

United States Department of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

Internet: www.bls.gov/ro3/

INFORMATION: Gerald Perrins

Gerald Perrins PLS – 4463 (215) 597-3282 FOR RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT: Sheila Watkins

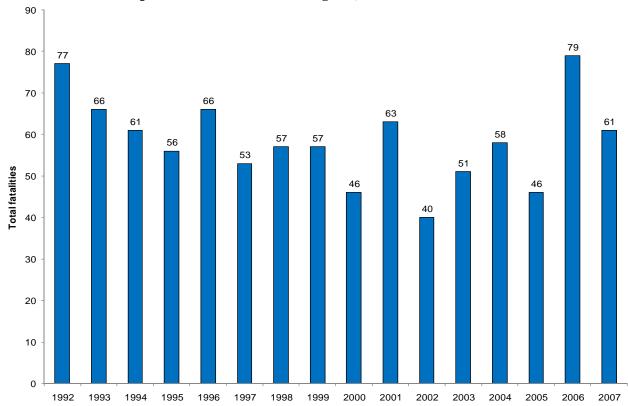
(215) 861-5600

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Workplace Fatalities in West Virginia for 2007

Fatal work injuries in West Virginia totaled 61 in 2007, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the number of work-related fatalities in 2007 decreased from the series high of 79 that was recorded in 2006. Please note that the 2007 results are preliminary; final results will be released in April 2009. (See chart A.) The most frequent types of workplace fatalities in 2007 were highway crashes (15), being struck by objects or equipment (10), and falls to a lower level (9); these 3 types of events accounted for 56 percent of all work-related deaths in the State.

Chart A. Total workplace fatalities in West Virginia, 1992-2007



Note: Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

Highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents) led all events as the most frequent type of on-the-job fatalities for both the nation and the State of West Virginia. The number of fatal work injuries from highway crashes in West Virginia changed little over the year, from 16 in 2006 to 15 in 2007. (See table A.) Work-related deaths from highway crashes accounted for 25 percent of West Virginia's and 24 percent of the United States' total in 2007.

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 West Virginia by selected event groups, 1992-2007

Year	Total	Highway	crashes	Struck b	y objects	Falls to lower level		
- Teal	fatalities	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1992	77	16	21	20	26	6	8	
1993	66	14	21	11	17	6	9	
1994	61	12	20	7	11	6	10	
1995	56	17	30	12	21			
1996	66	21	32	10	15	5	8	
1997	53	10	19	16	30	3	6	
1998	57	13	23	14	25	6	11	
1999	57	13	23	13	23	4	7	
2000	46	12	26	4	9			
2001	63	20	32	6	10	8	13	
2002	40	12	30	5	13	3	8	
2003	51	17	33	5	10	6	12	
2004	58	16	28	10	17			
2005	46	15	33	5	11	3	7	
2006	79	16	20	7	9	7	9	
2007 1	61	15	25	10	16	9	15	

¹ Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

Fatalities from being struck by objects or equipment in West Virginia increased from 7 in 2006 to 10 in 2007 and accounted for 16 percent of the work-related deaths in the State. Nationally, this event accounted for 9 percent of the total.

Falls to a lower level in West Virginia were responsible for a higher number of deaths (9) in 2007 than any other year since the series began in 1992. Work-related fatalities from falls to a lower level in 2007 accounted for 15 percent of workplace deaths in West Virginia; in the United States, this event accounted for 13 percent of the total.

Other types of workplace fatalities in West Virginia in 2007 were being caught in or crushed in collapsing materials, contact with electric current, being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects, and homicides. Combined, deaths resulting from these four events were responsible for 14 (or 23 percent) of the fatal work injuries in the State. (See table 1.)

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

Year	Total	Highway	crashes	Falls to lo	ower level	Struck by objects			
I Gai	fatalities	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		

¹ Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

² The BLS national 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.

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 West Virginia in 2007:

- Men accounted for all of the work-related fatalities in the State. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, accounted for 30 percent of these deaths and contact with objects and equipment made up 28 percent. (See table 2.)
- Ninety-five percent of those who died from a workplace injury in West Virginia were white, non-Hispanic (58). The most frequent causes of death for white, non-Hispanics were transportation incidents (17) and contact with objects and equipment (16). (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 70 percent of the State's work-related fatalities in 2007 with 43 deaths; this age group represented 63 percent of worker fatalities at the national level. (See table 2.)
- Ninety percent of workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed. The leading causes of death for wage and salary workers were transportation incidents (17) and contact with objects and equipment (14). Contact with objects and equipment accounted for half of the six deaths among self-employed workers. (See table 2.)
- Three industry sectors made up 57 percent of the workplace fatalities in West Virginia—mining (12), construction (12), and government (11). Contact with objects and equipment accounted for the largest number of fatal occupational injuries in mining. No single type of workplace fatality dominated in the construction industry. Transportation incidents comprised the most frequent event in the government sector. (See table 3.)
- Workers in construction and extraction occupations had the highest number of fatalities at 16, followed by transportation and material moving occupations with 13. Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 48 percent of all fatal work injuries in the State. Contact with objects and equipment was the most frequent type of fatal injury in the construction and extraction occupations. Transportation incidents made up the most frequent event in the transportation and material moving occupations. (See table 4.)
- Among West Virginia's metropolitan areas, Charleston, W.Va. registered nine work-related fatalities, followed by Huntington-Ashland, W. Va.-Ky.-Ohio at eight. (See chart 1.)

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 Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 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/ro3/.

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

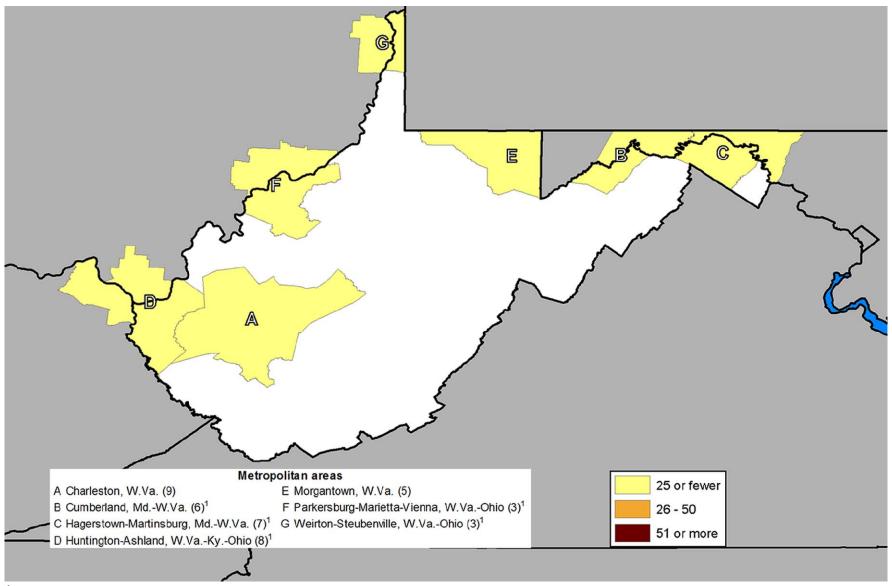
The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or State agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between 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 West Virginia 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.

Chart 1. Total workplace fatalities for metropolitan areas in West Virginia, 2007



¹ Includes workplace fatalities in the entire metropolitan area, not just the State of West Virginia portion.

Note: CFOI data for a particular metropolitan area may be published if the area records five or more fatalities or three or more distinct incidents.

Metropolitan areas containing four or fewer fatalities based on one or two incidents are confidential and cannot be published.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure for all fatalities and major private industry sector, West Virginia, 2007

		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	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total	61	33	19	12		17	11						
Contact with objects and equipment	17	17	13	3									
Struck by object or equipment	10	10	8										
Struck by falling object or equipment		7	6										
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects		3											
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials		4											
Falls	10	7	3	3									
Fall to lower level	9	7	3	3									
Fall to lower level, n.e.c	3												
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	6	3											
Contact with electric current		3											
Transportation accidents	18	4		3		10	7						
Highway accident	15					9	7						
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment						3	3						
Vehicle struck object on side of road	5												
Noncollision accident						4	3						
Jack-knifed or overturnedno collision	5					4	3			-			
Fires and explosions	5												
Assaults and violent acts	4												
Assaults and violent acts by person(s)	3												

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, West Virginia, 2007

		Event or exposure ¹								
Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	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	61	18	4	17	10	6	5			
Employee Status										
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	. 55	17	4	14	8	6	5			
Self-employed ⁵				3						
Gender										
Men	61	18	4	17	10	6	5			
Women										
Age										
Under 16 years										
16 to 17 years										
18 to 19 years										
20 to 24 years										
25 to 34 years		3		4						
35 to 44 years	. 17	5		5						
45 to 54 years	. 17			5	5	3				
55 to 64 years	. 5									
65 years and over	6	4								
Race or Ethnic Origin ⁶										
White, non-Hispanic		17	3	16	10	6	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.

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 categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

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

			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 sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions		
Total		61	18	4	17	10	6	5		
Private Industry		50	14		17	8	5			
Goods Producing		33	4		17	7	3			
Natural Resources and Mining		19			13	3				
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	. 11	7			6					
Forestry and Logging	113	7			6					
Timber Tract Operations	1131	3								
Timber Tract Operations	. 11311	3								
Logging	. 1133	4			4					
Logging	. 11331	4			4					
Mining ⁵	. 21	12			7					
Mining (except Oil and Gas)		9			6					
Coal Mining		8			6					
Coal Mining	. 21211 . 212112	8 8			6					
Bituminous Coal Underground Mining Support Activities for Mining	212112	3								
Support Activities for Mining	2131	3								
Support Activities for Mining	. 21311	3								
Construction		12	3		3	3				
Construction	. 23	12	3		3	3				
Specialty Trade Contractors	. 238	8								
Other Specialty Trade Contractors	. 2389	3								
Site Preparation Contractors	23891	3								
Service providing		17	10							
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		11	7							
Retail Trade	. 44-45	3								
Transportation and Warehousing	. 48-49	8	7							
Truck Transportation		8	7							
General Freight Trucking		5	4							
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance	. 48412	3	3							
Government ⁶	•	11	4							
State Government		4								
Service providing	1	4					-			
Local Government	-	6						-		
Service providing		5								
Public Administration	-	4								
Public Administration	. 92	4								
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities		4								
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities	. 9221	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.

Includes Violence by persons, sen-niniced injury, and accord by admirator.

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.

 $^{^{\}rm 6}$ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless

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

Occupation ¹		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	. 61	18	4	17	10	6	5	
Protective service occupations	. 5	3						
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	7			6				
Forest, conservation, and logging workers	1 6			5				
Logging workers	. 6			5				
Fallers	4			4				
Construction and extraction occupations	16			9	4			
Construction trades workers	. 8			3	4			
Electricians	. 3							
Electricians	. 3							
Extraction workers	. 6			5				
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations		3						
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	6							
Transportation and material moving occupations	. 13	8						
Motor vehicle operators	. 9	7						
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers		7						
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	9	7						
Material moving workers	4							

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

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.