

Industry Profiles

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program classifies workers by the industry in which they were employed. Using the establishment-based *Standard Industrial Classification Manual* (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, 1987), the program categorizes decedents into 1 of 10 major industry groups: Agriculture, forestry, and fishing; mining; construction; manufacturing; transportation and public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; services; and government. ■ The construction industry posted the largest number of fatal work injuries during the 1995-99 period (5,574 fatalities), followed by transportation and public utilities (4,198 fatalities), and agriculture, forestry, and fishing (4,093 fatalities). The highest fatal work injury rate, however, occurred in mining (24 fatal work injuries per 100,000 mining workers). Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, and construction had the second and third highest rates, respectively. ■ Among the industry groups showing improvement in fatality rates over the 1995–99 period were mining, wholesale trade, retail trade, and government. Rates for other industries, such as construction and services, changed little, while the fatality rate for agriculture, forestry, and fishing increased. ■ In addition to the number and rate of fatal occupational injuries, the industry profiles that follow also highlight the occupations within each industry that incur the most fatal injuries and the leading causes of these injuries. Worker demographic data, a breakdown of the fatal events, and a description of the activities of the workers at the time of their fatal injuries also are included. ■ There are many factors to which risks and ensuing trends can be attributed; some are known, some have yet to be discovered. To better understand the developments within an industry, readers should cross-reference other sections of this chartbook—particularly the National Profiles—to obtain a better perspective of the entire workplace environment. One can surmise, for example, that the decline in homicides during the 1995-99 period has positively affected the frequency and rate of fatal injuries in retail trade.