

Contractor data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

Detailed information on fatal work injuries involving contractors is now available from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) beginning with the 2011 reference year. For the purposes of CFOI, a contractor is a worker employed by one firm (or who is self-employed), but working at the behest of another firm that exercises overall responsibility for the operations at the site where the decedent was killed. For more information on the definitions used to ascribe contractor status, see the technical notes below.

Among the 2011 findings on contractors:

- Fatal work injuries involving contractors accounted for 542 of the 4,693 fatal work injuries reported in 2011 (12 percent). Texas (56), Florida (51), and California (42) recorded the highest number of fatal occupational injuries among contractors.
- Nearly 1 in 4 of the fatal work injuries involving contractors occurred when a government entity had contracted the decedent, including 50 fatal injuries in state government, 47 in local government, and 11 in federal government.
- Private construction contractors accounted for 21 percent of contractor fatalities. Another 11 percent of fatal work injuries occurred in the private financial activities industries, led by 51 fatal injuries among contractors working in real estate.
- Falls to lower level accounted for the highest number of fatal work injuries involving contractors (170, or 31 percent). Another 72 incidents resulted from pedestrian vehicular incidents, including 44 incidents involving contractors who were struck by a vehicle in a work zone.
- Hispanic or Latino contractors accounted for 28 percent of the fatal work injuries among contractors, well above their 16 percent share of the overall fatal work injury total in 2011.

Technical Notes

While there are many ways to define contractors, CFOI employs the following rules when determining the contractor status of a decedent.

1. A business-to-business relationship must exist to establish contractor status. For example, an electrician working at a private residence is **not** considered a contractor. That same electrician working at a restaurant **is** considered to be a contractor since a business-to-business relationship is present.
2. Workers killed at sites where a potential contracting firm does not exercise overall responsibility for the site, such as a public roadway, are **not** considered to be contractors with certain exceptions.
3. Suicides and other incidents that are initiated intentionally by the decedent are **not** included as contractors.
4. Contractor status can be inferred from available case data if not explicitly stated. If, for example, a security guard employed directly by a security firm is killed while working at a bar, the security guard must have been contracted by the bar or else he/she would not have been present.
5. Note that the CFOI definition is not the same as the definition used by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for recordkeeping purposes in [Standard 1904.31](#).

The following table contains detailed data on the 542 fatal occupational injuries incurred by contractors in 2011. The contractor industry is the industry of the firm contracting the decedent, while industry is the industry of the firm directly employing the decedent. In the example from #4 above, the contractor industry would be North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 722410 drinking places (alcoholic beverages) for the bar. Industry would be NAICS 561612 security guards and patrol services for the security firm.

Fatal occupational injuries incurred by contractors¹, 2011

Characteristic	2011
Total ²	542
Employee status	
Wage and salary workers ³	455
Self-employed ⁴	87
Age	
Under 16 years	2
18 to 19 years	8
20 to 24 years	41
25 to 34 years	118
35 to 44 years	115
45 to 54 years	150
55 to 64 years	67
65 years and over	39
Gender	
Men	525
Women	17
Race or ethnic origin⁵	
White (non-Hispanic)	331
Black or African-American (non-Hispanic)	48
Hispanic or Latino	151
Event or exposure 2011⁶	
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	21
Transportation incidents	127
Fire or explosion	20
Fall, slip, trip	181
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	94
Contact with objects and equipment	99
Industry (NAICS)⁷	
Private industry (NAICS)	537
Goods-producing	353
Natural resources and mining	34
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	19
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ⁸	15
Construction	307
Manufacturing	12
Service-providing	184
Trade, transportation, and utilities	24
Wholesale trade	7
Transportation and warehousing	15
Financial activities	5
Professional and business services	117
Leisure and hospitality	16
Other services, except public administration	18
Government (NAICS) ⁹	5
Federal government (NAICS)	1
State government (NAICS)	3

Fatal occupational injuries incurred by contractors¹, 2011

Characteristic	2011
Contractor industry (NAICS)¹⁰	
Private industry, contractor (NAICS)	420
Goods-producing	216
Natural resources and mining	58
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	31
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ⁸	27
Construction	115
Manufacturing	43
Service-providing	204
Trade, transportation, and utilities	59
Wholesale trade	9
Retail trade	20
Transportation and warehousing	18
Utilities	12
Information	10
Financial activities	59
Professional and business services	15
Education and health services	8
Leisure and hospitality	30
Other services, except public administration	14
Government, contractor (NAICS) ⁹	122
Federal government, contractor (NAICS)	11
State government, contractor (NAICS)	50
Local government, contractors (NAICS)	47

¹ The decedent is a contractor if the worker is employed by one firm (or who is self-employed), but working at the behest of another firm that exercises overall responsibility for the operations at the site where the decedent was killed.

² Please see the CFOI Definitions page (<https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcdef.htm>) for a more detailed description of each data element and their definitions.

³ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁴ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

⁵ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The racial categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

⁶ Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward.

⁷ Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2002. Industry data from 2009 to the present are based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2007.

⁸ Includes fatal injuries at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

⁹ Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

¹⁰ The contractor industry is the industry of the firm contracting the decedent or the decedent's firm. Contractor industry data from 2011 to the present are based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2007.

NOTE: Data for all years are revised and final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries