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Workplace Fatalities in North Dakota for 2007

Fatal work injuries in North Dakota totaled 23 for 2007, down from 31 in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Please note that the 2007 figures are preliminary; final numbers will be released in April 2009. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that the State's 2007 fatality count was one of the lowest on record since the Bureau began conducting the fatality census in 1992. In 2007, no fatal event category had more than three deaths in North Dakota. The most frequent types of workplace fatalities in the State in 2007 were highway crashes, nonhighway transportation incidents, workers being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects, and falls to a lower level. Taken together, these four events¹ accounted for just over half of the work-related fatalities in North Dakota.

In three of the last four years, North Dakota has had three fatal work injuries from highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents and includes non-collision incidents), the exception being 2006 when eight fatalities occurred. (See table A.) In 2007, highway crashes accounted for 13 percent of North Dakota's fatal work injuries; in 2006, however, it accounted for 26 percent. Highway crashes were the leading cause of workplace fatalities nationwide in 2007, responsible for 24 percent of the total.

Nonhighway transportation incidents (excluding rail, air, and water), being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects, and falls to a lower level each accounted for 13 percent of the State's total workplace deaths. Nationally, nonhighway transportation incidents and being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects accounted for smaller portions of workplace fatalities (5 percent each). Falls to a lower level were responsible for 13 percent of workplace fatalities nationwide.

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 in the nation 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

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 (OIIICS) 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 North Dakota by select event groups, 1992-2007

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Nonhighway incidents		Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	20	4	20	--	--	--	--	3	15
1993	30	4	13	--	--	4	13	6	20
1994	21	3	14	3	14	3	14	--	--
1995	28	3	11	--	--	--	--	--	--
1996	23	5	22	3	13	--	--	--	--
1997	35	9	26	4	11	4	11	9	26
1998	24	3	13	4	17	3	13	--	--
1999	22	--	--	--	--	4	18	--	--
2000	34	3	9	4	12	4	12	4	12
2001	25	9	36	4	16	--	--	--	--
2002	25	8	32	4	16	--	--	3	12
2003	26	10	38	--	--	--	--	--	--
2004	24	3	13	--	--	4	17	--	--
2005	22	3	14	--	--	--	--	4	18
2006	31	8	26	7	23	--	--	5	16
2007 ¹	23	3	13	3	13	3	13	3	13

¹Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

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

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 North Dakota in 2007:

- Men accounted for 91 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State with 21 deaths. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, and contact with objects and equipment accounted for almost three-fourths of these fatal injuries. (See table 2.)
- Ninety-one percent, or 21 of those who died from a workplace injury, were white, non-Hispanics. (See table 2.)

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

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Falls to lower Level		Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects		Nonhighway incidents	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	316	5	436	7
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	311	5	392	6
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	280	4	409	6
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	255	4	387	6
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	285	5	374	6
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	320	5	377	6
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	266	4	388	6
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	302	5	352	6
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	294	5	399	7
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	266	5	326	6
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	231	4	323	6
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	238	4	347	6
2004	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	269	5	338	6
2005	5,734	1,437	25	664	12	278	5	340	6
2006 ²	5,840	1,356	23	738	13	283	5	345	6
2007 ³	5,488	1,311	24	733	13	294	5	292	5

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 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.

- Workers aged 55 and over accounted for 43 percent or 10 of the State’s workplace fatalities. (See table 2.) Nationally, 27 percent of worker deaths belonged to this age group.
- Sixty-five percent of workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries, the rest were self-employed. (See table 2.)
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector had the largest number of fatalities with 10—almost one-half of the State’s fatal injuries. Transportation incidents accounted for almost two-thirds (6) of the fatalities in this sector. No other industry sector had more than five fatalities. (See table 3.)
- Workers in management, specifically farmers and ranchers, led all major occupational groups with eight worker fatalities, accounting for more than one-third of the State’s total fatality count. Those in construction and extraction, and transportation and material moving occupations accounted for six and seven workplace fatalities, respectively. (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 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 industry¹ sector, North 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.....	23	19	12	4	3	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment.....	7	7	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	10	8	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water.....	3	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noncollision accident.....	3	3	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 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, North 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 substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	23	10	--	7	4	--	--
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	15	6	--	4	3	--	--
Self-employed ⁵	8	4	--	3	--	--	--
Gender							
Men.....	21	8	--	7	4	--	--
Women.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	4	--	--	3	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	6	4	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	21	9	--	7	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 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, North 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		23	10	--	7	4	--	--
Private Industry		23	10	--	7	4	--	--
Goods Producing		19	8	--	7	--	--	--
Natural Resources and Mining		12	6	--	4	--	--	--
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	10	6	--	3	--	--	--
Crop Production.....	111	6	3	--	--	--	--	--
Animal Production.....	112	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle Ranching and Farming.....	1121	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction		4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction	23	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	31-33	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Service providing		4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		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 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, North Dakota, 2007

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.....	23	10	--	7	4	--	--
Management occupations.....	8	4	--	3	--	--	--
Other management occupations.....	8	4	--	3	--	--	--
Agricultural managers.....	8	4	--	3	--	--	--
Farmers and ranchers.....	8	4	--	3	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction laborers.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction laborers.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	7	3	--	3	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Material moving workers.....	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 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