
**FATAL WORK INJURIES
AND WORK HAZARDS**

**Fact Sheet
CFOI 96-1**

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JOB-RELATED HIGHWAY FATALITIES PROFILED

Highway fatalities accounted for one in every five of the 6,210 job-related deaths during 1995 and was the leading cause of fatal work injury, according to the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. This fact sheet summarizes the characteristics of the 1,329 workers who were fatally injured in highway traffic incidents, the occupations and industries in which they worked, and the type of highway incident responsible. (See accompanying table.)

About half the highway fatalities resulted from collisions between two or more vehicles. One-fifth of the fatalities resulted from a crash with an object other than a vehicle, such as a tree, bridge abutment, or utility pole, and another fifth occurred when the vehicle jackknifed or overturned. Patterns varied somewhat according to the type of vehicle involved. Collisions with other vehicles, crashes with objects on the side of the road, and jackknifings and overturnings contributed about equally (roughly 30 percent each) to the deaths of those riding in tractor trailers. For workers killed while riding in other types of highway vehicles, collisions between vehicles accounted for slightly over half of the fatalities.

Trucks played a large role in the incidence of job-related highway fatalities. Over half of the highway fatality victims had been driving or riding in a truck at the time of the incident, half of which were tractor trailer rigs. And in one-fourth of the job-related highway fatalities, a truck collided with the vehicle in which the victim was riding.

About two-fifths of the decedents were truck drivers by profession with the rest scattered throughout other occupational groups, such as sales workers, farm occupations, police officers, and executives and managers. A similar pattern is evident in the industry of the worker's employer. One-fourth of the workers fatally injured in highway incidents worked in the trucking and courier service industry. The remaining fatalities were widely dispersed among various other industries.

Half of the job-related highway fatalities occurred between the hours of 8 am and 4pm. The worker who was killed was operating the vehicle 88 percent of the time. Twelve percent of the highway fatality victims were riding as passengers. Victims were primarily white males. About two-thirds were between the ages of 25 and 54.

(OVER)

Table A. Job-related highway fatalities¹ by selected characteristics, 1995

	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total.....	1,329	100	Total.....	1,329	100
Employee status			Occupation		
Wage and salary workers.....	1,182	89	Managerial and professional specialty occupations.....	172	13
Self-employed.....	147	11	Executive, administrative, managerial occupations.....	102	8
			Professional specialty.....	70	5
Gender			Engineers.....	23	2
Men.....	1,197	90	Technical, sales, and administrative support jobs.....	152	11
Women.....	132	10	Sales occupations.....	94	7
			Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations.....	28	2
Age			Sales representatives, commodities except retail.....	23	2
16 to 17 years.....	7	1	Sales workers, retail and personal services.....	31	2
18 to 19 years.....	33	2	Administrative support occupations, including clerical.....	34	3
20 to 24 years.....	123	9	Service occupations.....	107	8
25 to 34 years.....	295	22	Protective service occupations.....	69	5
35 to 44 years.....	316	24	Police and detectives.....	46	3
45 to 54 years.....	272	20	Police and detectives, public service.....	31	2
55 to 64 years.....	188	14	Service occupations, except protective and household.....	38	3
65 years and over.....	88	7	Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations.....	84	6
Other or unspecified.....	7	1	Farm operators and managers.....	34	3
			Farmers, except horticultural.....	24	2
Race			Other agricultural and related occupations.....	45	3
White.....	1,095	82	Farm workers.....	28	2
Black.....	146	11	Precision production, craft, and repair occupations.....	108	8
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	10	1	Mechanics and repairers.....	41	3
Other or unspecified.....	78	6	Vehicle, mobile equipment mechanics, repairers.....	20	2
			Construction trades.....	49	4
Hispanic origin			Operators, fabricators, and laborers.....	663	50
Hispanic.....	114	9	Transportation and material moving occupations.....	580	44
			Motor vehicle operators.....	559	42
Event			Truck drivers.....	508	38
Collision between vehicles.....	634	48	Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	72	5
Re-entrant collision.....	9	1	Construction laborers.....	30	2
Moving in same direction.....	125	9	Laborers, except construction.....	28	2
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming.....	244	18	Military.....	31	2
Moving in intersection.....	97	7	Other or unspecified.....	12	1
Moving and standing vehicle--in roadway.....	31	2			
Moving and standing vehicle--side of road.....	13	1	Industry		
Vehicle struck object or equipment in roadway.....	19	1	Private industry.....	1135	85
Vehicle struck object or equipment on side of road.....	249	19	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing.....	88	7
Noncollision incident.....	350	26	Agricultural production, crops.....	47	4
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision.....	260	20	General farms, primarily crop.....	24	2
Ran off highway--no collision.....	57	4	Agricultural services.....	21	2
Other or unspecified.....	77	6	Mining.....	27	2
			Oil and gas extraction.....	20	2
Primary source²			Construction.....	120	9
Vehicles.....	1,309	98	Heavy construction, except building.....	35	3
Highway vehicle, motorized.....	1,271	96	Special trade contractors.....	64	5
Highway vehicle, unspecified.....	89	7	Manufacturing.....	110	8
Automobile.....	344	26	Lumber and wood products.....	27	2
Bus.....	11	1	Transportation and public utilities.....	377	28
Motorcycle, moped.....	11	1	Local and interurban passenger transit.....	27	2
Truck.....	729	55	Trucking and warehousing.....	312	23
Delivery truck.....	28	2	Trucking and courier services, except air.....	300	23
Dump truck.....	19	1	Local trucking without storage.....	66	5
Pickup truck.....	136	10	Trucking, except local.....	199	15
Semitrailer, tractor trailer, trailer truck.....	359	27	Wholesale trade.....	87	7
Van--passenger or light delivery.....	74	6	Wholesale trade, durable goods.....	44	3
Plant and industrial powered vehicles, tractors.....	31	2	Wholesale trade, nondurable goods.....	42	3
Tractor.....	29	2	Groceries and related products.....	22	2
Machinery.....	20	2	Retail trade.....	116	9
Construction, logging, and mining machinery.....	9	1	Automotive dealers and service stations.....	33	2
Road grading and surfacing machinery.....	7	1	Eating and drinking places.....	21	2
			Miscellaneous retail.....	30	2
			Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	22	2
			Services.....	166	12
			Business services.....	51	4
			Health services.....	23	2
			Engineering and management services.....	22	2
			Other or unspecified.....	22	2
			Government.....	194	15
			Federal.....	49	4
			State.....	45	3
			Local.....	97	7

¹ Includes job-related fatalities that occurred on a public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. Excludes off-road (i.e., parking lot, farm, etc.), train, and pedestrian fatalities.

² Identifies the vehicle in which the fatally injured worker was an occupant.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1995