

# Connecticut Economic Competitiveness Diagnostic

## Summary Results

Presentation to Commission for  
Economic Competitiveness

April 8, 2016



- **Context for the Connecticut Economic Competitiveness Diagnostic**
- **Connecticut's long run of strong economic growth**
- **Recent trends that have created a new economic normal**
- **Connecticut's distinctive assets**
- **Five potential themes for further exploration**

## The Economic Competitiveness Diagnostic provides a fact base for discussion but is limited in scope



**Commission  
on Economic  
Competitiveness**

**The Business Council  
of Fairfield County**

Strengthening Businesses. Strengthening Communities.

### **This diagnostic did...**

- ✓ Assemble an independent, data-driven fact base
- ✓ Incorporate a diverse range of perspectives
- ✓ Identify potential themes for the Commission consideration

### **This diagnostic did not...**

- ✗ Intend to be comprehensive in scope
- ✗ Engage all possible stakeholders
- ✗ Make policy or strategy recommendations

**Importantly, this diagnostic is just one element of the work that will help shape the Commission's' focus and priorities**

# The diagnostic is one element of a broader effort to understand and improve Connecticut's economic competitiveness

## 1. Diagnostic

- Fact-based assessment of current strengths and challenges
- Additional competitiveness diagnostics (e.g., on taxes)
- Launch of ongoing stakeholder engagement
- Alignment around shortlist of priorities

## 2. Strategy development

- Integrated plan and vision
- Detailed strategies for high priority near term opportunities (e.g., best practice research, detailed initiative design, feasibility testing, implementation plan, budgeting)

## 3. Execution

- Resourcing and implementation of near-term opportunities
- Strategy design for longer-term opportunities
- Performance management and reporting

The diagnostic was developed through data analysis and qualitative input from interviews

Assembled an independent, data-driven fact base

- Federal, state, and private data sources
- Existing reports and analyses
- Comparison of Connecticut versus regional peer states and by MSA

Incorporated a diverse range of perspectives

- 75+ interviews across sectors and regions
- Engagement with ~200 economic development professionals

Private sector

- Large companies
- Start-ups
- Site selection firms
- Trade associations

Public Sector

- Executive branch
- Legislators
- Commission on Economic Competitiveness members
- City and town officials

Social sector

- Foundations
- Direct service organizations
- Academia

# The Connecticut Economic Competitiveness diagnostic:

## Key takeaways

- **Connecticut has had a long run of strong economic performance**, making it a great state to live and work
- **Recent trends have created a new economic normal** and pose challenges for the state's competitiveness
  - A. Global and national forces are reshaping Connecticut's traditional core sectors
  - B. Peers are closing the gap on Connecticut's livability and cost advantages
  - C. Population trends are reshaping Connecticut's workforce
  - D. Perceptions are hardening on state governance and fiscal uncertainty
- **Connecticut has a portfolio of distinctive assets to address these trends** and ensure long-term competitiveness
- **Five themes have emerged as potential areas for the Commission to consider exploring in further detail**
  - **1. Cities:** How should Connecticut revitalize its urban cores?
  - **2. Growth sectors:** How can Connecticut support its high potential, fast-changing sectors?
  - **3. Transportation:** What investments will best connect talent and businesses?
  - **4. Fiscal outlook:** How can Connecticut address its pension and budget challenges to restore business confidence?
  - **5. Public-private engagement:** How can the State and the private sector collaborate to jointly support long-term growth?

Connecticut's economy performs well along several important indicators, reflecting a long run of strong economic performance

GDP per capita, 2014

Rank	State
1	Alaska: \$66.2K
2	North Dakota: \$65.2K
3	New York: \$64.8K
4	Connecticut: \$64.7K

Productivity<sup>1</sup>, 2014

Rank	State
1	Alaska: \$143.1K
2	New York: \$139.8K
3	Connecticut: \$138.6K
4	California: \$133.2K

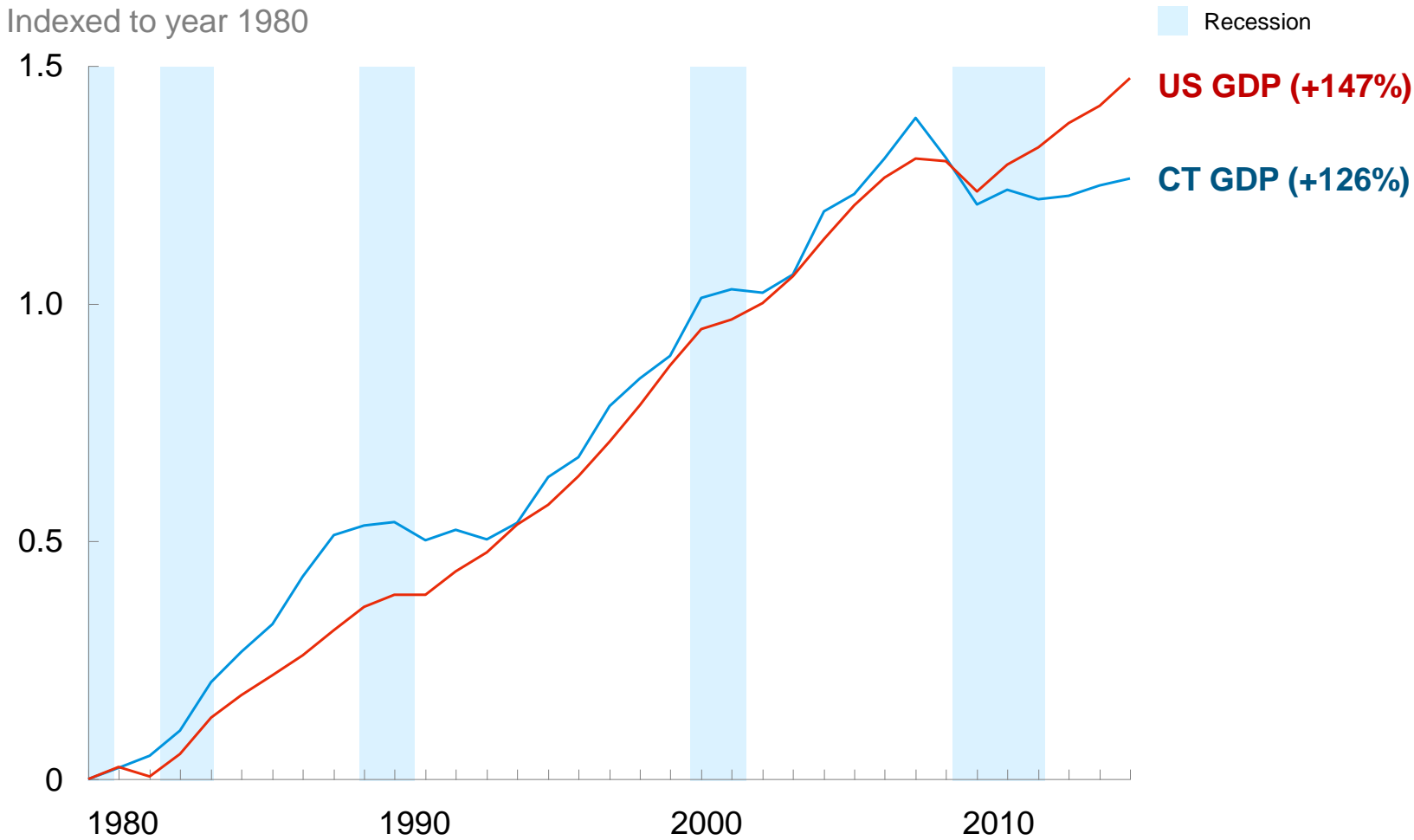
Median household income, 2014

Rank	State
1	Maryland: \$76.2K
2	New Hampshire: \$73.4K
3	Hawaii: \$71.2K
4	Connecticut: \$70.2K

1 Measured as GDP per worker

# The recession disrupted Connecticut's long run of solid economic growth

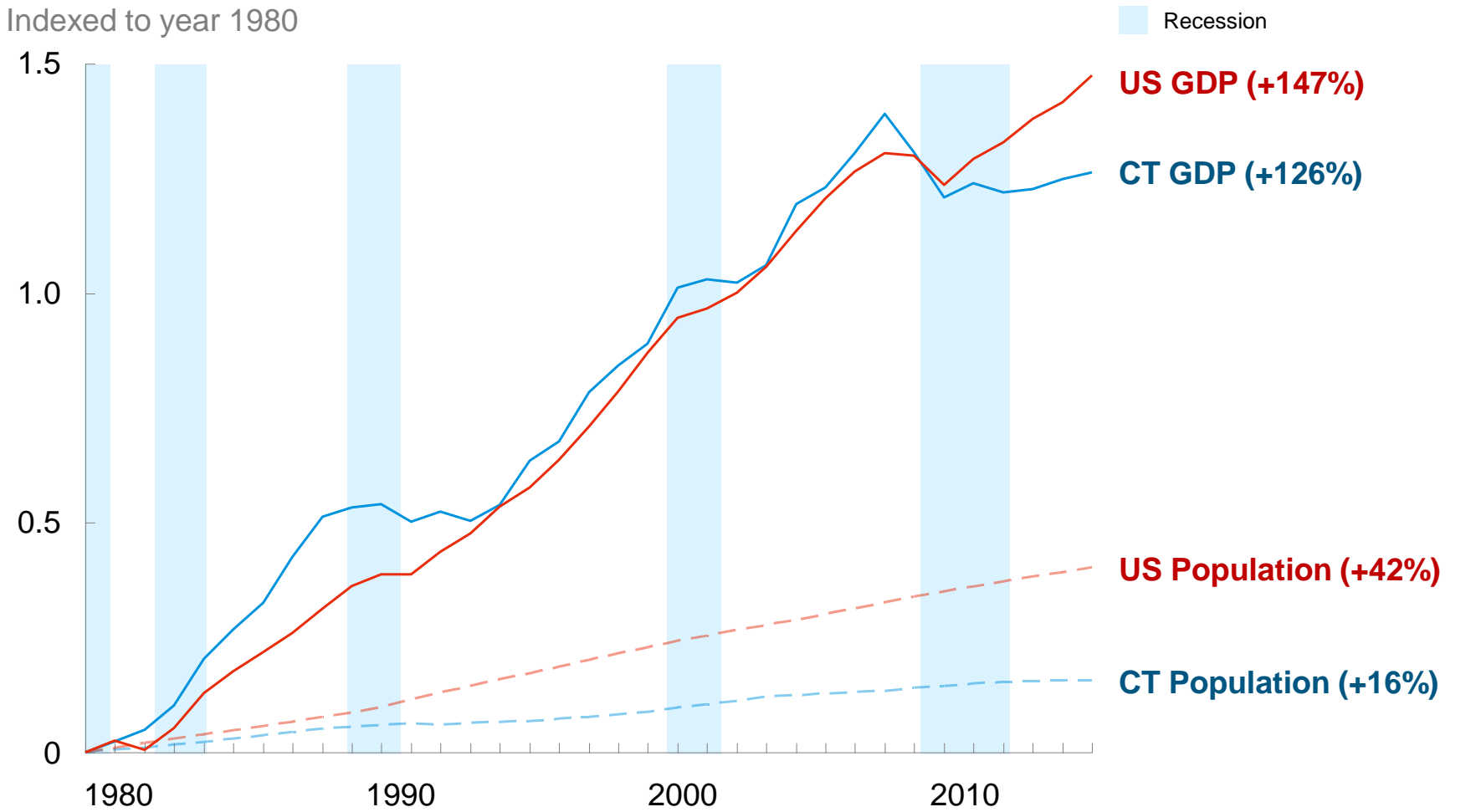
Real GDP, population, and employment, 1980-2014





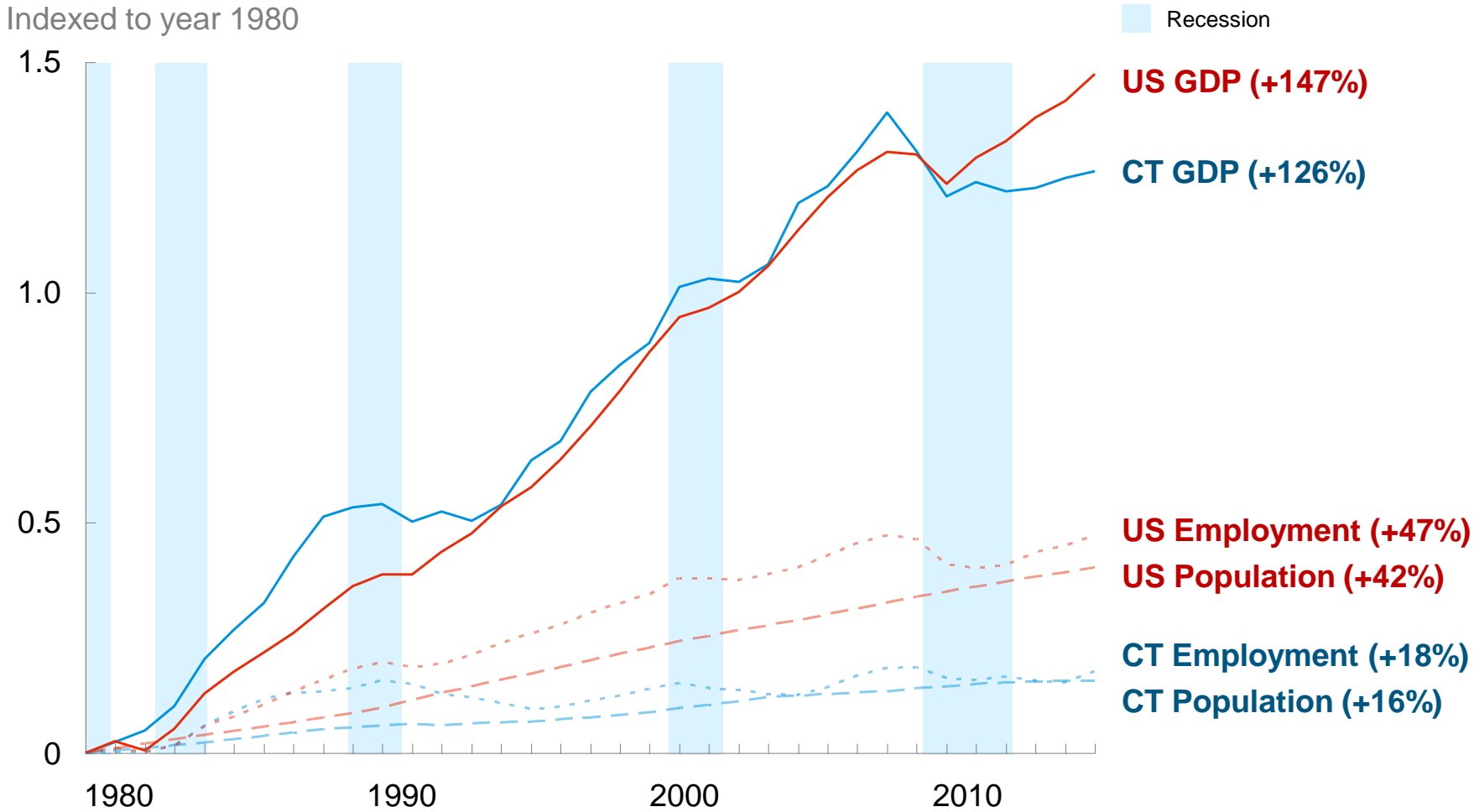
# The recession disrupted Connecticut's long run of solid economic growth

Real GDP, population, and employment, 1980-2014



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Real GDP, population, and employment, 1980-2014



## Emerging trends have created a new economic normal and pose challenges for the state's competitiveness



Global and national forces are reshaping Connecticut's traditional core sectors



Peers are closing the gap on Connecticut's livability and cost advantages



Population trends are reshaping Connecticut's workforce



Perceptions are hardening on state governance and fiscal uncertainty

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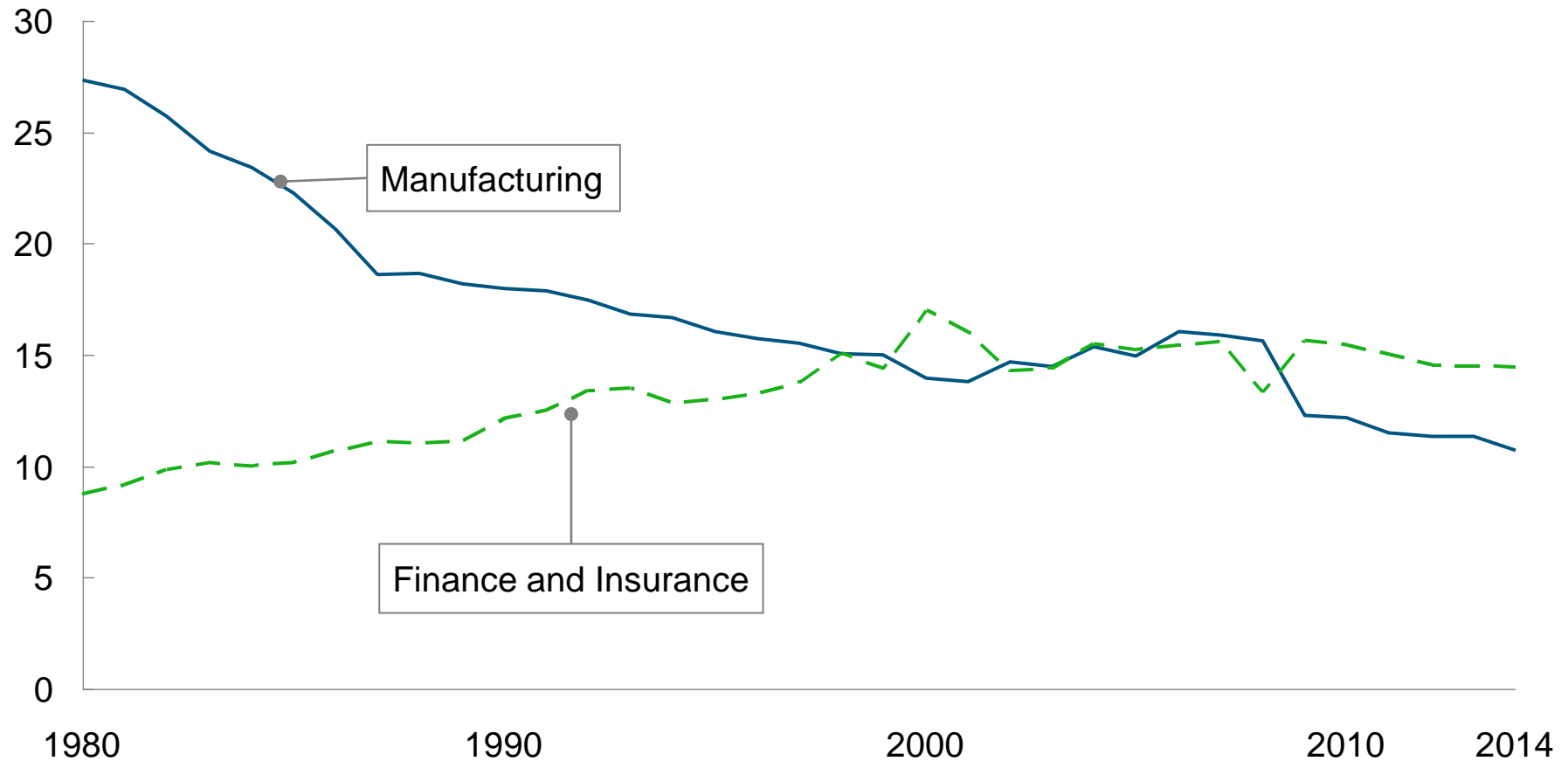
**Perceptions are hardening on state governance and fiscal uncertainty**



# Manufacturing, Finance and Insurance have faced recent challenges

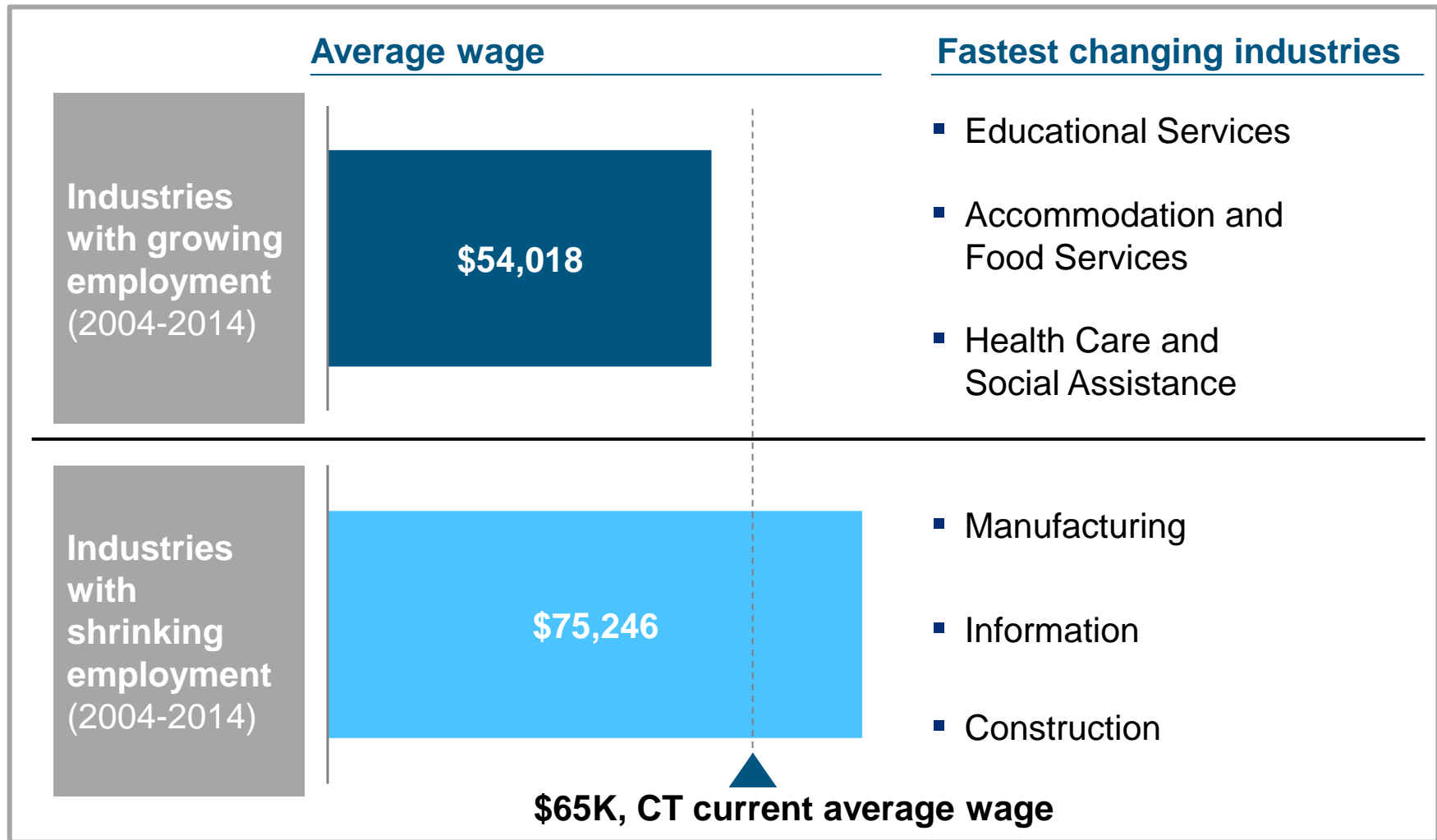
## Connecticut industry mix, 1980-2014

% of GDP





## Connecticut industries adding the most jobs pay below the state's current average wage



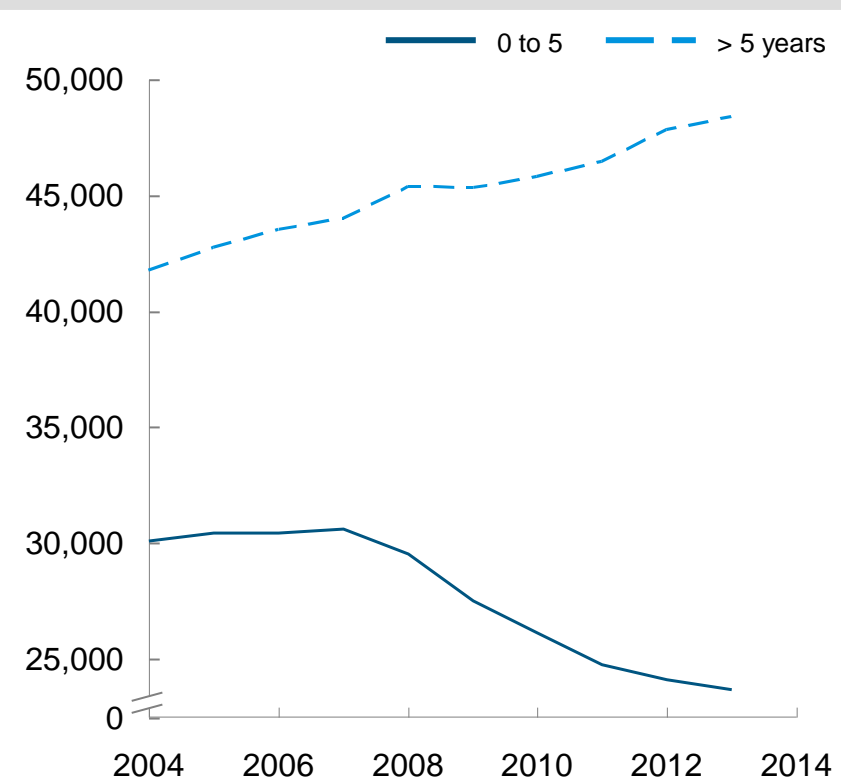
Note: all figures are based on December 2014 data; excludes Agriculture and Mining related sectors  
Measured as total wages & disbursements divided by total employees in industry



# Job creation by young companies in recent years has not returned to pre-recession levels

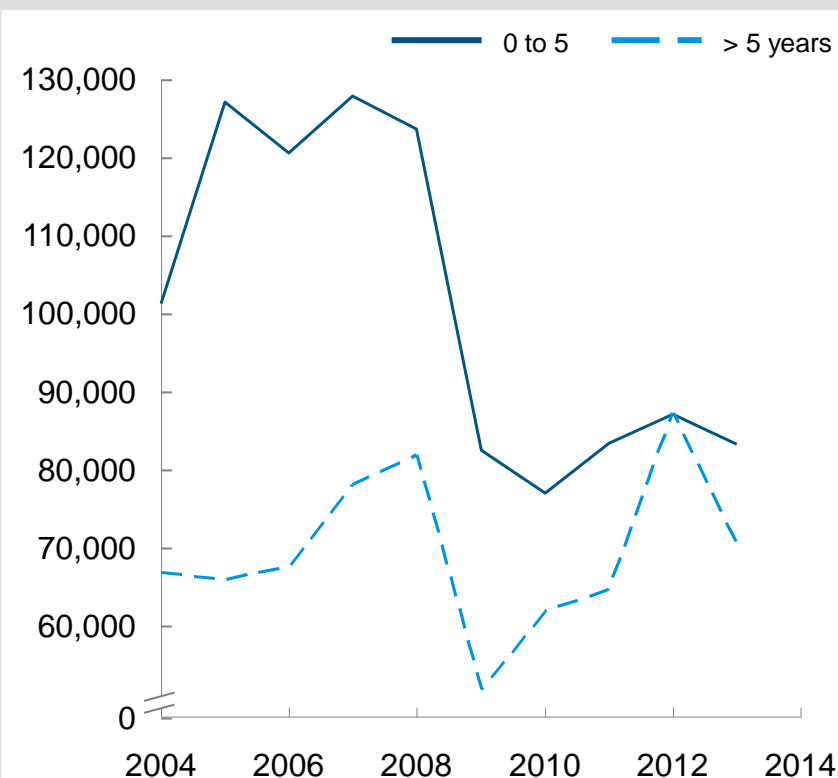
## Connecticut firms by age

Number of firms



## Connecticut job creation by age of firm

Number of jobs



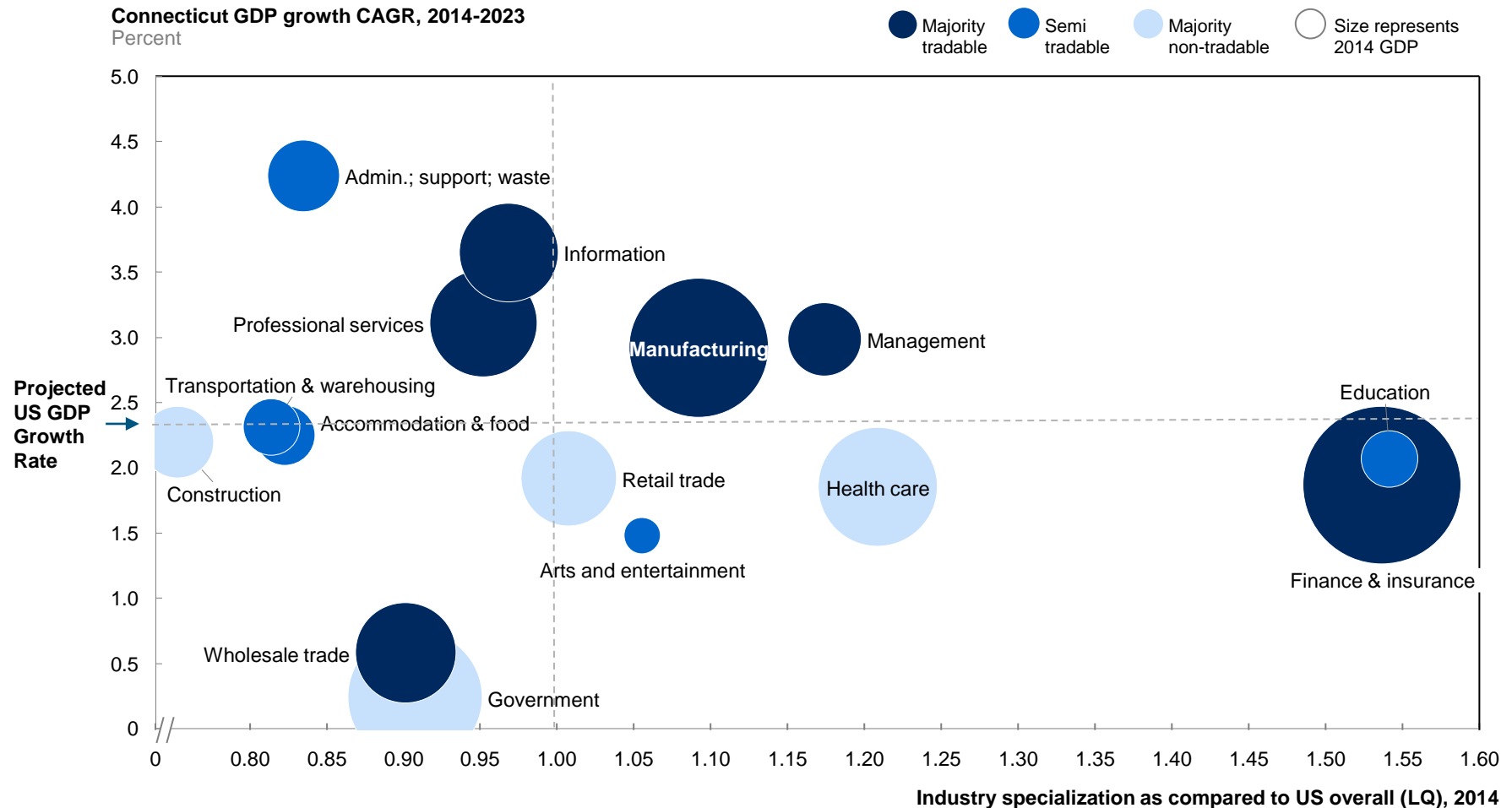
0-5 year old firms accounted for **33%** of total firms and **54%** of jobs created in 2013, ranking Connecticut **40<sup>th</sup>** (lowest) in the U.S.

NOTE: Excludes data for companies where establishment data is unknown (~10-15% of total Connecticut firms)



# However, Manufacturing, Finance and Insurance remain competitive growth engines for Connecticut

## Connecticut projected sector performance (2014-2023) compared to specialization





## Emerging trends have created a new economic normal and pose challenges for the state's competitiveness



**Global and national forces are reshaping Connecticut's traditional core sectors**



**Peers are closing the gap on Connecticut's livability and cost advantages**



**Population trends are reshaping Connecticut's workforce**



**Perceptions are hardening on state governance and fiscal uncertainty**



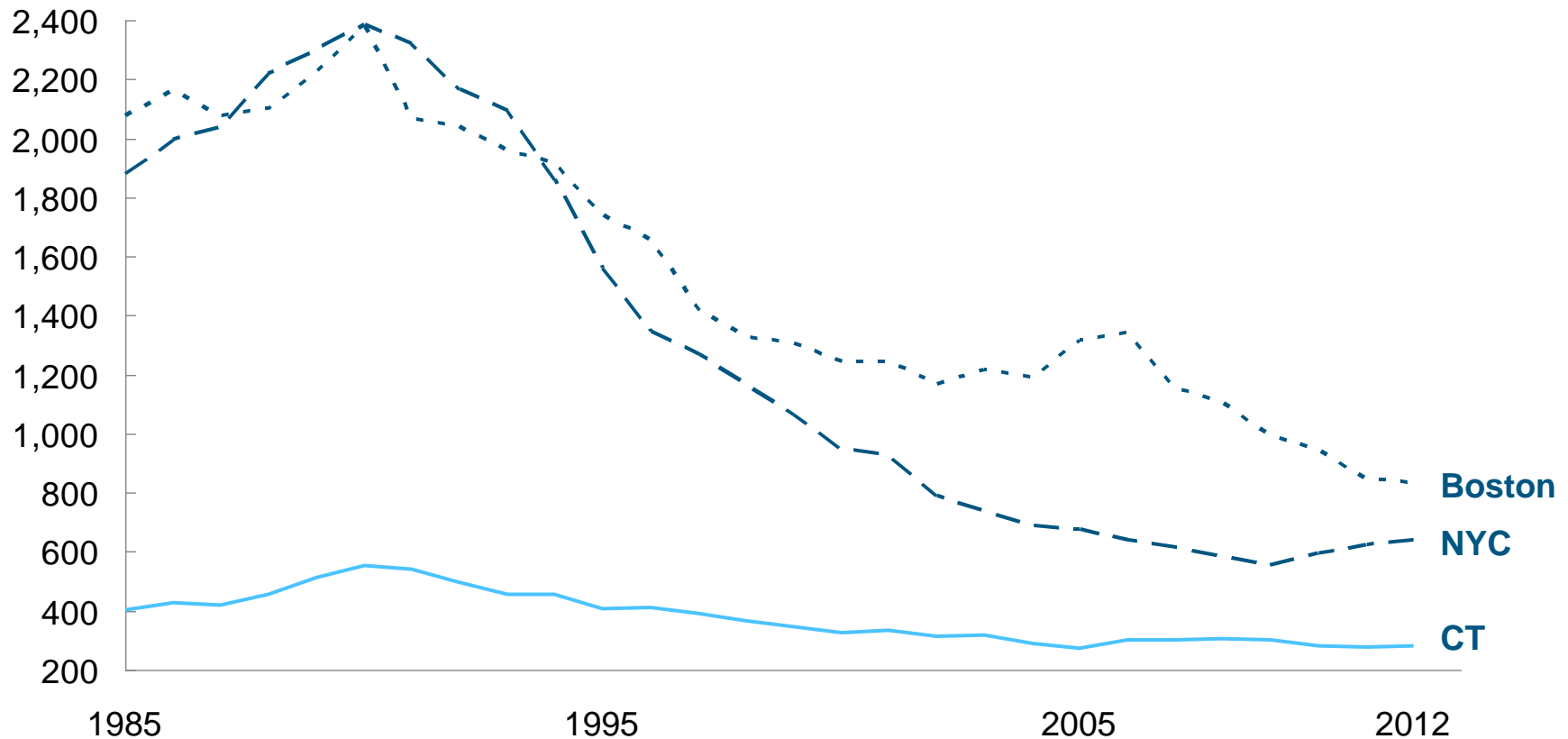
PEERS ARE CLOSING THE GAP ON CONNECTICUT'S ADVANTAGES

## While Connecticut has always been safe and livable, peers have closed the gap

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### Violent crime rate, 1985-2012

Number of violent crimes per 100k residents



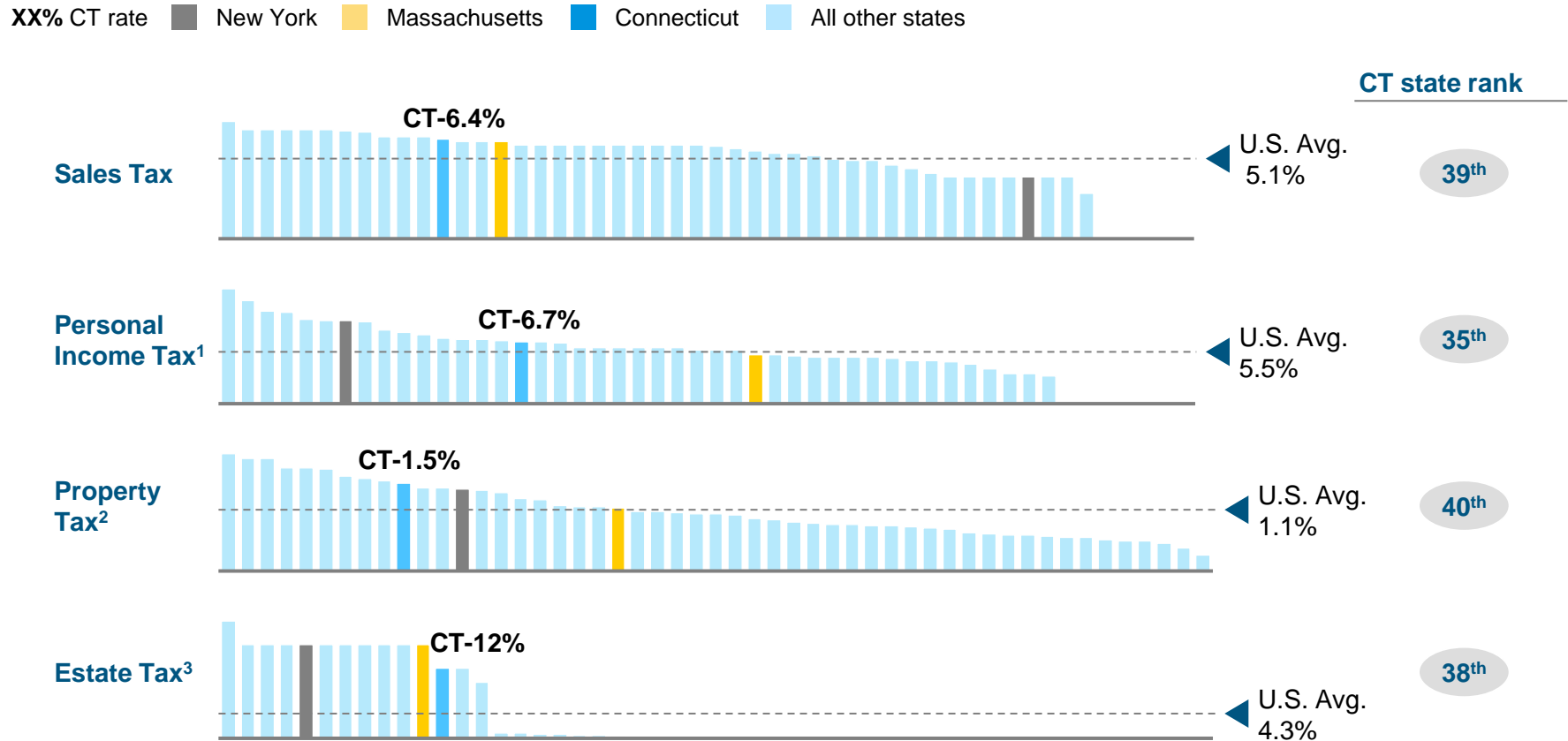


PEERS ARE CLOSING THE GAP ON CONNECTICUT'S ADVANTAGES

# Connecticut's tax rates are higher than U.S. averages and, in some cases, peers

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## Statutory tax rates by state, 2015



1 Represents the highest marginal personal income tax rate

2 Mean Property Taxes on Owner-Occupied Housing as Percentage of Mean Home Value as of Calendar Year 2011

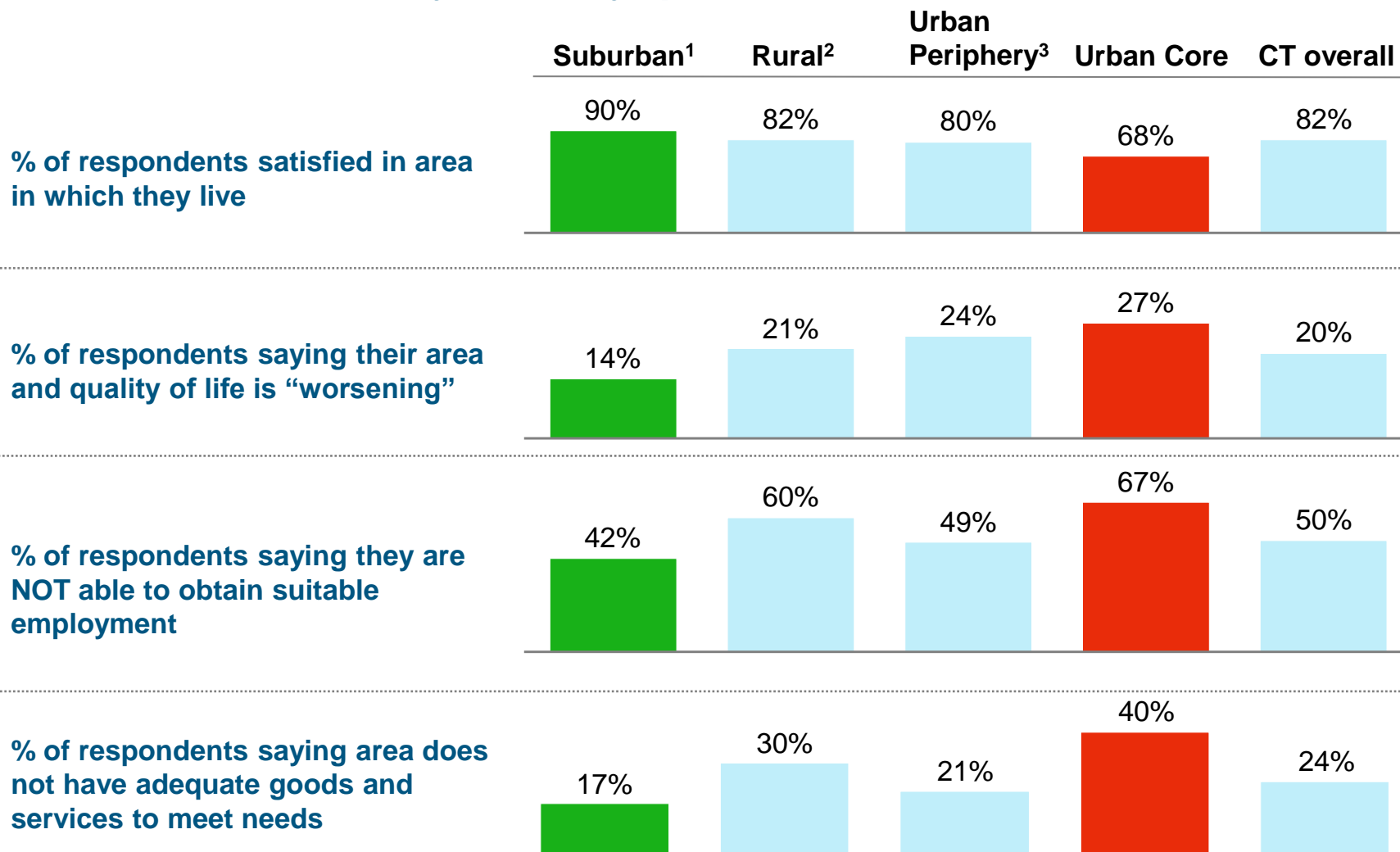
3 Tax Foundation data



## Connecticut's urban cores underperform rest of State on key livability questions

■ Best performing  
■ Lowest performing

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NOTE: Survey based on 16,219 responses—28% suburban, 13% rural residents, 38% urban periphery, 17% urban core residents, 5% "wealthy"

<sup>1</sup> Includes locations such as North Haven and Granby located near larger urban centers    <sup>2</sup> Includes locations such as Putnam and Sharon located farther from an urban core    <sup>3</sup> Includes locations such as Norwalk and East Haven located around urban cores



## Quality of life measures vary widely across Connecticut's cities

■ Top quartile  
■ Middle 50%  
■ Bottom quartile

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### Livability metrics by city, 2014

	CT overall	Bridgeport	Hartford	New Haven	Norwalk	Stamford	Waterbury
<b>Insurance coverage</b> % of population without health insurance	8.5%	20.3%	15.5%	12.3%	17.0%	17.3%	12.6%
<b>School ranking</b> Nationally of 13,506 school districts <sup>1</sup>	-	10,196	7,499	6,002	2,717	1,318	9,021
<b>Crime rates</b> Violent crime per 100k residents	263	905	1,104	1,054	296	240	373
<b>Cost of living</b> Median gross rent as a percentage of household income	31.9%	37.4%	36.2%	36.4%	30.3%	32.5%	35.2%
<b>Homelessness</b> Percent of total population	0.13%	0.30%	0.57%	ND	0.28%	0.31%	1.57%
<b>Unemployment<sup>2</sup></b> Percent	7.9%	14.6%	19.4%	11.2%	8.5%	9.3%	ND

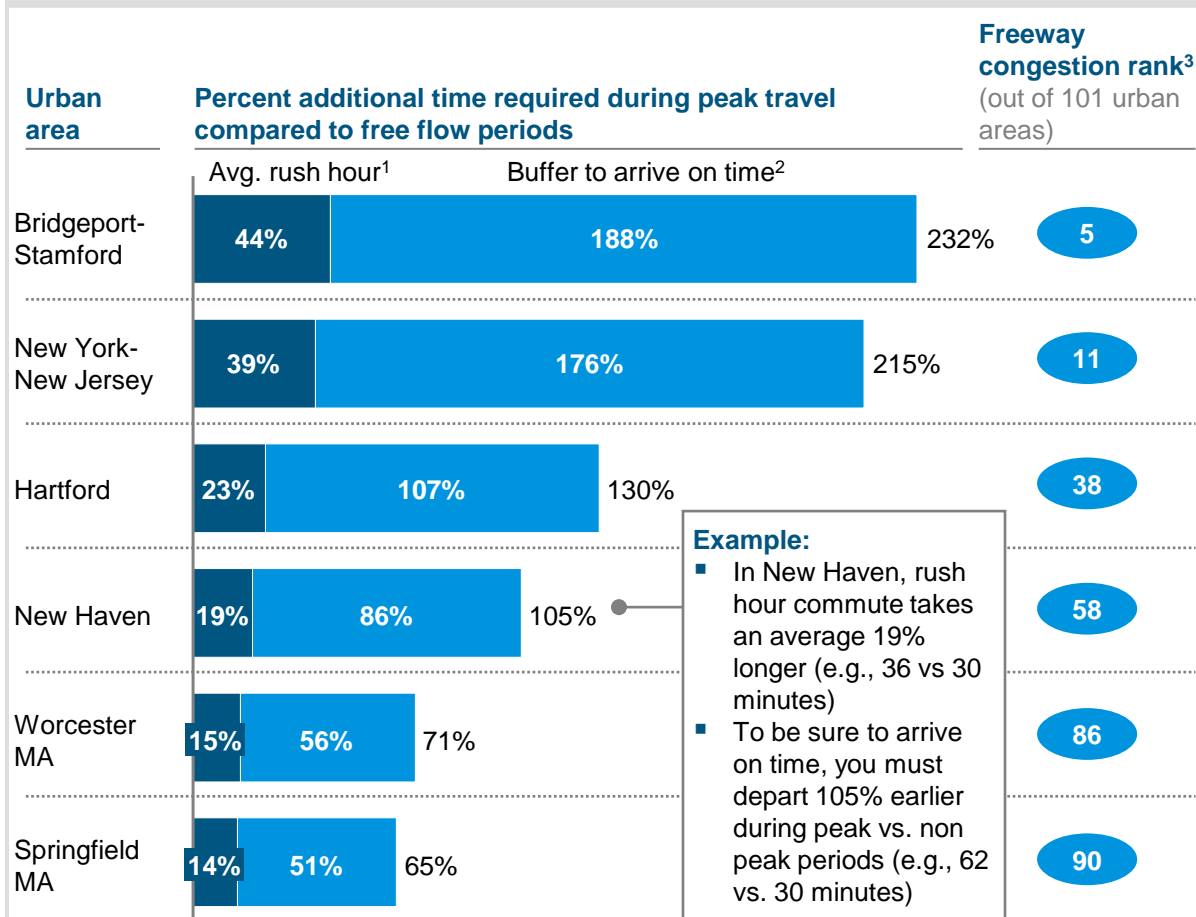
NOTE: Quartiles are determined using cities >50,000 residents 1 School ranking calculated through surveys, health, safety, student culture, diversity and state test scores 2 Unemployment based on ACS 2014 one year survey estimate for purposes of comparison with city-level data

SOURCE: Social Science Research Council; FBI U.S. Crime Database,  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development; ACS 2014,  
US Department of Education

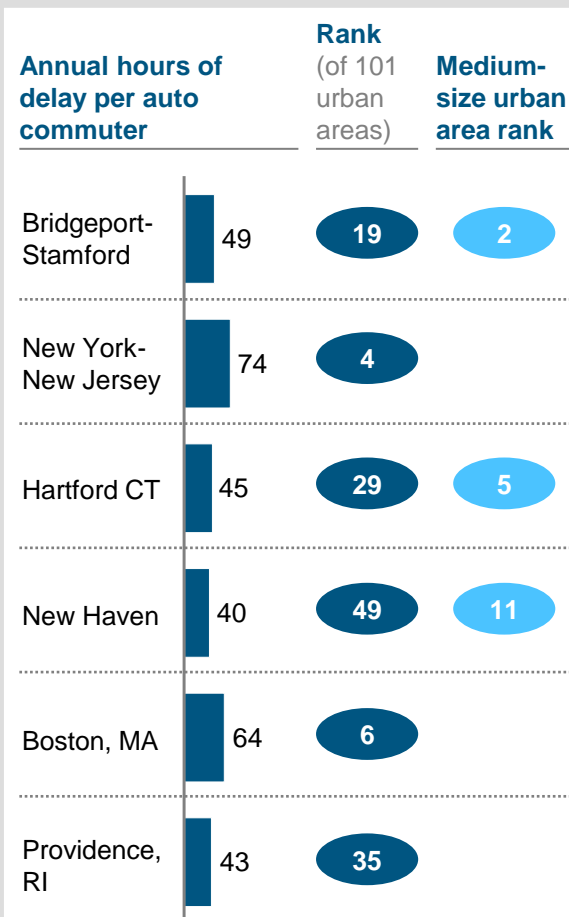


# Many of Connecticut's auto commuters face significant congestion challenges

Connecticut freeway commute times by urban area, 2014



Annual auto delays by urban area, 2014



1 Based on the commuter stress index: the ratio of peak period (in peak direction) versus free flow travel time

2 Based on the planning time index: the ratio of peak period versus free flow time including buffer to ensure 95% on-time arrival

3 Top 101 US urban areas ranked by planning time index, from longest to shortest additional travel time

## Emerging trends have created a new economic normal and pose challenges for the state's competitiveness



Global and national forces are reshaping Connecticut's traditional core sectors



Peers are closing the gap on Connecticut's livability and cost advantages



Population trends are reshaping Connecticut's workforce



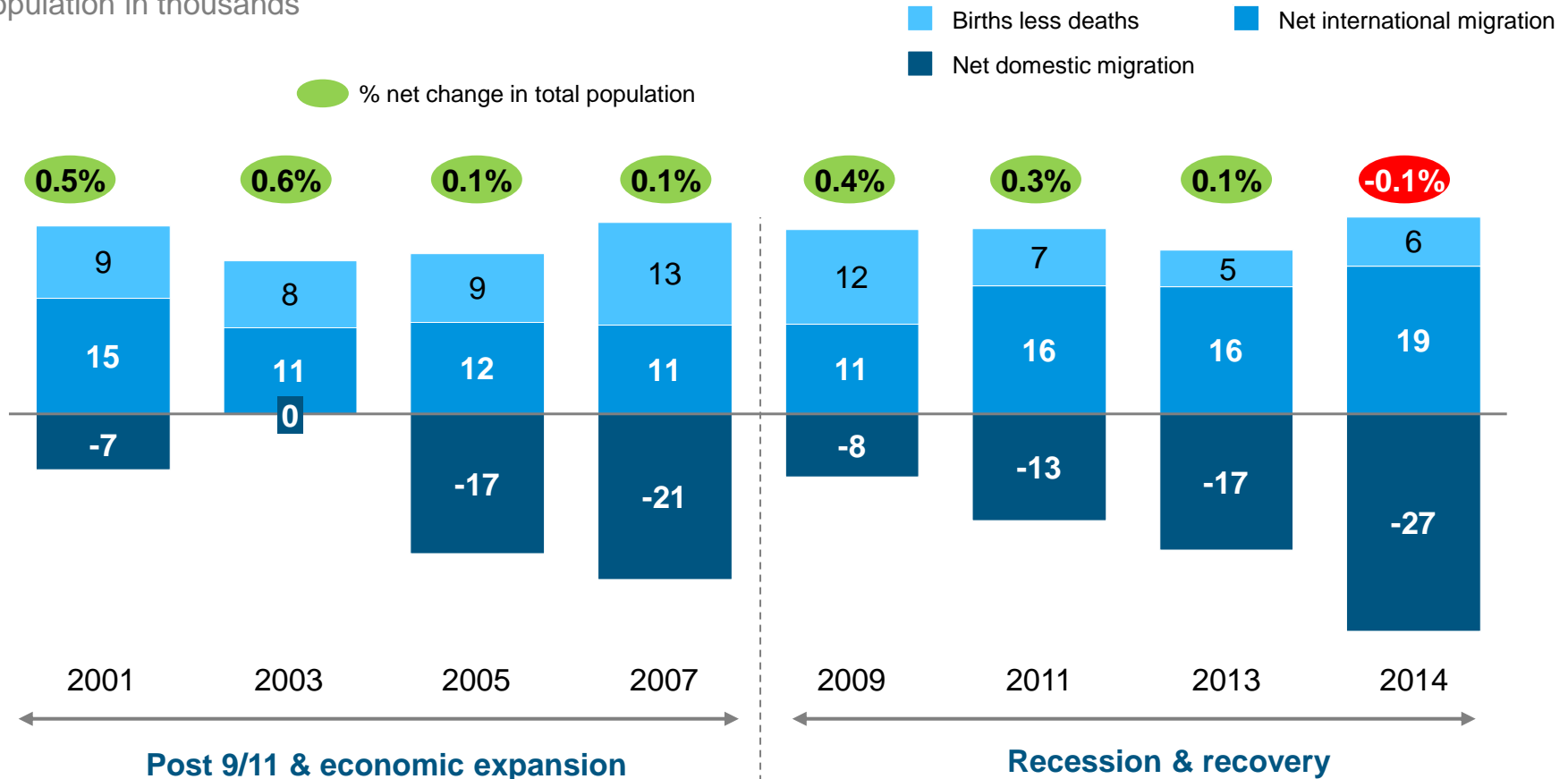
Perceptions are hardening on state governance and fiscal uncertainty



# Connecticut's population growth has been negligible, driven by high domestic out-migration

## Connecticut population change, 2001-2014

Population in thousands



NOTE: Population data is unavailable for 2010

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimate Program; Internal Revenue Service 2013; U.S. Census American Community Survey

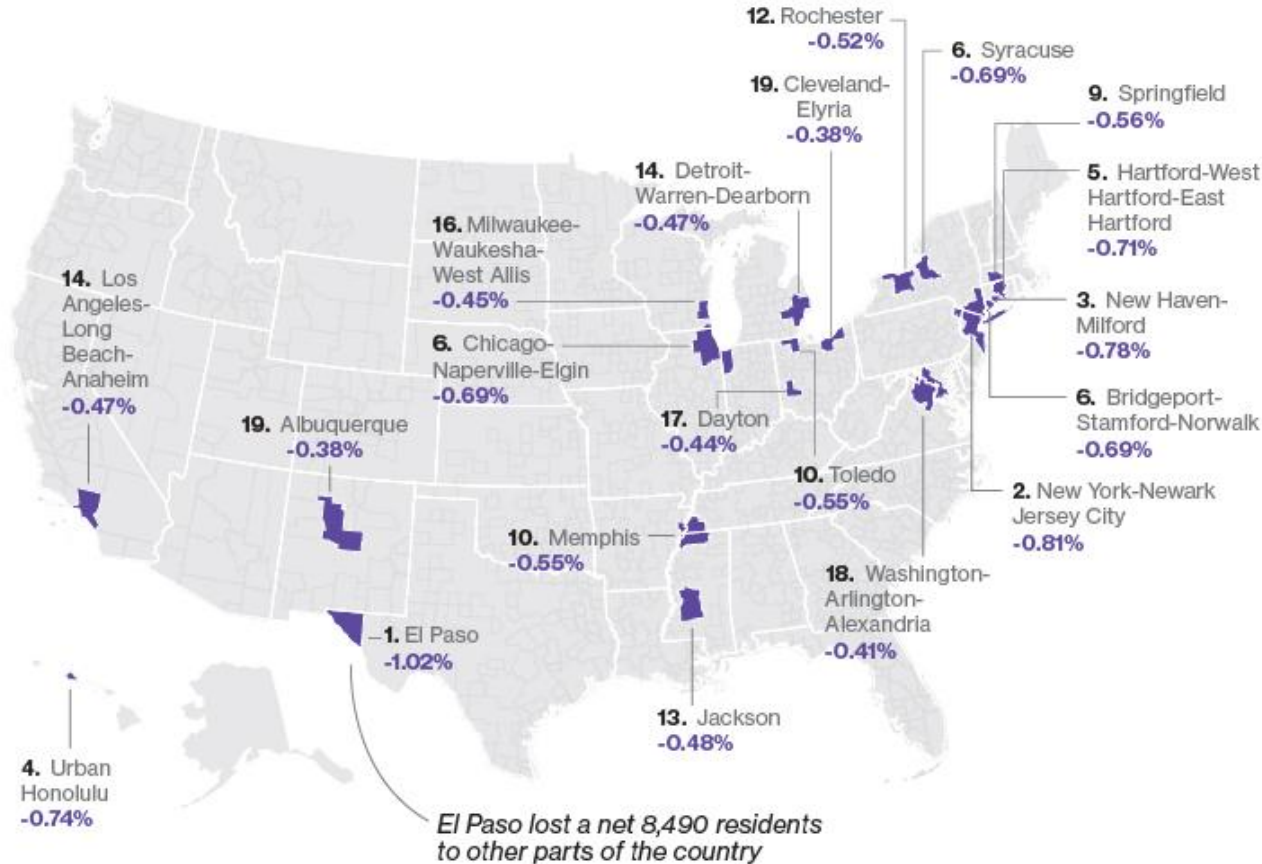




## Three of the top six MSAs losing the greatest percentage of their population to other states are in Connecticut

### The cities Americans are leaving, 2013-2014

Percent of resident out-migration, top 20 out of 100 cities



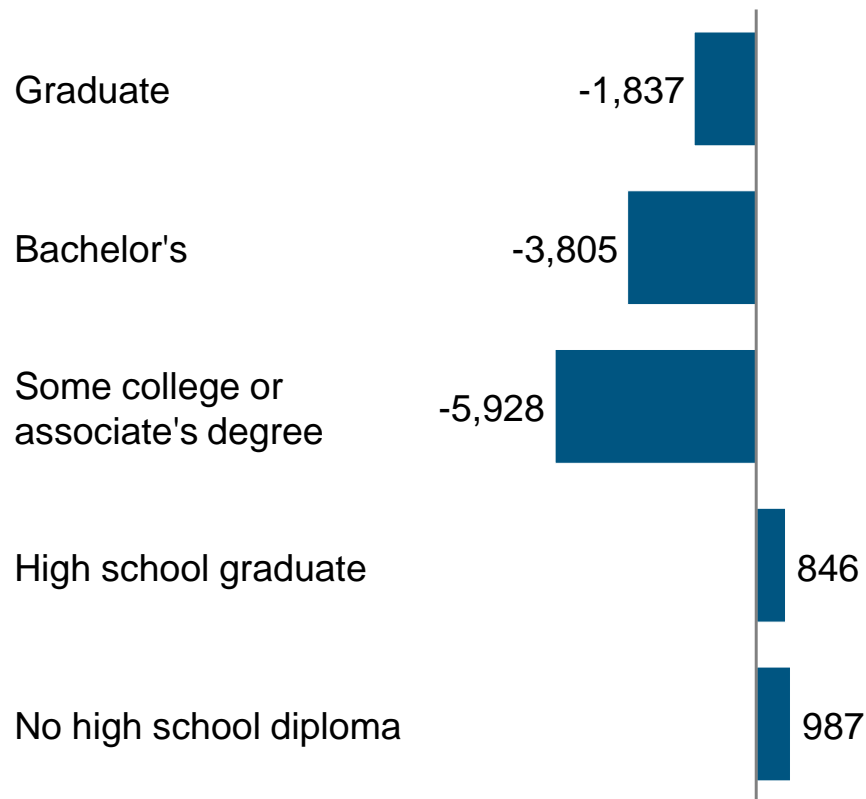
Note: This data only looks at out-migration. Many of these cities also attract significant volumes of inward-migration



# Connecticut is losing young and educated people to other states

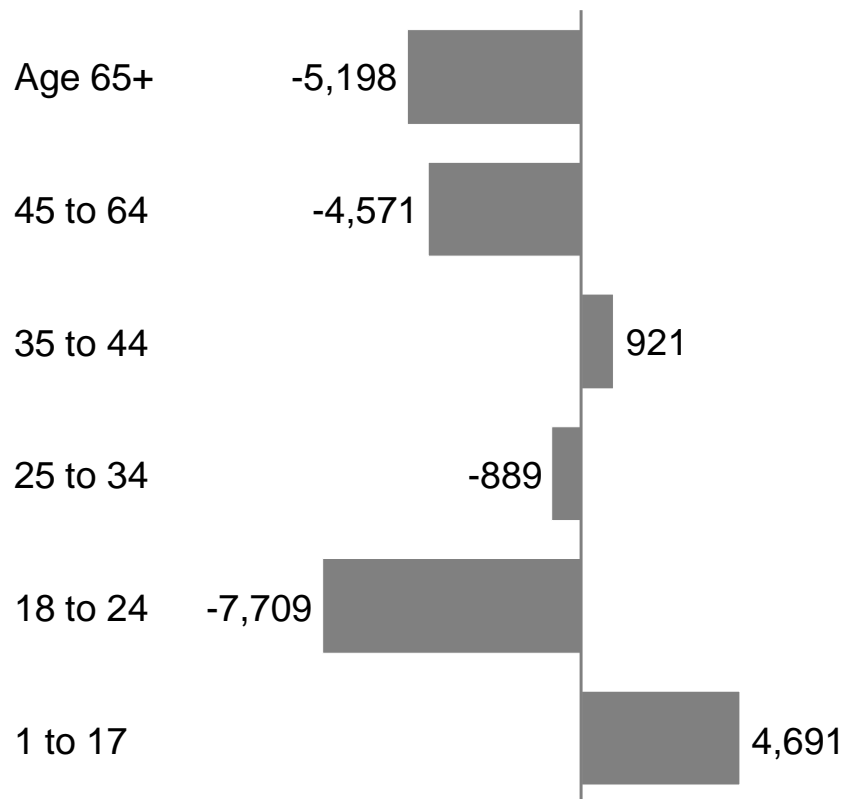
## Net domestic migration by education, 2014

Population 25 years and older



## Net domestic migration by age, 2014

Population 1 year and older

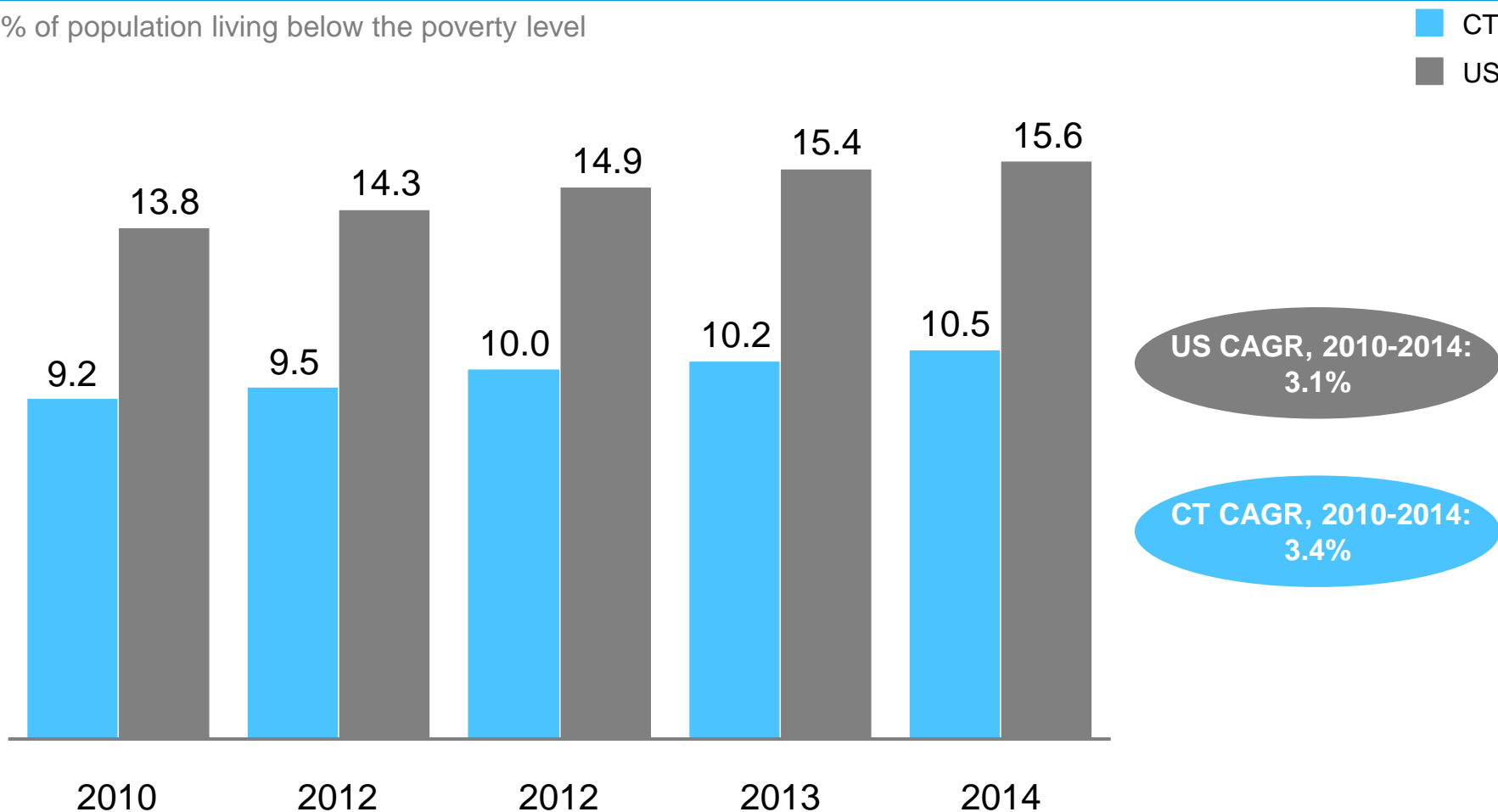




## While Connecticut has a lower poverty rate than the US, it has been growing at a higher rate

### Poverty rate, 2010-2014

% of population living below the poverty level



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## Four factors are feeding the perception of a “negative business climate” in Connecticut

### Factors affecting the State and national discussion on Connecticut’s business climate

1. Fiscal fundamentals
2. Negative national publicity
3. Unpredictable governance
4. Perceived lack of engagement

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

*“[Businesses] say increasing pension costs borne by the state government **could trigger tax increases that could scare off companies** in the state or those looking to relocate” - 1/2016*

Hartford Courant

*“Immelt said the company's ‘taxes have been raised five times since 2011, while support for our strategies has been uneven.’” - 6/2015*

Forbes

45<sup>th</sup>

Connecticut's  
ranking nation-wide  
in cost of doing  
business (2015)

MOODY'S

47<sup>th</sup>

# To address these trends and ensure long-term competitiveness, Connecticut can build on its distinctive assets

## Talented population



- **38% of those 25+ have at least a bachelor's degree** vs. 30% nationwide
- **3<sup>rd</sup> highest productivity** in the country

## Strong education system



- **6<sup>th</sup> best K-12 education system** based on test scores and funding levels, and #1 in some national rankings
- **7<sup>th</sup> highest AP participation rate** in county, and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage of students scoring 3 or higher
- 50+% of enrolled college students attend a **public institution**

## Blue-chip companies and growth sectors



- 7<sup>th</sup> in the country in number of **S&P 500 headquarters**
- **3.3% of all Fortune 1000 companies** by revenue are in Connecticut vs. 2.0% in Massachusetts and 2.9% in New Jersey
- Growing **sub-sectors of strength**, e.g., aerospace added 1,400 jobs in 2015

# To address these trends and ensure long-term competitiveness, Connecticut can build on its distinctive assets

## Strong research output



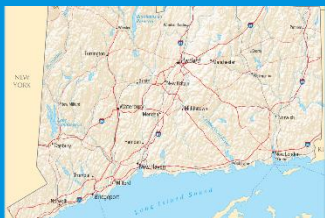
- 8<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. on **R&D** as a share of GDP
- **Academic research** surged 38% from '09 to '13, moving CT from 32<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. on academic R&D spend

## High quality of life



- #3 in **quality of life** of any US state (Forbes)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> highest **life expectancy** in the US at 81 years
- 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest among peers in **violent crime rates**, 9<sup>th</sup> nation-wide

## Strategic location



- 40% lower **cost per sq. ft. of housing** in Stamford vs. NYC
- 7<sup>th</sup> busiest **Interstate system** in the US by number of cars
- ~40+M Metro-North New Haven Line and ~11.5M Amtrak **train ridership** each year

# Potential themes for the Commission to consider exploring

**Growth sectors:** *How can Connecticut support its high potential, fast-changing sectors?*

- Skills & workforce development
- Enabling infrastructure (e.g., broadband)
- Modernized and aligned tax code and regulatory/incentive regime

**Transportation:** *What investments will best connect talent and businesses?*

- Performance and expansion aligned with growth priorities
- Funding certainty
- Access to jobs

**Cities:** *How should CT revitalize its urban cores?*

- Urban appeal and attraction of young talent
- Economic opportunities for all
- Entrepreneurship

**Public-private engagement:** *How can the State and the private sector collaborate to jointly support long-term growth?*

- Reignited dialogue, trust, and commitment
- Sector- and opportunity-specific partnerships
- Co-ownership of initiatives

**Fiscal confidence:** *How can Connecticut address its pension and budget challenges to restore business confidence?*

- Pension sustainability
- Budget stability



# The Connecticut Economic Competitiveness diagnostic:

## Key takeaways

- **Connecticut has had a long run of strong economic performance**, making it a great state to live and work
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# Thank you

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