

# ECONOMIC DIGEST

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**In December...**

**Nonfarm Employment**

Connecticut ..... 1,  
Change over month ..... +0.35%  
Change over year ..... +3.10%

United States ..... 140  
Change over month ..... +0.14%  
Change over year ..... +4.06%

**Unemployment Rate**

Connecticut ..... 6.  
United States ..... 4.2%

**Consumer Price Index**

United States ..... 2  
Change over year ..... +6.8%

## Connecticut's Work-Related Fatalities Third Lowest in Nation

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

**C**onnecticut lost 29 lives to work injuries in 2020, for a rate of 1.8 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. While this is an increase from 2019's 26 deaths, it is below Connecticut's annual average of 38 work-related deaths (Chart 1). Only two other states – Delaware and Rhode Island – recorded rates lower than Connecticut's (Table 1).

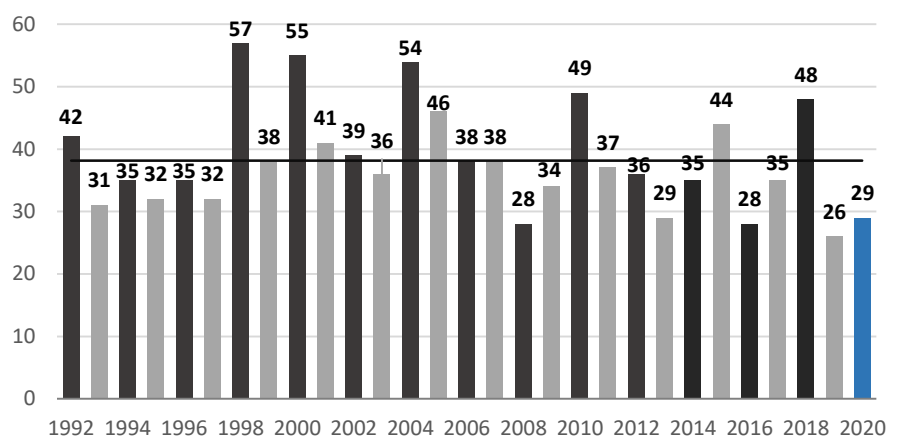
The nation lost 4,764 lives to workplace injuries in 2020, a decrease from 2019's 5,333 deaths. This is the lowest annual number since 2013. The fatal injury rate dropped from 3.5 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers in 2019 to 3.4 in 2020. The highest loss was seen in Texas with 469 deaths, followed by California with 463 deaths

and Florida with 275 deaths. High rates were recorded in Wyoming (13.0) and Alaska (10.7). Rhode Island had 5 deaths, the lowest recorded number for states.

**Industry**

Nationally, the construction industry recorded the highest number of deaths at 1,008, followed by transportation and warehousing with 805 deaths. Together, these two industries account for 38 percent of deaths. With 9 deaths, the construction industry had the highest number of deaths in Connecticut, accounting for 31.0 percent of 2020's deaths. Transportation and warehousing came in second with 7 deaths, accounting for 24.1 percent of total deaths (Table 2). With an overall rate of 1.8,

Chart 1. Connecticut Work Related Fatalities 1992 - 2020



Connecticut averages 38 work-related deaths annually

# ECONOMIC DIGEST

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**Table 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries by State 2020**

Rates per 100,000 full time equivalent workers

State of Incident	Number	Rate
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,764</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Rhode Island	5	1.1
Delaware	7	1.7
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1.8</b>
New Jersey	82	2.2
Maryland	59	2.2
New Hampshire	14	2.2
Massachusetts	69	2.3
Ohio	117	2.4
Minnesota	67	2.4
Washington	83	2.5
Illinois	135	2.6
Pennsylvania	148	2.7
Vermont	8	2.8
California	463	2.9
New York	223	2.9
Colorado	78	2.9
Hawaii	16	2.9
Virginia	118	3.0
Nevada	37	3.0
Michigan	131	3.1
Arizona	97	3.1
Maine	20	3.1
Florida	275	3.2
Oregon	60	3.4
Utah	48	3.4
District of Columbia	13	3.8
Texas	469	3.9
Missouri	105	4.0
Iowa	58	4.0
Wisconsin	108	4.1
Idaho	32	4.1
Alabama	85	4.2
Kansas	55	4.2
Mississippi	44	4.2
Georgia	193	4.3
North Carolina	189	4.4
Oklahoma	75	4.6
New Mexico	37	4.6
South Carolina	102	4.8
Tennessee	142	5.1
Nebraska	48	5.2
Indiana	158	5.4
Kentucky	92	5.4
Arkansas	64	5.4
Louisiana	103	5.9
Montana	29	6.0
West Virginia	47	6.6
North Dakota	26	7.4
South Dakota	32	7.8
Alaska	31	10.7
Wyoming	35	13.0

Connecticut saw a rate of 8.3 in construction. Rates for other industry sectors did not meet publishing criteria.

### Worker Characteristics

Twenty-five of the workers were wage and salary workers; four were self-employed. Seventy two percent (21) of deaths were white. Four were African American and four were Hispanic or Latino. Nationally, Hispanic or Latino workers made up 22.5 percent of fatal occupational injuries in 2020. While Connecticut data was not published for gender, nationally 92 percent of 2020's work related deaths were men. In Connecticut, 45 percent of workplace fatalities were age 55 and over, a bit higher than the nation's 36 percent.

### Event

Historically, the United States loses the most workers to transportation incidents. The year 2020 saw 1,778 lives lost to transportation incidents – 37 percent of all work-related deaths. Falls, slips and trips was the second most common event with 805 deaths (17 percent). Contact with objects and equipment was the third most common event with 716 deaths (15 percent). Violence and other injuries by persons or animals had 705 deaths (15 percent). Workplace homicides claimed 392 lives and suicides claimed 259. Unintentional overdoses due to nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol while at work increased to 388 deaths.

With nine deaths, transportation incidents claimed the most lives in Connecticut, accounting for 31 percent of total deaths. Both the contact with objects and equipment category and the falls, slips, trips category had six deaths each.

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

Industry	2020 Fatalities			
	CT		U.S.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,764</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>4,349</b>	<b>91.3%</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	-	-	-	-
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	3	10.3%	511	10.7%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	-	-	78	1.6%
Construction	9	31.0%	1,008	21.2%
Manufacturing	-	-	340	7.1%
<b>Service Providing</b>	-	-	-	-
Wholesale trade	-	-	155	3.3%
Retail trade	2	6.9%	275	5.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	7	24.1%	805	16.9%
Utilities	-	-	19	0.4%
Information	-	-	31	0.7%
Finance and insurance	-	-	20	0.4%
Real estate and rental and leasing	-	-	73	1.5%
Professional, scientific, and technical service	-	-	62	1.3%
Administrative and waste services	1	3.4%	413	8.7%
Educational services	-	-	26	0.5%
Health care and social assistance	-	-	119	2.5%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-	-	59	1.2%
Accommodation and food services	-	-	160	3.4%
Other services, except public admin	2	6.9%	188	3.9%
<b>Government</b>	-	-	<b>415</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
Federal	-	-	95	2.0%
State	1	3.4%	67	1.4%
Local	-	-	251	5.3%

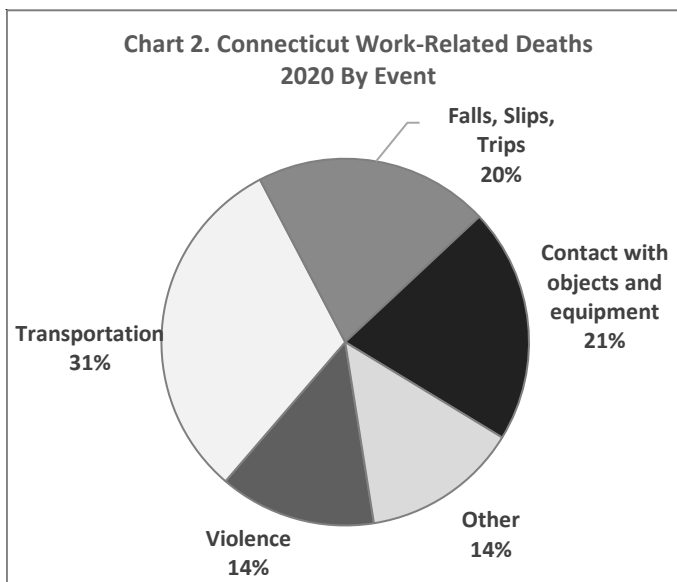
**Occupations**

Construction and extraction occupations and transportation and material moving occupations each lost nine lives in Connecticut, accounting for 62 percent of total deaths. Five of the transportation and material moving occupations were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (Table 4).

Nationally, the transportation and material moving occupational group and the construction and extraction occupational group accounted for 47.4 percent of worker deaths in 2020. Transportation and material moving occupations lost 1,282 workers and construction and extraction occupations lost 976 workers. While the overall rate was 3.4 for 100,000 full time equivalent workers, fishing and hunting workers saw a rate of 132.1. This was followed by logging workers with a rate of 91.7 and roofers with a rate of 47.0.

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

Event or Exposure	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Violence and other injuries by persons or animals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>
Homicides	2	4	1	-	3
Suicides	3	4	7	-	-
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Animal and insect related incidents	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transportation incidents</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>
Pedestrian vehicular incident	3	4	3	1	4
Roadway collision with other vehicle	4	1	8	6	3
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	3	5	6	2	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>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Fall on same level	-	-	-	-	-
Fall to lower level	5	-	8	5	6
<b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>
Exposure to electricity	3	-	-	-	-
Exposure to other harmful substances	-	5	6	-	-
<b>Contact with objects and equipment</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
Struck by object or equipment	-	3	4	4	3
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	-	-	-	1	-



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

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

Occupational Group	2020
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Management occupations</b>	<b>1</b>
Operations specialties managers	1
Transportation, storage, and distribution managers	1
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b>	<b>1</b>
Grounds maintenance workers	1
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	1
<b>Personal care and service occupations</b>	<b>1</b>
Personal appearance workers	1
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>	<b>9</b>
Construction trades workers	8
Electricians	1
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	1
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations</b>	<b>9</b>
Supervisors of transportation and material moving workers	1
Motor vehicle operators	7
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	7
Driver/sales worker	1
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	5
Light truck drivers	1

**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

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 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 23 percent to 4,764 deaths in 2020.

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. 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	3Q	YoY CHG		2Q	QoQ CHG	
	2021	2020	NO.	%	2021	NO.	%
<b>General Drift Indicator (2007=100)*</b>							
<b>Leading</b>	107.6	108.7	-1.1	-1.0	108.3	-0.7	-0.6
<b>Coincident</b>	92.3	90.0	2.3	2.6	92.7	-0.4	-0.4
<b>Real Gross Domestic Product**</b> (Millions of chained 2012 dollars)							
<b>Connecticut</b>	247,415.7	237,296.8	10,118.9	4.3	245,803.0	1,612.7	0.7
<b>United States</b>	19,478,893	18,560,774	918,119	4.9	19,368,310	110,583	0.6
<b>New England</b>	999,386.6	959,017.2	40,369.4	4.2	993,019.3	6,367.3	0.6
<b>Per Capita Personal Income**</b> (Current \$, SAAR)							
<b>Connecticut</b>	83,038	78,928	4,110	5.2	82,555	483	0.6
<b>United States</b>	62,866	59,928	2,938	4.9	62,514	352	0.6
<b>New England</b>	77,094	73,296	3,798	5.2	76,828	266	0.3
<b>Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index (2007=100)***</b>							
<b>Connecticut</b>	Dec 2021	Dec 2020	0.0	####	Nov 2021	0.0	####
<b>United States</b>			0.0	####		0.0	####

Sources: \*Dr. Steven P. Lanza, University of Connecticut, <https://steven-lanza.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).