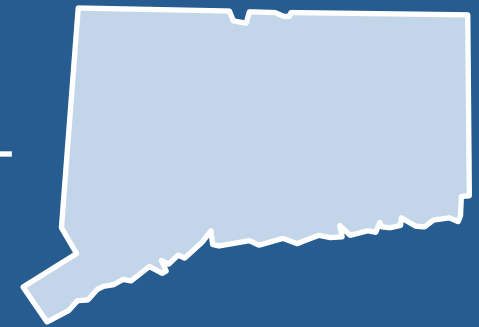


# FISCAL POLICY CENTER

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At Connecticut Voices for Children



## **Understanding the Needs of Connecticut's Vulnerable Youth Population and Opportunities through Policy**

Nicholas Defiesta | Fiscal Policy Fellow

Presentation to the American Youth Policy Forum Connecticut Study Tour  
March 13, 2015

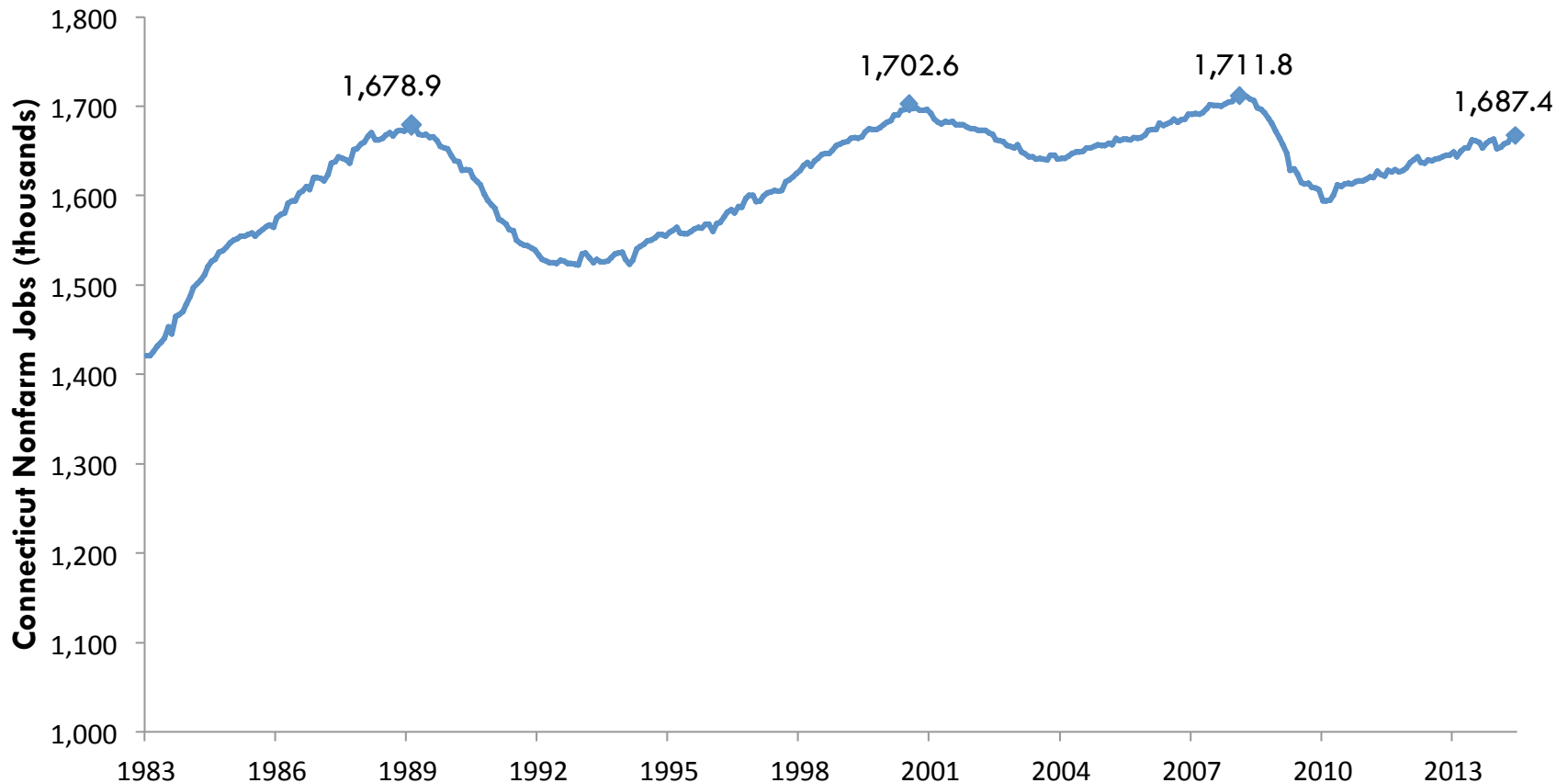
# Agenda

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1. Connecticut's Job Market Continues to Pose Great Challenges
2. The Economy Has Harmed Some Workers More than Others
3. Inequality Threatens to Exacerbate Age and Race Disparities
4. Public Policies Must Respond to Growing Disparities

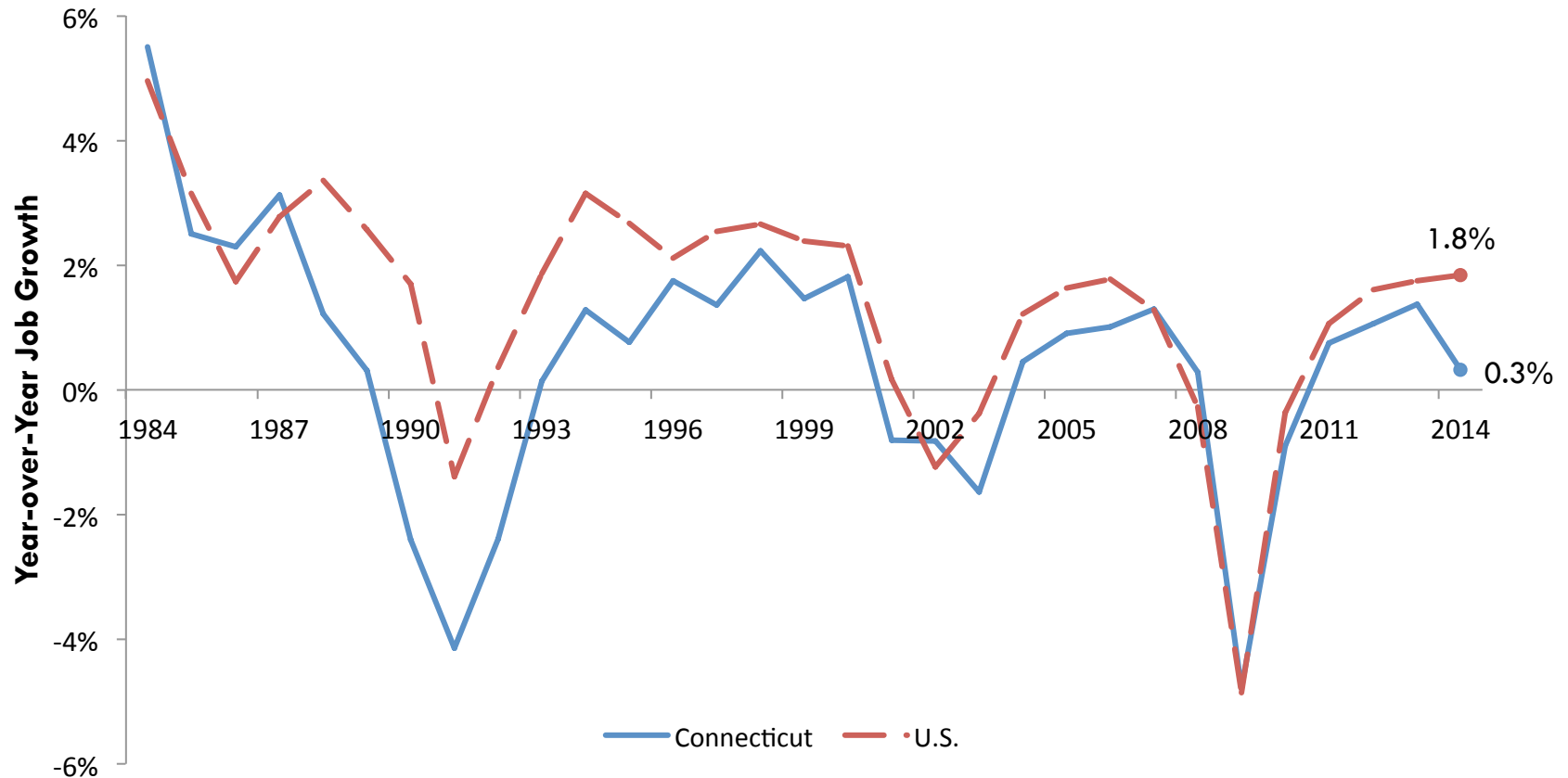
# Connecticut's Job Market Continues to Pose Great Challenges

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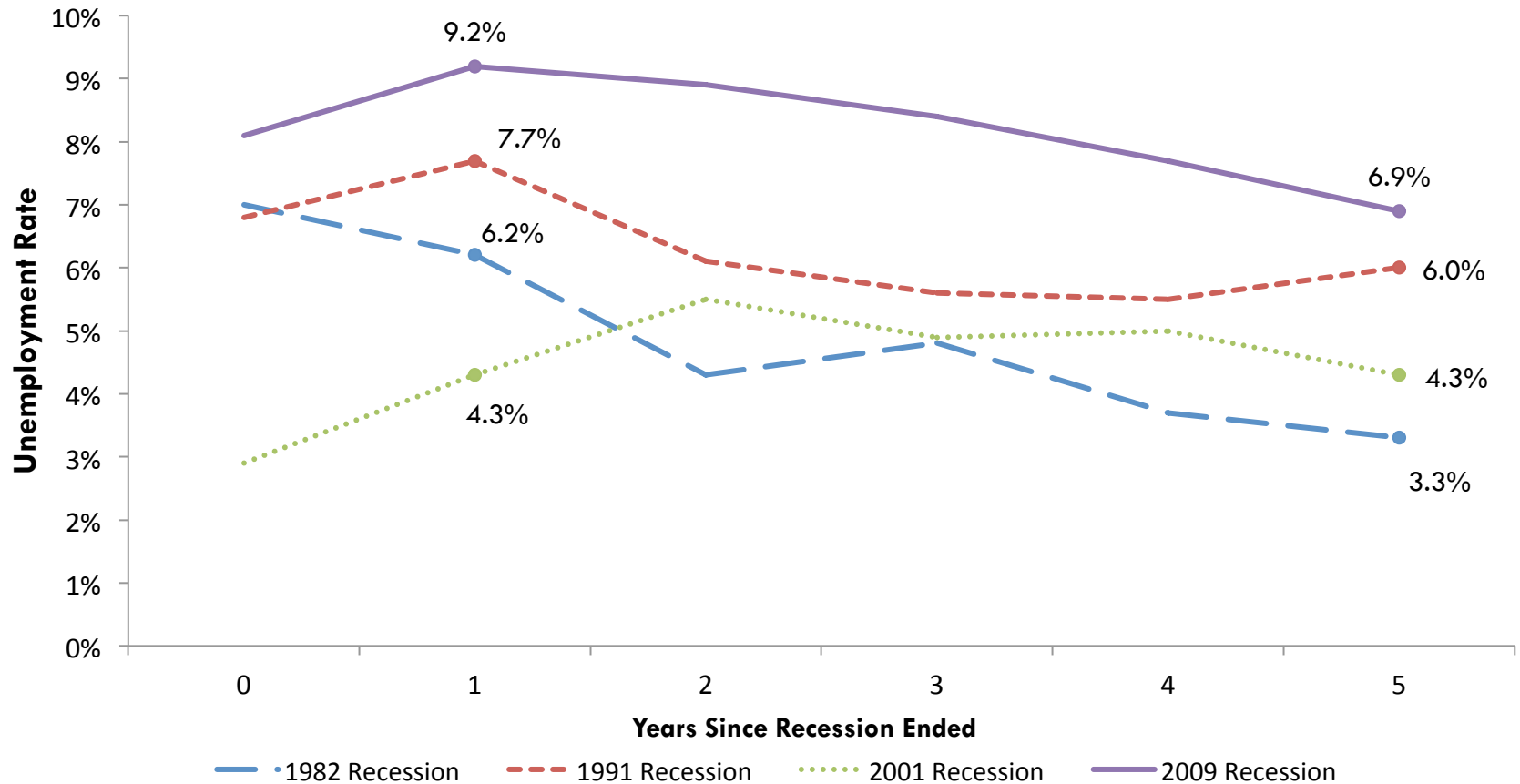
- CT has barely more jobs today than 25 years ago, even though our population has grown.

# Connecticut's Job Market Continues to Pose Great Challenges



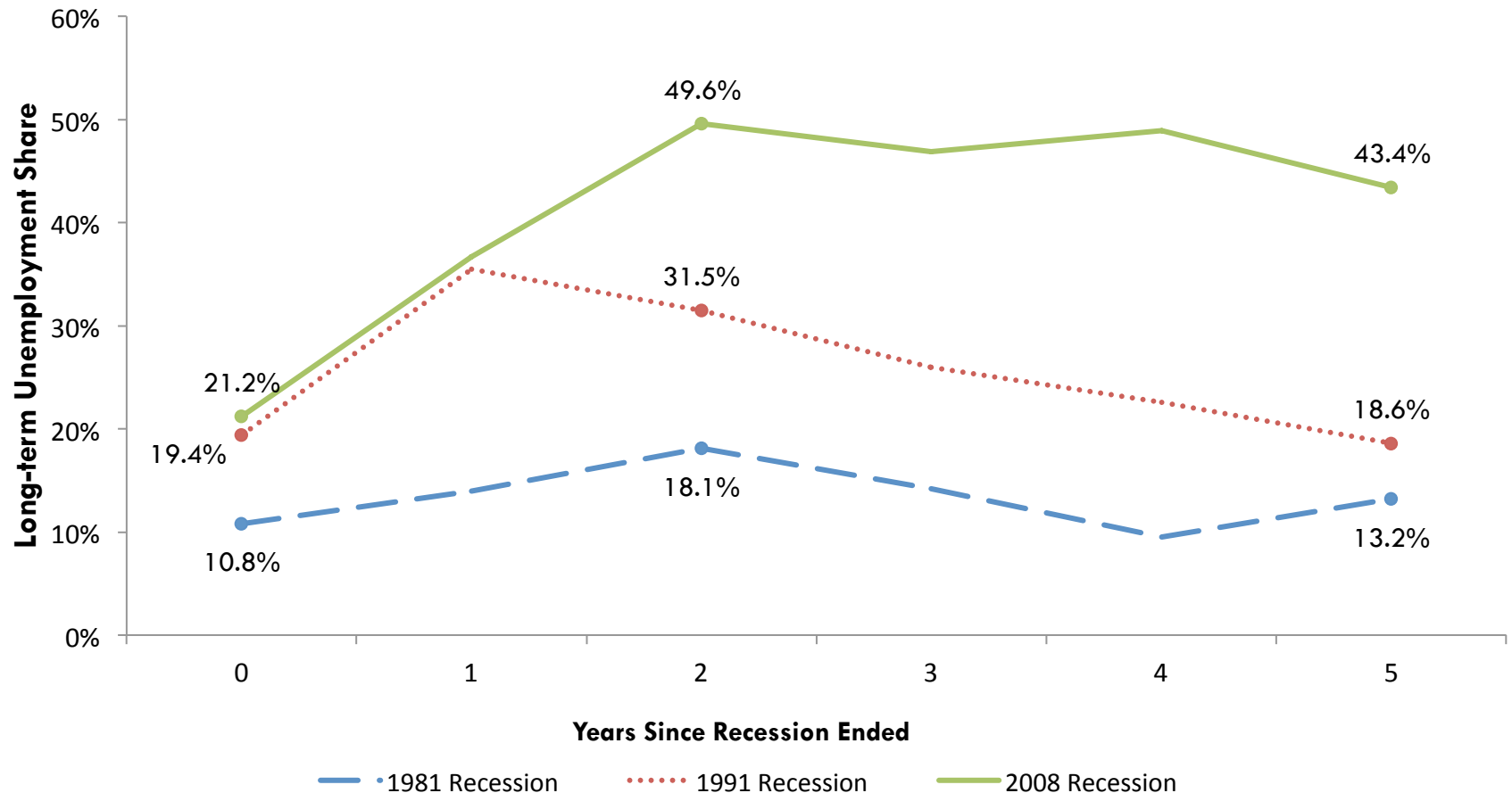
➤ Over the same period, our economic growth has lagged the Nation's.

# Connecticut's Job Market Continues to Pose Great Challenges



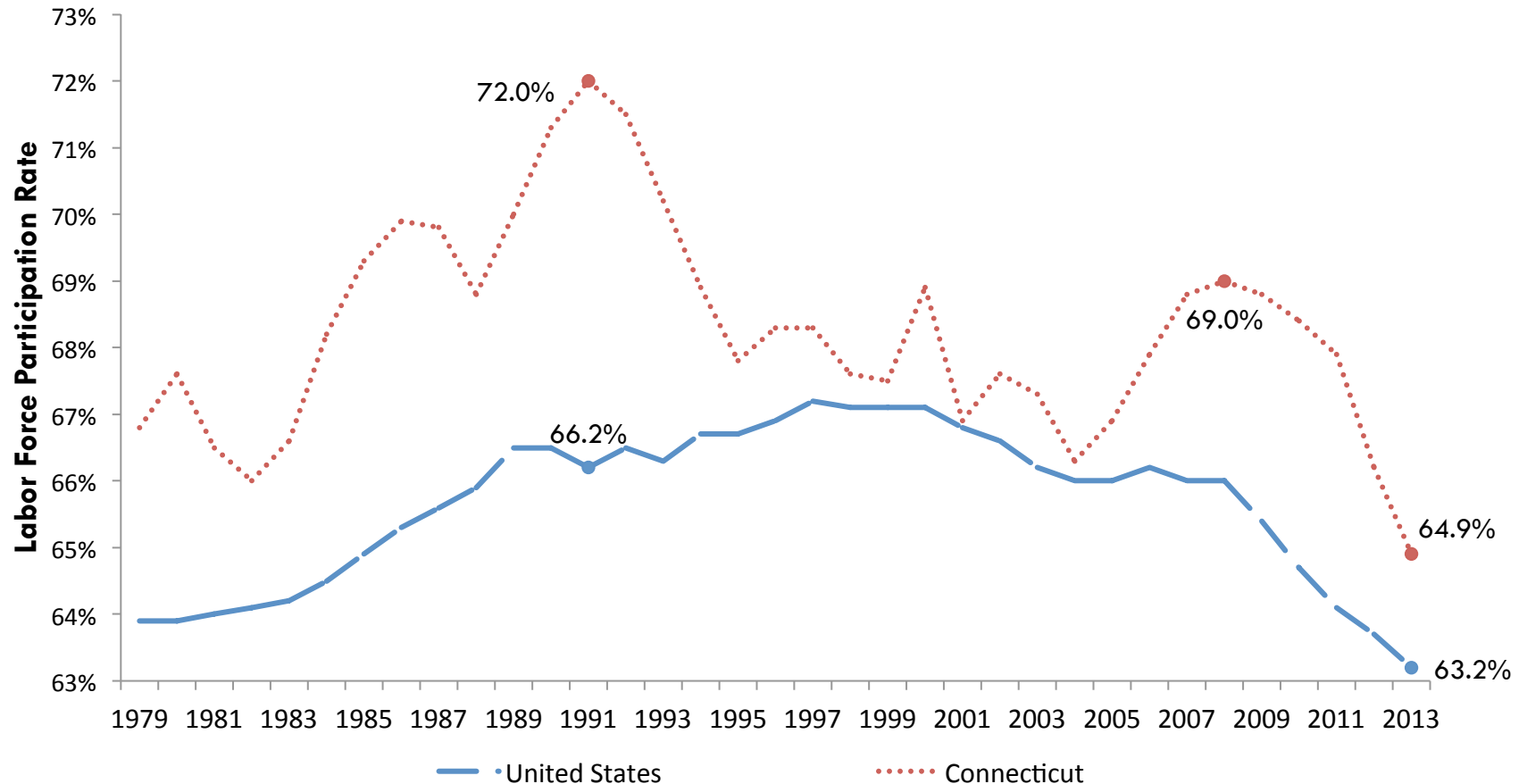
➤ Unemployment remains higher than at the same point after the previous 3 recessions.

# Connecticut's Job Market Continues to Pose Great Challenges



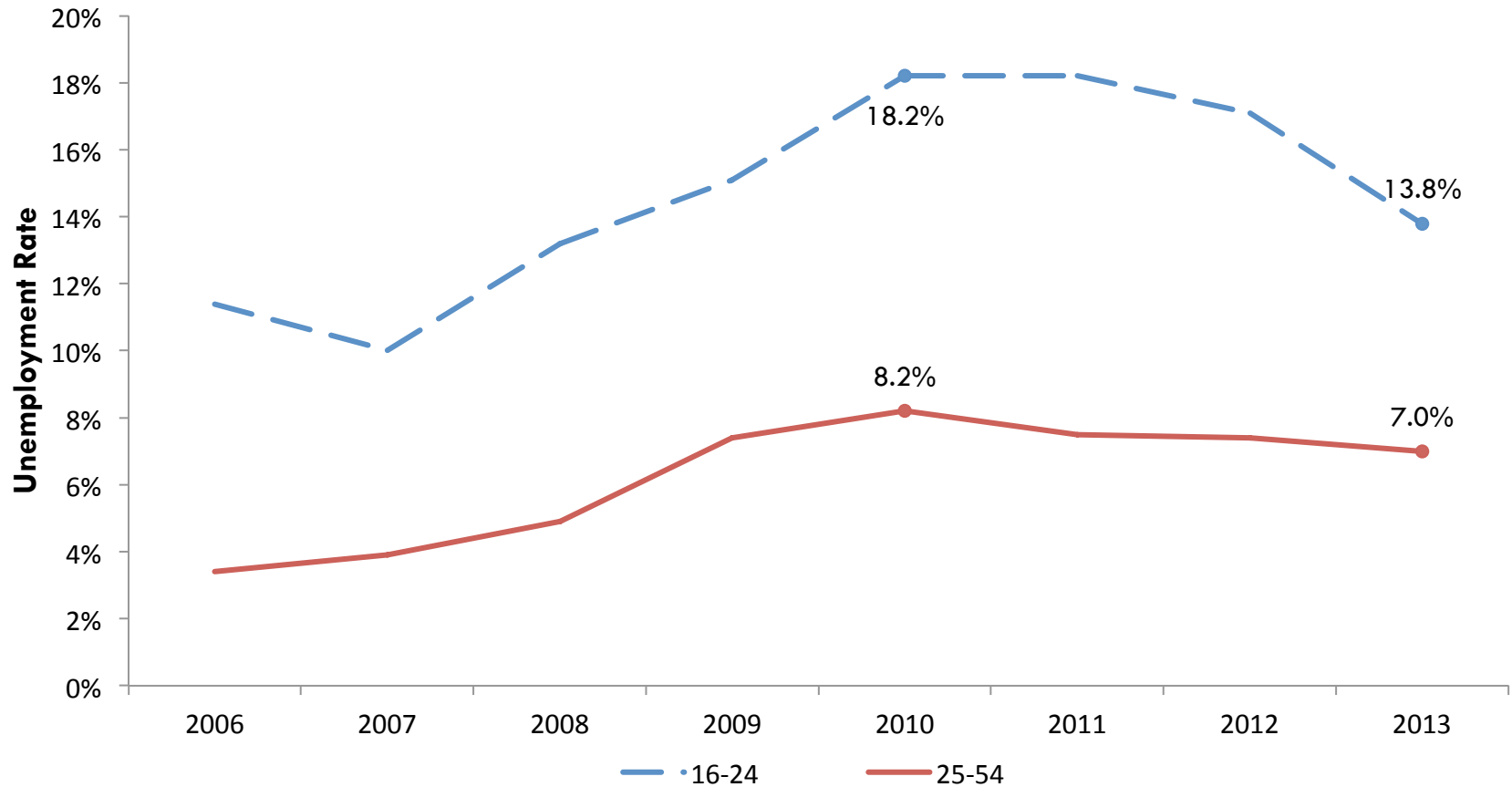
➤ The share of long-term unemployment remains unusually high as well.

# Connecticut's Job Market Continues to Pose Great Challenges



- As a consequence, Connecticut—which was once exceptional in the share of people it put to work—looks more average.

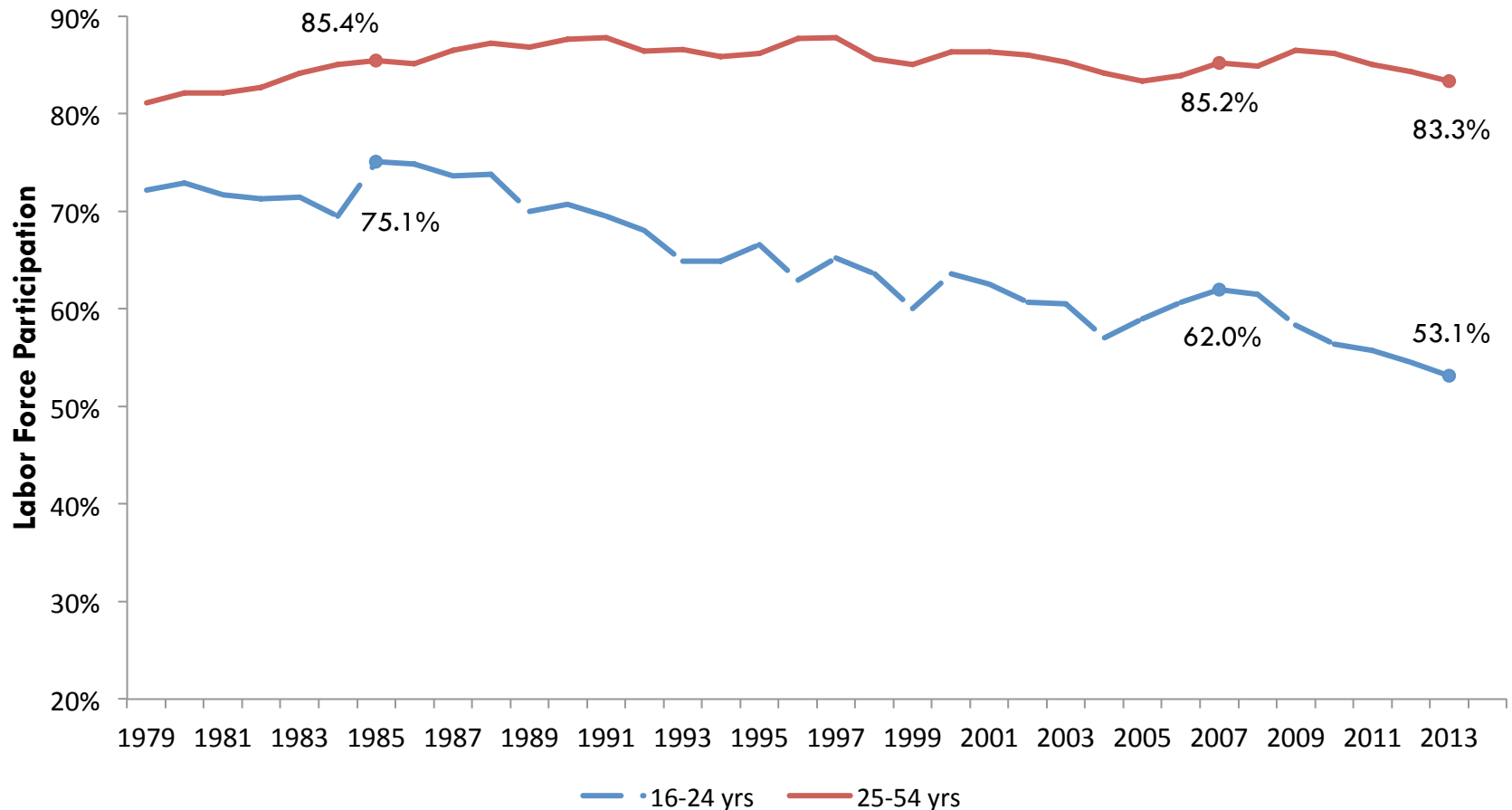
# The Economy Has Harmed Some Workers More than Others



➤ Young workers face twice the unemployment rate of older workers.



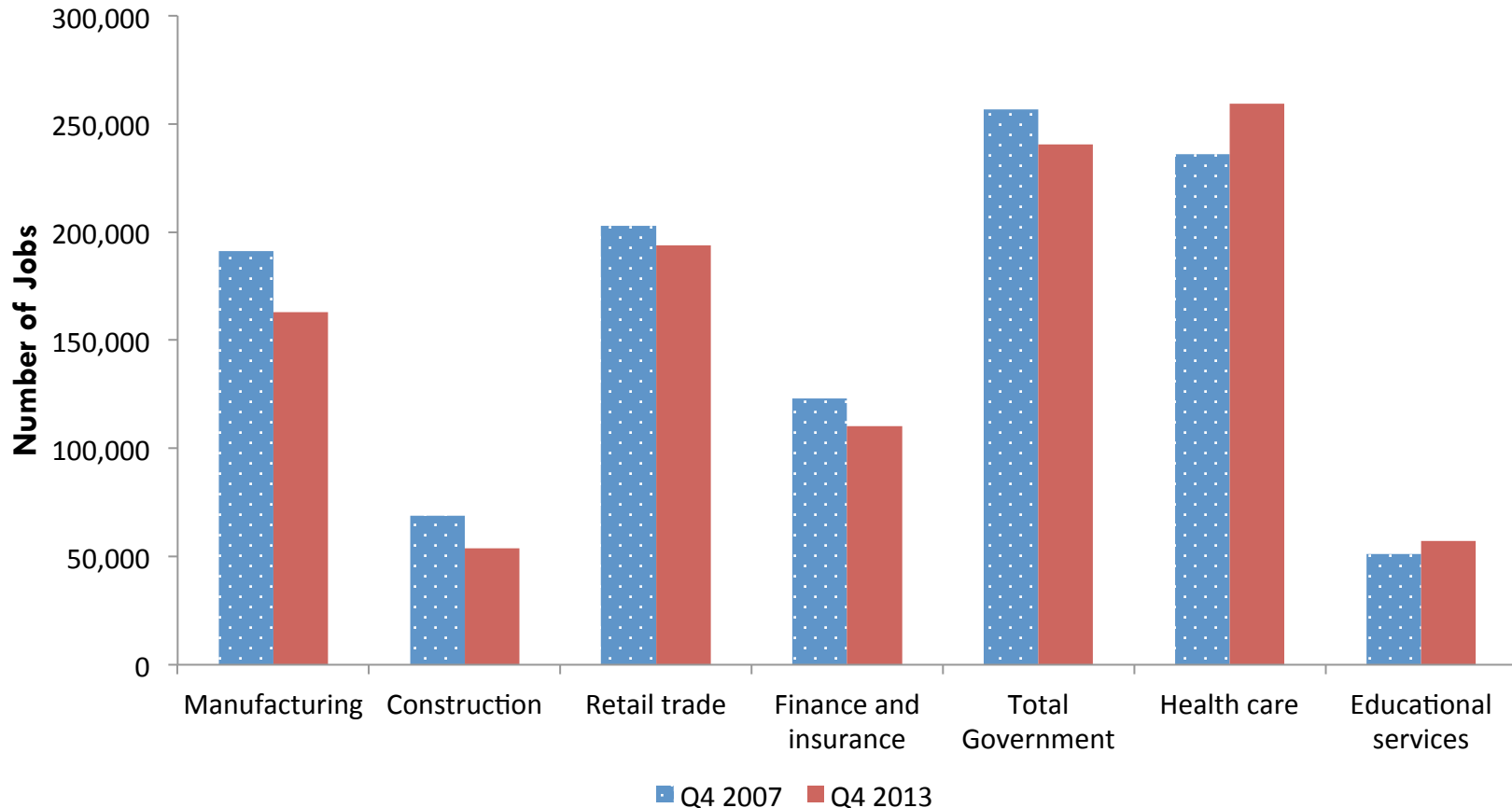
# The Economy Has Harmed Some Workers More than Others



- While older workers have generally stayed in the workforce, many young workers have delayed entering: some are staying in school; others simply cannot find work.

# Inequality Threatens to Exacerbate Age and Race Disparities

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- The largest and fastest growing sector—health care—has the second lowest wages. Meanwhile, other sectors that pay well, such as manufacturing & finance, have shrunk.

# Public Policies Must Respond to Growing Disparities

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- Our efforts must:
  - **Focus on racial equity**
    - Connecticut has the largest racial achievement gap
    - Structural barriers must be identified and redressed
  - **Understand workforce development as youth development**
    - We must start EARLY to build pathways to the middle class, both within the largest sectors (e.g., health care) and those with the highest wages (e.g., manufacturing, finance, and insurance)
    - **Two-generation solutions** offer a particularly promising opportunity to grow the middle class
- Best practices include:
  - **Working hand-in-hand with employers** (e.g., P-TECH with IBM in Norwalk, EARN in Maryland)
  - **Crafting apprenticeship models** (e.g., South Carolina)

## For More Information

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Nicholas Defiesta

Fiscal Policy Fellow

[ndefiesta@ctvoices.org](mailto:ndefiesta@ctvoices.org)

(203) 498-4240 x118