

SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE
Dallas, Texas

For release: Friday, September 30, 2011

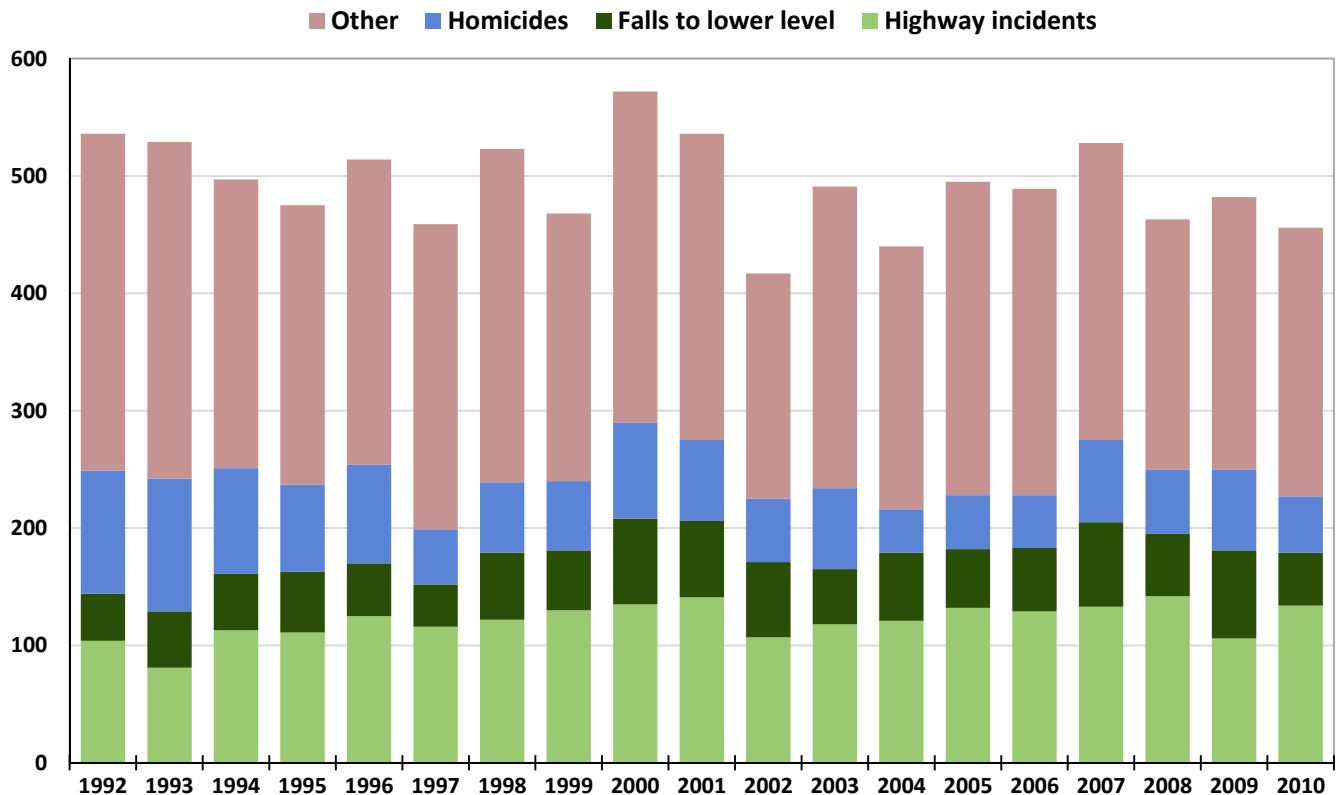
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WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN TEXAS—2010

Fatal work injuries totaled 456 in 2010 for Texas, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that while the 2010 count was preliminary, the number of work-related fatalities in Texas fell by 26 from one year earlier. Fatal occupational injuries in the state have ranged from a high of 572 in 2000 to a low of 417 in 2002; the 2010 count was the third-lowest on record for the state. (See table 1 and chart 1.)

Nationwide, a preliminary total of 4,547 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2010, about the same as the final count of 4,551 recorded in 2009, according to results from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program. Final 2010 CFOI data will be released in Spring 2012.

Chart 1. Total work-related fatalities and selected events, Texas, 1992-2010



Note: Data for 2010 are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Highway incidents were the most frequent type of workplace fatality in Texas in 2010, accounting for 134 deaths. (See table 1.) The number of work-related highway deaths in 2010 was notably higher than a year earlier (106), but was comparable to levels recorded from 2005 to 2008. On-the-job fatalities due to homicides declined to 48 in 2010, down from 69 in 2009. Fatal injuries resulting from falls to a lower level decreased from 75 to 45 over the year. Worker fatalities resulting from being struck by an object or equipment were about the same at 35 in 2010 compared with 36 in 2009.

In the United States, highway incidents were also the most frequent fatal workplace event, accounting for 21 percent of fatal work injuries. In Texas, highway incidents accounted for a larger share of work-related fatalities, 29 percent. (See table 2.) Nationwide, falls to a lower level and homicides were the next most frequent types of fatal events, each with 11 percent of total work-related fatalities; in Texas, falls to a lower level and homicides had similar percentage shares. On-the-job fatalities caused by being struck by an object or equipment accounted for 9 percent of work-related deaths nationally compared to 8 percent in Texas.

Additional key characteristics:

- Men accounted for 426, or 93 percent, of the work-related fatalities in the state. (See table 3.) Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, made up 42 percent of these fatalities.
- In Texas, 56 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics. Nationwide, this group accounted for 72 percent of work-related deaths.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 297, or 65 percent, of the State’s work-related fatalities in 2010. Nationally, workers in this group accounted for 60 percent of on-the-job fatalities.
- Of the 456 occupational fatalities in Texas, 86 percent worked for wages and salaries; the remaining fatalities were among the self-employed. The leading cause of death for wage and salary workers was transportation incidents which accounted for 45 percent of fatal injuries in the State, higher than the U.S share of 41 percent. Transportation incidents, along with assaults and violent acts, were the leading factors in work-related deaths among self-employed workers in Texas, each accounting for 29 percent of on-the-job fatalities.
- The transportation and warehousing sector had the largest number of fatalities, 93, followed by construction with 89. Transportation incidents were responsible for the largest number of work-related deaths in both sectors, accounting for 74 fatal injuries in transportation and warehousing and 33 in construction.
- Transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities in the state with 140, of which heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers accounted for 84. Workers in construction and extraction jobs had the second-highest fatality count at 98, followed by those employed in installation, maintenance, and repair occupations at 44.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at www.bls.gov/iif/ and detailed data may be accessed from <http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=fi>. Further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, is available on the Southwest Information Office web site at www.bls.gov/ro6/ or by contacting us at 972-850-4800 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 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. during the 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 at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a1.htm. The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part III 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. The Bureau of Labor Statistics thanks the Texas Department of Insurance 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 in Texas by selected event, 1992-2010

Year	Total fatalities	Highway incidents		Homicides		Falls to lower level		Struck by object or equipment	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	536	104	19	105	20	40	7	35	7
1993	529	81	15	113	21	48	9	51	10
1994	497	113	23	90	18	48	10	38	8
1995	475	111	23	74	16	52	11	39	8
1996	514	125	24	84	16	45	9	41	8
1997	459	116	25	47	10	36	8	36	8
1998	523	122	23	60	11	57	11	41	8
1999	468	130	28	59	13	51	11	35	7
2000	572	135	24	82	14	73	13	53	9
2001	536	141	26	69	13	65	12	53	10
2002	417	107	26	54	13	64	15	38	9
2003	491	118	24	69	14	47	10	44	9
2004	440	121	28	37	8	58	13	49	11
2005	495	132	27	46	9	50	10	52	11
2006	489	129	26	45	9	54	11	52	11
2007	528	133	25	70	13	72	14	47	9
2008	463	142	31	55	12	53	11	42	9
2009 ¹	482	106	22	69	14	75	16	36	7
2010 ²	456	134	29	48	11	45	10	35	8

¹ Since the initial release of 2009 data, 2 additional job-related fatalities were identified in Texas bringing the 2009 total job-related fatality count to 482.

² Totals for 2010 are preliminary.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, Texas, 2009-2010

Event or exposure ^[1]	2009	2010	
		Number	Percent
Total	482	456	100
Transportation incidents	164	196	43
Highway	106	134	29
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	53	71	16
Moving in same direction	7	15	3
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	27	25	5
Moving in intersection	6	18	4
Vehicle struck object on side of road	20	32	7
Noncollision	30	27	6
Jack-knifed or overturned-no collision	25	24	5
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	22	14	3
Overturned	8	5	1
Worker struck by a vehicle	21	25	5
Water vehicle accident	7	3	1
Aircraft accident	6	17	4
Assaults and violent acts	94	74	16
Homicides	69	48	11
Shooting	57	38	8
Stabbing	4	--	--
Self-inflicted injuries	23	23	5
Contact with objects and equipment	65	64	14
Struck by object or equipment	36	35	8
Struck by falling object or equipment	25	24	5
Struck by flying object or equipment	4	4	1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	18	20	4
Caught in running equipment or machinery	11	6	1
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	11	6	1
Falls	82	50	11
Fall to lower level	75	45	10
Fall from ladder	24	11	2
Fall from roof	21	15	3
Fall from scaffold, staging	9	3	1
Fall on same level	7	5	1
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	61	53	12
Contact with electric current	26	27	6
Contact with overhead power lines	5	9	2
Contact with temperature extremes	10	8	2
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	12	12	3
Inhalation of substance	6	7	2
Oxygen deficiency	12	6	1
Drowning, submersion	11	5	1
Fires and explosions	15	18	4

[1] Based on the 2007 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual. Includes other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

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 2010 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics, Texas, 2009-2010

Worker characteristics	2009	2010	
		Number	Percent
Total	482	456	100
Employee Status			
Wage and salary workers ^[1]	370	394	86
Self-employed ^[2]	112	62	14
Gender			
Men	457	426	93
Women	25	30	7
Age^[3]			
20 to 24 years	39	25	5
25 to 34 years	89	100	22
35 to 44 years	108	85	19
45 to 54 years	118	112	25
55 to 64 years	83	82	18
65 years and over	37	44	10
Race or Ethnic Origin^[4]			
White, non-Hispanic	239	255	56
Black, non-Hispanic	43	26	6
Hispanic or Latino	185	162	36
Asian	14	13	3

[1] May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

[2] Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

[3] Because there may have been no incidents reported for some ages or because the data do not meet publication criteria, information is not available for all age groups. In addition, some fatalities may have had insufficient information with which to determine the age of the decedents.

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

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Data for 2010 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.