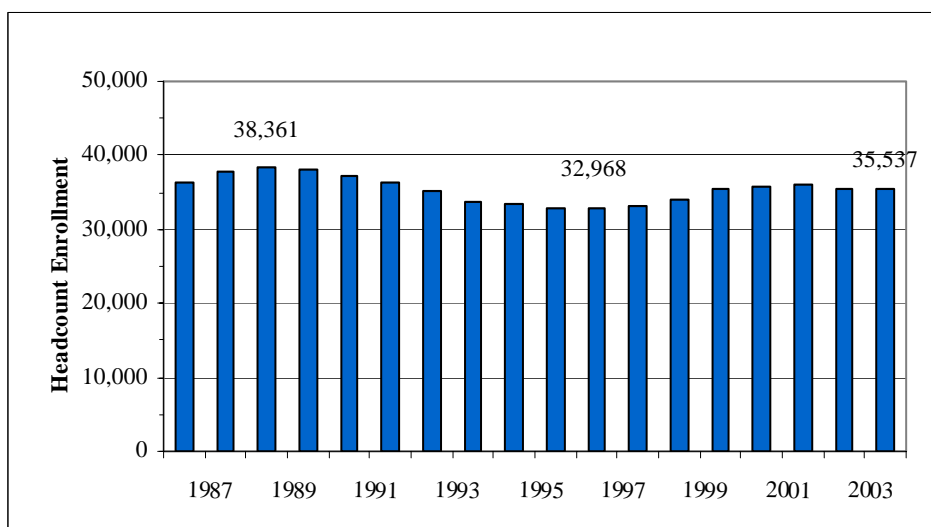
Eastern stands out from the pack for its higher share of full-time students, and much higher share of undergraduates. More than two-thirds (72%) of the students there are full-time undergraduates, which is consistent with Eastern’s mission as Connecticut’s liberal arts institution within the public sector. At Southern, CSU’s lead graduate institution, barely one-half (54%) of students are full-time undergraduates.

There are 4,607 first-time freshmen (both full-time and part-time) at the four CSUs, which is up 11 percent over last year, and they represent 17 percent of CSU undergraduates. This is a pronounced improvement over 2003, when the number of freshmen declined eight percent. However, there still is a pronounced imbalance in growth between freshmen and all other undergraduates. This year, freshmen increased 11 percent while other undergraduates declined one percent. In 2003, freshmen fell eight percent while all other undergraduates dropped two percent.

Until the last two years, the freshmen totals at CSU closely mirrored the pool of Connecticut public high school graduates, even though CSU does not recruit freshmen solely from in-state, high school graduates. It is unclear whether the freshmen total will again mirror those graduates, following the two-year roller coaster ride of large decline and large growth.

Figure 5 plots the systemwide totals for the last 18 years. As with the statewide and UConn data, we see a peak in 1989, more or less steady decline to a trough in 1997 and a general upward trend since then. However, the CSUs have not eclipsed the 1989 headcount acme, and this year's total remains seven percent short of that record.

FIGURE 5
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY:
1987-2004



The systemwide patterns mask differing institutional growth rates. From 1987 to 2004, Eastern's enrollment increased 19 percent, while Southern, Western and Central all declined (1%, 4% and 9%, respectively.) Eastern's enrollment peaked in 2001, while the other three campuses had their maximum enrollment within one year of the systemwide peak in 1989.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES (12 INSTITUTIONS)

The 12 community colleges as a whole enrolled 45,743 students this year, for a net increase of 583 (1.3%) over 2003. Full-time students were up 9.2 percent, and part-time students declined by 2.4 percent, which is the largest full-time/part-time differential among the three state systems.

Four of the 12 community colleges saw declines, with the largest at Norwalk, which dropped 257 students to 5,790. That displaced Norwalk from its five-year perch (1999-2003) as the largest college in this system. That distinction in 2004 shifts to Manchester, which also held that spot from 1987 to 1998.

The other eight colleges saw gains this year. The two largest percentage increases were at Quinebaug Valley (up 9.5%) and Naugatuck Valley (up 7.0%).

The community colleges represent a plurality of both public enrollment (42% of all those attending state-supported institutions) and total enrollment (26% of all college students or ahead of the 23% for the regional independents.) They are almost a majority (48%) of total part-time enrollment across the state and a solid majority (65%) of part-time undergraduate enrollment.

Despite their still large share of part-time enrollment, the community colleges continued their

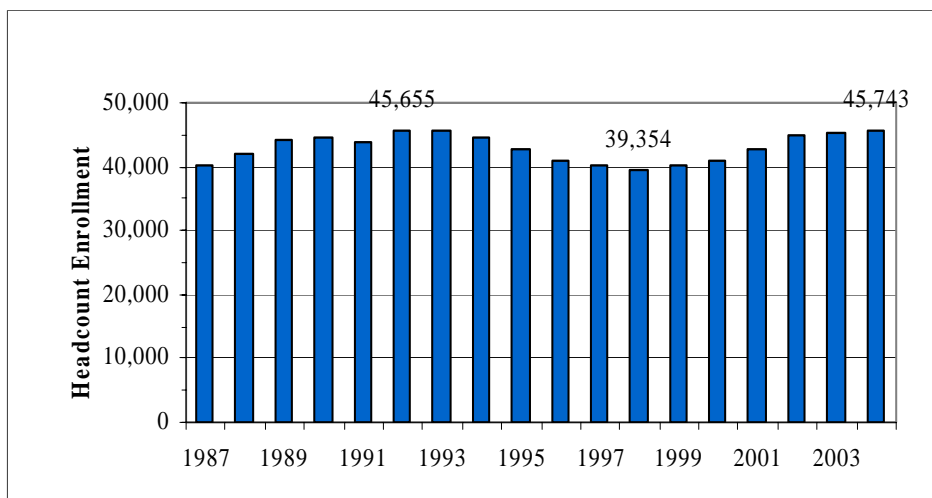
six-year increase in full-time enrollment – from 9,558 in 1997 to 15,798 in 2004, or up 65 percent. (Part-time enrollment was down 3% over the same period.) Full-time students as a share of total enrollment rose from 24 percent in 1997 to 35 percent this year.

Although the 12 community colleges differ greatly in size, they are more homogenous in their overall student profile. All of their students are undergraduates, and the systemwide 35 percent share for full-time students ranges only from 26 percent at Capital to 43 percent at Manchester.

Figure 6 plots total community college enrollment over time, which differs from the three previous historical bar charts in that the community college enrollment peaked three years later (in 1992, rather than in 1989) and bottomed out a year later (in 1998, not 1997). However, there is the same overall pattern of steady decline until the trough year, steady increase since then and the current year bringing the system back above (by 0.2%) its previous 1992 peak.

Note also, in Figure 6, that the community college total enrollment in the last three years (2002-2004) has clearly exceeded the total at the regional independents. This follows a three-year period (1998-2000) when they tightly competed for that plurality title and one year (1998) when the regional independents enrolled 107 more students than the community colleges.

FIGURE 6
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES: 1987-2004



Since 1998 (the systemwide trough year), the overall enrollment increase is 16 percent and ranges from two declines (Asnuntuck down 21% and Northwestern off 13%) to two increases over 40 percent (Quinebaug Valley up 42% and Gateway up 41%).

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE

Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,495 students this fall, which is 83 students (5.3%) less than last year. All are part-time undergraduates. These counts, however, are not included in the state total or tables because many of these students are also enrolled at other institutions in the state and were counted there.

U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The United States Coast Guard Academy enrolled 994 students this year, which is 11 students (1.1%) more than last year. All are full-time undergraduates.

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The 28 independent institutions in Connecticut enrolled 62,882 students in fall 2004, an increase of 478 students (0.8%) over fall 2003. (That growth would be 0.6% if it were not for Legion of Christ College of Humanities opening this year.) Students in the independent colleges represent 36 percent of the total Connecticut enrollment this year. Full-time enrollment was up 1.0 percent, and part-time enrollment was down 0.1 percent.

Full-time students are 76 percent of the total at the independents. The full-time share was 60 percent as recently as 1992, when it began a roughly steady increase to the current 76 percent.

This year, 70 percent of these students are undergraduates, 26 percent are graduate students and the final three percent are first-professional students. This breakdown by level has been remarkably stable over the last 18 years.

Although the colleges constituting the independent sector have seen much change over the last 18 years (seven new entrants, three closed colleges and assorted consolidations), the total enrollment for the sector has been relatively steady. The maximum enrollment in independent colleges over this period (this year's 62,822) is only 10 percent higher than the minimum of those 18 years (the 57,135 in 1993.) By contrast, the maximum enrollment in the public sector is 16 percent higher than the minimum, over the same time frame.

NATIONAL INDEPENDENTS (FOUR INSTITUTIONS)

Connecticut College, Trinity, Wesleyan and Yale enrolled 18,953 students this year, or 123 more students (0.7%) than last year. These colleges represent 11 percent of the statewide enrollment. They are considered national institutions because roughly 90 percent of their undergraduate students come from out of state, represent all or almost all of the 50 states and have a significant international component.

The total in this sector has been remarkably stable over the last 18 years, with the maximum (this year's 18,953) only four percent higher than the minimum (18,192 in 1995).

The profile of the students in this sector in 2004 is as follows:

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
National Independents	95%	5%	64%	29%	7%
Connecticut College	96%	4%	99%	1%	—
Trinity College	83%	17%	92%	8%	—
Wesleyan University	92%	8%	86%	14%	—
Yale University	98%	2%	46%	43%	11%

Note that, except for the four colleges that educate only graduate and/or first-professional students (i.e., UConn Health Center, Graduate Institute, Hartford Seminary and Rensselaer at Hartford), Yale is the first one so far that has undergraduates as a minority of total enrollment. (Two others will show up under the regional independents section.)

Undergraduates at these four colleges are overwhelmingly full-time (97%). First-professional students (law, medicine and divinity and all three at Yale) also are overwhelmingly (98%) full-time. The full-time share among graduate students is 96 percent at Yale (which enrolls 88% of the graduate students in this sector) and 35 percent at the other three colleges combined.

REGIONAL INDEPENDENTS (18 INSTITUTIONS)

These 18 colleges are a heterogeneous lot, and it is somewhat misleading to call them a sector. Five enrolled more than 4,000 students this fall, five have less than 200 students and eight are in that very large middle ground of 200 to 4,000. Five of them enroll only undergraduates, three have only graduate students, seven teach both undergraduate and graduate students and three cover the full range of undergraduates, graduate students and first-professional students. Some offer only one or two majors, while others give their students hundreds of program options.

These colleges enrolled 40,554 students this fall, a decrease of 201 (or 0.5%) over 2003 and the second consecutive year of decline. As noted already, they are the second-largest sector in Connecticut higher education, outpaced only by the public community college system. Full-time enrollment rose 1.2 percent while part-time enrollment fell 4.2 percent, which is just the latest step in a 10-year massive shift that converted this sector from a minority of full-time students (49.6% in 1994) to its overwhelming majority full time (70%) in 2004.

Changes this year varied greatly by college, even just among the 11 colleges that enrolled more than 500 students in 2004. Noticeable declines among those 11 were registered by Rensselaer (down 20%), Teikyo Post (down 9.6%), Mitchell (down 5.7%) and University of New Haven (down 4.9%). All except Teikyo Post saw increases in their full-time share, which means that their FTE enrollment probably fell less than these headcount declines.

Noticeable increases were at Albertus Magnus (up 7.3%) and the University of Bridgeport (up

3.4%). The largest regional independent (University of Hartford, with 7,246 students) enrolled one more student this year, which places it less than half a percent ahead of Quinnipiac University (with 7,220 students, up 1.4%)

As noted previously, this sector also varies greatly by size. The University of Hartford and Quinnipiac University combined are more than one-third (36%) of all regional independent enrollment. The largest nine enroll 94 percent of the students, while the other nine enroll the remaining six percent.

The profile of the students in this sector for this year is as follows:

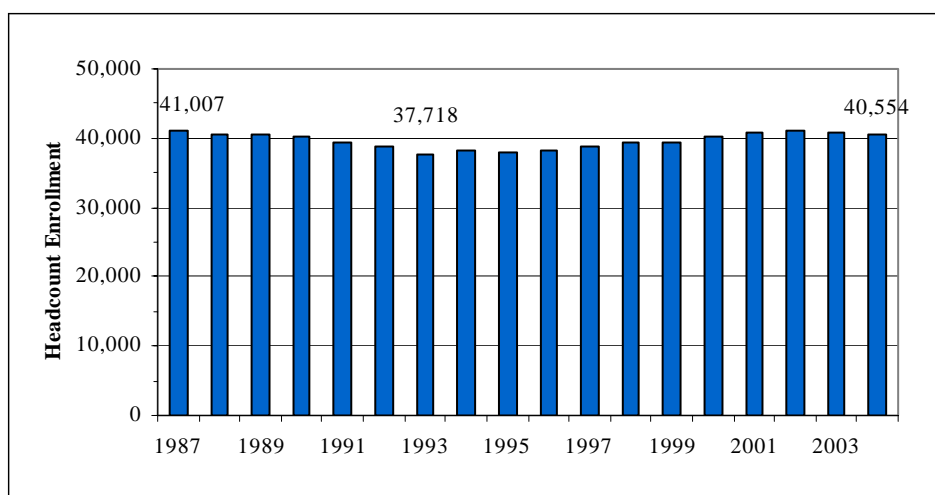
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
Regional Independents	70%	30%	70%	27%	2%
Albertus Magnus College	94%	6%	81%	19%	—
Fairfield University	70%	30%	78%	22%	—
Graduate Institute, The	100%	—	—	100%	—
Hartford Seminary	12%	88%	—	100%	—
Holy Apostles College and Seminary	35%	65%	13%	64%	23%
Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts	40%	60%	98%	2%	—
Mitchell College	88%	12%	100%	—	—
Paier College of Art	64%	36%	100%	—	—
Quinnipiac University	86%	14%	76%	15%	9%
Rensselaer at Hartford	5%	95%	—	100%	—
Sacred Heart University	63%	37%	72%	28%	—
St. Basil’s College	91%	9%	100%	—	—
St. Joseph College	53%	47%	65%	35%	—
St. Thomas Seminary	—	100%	100%	—	—
Teikyo Post University	58%	42%	100%	—	—
University of Bridgeport	63%	37%	42%	52%	6%
University of Hartford	71%	29%	77%	23%	—
University of New Haven	68%	32%	62%	38%	—

Note that both Holy Apostles and the University of Bridgeport, like Yale earlier, have undergraduates as less than half of their total enrollment. The other 16 colleges in Connecticut that educate both undergraduate and graduate students have a student body that is a majority undergraduate.

Among the 12 of those colleges that enrolled at least 50 undergraduates, only Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts had a minority of them (40%) as full-time. The other 11 ranged from 58 percent of undergraduates as full-time at Teikyo Post University to 94 percent at Albertus Magnus.

Figure 7 shows that historical enrollment trends at the regional independents differ from those at other major sectors of Connecticut higher education. The peak enrollment of the last 18 years was the 41,007 in 1987, but a higher peak of 43,628 came in 1983. Enrollment declined more or less steadily until the nadir of 37,718 in 1993 and has since increased more or less steadily to the 41,131 in 2002, with slight drop-offs in 2003 and 2004. Because this sector has gone from 45 percent full-time in 1987 to 70 percent full-time this year, the FTE enrollment probably is higher now than in that earlier headcount peak in 1983.

FIGURE 7
ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT REGIONAL INDEPENDENTS: 1987-2004



TWO-YEAR INDEPENDENTS (SIX INSTITUTIONS)

These six colleges enrolled 3,375 students this year, an increase of 556 students or 20 percent over 2003, when only five of the six were operating. (Legion of Christ College of Humanities is new this year.) Almost half of the sector-wide growth of 556 students occurred at Goodwin (up 273 students, or 41%), although the other four continuing colleges all saw increases.

Because annual enrollment in this sector has been relatively volatile, it is more useful to look at longer-term trends. Between 1997 and 2004, enrollment in this sector more than tripled (from 954 to 3,375, or up 254%), which yields an average annual (compound) growth of 20 percent.

Full-time students showed little change this year (up 4, or 0.2%), but part-time students

increased by 50 percent. This sector, which was 75 percent full-time as recently as 2000 and 61 percent full-time in 2003, dropped to a bare majority (50.9%) full-time in 2004. The FTE enrollment in this sector (which will appear in a later report) thus will see less robust growth than in headcount enrollment.

All students in these colleges are undergraduates. The proportions who are full-time are 100 percent at both the Legion of Christ and the International College of Hospitality Management, 77 percent at Gibbs, 62 percent at Briarwood, 16 percent at Goodwin and 15 percent at St. Vincent's. The FTE enrollment for this sector may have decreased, given that virtually all of the growth was in part-time students.

This sector contains only two percent of the state's total enrollment, but is the only sector to see major growth over the last 18 years. In its trough year of 1989 (which was a peak year in most other sectors), its enrollment of 420 was 0.25 percent of the state total; this year, it is 2.0 percent of the total.

CONCLUSIONS

Two major findings this year are the continuation of record-breaking enrollment gains and the larger rate of growth compared to last year.

Another significant trend is the rapid growth among traditional college students, defined here as full-time undergraduates. (Later data will allow us to more narrowly define this group by age, recent high school graduates, etc.) As noted at the outset, the 12 percent growth in total enrollment between 1997 and 2004 masks a 32 percent gain in full-time undergraduates and a five percent drop in all other enrollment. Full-time undergraduates first became a majority of all students in 2001, and they represent 54 percent of the total this year.

To the extent that this increase is fueled by growing numbers of Connecticut public high school graduates (estimated to have risen 26% between 1997 and 2004), this pool of students is expected to grow another 11 percent over the next four years, until the projected peak in 2008. The number of those public high school graduates is expected to then slowly drop-off – e.g., decline five percent between 2008 and 2013. Unless the college-going rate among these high school graduates increases, Connecticut colleges and universities may well want to look to recruiting more non-traditional students to make up the difference in the years ahead.

Appendix
Fall 2004 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2004 Totals			Fall 2003 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	TOTAL			
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS															
<i>University of Connecticut</i>	17,534	2,617	20,151	3,278	2,775	6,053	1,152	223	1,375	21,964	5,615	27,579	26,629	950	3.6%
Storrs	14,843	908	15,751	3,278	2,775	6,053	672	218	890	18,793	3,901	22,694	22,053	641	2.9%
Avery Point	456	317	773							456	317	773	773	0	0.0%
Tri-Campus*	1,559	832	2,391							1,559	832	2,391	2,196	195	8.9%
Stamford	676	560	1,236							676	560	1,236	1,134	102	9.0%
Health Center							480	5	485	480	5	485	473	12	2.5%
<i>Connecticut State University</i>	21,435	6,340	27,775	1,706	6,056	7,762				23,141	12,396	35,537	35,448	89	0.3%
Central	7,245	2,359	9,604	533	2,183	2,716				7,778	4,542	12,320	12,131	189	1.6%
Eastern	3,700	1,020	4,720	84	352	436				3,784	1,372	5,156	5,095	61	1.2%
Southern	6,617	1,697	8,314	992	2,871	3,863				7,609	4,568	12,177	12,143	34	0.3%
Western	3,873	1,264	5,137	97	650	747				3,970	1,914	5,884	6,079	-195	-3.2%
<i>Community Colleges</i>	15,798	29,945	45,743							15,798	29,945	45,743	45,160	583	1.3%
Asnuntuck	492	1,012	1,504							492	1,012	1,504	1,476	28	1.9%
Capital	896	2,540	3,436							896	2,540	3,436	3,381	55	1.6%
Gateway	1,706	3,889	5,595							1,706	3,889	5,595	5,587	8	0.1%
Housatonic	1,510	3,191	4,701							1,510	3,191	4,701	4,678	23	0.5%
Manchester	2,512	3,394	5,906							2,512	3,394	5,906	5,717	189	3.3%
Middlesex	867	1,487	2,354							867	1,487	2,354	2,400	-46	-1.9%
Naugatuck Valley	2,139	3,375	5,514							2,139	3,375	5,514	5,155	359	7.0%
Northwestern CT	513	1,003	1,516							513	1,003	1,516	1,543	-27	-1.7%
Norwalk	1,986	3,804	5,790							1,986	3,804	5,790	6,047	-257	-4.3%
Quinebaug Valley	571	1,150	1,721							571	1,150	1,721	1,571	150	9.5%
Three Rivers	1,169	2,595	3,764							1,169	2,595	3,764	3,622	142	3.9%
Tunxis	1,437	2,505	3,942							1,437	2,505	3,942	3,983	-41	-1.0%
TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS	54,767	38,902	93,669	4,984	8,831	13,815	1,152	223	1,375	60,903	47,956	108,859	107,237	1,622	1.5%
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	994		994							994		994	983	11	1.1%
TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	55,761	38,902	94,663	4,984	8,831	13,815	1,152	223	1,375	61,897	47,956	109,853	108,220	1,633	1.5%

*The Tri-Campus total of 2,391 this year consists of 1,212 students in Hartford (up 70 over last year), 810 in Waterbury (up 133 students), and 369 in Torrington (down 8 students.)

NOTE: Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,495 part-time undergraduate students, many of whom are enrolled elsewhere in CT and are counted in their other institutions above. Those 1,495 represent a 83 student (or 5.3%) decrease from fall 2003.

Fall 2004 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2004 Totals			Fall 2003 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	TOTAL			
INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS															
<i>National Independents</i>	11,813	381	12,194	4,925	589	5,514	1,217	28	1,245	17,955	998	18,953	18,830	123	0.7%
Connecticut College	1,827	67	1,894	7	4	11				1,834	71	1,905	1,849	56	3.0%
Trinity College	1,977	227	2,204	5	181	186				1,982	408	2,390	2,289	101	4.4%
Wesleyan University	2,766	11	2,777	208	232	440				2,974	243	3,217	3,221	-4	-0.1%
Yale University	5,243	76	5,319	4,705	172	4,877	1,217	28	1,245	11,165	276	11,441	11,471	-30	-0.3%
<i>Regional Independents</i>	23,415	5,087	28,502	4,274	6,872	11,146	740	166	906	28,429	12,125	40,554	40,755	-201	-0.5%
Albertus Magnus College	1,795	111	1,906	420	35	455				2,215	146	2,361	2,200	161	7.3%
Fairfield University	3,305	637	3,942	232	886	1,118				3,537	1,523	5,060	5,053	7	0.1%
Graduate Institute, The				160		160				160		160	78	82	105.1%
Hartford Seminary				17	130	147				17	130	147	148	-1	-0.7%
Holy Apostles College	8	26	34	24	144	168	59		59	91	170	261	241	20	8.3%
LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts	64	96	160	1	3	4				65	99	164	143	21	14.7%
Mitchell College	615	85	700							615	85	700	742	-42	-5.7%
Paier College of Art	195	111	306							195	111	306	291	15	5.2%
Quinnipiac University	5,091	373	5,464	663	442	1,105	487	164	651	6,241	979	7,220	7,121	99	1.4%
Rensselaer at Hartford				39	767	806				39	767	806	1,011	-205	-20.3%
Sacred Heart University	3,088	993	4,081	486	1,090	1,576				3,574	2,083	5,657	5,730	-73	-1.3%
St. Basil's College	10	1	11							10	1	11	13	-2	-15.4%
St. Joseph College	860	312	1,172	98	522	620				958	834	1,792	1,836	-44	-2.4%
St. Thomas Seminary		18	18								18	18	27	-9	-33.3%
Teikyo Post University	689	509	1,198							689	509	1,198	1,325	-127	-9.6%
University of Bridgeport	1,088	286	1,374	795	909	1,704	194	2	196	2,077	1,197	3,274	3,165	109	3.4%
University of Hartford	4,545	1,021	5,566	579	1,101	1,680				5,124	2,122	7,246	7,245	1	0.01%
University of New Haven	2,062	508	2,570	760	843	1,603				2,822	1,351	4,173	4,386	-213	-4.9%
<i>Two-Year Independents</i>	1,719	1,656	3,375							1,719	1,656	3,375	2,819	556	19.7%
Briarwood College*	393	244	637							393	244	637	588	49	8.3%
Gibbs College	931	276	1,207							931	276	1,207	1,154	53	4.6%
Goodwin College	145	795	940							145	795	940	667	273	40.9%
Int'l College of Hospitality Management	93		93							93		93	45	48	106.7%
Legion of Christ College of Humanities	91		91							91		91	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
St. Vincent's College	66	341	407							66	341	407	365	42	11.5%
TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS	36,947	7,124	44,071	9,199	7,461	16,660	1,957	194	2,151	48,103	14,779	62,882	62,404	478	0.8%
TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS	92,708	46,026	138,734	14,183	16,292	30,475	3,109	417	3,526	110,000	62,735	172,735	170,624	2,111	1.2%

*Briarwood became a four-year college this fall, but is still listed in the two-year category in this table comparing 2003 and 2004.