NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



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ALABAMA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2007

Fatal work injuries in Alabama totaled 99 in 2007, little different from 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Please note that the 2007 results are preliminary; final results will be released in April 2009. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that although this year's fatality count was little changed from a year ago, it was the lowest for the State since the Bureau began tracking workplace fatalities in 1992. The most frequent types of fatal workplace events in 2007 were highway incidents (23), homicides (16), falls to a lower level (15), and pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by a vehicle or mobile equipment (9). Taken together, these four events¹ accounted for just over three-fifths of the workplace fatalities in the State.

Highway incidents (which includes highway crashes as well as non-collision incidents), remained the most frequent fatal event in the workplace in Alabama as well as the nation. In 2007, the State's highway-related fatalities decreased to 23 incidents from 26 the previous year. (See table A.) Highway incidents across the nation also declined in 2007. (See table B.) Twenty-three percent of all work-related deaths in Alabama were highway-related in 2007 compared to 24 percent of total fatalities nationwide.

Work-related homicides increased by 8 cases over the year to 16. This was the highest number of cases since 2002. Homicides accounted for 16 percent of work-related deaths in Alabama and 11 percent in the United States.

Fatalities resulting from falls to a lower level in Alabama increased to 15 from the 13 reported in 2006. Falls to a lower level accounted for 15 percent of the work-related deaths in Alabama and 13 percent in the United States.

Fatal work injuries resulting from a pedestrian, nonpassenger being struck by a vehicle or mobile equipment (9) was little changed from the previous year's count. This event accounted for 9 percent of workplace deaths in Alabama; nationwide, it was 6 percent.

Other causes of workplace fatalities in the State in 2007 included being struck by an object, caught in or compressed by equipment or objects, electrocutions, and aircraft incidents, each with six fatalities. (See table 1.) Together, these four events were responsible for 24 percent of Alabama's fatal work injuries in 2007.

1

¹ 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 Alabama by selected event groups, 1992-2007

Year	Total fatalities	Highway	incidents	Homi	Homicides		Lower vel	Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipmen		
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1992	145	32	22	14	10	8	6	10	7	
1993	138	31	22	20	14	7	5	10	7	
1994	153	39	25	23	15	11	7	10	7	
1995	150	27	18	29	19	15	10	8	5	
1996	155	23	15	29	19	10	6	7	5	
1997	139	49	35	27	19	8	6	5	4	
1998	135	46	34	14	10	6	4	7	5	
1999	123	25	20	11	9	12	10	8	7	
2000	103	31	30	8	8	10	10	12	12	
2001	138	39	28	12	9	11	8	6	4	
2002	102	27	26	17	17	11	11	6	6	
2003	124	41	33	14	11	11	9	7	6	
2004	133	36	27	12	9	14	11	9	7	
2005	128	31	24	14	11	18	14	11	9	
2006	100	26	26	8	8	13	13	8	8	
2007 ¹	99	23	23	16	16	15	15	9	9	

¹Totals 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 recorded in 2006. While these results are preliminary, this figure represents the lowest annual total since the series began in 1992. (See table B.) Highway incidents in 2007 accounted for nearly one out of every four fatal work injuries in the nation 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 incidents 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 series high of 1,080 in 1994.

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

Year	Total fatalities	Highway	incidents	Fall to lo	wer level	Homi	icides	Struck by object		
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	1,044	17	557	9	
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	1,074	17	565	9	
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	1,080	16	591	9	
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	1,036	17	547	9	
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	927	15	582	9	
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	860	14	579	9	
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	714	12	520	9	
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	651	11	585	10	
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	677	11	571	10	
2001^{1}	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	643	11	553	9	
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	609	11	505	9	
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	632	11	531	10	
2004	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	559	10	602	10	
2005	5,734	1,437	25	664	12	567	10	607	11	
2006^{2}	5,840	1,356	23	738	13	540	9	589	10	
2007 ³	5,488	1,311	24	733	13	610	11	504	9	

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

Selected characteristics of fatal work injuries in Alabama:

- Men accounted for 90 percent of the 99 work-related fatalities. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, accounted for 42 percent of these deaths and assaults and violent acts made up 17 percent. Ten women were fatally injured on the job in 2007; half of these deaths were the result of transportation incidents. (See table 2.)
- Sixty-five percent or 64 of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic; 27 percent (27) were black, non-Hispanic; and 5 percent (5) were Hispanic or Latino. Most occupational fatalities for white, non-Hispanic (32), and black, non-Hispanic (9) were the result of transportation incidents. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 68 percent or 67 of the State's work-related fatalities in 2007; workers 55 and older accounted for 27 percent or 27 fatalities. (See table 2.)
- Two industry sectors accounted for over 49 percent of the workplace fatalities in Alabama—trade, transportation, and utilities (25) and construction (24). Transportation incidents resulted in 68 percent of the on-the-job fatalities in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector. Falls and transportation incidents were the two most frequent fatal workplace events in construction; together, these events accounted for 75 percent of the deaths. (See table 3.)
- Transportation and material moving and construction and extraction jobs led all other occupational groups with 26 and 22 worker fatalities, respectively. Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 48 percent of all work-related fatalities in Alabama. Transportation incidents was the most frequent fatal workplace event in transportation and material moving occupations, accounting for over four-fifths of the fatally injured. Falls accounted for one-half of the fatal injuries in

² The BLS 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. ³ Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

construction and extraction occupations. (See table 4.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at www.bls.gov/iif/. 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 Southeast Information Office at 404-893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. Information on the Census of Fatal occupational Injuries and other programs and surveys are available on our Web site at www.bls.gov/ro4/.

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 Alabama Department of Labor 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 ¹ sector, Alabama, 2007

Event or exposure ² Total fatalities (number) Total goods producing Total goods producing Total service and mining ³ Total goods producing Total service providing Total service providing	Other services
Contact with objects and equipment	- 6
Struck by object or equipment	- - - - - -
Struck by object or equipment	
Struck by falling object or equipment 4 3	- - -
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	
Caught in or compressed by equipment or	
objects, n.e.c	
Falls	
Fall to lower level	
Fall from roof 8 8 8	
Fall from roof, unspecified	
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	
Contact with electric current	
Transportation incidents	
Highway incident	
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment 9 6 5	
Moving in same direction	
Vehicle struck object on side of road	
Noncollision incident	
Jack-knifed or overturnedno collision	
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle,	
mobile equipment	
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile	
equipment in roadway	-
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile	
equipment in parking lot or non-roadway area 5 4 3	-
Railway incident	<u>-l</u>

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Goods producing					Service providing						
Event or exposure ²	Total fatalities (number)	Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining ³	Construc- tion	Manufac- turing	Total service providing	Trade, transpor- tation, and utilities	Informa- tion	Financial activities	Professional and business services	and health	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Collision between railway vehicle and other													
vehicle	3												
Aircraft incident	6					6					5		
Aircraft incident, unspecified	3					3							
Fires and explosions	3					3							
Explosion						3							
Assaults and violent acts	18					15	6						4
Assaults and violent acts by person(s)	16					14	5						4
Shooting	14					12	4						4

¹ 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 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

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.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Alabama, 2007

				Event or e	exposure ¹		
Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	. 99	42	18	13	15	8	3
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	92	41	16	13	14	5	3
Self-employed ⁵						3	
Gender							
Men	. 89	37	15	13	14	7	3
Women		5					
Age							
Under 16 years							
16 to 17 years							
18 to 19 years							
20 to 24 years	. 4						
25 to 34 years		6	3		3		
35 to 44 years	. 30	13	5	6	3	3	
45 to 54 years	. 21	9			5	3	
55 to 64 years	. 21	9	4		4		
65 years and over	. 6	3					
Race or Ethnic Origin ⁶							
White, non-Hispanic	. 64	32	9	4	13	4	
Black, non-Hispanic	.] 27	9	6	7		3	
Hispanic or Latino	.] 5						
American Indian or Alaska Native							
Asian	.						
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander							

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ 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

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

TABLE 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Alabama, 2007

					Event or e	exposure ²		
Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total		99	42	18	13	15	8	3
Private Industry		89	36	17	13	13	7	3
Goods Producing		39	8		11	12	6	
Natural Resources and Mining		7			3		3	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	. 11	5			3			
Forestry and Logging		4			3			
Logging	. 1133	3						
Logging	. 11331	3						
Construction		24	6		4	12		
Construction	. 23	24	6		4	12		
Construction of buildings	236	8				5		
Residential Building Construction	2361	7				5		
Residential Building Construction	. 23611	7				5		
Specialty Trade Contractors		10				7		
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors	. 2381	6				5		
Roofing Contractors	. 23816	5				4		
Building Equipment Contractors	. 2382	3						
Manufacturing		8			4			
Manufacturing	. 31-33	8			4			
Service providing		50	28	15				3
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		25	17	6				
Wholesale Trade	. 42	7	5					
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	423	4						
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	424	3	3					
Retail Trade	. 44-45	7		5				
Food and Beverage Stores	. 445	3		3				

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

					Event or e	exposure ²		
Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Grocery Stores	4451	3		3				
Convenience Stores	44512	3		3				
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	11	11					
Truck Transportation	484	8	8					
General Freight Trucking	_	5	5					
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance		5	5					
Specialized Freight Trucking		3	3					
Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Local		3	3					
Professional and Business Services		8	4					
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	56	7	3					
Administrative and Support Services	561	5						
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	5617	3						
Landscaping Services		3						
Education and Health Services		7	6					
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	5						
Other Services		6		4				
Other Services, except Public Administration	81	6		4				
Repair and Maintenance	811	3						
Personal and Laundry Services	812	3		3				
Government ⁶		10	6					
Local Government		9	6					
Service providing		9	6					
Public Administration		6	5					
Public Administration	92	6	5					
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities	922	6	5					

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

			Event or exposure ²						
Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions	
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities	9221	6	5						
Police Protection	92212	5	4			-			

¹ 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. 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.

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.

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

				Event or	exposure ²		
Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	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	. 99	42	18	13	15	8	3
Management occupations	. 8	4					
Other management occupations	. 4						
Construction managers							
Construction managers							
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations							
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	. 3						
Protective service occupations		5	3				
Law enforcement workers		4					
Police officers		3					
Police and sheriff's patrol officers		3					
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations							
Grounds maintenance workers							
Grounds maintenance workers							
Tree trimmers and pruners							
Sales and related occupations			4				
Retail sales workers			3				
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations				3			
Forest, conservation, and logging workers				3			
Logging workers				3			
Fallers				3			
Construction and extraction occupations		4		3	11	4	
Construction trades workers.		4		3	11	3	
Construction laborers	. 9				5		
Construction laborers	. 9				5		
Construction equipment operators							
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators							-
Electricians	. 3						
Electricians	. 3						
Roofers	. 4				3		
Roofers	. 4				3		
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations							
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers							
Production occupations							
Metal workers and plastic workers							
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers							
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers							
Transportation and material moving occupations	. 26	23					
Air transportation workers	4	4					

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Alabama, 2007 - Continued

				Event or e	exposure ²		
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Aircraft pilots and flight engineers	. 4	4					
Motor vehicle operators	. 16	16					
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	. 13	13					
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer		12					
Material moving workers	4	3					

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

 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.