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IOWA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2006

Fatal work injuries in Iowa totaled 71 in 2006, a decrease of 19 from the previous year, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that the most frequent types of fatal workplace events in Iowa in 2006 were highway crashes (16), nonhighway transportation incidents, such as those that might occur on a farm or industrial premises (11), and falls to a lower level (11). Taken together, these three events¹ accounted for more than one-half of the workplace fatalities in the State.

The number of deaths resulting from highway crashes in Iowa in 2006 was unchanged over the year at 16, accounting for 23 percent the State's fatality count. Nationally, highway crashes also accounted for 23 percent of all fatal work injuries.

In 2006, nonhighway transportation incidents were responsible for 11 on-the-job fatalities in Iowa, a decline of 7 deaths from 18 recorded in 2005, which was the second highest level since the fatality census was first conducted in 1992. The highest number of deaths, 20, occurred in 1994 and the lowest, 5, in the following year. Nonhighway transportation incidents accounted for 15 percent of Iowa's workplace fatalities in 2006, compared to 6 percent for the nation.

On-the-job fatalities from falls to a lower level in 2006 numbered 11, or 15 percent of the State's total fatal work incidents. Since the inception of the census, the number of fatalities in Iowa attributed to this event has ranged from a low of 3 deaths in both 1999 and 2003 to a high of 14 cases in 2004. Nationwide, falls to a lower level comprised 13 percent of all work-related fatalities in 2006.

Other work-related fatalities in Iowa in 2006 included struck by object (5), pedestrian struck by vehicle or mobile equipment (4), caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (3), caught in or crushed in collapsing materials (3), and

¹ 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 and aircraft incidents; assaults and violent acts includes homicides and suicides; and falls includes falls to a lower level (as from a roof or ladder) and falls on the same level (as from grease on a floor or ice on a sidewalk).

electrocutions (3). Combined, these five events accounted for about 25 percent of the State's fatal work injuries. (See table 1.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in Iowa by selected event groups, 1992-2006

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Nonhighway transportation incidents		Falls to a lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	110	25	23	16	15	9	8
1993	88	25	28	8	9	5	6
1994	74	16	22	20	27	--	--
1995	54	9	17	5	9	6	11
1996	70	13	19	12	17	10	14
1997	80	22	28	10	13	10	13
1998	68	9	13	12	18	7	10
1999	80	22	28	10	13	3	4
2000	71	16	23	11	15	13	18
2001	62	16	26	6	10	8	13
2002	57	9	16	9	16	11	19
2003	76	17	22	16	21	3	4
2004	82	13	16	13	16	14	17
2005	90	16	18	18	20	7	8
2006	71	16	23	11	15	11	15

--Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Nationwide, a total of 5,703 fatal work injuries were reported in 2006, down slightly from the revised total of 5,734 fatal work injuries recorded in 2005. The count for 2006 was the third lowest annual total recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted yearly since 1992. (See table B.) The 2006 count of 1,329 fatal highway crashes was the lowest annual total since 1993. Highway crashes in 2006 accounted for nearly one out of every four fatal work injuries and continued to lead all other events in the frequency of on-the-job fatalities. Fatal work injuries involving falls to a lower level increased 10 percent in 2006 after a sharp decrease in 2005. The 2006 total of 728 fatal falls to a lower level was the second highest since the fatality census began. The number of workers who were fatally injured from being struck by objects was lower in 2006, after increasing for the last three years. The 583 fatalities resulting from being struck by objects in 2006 represented a 4-percent decline from the 2005 total.

Workplace homicides decreased 9 percent to 516 in 2006, the lowest annual total ever reported by the fatality census. Overall, workplace homicides have decreased more than 50 percent from the series high in 1994.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups, 1992-2006

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Nonhighway transportation incidents		Falls to a lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	436	7	507	8
1993	6,331	1,242	20	392	6	534	8
1994	6,632	1,343	20	409	6	580	9
1995	6,275	1,346	21	387	6	578	9
1996	6,202	1,346	22	374	6	610	10
1997	6,238	1,393	22	377	6	653	10
1998	6,055	1,442	24	388	6	625	10
1999	6,054	1,496	25	352	6	634	10
2000	5,920	1,365	23	399	7	659	11
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	326	6	700	12
2002	5,534	1,373	25	323	6	638	12
2003	5,575	1,353	24	347	6	604	11
2004	5,764	1,398	24	338	6	738	13
2005 ²	5,734	1,437	25	340	6	664	12
2006	5,703	1,329	23	342	6	728	13

¹Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to the events of September 11, 2001 which claimed the lives of 2,886 persons in work status.

²The BLS news release issued August 10, 2006, reported a total of 5,702 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2005. Since then, an additional 32 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2005 to 5,734.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in Iowa in 2006:

- Men accounted for 97 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State with 69 deaths. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, accounted for slightly more than one-half of these deaths. (See table 2.)
- In Iowa, 97 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 49 percent of the State's work-related fatalities in 2006; those 55 years or older made up 44 percent. Nationally, those 25-54 years old accounted for 64 percent of on-the-job fatalities, and those 55 and older, 27 percent.
- Of the 71 workers killed on the job in Iowa, just under two-thirds worked for wages and salaries and the other one-third were self-employed.
- Among industry sectors, construction had the largest number of fatalities (18) followed by agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (16), and transportation and warehousing (11). Transportation incidents accounted for the majority of the fatalities in both the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector and the transportation and warehousing sector. Falls were the most frequent type of fatal event in construction. (See table 3.)

- Transportation and material moving occupations led all other occupational groups with 26 worker fatalities. Within this major occupational group, motor vehicle operators accounted for 16 of these deaths and material movers, 7. Management occupations suffered the second highest number of work-related fatalities, 21. Specifically, agriculture managers, which include farm and ranch managers, accounted for 16 of these fatalities and construction managers, 5. (See table 4.)

Additional data available

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available from the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>. Data tables for 2006 are available for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and selected metropolitan areas. Detailed data may be accessed through the online query system located at <http://data.bls.gov/PDO/outside.jsp?survey=fi>. For additional information or assistance, please contact the Midwest Information Office in Chicago at (312) 353-1880, menu option 0.

TECHNICAL NOTE

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 Iowa Division of Labor Services 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.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry ¹ sector, Iowa, 2006

Event or exposure ²	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service providing							
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining ³	Construction	Manufacturing	Total service providing	Trade, transportation, and utilities	Information	Financial activities	Professional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total.....	71	39	16	18	5	29	19	--	--	4	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	11	6	3	3	--	5	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object.....	5	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by falling object.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	11	9	--	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	11	9	--	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments.....	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with electric current.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	38	15	10	3	--	21	14	--	--	--	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	16	3	--	--	--	13	10	--	--	--	--	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	11	--	--	--	--	9	6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moving in intersection.....	6	--	--	--	--	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road.....	4	--	--	--	--	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water.....	11	8	8	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	9	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Overturned.....	8	7	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in parking lot or non-roadway area.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fires and explosions.....	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ 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.

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

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Iowa, 2006

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ¹					
		Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	71	38	3	11	11	4	4
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	46	23	--	7	8	3	4
Self-employed ⁵	25	15	--	4	3	--	--
Gender							
Men.....	69	36	3	11	11	4	4
Women.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	9	6	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	8	4	--	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	18	9	--	3	3	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	19	10	--	4	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	12	8	--	--	--	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	69	37	3	11	10	4	4
Black, non-Hispanic.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

² Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race

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

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Iowa, 2006

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
			Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total		71	38	3	11	11	4	4
Private Industry		68	36	3	11	11	3	4
Goods Producing		39	15	--	6	9	3	4
Natural Resources and Mining		16	10	--	3	--	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	16	10	--	3	--	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	11	8	--	3	--	--	--
Animal Production.....	112	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle Ranching and Farming.....	1121	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction		18	3	--	3	9	--	--
Construction	23	18	3	--	3	9	--	--
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction.....	237	6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Utility System Construction.....	2371	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Specialty Trade Contractors.....	238	10	--	--	--	3	--	--
Building Equipment Contractors.....	2382	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Specialty Trade Contractors.....	2389	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Site Preparation Contractors.....	23891	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing		5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	31-33	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Service providing		29	21	--	5	--	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		19	14	--	3	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	42	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods.....	424	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	11	10	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Transportation.....	484	8	8	--	--	--	--	--
General Freight Trucking.....	4841	7	7	--	--	--	--	--
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance.....	48412	5	5	--	--	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Iowa, 2006 - continued

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
			Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Truckload.....	484121	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services		4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	56	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Government ⁶		3	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

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.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Iowa, 2006

Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
		Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	71	38	3	11	11	4	4
Management occupations.....	21	11	--	4	3	--	--
Other management occupations.....	21	11	--	4	3	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	16	10	--	3	--	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	16	10	--	3	--	--	--
Construction managers.....	5	--	--	--	3	--	--
Construction managers.....	5	--	--	--	3	--	--
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	9	--	--	--	--	3	--
Construction trades workers.....	8	--	--	--	--	3	--
Construction laborers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction laborers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Electricians.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Electricians.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	6	--	--	--	4	--	--
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	5	--	--	--	4	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	26	18	--	4	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	16	13	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	16	13	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	14	12	--	--	--	--	--
Material moving workers.....	7	--	--	3	--	--	--
Laborers and material movers, hand.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

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