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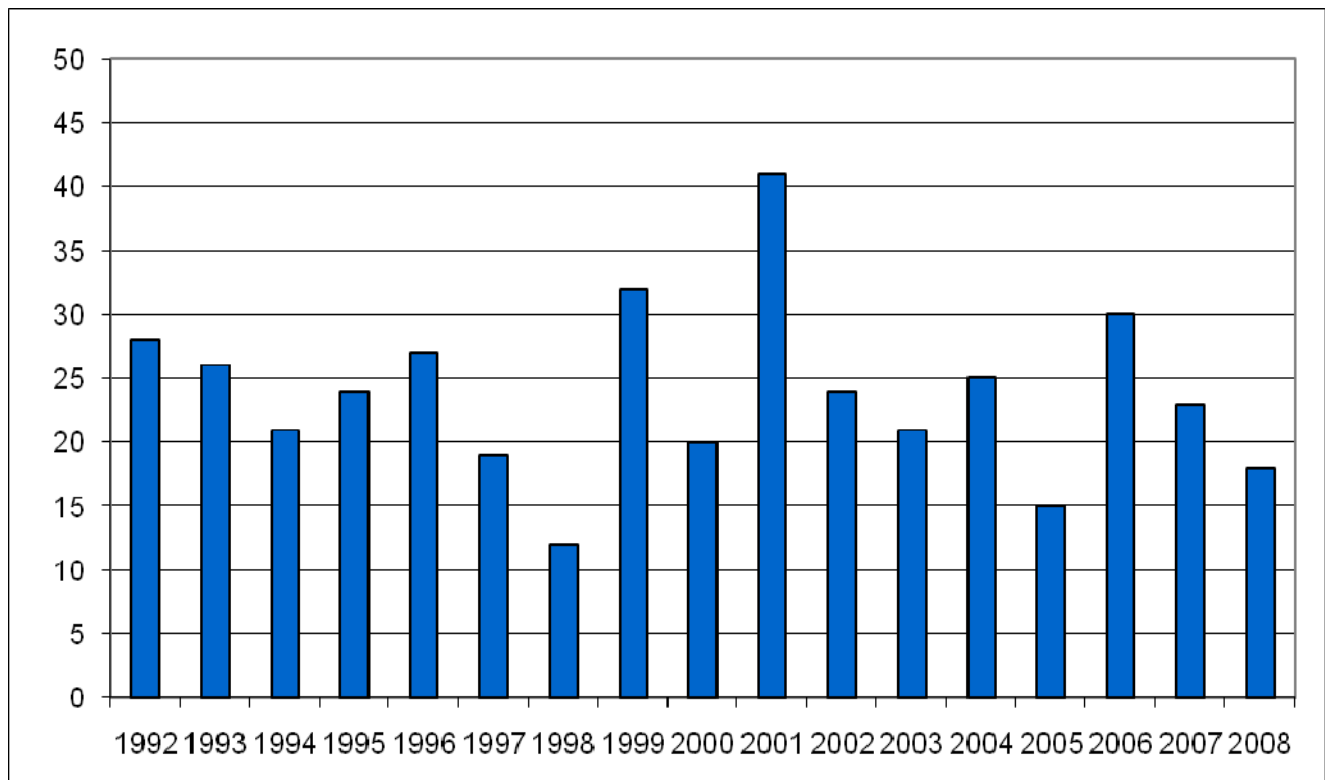
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### WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN HAWAII – 2008

Fatal work injuries in Hawaii totaled 18 in 2008, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See chart 1.) While these results are preliminary, the 2008 count decreased from the 23 recorded in 2007. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the State’s fatality count in 2008 was the third lowest on record since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries began in 1992. Two types of events accounted for 50 percent of all workplace fatalities in the State: aircraft incidents and being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects. (Final 2008 national and State results will be released in April 2010.)

**Chart 1. Total workplace fatalities in Hawaii: 1992 – 2008**



Aircraft incidents were the most prevalent type of on-the-job fatality in Hawaii with six reported in 2008. Work-related deaths due to aircraft incidents accounted for 33 percent of the State’s fatalities. (See table A.) Nationally, this event accounted for 4 percent of the total for 2008.

There were three fatalities from being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects in Hawaii in

2008. Work-related deaths from this event accounted for 17 percent of all fatal work injuries in the State and 10 percent of the nation's total.

**Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in the State of Hawaii by selected event groups: 1992-2008**

Year	Total Fatalities	Aircraft incidents		Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	28	5	18	-	-
1993	26	3	12	-	-
1994	21	3	-	-	-
1995	24	5	21	-	-
1996	27	6	22	-	-
1997	19	-	-	-	-
1998	12	-	-	-	-
1999	32	4	13	-	-
2000	20	-	-	-	-
2001	41	6	15	3	7
2002	24	-	-	-	-
2003	21	3	14	-	-
2004	25	5	20	-	-
2005	15	-	-	-	-
2006	30	5	17	-	-
2007	23	-	-	-	-
2008	18	6	33	3	17

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria

Nationwide, a total of 5,071 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2008, a decrease of 10 percent from the revised total of 5,657 fatal work injuries reported for 2007. While the 2008 results are considered preliminary, this figure represents the smallest annual total since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program was first conducted in 1992. (See table B.) Highway incidents in 2008 accounted for 23 percent of all fatal work injuries and continued to lead all other events in the frequency of on-the-job fatalities. Still, the 2008 count of 1,149 fatal highway incidents was the lowest annual total since the census began in 1992. The 576 fatal falls to a lower level in 2008 was the lowest since 1993 when 534 fatalities were reported; the 2008 total represents a 23-percent decline from 2007. The number of workers (508) who were fatally injured from being struck by an object or equipment in 2008 was slightly higher than the series low recorded in 2007 (504 fatalities) and 16 percent lower than the series high recorded in 2005 (607 fatalities).

Nationally, workplace homicides decreased by 18 percent from 628 in 2007 to 517 in 2008. The 2008 total is the lowest since the census began and has declined 52 percent from the high of 1,080 reported in 1994. Workplace suicides rose from 196 cases in 2007 to 251 cases in 2008, an increase of 28 percent and the highest number ever reported by the fatality census.

**Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups: 1992-2008**

Year	Total Fatalities	Highway incidents		Falls to a lower level		Homicides		Struck by object or equipment	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	1,044	17	557	9
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	1,074	17	565	9
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	1,080	16	591	9
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	1,036	17	574	9
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	927	15	582	9
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	860	14	579	9
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	714	12	520	9
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	651	11	585	10
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	677	11	571	10
2001 <sup>1</sup>	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	673	11	553	9
2002	5,534	1,373	25	638	12	609	11	505	9
2003	5,575	1,353	24	604	11	632	11	531	10
2004	5,764	1,398	24	738	13	559	10	602	10
2005	5,734	1,437	25	664	12	567	10	607	11
2006	5,840	1,356	23	738	13	540	9	598	10
2007 <sup>2</sup>	5,657	1,414	25	746	13	628	11	504	9
2008 <sup>3</sup>	5,071	1,149	23	576	11	517	10	508	10

<sup>1</sup> Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

<sup>2</sup> Totals for 2007 are revised and final. The BLS national news release issued August 20, 2008, reported a total of 5,488 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2007. Since then, an additional 169 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2007 to 5,657.

<sup>3</sup> Totals for 2008 are preliminary.

### **Key characteristics of fatal work injuries in Hawaii**

- Men accounted for 94 percent (17) of the work-related fatalities in Hawaii in 2008. Transportation incidents were the most prevalent cause of death for men, resulting in seven fatalities.
- Thirty-three percent of those who died from a workplace injury in Hawaii were of Asian descent, while 28 percent were of white, non-Hispanic ethnic background.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 33 percent of the State’s work-related fatalities in 2008. At the national level, 63 percent of worker deaths belonged to this age group.
- Eighty-three percent of workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries (15), and the rest were self-employed. The leading cause of death for wage and salary workers was transportation incidents (7).
- Two industry sectors made up 44 percent of the workplace fatalities in the State— trade, transportation, and utilities (4) and construction (4).
- Transportation and material moving occupations and military specific occupations both had five fatal work injuries. Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 56 percent of all fatal work injuries in Hawaii.

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at [www.bls.gov/iif/](http://www.bls.gov/iif/). Data can be accessed in two ways, through Create Customized Tables, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. For personal assistance or further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Western Information Office at 415-625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT. Information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and other programs and surveys are available on our Web site at [www. bls. gov/ro9/](http://www.bls.gov/ro9/).

## 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. in each 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 here: [http://www.bls.gov/opus/hom/homch9\\_a1.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opus/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

BLS thanks the Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations 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.

Detailed statistics on fatal occupational injuries in Idaho can be obtained from tables at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/tgs/2008/iiffi15.htm>.