

2008 Annual Membership Survey

711 respondents, 3.8% margin of error

Economic/Legislative Outlook

1) Generally speaking, do you think the state of Connecticut is going in the right direction, or in the wrong direction?

Right direction	14%
Wrong direction	59%
Not sure	27%

2) What is the single most important issue facing the state of Connecticut?

Taxes and Spending	51%
Economic growth/job creation	34%
Education	1%
Health care	5%
Energy	2%
Transportation	2%
Environment	0%
Not sure	1%
Other	4%

The state of Connecticut is developing a strategic plan for the state's economy. What single change could the state make to encourage business

3) growth and investment in the state? (Open-ended)

Develop a plan to attract businesses	7%
Reduce taxes/spending and cost of doing business in CT	46%
Reduce government bureaucracy	10%
Improve CT infrastructure	10%
Create incentives for business investment	11%
Create a more business friendly culture	14%
Don't know	1%
Other	1%

4) From a business perspective, what is the most positive attribute of Connecticut's business climate? (Open-ended)

Skilled workforce	28%
Quality of life	10%
Location (geographic)	27%
High income potential/proximity to customers	8%
None	12%
Diversity of businesses	5%
Governor	4%
Other	6%

5) If you were to expand or relocate your business, where would you do so?

Connecticut	34%
Northeast (outside of CT)	13%
Another region of the U.S.	49%
Outside the U.S.	3%

State/Local Spending and Taxes

Connecticut is facing a significant budget deficit this fiscal year and large projected shortfalls in each of the next two years. Assuming the state's

6) budget reserve fund will not cover the entire gap, how much of the deficit should be closed through spending cuts and/or tax increases? (Open-ended)

100% spending cuts	63%
50/50 split	4%
10% tax / 90% spending cuts	12%
20% tax / 80% spending cuts	10%
30% tax / 70% spending cuts	8%
40% tax / 60% spending cuts	3%
Other	1%

If the General Assembly decides that after addressing state spending, it needs to increase taxes to balance the state budget, an increase in which tax

7) would do the least damage to the state's economic recovery?

Personal income tax	17%
Sales tax	45%
Corporate income tax	10%
Sin tax -RECODE	16%
None-RECODE	8%
Other	5%

Spending advocates often say that Connecticut businesses do not pay their "fair share" of taxes. Considering the total amount of state and local taxes

8) your business pays, do you think you make a fair contribution to running government, or too much or too little?

Fair amount	45%
Too much	51%
Too little	4%

To create better economies of scale and help offset significant increases in local property taxes, how supportive are you of incentives to promote

9) regional collaborations?

Extremely supportive	34%
Somewhat supportive	49%
Somewhat unsupportive	8%
Not at all supportive	10%

Labor

Recent proposals by the state legislature's Labor Committee could increase your cost of doing business and/or add significant administrative burdens.

10) Please rate how potentially problematic each of these proposals would be to your company if passed into law:

	<u>Very harmful</u>	<u>Somewhat harmful</u>	<u>Not harmful</u>
Expand workers' compensation eligibility and increase benefits	66%	24%	10%
Mandate a minimum amount of paid sick leave for all employees	62%	23%	16%
Restrict employers' ability to communicate with their employees about issues affecting the company, workers or community	62%	27%	11%

Health Care

11) Do you provide employee health care benefits?

Yes 97%
No 3%

CBIA has been working with other groups to develop a positive health care reform agenda that strengthens our current, employer-based system by reducing costs and creating greater value. The plan focuses in disease prevention, eliminating waste and encouraging best medical practices and

12) healthy lifestyles. Do you agree this should be the focus of health care reform?

Yes 87%
No 13%

Some legislators have proposed taxing businesses that the state says are not providing sufficient health insurance for their employees. Would you

13) support higher taxes on specific businesses if it was determined that they were not providing their employees with sufficient health insurance?

Yes 31%
No 69%

Transportation

14) What is the biggest transportation challenge facing your business?

Cost of shipping freight into and out of Connecticut	36%
Employee frustration with the transportation system	32%
Difficulty attracting new employees because of transportation-related issues	12%
Lack of timely and reliable freight options	1%
Not an issue; no problems- RECODE	11%
Other	9%

If the state of Connecticut is to have a modern, first class transportation system, significant additional revenues will be required. Which of the

15) following funding mechanisms would you most likely support?

Institute electronic tolls	46%
Increase the gas tax	16%
Increase the tax on petroleum products	7%
Institute a motor vehicle fee based on the miles each vehicle travels per year	11%
Combination - RECODE	17%
Other	4%

16) For the greatest positive impact on your business, state transportation officials should put the highest priority on:

Expanding highway and road capacity	29%
Improving the condition of existing roads, highways and bridges	40%
Expanding non-rail mass transit options	7%
Expanding passenger rail options	6%
Improving transportation options that link major rail and bus terminals with nearby employment centers	12%
Expanding rail freight options	6%

Environment

What changes should the DEP focus on to become more effective at managing the environment and be more helpful to the business community?

17) (check all that apply)

Rewrite state regulations to establish more reasonable standards and judge compliance based on the achievement of those standards	36%
Become more electronically user-friendly by making DEP forms, reports and other industry-required forms available online	25%
Provide greater compliance assistance to businesses without threat of penalties	47%
Hire an outside entity to identify the primary sources of air, water and land pollution (including non-industrial sources such as residential, transportation, municipal and state activities) and focus future regulatory efforts on those sources having the greatest negative impact on our environment	23%
Establish time limits for permit processing	19%
Seek additional state funding and reduce the burden on businesses to fund the agency's operations and activities	17%

Energy

The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund has innovative programs to help residents and businesses maximize their energy efficiency and reduce operating costs. Because of great demand, the approximate \$100 million fund (which is funded by ratepayers) is running at capacity for businesses.

18) Would you support an increase in ratepayers' electricity bills in order to expand the Energy Efficiency Fund and its programs?

Yes	29%
No	71%

Education

Employers and higher education institutions continue to be concerned about the skill levels of Connecticut's high school graduates. Which high

19) school reforms or changes in graduation requirements would you support? (Check all that apply)

Require more rigorous math and science curricula	53%
Increase students' exposure to career possibilities	56%
Lengthen the school day/school year	30%
Courses that reinforce analytical and problem-solving skills	59%
Provide for proven and effective student support services	26%
Recruitment and training of highly professional teachers	43%

20) What employee skill sets are you most in need for your workforce? Check all that apply)

Professional/soft skills (employability skills, punctuality, interpersonal skills, teamwork, leadership, work ethic)	58%
Basic skills (math, reading, writing and problem-solving)	43%
Technical skills (for example manufacturing-related, job-specific, vocational skills)	39%
Advanced skills (scientific, engineering, advanced computing/programming)	22%

Skilled workforce development continues to be an issue of great concern to employers. Do you support additional state resources for the

21) following? (Check all that apply)

Customized job training for current employees	18%
Apprenticeships for new employees	32%
School to career programs for high school students	53%
Internships and work study for college students	48%

Member Input/Participation

I would like to receive e-mail updates during the 2009 legislative session about the following issues of concern to Connecticut businesses. (Check all 22) that apply)

Taxes and state spending	54%
Environment	22%
Labor (workers compensation, paid sick leave, etc)	49%
Energy	31%
Health care	42%
Education and training	17%
Transportation	15%
Other	1%

I would be willing to contact my local legislators during the 2009 legislative session about the following issues of concern to Connecticut businesses 23) (Check all that apply)

Taxes and state spending	48%
Environment	17%
Labor (workers compensation, paid sick leave, etc)	38%
Energy	24%
Health care	37%
Education and training	16%
Transportation	12%
Other	1%

Currently, we are exploring various electronic communication methods related to public policy issues. Which of the following would be of most 24) interest to inform you during the legislative session?

Electronic mail with audio	18%
Electronic mail with streaming video	18%
Traditional electronic mail	66%
Text messaging	1%
Phone call (automated system)	3%
Other	0%