

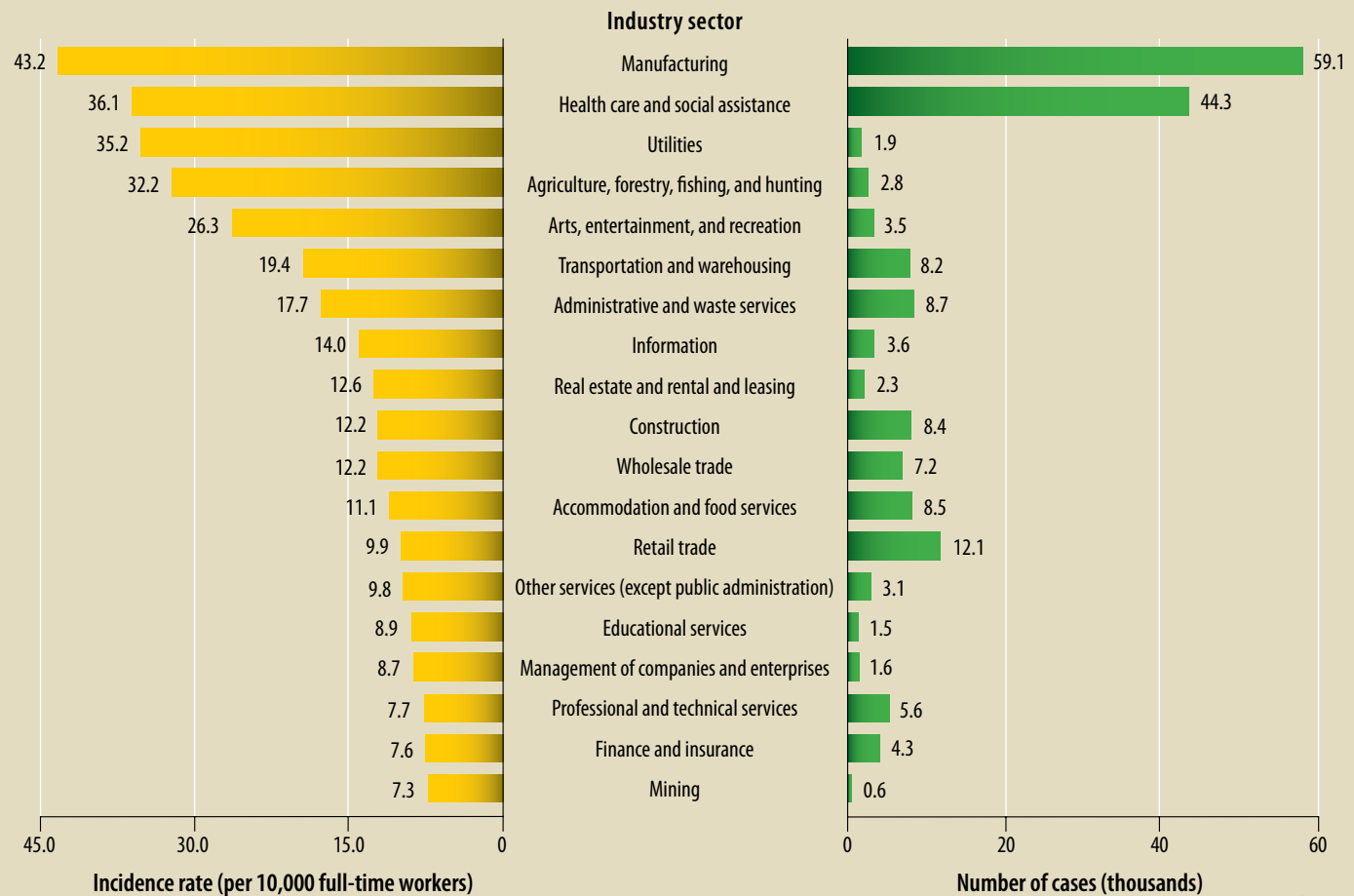
ILLNESSES

More cases of illness were reported in manufacturing than in any other industry sector in 2008. The rate of illness in manufacturing was 43.2 cases per 10,000 full-time workers, more than twice the rate of illnesses in private industry nationally, which was 19.7 cases per 10,000 full-time workers.

In 2008, manufacturing, retail trade, and wholesale trade were the only three sectors in which illness rates changed from 2007. Illness rates declined in manufacturing and retail trade, while they rose in wholesale trade.

Some conditions, such as long-term latent illnesses caused by exposure to carcinogens, often are difficult to relate to the workplace and are not adequately recognized and reported. These are believed to be understated in the SOII. The overwhelming majority of new illnesses reported are those which are easier to relate directly to workplace activity (for example, contact dermatitis or carpal tunnel syndrome).

# Incidence rate and number of nonfatal occupational illnesses, by private industry sector, 2008



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, October 2009.