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NEBRASKA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2006

Fatal work injuries totaled 57 in 2006 for Nebraska, an increase of 21 from the previous year, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that this year's count followed a series low of 36 work-related deaths in 2005. (See table A.) The most frequent types of workplace fatalities in 2006 were highway crashes (11), struck by an object (9), and caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (7); these 3 types of events¹ accounted for about half of all work-related deaths in the State. (The fatality census has been conducted annually since 1992).

Highway incidents (referred to here as highway crashes, but including non-collision incidents as well) led all events as the most frequent type of on-the-job fatality for both the nation and the State. The number of fatal injuries from highway crashes in Nebraska was about the same as in 2004 and 2005. During the 15 years that the fatality census has been conducted, the number of on-the-job deaths resulting from highway crashes in the State has ranged from 9 to 32. (See table A.) Work-related deaths due to highway crashes accounted for 19 percent of Nebraska's fatalities in 2006 and 23 percent of the nation's.

The nine workplace deaths due to being struck by an object accounted for 16 percent of the State's total fatality count in 2006. The number of workplace fatalities resulting from this event has ranged from a low of 5 to high of 11 since the fatality census's inception in 1992. Nationally, 10 percent of all workplace deaths were attributed to this event in 2006.

Being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects resulted in seven work-related fatalities in the State. The 2006 count equaled 1996 for the highest single-year total on record. Nationwide, incidents of workers being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects accounted for 5 percent of all workplace deaths.

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).

Other fatal events in the State in 2006 included falls to a lower level (5), electrocutions (5), and homicides (4).

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

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Struck by object		Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	43	9	21	8	19	--	--
1993	78	19	24	11	14	3	4
1994	83	9	11	8	10	3	4
1995	54	10	19	8	15	--	--
1996	56	11	20	7	13	7	13
1997	46	9	20	5	11	--	--
1998	56	18	32	8	14	--	--
1999	66	17	26	9	14	3	5
2000	59	22	37	6	10	--	--
2001	57	26	46	6	11	3	5
2002	83	32	39	8	10	4	5
2003	51	20	39	9	18	--	--
2004	46	11	24	--	--	--	--
2005	36	10	28	7	19	--	--
2006	57	11	19	9	16	7	12

-- Dashes indicate no data reported or data 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 1,329 fatal highway crashes in 2006 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	Struck by Object		Highway crashes		Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	557	9	1,158	19	316	5
1993	6,331	565	9	1,242	20	311	5
1994	6,632	591	9	1,343	20	280	4
1995	6,275	547	9	1,346	21	255	4
1996	6,202	582	9	1,346	22	285	5
1997	6,238	579	9	1,393	22	320	5
1998	6,055	520	9	1,442	24	266	4
1999	6,054	585	10	1,496	25	302	5
2000	5,920	571	10	1,365	23	294	5
2001 ¹	5,915	553	9	1,409	24	266	4
2002	5,534	505	9	1,373	25	231	4
2003	5,575	531	10	1,353	24	238	4
2004	5,764	602	10	1,398	24	269	5
2005 ²	5,734	607	11	1,437	25	278	5
2006	5,703	583	10	1,329	23	281	5

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 Nebraska in 2006:

- Men accounted for 95 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State with 54 deaths. Contact with objects and equipment and transportation incidents accounted for almost two-thirds of these fatal injuries. Three women were fatally injured on the job in 2006. (See table 2.)
- In Nebraska, 91 percent, or 52, of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 46 percent of the State’s work-related fatalities in 2006; 51 percent were 55 years or older. Nationally, workers 55 and over accounted for 27 percent of the fatally injured.
- Fifty-eight percent of workers killed on-the-job in Nebraska worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed. The most frequent fatal events for both groups of workers were transportation incidents and contact with objects and equipment.
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector had the largest number of fatalities (21) followed by construction (7). In agriculture, forestry,

fishing and hunting, the most frequent types of fatal events were contact with objects and equipment (13) and transportation incidents (4). Transportation incidents also accounted for three out of the seven worker deaths in construction. (See table 3.)

- Workers in management occupations led all other occupational groups with 19 workplace fatalities. Managers of farms and ranches accounted for 15 of the deaths in this occupational group. Workers with jobs in transportation and material moving, and construction and extraction suffered nine and seven fatalities, respectively. (See table 4.)

Additional data available

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available from the BLS Web site at 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/PDQ/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 Nebraska Compensation Court 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 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 industry¹ sector, Nebraska, 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.....	57	31	21	7	3	22	8	--	4	5	--	--	3
Contact with objects and equipment.....	19	14	13	--	--	4	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Struck by object.....	9	6	6	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by falling object.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by rolling, sliding objects on floor or ground level.....	4	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	7	6	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in running equipment or machinery.....	5	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	7	3	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	5	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments.....	5	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with electric current.....	5	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	17	8	4	3	--	7	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	11	--	--	--	--	7	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	7	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moving in intersection.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water.....	3	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	3	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fires and explosions.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	6	--	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts by person(s).....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shooting.....	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, Nebraska, 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 substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	57	17	6	19	7	5	3
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	33	10	3	10	6	3	--
Self-employed ⁵	24	7	3	9	--	--	--
Gender							
Men.....	54	15	5	19	7	5	3
Women.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	11	3	--	3	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	10	3	4	3	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	8	--	--	3	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	21	6	--	8	3	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	52	14	5	18	7	5	3
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, Nebraska, 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		57	17	6	19	7	5	3
Private Industry		53	15	5	18	7	5	3
Goods Producing		31	8	--	14	3	3	--
Natural Resources and Mining		21	4	--	13	--	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	21	4	--	13	--	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	15	4	--	7	--	--	--
Animal Production.....	112	5	--	--	5	--	--	--
Cattle Ranching and Farming.....	1121	4	--	--	4	--	--	--
Beef Cattle Ranching and Farming, including Feedlots.....	11211	3	--	--	3	--	--	--
Construction		7	3	--	--	--	--	--
Construction	23	7	3	--	--	--	--	--
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction.....	237	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Specialty Trade Contractors.....	238	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	31-33	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Service providing		22	7	4	4	4	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		8	4	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	44-45	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Financial Activities		4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services		5	--	--	3	--	--	--
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	56	5	--	--	3	--	--	--
Administrative and Support Services.....	561	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Services to Buildings and Dwellings.....	5617	3	--	--	--	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Nebraska, 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
Other Services	81	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Services, except Public Administration		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Government ⁵		4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Local Government		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, Nebraska, 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 substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	57	17	6	19	7	5	3
Management occupations.....	19	4	3	8	--	--	--
Other management occupations.....	19	4	3	8	--	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	16	4	--	8	--	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	15	4	--	7	--	--	--
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sales and related occupations.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Supervisors, sales workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	5	--	--	5	--	--	--
Agricultural workers.....	4	--	--	4	--	--	--
Miscellaneous agricultural workers.....	4	--	--	4	--	--	--
Farmworkers, farm and ranch animals.....	3	--	--	3	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	9	5	--	--	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Material moving workers.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laborers and material movers, hand.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.....	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 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