

ECONOMIC DIGEST

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In October...

Nonfarm Employment

Connecticut 1,681,800
 Change over month +0.21%
 Change over year +1.4%

United States 139,680,000
 Change over month +0.15%
 Change over year +1.9%

Unemployment Rate

Connecticut 6.4%
 United States 5.8%

Consumer Price Index

United States 237.433
 Change over year +1.7%

Connecticut's Work-Related Fatalities, 1992-2013

By Erin C. Wilkins, Associate Research Analyst, DOL

“No one should have to sacrifice their life for their livelihood, because a nation built on the dignity of work must provide safe working conditions for its people.” –Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez

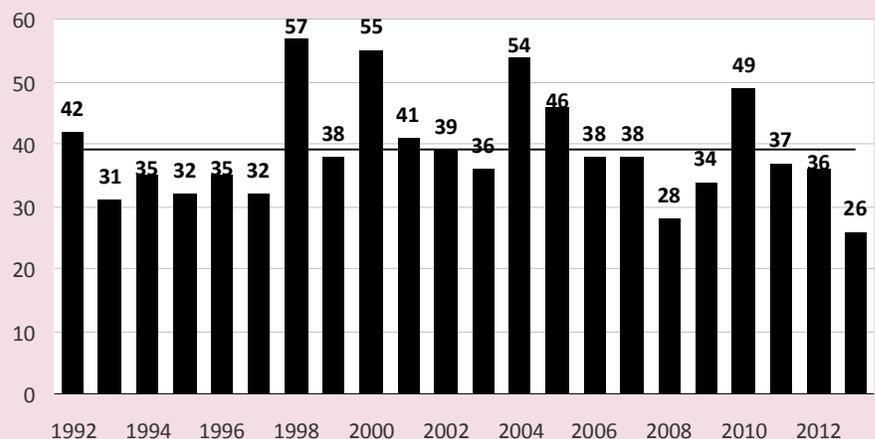
In 2013, work injuries claimed the lives of 4,405 workers in America. Twenty-six of those deaths occurred in Connecticut.

Since 1992, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics has conducted the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) to document workplace fatalities. Connecticut averages 39 work-related fatalities annually with a high of 57 in 1998 (Chart 1). In

2013, Connecticut saw the lowest recorded number of 26 lost workers. This “low” number is not statistically notable and cannot be attributed to a specific cause. However, it cannot be stressed enough that what is statistically unremarkable has a devastating impact on loved ones. One work-related death is one too many. As Dr. David Michaels, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, states, “Making a living shouldn’t have to cost you your life. Workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses are preventable. Safe jobs happen because employers make the choice to fulfill their responsibilities and protect their workers.”

The CFOI program requires a minimum of two sources to verify

CHART 1. Connecticut Work-Related Fatalities, 1992 - 2013



Connecticut averages 39 work-related deaths annually

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**TABLE 1. Connecticut & U.S. Fatal Occupational Injuries
1992 - 2013
ANNUAL NUMBERS AND RATES¹**

Year	CT		U. S.	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000
<i>Before 1997, rates were not calculated for individual states. Rates for years 1997-2005 are per 100,000 workers</i>				
1992	42	n/a	6,217	5.2
1993	31	n/a	6,331	5.2
1994	35	n/a	6,632	5.3
1995	32	n/a	6,275	4.9
1996	35	n/a	6,202	4.8
1997	32	2.0	6,238	4.8
1998	57	3.3	6,055	4.5
1999	38	2.3	6,054	4.5
2000	55	3.2	5,920	4.3
2001 ²	41	2.4	5,915	4.3
2002	39	2.3	5,534	4.0
2003	36	2.1	5,575	4.0
2004	54	3.1	5,764	4.1
2005	46	2.7	5,734	4.0
<i>Rates for 2006 forward are per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers</i>				
2006	38	2.3	5,840	4.2
2007	38	2.2	5,657	4.0
2008	28	1.6	5,214	3.7
2009	34	2.0	4,551	3.5
2010	49	3.0	4,690	3.6
2011	37	2.2	4,693	3.5
2012 ³	36	2.1	4,628	3.4
2013 ³	26	--	4,405	3.2

n/a: Prior to 1997, annual fatality rates were not calculated on a state-wide basis.

¹ Fatality rates for 1992-2005 are based on number employed and calculated as Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000.

In 2006, the methodology was changed to take into account the amount of hours worked by employees. Rates are expressed per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers (FTEs). The total hours worked are calculated from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

²Data for 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks, which accounted for an additional 2,886 work-related fatalities.

³Totals for 2012 are revised and final. Totals for 2013 are preliminary. Final data are scheduled to be released in April 2015.

-- State rates will not be available until April 2015.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

a work-related death. Multiple sources are utilized: news media, autopsy reports, death certificates, police reports, etc. Each case is categorized by industry, occupation, number of employees, and demographics such as age and country of origin. Incidents are coded for nature of injury, part of body affected, event, and source of injury. All cases are kept strictly

confidential. Any information that may identify a specific person or company is not published.

Rates

Nationally the 2013 fatality rate was 3.2 deaths for every 100,000 full-time equivalent workers (Table 1). The rate is calculated as fatal work injuries divided by total hours worked

TABLE 2. Fatal Occupational Injuries by State 2013

State of Incident	2013 Fatalities ¹
TOTAL²	4,405
Texas	493
California	385
Florida	234
Pennsylvania	178
Illinois	172
New York	160
Ohio	148
Michigan	133
Virginia	126
Indiana	123
Louisiana	114
Missouri	113
North Carolina	104
New Jersey	101
Wisconsin	96
Tennessee	93
Arizona	90
Oklahoma	86
Kentucky	82
Maryland	78
South Carolina	72
Iowa	71
Georgia	70
Minnesota	67
Alabama	66
Colorado	65
Mississippi	64
Arkansas	62
West Virginia	60
Washington	56
North Dakota	55
Massachusetts	55
Kansas	54
New Mexico	53
Oregon	49
Nevada	42
Nebraska	39
Utah	37
Alaska	32
Idaho	29
Montana	28
Wyoming	26
Connecticut	26
District of Columbia	24
South Dakota	19
Maine	19
New Hampshire	14
Hawaii	11
Delaware	11
Rhode Island	10
Vermont	7

¹ Data for 2013 are preliminary.

² A state of incident could not be determined for three fatalities.

multiplied by 100,000. Total hours worked are estimated from the Current Population Survey (CPS). State rates will not be available until April 2015. Due to high employment in low-risk industries, Connecticut consistently has a low fatality rate. In 2012, the national rate was 3.4. Connecticut, with a rate of 2.1, was among the five states with the lowest rates. North Dakota and Wyoming were among the highest rates at 17.7 and 12.2, respectively. Thirty-eight percent of North Dakota's 55 deaths were in the natural resources and mining industry. In 2013, Texas and California again had the highest number of deaths with 493 and 385, respectively (Table 2).

Demographics

Of the 26 deaths in Connecticut last year, 25 were men. The 55 to 64 age range, with ten deaths, saw the most deaths. Fifty-four percent were self-employed. When looking at numbers for the past three years, the percentage of self-employed drops to 36 percent. Nationally, hours at work are almost evenly divided between men and women. However, men have a disproportionate number of deaths - 93 percent of deaths in 2013. The 45-54 age range accounted for 24 percent of deaths; 20 percent were self-employed.

Event Characteristics

Coding criteria for the type of event are specific, but in general the following precedence is used: violence, transportation, fires and explosions, falls, exposure, and contact with objects. The violence category primarily consists of homicides and suicides. Also included are unintentional injuries by others, such as friendly-fire accidents, and animal related incidents such as bull attacks. In 2013 Connecticut recorded seven

deaths in the violence category, 4 of which were suicides. From 2011 to 2013, this category accounted for 33 percent of Connecticut's work deaths (Chart 2).

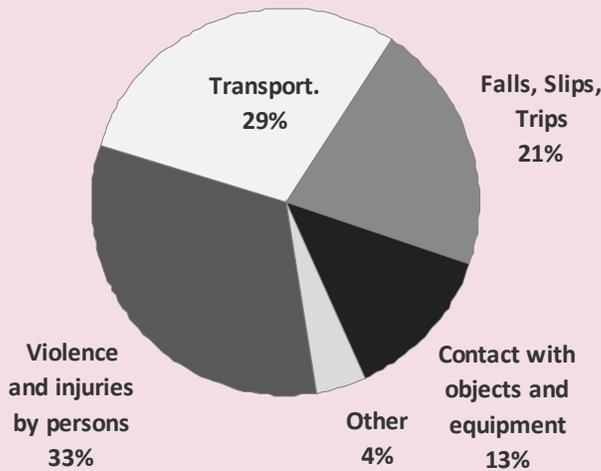
Transportation incidents are all-inclusive: air, rail, water, and roadway. Also included are pedestrians struck by vehicles, animal transportation accidents, bicycle accidents, and non-roadway incidents. National data consistently shows transportation as the leading cause of workplace fatalities (40% in 2013). Connecticut saw seven transportation deaths in 2013, slightly lower than 2012's count of nine.

Falls, slips and trips are categorized by height of the fall. The category also includes falls to the same level. In 2013, Connecticut saw 6 fatal falls, all of them to a lower level. Confidentiality requirements prevented the publication of Connecticut data by the height of the fall. Nationally, falls to lower levels claimed 453 lives. Heights are broken down to six groups, ranging from less than 6 feet to more than 30 feet. Of the falls where the distance was known, 19 percent were from 11 to 15 feet. At 17 percent, the less than 6 feet category was second. With 6 percent, the smallest group was the 26 to 30 foot height (Chart 3).

Five of Connecticut's deaths occurred in the contact with objects and equipment category, accounting for 19 percent of deaths. This category includes being struck by powered vehicles such as forklifts, being struck by a falling object, and caught in running machinery. Nationally, this category accounted for 16 percent of deaths.

For the past three years, Connecticut did not have any publishable data in the categories of fires and explosions or exposure to harmful substances and environments. Nationally, they accounted for 7 percent and

**CHART 2. Connecticut Work-Related Deaths
2011 - 2013 By Event**



**CHART 3. U.S. Work-Related Deaths
2011 - 2013 By Event**

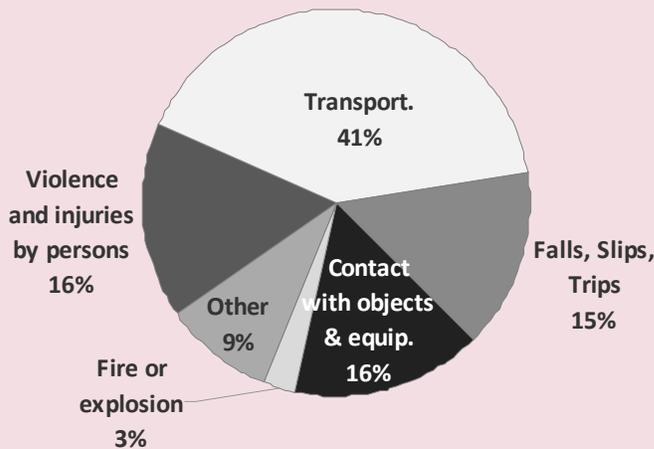
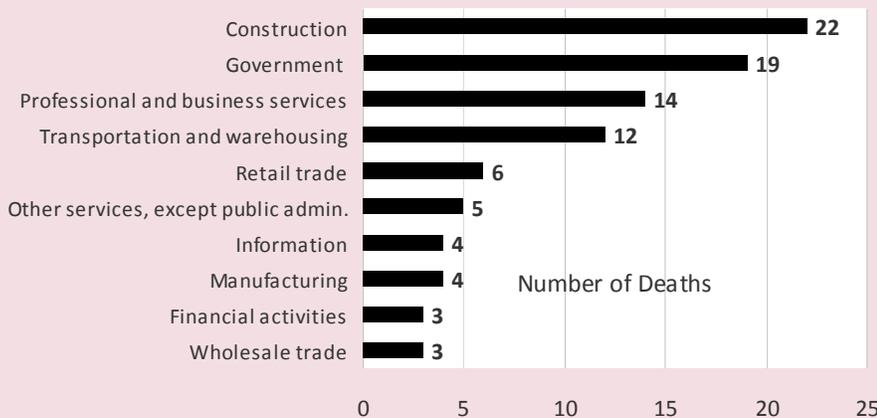


CHART 4. CT Work Injury Deaths by Industry, 2011-2013*



*Categories do not match total of 99; confidentiality standards prevent the publication of all data.

3 percent, respectively, of deaths in 2013.

Industry

In the past three years, Connecticut lost 99 employees to work-related fatalities. Twenty-two percent were in the Construction industry followed by Transportation and Warehousing with 12 percent (Chart 4). The Government sector represented 19 percent of deaths. Of the 26 deaths in 2013, seven were in the construction industry, one in transportation and warehousing, and three in the government sector.

Nationally, the construction industry sector claimed 796 lives, for 18 percent of the total 4,405. The transportation and warehousing industry sector followed with 16 percent, or 687 deaths. The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector was third with 479 deaths. However, this sector saw the highest rate: 22.2 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers.

Occupations

The occupational group of construction and extraction workers accounted for 23 percent of Connecticut deaths in 2013. The installation, maintenance and repair occupational group, along with the transportation and material moving operations, claimed 19 percent each for a total of 10 deaths. This closely represents the aggregate percentages for 2011 – 2013.

Nationally, the transportation and material moving operations group accounted for 27 percent of deaths, followed by the construction and extraction group with 19 percent. When looking at individual occupations, drivers, sales workers and truck drivers claimed the most lives (748). Logging workers had the highest rate of 91.3 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers.

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. 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.

OSHA requires all employers to report workplace fatalities within eight hours. However, OSHA does not require employers to report all fatalities. Employers are not required to report street and highway transportation deaths unless they occur in a construction work zone. Likewise, deaths on commercial or public transportation systems (airplane, subway, bus, train, etc.) do not require reporting. Furthermore,

employers do not need to report deaths occurring more than 30 days after the incident.

Beginning January 1, 2015, employers will also be required to report amputations, in-patient hospitalizations, and loss of eye within twenty four hours.

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 29 percent to a preliminary count of 4,405 for 2013. During the same time period, employment rose 21 percent.

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. Changes in occupation and industry coding occurred as the Standard Occupational Classification replaced the Dictionary of Occupational Titles and the Standard Industry Classification was replaced by the North American Industry Classification. The coding structure for nature, part, event, and sources was changed in 2011. Recently, the program began tracking contractor status, the use of drugs or alcohol, seat belt use, and more. The program continues to develop to meet needs of researchers. The data will continue to be used to create engineering solutions, regulations, and education programs to minimize work place deaths. ■

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	2Q	2Q	CHANGE		1Q
	2014	2013	NO.	%	2014
General Drift Indicator (1986=100)*					
Leading	109.7	106.9	2.8	2.6	111.5
Coincident	109.7	109.3	0.4	0.4	109.6
Farmington Bank Business Barometer (1992=100)**	127.6	127.0	0.6	0.5	127.5
Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index (July 1992=100)***	OCT	OCT			SEP
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	2014	2013			2014
Connecticut	158.83	153.10	5.73	3.7	158.26
United States	160.12	154.99	5.13	3.3	159.66

Sources: *The Connecticut Economy, University of Connecticut **Farmington Bank ***Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

The Connecticut Economy's **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 four leading (housing permits, manufacturing average weekly hours, Hartford help-wanted advertising, and initial unemployment claims) economic variables, and are indexed so 1986 = 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).