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NORTH DAKOTA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2006

Fatal work injuries in North Dakota totaled 31 for 2006, up from 22 in 2005, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that the 2006 fatality count was the State's highest since 2000 and its third-highest since the Bureau began tracking workplace fatalities in 1992. The most frequent types of workplace fatalities in the State in 2006 were highway crashes (8), nonhighway transportation incidents (7), and falls to a lower level and workers being struck by an object (5 each). Taken together, these four events¹ accounted for just over 80 percent of the work-related fatalities in North Dakota.

The number of fatal work injuries from highway crashes in the State rose by five over the year—from three to eight, making it the most frequent fatal event in 2006. (See table A.) Highway crashes were also the leading cause of workplace fatalities nationwide. In 2006, highway crashes accounted for 26 percent of North Dakota's and 23 percent of the nation's on-the-job fatalities.

Nonhighway transportation incidents (excluding rail, air, and water) were responsible for seven of the State's workplace fatalities. This was the highest single-year total since the BLS began recording data in 1992. The event's 23 percent share of North Dakota's fatal injuries was also the highest on record. Nationally, nonhighway transportation incidents accounted for 6 percent of total workplace fatalities.

Five workers in North Dakota were fatally injured by being struck by objects in 2006, up two cases over the year. Being struck by an object accounted for 16 percent of the workplace fatalities in North Dakota and 10 percent nationally.

The five on-the-job fatalities in North Dakota resulting from falls to lower level also accounted for 16 percent of the State's total workplace deaths. The number of fatalities from this event changed little from the previous year. Nationally, falls to a lower level accounted for 13 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).

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in North Dakota by select event groups, 1992-2006

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Nonhighway incidents		Struck by object		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	20	4	20	--	--	--	--	3	15
1993	30	4	13	--	--	9	30	6	20
1994	21	3	14	3	14	3	14	--	--
1995	28	3	11	--	--	4	14	--	--
1996	23	5	22	3	13	5	22	--	--
1997	35	9	26	4	11	--	--	9	26
1998	24	3	13	4	17	8	33	--	--
1999	22	--	--	--	--	4	18	--	--
2000	34	3	9	4	12	5	15	4	12
2001	25	9	36	4	16	3	12	--	--
2002	25	8	32	4	16	--	--	3	12
2003	26	10	38	--	--	5	19	--	--
2004	24	3	13	--	--	7	29	--	--
2005	22	3	14	--	--	3	14	4	18
2006	31	8	26	7	23	5	16	5	16

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that 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 2006 count of 1,329 fatal highway crashes 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	Highway crashes		Falls to lower Level		Struck by object		Nonhighway incidents	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	557	9	436	7
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	565	9	392	6
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	591	9	409	6
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	547	9	387	6
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	582	9	374	6
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	579	9	377	6
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	520	9	388	6
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	585	10	352	6
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	571	10	399	7
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	553	9	326	6
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	505	9	323	6
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	531	10	347	6
2004	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	602	10	338	6
2005 ²	5,734	1,437	25	664	12	607	11	340	6
2006	5,703	1,329	23	728	13	583	10	342	6

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

² The 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 North Dakota in 2006:

- Men accounted for 97 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State with 30 deaths. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, accounted for more than half of these injuries. (See table 2.)
- Ninety-seven percent or 30 of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics. (See table 2.)
- Workers aged 55 and over accounted for 58 percent or 18 of the State’s workplace fatalities. (See table 2.) Nationally, 27 percent of worker deaths belonged to this age group.
- Nineteen wage and salary workers were on-the-job fatalities in 2006 representing 61 percent of North Dakota’s fatality count; the rest were self-employed. (See table 2.)
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector had the largest number of fatalities with 15—almost one-half of the State’s fatal injuries. No other major industry had more than five. In the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector, transportation incidents accounted for two-thirds (10) of the fatalities. In construction, falls were the most frequent event resulting in three of the industry’s fatalities. (See table 3.)
- Workers in management (all farmers and ranchers) led all major occupational groups with 11 worker fatalities, accounting for 35 percent of the State’s total count. Those in construction and extraction, and transportation and material moving accounted for seven and six workplace fatalities, respectively. Transportation incidents were

the most prevalent cause of worker deaths in both the management and transportation and material moving occupational groups. (See table 4.)

Additional data available

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available from the BLS Web site at <http://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 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, North Dakota, 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.....	31	22	17	5	--	8	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	8	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object.....	5	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	5	3	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	5	3	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	16	12	10	--	--	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	8	4	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water.....	7	7	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	7	7	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Overturned.....	5	5	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 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, North Dakota, 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.....	31	16	--	8	5	--	--
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	19	9	--	5	4	--	--
Self-employed ⁵	12	7	--	3	--	--	--
Gender							
Men.....	30	16	--	8	4	--	--
Women.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	8	--	--	--	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	10	8	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	8	5	--	--	--	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	30	16	--	8	4	--	--
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, North Dakota, 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		31	16	--	8	5	--	--
Private Industry		30	15	--	8	5	--	--
Goods Producing		22	12	--	6	3	--	--
Natural Resources and Mining		17	10	--	6	--	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	15	10	--	4	--	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	10	7	--	3	--	--	--
Animal Production.....	112	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle Ranching and Farming.....	1121	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction		5	--	--	--	3	--	--
Construction	23	5	--	--	--	3	--	--
Service providing		8	3	--	--	--	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		7	3	--	--	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	42	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods.....	424	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, North Dakota, 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.....	31	16	--	8	5	--	--
Management occupations.....	11	7	--	3	--	--	--
Other management occupations.....	11	7	--	3	--	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	11	7	--	3	--	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	11	7	--	3	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	7	--	--	--	3	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	4	--	--	--	3	--	--
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	3	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