

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

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USDL - 97 - 266

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FOR RELEASE: 10 a.m. EDT

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Thursday, August 7, 1997

NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES, 1996

Largely as a result of reductions in job-related homicides and electrocutions, the number of fatal work injuries fell in 1996 to 6,112, the lowest level in the five-year history of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The downward trend in the past two years reversed the increases reported in 1993 and 1994. (See table 1.)

Job-related electrocutions dropped 20 percent, and homicides fell 12 percent from 1995 to 1996. In contrast, fatalities from falls to lower levels continued to rise, reaching a five-year high. Half of the fatal falls occurred in the construction industry. This release profiles these and other fatal work injuries by type of event, occupation, industry, demographic characteristics of the worker, and state where injury occurred.

Profiles of 1996 fatal work injuries

Highway traffic incidents and homicides continued to lead all other events that resulted in fatal work injuries in 1996. These two events totaled over a third of the work injury deaths that occurred during the year. (See table 1 and chart 1.)

Work-related highway deaths accounted for 22 percent of the 6,112 fatal work injuries in 1996. Slightly over half of the highway fatality victims were driving or riding in a truck. The following table shows the most common vehicles occupied by highway fatality victims:

Vehicle	Number	Percent
Truck.....	746	56
Semitrailer truck.....	352	27
Pickup truck.....	144	11
Delivery truck.....	37	3
Dump truck.....	31	2
Automobile.....	345	26
Van	73	6
Tractor	25	2
Other or not reported.....	135	10

Off-road transport-related incidents (such as tractors or forklifts overturning) and workers being struck by vehicles each accounted for about 6 percent of worker fatalities. Air, rail, and water transport together accounted for another 8 percent.

Homicide, the second leading cause of job-related deaths, accounted for 15 percent of fatal work injuries in 1996. Work-related homicides fell 12 percent below the 1995 total and 16 percent below 1994, when job-related homicides recorded a five-year high. While most industry divisions had declines in the number of job-related homicides, retail trade and services had slight increases over 1995. Managers of food serving and lodging establishments and sales supervisors and proprietors were particularly affected by the increases. Taxicab drivers had one of the largest declines in homicides.

Robbery was the primary motive of job-related homicides. Almost half of the homicide victims worked in retail establishments, such as grocery stores and eating and drinking establishments, where cash is readily available. Disputes among coworkers and with customers and clients accounted for about one-seventh of the homicide total. Many of these homicides were committed after the worker was fired or the customer or tenant was asked to leave the premises. Arguments with customers and clients ranged from disagreements over monetary issues, such as rental or legal fees owed and quality of goods or services received, to disputes over refusal to serve alcohol. Domestic disputes accounted for one-sixth of the workplace homicides for female workers.

Circumstances or alleged perpetrator	Number	Percent
Robberies and other crimes.....	726	80
Work associates.....	129	14
Coworker, former coworker.....	75	8
Customer, client.....	54	6
Relatives.....	31	3
Husband, ex-husband.....	20	2
Other relative.....	11	1
Other personal acquaintances.....	26	3
Boyfriend, ex-boyfriend.....	11	1
Other acquaintance.....	15	2

Falls continued to rise in 1996, accounting for 11 percent of the fatal work injuries. One-fifth were from or through roofs; falls from scaffolding and from ladders each accounted for about one-seventh. While still relatively small in number, falls from nonmoving vehicles rose by almost two-thirds over the previous year.

Nine percent of the fatally injured workers were struck by various objects, such as falling trees, machinery or vehicles that had slipped into gear, and various building materials. Fatalities resulting from being struck by falling objects were at their highest level since the fatality census began in 1992. An increase in the number of workers killed by falling trees and tree limbs in 1996 was partly responsible for the higher level in 1996.

Job-related electrocutions dropped below 300 for the first time in the five-year period and accounted for 5 percent of worker deaths in 1996. Construction trade workers, such as painters, electricians, and carpenters, accounted for a large portion of the decline from the 1995 total.

Two-fifths of the worker deaths from electrocution resulted from the worker or equipment being used coming in contact with overhead power lines.

On average, about 17 workers were fatally injured each day during 1996. Eighty-four percent of fatally injured workers died the day they were injured; 97 percent died within 30 days. There were 189 multiple fatality incidents (incidents that resulted in two or more worker deaths) resulting in 546 job-related deaths. This was about 10 percent fewer multiple fatality incidents than in 1995 when 217 events resulted in 686 fatal work injuries.

Occupation highlights (table 2 and chart 2):

* Occupations with large numbers of fatal injuries included truck drivers, construction trades, farm occupations, and sales occupations.

* The specific events or exposures responsible for workers' deaths varied considerably among occupations. Highway crashes, jackknifings, and rollovers together accounted for about two-thirds of the truck drivers' deaths, while homicides accounted for about three-fifths of the fatalities among workers in sales occupations. Slightly over one-third of the deaths in farm occupations occurred in tractor-related incidents, and about two-fifths of worker deaths in construction trades resulted from falls to lower levels.

Industry highlights (table 3):

* The construction industry accounted for one out of every six fatal work injuries that occurred during 1996.

* Industry divisions with large numbers of fatalities relative to their employment include agriculture, forestry, and fishing; construction; transportation and public utilities; and mining.

Relative risk (tables 3 and 4):

A comparison of percent distributions of fatalities and employment, can be used to evaluate the relative risk of a job-related fatality for a given occupation, industry, or worker characteristic. For example, the construction industry accounted for about 17 percent of the fatality total, about 3 times its 6-percent share of total employment. While employment can be used to evaluate the relative risk of a fatal work injury, other measures, such as employee exposure hours, also can be used. (The annual average employment data shown in tables 3 and 4 are from the Current Population Survey.)

State highlights (table 5):

* In general, states that have the largest number of persons employed also reported the largest number of work-related fatalities. Twelve of the largest states accounted for almost half of the total fatality count; three of these 12 states--California, Texas, and Florida--accounted for one-fourth of the total. A state's industry mix, however, also must be considered when evaluating its occupational fatality profile, especially when large numbers of workers are employed in relatively dangerous industries, such as agriculture, mining, and construction.

* Five states reported changes of 20 or more fatalities that represented at least a 20 percent difference compared with 1995. Major disasters, such as the Oklahoma City bombing or an airline crash, can cause substantial year-to-year fluctuations in occupational fatality totals.

State	1995	1996	Numeric change	Percent change	Contributing factor
Colorado.....	112	90	-22	-20	General decline
Louisiana.....	139	103	-36	-26	Fewer air and water vehicle incidents
Mississippi.....	128	103	-25	-20	Fewer transport-related incidents
Oklahoma	200	87	-113	-57	Federal building bombing in 1995
Pennsylvania.....	233	282	49	21	General increase

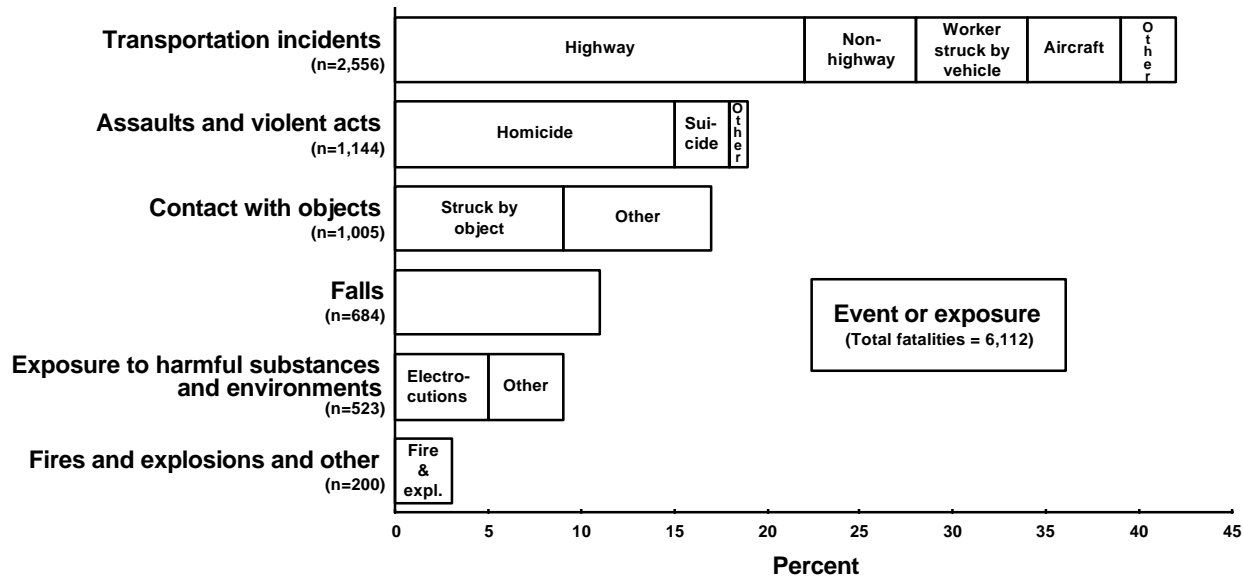
Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS safety and health statistics program, provides the most complete count of fatal work injuries available because it uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

This is the fifth year that the fatality census has been conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The BLS fatality census is a federal/state cooperative venture in which costs are shared equally. Additional state-specific data are available from the participating state agencies listed in table 6.

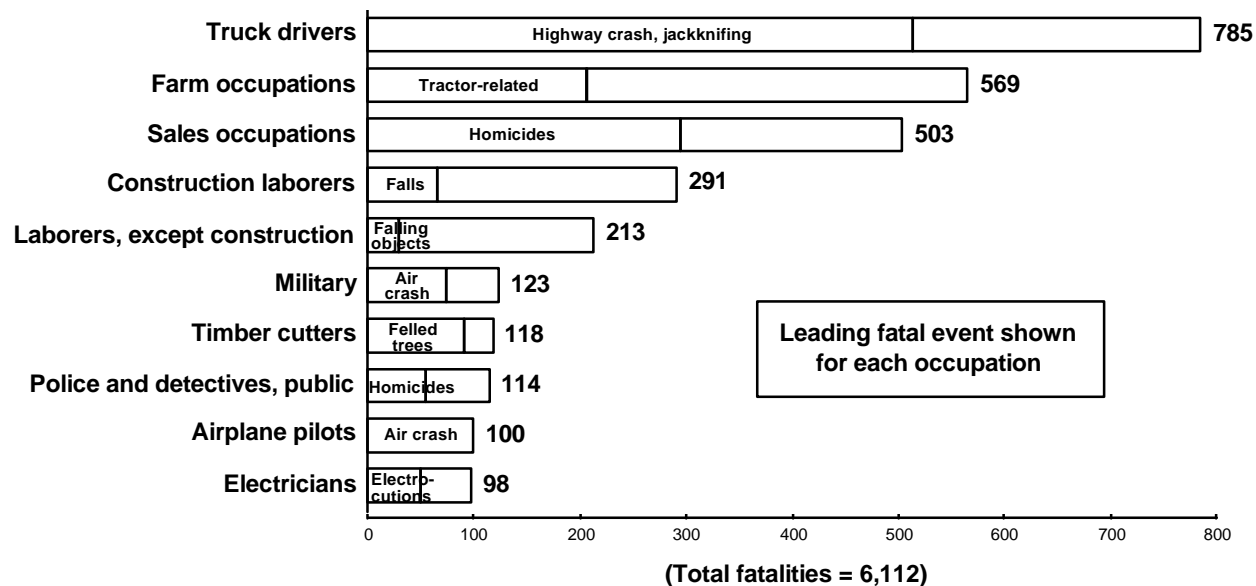
Another Bureau program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, profiles worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses that result in lost worktime and presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry. Copies of the 1995 news release on nonfatal injuries and illnesses are available from BLS by calling (202) 606-6304. Incidence rates for 1996 by industry will be published in December 1997, and information on 1996 worker and case characteristics will be available in April 1998. For additional occupational safety and health data, access the BLS World Wide Web Internet site: <http://www.bls.gov/oshhome.htm>.

Chart 1: The manner in which workplace fatalities occurred, 1996



Highway vehicle incidents and homicide led all other fatal events.

Chart 2: Occupations with large numbers of worker fatalities and the leading event, 1996



Truck driver fatalities, primarily involving highway crashes and jackknifings, accounted for 13 percent of the job-related fatalities.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 1992-1996

Event or exposure ¹	Fatalities					
	1992	1993	1994	1995 ²	1996	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Total	6,217	6,331	6,632	6,275	6,112	100
Transportation incidents	2,484	2,501	2,762	2,587	2,556	42
Highway	1,158	1,243	1,343	1,346	1,324	22
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	578	657	654	642	656	11
Moving in same direction	78	99	120	127	95	2
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming.....	201	244	230	246	214	4
Moving in intersection	107	123	144	99	153	3
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment	192	190	255	275	240	4
Noncollision.....	301	336	373	352	348	6
Jackknifed or overturned--no collision	213	237	274	261	264	4
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises).....	436	392	409	387	369	6
Overturned	208	212	226	209	204	3
Aircraft.....	353	282	426	283	320	5
Worker struck by a vehicle.....	346	365	391	388	349	6
Water vehicle	109	120	94	87	107	2
Railway.....	66	86	81	82	75	1
Assaults and violent acts	1,281	1,329	1,321	1,280	1,144	19
Homicides	1,044	1,074	1,080	1,036	912	15
Shooting	852	884	934	762	751	12
Stabbing	90	95	60	67	79	1
Other, including bombing	102	95	86	207	82	1
Self-inflicted injuries	205	222	214	221	199	3
Contact with objects and equipment	1,004	1,045	1,017	916	1,005	16
Struck by object	557	566	590	547	579	9
Struck by falling object.....	361	346	372	341	402	7
Struck by flying object.....	77	82	68	63	58	1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	316	309	280	255	283	5
Caught in running equipment or machinery	159	151	147	131	146	2
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	110	138	132	99	130	2
Falls	600	618	665	651	684	11
Fall to lower level.....	507	533	580	578	607	10
Fall from ladder	78	76	86	97	95	2
Fall from roof	108	120	129	143	148	2
Fall from scaffold.....	66	71	89	82	88	1
Fall on same level	62	49	63	53	49	1
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	605	592	641	609	523	9
Contact with electric current.....	334	325	348	348	279	5
Contact with overhead powerlines.....	140	115	132	139	116	2
Contact with temperature extremes	33	38	50	56	32	1
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substance.	127	115	133	107	119	2
Inhalation of substances	83	68	84	62	75	1
Oxygen deficiency.....	111	111	109	97	92	2
Drowning, submersion	78	89	89	77	67	1
Fires and explosions	167	204	202	207	184	3
Other events or exposures ³	76	43	24	25	16	-

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

² The BLS news release issued August 8, 1996, reported a total of 6,210 fatal work injuries for calendar year 1995. Since then, an additional 65 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 1995 to 6,275.

³ Includes the category "Bodily reaction and exertion."

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1992-1996.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and major event or exposure, 1996

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Major event or exposure ² (percent)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicide	Struck by object	Fall to lower level
Total	6,112	100	22	15	9	10
Managerial and professional specialty	711	12	23	26	4	7
Executive, administrative, and managerial	437	7	19	32	5	8
Professional specialty	274	4	31	15	2	6
Technical, sales, and administrative support	761	12	22	43	2	2
Technicians and related support occupations	163	3	13	-	4	-
Airplane pilots and navigators	100	2	-	-	-	-
Sales occupations	503	8	22	59	1	2
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	225	4	16	65	2	-
Sales workers, retail and personal services	192	3	17	69	-	3
Cashiers	94	2	-	90	-	-
Administrative support occupations, including clerical....	95	2	36	31	4	-
Service occupations	492	8	19	38	2	5
Protective service occupations	248	4	26	44	1	1
Firefighting and fire prevention occupations, including supervisors	37	1	38	-	-	-
Police and detectives, including supervisors	114	2	33	48	-	-
Guards, including supervisors	97	2	12	54	-	-
Farming, forestry, and fishing	883	14	9	2	22	7
Farming operators and managers	376	6	7	1	15	7
Farmers, except horticultural	304	5	6	1	14	6
Managers, farms, except horticultural	59	1	8	-	17	7
Other agricultural and related occupations	301	5	14	4	12	9
Farm workers, including supervisors	193	3	17	4	8	4
Forestry and logging occupations	134	2	5	-	74	5
Timber cutting and logging occupations	118	2	4	-	76	3
Fishers, hunters, and trappers	72	1	-	-	-	-
Fishers	66	1	-	-	-	-
Precision production, craft, and repair	1,072	18	12	3	11	26
Mechanics and repairers	282	5	18	6	15	10
Construction trades	592	10	10	2	8	39
Carpenters and apprentices	87	1	7	-	15	57
Electricians and apprentices	98	2	9	-	5	18
Painters	45	1	-	-	-	56
Roofers	61	1	-	-	5	67
Structural metal workers	52	1	-	-	8	77
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	2,006	33	33	7	10	8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	218	4	5	5	20	13
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,154	19	51	8	7	3
Motor vehicle operators	913	15	62	9	5	3
Truck drivers	785	13	65	3	6	3
Driver-sales workers	35	1	54	23	-	-
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	65	1	25	71	-	-
Material moving equipment operators	177	3	13	3	22	3
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	634	10	10	7	13	15
Construction laborers	291	5	9	1	14	21
Laborers, except construction	213	3	7	9	14	13
Military ⁴	123	2	10	2	5	4

¹ Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

² The figure shown is the percent of the total fatalities for that occupational group.

³ "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.

⁴ Resident armed forces.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. There were 64 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine an occupation classification. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1996.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries and employment by industry, 1996

Industry	SIC code ¹	Fatalities			Employment ² (in thousands)	
		1995 (revised)	1996		Number	Percent
		Number	Number	Percent		
Total		6,275	6,112	100	127,997	100
Private industry		5,495	5,521	90	108,472	85
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing		800	798	13	3,505	3
Agricultural production - crops	01	363	335	5	1,025	1
Agricultural production - livestock	02	162	154	3	1,214	1
Agricultural services	07	156	171	3	1,189	1
Mining		156	152	2	567	-
Coal mining	12	43	39	1	98	-
Oil and gas extraction	13	77	82	1	302	-
Construction		1,055	1,039	17	7,464	6
General building contractors	15	176	183	3	-	-
Heavy construction, except building	16	246	247	4	-	-
Special trades contractors	17	618	599	10	-	-
Manufacturing		709	715	12	20,434	16
Food and kindred products	20	75	70	1	1,706	1
Lumber and wood products	24	183	203	3	794	1
Transportation and public utilities		901	947	15	7,248	6
Local and interurban passenger transportation ...	41	117	78	1	503	-
Trucking and warehousing	42	476	511	8	2,451	2
Transportation by air	45	80	113	2	778	1
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	49	91	88	1	1,066	1
Wholesale trade		256	267	4	4,942	4
Retail trade		687	672	11	21,443	17
Food stores	54	190	173	3	3,507	3
Automotive dealers and service stations	55	125	98	2	2,165	2
Eating and drinking places	58	168	166	3	6,483	5
Finance, insurance, and real estate		125	114	2	7,862	6
Services		749	767	13	35,008	27
Business services	73	212	168	3	5,680	4
Automotive repair, services, and parking	75	117	103	2	1,618	1
Government ³		780	591	10	19,525	15
Federal (including resident armed forces)		301	178	3	4,583	4
State		127	127	2	5,150	4
Local		341	284	5	9,791	8
Police protection	9221	110	76	1	-	-

¹ Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition.

² The employment is an annual average of employed civilians 16 years of age and older, plus resident armed forces, from the Current Population Survey, 1996.

³ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. There were 54 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific industry classification, though a distinction between private sector and government was made for each. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1995-1996.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries and employment by selected worker characteristics, 1996

Characteristics	Fatalities		Employment (in thousands) ¹		Most frequent event ² (percent of total)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	6,112	100	127,997	100	Highway (22 percent)
Employee status					
Wage and salary workers.....	4,906	80	117,329	92	Highway (24)
Self-employed ³	1,207	20	10,668	8	Homicide (20)
Sex and age					
Men.....	5,605	92	69,329	54	Highway (21)
Women	507	8	58,668	46	Homicide (34)
Both sexes⁴					
Under 16 years.....	27	-	-	-	Nonhighway (22)
16 to 17 years.....	43	1	2,648	2	Highway (23)
18 to 19 years.....	124	2	3,941	3	" (27)
20 to 24 years.....	440	7	12,532	10	" (18)
25 to 34 years.....	1,336	22	32,579	25	" (23)
35 to 44 years.....	1,563	26	35,319	28	" (23)
45 to 54 years.....	1,226	20	25,550	20	" (22)
55 to 64 years.....	847	14	11,741	9	" (22)
65 years and over.....	492	8	3,690	3	Nonhighway(19)
Race					
White.....	5,047	83	108,805	85	Highway (22)
Black.....	617	10	13,789	11	Homicide (28)
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	163	3	-	-	Homicide (57)
American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo.....	35	1	-	-	Highway (23)
Other or not reported.....	250	4	-	-	Homicide (17)
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic ⁵	626	10	11,725	9	Homicide (20)

¹ The employment is an annual average of employed civilians 16 years of age and older, plus resident armed forces, from the Current Population Survey, 1996.

² "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. "Nonhighway" includes transport-related deaths of vehicle occupants that occur or originate entirely off the roadway. Incidents involving trains and deaths to pedestrians or other nonpassengers are excluded from both categories.

³ Includes paid and unpaid family workers and may include owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

⁴ There were 14 fatalities for which age was not reported.

⁵ Persons identified as Hispanic may be of any race. Hispanic employment does not include resident armed forces.

NOTE: Totals may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1996.

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries by State and event or exposure, 1996

State of injury	Total fatalities ¹		Event or exposure ² (percent of State total for 1996)					
	1995 (revised)	1996	Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total ⁵	6,275	6,112	42	19	16	11	9	3
Alabama.....	150	153	38	22	21	9	8	-
Alaska.....	78	63	81	10	6	-	-	-
Arizona.....	86	71	44	15	14	8	17	-
Arkansas.....	93	88	50	14	16	10	7	-
California.....	646	599	42	29	9	10	8	2
Colorado.....	112	90	47	17	12	11	12	-
Connecticut.....	32	35	40	20	-	23	-	-
Delaware.....	12	18	39	22	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia.....	16	19	-	53	-	21	-	-
Florida.....	391	333	37	26	9	16	11	2
Georgia.....	237	213	50	16	14	11	8	2
Hawaii.....	24	27	67	-	-	-	-	-
Idaho.....	53	62	60	-	21	8	8	-
Illinois.....	250	262	36	19	18	13	11	3
Indiana.....	156	143	48	17	14	10	7	5
Iowa.....	54	70	50	-	24	14	9	-
Kansas.....	95	85	52	11	15	8	13	-
Kentucky.....	140	141	43	9	30	9	4	6
Louisiana.....	139	103	35	13	29	13	10	-
Maine.....	18	23	26	-	17	30	-	-
Maryland.....	86	82	38	28	22	7	5	-
Massachusetts.....	66	62	23	16	21	27	10	-
Michigan.....	149	155	37	23	15	14	8	3
Minnesota.....	84	92	41	11	25	12	9	-
Mississippi.....	128	103	35	23	21	7	12	-
Missouri.....	125	140	49	14	19	11	6	-
Montana.....	34	50	28	26	18	-	14	10
Nebraska.....	54	56	48	-	25	11	9	-
Nevada.....	51	52	31	25	12	19	8	-
New Hampshire.....	12	11	55	-	-	-	-	-
New Jersey.....	118	99	40	20	17	7	10	5
New Mexico.....	58	60	30	22	17	8	15	8
New York (except N.Y.C.).....	158	169	55	15	13	10	3	4
New York City.....	144	148	9	55	8	16	7	4
North Carolina.....	187	191	50	17	16	12	5	-
North Dakota.....	28	23	52	-	26	-	-	-
Ohio.....	186	201	35	19	22	8	11	3
Oklahoma.....	200	87	54	14	5	7	15	5
Oregon.....	73	85	55	8	16	11	6	-
Pennsylvania.....	233	282	36	17	21	17	7	2
Rhode Island.....	11	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina.....	115	101	48	24	10	5	9	4
South Dakota.....	26	32	53	-	22	-	12	-
Tennessee.....	179	152	45	14	15	12	9	5
Texas.....	475	514	40	20	14	10	10	6
Utah.....	51	64	38	11	34	8	8	-
Vermont.....	16	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia.....	132	153	39	10	22	12	10	5
Washington.....	109	128	45	10	26	10	7	-
West Virginia.....	56	66	56	-	26	11	-	-
Wisconsin.....	117	108	39	11	25	14	10	-
Wyoming.....	32	28	46	-	25	-	-	-

¹ Includes other events and exposures such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, and rail fatalities and fatalities to workers struck by vehicles.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injuries, and assaults by animals.

⁵ Includes seven fatalities that occurred outside the territorial boundaries of the 50 States.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1995-1996.

Table 6. CFI participating State agencies and telephone numbers

State	Agency	Telephone
Alabama	Department of Labor	(334) 242-3460
Alaska	Department of Labor	(907) 465-4539
Arizona	Industrial Commission	(602) 542-3739
Arkansas	Department of Labor	(501) 682-4542
California	Department of Industrial Relations	(415) 972-8625
Colorado	Department of Public Health	(303) 692-2163
Connecticut	Labor Department	(860) 566-4380
Delaware	Department of Labor	(302) 761-8221
District of Columbia	Center for Health Statistics	(202) 645-5963
Florida	Dept. of Labor and Employment Security	(850) 922-8953
Georgia	Department of Labor	(404) 656-2966
Hawaii	Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations	(808) 586-9001
Idaho	Industrial Commission	(208) 334-6061
Illinois	Department of Public Health	(217) 785-7130
Indiana	Department of Labor	(317) 232-2679
Iowa	Department of Labor Services	(515) 281-3661
Kansas	Department of Health & Environment	(913) 296-5293
Kentucky	Labor Cabinet	(502) 564-6895
Louisiana	Department of Labor	(504) 342-3126
Maine	Bureau of Labor Standards	(207) 624-6447
Maryland	Division of Labor and Industry	(410) 767-2356
Massachusetts	Department of Public Health	(617) 624-5628
Michigan	Dept. of Consumer and Industry Services	(517) 322-1850
Minnesota	Department of Labor and Industry	(612) 297-7429
Mississippi	Department of Health	(601) 960-7741
Missouri	Bureau of Health Services Statistics	(573) 751-6274
Montana	Department of Labor and Industry	(406) 444-3239
Nebraska	Workers' Compensation	(402) 471-6538
Nevada	Division of Industrial Relations	(702) 687-3298
New Hampshire	Department of Public Health	(603) 271-4647
New Jersey	Department of Health	(609) 984-1863
New Mexico	Health and Environment Division	(505) 827-4230
New York	Department of Health	(518) 458-6228
New York City	Department of Health	(212) 788-4585
North Carolina	Department of Labor	(919) 733-0337
North Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(816) 426-2483
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 466-4183
Oklahoma	Department of Labor	(405) 528-1500
Oregon	Dept. of Consumer/Business Services	(503) 378-8254
Pennsylvania	Department of Health	(717) 783-2548
Rhode Island	Department of Health	(401) 277-2812
South Carolina	Department of Labor	(803) 734-4298
South Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(816) 426-2483
Tennessee	Department of Labor	(615) 741-1748
Texas	Workers' Compensation Commission	(512) 440-3852
Utah	Industrial Commission	(801) 530-6823
Vermont	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(617) 565-2300
Virginia	Department of Labor & Industry	(804) 786-5004
Washington	Department of Labor & Industries	(360) 902-5510
West Virginia	Department of Labor	(304) 558-7890
Wisconsin	DWD, Workers' Compensation Research	(608) 266-7850
Wyoming	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(816) 426-2483

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 1996 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiations, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses are not reported in the BLS census and are excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic. Partial information on fatal occupational illnesses, compiled separately, is available in BLS Report 913.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news reports. Multiple sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities.

Because some state laws and regulations prohibit enumerators from contacting the next-of-kin, it was not possible to independently verify work relationship (whether a fatality is job related) for 216 fatal work injuries in 1996; however, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job-related. Data for these fatalities, which primarily affected self-employed workers, are included in the Census of

Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 28 fatalities submitted by states were not included because the initiating source document had insufficient information to determine work relationship, which could not be verified by either an independent source document or a follow-up questionnaire.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection close-out for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work related. States have up to one year to update their initial published state counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that no legitimate case is excluded from the counts.

Federal/state agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are 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.

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 America's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in several other industries, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and 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, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration. Fatalities occurring in activities regulated by federal agencies other than OSHA accounted for about 15 percent of the fatal work injuries for 1996.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 20 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 2 percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: BLS thanks the participating states 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 agencies 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 Department of Defense; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; the National Association of Chiefs of Police; United Steelworkers of America; 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.