

# ECONOMIC DIGEST

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**IN THIS ISSUE...**

**Connecticut's 2019 Work-Related Fatalities Lowest On Record ..... 1-5**

**Economic Indicators**

- on the Overall Economy ..... 5
- Individual Data Items ..... 6-8
- Comparative Regional Data ..... 9
- Economic Indicator Trends ..... 10-11
- Help Wanted OnLine ..... 15
- Business and Employment Changes Announced in the News Media ..... 19
- Labor Market Areas:
  - Nonfarm Employment ..... 12-17
  - Sea. Adj. Nonfarm Employment ..... 14
  - Labor Force ..... 18
  - Hours and Earnings ..... 19
- Cities and Towns:
  - Labor Force ..... 20-21
  - Housing Permits ..... 22
- Technical Notes ..... 23
- At a Glance ..... 24

**In December...**

**Nonfarm Employment**

Connecticut ..... 1,6  
 Change over month ..... +0.89%  
 Change over year ..... -5.31%

United States ..... 14  
 Change over month ..... +0.45%  
 Change over year ..... -6.06%

**Unemployment Rate**

Connecticut ..... 6  
 United States ..... 6.9%

**Consumer Price Index**

United States ..... 2  
 Change over year ..... +1.2%

## Connecticut's 2019 Work-Related Fatalities Lowest On Record

By Erin C. Wilkins, Associate Research Analyst, CT Department of Labor

**C**onnecticut lost 26 lives to work injuries in 2019, for a rate of 1.4 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. This is the lowest recorded number of deaths since the census began in 1992. A decrease from 2018's 48 deaths, it is below Connecticut's annual average of 39 work-related deaths (Chart 1). Connecticut's rate of 1.4 is the lowest recorded by any state for 2019.

The nation lost 5,333 lives to workplace injuries in 2019, an increase from 2018's 5,250 deaths. However, the fatal injury rate remained unchanged from 2018 — 3.5 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. Twenty-eight states had more fatal injuries in 2019 than 2018, while 21 states had fewer. The highest loss was seen in Texas with 608 deaths, followed by California with 451 deaths and Florida with 306 deaths. High rates were recorded in Alaska (14.1) and

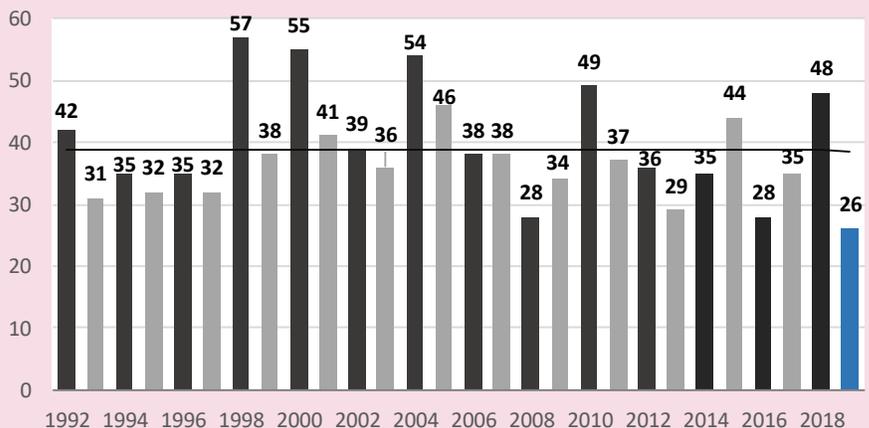
Wyoming (12.0). The District of Columbia, Rhode Island, and Vermont each had 10 deaths, the lowest recorded number for states (Table 1).

**Industry**

Nationally, the construction industry recorded the highest number of deaths at 1,061, followed by transportation and warehousing with 913 deaths. Together, these two industries account for 37 percent of deaths.

With 8 deaths, the transportation and warehousing industry had the highest number of deaths in Connecticut, accounting for 30.8 percent of 2019's deaths. Construction came in second with 6 deaths, accounting for 23.1 percent of total deaths. With an overall rate of 1.4, Connecticut saw a rate of 10.9 in transportation and utilities and 4.7 in construction. Rates for other industry sectors did not meet

Chart 1. Connecticut Work Related Fatalities 1992 - 2019



Connecticut averages 39 work-related deaths annually

# ECONOMIC DIGEST

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**Table 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries by State 2019**

Rates per 100,000 full time equivalent workers

State of Incident	Number	Rate
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,333</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Alaska	51	14.1
Wyoming	32	12.0
North Dakota	37	9.7
Montana	38	7.8
West Virginia	46	6.4
Louisiana	119	6.2
New Mexico	55	6.2
Kansas	83	6.0
Nebraska	53	5.4
Mississippi	59	5.2
Arkansas	62	5.0
South Carolina	108	4.8
Texas	608	4.7
Indiana	146	4.7
Iowa	76	4.7
South Dakota	20	4.7
Georgia	207	4.3
Virginia	180	4.3
Alabama	89	4.2
Kentucky	78	4.2
Oklahoma	73	4.2
Idaho	36	4.1
Hawaii	26	4.1
Delaware	18	4.1
North Carolina	186	4.0
Tennessee	124	4.0
Wisconsin	113	3.8
Missouri	106	3.7
Michigan	164	3.6
Oregon	69	3.5
Utah	51	3.5
Florida	306	3.2
Vermont	10	3.2
New York	273	3.1
Ohio	166	3.1
Maine	20	3.0
Colorado	84	2.9
Nevada	40	2.8
Illinois	158	2.7
Arizona	94	2.7
Pennsylvania	154	2.6
Minnesota	80	2.6
Maryland	78	2.6
California	451	2.5
District of Columbia	10	2.5
Massachusetts	86	2.4
Washington	84	2.3
New Jersey	74	1.8
Rhode Island	10	1.8
New Hampshire	11	1.5
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1.4</b>

publishing criteria. The government sector recorded 2 deaths (Table 2).

### Worker Characteristics

Twenty of the workers were wage and salary workers; 6 were self-employed. Sixty-nine percent (18) of deaths were Caucasian and 5 were Hispanic or Latino. Nationally, Hispanic or Latino workers made up 20 percent of fatal occupational injuries in 2019.

While Connecticut data was not published for gender, nationally 92 percent of 2019's work related deaths were men. In Connecticut, 42 percent of workplace fatalities were age 55 and over. This follows the national trend of 38 percent.

### Event

Historically, the United States loses the most workers to transportation incidents. The year 2019 saw 2,122 lives lost to transportation incidents – 40 percent of all work-related deaths. Falls, slips and trips was the second most common event with 880 deaths (17 percent). Violence and other injuries by persons or animals was the third most common event with 841 deaths (16 percent). Workplace homicides claimed 454 lives and suicides claimed 307. Unintentional overdoses due to nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol while at work increased for the seventh consecutive year to 313 in 2019.

With 12 deaths, transportation incidents claimed the most lives in Connecticut, accounting for 46 percent of total deaths. Contact with objects and equipment was the second most common cause with 6 deaths, followed by falls, slips, trips with 5 deaths. While contact with objects and equipment increased by one death from 2018, all other categories saw a decrease in the number of deaths.

### Occupations

Transportation and material moving occupations lost 12 lives in Connecticut, accounting for 46 percent of total deaths. Six of them were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Construction trades workers followed with 4 deaths, or 15 percent of total deaths (Table 4).

**Table 2. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry**

Industry	2019 Fatalities			
	CT		U.S.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,333</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>4,907</b>	<b>92.0%</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	-	-	-	-
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1	3.8%	573	10.7%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extractio	-	-	127	2.4%
Construction	6	23.1%	1,061	19.9%
Manufacturing	-	-	-	-
<b>Service Providing</b>	-	-	-	-
Wholesale trade	1	3.8%	178	3.3%
Retail trade	1	3.8%	291	5.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	8	30.8%	913	17.1%
Utilities	-	-	22	0.4%
Information	-	-	-	-
Finance and insurance	-	-	21	0.4%
Real estate and rental and leasing	-	-	87	1.6%
Professional, scientific, and technical servi	-	-	86	1.6%
Administrative and waste services	2	7.7%	498	9.3%
Educational services	-	-	45	0.8%
Health care and social assistance	-	-	152	2.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	2	7.7%	83	1.6%
Accommodation and food services	-	-	188	3.5%
Other services, except public admin	1	3.8%	210	3.9%
<b>Government</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
Federal	1	3.8%	111	2.1%
State	-	-	75	1.4%
Local	1	3.8%	240	4.5%

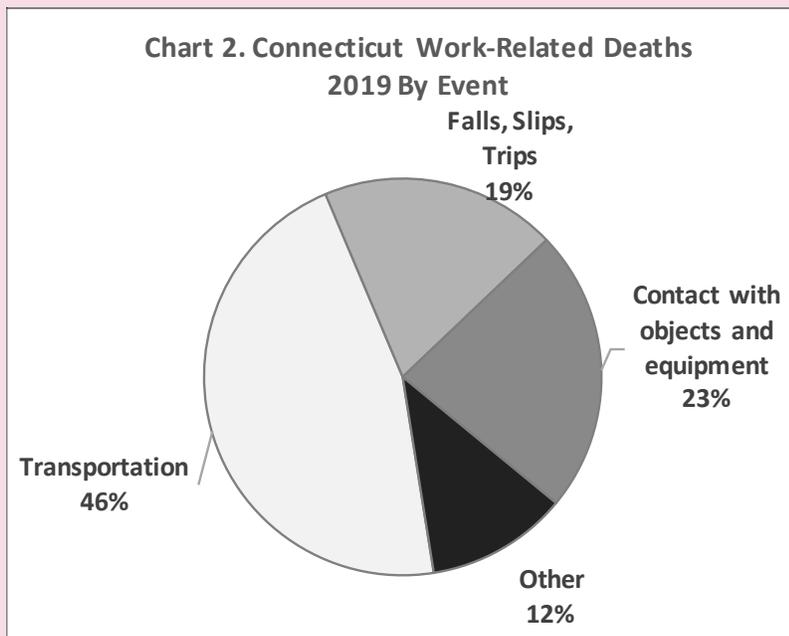
Nationally, the transportation and material moving occupational group and the construction and extraction occupational group accounted for 48 percent of worker deaths in 2019. Transportation and material moving occupations lost 1,481 workers and construction and extraction occupations lost 1,066 workers. While the overall rate was 3.5 for 100,000 full time equivalent workers, fishing and hunting workers saw a rate of 145.0. This was followed by logging workers with a rate of 68.9 and aircraft pilots and flight engineers with a rate of 61.8.

**Identifying Work-Related Deaths**

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

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

Event or Exposure	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Violence and other injuries by persons or animals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>
Homicides	6	2	4	1	-
Suicides	3	3	4	7	-
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Animal and insect related incidents	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Transportation incidents</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>
Pedestrian vehicular incident	2	3	4	3	1
Roadway collision with other vehicle	4	4	1	8	6
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	8	3	5	6	2
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Fire or explosion</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fall, slip, trip</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
Fall on same level	-	-	-	-	-
Fall to lower level	6	5	-	8	5
<b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>
Exposure to electricity	-	3	-	-	-
Exposure to other harmful substances	4	-	5	6	-
<b>Contact with objects and equipment</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Struck by object or equipment	4	-	3	4	4
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	2	-	-	-	1



While every attempt is made to capture every work-related death, some are missed. The CFOI program uses diverse state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This ensures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

It is important to note that 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:

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

OSHA does not investigate every work-related death. Homicides and most transportation incidents fall outside OSHA's jurisdiction. However, OSHA is beginning to investigate some of these incidents to develop training programs. Homicides may be prevented with changes in security cameras and enforcing safety rules. Transportation deaths can be prevented with training programs on distracted driving, sleep deprivation, and safe driving techniques.

**History of the Program**

When President Nixon signed the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) into law, a census of workplace fatalities did not exist. It was estimated that approximately 14,000 workers were

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

Occupational Group	2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Management occupations</b>	<b>1</b>
Top executives	1
Chief executives	1
<b>Protective service occupations</b>	<b>1</b>
Firefighting and prevention workers	1
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b>	<b>1</b>
Building cleaning and pest control workers	1
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	1
<b>Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations</b>	<b>1</b>
Supervisors of farming, fishing, and forestry workers	1
First-line supervisors of farming, fishing, and forestry workers	1
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>	<b>4</b>
Construction trades workers	4
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b>	<b>3</b>
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	1
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	1
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations</b>	<b>12</b>
Motor vehicle operators	9
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	7
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	6
Light truck drivers	1
Passenger vehicle drivers	2
Bus drivers, school	1
Taxi drivers	1

killed on the job annually. While OSHA immediately began investigating workplace deaths, the U.S. Department of Labor did not have a comprehensive statistical program dedicated to documenting workplace deaths.

In 1992, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) was established to track all work-related deaths and collect the much needed data. That first year, 6,217 deaths were documented nationally, 42 of which were in Connecticut. Since then, national numbers have dropped by 14 percent to 5,333 deaths in 2019.

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. The coding structure for nature, part of body, event, and sources was changed in 2011. In 2012, the program began documenting contractor status, the use of drugs or alcohol, seat belt use, and union status.

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 is now released in December – 4 months earlier than in past years. This December release is the only release of CFOI data.

The program continues to develop to meet 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

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	3Q 2020	3Q 2019	YoY CHG NO. %		2Q 2020	QoQ CHG NO. %	
<b>General Drift Indicator (1996=100)*</b>							
<b>Leading</b>			0.0	####		0.0	####
<b>Coincident</b>			0.0	####		0.0	####
<b>Real Gross Domestic Product**</b>	1Q 2020	1Q 2019	YoY CHG NO. %		4Q 2019	QoQ CHG NO. %	
(2012 Chained \$, SAAR)							
<b>Connecticut (\$ in millions)</b>	247,129.1	247,584.7	-455.6	-0.2	250,045.1	-2,916.0	-1.2
<b>United States (\$ in millions)</b>	18,977,363	18,927,281	50,082	0.3	19,221,970	-244,607	-1.3
<b>New England (\$ in millions)</b>	982,957.3	983,349.4	-392.1	0.0	996,132.2	-13,174.9	-1.3
<b>Per Capita Personal Income**</b>	2Q 2020	2Q 2019	YoY CHG NO. %		1Q 2020	QoQ CHG NO. %	
(Current \$, SAAR)							
<b>Connecticut</b>	81,606	77,111	4,495	5.8	78,213	3,393	4.3
<b>United States</b>	61,842	56,307	5,535	9.8	57,519	4,323	7.5
<b>New England</b>	78,469	69,625	8,844	12.7	70,827	7,642	10.8
<b>Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index (2007=100)***</b>	Dec 2020	Dec 2019	YoY CHG NO. %		Nov 2020	MoM CHG NO. %	
<b>Connecticut</b>			0.0	####		0.0	####
<b>United States</b>			0.0	####		0.0	####

Sources: \*Dr. Steven P. Lanza, University of Connecticut \*\*U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis \*\*\*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 **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).