
**FATAL WORK INJURIES
AND WORK HAZARDS**

**Fact Sheet
CFOI 96-1**

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Office of Safety, Health
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JOB-RELATED HIGHWAY FATALITIES PROFILED

Highway fatalities accounted for one in every five of the 6,210 job-related deaths during 1995 and was the leading cause of fatal work injury, according to the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. This fact sheet summarizes the characteristics of the 1,329 workers who were fatally injured in highway traffic incidents, the occupations and industries in which they worked, and the type of highway incident responsible. (See accompanying table.)

About half the highway fatalities resulted from collisions between two or more vehicles. One-fifth of the fatalities resulted from a crash with an object other than a vehicle, such as a tree, bridge abutment, or utility pole, and another fifth occurred when the vehicle jackknifed or overturned. Patterns varied somewhat according to the type of vehicle involved. Collisions with other vehicles, crashes with objects on the side of the road, and jackknifings and overturnings contributed about equally (roughly 30 percent each) to the deaths of those riding in tractor trailers. For workers killed while riding in other types of highway vehicles, collisions between vehicles accounted for slightly over half of the fatalities.

Trucks played a large role in the incidence of job-related highway fatalities. Over half of the highway fatality victims had been driving or riding in a truck at the time of the incident, half of which were tractor trailer rigs. And in one-fourth of the job-related highway fatalities, a truck collided with the vehicle in which the victim was riding.

About two-fifths of the decedents were truck drivers by profession with the rest scattered throughout other occupational groups, such as sales workers, farm occupations, police officers, and executives and managers. A similar pattern is evident in the industry of the worker's employer. One-fourth of the workers fatally injured in highway incidents worked in the trucking and courier service industry. The remaining fatalities were widely dispersed among various other industries.

Half of the job-related highway fatalities occurred between the hours of 8 am and 4pm. The worker who was killed was operating the vehicle 88 percent of the time. Twelve percent of the highway fatality victims were riding as passengers. Victims were primarily white males. About two-thirds were between the ages of 25 and 54.

(OVER)

Table A. Job-related highway fatalities¹ by selected characteristics, 1995

	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total.....	1,329	100	Total.....	1,329	100
Employee status			Occupation		
Wage and salary workers.....	1,182	89	Managerial and professional specialty occupations.....	172	13
Self-employed.....	147	11	Executive, administrative, managerial occupations.....	102	8
			Professional specialty.....	70	5
			Engineers.....	23	2
Gender			Technical, sales, and administrative support jobs.....	152	11
Men.....	1,197	90	Sales occupations.....	94	7
Women.....	132	10	Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations.....	28	2
			Sales representatives, commodities except retail.....	23	2
			Sales workers, retail and personal services.....	31	2
Age			Administrative support occupations, including clerical.....	34	3
16 to 17 years.....	7	1	Service occupations.....	107	8
18 to 19 years.....	33	2	Protective service occupations.....	69	5
20 to 24 years.....	123	9	Police and detectives.....	46	3
25 to 34 years.....	295	22	Police and detectives, public service.....	31	2
35 to 44 years.....	316	24	Service occupations, except protective and household.....	38	3
45 to 54 years.....	272	20	Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations.....	84	6
55 to 64 years.....	188	14	Farm operators and managers.....	34	3
65 years and over.....	88	7	Farmers, except horticultural.....	24	2
Other or unspecified.....	7	1	Other agricultural and related occupations.....	45	3
			Farm workers.....	28	2
			Precision production, craft, and repair occupations.....	108	8
Race			Mechanics and repairers.....	41	3
White.....	1,095	82	Vehicle, mobile equipment mechanics, repairers.....	20	2
Black.....	146	11	Construction trades.....	49	4
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	10	1	Operators, fabricators, and laborers.....	663	50
Other or unspecified.....	78	6	Transportation and material moving occupations.....	580	44
			Motor vehicle operators.....	559	42
Hispanic origin			Truck drivers.....	508	38
Hispanic.....	114	9	Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	72	5
			Construction laborers.....	30	2
			Laborers, except construction.....	28	2
			Military.....	31	2
			Other or unspecified.....	12	1
			Industry		
Event			Private industry.....	1135	85
Collision between vehicles.....	634	48	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing.....	88	7
Re-entrant collision.....	9	1	Agricultural production, crops.....	47	4
Moving in same direction.....	125	9	General farms, primarily crop.....	24	2
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming.....	244	18	Agricultural services.....	21	2
Moving in intersection.....	97	7	Mining.....	27	2
Moving and standing vehicle--in roadway.....	31	2	Oil and gas extraction.....	20	2
Moving and standing vehicle--side of road.....	13	1	Construction.....	120	9
Vehicle struck object or equipment in roadway.....	19	1	Heavy construction, except building.....	35	3
Vehicle struck object or equipment on side of road.....	249	19	Special trade contractors.....	64	5
Noncollision incident.....	350	26	Manufacturing.....	110	8
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision.....	260	20	Lumber and wood products.....	27	2
Ran off highway--no collision.....	57	4	Transportation and public utilities.....	377	28
Other or unspecified.....	77	6	Local and interurban passenger transit.....	27	2
			Trucking and warehousing.....	312	23
Primary source²			Trucking and courier services, except air.....	300	23
Vehicles.....	1,309	98	Local trucking without storage.....	66	5
Highway vehicle, motorized.....	1,271	96	Trucking, except local.....	199	15
Highway vehicle, unspecified.....	89	7	Wholesale trade.....	87	7
Automobile.....	344	26	Wholesale trade, durable goods.....	44	3
Bus.....	11	1	Wholesale trade, nondurable goods.....	42	3
Motorcycle, moped.....	11	1	Groceries and related products.....	22	2
Truck.....	729	55	Retail trade.....	116	9
Delivery truck.....	28	2	Automotive dealers and service stations.....	33	2
Dump truck.....	19	1	Eating and drinking places.....	21	2
Pickup truck.....	136	10	Miscellaneous retail.....	30	2
Semitrailer, tractor trailer, trailer truck.....	359	27	Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	22	2
Van--passenger or light delivery.....	74	6	Services.....	166	12
Plant and industrial powered vehicles, tractors.....	31	2	Business services.....	51	4
Tractor.....	29	2	Health services.....	23	2
Machinery.....	20	2	Engineering and management services.....	22	2
Construction, logging, and mining machinery.....	9	1	Other or unspecified.....	22	2
Road grading and surfacing machinery.....	7	1	Government.....	194	15
			Federal.....	49	4
			State.....	45	3
			Local.....	97	7

¹ Includes job-related fatalities that occurred on a public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. Excludes off-road (i.e., parking lot, farm, etc.), train, and pedestrian fatalities.

² Identifies the vehicle in which the fatally injured worker was an occupant.

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, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1995