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In December...

Nonfarm Employment

Connecticut 1,685,200
 Change over month +0.36%
 Change over year +0.46%

United States 147,380,000
 Change over month +0.10%
 Change over year +1.41%

Unemployment Rate

Connecticut 4.6%
 United States 4.1%

Consumer Price Index

United States 246.524
 Change over year +2.1%

Connecticut's Work-Related Fatalities in 2016

By Erin C. Wilkins, Associate Research Analyst, DOL

Connecticut lost 28 lives to work injuries in 2016, decreasing from 2015's count of 44. This is the smallest loss since 2008. It is also below Connecticut's annual average of 39 work-related deaths (Chart 1). At 1.6 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers, Connecticut had the lowest state rate (Table 1), primarily due to lower employment in high-risk industries. However, it cannot be stressed enough that even one work-related death is one too many.

Industry

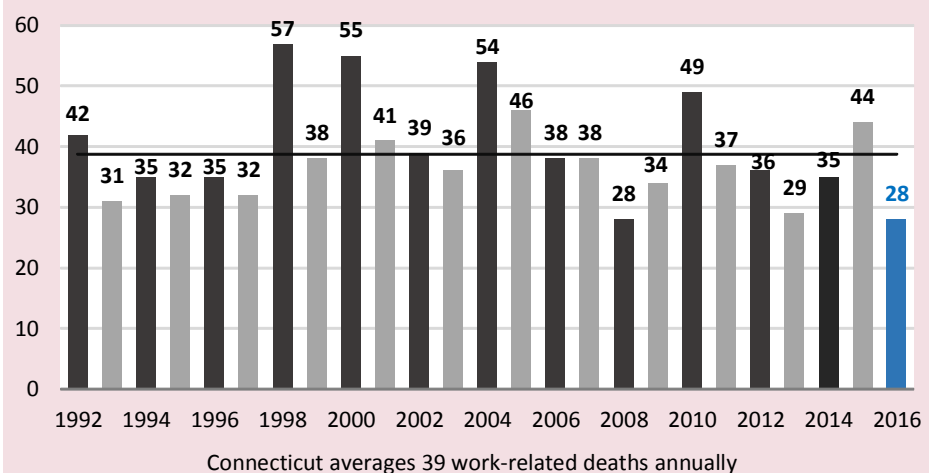
The nation lost 5,190 lives to workplace injuries in 2016, the most since 2008. The fatal injury rate increased to 3.6 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers from 3.4 in 2015. The

biggest loss was seen in Texas with 545 work-related fatalities, followed by California with 376 and Florida with 309 deaths. Rhode Island recorded the fewest, with 9. High rates were recorded in Wyoming (12.3) and Alaska (10.6). Wyoming's highest rate was in the transportation and utilities industry, at 46.8. Alaska recorded a rate of 44.5 in manufacturing and 42.0 in transportation and utilities.

Nationally, the construction industry recorded the biggest number of fatalities at 991, followed by transportation and warehousing with 825. The highest rate by industry was seen in truck transportation, with 25.6 deaths per 100,000 full time equivalent workers.

With eight deaths, the construction industry had the

Chart 1. Connecticut Work-Related Fatalities, 1992 - 2016



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.

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Table 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries by State, 2016

Rates per 100,000 full time equivalent workers		
State of Incident	Number	Rate
TOTAL	5,190	3.6
Texas	545	4.4
California	376	2.2
Florida	309	3.6
New York	272	3.1
North Carolina	174	3.7
Georgia	171	3.9
Illinois	171	2.9
Ohio	164	3.1
Pennsylvania	163	2.8
Michigan	162	3.5
Virginia	153	4.0
Indiana	137	4.5
Missouri	124	4.3
Tennessee	122	4.3
Massachusetts	109	3.3
Wisconsin	105	3.6
New Jersey	101	2.4
Alabama	100	5.2
South Carolina	96	4.4
Louisiana	95	5.0
Kentucky	92	5.0
Maryland	92	3.2
Minnesota	92	3.4
Oklahoma	92	5.6
Colorado	81	3.0
Washington	78	2.4
Arizona	77	2.6
Iowa	76	4.8
Kansas	74	5.2
Oregon	72	3.9
Mississippi	71	6.3
Arkansas	68	5.3
Nebraska	60	6.3
Nevada	54	4.2
West Virginia	47	6.6
Utah	44	3.2
New Mexico	41	4.9
Montana	38	7.9
Alaska	35	10.6
Wyoming	34	12.3
South Dakota	31	7.5
Idaho	30	4.1
Hawaii	29	2.4
Connecticut	28	1.6
North Dakota	28	7.0
New Hampshire	22	3.2
Maine	18	2.4
Delaware	12	2.6
Vermont	10	3.2
Rhode Island	9	1.8
District of Columbia	5	1.4

highest number of deaths in Connecticut, accounting for 28.6 percent of 2016's fatalities. Transportation and warehousing came in second with five, accounting for 17.9 percent of total deaths. With an overall rate of 1.6, Connecticut saw a rate of 7.4 in transportation and utilities, 6.4 in construction, and 2.6 in wholesale and retail trade. Rates for other industry sectors did not meet publishing criteria. The government sector did not record any deaths (Table 2).

Worker Characteristics

All but one of Connecticut's work-related deaths were men. This follows the national trend - Men were 93 percent of 2016's work-related deaths. Twenty-two of the workers were wage and salary workers, and six were self-employed. Sixty-eight percent of deaths were Caucasian, four were Hispanic or Latino, four African-American, and one Asian. Nine workers were foreign born. Nationally, foreign-born workers made up about one fifth of total fatal injuries. Thirty seven 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. The year 2016 saw 2,083 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 866 deaths (17 percent), followed by falls, slips and trips with 849 deaths (16 percent). Workplace homicides claimed 500 lives and suicides claimed 291. This is the highest homicide figure since 2010 and the most suicides recorded since the CFOI (Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries) program

Table 2. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry

Industry	2016 Fatalities			
	CT		U.S.	
TOTAL	28	100.0%	5,190	100.0%
Private Industry	28	100.0%	4,693	90.4%
Goods Producing	10	35.7%	1,991	38.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	--	--	593	11.4%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	--	--	89	1.7%
Construction	8	28.6%	991	19.1%
Manufacturing	--	--	318	6.1%
Service Providing	18	64.3%	2,702	52.1%
Wholesale trade	4	14.3%	179	3.4%
Retail trade	1	3.6%	282	5.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	5	17.9%	825	15.9%
Utilities	--	--	30	0.6%
Information	1	3.6%	46	0.9%
Finance and insurance	--	--	26	0.5%
Real estate and rental and leasing	--	--	91	1.8%
Professional, scientific, and technical service	--	--	100	1.9%
Administration and support and waste management and remediation services	4	14.3%	439	8.5%
Educational services	--	--	42	0.8%
Health care and social assistance	--	--	117	2.3%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	--	--	96	1.8%
Accommodation and food services	2	7.1%	202	3.9%
Other services, except public administration	1	3.6%	223	4.3%
Government	--	--	497	9.6%
Federal	--	--	107	2.1%
State	--	--	97	1.9%
Local	--	--	291	5.6%

began in 1992. Fatal work injuries from falls, slips and trips continued an upward trend, increasing by 25 percent since 2011. Overdose fatalities have increased by at least 25 percent annually since 2012.

With 10 deaths, transportation incidents claimed the most lives in Connecticut, accounting for 36 percent of the total. Over the past five years, Connecticut has lost 172 lives to workplace injuries (Table 3). Thirty-two percent of them were to transportation events. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals claimed 25 percent, followed by falls, slips and trips at 20 percent (Chart 2).

Occupations

From 2012 to 2016, Connecticut had a total of 172 work related deaths. Of these, 28 percent were in the transportation and material moving occupations category. Seventy-five percent of these were

Table 3. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure

Event or Exposure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012 - 2016	
Total	36	29	35	44	28	172	100%
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	13	7	8	10	5	43	25%
Homicides	11	1	4	6	2	24	14%
Suicides	-	4	4	3	3	16	9%
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	-	-	-	-	-	1	1%
Animal and insect related incidents	-	-	-	1	-	1	1%
Transportation incidents	9	10	12	14	10	55	32%
Pedestrian vehicular incident	2	3	4	2	3	14	8%
Roadway collision with other vehicle	1	1	5	4	4	15	9%
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	1	3	2	8	3	17	10%
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	5	1	-	-	-	6	3%
Fire or explosion	1	-	1	-	-	3	2%
Fall, slip, trip	7	6	9	7	5	34	20%
Fall on same level	-	-	3	-	-	5	3%
Fall to lower level	5	6	6	6	5	28	16%
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	1	-	3	6	5	15	9%
Exposure to electricity	1	-	2	-	3	8	5%
Exposure to other harmful substances	-	-	1	4	-	6	3%
Contact with objects and equipment	5	5	2	7	3	22	13%
Struck by object or equipment	5	3	2	4	-	16	9%
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	-	2	-	2	-	5	3%

**Chart 2. Connecticut Work-Related Deaths
2012 - 2016 By Event**

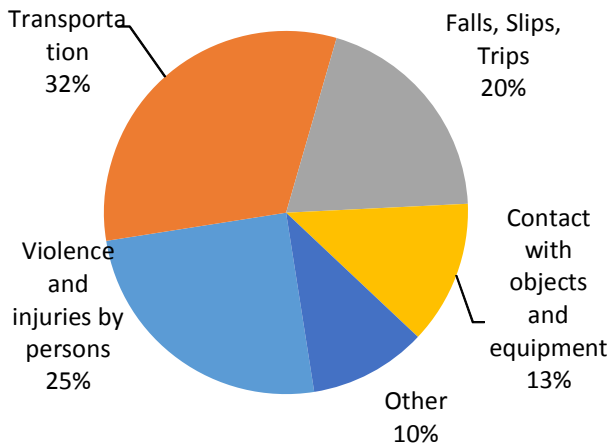


Table 4. CT Fatal Occupational Injuries by Occupation

Occupational Group	2012 - 2016	
	Count	Percentage
Total	172	100.0%
Management occupations	10	5.8%
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations	6	3.5%
Protective service occupations	5	2.9%
First-line supervisors/managers, protective service workers	1	0.6%
Fire fighting and prevention workers	1	0.6%
Police officers	1	0.6%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	17	9.9%
Supervisors, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers	2	1.2%
Grounds maintenance workers	13	7.6%
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	6	3.5%
Tree trimmers and pruners	7	4.1%
Sales and related occupations	15	8.7%
Construction and extraction occupations	44	25.6%
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	4	2.3%
Carpenters	8	4.7%
Construction laborers	8	4.7%
Drywall and ceiling tile installers	2	1.2%
Electricians	2	1.2%
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	3	1.7%
Roofers	5	2.9%
Highway maintenance workers	3	1.7%
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	9	5.2%
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	1	0.6%
Telecommunications line installers and repairers	2	1.2%
Maintenance and repair workers, general	2	1.2%
Production occupations	8	4.7%
Transportation and material moving occupations	48	27.9%
Motor vehicle operators	36	20.9%
Material moving workers	10	5.8%

motor vehicle operators, with material moving workers representing an additional 21 percent. The construction and extraction occupational group, with 44 fatalities, came in second. Carpenters and construction laborers each had eight. Also in this category are drywall and ceiling tile installers, highway maintenance workers, and roofers (Table 4).

Nationally, fatal injuries among transportation and material moving occupations increased to 1,388, accounting for more than one quarter of all deaths. Construction and extraction occupations lost 970 workers, for a rate of 12.4. Logging workers continued to have a high rate at 135.9 (91 deaths), followed by fishers and related fishing workers with a rate of 86.0 (24 deaths).

Identifying Work-Related Deaths

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (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 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 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, with 42 in Connecticut. Since then, national numbers have dropped by 22 percent to 4,836 deaths in 2015.

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 deaths. ■

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	3Q	3Q	CHANGE		2Q
	2017	2016	NO.	%	2017
General Drift Indicator (1996=100)*					
Leading	117.3	117.9	-0.6	-0.5	114.6
Coincident	116.5	116.7	-0.2	-0.2	116.3
Farmington Bank Business Barometer (1992=100)**	136.4	136.0	0.4	0.3	136.1
Philadelphia Fed's Coincident Index (July 1992=100)***	Dec	Dec			Nov
<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	2017	2016			2017
Connecticut	183.90	181.35	2.6	1.4	183.59
United States	184.16	179.33	4.8	2.7	183.80

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