Number of fatal work injuries, 1992–2012

The 2012 total of 4,628 fatal work injuries decreased slightly from the 4,693 fatal work injuries reported for 2011.

Note: Data from 2001 exclude fatal work injuries resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.
The rate of fatal work injuries in 2012 was 3.4 fatal work injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers, down slightly from 3.5 in 2011.

Note: Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Total hours worked by all workers) x 200,000,000 where 200,000,000 = base for 100,000 full-time equivalent workers (FTEs) working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year. The total hours worked figures are annual average estimates of total at work multiplied by average hours for civilians, 16 years of age and older, from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

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

More fatal work injuries resulted from transportation incidents than from any other event in 2012. Roadway incidents alone accounted for one out of every four fatal work injuries.

Overall, 65 fewer fatal occupational injuries occurred in 2012 compared to 2011. The greatest decrease was seen in the exposure to harmful substances or environments event category. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals; contact with objects and equipment; and falls, slips, trips event categories increased.

In 2012, falls to lower level accounted for 570 fatal work injuries. Forty-five percent of falls to lower level involved falls of 20 feet or less. Another 20 percent of cases involved falls from more than 30 feet.

Note: Reference year 2011 constitutes a series break from earlier years for event data. For more information, see https://www.bls.gov/iif/osh_notice11.htm Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. 
Roadway incidents accounted for the greatest share of work-related transportation fatal injuries for 2012. Of these, 565 deaths (29 percent) resulted from a roadway collision with another vehicle. Pedestrian vehicular incidents constituted the second greatest number of transportation-related fatal injuries.
There were 146 multiple-fatality incidents in 2012. Transportation incidents accounted for more than three out of five workers killed in multiple-fatality incidents. Homicides accounted for the second greatest number of workers lost in multiple-fatality incidents.
Fatal work injuries and hours worked, by gender of worker, 2012

A disproportionate share of fatal work injuries involved men relative to their hours worked in 2012.

Fatal work injuries = 4,628
Hours worked = 264,373,725,000

A higher percentage of fatal work injuries involving women resulted from homicides compared to men. Men incurred a higher percentage of fatal work injuries resulting from roadway incidents, contact with objects and equipment, and exposure to harmful substances or environments compared to women. Men and women experienced similar proportions of fatal injuries from falls, slips, trips and fires and explosions.

Robbers were the most common type of work-related homicide assailant for men and the second-most common for women.

Note: Reference year 2011 constitutes a series break from earlier years for event and source data. For more information, see https://www.bls.gov/iif/osh_notice11.htm
Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
The 2012 total for fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers was about the same as the total for 2011. Sixty-five percent of fatally-injured Hispanic or Latino workers in 2012 were born outside of the United States.

Workers born in Mexico accounted for the largest portion (39 percent) of foreign-born workers who died from work-related injuries in the United States in 2012.
Fatal work injury rates, by age group, 2012

Fatal work injury rate (per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers)

Fatal work injury rates for workers 45 years of age and over were higher than the overall U.S. rate, and the rate for workers 65 years of age and over was around 3 times the rate for all workers.

Note: Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see [https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm](https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm).

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries, by industry sector, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Sector</th>
<th>Number of Fatal Work Injuries</th>
<th>Fatal Work Injury Rate (per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and warehousing</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and business services</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure and hospitality</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services (exc. public admin.)</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational and health services</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial activities</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total fatal work injuries = 4,628
All-worker fatal injury rate = 3.4

Construction had the highest count of fatal injuries in 2012, but the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector had the highest fatal work injury rate.

Note: All industries shown are private with the exception of government, which includes fatal injuries to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry. Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. The number of fatal work injuries represents total published fatal injuries before the exclusions. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm
Fifteen percent of all fatal work injuries in 2012 involved contractors. One third of those who died while employed in the private construction industry were actually contracted to another industry, such as government or real estate, when the fatal injury occurred.

1 Contractor-adjusted industry is the industry of the entity that had overall responsibility for the operations at the site at which the worker was fatally injured.

Note: In 2011, the CFOI program began collecting contractor data to capture decedents who were working as contractors at the time of the fatal incident. All industries shown are private with the exception of government, which includes fatal injuries to workers contracted by governmental organizations regardless of industry. See https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm for more information. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Three industry groups, construction, professional and business services, and transportation and warehousing, were net providers of contract workers. All other industry groups were net receivers. Fatal injuries in government increased by one third, and those in financial activities by 59 percent, when workers contracted into the industry were included.

1 Contractor-adjusted industry is the industry of the entity that had overall responsibility for the operations at the site where the worker was fatally injured. 

Note: In 2011, the CFOI program began collecting contractor data to capture decedents who were working as contractors at the time of the fatal incident. All industries shown are private with the exception of government, which includes fatal injuries to workers contracted by governmental organizations regardless of industry. 

See https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm for more information.

Fatal work injuries in the private mining industry increased by 17 percent in 2012. Fatalities in the oil and gas extraction industries accounted for 78 percent of the fatal work injuries in the mining sector in 2012.
Although transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of fatal work injuries in 2012, the major occupational group with the highest fatal work injury rate was farming, fishing, and forestry.

Note: Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. The number of fatal work injuries represents total published fatal injuries before the exclusions. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm

The data for 2012 showed fatal work injury rates were high for logging workers and fishers and related fishing workers.
Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia had final counts showing more fatal injuries in 2012 than in 2011. Twenty-six states had fewer fatal workplace injuries in 2012 compared to 2011. Three states saw no change between the two years.