

<https://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/digest/pdfs/cedmar20.pdf>

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.*

Connecticut's Overall Economy Sends Mixed Signals in 2019

Employment fell in Connecticut for the first time since 2010 and the overall economy weakened in 2019. After having increased for eight straight years, the revised annual average total non-farm employment fell slightly last year although the unemployment rate continued to fall since 2011. While real personal income continued to increase for the last six years, the value of the annual diffusion index of 58 state economic indicators dropped to the lowest level since 2010, indicating a slowing but still positive level of growth.

In 2019 Connecticut actually lost employment for the first time since 2010. Employment growth seems to be slowing nationally and in our neighbor states partially due to very low unemployment rates. On a positive note, unemployment indicators point to a healthier labor market situation.

In addition to employment and unemployment data, other economic indicators showed mixed results again last year. The good news is that, as the table on page 3 shows, inflation-adjusted total personal income of state residents rose for six consecutive years. However, the construction contracts index, the new auto registrations total, exports, revenues from both gaming payments and slots all fell in 2019.

This year is off to a good start with a gain of 2,600 jobs and a low unemployment rate. For example, General Dynamics Electric Boat will be hiring thousands of employees over the next ten years. However, given the current coronavirus situation and its potential global economic impact coupled with already weakened state economy, the future economic growth of both the nation and Connecticut remain uncertain.