



## NEWS RELEASE



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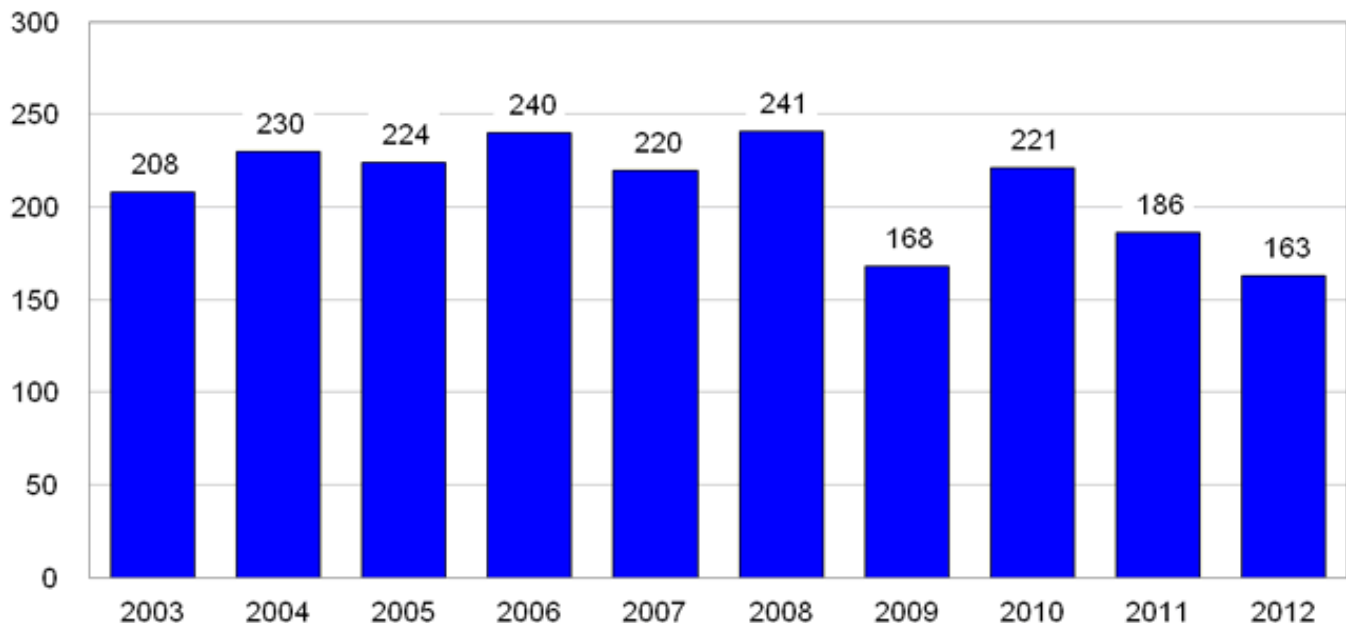
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### Workplace Fatalities in Pennsylvania – 2012

Fatal work injuries totaled 163 in 2012 for Pennsylvania, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that while the 2012 count was preliminary, the number of work-related fatalities in Pennsylvania declined by 23 over the year. Fatal occupational injuries in the state have ranged from a high of 354 in 1994 to the 2012 low of 163. (See [chart 1.](#))

Nationwide, a preliminary total of 4,383 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2012, down from a revised count of 4,693 fatal work injuries in 2011, according to results from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program. Revised 2012 CFOI data will be released in the late Spring of 2014.

**Chart 1. Total fatal occupational injuries, Pennsylvania, 2003–2012**



Note: Data for 2012 are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

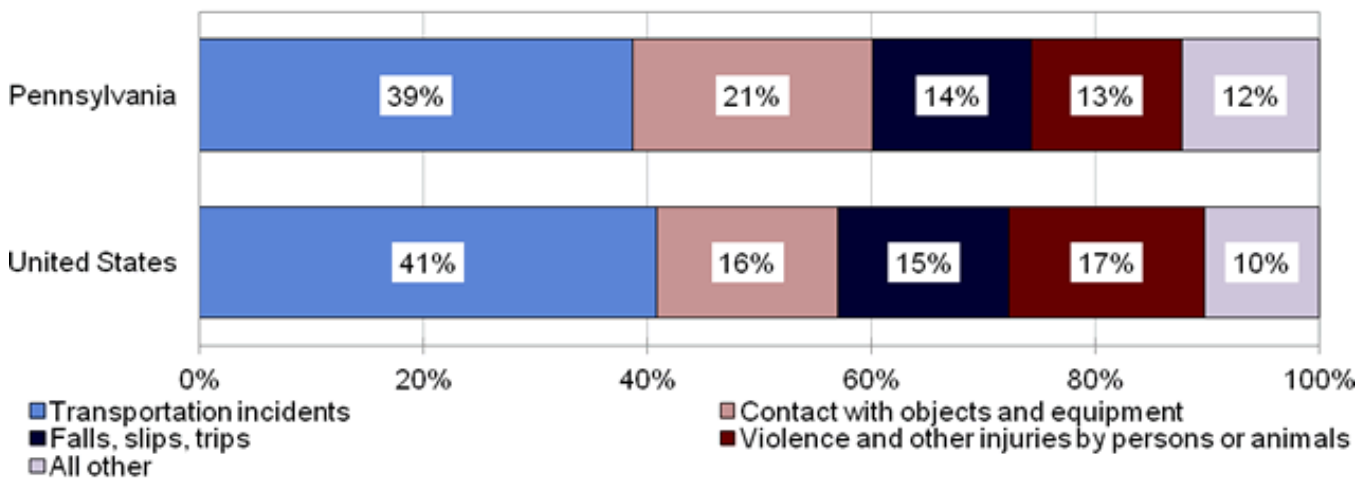
Of the 163 fatal work injuries reported in Pennsylvania in 2012, 63 resulted from transportation

incidents and 35 from contact with objects and equipment; together, these 2 major categories accounted for 60 percent of all workplace fatalities. (Note that transportation counts presented in this release are expected to rise when updated 2012 data are released in Spring 2014 because key source documentation detailing specific transportation-related incidents has not yet been received.) Over the year, worker deaths from transportation incidents declined from 68 in 2011, while deaths from contact with objects and equipment rose slightly from 33. The third-most frequent event in 2012 was falls, slips, or trips with 23 fatalities, down from 34 in the prior year. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals caused 22 work-related deaths, down from 28 in 2011. (See [table 1](#).)

Within transportation incidents, roadway incidents was the most frequent type of workplace fatality with 29 deaths accounting for 18 percent of all on-the-job fatalities in the state. The second-largest event in transportation incidents, pedestrian vehicular incidents, accounted for 16 fatalities. In the contact with objects and equipment category, 27 workers were killed by being struck by an object or equipment. Falls to a lower level accounted for 15, or 65 percent, of the fall, slip, or trip fatalities. Intentional injuries by other persons (homicides) were responsible for over three-quarters (17) of the worker deaths in the violence and other injuries by persons or animals category.

In the United States, transportation incidents was also the most frequent fatal workplace event in 2012, accounting for 41 percent of fatal work injuries. Pennsylvania's share of on-the-job fatalities due to this event was 39 percent. (See [chart 2](#).) Violence and other injuries by persons or animals was the second-most frequent type of event nationally, with 17 percent of work-related fatalities; the share in Pennsylvania was 13 percent. Contact with objects or equipment (16 percent) and falls, slips, or trips (15 percent) were the third- and fourth-most frequent events in the nation, while in the state, these events were responsible for 21 and 14 percent of workplace fatalities, respectively.

**Chart 2. Fatal occupational injuries by selected event, Pennsylvania and the United States, 2012**



Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. Data for 2012 are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### **Additional key characteristics in Pennsylvania:**

- The construction industry sector had the largest number of fatalities in the state with 26, down from 30 in the previous year. (See [table 2](#).) Nineteen of those fatally injured in this industry were specialty trade contractors.
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector, along with transportation and

warehousing had the next largest fatality counts with 22 each. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting fatalities increased from 14 in 2011, while fatal injuries in transportation and warehousing declined from 2011 when there were 34 fatalities in this industry. Transportation incidents was the most frequent fatal event in each of these industry sectors.

- Transportation and material moving occupations and construction and extraction occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities with 33 and 29, respectively. (See [table 3](#).) The majority of the fatalities within the transportation and material moving group were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (17). Falls, slips, or trips accounted for more than one-third (10) of the fatalities among construction and extraction workers.
- Men accounted for 91 percent of the work-related fatalities in the state, similar to the national share of 92 percent. (See [table 4](#).) Transportation incidents made up 39 percent of these fatalities in Pennsylvania. Transportation incidents and violence and other injuries by persons or animals each accounted for 5 of the 15 total workplace fatalities for women in the state in 2012.
- In Pennsylvania, 82 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics. Nationwide, this group accounted for 68 percent of work-related deaths.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 58 percent of the state’s work-related fatalities in 2012, compared to 59 percent of on-the-job fatalities nationally. In Pennsylvania, workers 45-54 years old suffered one-quarter of the state’s fatal work injuries, more than any other age group.
- Of the 163 fatally-injured workers in Pennsylvania, 85 percent worked for wages and salaries; the remainder were self-employed. The most frequent fatal event for both groups of workers was transportation incidents.
- In 2011, CFOI began identifying if a fatally-injured worker was working as a contractor and recording the industry of both the worker and the contracting firm. A contractor is defined as a worker employed by one firm but working at the behest of another firm that exercises overall responsibility for the operations at the site of the fatal injury. In 2012, Pennsylvania had 30 fatally-injured workers identified as fitting the contractor criteria; 26 of these deaths occurred at private sector contracting firms and 4 at government operations. Falls to a lower level and being struck by objects or equipment each caused eight contractor deaths; together they accounted for over half of all contractor fatalities in the state.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200. Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

### Technical Note

**Background of the program.** The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), part of the BLS Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses diverse state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information and definitions for the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf).

**Federal/State agency coverage.** The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other

agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

**Acknowledgments.** BLS thanks the Pennsylvania Department of Health for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector entities that submitted 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 industries, and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

**Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by selected\* event or exposure, Pennsylvania, 2011-2012**

Event or exposure <sup>(1)</sup>	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012 <sup>(p)</sup>	
	Number	Number	Percent
Footnotes: (1) Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward. (2) Data for 2011 are revised and final. (p) Data for 2012 are preliminary. Revised and final 2012 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2014. ....			
NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. ....			

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\* For full table detail, see [www.bls.gov/ro3/cfoipatables.htm#event](http://www.bls.gov/ro3/cfoipatables.htm#event)

**Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by selected\* industry, Pennsylvania, 2011-2012**

Industry <sup>(1)</sup>	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012 <sup>(p)</sup>	
	Number	Number	Percent
<p>Footnotes: (1) Industry data are based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2007. Total may include other industries not shown. (2) Data for 2011 are revised and final. (3) Includes fatal injuries at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction. (4) Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry. (p) Data for 2012 are preliminary. Revised and final 2012 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2014. ....</p> <p>NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. ....</p>			

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**Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by selected\* occupation, Pennsylvania, 2011-2012**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012 <sup>(p)</sup>	
	Number	Number	Percent
Footnotes: (1) Occupation data are based on the Standard Occupational Classification system, 2010. Total may include occupations not shown. (2) Data for 2011 are revised and final. (p) Data for 2012 are preliminary. Revised and final 2012 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2014. ....			
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**Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics, Pennsylvania, 2011-2012**

Worker characteristics	2011 <sup>(1)</sup>	2012 <sup>(p)</sup>	
	Number	Number	Percent
Footnotes: (1) Data for 2011 are revised and final. (2) May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation. (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) Information may not be available for all age groups. (5) Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude Hispanic and Latino workers. (p) Data for 2012 are preliminary. Revised and final 2012 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2014. ....			
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