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Employer-reported workplace injuries and illnesses in Iowa — 2020

Private industry employers reported 34,000 nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in Iowa in 2020, resulting in an incidence rate of 3.3 cases per 100 full-time equivalent workers, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that Iowa was among 20 states that had an incidence rate of total recordable cases (TRC) significantly greater than the national rate of 2.7. (See [Technical Note](#) at the end of this release for more information about the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.)

Iowa's findings from the 2020 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses include:

- TRC incidence rates in private industry ranged from 0.5 in financial activities to 5.9 in education and health services. (See [table 1.](#))
- Two supersectors, with 34 percent of private industry employment, accounted for 56 percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses: manufacturing and education and health services. (See [table 2.](#))
- In private industry, the TRC injury and illness incidence rate ranged from 1.8 for establishments employing fewer than 11 workers to 4.4 for establishments employing 1,000 or more workers. (See [table 3.](#))
- Iowa's private industry TRC rate of 3.3 in 2020 was similar to the 2019 rate of 3.2. (See [table 4.](#))

Table A. Number and rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses in private industry, United States and Iowa, 2020

Characteristic	United States		Iowa	
	Number (in thousands)	Rate ⁽¹⁾	Number (in thousands)	Rate ⁽¹⁾
Total cases ⁽²⁾	2,654.7	2.7	34.0	3.3
Cases with days away from work, job transfer, or restriction	1,702.0	1.7	21.6	2.1
Cases with days away from work	1,176.3	1.2	13.8	1.3
Cases with job transfer or restriction	525.6	0.5	7.8	0.7
Other recordable cases	952.7	1.0	12.4	1.2

Footnotes:

(1) Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as: (N/EH) x 200,000 where N = number of injuries and illnesses; EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year; and 200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

(2) Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

Note: Due to rounding, components may not add to totals.

Private industry injury and illness case types

Of the 34,000 private industry injury and illness cases reported in Iowa, 21,600 were of a more severe nature, involving days away from work, job transfer, or restriction—commonly referred to as DART cases. These cases occurred at a rate of 2.1 cases per 100 full-time workers. Sixty-four percent of the DART cases in Iowa were incidents that resulted in at least one day away from work, compared to 69 percent nationally. Other recordable cases (those not involving days away from work, job transfer, or restriction) accounted for the remaining 12,400 cases in Iowa, at a rate of 1.2. In comparison, the national rate for other recordable cases was 1.0.

In Iowa, the manufacturing and education and health services supersectors had significant increases in the TRC and DART incidence rates from the previous year. The trade, transportation, and utilities supersector had significant decreases in its TRC and DART incidence rates from the previous year. No other private industry supersector had a significant change in its TRC or DART rate from the previous year.

In 2020, 25,700 (75.6 percent) of private industry recordable injuries and illnesses were injuries. Workplace illnesses accounted for an additional 8,300 recordable cases.

State and local government injury and illness cases

In the state and local government sector in Iowa, 6,600 injury and illness cases were reported in 2020, resulting in a rate of 4.0 cases per 100 full-time workers. Nationally, the rate was 3.9. Seventy-three percent of injuries and illnesses reported in Iowa’s public sector occurred among local government workers.

State estimates

Private industry estimates are available for 41 participating states and for the District of Columbia for 2020. The private industry injury and illness rate was statistically higher in 20 states than the national rate of 2.7 cases per 100 full-time workers, lower in 11 states and in the District of Columbia, and not statistically different in 10 states. (See [chart 1](#).) Caution should be taken when comparing rates among different states as some differences can be attributed to different industry composition within each state.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact in SOII Results

Occupational injuries and illnesses collected in the 2020 SOII include cases of COVID-19 when a worker was infected as a result of performing their work-related duties and met other recordkeeping criteria. COVID-19 is considered a respiratory illness under criteria established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The SOII collects detailed case information, including nature, for incidences requiring at least one day away from work and codes these cases using the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS). While OIICS does not include a code specifically for COVID-19, applicable days away from work cases were included in the Nature code 3299 – “Other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified.”

Technical Note

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) is a Federal/State cooperative program that publishes estimates on nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses. Each year, approximately 200,000 employers report for establishments in private industry and the public sector (state and local government). In-scope cases include work-related injuries or illnesses to workers who require medical care beyond first aid. See the

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for the entire [recordkeeping guidelines](#). The SOII excludes all work-related fatalities as well as nonfatal work injuries and illnesses to the self-employed, to workers on farms with 10 or fewer employees, to private household workers, to volunteers, and to federal government workers. For more information on the scope and sampling methodology see the [SOII Handbook of Methods](#).

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

Table 1. Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by industry sector and case type, Iowa, 2020

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Total recordable cases ⁽²⁾	Cases with days away from work, job transfer, or restriction ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾			Other recordable cases ⁽²⁾
		Total	Cases with days away from work ⁽³⁾	Cases with job transfer or restriction	
All industries including state and local government	3.4	2.1	1.3	0.7	1.3
Private industry ⁽⁴⁾	3.3	2.1	1.3	0.7	1.2
Goods-producing	4.1	2.8	1.6	1.2	1.3
Natural resources and mining ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	4.0	2.9	1.1	1.8	1.1
Construction	2.7	1.6	1.1	0.5	1.1
Manufacturing	4.6	3.2	1.8	1.4	1.4
Service-providing	2.9	1.8	1.2	0.6	1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁽⁶⁾	3.0	1.9	1.1	0.8	1.1
Information	-	-	-	-	-
Financial activities	0.5	0.2	-	0.1	0.3
Professional and business services	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.5
Education and health services	5.9	3.9	3.0	0.9	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	2.3	1.2	0.7	0.5	1.1
Other services, except public administration	4.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	-
State and local government	4.0	2.0	1.3	0.7	2.1
State government	4.4	2.8	2.2	0.6	1.6
Local government	3.9	1.7	1.0	0.7	2.2

Footnotes:

(1) Data are coded using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information on the version of NAICS used in this year, see our Handbook of Methods concepts page: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/concepts.htm>.

(2) Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as: $(N/EH) \times 200,000$ where N = number of injuries and illnesses; EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year; and 200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

(3) Days-away-from-work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

(4) Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

(5) Data for mining (Sector 21 in the North American Industry Classification System) include establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect the changes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.

(6) Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Note: Due to rounding, components may not add to totals. Dash indicates data not available.

Table 2. Numbers of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected industries and case types, Iowa, 2020 (numbers in thousands)

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Total recordable cases	Cases with days away from work, job transfer, or restriction ⁽²⁾			Other recordable cases
		Total	Cases with days away from work ⁽²⁾	Cases with job transfer or restriction	
All industries including state and local government	40.6	24.8	15.9	8.9	15.8
Private industry ⁽³⁾	34.0	21.6	13.8	7.8	12.4
Goods-producing	12.5	8.6	4.9	3.7	3.9
Natural resources and mining ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2
Construction	1.9	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.8
Manufacturing	10.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
Service-providing	21.5	13.0	8.9	4.1	8.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁽⁵⁾	7.4	4.7	2.7	2.1	2.6
Information	-	-	-	-	-
Financial activities	0.5	0.2	-	0.1	0.3
Professional and business services	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.6
Education and health services	9.1	6.0	4.7	1.3	3.0
Leisure and hospitality	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.8
Other services, except public administration	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	-
State and local government	6.6	3.2	2.1	1.1	3.4
State government	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.2	0.7
Local government	4.8	2.0	1.2	0.8	2.7

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(2) Days-away-from-work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

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Table 3. Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by industry sector and employment size, Iowa, 2020

Industry ⁽¹⁾	All establishments ⁽²⁾	Establishment employment size (workers) ⁽²⁾				
		1 to 10	11 to 49	50 to 249	250 to 999	1,000 or more
All industries including state and local government	3.4	1.8	2.8	4.0	3.7	4.4
Private industry ⁽³⁾	3.3	1.8	2.8	4.1	3.2	4.4
Goods-producing	4.1	2.4	3.6	4.6	3.2	5.8
Natural resources and mining ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	4.0	-	4.6	3.9	-	-
Construction	2.7	-	2.5	3.3	1.1	-
Manufacturing	4.6	-	4.4	5.1	3.4	5.8
Service-providing	2.9	1.7	2.6	3.8	3.3	3.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁽⁵⁾	3.0	-	2.4	4.2	4.3	1.9
Information	-	-	-	-	0.5	-
Financial activities	0.5	-	-	0.9	0.3	0.2
Professional and business services	1.1	-	2.5	0.8	0.6	-
Education and health services	5.9	-	5.4	6.5	5.8	8.9
Leisure and hospitality	2.3	-	2.4	3.4	2.8	-
Other services, except public administration	4.1	-	-	1.4	-	-
State and local government	4.0	-	2.8	3.7	6.4	4.3
State government	4.4	-	-	3.1	15.6	3.2
Local government	3.9	-	3.0	3.8	4.3	7.9

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(2) Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as: $(N/EH) \times 200,000$ where N = number of injuries and illnesses; EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year; and 200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

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(5) Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Note: Dash indicates data not available.

Table 4. Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by industry sector and selected case type with measures of statistical significance, Iowa, 2019–20

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Total recordable cases ⁽²⁾		Cases with days away from work, job transfer, or restriction ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
All industries including state and local government	3.4	3.4	1.7	2.1*
Private industry ⁽⁴⁾	3.2	3.3	1.7	2.1*
Goods-producing	4.0	4.1	2.3	2.8*
Natural resources and mining ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	4.5	4.0	2.4	2.9
Construction	3.5	2.7	1.8	1.6
Manufacturing	4.2	4.6*	2.5	3.2*
Service-providing	2.9	2.9	1.5	1.8*
Trade, transportation, and utilities ⁽⁶⁾	4.0	3.0*	2.4	1.9*
Information	1.4	-	0.7	-
Financial activities	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.2
Professional and business services	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.7
Education and health services	4.1	5.9*	1.8	3.9*
Leisure and hospitality	2.8	2.3	0.9	1.2
Other services, except public administration	2.3	4.1	1.5	0.5
State and local government	4.4	4.0	1.5	2.0*
State government	3.7	4.4*	1.7	2.8*
Local government	4.6	3.9	1.4	1.7

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(3) Days-away-from-work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

(4) Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

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(6) Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Note: Dash indicates data not available. An asterisk (*) indicates a significant difference between the current year and prior year values, when testing at 95% confidence level.

Chart 1. State nonfatal occupational injury and illness measures of incidence rate significance, private industry, 2020

