

JOB-RELATED HIGHWAY FATALITIES

Highway crashes were the leading cause of work injury fatalities in 1996, accounting for 22 percent of the 6,112 job-related deaths.

Half of the highway fatalities resulted from collisions between vehicles and equipment. Nearly one-fifth of the fatalities resulted from a crash with an object other than a vehicle, such as a tree, bridge abutment, or utility pole, and another fifth occurred when the vehicle jackknifed or overturned. Patterns varied somewhat according to the type of vehicle involved.

Trucks played a large role in the incidence of job-related highway fatalities. Over half of the highway fatality victims had been driving or riding in a truck at the time of the incident, half of which were tractor-trailer rigs.

About two-fifths of the decedents were truck drivers by profession with the rest scattered throughout other occupational groups, such as sales workers, farm occupations, police officers, and executives and managers. A similar pattern is evident in the industry of the worker's employer. One-fourth of the workers fatally injured in highway incidents worked in the trucking industry. The remaining fatalities were widely dispersed among various other industries.

HIGHWAY

Job-related highway fatalities¹ by selected characteristics, 1996

	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total	1,324	100	Total	1,324	100
Employee status			Occupation		
Wage and salary workers	1,190	90	Managerial and professional specialty occupations.....	167	13
Self-employed	134	10	Executive, administrative, and managerial jobs	81	6
			Professional specialty	86	6
Gender			Engineers, architects, and surveyors	16	1
Men	1,180	89	Social, recreation, and religious workers	16	1
Women	144	11	Technical, sales, and administrative support jobs.....	168	13
			Technicians and related support occupations.....	21	2
Age			Sales occupations.....	113	9
Under 16 years	3	--	Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations.....	35	3
16 to 19 years	44	3	Sales representatives, finance/business services.....	24	2
20 to 24 years	81	6	Sales representatives, commodities except retail	22	2
25 to 34 years	305	23	Sales reps., mining, manufacturing, wholesale	21	2
35 to 44 years	363	27	Sales workers, retail and personal services	32	2
45 to 54 years	267	20	Administrative support occupations, including clerical ...	34	3
55 to 64 years	184	14	Service occupations.....	94	7
65 years and over	74	6	Protective service occupations.....	64	5
Unspecified	3	--	Fire fighting occupations	14	1
			Police and detectives	37	3
Race and Hispanic origin			Service occupations, except protective and household ..	30	2
White.....	1,118	84	Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations	76	6
Black	143	11	Farm operators and managers.....	26	2
American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	8	1	Farm workers.....	25	2
Asian and Pacific Islander.....	15	1	Precision production, craft, and repair occupations	134	10
Other	5	--	Mechanics and repairers.....	52	4
Unspecified	35	3	Construction trades.....	60	5
Hispanic	115	9	Operators, fabricators, and laborers	659	50
			Transportation and material moving occupations.....	587	44
Event			Motor vehicle operators	564	43
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	656	50	Truck drivers	514	39
Re-entrant collision	19	1	Drivers-sales workers	19	1
Moving in same direction	95	7	Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	16	1
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	214	16	Material moving equipment operators.....	23	2
Moving in intersection	153	12	Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	61	5
Moving/standing vehicle, equipment--in roadway	35	3	Construction laborers.....	27	2
Moving/standing vehicle, equipment--side of road	17	1	Laborers, except construction	15	1
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment in roadway ..	29	2	Military.....	12	1
Vehicle struck object, equipment on side of road.....	211	16	Other or unspecified.....	14	1
Noncollision incident.....	348	26			
Noncollision incident, unspecified	8	1	Industry		
Jack-knifed or overturned--no collision	264	20	Private industry	1,168	88
Ran off highway--no collision	41	3	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing.....	78	6
Other or unspecified.....	80	6	Agricultural production, crops.....	36	3
			Agricultural services.....	20	2
Primary source²			Mining	24	2
Machinery	17	1	Construction.....	133	10
Construction, logging, and mining machinery	10	1	General building contractors	20	2
Vehicles	1,306	99	Heavy construction, except building.....	38	3
Highway vehicle, motorized	1,267	96	Special trade contractors	71	5
Automobile.....	345	26	Manufacturing	104	8
Bus.....	7	1	Transportation and public utilities.....	408	31
Motorcycle, moped.....	9	1	Trucking and warehousing.....	333	25
Truck	746	56	Trucking and courier services, except air.....	318	24
Delivery truck	37	3	Local trucking without storage.....	61	5
Dump truck.....	31	2	Trucking, except local	198	15
Pickup truck	144	11	Courier services, except by air.....	22	2
Semitrailer, tractor trailer, trailer truck	352	27	Communications	22	2
Van--passenger or light delivery.....	73	6	Electric, gas, and sanitary services.....	24	2
Plant and industrial powered vehicles, tractors.....	26	2	Wholesale trade.....	94	7
Tractor.....	25	2	Retail trade	99	7
			Automotive dealers and service stations.....	31	2
			Finance, insurance, and real estate	26	2
			Services	193	15
			Business services	52	4
			Auto repair, services, and parking.....	22	2
			Health services	37	3
			Other or unspecified.....	9	1
			Government	156	12
			Federal.....	31	2
			State	49	4
			Local	76	6

¹ Includes job-related fatalities that occurred on a public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. Excludes off-road (i.e., parking lot, farm, etc.), train, and pedestrian fatalities.

² Identifies the vehicle in which the fatally injured worker was an occupant.

NOTE: Dashes indicate less than .5 percent. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1996