

# ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.22 No.2 A joint publication of the Connecticut Department of Labor & the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

**FEBRUARY 2017**

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**In December...**

**Nonfarm Employment**

Connecticut ..... 1,678,000  
 Change over month ..... -0.10%  
 Change over year ..... -0.1%

United States ..... 145,303,000  
 Change over month ..... +0.11%  
 Change over year ..... +1.5%

**Unemployment Rate**

Connecticut ..... 4.4%  
 United States ..... 4.7%

**Consumer Price Index**

United States ..... 241.432  
 Change over year ..... +2.1%

## Connecticut's Work-Related Fatalities in 2015

By Erin C. Wilkins, Associate Research Analyst, DOL

**C**onnecticut lost 44 lives to work injuries in 2015. With an increase from 2014's revised count of 35, this is the biggest loss since 2010. It is also above Connecticut's annual average of 39 work-related deaths (Chart 1).

Nationally, a total of 4,836 fatal workplace injuries occurred in 2015. This was a slight increase from 2014's reported 4,821 deaths. However, the rate of fatalities per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers fell from 3.43 in 2014 to 3.38 in 2015.

*"These numbers underscore the urgent need for employers to provide a safe workplace for their employees as the law requires. We have a moral responsibility to make sure that workers who showed up to work today are still alive to punch the clock tomorrow. The*

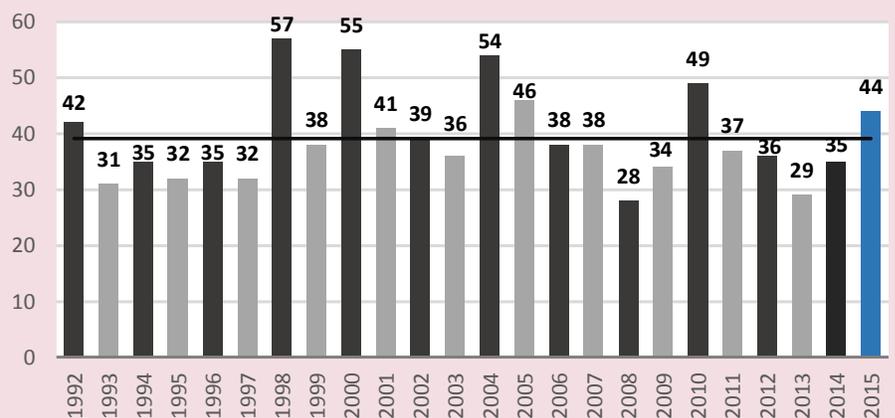
*fact is, we know how to prevent these deaths. The U.S. Department of Labor is - and will always be - committed to working with employers, workers, community organizations, unions and others to improve safety and health in our nation's workplaces. This effort is essential to ensuring that no more workers are taken unnecessarily from their families."*

— Former Secretary of Labor  
 Thomas E. Perez

**Industry**

In the U.S., the most deaths occurred in the construction industry sector – 937. Transportation warehousing was second highest with 765 deaths. Together, these two industry sectors

Chart 1. Connecticut Work-Related Fatalities, 1992 - 2015



Connecticut averages 39 work-related deaths annually

*The Connecticut Economic Digest* is published monthly by the Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research, and the Connecticut 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.

The annual subscription is \$50. Send subscription requests to: *The Connecticut Economic Digest*, Connecticut Department of Labor, Office of Research, 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114. Make checks payable to the Connecticut Department of Labor. Back issues are \$4 per copy. The Digest can be accessed free of charge from the DOL Web site. Articles from *The Connecticut Economic Digest* may be reprinted if the source is credited. Please send copies of the reprinted material to the Managing Editor. The views expressed by the authors are theirs alone and may not reflect those of the DOL or DECD.

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We would like to acknowledge the contributions of many DOL Research and DECD staff and Rob Damroth to the publication of the Digest.

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**Table 1. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry**

| Industry                                                                 | 2015 Fatalities |               |              |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                                                                          | CT              |               | U.S.         |               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                             | <b>44</b>       | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>4,836</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |
| <b>Private Industry</b>                                                  | <b>41</b>       | <b>93.2%</b>  | <b>4,379</b> | <b>90.6%</b>  |
| <b>Goods Producing</b>                                                   | <b>15</b>       | <b>34.1%</b>  | <b>1,980</b> | <b>40.9%</b>  |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting                               | 1               | 2.3%          | 570          | 11.8%         |
| Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction                            | --              | --            | 120          | 2.5%          |
| Construction                                                             | 13              | 29.5%         | 937          | 19.4%         |
| Manufacturing                                                            | 1               | 2.3%          | 353          | 7.3%          |
| <b>Service Providing</b>                                                 | <b>26</b>       | <b>59.1%</b>  | <b>2,399</b> | <b>49.6%</b>  |
| Wholesale trade                                                          | 4               | 9.1%          | 175          | 3.6%          |
| Retail trade                                                             | 4               | 9.1%          | 269          | 5.6%          |
| Transportation and Warehousing                                           | 5               | 11.4%         | 765          | 15.8%         |
| Utilities                                                                | --              | --            | 22           | 0.5%          |
| Information                                                              | --              | --            | 42           | 0.9%          |
| Financial and insurance                                                  | 1               | 2.3%          | 19           | 0.4%          |
| Real estate and rental and leasing                                       | 1               | 2.3%          | 64           | 1.3%          |
| Professional, scientific, and technical service                          | --              | --            | 76           | 1.6%          |
| Administration and support and waste management and remediation services | 7               | 15.9%         | 401          | 8.3%          |
| Educational services                                                     | --              | --            | 30           | 0.6%          |
| Health care and social assistance                                        | 1               | 2.3%          | 109          | 2.3%          |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation                                      | 2               | 4.5%          | 82           | 1.7%          |
| Accommodation and food services                                          | 1               | 2.3%          | 143          | 3.0%          |
| Other services, except public admin                                      | 1               | 2.3%          | 202          | 4.2%          |
| <b>Government</b>                                                        | <b>3</b>        | <b>6.8%</b>   | <b>457</b>   | <b>9.4%</b>   |
| Federal                                                                  | --              | --            | 118          | 2.4%          |
| State                                                                    | --              | --            | 81           | 1.7%          |
| Local                                                                    | 3               | 7%            | 257          | 5.3%          |

accounted for 35 percent of work-related deaths (Table 1).

As Table 2 shows, Texas recorded the most deaths at 527. Rhode Island, with 6 deaths, recorded both the lowest number and the lowest rate (1.2). High rates were seen in North Dakota (12.5) and Wyoming (12.0). North Dakota's highest rate was in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry sector at 69.8, followed by the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector at 42.3. Wyoming's highest rate was in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector at 52.5, followed by transportation and utilities with a rate of 36.7.

Thirty-three states recorded more deaths than Connecticut; the work injury fatality rate for Connecticut is 2.6 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. Our

"low" number and rate is primarily due to low employment in high-risk industries. However, it cannot be stressed enough that even one work-related death is one too many.

Ninety-three percent of Connecticut's work-related deaths occurred in the private sector: 15 in goods producing and 26 in service providing. Connecticut's highest rate of 12.9 was in the construction industry (13 deaths). Transportation and utilities followed with a rate of 7.3, then wholesale and retail trade at 3.8, and professional and business services at 3.7. Rates for other industry sectors did not meet publishing criteria. All three government sector deaths were at the local level.

**Worker Characteristics**

All but one of Connecticut's work-related deaths were men. This follows the national trend - 93 percent of 2015's work-related deaths were men. Thirty-three of the workers were wage and salary workers with 11 self-employed workers. The age groups 45 to 54 years and 55 to 64 years each had ten deaths - the highest for any one category. Together these two age groups accounted for 45 percent of deaths. Again, this is consistent with the national trend: forty-five percent of workers were in the 45-64 age groups. Sixty-eight percent of deaths were Caucasian. Eight were Hispanic or Latino, four African-American, and one Asian.

### Event

Every year, the United States loses the most workers to transportation incidents. The year 2015 saw 2,054 lives lost to transportation incidents - 42 percent of all work-related deaths. Almost half of the roadway incidents involved a semi-tractor trailer, or tanker truck.

Falls, slips, trips was the second greatest event, claiming 800 lives. Fatal falls to a lower level accounted for nearly 40 percent of fatal work injuries in the private construction industry. Workplace homicides rose by two percent to 417 cases in 2015, with a 15 percent increase in shootings. Approximately 43 percent of female decedents were fatally assaulted by a relative or domestic partner; the corresponding figure for male decedents was two percent.

In Connecticut, transportation incidents claimed 14 lives in 2015, followed by violence and other injuries by persons or animals with 10 deaths. Compared to 2014, there was an increase of two deaths for both categories. Fall, slip trip, and contact with objects and equipment tied for third place with seven deaths each (Chart 2, Table 3).

Reviewing work-related deaths from 2011 to 2015, there was a total of 181 deaths in Connecticut. Thirty-two percent were transportation events, followed by violence and other injuries by persons and animals with 28 percent, and fall, slip, trip with 20 percent.

### Occupations

Of Connecticut's 44 work-related deaths, 15 of them were in the transportation and material moving occupational group. An additional 13 were construction and extraction occupations, followed by sales and related occupations and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations with five deaths each.

From 2011 to 2015, Connecticut had a total of 181 work-related deaths. Of these, 24 percent was in the transportation and material moving occupations category. Seventy-three percent of which were motor vehicle operators, while material moving workers claimed 25 percent (Table 4).

The construction and extraction occupational group, with 43 deaths, came in second. Carpenters and construction laborers each had eight deaths. Also in this category are construction equipment operators, construction and maintenance painters, and roofers.

Nationally, logging workers have the highest fatality rate (132.7), followed by fishers and related fishing workers with a rate of 54.8. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers had the highest number of fatalities - 745. The transportation and material moving occupational group accounted for over one-fourth of all fatal work injuries.

### Identifying Work-Related Deaths

The CFOI (Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries) program requires a minimum of two

**Table 2. Fatal Occupational Injuries by State, 2015**

Rates per 100,000 full time equivalent workers

| State of Incident    | Number       | Rate       |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>4,836</b> | <b>3.4</b> |
| Texas                | 527          | 4.5        |
| California           | 388          | 2.2        |
| Florida              | 272          | 3.1        |
| New York             | 236          | 2.7        |
| Ohio                 | 202          | 3.9        |
| Georgia              | 180          | 4.3        |
| Pennsylvania         | 173          | 3.0        |
| Illinois             | 172          | 2.9        |
| North Carolina       | 150          | 3.4        |
| Michigan             | 134          | 3.1        |
| South Carolina       | 117          | 5.6        |
| Missouri             | 117          | 4.3        |
| Indiana              | 115          | 3.9        |
| Louisiana            | 112          | 5.8        |
| Tennessee            | 112          | 3.7        |
| Virginia             | 106          | 2.8        |
| Wisconsin            | 104          | 3.6        |
| Kentucky             | 99           | 5.5        |
| New Jersey           | 97           | 2.3        |
| Oklahoma             | 91           | 5.5        |
| Mississippi          | 77           | 6.8        |
| Colorado             | 75           | 2.9        |
| Arkansas             | 74           | 5.8        |
| Minnesota            | 74           | 2.7        |
| Alabama              | 70           | 3.7        |
| Washington           | 70           | 2.1        |
| Arizona              | 69           | 2.4        |
| Maryland             | 69           | 2.4        |
| Massachusetts        | 69           | 2.1        |
| Kansas               | 60           | 4.4        |
| Iowa                 | 60           | 3.9        |
| Nebraska             | 50           | 5.4        |
| North Dakota         | 47           | 12.5       |
| Nevada               | 44           | 3.5        |
| <b>Connecticut</b>   | <b>44</b>    | <b>2.6</b> |
| Oregon               | 44           | 2.6        |
| Utah                 | 42           | 3.2        |
| Montana              | 36           | 7.5        |
| Idaho                | 36           | 4.8        |
| West Virginia        | 35           | 5.0        |
| New Mexico           | 35           | 4.1        |
| Wyoming              | 34           | 12.0       |
| South Dakota         | 21           | 4.9        |
| New Hampshire        | 18           | 2.7        |
| Hawaii               | 18           | 2.6        |
| Maine                | 15           | 2.5        |
| Alaska               | 14           | 4.1        |
| Vermont              | 9            | 2.9        |
| District of Columbia | 8            | 2.4        |
| Delaware             | 8            | 1.9        |
| Rhode Island         | 6            | 1.2        |

sources to verify a work-related death. The media is often the first notice. Other resources include death certificates, coast guard reports, the NHTSA (National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration), and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

*Note: the Bureau of Labor Statistics holds all information on*

*companies and the deceased in strict confidence. Information is never shared for compliance measures.*

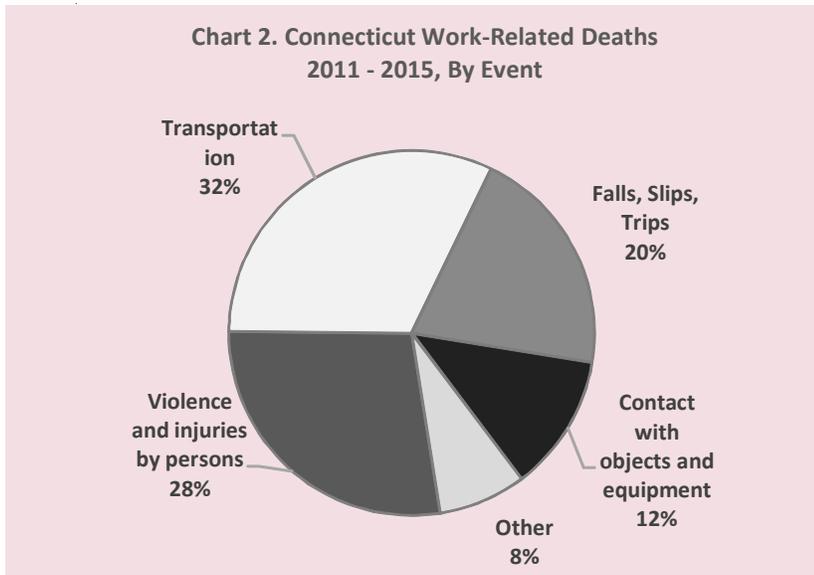
OSHA requires all employers to report workplace fatalities within eight hours. Included are small establishments and industries that are normally exempt from OSHA jurisdiction. Natural deaths, such as heart attacks,

must also be reported. However, many employers are unaware of this requirement. Additionally, OSHA does not require employers to report all fatalities. Employers are not required to report:

- Street and transportation deaths unless they occur in a construction work zone
- Deaths on commercial or public transportation systems (airplane, subway, bus, train, etc.)
- Deaths occurring more than 30 days after the incident

### History of the Program

When President Nixon signed the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) into law, a census of work place fatalities did not exist. It was estimated that approximately 14,000 workers were killed on the job annually. In 1992, the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) was established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to track all work-related deaths and collect



**Table 3. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure**

| Event or Exposure                                        | 2011      | 2012      | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2011-2015  |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| <b>Total</b>                                             | <b>37</b> | <b>36</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>44</b> | <b>181</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Violence and other injuries by persons or animals</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>50</b>  | <b>28%</b>  |
| Homicides                                                | 4         | 11        | 1         | 4         | 6         | 26         | 14%         |
| Suicides                                                 | 7         | --        | 4         | 4         | 3         | 20         | 11%         |
| Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown         | 1         | --        | --        | --        | --        | 3          | 2%          |
| Animal and insect related incidents                      | --        | --        | --        | --        | 1         | 1          | 1%          |
| <b>Transportation incidents</b>                          | <b>13</b> | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>58</b>  | <b>32%</b>  |
| Pedestrian vehicular incident                            | 5         | 2         | 3         | 4         | 2         | 16         | 9%          |
| Roadway collision with other vehicle                     | 3         | 1         | 1         | 5         | 4         | 14         | 8%          |
| Roadway collision with object other than vehicle         | 2         | 1         | 3         | 2         | 8         | 16         | 9%          |
| Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle     | --        | 5         | 1         | --        | --        | 7          | 4%          |
| <b>Fire or explosion</b>                                 | <b>--</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>--</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>--</b> | <b>3</b>   | <b>2%</b>   |
| <b>Fall, slip, trip</b>                                  | <b>8</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>37</b>  | <b>20%</b>  |
| Fall on same level                                       | 3         | --        | --        | 3         | --        | 8          | 4%          |
| Fall to lower level                                      | 5         | 5         | 6         | 6         | 6         | 28         | 15%         |
| <b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>    | <b>1</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>--</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>11</b>  | <b>6%</b>   |
| Exposure to electricity                                  | --        | 1         | --        | 2         | --        | 5          | 3%          |
| Exposure to other harmful substances                     | 1         | --        | --        | 1         | 4         | 6          | 3%          |
| <b>Contact with objects and equipment</b>                | <b>3</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>12%</b>  |
| Struck by object or equipment                            | 2         | 5         | 3         | 2         | 4         | 16         | 9%          |
| Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects          | 1         | --        | 2         | --        | 2         | 5          | 3%          |

**Table 4. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Occupation**

| Occupational Group                                                   | 2011 - 2015 |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                                                                      | Total       | Percentage    |
| <b>Total</b>                                                         | <b>181</b>  | <b>100.0%</b> |
| <b>Management occupations</b>                                        | <b>15</b>   | <b>8.3%</b>   |
| <b>Education, training, and library occupations</b>                  | <b>5</b>    | <b>2.8%</b>   |
| <b>Protective service occupations</b>                                | <b>7</b>    | <b>3.9%</b>   |
| First-line supervisors/managers, protective service                  | 3           | 1.7%          |
| Fire fighting and prevention workers                                 | 2           | 1.1%          |
| Police officers                                                      | 1           | 0.6%          |
| <b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b>     | <b>17</b>   | <b>9.4%</b>   |
| Supervisors, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers   | 2           | 1.1%          |
| Building cleaning and pest control workers                           | 2           | 1.1%          |
| Grounds maintenance workers                                          | 13          | 7.2%          |
| <b>Sales and related occupations</b>                                 | <b>13</b>   | <b>7.2%</b>   |
| <b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>                       | <b>43</b>   | <b>23.8%</b>  |
| First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers | 3           | 1.7%          |
| Carpenters                                                           | 8           | 4.4%          |
| Construction laborers                                                | 8           | 4.4%          |
| Construction equipment operators                                     | 4           | 2.2%          |
| Drywall and ceiling tile installers                                  | 2           | 1.1%          |
| Electricians                                                         | 2           | 1.1%          |
| Painters, construction and maintenance                               | 4           | 2.2%          |
| Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters                  | 3           | 1.7%          |
| Roofers                                                              | 4           | 2.2%          |
| Highway maintenance workers                                          | 3           | 1.7%          |
| <b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b>             | <b>13</b>   | <b>7.2%</b>   |
| Automotive service technicians and mechanics                         | 3           | 1.7%          |
| Telecommunications line installers and repairers                     | 2           | 1.1%          |
| Maintenance and repair workers, general                              | 4           | 2.2%          |
| <b>Production occupations</b>                                        | <b>9</b>    | <b>5.0%</b>   |
| <b>Transportation and material moving occupations</b>                | <b>44</b>   | <b>24.3%</b>  |
| Motor vehicle operators                                              | 32          | 17.7%         |
| Material moving workers                                              | 11          | 6.1%          |

the much needed data. That first year, 6,217 deaths were documented nationally, 42 of which were in Connecticut.

Since 1992, the CFOI program has seen several changes. Prior to 2006, rates were calculated per 100,000 workers. Now the rates take into account the number of hours spent in the workplace, resulting in rates per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers.

Most recently, there has been a change in the release of data. Formerly, a preliminary release was made in August or September, with revised, final data published in April of the following year. Beginning with the 2015 reference year, final data will be released in December – 4 months earlier than in past years. This December release will be the only release of CFOI data.

The program continues to develop to meet the needs of researchers. Hopefully, the data will continue to be used to create engineering solutions, regulations, and education programs to minimize workplace deaths. ■

## GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

|                                                               | 3Q          | 3Q          | CHANGE |     | 2Q          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|-----|-------------|
|                                                               | 2016        | 2015        | NO.    | %   | 2016        |
| <i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>                                  |             |             |        |     |             |
| <b>General Drift Indicator (1996=100)*</b>                    |             |             |        |     |             |
| <b>Leading</b>                                                | 118.7       | 111.9       | 6.8    | 6.1 | 116.3       |
| <b>Coincident</b>                                             | 118.0       | 116.5       | 1.5    | 1.3 | 117.7       |
| <b>Farmington Bank Business Barometer (1992=100)**</b>        | 136.7       | 134.1       | 2.6    | 1.9 | 136.2       |
| <b>Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index (July 1992=100)***</b> | <b>Dec</b>  | <b>Dec</b>  |        |     | <b>Nov</b>  |
| <i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>                                  | <b>2016</b> | <b>2015</b> |        |     | <b>2016</b> |
| <b>Connecticut</b>                                            | 165.18      | 159.30      | 5.88   | 3.7 | 164.44      |
| <b>United States</b>                                          | 180.69      | 175.63      | 5.06   | 2.9 | 180.32      |

Sources: \*Dr. Steven P. Lanza, University of Connecticut \*\*Farmington Bank \*\*\*Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

**General Drift Indicators** are composite measures of the four-quarter change in three coincident (Connecticut Manufacturing Production Index, nonfarm employment, and real personal income) and three leading (housing permits, manufacturing average weekly hours, and initial unemployment claims) economic variables, and are indexed so 1996 = 100.

The **Farmington Bank Business Barometer** is a measure of overall economic growth in the state of Connecticut that is derived from non-manufacturing employment, real disposable personal income, and manufacturing production.

The **Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index** summarizes current economic condition by using four coincident variables: nonfarm payroll employment, average hours worked in manufacturing, the unemployment rate, and wage and salary disbursements deflated by the consumer price index (U.S. city average).