The number of injuries and illnesses resulting in time away from work declined from 1998 after staying about the same in 1999.

The incidence rate for lost workday cases declined steadily from 4.1 cases per 100 full-time workers in 1990 to 3.0 cases per 100 full-time workers in 2000. Rates for the two types of lost workday cases moved in opposite directions during that period.

Two-thirds of the injured or ill workers were men, well above their 59 percent share of the nation’s hours worked.

A majority of injured or ill workers were 20 to 44 years old. Workers 20 to 44 had a higher, while workers 45 and older had a lower incidence of injuries or illnesses than each of their hours worked shares suggest.

Operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for 4 out of every 10 injuries and illnesses, well above their employment share of 16%.

Occupations with the Most Injuries and Illnesses with days away from work, 2000

Truck drivers suffered the most injuries and illnesses involving days away from work, followed by laborers, nonconstruction and by nursing aides, orderlies.

In 1992 laborers, nonconstruction suffered more injuries than any other occupations; however from 1993 to 2000 truck drivers suffered the most injuries involving time away from work.

Truck drivers, nonconstruction laborers, nursing aides and orderlies, construction laborers, janitors and cleaners, assemblers, and carpenters experienced a higher percentage of injuries and illnesses than their employment share. Cooks, cashiers and registered nurses experienced a lower percentage of injuries and illnesses than their employment share.

Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Length of Service, 2000

- **Not reported**: 12.6%
- **Less than 3 months**: 13.0%
- **3 to 11 months**: 18.5%
- **1 to 5 years**: 31.5%
- **More than 5 years**: 24.3%

Length of Service

(1,664,018 injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work)

Most workers had at least 1 year of service with their employer when they were injured or became ill.

Each injury or illness is described from four viewpoints.

The Nature of the Disabling Condition, Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work, 2000

Nature of Injury or Illness
(1,664,018 injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work)

Sprains and strains accounted for over 728,000 or nearly 44 percent of all nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses.

The back was involved in almost one-fourth of all occupational injuries and illnesses.

Four sources accounted for over half of all nonfatal injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work: floor, ground surfaces 16.7%; worker motion or position 15.5%; containers 14.4%; and parts and materials 11.0%.

Bodily reaction and exertion, contact with objects and equipment, and falls accounted for almost 90% on nonfatal injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work.

The incidence rate for all events and exposures improved by over 40% between 1992 and 2000. The chart shows six events improved more than the average and eight events improved less than the average.

The median days away from work due to nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses increased as the age of the worker increased.

Occupations with the Highest Median Days Away from Work, 2000

Of the occupations with at least 1/2% of the total days away from work cases, truck drivers and electricians had a median of 9 days compared to a median of 6 days for all occupations.

Carpal tunnel syndrome had a median of 27 days away from work, followed by fractures with 20 days and amputations with 18 days.

Median Days Away from Work Due to Nonfatal Occupational Injury or Illness by Event or Exposure, 2000

Medians for events and exposures are as follows:

- Repetitive motion: 19 days
- Fall to lower level: 11 days
- Transportation accidents: 10 days
- Fires and explosions: 9 days
- Overexertion: 7 days
- Slips, trips, loss of balance - without fall: 7 days
- Fall to same level: 7 days
- Overexertion in lifting: 6 days
- Caught in equipment: 6 days
- Assaults and violent acts by person: 5 days
- Struck against object: 4 days
- Struck by object: 4 days
- Exposure to harmful substances: 3 days

All events have a median of 6 days.

Repetitive motion, with a median of 19 days, resulted in the longest absences from work among the leading events and exposures. Falls to a lower level, transportation accidents, and fires and explosions also had medians well above the national median.

Injuries and illnesses to the abdomen (17 days) and to the wrist (12 days) took the longest median time from which to recover.

Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for over 76% of the musculoskeletal disorders that resulted in days away from work in 2000.

Comparison of Total Injury and Illness Cases Involving Days Away from Work to MSD Cases Involving Days Away from Work, 1992-2000

The percentage of total cases involving lost worktime that result from musculoskeletal disorders has remained constant since 1992.