2007 Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

Case and Demographics

November 20, 2008

[NOTE: This chart package was reissued in March 2009 to correct the following charts: 11, 15, 19, 20, and 21. Coding misclassifications for selected nature, event or exposure, and source categories within the mining and rail transportation industries necessitated the corrections.]
In 2007, injuries and illnesses with days away from work declined 2.1 percent. Injuries and illnesses for goods-producing industries declined by 8 percent, while in service-providing industries they increased by 0.8 percent.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
In 2007, incidence rates for all events or exposures decreased by 4.4 percent. Each of the subcategories of contact with object, equipment had improvement in their incidence rate, but only two had above average improvement. Struck against object improved by 14 percent and caught in object improved by 11 percent. Struck by object improved by 3 percent.

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 10 occupations have had 20,000 or more cases for the past 3 years. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers had a 7 percent decrease in days-away-from-work cases from 2006 to 2007.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
These 10 occupations have 20,000 or more cases of injuries and illnesses. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers had 79,000 cases of injuries and illnesses and a rate of 434 per 10,000 workers. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants had a higher rate, 465 per 10,000 workers, but fewer cases.
Incidence rate and number of injuries and illnesses for occupations with high incidence rates, 2007

These eleven occupations have 1/10 of one percent of employment and an incidence rate of 300 or more. Food servers had a rate of 415 per 10,000 workers, but a much lower number of cases compared to heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers whose rate was 349.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.  Chart 5
In 2007, goods-producing industries made up 20 percent of private industry employment but accounted for 30 percent of injuries and illnesses with days away from work. Service-providing industries made up 80 percent of employment and 70 percent 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.
Almost two-thirds of injured or ill workers were men in 2007, well above their 59 percent share of the total 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 2007, there were 157,320 injuries and illnesses among Hispanic or Latino workers. Hispanic or Latino workers made up 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 8
Median days away from work is a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses. Injuries and illnesses become more severe as age increases, requiring 4 days away from work for workers aged 16 to 24 to 16 days for those workers 65 years old and older.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work. Chart 9
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 10
Distribution of injuries and illnesses by nature, 2007

Sprains, strains accounted for 448,380 injuries and illnesses with days away from work and had an incidence rate of 47.3 per 10,000 full-time workers.

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 2007 with 30 days, followed by carpal tunnel syndrome with 28 days and amputations with 21 days.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Upper extremities, lower extremities, and back each accounted for one-fifth of all injuries and illnesses.
Injuries and illnesses to the shoulder (18 days), knee (15 days), and wrist (14 days) required the most time to recuperate in 2007. These were at least twice the median time required for all parts.
Four sources accounted for more than half of all nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work: floor, ground surfaces with 20 percent; worker motion or position with 14 percent; containers with 12 percent; and parts and materials with 10 percent.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
Floors, walkways, and ground surfaces and worker motion or position had the highest median days away from work with rates of 24 and 17 respectively.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work.
More than 8 out of 10 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work in 2007 were from contact with objects, equipment, and material; bodily reaction and exertion; or falls.

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 a relatively low incidence rate. At 20 days, its median was almost three times the median for all injuries and illnesses.
In 2007, musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) accounted for 335,390 cases, or 29 percent of the total injuries and illnesses with days away from work. The incidence rate for MSDs declined 9 percent from 2006 to 2007.

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

Chart 19
Sprains, strains, tears accounted for three-fourths of the musculoskeletal disorders that resulted in days away from work in 2007. Carpal tunnel syndrome accounted for 4 percent of the MSD cases.
Incidence rate and number of injuries and illnesses due to musculoskeletal disorders by selected occupations, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Incidence Rate (per 10,000 workers)</th>
<th>Number of MSD Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>19,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency medical technicians and paramedics</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>19,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>18,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservation and transportation ticket agents</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>18,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light or delivery services truck drivers</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>18,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>18,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus, truck, diesel mechanics</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>18,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maids and housekeeping cleaners</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>18,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors and cleaners</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>18,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction laborers</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>18,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver/sales workers</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>24,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial machinery mechanics</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>27,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>335,390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These occupations had a 0.5 percent or more of total cases and have more than twice the average MSD incidence rate. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants have 7 times the average rate of MSDs but their number of cases declined 12 percent in 2007.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, cases involving days away from work. Chart 21