

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 2012

Technical information: (202) 691-6170
Media information: (202) 691-5902
Internet address: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>

USDL 09-0979
FOR RELEASE: 10 a.m. EDT
Thursday, August 20, 2009

NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN 2008

A total of 5,071 fatal work injuries were recorded in the United States in 2008, down from a total of 5,657 fatal work injuries reported for 2007. While the 2008 results are preliminary, this figure represents the smallest annual preliminary total since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program was first conducted in 1992. Final results for 2008 will be released in April 2010.

Based on these preliminary counts, the rate of fatal injury for U.S. workers in 2008 was 3.6 fatal work injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, down from the final rate of 4.0 in 2007. Please see the text box at the bottom of this page which describes an important change in the way the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) calculated rates this year.

Key findings of the 2008 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries:

- Fatal work injuries in the private construction sector in 2008 declined by 20 percent from the updated 2007 total, twice the all-worker decline of 10 percent.
- Fatal workplace falls, which had risen to a series high in 2007, also declined by 20 percent in 2008.
- Workplace suicides were up 28 percent to a series high of 251 cases in 2008, but workplace homicides declined 18 percent in 2008.
- The number and rate of fatal work injuries among 16 to 17 year-old workers were higher in 2008.
- Fatal occupational injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers in 2008 were 17 percent lower than in 2007. Fatalities among non-Hispanic Black or African American workers were down 16 percent.
- The number of fatal workplace injuries in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations rose 6 percent in 2008 after declining in 2007.
- Transportation incidents, which accounted for approximately two-fifths of all the workplace fatalities in 2008, fell 13 percent from the previous series low of 2,351 cases reported in 2007.

In June of 2009, the Bureau of Labor Statistics introduced improved fatality rates for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The new rates, based on hours worked as opposed to employment, are considered to be more accurate in measuring the risk of dying from an injury on the job. Further information on the rates is available at: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm>. Hours-based rates for years 2006 through 2008 and employment-based rates for years 1992 through 2007 can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>.

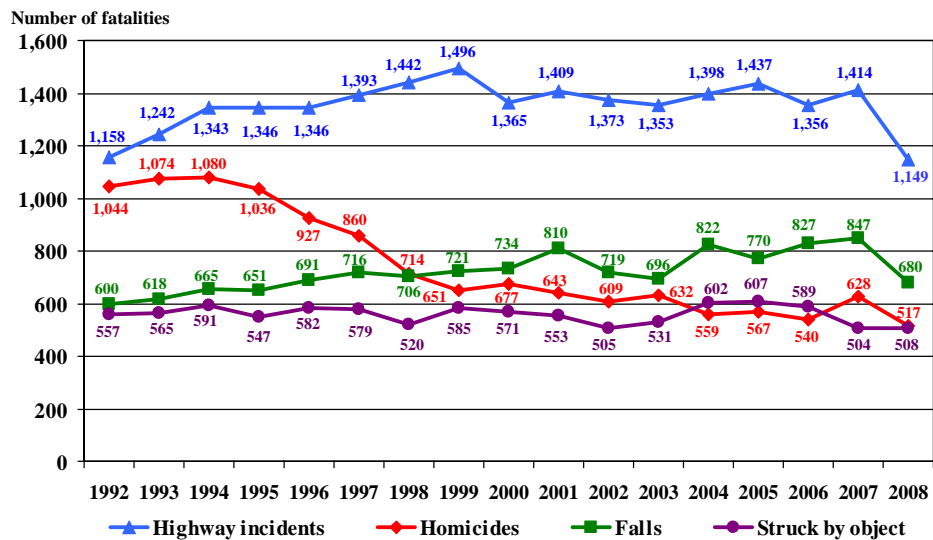
Economic factors likely played a role in the fatality decrease. Average hours worked at the national level fell by one percent in 2008, and some industries that have historically accounted for a significant share of worker fatalities, such as construction, experienced larger declines in employment or hours worked.

In addition to the impact of declining employment, another factor that should be considered when reviewing these preliminary results is how the economy may have impacted the government agencies that provide source documents used in the compilation of CFOI data. Budget constraints at some of these governmental agencies may have delayed the receipt and processing of the documents that are used by our State partners to classify and code CFOI cases. The average net increase in CFOI cases as a result of updates over the past two years has been 153 cases, but the updated 2008 counts scheduled for release in April 2010 have the potential to be larger because of these delays.

Profile of 2008 fatal work injuries by type of incident

Most types of transportation fatalities saw decreases in 2008 relative to 2007, including highway incidents (down 19 percent); railway incidents (down 31 percent); workers struck by vehicle or mobile equipment (down 7 percent); and nonhighway incidents such as tractor overturns (down 4 percent). Aircraft-related fatalities were higher in 2008 (189 incidents in 2008, up from 174 incidents in 2007), as were water vehicle incidents.

Four most frequent work-related fatal events, 1992–2008*



*Data for 2008 are preliminary. Data for prior years are revised and final.
 NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.
 SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2009.

The 680 fatal falls in 2008 represent a 20 percent decline from the series high of 847 fatal falls in 2007. Fatal falls to a lower level, which accounted for 85 percent of all falls, were down 23 percent in 2008. Fatal falls from roofs were down 26 percent and falls from ladders decreased by 14 percent. The number of fatal falls on same level (to a floor or walkway or against an object) increased slightly in 2008.

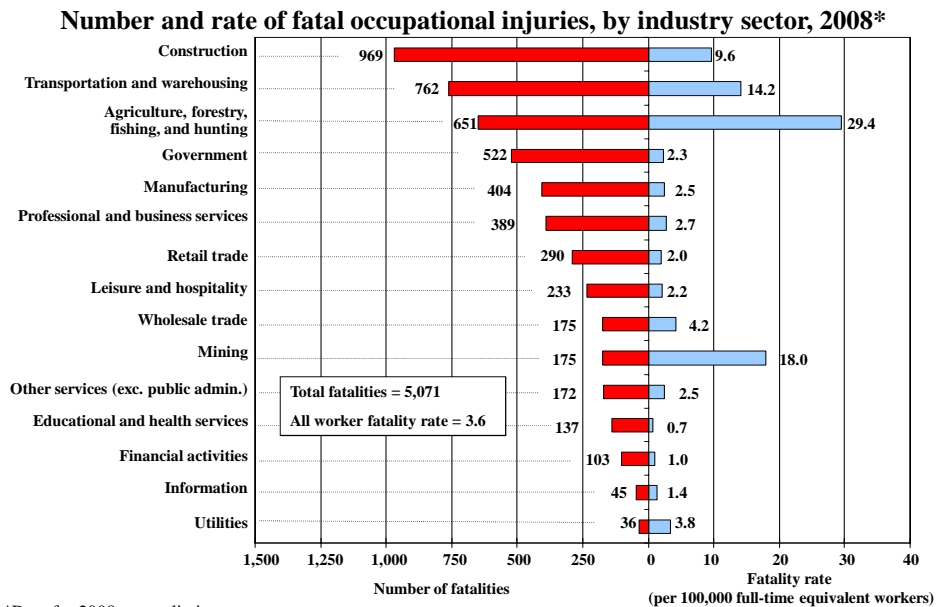
Workplace suicides rose from 196 cases in 2007 to 251 cases in 2008, an increase of 28 percent and the highest number ever reported by the fatality census. Suicides among protective service occupations rose from 14 in 2007 to 25 in 2008. Workplace homicides fell by 18 percent in 2008.

Overall, the 2008 preliminary workplace homicide count (517 workplace homicides) represents a decline of 52 percent from the high of 1,080 homicides reported in 1994.

The number of fatal work injuries involving fires and explosions was up 14 percent in 2008; fatalities involving contact with objects or equipment were also up slightly in 2008.

Profile of fatal work injuries by industry

Overall, 90 percent of the fatal work injuries involved workers in private industry. Service-providing industries in the private sector recorded 46 percent of all fatal work injuries in 2008, while goods-producing industries recorded 43 percent. Ten percent of the fatal work injury cases in 2008 involved government workers. The number of fatal work injuries in the private sector decreased 11 percent in 2008, and fatalities among government workers, including resident military personnel, decreased 4 percent. Fatality rates were lower in 2008 for both goods-producing industries and service-providing industries, but remained unchanged for civilian government workers.



*Data for 2008 are preliminary.

NOTE: In 2008, CFOI implemented a new methodology, using hours worked for fatality rate calculations rather than employment. For additional information on the fatality rate methodology changes please see <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm>.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2009.

While workers in construction incurred the most fatalities of any industry in the private sector in 2008, the number of fatalities in construction declined 20 percent, from 1,204 cases in 2007 to 969 cases in 2008. Fatalities involving workers in the construction of buildings were down 21 percent from 2007, with most of the decrease occurring in residential building construction (down 28 percent to 93 cases). Heavy and civil engineering construction was down 14 percent, and the subsector with the largest number of fatalities, specialty trade contractors, had 19 percent fewer fatalities in 2008 than in 2007.

Fatalities rose by 11 percent among private sector workers in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry sector in 2008 after declining in 2007. Fatalities to workers in crop production led the increase, rising 18 percent, while fatalities to workers in animal production declined 8 percent. Fishing and logging, two of the industries with the highest fatality rates, had higher numbers of fatalities in 2008. Fatalities were also slightly higher in manufacturing (404 in 2008, up from 400 fatalities in

2007). Included in the manufacturing total are the 14 workers who perished in a sugar refinery explosion in Georgia in February 2008.

Among service-providing industries, workers in the transportation and warehousing sector incurred 762 fatalities, a 14 percent decrease. Truck transportation, the largest subsector in transportation and warehousing, had a 20 percent decrease in fatalities in 2008. Among other transportation sectors, workers in air and water transportation industries incurred fewer fatalities in 2008, but the number of fatal work injuries in rail transportation increased.

Both wholesale and retail trade had fewer fatal work injuries in 2008 than in 2007. Fatalities were down 17 percent in retail trade and 15 percent in wholesale trade in 2008.

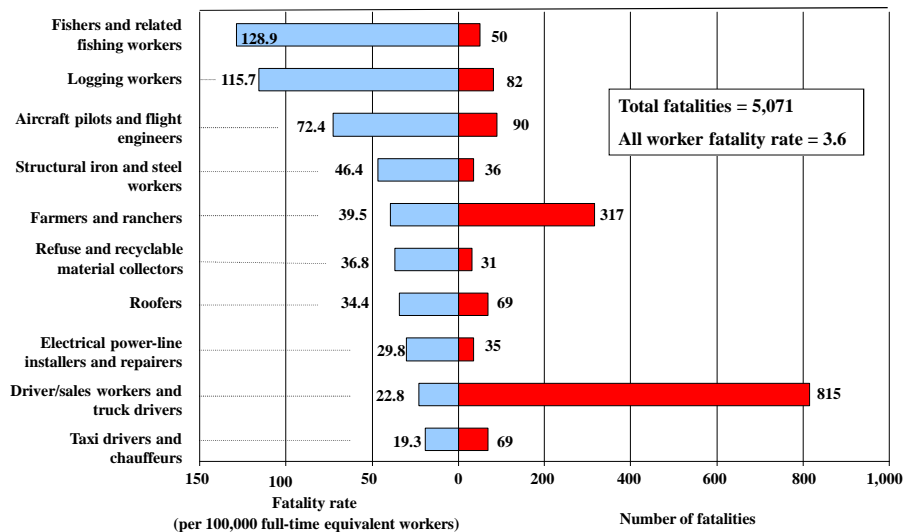
Other service-providing industry sectors with large declines in 2008 included the information industry (down 43 percent), professional and business services (down 18 percent), the leisure and hospitality industry (down 10 percent), and educational and health services (down 8 percent). Fatalities in the finance and insurance sector were down nearly 50 percent in 2008, from 46 to 24 fatalities.

Fatalities among government workers were down 4 percent. While fatalities incurred by federal and local government workers decreased in 2008, fatalities among state government workers were at the highest level since 1998 (115 fatal work injuries in 2008).

Profile of fatal work injuries by occupation

About one-fourth of all occupational fatalities in 2008 involved workers in transportation and material moving occupations, though fatalities among these workers declined by 12 percent in 2008. Driver/sales workers and truck drivers, the largest occupation group in this sector, led the decline with 16 percent fewer fatal work injuries in 2008 than in 2007. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck driver fatalities were lower by 13 percent.

Selected occupations with high fatality rates, 2008*



*Data for 2008 are preliminary.

NOTE: In 2008, CFOI implemented a new methodology, using hours worked for fatality rate calculations rather than employment. For additional information on the fatality rate methodology changes please see <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm>.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2009.

Fatalities in construction and extraction occupations, which accounted for nearly one-fifth of all fatalities in 2008, decreased by 18 percent from the previous year. Construction laborer fatalities were

down 31 percent (from 345 in 2007 to 239 in 2008). Carpenters, brick masons, electricians, roofers, pipe layers, plumbers, and extraction workers were among the other groups that saw declines in 2008. First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers, construction equipment operators, and painters/paperhangers were among the occupational groups in construction and extraction that had higher numbers of fatal injuries in 2008.

Fatal work injuries among protective service occupations fell by 13 percent in 2008 after rising 22 percent from 2006 to 2007. Fewer fatalities among law enforcement workers (down 15 percent), fire fighting and prevention workers (down 14 percent), and security guards (down 23 percent) led the decline in this occupational group.

Among the occupation groups with a higher number of fatalities in 2008 were farming, fishing, and forestry (up 6 percent) and management occupations (up 2 percent). Four occupations with particularly high fatality rates in 2008 were fishers and related fishing workers with a fatality rate of 128.9 per 100,000 FTE's, logging workers (115.7), aircraft pilots and flight engineers (72.4), and structural iron and steel workers (46.4).

Profile of fatal work injuries by demographic characteristics

While the number of fatal work injuries among White, non-Hispanic workers fell 8 percent in 2008, greater declines were observed among non-Hispanic Black or African American workers (down 16 percent) and Hispanic or Latino workers (down 17 percent).

The decline in fatal work injuries among Hispanic or Latino workers in 2008 primarily involved foreign-born Hispanic or Latino workers. Fatalities among foreign-born Hispanic or Latino workers were lower by 24 percent (from 634 in 2007 to 480 in 2008), but among native-born Hispanics, the decline was only 3 percent.

Overall, 795 fatal work injuries were incurred by workers who were born outside of the United States—a decline of 21 percent from 2007. Fatalities involving foreign-born workers accounted for 16 percent of all fatal work injuries in the U.S. Of the foreign-born workers who were fatally-injured in the U.S. in 2008, the largest share (42 percent) was born in Mexico.

The number of fatalities declined for all age categories in 2008 except for 16 to 17 year-old workers. Fatality rates for 16 to 17 year-old workers rose from 1.9 in 2007 to 2.5 in 2008.

Self-employed workers had a 4 percent drop in fatalities, while fatalities among wage and salary workers fell by 12 percent. Workplace fatalities among both male and female workers decreased in 2008.

Profile of fatal work injuries by State

Thirty-five States and the District of Columbia reported lower numbers of fatal work injuries in 2008 than in 2007, 14 States reported higher numbers, and one State was unchanged. For more detailed State results, contact the individual State agency responsible for the collection of CFOI data in that State. Although data for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are not included in the national totals for this release, results for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are available. Participating agencies and their telephone numbers are listed in Table 6.

Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The program uses diverse State, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible. For the 2008 data, over 20,000 unique source documents were reviewed as part of the data collection process.

Another BLS program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry and also detailed case circumstances and worker characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses that result in days away from work. Incidence rates for 2008 by industry will be published in October 2009, and information on 2008 case circumstances and worker characteristics will be available in November 2009. For additional data, access the BLS Internet site: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/>.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site here: http://www.bls.gov/pub/hom/homch9_a1.htm. The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part III of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 2007-2008

Event or exposure ¹	Fatalities		
	2007 ²	2008 ^P	
		Number	Percent
Total	5,657	5,071	100
Transportation incidents	2,351	2,053	40
Highway	1,414	1,149	23
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	687	562	11
Moving in same direction	164	144	3
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	281	191	4
Moving in intersection	125	123	2
Vehicle struck object on side of road	368	303	6
Noncollision	308	264	5
Jack-knifed or overturned-no collision	271	230	5
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	296	283	6
Overturned	166	151	3
Worker struck by a vehicle	345	322	6
Railway accident	49	34	1
Water vehicle accident	71	75	1
Aircraft accident	174	189	4
Assaults and violent acts	864	794	16
Homicides	628	517	10
Shooting	503	413	8
Stabbing	45	32	1
Self-inflicted injuries	196	251	5
Contact with objects and equipment	920	923	18
Struck by object or equipment	504	508	10
Struck by falling object or equipment	328	349	7
Struck by flying object or equipment	58	50	1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	296	299	6
Caught in running equipment or machinery	140	109	2
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	108	101	2
Falls	847	680	13
Fall to lower level	746	576	11
Fall from ladder	135	116	2
Fall from roof	163	121	2
Fall from scaffold, staging	89	68	1
Fall on same level	81	84	2
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	497	432	9
Contact with electric current	212	192	4
Contact with overhead power lines	94	102	2
Contact with temperature extremes	40	35	1
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	161	127	3
Inhalation of substance	64	56	1
Oxygen deficiency	82	77	2
Drowning, submersion	62	59	1
Fires and explosions	152	173	3

¹ Based on the 2007 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual. Includes other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

² Totals for 2007 are revised and final. The BLS news release issued August 20, 2008, reported a total of 5,488 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2007. Since then, an additional 169 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2007 to 5,657.

^P Data for 2008 are preliminary. Revised and final 2008 data are scheduled to be released in April 2010.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and selected event or exposure, 2008^P

Industry ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for industry)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,071	100	23	10	13	10
Private industry	4,549	90	22	10	14	11
Goods producing	2,199	43	12	2	20	15
Natural resources and mining	826	16	13	2	5	21
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	651	13	10	2	5	22
Crop production	304	6	11	3	4	18
Animal production	152	3	9	3	11	11
Forestry and logging	98	2	8	3	—	67
Mining ⁴	175	3	24	—	7	18
Mining, except oil and gas	50	1	10	—	—	18
Support activities for mining	104	2	31	—	9	17
Construction	969	19	11	2	34	11
Construction	969	19	11	2	34	11
Construction of buildings	197	4	7	4	41	13
Heavy and civil engineering construction	189	4	15	—	11	13
Specialty trade contractors	556	11	12	1	40	10
Manufacturing	404	8	14	5	14	11
Manufacturing	404	8	14	5	14	11
Food manufacturing	70	1	26	—	9	6
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	51	1	10	—	10	18
Service providing	2,350	46	31	17	9	7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,263	25	41	15	6	6
Wholesale trade	175	3	38	8	9	10
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	89	2	30	4	9	16
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	75	1	48	12	7	4
Retail trade	290	6	18	40	10	7
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	55	1	27	22	9	11
Food and beverage stores	54	1	11	74	6	—
Transportation and warehousing	762	15	52	7	4	5
Truck transportation	469	9	71	1	5	4
Transit and ground passenger transportation	76	1	43	49	—	—
Utilities	36	1	—	—	—	—
Information	45	1	33	13	16	—
Financial activities	103	2	25	32	16	3
Finance and insurance	24	(⁵)	25	50	—	—
Real estate and rental and leasing	79	2	25	27	20	4
Professional and business services	389	8	22	7	16	11
Professional and technical services	66	1	24	—	17	—
Administrative and waste services	321	6	21	7	16	13
Educational and health services	137	3	13	12	7	—
Educational services	27	1	—	—	—	—
Health care and social assistance	110	2	15	15	7	—
Leisure and hospitality	233	5	7	40	8	4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	88	2	5	15	11	8
Accommodation and food services	145	3	9	56	6	—
Other services, except public administration	172	3	19	19	11	13
Government⁶	522	10	31	14	7	5
Federal government	100	2	21	8	6	3
State government	115	2	37	7	9	3
Local government	306	6	31	19	8	6

¹ Based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 2007 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual. The figure shown is the percent of the total fatalities for that industry group.

³ "Highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. It excludes incidents occurring entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms; incidents involving trains; and deaths to pedestrians or other nonpassengers.

⁴ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

⁵ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

⁶ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

^P Data for 2008 are preliminary. Revised and final 2008 data are scheduled to be released in April 2010.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

There were 8 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific industry classification, although a distinction between private and government was made for each.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and selected event or exposure, 2008^P

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for occupation)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,071	100	23	10	13	10
Management occupations	538	11	10	9	10	14
Top executives	28	1	11	21	—	—
Operations specialties managers	23	(4)	22	17	—	—
Other management occupations	480	9	9	8	10	15
Business and financial operations occupations	24	(4)	46	—	12	—
Computer and mathematical occupations	7	(4)	—	—	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	39	1	49	—	18	—
Engineers	29	1	41	—	24	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	22	(4)	18	—	—	—
Community and social services occupations	31	1	52	13	13	—
Legal occupations	15	(4)	33	20	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	25	(4)	28	—	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	55	1	16	22	13	—
Entertainers and performers, sports and related workers	28	1	—	—	14	—
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	60	1	10	8	5	—
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	36	1	11	8	—	—
Health technologists and technicians	23	(4)	—	—	13	—
Healthcare support occupations	18	(4)	44	—	—	—
Protective service occupations	300	6	27	31	5	3
Fire fighting and prevention workers	44	1	25	—	—	—
Law enforcement workers	144	3	38	33	3	2
Other protective service workers	81	2	5	46	7	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	65	1	8	54	9	—
Supervisors, food preparation and serving workers	24	(4)	12	62	—	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	227	4	12	6	23	15
Building cleaning and pest control workers	64	1	20	17	31	—
Grounds maintenance workers	128	3	9	—	20	20
Personal care and service occupations	53	1	13	25	9	—
Sales and related occupations	266	5	17	49	6	6
Supervisors, sales workers	124	2	8	52	6	9
Retail sales workers	90	2	8	58	6	6
Sales representatives, services	12	(4)	42	33	—	—
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	16	(4)	94	—	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	88	2	35	27	15	—
Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing workers	39	1	64	8	10	—
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	274	5	11	3	2	27
Agricultural workers	133	3	19	4	4	8
Fishing and hunting workers	50	1	—	—	—	—
Forest, conservation, and logging workers	82	2	—	—	—	73
Construction and extraction occupations	966	19	10	1	32	12
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	108	2	14	3	24	15
Construction trades workers	720	14	9	1	37	10
Extraction workers	81	2	14	—	9	25
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	345	7	11	3	19	17
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	110	2	11	3	5	30
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	187	4	11	3	25	11
Production occupations	261	5	3	6	10	12
Supervisors, production workers	34	1	—	9	—	9
Metal workers and plastic workers	102	2	3	6	13	15
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,330	26	47	6	6	7
Air transportation workers	91	2	—	—	—	—
Motor vehicle operators	908	18	66	6	4	6
Water transportation workers	35	1	—	—	—	11
Material moving workers	248	5	9	6	14	12
Military occupations	53	1	8	—	6	—

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification system.

² Based on the 2007 BLS Injury and Illness Classification Manual. The figure shown is the percent of the total fatalities for that occupation group.

³ "Highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. It excludes incidents occurring entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms; incidents involving trains; and deaths to pedestrians or other non passengers.

⁴ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

^P Data for 2008 are preliminary. Revised and final 2008 data are scheduled to be released in April 2010.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

There were 9 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific occupation classification.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by selected worker characteristics and selected event or exposure, 2008^P

Characteristic	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ¹ (percent of total for characteristic category)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ²	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,071	100	23	10	13	10
Employee status						
Wage and salary ³	4,071	80	25	9	14	9
Self-employed ⁴	1,000	20	12	14	11	15
Sex						
Men	4,703	93	22	9	14	11
Women	368	7	28	26	11	3
Age⁵						
Under 16 years	11	(6)	—	—	—	—
16-17 years	23	(6)	30	13	—	—
18-19 years	63	1	25	16	8	8
20-24 years	339	7	20	9	11	11
25-34 years	840	17	24	12	10	11
35-44 years	1,084	21	24	12	12	9
45-54 years	1,257	25	23	9	14	9
55-64 years	887	17	25	8	15	11
65 years and older	559	11	17	7	21	12
Race or ethnic origin⁷						
White	3,560	70	23	7	13	11
Black or African-American	514	10	28	23	7	8
Hispanic or Latino	774	15	18	11	20	10
American Indian or Alaska Native	30	1	40	—	—	10
Asian	131	3	12	35	11	5
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	(6)	50	—	—	—
Multiple races	6	(6)	—	—	—	—
Other or not reported	50	1	20	16	8	—

¹ Based on the 2007 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual. The figure shown is the percent of the total fatalities for that demographic group.

² "Highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. It excludes incidents occurring entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms; incidents involving trains; and deaths to pedestrians or other nonpassengers.

³ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁴ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, members of partnerships, and may include owners of incorporated businesses.

⁵ There were 8 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine the age of the decedent.

⁶ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

⁷ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude Hispanic and Latino workers.

^P Data for 2008 are preliminary. Revised and final 2008 data are scheduled to be released in April 2010.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries by state and event or exposure, 2007-2008

State of injury	Total fatalities ¹		Event or exposure ⁴ 2008					
	2007 ² (revised)	2008 ^{3,p}	Transportation incidents ⁵	Assaults and violent acts ⁶	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	5,657	5,071	2,053	794	923	680	432	173
Alabama	108	97	48	8	22	3	14	-
Alaska	30	33	23	-	4	-	3	-
Arizona	97	86	37	14	7	16	11	-
Arkansas	89	85	40	12	13	5	10	5
California	461	404	153	84	63	56	42	6
Colorado	126	102	47	13	17	11	10	4
Connecticut	38	28	9	6	6	4	3	-
Delaware	10	11	5	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	13	9	-	-	-	5	-	-
Florida	363	290	107	56	41	39	38	6
Georgia	193	171	62	26	28	28	11	16
Hawaii	23	18	7	-	5	-	-	-
Idaho	31	36	23	-	7	3	-	-
Illinois	185	193	62	38	34	29	23	7
Indiana	127	132	61	12	34	12	10	-
Iowa	89	93	47	6	23	10	5	-
Kansas	101	73	38	9	12	7	6	-
Kentucky	112	105	45	19	22	9	8	-
Louisiana	139	134	77	9	23	11	13	-
Maine	21	24	16	-	4	-	-	-
Maryland	82	59	17	9	10	12	10	-
Massachusetts	75	61	18	8	8	15	10	-
Michigan	120	123	43	22	21	23	8	6
Minnesota	72	65	28	3	26	3	4	-
Mississippi	93	80	34	7	17	13	4	5
Missouri	156	147	58	34	23	18	8	5
Montana	54	39	18	5	7	6	3	-
Nebraska	63	53	21	8	12	9	-	3
Nevada	71	40	14	4	12	5	3	-
New Hampshire	14	7	3	-	-	-	-	-
New Jersey	106	91	39	14	15	14	6	3
New Mexico	52	31	15	5	-	5	-	-
New York (including N.Y.C.)	220	212	38	48	51	47	18	9
New York City	81	90	10	26	15	29	4	6
North Carolina	167	160	63	34	28	22	7	6
North Dakota	25	27	12	-	8	3	-	-
Ohio	165	167	65	31	24	25	11	10
Oklahoma	104	102	55	5	18	5	9	10
Oregon	69	54	23	9	13	-	5	3
Pennsylvania	220	240	83	37	50	36	23	8
Rhode Island	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	122	85	36	14	12	11	11	-
South Dakota	22	30	14	-	6	6	-	-
Tennessee	154	134	51	22	27	24	6	4
Texas	528	457	200	76	69	57	32	23
Utah	78	65	34	7	6	9	8	-
Vermont	10	10	3	-	4	-	-	-
Virginia	146	154	52	37	27	20	14	4
Washington	90	83	33	13	20	12	3	-
West Virginia	61	53	22	5	12	6	5	-
Wisconsin	104	77	33	6	18	11	3	5
Wyoming	48	33	17	4	7	3	-	-

¹ State totals include other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

² Totals for 2007 are revised and final. The BLS news release issued August 20, 2008, reported a total of 5,488 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2007. Since then, an additional 169 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2007 to 5,657. Includes 5 fatalities that occurred within the territorial boundaries of the United States, but a State of incident could not be determined.

³ Includes 2 fatalities that occurred within the territorial boundaries of the United States, but a State of incident could not be determined.

⁴ Based on the 2007 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

⁵ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁶ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injuries, and attacks by animals.

^p Data for 2008 are preliminary. Revised and final 2008 data are scheduled to be released in April 2010.

NOTE: Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 6. CFI participating agencies and telephone numbers

State	Agency	Telephone number
Alabama	Department of Labor	(334) 242-3463
Alaska	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(907) 465-4539
Arizona	Industrial Commission of Arizona	(602) 542-3739
Arkansas	Department of Labor	(501) 682-4542
California	Department of Industrial Relations	(510) 286-0702
Colorado	Department of Public Health and Environment	(303) 692-2093
Connecticut	Labor Department	(860) 263-6933
Delaware	Department of Labor	(302) 761-8217
Dist. of Columbia	State Center for Health Statistics	(202) 442-9010
Florida	Department of Financial Services	(850) 413-1611
Georgia	Department of Labor	(404) 679-1656
Hawaii	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	(808) 586-9001
Idaho	Industrial Commission	(208) 334-6090
Illinois	Department of Public Health	(217) 558-0500
Indiana	Department of Labor	(317) 232-2668
Iowa	Division of Labor Services	(515) 281-5151
Kansas	Department of Labor	(785) 296-1640
Kentucky	Labor Cabinet	(502) 564-4136
Louisiana	Louisiana Workforce Commission	(225) 342-3126
Maine	Bureau of Labor Standards	(207) 623-7907
Maryland	Division of Labor and Industry	(410) 767-2356
Massachusetts	Department of Public Health	(617) 624-5679
Michigan	Department of Labor and Economic Growth	(517) 322-1851
Minnesota	Department of Labor and Industry	(651) 284-5568
Mississippi	Department of Health	(601) 576-7186
Missouri	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	(573) 751-2454
Montana	Department of Labor and Industry	(406) 444-3297
Nebraska	Workers' Compensation Court	(402) 471-3547
Nevada	Division of Industrial Relations	(775) 684-7081
New Hampshire	Division of Vital Records Administration	(603) 271-4647
New Jersey	Department of Health and Senior Services	(908) 584-5367
New Mexico	Occupational Health and Safety Bureau	(505) 476-8740
New York State	Department of Health	(518) 402-7900
New York City	Department of Health	(212) 788-4584
North Carolina	Department of Labor	(919) 733-0337
North Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(312) 353-7200 ext. 410
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 728-4116
Oklahoma	Department of Labor	(405) 521-6855
Oregon	Department of Consumer and Business Services	(503) 947-7364
Pennsylvania	Department of Health	(717) 265-8761
Rhode Island	Department of Health	(401) 222-2812
South Carolina	Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation	(803) 896-7673
South Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(312) 353-7200 ext. 410
Tennessee	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(615) 741-1749
Texas	Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation	(512) 804-4651
Utah	Utah Occupational Safety and Health Statistics	(801) 530-6823
Vermont	Department of Labor	(802) 828-5076
Virginia	Department of Labor and Industry	(804) 786-1035
Washington	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5512
West Virginia	Division of Labor	(304) 558-7890 ext. 121
Wisconsin	Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene	(608) 221-6289
Wyoming	Department of Employment	(307) 473-3819
Puerto Rico	Negociado de Estadísticas	(787) 754-5300 ext. 3058

TECHNICAL NOTES

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities

In 2008, there were 27 cases included for which work relationship could not be independently verified; however, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job-related. Data for these fatalities are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 78 fatalities submitted by States were not included because the source documents had insufficient information to determine work relationship and could not be verified by either an independent source document or a follow-up questionnaire.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection closeout for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work related. States have up to seven months from this release to update their initial published State counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that legitimate cases are not excluded from the final counts. Thus, each year's initial release of data should be considered preliminary. Final data are released in the Spring of the following year. Revised counts for 2008 will be available in April 2010.

Over the last 5 years, increases in the published counts based on additional information have averaged 83 fatalities per year or less than 1.5 percent of the revised total. There was a larger-than-normal update last year. The BLS news release issued August 20, 2008 reported a total of 5,488 fatal work injuries for 2007. With the April 2009 release of final data, an additional 169 net fatal work injuries were added, bringing the total for 2007 to 5,657.

Federal/State agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or State agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Several federal and State agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in States with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining, and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Acknowledgements

BLS thanks the participating States, New York City, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, State, local, and private sector entities that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Federal Railroad Administration; the Department of Energy; State vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; State departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; State and local police departments; and State farm bureaus.