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

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NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN 2004

A total of 5,703 fatal work injuries were recorded in the United States in 2004, an increase of 2 percent from the revised total of 5,575 fatal work injuries reported for 2003. Despite the increase, the total for 2004 was the third lowest annual total recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted each year since 1992. The rate at which fatal work injuries occurred in 2004 was 4.1 per 100,000 workers, up slightly from a rate of 4.0 per 100,000 workers in 2002 and 2003. The increase in the fatality rate in 2004 was the first since 1994 when the rate was 5.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers.

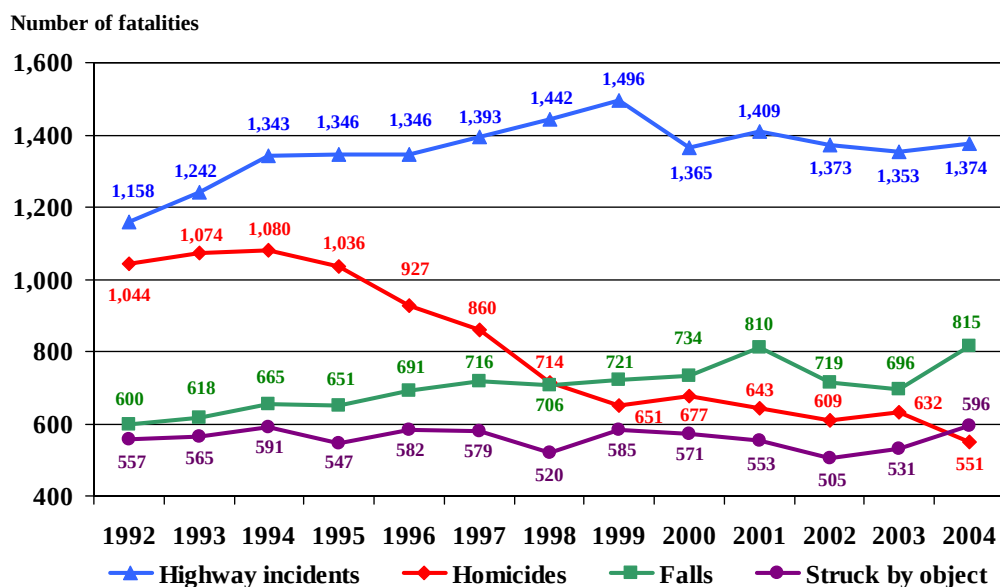
Key findings of the 2004 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries:

- Fatal work injuries among Hispanic workers were up 11 percent in 2004 after declining the previous two years.
- The number of fatal work injuries among older workers (55 years of age and older) rose 10 percent in 2004, but fatalities among younger workers (16 to 24 years of age) declined.
- Workplace homicides were down sharply in 2004 to the lowest level ever recorded by the fatality census.
- Fatal work injuries resulting from being struck by an object rose 12 percent in 2004, and overtook workplace homicide as the third most frequent type of fatal event.
- Fatal falls increased by 17 percent to a new series high, led by increases in the number of fatal falls from ladders and from roofs.
- The number of fatal work injuries in the construction sector rose 8 percent in 2004, but because of employment increases in this sector, the fatality rate for construction was not significantly higher than the rate reported in 2003.
- Twenty-seven states reported higher numbers of fatalities in 2004 than in 2003.

Profile of 2004 fatal work injuries by type of incident

Fatal work injuries involving falls were up 17 percent in 2004. The 815 fatal falls recorded in 2004 represented the highest annual total ever reported by the fatality census for this event and followed two years of declines. The increase in fatal falls was led by a 39 percent increase in the number of workers who were fatally injured after a fall from a roof (from 128 fatalities in 2003 to 178 in 2004) and a 17 percent increase in the number of fatal falls from ladders (from 114 fatalities in 2003 to 133 in 2004). The totals for falls from roofs and for falls from ladders represented new series highs for these events. About 88 percent of the fatal falls from roofs involved construction workers, compared with about 54 percent for fatal falls overall.

The four most frequent work-related fatal events, 1992-2004



NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2004.

Fatal highway incidents were up slightly in 2004 after declining the two previous years. The 1,374 fatal highway incidents recorded in 2004 represented about one out of every four fatal work injuries in 2004. Although nonhighway incidents (such as those that might occur on a farm or industrial premises) dropped slightly in 2004, other kinds of transportation incidents increased, led by incidents involving workers struck by vehicles or mobile equipment.

The number of workers who were fatally injured after being struck by objects rose 12 percent in 2004 (from 531 in 2003 to 596 in 2004), led by increases in the number of workers who were fatally injured after contact with falling, rolling, or sliding objects. The number of electrocutions also rose slightly, though the overall category of exposure to harmful substances and environments was lower due to declines in the numbers of

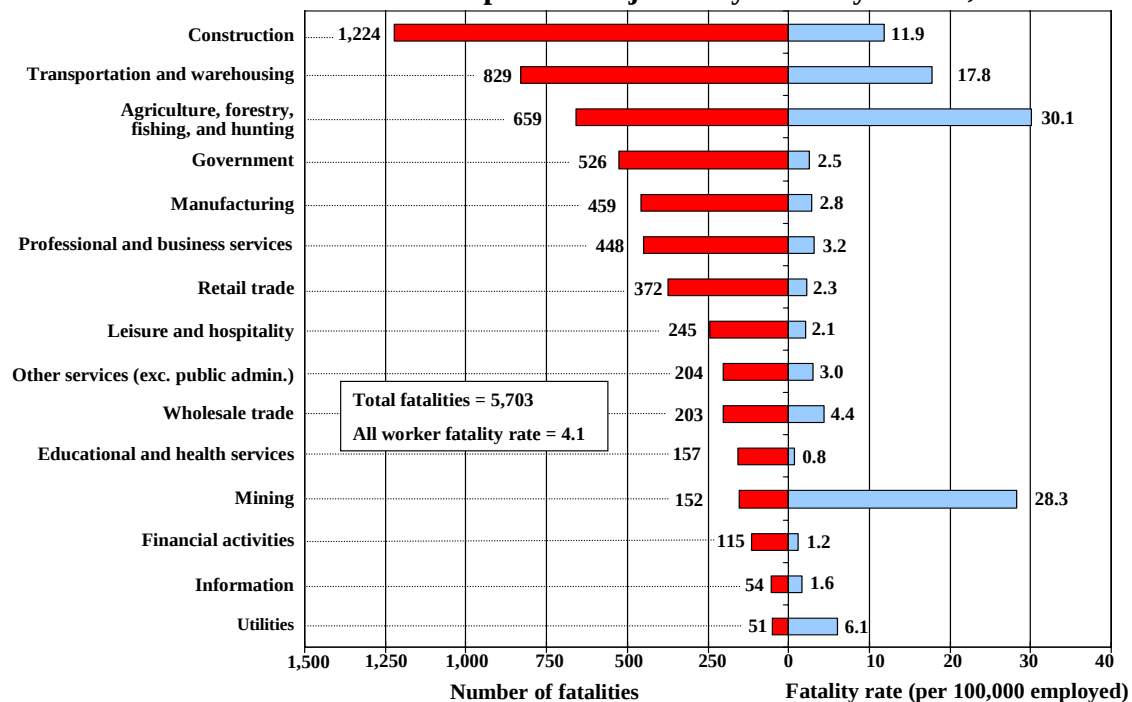
fatalities resulting from contact with temperature extremes, exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances, and oxygen deficiency.

The number of workplace homicides recorded in 2004 was down sharply from the number reported in 2003. The 551 workplace homicides in 2004 represented a 13 percent decline from 2003 and was the lowest annual total yet recorded by the fatality census. Overall, workplace homicides are down 49 percent from the high of 1,080 workplace homicides recorded in 1994 (excluding the 2,886 work-related homicides resulting from terrorist attacks of September 11).

Profile of fatal work injuries by industry

Overall, 91 percent of the fatal work injuries involved workers in private industry. Service-providing industries in the private sector recorded 47 percent of all fatal work injuries in 2004, while goods-producing industries recorded 44 percent. Another 9 percent of the fatal work injury cases in 2004 involved federal, state, or local government workers. The number of fatal work injuries in the private sector increased by 3 percent in 2004, while fatalities among government workers were down slightly.

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries by industry sector¹, 2004



¹ Individual industry sectors exclude data for employees of governmental agencies, which are provided separately.
Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000. Employment data based on the 2004 Current Population Survey (CPS) and Department of Defense (DOD) figures.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, and US Department of Defense, 2004.

The construction industry sector recorded 1,224 fatal work injuries, the most of any industry sector, an increase of 8 percent over the number reported in 2003. The increase was led by a jump in fatalities among specialty trade contractors from 629 in 2003 to 752 in 2004.

The transportation and warehousing sector recorded 829 fatal work injuries, the second highest total among industry sectors. As in 2003, the majority of fatal injuries in this sector occurred in truck transportation (508 fatalities). Sharp increases in water transportation fatalities and in industries involved in support activities for transportation contributed to an overall increase of 3 percent in this sector in 2004.

The number of fatal work injuries in the manufacturing sector rose 9 percent from 420 in 2003 to 459 in 2004. Retail trade and wholesale trade also recorded higher numbers of fatalities.

Fatal work injuries in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting were down 7 percent in 2004.

Profile of fatal work injuries by occupation

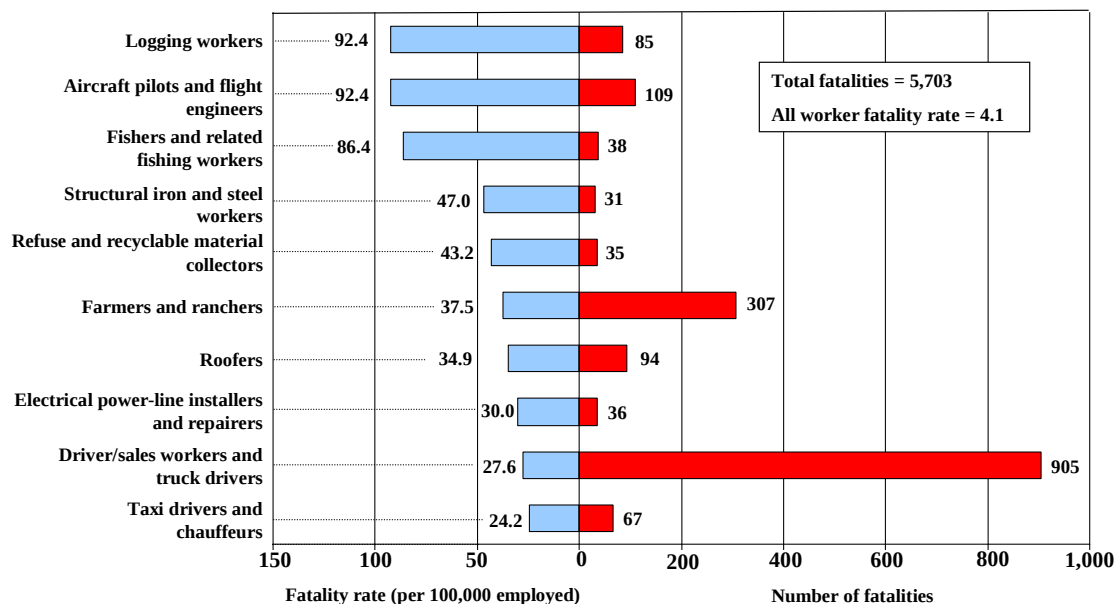
Fatal work injuries were higher in transportation and material moving occupations (up 7 percent) and construction and extraction occupations (up 9 percent). These two occupational groups combined accounted for nearly half (46 percent) of all the fatal work injuries in 2004.

Transportation and material moving occupations accounted for the largest number of fatal work injuries of any major occupational group (1,490 fatalities, up from 1,393 in 2003). The fatality rate for this occupational group rose from 16.7 fatalities per 100,000 in 2003 to 17.5 in 2004. Motor vehicle operators recorded two thirds of the fatal work injuries in this occupational group (1,005 fatal work injuries, up 5 percent from 2003). Material moving occupations, such as forklift operators and refuse collectors, recorded the second highest total in this group (271 fatalities). Fatal work injuries among material moving occupations were up 8 percent in 2004.

Construction and extraction occupations accounted for the second highest number of fatal work injuries among major occupational groups in 2004 (1,129 fatalities, up from 1,038 in 2003). Fatal work injuries among construction trade workers rose from 788 in 2003 to 870 in 2004 and accounted for most of the increase for this occupational group. The 94 fatal work injuries involving roofers was a sharp increase from the 55 fatal work injuries recorded in 2003 and accounted for nearly half of the increase among construction trade workers.

Among the individual occupations with high rates of fatal injury were logging workers (92.4 per 100,000 workers), aircraft pilots and flight engineers (92.4 per 100,000), fishers and related fishing workers (86.4 per 100,000), and structural iron and steel workers (47.0 per 100,000).

Selected occupations with high fatality rates, 2004



Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000. Employment data based on the 2004 Current Population Survey (CPS) and Department of Defense (DOD) figures.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, and US Department of Defense, 2004.

Profile of fatal work injuries by demographic characteristics

The number of fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers was sharply higher in 2004 after declining for the two previous years. The number of fatally injured Hispanic or Latino workers rose from 794 in 2003 to 883 in 2004, an increase of 11 percent. The rate of fatal work injuries among Hispanic or Latino workers rose from 4.5 per 100,000 workers in 2003 to 4.9 per 100,000 in 2004. Although homicides to Hispanic or Latino workers were down 27 percent from 2003, increases in the number of fatal work injuries resulting from falls (up 27 percent), transportation incidents (up 27 percent), and contact with objects or equipment (up 14 percent) led to the higher number of fatal work injuries among this population. Fatal work injuries among workers of Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander descent rose from 158 in 2003 to 177 in 2004, an increase of 12 percent. The increase was due in part to two multiple-fatality incidents which took the lives of 24 Asian workers.

Fatal work injuries among older workers (55 years of age and older) rose by 10 percent in 2004. The fatality rate for older workers increased from 6.2 fatal work injuries

per 100,000 in 2003 to 6.6 per 100,000 in 2004. For younger workers (16 to 24 years of age), the number of fatal injuries was down by 6 percent. Fatal work injuries among workers 15 years of age and younger fell by half, from 25 in 2003 to 12 in 2004. Fatalities among male workers rose in 2004, but fatalities among female workers were down 8 percent from 2003 levels.

Fatalities among self-employed workers remained about the same in 2004 and accounted for about one of every five fatal work injuries in 2004. The number of fatal work injuries among wage and salary workers was higher by 3 percent (from 4,405 in 2003 to 4,537 in 2004). The rate of fatal injury among wage and salary workers edged up from 3.4 per 100,000 workers in 2003 to 3.5 per 100,000 in 2004.

Profile of fatal work injuries by State

Twenty-seven States reported higher numbers of fatal work injuries in 2004 than in 2003, 22 States and the District of Columbia reported lower numbers, and one State was unchanged. Of those States reporting 25 or more fatal work injuries in 2004, six States reported increases of at least 20 percent (Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, and New Mexico), while two States reported declines of 20 percent (Arkansas and Oregon).

For more detailed State results, contact the individual State agency responsible for the collection of CFOI data in that State. Participating State 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. in each calendar year. The program uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (industry, occupation, and other worker characteristics; equipment being used; and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible. For the 2004 data, over 20,000 unique source documents were reviewed as part of the data collection process.

This is the 13th year that the fatality census has been conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The BLS fatality census is a federal/state cooperative program in which costs are shared equally. Additional state-specific data are available from the participating state agencies listed in table 6.

Another BLS program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry and also profiles worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses that result in lost work time.

Copies of the news releases on nonfatal injuries and illnesses in 2003 are available from BLS by calling (202) 691-6170 or by accessing the website listed below. Incidence rates for 2004 by industry will be published in November 2005, and information on 2004 worker and case characteristics will be available December 2005. For additional data, access the BLS Internet site: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/>.

To request a copy of BLS Report 988, which highlights 2003 fatality results and includes a number of analytical articles, e-mail your address to IIFstaff@bls.gov or write to U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Room 3180, Washington, DC 20212.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 1999-2004

Event or exposure ¹	Fatalities			
	1999-2003 average	2003 ²	2004	
		Number	Number	Percent
Total	5,800	5,575	5,703	100
Transportation incidents	2,493	2,364	2,460	43
Highway	1,399	1,353	1,374	24
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	684	648	687	12
Moving in same direction	139	135	145	3
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	248	269	270	5
Moving in intersection	145	124	144	3
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment in roadway	27	17	27	(³)
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road	289	327	314	6
Noncollision	356	321	316	6
Jack-knifed or overturned-no collision	293	252	257	5
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	349	347	335	6
Overturned	185	186	181	3
Worker struck by a vehicle	365	337	377	7
Rail vehicle	59	43	50	1
Water vehicle	83	69	90	2
Aircraft	232	211	230	4
Assaults and violent acts	898	902	795	14
Homicides	642	632	551	10
Shooting	501	487	416	7
Stabbing	60	58	66	1
Self-inflicted injuries	217	218	200	4
Contact with objects and equipment	957	913	1,004	18
Struck by object	549	531	596	10
Struck by falling object	337	324	370	6
Struck by flying object	54	57	42	1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	266	238	270	5
Caught in running equipment or machinery	139	123	142	2
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	123	126	117	2
Falls	736	696	815	14
Fall to lower level	647	604	732	13
Fall from ladder	114	114	133	2
Fall from roof	147	128	178	3
Fall from scaffold, staging	88	85	89	2
Fall on same level	69	71	61	1
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	508	486	459	8
Contact with electric current	271	246	253	4
Contact with overhead power lines	121	107	123	2
Contact with temperature extremes	43	42	27	(³)
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	105	122	114	2
Inhalation of substance	53	65	52	1
Oxygen deficiency	86	73	63	1
Drowning, submersion	64	52	49	1
Fires and explosions	189	198	159	3

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual. Includes other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

² The BLS news release issued September 22, 2004, reported a total of 5,559 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2003. Since then, an additional 16 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2003 to 5,575.

³ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Totals for 2004 are preliminary. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. The average count excludes fatalities from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. 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, 2004

Industry ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for industry)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,703	100	24	10	14	10
Private industry	5,177	91	23	9	15	11
Goods producing	2,494	44	14	2	21	15
Natural resources and mining	811	14	16	1	5	20
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	659	12	15	1	5	21
Crop production	317	6	15	1	4	17
Animal production	141	2	15	—	11	10
Forestry and logging	106	2	17	—	3	60
Fishing, hunting and trapping	37	1	—	—	—	—
Agriculture and forestry support activities	45	1	16	—	—	11
Mining⁴	152	3	24	—	9	16
Oil and gas extraction	29	1	34	—	—	21
Mining, except oil and gas	51	1	10	—	10	14
Support activities for mining	71	1	30	—	10	15
Construction	1,224	21	12	2	36	12
Construction	1,224	21	12	2	36	12
Construction of buildings	224	4	11	2	46	13
Heavy and civil engineering construction	219	4	17	—	8	21
Specialty trade contractors	752	13	10	2	42	9
Manufacturing	459	8	17	3	10	14
Manufacturing	459	8	17	3	10	14
Food manufacturing	65	1	22	12	11	—
Wood product manufacturing	49	1	8	—	8	14
Paper manufacturing	19	(5)	—	—	—	—
Chemical manufacturing	31	1	13	—	—	—
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	25	(5)	—	—	—	12
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	54	1	35	—	9	9
Primary metal manufacturing	28	(5)	—	—	14	32
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	57	1	14	5	11	25
Machinery manufacturing	25	(5)	24	—	12	28
Transportation equipment manufacturing	33	1	12	—	15	21
Service providing	2,683	47	32	16	9	7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,455	26	41	15	6	7
Wholesale trade	203	4	42	5	6	9
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	99	2	29	6	6	16
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	95	2	54	4	6	—
Retail trade	372	7	19	43	10	4
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	75	1	40	20	5	8
Building material and garden supply stores	39	1	26	—	15	—
Food and beverage stores	83	1	5	69	7	—
Health and personal care stores	17	(5)	24	47	18	—
Gasoline stations	44	1	7	84	—	—
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	15	(5)	—	53	—	—
General merchandise stores	26	(5)	—	19	46	—
Miscellaneous store retailers	28	(5)	25	43	—	—
Nonstore retailers	15	(5)	47	—	—	—
Transportation and warehousing	829	15	52	6	4	7
Air transportation	47	1	—	—	—	—
Rail transportation	19	(5)	—	—	—	—
Water transportation	43	1	—	—	—	—
Truck transportation	508	9	72	1	3	9
Transit and ground passenger transportation	75	1	37	49	—	—
Support activities for transportation	80	1	10	6	6	18
Couriers and messengers	25	(5)	76	—	—	—
Warehousing and storage	21	(5)	—	—	38	—
Utilities	51	1	16	—	18	8
Information	54	1	48	9	6	—
Information	54	1	48	9	6	—
Publishing industries, except Internet	33	1	64	9	—	—
Financial activities	115	2	25	31	13	3
Finance and insurance	46	1	33	39	9	—
Credit intermediation and related activities	26	(5)	27	50	—	—
Real estate and rental and leasing	69	1	20	26	16	6
Real estate	45	1	11	33	22	—
Rental and leasing services	24	(5)	38	12	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and selected event or exposure, 2004 — Continued

Industry ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for industry)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Professional and business services	448	8	23	7	17	11
Professional and technical services	76	1	30	4	11	—
Professional and technical services	76	1	30	4	11	—
Administrative and waste services	370	6	22	7	18	13
Administrative and support services	292	5	17	9	22	13
Waste management and remediation services	78	1	40	—	5	12
Educational and health services	157	3	25	15	9	—
Educational services	44	1	11	9	11	—
Educational services	44	1	11	9	11	—
Health care and social assistance	113	2	31	17	8	—
Ambulatory health care services	53	1	26	15	—	—
Hospitals	29	1	31	—	10	—
Nursing and residential care facilities	16	(⁵)	38	19	19	—
Leisure and hospitality	245	4	13	36	9	4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	99	2	11	11	11	6
Performing arts and spectator sports	50	1	14	10	10	6
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	45	1	9	13	9	7
Accommodation and food services	146	3	14	52	8	3
Accommodation	29	1	14	34	17	—
Food services and drinking places	117	2	14	56	6	3
Other services, except public administration	204	4	10	19	11	14
Other services, except public administration	204	4	10	19	11	14
Repair and maintenance	114	2	5	15	6	24
Personal and laundry services	37	1	14	46	11	—
Membership associations and organizations	43	1	21	12	23	—
Government⁶	526	9	31	13	7	5
Federal government	111	2	30	—	7	6
Public administration	84	1	25	—	5	5
National security and international affairs	70	1	21	—	6	4
State government	100	2	31	9	6	7
Public administration	38	1	37	13	—	—
Justice, public order, and safety activities	21	(⁵)	43	19	—	—
Local government	310	5	33	19	7	5
Public administration	195	3	37	27	4	4
Justice, public order, and safety activities	164	3	38	30	3	2

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

² 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.

NOTE: Totals for 2004 are preliminary. 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 5 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, 2004

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for occupation)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,703	100	24	10	14	10
Management occupations	629	11	17	9	10	12
Top executives	27	(4)	30	—	11	—
Advertising, marketing, promotions, public relations, and sales managers	19	(4)	47	16	—	—
Operations specialties managers	43	1	30	23	16	—
Other management occupations	540	9	14	8	10	14
Business and financial operations occupations	27	(4)	48	15	—	—
Business operations specialists	18	(4)	61	17	—	—
Financial specialists	9	(4)	—	—	—	—
Computer and mathematical occupations	7	(4)	57	—	—	—
Computer specialists	7	(4)	57	—	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	68	1	28	—	7	—
Architects, surveyors, and cartographers	6	(4)	—	—	—	—
Engineers	36	1	31	—	—	—
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	26	(4)	23	—	12	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	25	(4)	32	—	—	—
Life scientists	11	(4)	27	—	—	—
Physical scientists	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Life, physical, and social science technicians	8	(4)	38	—	—	—
Community and social services occupations	44	1	36	25	14	—
Counselors, social workers, and other community and social service specialists	21	(4)	52	33	—	—
Religious workers	23	(4)	22	17	22	—
Legal occupations	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Lawyers, judges, and related workers	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	27	(4)	30	—	19	—
Postsecondary teachers	7	(4)	—	—	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	12	(4)	42	—	—	—
Other teachers and instructors	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other education, training, and library occupations	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	51	1	20	16	14	6
Art and design workers	8	(4)	—	—	—	—
Entertainers and performers, sports and related workers	32	1	16	12	19	9
Media and communication equipment workers	9	(4)	—	33	—	—
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	72	1	26	12	7	—
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	40	1	30	12	8	—
Health technologists and technicians	31	1	23	13	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	11	(4)	—	27	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	8	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other healthcare support occupations	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Protective service occupations	271	5	31	31	4	3
First-line supervisors managers, protective service workers	24	(4)	50	21	—	—
Fire fighting and prevention workers	30	1	37	—	—	—
Law enforcement workers	136	2	41	33	3	—
Other protective service workers	81	1	6	38	7	4
Food preparation and serving related occupations	52	1	—	65	10	—
Supervisors, food preparation and serving workers	10	(4)	—	90	—	—
Cooks and food preparation workers	10	(4)	—	40	—	—
Food and beverage serving workers	27	(4)	—	63	15	—
Other food preparation and serving related workers	5	(4)	—	80	—	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	277	5	13	6	25	15
Supervisors, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers	43	1	19	—	19	30
Building cleaning and pest control workers	66	1	11	18	27	5
Grounds maintenance workers	168	3	12	—	25	15
Personal care and service occupations	55	1	15	25	—	—
Supervisors, personal care and service workers	6	(4)	—	67	—	—
Animal care and service workers	11	(4)	—	—	—	—
Entertainment attendants and related workers	7	(4)	—	—	—	—
Personal appearance workers	7	(4)	—	86	—	—
Transportation, tourism, and lodging attendants	7	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other personal care and service workers	16	(4)	25	19	—	—
Sales and related occupations	352	6	21	47	8	2
Supervisors, sales workers	156	3	6	58	10	4
Retail sales workers	101	2	10	63	8	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and selected event or exposure, 2004 — Continued

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for occupation)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Sales representatives, services	21	(4)	57	—	—	—
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	34	1	74	—	—	—
Other sales and related workers	40	1	45	20	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	91	2	40	21	9	4
Supervisors, office and administrative support workers	4	(4)	—	75	—	—
Financial clerks	8	(4)	—	50	—	—
Information and record clerks	9	(4)	33	44	—	—
Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing workers	50	1	52	6	10	6
Secretaries and administrative assistants	6	(4)	—	67	—	—
Other office and administrative support workers	14	(4)	29	—	—	—
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	281	5	17	1	4	26
Supervisors, farming, fishing, and forestry workers	11	(4)	36	—	—	—
Agricultural workers	143	3	22	2	6	8
Fishing and hunting workers	38	1	—	—	—	—
Forest, conservation, and logging workers	89	2	13	—	—	66
Construction and extraction occupations	1,129	20	10	2	36	12
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	116	2	17	—	28	12
Construction trades workers	870	15	8	2	41	11
Helpers, construction trades	21	(4)	—	—	19	—
Other construction and related workers	45	1	13	—	18	—
Extraction workers	77	1	13	—	12	22
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	382	7	10	5	18	17
Supervisors of installation, maintenance, and repair workers	43	1	7	14	19	21
Electrical and electronic equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	13	(4)	—	—	23	—
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	120	2	9	8	5	31
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	206	4	12	—	25	9
Production occupations	288	5	7	5	11	15
Supervisors, production workers	37	1	11	8	11	14
Assemblers and fabricators	19	(4)	—	—	21	21
Food processing workers	13	(4)	—	—	—	—
Metal workers and plastic workers	84	1	5	4	11	26
Printing workers	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Textile, apparel, and furnishings workers	7	(4)	—	—	—	—
Woodworkers	15	(4)	—	—	—	27
Plant and system operators	14	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other production occupations	95	2	8	4	12	9
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,490	26	47	5	5	9
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	24	(4)	17	—	12	—
Air transportation workers	109	2	—	—	—	—
Motor vehicle operators	1,005	18	65	6	4	8
Rail transportation workers	21	(4)	—	—	—	—
Water transportation workers	45	1	—	—	—	—
Other transportation workers	15	(4)	—	33	—	—
Material moving workers	271	5	11	3	11	17
Military occupations	64	1	19	—	—	5

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification system.

² 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.

NOTE: Totals for 2004 are preliminary. 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 7 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, 2004

Characteristic	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ¹ (percent of total for characteristic category)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ²	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,703	100	24	10	14	10
Employee status						
Wage and salary ³	4,537	80	27	8	14	10
Self-employed ⁴	1,166	20	14	14	14	13
Sex						
Men	5,292	93	24	9	15	11
Women	411	7	30	24	9	2
Age⁵						
Under 16 years	12	(6)	—	—	—	—
16-17 years	25	(6)	28	—	—	—
18-19 years	102	2	24	8	13	8
20-24 years	415	7	23	10	11	10
25-34 years	988	17	25	12	10	10
35-44 years	1,325	23	25	10	14	10
45-54 years	1,370	24	24	9	14	11
55-64 years	899	16	25	9	18	10
65 years and older	563	10	18	8	21	15
Race or ethnic origin⁷						
White	4,030	71	25	7	14	11
Black or African-American	542	10	26	22	12	8
Hispanic or Latino	883	15	21	9	19	13
American Indian or Alaska Native	26	(6)	31	—	19	12
Asian	165	3	12	36	6	3
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	12	(6)	—	33	—	—
Multiple races	4	(6)	—	—	—	—
Other or not reported	41	1	17	15	22	10

¹ 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 4 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.

NOTE: Totals for 2004 are preliminary. 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, 2003-2004

State of injury	Total fatalities ¹		Event or exposure ⁴ 2004					
	2003 ² (revised)	2004 ³	Transportation incidents ⁵	Assaults and violent acts ⁶	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	5,575	5,703	2,460	795	1,004	815	459	159
Alabama	124	133	51	18	29	16	15	3
Alaska	28	40	29	—	—	—	3	—
Arizona	80	84	42	13	9	11	8	—
Arkansas	87	70	31	4	13	10	5	6
California	459	416	168	52	80	67	36	12
Colorado	102	117	60	25	16	9	5	—
Connecticut	36	54	17	12	6	16	—	—
Delaware	9	10	5	4	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia	19	11	—	—	—	4	—	—
Florida	347	422	198	58	44	75	35	12
Georgia	199	231	96	24	32	50	25	3
Hawaii	21	25	14	7	—	—	—	—
Idaho	43	38	25	—	8	—	—	—
Illinois	200	208	83	41	33	29	14	8
Indiana	132	153	72	25	25	22	8	—
Iowa	76	82	33	5	26	14	—	—
Kansas	78	80	36	10	12	10	9	3
Kentucky	145	143	79	13	30	11	6	—
Louisiana	95	121	56	22	22	11	9	—
Maine	23	16	10	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	92	81	34	10	18	11	7	—
Massachusetts	78	70	25	8	15	13	6	—
Michigan	152	126	45	27	24	14	13	3
Minnesota	72	80	29	11	18	11	6	5
Mississippi	102	88	39	12	14	12	6	5
Missouri	154	165	82	18	36	10	16	3
Montana	39	39	26	4	—	4	3	—
Nebraska	51	46	21	4	3	9	7	—
Nevada	52	61	30	4	10	14	—	—
New Hampshire	19	15	7	—	—	3	—	—
New Jersey	104	129	37	20	23	33	10	6
New Mexico	46	57	37	8	7	—	3	—
New York (including N.Y.C.)	227	254	71	68	32	49	28	6
New York City	94	107	17	44	13	24	9	—
North Carolina	182	183	78	23	43	22	15	—
North Dakota	26	24	6	—	13	—	—	—
Ohio	206	202	78	39	33	24	18	10
Oklahoma	100	91	44	11	13	10	10	—
Oregon	75	60	31	—	17	7	3	—
Pennsylvania	208	230	87	32	50	34	16	11
Rhode Island	18	7	—	3	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	115	110	50	12	22	8	13	—
South Dakota	28	24	12	—	3	4	—	—
Tennessee	137	144	43	21	37	27	8	8
Texas	491	440	194	54	77	61	35	18
Utah	54	50	30	6	7	6	—	—
Vermont	14	7	4	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	155	171	84	17	22	27	18	3
Washington	83	98	35	14	26	15	7	—
West Virginia	51	58	34	3	14	—	4	—
Wisconsin	103	94	33	21	21	14	4	—
Wyoming	37	43	28	—	6	3	4	—

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

² The BLS news release issued September 22, 2004, reported a total of 5,559 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2003. Since then, an additional 16 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2003 to 5,575.

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 1992 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.

NOTE: Totals for 2004 are preliminary. 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. CFOI participating agencies and telephone numbers

State	Agency	Telephone number
Alabama	Department of Labor	(334) 242-3460
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	(415) 703-4757
Colorado	Department of Public Health and Environment	(303) 692-2173
Connecticut	Labor Department	(860) 263-6933
Delaware	Department of Labor	(302) 761-8221
District of Columbia	State Center for Health Statistics	(202) 442-9010
Florida	Department of Financial Services	(850) 413-1611
Georgia	Department of Labor	(404) 679-0687 ext. 113
Hawaii	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	(808) 586-9001
Idaho	Industrial Commission	(208) 334-6090
Illinois	Department of Public Health	(217) 557-5663
Indiana	Department of Labor	(317) 232-2668
Iowa	Division of Labor Services	(515) 281-5151
Kansas	Department of Labor	(785) 296-1640
Kentucky	Department of Labor	(502) 564-3070 ext. 281
Louisiana	Department of Labor	(225) 342-3126
Maine	Bureau of Labor Standards	(207) 624-6454
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) 284-5428
Mississippi	Department of Health	(601) 576-7817
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	Bureau of Vital Records	(603) 271-4647
New Jersey	Department of Health and Senior Services	(609) 292-9553
New Mexico	Occupational Health and Safety Bureau	(505) 827-4230 ext. 116
New York State	Department of Health	(518) 402-7900
New York City	Department of Health	(212) 788-4585
North Carolina	Department of Labor	(919) 733-0337
North Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(312) 353-7200 ext. 410
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 466-4183
Oklahoma	Department of Labor	(405) 528-1500
Oregon	Department of Consumer and Business Services	(503) 947-7367
Pennsylvania	Department of Health	(717) 783-2548 ext. 210
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	Workers' Compensation Commission	(512) 804-4638
Utah	Occupational Safety and Health Statistics	(801) 530-6823
Vermont	Department of Labor and Industry	(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. 112
Wisconsin	Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene	(608) 221-6289
Wyoming	Department of Employment	(307) 473-3819

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2004 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work exposures make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities

In 2004, there were 153 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 29 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 one year 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 counts. Thus, each year's report should be considered preliminary until final data are issued. Over the last 5 years, increases in the published counts based on additional information have averaged less than 20 fatalities per year or less than 0.3 percent of the revised total. The BLS news release issued September 22, 2004, reported a total of 5,559 fatal work injuries for 2003. Since then, an additional 16 fatal work injuries were identified, bringing the total for 2003 to 5,575. Revised counts for 2004 will be available in May 2006.

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.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 20 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

Acknowledgements

BLS thanks the participating states, New York City, and the District of Columbia 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 agencies 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 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.