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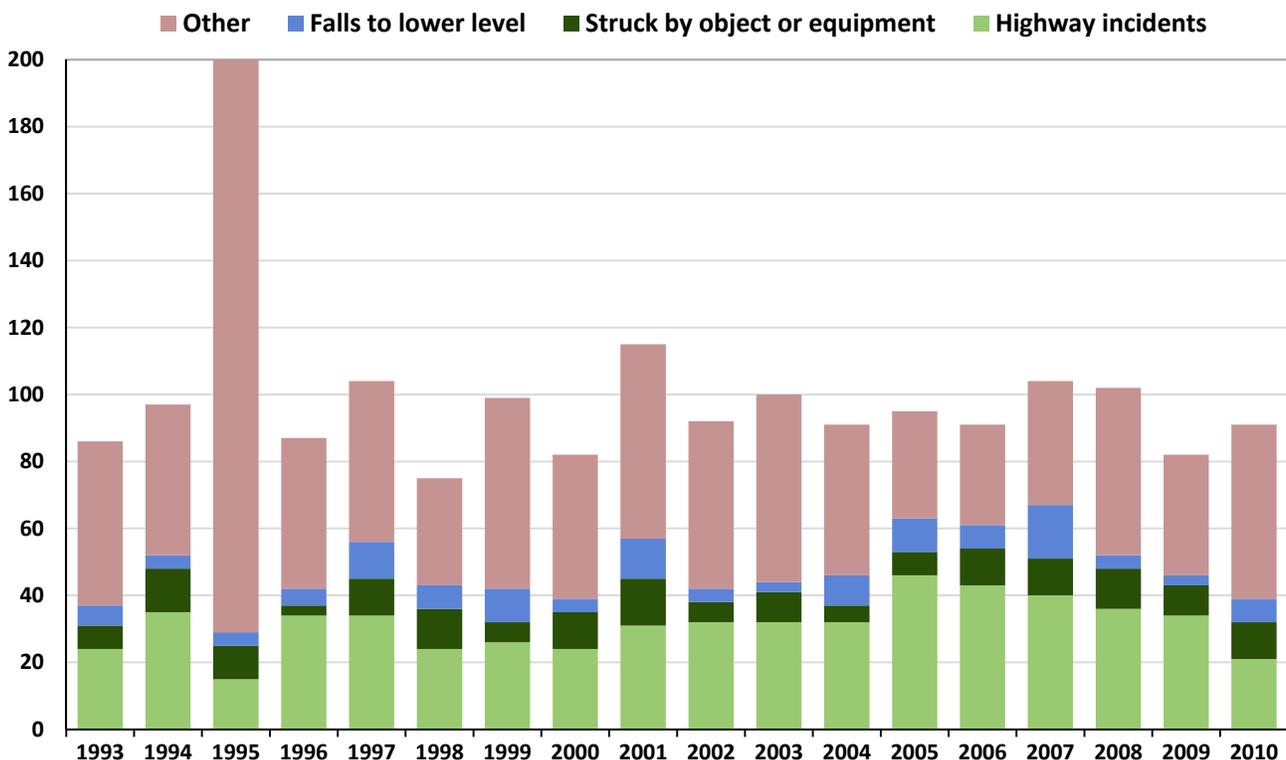
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WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN OKLAHOMA—2010

Fatal work injuries totaled 91 in Oklahoma in 2010, 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 the State had risen by 9 from one year earlier. Oklahoma was one of 27 states and the District of Columbia to report higher numbers of fatal work injuries in 2010 than in 2009. Fatal occupational injuries in the State have ranged from a high of 200 in 1995, the year of the Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City, to a low of 75 in 1998. (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, Oklahoma, 1993-2010



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

Highway incidents were the most frequent type of workplace fatality in Oklahoma in 2010, accounting for 21 deaths. (See table 2.) Despite the increase in total work-related fatalities in the State, deaths resulting from highway incidents declined sharply from 2009 when 34 workers lost their lives as a result of this type of fatal event. Work-related deaths due to being struck by an object or equipment increased from 9 to 11 over the year. In 2010, there were 7 on-the-job fatalities due to falls to a lower level, up from 3. The 7 work-related deaths due to fires and explosions in 2010 accounted for 8 percent of the State's worker fatalities, compared to the national share of 4 percent.

In the United States, highway incidents were also the most frequent fatal workplace event, accounting for 21 percent of fatal work injuries. Despite the decline in the number of work-related highway fatalities in Oklahoma in 2010, this event accounted for a slightly larger share of worker deaths, 23 percent. Nationwide, falls to a lower level and homicides were the next most frequent type of fatal event, each with 11 percent of total work-related fatalities; the Oklahoma shares were lower at 8 percent for falls and 4 percent for homicides. Fatal injuries caused by being struck by an object or equipment accounted for 9 percent of U.S. on-the-job deaths compared to 12 percent in Oklahoma.

Additional key characteristics:

- Men accounted for 88 of the 91 work-related fatalities in the state. (See table 3.) Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, made up 43 percent of these fatalities.
- In Oklahoma, 73 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 60, or 66 percent, of the State's work-related fatalities in 2010. Nationally, workers in this group also accounted for 60 percent of on-the-job fatalities.
- Of the 91 occupational fatalities in Oklahoma, 91 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, accounting for 47 percent of fatal injuries. Among the self-employed, the leading cause of worker fatalities was being struck by an object or equipment, accounting for 50 percent of fatal injuries.
- The construction sector had the largest number of fatalities, 19, followed by transportation and warehousing with 13. In the construction industry, transportation incidents were responsible for 7 fatal injuries and exposure to harmful substances or environments, for 4. In the transportation and warehousing industry, transportation incidents were also the most prevalent cause of workplace deaths accounting for 9 worker deaths in 2010.
- Construction and extraction occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities in the State with 24, of which construction laborers accounted for 6. Workers in transportation and material moving jobs had the second-highest fatality count at 23, followed by those employed in management occupations (including farmers and ranchers) at 9.

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 Oklahoma Department of Labor 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 Oklahoma by selected event groups, 1992-2010

Year	Total fatalities	Highway incidents		Struck by object or equipment		Falls to lower level		Fires and explosions	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	78	19	24	7	9	--	--	7	9
1993	86	24	28	7	8	6	7	--	--
1994	97	35	36	13	13	4	4	4	4
1995	200	15	8	10	5	4	2	7	4
1996	87	34	39	3	3	5	6	4	5
1997	104	34	33	11	11	11	11	7	7
1998	75	24	32	12	16	7	9	--	--
1999	99	26	26	6	6	10	10	5	5
2000	82	24	29	11	13	4	5	6	7
2001	115	31	27	14	12	12	10	4	3
2002	92	32	35	6	7	4	4	9	10
2003	100	32	32	9	9	3	3	6	6
2004	91	32	35	5	5	9	10	--	--
2005	95	46	48	7	7	10	11	4	4
2006	91	43	47	11	12	7	8	3	3
2007	104	40	38	11	11	16	15	--	--
2008	102	36	35	12	12	4	4	10	10
2009 ¹	82	34	41	9	11	3	4	--	--
2010	91	21	23	11	12	7	8	7	8

¹ Since the initial release of 2009 data, 5 additional job-related fatalities were identified in Oklahoma bringing the 2009 total job-related fatality count to 82.

NOTE: Totals for 2010 are preliminary; dashes indicate no data reported or data do not meet publication criteria.

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

Event or exposure ^[1]	2009	2010	
		Number	Percent
Total	82	91	100
Transportation incidents	48	40	44
Highway	34	21	23
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	14	5	5
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	6	--	--
Moving in intersection	4	4	4
Vehicle struck object on side of road	7	10	11
Noncollision	11	6	7
Jack-knifed or overturned-no collision	11	6	7
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	5	6	7
Overturned	--	3	3
Worker struck by a vehicle	5	5	5
Railway accident	3	--	--
Aircraft accident	--	6	7
Assaults and violent acts	6	7	8
Homicides	5	4	4
Shooting	--	3	3
Self-inflicted injuries	--	3	3
Contact with objects and equipment	14	17	19
Struck by object or equipment	9	11	12
Struck by falling object or equipment	8	7	8
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	3	3	3
Falls	4	9	10
Fall to lower level	3	7	8
Fall from roof	--	3	3
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	8	11	12
Contact with electric current	4	6	7
Contact with overhead power lines	3	4	4
Oxygen deficiency	--	3	3
Drowning, submersion	--	3	3
Fires and explosions	--	7	8

[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, Oklahoma, 2009-2010

Worker characteristics	2009	2010	
		Number	Percent
Total	82	91	100
Employee Status			
Wage and salary workers ^[1]	72	83	91
Self-employed ^[2]	10	8	9
Gender			
Men	78	88	97
Women	4	3	3
Age^[3]			
20 to 24 years	5	8	9
25 to 34 years	16	14	15
35 to 44 years	20	23	25
45 to 54 years	21	23	25
55 to 64 years	12	16	18
65 years and over	8	6	7
Race or Ethnic Origin^[4]			
White, non-Hispanic	61	66	73
Black, non-Hispanic	6	--	--
Hispanic or Latino	7	17	19

[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.