
Case and Demographics
November 9, 2010
Local and state government both had much higher rates than private industry. Local government had a rate of 185 injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time workers and state government had a rate of 180. Private industry had a rate of 106.

In 2009, the number of injuries and illnesses with days away from work declined 10.5 percent, the largest decline since 2003. Injuries and illnesses for goods-producing industries declined by 22.6 percent, while in service-providing industries they declined by 5.6 percent.

In 2009, the rate of injuries and illnesses from being struck by objects declined by 11.2 percent in private industry. Transportation accidents declined by 9.8 percent. Total assaults, which includes assaults by animals and all other assaults, increased, as did injuries and illnesses from repetitive motion.

Chart 4

Twelve occupations had a total of 18,000 cases or more in private industry, state government, and local government. Of these, police and sheriff’s patrol officers had the highest rate of injuries and illnesses by far. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers had the highest number of cases.

Number and incidence rate of injuries and illnesses for occupations with 18,000 cases or more, all ownerships, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number of cases</th>
<th>Rate per 10,000 full-time workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police and sheriff’s patrol officers</td>
<td>64,910</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light or delivery truck drivers</td>
<td>50,620</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional officers and jailers</td>
<td>48,180</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General maintenance and repair workers</td>
<td>47,790</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered nurses</td>
<td>35,590</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers</td>
<td>32,100</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maids and housekeeping cleaners</td>
<td>28,290</td>
<td>26,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants</td>
<td>26,690</td>
<td>26,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitors and cleaners, except maids</td>
<td>18,440</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction laborers</td>
<td>18,180</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional officers and jailers</td>
<td>18,180</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of cases (Total cases=1,238,490)
Days-away-from-work rate (All ownerships rate = 117)
In 2009, there were 9 occupations with at least 1/10 of one percent of full-time employment and had rates greater than 400 injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time workers. Transit and intercity bus drivers had the highest rate of 736, followed by police and sheriff’s patrol officers.

Eight occupations had 20,000 or more cases in private industry in 2009. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers had the largest number of cases, as they have for several years. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants followed with very high numbers of cases.
Rates of injuries and illnesses for selected healthcare and protective service occupations, by ownership, 2009

These occupations are frequently employed in both the private and public sectors. Psychiatric aides had very high rates of injuries and illnesses in both private industry and state government. The source for a majority of these cases was health care patients.
Teacher assistants had a much higher risk of injuries and illnesses than teachers in private industry and in local government. In private industry, teacher assistants had a rate of 162.9 cases per 10,000 full-time workers, higher than the rates for all other teachers shown here, and higher than the rate for all workers in private industry at 106.4. In local government, teacher assistants have a rate of 126.5, higher than the rates for other teachers, but lower than the rate for all local government workers (184.8).

Injury and illness cases in state government were split relatively evenly between men and women, even though there were more women employed in state government. In local government, men had 60 percent of cases despite only having 39 percent of employment.

In 2009, there were 125,790 injuries and illnesses among Hispanic or Latino workers. Hispanic or Latino workers made up 19.7 percent of injuries and illnesses where race or ethnicity was reported. They suffered 53.2 percent of injuries and illnesses in natural resources, 27.7 percent in leisure and hospitality, and 25 percent in professional and business services. Race and ethnicity was not reported in one-third of private industry cases.

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 19 to 12 days for those workers 65 years old and older. The rates declined for all age groups in private industry from 2008, except for workers 35 to 44 years old and workers 65 years and older, where there was no significant change.


Chart 11
Each injury or illness is described from four viewpoints.

A nursing aide sprains her back from overexertion while lifting a patient.

- Nature of disabling condition
- Part of body affected
- Event or exposure
- Source directly producing disability

Sprains and strains and bruises made up nearly half of all injuries and illnesses. Sprains and strains accounted for 493,170 injuries and illnesses in 2009. Bruises accounted for 113,280 injuries and illnesses. The number of cases for all natures of injuries and illnesses shown declined except for heat burns, which did not change significantly.
In 2009, fractures were the most severe nature of injuries and illnesses, having a median of 30 days away from work to recover, followed by carpal tunnel syndrome with 21 days and amputations with 20 days.
Injuries and illnesses of the lower extremities accounted for 281,820 cases in 2009 a decline of 9.4 percent. Injuries and illnesses to upper extremities declined 8.2 percent to 265,980, and injuries to the back declined 10 percent to 242,380. This change in distribution of body parts injured caused back injuries to slip below 20 percent of all cases.
Injuries to the shoulder took the most time to recover from, requiring a median of 22 days away from work. Wrist and knee injuries took a median of 14 days away from work to recuperate.

Four sources accounted for more than half of all nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work: floors, walkways, and ground surfaces with 21.0 percent; worker motion or position with 13.9 percent; containers with 10.5 percent; and vehicles with 8.8 percent.

Injuries and illnesses from worker motion had a median of 11 days away from work, followed by injuries from containers, floors, and vehicles, which each had a median of 10 days away from work to recover. Injuries and illnesses as a result of contact with floors had a very high rate.

Eighty-five percent of all injuries and illnesses were from three events: Bodily reaction and exertion, contact with objects and equipment, and falls.
In 2009, injuries and illnesses from repetitive motion had a median of 21 days away from work to recover, but had a fairly low rate of 3 per 10,000 full-time workers. Falls to lower level had a median of 13, higher than the median for all injuries and illnesses, and had a higher rate of 8 per 10,000 full-time workers.

From 2008 to 2009, the number of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) declined by 10.6 percent. MSDs accounted for 29.4 percent of total cases, the same percentage as in 2008. The rate of MSDs in 2009 was 31.3 per 10,000 full-time workers, a decline of 6.3 percent from 2008.

In 2009, the number of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in state government increased by 19.5 percent. Specific occupation groups in state government that increased include transportation and material moving occupations (up 46.0 percent) and service occupations (up 34.5 percent). Local government and private industry both had declines in the number of MSDs.

These ten occupations had at least 1/10 of 1 percent of total employment, and had incidence rates of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) of 100 per 10,000 full-time workers or higher. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants had the highest rates of MSDs in 2009. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants; and laborers, freight, stock, and material movers had the highest numbers of MSD cases.