The number of injuries and illnesses resulting in time away from work declined by 7.6 percent from 2000.

Lost workday case incidence rates, injuries and illnesses, private industry, 1982-2001

The incidence rate for lost workday cases declined steadily from 4.1 cases per 100 full-time workers in 1990 to 2.8 cases per 100 full-time workers in 2001. 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 almost 4 out of every 10 injuries and illnesses, well above their employment share of 15%.

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

In 1992 laborers, nonconstruction suffered more injuries than any other occupations; however from 1993 to 2001 truck drivers suffered the most injuries involving time away from work.

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

Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Length of Service, 2001

- Not reported: 11.8%
- Less than 3 months: 11.8%
- 3 to 11 months: 18.5%
- 1 to 5 years: 33.3%
- More than 5 years: 24.6%

Length of Service

(1,537,567 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, 2001

Sprains, strains accounted for almost 670,000 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.

Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Source of Injury or Illness, 2001

Four sources accounted for over half of all nonfatal injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work: floor, ground surfaces 17.2%; worker motion or position 16.0%; containers 13.6%; and parts and materials 10.6%.

The Manner in Which the Disabling Condition Occurred, Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work, 2001

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 almost 45% between 1992 and 2001. The chart shows seven events improved more than the average and seven 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.

Of the occupations with at least 1/2% of the total days away from work cases, bus drivers had a median of 11 days. Truck drivers; plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters; and industrial machinery repairers had a median of 10 days. This compared to a median of 6 days for all occupations.

Median Days Away from Work Due to Nonfatal Occupational Injury or Illness by Nature, 2001

Carpal tunnel syndrome had a median of 25 days away from work, followed by fractures with 21 days and amputations with 18 days.

Repetitive motion, with a median of 18 days, resulted in the longest absences from work among the leading events and exposures. Falls to a lower level, transportation accidents, overexertion in lifting, overexertion, and falls on the same level also had medians above the national median.

Median Days Away from Work Due to Nonfatal Occupational Injury or Illness by Part of Body, 2001

Injuries and illnesses to the abdomen (17 days) and to the wrist (13 days) took the longest median time from which to recover. Injuries and illnesses to the shoulder, knee, and leg also took a median of 10 or more days from which to recover.

Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for over 76% of the musculoskeletal disorders that resulted in days away from work in 2001.

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