

ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.28 No.1 A joint publication of Connecticut Department of Labor & Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

JANUARY 2023

IN THIS ISSUE...

Connecticut's Work-Related Fatality Rate Second Lowest in Nation 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 November...

Nonfarm Employment

Connecticut 1,672,800
 Change over month +0.37%
 Change over year +2.23%

United States 153,548,000
 Change over month +0.17%
 Change over year +3.29%

Unemployment Rate

Connecticut 4.2%
 United States 3.7%

Consumer Price Index

United States 297.711
 Change over year +7.1%

Connecticut's Work-Related Fatality Rate Second Lowest in Nation

By Erin C. Wilkins, Associate Research Analyst, CT DOL

Connecticut lost 23 lives to work injuries in 2021, for a rate of 1.4 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. This is the lowest recorded number of deaths since the program began in 1992. This is a decrease from 2020's 29 deaths and is below Connecticut's annual average of 38 work-related deaths (Chart 1). Only one other state – Rhode Island – recorded a rate lower than Connecticut's (Table 1).

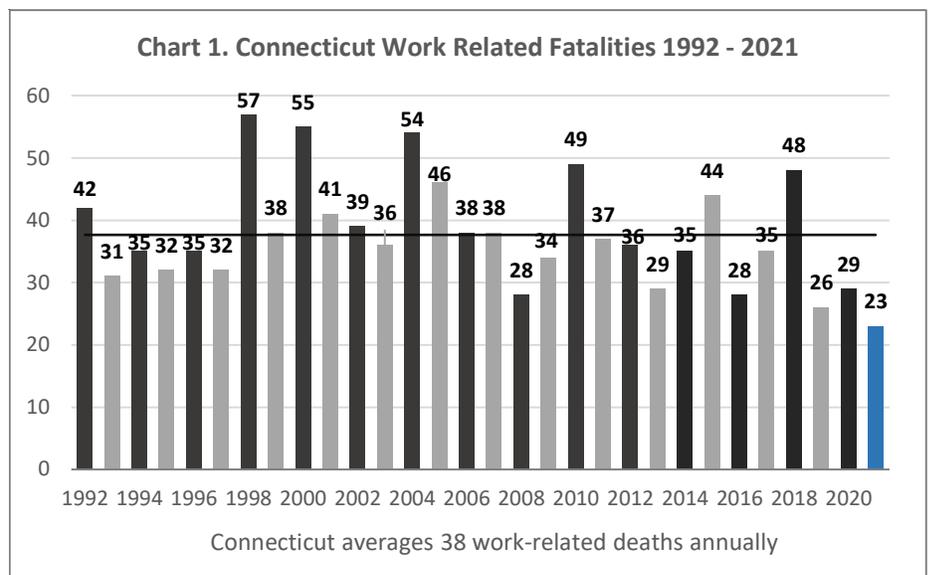
The nation lost 5,190 lives to workplace injuries in 2021, an increase from 2020's 4,764 deaths. The fatal injury rate increased from 3.4 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers in 2020 to 3.6 in 2021. The highest loss was seen in Texas with 533 deaths, followed by California

with 462 deaths and Florida with 315 deaths. High rates were recorded in Wyoming (10.4) and North Dakota (9.0). Rhode Island had 5 deaths, the lowest recorded number for states.

Industry

Nationally, the construction industry recorded the highest number of deaths at 986, followed by transportation and warehousing with 976 deaths. Together, these two industries account for 38 percent of deaths. With 6 deaths, the construction industry had the highest number of deaths in Connecticut, accounting for 26.1 percent of 2021's deaths. Administrative and waste services came in second with 5 deaths, accounting for 21.7 percent of total deaths

Chart 1. Connecticut Work Related Fatalities 1992 - 2021



ECONOMIC DIGEST

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.

Managing Editor: Jungmin Charles Joo

Associate Editor: Erin C. Wilkins

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

Connecticut Department of Labor

Danté Bartolomeo, Commissioner
Daryle Dudzinski, Deputy Commissioner
Mark Polzella, Deputy Commissioner

Patrick J. Flaherty, Director
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
Phone: (860) 263-6255
Fax: (860) 263-6263

E-Mail: dol.econdigest@ct.gov
Website: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi>



Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

David Lehman, Commissioner
Alexandra Daum, Deputy Commissioner
Paul O. Robertson, Deputy Commissioner

450 Columbus Boulevard
Suite 5
Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: (860) 500-2300
Fax: (860) 500-2440

E-Mail: decd@ct.gov
Website: <http://www.decd.org>



Table 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries by State 2021

Rates per 100,000 full time equivalent workers

| State of Incident | Number | Rate |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| TOTAL | 5,190 | 3.6 |
| Rhode Island | 5 | 1.0 |
| Connecticut | 23 | 1.4 |
| Arizona | 67 | 2.1 |
| Washington | 73 | 2.1 |
| Hawaii | 15 | 2.2 |
| New Jersey | 110 | 2.7 |
| California | 462 | 2.8 |
| Delaware | 13 | 2.8 |
| Maryland | 80 | 2.8 |
| Minnesota | 80 | 2.8 |
| Maine | 19 | 2.9 |
| Massachusetts | 97 | 2.9 |
| New York | 247 | 2.9 |
| Pennsylvania | 162 | 2.9 |
| Illinois | 176 | 3.1 |
| New Hampshire | 21 | 3.2 |
| Virginia | 125 | 3.2 |
| Idaho | 30 | 3.3 |
| Iowa | 49 | 3.3 |
| Michigan | 140 | 3.3 |
| Nevada | 43 | 3.3 |
| Oregon | 66 | 3.3 |
| Vermont | 10 | 3.3 |
| Colorado | 96 | 3.4 |
| Florida | 315 | 3.4 |
| Ohio | 171 | 3.4 |
| Utah | 52 | 3.4 |
| Wisconsin | 105 | 3.4 |
| Mississippi | 41 | 3.5 |
| District of Columbia | 12 | 3.6 |
| North Carolina | 179 | 3.9 |
| Georgia | 187 | 4.0 |
| Nebraska | 39 | 4.1 |
| Texas | 533 | 4.2 |
| Tennessee | 132 | 4.4 |
| Kansas | 63 | 4.6 |
| South Dakota | 20 | 4.7 |
| South Carolina | 107 | 5.0 |
| Oklahoma | 86 | 5.1 |
| Indiana | 157 | 5.2 |
| Kentucky | 97 | 5.2 |
| West Virginia | 36 | 5.2 |
| Missouri | 147 | 5.4 |
| Alabama | 111 | 5.5 |
| Arkansas | 74 | 5.8 |
| Alaska | 20 | 6.2 |
| New Mexico | 53 | 6.2 |
| Louisiana | 141 | 7.7 |
| Montana | 40 | 8.0 |
| North Dakota | 34 | 9.0 |
| Wyoming | 27 | 10.4 |

(Table 2). With an overall rate of 1.4, Connecticut saw a rate of 5.2 in construction and 2.5 in professional and business services. Rates for other industry sectors did not meet publishing criteria.

Worker Characteristics

Eighteen of the workers were wage and salary workers; five were self-employed. Fifty seven percent (13) of deaths were white. Six were Hispanic or Latino. Nationally, Hispanic or Latino workers made up 21.8 percent of fatal occupational injuries in 2021. Deaths for Black or African American workers climbed to 653 in 2021 from 541 in 2020, a 20.7 percent increase.

While Connecticut data was not published for gender, nationally 91 percent of 2021's work-related deaths were men. In both Connecticut and the nation, 35 percent of workplace fatalities were age 55 and over.

Event

Historically, the United States loses the most workers to transportation incidents. The year 2021 saw 1,982 lives lost to transportation incidents – 38 percent of all work-related deaths. Falls, slips and trips was the second most common event with 850 deaths (16 percent). Exposure to harmful substances or environments was the third most common event with 798 deaths (15 percent). Violence and other injuries by persons or animals had 761 deaths (15 percent). Workplace homicides claimed 481 lives and suicides claimed 236.

With seven deaths, transportation incidents claimed the most lives in Connecticut, accounting for 30 percent of total deaths. The contact with objects and equipment category had 6 deaths, and exposure to harmful

Table 2. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry

| Industry | 2021 Fatalities | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | CT | | U.S. | |
| TOTAL | 23 | 100.0% | 5,190 | 100.0% |
| Private Industry | 21 | 91.3% | 4,728 | 91.1% |
| Goods Producing | - | - | - | - |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | - | - | 453 | 8.7% |
| Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction | - | - | 95 | 1.8% |
| Construction | 6 | 26.1% | 986 | 19.0% |
| Manufacturing | - | - | 383 | 7.4% |
| Service Providing | - | - | - | - |
| Wholesale trade | - | - | 177 | 3.4% |
| Retail trade | - | - | 263 | 5.1% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 4 | 17.4% | 976 | 18.8% |
| Utilities | - | - | 36 | 0.7% |
| Information | - | - | 36 | 0.7% |
| Finance and insurance | - | - | 16 | 0.3% |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | - | - | 81 | 1.6% |
| Professional, scientific, and technical service | - | - | 83 | 1.6% |
| Administrative and waste services | 5 | 21.7% | 468 | 9.0% |
| Educational services | - | - | 30 | 0.6% |
| Health care and social assistance | - | - | 137 | 2.6% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | - | - | 64 | 1.2% |
| Accommodation and food services | 2 | 8.7% | 179 | 3.4% |
| Other services, except public admin | - | - | 242 | 4.7% |
| Government | 2 | 8.7% | - | - |
| Federal | - | - | 98 | 1.9% |
| State | 1 | 4.3% | 83 | 1.6% |
| Local | 1 | 4.3% | 280 | 5.4% |

substances or environments had 4 deaths.

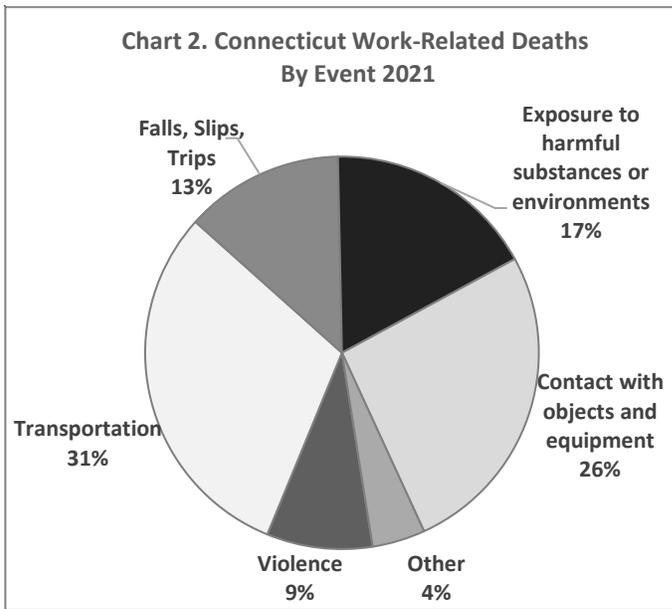
Occupations

Construction and extraction occupations and transportation and material moving occupations each lost six lives in Connecticut, accounting for 52 percent of total deaths. Three of the transportation and material moving occupations were motor vehicle operators (Table 4).

Nationally, the transportation and material moving occupational group and the construction and extraction occupational group accounted for 47.7 percent of worker deaths in 2021. Transportation and material moving occupations lost 1,523 workers and construction and extraction occupations lost 951 workers. While the overall rate was 3.6 for 100,000 full time equivalent workers, logging workers saw a rate of 82.2. This was followed by fishing and hunting workers with a rate of

Table 3. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure

| Event or Exposure | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 35 | 48 | 26 | 29 | 23 |
| Violence and other injuries by persons or animals | 8 | 8 | - | 4 | 2 |
| Homicides | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 2 |
| Suicides | 4 | 7 | - | - | - |
| Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown | - | - | - | - | - |
| Animal and insect related incidents | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transportation incidents | 14 | 19 | 12 | 9 | 7 |
| Pedestrian vehicular incident | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | - |
| Roadway collision with other vehicle | 1 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Roadway collision with object other than vehicle | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | - |
| Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Fire or explosion | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fall, slip, trip | 4 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Fall on same level | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fall to lower level | - | 8 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Exposure to harmful substances or environments | 5 | 6 | - | 4 | 4 |
| Exposure to electricity | - | - | - | - | - |
| Exposure to other harmful substances | 5 | 6 | - | - | - |
| Contact with objects and equipment | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Struck by object or equipment | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects | - | - | 1 | - | - |



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

Table 4. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Occupation

| Occupational Group | 2021 |
|--|-----------|
| Total | 23 |
| Management occupations | 1 |
| Other management occupations | 1 |
| Lodging managers | 1 |
| Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations | 4 |
| Building cleaning and pest control workers | 1 |
| Grounds maintenance workers | 3 |
| Construction and extraction occupations | 6 |
| Transportation and material moving occupations | 6 |
| Motor vehicle operators | 3 |

75.2 and roofers with a rate of 59.0.

Identifying Work-Related Deaths

The CFOI (Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries) program reports fatal work injuries only. CFOI does not report any illness related information, including COVID-19. The CFOI 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).

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

law, a census of workplace fatalities did not exist. It was estimated that approximately 14,000 workers were 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 17 percent to 5,190 deaths in 2021.

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 the needs of researchers, as the data is beneficial in creating engineering solutions, regulations, and education programs to minimize workplace deaths. ■

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

| <i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i> | 3Q | 3Q | YoY CHG | | 2Q | QoQ CHG | |
|--|-------|-------|---------|------|-------|---------|------|
| | 2022 | 2021 | NO. | % | 2022 | NO. | % |
| General Drift Indicator (2007=100)* | | | | | | | |
| Leading | 110.7 | 105.0 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 112.7 | -2.0 | -1.7 |
| Coincident | 96.2 | 94.8 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 96.3 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Real Gross Domestic Product** (Millions of chained 2012 dollars) | 3Q | 3Q | YoY CHG | | 2Q | QoQ CHG | |
| | 2022 | 2021 | NO. | % | 2022 | NO. | % |
| Connecticut | | | 0 | #### | | 0 | #### |
| United States | | | 0 | #### | | 0 | #### |
| New England | | | 0 | #### | | 0 | #### |
| Per Capita Personal Income** (Current \$, SAAR) | 3Q | 3Q | YoY CHG | | 2Q | QoQ CHG | |
| | 2022 | 2021 | NO. | % | 2022 | NO. | % |
| Connecticut | | | 0 | #### | | 0 | #### |
| United States | | | 0 | #### | | 0 | #### |
| New England | | | 0 | #### | | 0 | #### |
| Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index (2007=100)*** | Nov | Nov | YoY CHG | | Oct | MoM CHG | |
| | 2022 | 2021 | NO. | % | 2022 | NO. | % |
| Connecticut | | | 0.00 | #### | | 0.00 | #### |
| United States | | | 0.00 | #### | | 0.00 | #### |

Sources: *Dr. Steven P. Lanza, University of Connecticut, <https://steven-landa.uconn.edu/the-connecticut-green-sheet/>
 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 2007 = 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).