

News

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NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES, 1995

After increasing in 1993 and 1994, the number of fatal work injuries fell 6 percent in 1995 to a total of 6,210, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The lower fatality count in 1995 largely reflects a decrease over 1994 in the number of workers killed in firearm-related homicides and commercial airline crashes. Job-related homicides involving shootings dropped 19 percent from 1994 totals. Smaller decreases were reported for most other types of fatal events.

On average, about 17 workers were killed each day. The construction industry accounted for over 1,000 fatalities, more than any other industry and slightly above the 1994 total. Construction fatalities primarily resulted from falls, electrocutions, and vehicle-related incidents. Almost one-third of the workers killed in the construction industry were laborers.

This release profiles fatal work injuries by type of event, occupation, industry, demographic characteristics of the worker, and state.

Profiles from the 1995 fatality census

Highway traffic incidents and homicides led all other events that resulted in fatal work injuries in 1995. These two events totaled over a third of the work injury deaths that occurred during the year. Both of these event categories experienced a slight reduction in fatalities from the previous year. (See table 1 and chart 1.)

Highway deaths accounted for 21 percent of the 6,210 fatal work injuries in 1995. Slightly over half of highway fatality victims were driving or riding in a truck. Transport-related incidents occurring on private property (such as tractors or forklifts overturning) and workers being struck by vehicles each accounted for about 6 percent of the worker fatalities. Air, rail, and water transport together accounted for another 7 percent of the deaths.

Homicide accounted for 16 percent of the total and was the second leading cause of job-related deaths in 1995. Workplace homicide showed a decrease of 5 percent from the 1994 total, despite the Oklahoma City bombing of a federal building, which accounted for 12 percent of the job-related homicides in 1995. While firearm-related workplace homicides were down 19 percent from 1994, they still accounted for three-quarters of job-related homicides. Homicides of female workers continued to rise and accounted for almost half of their fatal work injuries.

Robbery was the primary motive of job-related homicide. About two-fifths of the homicide victims worked in retail establishments, such as grocery stores and eating and drinking establishments, where cash is readily available. Taxicab drivers, police, and security guards were other workers with high numbers of homicides.

Falls accounted for 10 percent of the fatal work injuries. One-fifth of the falls were from or through roofs; falls from scaffolding and from ladders each accounted for about one-seventh. Fatalities due to falls from roofs and ladders increased slightly over 1994 totals. The construction industry, primarily special trade contractors such as roofing, carpentry, and structural steel erection, accounted for half of the fatal falls.

Nine percent of the fatally injured workers were struck by various objects, such as falling trees, machinery that had slipped into gear, and various building materials. Fatalities from these types of incidents were at their lowest level since the fatality census began in 1992.

Electrocutions accounted for 6 percent of the worker deaths in 1995. While most other major fatal event categories declined in number from the 1994 total, job-related electrocutions remained virtually at the same level as last year. Two-fifths of these fatalities resulted from the worker or equipment being used coming in contact with overhead power lines.

In 1995, there were 217 multiple fatality incidents (incidents that resulted in two or more worker deaths) resulting in 686 job-related deaths. This is slightly less than in 1994 when 227 events resulted in 722 fatal work injuries.

Eighty-five percent of the fatally injured workers died the day they were injured; 98 percent died within 30 days.

Occupation highlights (table 2 and chart 2):

* Occupations with large numbers of worker fatalities included truck drivers, farm workers, sales supervisors and proprietors, and construction laborers.

* Specific events or exposures responsible for workers' deaths varied considerably among occupations. Highway crashes and jackknifings accounted for about two-thirds of the truck drivers' deaths, while homicides accounted for about two-thirds of the fatalities among sales supervisors and proprietors. Half of the deaths in various farm occupations occurred in vehicle-related incidents, both on and off the highway.

Industry highlights (table 3):

- * The construction industry accounted for one out of every six fatal work injuries that occurred during 1995.
- * Industry divisions with large numbers of fatalities relative to their employment include agriculture, forestry, and fishing; construction; transportation and public utilities; and mining.
- * Retail trade had the largest decrease in fatal work injuries from 1994 totals; fatalities went down 16 percent during 1995, primarily as a result of the drop in workplace homicides. Construction and finance, insurance, and real estate were the only industry divisions that posted increases in fatal work injuries.

Worker characteristics highlights (table 4):

- * Women and teens recorded increases in fatal work injuries over the previous year.
- * Men accounted for about 91 percent of all fatal work injuries in 1995.
- * The events responsible for fatal injuries varied among worker groups, reflecting their occupations and other characteristics. While highway crashes were cited as the most frequent fatal event for many of the worker groups, homicides accounted for the greatest portion of worker deaths for the self-employed, women, blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics.

State highlights (table 5):

- * In general, states that have the largest number of persons employed also reported the largest number of work-related fatalities. Three of the largest states accounted for one-fourth of the total fatality count: California (614), Texas (475), and Florida (376). A state's industry mix also must be considered when evaluating its occupational fatality profile, especially when large numbers of workers are employed in relatively dangerous industries, such as agriculture, mining, and construction.
- * Eight states reported changes in fatalities of 20 or more that also represented a difference of at least 20 percent compared with 1994's totals. Major disasters, such as the Oklahoma City bombing or an airline crash, can cause substantial year-to-year fluctuations in occupational fatality totals.

State	1994	1995	Numeric change	Percent change	Contributing factor
Indiana.....	195	156	-39	-20	Airline crash in 1994
Iowa.....	74	54	-20	-27	Fewer vehicular incidents
Louisiana.....	187	139	-48	-26	Fewer transport-related incidents
Nebraska.....	83	54	-29	-35	Fewer multiple fatality incidents
Oklahoma.....	97	199	102	105	Federal building bombing in 1995
Pennsylvania.....	354	233	-121	-34	Airline crash in 1994
South Carolina..	83	103	20	24	Increase in transport-related incidents
Virginia.....	164	132	-32	-20	Fewer highway fatalities

Relative risk (tables 3 and 4):

The annual average employment data are collected in the BLS Current Population Survey. By comparing the percent distributions of fatalities and employment, the user can evaluate the relative risk of a job-related fatality for a given occupation, industry, or worker characteristic. For example, the construction industry accounted for about 17 percent of the fatality total, which was about 3 times greater than its share of total employment of 6 percent. While employment can be used to evaluate the relative risk of a fatal work injury, other measures, such as employee exposure hours, also can be used.

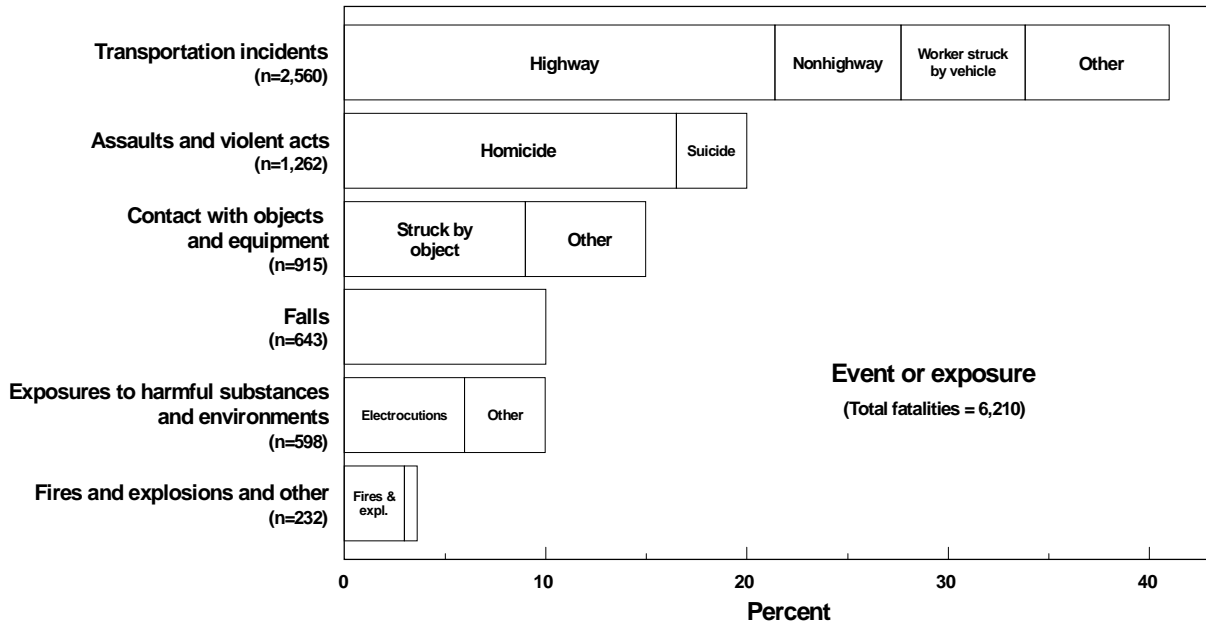
Background of the program

The BLS census uses diverse data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (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.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS safety and health statistics program, provides the most complete count of fatal work injuries available because it uses diverse state and federal data sources. This is the fourth 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 venture in which costs are shared equally. Additional state-specific data are available from the state agencies participating with BLS in the census program listed in table 6.

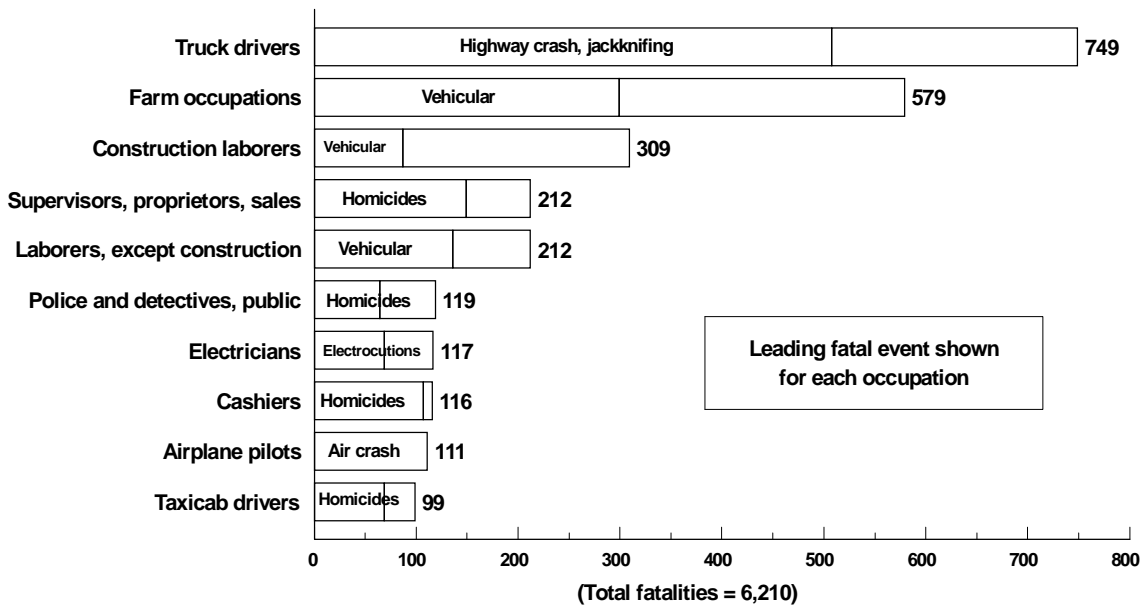
The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses profiles worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses resulting in lost worktime in addition to presenting frequency counts and incidence rates by industry. Copies of the 1994 news release are available from BLS by calling 202-606-6304. Incidence rates for 1995 by industry will be published in December 1996. Information on 1995 worker and case characteristics will be published in April 1997. For additional occupational safety and health data, access the BLS World Wide Web Internet site: <https://www.bls.gov/oshhome.htm>

Chart 1: The manner in which workplace fatalities occurred, 1995



Highway vehicle incidents and homicide led all other fatal events.

Chart 2: Occupations with large numbers of worker fatalities and the leading event, 1995



Truck driver fatalities, primarily involving highway crashes and jackknifings, accounted for 12 percent of the job-related fatalities.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 1992-1995

Event or exposure ¹	Fatalities				
	1992	1993	1994 ²	1995	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Total	6,217	6,331	6,632	6,210	100
Transportation incidents	2,484	2,501	2,762	2,560	41
Highway	1,158	1,243	1,343	1,329	21
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	578	657	654	634	10
Moving in same direction	78	99	120	125	2
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	201	244	230	244	4
Moving in intersection	107	123	144	97	2
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment	192	190	255	268	4
Noncollision	301	336	373	350	6
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision	213	237	274	260	4
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	436	392	409	388	6
Overturned	208	212	226	210	3
Aircraft	353	282	426	278	4
Worker struck by a vehicle	346	365	391	385	6
Water vehicle	109	120	94	84	1
Railway	66	86	81	82	1
Assaults and violent acts	1,281	1,329	1,321	1,262	20
Homicides	1,044	1,074	1,080	1,024	16
Shooting	852	884	934	754	12
Stabbing	90	95	60	67	1
Other, including bombing	102	95	86	203	3
Self-inflicted injury	205	222	214	215	3
Contact with objects and equipment	1,004	1,045	1,017	915	15
Struck by object	557	566	590	546	9
Struck by falling object	361	346	372	340	5
Struck by flying object	77	82	68	63	1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	316	309	280	255	4
Caught in running equipment or machinery	159	151	147	131	2
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	110	138	132	99	2
Falls	600	618	665	643	10
Fall to lower level	507	533	580	573	9
Fall from ladder	78	76	86	97	2
Fall from roof	108	120	129	142	2
Fall from scaffold	66	71	89	82	1
Fall on same level	62	49	63	50	1
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	605	592	641	598	10
Contact with electric current	334	325	348	347	6
Contact with overhead powerlines	140	115	132	139	2
Contact with temperature extremes	33	38	50	55	1
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	127	115	133	101	2
Inhalation of substances	83	68	84	62	1
Oxygen deficiency	111	111	109	94	2
Drowning, submersion	78	89	89	74	1
Fires and explosions	167	204	202	208	3
Other events or exposures ³	76	43	24	24	-

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

² The BLS news release issued August 3, 1995, reported a total of 6,588 fatal work injuries for calendar year 1994. Since then, an additional 44 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 1994 to 6,632.

³ Includes the category "Bodily reaction and exertion."

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1992-1995.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and major event or exposure, 1995.

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Major event or exposure ² (percent)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicide	Struck by object	Fall to lower level
Total	6,210	100	21	16	9	9
Managerial and professional specialty	699	11	24	28	3	6
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	467	8	22	34	3	7
Professional specialty.....	232	4	30	16	3	5
Technical, sales, and administrative support	815	13	19	46	2	2
Technicians and related support occupations.....	189	3	13	7	2	2
Airplane pilots and navigators.....	111	2	-	-	-	-
Sales occupations.....	492	8	19	61	2	2
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations.....	212	3	13	63	3	1
Sales workers, retail and personal services.....	213	3	15	73	-	1
Cashiers.....	116	2	3	92	-	-
Administrative support occupations, including clerical....	134	2	25	47	-	5
Service occupations	533	9	20	40	1	6
Protective service occupations.....	314	5	21	45	-	2
Firefighting and fire prevention occupations, including supervisors.....	39	1	28	-	-	-
Police and detectives including supervisors.....	174	3	27	47	-	2
Guards, including supervisors.....	101	2	9	58	-	-
Farming, forestry, and fishing	864	14	10	2	20	6
Farming operators and managers.....	332	5	10	3	11	7
Farmers, except horticultural.....	244	4	10	2	9	7
Managers, farms, except horticultural.....	73	1	12	-	18	7
Other agricultural and related occupations.....	359	6	12	3	13	7
Farm workers, including supervisors.....	262	4	12	2	11	5
Forestry and logging occupations.....	116	2	4	-	74	4
Timber cutting and logging occupations.....	98	2	-	-	81	3
Fishers, hunters, and trappers.....	57	1	-	-	-	-
Fishers.....	48	1	-	-	-	-
Precision production, craft, and repair	1,041	17	10	4	9	25
Mechanics and repairers.....	265	4	15	6	14	9
Construction trades.....	607	10	8	2	6	36
Carpenters and apprentices.....	96	2	9	-	14	42
Electricians and apprentices.....	117	2	4	-	3	16
Painters.....	45	1	-	-	-	38
Roofers.....	60	1	-	-	-	75
Structural metal workers.....	38	1	-	-	11	66
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	2,051	33	32	8	11	8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	238	4	5	6	19	10
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	1,148	18	50	10	6	2
Motor vehicle operators.....	918	15	61	12	4	2
Truck drivers.....	749	12	68	3	5	2
Driver-sales workers.....	33	1	42	36	-	-
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs.....	99	2	18	70	-	-
Material moving equipment operators.....	167	3	10	-	16	5
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	665	11	10	5	15	16
Construction laborers.....	309	5	9	1	16	27
Laborers, except construction.....	212	3	13	4	16	8
Military	143	2	22	6	6	-

¹ Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

² The figure shown is the percent of the total fatalities for that occupational 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.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. There were 64 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine an occupation classification. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1995.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries and employment by industry, 1995

Industry	SIC code ¹	Fatalities			Employment ² (in thousands)	
		1994 (revised)	1995		Number	Percent
		Number	Number	Percent		
Total		6,632	6,210	100	126,248	100
Private industry		5,959	5,438	88	106,522	84
Agriculture, forestry and fishing		852	793	13	3,515	3
Agricultural production - crops.....	01	443	362	6	1,042	1
Agricultural production - livestock.....	02	172	161	3	1,301	1
Agricultural services	07	163	155	3	1,082	1
Mining		180	156	3	625	1
Coal mining.....	12	41	43	1	114	-
Oil and gas extraction.....	13	99	77	1	336	-
Construction		1,028	1,048	17	7,153	6
General building contractors.....	15	190	175	3	-	-
Heavy construction, except building.....	16	246	245	4	-	-
Special trades contractors.....	17	592	613	10	-	-
Manufacturing		789	702	11	20,389	16
Food and kindred products.....	20	79	74	1	1,700	1
Lumber and wood products	24	199	182	3	815	1
Transportation and public utilities		949	880	14	7,138	6
Local and interurban passenger transportation	41	114	116	2	523	-
Trucking and warehousing	42	505	462	7	2,323	2
Transportation by air.....	45	99	75	1	792	1
Electric, gas, and sanitary services.....	49	89	91	1	1,094	1
Wholesale trade		271	254	4	4,973	4
Retail trade		808	675	11	20,999	17
Food stores.....	54	237	188	3	3,428	3
Automotive dealers and service stations.....	55	123	122	2	2,087	2
Eating and drinking places.....	58	184	164	3	6,266	5
Finance, insurance, and real estate		113	124	2	7,761	6
Services		853	737	12	33,970	27
Business services.....	73	255	211	3	5,282	4
Automotive repair, services, and parking	75	91	114	2	1,454	1
Government ³		673	772	12	19,726	16
Federal (including resident armed forces).....		211	299	5	4,790	4
State.....		114	124	2	5,185	4
Local		338	338	5	9,751	8
Police protection	9221	117	110	2	-	-

¹ Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition.

² The employment is an annual average of employed civilians 16 years of age and older, plus resident armed forces, from the BLS Current Population Survey, 1995.

³ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. There were 69 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific industry classification, though a distinction between private sector and government was made for each. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1994-1995.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries and employment by selected worker characteristics, 1995

Characteristics	Fatalities		Employment (in thousands) ¹		Most frequent event ² (percent of total)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	6,210	100	126,248	100	Highway (21 percent)
Employee status					
Wage and salary workers	5,024	81	115,610	92	Highway (24)
Self-employed ³	1,186	19	10,638	8	Homicide (17)/Nonhighway(16)
Sex and age					
Men	5,676	91	68,556	54	Highway (19)
Women	534	9	57,692	46	Homicide (46)
Both sexes⁴					
Under 16 years.....	26	-	-	-	Highway (19)
16 to 17 years	40	1	2,574	2	" (18)
18 to 19 years	128	2	3,934	3	" (26)
20 to 24 years	484	8	12,868	10	" (25)
25 to 34 years	1,395	22	32,880	26	" (21)
35 to 44 years	1,555	25	34,474	27	" (20)
45 to 54 years	1,242	20	24,213	19	" (22)
55 to 64 years	811	13	11,436	9	" (23)
65 years and over	514	8	3,666	3	Nonhighway(18)/Highway(17)
Race					
White	5,061	82	107,533	85	Highway (22)
Black	689	11	13,537	11	Homicide (30)
Asian or Pacific Islander	161	3	-	-	Homicide (56)
American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo	27	-	-	-	Highway (22)
Other or unspecified.....	272	4	-	-	" (26)
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic ⁵	610	10	11,208	9	Homicide (21)

¹ The employment is an annual average of employed civilians 16 years of age and older, plus resident armed forces, from the BLS Current Population Survey, 1995.

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. "Nonhighway" includes transport-related deaths of vehicle occupants that occur or originate entirely off the roadway. Incidents involving trains and deaths to pedestrians or other nonpassengers are excluded from both categories.

³ Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

⁴ There were 15 fatalities for which age was not available.

⁵ Persons identified as Hispanic may be of any race. Hispanic employment does not include resident armed forces.

NOTE: Totals may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or data that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1995.

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries by State and event or exposure, 1995

State of injury	Total fatalities ¹		Event or exposure ² (percent of State total for 1995)					
	1994 (revised)	1995	Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	6,632	6,210	41	20	15	10	10	3
Alabama.....	153	150	34	21	17	10	15	3
Alaska.....	60	78	86	-	5	-	-	-
Arizona.....	79	86	55	22	9	-	6	-
Arkansas.....	85	91	59	8	16	4	9	-
California.....	639	614	41	30	10	8	7	3
Colorado.....	120	112	43	21	14	11	9	-
Connecticut.....	35	32	41	25	19	-	-	-
Delaware.....	15	12	33	-	33	-	-	-
District of Columbia.....	21	16	-	69	-	-	-	-
Florida.....	358	376	39	21	10	15	12	2
Georgia.....	249	237	46	20	11	13	8	2
Hawaii.....	21	24	29	33	-	-	17	-
Idaho.....	50	53	60	13	8	-	8	-
Illinois.....	247	249	31	17	15	18	13	5
Indiana.....	195	156	41	15	15	11	13	5
Iowa.....	74	54	39	-	31	11	11	-
Kansas.....	106	95	46	15	15	9	11	4
Kentucky.....	158	140	59	6	16	4	10	4
Louisiana.....	187	139	37	17	19	13	10	3
Maine.....	22	18	56	-	22	-	-	-
Maryland.....	80	86	29	36	13	9	7	6
Massachusetts.....	74	65	34	17	17	23	6	-
Michigan.....	180	149	38	20	20	9	11	-
Minnesota.....	82	84	39	12	25	11	10	-
Mississippi.....	126	128	48	21	13	7	7	4
Missouri.....	155	125	34	13	23	14	11	3
Montana.....	50	34	44	-	18	12	18	-
Nebraska.....	83	54	43	11	24	17	-	-
Nevada.....	41	51	41	24	16	12	-	-
New Hampshire.....	14	12	33	-	-	-	-	-
New Jersey.....	114	118	35	23	14	12	10	6
New Mexico.....	54	58	52	9	16	10	9	-
New York (except N.Y.C.).....	180	158	40	16	17	11	11	4
New York City.....	184	144	11	63	6	12	6	-
North Carolina.....	226	187	46	17	16	11	9	-
North Dakota.....	21	28	54	-	21	-	-	-
Ohio.....	209	186	51	13	10	10	12	4
Oklahoma.....	97	199	15	65	8	2	7	4
Oregon.....	80	73	53	7	22	11	5	-
Pennsylvania.....	354	233	40	16	14	13	9	8
Rhode Island.....	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina.....	83	103	43	14	17	10	13	-
South Dakota.....	31	26	35	-	27	15	23	-
Tennessee.....	170	179	41	11	27	8	10	3
Texas.....	497	475	42	18	14	12	10	4
Utah.....	66	51	49	14	12	10	14	-
Vermont.....	8	16	69	-	25	-	-	-
Virginia.....	164	132	45	15	12	14	10	3
Washington.....	118	109	42	13	16	12	9	6
West Virginia.....	61	56	43	7	32	-	11	-
Wisconsin.....	109	117	43	15	21	5	11	3
Wyoming.....	35	32	62	-	16	-	12	-

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

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, and rail fatalities.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding and because of dashes which indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1994 and 1995.

Table 6. CFOI participating State agencies and telephone numbers

State	Agency	Telephone
Alabama	Department of Labor	(334) 242-3460
Alaska	Department of Labor	(907) 465-4539
Arizona	Industrial Commission	(602) 542-3739
Arkansas	Department of Labor	(501) 682-4542
California	Department of Industrial Relations	(415) 972-8625
Colorado	Department of Public Health	(303) 692-2163
Connecticut	Labor Department	(860) 566-4380
Delaware	Department of Labor	(302) 761-8221
District of Columbia	Center for Health Statistics	(202) 645-5963
Florida	Dept. of Labor and Employment Security	(904) 922-8953
Georgia	Department of Labor	(404) 656-2966
Hawaii	Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations	(808) 586-9005
Idaho	Industrial Commission	(208) 334-6061
Illinois	Department of Public Health	(217) 785-7130
Indiana	Department of Labor	(317) 232-2679
Iowa	Department of Employment Services	(515) 281-3661
Kansas	Department of Health & Environment	(913) 296-5293
Kentucky	Labor Cabinet	(502) 564-6895
Louisiana	Department of Labor	(504) 342-3126
Maine	Bureau of Labor Standards	(207) 624-6447
Maryland	Division of Labor and Industry	(410) 333-4200
Massachusetts	Department of Public Health	(617) 624-5628
Michigan	Department of Labor	(517) 322-1850
Minnesota	Department of Labor and Industry	(612) 297-7429
Mississippi	Department of Health	(601) 960-7741
Missouri	Bureau of Health Services Statistics	(573) 751-6274
Montana	Department of Labor and Industry	(406) 444-3239
Nebraska	Workers' Compensation	(402) 471-6538
Nevada	Division of Industrial Relations	(702) 687-3293
New Hampshire	Department of Public Health	(603) 271-4647
New Jersey	Department of Health	(609) 984-1863
New Mexico	Health and Environment Division	(505) 827-4230
New York	Department of Health	(518) 458-6228
New York City	Department of Health	(212) 788-4585
North Carolina	Department of Labor	(919) 733-0337
North Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(816) 426-2483
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 466-4183
Oklahoma	Department of Labor	(405) 528-1500
Oregon	Dept. of Consumer/Business Services	(503) 378-8254
Pennsylvania	Department of Health	(717) 783-2548
Rhode Island	Department of Health	(401) 277-2812
South Carolina	Department of Labor	(803) 734-4298
South Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(816) 426-2483
Tennessee	Department of Labor	(615) 741-1748
Texas	Workers' Compensation Commission	(512) 440-3852
Utah	Industrial Commission	(801) 530-7607
Vermont	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(617) 565-2300
Virginia	Department of Labor & Industry	(804) 786-5004
Washington	Department of Labor & Industries	(360) 902-5510
West Virginia	Department of Labor	(304) 558-7890
Wisconsin	Workers' Compensation Division	(608) 266-7850
Wyoming	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(816) 426-2483

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 1995 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 or 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, asphyxiations, acute poisonings resulting from a short-term exposure 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 are not reported in the BLS census and are excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work makes identification of a universe problematic. Partial information on fatal occupational illnesses, compiled separately, is available for 1991-1993 in BLS Report 891.

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 reports. Multiple 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.

Because some state laws and regulations prohibit enumerators from contacting the next-of-kin, it was not possible to independently verify work relationship (whether a fatality is job related) for 306 fatal work injuries in 1995; 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, which primarily affected self-employed workers, are included in

the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 67 fatalities submitted by states were not included because the initiating source document had insufficient information to determine work relationship, which 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 close-out for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may be subsequently 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 no legitimate case is excluded from the counts.

Federal/state agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

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 America's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in several other industries, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and 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, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration. Fatalities occurring in activities regulated by federal agencies other than OSHA accounted for about 20 percent of the fatal work injuries for 1995.

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 19 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 2 percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which account for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: BLS thanks the participating states 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 US Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Department of Defense; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; the National Association of Chiefs of Police; 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.