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Workplace Fatalities in Wisconsin for 2007

Fatal work injuries in Wisconsin totaled 103 for 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that the 2007 fatality count increased by 12 from last year. Please note that the 2007 results are preliminary; final results will be released in April 2009. The most frequent types of fatal workplace events in the State were highway crashes (29), workers being struck by objects (12), and falls to a lower level (11). Taken together, these three events¹ accounted for just over one-half of the work-related fatalities in Wisconsin in 2007.

The most frequent on-the-job fatality in the State was from highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents and includes non-collision incidents) in 2007, with 29 deaths comprising 28 percent of total fatalities in Wisconsin. The previous year, 17 crashes accounted for 19 percent of the State's fatality count. (See table A.) Nationally, 24 percent of workplace deaths resulted from highway crashes, making it the most frequent fatal event.

Workers being struck by objects resulted in 12 on-the-job fatalities in Wisconsin in 2007, 6 fewer than this group's high recorded the previous year. Object strikes accounted for 12 percent of workplace fatalities in Wisconsin in 2007 and 20 percent a year ago. Nationally, being struck by objects accounted for 9 percent of workplace fatalities in 2007.

Eleven fatal injuries by falling to a lower level occurred in the State in 2007, decreasing by 2 cases over the year. Falls to a lower level represented 11 percent of workplace fatalities in Wisconsin and 13 percent of work related fatalities nationally.

Other work-related fatal injuries in Wisconsin included homicides (9); nonhighway transportation incidents (excluding rail, air, and water) (7); workers caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (6); exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances (6); and aircraft incidents (6). (See table 1.)

¹Fatal 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 (OIIICS) 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 Wisconsin by selected event groups, 1992-2007

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Struck by object		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	135	21	16	16	12	7	5
1993	138	22	16	8	6	8	6
1994	109	26	24	14	13	10	9
1995	117	29	25	6	5	5	4
1996	108	27	25	7	6	14	13
1997	114	25	22	6	5	14	12
1998	97	29	30	6	6	6	6
1999	105	34	32	13	12	8	8
2000	107	27	25	8	7	7	7
2001	110	35	32	9	8	12	11
2002	91	24	26	7	8	7	8
2003	103	22	21	17	17	16	16
2004	94	20	21	12	13	10	11
2005	125	33	26	16	13	20	16
2006	91	17	19	18	20	13	14
2007 ¹	103	29	28	12	12	11	11

¹Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

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

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Falls to lower level		Struck by object	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	557	9
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	565	9
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	591	9
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	547	9
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	582	9
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	579	9
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	520	9
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	585	10
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	571	10
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	553	9
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	505	9
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	531	10
2004	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	602	10
2005	5,734	1,437	25	664	12	607	11
2006 ²	5,840	1,356	23	738	13	589	10
2007 ³	5,488	1,311	24	733	13	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.

²The 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.

³Totals 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 reported in 2006. While these results are preliminary, this figure represents the lowest 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.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in Wisconsin in 2007

- Men accounted for 90 percent of the work-related fatalities (93) in the State. Transportation incidents (which includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail) accounted for about two-fifths of these fatal injuries, while contact with objects and equipment accounted for another one-fifth. Among women, 5 of the 10 deaths resulted from transportation incidents. (See table 2.)
- In Wisconsin, 89 percent of work related fatalities were among white, non-Hispanics.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for nearly 50 percent of the State’s work-related fatalities in 2007; 43 percent were 55 years or older. (See table 2.) Nationally, workers 55 and over made up 27 percent of those fatally injured on the job.
- Wage and salary workers represented 66 percent of Wisconsin’s workplace fatalities in 2007; the rest were self-employed.
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector had the largest number of fatalities (20), followed by construction (19) and manufacturing (13). Transportation incidents (8) were the most frequent fatal event in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting. In the construction sector, transportation incidents and exposure to harmful substances and environments (6 each) were the most common fatal work injuries. Contact with objects and equipment accounted for 6 of the 13 fatal events in the manufacturing sector. (See table 3.)
- Workers in the transportation and material moving occupational group suffered 23 work-related fatalities, the highest in the State in 2007. This was followed closely by the management occupational group (21), 14 of which were managers of farms and ranches. Construction and extraction occupations had 12 fatalities, 4 of which were transportation incidents. (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 Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene for its 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 industry¹ sector, Wisconsin, 2007

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.....	103	52	20	19	13	42	25	--	--	8	3	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	20	14	6	--	6	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object or equipment.....	12	6	--	--	3	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by falling object or equipment.....	8	5	--	--	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	6	6	3	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in running equipment or machinery.....	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	12	10	3	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	11	9	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level, n.e.c.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments.....	10	8	--	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances.....	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Inhalation of substance.....	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	45	16	8	6	--	24	16	--	--	4	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	29	8	--	4	--	21	14	--	--	3	--	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	16	--	--	--	--	14	10	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming.....	6	--	--	--	--	6	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moving in intersection.....	8	--	--	--	--	7	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vehicle struck object on side of road.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	8	3	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision.....	6	3	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water.....	7	7	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	7	7	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Overturned.....	4	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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	
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aircraft accident.....	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aircraft accident, n.e.c.....	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	14	3	--	--	--	10	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts by person(s).....	9	--	--	--	--	7	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shooting.....	8	--	--	--	--	6	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Self-inflicted injury.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Suicide, attempted suicide.....	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 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

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

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 substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	103	45	14	20	12	10	--
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	68	33	11	10	6	6	--
Self-employed ⁵	35	12	3	10	6	--	--
Gender							
Men.....	93	40	11	19	11	10	--
Women.....	10	5	3	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	14	6	--	3	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	18	8	3	3	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	19	4	4	5	3	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	20	9	--	7	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	24	13	3	--	4	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	92	43	10	19	10	9	--
Black, non-Hispanic.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
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 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

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Wisconsin, 2007

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		103	45	14	20	12	10	--
Private Industry		94	40	13	18	12	9	--
Goods Producing		52	16	3	14	10	8	--
Natural Resources and Mining		20	8	--	6	3	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	20	8	--	6	3	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
Animal Production.....	112	13	3	--	5	3	--	--
Cattle Ranching and Farming.....	1121	13	3	--	5	3	--	--
Dairy Cattle and Milk Production.....	11212	12	--	--	5	3	--	--
Construction		19	6	--	--	5	6	--
Construction	23	19	6	--	--	5	6	--
Construction of buildings.....	236	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Specialty Trade Contractors.....	238	15	6	--	--	3	5	--
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors.....	2381	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Specialty Trade Contractors.....	2389	9	3	--	--	--	5	--
Site Preparation Contractors.....	23891	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing		13	--	--	6	--	--	--
Manufacturing	31-33	13	--	--	6	--	--	--
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing.....	332	6	--	--	5	--	--	--
Service providing		42	24	10	4	--	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		25	16	5	3	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	42	9	6	--	--	--	--	--
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods.....	423	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods.....	424	5	3	--	--	--	--	--
Farm Product Raw Material Merchant wholesalers.....	4245	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	44-45	8	4	3	--	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Wisconsin, 2007 - 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
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	8	6	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Transportation.....	484	5	4	--	--	--	--	--
General Freight Trucking.....	4841	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services		8	4	--	--	--	--	--
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	56	8	4	--	--	--	--	--
Administrative and Support Services.....	561	6	3	--	--	--	--	--
Services to Buildings and Dwellings.....	5617	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Landscaping Services.....	56173	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Education and Health Services		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Government ⁵		9	5	--	--	--	--	--
Local Government		5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Service providing		5	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 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.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Wisconsin, 2007

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.....	103	45	14	20	12	10	--
Management occupations.....	21	6	3	4	4	--	--
Other management occupations.....	20	6	--	4	4	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	14	4	--	4	3	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	14	4	--	4	3	--	--
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grounds maintenance workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grounds maintenance workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sales and related occupations.....	9	4	3	--	--	--	--
Supervisors, sales workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Retail sales workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Office and administrative support occupations.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	7	4	--	--	--	--	--
Agricultural workers.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous agricultural workers.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--
Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	12	4	--	--	3	3	--
Construction trades workers.....	10	4	--	--	--	3	--
Construction laborers.....	6	3	--	--	--	--	--
Construction laborers.....	6	3	--	--	--	--	--
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	6	--	--	3	--	--	--
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	5	--	--	3	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Wisconsin, 2007 - Continued

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 substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers.....	3	--	--	3	--	--	--
Production occupations.....	7	--	--	3	3	--	--
Metal workers and plastic workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	23	16	4	--	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	18	14	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	14	11	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	11	9	--	--	--	--	--
Material moving workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 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