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Dallas, Texas

For release: Thursday, September 22, 2011

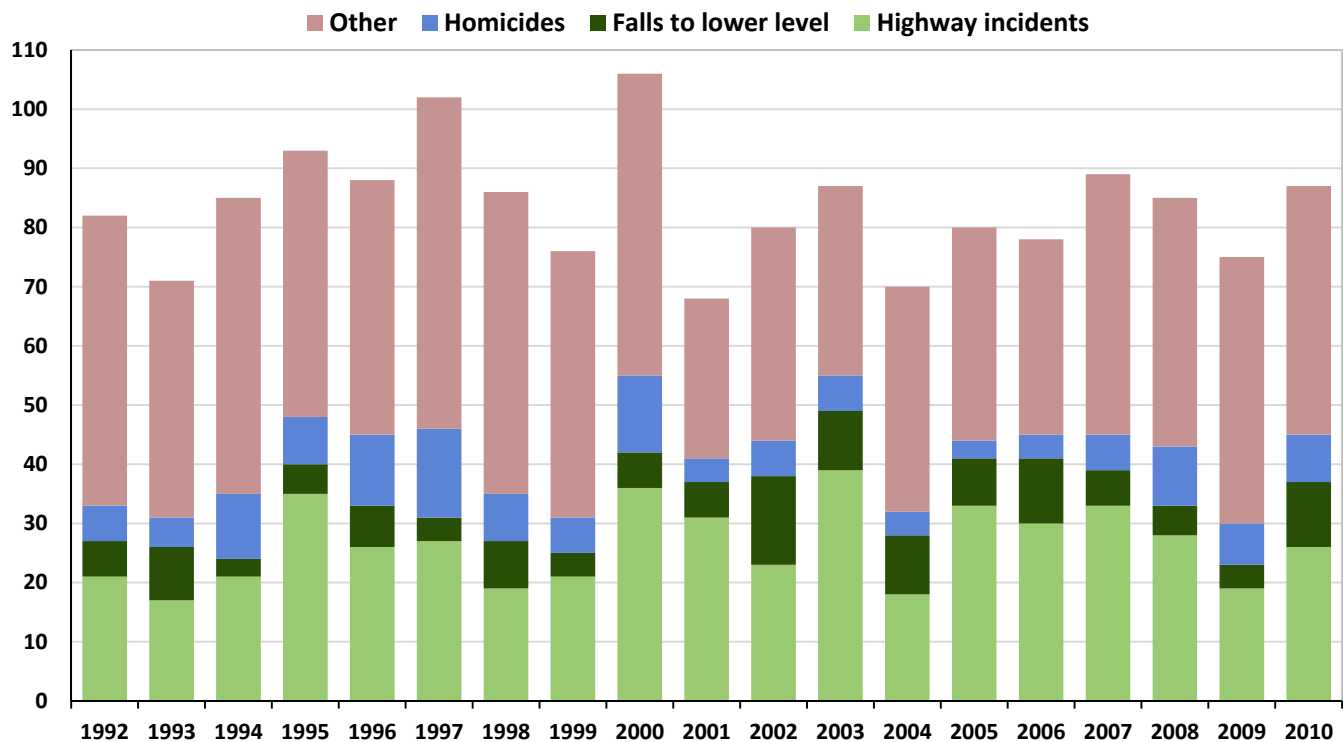
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WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN ARKANSAS—2010

Fatal work injuries totaled 87 in Arkansas in 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that while the 2010 count was preliminary, the number of work-related fatalities in the state had risen by 12 from one year earlier. Arkansas was one of 27 states and the District of Columbia to report higher numbers of fatal work injuries in 2010 than in 2009. Fatal occupational injuries in the state have ranged from a high of 106 in 2000 to a low of 68 in 2001. (See table 1 and chart 1.)

Nationwide, a preliminary total of 4,547 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2010, about the same as the final count of 4,551 recorded in 2009, according to results from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program. Final 2010 CFOI data will be released in Spring 2012.

Chart 1. Total work-related fatalities and selected events, Arkansas, 1992-2010



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

Highway incidents were the most frequent type of workplace fatality in Arkansas in 2010, accounting for 26 deaths. (See table 2.) The number of work-related highway deaths in 2010 was notably higher than a year earlier (19), but below the levels recorded from 2005 to 2008. There were 11 work-related deaths due to falls to a lower level in 2010, a sharp increase from the 4 fatalities recorded in 2009. This was the first time since 2006 that the fatality count from falls to a lower level was in double digits. In 2010, there were 8 on-the-job fatalities due to homicides, about the same as the 2009 count of 7. In contrast to these events, there was a decline in the number of fatal injuries resulting from being struck by an object or equipment, from 9 in 2009 to 6 in 2010.

In the United States, highway incidents were also the most frequent fatal workplace event, accounting for 21 percent of fatal work injuries. In Arkansas, highway incidents accounted for a much larger share of work-related fatalities, 30 percent. Nationwide, falls to a lower level and homicides were the next most frequent types of fatal events, each with 11 percent of total work-related fatalities; in Arkansas, falls to a lower level accounted for 13 percent, and homicides, 9 percent, of all fatal work injuries. On-the-job fatalities caused by being struck by an object or equipment accounted for 9 percent of the fatality count nationally compared to 7 percent in Arkansas.

Additional key characteristics:

- Men accounted for 79 of the 87 work-related fatalities in the state. (See table 3.) Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, made up 44 percent of these fatalities.
- In Arkansas, 75 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics. Nationwide, this group accounted for 72 percent of work-related deaths.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 54, or 62 percent, of the state’s work-related fatalities in 2010. Nationally, workers in this group accounted for 60 percent of on-the-job fatalities.
- Of the 87 occupational fatalities in Arkansas, 86 percent worked for wages and salaries; the remaining fatalities were among the self-employed. The leading cause of death for both groups was transportation incidents, accounting for 47 percent of fatal injuries among wage and salary workers and 42 percent among the self-employed.
- The construction sector had the largest number of fatalities, 18, followed by transportation and warehousing with 16. In the construction industry, transportation incidents were responsible for 8 fatal injuries and falls, for 5. In the transportation and warehousing industry, transportation incidents were also the most prevalent cause of workplace deaths (12) in 2010.
- Transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities in the state with 30, of which tractor-trailer truck drivers accounted for 18. Workers in construction and extraction jobs had the second-highest fatality count at 10, followed by those in management occupations (including farmers and ranchers) at 8.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at www.bls.gov/iif/ and detailed data may be accessed from <http://data.bls.gov/PDO/outside.jsp?survey=fi>. Further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, is available on the Southwest Information Office web site at www.bls.gov/ro6/ or by contacting us at 972-850-4800 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Technical Note

Background of the program. The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The program uses diverse State, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a1.htm. The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part III of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Federal/State agency coverage. The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or State agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Several federal and State agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in States with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Acknowledgments. The Bureau of Labor Statistics thanks the Arkansas Department of Labor for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, State, local, and private sector entities that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Federal Railroad Administration; the Department of Energy; State vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; State departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; State and local police departments; and State farm bureaus.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries in Arkansas by selected event groups, 1992-2010

Year	Total fatalities	Highway incidents		Falls to lower level		Homicides		Struck by object or equipment	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	82	21	26	6	7	6	7	5	6
1993	71	17	24	9	13	5	7	10	14
1994	85	21	25	3	4	11	13	16	19
1995	93	35	38	5	5	8	9	6	6
1996	88	26	30	7	8	12	14	9	10
1997	102	27	26	4	4	15	15	15	15
1998	86	19	22	8	9	8	9	10	12
1999	76	21	28	4	5	6	8	5	7
2000	106	36	34	6	6	13	12	15	14
2001	68	31	46	6	9	4	6	9	13
2002	80	23	29	15	19	6	8	4	5
2003	87	39	45	10	11	6	7	7	8
2004	70	18	26	10	14	4	6	6	9
2005	80	33	41	8	10	3	4	4	5
2006	78	30	38	11	14	4	5	6	8
2007	89	33	37	6	7	6	7	16	18
2008	85	28	33	5	6	10	12	8	9
2009	75	19	25	4	5	7	9	9	12
2010	87	26	30	11	13	8	9	6	7

NOTE: Data for 2010 are preliminary.

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

Event or exposure ^[1]	2009	2010	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	75	87	100
Transportation incidents	35	40	46
Highway	19	26	30
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	11	17	20
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	3	7	8
Moving in intersection	3	--	--
Vehicle struck object on side of road	3	4	5
Noncollision	5	5	6
Jack-knifed or overturned-no collision	5	4	5
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	6	5	6
Overturned	4	4	5
Worker struck by a vehicle	9	--	--
Aircraft accident	--	5	6
Assaults and violent acts	10	9	10
Homicides	7	8	9
Shooting	7	7	8
Self-inflicted injuries	3	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment	12	13	15
Struck by object or equipment	9	6	7
Struck by falling object or equipment	8	4	5
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	3	4	5
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	--	3	3
Falls	7	12	14
Fall to lower level	4	11	13
Fall from ladder	--	5	6
Fall on same level	3	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	8	12	14
Contact with electric current	5	6	7
Contact with temperature extremes	--	4	5

[1] Based on the 2007 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual. Includes other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2010 are preliminary.

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

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics, Arkansas, 2009-2010

Worker characteristics	2009	2010	
		Number	Percent
Total	75	87	100
Employee Status			
Wage and salary workers ^[1]	59	75	86
Self-employed ^[2]	16	12	14
Gender			
Men	69	79	91
Women	6	8	9
Age^[3]			
20 to 24 years	3	6	7
25 to 34 years	8	11	13
35 to 44 years	20	18	21
45 to 54 years	20	25	29
55 to 64 years	18	16	18
65 years and over	5	9	10
Race or Ethnic Origin^[4]			
White, non-Hispanic	64	65	75
Black, non-Hispanic	8	14	16
Hispanic or Latino	--	6	7

[1] May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

[2] Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

[3] Because there may have been no incidents reported for some ages or because the data do not meet publication criteria, information is not available for all age groups. In addition, some fatalities may have had insufficient information with which to determine the age of the decedents.

[4] Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude Hispanic and Latino workers.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2010 are preliminary.

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