

ECONOMIC DIGEST

Vol.25 No.2 A joint publication of the Connecticut Department of Labor & the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

FEBRUARY 2020

IN THIS ISSUE...

Connecticut's 2018 Work-Related Fatalities - Above 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 1,700,400
 Change over month +0.01%
 Change over year +0.21%

United States 152,383,000
 Change over month +0.10%
 Change over year +1.40%

Unemployment Rate

Connecticut 3.7%
 United States 3.5%

Consumer Price Index

United States 256.974
 Change over year +2.3%

Connecticut's 2018 Work-Related Fatalities - Above Annual Average

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

Connecticut lost 48 lives to work injuries in 2018, for a rate of 2.8 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. An increase from 2017's count of 35, it is higher than Connecticut's annual average of 39 work-related deaths (Chart 1).

The nation lost 5,250 lives to workplace injuries in 2018, an increase from 2017's 5,147 deaths. However, the fatal injury rate remained unchanged from 2017 — 3.5 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. The highest loss was seen in Texas with 488 deaths, followed by California with 422 deaths and Florida with 332 deaths. High rates were recorded in Wyoming (11.5) and Alaska (9.9). Delaware recorded both the lowest loss and the

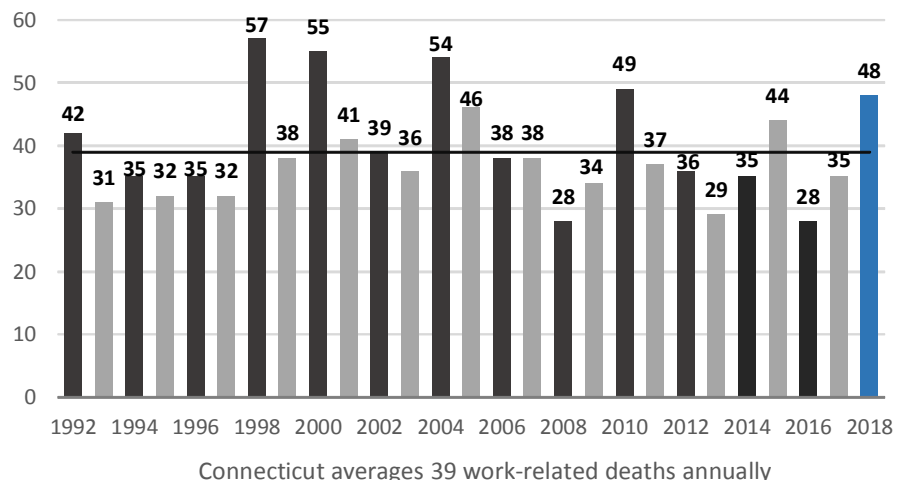
lowest rate with 7 deaths and a rate of 1.6.

Industry

Nationally, the construction industry recorded the highest number of deaths at 1,008, followed by transportation and warehousing with 874 deaths. The highest rate by industry was seen in truck transportation, with 28.3 deaths per 100,000 full time equivalent workers.

With 13 deaths, the construction industry had the highest number of deaths in Connecticut, accounting for 27.1 percent of 2018's deaths. Administration and support and waste management and remediation services came in second with 12 deaths,

Chart 1. Connecticut Work Related Fatalities 1992 - 2018



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

Kurt Westby, Commissioner
Danté Bartolomeo, Deputy Commissioner
Daryle Dudzinski, Deputy Commissioner

Andrew Condon, Ph.D., Director
Office of Research
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
Phone: (860) 263-6275
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
David Kooris, Deputy Commissioner
Glendowlyn Thames, 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 2018

ates per 100,000 full time equivalent worke

State of Incident	Number	Rate
TOTAL	5,250	3.5
Texas	488	3.8
California	422	2.3
Florida	332	3.5
New York	271	3.1
Georgia	186	3.8
Illinois	184	3.1
North Carolina	178	3.8
Pennsylvania	177	3.0
Indiana	173	5.6
Ohio	158	3.0
Virginia	157	3.5
Michigan	155	3.4
Missouri	145	5.1
Tennessee	122	4.1
Wisconsin	114	3.8
Louisiana	98	5.1
South Carolina	98	4.6
Maryland	97	3.4
Massachusetts	97	2.7
Oklahoma	91	5.2
Alabama	89	4.5
Washington	86	2.4
Kentucky	83	4.2
New Jersey	83	2.0
Arizona	82	2.5
Mississippi	78	6.7
low a	77	4.9
Arkansas	76	6.3
Minnesota	75	2.7
Colorado	72	2.6
Oregon	62	3.1
Kansas	61	4.5
West Virginia	57	7.9
Utah	49	3.4
Connecticut	48	2.8
Idaho	45	5.8
Nebraska	44	4.7
New Mexico	43	4.7
Nevada	39	2.8
North Dakota	35	9.6
Alaska	32	9.9
South Dakota	32	6.9
Wyoming	31	11.5
Montana	28	5.5
Haw aii	22	3.4
New Hampshire	20	2.9
Maine	17	2.5
Vermont	11	3.5
District of Columbia	10	2.8
Rhode Island	9	1.8
Delaw are	7	1.6

accounting for 25.0 percent of total deaths. With an overall rate of 2.8, Connecticut saw a rate of 10.9 in construction, 10.2 in transportation and utilities, and 5.4 in professional and business services. Rates for other industry sectors did not meet publishing criteria. The government sector recorded 2 deaths (Table 2).

Worker Characteristics

Of Connecticut's 48 work related deaths, 41 were men. This follows the national trend - 92 percent of 2018's work related deaths were men. Thirty-four of the workers were wage and salary workers; 14 were self-employed. Sixty-seven percent (32) of deaths were Caucasian and 14 were Hispanic or Latino.

Twelve workers were foreign born. Nationally, foreign born workers made up 20 percent of total fatal injuries. Forty percent of these workers were born in Mexico, followed by 17 percent from Asian countries.

Event

Historically, the United States loses the most workers to transportation incidents. The year 2018 saw 2,080 lives lost to transportation incidents - 40 percent of all work related deaths. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals was the second most common event with 828 deaths (16 percent). Workplace homicides claimed 453 lives and suicides claimed 304. Falls, slips and trips was the third most common event with 791 deaths (15 percent). Unintentional overdoses due to nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol while at work increased 12 percent from 272 to 305. This is the sixth consecutive annual increase.

With 19 deaths, transportation incidents claimed the most lives in Connecticut, accounting for 40 percent of total deaths. Falls, slips, and trips saw

Table 2. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry

Industry	2018 Fatalities			
	CT		U.S.	
TOTAL	48	100.0%	5,250	100.0%
Private Industry	46	95.8%	4,779	91.0%
Goods Producing	20	41.7%	2,055	39.1%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	4	8.3%	574	10.9%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extractio	--	--	130	2.5%
Construction	13	27.1%	1,008	19.2%
Manufacturing	3	6.3%	343	6.5%
Service Providing	26	54.2%	2,724	51.9%
Wholesale trade	--	--	202	3.8%
Retail trade	--	--	274	5.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	6	12.5%	874	16.6%
Utilities	--	--	29	0.6%
Information	--	--	31	0.6%
Finance and insurance	--	--	30	0.6%
Real estate and rental and leasing	--	--	78	1.5%
Professional, scientific, and technical servi	--	--	87	1.7%
Administrative and waste services	12	25.0%	497	9.5%
Educational services	--	--	30	0.6%
Health care and social assistance	--	--	138	2.6%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	--	--	78	1.5%
Accommodation and food services	--	--	175	3.3%
Other services, except public admin	--	--	195	3.7%
Government	2	4.2%	471	9.0%
Federal	--	--	124	2.4%
State	1	2.1%	69	1.3%
Local	1	2.1%	276	5.3%

the largest increase from 2017 – from 4 deaths to 10. Over the past five years, Connecticut has lost 190 lives to workplace injuries (Table 3). Thirty-six percent of them were to transportation events. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals claimed 21 percent, followed by falls, slips and trips at 18 percent (Chart 2).

Occupations

From 2014 to 2018, Connecticut had a total of 190 work related deaths. Of these, 28 percent were in the transportation and material moving occupations category. Eighty-one percent of which were motor vehicle operators, with material moving workers claiming an additional 15 percent. The construction and extraction occupational group, with 45 deaths, came in second. Construction laborers had 8 deaths, followed by roofers with 7 deaths. Also in this category are

Table 3. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure

Event or Exposure	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014 - 2018	
Total	35	44	28	35	48	190	100%
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	8	10	5	8	8	39	21%
Homicides	4	6	2	4	1	17	9%
Suicides	4	3	3	4	7	21	11%
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Animal and insect related incidents	-	1	-	-	-	1	1%
Transportation incidents	12	14	10	14	19	69	36%
Pedestrian vehicular incident	4	2	3	4	3	16	8%
Roadway collision with other vehicle	5	4	4	1	8	22	12%
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	2	8	3	5	6	24	13%
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	3	2%
Fire or explosion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fall, slip, trip	9	7	5	4	10	35	18%
Fall on same level	3	-	-	-	-	6	3%
Fall to lower level	6	6	5	-	8	27	14%
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	3	6	5	5	6	25	13%
Exposure to electricity	2	-	3	--	--	7	4%
Exposure to other harmful substances	1	4	-	5	6	17	9%
Contact with objects and equipment	2	7	3	3	5	20	11%
Struck by object or equipment	2	4	-	3	4	15	8%
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	-	2	-	-	-	4	2%

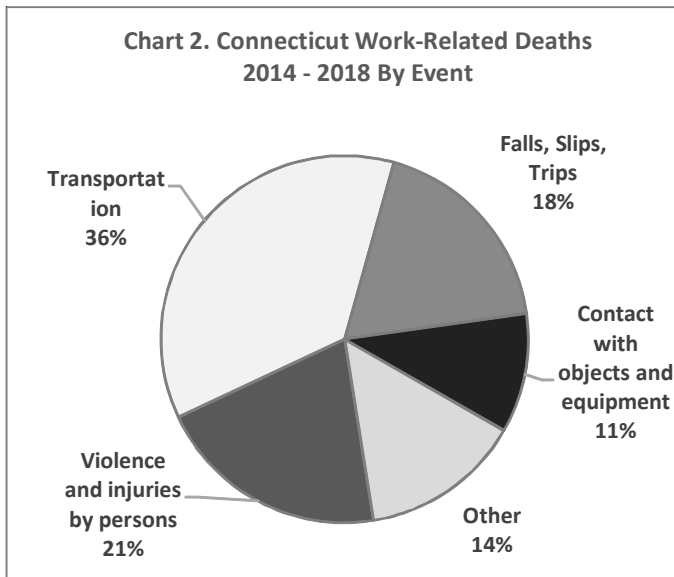


Table 4. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Occupation

Occupational Group	2014 - 2018	
	Count	Percentage
Total	190	100.0%
Management occupations	11	5.8%
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations	3	1.6%
Protective service occupations	5	2.6%
Fire fighting and prevention workers	1	0.5%
Police officers	1	0.5%
Food preparation and serving related occupations	6	3.2%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	24	12.6%
Supervisors, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers	3	1.6%
Grounds maintenance workers	20	10.5%
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	12	6.3%
Tree trimmers and pruners	8	4.2%
Sales and related occupations	15	7.9%
Construction and extraction occupations	45	23.7%
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	4	2.1%
Carpenters	4	2.1%
Construction laborers	8	4.2%
Drywall and ceiling tile installers	2	1.1%
Roofers	7	3.7%
Highway maintenance workers	4	2.1%
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5	2.6%
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	1	0.5%
Maintenance and repair workers, general	1	0.5%
Production occupations	9	4.7%
Transportation and material moving occupations	54	28.4%
Motor vehicle operators	44	23.2%
Material moving workers	8	4.2%

carpenters, drywall and ceiling tile installers, and highway maintenance workers (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 2018. Transportation and material moving occupations lost 1,443 workers and construction and extraction occupations lost 1,003 workers. Logging workers had a high rate of 97.6 (56 deaths), followed by fishers and related fishing workers with a rate of 77.4 (30 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:

- 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 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.

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 16 percent to 5,250 deaths in 2018.

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 work place deaths. ■

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	3Q	3Q	CHANGE		2Q
	2019	2018	NO.	%	2019
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>					
General Drift Indicator (1996=100)*					
Leading	119.2	116.8	2.5	2.1	120.0
Coincident	117.2	116.6	0.5	0.5	117.3
Liberty Bank Business Barometer (1992=100)**	141.7	141.0	0.7	0.5	142.0
Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index (2007=100)***					
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>					
Connecticut	129.22	126.46	2.8	2.2	129.05
United States	129.99	126.38	3.6	2.9	129.74

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).