Occupations with the Most Injuries and Illnesses with Days Away from Work, 2002

Injuries and Illnesses (thousands)

- Truck drivers: 112.2
- Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants: 79.0
- Laborers, nonconstruction: 76.6
- Janitors and cleaners: 42.0
- Construction laborers: 41.9
- Assemblers: 34.4
- Carpenters: 28.3
- Supervisors and proprietors, sales: 26.1
- Cooks: 24.7
- Sales workers, other commodities: 24.7

(1,436,194 injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work)

Percentages of Employment and Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses for Occupations with the Most Injuries and Illnesses, 2002

Truck drivers, nursing aides and orderlies, nonconstruction laborers, janitors and cleaners, construction laborers, assemblers, carpenters and other commodities sales workers experienced a higher percentage of injuries and illnesses than their employment share. Sales supervisors and proprietors and cooks experienced a lower percentage of injuries and illnesses than their employment share.

Of the occupations with at least 1/2% of the total days away from work cases, truck drivers had a median of 13 days. Electricians; plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters; industrial machinery repairers; and industrial truck and tractor equipment operators had a median of 10 days. This compared to a median of 7 days for all occupations.

Injuries and Illnesses with days away from work
(Total = 1,436,194 injuries and illnesses)

Good-producing industries make up about 20 percent of private industry employment but account for one-third of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work while service producing industries make up about 80 percent of the employment and two-thirds of the injuries and illnesses.

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

**Hours Worked and Nonfatal Injury and Illness by Gender of Worker, 2002**

- **Men**: 64.8% of injuries and illnesses, 58.8% of hours worked.
- **Women**: 34.9% of injuries and illnesses, 41.2% of hours worked.

**Injuries and Illnesses with days away from work**

(Total = 1,436,194 injuries and illnesses)
Chart excludes unreported data.

**Hours worked**

(Current Population Survey, Private Wage and Salary Workers)

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

Except for workers 14 to 15, the median days away from work due to nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses increased as the age of the worker increased.

Workers who were with their employers for more than 5 years became injured or ill less often than their employment share suggests.

Operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for almost 4 out of every 10 injuries and illnesses, well above their employment share of 15%.

Injury and Illness Topology

Nature of disabling condition

Part of body affected

Event or exposure

Source directly producing disability

Each injury or illness is described from four viewpoints.

Incidence rates of occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work due to overexertion and contact with objects/equipment, 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Overexertion</th>
<th>Contact with objects/equipment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private industry</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, and fishing</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>63.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>84.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>97.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and public utilities</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>74.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>43.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, insurance, and real estate</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even though both had the same incidence rate of 43.1, contacts with objects and equipment was the most prevalent event in goods-producing industries while in service-producing industries overexertion was the most prevalent event.

Sprains and strains accounted for almost 620,000 cases or 43 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, 2002

Source of Injury or Illness
(1,436,194 injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work)

Four sources accounted for over half of all nonfatal injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work: floor, ground surfaces 17.8%; worker motion or position 15.4%; containers 13.4%; and parts and materials 10.3%.

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.

Carpal tunnel syndrome had a median of 30 days away from work, followed by fractures with 29 days and amputations with 26 days.

Median Days Away from Work Due to Nonfatal Occupational Injury or Illness by Part of Body, 2002

Median days away from work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Part</th>
<th>Median Days Away from Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All parts of body</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrist</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple parts</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower extremities</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trunk</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot, except toe</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper extremities</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toe</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finger</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand, except finger</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body systems</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Injuries and illnesses to the wrist (15 days), shoulder (15 days), and to the knee (14 days) took the longest median time from which to recover.

Repetitive motion, with a median of 23 days, resulted in the longest absences from work among the leading events and exposures. Falls to a lower level, fires and explosions, transportation accidents, falls on same level, overexertion in lifting, and overexertion also had medians above the national median.

Median Days Away from Work Due to Nonfatal Occupational Injury or Illness by Source, 2002

- Worker motion or position: 11 days
- Vehicles: 10 days
- Floors, walkways, ground surfaces: 10 days
- Parts and materials: 7 days
- Machinery: 7 days
- Containers: 7 days
- Health care patient: 6 days
- Tools, instruments, and equipment: 5 days
- Furniture and fixtures: 5 days
- Chemicals and chemical products: 3 days

Of the source of the injury or illness, worker motion or position, vehicles, and floors, walkways, ground surfaces had the longest absences from work.

Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for over three-fourths of the musculoskeletal disorders that resulted in days away from work in 2002.

Musculoskeletal Disorders with Days Away from Work by Nature of Injury or Illness, 2002

Sprains, strains, tears 75.8%
Carpal tunnel syndrome 4.6%
MSD system and connective tissue disorders, except tendonitis 1.8%
Tendonitis 1.7%
Soreness, pain, except back 5.3%
Back pain, hurt back 6.3%
Hernia 4.5%

Nature of Injury or Illness
(487,915 MSD cases that resulted in days away from work)