The 5,703 work-related fatalities recorded in 2004 represents an increase of 2 percent from the revised total of 5,575 fatal work injuries reported for 2003.

NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.
The rate of fatal work injuries in 2004 was 4.1 fatalities per 100,000 workers, up from 4.0 in 2003. This was the first increase in the overall national fatality rate since 1994.

Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000. Employment data, except for military, based on the Current Population Survey (CPS). Prior to 1999, resident military figure derived from Bureau of the Census data. From 1999 to the present, figure based on Department of Defense (DOD) figures.


The manner in which workplace fatalities occurred, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation incidents</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway incidents</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact with objects and equipment</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assaults and violent acts</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck by object</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to harmful substances</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires and explosions</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Total fatalities = 5,703)

More work-related fatalities resulted from transportation incidents than from any other event. Highway incidents alone accounted for nearly one out of every four fatal work injuries in 2004.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.
Fatal work injuries resulting from falls, transportation incidents, and contact with objects and equipment all increased in 2004 while fatalities resulting from exposure to harmful environments, fires and explosions, and assaults and violent acts declined.

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

Workplace homicide has declined substantially since 1994 while falls have trended higher. Struck by object fatalities overtook homicides as the third most frequent fatal event in 2004.

NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.
Employment and fatality profiles by gender of worker, 2004

Men continued to record a disproportionate share of fatalities relative to their employment in 2004.

Women had a higher percentage of fatal injuries resulting from highway incidents and homicides than men while men had a higher percentage of fatal work injuries from falls and from contact with objects and equipment.

Number of fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers, 1992-2004

Fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers increased in 2004 after declining the two previous years. Increases were recorded for both native-born and foreign-born Hispanic workers in 2004.

NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.
The number of fatal injuries rose for workers 45 years of age and older in 2004, but the number of fatalities for workers 44 years of age and younger declined.

Although the construction sector recorded the highest number of fatal injuries, the highest fatality rates were in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting and in mining.

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

Fatal occupational injuries in the private mining industry, 2003-2004

Number of fatalities

2003 | 2004
---|---
Oil and gas extraction | All other mining
85 | 54
141 | 152

Oil and gas extraction fatalities accounted for nearly two-thirds of the fatal work injuries in mining in 2004 and were up 15 percent from 2003.

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries by major occupation groups, 2004

Although transportation and material moving occupations recorded the highest number of fatal work injuries, the highest fatality rates were in farming, fishing, and forestry.

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

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries for selected occupations, 2004

Although driver/sales workers and truck drivers accounted for the highest number of fatalities in 2004, the highest fatality rates were recorded by logging workers and by aircraft pilots and flight engineers.

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

Selected occupations with high fatality rates, 2004

Fatal work injury rates were highest for logging workers, aircraft pilots and flight engineers, and fishers.

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

Fatal injury counts and most frequent event for selected occupations with large numbers of worker fatalities, 2004

Driver/sales workers and truck drivers accounted for the highest number of fatal work injuries of any occupation. Nearly 7 out of 10 of the fatally injured drivers/sales workers and truck drivers were killed in highway vehicle incidents.

NOTE: “Highway” includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder or surrounding area. “Non-highway” includes deaths to vehicle occupants that occur entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms.

Fatal work injuries involving construction laborers accounted for nearly one out of every four private construction fatalities in both 2003 and 2004.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Fatal work injury data come from a variety of sources, 2004

Over 20,000 source documents helped identify and verify information on 5,703 fatal work injuries.