

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.*

The Growing Brewery Industry Employment Trend in Connecticut

The craft beer industry, consisting of microbreweries, brewpubs, and contract brewing companies has really established its calling in America over the last ten years. Overall total brewery employment in the U.S., which also included the large brand-name breweries, has grown from under 25,000 in the first quarter of 2010, to 81,180 in September 2019. This exciting brewery job growth is clearly being led by the craft beer industry portion. In Connecticut, with no large commercial breweries and mainly consisting of the craft beer industry segment, employment has grown from less than 15 in the first quarter of 2010 to close to 800 in December 2019.

State law changes in 2012 allowed craft brewers to have onsite taprooms and take advantage of the growing national employment trend. This has been helpful in a mature, slower growing state like Connecticut. Craft brewing can be a catalyst for leisure activity, making this market segment impact bigger than it may appear.

It is conceivable an adult recreational cannabis law change could result in a similar employment ramp-up like the 2012 craft beer law change that catalyzed recent job growth for craft breweries. This could provide a potential new growing and taxable industry for Connecticut's mature economy. Both of these trending industries seem to attract a younger demographic.

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Below is a link to Connecticut's recently completed 2017-2022 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP is a planning document that identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide significance and that evaluates the supply of and the demand for outdoor recreation resources and facilities in Connecticut. The SCORP provides unified guidance to state and municipal officials as they develop and expand outdoor recreation opportunities for their respective constituents.

www.ct.gov/deep/scorp