In 2006, injuries and illnesses with days away from work declined by 4.1 percent. Goods-producing industries had a decline of 3.5 percent, while service-providing industries had a decline of 4.5 percent.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Percent change in incidence rate of injuries and illnesses by selected events and exposures, 2005-2006

Incidence rates for all events fell by 5.8 percent between 2005 and 2006. Repetitive motion fell by 15 percent; falls on same level fell by 11 percent. Slips, trips; struck by object; and contact with object, equipment fell by less than the average. The incidence rates for assaults, violent act, by person; being caught in object, equipment, material; and exposures to harmful substances increased from 2005 to 2006.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work. Chart 2
These 11 occupations have had 20,000 or more cases for the past 4 years. Light or delivery service truck drivers declined by 18 percent, the largest percentage decline, followed by carpenters which declined by 11 percent, and janitors and cleaners which declined by 10 percent. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers had the largest number of injuries and illnesses.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Transportation and material moving occupations have the highest incidence rate of occupation groups, at 301. They also have the second-highest number of injuries and illnesses.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
These eleven occupations have 20,000 or more cases of injuries and illnesses. Retail salespersons have a high number of injuries and illnesses, but only have an incidence rate of 106 per 10,000 full-time workers, a lower rate than average. This is due to the large number of persons working as retail salespersons.
These eleven occupations have 1/10 of one percent of employment and an incidence rate of 300 or more. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers have the highest number of injuries and illnesses, but are third in terms of incidence rates behind nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants; and construction laborers.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.  
Chart 6
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Almost two-thirds of injured or ill workers were men in 2006, well above their 59 percent share of the nation’s hours worked.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
In 2006, there were 158,760 injuries and illnesses among Hispanic or Latino workers. Hispanic or Latino workers made up nearly 20 percent of injuries and illnesses where race or ethnicity was reported. Race is not reported in nearly one-third of all cases.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work. Chart 9
Median days away from work and incidence rate due to injuries and illnesses by age of worker, 2006

Median days away from work is a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses. Injuries and illnesses become more severe as age increases, from 4 days away from work for workers aged 16 to 24 to 15 days for those workers 65 years old and older. The rate of injuries and illnesses are highest for younger workers, and decline with age. Workers 65 and older had the lowest incidence rate at 106, while workers aged 20 to 24 had the highest incidence rate of 143.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
A nursing aide

sprains from over-exertion in lifting patient

her back

Nature of disabling condition

Event or exposure

Part of body affected

Source directly producing disability

Each injury or illness is described from four viewpoints.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work. Chart 11
Sprains and strains accounted for 472,740 cases, or approximately 4 out of 10 of all nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work in 2006. The incidence rate of sprains and strains decreased by 6 percent from 2005 to 2006. The rate of soreness, pain, except back increased by 4 percent.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Fractures had the most median days away from work in 2006 with 28 days, followed by carpal tunnel syndrome with 27 days and amputation with 22 days.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.  Chart 13
Upper extremities, lower extremities, and back each accounted for over one-fifth of all injuries and illnesses.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.  

Chart 14
Injuries and illnesses to the shoulder (16 days), knee (14 days), and wrist (14 days) required the most time to recuperate in 2006. These were at least twice the median time required for all parts.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work. Chart 15
Four sources accounted for over half of all nonfatal occupational injuries and illness that resulted in days away from work in 2006: floor, ground surfaces with 18 percent; worker motion or position with 14 percent; containers with 12 percent; and parts and materials with 11 percent.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work. Chart 16
Of the sources of the injury or illness, floors, walkways, ground surfaces (11 days), worker motion or position (10 days), and vehicles (9 days) had the highest median days away from work.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Distribution of injuries and illnesses by event or exposure, 2006

Bodily reaction and exertion, contact with objects and equipment, and falls accounted for nearly 9 out of 10 nonfatal injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work in 2006.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Of the events shown, repetitive motion injuries and illnesses had the highest median days away from work, but had a relatively low incidence rate. At 19 days, its median was more than double the median for all injuries and illnesses.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
In 2006, musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) accounted for 357,160 cases, or 30 percent of the total injuries and illnesses with days away from work. MSD cases decreased by almost 5 percent from 2005 to 2006.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Sprains, strains, tears accounted for over three-fourths of the musculoskeletal disorders that resulted in days away from work in 2006.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.   
Chart 21
Number and incidence rate of injuries and illnesses due to musculoskeletal disorders by selected occupations, 2006

The above occupations had 0.5 percent or more of total cases, and have more than twice the average MSD incidence rate. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants have 8 times the average rate of MSDs.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work. Chart 22