

Revisions to the 2009 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) counts

The final count of fatal work injuries in the U.S. in 2009 was 4,551, up from the preliminary count of 4,340 reported in August 2010. The final 2009 total was the lowest annual total since the fatality census was first conducted in 1992. As a result of the updates, the overall 2009 fatal work injury rate for the U.S. rose slightly from 3.3 to 3.5 fatal injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers.

The final numbers reflect updates to the 2009 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) file made after the release of preliminary results in August 2010. Revisions and additions to the 2009 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 26 cases after the updates, bringing the workplace suicide total in 2009 to 263 cases—equaling the highest annual total ever reported by the fatality census.
- Highway incidents were higher by 103 cases (or 12 percent) from the preliminary count, bringing the total number of fatal work-related highway incidents in 2009 to 985 cases. Even with the 103 cases added after the updates, the final 2009 highway incident count was 19 percent lower than the final 2008 number and the lowest annual count ever reported by the program.
- Workplace homicides increased by 21 to 542 cases after updates. The final workplace homicide total for 2009 represented a 3 percent increase over the total reported for 2008.
- The revised number of fatal work injuries involving white, non-Hispanic workers was higher by 145 cases, but the total number of fatal work injuries for this worker group (3,204) remained the lowest total ever for the series. The final, revised count for black, non-Hispanic workers was also a series low.
- The number of fatal work injuries in 2009 for Hispanic or Latino workers rose by 7 percent to 713 after the updates were added—the lowest annual count for that worker group since 1998.
- In the private construction sector fatal injuries increased by 18 cases from the preliminary count, but the final total was 14 percent lower than the final 2008 total and was the third consecutive year that fatal work injury totals have declined in this industry sector.
 - The largest net increase in fatal work injuries among occupations involved drivers of tractor trailer or other heavy trucks. The total for this occupation rose from 486 cases to 540 after updates were added—an increase of 11 percent.
- Overall, 25 States and the District of Columbia revised their counts upward as a result of the update process.

The CFOI Program has compiled an annual 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 http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9.htm#census_fatal.

The revised data can be accessed using the following tools: [Create Customized Tables \(Multiple Screens\)](#) and the [Online Profiles System](#). The original August 2010 press release with the preliminary results can be found here: [National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2009](#). 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 2009 preliminary and updated, selected characteristics

Characteristics	Number			Rate ¹		
	Preliminary	Final	Difference	Preliminary	Final	Difference
Total	4,340	4,551	211	3.3	3.5	0.2
Employee status						
Wage and salary workers ²	3,335	3,488	153	2.7	2.8	0.1
Self-employed ³	1,005	1,063	58	12.0	12.7	0.7
Gender						
Men	4,021	4,216	195	5.5	5.7	0.2
Women	319	335	16	0.6	0.6	0.0
Age						
16 to 17 years	14	14	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
18 to 19 years	55	57	2	2.4	2.5	0.1
20 to 24 years	261	275	14	2.3	2.4	0.1
25 to 34 years	681	704	23	2.3	2.4	0.1
35 to 44 years	872	908	36	2.8	3.0	0.2
45 to 54 years	1,113	1,173	60	3.4	3.6	0.2
55 to 64 years	806	853	47	4.1	4.3	0.2
65 years and over	521	551	30	11.5	12.1	0.6
Race or ethnic origin⁴						
White, non-Hispanic	3,059	3,204	145	3.4	3.5	0.1
Black, non-Hispanic	407	421	14	3.0	3.1	0.1
Hispanic or Latino	668	713	45	3.7	4.0	0.3
Occupation⁵						
Management occupations	514	538	24	3.2	3.3	0.1
Protective service occupations	243	244	1	7.2	7.3	0.1
Sales and related occupations	269	290	21	1.9	2.0	0.1
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	229	239	10	24.6	25.8	1.2
Construction and extraction occupations	818	838	20	12.1	12.4	0.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	317	326	9	6.5	6.6	0.1
Transportation and material moving occupations	988	1,059	71	12.7	13.6	0.9
Military occupations	69	75	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Industry⁶						
Private Industry	3,890	4,090	200	3.5	3.7	0.2
Goods Producing	1,772	1,827	55	7.0	7.2	0.2
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	551	575	24	26.0	27.2	1.2
Construction	816	834	18	9.7	9.9	0.2
Manufacturing	304	319	15	2.2	2.3	0.1
Service providing	2,118	2,263	145	2.5	2.7	0.2
Wholesale trade	186	190	4	4.9	5.0	0.1
Retail trade	291	307	16	2.1	2.2	0.1
Transportation and warehousing	579	633	54	12.1	13.3	1.2
Professional and business services	394	422	28	2.9	3.1	0.2
Leisure and hospitality	216	231	15	2.1	2.2	0.1
Government ⁷	450	461	11	1.9	1.9	0.0
Event or exposure						
Transportation accidents	1,682	1,795	113	N/A	N/A	N/A
Highway accidents ⁸	882	985	103	N/A	N/A	N/A
Assaults and violent acts	788	837	49	N/A	N/A	N/A
Homicides	521	542	21	N/A	N/A	N/A
Suicides	237	263	26	N/A	N/A	N/A
Contact with objects and equipment	734	741	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Falls	617	645	28	N/A	N/A	N/A
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	390	404	14	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fires and explosions	113	113	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other events or exposures	16	16	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

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, 2007.

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: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. N/A indicates data that are not publishable or not available for a given 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