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Workplace Fatalities in South Dakota for 2007

Fatal work injuries in South Dakota totaled 21 in 2007, a decrease of 16 from the previous year, 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 Jay A. Mousa noted that the 2007 fatality count in South Dakota was at a record low after peaking in 1999 with 46 work-related deaths. (The fatality census has been conducted annually since 1992.) The most frequent types of fatal workplace events in the State in 2007 were nonhighway transportation incidents (6), falls to a lower level (5), and highway crashes (3). Taken together, these three events¹ accounted for two-thirds of the workplace fatalities in South Dakota. (See table A.)

Nonhighway transportation incidents (excluding rail, air, and water) were the leading cause of work-related deaths in the State. The six cases accounted for 29 percent of South Dakota's workplace fatalities in 2007. Nonhighway transportation incidents accounted for 5 percent of fatalities nationwide. Since 1992, the number of nonhighway transportation incidents in South Dakota has ranged from three to six.

Falls to a lower level were the second leading cause of workplace fatalities in the State. The five recorded in 2007 accounted for nearly one-quarter of the State's total fatality count. Nationwide, this event was responsible for 13 percent of all workplace fatalities in 2007.

The three on-the-job fatalities resulting from highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents and includes non-collision incidents) were the lowest on record since 1992. Until 2007, highway crashes had been or at least tied for the leading cause of workplace fatalities in South Dakota. In 2007, work-related deaths due to highway crashes accounted for 14 percent of the State's fatality count. Nationally, highway crashes were the leading cause of on-the-job deaths accounting for nearly one-quarter of all fatalities.

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 South Dakota by selected event groups, 1992-2007

Year	Total fatalities	Nonhighway incidents		Falls to lower level		Highway crashes	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	28	--	--	--	--	9	32
1993	28	--	--	--	--	5	18
1994	31	4	13	--	--	4	13
1995	26	--	--	3	12	5	19
1996	32	5	16	--	--	9	28
1997	23	--	--	3	13	8	35
1998	28	--	--	--	--	9	32
1999	46	5	11	--	--	9	20
2000	35	6	17	--	--	7	20
2001	35	6	17	4	11	6	17
2002	36	5	14	--	--	5	14
2003	28	4	14	--	--	5	18
2004	24	3	13	4	17	7	29
2005	31	3	10	3	10	11	35
2006	37	6	16	--	--	11	30
2007 ¹	21	6	29	5	24	3	14

¹Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

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.

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

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Falls to lower level		Nonhighway incidents	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	436	7
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	392	6
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	409	6
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	387	6
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	374	6
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	377	6
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	388	6
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	352	6
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	399	7
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	326	6
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	323	6
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	347	6
2004	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	338	6
2005	5,734	1,437	25	664	12	340	6
2006 ²	5,840	1,356	23	738	13	345	6
2007 ³	5,488	1,311	24	733	13	292	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 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.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in South Dakota in 2007:

- Men accounted for 95 percent (20) of the work-related fatalities in the State. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, accounted for over one-half of these fatal injuries and falls accounted for over nearly one-third. (See table 2.)
- In South Dakota, 95 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanics.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for two-thirds of the State’s work-related fatalities in 2007; 19 percent were 65 years or older. Nationally, those 25 to 54 years accounted for 63 percent of the fatally injured and those 65 years and older, 10 percent.
- The number of workers killed on the job was nearly the same for wage and salary workers (11) and those who were self-employed (10).
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector accounted for the largest number of fatalities (10) followed by construction (6). Transportation incidents were the most frequent types of fatal event in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry, accounting for 8 of the 10 fatalities. Falls (5) accounted for the majority of fatalities in construction. (See table 3.)

- Management occupations had the highest number of work-related deaths (8), with farmers and ranchers accounting for 6 of those deaths. Transportation and material moving occupations had four work-related deaths as did construction and extraction occupations. Transportation incidents were the most frequent fatal injury event in all three of these occupational groups. (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 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, South Dakota, 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.....	21	18	11	6	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	6	6	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	5	5	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	12	10	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water.....	6	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	6	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Overturned.....	4	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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, South Dakota, 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 sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	21	12	--	3	6	--	--
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	11	5	--	--	5	--	--
Self-employed ⁵	10	7	--	--	--	--	--
Gender							
Men.....	20	11	--	3	6	--	--
Women.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	6	3	--	--	3	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	20	12	--	3	5	--	--
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 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, South Dakota, 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		21	12	--	3	6	--	--
Private Industry		21	12	--	3	6	--	--
Goods Producing		18	10	--	--	6	--	--
Natural Resources and Mining		11	9	--	--	--	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	10	8	--	--	--	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	5	3	--	--	--	--	--
Animal Production.....	112	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle Ranching and Farming.....	1121	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Construction		6	--	--	--	5	--	--
Construction	23	6	--	--	--	5	--	--
Construction of buildings.....	236	4	--	--	--	3	--	--
Service providing		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.

⁵ 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 resulting from transportation incidents and homicides by occupation, South Dakota, 2007

Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents					Homicides		
		Total	Highway incidents	Non-highway incidents	Worker struck by vehicle	All other transporta- tion incidents	Total	Homicides by shooting	All other homicides
Total.....	21	12	3	6	--	--	--	--	--
Management occupations.....	8	6	--	5	--	--	--	--	--
Other management occupations.....	8	6	--	5	--	--	--	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	6	5	--	5	--	--	--	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	6	5	--	5	--	--	--	--	--
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction laborers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction laborers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

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.