



OSHA Enforcement Remains Strong, Fair and Effective

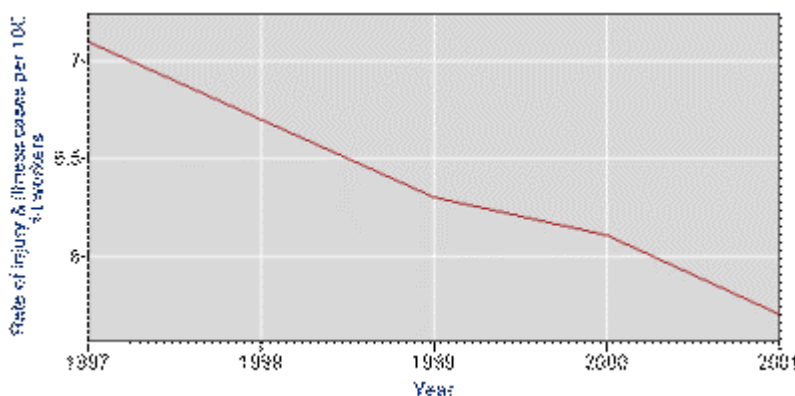
Strong, fair, effective enforcement is essential to meeting OSHA's goal of continually reducing injuries, illnesses and fatalities in the workplace. There are many components to OSHA's effort, and multiple measures of its effectiveness. However, the ultimate measure of OSHA's effectiveness is the reduction in workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities – the fact that more workers go home safe, healthy and whole to their families at the end of every workday.

Injury and Illness Rates Decline for Fourth Consecutive Year

The total recordable case rate continued to decrease in 2001. The rate for 2001 was the lowest since the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began reporting this information in the early 1970s. In addition to the decline in the rate of total recordable injuries and illnesses, the rate of cases that resulted in lost workdays also declined. The continued decline in the lost workday case rate means that fewer American workers encountered safety or health hazards that resulted in serious injuries or illnesses.

Injury and Illness Rates ^{1, 2}	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total Recordable Case Rate	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.1	5.7
Lost Workday Case Rate	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.8

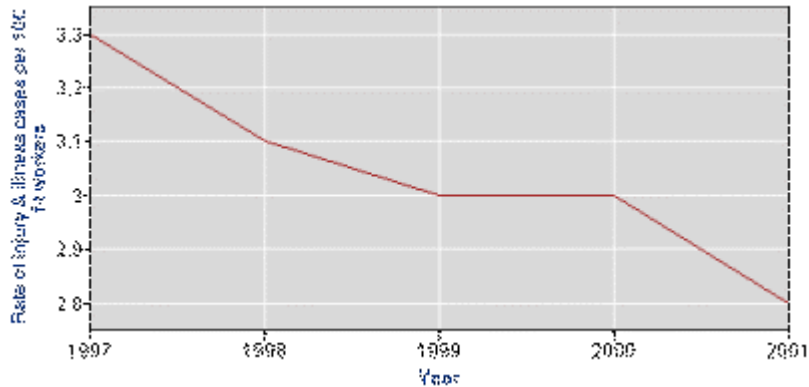
Total Recordable Case Rate



¹ Rates reflect number of cases per 100 full-time workers

² Rates are for private industry employers

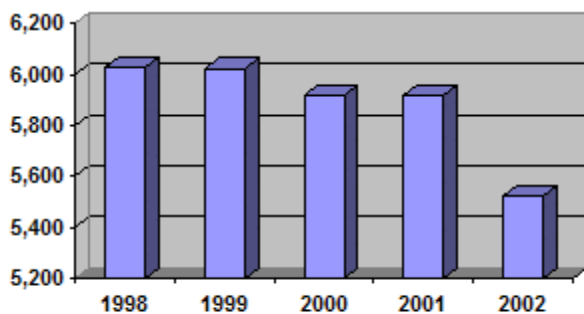
Lost Workday Case Rate



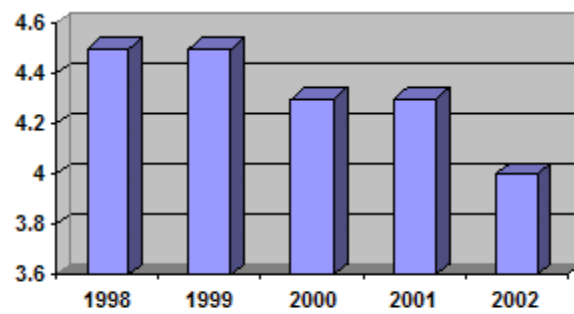
A Significant Decrease in the Fatality Rate

The most recent BLS data showed that fatality rates went down in almost all categories in 2002. This represented a 6.6 percent decrease in the number of fatalities from 2001. The fatality rates have exhibited the same trend as the injury and illness rates—steady decline. Over the past five years the number of fatalities has decreased 8.3 percent.

Fatality Statistics	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total Number of Fatalities	6,055	6,054	5,920	5,915	5,524
Fatality Rate ³	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.0



Total Number of Fatalities



Fatality Rate

Inspections Increase 5.9 Percent Over FY2002; Inspections Targeted at High-Hazard Workplaces Increase 9.2 Percent

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) continues to increase the number of inspections it conducts annually. In FY2003, OSHA conducted 39,817 total inspections — a 5.9 percent increase over the previous year. Over the period from FY1999 to FY2003, the number

³ Rates reflect number of fatalities per 100,000 full-time employees

of inspections increased 15.4 percent overall. A significant increase in programmed inspection activity contributed to the growth seen in FY2003, as programmed inspections were up 9.2 percent over FY2002 inspections. Programmed inspections focus on high-hazard industries, which have the highest lost-time injury rates. Unprogrammed inspections also showed an increase of 1.8 percent over the previous fiscal year. While these are important activity measures, OSHA's overall goal is to reduce fatalities, injuries and illnesses.

OSHA Inspection Statistics	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003
Total Inspections	34,499	36,555	35,974	37,614	39,817
Total Programmed Inspections	15,655	18,436	17,946	20,539	22,436
Total Unprogrammed Inspections	18,841	18,112	18,027	17,075	17,381
Fatality Investigations	1,211	1,195	1,130	1,134	1,021
Complaints	7,998	8,441	8,374	7,896	7,969
Referrals	4,273	4,250	4,434	4,447	4,472
Other	5,359	4,226	4,089	3,598	3,880

Total Violations Found Increase 7.6 Percent Over FY2002; Serious, Willful, Repeat Violations Show Significant Gains

In fiscal year 2003, 83,539 violations of OSHA's standards, regulations or the OHS Act's general duty clause were found in the nation's workplaces, an increase of 7.6 percent over FY2002 and a 10.2 percent increase over the last five years. Serious violations were up 11.2 percent in FY2003 over FY2002, while the number of willful violations increased 22.1 percent over the same time period. The increase in the number of serious and willful violations shows that OSHA enforcement continues to be strong, assuring workers are protected from serious hazards and identifying employers who have repeatedly or willfully violated the law. These increases show that OSHA is targeting its resources accurately to those employers who have the highest injury and illness rates and to worksites where workers are more likely to be injured or killed on the job.

OSHA Violation Statistics	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003
Total Violations	75,801	79,206	77,893	77,633	83,539
Total Serious Violations	48,907	50,977	52,180	53,845	59,861
Total Willful Violations	416	365	537	331	404
Total Repeat Violations	1,631	1,825	1,872	1,867	2,147
Total Other-than-Serious	24,037	25,427	22,776	21,128	20,552

OSHA's enforcement efforts remain strong, fair and effective, targeting the most hazardous workplaces and the employers who have the highest injury and illness rates. But the bottom line remains the safety and health of America's workers. Safety and health add value to business, to the workplace, and to life.