

# United States Department of Labor



## Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## Workplace Fatalities in Iowa for 2007

Fatal work injuries in Iowa totaled 88 in 2007 according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. (See table A.) Please note that the 2007 results are preliminary; final results will be released in April 2009. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that total work-related fatalities in Iowa in 2007 increased by 17 over the previous year. The most frequent types of fatal workplace events in Iowa in 2007 were highway crashes (27), workers being struck by an object or equipment (12), and nonhighway transportation incidents, such as those that occur on a farm or industrial premises (10). Taken together, these three events<sup>1</sup> accounted for more than one-half of workplace fatalities in the State.

Work fatalities resulting from highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents and includes non-collision incidents) in 2007 were the highest for both the State and Nation. The number of work-related highway incidents in Iowa increased by 11 over the year, from 16 in 2006 to 27 in 2007. Highway crashes accounted for 31 percent of workplace deaths in Iowa and 24 percent nationally.

On-the-job fatalities in Iowa from being struck by an object (12) increased from 5 in 2006 and accounted for 14 percent of the State's total fatal work incidents in 2007. Nationwide, being struck by an object represented 9 percent of all work-related fatalities in 2007.

Nonhighway transportation incidents were responsible for 10 on-the-job fatalities in Iowa, compared to 11 during the prior year. Nonhighway transportation incidents accounted for 11 percent of Iowa's workplace fatalities in 2007, and 5 percent for the nation.

Other work-related fatal events in Iowa in 2007 with at least 5 instances were falls to a lower level (9), and workers being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (5). (See table 1.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls, among others. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. See the Occupational Injury & Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual at www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in this census.

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in Iowa by selected event groups, 1992-2007

Year	Total fatalities	Highway	crashes	Struck t	oy object	Nonhighway transportation incidents		
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1992	110	25	23	16	15	16	15	
1993	88	25	28	8	9	8	9	
1994	74	16	22	4	5	20	27	
1995	54	9	17	3	6	5	9	
1996	70	13	19	5	7	12	17	
1997	80	22	28	6	8	10	13	
1998	68	9	13	6	9	12	18	
1999	80	22	28	14	18	10	13	
2000	71	16	23	6	8	11	15	
2001	62	16	26	6	10	6	10	
2002	57	9	16	11	19	9	16	
2003	76	17	22	7	9	16	21	
2004	82	13	16	11	13	13	16	
2005	90	16	18	12	13	18	20	
2006	71	16	23	5	7	11	15	
20071	88	27	31	12	14	10	11	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

Nationwide, a total of 5,488 fatal work injuries were reported in 2007, a decrease of 6 percent from the revised total of 5,840 fatal work injuries reported in 2006. While these results are considered preliminary, this figure represents the smallest annual total since the series began in 1992. (See table B.) Highway crashes in 2007 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. Still, the 2007 count of 1,311 fatal highway crashes was the lowest annual total since 1993. The 2007 total of 733 fatal falls to a lower level was the third highest since the fatality census began, but was slightly lower than the 738 recorded in 2006. The number of workers (504) who were fatally injured from being struck by objects or equipment in 2007 was at the lowest level since the fatality census began and represented a 14-percent decline from the 2006 total. Two other events were also at series lows in 2007—fatal work injuries involving electrocutions (212) and fatalities resulting from fires and explosions (151)

Workplace homicides increased by 13 percent to 610 in 2007 from the series low of 540 that was reported in 2006. Even after the increase, workplace homicides have declined 44 percent from the high of 1,080 reported in 1994.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups, 1992-2007

Year					oy object	Nonhighway transportation incidents			
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
1992	6,217	1,158	19	557	9	436	7		
1993	6,331	1,242	20	565	9	392	6		
1994	6,632	1,343	20	591	9	409	6		
1995	6,275	1,346	21	547	9	387	6		
1996	6,202	1,346	22	582	9	374	6		
1997	6,238	1,393	22	579	9	377	6		
1998	6,055	1,442	24	520	9	388	6		
1999	6,054	1,496	25	585	10	352	6		
2000	5,920	1,365	23	571	10	399	7		
20011	5,915	1,409	24	553	9	326	6		
2002	5,534	1,373	25	505	9	323	6		
2003	5,575	1,353	24	531	10	347	6		
2004	5,764	1,398	24	602	10	338	6		
2005	5,734	1,437	25	607	11	340	6		
2006²	5,840	1,356	23	589	10	345	6		
2007³	5,488	1,311	24	504	9	292	5		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to the events of September 11, 2001 which claimed the lives of 2,886 persons in work status

## **Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in Iowa in 2007:**

- Men accounted for 89 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State with 78.
   Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, accounted for 58 percent of the male deaths. (See table 2.)
- In Iowa, 92 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics. The most frequent cause of fatalities for white, non-Hispanics was transportation incidents (48).
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 58 percent of the State's work-related fatalities in 2007; those 55 years or older made up 35 percent. Nationally, workers 25-54 years old accounted for 63 percent of on-the-job fatalities, and those 55 and older, 27 percent.
- Of the 88 workers killed on the job in Iowa, 61 percent worked for wages and salaries; the remaining 39 percent were self-employed.
- Among industry sectors, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting had the largest number of fatalities (29) followed by construction (15). Transportation incidents accounted for about one-half of the fatalities in these two sectors. (See table 3.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The BLS national news release issued August 9, 2007, reported a total of 5,703 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2006. Since then, an additional 137 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2006 to 5,840.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

— Management occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities with 28, the majority of which were agricultural managers (21). Transportation and material moving occupations suffered the second-highest number of work-related fatalities with 26. Truck drivers (heavy and tractor/trailer) accounted for the largest share of this group's fatalities (14). (See table 4.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at www.bls.gov/iif/. For personal assistance or further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Midwest Information Office at (312) 353-1880, menu option 0, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT. Information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and other programs and surveys are available on our Web site at www.bls.gov/ro5/.

#### **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, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS Web site. To get to that document, click on Workplace Injuries on the BLS home page, scroll down to IIF Documentation, and then click on "BLS Handbook of Methods." The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part 2 of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

## 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.

#### 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 entities 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 Federal Railroad Administration; 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 <sup>1</sup> sector, lowa, 2007

			Goods p	roducing					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	88	49	29	15	5	34	27					 
Contact with objects and equipment	18	13	8	4		4	4					 
Struck by object or equipment	12	7	5			4	4					 
Struck by falling object or equipment	9	4				4	4					 
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	5	5	3									 
Falls		6	3									 
Fall to lower level	9	6	3									 
Fall from nonmoving vehicle	5	3										 
Fall to lower level, n.e.c	3	3										 
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	3	3										 
Transportation accidents	51	25	16	7		23	20					 
Highway accident	27	10		7		14	13					 
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	16	6		5		9	8					 
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	8	3		3		4	4					 
Moving in intersection	6					4	3					 
Vehicle struck object on side of road	5											 
Noncollision accident	5											 
Jack-knifed or overturnedno collision												 
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water		9	9									 
Noncollision accident	10	9	9									 

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry 1 sector, lowa, 2007 - continued

Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>			Goods p	roducing		Service providing							
	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	Professional and business services	Education and health services	and	Other services
Overturned	7	7	7										
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle,													
mobile equipment	4					3	3						
Railway accident	3												
Collision between railway vehicle and other													
vehicle	3											l	
Aircraft accident	5												
Aircraft accident, n.e.c	5											l	
Assaults and violent acts	5					3							

Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.
 Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

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 2007 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>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, lowa, 2007

		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					
otal	. 88	51	5	18	9	3						
Employee Status												
Vage and Salary Workers⁴ Self-employed⁵		34 17	 3	9 9	5 4	3	 					
Gender												
NenVomen		45 6	4 	18 	7 	 						
Age												
Jnder 16 years												
6 to 17 years												
8 to 19 years												
20 to 24 years												
25 to 34 years		5										
5 to 44 years		11	3									
5 to 54 years		9		8	5							
55 to 64 years		13		5								
S5 years and over	. 12	,		3			<del></del>					
Race or Ethnic Origin <sup>6</sup>												
Vhite, non-Hispanic	81	48	3	17	9							
Black, non-Hispanic												
Hispanic or Latino												
American Indian or Alaska Native												
Asian												
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 2007 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, lowa, 2007

			Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>							
Industry <sup>1</sup>	Industry'	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		88	51	5	18	9	3			
Private Industry		83	48	5	17	8	3			
Goods Producing		49	25		13	6	3			
Natural Resources and Mining		29	16		8	3				
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	. 11	29	16		8	3				
Crop Production	. 111	24	12		8					
Animal Production		3	3							
Construction		15	7		4					
Construction	. 23	15	7		4					
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	. 237	4								
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	. 2373	3								
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	. 23731	3								
Specialty Trade Contractors		6								
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors		3								
Building Equipment Contractors	. 2382	3								
Manufacturing		5			-					
Manufacturing	. 31-33	5								
Service providing		34	23	3	4					
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		27	20		4					
Wholesale Trade	. 42	6	3		3					
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	423	3								
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods		3								
Retail Trade	. 44-45	8	6							
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	3								
Building Material and Supplies Dealers	. 4441	3								
Con factnatas at and of table										

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, lowa, 2007 - continued

			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 sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions		
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	13	11							
Truck Transportation Specialized Freight Trucking Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Local	4842	8 4 4	7 3 3	  	  	  	  	  		
Government <sup>6</sup>		5	3							
Local Government		3								
Service providing		3								

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

<sup>b</sup> 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 2007 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 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.

<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.

TABLE 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, lowa, 2007

		Event or 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	. 88	51	5	18	9	3	-			
Management occupations	. 28	15		8						
Management occupations Other management occupations	. 26	13		8						
Agricultural managers	. 21	10		8						
Farmers and ranchers	. 20	9		8						
Sales and related occupations	. 3									
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	. 5									
Agricultural workers	. 4									
Miscellaneous agricultural workers	. 3									
Construction and extraction occupations	. 13	6		4						
Construction trades workers		5		3						
Construction laborers	. 6									
Construction laborers	. 6									
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations				3						
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	. 3									
Transportation and material moving occupations	. 26	21		3						
Motor vehicle operators	. 21	18								
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	. 20	17								
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	14	12								
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	. 6	5								

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 2007 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>1</sup> Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.
<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>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.