

# ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.24 No.2 A joint publication of the Connecticut Department of Labor & the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

## FEBRUARY 2019

### IN THIS ISSUE...

**Connecticut's 2017 Work-Related Fatalities - Below Annual Average ..... 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 ..... 1,705,500  
 Change over month ..... +0.06%  
 Change over year ..... +1.18%

United States ..... 150,263,000  
 Change over month ..... +0.21%  
 Change over year ..... +1.79%

#### Unemployment Rate

Connecticut ..... 4.0%  
 United States ..... 3.9%

#### Consumer Price Index

United States ..... 251.233  
 Change over year ..... +1.9%

## Connecticut's 2017 Work-Related Fatalities - Below Annual Average

By Erin C. Wilkins, Associate Research Analyst, DOL

**C**onnecticut lost 35 lives to work injuries in 2017. An increase from 2016's count of 28, it is still below Connecticut's annual average of 39 work-related deaths (Chart 1). At 1.9 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers, Connecticut had one of the lowest state rates (Table 1). New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, all with a rate of 1.6, were the only states with lower rates. While our lower number and rate is primarily due to low employment in high-risk industries, it cannot be stressed enough that even one work-related death is one too many.

#### Industry

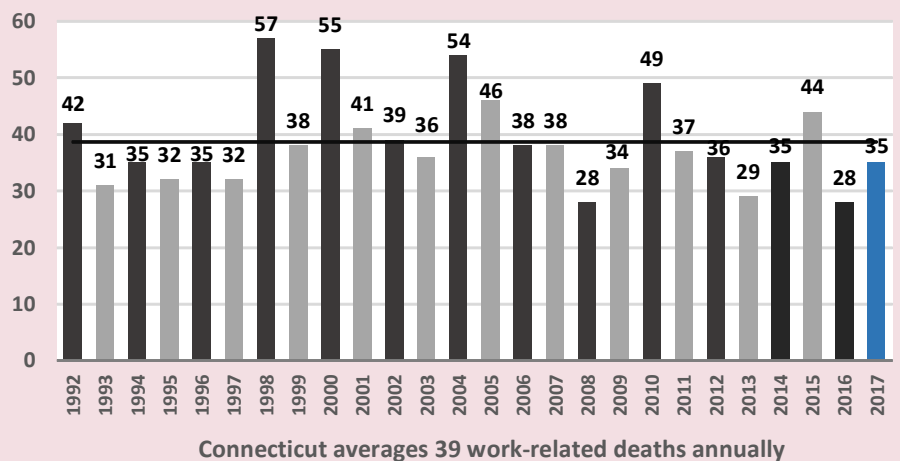
The nation lost 5,147 lives to workplace injuries in 2017. The

fatal injury rate decreased to 3.5 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers from 3.6 in 2016. The highest loss was seen in Texas with 534 deaths, followed by California with 376 and New York with 313 deaths. Rhode Island recorded the lowest loss with 8 deaths. High rates were recorded in Alaska (10.2) and North Dakota (10.1).

Nationally, the construction industry recorded the highest number of deaths at 971, followed by transportation and warehousing with 882. The highest rate by industry was seen in truck transportation, with 28.0 deaths per 100,000 full time equivalent workers.

With 10 deaths, the transportation and warehousing industry had the highest number

Chart 1. Connecticut Work-Related Fatalities, 1992 - 2017



*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. Fatal Occupational Injuries by State, 2017**

Rates per 100,000 full time equivalent workers

State of Incident	Number	Rate
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Texas	534	4.3
California	376	2.2
New York	313	3.5
Florida	299	3.3
Georgia	194	4.1
North Carolina	183	3.9
Ohio	174	3.3
Pennsylvania	172	3.0
Illinois	163	2.8
Michigan	153	3.4
Indiana	138	4.5
Tennessee	128	4.4
Missouri	125	4.4
Virginia	118	2.9
Louisiana	117	6.3
Massachusetts	108	3.2
Wisconsin	106	3.5
Minnesota	101	3.5
Oklahoma	91	5.5
Arizona	90	3.0
Mississippi	90	6.2
South Carolina	88	4.2
Maryland	87	3.0
Washington	84	2.5
Alabama	83	4.3
Colorado	77	2.8
Arkansas	76	6.1
Iowa	72	4.7
Kansas	72	5.2
Kentucky	70	3.8
New Jersey	69	1.6
Oregon	60	3.2
West Virginia	51	7.4
New Mexico	44	4.7
Utah	43	2.9
North Dakota	38	10.1
Idaho	37	4.8
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Nebraska	35	3.6
Alaska	33	10.2
Montana	32	6.9
Nevada	32	2.4
South Dakota	30	7.3
Vermont	22	7.0
Hawaii	20	2.2
Wyoming	20	7.7
Maine	18	2.7
District of Columbia	13	3.4
New Hampshire	11	1.6
Delaware	10	2.4
Rhode Island	8	1.6

of deaths in Connecticut, accounting for 28.6 percent of deaths in 2017. Administration and support and waste management and remediation services came in second with 6, accounting for 17.1 percent of total deaths. With an overall rate of 1.9 deaths per 100,000, Connecticut saw a rate of 16.7 in transportation and utilities and 3.1 in professional and business services. Rates for other industry sectors did not meet publishing criteria. The government sector recorded 3 deaths. (Table 2).

**Worker Characteristics**

Of Connecticut’s 35 work-related fatalities, 32 involved men. This follows the national trend with 93 percent of 2017’s work-related deaths being men. Twenty-eight were wage and salary and seven were self-employed workers. Seventy-one percent (25) of deaths were Caucasian. Four were Hispanic or Latino, three African-American, and three Asian. Six workers were foreign born. Nationally, foreign born workers made up 18 percent of total fatal injuries. Thirty eight percent of these workers were born in Mexico, followed by 19 percent from Asian countries.

**Event**

Historically, the United States loses the most workers to transportation incidents, and in 2017 there were 2,077 lives lost to transportation incidents – representing 40 percent of all work-related deaths. Falls, slips and trips was the second most common event with 887 (17 percent), followed by violence and other injuries by persons or animals with 807 deaths (16 percent). Workplace homicides claimed 458 lives and suicides claimed 275.

With 14 deaths, transportation incidents claimed

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

Industry	2017 Fatalities			
	CT		U.S.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>91.4%</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>90.8%</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.9%</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>38.2%</b>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1	2.9%	581	11.3%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extractio	--	--	112	2.2%
Construction	4	11.4%	971	18.9%
Manufacturing	3	8.6%	303	5.9%
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>68.6%</b>	<b>2,707</b>	<b>52.6%</b>
Wholesale trade	--	--	174	3.4%
Retail trade	--	--	287	5.6%
Transportation and Warehousing	10	28.6%	882	17.1%
Utilities	--	--	28	0.5%
Information	--	--	43	0.8%
Finance and insurance	--	--	32	0.6%
Real estate and rental and leasing	--	--	69	1.3%
Professional, scientific, and technical servi	--	--	69	1.3%
Administration and support and waste management and remediation services	6	17.1%	460	8.9%
Educational services	1	2.9%	43	0.8%
Health care and social assistance	1	2.9%	146	2.8%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	--	--	91	1.8%
Accommodation and food services	4	11.4%	171	3.3%
Other services, except public admin	1	2.9%	205	4.0%
<b>Government</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
Federal	--	--	116	2.3%
State	--	--	91	1.8%
Local	--	--	265	5.1%

the most lives in Connecticut, accounting for 40 percent of total deaths. Over the past five years, Connecticut has lost 171 lives to workplace injuries (Table 3) with 35 percent of them due to transportation events. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals claimed 22 percent, followed by falls, slips and trips at 18 percent (Chart 2).

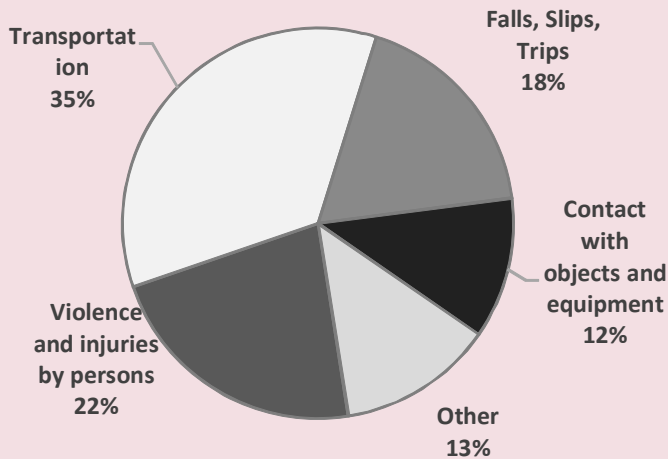
### Occupations

From 2013 to 2017, of Connecticut's 171 work-related deaths, 30 percent were in the transportation and material moving occupations category. Within this category, 77 percent were motor vehicle operators, with material moving workers claiming an additional 17 percent. The construction and extraction occupational group, with 40 fatalities, came in second. Carpenters and construction laborers each had six deaths. Also in this category are drywall and ceiling tile installers, highway maintenance

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

Event or Exposure	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013 - 2017	
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Violence and other injuries by persons or animals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22%</b>
Homicides	1	4	6	2	4	17	10%
Suicides	4	4	3	3	4	18	11%
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	-	-	-	-	--	1	1%
Animal and insect related incidents	-	-	1	-	--	1	1%
<b>Transportation incidents</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>35%</b>
Pedestrian vehicular incident	3	4	2	3	4	16	9%
Roadway collision with other vehicle	1	5	4	4	1	15	9%
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	3	2	8	3	5	21	12%
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	1	-	-	-	--	3	2%
<b>Fire or explosion</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Fall, slip, trip</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18%</b>
Fall on same level	-	3	-	-	--	4	2%
Fall to lower level	6	6	6	5	--	25	15%
<b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11%</b>
Exposure to electricity	-	2	-	3	--	7	4%
Exposure to other harmful substances	-	1	4	-	5	11	6%
<b>Contact with objects and equipment</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12%</b>
Struck by object or equipment	3	2	4	-	3	14	8%
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	2	-	2	-	--	5	3%

**Chart 2. Connecticut Work-Related Deaths 2013 - 2017 By Event**



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

Occupational Group	2013 - 2017	
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Management occupations</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
<b>Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Protective service occupations</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
First-line supervisors/managers, protective service workers	--	--
Fire fighting and prevention workers	1	0.6%
Police officers	1	0.6%
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
Supervisors, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers	2	1.2%
Grounds maintenance workers	11	6.4%
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	5	2.9%
Tree trimmers and pruners	6	3.5%
<b>Sales and related occupations</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23.4%</b>
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	3	1.8%
Carpenters	6	3.5%
Construction laborers	6	3.5%
Drywall and ceiling tile installers	2	1.2%
Electricians	2	1.2%
Roofers	5	2.9%
Highway maintenance workers	4	2.3%
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	1	0.6%
Telecommunications line installers and repairers	2	1.2%
Maintenance and repair workers, general	1	0.6%
<b>Production occupations</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>30.4%</b>
Motor vehicle operators	40	23.4%
Material moving workers	9	5.3%

workers, and roofers (Table 4).

Nationally, the transportation and material moving occupational group and the construction and extraction occupational group accounted for 47 percent of worker deaths in 2017. Within the occupational subgroup, driver/sales workers and truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer drivers had the largest number of fatal occupational injuries with 840. This represented the highest figure for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers since the occupational series began in 2003. Fishers and related fishing workers had a high rate of 99.8 (41 deaths), followed by logging workers with a rate at 84.3 (55 deaths).

### 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).

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:

- 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

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 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 them.

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, with 42 in Connecticut. Since then, national numbers have dropped by 17 percent to 5,147 in 2017.

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 – four 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. Hopefully the data will continue to be used to create engineering solutions, regulations, and education programs to minimize workplace fatalities. ■

## GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	3Q	3Q	CHANGE		2Q
	2018	2017	NO.	%	2018
<b>General Drift Indicator (1996=100)*</b>					
<b>Leading</b>	117.4	116.5	0.9	0.8	116.1
<b>Coincident</b>	116.6	115.4	1.2	1.0	116.1
<b>Liberty Bank Business Barometer (1992=100)**</b>	136.0	135.8	0.1	0.1	135.3
<b>Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index (2007=100)***</b>					
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Dec</b>			<b>Nov</b>
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>			<b>2018</b>
<b>Connecticut</b>	126.10	121.81	4.3	3.5	125.50
<b>United States</b>	125.13	121.58	3.6	2.9	124.93

Sources: \*Dr. Steven P. Lanza, University of Connecticut \*\*Liberty 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 **Liberty 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).