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## **Workplace Fatalities in Nebraska for 2007**

Fatal work injuries totaled 63 in 2007 for Nebraska 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 State's workplace fatalities have increased in the last two years, after reaching the series low of 36 in 2005. (See table A.) The most frequent types of workplace fatalities in 2007 were highway crashes (16) and homicides (8). Falls to a lower level, workers being caught or crushed in collapsing materials, and workers being struck by an object each accounted for six fatalities. Combined, these five events<sup>1</sup> accounted for two-thirds of all work-related deaths in the State.

Highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents and includes non-collision incidents) in 2007 led all events as the most frequent type of on-the-job fatality for both the nation and the State. The number of work-related fatalities increased by five over the year to 16 in 2007. (See table A.) Work-related deaths due to highway crashes accounted for 25 percent of Nebraska's fatalities in 2007 and 24 percent of the nation's.

Workplace deaths due to homicides (8) accounted for 13 percent of the State's total fatality count in 2007. The 2007 homicide fatality total surpassed the previous high of six in 2002. Nationally, homicides accounted for 11 percent of workplace fatalities.

Three other events had six fatalities each (falls to a lower level, caught or crushed in collapsing material, and being struck by an object); separately, these events each accounted for 10 percent of Nebraska's total workplace fatalities. Nationally, the share of fatalities from falls to a lower level and caught or crushed in collapsing material were 13 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Nationwide, 9 percent of all workplace deaths were from workers being struck by objects.

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<sup>1</sup> 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. See the Occupational Injury & Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual on our Web site at [www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm) for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in this census.

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Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in Nebraska by selected event groups, 1992-2007

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Homicides		Falls to a lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	43	9	21	--	--	4	9
1993	78	19	24	--	--	--	--
1994	83	9	11	3	4	14	17
1995	54	10	19	3	6	8	15
1996	56	11	20	--	--	5	9
1997	46	9	20	--	--	5	11
1998	56	18	32	--	--	--	--
1999	66	17	26	3	5	4	6
2000	59	22	37	3	5	3	5
2001	57	26	46	--	--	5	9
2002	83	32	39	6	7	6	7
2003	51	20	39	3	6	--	--
2004	46	11	24	--	--	7	15
2005	36	10	28	--	--	--	--
2006	57	11	19	4	7	5	9
2007 <sup>1</sup>	63	16	25	8	13	6	10

<sup>1</sup> Totals 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 fatal work injuries reported in 2006. While these results are preliminary, this figure represents the smallest 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 a lower level		Homicides	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	1,044	17
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	1,074	17
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	1,080	16
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	1,036	17
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	927	15
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	860	14
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	714	12
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	651	11
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	677	11
2001 <sup>1</sup>	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	643	11
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	609	11
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	632	11
2004	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	559	10
2005	5,734	1,437	25	664	12	567	10
2006 <sup>2</sup>	5,840	1,356	23	738	13	540	9
2007 <sup>3</sup>	5,488	1,311	24	733	13	610	11

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

<sup>2</sup> The 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.

<sup>3</sup> Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

**Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in Nebraska in 2007:**

- Men accounted for 87 percent of the work-related fatalities (55) in the State. In 2006, 95 percent of workplace fatalities were men. Eight women were fatally injured on the job in 2007 compared to three in 2006.
- In Nebraska, 94 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanics. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 44 percent of the State’s work-related fatalities in 2007; 41 percent were 55 years or older. Nationally, workers 25-54 years old and 55 and over accounted for 63 percent and 27 percent, respectively, of the fatally injured.
- Seventy-one percent of workers killed on-the-job in Nebraska worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed.
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector had the largest number of fatalities (18) followed by transportation and warehousing (9) and retail trade (9). In agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, the most frequent types of fatal events were contact with objects and equipment (8) and transportation incidents (6). Transportation incidents also accounted for seven worker deaths in transportation and warehousing. Homicides accounted for eight worker deaths in the retail trade industry. (See table 3.)

- Workers in management occupations led all other occupational groups with 17 fatalities, with managers of farms and ranches representing 16 of these deaths. Workers in transportation and material moving occupations suffered 15 on-the-job fatalities. Drivers of heavy and tractor-trailer trucks accounted for eight of these deaths in 2007. (See table 4.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at [www.bls.gov/iif/](http://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/](http://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 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 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 industry<sup>1</sup> sector, Nebraska, 2007

Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service providing							
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining <sup>3</sup>	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.....	63	34	19	7	8	25	22	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	17	13	8	--	4	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object or equipment.....	6	5	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by rolling, sliding objects or equipment on floor or ground level.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in running equipment or machinery.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials.....	6	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials, n.e.c.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	6	4	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	6	4	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	24	12	7	3	--	10	8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	16	7	3	--	--	8	6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	9	3	--	--	--	6	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moving in same direction.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry<sup>1</sup> sector, Nebraska, 2007 - continued

Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service providing								
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining <sup>3</sup>	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	
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water.....	5	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	5	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Overturned.....	4	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	13	4	3	--	--	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts by person(s).....	8	--	--	--	--	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shooting.....	6	--	--	--	--	6	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Self-inflicted injury.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Suicide, attempted suicide.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> 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, Nebraska, 2007

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>1</sup>					
		Transportation incidents <sup>2</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>3</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	63	24	13	17	6	--	--
<b>Employee Status</b>							
Wage and Salary Workers <sup>4</sup> .....	45	17	10	10	6	--	--
Self-employed <sup>5</sup> .....	18	7	3	7	--	--	--
<b>Gender</b>							
Men.....	55	22	8	16	6	--	--
Women.....	8	--	5	--	--	--	--
<b>Age</b>							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	7	--	--	4	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	7	4	--	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	14	5	5	4	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	21	9	4	6	--	--	--
<b>Race or Ethnic Origin<sup>6</sup></b>							
White, non-Hispanic.....	59	24	13	15	4	--	--
Black, non-Hispanic.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>2</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>3</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

<sup>4</sup> May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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, Nebraska, 2007

Industry <sup>1</sup>	NAICS code <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>					
			Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
<b>Total</b> .....		63	24	13	17	6	--	--
<b>Private Industry</b> .....		59	22	12	17	6	--	--
<b>Goods Producing</b> .....		34	12	4	13	4	--	--
<b>Natural Resources and Mining</b> .....		19	7	3	8	--	--	--
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b> .....	11	18	6	3	8	--	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	13	5	--	7	--	--	--
Animal Production.....	112	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Construction</b> .....		7	3	--	--	3	--	--
<b>Construction</b> .....	23	7	3	--	--	3	--	--
Specialty Trade Contractors.....	238	5	--	--	--	3	--	--
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors.....	2381	3	--	--	--	3	--	--
<b>Manufacturing</b> .....		8	--	--	4	--	--	--
<b>Manufacturing</b> .....	31-33	8	--	--	4	--	--	--
<b>Service providing</b> .....		25	10	8	4	--	--	--
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b> .....		22	8	8	4	--	--	--
<b>Wholesale Trade</b> .....	42	4	--	--	3	--	--	--
<b>Retail Trade</b> .....	44-45	9	--	8	--	--	--	--
General Merchandise Stores.....	452	6	--	6	--	--	--	--
Department Stores.....	4521	6	--	6	--	--	--	--
Department Stores.....(except discount department stores).....	45211	6	--	6	--	--	--	--
Department Stores (except discount department stores).....	452111	6	--	6	--	--	--	--
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b> .....	48-49	9	7	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Transportation.....	484	7	5	--	--	--	--	--
General Freight Trucking.....	4841	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance.....	48412	4	4	--	--	--	--	--

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Nebraska, 2007 - continued

Industry <sup>1</sup>	NAICS code <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>					
			Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Truckload.....	484121	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Specialized Freight Trucking.....	4842	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Government<sup>6</sup></b> .....		4	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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, Nebraska, 2007

Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>					
		Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	63	24	13	17	6	--	--
Management occupations.....	17	6	3	7	--	--	--
Other management occupations.....	17	6	3	7	--	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	16	5	3	7	--	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	16	5	3	7	--	--	--
Sales and related occupations.....	9	--	7	--	--	--	--
Supervisors, sales workers.....	5	--	4	--	--	--	--
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers.....	5	--	4	--	--	--	--
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers.....	5	--	4	--	--	--	--
Office and administrative support occupations.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	4	--	--	--	3	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	4	--	--	--	3	--	--
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	5	--	--	3	--	--	--
Production occupations.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other production occupations.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	15	9	--	4	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	10	8	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	8	6	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	8	6	--	--	--	--	--
Material moving workers.....	5	--	--	3	--	--	--
Laborers and material movers, hand.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>4</sup> 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