

# **United States Department of Labor**



### **Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**Philadelphia**, Pa. 19106-3305

Internet address: http://www.bls.gov/ro3/

**INFORMATION:** Gerald Perrins

Gerald Perrins PLS - 4364 FOR RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT: Sheila Watkins

(215) 861-5600

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#### PHILADELPHIA AREA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2006

Fatal work injuries in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) totaled 89 in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the 2006 fatality count was 17 percent higher than the 76 deaths recorded in 2005. Most work-related fatalities in the Philadelphia area in 2006 were the result of homicides (22), falls to a lower level (17), and highway crashes (11), which together accounted for 56 percent of the total.

The Philadelphia area had the 4<sup>th</sup>-largest population nationally, and in terms of work-related fatalities, the area ranked 5<sup>th</sup> along with Dallas and Houston, which also had 89 fatalities each, among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Not unexpectedly, the most populated area in the country, New York, also had the highest number of workplace fatalities in 2006 with 198. The three smallest metropolitan areas in this group—San Francisco, Boston, and Detroit—had the three lowest fatality counts (ranging from 38 to 56). (See table A.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries by selected event groups in the 12 largest metropolitan areas<sup>1</sup> in 2006

Metropolitan Areas <sup>2</sup>		Highway crashes	Falls to a lower level	Homicides
United States <sup>4</sup>	5,703	1,329	728	516
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.YN.JPa.	198	36	46	28
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IllIndWis.	138	22	28	25
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.	103	8	22	13
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, Fla.	103	18	21	14
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	89	18	9	12
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas	89	11	13	19
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PaN.JDel Md.	89	11	17	22
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.	79	19	13	13
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.CVaMdW.Va.	68	9	14	12
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	56	8	8	7
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass N.H.	43	3	10	4
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.	38	4	7	9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Largest metropolitan areas by 2005 population: <a href="http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/tables/07s0025.xls">http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/tables/07s0025.xls</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Metropolitan areas used in this table are categorized into Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget Bulletin Number 07-01, December, 2006.

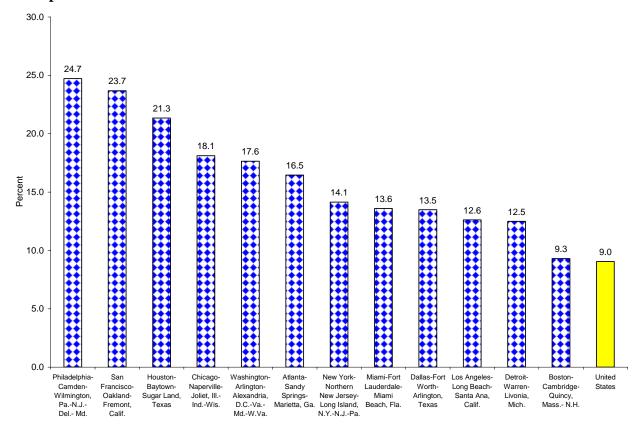
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Data are based on a preliminary total of 5,703 fatal work injuries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Also includes fatalities occurring in nonmetropolitan areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. For example, transportation incidents includes highway incidents, commonly referred to as highway crashes, and aircraft incidents; assaults and violent acts includes homicides and suicides; and falls includes falls to a lower level (as from a roof or a ladder) and falls on the same level (as due to grease on a floor or ice on a sidewalk).

All of the 12 largest areas had a higher percentage of occupational fatalities resulting from homicides than the national share of 9.0 percent. In the Philadelphia metropolitan area, homicides were the most frequent fatal occupational injury; this was also true in Houston and San Francisco. In Philadelphia, workplace deaths attributable to homicides accounted for 24.7 percent of the city's fatality count, the highest percentage among the 12 largest metropolitan areas. In Houston and San Francisco, this event accounted for 21.3 and 23.7 percent, respectively. At the other end of the spectrum, Boston recorded a share of 9.3 percent, close to that for the nation. (See chart A.)

Chart A. Homicides as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2006



In the Philadelphia metropolitan area, falls to a lower level accounted for 19.1 percent of fatal occupational injuries. The Boston metropolitan area had the largest share attributable to falls to a lower level, 23.3 percent. (See chart B.) Falls to a lower level were the most frequent fatal workplace event in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Washington, and Boston in 2006. In Detroit, both falls to a lower level and highway crashes (referred to here as highway crashes but includes non-collision incidents as well) tied as the most frequent fatal event among workers in 2006. Eleven of the 12 metropolitan areas had an above-average share of work-related deaths attributed to falls to a lower level, Dallas being the only exception. In Dallas, falls to a lower level accounted for 10.1 percent of workplace fatalities, compared to the 12.8-percent registered nationally in 2006.

Almost all of the 12 largest metropolitan areas had a lower-than-average percentage of occupational fatalities resulting from highway crashes. In fact, only Atlanta, with a 24.1-percent share, was above the 23.3 percent registered nationally in 2006. In Philadelphia, 12.4 percent of on-the-job fatalities were attributed to highway crashes and in two areas, Los Angeles and Boston, percentages were under 10.0 percent. (See chart C.) Nationwide, highway crashes were the most frequent fatal workplace event; this was also true in Dallas and Atlanta.

Chart B. Falls to a lower level as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2006

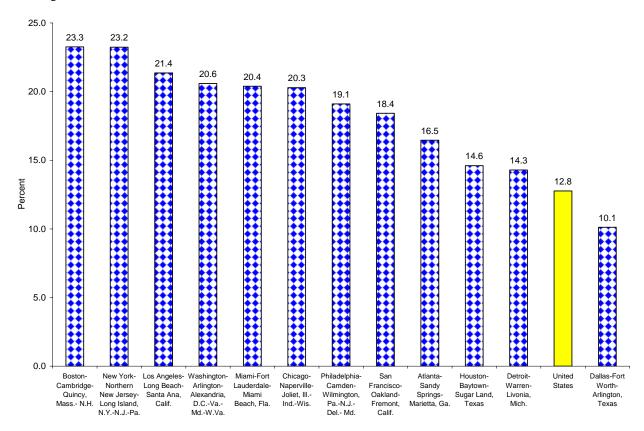
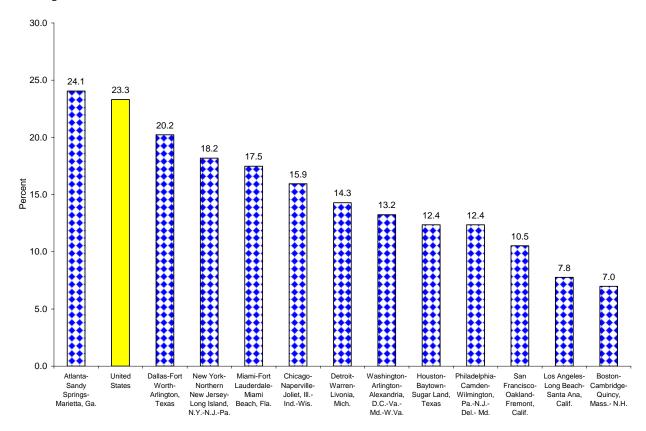


Chart C. Highway crashes as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2006



## <u>Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. metropolitan area in 2006:</u>

- -- Sixty-three percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic (56), 17 percent were black, non-Hispanic (15), 9 percent were Hispanic or Latino (8), and 9 percent were Asian (8). The most frequent fatal event for white, non-Hispanic workers was transportation incidents; among non-Hispanic blacks, Hispanic or Latino workers, and Asians, it was assaults and violent acts. (See table 2.)
- -- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 73 percent, or 65, of the work-related fatalities in Philadelphia in 2006; this was higher than the proportion of worker deaths for this age group at the national level, 64 percent. (See table 2.)
- -- Seventy-nine percent, or 70, of the workers killed on the job in the area worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed. Transportation incidents accounted for the largest number of deaths, 20, among wage and salary workers; among the self-employed, assaults and violent acts and falls were the most frequent fatal events with 7 fatalities each. (See table 2.)
- -- The construction industry sector accounted for 25 percent of Philadelphia's fatal workplace injuries with 22 deaths; fourteen of these were from falls. The accommodation and food services sector followed with 14 fatalities, 8 of which were attributable to assaults and violent acts, and the transportation and warehousing sector accounted for 10 fatalities, 5 of which were from transportation incidents. These three industry sectors combined to account for 52 percent of the total fatal work injuries. (See table 3.)
- -- Construction and extraction occupations had the highest number of on-the-job fatalities at 22, followed by transportation and material moving occupations with 21; combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 48 percent of all workplace fatalities in the Philadelphia area. Falls made up 59 percent of the fatal injuries among construction and extraction workers, while transportation incidents was the most frequent event among those with jobs in the transportation and material moving occupations. (See table 4.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at <a href="http://www.bls.gov/iif/">http://www.bls.gov/iif/</a>. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Create Customized Tables, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. For personal assistance or further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and other programs and surveys are available on our Web site at <a href="http://www.bls.gov/ro3/">http://www.bls.gov/ro3/</a>.

#### TECHNICAL NOTES

#### Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. in each calendar year. The program uses diverse State and Federal data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (industry, occupation, and other worker characteristics; equipment being used; and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, news accounts, and reports to Federal and State agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

#### **Definitions**

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. Fatalities to volunteer and unpaid family workers who perform the same duties and functions as paid workers are also included in the counts. These criteria are generally broader than those used by Federal and State agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's normal commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2006 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or impact from a crash or fall, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event or incident within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work exposures make identification of a universe problematic.

#### Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various Federal, State, and local administrative sources—including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports—as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

#### 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.

Several Federal and State agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in States with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other Federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any Federal or State agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 18 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and State and local government employees in States without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the States have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover State and local government employees.)

#### **Acknowledgments**

BLS thanks the Pennsylvania Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Delaware Department of Labor and Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation 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 agencies 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 Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; 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.

The Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of the Camden, N.J. Metropolitan Division (MD); the Philadelphia, Pa. Metropolitan Division (MD); and the Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J. Metropolitan Division (MD). The Camden, N.J. MD is composed of Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in New Jersey. The Philadelphia, Pa. MD consists of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania. The Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J. MD consists of New Castle County in Delaware, Cecil County in Maryland, and Salem County in New Jersey.

Chart 1. Total workplace fatalities in the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, 2006

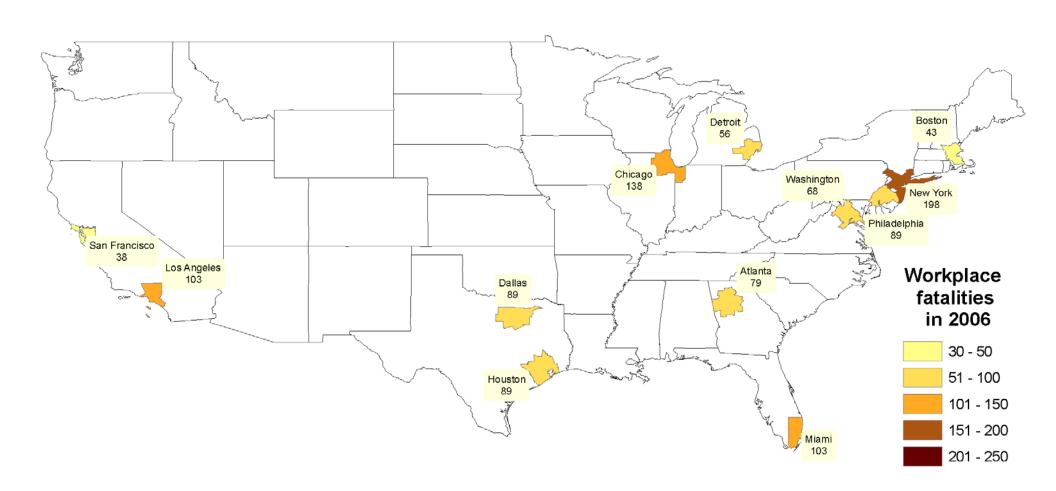


Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry <sup>1</sup> sector, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2006

		Goods producing				Service providing								
Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining <sup>3</sup>	Construc- tion	Manufac- turing	Total service providing	Trade, transpor- tation, and utilities	Informa- tion	Financial activities	Profes- sional and business services	Education and health services		Other services	
Total	89	33	3	22	8	50	21			4	9	14		
Contact with objects and equipment	13	7			4	6					3			
Struck by object	8	3				5								
Struck by falling object	3													
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	5	4												
Caught in or compressed by equipment or														
objects, n.e.c	3													
Falls	20	15		14		5								
Fall to lower level	17	13		13		4								
Fall from ladder	5	4		4										
Fall from roof	7	6		6										
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	9	4				5	3							
Contact with electric current	3													
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic														
substances	4													
Transportation accidents	20	4				13	8					3		
Highway accident	11					7	4							
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	6					3								
Noncollision accident	3													
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle,														
mobile equipment	4													
Fires and explosions	3													
Assaults and violent acts	24					21	7			3	3	8		
Assaults and violent acts by person(s)	22					20	7			3		8		
Shooting	17					16	6					7		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2006

				Event or	exposure <sup>1</sup>		
Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents <sup>2</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>3</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions
Total	89	20	24	13	20	9	3
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers <sup>4</sup>	70 19	20 	17 7	11 	13 7	7 	 
Age							
Under 16 years							
16 to 17 years							
18 to 19 years							
20 to 24 years		3					
25 to 34 years		7	0	3		3	
35 to 44 years45 to 54 years		7	9	3	7	4	
55 to 64 years							
65 years and over	7						
Race or Ethnic Origin <sup>6</sup>							
White, non-Hispanic	56	17	7	9	14	7	
Black, non-Hispanic			6	3	3		
Hispanic or Latino			4				
American Indian or Alaska Native							
Asian	8		7				
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander							

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2006

			Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>						
Industry <sup>1</sup>	NAICS code <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions	
Total		89	20	24	13	20	9	3	
Private Industry		83	17	22	13	20	9	-	
Goods Producing		33	4		7	15	4		
Natural Resources and Mining		3						_	
•	:					44			
Construction	1	22				14			
Construction	. 23	22				14			
Construction of buildings.  Specialty Trade Contractors	236	4 17				 11			
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors	2381	6				6			
Roofing Contractors	. 23816	3				3			
Building Equipment Contractors	2382	3							
Building Finishing Contractors	. 2383	3							
Painting and Wall Covering Contractors  Other Specialty Trade Contractors		3 4							
Site Preparation Contractors		4						-	
Manufacturing		8			4			-	
Manufacturing	. 31-33	8			4				
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	. 327	4							
Service providing		50	13	21	6	5	5	-	
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		21	8	7	-		3	-	
Retail Trade	. 44-45	8		6					
Food and Beverage StoresGrocery Stores	. 445 . 4451	3 3		3 3					
Transportation and Warehousing	. 48-49	10	5						
Truck Transportation	. 484	5	5						
Specialized Freight Trucking Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Long-Distance	4842 48423	3 3	3 3						
Professional and Business Services		4		3					
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	. 56	4		3					
Administrative and Support Services	. 561	3		3					
Education and Health Services		9		3	3				
Health Care and Social Assistance	. 62	7		3	3				
Leisure and Hospitality		14	3	8					
Accommodation and Food Services	. 72	14	3	8					
Food Services and Drinking Places	. 722	12		8					
Full-Service Restaurants Full-Service Restaurants	. 7221 . 72211	3							
Limited-Service Eating Places	. 7222	5		3		-			
Limited-Service Eating Places	72221	5		3					
Limited-Service Restaurants	. 722211 . 7224	4 3		3					
Drinking Places (Alcoholic Beverages)		3							
Government <sup>6</sup>		6	3						
State Government		3	3						
Local Government		3							
Service providing		3							
Public Administration		3							
Public Administration	. 92	3							
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities	922 9221	3 3						<u> </u>	
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2006

			exposure <sup>2</sup>				
Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	89	20	24	13	20	9	3
Management occupations	5		3				
Other management occupations							
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations							
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners							
Protective service occupations			5				
Law enforcement workers							
Other protective service workers			3				
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers			3				
Security guards			3				
Food preparation and serving related occupations							
Sales and related occupations			4				
Supervisors, sales workers			3				
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers			3				
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers			3				
Construction and extraction occupations		4			13		
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	··						
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and	J						
extraction workers	3						
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and							
extraction workers	3						
Construction trades workers		3			13		
Construction laborers					4		
Construction laborers					4		
Painters and paperhangers					· 		
Painters, construction and maintenance							
Roofers					3		
Roofers					3		
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations				3			
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations							
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers							
Maintenance and repair workers, general							
Production occupations				3			
Metal workers and plastic workers		I ==		]	 	<u> </u>	
Transportation and material moving occupations		10	1	<u> </u>	 	4	
Motor vehicle operators		a 10	3			3	
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers		a	]			3	
Driver/sales workers		3				]	
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer		5					
Material moving workers		J					

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 3}$  Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.