



## FALL 2003 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY HEADCOUNTS IN CONNECTICUT

Total headcount enrollment at Connecticut's colleges and universities reached 170,624 in fall 2003, the second straight year of an all-time record. This growth, however, was more tepid than last year, with only 876 more students (or 0.5%) enrolled in fall 2003 than in fall 2002.

This report analyzes fall 2003 headcount enrollment as reported by Connecticut's public and independent colleges and universities. It presents data on students enrolled for credit at 46 institutions with details on their status, level and sector of higher education. (The Appendix has institutional data.) Headcount data is reported annually to the federal government and is used to depict utilization of higher education nationally and by state. A later report will present 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.

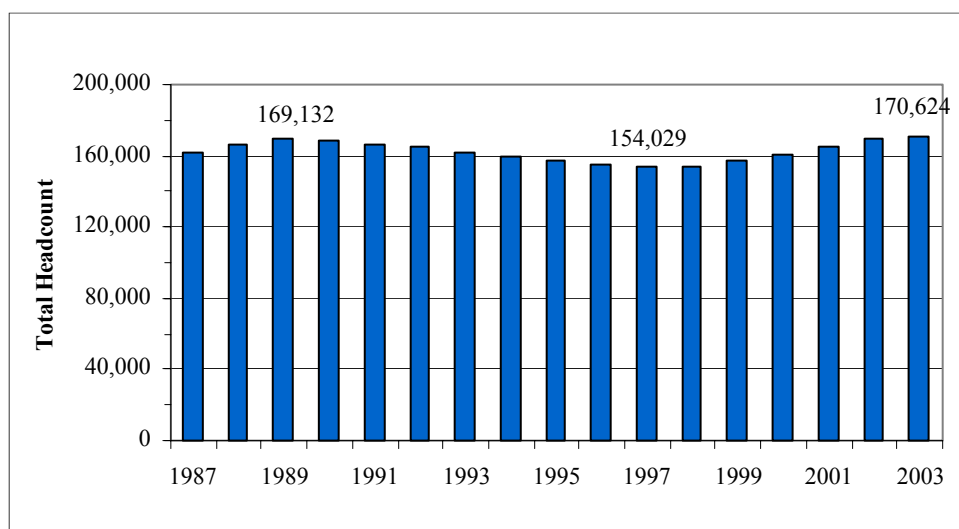
### STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

#### OVERALL TRENDS

The 2003 total of 170,624 is the highest ever, and eclipses the previous peak enrollment in 2002 of 169,748, which in turn beat a 13-year-old record of 169,132 students in 1989 (see Figure 1).

This year marks six consecutive years of growth since 1997, when total enrollment (154,029) was at the lowest of the last quarter century. Over those six years, enrollment rose 16,595 or 11 percent.

FIGURE 1: ENROLLMENT HISTORY  
CONNECTICUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



Enrollment grew by 876 students, (or 0.5%) between 2002 and 2003. This represents the second smallest increase (in both headcounts and percentages) in the eight years since 1987, with growth surpassing only the more anemic increase (200 students or 0.1%) in 1998.

Although the overall enrollment increase in 2003 was modest, full-time enrollment was up 3.5 percent. In contrast, part-time enrollment fell 4.1 percent. Despite the decline in the number of part-timers, the growth in full-timers will almost certainly result in a larger increase in full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment, which measures instructional resource demand. Complete FTE data will be available in a later report.

The ranks of traditional college students are still growing. The number of full-time undergraduates rose by 28 percent between 1997 and 2003 (from 69,999 to 89,315), more than double the overall increase of 11 percent over this period. Expressed another way, the overall increase of 16,595 students between 1997 and 2003 reflects a growth of 19,316 among these full-time undergraduates, and a net decline of 2,721 (3%) across the rest of higher education. In those six years, full-time undergraduates rose from 45 percent to 52 percent of total enrollment.

### FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

Of the statewide total of 170,624 this fall, 106,427 (62%) attend full-time and 64,197 (38%) attend part-time. The number of full-time students this fall rose by 3,626 (3.5%) over 2002, while the number of part-timers fell by 2,750 (4.1%). The 62 percent share for full-timers is the highest in at least 16 years, and the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive gain since 1992, when full-timers were only 51 percent of the total.

Although total enrollment has grown every year since 1997, full-time enrollment has increased every year since 1994. In comparison, part-time enrollment consistently fell over that period, except for a slight uptick in 2002. Full-timers as a percentage of total enrollment have risen every year since 1992 (51% full-time) to the 62 percent reached in 2003, to create the startling shift depicted below:

#### STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT 1992 AND 2003

	1992	2003	# Change	% Change
Full-time	83,950	106,427	22,477	27%
Part-time	81,653	64,197	-17,456	-21%
Total	165,603	170,624	5,021	3%
Full-time as % of Total	51%	62%		

## UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

The state total comprises 136,308 (80%) undergraduates, 30,849 (18%) graduate students and 3,467 (2%) first-professional students.<sup>1</sup> This percentage split among undergraduates, graduate students and first-professionals has remained very steady over the last 16 years.

This year, the number of undergraduates rose 1,097 (0.8%) but declines occurred in the numbers of both graduate students (down 177 or 0.6%) and first-professional students (down 44 or 1.3%). Since the overall trough year of 1997, enrollment is up 13 percent, 3 percent and 1 percent among undergraduates, graduate students and first-professionals, respectively.

A vast majority of both first-professional students (87%) and undergraduates (66%) attend full-time, but a minority (46%) of graduate students are full-timers. The share of full-time among undergraduates has risen for 11 consecutive years (from 54% in 1992 to the 66% this year), and that share among graduate students has grown consistently for at least 16 years (from 29% full-time in 1987 to 46% this year). The full-time share among first-professionals has been flat.

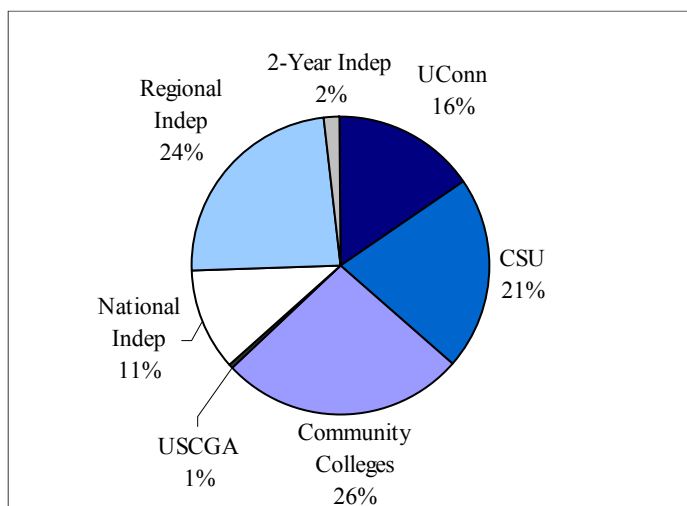
## PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SECTORS

Public institutions (including the United States Coast Guard Academy, or USCGA) enrolled 108,220 students in 2003 and independent institutions enrolled 62,404. The 63 percent share for the publics this year is the historical norm.

The share of students who are full-time is 54 percent at the publics (the third 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 2003 with further detail by sector.<sup>2</sup> The 12 community colleges enrolled 26 percent of the state's students and the 18 regional independents captured another 24 percent of all students, with those two sectors constituting a slight majority of college students in Connecticut. The four institutions in the CSU system are not far behind, with 21 percent of the state's

**FIGURE 2**  
**FALL 2003 ENROLLMENT BY SECTOR**



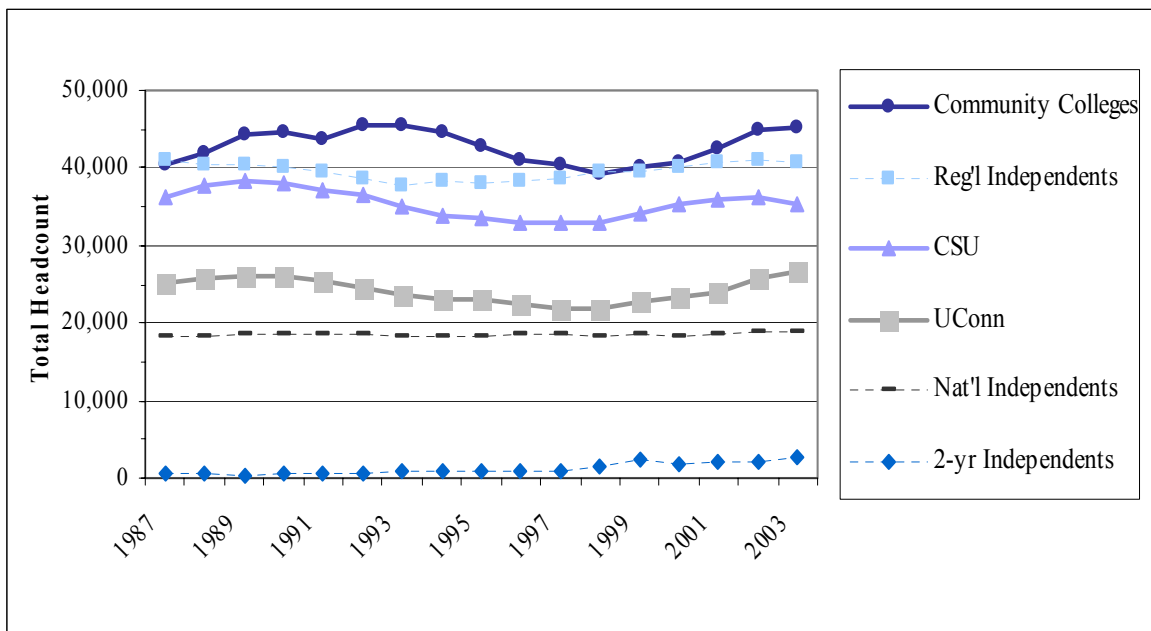
<sup>1</sup>First-professional programs train lawyers, medical doctors (broadly defined) and clergy and enroll students at only five of the state's 46 colleges and universities.

<sup>2</sup>The state component of the public sector has three parts: a) University of Connecticut (the main Storrs campus, three branch campuses and the Health Center), 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 10 for Charter Oak State College, the 23<sup>rd</sup> public college.) The 27 independent institutions are split into a) four national independents (recruiting students from a national pool), b) 18 regional independents and c) five two-year independents.

enrollment. UConn (16%) and the four national independents (11%) round out the lion’s share of enrollment. Combined, the Coast Guard Academy and the five two-year independents contributed the remaining 2 percent of the statewide total.

Figure 3 plots historical data on enrollment (as headcounts, rather than share of the statewide total) for the six major sectors over the last 17 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 fluctuated, sometimes in tandem, and sometimes not.

**FIGURE 3**  
**ENROLLMENT BY SECTOR: 1987-2003**



A final perspective on the public and independent sectors comes from Table 1, which sorts the 46 institutions and branches included in the statewide totals by enrollment. The 10 largest schools enroll a solid majority (56%) of the state’s students, and the 10 smallest schools 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 27 independents are smaller than the smallest public. The median size of the 22 public institutions is 3,803 students; the median of the 27 independents is 1,154.

**TABLE 1:  
FALL 2003 COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, SORTED HIGH-TO-LOW**

PUBLICS	Fall 2003 Enrollment Total	INDEPENDENTS
UConn— Storrs	22,053	
Southern—CSU	12,143	
Central CSU	12,131	
	11,471	Yale University
	7,245	University of Hartford
	7,121	Quinnipiac University
Western CSU	6,079	
Norwalk CC	6,047	
	5,730	Sacred Heart University
Manchester CC	5,717	
Gateway CC	5,587	
Naugatuck Valley CC	5,155	
Eastern CSU	5,095	
	5,053	Fairfield University
Housatonic CC	4,678	
	4,386	University of New Haven
Tunxis CC	3,983	
Three Rivers CC	3,622	
Capital CC	3,381	
	3,221	Wesleyan University
	3,165	University of Bridgeport
Middlesex CC	2,400	
	2,289	Trinity College
	2,200	Albertus Magnus College
UConn—Tri Campus	2,196	
	1,849	Connecticut College
	1,836	St. Joseph College
Quinebaug Valley CC	1,571	
Northwestern CT CC	1,543	
Asnuntuck CC	1,476	
	1,325	Teikyo Post University
	1,154	Gibbs College
UConn—Stamford	1,134	
	1,011	Rensselaer at Hartford
US Coast Guard Acad.	983	
UConn—Avery Point	773	
	742	Mitchell College
	667	Goodwin College
	588	Briarwood College
UConn—Health Center	473	
	365	St. Vincent's College
	291	Paier College of Art
	241	Holy Apostles College
	148	Hartford Seminary

PUBLICS	Fall 2003 Enrollment Total	INDEPENDENTS
	148	Hartford Seminary
	143	Lyme Acad. Coll. of Fine Arts
	78	Graduate Institute
	45	Int'l. Coll. of Hospitality Mgmt.
	27	St. Thomas Seminary
	13	St. Basil's College
	170,624	

## PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The 22 public institutions (21 state colleges, including UConn branches, and the federal USCGA) enrolled 108,220 students, an increase of 431 students (0.4%) over 2002. (Full-time students rose 3.5% and part-time students fell 3.1%.) Excluding the Coast Guard Academy, state-supported institutions enrolled 107,237 students and saw the same 0.4 percent growth. This is the fifth consecutive year of increases in the public and state sectors.

For the third time in at least 20 years, full-timers represent a majority (58,819 or 54%) of total enrollment at the public institutions. The full-time share at the publics is up from 53 percent in 2002 and 51 percent in 2001.

The breakdown by level for public institutions is 92,906 undergraduates (86% of the total), 13,974 graduate students (13%) and 1,340 first-professional students (1%).

As noted above, the public sector enrolled 63 percent of all students in higher education. That share, however, is far from uniform because it enrolled 55 percent of the state's full-timers and 77 percent of its part-timers. The public sector contains more than two-thirds (68%) of Connecticut undergraduates, 45 percent of the state's graduate students and 39 percent of the first-professional students. Combining the two, the publics constitute 59 percent of full-time undergraduates and 85 percent of part-time undergraduates in the state.

## UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT (UConn – 5 CAMPUSES)

UConn as a whole enrolled 26,629 students this year, an increase of 787 students or 3.0 percent over last year. Full-time students increased 5.4 percent and part-time students declined 5.1 percent.

The main campus at Storrs has 22,053 students, up 2.9 percent over last year. Storrs represents 83 percent of the total enrollment at the state's flagship university.

The three branch campuses provided another 15 percent of university-wide enrollment. Avery Point registered 773 students (up 5.0% over last year), Stamford enrolled 1,134 (down 2.7%) and the Tri-Campus (with locations in Hartford, Torrington and Waterbury) totaled 2,196

students (up 7.4%.) 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 2 percent of UConn’s enrollment. It has 473 students this year, up four students from 2002.

Those five entities, and the entire university, have the following profiles for their students in 2003. (Percentages read across by school.)

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
<b>All of UConn</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Storrs	83%	17%	69%	27%	4%
Avery Point	56%	44%	100%	—	—
Tri-Campus*	62%	38%	100%	—	—
Stamford	53%	47%	100%	—	—
Health Center	99%	1%	—	—	100%

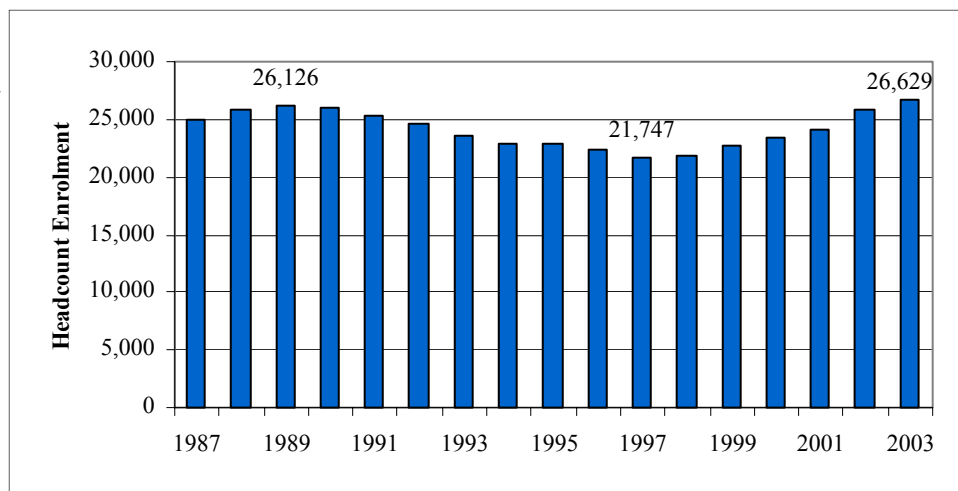
\*The share of full-time is 66 percent at both Hartford and Waterbury and 43 percent at Torrington.

There are 4,117 first-time freshmen (both full-time and part-time) at the UConn campuses, up 2 percent over last year and up 49 percent since the overall trough year of 1997. They represent 21 percent of UConn undergraduates. Although UConn does not recruit freshmen solely from recent high-school graduates, UConn’s freshmen totals have closely mirrored the pool of Connecticut public high school graduates, which is projected in the next five years to rise another 13 percent until it peaks in 2008.

As noted above, Storrs enrolls 83 percent of all UConn students. That Storrs’ share is 79 percent among undergraduates (86% among full-time undergraduates), 100 percent among graduate students (which partially reflects a policy change of where to count part-time graduate students) and 65 percent among first-professional students.

Figure 4, which plots UConn’s total enrollment over the last 17 years, shows a pattern similar to that in Figure 1 for statewide enrollment

**FIGURE 4**  
**ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT UCONN: 1987-2003**



— a peak in 1989, a trough in 1997, and increases since then, with UConn this year surpassing that earlier 1989 peak. The decline at UConn between 1989 to 1997 was 4,379 students or 17 percent (higher than the statewide drop of 9%); the increase in the last six years is 4,882 students or 22 percent (also higher than the statewide gain of 11%).

### CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU — FOUR INSTITUTIONS)

CSU has 35,448 students, for a net loss of 678 students or 1.9 percent over 2002. (Full-time students were up 0.6% and part-time students were down 5.8%.) Western CSU saw a modest overall gain of 29 students (0.5%), while the other three institutions saw overall declines ranging from 0.6 percent at Southern CSU to 4.0 percent at Central CSU.

For the first time in at least 17 years, Southern (with 12,143 students) is the largest CSU, albeit only 12 students ahead of Central (12,131 enrolled), with each campus providing 34 percent of systemwide enrollment. Western (6,079 students) enrolled another 17 percent of CSU students and Eastern (5,095) enrolled the remaining 14 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 school.)

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate
<b>All of CSU</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Central	60%	40%	77%	23%
Eastern	72%	28%	93%	7%
Southern	60%	40%	67%	33%
Western	64%	36%	86%	14%

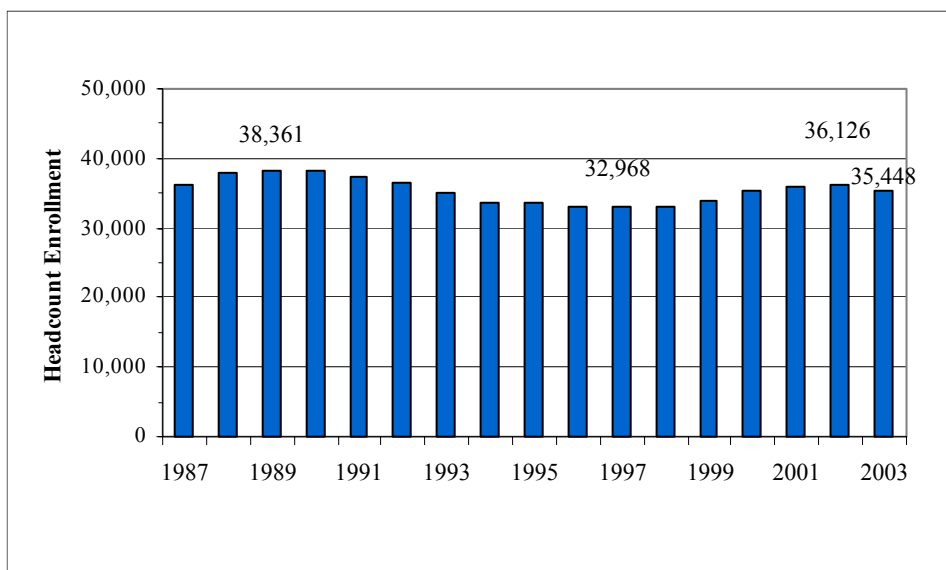
Eastern stands out from the pack for its higher share of full-timers and much higher share of undergraduates. More than two-thirds (71%) of Eastern’s students are full-time undergraduates, which is consistent with Eastern’s mission as Connecticut’s public liberal arts institution. At Southern, CSU’s lead graduate institution, barely one-half (52%) of students are full-time undergraduates.

There are 4,143 first-time freshmen (both full-time and part-time) at the four CSUs, down 8 percent over last year, and they represent 15 percent of CSU undergraduates. Although CSU does not recruit freshmen solely from recent high school graduates, its freshmen totals, until recently, closely mirrored the pool of Connecticut public high school graduates, projected to rise another 13 percent by 2008. The drop this year, therefore, is surprising.

Figure 5 plots the systemwide totals for the last 16 years. As with the statewide and UConn data, a peak is seen in 1989, followed by a less steady decline to a trough in 1997 and then a more or less steady increase up until the 1.9 percent decline this year. CSU, however, has not eclipsed the 1989 acme in headcount enrollment and this year is 8 percent short of that record.

The systemwide patterns mask differing institutional growth rates. From 1987 to 2003, Eastern's enrollment increased 18 percent, Southern and Western both decreased by 1 percent and Central went down 10 percent. Eastern's enrollment peaked in 2001, while the other three campuses had their maximum enrollment within one year of the systemwide peak in 1989.

**FIGURE 5**  
**ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY:**  
**1987-2003**



### COMMUNITY COLLEGES (12 INSTITUTIONS)

The 12 community colleges as a whole enrolled 45,160 students this year, for a net increase of 291 (0.6%) over 2002. Full-time students were up 5.5 percent; part-time students were down 1.5 percent.

Seven of the 12 colleges declined this year, with Asnuntuck dropping 14 percent. (The 180-student decline in the number of part-time students enrolled from the nearby state prison represents the lion's share of Asnuntuck's overall net decrease of 248 students.)

Because, however, the other five colleges that saw increases were mostly higher-enrollment institutions, the systemwide total went up. The largest percentage increases were 5.8 percent at Norwalk (the largest of the 12 colleges and surpassing 6,000 for the first time) and 4.9 percent at Gateway (the third largest in enrollment.)

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 just ahead of the 24% for the regional independents). They serve 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 14,469 in 2003 or up 51 percent. (Part-time enrollment was down 0.3% over the same period.) Full-time students as a share of total enrollment rose from 24 percent in 1997 to 32 percent this year, a remarkable

change in enrollment complexion over a relatively short period of time (the largest share of increases occurred at Asnuntuck, Manchester, Housatonic and Tunxis).

These colleges vary greatly in size. Norwalk (the largest, at 6,047 students) enrolls more than four times as many students as Asnuntuck (the smallest, with 1,476 students.) The four largest schools combined enroll almost a majority (49.8%) of all community college students; the four smallest enroll 15 percent of them.

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 32 percent share for full-time students ranges only from 25 percent at Capital to 39 percent at Manchester.

**FIGURE 6**  
**ENROLLMENT HISTORY AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES: 1987-2003**

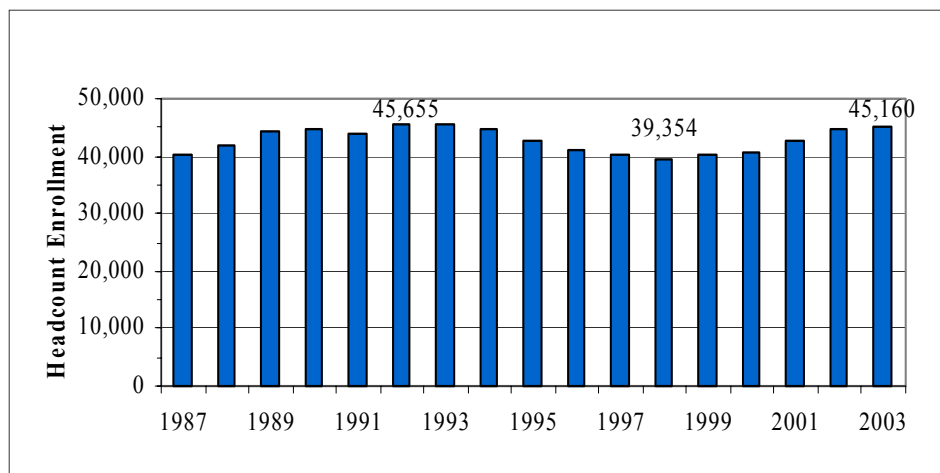


Figure 6 plots total community college enrollment over time, which differs from the three previous historical bar charts in that the community college enrollments peaked three years later (in 1992, rather than in 1989) and bottomed out a year later (in 1998, not 1997.) However,

there is the same overall pattern of steady decline until the trough year, steady increase since then, with the current year bringing the system almost back (1% short) to its 1992 peak.

Since 1998 (the systemwide trough year), the overall enrollment increase is 15 percent and ranges from two declines (Asnuntuck down 23% and Northwestern off 11%) to two increases over 30 percent (Gateway up 40% and Housatonic rising 32%.)

### **CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE**

Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,578 students this fall, 17 students (1.1%) more than last year. All are part-time undergraduates. These enrollments, however, are not counted in the state total or tables because many of these students also are enrolled at other institutions in the state and were counted there.

### **U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY**

The United States Coast Guard Academy enrolled 983 students this year, which is 31 students (3.3%) more than last year. All are full-time undergraduates.

## INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The 27 independent institutions in Connecticut enrolled 62,403 students in fall 2003, an increase of 445 students (0.7%) over fall 2002. These students represent 37 percent of the total of Connecticut students this year. Full-time enrollment rose 3.5 percent, and part-timers fell 7.4 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, 27 percent are graduate students, and the final 3 percent are first-professional students. This breakdown by level has been remarkably stable over the last 17 years.

Although the schools constituting the independent sector have seen much change over the last 16 years (six new entrants, three closed schools 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 62,404) is only 10 percent higher than the minimum of those 16 years (56,935 in 1993). By contrast, the maximum enrollment in the public sector is 15 percent higher than the minimum over the same time frame.

### NATIONAL INDEPENDENTS (FOUR INSTITUTIONS)

Connecticut College, Trinity, Wesleyan and Yale enrolled 18,830 students this year or 25 more students (0.1%) than last year. These schools 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, representing all or almost all of the 50 states and have a significant international component.

The total in this sector has been very stable over the last 16 years, with the maximum (this year's 18,830) only 4 percent higher than the minimum (18,192 in 1995).

The profile of the students in this sector in 2003 is as follows:

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
<b>National Independents</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Connecticut College	95%	5%	99%	1%	—
Trinity College	84%	16%	92%	8%	—
Wesleyan University	90%	10%	85%	15%	—
Yale University	98%	2%	47%	43%	11%

Undergraduates at these schools are overwhelmingly full-time – 97 percent for the sector as a whole and 99 percent at both Wesleyan and Yale. First-professional students (law, medicine and divinity and all three at Yale) also are overwhelmingly (97%) full-time. The share of full-time among graduate students is 97 percent at Yale (which enrolls 87% of the graduate students in this sector) and 30 percent at the other three schools combined.

## REGIONAL INDEPENDENTS (18 INSTITUTIONS)

These 18 schools are a heterogeneous lot, and it is somewhat misleading to call them a sector. Four enrolled more than 5,000 students this fall, seven have less than 300 students and seven are in that very large middle ground of 300 to 5,000. Five of them enroll only undergraduates, four have only graduate students, six teach both undergraduates and graduate students and three cover the full range of undergraduates, graduates students and first-professional students. Some offer only one or two majors, while others give their students hundreds of program options.

These schools enrolled 40,755 students this fall, a decrease of 376 (or 0.9%) over 2002. As already noted, they are the second largest sector in Connecticut higher education, outpaced only by the public community college system. Full-time enrollment rose 4 percent while part-time enrollment fell 11 percent, which led to an increase in the sector-wide, full-time share from 65 percent in 2002 to 69 percent in 2003.

Changes this year varied greatly by school, even just among the 11 schools that enrolled more than 300 students in 2003. Rensselaer fell 30 percent, and both Albertus Magnus and Sacred Heart declined by about 5 percent. The largest increase was the 3.5 percent at the University of Hartford, followed closely by the 3.3 percent rise at St. Joseph.

As already noted, this sector also varies greatly by size. The University of Hartford and Quinnipiac University combined are more than one-third (35%) of all regional independent enrollments. The largest nine enroll 93 percent of the students, while the other nine enroll the remaining 7 percent.

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

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
<b>Regional Independents</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Albertus Magnus College	94%	6%	81%	19%	—
Fairfield University	71%	29%	80%	20%	—
Graduate Institute	100%	—	—	100%	—
Hartford Seminary	11%	89%	—	100%	—
Holy Apostles College and Seminary	29%	71%	9%	68%	23%
Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts	47%	53%	100%	—	—

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Undergraduate	Graduate	First-Professional
Mitchell College	85%	15%	100%	—	—
Paier College of Art	60%	40%	100%	—	—
Quinnipiac University	86%	14%	77%	14%	9%
Rensselaer at Hartford	2%	98%	—	100%	—
Sacred Heart University	62%	38%	71%	29%	—
St. Basil's College	92%	8%	100%	—	—
St. Joseph College	53%	47%	65%	35%	—
St. Thomas Seminary	—	100%	—	100%	—
Teikyo Post University	54%	46%	100%	—	—
University of Bridgeport	65%	35%	40%	54%	6%
University of Hartford	70%	30%	77%	23%	—
University of New Haven	65%	35%	60%	40%	—

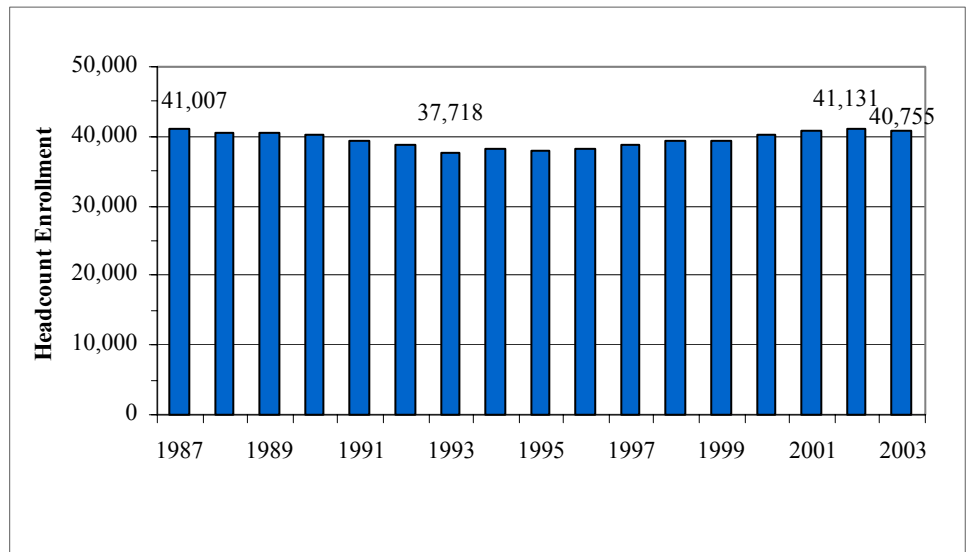
Among the 12 of those schools that enrolled at least 25 undergraduates, only Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts had a minority of them (47%) as full-time. The other 11 ranged from 54 percent of undergraduates as full-time at Teikyo Post University to 94 percent at Albertus Magnus.

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 15 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 notably since increased more or less steadily to 41,131 in 2002, with a slight drop-off in 2003.

Because this sector has gone from 45 percent full-time in 1987 to 69 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: 1987-2003**



## TWO-YEAR INDEPENDENTS (5 INSTITUTIONS)

These colleges enrolled 2,819 students this year, an increase of 796 students or 39 percent over 2002. Virtually all of this increase is due to Gibbs College (up 788 or 215%), because the other four colleges combined increased by only eight students or 0.5 percent.

However, because recent enrollment changes recently have been very volatile, it is perhaps best to look at longer-term trends. Between 1996 and 2003, enrollment in this sector more than tripled (from 924 to 2,819 or up 205%), which yields an average annual (compound) growth of 17 percent.

All students in these schools are undergraduates. The proportion who are full-time are 100 percent at the International College of Hospitality Management, 82 percent at Gibbs, 66 percent at Briarwood, 42 percent at Goodwin and 13 percent at St. Vincent's.

This sector contains only 2 percent (rounded) of the state's total enrollment, but is the only sector to see major growth over the last 15 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 1.7 percent of the total.

## CONCLUSIONS

This year's record-breaking enrollment, but also a major braking in the rate of enrollment growth, are the two key findings. However, buried within those patterns are one important trend and one intriguing question.

The important trend is faster growth among traditional college students, defined here as full-time undergraduates. (Data available later this year will analyze this data by age, recent high school graduates, etc.) As noted at the outset, the growth in total enrollment of 11 percent between 1997 and 2003 masks a 28 percent growth in full-time undergraduates and a 3 percent drop in all other enrollments. Full-time undergraduates became a majority of all students in 2001, and now represent 52.3 percent of the total. This pattern is more pronounced at the public institutions, with overall growth of 13 percent between 1997 and 2003, a rise of 34 percent in full-time undergraduates and a drop of 2 percent in all other students.

To the extent that this increase is fueled by the growth in Connecticut public high-school graduates (estimated to have risen 25% between 1997 and 2003), this pool of students is expected to grow another 13 percent over the next five years, until the projected peak in 2008. It is then expected to decline slowly by about 4 percent between 2008 and 2012. Thus, our colleges could attain higher enrollment levels, even if part-time enrollment continues to decline as expected as Connecticut's baby boomers grow older.

The intriguing question, however, is what may happen if this year's tepid growth in total enrollment is a harbinger of relatively static total enrollment in the near future. In particular, what if not as many of our recent high school graduates enroll here as full-time students as might be expected, as evidenced in some public colleges this year? From 1997 to 2002, total enrollment growth averaged 2.0 percent per year and accelerated in the last three years – 1.8 percent in 2000, 2.5 percent in 2001 and 3.1 percent in 2002. In this environment of an expanding pie, most segments of higher education are growing. The fact that some segments (e.g., full-time undergraduates) grow faster than others yields shifts in the relative shares of enrollment but almost every segment is growing.

Yet this year's growth in total enrollment was only 0.5 percent. If this continues, the pie is no longer expanding and higher education enrollment becomes more of a zero-sum situation — i.e., one segment's gain is another segment's loss. In the near future (next five years), the most obvious potential for growth is the traditional group of students graduating from high school. If that growth slows, the longer term is less certain.



Appendix  
Fall 2003 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2003 Totals			Fall 2002 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	TOTAL			
<b>PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>															
<i>University of Connecticut</i>	<b>16,732</b>	<b>2,555</b>	<b>19,287</b>	<b>3,328</b>	<b>2,674</b>	<b>6,002</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>21,194</b>	<b>5,435</b>	<b>26,629</b>	<b>25,842</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Storrs	14,332	852	15,184	3,328	2,674	6,002	668	199	867	18,328	3,725	<b>22,053</b>	21,427	626	2.9%
Avery Point	436	337	773							436	337	<b>773</b>	736	37	5.0%
Tri-Campus*	1,359	837	2,196							1,359	837	<b>2,196</b>	2,044	152	7.4%
Stamford	605	529	1,134							605	529	<b>1,134</b>	1,166	-32	-2.7%
Health Center							466	7	473	466	7	<b>473</b>	469	4	0.9%
<i>Connecticut State University</i>	<b>20,560</b>	<b>6,916</b>	<b>27,476</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>6,359</b>	<b>7,972</b>				<b>22,173</b>	<b>13,275</b>	<b>35,448</b>	<b>36,126</b>	<b>-678</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>
Central	6,780	2,621	9,401	504	2,226	2,730				7,284	4,847	<b>12,131</b>	12,642	-511	-4.0%
Eastern	3,619	1,097	4,716	72	307	379				3,691	1,404	<b>5,095</b>	5,215	-120	-2.3%
Southern	6,347	1,776	8,123	944	3,076	4,020				7,291	4,852	<b>12,143</b>	12,219	-76	-0.6%
Western	3,814	1,422	5,236	93	750	843				3,907	2,172	<b>6,079</b>	6,050	29	0.5%
<i>Community Colleges</i>	<b>14,469</b>	<b>30,691</b>	<b>45,160</b>							<b>14,469</b>	<b>30,691</b>	<b>45,160</b>	<b>44,869</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Asnuntuck	456	1,020	1,476							456	1,020	<b>1,476</b>	1,724	-248	-14.4%
Capital	848	2,533	3,381							848	2,533	<b>3,381</b>	3,476	-95	-2.7%
Gateway	1,526	4,061	5,587							1,526	4,061	<b>5,587</b>	5,328	259	4.9%
Housatonic	1,372	3,306	4,678							1,372	3,306	<b>4,678</b>	4,515	163	3.6%
Manchester	2,238	3,479	5,717							2,238	3,479	<b>5,717</b>	5,561	156	2.8%
Middlesex	752	1,648	2,400							752	1,648	<b>2,400</b>	2,440	-40	-1.6%
Naugatuck Valley	1,936	3,219	5,155							1,936	3,219	<b>5,155</b>	5,315	-160	-3.0%
Northwestern CT	510	1,033	1,543							510	1,033	<b>1,543</b>	1,633	-90	-5.5%
Norwalk	1,947	4,100	6,047							1,947	4,100	<b>6,047</b>	5,717	330	5.8%
Quinebaug Valley	510	1,061	1,571							510	1,061	<b>1,571</b>	1,501	70	4.7%
Three Rivers	1,009	2,613	3,622							1,009	2,613	<b>3,622</b>	3,624	-2	-0.1%
Tunxis	1,365	2,618	3,983							1,365	2,618	<b>3,983</b>	4,035	-52	-1.3%
<b>TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>51,761</b>	<b>40,162</b>	<b>91,923</b>	<b>4,941</b>	<b>9,033</b>	<b>13,974</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>57,836</b>	<b>49,401</b>	<b>107,237</b>	<b>106,837</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	983		983							983		<b>983</b>	952	31	3.3%
<b>TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>52,744</b>	<b>40,162</b>	<b>92,906</b>	<b>4,941</b>	<b>9,033</b>	<b>13,974</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>58,819</b>	<b>49,401</b>	<b>108,220</b>	<b>107,789</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

\*The Tri-Campus total of 2,196 this year consists of 1,142 students in Hartford (up 45 over last year), 677 in Waterbury (up 114 students), and 377 in Torrington (down 7 students.)

NOTE: Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,578 part-time undergraduate students, many of whom are enrolled elsewhere in CT and are counted above. Those 1,578 represent a 1.1% increase from fall 2002.

Fall 2003 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2003 Totals			Fall 2002 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	TOTAL			
<b>INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS</b>															
<i>National Independents</i>	<b>11,664</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>12,026</b>	<b>4,921</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>5,564</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>17,788</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>18,830</b>	<b>18,805</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Connecticut College	1,750	87	1,837	7	5	12				1,757	92	<b>1,849</b>	1,912	-63	-3.3%
Trinity College	1,918	187	2,105	5	179	184				1,923	366	<b>2,289</b>	2,323	-34	-1.5%
Wesleyan University	2,704	26	2,730	197	294	491				2,901	320	<b>3,221</b>	3,192	29	0.9%
Yale University	5,292	62	5,354	4,712	165	4,877	1,203	37	1,240	11,207	264	<b>11,471</b>	11,378	93	0.8%
<i>Regional Independents</i>	<b>23,192</b>	<b>5,365</b>	<b>28,557</b>	<b>4,219</b>	<b>7,092</b>	<b>11,311</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>28,105</b>	<b>12,650</b>	<b>40,755</b>	<b>41,131</b>	<b>-376</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
Albertus Magnus College	1,690	100	1,790	372	38	410				2,062	138	<b>2,200</b>	2,325	-125	-5.4%
Fairfield University	3,381	639	4,020	228	805	1,033				3,609	1,444	<b>5,053</b>	5,114	-61	-1.2%
Graduate Institute, The				78		78				78		<b>78</b>	60	18	30.0%
Hartford Seminary				17	131	148				17	131	<b>148</b>	153	-5	-3.3%
Holy Apostles College	5	16	21	11	154	165	55		55	71	170	<b>241</b>	203	38	18.7%
LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts	67	76	143							67	76	<b>143</b>	160	-17	-10.6%
Mitchell College	631	111	742							631	111	<b>742</b>	724	18	2.5%
Paier College of Art	175	116	291							175	116	<b>291</b>	292	-1	-0.3%
Quinnipiac University	5,089	381	5,470	577	446	1,023	440	188	628	6,106	1,015	<b>7,121</b>	6,951	170	2.4%
Rensselaer at Hartford				21	990	1,011				21	990	<b>1,011</b>	1,441	-430	-29.8%
Sacred Heart University	3,040	1,009	4,049	525	1,156	1,681				3,565	2,165	<b>5,730</b>	6,028	-298	-4.9%
St. Basil's College	12	1	13							12	1	<b>13</b>	15	-2	-13.3%
St. Joseph College	847	346	1,193	119	524	643				966	870	<b>1,836</b>	1,778	58	3.3%
St. Thomas Seminary					27	27					27	<b>27</b>	9	18	200.0%
Teikyo Post University	719	606	1,325							719	606	<b>1,325</b>	1,378	-53	-3.8%
University of Bridgeport	1,003	258	1,261	853	847	1,700	199	5	204	2,055	1,110	<b>3,165</b>	3,173	-8	-0.3%
University of Hartford	4,533	1,079	5,612	573	1,060	1,633				5,106	2,139	<b>7,245</b>	6,998	247	3.5%
University of New Haven	2,000	627	2,627	845	914	1,759				2,845	1,541	<b>4,386</b>	4,329	57	1.3%
<i>Two-Year Independents</i>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>2,819</b>							<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>2,819</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>39.3%</b>
Briarwood College	389	199	588							389	199	<b>588</b>	566	22	3.9%
Gibbs College	951	203	1,154							951	203	<b>1,154</b>	366	788	215.3%
Goodwin College	282	385	667							282	385	<b>667</b>	676	-9	-1.3%
Int'l College of Hospitality Management	45		45							45		<b>45</b>	75	-30	-40.0%
St. Vincent's College	48	317	365							48	317	<b>365</b>	340	25	7.4%
<b>TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS</b>	<b>36,571</b>	<b>6,831</b>	<b>43,402</b>	<b>9,140</b>	<b>7,735</b>	<b>16,875</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>47,608</b>	<b>14,796</b>	<b>62,404</b>	<b>61,959</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>89,315</b>	<b>46,993</b>	<b>136,308</b>	<b>14,081</b>	<b>16,768</b>	<b>30,849</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>3,467</b>	<b>106,427</b>	<b>64,197</b>	<b>170,624</b>	<b>169,748</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>0.5%</b>