

Revisions to the 2008 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) counts

The final count of fatal work injuries in the U.S. in 2008 was 5,214, up from the preliminary count of 5,071 reported in August 2009. The final 2008 total was the lowest annual total since the fatality census was first conducted in 1992. As a result of the updates, the overall 2008 fatal work injury rate for the U.S. rose slightly from 3.6 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers to 3.7 per 100,000.

The final numbers reflect updates to the 2008 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) file made after the release of preliminary results in August 2009. Revisions and additions to the 2008 CFOI counts result from the identification of new cases and the revision of existing cases based on source documents received after the release of preliminary results. A table summarizing the results of the update process appears on the next page.

Among the changes resulting from the updates:

- Workplace suicides were higher by 12 cases, bringing the workplace suicide total in 2008 to 263 cases—the highest number ever reported by the program.
- In the private construction sector fatal injuries increased by 6 cases from the preliminary count, but the final total was still 19 percent lower than the final 2007 total. The fatal work injury rate in the sector fell by 10 percent, from 10.8 fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 equivalent full-time workers in 2007 to 9.7 in 2008.
- Highway incidents were up 66 cases (or 6 percent) from the preliminary count, bringing the total number of fatal work-related highway incidents in 2008 to 1,215 cases. The final 2008 count was 14 percent lower than the final 2007 number and the lowest count since 1992.
- Fatal injuries involving falls increased by 20 from the preliminary count to 700 cases. The final count of fatal falls in 2008 represents a decline of 17 percent from the final 2007 count.
- The revised number of fatal work injuries involving White, non-Hispanic workers was higher by 103 cases, but the total number of fatal work injuries for this worker group remained the lowest total ever for the series. The revised number of fatal work injuries for Hispanic workers and for Black workers also rose, but the final numbers of fatal injuries for both groups were still down substantially from final 2007 counts (down 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively).
- The industry sectors reporting the largest net increases in fatal work injuries from the updates were transportation and warehousing (up 34 cases) and government (up 22 cases).
- Overall, 27 States revised their counts upward as a result of the update process.

The CFOI Program has compiled a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. since 1992 by using diverse data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. For more information, see chapter 9 of the BLS Handbook of Methods, available online at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a1.htm.

The revised data can be accessed using the following tools: [Create Customized Tables \(Multiple Screens\)](#) and the [Online Profiles System](#). The original August 2009 press release with the preliminary results can be found here: [National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2008](#). Additional tables and charts can be found on [Current and Revised Data](#) and on the [CFOI State page](#).

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries, comparison of 2008 preliminary and updated, selected characteristics

Characteristics	Number			Rate ¹		
	Preliminary	Final	Difference	Preliminary	Final	Difference
Total	5,071	5,214	143	3.6	3.7	0.1
Employee status						
Wage and salary workers ²	4,071	4,183	112	3.1	3.2	0.1
Self-employed ³	1,000	1,031	31	11.2	11.6	0.4
Gender						
Men	4,703	4,827	124	5.9	6.1	0.2
Women	368	387	19	0.6	0.6	-
Age						
16 to 17 years	23	23	0	2.5	2.5	-
18 to 19 years	63	66	3	2.4	2.4	-
20 to 24 years	339	353	14	2.6	2.8	0.2
25 to 34 years	840	850	10	2.7	2.8	0.1
35 to 44 years	1,084	1,113	29	3.2	3.3	0.1
45 to 54 years	1,257	1,292	35	3.7	3.8	0.1
55 to 64 years	887	920	33	4.5	4.7	0.2
65 years and over	559	580	21	12.2	12.7	0.5
Race or ethnic origin⁴						
White, non-Hispanic	3,560	3,663	103	3.7	3.8	0.1
Black, non-Hispanic	514	533	19	3.5	3.7	0.2
Hispanic or Latino	774	804	30	4.0	4.2	0.2
Occupation⁵						
Management occupations	538	553	15	3.2	3.3	0.1
Protective service occupations	300	306	6	8.9	9.1	0.2
Sales and related occupations	266	275	9	1.8	1.8	-
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	274	286	12	27.2	28.4	1.2
Construction and extraction occupations	966	977	11	11.7	11.8	0.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	345	354	9	6.6	6.7	0.1
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,330	1,376	46	15.5	16.1	0.6
Military occupations	53	57	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Industry⁶						
Private Industry	4,549	4,670	121	3.9	4.0	0.1
Goods Producing	2,199	2,234	35	7.5	7.6	0.1
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	651	672	21	29.4	30.4	1.0
Construction	969	975	6	9.6	9.7	0.1
Manufacturing	404	411	7	2.5	2.5	-
Service providing	2,350	2,436	86	2.7	2.8	0.1
Wholesale trade	175	180	5	4.2	4.4	0.2
Retail trade	290	301	11	2.0	2.0	-
Transportation and warehousing	762	796	34	14.2	14.9	0.7
Professional and business services	389	403	14	2.7	2.8	0.1
Leisure and hospitality	233	238	5	2.2	2.2	-
Government ⁷	522	544	22	2.3	2.4	0.1
Event or exposure						
Transportation accidents	2,053	2,130	77			
Highway accidents ⁸	1,149	1,215	66			
Assaults and violent acts	794	816	22			
Homicides	517	526	9			
Contact with objects and equipment	923	937	14			
Falls	680	700	20			
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	432	439	7			
Other events or exposures	189	192	3			

¹ The rate represents the number of fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers and was calculated as

(N/EH) x 200,000,000 where

N = the number of fatal work injuries

EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year.

200,000,000 = base for 100,000 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year)

² May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

³ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, members of partnerships, and may include owners of incorporated businesses.

⁴ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude Hispanic and Latino workers.

⁵ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification system.

⁶ Based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

⁷ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

⁸ "Highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. It excludes incidents occurring entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms; incidents involving trains; and deaths to pedestrians or other nonpassengers.

NOTE: Data for 2008 are revised and final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. N/A indicates that this type of data is not available for this data element. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries