

Occupational Safety

Annual Report

2021

קו לעובד
Worker's Hotline
عنوان العامل

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Report Summary

Work accident database - Kav LaOved monitors work accidents daily based on Magen David Adom reports, which have been made available to the public since mid-2021. KLO utilized Magen David Adom data as the foundation for this annual report. The Magen David Adom database allows us to compare the number of fatal and non-fatal accidents over time, causes of accidents, the number of casualties etc.

It should be noted, however, that there is no database of work accidents that list of accidents sorted by level of injury. A [report](#) published by the Knesset Research and Information Center in December 2021 reviews various data sources, including that of the National Insurance Institute, records of emergency medical institutions and more. The report notes the absence of a well-organized database, the lack of data uniformity and more. Obviously, a reliable and well-structured database would allow the state to perform better data analysis and more targeted enforcement, which would increase occupational safety in Israel. One of the first objectives of the authorities should be to collect better data and create a reliable database for occupational safety.

Available safety orders database. Part of our effort to promote transparency in occupational safety is the launch of the **Safety Orders Database** in this report, which makes public the identity of companies who received the greatest number of safety orders, the number of orders each company has received per year and more. The information is taken from the Ministry of Labor and Welfare website, which discloses such information, following a petition by Kav LaOved which called for this. However, the information on the Ministry's website is presented in a way that makes it difficult to understand and analyze the data.

Why safety orders? Safety orders are one of the tools available to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (which is under the Ministry of Economy) in order to deter contracting companies that do not meet the safety requirements designed to protect workers. Safety orders impose a number of requirements on companies to address gaps in safety. The most important of which is the requirement to immediately address the hazard posing a risk to worker safety.

But safety orders have another purpose: multiple safety orders can help identify companies that repeatedly violate safety requirements and hence routinely compromise the safety of their workers. Thus, if a company receives 3-10 safety orders in the space of 18-24 months, the violation will be handled by the Registrar of Contractors, rather than the Occupational Safety Administration, as the Registrar has the authority to revoke or suspend the company's license.

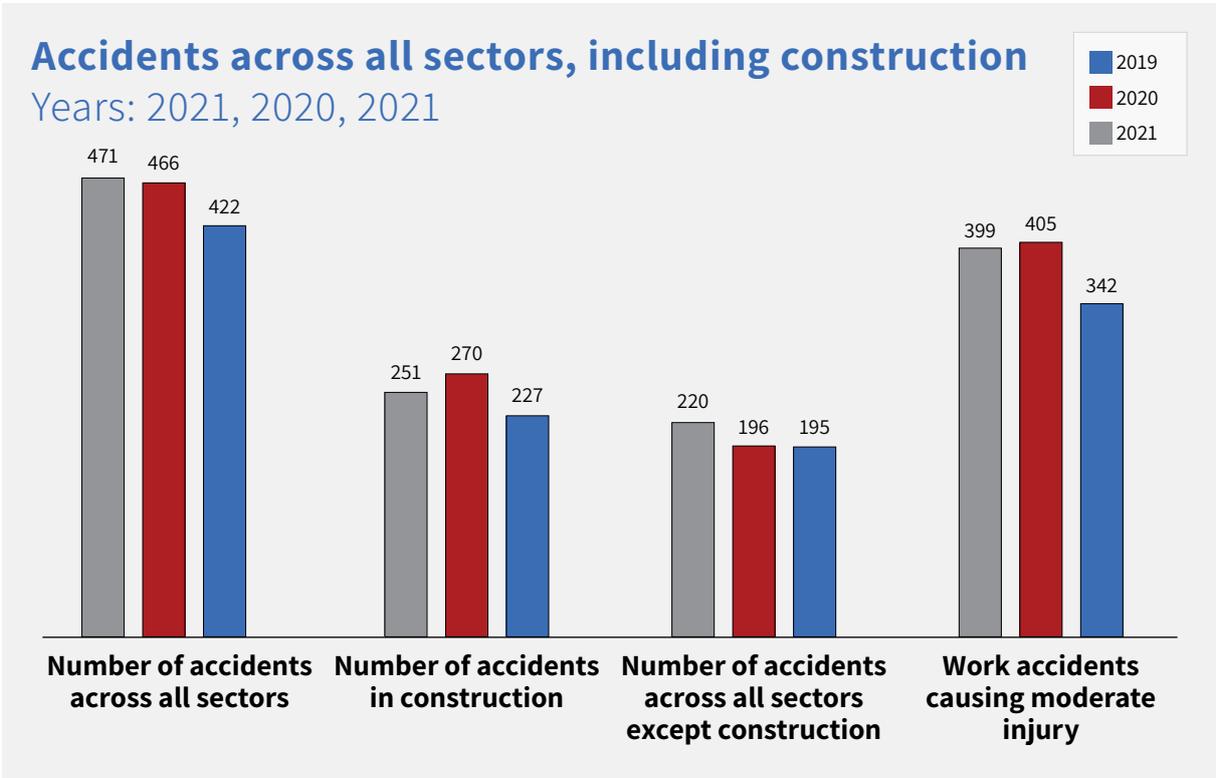
As a result, the use of safety orders requires public scrutiny both to monitor employers and to track steps taken by the authorities to sanction and hold accountable problematic employers

that are endangering the safety of their workers. This report presents a comprehensive database of safety orders; specifies the date when information became publicly available; lists the employers receiving the highest number of safety orders since 2017 as well as actions taken by the Registrar of Contractors to address their case, and more.

We hope this information will be useful to the general public.

Essential Figures

The number of accidents in 2021 is similar to that in 2020

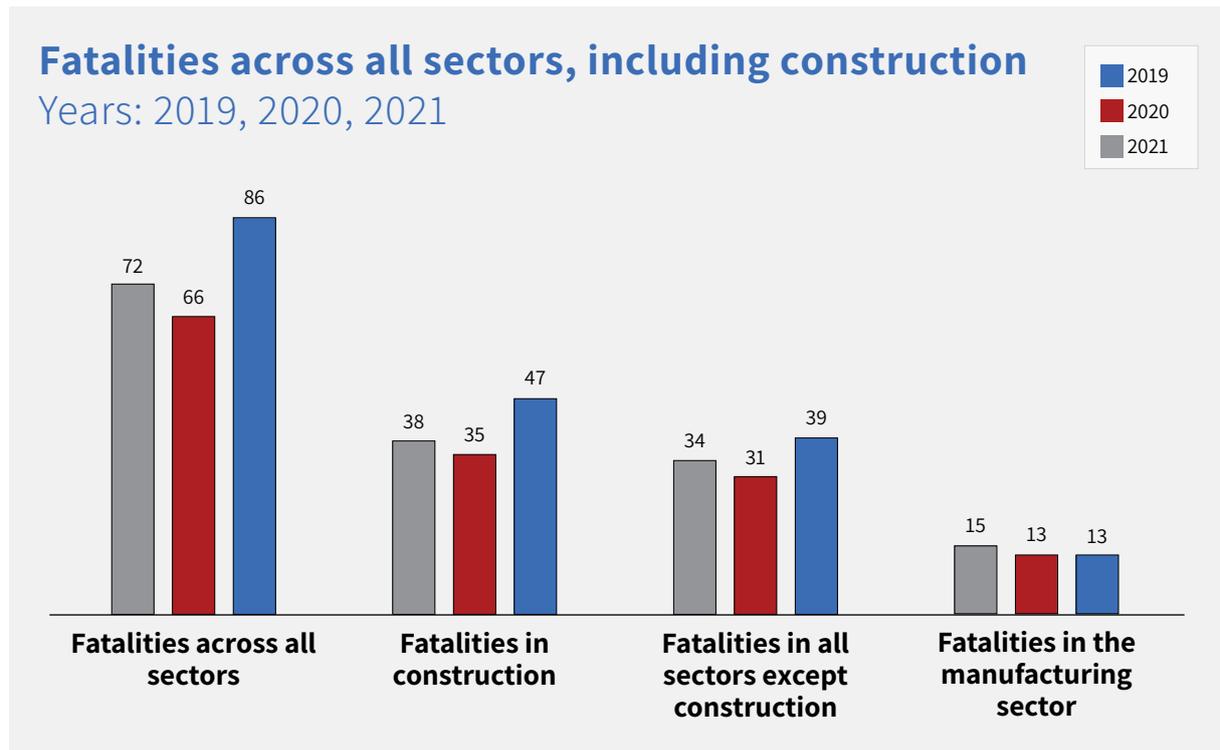


A comparative analysis of the number of work accidents causing moderate or severe injury across all sectors, shows that the number of accidents remains roughly the same. The number of non-fatal accidents increased overall, while in the construction sector the number of accidents actually decreased.

- The number of accidents across all sectors - in 2021 the total number of accidents was 471 compared to 466 in 2020, i.e. an increase of 1%.
- The number of accidents in the construction sector - in 2021 the number of accidents was 251, compared to 270 in 2020, i.e. a decrease of 7%.

- The number of accidents causing moderate or serious injury - the number of accidents in which workers suffered non-fatal injuries was 399 in 2021, compared to 405 in 2020, i.e. a decrease of 1%.
- The number of work accidents in all sectors, except construction, was 220 in 2021 compared to 196 in 2020, i.e. an increase of 12%.

The number of fatalities increased in 2021



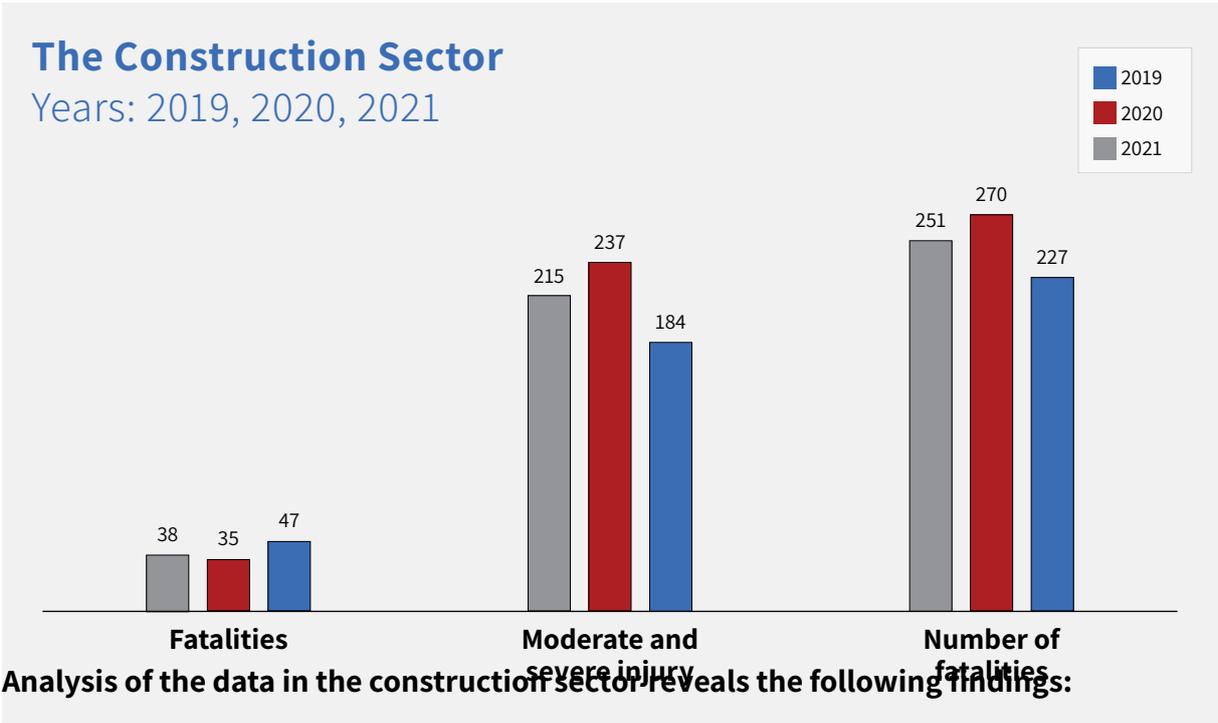
A comparative analysis of the number of fatalities, across all sectors, reveals the following:

- In 2021, 72 workers were killed across all sectors, compared to 66 in 2020, i.e. an increase of 9%.
- In 2021, 38 workers were killed in the construction sector compared to 35 in 2020, i.e. an increase of 9%.
- In 2021, 34 workers were killed in all sectors, except construction, compared to 31 workers in 2020, i.e. an increase Of 9.5%.
- In 2021, the number of fatalities in the manufacturing sector was 15, compared to 13 in 2020, i.e. an increase of 15%.

In this context, it should be noted that there are discrepancies between the data provided

by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which reports 56 deaths across all sectors, and the data presented here. In analyzing the difference, we saw that the higher number of accidents in our report is largely due to the fact that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration does not count accidents occurring in territories beyond the Green Line, accidents involving vehicles for agricultural use, and other such factors. Furthermore, in instances such as a worker dying due to dehydration on a hot summer day, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration classifies the cause of death as “medical cause.” This is unacceptable. Discrepancies between the data provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and that provided by Kav LaOved call for an investigation into the safety failures leading to those accidents not included in official data. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration should exercise its powers beyond the Green Line in order to ensure the safety of all workers employed by Israeli companies. The list of fatalities in work accidents for 2021 can be found in this [table on Kav LaOved’s website](#).

The number of accidents in the construction sector slightly decreased



- In 2021 there were 251 accidents compared to 270 accidents in 2020, i.e. a decrease of 7%.
- In 2021, 215 non-fatal accidents occurred, compared to 237 in 2020, i.e. a decrease of 9%.
- In 2021, 38 workers in the construction sector were killed, compared to 35 in 2020, i.e. an increase of 8.5%.

Safety Orders Database

What can be found in the database

In the safety orders database, one can find all the safety orders imposed on various employers since 2017, the year in which the Ministry of Labor and Welfare started disclosing them. The information can be downloaded to an Excel file and analyzed. The data can be segmented by various categories, including: the five most common laws upon which the safety orders were issued; the year of issue (within a date range); and of course company name.

It should be noted that the numbers listed above are valid as of the writing of this report, and are continuously updated.

The 20 employers receiving the largest number of safety orders can be found on website. The full list can be found [here](#).

The number of employers receiving 4 or more orders in the last 24 months. Note that after receiving 3-10 safety orders in a space of 18-24 months, the name of the contracting company violating safety requirements is forwarded to the Registrar of Contractors. To this end, we have created a table that allows you to keep track of the companies that meet this criterion. The number of such companies is disturbing: **513 companies received 3-10 orders in the last 24 months**. However, between 2017 and 2021, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration only forwarded the names of 66 contracting companies to the Registrar of Contractors. However, criterion for this referral process is fairly recent as it was put in place only at the beginning of 2021. Nevertheless, between 2017 and 2021, the threshold for forwarding the names of companies to the Registrar of Contractors was receiving 10 safety orders. Even with this more lenient threshold, the results are alarming: **277 contracting companies received more than 10 safety orders**. Notwithstanding, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced in November 2021 that it had forwarded the names of only 66 companies to the Registrar of Contractors. As of the writing this report, decisions have only been issued regarding 49 contracting companies. The full list is [here](#).

Conclusion

Work accidents occur every day in all sectors, but particularly in the construction sector. Every day, workers set out to their workplace, but they are not sure to return home safely. Among those who do return are those whose lives are irrevocably changed due to injury. However, the media does not even report these cases. A “moderate” level of injury in many cases will not even be investigated and the construction site where the accident happened will continue operating as usual. This grim situation, combined with the limited number of investigations conducted by the Work Accident Investigation unit, means that the authorities urgently need to create an **occupational safety map** to gather all relevant data in a transparent and clear manner. This information would enable the various authorities, including the regulatory bodies in charge of enforcement, to analyze the current situation and implement more effective, data-based enforcement. At present, the main debate is about the victims of fatal work accidents, who are indisputably affected by the occupational safety situation in Israel. However, data presented in this report regarding workplace injuries must also be taken into account, because it is critical to improving worker safety.

Enforcement resources in Israel today are very scarce, and even the long-standing struggle against this over the years has not led to a sufficient increase in enforcement manpower. Programs currently promoted by the Ministry of Economy are trying to mobilize law enforcement agencies in local authorities who have the power to greatly improve the enforcement of occupational safety. But any enforcement force, large or small, needs information in order to execute its actions and to understand where the risks to workers lie—as well as to propose necessary legislative changes. Only reliable and sufficient information will enable the creation of a credible safety map capable of improving enforcement efforts by the relevant authorities.

We call on the authorities to take the challenge—to examine all the information needed for an effective occupational safety map, to advance the collection of such data and to make it available to the general public.

We hope that our efforts to collect relevant information in the course of our daily work at Kav LaOved can help in this endeavor, if only a little.

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