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# Leading Causes of Fatal Work-related Injuries in Georgia, 2017-2021

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## BACKGROUND

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Tracking work-related fatalities can help identify common causes and workers at greatest risk of fatal work injuries. By analyzing work-related fatality data, employers can implement targeted strategies to mitigate risks, enhance training programs, and foster a culture of safety among Georgians. Ultimately, identifying hazardous conditions and high-risk occupations supports continuous improvement in occupational health standards, saves lives, and promotes a safer work environment for all Georgians.



## FATAL WORK-RELATED INJURIES – KEY FINDINGS

- There was a total of 187 fatal work-related deaths recorded among Georgia’s workforce in 2021, down from 193 fatal injuries recorded in 2020 (Table 1).
- Thus, the rate of fatal injuries was lower in 2021 at 3.8 per 100,000 full-time equivalents (FTEs) compared to 2020 at 4.2 per 100,000 FTEs.
- In 2021, the highest rates of fatal injuries resulted from transportation incidents, followed by violence and other injuries by persons or animals; exposure to harmful substances and environments; and falls, trips, and slips. (Figure 1).
- While work-related fatalities mostly occurred among workers in transportation and material moving; construction and extraction; and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations.

**Table 1: Number of fatal injuries reported to the census of fatal occupational injuries (CFOI), Georgia 2017-2021**

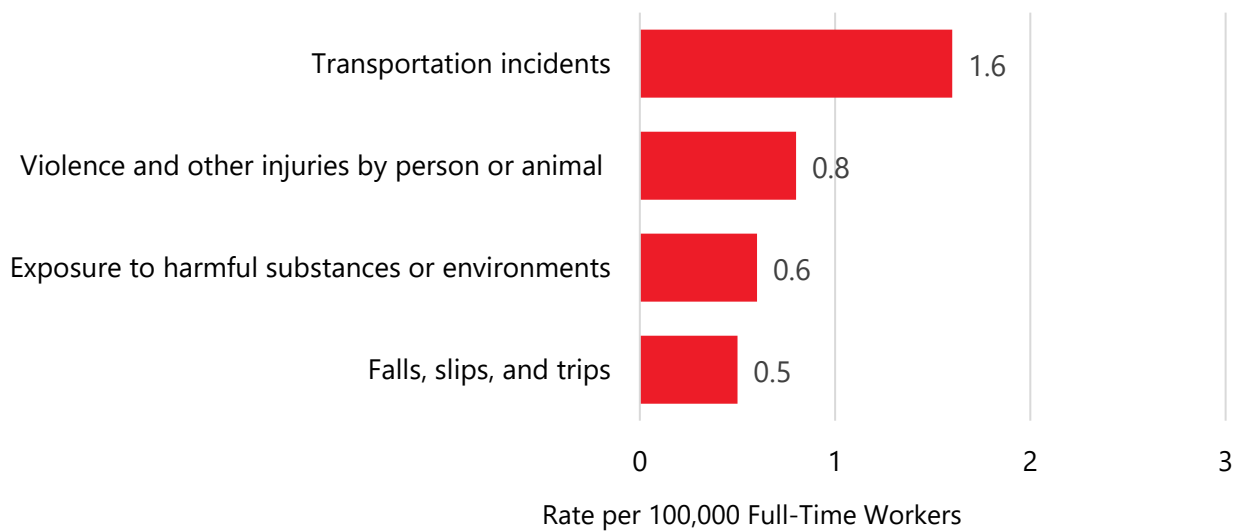
<u>Year</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Rate per 100,000 FTEs</u>
2017	194	4.1
2018	186	3.8
2019	207	4.2
2020	193	4.2
2021	187	3.8

**Table 2: Leading causes of fatal injuries reported to the census of fatal occupational injuries (CFOI), Georgia 2017-2021**

<u>Cause</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Transportation incidents	423	45%
Violence and other injuries by person or animal	166	18%
Falls, slips, and trips	132	14%
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	110	12%
Contact with objects and equipment*	103	11%

\*Contact with objects and equipment fatalities in 2021: no data reported, or data did not meet publication criteria. Source: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

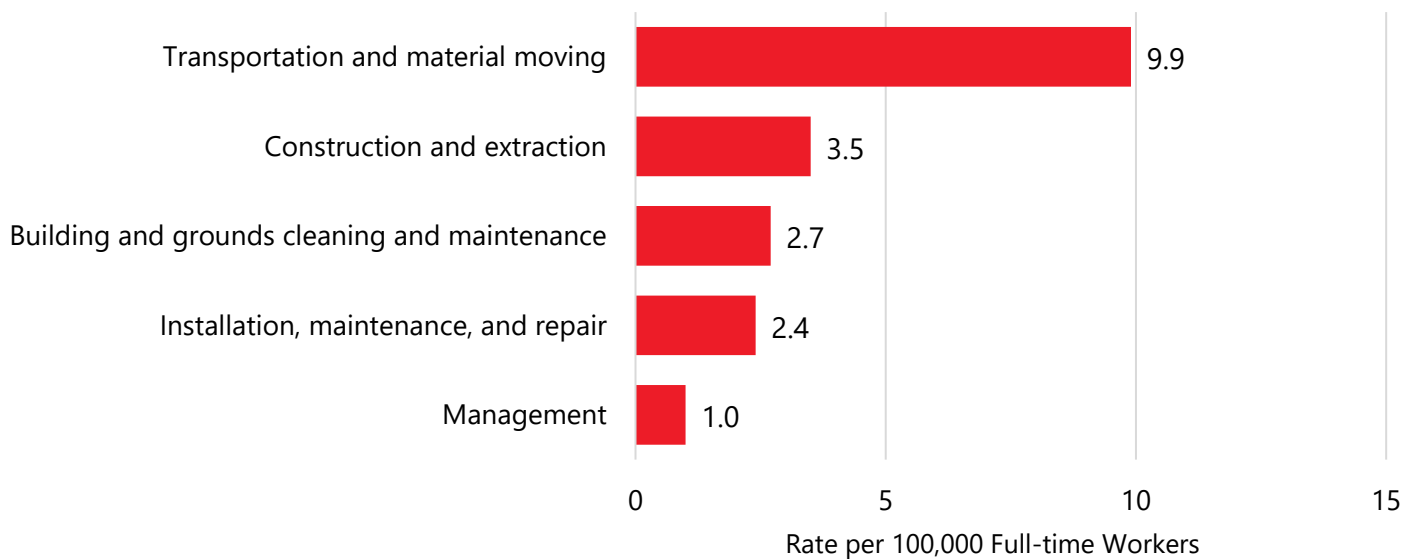
**Figure 1. Leading causes of work-related fatalities, Georgia 2021**



Source: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

- Between 2017 and 2021, 423 (45%) of Georgia’s work-related fatalities resulted from transportation incidents (Table 2).
- Between 2017 and 2021 the most frequent cause of work-related fatal injury was transportation related (an average of 85 cases per year).
- The largest increase in fatalities in 2021 resulted from violence and other injuries by persons or animals, an increase of 14 cases (23 vs. 37) from 2020.
- Fatalities from transportation incidents in 2021 were mostly reported among Georgians working in transportation and material moving occupations (9.9 per 100,000 FTE) (Figure 2).
- Transportation-related worker deaths were also frequently reported among workers in construction and extraction (3.5 per 100,000 FTE) and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations (2.7 per 100,000 FTE) in 2021 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Leading occupations with transportation-related fatalities, Georgia 2021



Source: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH