

# News

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## LOST-WORKTIME INJURIES AND ILLNESSES: CHARACTERISTICS AND RESULTING TIME AWAY FROM WORK, 1998

A total of 1.7 million injuries and illnesses that required recuperation away from work beyond the day of the incident were reported in private industry workplaces during 1998, according to a survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. The total number of these cases has declined in each year since 1992. In contrast, the number of injuries and illnesses reported with only restricted work activity rather than days away recuperating has increased during this same time period by nearly 70 percent, to over 1,000,000 cases in 1998. (Table A presents the number of injuries and illnesses requiring recuperation away from work in the past 7 years for the 10 occupations that accounted for nearly one-third of such cases in 1998.) Since 1993, truck drivers have experienced the largest number of injuries and illnesses with time away from work.

Table A. Number of occupational injuries and illnesses (in 1,000s) involving time away from work for selected occupations, 1992-1998

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Total cases	2,331.1	2,252.6	2,236.6	2,040.9	1,880.5	1,833.4	1,730.5
Truck drivers	145.9	154.7	163.8	151.3	152.8	145.5	131.8
Laborers, nonconstruction	152.1	146.3	147.3	115.5	108.5	106.9	97.2
Nursing aides, orderlies	111.1	103.9	101.8	100.6	93.6	91.3	84.1
Janitors and cleaners	59.6	62.1	60.6	52.6	46.9	45.8	44.2
Construction laborers	57.1	54.6	55.7	43.5	43.7	45.8	44.1
Assemblers	47.7	46.8	53.0	55.5	44.0	44.3	43.3
Carpenters	34.3	34.8	37.4	35.0	33.5	37.1	33.0
Cooks	36.1	42.5	36.3	35.4	30.7	31.5	28.5
Welders and cutters	29.4	29.4	30.3	29.9	26.1	28.4	28.4
Stock handlers and baggers	44.4	39.5	37.2	34.7	31.9	29.2	26.3

More than 4 out of 10 injuries and illnesses resulting in time away from work in 1998 were sprains or strains, most often involving the back, as in the preceding six years.

The number of sprains or strains cases declined by nearly 26 percent from 1992 to 1998, which was about the same as the decline for all cases. However in 1998, the overall decline in the number of injuries was not observed in cuts and lacerations, which increased from 1997 by 3 percent.

Table B. Number of occupational injuries and illness (in 1,000s) involving time away from work by selected nature of injury and illness, 1992-1998

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Total cases	2,331.1	2,252.6	2,236.6	2,040.9	1,880.5	1,833.4	1,730.5
Sprains, strains, tears	1,022.7	959.2	963.5	876.8	819.7	799.0	760.0
Bruises, contusions	222.7	211.2	212.0	192.1	174.9	165.8	153.1
Cuts, lacerations	173.6	169.9	164.6	153.2	133.2	133.6	137.6
Fractures	143.6	136.5	138.5	124.6	120.5	119.5	115.4
Heat burns, scalds	41.0	37.7	37.3	36.1	29.0	30.0	28.4
Carpal tunnel syndrome	33.0	41.0	38.3	31.5	29.9	29.2	26.3
Tendonitis	25.4	25.0	25.2	22.1	17.4	18.0	16.9
Chemical burns	15.7	15.7	16.5	13.9	11.6	12.2	11.7
Amputations	12.4	11.3	12.2	11.3	10.2	10.9	10.2

### Worker and case characteristics

Worker characteristics detail the demographics of the injured or ill worker by providing not only the occupation but also the gender and age of the worker, occupational group, length of service with the employer at the time of the incident, and race or ethnic origin (tables 1 and 2). Following are highlights of the 1998 findings for these worker traits:

- Men accounted for two out of three of the 1.7 million cases, a proportion somewhat higher than their share (59 percent) of the hours worked by all private wage and salary workers.
- Workers aged 24 and under accounted for 15 percent of the cases and 14 percent of the total hours worked by all private wage and salary workers. Workers aged 25 to 44 accounted for 56 percent of the cases and 55 percent of the hours worked. Workers aged 45 and older accounted for 27 percent of the cases and 30 percent of the hours worked.
- Operators, fabricators, and laborers led all other occupational groups, accounting for 42 percent of the case total. This group includes 6 of the 10 individual jobs from table A – truck drivers; laborers, nonconstruction; construction laborers; assemblers; welders and cutters; and stock handlers and baggers. Together, these six occupations accounted for 371,000 injuries and illnesses with time away from work (table 3).
- Almost 6 out of 10 workers had at least a year of service with their employer when they sustained their injury or illness. Indeed, over a fourth had over 5 years of service, suggesting that many experienced workers incur lost worktime injuries.

Case characteristics help identify the disabling condition resulting from the lost worktime case and how the event or exposure occurred. The survey contains four characteristics to describe each disabling injury or illness (tables 4 through 6). To illustrate, consider an injury to a nursing aide who sprains her back while lifting a patient. The nature, or physical effect, is a sprain or strain; the part of body affected, her back; the event, overexertion while lifting; and the source, the health care patient. Of the four characteristics, only the source changes when coding a similar incident for a truck driver who sprains his back trying to lift a box. Following are highlights of the 1998 findings for these characteristics:

- Sprain and strain was, by far, the leading nature of injury and illness in every major industry division, ranging from 34 percent in agriculture, forestry, and fishing to 51 percent in services.
- The trunk, including the back, was the body part most affected by disabling work incidents in every major industry division, except for agriculture, forestry, and fishing. Most other injuries and illnesses were to upper or lower extremities.
- Overexertion while maneuvering objects and contact with objects and equipment led all other disabling events or exposures, cited in about 15 to 40 percent of the cases in every major industry division.
- No one source of injury or illness stood out, although the following three had roughly 15 percent each of the case total: floors and other surfaces, worker motion or position, and containers.

The U. S. Department of Labor defines a musculoskeletal disorder as an injury or disorder of the muscles, tendons, ligaments, joints, cartilage, and spinal discs. Table C presents the number of such disorders by major industry division, and table D presents the occupations with the most musculoskeletal disorders in 1998.

- Nearly 593,000 musculoskeletal disorders were reported, accounting for more than one out of three of the injuries and illnesses involving recuperation away from work.
- Manufacturing and services industries each account for 26 percent of musculoskeletal disorders, followed by retail trade with 15 percent.
- Three occupations -- nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants; truck drivers; and laborers, non-construction -- together account for one out of five musculoskeletal disorders.

## Injury and illness severity

Besides identifying high risk situations, the survey also helps focus on those kinds of injuries and illnesses resulting in the longest absences from work (tables 7 through 10). Median days away from work – the key survey measure of severity – designates the point at which half the cases involved more days and half involved fewer days. The median number of lost workdays for all cases was 5 days in 1998, with a fourth of the cases resulting in 21 days or more away from work. The survey also found the following patterns:

- Among major disabling injuries and illnesses, median days away from work were highest for carpal tunnel syndrome (24 days), fractures (19 days), and amputations (18 days).
- Repetitive motion, such as grasping tools, scanning groceries, and typing, resulted in the longest absences from work among the leading events and exposures – a median of 15 days.
- Truck drivers had the highest median days away from work (10 days), followed by electricians, plumbers and pipe fitters, and public transportation attendants (each with 8 days).
- Injuries to the wrist and knee resulted in the longest absences from work – a median of 11 and 10 days, respectively.

Table C. Number (in 1,000s) of work-related musculoskeletal disorders involving time away from work and median days away from work by major industry division, 1998

	Number	Median days away from work
Total musculoskeletal disorders	592.5	7
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	8.0	5
Mining	3.7	21
Construction	44.4	9
Manufacturing	156.2	7
Transportation and public utilities	69.4	9
Wholesale trade	52.4	6
Retail trade	91.4	7
Finance, insurance, and real estate	12.0	7
Services	154.9	5

Table D. Number (in 1,000s) of work-related musculoskeletal disorders involving time away from work and median days away from work by occupation, 1998

	Number	Median days away from work
Total musculoskeletal disorders	592.5	7
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	49.1	5
Truck drivers	43.9	10
Laborers, nonconstruction	36.6	6
Assemblers	19.7	10
Janitors and cleaners	14.0	5
Registered nurses	12.4	5
Stock handlers and baggers	11.3	5
Construction laborers	10.8	7
Cashiers	10.0	5
Carpenters	9.3	7

#### Technical note

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported annually on the number of days-away-from-work injuries and illnesses in private industry and the rate of such incidents since the early 1970s. The 1998 national survey marks the seventh year that BLS has collected additional detailed information on such cases in the form of worker and case characteristics data, including workdays lost, summarized in this release.

The number and frequency (incidence rates) of these cases are based on logs and other records kept by private industry employers throughout the year. The number of hours worked used for industry and case characteristics incidence rates are collected in this survey. Because this survey does not collect hours worked for demographic characteristics, the hours used for these data come from the Current Population Survey, which is conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These records reflect not only the year's injury and illness experience but also the employer's understanding of which cases are work related under current recordkeeping guidelines of the U. S. Department of Labor. The number of injuries and illnesses reported in a given year also can be influenced by changes in the level of economic activity, working conditions and work practices, worker experience and training, and the number of hours worked.

The survey continues to measure the number of new work-related illness cases that are recognized, diagnosed, and reported each year. In 1998, 81,900 of the 1.7 million cases with days away from work were classified as illnesses. Some conditions, e.g., long-term latent illnesses caused by exposure to carcinogens, often are difficult to relate to the workplace and are not adequately recognized and reported. These long-term latent illnesses are believed to be understated in the survey. In contrast, the overwhelming majority of the reported new illnesses are those that are easier to directly relate to workplace activity (e.g., contact dermatitis or carpal tunnel syndrome).

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders include cases where the nature of injury or illness is sprain, strain, tear; back pain, hurt back; soreness, pain, hurt, except the back; carpal tunnel syndrome; hernia; or musculoskeletal system and connective tissue diseases and disorders and when the event or exposure leading to the injury or illness is bodily reaction/bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, twisting; overexertion; or repetition.

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses is a Federal/State program (50/50 funded) in which employer reports are collected from about 165,000 private industry establishments and processed by state agencies cooperating with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational injury and illness data for coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for railroad activities are provided by the U. S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration and the U. S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration. The survey excludes all fatalities at work and work-related nonfatal injuries and illnesses to the self-employed; workers on farms with fewer than 11 employees; private household workers; and employers in federal, state, and local government agencies.

The survey estimates of the characteristics of cases with days away from work are based on a scientifically selected probability sample, rather than a census of the entire population. Two levels of sampling were used. First, establishments were selected to represent themselves and, in many instances, other establishments of like industry and workforce size that were not selected that survey year. Then, sampled establishments projected to have large number of days away from work cases were instructed before the survey began on how to sample those cases to minimize the burden of their response.

Because the data are based on a sample survey, the injury and illness estimates probably differ from the figures that would be obtained from all units covered by the survey. To determine the precision of each estimate, a standard error is calculated. The standard error defines a range (confidence interval) around the estimate. The approximate 95-percent confidence interval is the estimate plus or minus twice the standard error. The standard error also can be expressed as a percent of the estimate, or the relative standard error. For example, the 95-percent confidence interval for an incidence rate of 6.5 per 100 full-time workers with a relative standard error of 1.0 percent would be 6.5 plus or minus 2 percent (2 times 1.0 percent) or 6.37 to 6.63. One can be 95 percent confident that the "true" incidence rate falls within the confidence interval. The 1998 incidence rate for all occupational injuries and illnesses of 6.7 per 100 full-time workers in private industry has an estimated relative standard error of about 0.88 percent. A relative standard error was calculated for each estimate from the survey and will be published in a BLS bulletin that is scheduled to be available later in 2000.

The data also are subject to nonsampling error. The inability to obtain detailed information about all cases in the sample, mistakes in recording or coding the data, and definitional difficulties are general examples of nonsampling error in the survey. Although not measured, nonsampling errors will always occur when statistics are gathered. However, BLS has implemented quality assurance procedures to reduce nonsampling error in the survey, including a rigorous training program for State coders

and a continuing effort to encourage survey participants to respond fully and accurately to all survey elements.

Establishments are classified in industry categories based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget. The four case characteristics used to describe lost worktime injury and illness are based on definitions and rules of selection stipulated in the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System. The occupation of the injured or ill worker is based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 1. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected worker characteristics and industry division, 1998

(thousands)

Characteristic	Private industry <sup>2</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup>	Mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>3</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
Total cases .....	1,730.5	41.7	13.7	178.3	429.6	200.4	135.2	294.4	35.9	401.1
<b>Sex:</b>										
Male .....	1,147.4	35.2	13.4	173.4	320.0	156.2	113.8	164.0	17.2	154.1
Female .....	571.3	6.4	.4	4.5	107.5	38.6	20.5	129.4	18.7	245.4
<b>Age:<sup>4</sup></b>										
14 - 15 .....	.3	-	-	-	( <sup>5</sup> )	-	-	.1	-	.1
16 - 19 .....	60.4	1.6	.3	5.7	9.9	3.7	3.5	25.4	.5	9.9
20 - 24 .....	200.2	7.6	1.0	21.2	47.6	17.1	16.7	43.6	2.7	42.6
25 - 34 .....	487.2	13.6	3.0	58.4	116.4	59.1	42.7	77.3	9.4	107.4
35 - 44 .....	488.8	10.0	4.6	53.5	127.5	61.1	38.7	71.6	10.1	111.8
45 - 54 .....	311.7	5.1	3.3	25.8	81.8	40.5	22.9	41.9	8.0	82.4
55 - 64 .....	131.7	2.6	1.1	9.4	36.5	15.6	8.3	20.4	3.4	34.6
65 and over .....	21.1	.5	.1	.7	3.7	1.2	1.1	5.8	1.1	7.1
<b>Occupation:</b>										
Managerial and professional specialty .....	98.9	.5	.5	2.3	7.6	2.9	4.2	10.1	4.5	66.3
Technical, sales, and administrative support .....	251.1	1.4	.2	2.1	25.1	29.7	19.7	94.5	14.4	63.9
Service .....	297.5	.4	.4	.9	8.0	11.2	2.3	79.6	8.3	186.4
Farming, forestry, and fishing .....	47.0	33.0	( <sup>5</sup> )	.5	2.3	.2	1.0	1.6	1.7	6.6
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	293.5	1.3	6.3	106.4	74.8	25.7	20.3	27.7	4.0	27.1
Operators, fabricators, and laborers .....	729.0	4.7	6.1	65.5	308.2	130.0	86.8	79.0	2.8	45.9
<b>Length of service with employer:</b>										
Less than 3 months .....	221.3	10.2	1.1	37.2	48.1	12.5	16.2	47.7	2.9	45.4
3 - 11 months .....	317.2	8.4	2.3	38.1	70.9	26.5	28.2	63.1	6.6	73.2
1 - 5 years .....	547.5	13.1	4.9	57.5	132.0	52.2	45.7	92.0	12.8	137.2
More than 5 years .....	444.5	7.4	4.4	31.6	140.8	59.4	34.8	54.2	10.5	101.5
Not reported .....	200.0	2.6	.9	14.0	37.8	49.8	10.3	37.5	3.1	43.9
<b>Race or ethnic origin:</b>										
White, non-Hispanic .....	882.4	16.7	2.2	112.9	234.8	75.9	79.6	151.4	17.8	191.1
Black, non-Hispanic .....	157.4	1.5	.1	10.1	37.3	16.5	11.4	22.4	3.5	54.6
Hispanic .....	179.4	16.9	1.2	23.0	46.0	12.6	14.6	26.6	3.7	34.6
Asian or Pacific Islander .....	26.8	.4	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.3	7.1	1.8	2.0	4.1	.9	9.2
American Indian or Alaskan Native .....	7.4	.2	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.0	2.0	.7	.3	1.1	.2	1.9
Not reported .....	477.1	6.0	10.2	30.0	102.4	92.9	27.3	88.8	9.9	109.6

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>3</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal,

metal, and nonmetal industries.

<sup>4</sup> Information is not shown separately for injured workers under age 14; they accounted for fewer than 50 cases.

<sup>5</sup> Fewer than 50 cases.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that are not available. Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor



TABLE 2. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected worker characteristics and industry division, 1998

Characteristic	Private industry <sup>2</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup>	Mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>3</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
Total [1,730,534 cases] .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Sex:</b>										
Male .....	66.3	84.4	97.3	97.2	74.5	78.0	84.2	55.7	47.9	38.4
Female .....	33.0	15.4	2.5	2.5	25.0	19.2	15.2	43.9	51.9	61.2
<b>Age:<sup>4</sup></b>										
14 - 15 .....	( <sup>5</sup> )	-	-	-	( <sup>5</sup> )	-	-	( <sup>5</sup> )	-	( <sup>5</sup> )
16 - 19 .....	3.5	3.8	2.2	3.2	2.3	1.8	2.6	8.6	1.3	2.5
20 - 24 .....	11.6	18.3	7.5	11.9	11.1	8.5	12.4	14.8	7.6	10.6
25 - 34 .....	28.2	32.5	21.5	32.7	27.1	29.5	31.6	26.3	26.2	26.8
35 - 44 .....	28.2	23.9	33.2	30.0	29.7	30.5	28.6	24.3	28.0	27.9
45 - 54 .....	18.0	12.1	24.3	14.5	19.0	20.2	16.9	14.2	22.4	20.5
55 - 64 .....	7.6	6.1	8.2	5.2	8.5	7.8	6.1	6.9	9.4	8.6
65 and over .....	1.2	1.2	.5	.4	.9	.6	.8	2.0	3.0	1.8
<b>Occupation:</b>										
Managerial and professional specialty .....	5.7	1.2	3.5	1.3	1.8	1.4	3.1	3.4	12.5	16.5
Technical, sales, and administrative support .....	14.5	3.5	1.2	1.2	5.8	14.8	14.6	32.1	40.0	15.9
Service .....	17.2	1.0	2.6	.5	1.9	5.6	1.7	27.0	23.2	46.5
Farming, forestry, and fishing .....	2.7	79.0	.3	.3	.5	.1	.8	.5	4.8	1.7
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	17.0	3.2	45.7	59.6	17.4	12.8	15.0	9.4	11.1	6.7
Operators, fabricators, and laborers .....	42.1	11.3	44.3	36.7	71.7	64.9	64.2	26.8	7.8	11.4
<b>Length of service with employer:</b>										
Less than 3 months .....	12.8	24.5	8.4	20.9	11.2	6.2	12.0	16.2	8.2	11.3
3 - 11 months .....	18.3	20.1	16.9	21.4	16.5	13.2	20.8	21.4	18.3	18.2
1 - 5 years .....	31.6	31.5	35.7	32.2	30.7	26.1	33.8	31.2	35.6	34.2
More than 5 years .....	25.7	17.6	32.3	17.7	32.8	29.6	25.7	18.4	29.2	25.3
Not reported .....	11.6	6.3	6.6	7.8	8.8	24.9	7.6	12.7	8.7	10.9
<b>Race or ethnic origin:</b>										
White, non-Hispanic .....	51.0	40.1	15.9	63.3	54.7	37.9	58.9	51.4	49.6	47.6
Black, non-Hispanic .....	9.1	3.6	.8	5.7	8.7	8.3	8.4	7.6	9.7	13.6
Hispanic .....	10.4	40.6	9.1	12.9	10.7	6.3	10.8	9.0	10.2	8.6
Asian or Pacific Islander .....	1.5	1.0	.1	.7	1.7	.9	1.5	1.4	2.4	2.3
American Indian or Alaskan Native .....	.4	.4	.1	.6	.5	.3	.2	.4	.5	.5
Not reported .....	27.6	14.3	74.1	16.8	23.8	46.4	20.2	30.2	27.5	27.3

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>3</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal,

metal, and nonmetal industries.

<sup>4</sup> Information is not shown separately for injured workers under age 14; they accounted for fewer than 50 cases.

<sup>5</sup> Less than 0.1 percent.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that are not available. Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, percentages may not add to 100.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

TABLE 3. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected occupation and industry division, 1998

(thousands)

Occupation	Private industry <sup>2</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup>	Mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>3</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
Total cases .....	1,730.5	41.7	13.7	178.3	429.6	200.4	135.2	294.4	35.9	401.1
Truckdrivers .....	131.8	1.6	.7	4.6	12.2	67.5	23.3	13.1	.4	8.4
Laborers, nonconstruction .....	97.2	.8	1.6	—	32.9	6.0	26.4	18.0	1.3	10.3
Nursing aides, orderlies .....	84.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.3	83.8
Janitors and cleaners .....	44.2	.3	—	.8	6.8	1.2	1.5	6.1	5.2	22.2
Construction laborers .....	44.1	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	43.0	.1	.2	—	.2	.1	.4
Assemblers .....	43.3	—	—	.4	37.7	.1	2.7	.7	—	1.6
Carpenters .....	33.0	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	26.0	2.6	.2	.9	1.1	.5	1.7
Cooks .....	28.5	—	—	—	.1	.1	.1	20.6	.2	7.5
Welders and cutters .....	28.4	.1	.3	1.5	21.6	.5	2.0	.6	—	1.8
Stock handlers and baggers .....	26.3	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	1.7	.3	2.9	21.1	( <sup>4</sup> )	.2
Cashiers .....	26.1	—	—	—	.1	.1	.3	23.3	.1	2.3
Registered nurses .....	25.0	—	—	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	—	.1	.2	24.6
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm .....	23.0	13.3	—	.5	.3	.2	.2	1.0	1.7	5.9
Sales workers, other commodities ..	22.9	.2	—	—	.4	.1	.9	20.0	.1	1.1
Supervisors and proprietors .....	22.7	—	—	.1	.4	.1	3.9	17.1	.3	.7
Miscellaneous food preparation .....	22.0	—	.3	—	.3	—	.1	14.1	.3	6.9
Maids and housemen .....	21.3	—	—	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	—	.6	.4	20.2
Shipping and receiving clerks .....	18.5	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	—	5.2	5.7	2.1	4.4	.1	1.0
Driver-sales workers .....	15.7	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	—	4.4	.6	6.7	2.5	—	1.6
Mechanics, automobile .....	15.7	—	—	—	.2	.6	.8	10.1	( <sup>4</sup> )	4.0
Waiters and waitresses .....	15.5	—	—	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	11.5	.3	3.7
Electricians .....	14.5	—	.3	9.5	2.3	.3	.6	.1	.2	1.1
Industrial truck operators .....	14.4	.4	.5	.5	6.8	2.1	2.4	1.5	—	.2
Farm workers .....	13.8	13.3	—	—	.2	—	.2	.1	—	( <sup>4</sup> )
Supervisors, production workers .....	12.6	—	.1	—	8.7	1.2	1.4	.2	.1	.9
Repairers, industrial machinery .....	12.3	—	1.3	.1	8.9	.2	.9	.2	( <sup>4</sup> )	.6
Packaging, filling machine operators .....	12.3	.1	—	—	10.8	( <sup>4</sup> )	1.0	.1	—	.2
Plumbers and pipefitters .....	12.2	—	—	9.4	1.1	.6	.2	.1	.1	.9
Kitchen workers .....	11.6	—	—	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	.1	10.6	.1	.8
Licensed practical nurses .....	10.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.8
Mechanics, bus, truck, stationary engine .....	10.7	.2	( <sup>4</sup> )	.2	.9	3.7	3.0	.6	( <sup>4</sup> )	2.1
Health aides, except nursing .....	10.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	.1	.1	10.2
Stock and inventory clerks .....	10.0	.1	—	.1	2.2	.5	1.4	4.1	.1	1.4
Hand packers and packagers .....	9.8	.1	—	.1	4.4	.8	1.8	1.9	—	.7
Guards and police, except public .....	9.5	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	.3	.2	.1	1.0	.6	7.2
Machinists .....	9.4	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	.1	7.8	.1	.7	—	—	.5
Butchers and meat cutters .....	9.0	.2	—	—	2.7	—	.7	5.3	—	—
Attendants, public transportation .....	8.7	—	—	—	—	8.7	—	—	—	( <sup>4</sup> )
Production inspectors .....	8.5	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	6.2	.3	1.1	.1	.3	.4
Vehicle washers and cleaners .....	7.9	.2	—	—	1.5	1.3	.5	2.7	—	1.6
Helpers, construction trades .....	7.6	—	—	7.4	.1	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	—	—	—
Painters .....	7.6	( <sup>4</sup> )	—	5.1	.5	.2	.7	.1	.3	.7
Secretaries .....	7.4	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	.1	.5	.2	.3	.4	.8	5.1

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>3</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of

Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal industries.

<sup>4</sup> Fewer than 50 cases.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that are not available. Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

TABLE 4. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected injury or illness characteristics and industry division, 1998

(thousands)

Characteristic	Private industry <sup>2</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup>	Mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>3</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
Total cases .....	1,730.5	41.7	13.7	178.3	429.6	200.4	135.2	294.4	35.9	401.1
<b>Nature of injury or illness:</b>										
Sprains, strains .....	760.0	14.0	5.3	66.9	163.1	101.1	65.3	126.2	14.3	203.8
Bruises, contusions .....	153.1	3.3	1.4	12.9	38.3	20.5	11.1	28.9	3.1	33.6
Cuts, lacerations .....	137.6	6.3	1.0	20.4	38.8	9.2	10.1	32.4	2.2	17.1
Fractures .....	115.4	2.7	1.9	19.9	29.0	11.5	8.8	17.9	2.2	21.6
Heat burns .....	28.4	.2	.2	2.6	7.1	.6	.8	10.9	.4	5.5
Carpal tunnel syndrome .....	26.3	.2	( <sup>4</sup> )	1.0	11.6	1.5	1.1	2.9	1.9	6.0
Tendonitis .....	16.9	.2	( <sup>4</sup> )	1.0	7.6	1.0	1.3	1.5	.9	3.3
Chemical burns .....	11.7	.2	.1	1.1	3.8	.6	1.1	2.1	.2	2.5
Amputations .....	10.2	.3	.1	.9	5.8	.5	.6	1.3	-	.7
Multiple traumatic injuries .....	57.6	1.4	.9	5.7	13.2	6.6	5.4	9.8	1.4	13.2
<b>Part of body affected by the injury or illness:</b>										
Head .....	117.5	3.7	.9	13.1	33.3	12.9	9.5	18.2	1.8	24.2
Eye .....	58.5	2.4	.4	7.6	21.8	4.2	5.0	7.0	.8	9.2
Neck .....	29.9	.6	.3	2.3	6.1	4.5	2.5	4.2	.9	8.5
Trunk .....	645.1	12.1	4.8	56.8	147.9	81.9	55.7	106.7	11.8	167.4
Shoulder .....	89.3	1.1	.7	7.5	23.9	12.5	6.1	14.1	1.4	21.9
Back .....	440.2	7.1	3.0	37.4	93.1	55.1	39.5	73.0	8.7	123.3
Upper extremities .....	400.8	10.9	3.3	42.0	131.8	32.2	26.9	73.8	8.3	71.5
Wrist .....	84.5	1.1	.5	6.4	27.9	6.8	5.9	13.5	3.6	18.8
Hand, except finger .....	73.8	3.1	.6	9.3	20.8	6.0	5.4	14.3	1.3	13.1
Finger .....	147.5	4.2	1.5	16.9	55.7	8.8	9.3	29.4	1.7	20.0
Lower extremities .....	355.2	10.1	3.0	45.2	76.7	46.7	28.2	61.3	7.4	76.5
Knee .....	122.3	3.7	1.2	16.4	25.4	15.9	9.2	20.9	2.1	27.5
Foot, except toe .....	64.9	1.5	.4	8.8	15.4	7.9	5.8	11.5	1.6	12.0
Toe .....	19.4	.3	.1	3.1	5.3	1.9	1.6	3.6	.3	3.3
Body systems .....	22.3	.9	.1	2.5	4.7	2.4	1.0	2.7	1.0	6.9
Multiple parts .....	142.5	3.0	1.2	14.9	25.2	18.3	10.5	24.8	4.3	40.3

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 4. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected injury or illness characteristics and industry division, 1998 — Continued

(thousands)

Characteristic	Private industry <sup>2</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup>	Mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>3</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
<b>Source of injury or illness:</b>										
Chemicals and chemical products .....	28.8	0.7	1.1	2.1	9.7	1.7	1.7	4.2	0.7	7.0
Containers .....	253.0	3.3	.6	9.4	56.8	48.6	32.7	62.9	3.7	35.0
Furniture and fixtures .....	61.5	.3	.1	2.4	11.2	4.2	4.6	15.5	2.1	21.2
Machinery .....	118.0	3.0	1.6	10.1	50.2	5.3	10.3	20.3	2.3	14.8
Parts and materials .....	199.4	3.3	2.6	44.8	80.1	16.1	16.3	19.2	2.1	14.9
Worker motion or position .....	262.7	5.8	.6	23.2	78.7	29.3	18.7	39.6	7.7	59.1
Floors, walkways, ground surfaces .....	268.7	6.3	2.0	32.3	43.7	30.2	16.7	58.1	8.5	70.8
Tools, instruments, and equipment .....	109.8	5.2	1.0	19.9	28.4	6.9	6.3	19.3	1.7	21.1
Vehicles .....	135.9	2.8	.9	10.3	21.3	34.8	15.7	19.9	2.8	27.3
Health care patient .....	80.4	—	—	—	.1	2.0	—	.1	.2	78.0
<b>Event or exposure leading to injury or illness:</b>										
Contact with objects and equipment .....	476.8	15.0	5.7	63.0	148.1	45.1	37.8	82.0	6.7	73.6
Struck by object .....	230.9	6.1	3.0	34.4	62.7	21.8	18.6	45.4	2.9	36.1
Struck against object .....	126.4	4.6	1.4	15.3	34.7	14.1	9.8	22.5	2.6	21.5
Caught in equipment or object ..	77.9	1.8	1.2	6.8	36.6	5.8	6.4	9.1	.7	9.3
Fall to lower level .....	95.5	3.1	1.2	21.1	14.8	14.6	6.9	12.8	2.9	18.0
Fall on same level .....	184.7	3.6	1.2	12.3	31.6	17.0	10.5	47.7	5.8	55.0
Slip, trip, loss of balance—without fall .....	55.4	1.5	.1	5.2	12.2	6.8	4.2	10.7	1.3	13.3
Overexertion .....	477.8	6.7	3.6	36.2	110.1	61.5	44.7	75.2	7.7	132.2
Overexertion in lifting .....	280.7	4.4	1.2	20.8	58.2	35.8	28.9	51.8	4.4	75.3
Repetitive motion .....	65.9	.4	.1	2.5	32.5	3.9	3.0	7.0	3.9	12.6
Exposure to harmful substances .....	80.7	2.2	.5	7.1	22.8	6.1	4.0	17.2	1.6	19.1
Transportation accidents .....	69.7	1.7	.3	7.0	8.7	17.6	8.3	8.3	2.1	15.7
Fires and explosions .....	4.2	.1	.1	1.0	1.0	.3	.4	.5	( <sup>4</sup> )	.8
Assaults and violent acts by person .....	17.6	.1	—	.2	.5	.8	.3	2.3	.4	13.1

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>3</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of

Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal industries.

<sup>4</sup> Fewer than 50 cases.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that are not available. Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

TABLE 5. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected injury or illness characteristics and industry division, 1998

Characteristic	Private industry <sup>2</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup>	Mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>3</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
Total [1,730,534 cases] .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Nature of injury or illness:</b>										
Sprains, strains .....	43.9	33.6	38.8	37.5	38.0	50.4	48.3	42.9	39.8	50.8
Bruises, contusions .....	8.8	7.9	9.9	7.2	8.9	10.2	8.2	9.8	8.7	8.4
Cuts, lacerations .....	8.0	15.1	7.6	11.4	9.0	4.6	7.5	11.0	6.2	4.3
Fractures .....	6.7	6.4	13.7	11.1	6.7	5.7	6.5	6.1	6.2	5.4
Heat burns .....	1.6	.5	1.3	1.4	1.7	.3	.6	3.7	1.0	1.4
Carpal tunnel syndrome .....	1.5	.4	.1	.5	2.7	.8	.8	1.0	5.4	1.5
Tendonitis .....	1.0	.4	.2	.6	1.8	.5	1.0	.5	2.6	.8
Chemical burns .....	.7	.6	.8	.6	.9	.3	.8	.7	.6	.6
Amputations .....	.6	.7	.9	.5	1.3	.3	.4	.5	—	.2
Multiple traumatic injuries .....	3.3	3.3	6.9	3.2	3.1	3.3	4.0	3.3	3.8	3.3
<b>Part of body affected by the injury or illness:</b>										
Head .....	6.8	8.7	6.5	7.3	7.7	6.4	7.0	6.2	5.1	6.0
Eye .....	3.4	5.7	3.2	4.3	5.1	2.1	3.7	2.4	2.3	2.3
Neck .....	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.4	2.3	1.9	1.4	2.4	2.1
Trunk .....	37.3	29.0	35.2	31.8	34.4	40.9	41.2	36.2	32.7	41.7
Shoulder .....	5.2	2.7	5.4	4.2	5.6	6.3	4.5	4.8	3.8	5.5
Back .....	25.4	17.1	22.2	21.0	21.7	27.5	29.2	24.8	24.1	30.7
Upper extremities .....	23.2	26.2	24.1	23.6	30.7	16.1	19.9	25.1	23.2	17.8
Wrist .....	4.9	2.7	3.6	3.6	6.5	3.4	4.3	4.6	10.0	4.7
Hand, except finger .....	4.3	7.4	4.1	5.2	4.8	3.0	4.0	4.9	3.5	3.3
Finger .....	8.5	10.1	11.1	9.5	13.0	4.4	6.9	10.0	4.7	5.0
Lower extremities .....	20.5	24.1	22.0	25.3	17.8	23.3	20.9	20.8	20.7	19.1
Knee .....	7.1	8.8	8.8	9.2	5.9	7.9	6.8	7.1	5.8	6.8
Foot, except toe .....	3.7	3.6	2.9	5.0	3.6	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.4	3.0
Toe .....	1.1	.8	.5	1.7	1.2	.9	1.2	1.2	.7	.8
Body systems .....	1.3	2.2	.9	1.4	1.1	1.2	.8	.9	2.8	1.7
Multiple parts .....	8.2	7.2	9.1	8.3	5.9	9.1	7.8	8.4	12.0	10.1

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected injury or illness characteristics and industry division, 1998 — Continued

Characteristic	Private industry <sup>2</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup>	Mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>3</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
<b>Source of injury or illness:</b>										
Chemicals and chemical products .....	1.7	1.8	7.9	1.2	2.2	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.7
Containers .....	14.6	8.0	4.7	5.3	13.2	24.2	24.2	21.4	10.2	8.7
Furniture and fixtures .....	3.6	.6	.4	1.4	2.6	2.1	3.4	5.3	5.9	5.3
Machinery .....	6.8	7.2	12.0	5.7	11.7	2.6	7.6	6.9	6.3	3.7
Parts and materials .....	11.5	7.9	19.2	25.1	18.6	8.0	12.0	6.5	5.7	3.7
Worker motion or position .....	15.2	13.8	4.1	13.0	18.3	14.6	13.8	13.5	21.4	14.7
Floors, walkways, ground surfaces .....	15.5	15.1	14.9	18.1	10.2	15.1	12.4	19.7	23.7	17.6
Tools, instruments, and equipment .....	6.3	12.5	7.0	11.1	6.6	3.4	4.7	6.6	4.8	5.3
Vehicles .....	7.9	6.8	6.9	5.8	5.0	17.4	11.6	6.8	7.7	6.8
Health care patient .....	4.6	—	—	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	1.0	—	( <sup>4</sup> )	.5	19.4
<b>Event or exposure leading to injury or illness:</b>										
Contact with objects and equipment .....	27.6	35.8	41.8	35.3	34.5	22.5	28.0	27.8	18.7	18.4
Struck by object .....	13.3	14.5	21.8	19.3	14.6	10.9	13.7	15.4	8.1	9.0
Struck against object .....	7.3	11.0	9.9	8.6	8.1	7.0	7.2	7.6	7.2	5.4
Caught in equipment or object ..	4.5	4.4	9.0	3.8	8.5	2.9	4.8	3.1	2.0	2.3
Fall to lower level .....	5.5	7.5	8.7	11.8	3.4	7.3	5.1	4.4	8.1	4.5
Fall on same level .....	10.7	8.6	8.8	6.9	7.4	8.5	7.8	16.2	16.3	13.7
Slip, trip, loss of balance—without fall .....	3.2	3.5	.8	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.3
Overexertion .....	27.6	16.2	26.0	20.3	25.6	30.7	33.0	25.5	21.3	33.0
Overexertion in lifting .....	16.2	10.5	8.5	11.7	13.5	17.8	21.3	17.6	12.2	18.8
Repetitive motion .....	3.8	.9	.6	1.4	7.6	2.0	2.2	2.4	10.8	3.1
Exposure to harmful substances .....	4.7	5.3	3.8	4.0	5.3	3.0	2.9	5.8	4.5	4.8
Transportation accidents .....	4.0	4.2	1.9	3.9	2.0	8.8	6.1	2.8	5.8	3.9
Fires and explosions .....	.2	.2	.5	.6	.2	.1	.3	.2	.1	.2
Assaults and violent acts by person .....	1.0	.1	—	.1	.1	.4	.2	.8	1.0	3.3

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>3</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of

Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal industries.

<sup>4</sup> Less than 0.1 percent.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that are not available. Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, percentages may not add to 100.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

TABLE 6. Incidence rates<sup>1</sup> for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>2</sup> per 10,000 full-time workers for selected characteristics and industry division, 1998

Characteristic	Private industry <sup>3</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>3</sup>	Mining <sup>4</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>4</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
Total [1,730,534 cases] .....	195.0	296.3	222.5	326.9	228.1	321.1	206.1	176.0	54.7	152.4
<b>Nature of injury or illness:</b>										
Sprains, strains .....	85.6	99.5	86.2	122.6	86.6	162.0	99.5	75.4	21.8	77.5
Bruises, contusions .....	17.3	23.4	22.0	23.6	20.3	32.9	17.0	17.3	4.8	12.8
Cuts, lacerations .....	15.5	44.7	16.8	37.4	20.6	14.8	15.4	19.4	3.4	6.5
Fractures .....	13.0	18.8	30.5	36.4	15.4	18.5	13.5	10.7	3.4	8.2
Heat burns .....	3.2	1.5	2.9	4.7	3.8	1.0	1.3	6.5	( <sup>5</sup> )	2.1
Carpal tunnel syndrome .....	3.0	1.1	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.8	6.2	2.4	1.7	1.7	2.9	2.3
Tendonitis .....	1.9	1.3	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.8	4.0	1.7	2.0	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.4	1.3
Chemical burns .....	1.3	1.7	1.7	2.1	2.0	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.7	1.3	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.0
Amputations .....	1.2	2.1	1.9	1.7	3.1	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	-	( <sup>5</sup> )
Multiple traumatic injuries .....	6.5	9.7	15.3	10.4	7.0	10.7	8.3	5.8	2.1	5.0
<b>Part of body affected by the injury or illness:</b>										
Head .....	13.2	25.9	14.4	23.9	17.7	20.7	14.4	10.9	2.8	9.2
Eye .....	6.6	16.8	7.2	14.0	11.6	6.8	7.7	4.2	1.3	3.5
Neck .....	3.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	3.2	7.3	3.8	2.5	1.3	3.2
Trunk .....	72.7	85.9	78.2	104.1	78.5	131.2	84.9	63.8	17.9	63.6
Shoulder .....	10.1	8.1	12.0	13.7	12.7	20.1	9.4	8.4	2.1	8.3
Back .....	49.6	50.7	49.4	68.6	49.4	88.3	60.1	43.6	13.2	46.9
Upper extremities .....	45.2	77.6	53.5	77.1	70.0	51.7	41.0	44.1	12.7	27.2
Wrist .....	9.5	8.0	8.1	11.6	14.8	10.9	8.9	8.1	5.5	7.1
Hand, except finger .....	8.3	21.9	9.1	17.0	11.1	9.6	8.3	8.6	1.9	5.0
Finger .....	16.6	30.0	24.6	31.0	29.6	14.1	14.2	17.6	2.6	7.6
Lower extremities .....	40.0	71.3	48.9	82.9	40.7	74.9	43.0	36.7	11.3	29.1
Knee .....	13.8	26.2	19.5	30.0	13.5	25.5	14.1	12.5	3.2	10.4
Foot, except toe .....	7.3	10.5	6.4	16.2	8.2	12.6	8.9	6.9	2.4	4.6
Toe .....	2.2	2.5	1.2	5.6	2.8	3.0	2.5	2.1	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.2
Body systems .....	2.5	6.4	2.0	4.5	2.5	3.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.6
Multiple parts .....	16.1	21.5	20.1	27.3	13.4	29.3	16.0	14.8	6.6	15.3

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 6. Incidence rates<sup>1</sup> for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>2</sup> per 10,000 full-time workers for selected characteristics and industry division, 1998 — Continued

Characteristic	Private industry <sup>3</sup>	Goods producing				Service producing				
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>3</sup>	Mining <sup>4</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities <sup>4</sup>	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
<b>Source of injury or illness:</b>										
Chemicals and chemical products .....	3.3	5.3	17.6	3.8	5.1	2.8	2.6	2.5	1.0	2.6
Containers .....	28.5	23.7	10.4	17.3	30.2	77.8	49.8	37.6	5.6	13.3
Furniture and fixtures .....	6.9	1.8	( <sup>5</sup> )	4.5	5.9	6.7	7.1	9.3	3.3	8.0
Machinery .....	13.3	21.4	26.7	18.6	26.7	8.4	15.7	12.2	3.4	5.6
Parts and materials .....	22.5	23.3	42.7	82.2	42.5	25.8	24.8	11.5	3.1	5.7
Worker motion or position .....	29.6	40.9	9.0	42.6	41.8	47.0	28.4	23.7	11.7	22.5
Floors, walkways, ground surfaces .....	30.3	44.9	33.2	59.2	23.2	48.4	25.5	34.7	13.0	26.9
Tools, instruments, and equipment .....	12.4	37.0	15.6	36.4	15.1	11.0	9.6	11.6	2.6	8.0
Vehicles .....	15.3	20.1	15.4	18.9	11.3	55.8	23.9	11.9	4.2	10.4
Health care patient .....	9.1	—	—	—	( <sup>5</sup> )	3.3	—	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	29.6
<b>Event or exposure leading to injury or illness:</b>										
Contact with objects and equipment .....	53.7	106.1	92.9	115.4	78.6	72.2	57.6	49.0	10.2	28.0
Struck by object .....	26.0	43.0	48.6	63.1	33.3	34.9	28.3	27.1	4.4	13.7
Struck against object .....	14.2	32.7	22.0	28.1	18.4	22.6	14.9	13.4	3.9	8.2
Caught in equipment or object ..	8.8	13.1	20.1	12.4	19.5	9.3	9.8	5.5	1.1	3.5
Fall to lower level .....	10.8	22.2	19.3	38.7	7.9	23.4	10.5	7.7	4.4	6.9
Fall on same level .....	20.8	25.4	19.6	22.6	16.8	27.2	16.0	28.5	8.9	20.9
Slip, trip, loss of balance—without fall .....	6.2	10.4	1.8	9.5	6.5	11.0	6.4	6.4	2.0	5.1
Overexertion .....	53.8	47.9	57.7	66.3	58.5	98.5	68.1	44.9	11.7	50.2
Overexertion in lifting .....	31.6	31.0	18.9	38.1	30.9	57.3	44.0	31.0	6.7	28.6
Repetitive motion .....	7.4	2.8	1.3	4.6	17.3	6.3	4.6	4.2	5.9	4.8
Exposure to harmful substances .....	9.1	15.6	8.4	13.1	12.1	9.8	6.1	10.3	2.4	7.3
Transportation accidents .....	7.9	12.3	4.2	12.9	4.6	28.2	12.6	5.0	3.2	6.0
Fires and explosions .....	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.2	1.8	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Assaults and violent acts by person .....	2.0	( <sup>5</sup> )	—	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.3	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.4	( <sup>5</sup> )	5.0

<sup>1</sup> Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time workers and were calculated as: (N/EH) x 20,000,000 where

N = number of injuries and illnesses  
 EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year  
 20,000,000 = base for 10,000 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year)

<sup>2</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>4</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal industries.

<sup>5</sup> Less than 1.0 case per 10,000 full-time workers.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that are not available.  
 SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor



TABLE 7. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected worker characteristics and number of days away from work, 1998

Characteristic	Total cases	Percent of days-away-from-work cases involving —							Median days away from work
		1 day	2 days	3 - 5 days	6 - 10 days	11 - 20 days	21 - 30 days	31 days or more	
Total [1,730,534 cases] .....	100.0	16.7	13.4	20.2	12.9	11.2	6.4	19.1	5
<b>Sex:</b>									
Male .....	100.0	16.8	13.2	19.8	12.9	11.4	6.6	19.5	6
Female .....	100.0	16.7	13.9	21.1	13.0	10.9	6.1	18.2	5
<b>Age:<sup>2</sup></b>									
14 - 15 .....	100.0	38.8	12.3	22.5	8.0	11.6	1.8	5.4	2
16 - 19 .....	100.0	23.2	15.6	24.0	14.3	9.8	4.4	8.7	4
20 - 24 .....	100.0	21.7	16.5	22.2	13.5	9.7	4.9	11.5	4
25 - 34 .....	100.0	18.5	14.7	21.3	13.0	10.9	5.8	15.8	5
35 - 44 .....	100.0	15.7	12.8	19.3	12.8	11.8	6.7	20.9	6
45 - 54 .....	100.0	13.7	11.5	18.8	12.7	11.5	7.6	24.2	8
55 - 64 .....	100.0	12.3	10.2	18.4	12.4	12.1	7.9	26.7	10
65 and over .....	100.0	9.5	9.4	15.7	17.3	12.7	8.5	26.9	10
<b>Occupation:</b>									
Managerial and professional specialty .....	100.0	18.7	15.1	22.0	12.4	9.9	6.5	15.5	4
Technical, sales, and administrative support .....	100.0	17.3	14.7	21.3	12.8	10.3	6.1	17.6	5
Service .....	100.0	16.6	14.1	22.2	13.9	10.6	5.9	16.6	5
Farming, forestry, and fishing .....	100.0	16.8	14.9	22.0	13.6	8.7	7.0	16.9	5
Precision production, craft, and repair .....	100.0	16.5	12.8	19.0	12.6	11.5	6.9	20.7	6
Operators, fabricators, and laborers .....	100.0	16.5	12.6	19.1	12.7	12.1	6.6	20.3	6
<b>Length of service with employer:</b>									
Less than 3 months .....	100.0	19.4	14.7	21.1	12.9	10.0	5.6	16.4	5
3 - 11 months .....	100.0	17.4	15.3	21.7	12.9	10.0	5.6	17.2	5
1 - 5 years .....	100.0	17.4	13.6	20.6	13.0	11.1	6.2	18.0	5
More than 5 years .....	100.0	14.5	11.5	18.6	12.9	12.6	7.3	22.5	7
<b>Race or ethnic origin:</b>									
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	17.5	13.7	20.0	12.7	10.9	6.3	18.9	5
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	16.6	12.9	20.9	13.6	11.2	6.0	18.7	5
Hispanic .....	100.0	14.5	13.2	20.5	13.2	11.7	6.8	20.2	6
Asian or Pacific Islander .....	100.0	17.0	12.1	22.8	14.7	10.2	6.0	17.2	5
American Indian or Alaskan Native .....	100.0	14.3	13.2	20.9	13.8	12.4	9.6	15.8	6

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

<sup>2</sup> Information is not shown separately for injured workers under age 14; they accounted for fewer than 50 cases.

NOTE: Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, percentages may not add to 100.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

TABLE 8. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected occupation and number of days away from work, 1998

Occupation	Total cases	Percent of days-away-from-work cases involving —							Median days away from work
		1 day	2 days	3 - 5 days	6 - 10 days	11 - 20 days	21 - 30 days	31 days or more	
Total [1,730,534 cases] .....	100.0	16.7	13.4	20.2	12.9	11.2	6.4	19.1	5
Truckdrivers .....	100.0	11.0	9.6	19.4	12.9	13.5	7.7	25.9	10
Laborers, nonconstruction .....	100.0	16.7	13.2	20.1	13.7	11.0	6.5	18.9	6
Nursing aides, orderlies .....	100.0	16.8	15.2	22.4	14.0	11.0	5.8	14.9	5
Janitors and cleaners .....	100.0	19.9	11.8	19.9	13.2	8.6	6.3	20.2	5
Construction laborers .....	100.0	14.5	12.7	19.2	11.8	14.1	6.7	21.1	7
Assemblers .....	100.0	18.0	12.7	17.3	11.9	13.7	6.9	19.5	6
Carpenters .....	100.0	15.4	11.4	20.2	16.4	11.0	7.3	18.4	6
Cooks .....	100.0	15.4	13.6	20.8	17.2	12.2	5.6	15.2	6
Welders and cutters .....	100.0	28.2	16.3	16.5	11.4	8.4	5.1	14.2	3
Stock handlers and baggers .....	100.0	18.7	14.9	22.7	11.0	11.9	4.5	16.2	5
Cashiers .....	100.0	15.8	15.7	20.3	15.2	8.9	6.7	17.5	5
Registered nurses .....	100.0	17.2	17.2	23.0	12.2	10.0	5.8	14.6	4
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm .....	100.0	19.4	17.2	22.5	12.1	6.6	7.1	15.1	4
Sales workers, other commodities ..	100.0	16.4	15.2	18.8	13.5	10.6	6.2	19.2	5
Supervisors and proprietors .....	100.0	16.2	14.1	19.8	11.2	13.2	6.9	18.8	6
Miscellaneous food preparation .....	100.0	16.8	15.2	23.4	11.3	13.7	6.1	13.5	4
Maids and housemen .....	100.0	16.2	14.4	20.7	15.6	10.9	5.2	17.1	5
Shipping and receiving clerks .....	100.0	17.3	14.8	21.4	13.8	11.6	6.6	14.6	5
Driver-sales workers .....	100.0	11.9	11.2	21.6	17.8	12.2	6.3	18.8	7
Mechanics, automobile .....	100.0	17.3	12.9	24.0	11.9	11.0	3.2	19.8	5
Waiters and waitresses .....	100.0	16.5	12.7	22.6	11.9	7.2	6.1	23.1	5
Electricians .....	100.0	16.2	12.5	16.7	11.7	10.7	8.8	23.5	8
Industrial truck operators .....	100.0	15.2	13.9	16.7	12.1	11.8	6.8	23.6	7
Farm workers .....	100.0	13.0	11.0	22.8	16.4	12.7	6.8	17.5	6
Supervisors, production workers .....	100.0	19.4	17.4	18.2	11.9	11.5	4.3	17.3	4
Repairers, industrial machinery .....	100.0	16.8	12.6	15.4	11.8	12.5	7.4	23.5	7
Packaging, filling machine operators .....	100.0	19.1	16.5	16.9	13.2	9.6	5.7	18.9	5
Plumbers and pipefitters .....	100.0	13.0	12.8	18.8	14.1	9.5	6.2	25.7	8
Kitchen workers .....	100.0	18.2	11.8	29.6	11.2	11.8	5.4	12.0	4
Licensed practical nurses .....	100.0	16.6	15.9	23.0	14.1	8.8	5.8	15.9	4
Mechanics, bus, truck, stationary engine .....	100.0	20.6	17.7	15.6	13.3	9.4	6.4	17.0	5
Health aides, except nursing .....	100.0	19.5	14.5	27.0	14.1	8.6	6.0	10.4	4
Stock and inventory clerks .....	100.0	16.2	18.2	19.9	11.6	12.5	6.4	15.3	5
Hand packers and packagers .....	100.0	21.0	12.8	14.4	14.6	14.2	5.9	17.2	6
Guards and police, except public .....	100.0	13.1	11.1	21.8	14.1	10.8	8.9	20.2	7
Machinists .....	100.0	19.5	15.6	17.4	17.9	8.2	5.8	15.6	5
Butchers and meat cutters .....	100.0	14.5	10.9	19.4	11.5	14.8	11.6	17.4	7
Attendants, public transportation .....	100.0	5.1	7.1	27.5	17.5	16.1	5.5	21.2	8
Production inspectors .....	100.0	18.2	10.4	16.4	10.6	12.2	7.7	24.6	7
Vehicle washers and cleaners .....	100.0	19.3	16.8	20.7	11.0	13.9	4.1	14.3	4
Helpers, construction trades .....	100.0	17.4	11.7	15.8	14.5	11.5	8.4	20.7	7
Painters .....	100.0	12.4	12.5	19.1	12.8	10.6	9.7	23.0	8
Secretaries .....	100.0	21.5	12.7	23.7	13.9	6.1	7.4	14.8	4

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

NOTE: Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, percentages may not add to 100.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

TABLE 9. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected injury or illness characteristics and number of days away from work, 1998

Characteristic	Total cases	Percent of days-away-from-work cases involving —							Median days away from work
		1 day	2 days	3 - 5 days	6 - 10 days	11 - 20 days	21 - 30 days	31 days or more	
Total [1,730,534 cases] .....	100.0	16.7	13.4	20.2	12.9	11.2	6.4	19.1	5
<b>Nature of injury or illness:</b>									
Sprains, strains .....	100.0	14.1	13.1	22.3	13.9	11.5	6.4	18.7	6
Bruises, contusions .....	100.0	23.0	18.4	22.8	12.8	9.1	4.2	9.7	3
Cuts, lacerations .....	100.0	25.4	16.2	21.7	13.7	10.6	4.2	8.2	3
Fractures .....	100.0	8.3	6.4	12.4	11.2	14.0	10.6	37.1	19
Heat burns .....	100.0	20.8	14.0	21.8	15.2	11.6	5.0	11.5	4
Carpal tunnel syndrome .....	100.0	3.8	4.3	11.3	10.2	15.4	11.8	43.1	24
Tendonitis .....	100.0	9.7	10.8	15.3	14.7	18.4	8.2	23.0	10
Chemical burns .....	100.0	32.1	21.6	19.5	12.2	7.6	2.5	4.4	2
Amputations .....	100.0	7.6	4.8	11.0	13.5	18.2	13.3	31.6	18
Multiple traumatic injuries .....	100.0	14.4	13.5	18.3	11.5	10.8	6.8	24.7	7
<b>Part of body affected by the injury or illness:</b>									
Head .....	100.0	39.4	21.6	19.5	8.2	4.9	1.9	4.5	2
Eye .....	100.0	48.6	25.2	15.9	5.5	2.3	.9	1.5	2
Neck .....	100.0	13.5	14.8	26.5	13.4	9.8	4.9	17.0	4
Trunk .....	100.0	13.1	12.4	21.6	13.7	11.6	6.8	20.7	6
Shoulder .....	100.0	12.2	11.9	17.7	11.7	11.6	7.0	27.9	9
Back .....	100.0	13.5	12.9	23.1	14.4	11.0	6.0	19.2	6
Upper extremities .....	100.0	18.1	13.2	19.4	13.1	12.4	6.5	17.3	5
Wrist .....	100.0	11.1	9.5	15.7	12.7	13.2	9.5	28.4	11
Hand, except finger .....	100.0	21.0	16.1	21.5	12.2	12.1	5.1	12.1	4
Finger .....	100.0	21.8	14.8	19.9	14.0	12.4	5.7	11.5	4
Lower extremities .....	100.0	15.0	12.9	19.6	13.4	11.8	7.0	20.3	6
Knee .....	100.0	12.1	10.6	17.0	12.5	12.7	8.0	27.2	10
Foot, except toe .....	100.0	15.2	16.2	20.3	12.3	10.9	7.1	18.0	5
Toe .....	100.0	19.6	16.5	21.6	14.9	9.9	7.2	10.3	4
Body systems .....	100.0	28.2	17.5	16.8	10.9	7.6	5.2	13.7	3
Multiple parts .....	100.0	14.0	12.1	17.4	11.6	11.6	7.4	25.9	8

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 9. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by selected injury or illness characteristics and number of days away from work, 1998 — Continued

Characteristic	Total cases	Percent of days-away-from-work cases involving —							Median days away from work
		1 day	2 days	3 - 5 days	6 - 10 days	11 - 20 days	21 - 30 days	31 days or more	
<b>Source of injury or illness:</b>									
Chemicals and chemical products .....	100.0	32.2	20.4	19.2	10.9	8.1	2.6	6.8	2
Containers .....	100.0	14.5	13.7	20.9	13.3	11.8	7.1	18.7	6
Furniture and fixtures .....	100.0	19.7	15.9	22.1	13.4	9.8	5.1	14.0	4
Machinery .....	100.0	16.9	12.8	20.3	12.6	12.2	6.8	18.4	6
Parts and materials .....	100.0	18.6	13.8	20.3	13.0	11.5	6.3	16.5	5
Worker motion or position .....	100.0	12.4	10.8	20.0	13.5	12.8	7.3	23.1	8
Floors, walkways, ground surfaces .....	100.0	13.0	11.9	18.5	12.7	11.2	7.3	25.4	8
Tools, instruments, and equipment .....	100.0	23.3	15.0	21.2	13.0	11.2	5.2	11.2	4
Vehicles .....	100.0	13.2	12.0	19.5	12.9	12.1	6.9	23.4	7
Health care patient .....	100.0	15.7	15.4	22.9	15.4	10.2	5.5	14.9	5
<b>Event or exposure leading to injury or illness:</b>									
Contact with objects and equipment .....	100.0	23.7	15.9	19.9	12.4	10.1	5.0	12.9	4
Struck by object .....	100.0	23.5	16.5	20.0	12.6	9.9	4.8	12.8	4
Struck against object .....	100.0	24.6	15.3	20.8	13.0	10.4	4.8	11.1	4
Caught in equipment or object ..	100.0	15.3	12.5	19.5	13.2	13.0	7.4	19.2	6
Fall to lower level .....	100.0	11.6	10.5	17.0	13.1	11.3	7.2	29.4	10
Fall on same level .....	100.0	14.3	12.8	19.4	12.2	11.0	7.3	22.9	7
Slip, trip, loss of balance—without fall .....	100.0	14.7	12.3	21.7	13.5	11.1	7.2	19.5	6
Overexertion .....	100.0	13.0	12.7	21.6	13.7	12.1	7.2	19.6	6
Overexertion in lifting .....	100.0	12.9	13.2	22.0	13.8	12.1	7.4	18.7	6
Repetitive motion .....	100.0	7.9	7.3	13.9	13.0	15.4	9.4	33.0	15
Exposure to harmful substances .....	100.0	29.9	17.9	20.6	11.7	8.2	3.6	8.1	3
Transportation accidents .....	100.0	11.5	10.1	20.0	11.5	12.2	7.4	27.3	9
Fires and explosions .....	100.0	18.7	9.1	15.7	12.9	14.3	3.9	25.3	9
Assaults and violent acts by person .....	100.0	15.4	18.4	20.7	13.9	10.3	4.9	16.3	5

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

NOTE: Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, percentages may not add to 100.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

TABLE 10. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work<sup>1</sup> by industry division and number of days away from work, 1998

Industry	Total cases	Percent of days-away-from-work cases involving —							Median days away from work
		1 day	2 days	3 - 5 days	6 - 10 days	11 - 20 days	21 - 30 days	31 days or more	
Private industry <sup>2</sup> [1,730,534 cases] .....	100.0	16.7	13.4	20.2	12.9	11.2	6.4	19.1	5
<b>Goods producing:</b>									
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	17.0	14.2	22.0	14.3	9.2	7.0	16.3	5
Mining <sup>3</sup> .....	100.0	10.4	7.4	12.3	8.6	10.0	5.8	45.5	22
Construction .....	100.0	14.5	11.3	18.9	12.6	12.2	7.5	23.1	7
Manufacturing .....	100.0	19.4	13.4	18.3	12.5	11.7	6.6	18.1	5
Durable goods .....	100.0	20.1	13.5	18.0	12.3	11.8	6.5	17.8	5
Nondurable goods .....	100.0	18.2	13.3	18.7	12.7	11.5	6.8	18.7	5
<b>Service producing:</b>									
Transportation and public utilities <sup>3</sup> .....	100.0	12.6	10.6	19.5	13.4	13.4	6.9	23.7	8
Wholesale trade .....	100.0	17.1	14.7	20.7	12.0	10.6	6.5	18.4	5
Retail trade .....	100.0	16.0	14.4	21.0	13.0	10.9	6.4	18.3	5
Finance, insurance, and real estate .....	100.0	17.9	13.9	20.5	13.7	10.7	5.0	18.3	5
Services .....	100.0	17.4	14.6	22.4	13.5	10.0	5.5	16.4	5

<sup>1</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>3</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S.

Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal industries.

NOTE: Because of rounding and nonclassifiable responses, percentages may not add to 100.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor