

NEWS RELEASE

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



For release 10:00 a.m. (ET) Thursday, February 19, 2026

USDL-26-0230

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NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN 2024

There were 5,070 fatal work injuries recorded in the United States in 2024, down 4.0 percent from 5,283 in 2023, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See chart 1 and table 1.) The fatal work injury rate was 3.3 fatalities per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers in 2024, a decrease from a rate of 3.5 in 2023. (See chart 2.) These data are from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

Chart 1. Number of fatal work injuries, 2015-24

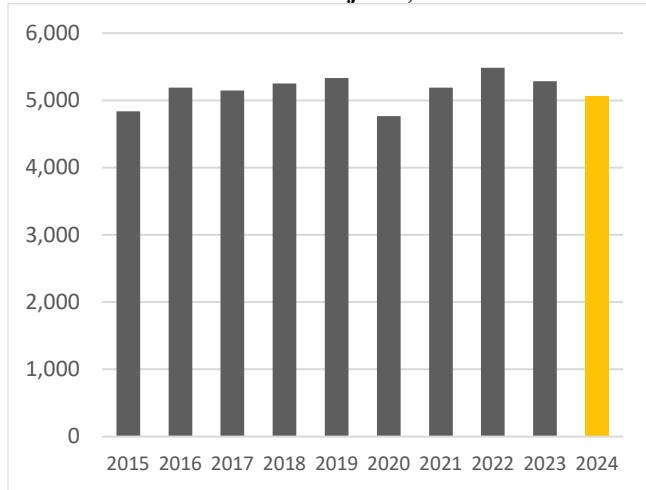
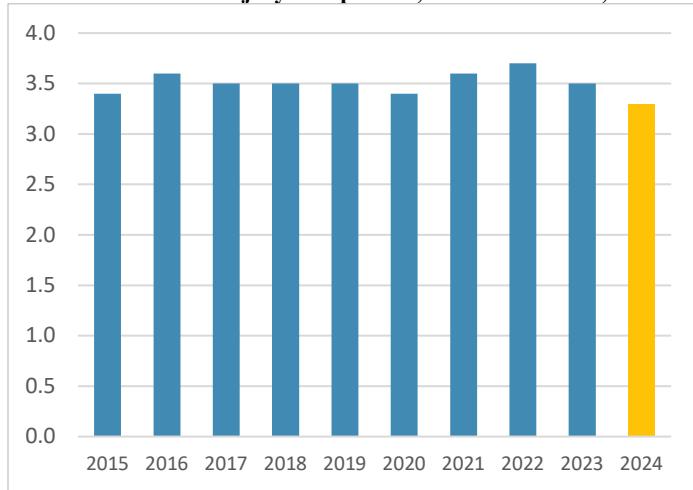


Chart 2. Fatal work injury rate per 100,000 FTE workers, 2015-24



Key findings

- A worker died every 104 minutes from a work-related injury in 2024 compared to 99 minutes in 2023.
- The fatal injury rate of 3.3 fatalities per 100,000 FTE workers decreased for the second year in a row.
- The decrease in fatal injuries in 2024 was largely driven by a 16.2 percent drop in fatalities due to exposure to harmful substances or environments (to 687 cases from 820). This decrease was in turn driven by a decline in drug or alcohol overdoses which accounted for 59.7 percent of fatalities in this category, dropping to 410 fatal injuries in 2024 from 512 fatalities in 2023.
- Workers in transportation and material moving occupations represented the occupational group with the most fatalities with 1,391 fatal work injuries in 2024, though this was a 7.0-percent decrease from 2023 (1,495). The fatality rate for these workers was 12.5 fatalities per 100,000 FTE workers in 2024, down from 13.6 in 2023.

Worker characteristics

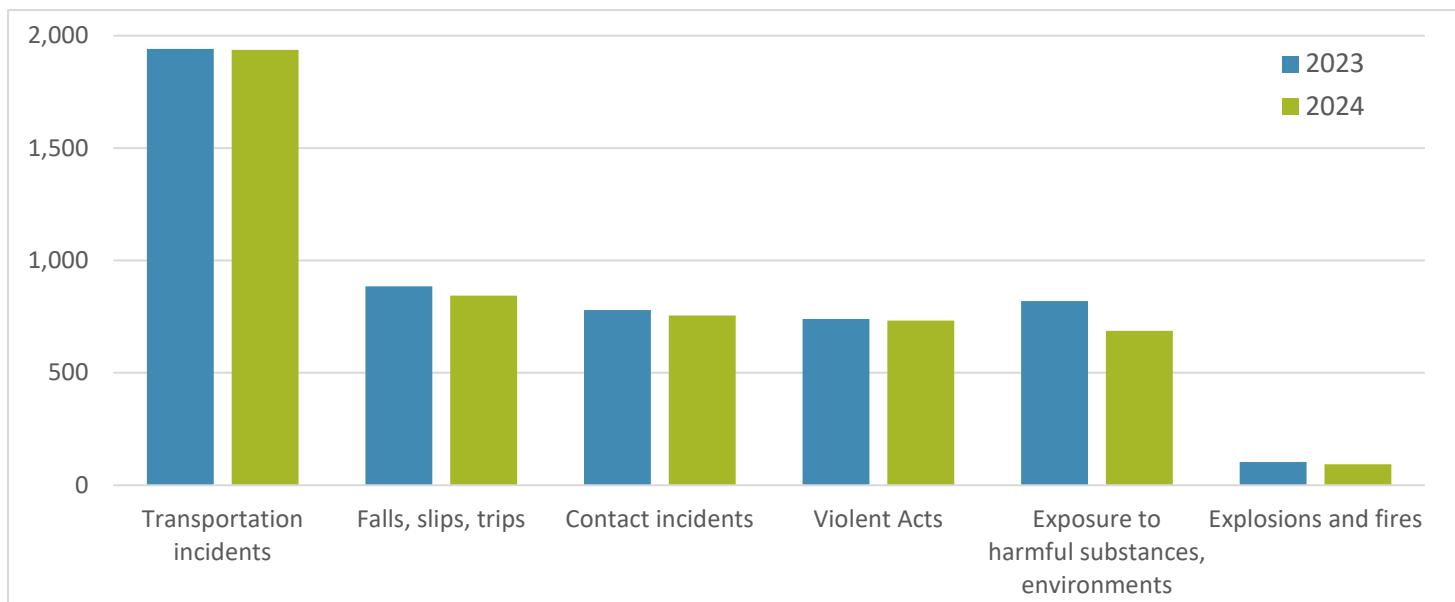
- The fatal injury count and rate for Black or African American workers decreased in 2024. The count decreased to 624 in 2024 from 659 in 2023 and the rate decreased to 3.4 fatalities per 100,000 FTE workers in 2024 from 3.6 in 2023.

- The fatal injury rate for Hispanic or Latino workers dropped to 4.3 fatalities per 100,000 FTE workers in 2024 from 4.4 in 2023. Of the 1,229 fatalities to these workers in 2024, 68.5 percent (842) occurred among foreign-born Hispanic or Latino workers.
- Women accounted for 8.1 percent (413) of all worker fatalities but 15.3 percent (72) of fatalities due to homicides in 2024.

Fatal event or exposure

- Transportation incidents continue to be the most frequent type of fatal event, accounting for 38.2 percent of all occupational fatalities in 2024. The total number of fatal transportation incidents decreased to 1,937 in 2024 from 1,942 in 2023.
- Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles decreased 8.5 percent to 1,146 in 2024 from 1,252 in 2023, while pedestrian incidents involving motorized land vehicles increased 19.0 percent to 369 in 2024 from 310 in 2023.
- Fatal falls, slips, and trips decreased 4.6 percent to 844 in 2024 from 885 in 2023. In 2024, 10.8 percent of these fatalities were a result of a worker falling from a height over 30 feet.
- Fatalities due to violent acts decreased to 733 in 2024 from 740 in 2023. Homicides accounted for 64.1 percent of this category with 470 fatalities, up from 458 in 2023. Suicides accounted for the other 35.9 percent with 263 fatalities, down from 281 in 2023.

Chart 3. Fatal work injuries by major event or exposure, 2023-24



Occupation

- Construction and extraction workers experienced 1,032 fatalities in 2024. Fatal falls, slips, and trips among these workers decreased 7.5 percent to 370 in 2024 from 400 in 2023.
- Work fatalities among building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers increased to 356 in 2024 from 337 in 2023.
- Fatalities among protective service occupations slightly increased to 281 in 2024 from 276 in 2023. Homicides (97) accounted for 34.5 percent of these fatalities in 2024.

Fatal injury counts and rates by occupation, industry, and worker demographics are available at www.bls.gov/iif/fatal-injuries-tables.htm.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Background

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities (IIF) program, is a count of all fatalities resulting from workplace injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The CFOI uses a variety of state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This ensures counts are as complete and accurate as possible. For the 2024 data, over 25,500 unique source documents were reviewed as part of the data collection process. For technical information and definitions for the CFOI, see the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cfoi/home.htm and the CFOI definitions at www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/occupational-safety-and-health-definitions.htm. Fatal injury rates are subject to sampling error as they are calculated using employment data from the Current Population Survey, a sample of households, and the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics. For more information on sampling error, see www.bls.gov/iif/additional-resources/reliability-of-estimates.htm.

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), another component of the IIF program, presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry, detailed case circumstances, and worker characteristics for nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses for cases that result in days away from work and days of job transfer or restriction. For these data, go to www.bls.gov/iif.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities

In 2024, work relationship could not be independently verified by multiple source documents for 34 fatal work injuries. However, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job-related. Data for these fatalities are included.

Federal/State agency coverage

The CFOI includes data for all fatal work injuries, some of which may be outside the scope of other agencies or regulatory coverage. Comparisons between CFOI counts and those released by other agencies should account for the different coverage requirements and definitions used by each agency. For more information on the scope of CFOI, see www.bls.gov/iif/overview/cfoi-scope.htm and www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cfoi/concepts.htm.

Latency Cases

Latent fatal occupational injury cases occur when the date of injury differs from the date of death. In some cases, the death occurs in a different year than the occupational injury and are known as cross-year latent cases. In 2024, there were 215 cases where this occurred, and 190 of these latent cases occurred more than 30 days prior to the start of 2024. For more information on latent cases, see www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-10/latency-in-fatal-occupational-injuries.htm.

Acknowledgements

BLS thanks the participating states, New York City, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. Although data for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam are not included in the national totals, results for these jurisdictions are available. Participating agencies may be contacted to request more detailed state results. Contact information is available at www.bls.gov/iif/state-data.htm.

BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector entities that provided source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (Federal Employees' Compensation and

Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation divisions); the Federal Railroad Administration; the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor, and industrial relations and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

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Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by selected demographic characteristics, 2020-24

Characteristic	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total ¹	4,764	5,190	5,486	5,283	5,070
Employee status					
Wage and salary workers ²	3,864	4,284	4,601	4,366	4,182
Self-employed ³	900	906	885	917	888
Sex					
Women	387	448	445	447	413
Men	4,377	4,741	5,041	4,832	4,657
Age					
Under 16 years	14	7	6	5	15
16 to 17 years	12	17	13	18	25
18 to 19 years	66	85	77	76	66
20 to 24 years	260	289	323	339	314
25 to 34 years	833	882	962	921	851
35 to 44 years	898	977	1,058	1,035	977
45 to 54 years	954	1,087	1,111	1,042	967
55 to 64 years	1,051	1,140	1,175	1,089	1,031
65 years and over	676	702	761	757	824
Race or ethnic origin ⁴					
White (non-Hispanic)	2,898	3,103	3,167	2,963	2,821
Black or African-American (non-Hispanic)	541	653	734	659	624
Hispanic or Latino	1,072	1,130	1,248	1,250	1,229
American Indian or Alaskan Native (non-Hispanic)	32	41	35	37	20
Asian (non-Hispanic)	150	178	169	167	183
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	8	18	9	13	11
Multiple races (non-Hispanic)	14	11	16	25	24
Other races or not reported (non-Hispanic)	49	56	108	169	158

¹ The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) has published data on fatal occupational injuries for the United States since 1992. During this time, the classification systems and definitions of many data elements have changed. See the CFOI Definitions page (www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm) for a more detailed description of each data element.

² May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation. Cases where employment status is unknown are included in the counts of wage and salary workers.

³ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

⁴ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos. Cases where ethnicity is unknown are included in counts of non-Hispanic workers.

Note: Data for all years are revised and final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with state, New York City, District of Columbia, and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries for selected events or exposures, 2023-24

Characteristic	2023	2024
Total ¹	5,283	5,070
Event or exposure²		
Violent acts	740	733
Homicides	458	470
Shooting by other person	373	379
Stabbing, cutting, slashing by other person	33	43
Suicides	281	263
Transportation incidents	1,942	1,937
Aircraft incidents	98	109
Water vehicle incidents	31	52
Rail vehicle incidents	30	36
Pedestrian incidents involving motorized land vehicles	310	369
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in road work zone	48	61
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle	1,252	1,146
Roadway collision with other vehicle(s)	653	601
Roadway collision intersecting, turning	158	161
Roadway collision moving in same direction	149	140
Roadway collision moving in opposite directions, oncoming	226	208
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	349	331
Collision with object or animal on side of roadway	280	292
Roadway noncollision incident	242	208
Vehicle overturn	190	154
Nonroadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle	205	210
Nonroadway noncollision incident	153	159
Vehicle overturn	92	98
Explosions and fires	104	93
Falls, slips, trips	885	844
Fall to lower level	725	666
Fall to lower level from collapsing structure or equipment	79	64
Fall to lower level resulting from exposure or contact	32	27
Fall to lower level resulting in exposure or contact	38	39
Slip, trip, stumble or fall on same level	140	150
Exposure to harmful substances, environments	820	687
Exposure to electricity	142	130
Exposure to temperature extremes	56	53
Exposure to harmful substances	566	469
Drug, alcohol overdose	512	410
Inhalation of harmful substance	44	45
Exposure to oxygen deficiency	55	35
Contact incidents	779	756
Contact with other person, nonviolent or intent unknown	5	6
Contact with animals	40	41
Collapse, engulfment	73	80
Struck by propelled, falling, or suspended object	394	357
Struck, caught, or compressed by running powered equipment	226	213
Contact with non-running objects or equipment	38	54

¹ The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) has published data on fatal occupational injuries for the United States since 1992. During this time, the classification systems and definitions of many data elements have changed. See the CFOI Definitions page (www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm) for a more detailed description of each data element.

² Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) version 3 implemented for 2023 data forward.

Note: Data for all years are revised and final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with state, New York City, District of Columbia, and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries for selected occupations, 2020-24

Characteristic	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total¹	4,764	5,190	5,486	5,283	5,070
Occupation (SOC)²					
Management occupations	361	323	342	310	314
Business and financial operations occupations	23	27	32	25	28
Computer and mathematical occupations	8	6	12	11	12
Architecture and engineering occupations	31	29	41	37	26
Life, physical, and social science occupations	17	10	20	28	19
Community and social services occupations	26	40	19	25	33
Legal occupations	5	11	11	7	6
Educational instruction and library occupations	13	16	28	38	33
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	36	45	49	47	38
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	51	57	65	59	53
Healthcare support occupations	44	32	38	41	26
Protective service occupations	229	302	335	276	281
Law enforcement workers	115	-	-	97	132
Food preparation and serving related occupations	82	101	123	106	103
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	307	356	352	337	356
Building cleaning and pest control workers	61	80	74	67	74
Grounds maintenance workers	202	225	222	226	239
Personal care and service occupations	58	64	61	61	58
Sales and related occupations	200	200	212	219	189
Supervisors, sales workers	73	70	67	58	49
Retail sales workers	95	83	112	130	114
Office and administrative support occupations	69	91	82	86	91
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	264	218	223	235	248
Agricultural workers	148	133	146	147	151
Fishing and hunting workers	42	23	16	19	24
Forest, conservation, and logging workers	42	46	55	55	53
Construction and extraction occupations	976	951	1,056	1,055	1,032
Supervisors of construction and extraction workers	88	117	113	113	105
Construction trades workers	771	726	811	809	788
Extraction workers	59	54	70	63	58
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	393	475	431	443	437
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	135	152	140	163	157
Production occupations	224	242	268	280	238
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,282	1,523	1,620	1,495	1,391
Air transportation workers	50	68	74	63	73
Motor vehicle operators	933	1,103	1,198	1,090	1,018
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	766	874	934	823	798
Material moving workers	218	284	281	268	234

¹ The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) has published data on fatal occupational injuries for the United States since 1992. During this time, the classification systems and definitions of many data elements have changed. See the CFOI Definitions page (www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm) for a more detailed description of each data element.

² CFOI has used several versions of the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) system since 2003 to define occupation. For complete information on the version of SOC used in these years, see the CFOI definitions page. Cases where occupation is unknown are included in the total.

Note: Data for all years are revised and final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with state, New York City, District of Columbia, and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries