United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dallas, TX 75202

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LOUISIANA WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN 2007

A total of 134 fatal work injuries were recorded in Louisiana during 2007, up from 118 in 2006, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Please note the 2007 figures are preliminary; final results will be released in April 2009. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that Louisiana was 1 of 20 states to experience a higher number of fatal work injuries compared to the previous year. The number of on-the-job fatalities in the State has ranged from a high of 187 in 1994 to a low of 95 in 2003. (See chart A.)

200 187 171 175 159 153 150 139 137 134 121 125 118 117 Fotal fatalities 111 103 100 **75** 50

1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

Chart A. Total workplace fatalities in Louisiana, 1992-2007

Note: Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

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The most frequent type of workplace fatality in Louisiana was highway crashes (37). Homicides, water vehicle accidents, and falls to a lower level were each responsible for 13 fatalities while exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergic substances resulted in 10 workplace deaths. Combined, these five events¹ accounted for 64 percent of all work-related deaths in Louisiana. (See table A.)

Table A. Distribution of fatal occupational injuries in Louisiana by selected event, 1992-2007

	Total	Highway	y crashes	Homicides			vehicle dents	Falls to lo	ower level	Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	
Year	fatalities	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	153	28	18	25	16	22	14	10	7	-	-
1993	171	27	16	19	11	28	16	17	10	-	-
1994	187	23	12	25	13	8	4	17	9	3	2
1995	139	19	14	22	16	11	8	17	12	-	-
1996	134	24	18	15	11	15	11	12	9	3	2
1997	137	26	19	12	9	19	14	15	11	3	2
1998	159	34	21	17	11	15	9	10	6	-	-
1999	141	33	23	10	7	5	4	11	8	-	-
2000	143	39	27	9	6	11	8	17	12	4	3
2001	117	30	26	9	8	6	5	13	11	-	-
2002	103	25	24	4	4	10	10	16	16	-	-
2003	95	19	20	9	9	4	4	5	5	-	-
2004	121	21	17	20	17	12	10	10	8	-	-
2005	111	22	20	12	11	10	9	10	9	-	-
2006	118	19	16	13	11	11	9	11	9	-	-
2007	134	37	28	13	10	13	10	13	10	10	7

Note: Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria; totals for 2007 are preliminary.

Highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents and includes non-collision incidents) remained the most frequent type of fatal workplace event for both the State and the nation in 2007. In Louisiana, fatal highway crashes nearly doubled to 37, up from 19 in 2006. The State's 2007 fatality count for this event was the second-highest on record since the census began in 1992. Highway crashes accounted for 28 percent of all job-related deaths in the State and 24 percent in the nation in 2007. (See table A.)

Homicides (13) accounted for 10 percent of on-the-job deaths in Louisiana; nationally, this event represented 11 percent of all workplace fatalities. While the number of work-related homicides in the State was unchanged from 2006, workplace homicides increased by more than 10 percent nationwide in 2007.

As noted, two other events also had 13 fatalities each in 2007: water vehicle accidents and falls to a lower level. The State's fatality count in both increased from the 11 recorded in 2006. Fatalities resulting from water vehicle accidents accounted for 10 percent of Louisiana work-related deaths, but only 1 percent nationwide. Falls to a lower level also accounted for a 10-percent share of the State's fatalities; nationally, this event represented 13 percent of the total.

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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 and Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual at www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiccs.htm for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in this census.

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Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergic substances resulted in 10 job-related fatalities in Louisiana in 2007, the first such deaths since 2000. This year's count was the highest on record and represented 7 percent of the statewide fatality total. Nationwide, 3 percent of work-related fatalities were caused by this event.

Other fatal workplace events in Louisiana included being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (9) and being struck by objects (7). (See table 1.)

U.S. Workplace Fatalities

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 recorded in 2006. While these results are preliminary, this figure represents the lowest annual total since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program was first conducted 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 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 incidents 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 in the United States rose 13 percent to 610 in 2007 after recording a series low of 540 in 2006. Even after the increase, workplace homicides have declined 44 percent from a series high of 1,080 in 1994. Workplace homicides involving police officers and supervisors of retail sales workers saw substantial increases in 2007.

Table B. Distribution of fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event, 1992-2007

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	Total	Highway Fotal crashes		Falls to lower level		Homicides		Struck by object		Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances		Water vehicle accidents	
Year	fatalities	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	1,044	17	557	9	127	2	109	2
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	1,074	17	565	9	116	2	119	2
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	1,080	16	591	9	133	2	94	1
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	1,036	17	547	9	107	2	87	1
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	927	15	582	9	123	2	119	2
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	860	14	579	9	123	2	109	2
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	714	12	520	9	105	2	112	2
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	651	11	585	10	108	2	102	2
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	677	11	571	10	100	2	84	1
2001^{1}	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	643	11	553	9	96	2	90	2
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	609	11	505	9	99	2	71	1
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	632	11	531	10	122	2	69	1
2004	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	559	10	602	10	116	2	91	2
2005	5,734	1,437	25	664	12	567	10	607	11	136	2	88	2
2006^{2}	5,840	1,356	23	738	13	540	9	589	10	165	3	96	2
2007	5,488	1,311	24	733	13	610	11	504	9	156	3	69	1

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

² 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. NOTE: Totals for 2007 are preliminary.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in Louisiana in 2007:

- Men accounted for 95 percent (127) of the work-related fatal injuries. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, accounted for 52 percent of these deaths and contact with objects and equipment made up 13 percent. Seven women were fatally injured on the job in 2007, over half (4) as a result of transportation incidents. (See table 2.)
- Sixty-two percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic (83); 28 percent were black, non-Hispanic (37); 8 percent were Hispanic or Latino; and 2 percent were Asian (3). The most frequent type of fatal event for each demographic group was transportation incidents. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 68 percent of the State's work-related fatalities in 2007 with 91 deaths. Workers 55 years of age or older who died on the job (27) accounted for 20 percent of the fatally injured. (See table 2.) Nationally, those 25-54 years old accounted for 63 percent of on-the-job fatalities, and those 55 and older, 27 percent.
- Ninety-three percent of workers killed on-the-job in Louisiana worked for wages and salaries and the rest were self-employed. Transportation incidents caused more than half of the wage and salary workers' deaths. Among the self-employed, transportation incidents and falls were the leading causes. (See table 2.)
- Three industry sectors made up 54 percent of the workplace fatalities in Louisiana transportation and warehousing (25), construction (24), and natural resources and mining (24). The leading cause of death in transportation and warehousing as well as natural resources and mining was transportation incidents. In construction, exposure to harmful substances or environments and falls were the leading causes. (See table 3.)
- —Transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of fatalities (50) followed by construction and extraction occupations (23). Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 54 percent of the State's fatalities. (See table 4.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm. Data can be accessed in a number of ways. Selected current and historical information is available in PDF format. Detailed data may be accessed through the online query system located at http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=fi or via an extensive collection of flat text files. For further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries contact the Southwest Economic Analysis and Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CT).

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 Louisiana Department of Labor's Division of Workers' Compensation 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.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry¹ sector, Louisiana, 2007

	•		•										
	Goods producing Service providing						ı						
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	Profes- sional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total	134	60	24	24	12	63	34	3		17	4		
Contact with objects and equipmentStruck by object or equipment		10 5	3	4	3	7				3			
Struck by falling object or equipment	5 9 4	4 5 3			 	4							
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects, n.e.c	4												
FallsFall to lower level	15 13 4	12 11 4	 	7 7 	3 	3 		 	-	 	 	 	
Fall from building girders or other structural steel	3 17	3		3									
Contact with electric current Contact with overhead power lines	5 4		-		 	3		 	 	3	 	 	- -
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	10 5	7		5		3							
Ingestion of substance Transportation accidents	4 70	26	16	6	4	39	25			 5	 4		
Highway accident Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment Moving in same direction	37 16 3	9	5 		 	23 13 3	16 10 3	 		 	 	 	
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming Vehicle struck object on side of road	10 12 8	3			 	7	4						
Noncollision accident	8 7	4 4 5	3	3		4	4						
Noncollision accident Fell from and struck by vehicle, mobile	5	3											
equipment	5					4							
vehicle	5 13 9	 8 5	 8 5		 	4 5 4	 5 4	 	 		 		
Aircraft accident	6					4							
Assaults and violent acts	13 13 12			 	 	7 7 6	4 4 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. 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, Louisiana, 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	134	70	13	17	15	17						
Employee Status												
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴ Self-employed ⁵	125 9	66 4	12 	17 	12 3	16 	 					
Gender												
Men	127 7	66 4	11 	17 	15 	16 						
Age												
Under 16 years		 	 	 	 	 	 					
18 to 19 years		 6	 		 		 					
25 to 34 years	27	12		4	4	3						
35 to 44 years	31 33	12 20	4	4	6	7						
55 to 64 years	19	11		3	3							
65 years and over	8	6										
Race or Ethnic Origin ⁶						4.0						
White, non-HispanicBlack, non-Hispanic		44 19	8	10 5	9	10 6						
Hispanic or Latino	_	4	,		3							
American Indian or Alaska Native												
Asian	3											
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

Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

b Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporate businesses or members of partnerships.

^b 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, Louisiana, 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		134	70	13	17	15	17			
Private Industry		123	65	7	17	15	17			
Goods Producing		60	26		10	12	11			
Natural Resources and Mining		24	16		3					
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	. 11	11	8							
Fishing, Hunting and Trapping	114	5	5							
Fishing	1141	5	5							
Fishing	. 11411	5	5							
Mining ⁵	. 21	13	8		3					
Support Activities for Mining	213	10	5		3					
Support Activities for Mining	. 2131 . 21311	10 10	5 5		3					
Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations	213112	8	4							
Construction		24	6		4	7	7			
Construction	23	24	6		4	7	7			
Construction of buildings	. 236	5	3							
Residential Building Construction	2361	4								
Residential Building Construction.		4 9	 3				-			
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2371	6					_			
Power and Communication Line and Related Structures Construction	23713	4								
Specialty Trade Contractors	. 238 . 2381	10 3				3	5			
Other Specialty Trade Contractors	2389	5								
Site Preparation Contractors	. 23891	5								
Manufacturing		12	4		3	3				
Manufacturing	31-33	12	4		3	3				
Food Manufacturing	311	3								
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	332	3								
Service providing		63	39	7	7	3	6			
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		34	25	4						
Wholesale Trade	42	7	6							
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	423	3								
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	424	3	3							
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	25	19							
Water Transportation	483	5	3							
Inland Water Transportation	. 4832 48321	4	3 3							
Inland Water Transportation Truck Transportation	484	11	ა 11							
General Freight Trucking		7	7							
General Freight Trucking, Long-DistanceGeneral Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Truckload	48412 484121	5 5	5 5							
Specialized Freight Trucking		4	4							
Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Local	48422	4	4							
Support Activities for Transportation	. 488 4883	5 3	3							
Information	.000	3								
		-								
Information	51	3								
Telecommunications	517	3		-						
Professional and Business Services	1	17	5		3		4			
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	. 54	4								
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	. 541	4								
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	. 56	13					4			
Administrative and Support Services	561	11					4			
Employment Services Temporary Help Services	5613 56132	3								
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	5617	6					3			
Landscaping Services	56173	6					3			
Education and Health Services	-	4	4							
Governmenf	ļ	11	5	6						
Local Government		8	4	4						
Service providing		8	4	4						
Public Administration		8	4	4						
Public Administration	92	8	4	4						
	922	-	4	4	-					
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities	922	8 8	4	4	-					
Police Protection	92212	8	4	4						
1 Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 20			6				organizations reg			

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

 $^{\rm 6}$ 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.

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 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 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Louisiana, 2007

		Event or exposure ²								
Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions			
Total	134	70	13	17	15	17				
Protective service occupations	11	4	7							
Law enforcement workers		3	5							
Police officers		3	3							
Police and sheriff's patrol officers		3	3							
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	6					3				
Grounds maintenance workers						3				
Grounds maintenance workers						3				
Tree trimmers and pruners	. 4									
Office and administrative support occupations	4									
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	9	6								
Fishing and hunting workers	. 5	5								
Fishers and related fishing workers	. 5	5								
Fishers and related fishing workers	. 5	5								
Construction and extraction occupations	23	7		6	6					
Construction trades workers		5		3	5					
Construction laborers	. 12	3		3						
Construction laborers	. 12	3		3						
Extraction workers										
Miscellaneous extraction workers	3									
Extraction workers, all other	. 3									
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	. 14	4			4	3				
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	13	3			4	3				
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	4									
Line installers and repairers	. 7				3					
Telecommunications line installers and repairers	7				3					
Production occupations	. 8	4		3						
Metal workers and plastic workers	. 3									
Other production occupations	. 4									
Miscellaneous production workers	. 3									
Transportation and material moving occupations	50	39		5		3				
Air transportation workers	. 4	4								
Aircraft pilots and flight engineers	. 4	4								
Commercial pilots	4	4								
Motor vehicle operators	. 28	25								
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers		24								
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	23	22								
Water transportation workers	. 7	4								
Sailors and marine oilers		4								
Sailors and marine oilers	. 6	4								
Material moving workers	9	4								
Laborers and material movers, hand	8	3								
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	. 8	3								

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.