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CT ECONOMIC DIGEST

The *Connecticut Economic Digest* is a joint publication of the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Department of Economic and Community Development. Its purpose is to regularly provide users with a comprehensive source for the most current, up-to-date data available on the workforce and economy of the state, within perspectives of the region and nation. *A brief monthly summary will constitute the major monthly topic of this newsletter.*

Covered Employment and Wages: A 2018 Annual Review

According to the most recent Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, jobs in Connecticut increased by 0.2 percent during 2018. Connecticut continues to show slow but steady employment growth since the Great Recession.

Average annual wages for all Connecticut jobs increased by 1.6 percent. The number of business establishments continued their expansion, with an increase of 2.0 percent over 2017. Total private establishments represented the entirety of the increase. Government worksites decreased 1.0 in the state.

Looking at the sectors with notable gains in employment in 2018, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, and other services sectors all showed solid increases. Transportation and warehousing was the largest gainer last year. For sectors that declined in 2018, retail trade dropped the most, and finance and insurance was close behind. Government employment also continues to shrink in the state.

Much of the loss in government was due to retirements and hiring freezes; this trend will likely continue into the 2019 annual data.

The highest annual average wage, found in the finance and insurance sector was 2.5 times the state average. At the other end of the spectrum, accommodation and food services workers earned the least.