2018 SURVEY OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES & ILLNESSES

CHARTS PACKAGE

November 7, 2019
Industry-level estimates

• Incidence rates and numbers of nonfatal work-related injuries and illnesses are presented by industry and case types, including total recordable cases (TRC); days away from work, job transfer, or restriction (DART) cases; days away from work (DAFW) cases; and other recordable cases (ORC).
• Industry-level estimates for nonfatal injuries and illnesses combined and for injuries only are presented per 100 full-time workers for incidence rates and rounded to thousands for numbers of cases. Industry-level estimates of illness cases are presented per 10,000 full-time workers.

Case circumstances and worker characteristics

• Estimates of case circumstance and worker characteristics are presented for the subset of cases that resulted in days away from work (DAFW).
• Case circumstances include: event or exposure, source, nature of injury or illness, part of body, day of week and time of incident
• Worker characteristics include: occupation, gender, age, and race
• DAW incidence rates are calculated per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers and case counts are rounded to the nearest ten.

NOTE:

• More information on the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) can be found in the BLS Handbook of Methods at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/home.htm.
• Data users are cautioned to take into account the different levels of precision when analyzing estimates presented in these charts.
The total recordable cases (TRC) incidence rate among private industry employers remained unchanged at 2.8 cases per 100 full-time workers in 2018. Even though the incidence rate for days away from work, job transfer, or restriction (DART) cases increased to 1.6 cases in 2018—up from 1.5 cases in 2017—the rates for days away from work (DAFW) cases and for days of job transfer or restriction only (DJTR) cases were unchanged. The rate for other recordable cases (ORC) cases also remained unchanged from 2017.
Injuries accounted for 95 percent of cases reported among all private industry workplaces combined in 2018, as well as the majority of cases reported among individual industry sectors. Illnesses accounted for only a small fraction of cases reported in each industry sector.
The estimated rate of occupational injuries and illnesses across industry sectors ranged from 5.3 cases per 100 full-time workers in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting to 0.5 cases in finance and insurance. Health care and social assistance had the highest number of injuries and illnesses, accounting for approximately 1 in 5 injury and illness cases reported by private industry employers in 2018.
The estimated rate of occupational illness across private industry was 12.6 cases per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers, with rates ranging among industry sectors from 3.2 cases in the management of companies and enterprises sector to 27.7 cases in manufacturing. The manufacturing and health care and social assistance industry sectors together reported 53.7 percent of all private industry illness cases in 2018.

Continuing a trend since 2008, the total recordable cases (TRC) incidence rate of injuries and illnesses remained highest among local government workplaces (5.3 cases per 100 full-time equivalent workers), compared to state government (3.6 cases) and private industry (2.8 cases) workplaces. The local government TRC rate increased from 5.0 cases in 2017 to 5.3 cases in 2018, while state government and private industry rates remained statistically unchanged.

Incidence rates and numbers of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by select industry, state government, 2018

Estimates of nonfatal injuries and illnesses in 2018 are available for select industries within state government and provide for limited comparisons to the same industries in local government or private industry. For example, rates observed for state government hospitals or for state government nursing and residential care facilities may differ significantly from rates in private industry and in local government as a result of different types of facilities that are more prevalent in one compared to the other.

Incidence rates and numbers of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by industry, local government, 2018

Eight in ten nonfatal injury and illness cases reported occurred with workers employed in elementary and secondary schools and public administration in 2018.

State nonfatal occupational injury and illness incidence rates* compared to the national rate, private industry, 2018


* Total recordable case (TRC) incidence rate per 100 full-time workers

Private industry and public sector estimates are available for 41 participating states and for the District of Columbia for 2018. The private industry and illness rate was higher in 22 states than the national rate of 2.8 cases per 100 full-time workers, lower in 12 states and in the District of Columbia, and not statistically different in 7 states. Caution should be taken when comparing rates among different states as some differences can be attributed to different industry composition within each state.
The incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work for all ownerships was unchanged in 2018 from 2017. The rate for all ownerships decreased each year from 2011 through 2017.
Nonfatal occupational injury and illness incidence rates and distribution of cases with days away from work, by gender and ownership, 2018

The incidence rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work for women in private industry increased to 83.4 cases per 10,000 full-time workers in 2018, up from 81.5 in 2017. The rate for men in private industry was unchanged from 2017.

Median days away from work due to injuries and illnesses and incidence rate by age of worker, all ownerships, 2018

Median days away from work is a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work. Workers 55 to 64 years old had one of the highest median days in 2018, but their incidence rate was equivalent to workers aged 16 to 19 years.

The incidence rate of falls, slips, or trips increased from 2017 to 26.6 cases per 10,000 full-time workers in 2018. In the five-year period 2014 to 2018, the rate of occupational injuries and illnesses resulting from violence and other injuries by persons or animals increased from 6.8 cases per 10,000 full-time workers in 2014 to 7.3 cases in 2018.

Nonfatal occupational injury and illness incidence rates for cases with days away from work by selected nature of injury or illness, all ownerships, 2014-18

The rate of occupational injuries and illnesses resulting in soreness, pain was unchanged from 18.3 cases per 10,000 full-time workers in 2014 compared to 18.7 cases in 2018.

Median days away from work and incidence rate due to injuries and illnesses by nature, all ownerships, 2018

In 2018, injuries and illnesses resulting in multiple injuries with fractures led to 48 median days away from work, fractures led to 32 median days away, and amputations led to 31 median days away. Sprains, strains, and tears occurred at a rate of 34.0 cases per 10,000 full-time workers in 2018, down from 35.0 cases in 2017.

Eleven occupations had 20,000 or more days-away-from-work cases across all ownerships. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers accounted for approximately 6 percent of total cases. Police and sheriff’s patrol officers had the highest rate of injury and illness among these occupations.

Nonfatal occupational injury and illness incidence rate for cases resulting in days away from work by selected occupation and event or exposure, all ownerships, 2014-18

Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers along with heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers had the highest number of cases with days away from work in 2018. Police and sheriff’s patrol officers had the highest incidence rates for occupations with at least 20,000 cases. Nursing assistants had an incidence rate of 272.4 cases per 10,000 full-time workers. A common event leading to occupational injuries in these occupations included fall on the same level.

*Incidence rates are not available for 2014 for Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers.

In state government, the incidence rate for psychiatric aides increased in 2018 and was over nine-times greater than the incidence rate for all state government workers (142.6 cases). In the private industry, rates for nursing assistants (255.7 cases) was more than twice the rate for registered nurses (88.4 cases) and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (85.6 cases).
Musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) accounted for 30.3 percent of days-away-from-work cases in 2018 in private industry and occurred at a rate of 27.2 cases per 10,000 full-time workers. This rate was down from 28.6 cases in 2017 and from 31.9 in 2014.
Nonfatal occupational injury and illness incidence rates and number of cases of musculoskeletal disorders by selected occupations, all ownerships, 2018

The rate of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) experienced by firefighters occurred at more than 6 times the MSD rate for all workers in 2018. The number of MSD cases experienced by laborers and freight, stock, and material movers by hand accounted for approximately 8 percent of all MSD cases in 2018.

In private industry, of the 900,380 total days away from work (DAFW) cases reported, 333,830 (37 percent) resulted in workers visiting a medical treatment facility such as an emergency room or in-patient hospital. In health care and social assistance, 57,390 (39 percent) DAFW cases resulted in an emergency room visit only and another 3,360 (2 percent) resulted in in-patient hospitalization.

Injured or ill workers in transportation and warehousing visited an emergency room (ER) for treatment at a rate of 53.3 cases per 10,000 full-time workers compared to the rate of 29.4 for workers in all industries in 2018. Workers in this industry took a median of 71 days away from work when treated in an in-patient hospitalization and a median of 17 days if treated in an ER compared to all industries with 41 days and 7 days, respectively.