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Atlanta, Ga.

**For release: Wednesday, October 12, 2011**

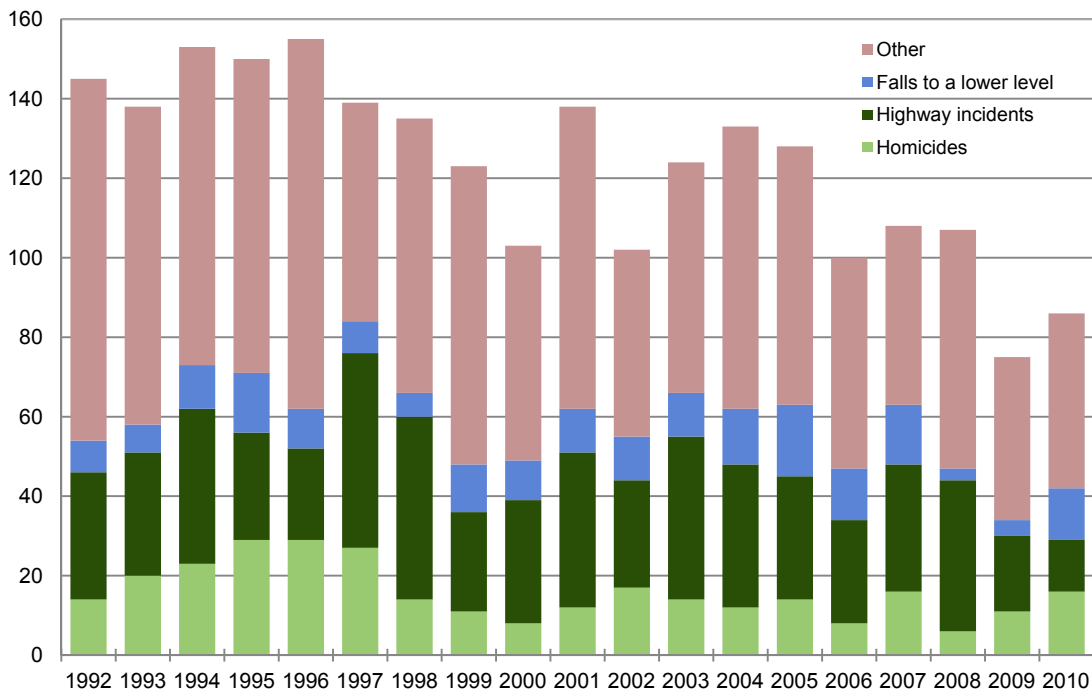
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## WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN ALABAMA – 2010

Fatal work injuries totaled 86 in 2010 for Alabama, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Janet S. Rankin, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that while the 2010 count was preliminary, the number of work-related fatalities in Alabama rose by 11 from one year earlier. Still, the 2010 total was the second-lowest in the 19-year history of the series. Fatal occupational injuries in the State have ranged from a high of 155 in 1996 to last year's all-time low of 75. (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 fatalities 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, Alabama 1992 – 2010**



Note: Data for 2010 are preliminary.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Homicides were the most frequent type of workplace fatality in Alabama in 2010, accounting for 16 deaths. (See table 2.) This is the first time since 1996 that homicides were the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in the State. Fatalities due to highway incidents declined from 19 to 13 in 2010. Highway incidents have been the most prevalent cause of workplace deaths for 16 of the 19 years in the series. Workplace fatalities resulting from falls to a lower level and being struck by an object or equipment both increased in 2010. Falls to a lower level increased from 4 to 13, and fatal injuries resulting from being struck by an object or equipment rose from 5 to 7 in 2010.

In the United States, highway incidents were the most frequent fatal workplace event, accounting for 21 percent of fatal work injuries in 2010. Alabama's share of on-the-job fatalities due to this event, however, was below the national average, at 15 percent. Nationwide, falls to a lower level and homicides were the next most frequent types of events, each with 11 percent of the work-related fatalities. Both of these events accounted for a higher share in the State, 15 percent each. Shares of workplace fatalities due to being struck by an object or equipment for the nation and Alabama were nine and eight percent, respectively.

#### **Additional key characteristics:**

- Men accounted for 80, or 93 percent, of the work-related fatalities in the State. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, made up 36 percent of these fatalities. (See table 3.)
- In Alabama, 58 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics, while black non-Hispanics accounted for 30 percent. Nationwide, these groups accounted for 72 and 8 percent of work-related deaths, respectively.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 56, 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 86 occupational fatalities in Alabama, 83 percent worked for wages and salaries; the remaining were self-employed. The leading cause of death for wage and salary workers was transportation incidents. Homicides accounted for more than half of the deaths for the self-employed.
- The construction and trade, transportation, and utilities industry sectors had the largest number of fatalities, each with 15. Falls accounted for six of the worker deaths in construction. Transportation incidents resulted in nine worker fatalities in the trade, transportation, and utilities industry sector.
- Transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities with 20, the majority of which were motor vehicle operators (13). Workers in construction and extraction occupations had the second-highest fatality count at 17, followed by installation, maintenance, and repair occupations with 12.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at [www.bls.gov/iif/](http://www.bls.gov/iif/). Further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, is available on the Southeast Information Office Web site at [www.bls.gov/ro4/](http://www.bls.gov/ro4/) or by contacting us at 404-893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## 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 here: [http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9\\_a1.htm](http://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 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 Alabama by selected event groups, 1992-2010**

Year	Total fatalities	Homicides		Highway incidents		Falls to a lower level		Struck by object or equipment	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	145	14	10	32	22	8	6	18	12
1993	138	20	14	31	22	7	5	19	14
1994	153	23	15	39	25	11	7	21	14
1995	150	29	19	27	18	15	10	12	8
1996	155	29	19	23	15	10	6	23	15
1997	139	27	19	49	35	8	6	12	9
1998	135	14	10	46	34	6	4	16	12
1999	123	11	9	25	20	12	10	17	14
2000	103	8	8	31	30	10	10	4	4
2001	138	12	9	39	28	11	8	10	7
2002	102	17	17	27	26	11	11	13	13
2003	124	14	11	41	33	11	9	10	8
2004	133	12	9	36	27	14	11	20	15
2005	128	14	11	31	24	18	14	14	11
2006	100	8	8	26	26	13	13	14	14
2007	108	16	15	32	30	15	14	6	6
2008	107	6	6	38	36	3	3	9	8
2009	75	11	15	19	25	4	5	5	7
2010	86	16	19	13	15	13	15	7	8

NOTE: Data for 2010 are preliminary.

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

Event or exposure <sup>[1]</sup>	2009	2010	
		Number	Percent
Total	75	86	100
Transportation incidents	38	30	35
Highway	19	13	15
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	8	7	8
Moving in same direction	--	3	3
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	5	--	--
Vehicle struck object on side of road	9	6	7
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	4	4	5
Noncollision	4	3	3
Overturned	3	--	--
Worker struck by a vehicle	8	10	12
Aircraft accident	4	--	--
Assaults and violent acts	14	20	23
Homicides	11	16	19
Shooting	8	14	16
Self-inflicted injuries	3	3	3
Contact with objects and equipment	12	16	19
Struck by object or equipment	5	7	8
Struck by falling object or equipment	3	5	6
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	5	7	8
Falls	5	13	15
Fall to lower level	4	13	15
Fall from roof	--	3	3
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	5	4	5
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	3	--	--

[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, Alabama, 2009-2010**

Worker characteristics	2009	2010	
		Number	Percent
Total	75	86	100
<b>Employee Status</b>			
Wage and salary workers <sup>[1]</sup>	64	71	83
Self-employed <sup>[2]</sup>	11	15	17
<b>Gender</b>			
Men	71	80	93
Women	4	6	7
<b>Age<sup>[3]</sup></b>			
20 to 24 years	5	8	9
25 to 34 years	18	14	16
35 to 44 years	10	22	26
45 to 54 years	20	20	23
55 to 64 years	17	15	17
65 years and over	4	7	8
<b>Race or Ethnic Origin<sup>[4]</sup></b>			
White, non-Hispanic	57	50	58
Black, non-Hispanic	13	26	30
Hispanic or Latino	--	4	5
Asian	4	6	7

[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. 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.