

# Safety *by the* Numbers

Welcome to the first edition of *Safety by the Numbers*, the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation's (the Division) new publication about occupational injuries, illness, and fatality data in Texas. This quarterly publication will assist employers and safety professionals in identifying trends in workplace injuries and deaths. Each issue will focus on specific North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sectors, such as Construction, Manufacturing or Transportation and will include employment numbers, Federal injury, illness and fatality statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and workers' compensation claims information. Short articles within each publication will highlight issues and Division resources relevant to the selected sector.

## In This Issue

This edition looks at Texas data at the highest level of industrial classification used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to aggregate all NAICS, the domain level. There are two domains: goods-producing, and service providing.

The goods-producing domain principally includes industrial activities that produce tangible products. It also includes support activities that directly contribute to the production of those products but have no physical value such as record keeping or marketing.

### Goods-producing sectors:

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting
- Mining
- Construction
- Manufacturing

Goods producing industries make up 17% of the workforce in Texas. Despite this relatively small percentage of the total employment, they experienced nearly half the work-related fatalities according to 2005 BLS data.

The service-providing domain primarily encompasses industries that provide non-tangible products, as well as the support activities directly related to those industries.

### Service-providing sectors:

- Wholesale trade
- Retail trade
- Transportation and warehousing
- Utilities
- Information
- Finance and insurance
- Real estate and rental and leasing
- Professional, scientific, and technical services
- Management of companies and enterprises
- Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services
- Education services
- Health care and social assistance
- Arts, entertainment, and recreation
- Accommodation and food services
- Other services, except public administration
- Public administration
- Unclassified

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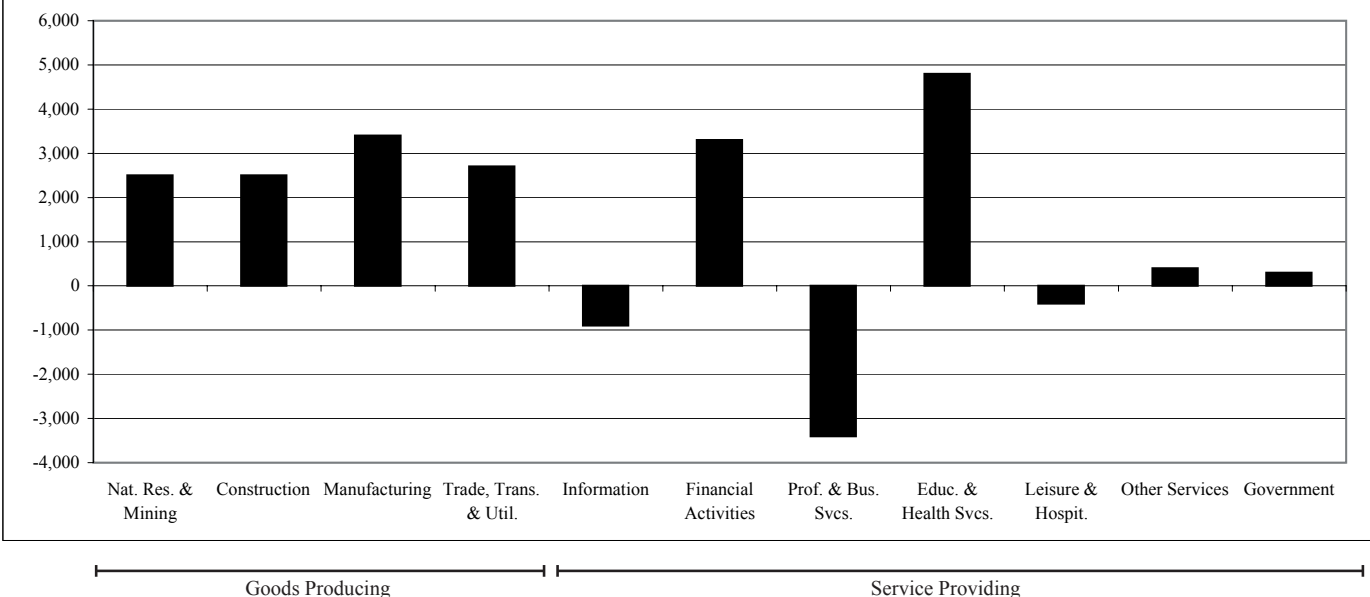
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## Texas Workforce Commission Labor Market Analysis

### TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED<sup>+</sup>

INDUSTRY TITLE	Dec. 2006*	Nov. 2006	Dec. 2005	Nov. '06 to Dec. '06		Dec. '05 to Dec. '06	
				Absolute Change	Percent Change	Absolute Change	Percent Change
<b>TOTAL NONAG. W&amp;S EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>10,074,500</b>	<b>10,058,900</b>	<b>9,861,300</b>	<b>15,600</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>213,200</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>							
Natural Resources & Mining	183,700	182,200	171,900	1,500	0.8	11,800	6.9
Construction	624,900	622,100	580,200	2,800	0.5	44,700	7.7
Manufacturing	914,500	913,500	905,100	1,000	0.1	9,400	1.0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>							
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2,028,200	2,021,500	2,012,500	6,700	0.3	15,700	0.8
Information	214,900	216,600	223,700	-1,700	-0.8	-8,800	-3.9
Financial Activities	637,600	634,500	618,300	3,100	0.5	19,300	3.1
Professional & Business Services	1,231,900	1,234,300	1,185,900	-2,400	-0.2	46,000	3.9
Education & Health Services	1,230,700	1,228,700	1,204,600	2,000	0.2	26,100	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	940,900	941,200	919,000	-300	0.0	21,900	2.4
Other Services	352,800	352,800	351,200	0	0.0	1,600	0.5
Government	1,714,400	1,711,500	1,688,900	2,900	0.2	25,500	1.5

**September 2006 Employment Change by Super Sector (Statewide, Seasonally Adjusted)**

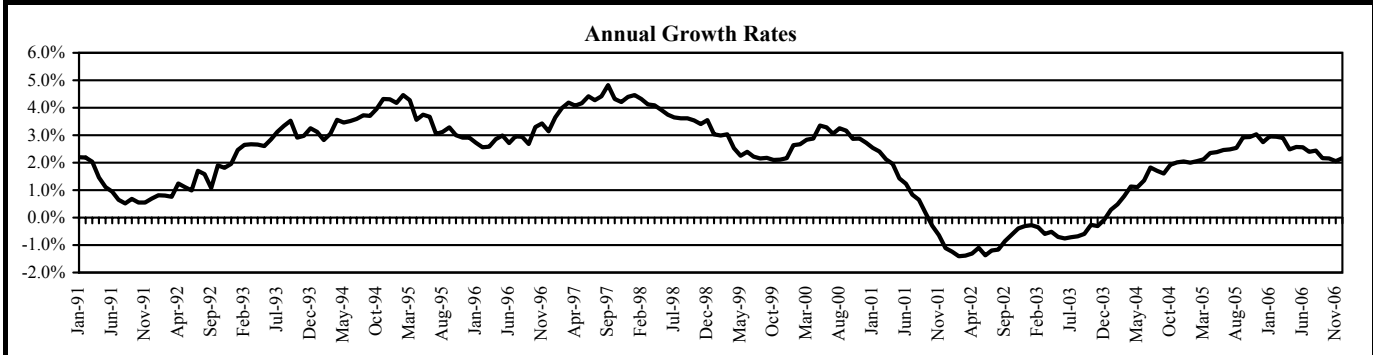


See table "Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment" above for specific values.

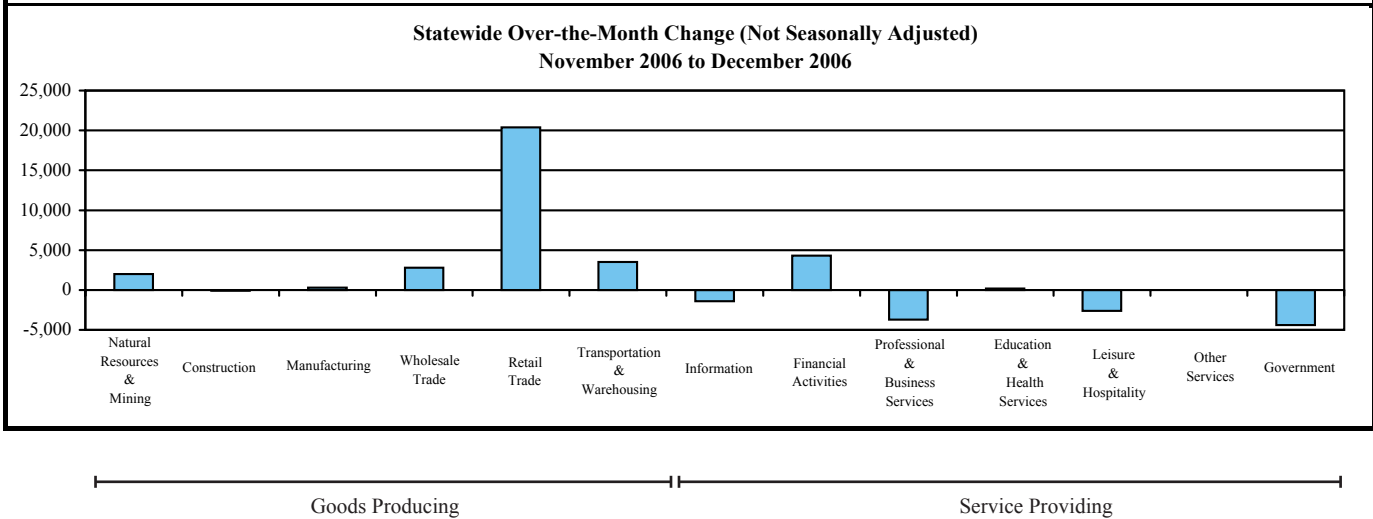
### TEXAS AND U.S. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

TEXAS*					UNITED STATES**				
		CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate	CLF	Employment	Unemp.	Rate
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>									
December	2006	11,616,500	11,141,200	475,300	4.1	152,571,000	146,081,000	6,491,000	4.3
November	2006	11,634,900	11,101,900	533,000	4.6	152,590,000	146,014,000	6,576,000	4.3
December	2005	11,325,800	10,785,000	540,800	4.8	149,874,000	142,918,000	6,956,000	4.6
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>									
December	2006	11,640,100	11,118,200	521,900	4.5	152,775,000	145,926,000	6,849,000	4.5
November	2006	11,629,100	11,077,100	552,000	4.7	152,449,000	145,623,000	6,826,000	4.5
December	2005	11,310,800	10,720,900	589,900	5.2	150,113,000	142,782,000	7,331,000	4.9

## Texas Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



	Nov '06 to Dec '06		Dec '05 to Dec '06				
	Dec '06*	Nov '06	Dec '05	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	10,138,400	10,117,100	9,923,700	21,300	0.2%	214,700	2.2%
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE (total nonfarm less government)</b>	8,396,900	8,371,200	8,208,400	25,700	0.3%	188,500	2.3%
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	1,718,900	1,716,700	1,653,000	2,200	0.1%	65,900	4.0%
Natural Resources and Mining (NAICS 1133 [logging], NAICS 21)	184,000	182,000	172,200	2,000	1.1%	11,800	6.9%
Construction (NAICS 23)	620,700	620,800	575,900	-100	0.0%	44,800	7.8%
Manufacturing (NAICS 31-33)	914,200	913,900	904,900	300	0.0%	9,300	1.0%
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	8,419,500	8,400,400	8,270,700	19,100	0.2%	148,800	1.8%
<b>Private Service Providing</b>	6,678,000	6,654,500	6,555,400	23,500	0.4%	122,600	1.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (NAICS 42,44,45,48,49,22)	2,080,300	2,053,600	2,064,300	26,700	1.3%	16,000	0.8%
Wholesale Trade (NAICS 42)	492,100	489,300	483,800	2,800	0.6%	8,300	1.7%
Retail Trade (NAICS 44-45)	1,176,500	1,156,100	1,165,900	20,400	1.8%	10,600	0.9%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (NAICS 48-49,22)	411,700	408,200	414,600	3,500	0.9%	-2,900	-0.7%
Transportation and Warehousing (NAICS 48,49)	366,700	363,400	368,800	3,300	0.9%	-2,100	-0.6%
Utilities (NAICS 22)	45,000	44,800	45,800	200	0.4%	-800	-1.7%
<b>Information (NAICS 51)</b>	215,300	216,700	224,100	-1,400	-0.6%	-8,800	-3.9%
<b>Financial Activities (NAICS 52,53)</b>	638,900	634,600	619,500	4,300	0.7%	19,400	3.1%
Finance and Insurance (NAICS 52)	461,300	457,900	443,500	3,400	0.7%	17,800	4.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (NAICS 53)	177,600	176,700	176,000	900	0.5%	1,600	0.9%
<b>Professional and Business Services (NAICS 54,55,56)</b>	1,234,500	1,238,200	1,188,300	-3,700	-0.3%	46,200	3.9%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (NAICS 54)	529,100	525,700	504,500	3,400	0.6%	24,600	4.9%
Management of Companies and Enterprises (NAICS 55)	58,400	57,900	54,700	500	0.9%	3,700	6.8%
Admin and Support and Waste Mgmt and Remediation (NAICS 56)	647,000	654,600	629,100	-7,600	-1.2%	17,900	2.8%
<b>Education and Health Services (NAICS 61,62)</b>	1,234,800	1,234,600	1,208,700	200	0.0%	26,100	2.2%
Educational Services (NAICS 61)	144,800	148,000	143,700	-3,200	-2.2%	1,100	0.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance (NAICS 62)	1,090,000	1,086,600	1,065,000	3,400	0.3%	25,000	2.3%
<b>Leisure and Hospitality (NAICS 71,72)</b>	925,000	927,600	902,900	-2,600	-0.3%	22,100	2.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (NAICS 71)	97,900	101,000	95,300	-3,100	-3.1%	2,600	2.7%
Accommodation and Food Services (NAICS 72)	827,100	826,600	807,600	500	0.1%	19,500	2.4%
<b>Other Services (NAICS 81)</b>	349,200	349,200	347,600	0	0.0%	1,600	0.5%
<b>Government</b>	1,741,500	1,745,900	1,715,300	-4,400	-0.3%	26,200	1.5%
Federal Government	184,300	183,300	182,300	1,000	0.5%	2,000	1.1%
State Government	354,500	356,800	353,400	-2,300	-0.6%	1,100	0.3%
Local Government	1,202,700	1,205,800	1,179,600	-3,100	-0.3%	23,100	2.0%



# Fatality Analysis

Based on 2005 Bureau of Labor Statistics fatality data

- Fatalities are predominantly male.
- Hispanic workers account for 40% of all work-related fatalities, 50% of all the goods-producing industries fatalities, and 32% of the service industries fatalities.
- Transportation incidents are still the leading event for work-related deaths, and the majority of them are highway incidents. Service providing industries hold 65% of this class of events, with most residing in the transportation and warehousing sector.
- Vehicles – specifically trucks – are the leading source for fatalities. Vehicles account for 41% of all work-related fatalities, trucks for 34%. The majority of these incidents reside in the transportation and warehousing sector.
- Occupationally, construction and extraction occupations experience the most fatalities, closely followed by transportation and material moving occupations.

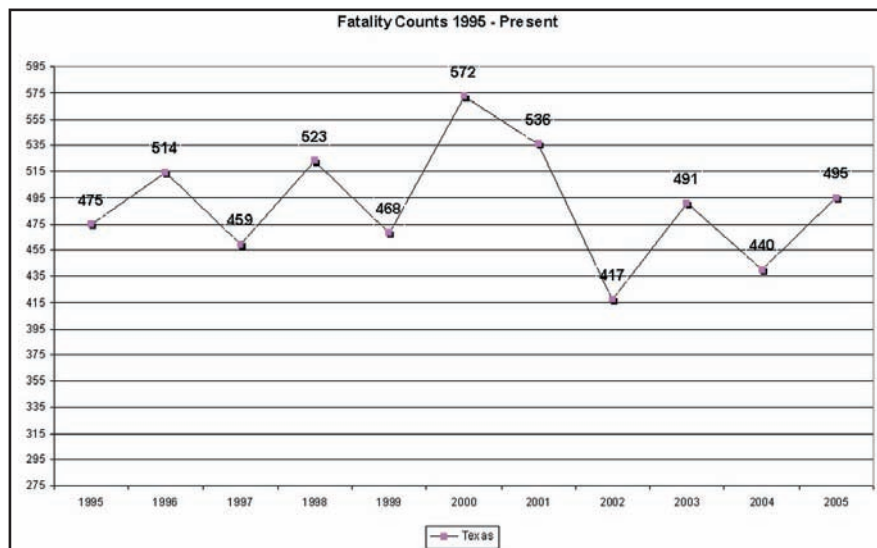
	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Employee status</b>			
Wage and salary workers	387	183	204
Self-employed	108	57	51

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Gender</b>			
Men	469	233	236
Women	26	7	19

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Race or ethnic origin<sup>2</sup></b>			
White, non-Hispanic	243	114	129
Black, non-Hispanic	36	10	26
Hispanic or Latino	200	114	86
Asian	15	--	14

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 19 years	14	9	5
20 to 24 years	49	29	20
25 to 34 years	113	54	59
35 to 44 years	110	51	59
45 to 54 years	106	51	55
55 to 64 years	70	28	42
65 years and over	32	17	15

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Worker activity</b>			
Vehicular and transportation operations	199	75	124
Using or operating tools, machinery	41	21	20
Constructing, repairing, cleaning	121	85	36
Protective service activities	11	--	11
Materials handling operations	34	23	11
Physical activities	43	24	19
Other activities	46	12	34
Tending a retail establishment	20	--	20



## Info by the Score

### *Outreach and Education Focuses on Worker Safety*

The Division's Outreach & Education program area works to eliminate or reduce workplace injuries and hazardous exposures by providing workers' safety and health along with return-to-work information to employers, employees, insurance carriers, and other individuals and organizations who support the Texas workforce.

To learn what type of health and safety information Texas businesses and employees need, Outreach & Education uses federal data (such as Bureau of Labor Statistics and OSHA survey and citation information), workers' compensation claims data, and other injury statistics. The Division then focuses on safety and health topics that affect the Texas industries, occupations, and locations that have the greatest need for help in preventing workplace injuries and illnesses.

Outreach & Education provides educational seminars, training courses, video or DVD loans, and online publications on a wide variety of workplace safety and health as well as return-to-work topics. For example, the Division hosts a yearly Safety Summit where individuals with various backgrounds and skill levels can learn how to protect their workplaces against occupational injuries and illnesses. Seminar breakout sessions offer basic, intermediate, and advanced level training sessions conducted by nationally- and locally-known subject matter experts.

In addition, many employers, employees, and other interested parties attend our

*Continued on page 6*

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Part of body<sup>3</sup></b>			
Head	105	52	53
Trunk	69	36	33
Chest	35	17	18
Neck	7	--	--
Body systems	90	48	42
Multiple	218	99	119

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Location</b>			
Private residence	40	23	17
Farm	22	18	--
Industrial place and premises	164	123	41
Street and highway	174	58	116
Public building	46	--	42
Other or not reported	42	11	31

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Nature</b>			
Intracranial injuries	86	50	36
Other traumatic injuries	135	82	53
Internal injuries	44	31	13
Asphyxiations, suffocations	19	7	12
Drownings	11	5	6
Electrocutions	38	27	11
Poisonings, toxic effects	23	12	11
Open wounds	58	9	49
Gunshot wounds	49	7	42
Burns (heat, chemical, etc.)	10	5	5
Multiple traumatic injuries	194	89	105
Intracranial injuries and injuries to internal organs	23	9	14

The *Safety Violations Hotline* allows workers to take an active role in addressing workplace safety and health issues. A toll-free number and an email address are available for reporting a hazardous workplace condition. The Hotline accepts calls in English or Spanish 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **1-800-452-9595**, or you can email us at [safetyhotline@tdi.state.tx.us](mailto:safetyhotline@tdi.state.tx.us)

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Event or exposure<sup>3</sup></b>			
Contact with objects and equipment	80	52	28
Struck by object	52	33	19
Struck by falling object	39	25	14
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	19	13	6
Caught in running equipment or machinery	7	--	--
Falls	54	39	15
Fall to lower level	50	39	11
Fall from ladder	11	7	--
Fall from roof	9	9	--
Fall from scaffold, staging	9	9	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	63	40	23
Contact with electric current	38	27	11
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	18	11	7
Oxygen deficiency (including drowning)	5	--	--
Transportation incidents	200	72	128
Highway incidents	132	38	94
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	54	12	42
Non-collision incidents	44	16	28
Non-highway incident, except rail, air, water	12	9	--
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	38	16	22
Aircraft incidents	7	--	--
Fires and explosions	31	26	5
Assaults and violent acts	67	11	56
Homicides	46	7	39
Self inflicted injuries	18	--	16

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Occupation</b>			
Management occupations	21	18	--
Architecture and Engineering occupations	7	--	5
Protective service occupations	24	--	22
Food preparation and serving related occupations	5	--	5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	29	--	29
Sales and related occupations	33	--	31
Office and administrative support occupations	8	--	7
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	16	16	--
Construction and extraction occupations	137	134	--
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	37	15	22
Production occupations	22	19	--
Transportation and material moving occupations	135	29	106

*Affordable regional education and training seminars provide instruction on selected safety topics in various cities throughout Texas. A schedule is available on our website: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/seminarsandeducation.html>*

## Info by the Score

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regional education and training seminars held in various cities throughout Texas. Participants at these seminars receive training on selected safety topics. Instructors also provide custom on-site training on various occupational safety and health topics in English or Spanish. A complete list of course topics and descriptions is available on the Division website. The Division can also develop additional health and safety information in response to requests.

The Division produces free online publications containing safety programs and training materials for a wide range of occupational safety and health topics. In addition, we have thousands of safety and health videos and DVDs in our Resource Center lending library at no charge (except return postage and insurance). Many of these publications, videos, and DVDs are available in both English and Spanish.

Future “Info by the Score” columns will guide you to resources and how to apply them in the safety topic being covered. For further details on the information resources the Division provides, visit our website at [www.tdi.state.tx.us](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us). To begin, select “Division of Workers’ Comp Home” (upper left by the star) and “Safety Resources” (right-hand column).

	All Industries	Goods Producing	Service Providing
<b>Primary source<sup>3,4</sup></b>			
Vehicles	205	75	130
Highway vehicles	170	56	114
Automobiles	16	--	15
Trucks	137	51	86
Plant and industrial powered vehicles, tractors	17	9	8
Forklifts	10	--	7
Tractors	7	6	--
Structures and surfaces	65	47	18
Floors, walkways, ground surfaces	60	43	17
Machinery	35	23	12
Construction, logging, and mining machinery	10	8	--
Material handling machinery	8	--	--
Parts and materials	55	43	12
Machine, tool, and electric parts	27	21	6
Persons, plants, animals, and minerals	17	8	9
Trees, logs	7	--	5
Chemicals and chemical products	19	9	10
Tools, instruments, and equipment	13	--	10
Containers	5	--	--
Other	81	28	53
Bullets and pellets	49	7	42
Fire, flame, smoke	21	17	--

*Our Resource Center is available as a reference library for occupational health and safety topics.*

<sup>1</sup>Mining 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>2</sup>Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

<sup>3</sup>Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>4</sup>The primary source of injury identifies the object, substance, or exposure that directly produced or inflicted the injury. For most transportation incidents, the primary source identifies the vehicle in which the deceased was an occupant. For most falls, the primary source identifies the surface or object contacted.

<sup>5</sup>The secondary source of injury, if any, identifies the object, substance, or person that generated the source of injury or that contributed to the event or exposure. For vehicle collisions, the deceased's vehicle is the primary source and the other object (truck, road divider, etc.) is the secondary source. For most homicides, the "bullet" is the primary source and the "perpetrator" is the secondary source. For most falls, the secondary source identifies the equipment or surface from which the worker fell.

<sup>6</sup>Military specific occupations include fatalities to persons identified as resident armed forces regardless of individual occupation listed.

NOTE: Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Data for 2005 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, November 10, 2006

# Injury Analysis

Based on 2005 Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses data on cases involving days away from work

- In 2005, 69,340 occupational injury and illness cases involved days away from work, a 6 percent decrease from 2004.
- The rate of cases involving days away from work was 100.9 per 10,000 full-time workers, over 25 percent lower than the national rate, and 8 percent less than the 2004 Texas rate.
- The median days away from work, a key measure of the severity of injury or illness cases, was 9 days, which was 2 days less than the national figure.
- The service-providing sector reported nearly 58% more cases than goods-producing. Two of the top three industries reporting the most cases in the goods-producing sector were in construction: specialty trade contractors (4,980 cases) and heavy and civil engineering construction (1,530 cases). Fabricated metal product manufacturing experienced 1,730 cases.
- In the service-providing sector, air transportation experienced the highest number of cases (4,080), the highest incidence rate (868.8), and the highest median days away from work (17).
- Workers age 65 and over experienced 35 median days away from work, which is nearly 63 percent higher than all other age groups. However, workers age 65 and over were involved in just under 2 percent of the total cases involving days away from work across all industries.
- Workers age 16 to 19 and workers 65 and over reported 3 times as many cases in the service-providing sector as those in the goods-producing sector.
- Workers with 1 to 5 years of service reported the highest number of cases (22,970), but ranked third in median days away from work (8).
- In terms of occupations, truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailor experienced the most cases (4,910) and the highest median days away from work (20). While customer service representatives reported considerably fewer cases (1,620),

they faced the second highest median days away from work at 15 days.

- Sprains and strains remained the leading nature of injury and illness cases, accounting for 44 percent, although the rate declined nearly 13 percent from 2004. The incidence rate for carpal tunnel syndrome cases decreased by 60 percent.
- The transportation and utilities industries reported the highest incidence rate of sprains and strains (74.4 per 10,000 workers); 58 percent of the cases in the education and health services industries involved sprains and strains.
- In looking at part of body, the trunk was the most affected, with nearly 33 percent. Incidence rates for cases involving the head and back declined 22 percent and 13 percent respectively.
- Contact with objects and equipment, overexertion, and falls to same level were the leading events contributing to injuries and illness, although the incidence rates in each category diminished from 2004 and 2005.
- Events also reporting decreases in the incidence rates include assaults and violent acts by person (42 percent) and repetitive motion cases (41 percent).
- An 18 percent increase in incidence rates involving slips, trips, loss of balance – without fall and an 8 percent increase in incidence rates involving transportation accidents occurred between 2004 and 2005.
- Except for a slight increase in incidence rates involving machinery, all other sources of injuries and illnesses reported decreases. Although the rate of cases involving floors, walkways and ground surfaces decreased 14 percent, this category remained the main source of injury and illness in 2005.

Gender	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
Men	45,010	18,400	26,610
Women	24,060	2,130	21,920

Age	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
Under 14	--	--	--
14 to 15	--	--	--
16 to 19	2,020	410	1,610
20 to 24	7,180	1,970	5,210
25 to 34	17,270	5,760	11,500
35 to 44	18,090	5,150	12,940
45 to 54	15,980	4,740	11,240
55 to 64	7,460	2,160	5,300
65 and over	1,340	330	1,010

Race or ethnic origin	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
White	21,040	6,590	14,450
Black or African American	6,000	1,460	4,540
Hispanic or Latino	20,270	9,680	10,600
Asian	680	180	500
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	30	--	20
American Indian or Alaska Native	130	20	110
Hispanic and other	120	60	60
Multi-race	90	40	40
Not reported	21,020	2,520	18,500

Number of days away from work	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
Cases involving 1 day	8,860	2,210	6,640
Cases involving 2 days	6,650	1,970	4,680
Cases involving 3-5 days	12,490	3,750	8,740
Cases involving 6-10 days	8,550	2,460	6,090
Cases involving 11-20 days	7,230	1,950	5,280
Cases involving 21-30 days	5,020	1,560	3,460
Cases involving 31 or more days	20,550	6,630	13,920
Median days away from work <sup>5</sup>	9	10	8



	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
<b>Part of body affected</b>			
Head	4,630	1,530	3,100
Eye	1,820	850	970
Neck	760	170	590
Trunk	22,810	6,020	16,790
Back	14,380	3,480	10,900
Shoulder	3,880	1,100	2,780
Upper extremities	15,670	6,120	9,550
Finger	6,500	2,930	3,570
Hand, except finger	2,520	1,010	1,510
Wrist	2,810	750	2,060
Lower extremities	16,140	4,610	11,540
Knee	6,410	1,730	4,680
Foot, toe	3,150	760	2,400
Body systems	1,320	380	930
Multiple	7,990	1,700	6,290
All other	20	--	20

	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
<b>Length of service with employer</b>			
Less than 3 months	10,210	3,240	6,960
3 months to 11 months	15,540	5,300	10,240
1 year to 5 years	22,970	6,420	16,550
More than 5 years	20,350	5,570	14,780

	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
<b>Nature of injury, illness</b>			
Sprains, strains	30,490	7,220	23,270
Fractures	7,060	2,550	4,510
Cuts, lacerations, punctures	6,410	2,830	3,580
Bruises, contusions	7,490	1,760	5,730
Heat burns	870	420	450
Chemical burns	460	210	240
Amputations	770	370	400
Carpal tunnel syndrome	410	140	270
Tendonitis	160	70	90
Multiple injuries	2,780	820	1,960
With fractures	520	300	230
With sprains	1,150	270	870
Soreness, Pain	2,070	480	1,590
Back pain	560	170	400
All other	10,370	3,650	6,720

*Our Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program provides free on-site consultations to help employers address safety issues and understand OSHA regulations through.*

## Return-To-Work: A New Approach

One of the fundamental goals of the workers' compensation system is the return of injured employees to work as soon as it is medically safe and appropriate. Return-to-work (RTW) is a commitment and practice on the part of the employer, the worker, the healthcare provider, and the insurance provider to minimize the negative impact of a workplace injury or illness. The Division works to accomplish this goal through the RTW program. The program has several functional components including education and outreach, coordination with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and a return-to-work pilot program for small employers.

Education and outreach is accomplished through the efforts of the RTW education coordinators. The education is internal as well as external. The internal portion is designed to educate Division staff about RTW. These particular staff members have direct contact with injured workers and function to guide the injured worker through the workers' compensation process. The external portion is designed to educate healthcare providers, DARS staff, and employers about various aspects of workers' compensation and RTW.

The Division DARS coordination provides injured workers improved access to vocational rehabilitation services. The Division and DARS field office employees have been cross-trained in the respective services provided by each agency. Part of the coordination is aided by training at least one DARS counselor per field office to be a subject matter expert and liaison for workers' compensation.

The RTW pilot program for eligible small employers was instituted in an effort to reimburse small employers with the cost of workplace modifications, special equipment, tools, furniture or devices, or other related things that are necessary to bring an injured employee back to work in a modified or alternate duty capacity.

*Continued to page 10*

## Return to Work

*Continued from page 9*

Future RTW columns will provide resources and guidance for developing an effective RTW program for your workplace. For further details on RTW, visit our website at [www.tdi.state.tx.us](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us). To begin, select “Division of Workers’ Comp Home” (upper left by the star) and “Return To Work” (right-hand column).

	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
<b>Event or exposure</b>			
Contact with object, equipment	18,190	7,510	10,680
Struck by object	9,890	3,560	6,330
Struck against object	3,430	1,430	1,990
Caught in object, equipment, material	3,810	1,990	1,820
Fall to lower level	5,300	1,820	3,480
Fall on same level	9,920	1,790	8,130
Slips, trips	2,280	780	1,500
Overexertion	16,230	3,950	12,290
Overexertion in lifting	7,750	1,690	6,060
Repetitive motion	1,540	510	1,030
Exposed to harmful substance	3,660	1,340	2,320
Transportation accidents	4,280	770	3,510
Fires, explosions	510	340	170
Assault, violent act	1,020	80	940
by person	770	20	760
by other	250	70	180
All other	6,410	1,650	4,760

	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
<b>Occupation</b>			
Management, business, financial	1,440	200	1,250
Professional and related	3,950	100	3,860
Service	13,040	310	12,730
Sales and related	5,680	100	5,580
Office and administrative support	6,590	560	6,030
Farming, fishing, and forestry	640	510	130
Construction and extractive	7,020	6,630	390
Installation, maintenance, and repair	5,360	2,190	3,170
Production	8,730	6,740	1,990
Transportation and material moving	16,860	3,200	13,660

*Our Accident Prevention Services Program conducts workers’ compensation insurance carrier and employer (policyholder) inspections to insure that carriers are providing appropriate accident prevention services.*

	Private industry <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Goods producing	Service providing
<b>Source of injury, illness</b>			
Chemicals, chemical products	1,030	410	620
Containers	9,580	1,510	8,080
Furniture, fixtures	2,700	680	2,020
Machinery	4,530	2,230	2,300
Parts and materials	6,930	4,360	2,570
Worker motion or position	9,590	2,750	6,840
Floor, ground surfaces	13,010	3,170	9,850
Handtools	2,530	1,190	1,340
Vehicles	7,650	1,210	6,440
Health care patient	2,510	--	2,510
All other	9,270	3,030	6,240

<sup>1</sup> Days away from work include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>3</sup> Data for mining (Sector 21 in the North American Industry Classification System -- United States, 2002) include establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect the changes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.<sup>4</sup> Data for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

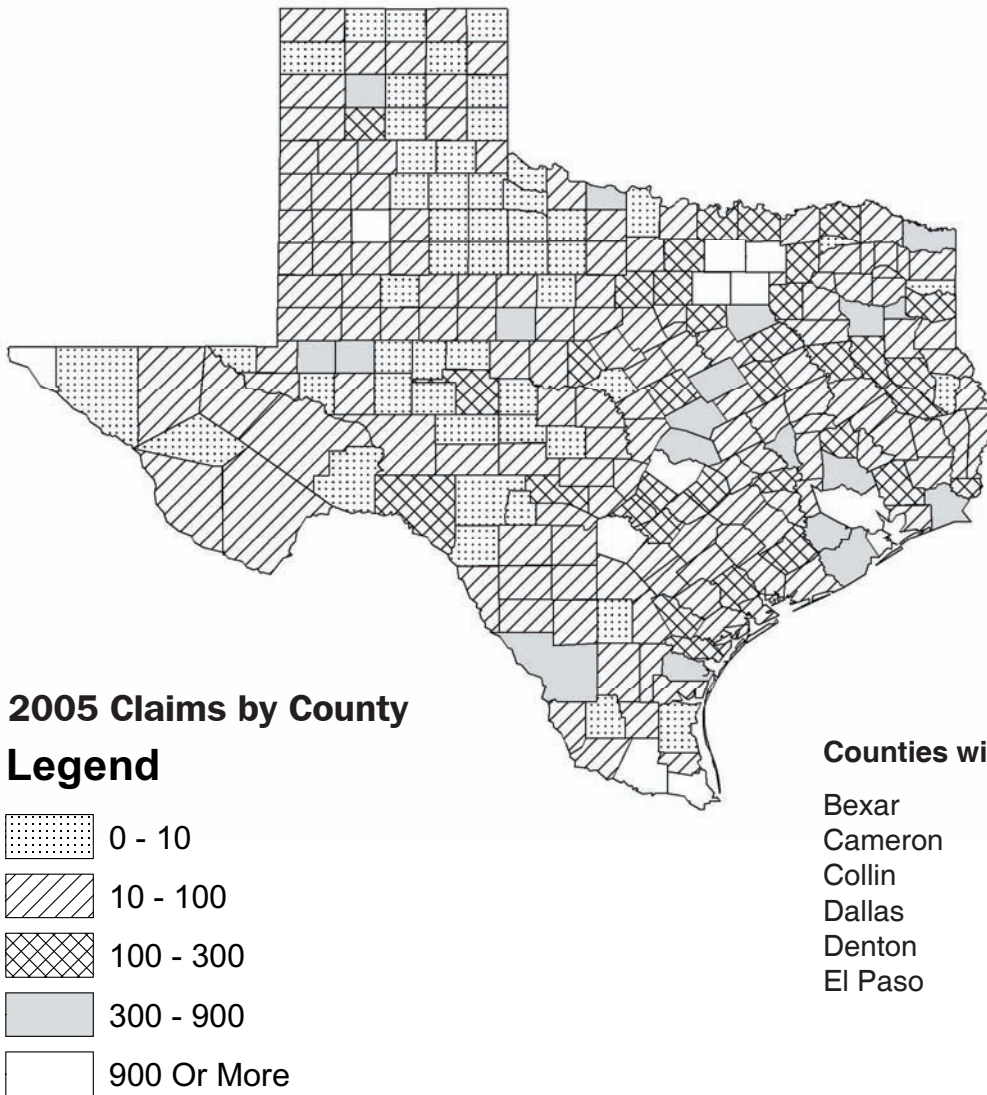
<sup>5</sup> Median days away from work is the measure used to summarize the varying lengths of absences from work among the cases with days away from work. Half the cases involved more days and half involved less days than a specified median. Median days away from work are represented in actual values.

NOTE: Because of rounding and data exclusion of nonclassifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals. Dashes indicate data that do not meet publication guidelines. The scientifically selected probability sample used was one of many possible samples, each of which could have produced different estimates. A measure of sampling variability for each estimate is available upon request.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, November 20, 2006

*The annual Safety Summit provides training courses to help Texas employers and employees with a variety of skill levels to safeguard their workplaces against occupational injuries and illnesses. Nationally- and locally-known subject matter experts conduct these courses.*

# Workers' Compensation Claims Analysis



Females account for 35% of all claims for 2005.

Inexperienced workers (those with less than one year with the employer) account for 22% of 2005 claims. The number of claims drops swiftly as experience is gained.

Strains are the Nature of Injury most seen in this analysis. They account for nearly one-third of all claims.

Lower back (Lumbar/Lumbo-Sacral area) injuries are most common. They are 8.6% of the total claims filed.

Slips, Trips and Falls as a category leads for Cause of Injury at 11%, but Lifting is the most frequent specific Cause (6%).

\*2005 claims by county is based on 57% of workers' compensation claims for which county of injury was available as of November 2006.

# Glossary of Terms

**Claim:** This term is used to designate a case that has been assigned a Workers' Compensation Claim ID by the Division that has at least seven lost workdays.

**Division of Workers' Compensation (the Division):** Administers and regulates the workers' compensation industry (employers, employees, carriers, attorneys, and health care providers). The Division provides for the adjudication of disputes, the regulation of benefit delivery and medical cost containment initiatives. The agency also provides accident prevention training and services.

**Employed (EMP):** Persons 16 years and over in the civilian noninstitutional population who, during the reference week, (a) did any work at all (at least 1 hour) as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family, and (b) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, child care problems, maternity or paternity leave, labor-management dispute, job training, or other family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs. Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job.

**Event:** The event or exposure describes the manner in which the injury or illness was produced or inflicted by the source of injury or illness.

**Fatality:** Incident involving a decedent that has been employed (that is, working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, and present at the site of the incident as a job requirement. These criteria are generally broader than those used by Federal and State agencies administering specific laws and regulations. Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded.

**Injury:** Any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat or electricity; from the resultant kinetic energy of a crash; or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisoning resulting from a short-term exposure limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

**Nature:** The nature of injury or illness identifies the principal physical characteristic(s) of the injury or illness.

**North American Industry Classification System (NAICS):** NAICS is an industry classification system that groups establishments into industries based on the activities in which they are primarily engaged. It is a comprehensive system covering the entire field of economic activities, producing and nonproducing. There are 20 sectors in NAICS and 1,179 industries in NAICS in the United States.

**Part of Body:** The part of body affected identifies the part of the body directly affected by the previously identified nature of injury or illness.

**Source:** The source of injury or illness identifies the object, substance, bodily motion, or exposure, which directly produced or inflicted the previously identified injury or illness.

**Texas Department of Insurance (TDI):** Licenses insurance carriers to write workers' compensation insurance in Texas, licenses insurance agents and adjusters, regulates workers' compensation carriers, establishes classification codes and modifiers, and provides research on workers' compensation issues. The agency also regulates all other lines of insurance in the state.

## Upcoming Events

**Workers' Compensation 101 and Return to Work**  
McALLEN, TX – March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Pan Am University Small Business Development Center. For more information contact Esperanza Perez at 956-292-7535 or [eperez2@panam.edu](mailto:eperez2@panam.edu)

**Workers' Compensation 101 and Return to Work**  
BROWNSVILLE, TX – March 8<sup>h</sup>, 2007 at the Pan Am University Small Business Development Center. For more information contact Esperanza Perez at 956-292-7535 or [eperez2@panam.edu](mailto:eperez2@panam.edu)

**Designated Doctor Training, AADEP**  
HOUSTON, TX - March 16 –17, 2007 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, Westheimer Road.

**What's New in Worker's Comp - What the New Emphasis on Return to Work Means to Employers**  
DENTON, TX - March 30, 2007 as part of the Texas Workforce Commission's Business Conference.

*For more information about these events, contact Public Information at 512-804-4203.*

Information for Improving Workplace Safety Awareness

## Safety by the Numbers

Contact *Safety by the Numbers* at:  
Texas Department of Insurance,  
Division of Workers' Compensation  
7550 Metro Center Drive, Ste. 100, MS 23A  
Austin, TX 78744-1609  
512 804-4599  
512 463-4652 fax

*Safety by the Numbers* is published quarterly. To be included on the publication email distribution list, send a request to: [public.information@tdi.state.tx.us](mailto:public.information@tdi.state.tx.us)



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## Want To Know More?

**Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON) Program**  
(512) 804-4642

**Outreach and Education Publications and Video Loans**  
(512) 804-4620

**Training**  
(512) 804-4626

**Self Insurance Regulation**  
(512) 804-4775

**Accident Prevention Services**  
(512) 804-4681

**Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries**  
(512) 804-4599

**OSHA Data Initiative**  
(512) 804-4651

**Rejected Risk Program**  
(512) 804-4686

**Safety Violations Hotline**  
1-800-452-9595

**Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses**  
(512) 804-4651