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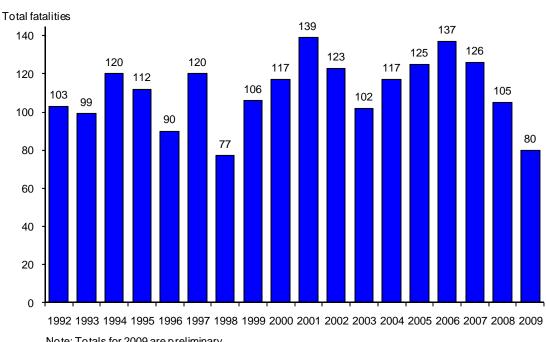
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COLORADO WORKPLACE FATALITIES – 2009

Fatal work injuries in Colorado totaled 80 in 2009, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that while the 2009 results are preliminary, the number of work-related fatalities in Colorado decreased by 25 from the 2008 total and was the secondlowest total since the Bureau began tracking workplace fatalities in 1992. (See chart 1.) Final 2009 national and State results will be released in April 2011.

Chart 1. Total workplace fatalities in Colorado, 1992 - 2009



Note: Totals for 2009 are preliminary.

Highway incidents (23) were the leading cause of workplace fatalities in Colorado in 2009. Four other events resulted in seven or more fatal on-the-job injuries--falls to a lower level (9), homicides (8),

aircraft incidents (7), and self-inflicted injuries (7). Combined, these five types of events¹ accounted for 68 percent of all work-related fatalities in the State in 2009. (See tables A and B.)

In Colorado, the number of fatal injuries from highway incidents was down from the 31 recorded in 2008. This number has declined each year since recording a series high of 42 deaths in 2006. Though work-related deaths due to highway incidents declined in the State and the nation, this event remained the most frequent on-the-job fatality for both. Still, the share of job-related fatalities attributable to highway incidents in 2009 was higher in the State (29 percent) than in the nation (20 percent).

Falls to a lower level were responsible for nine fatalities in Colorado in 2009, the same as reported in 2008. With the exception of 12 fatalities in 2006, the number of work-related deaths due to this event has ranged from 7 to 9 in each year since 2004. Fatal injuries from falls to a lower level represented 11 percent of job-related deaths in Colorado and 12 percent of the U.S. total in 2009.

Work-related homicides resulted in eight fatalities in the State in 2009, little changed from the seven reported in 2008. Homicides accounted for 10 percent of fatal work injuries in the State and 12 percent of the nation's total.

Aircraft incidents (7) and self-inflicted injuries (7) each accounted for 9 percent of the State's total fatalities in 2009. Nationally, aircraft incidents accounted for 4 percent of all work-related deaths and self-inflicted injuries accounted for 5 percent.

Other events leading to workplace fatalities in Colorado in 2009 included workers being struck by an object or equipment (5) and falls on the same level (3). Together these two events were responsible for 10 percent of all fatal work injuries in Colorado in 2009. (See table 1.) Fatalities from these same two events accounted for 11 percent of the total for the United States.

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¹ Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls, among others. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. See the Occupational Injury & Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual at http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in this census.

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in Colorado by selected event groups, 1992 - 2009

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Year	Total fatalities	Highway	incidents	Falls to a	Falls to a lower level		Homicides		ncidents	Self-inflicted injuries		
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1992	103	22	21	8	8	15	15	12	12	4	4	
1993	99	18	18	9	9	16	16	10	10	3	3	
1994	120	28	23	12	10	12	10	8	7	9	8	
1995	112	21	19	10	9	14	13	11	10	10	9	
1996	90	20	22	10	11	8	9	6	7	7	8	
1997	120	29	24	16	13	10	8	21	18	7	6	
1998	77	28	36	8	10	7	9	3	4			
1999	106	32	30	7	7	7	7	3	3	17	16	
2000	117	34	29	10	9	11	9	6	5	13	11	
2001	139	33	24	15	11	7	5	19	14	18	13	
2002	123	37	30	12	10	13	11	9	7	14	11	
2003	102	25	25	16	16	10	10	5	5	11	11	
2004	117	36	31	7	6	8	7	9	8	11	9	
2005	125	35	28	7	6	6	5	18	14			
2006	137	42	31	12	9	11	8	9	7	14	10	
2007	126	41	33	8	6	11	9			6	5	
2008¹	105	31	30	9	9	7	7	4	4	6	6	
2009 ²	80	23	29	9	11	8	10	7	9	7	9	

¹ Since the initial release of 2008 data, 3 additional job-related fatalities were identified in Colorado bringing the 2008 total job-related fatality count to 105.

NOTE: Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Key characteristics of fatal work injuries in Colorado:

- Men accounted for 91 percent (73) of the work-related fatalities in the State in 2009. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, accounted for 42 percent of these deaths. Seven women were fatally injured on the job in 2009. (See table 2.)
- Seventy percent of those who died from a workplace injury in Colorado were white, non-Hispanic (56) and 20 percent were Hispanic or Latino (16). Transportation incidents were the most frequent type of fatal event for white, non-Hispanic workers (24) and Hispanic or Latino workers (8). (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 73 percent of the State's work-related fatalities in 2009 with 58 deaths. (See table 2.) Nationally, those 25-54 years old accounted for 61 percent of on-the-job fatalities.
- Ninety percent of workers killed on-the-job in Colorado worked for wages and salaries (72), the rest were self-employed. Transportation incidents (31) accounted for the largest number of fatalities among wage and salary workers in 2009. Assaults and violent acts (4) and transportation incidents (3) were the most frequent fatality events for self-employed workers. (See table 2.)
- Three industry sectors made up 45 percent of the workplace fatalities in Colorado—construction (18), retail trade (9), and transportation and warehousing (9). Falls were the most prevalent cause of workplace deaths in the construction industry, accounting for seven of the fatal injuries. In retail trade, transportation incidents and assaults and violent acts each accounted for three fatal injuries.

² Totals for 2009 are preliminary.

Transportation incidents were the leading cause of death in the transportation and warehousing sector (7). (See table 3.)

— From an occupational perspective, construction and extraction occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities (21), followed by transportation and material moving occupations (17). Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for almost half (48 percent) of all fatal work injuries in Colorado. Falls were the most frequent cause of on-the-job fatalities in construction and extraction occupations, while transportation incidents led among transportation and material moving occupations. (See table 4.)

U.S. workplace fatalities

Nationwide, a preliminary total of 4,340 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2009, a decrease of 17 percent from the revised total of 5,214 fatal work injuries recorded in 2008. This preliminary figure represents the smallest annual total since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program was first conducted in 1992. (See table B.) Economic factors played a major role in the national fatal work injury decrease as total hours worked declined during the year. Similarly, some industries that have historically accounted for a significant share of fatal work injuries, such as construction, experienced even larger declines in employment or hours worked.

Highway incidents in 2009 continued to lead all other events in the frequency of on-the-job fatalities, a position held since the program's inception in 1992. Still, the 2009 count of 882 fatal injuries from highway incidents was down 27 percent from the 2008 count of 1,215 fatal injuries.

Workplace homicides (521) declined 1 percent in 2009. Workplace suicides (237) were down 10 percent nationwide in 2009 from the series high of 263 in 2008. However, this 2009 preliminary count of workplace suicides is the second highest annual total reported by the fatality census.

Falls to a lower level decreased 13 percent (from 593 in 2008 to 518 in 2009). Around half of all fatal falls to a lower level occur in construction, so the decline in construction employment may account for the lower number of fatal work injuries due to falls to a lower level.

Thirty-seven states reported lower numbers of fatal work injuries in 2009 than in 2008, while 13 states and the District of Columbia reported higher numbers.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups, 1992-2009

Year	Total fatalities	Highway	incidents	Homi	cides	Falls to a	lower level	Struck by object or equipment		
	iataiiti o	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1992	6,217	1,158	19	1,044	17	507	8	557	9	
1993	6,331	1,242	20	1,074	17	534	8	565	9	
1994	6,632	1,343	20	1,080	16	580	9	591	9	
1995	6,275	1,346	21	1,036	17	578	9	547	9	
1996	6,202	1,346	22	927	15	610	10	582	9	
1997	6,238	1,393	22	860	14	653	10	579	9	
1998	6,055	1,442	24	714	12	625	10	520	9	
1999	6,054	1,496	25	651	11	634	10	585	10	
2000	5,920	1,365	23	677	11	659	11	571	10	
2001[1]	5,915	1,409	24	643	11	700	12	553	9	
2002	5,534	1,373	25	609	11	638	12	505	9	
2003	5,575	1,353	24	632	11	604	11	531	10	
2004	5,764	1,398	24	559	10	738	13	602	10	
2005	5,734	1,437	25	567	10	664	12	607	11	
2006	5,840	1,356	23	540	9	738	13	589	10	
2007	5,657	1,414	25	628	11	746	13	504	9	
2008[2]	5,214	1,215	23	526	10	593	11	520	10	
2009[3]	4,340	882	20	521	12	518	12	414	10	

^[1]Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm. Data can be accessed in a number of ways. Selected current and historical information is available in PDF format. Detailed data may be accessed through the online query system located at data.bls.gov:8080/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=fi or via an extensive collection of flat text files. For personal assistance or further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mountain-Plains Economic Analysis & Information Office at 816-285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Technical Note

Background of the program

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

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site here: www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a.htm. The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part III of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

^[2] Totals for 2008 are revised and final. The BLS national news release isued August 20, 2009, reported a total of 5,071 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2008. Since then, an additional 143 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2008 to 5,214.

^[3] Totals for 2009 are preliminary.

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

BLS thanks the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 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 by event or exposure for all fatalities and major private industry sector, Colorado, 2009

			Goods p	roducing		Service providing							
Event or exposure ²	Total fatalities (number)	Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining ³	Construc- tion	Manufac- turing	Total service providing	Trade, transpor- tation, and utilities	Informa- tion	Financial activities	Profes- sional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total	80	31	9	18	4	35	22					3	4
Contact with objects and equipment Struck by object or equipment	9 5	3		3 3	 	5 	3	 	 				
Struck by rolling, sliding objects or equipment on floor or ground level	3												
Falls Fall to lower level Fall from ladder	9	7	 	7 7 3	 			 				 	
Fall from roofFall on same level	3	3	 	3	 			 				 	
Exposure to harmful substances or environments Transportation accidents		3 9	 5			18	12						4
Highway accident Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment Moving in same direction		3	 	 	 	4	3	 				 	
Vehicle struck object on side of road Noncollision accident	6	 	 	 	 	5 6	5 					 	
Jack-knifed or overturnedno collision Aircraft accident	7					6							
Assaults and violent acts	16 8 7	 	 	 	 	8 6 6		 				 	
Self-inflicted injury	, 7 7	4 4						 					

¹ Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are classified using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Industry data after 2008 are classified using the 2007 NAICS.

² Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary.

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

³ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Colorado, 2009

		Event or exposure ¹							
Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions		
Total	80	34	16	9	13	6			
Employee Status									
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴		31	12	٥	13	5			
Self-employed ⁵		3	4						
Gender									
				_		_			
Men		31	14	9	11	6			
Women	/								
Age									
Under 16 years									
16 to 17 years									
18 to 19 years									
20 to 24 years									
25 to 34 years		7							
35 to 44 years		-	5		3				
45 to 54 years			7		4	4			
55 to 64 years		4			3				
65 years and over	9	5							
Race or Ethnic Origin ⁶									
White, non-Hispanic	56	24	11	8	7	4			
Black, non-Hispanic									
Hispanic or Latino		8	3		3				
American Indian or Alaska Native									
Asian									
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander									

¹ Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary

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

² Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Colorado, 2009

			Event or exposure ²							
Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions		
Total		80	34	16	9	13	6	-		
Private Industry		66	27	14	8	11	5			
Goods Producing		31	9	6	3	9	3			
Natural Resources and Mining		9	5	3						
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	. 11	5		3						
Crop Production	. 111	3								
Construction	и	18		3	3	7				
Construction	. 23	18		3	3	7				
Construction of buildings Residential Building Construction Residential Building Construction Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction Specialty Trade Contractors	. 2361 . 23611 237 238	5 3 3 8	 			4 3	 	 		
Building Equipment Contractors		3			-					
Manufacturing		4								
Service providing		35	18	8	5					
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		22	12	3	3					
Wholesale Trade		4								
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	. 424	3								
Retail Trade	44-45	9	3	3						
Food and Beverage Stores	. 445	3								
Transportation and Warehousing	. 48-49	9	7							
See footnotes at end of table										

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Colorado, 2009 - continued

			Event or exposure ²						
Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions	
Truck Transportation	484	8	6					-	
General Freight Trucking		4							
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance	48412	3							
Specialized Freight Trucking	4842	4	4						
Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Local	48422	3	3						
Leisure and Hospitality		3							
Accommodation and Food Services	. 72	3							
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	3							
Other Services		4	4						
Other Services, except Public Administration	. 81	4	4						
Repair and Maintenance	811	4	4						
Government ⁶		14	7						
Federal Government		6							
Service providing		6							
Public Administration		6							
Public Administration	. 92	6							

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Colorado, 2009 - continued

			Event or exposure ²						
Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions	
National Security and International Affairs	928	5							
National Security and International Affairs	9281	5							
National Security	92811	5							
Local Government		6							
Service providing		6							

¹ Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are classified using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Industry data after 2008 are classified using the 2007 NAICS.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary.

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

² Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁵ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

 $^{^{\}rm 6}$ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Colorado, 2009

		Event or exposure ²								
Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions			
Total	80	34	16	9	13	6				
Management occupations Other management occupations Education, training, and library occupations. Protective service occupations Sales and related occupations	3 4 4	 	3 	 	 	 	 			
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	3	 3	 3	 4	 8	 	 			
Construction trades workers Carpenters Carpenters Construction laborers	16 . 3 . 3	 	 	4	7	 	 			
Construction laborers Electricians Electricians	5 4 4	 	 	 	 	 	 			
Roofers Roofers Other construction and related workers Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3	 6	 	 	 	 	 			
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	5 4 3	4 3 	- - -	 	 	 	 			
Transportation and material moving occupations Motor vehicle operators Driver/sales workers and truck drivers Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer. Military specific occupations'	17 12 12 9	12 9 9 7	-	3		 				

¹ Based on the Standard Occupational Classification System.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary

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

² Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

Military specific occupations include fatalities to persons identified as resident armed forces regardless of individual occupation listed.