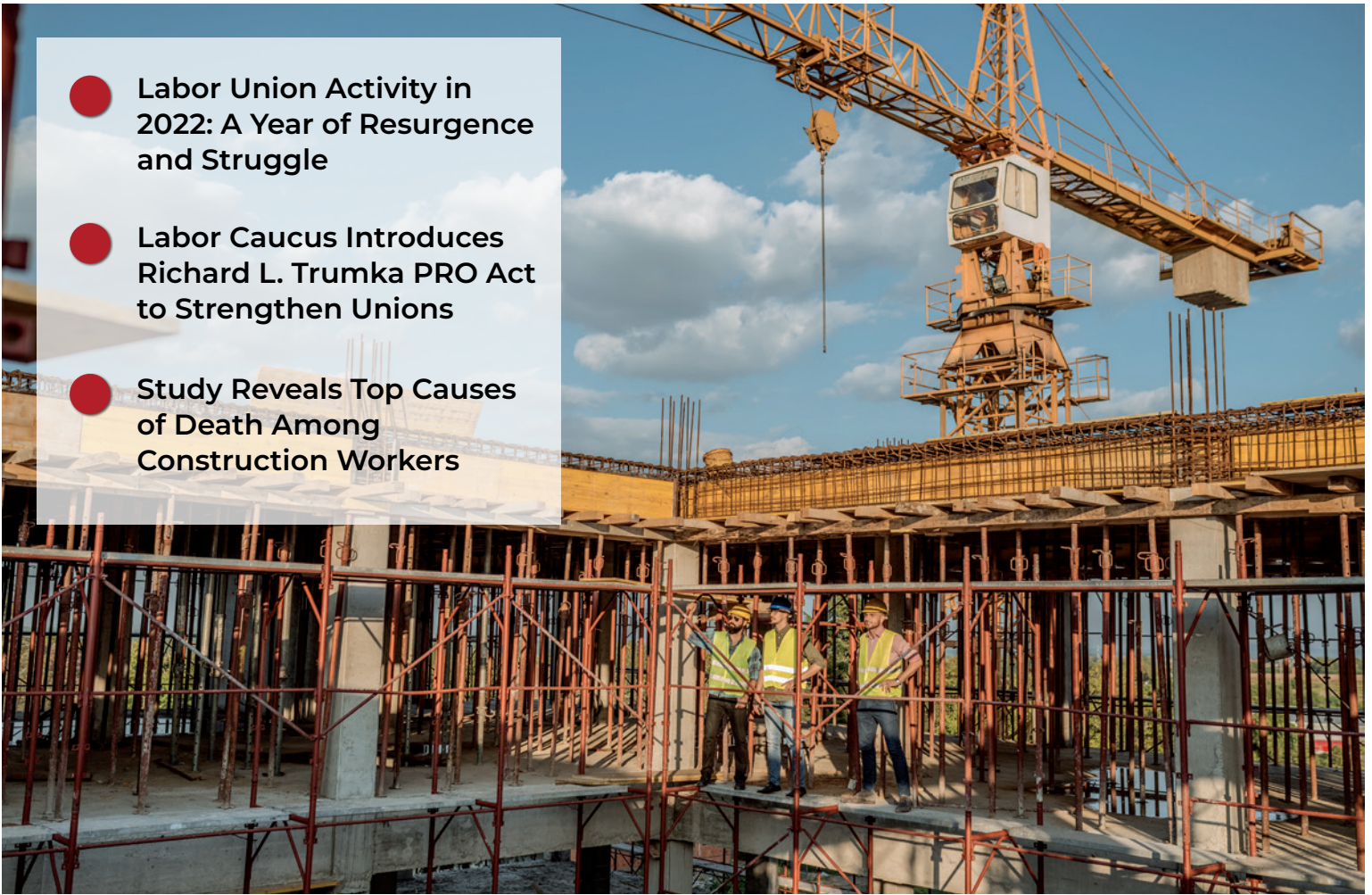


# The Trade & Transit Times

Your Guide to Skilled Trade and Transportation Union News

- Labor Union Activity in 2022: A Year of Resurgence and Struggle
- Labor Caucus Introduces Richard L. Trumka PRO Act to Strengthen Unions
- Study Reveals Top Causes of Death Among Construction Workers



## Did you know?



As an ASTTU member, you are eligible for discounts at **Trupoint Tax Service**.

Trupoint provides easy-to-use online and mobile platforms that simplify your tax filing process, ensuring efficiency and maximizing your refunds. Enjoy substantial savings of up to 90% on complex returns with the online DIY filing tool, and benefit from complimentary phone and email support, including free filing for state returns. File your taxes in just 10 minutes using the mobile app—simply upload your documents, and Trupoint's tax professionals will manage the rest.

## Labor Union Activity in 2022: A Year of Resurgence and Struggle

2022 witnessed a notable increase in unionization campaigns, extending beyond traditional strongholds into sectors like technology and retail. High-profile victories at companies like Amazon and Starbucks captured national attention, signaling a broader shift in worker sentiment and increasing support for labor unions.

Skilled trade unions, particularly in construction, were at the forefront of labor actions. These unions, representing electricians, plumbers, machinists, and other tradespeople, pushed for better wages, safer working conditions, and more robust benefits.

**John Deere strike:** The strike at John Deere, which began in late 2021 and continued into early 2022, involved over 10,000 workers. Members of the *United Auto Workers (UAW)* union demanded higher wages, improved pension plans, and better job security. The strike concluded with a new agreement that met many of the workers' demands.

**Machinists and Aerospace Workers:** Workers in the aerospace sector, including those at major companies like Boeing, engaged in strikes and negotiations. The *International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)* secured better contracts addressing wage increases and job security.

Transportation unions were particularly active in 2022, reflecting widespread dissatisfaction with working conditions and compensation.

**CSX Railroad Workers:** Represented by unions including the *Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET)* and *SMART Transportation Division*, they engaged in strikes and work stoppages to demand better pay, safer working conditions, and more predictable schedules. The implementation of "precision-scheduled railroading" (PSR) had led to workforce reductions and more demanding schedules, exacerbating worker grievances.

**Teamsters at UPS and Sysco:** The *International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)*, representing workers at UPS and Sysco, was involved in several strikes and labor actions. Workers demanded higher wages, better health benefits, and improved working conditions, highlighting the essential role of logistics workers in maintaining supply chains.

### Sources:

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022\\_United\\_States\\_railroad\\_labor\\_dispute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_United_States_railroad_labor_dispute)
2. <https://news.yahoo.com/investigates-csx-workers-want-better-214000696.html>
3. <https://atlantaciviccircle.org/2022/12/08/whats-next-for-railroad-workers-after-congress-quashed-their-impending-strike/>

### CONGRESSIONAL LABOR CAUCUS

Advancing the needs of working people and the labor movement in Congress. The caucus is comprised of over 100 members working to protect workers' rights, to advance the priorities of workers and the labor movement, and to connect legislators directly with workers and unions.

[laborcaucus-pocan.house.gov](https://laborcaucus-pocan.house.gov)

## Labor Caucus Introduces Richard L. Trumka PRO Act to Empower Workers and Strengthen Unions

On February 28, 2023, the Labor Caucus introduced the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to enhance workers' rights to unionize, reverse anti-union policies, and ensure fair union elections.

They released the following statement: *"This critical, bipartisan legislation will ensure all workers have the right to organize and collectively raise their voices for dignity and respect. The PRO Act would reverse decades of anti-union policies, strengthening the labor movement. It empowers workers to join a union, holds companies accountable for obstructing unionization efforts by creating enforceable penalties, and ensures free and fair union elections. This bill will help make sure every worker that wants to join a union can. Union membership is an essential pathway to the middle class and with the PRO Act, we can ensure every worker's rights are protected."*

# Study Reveals Top Causes of Death Among Construction Workers, Highlighting Health Risks Beyond the Job Site

A comprehensive study by the Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) emphasizes the need for comprehensive health strategies that prioritize both immediate safety and long-term health concerns linked to occupational exposures for construction workers.

A new study led by Amber Brooke Trueblood has unveiled significant insights into the leading causes of death among construction workers, encompassing those actively employed, retired, or no longer in the workforce. This analysis uses data from the National Center for Health Statistics to explore health risks beyond immediate job-related injuries, highlighting broader mortality trends within this sector in 2020.

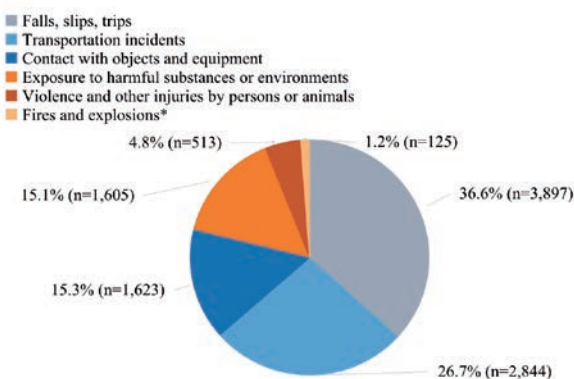
The research reveals that older construction workers, particularly those aged 65 and older, predominantly succumb to natural causes, while middle-aged workers (35-64 years) were mostly impacted by COVID-19. Notably, younger workers (16-34 years) faced a different

risk, with accidental poisoning from narcotics and hallucinogens being the leading cause of death. These findings illustrate varied health risks across different age groups within the construction industry.

This study points to the critical need for holistic health strategies that address not only immediate safety on construction sites but also long-term health issues possibly related to occupational exposures. By extending focus beyond the workplace, the research advocates for enhanced healthcare and preventive measures to mitigate the wide range of health challenges that construction workers face throughout their lives.

## CPWR Data Bulletin: Leading Causes of All Deaths Among Current, Retired, and Former Construction Workers

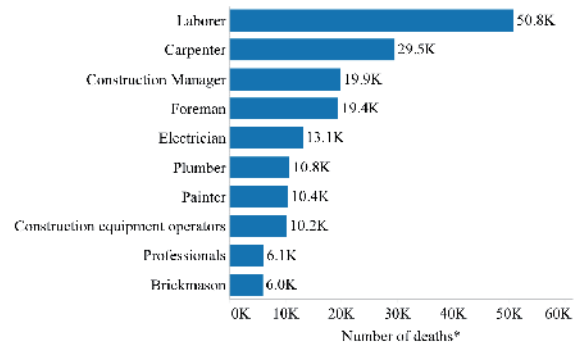
### Event or exposure for occupational fatal injuries in construction, 2011-2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011-2021 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

\*2021 data unavailable.

### Occupations with the most deaths in construction\*, 2020



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2020 Mortality Multiple Cause File.

\* All causes of death are included in chart, not just at work deaths.



### The Center for Construction Research and Training

CPWR is dedicated to reducing occupational injuries, illnesses and fatalities in the construction industry. Through research, training, and service programs, they serve the industry in cooperation with key federal and industry partners nationwide.

Visit the CPWR website for more information: [www.cpwr.com](http://www.cpwr.com)





The Association of Skilled Trade and Transportation Unions (ASTTU) is a not-for-profit founded in 2019. We are committed to the advancement, protection, and betterment of skilled trade and transportation unions and the workers that they represent.

## Unite for Strength: Join as a Union Leader

Join a broad network of trade and transportation unions to expand your union's effectiveness. Collaborate with fellow leaders to increase the collective voice and influence of your members, building a more resilient community. You'll have access to extensive resources, advocacy tools, and opportunities that strengthen your union's impact and unity.

### As a union leader, you'll gain:

- Valuable voluntary benefits for your members
- Enhanced networking and collaboration opportunities
- Robust advocacy and legislative support
- Access to industry insights and best practices

## Show your Support: Become an ASTTU Approved Vendor

ASTTU invites vendors passionate about advancing the union movement and enhancing our members' experiences. By becoming an approved vendor, you have the unique opportunity to present your products and services to a committed audience. Your contributions will significantly advance the skilled trades and transportation sectors, directly benefiting union members.

### As an approved ASTTU vendor, you can:

- Present your products and services to a committed and attentive audience.
- Actively support the development and progress of the skilled trades and transportation sectors.

## Contact the ASTTU

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## Follow the ASTTU

