

News

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NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN 2005

A total of 5,702 fatal work injuries were recorded in the United States in 2005, down about 1 percent from the revised total of 5,764 fatal work injuries recorded in 2004. The rate at which fatal work injuries occurred in 2005 was 4.0 per 100,000 workers, down slightly from a rate of 4.1 per 100,000 in 2004.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries has been conducted each year since 1992. The numbers reported in this release are preliminary and will be updated in April 2007.

Key findings of the 2005 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries:

- Fatal work injuries among workers under 20 years of age were up about 18 percent from the 2004 figure to 166 cases.
- Fatal work injuries involving women in 2005 were down 3 percent to 402 cases—the lowest total ever recorded by the fatality census.
- Fatalities among agricultural workers were up 23 percent from 145 in 2004 to 178 in 2005.
- Fatal work injuries among Hispanic workers increased by 2 percent in 2005 to a new series high, though the fatality rate for Hispanic workers was lower.
- Fatal falls were lower by 7 percent after reaching a series high in 2004.
- While the number of fatal work injuries in private construction continued to be the most of any industry sector, the number of fatalities was 4 percent lower in 2005 than 2004.
- Fatal workplace injuries attributable to hurricanes accounted for 29 fatal work injuries in 2005, though this total may rise as additional cases are identified and verified.

Profile of 2005 fatal work injuries by type of incident

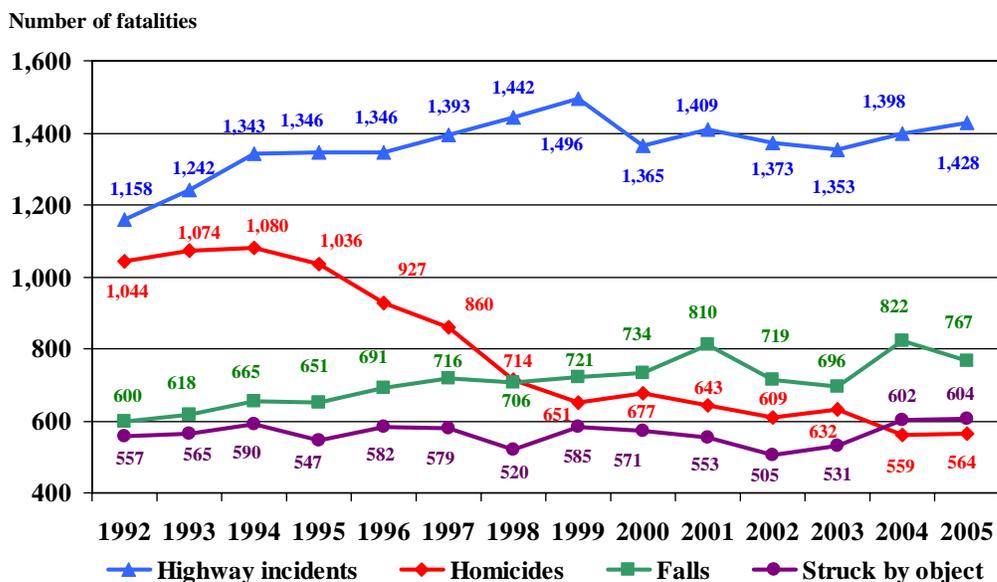
Fatal highway incidents remained the most frequent type of fatal workplace event, accounting for one in every four fatalities nationally in 2005. Fatal highway incidents rose by 2 percent in 2005, accounting for 1,428 worker deaths. Nonhighway incidents (such as those that might occur on a farm or industrial premises) stayed about the same. The number of workers who were killed after being struck by vehicles or mobile equipment rose from 378 in 2004 to 390 in 2005.

The number of fatal work injuries involving aircraft declined 36 percent in 2005 after increasing the previous 2 years. The 147 fatal injuries involving aircraft in 2005 was a series low for the fatality census and 24 percent lower than the lowest previous annual total. Fatalities involving railroad incidents, however, were sharply higher, rising from 50 fatalities in 2004 to 84 in 2005.

The 767 fatal falls recorded in 2005 represented a 7 percent decline from the series high recorded in 2004. Lower numbers of fatal falls from roofs (from 180 in 2004 to 160 in 2005), ladders (from 135 to 129), from stairs or steps (from 27 to 17), and from nonmoving vehicles (from 84 to 74) led to the lower overall total. However, falls on the same level (to a floor or onto or against objects) rose in 2005 (from 61 to 83).

The number of workers who were fatally injured after being struck by objects in 2005 remained at about the same level as in 2004 (604 fatal work injuries in 2005 as compared to 602 in 2004). Fatalities resulting from workers being struck by falling or flying objects rose 5 percent in 2005, though fatalities involving rolling or sliding objects were down 15 percent to 94 fatalities in 2005.

The four most frequent work-related fatal events, 1992-2005



NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.
 SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2005.

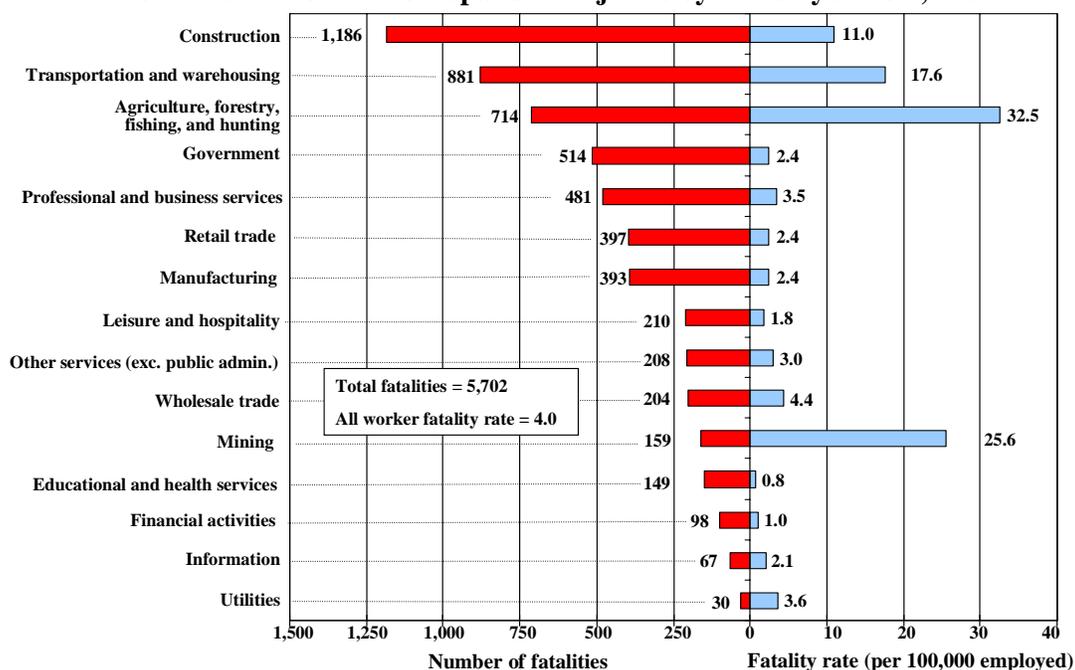
A total of 564 workplace homicides was recorded in 2005 (up from 559 in 2004). However, workplace suicides were sharply lower in 2005, dropping 14 percent to a series low of 177 fatalities.

Fatal work injuries resulting from exposure to harmful substances or environments rose 7 percent in 2005. This overall increase was led by a sharp increase in the number of workers who died after exposure to environmental heat, from 18 fatalities in 2004 to 47 in 2005. Higher numbers of fatal work injuries resulting from the inhalation of caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances also contributed to the overall increase. The number of electrocutions was down slightly in 2005.

Profile of fatal work injuries by industry

Of the 5,702 fatal work injuries recorded in 2005, 5,188 (or 91 percent) occurred in private industry. Service-providing industries in the private sector accounted for 48 percent of all fatal work injuries in 2005, while goods-producing industries accounted for 43 percent. Another 9 percent of the fatal work injuries in 2005 involved government workers.

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries by industry sector¹, 2005



¹ Individual industry sectors exclude data for employees of governmental agencies, which are provided separately.
 Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000. Employment data based on the 2005 Current Population Survey (CPS) and Department of Defense (DOD) figures.
 SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, and US Department of Defense, 2005.

The private construction industry accounted for 1,186 fatal work injuries, the most of any industry sector and about one out of every five fatal work injuries recorded in 2005. While the total number of construction fatalities was 4 percent lower in 2005, the number of fatalities in residential building construction (NAICS 2361), utility system construction (NAICS 2371), and highway, street, and bridge construction (NAICS 2373) increased. These increases were offset by a substantial decrease in the number of fatalities to specialty trade contractors (NAICS 238) from 759 in 2004 to 675 in 2005, a decline of 11 percent. Roofing contractor fatalities, which

fell from 116 in 2004 to 75 in 2005, accounted for almost half of the decrease in the number of specialty trade contractor fatalities.

The 881 fatalities in transportation and warehousing in 2005 represented a 5 percent increase over the 840 cases reported in 2004. Although fewer fatalities were reported for air and water transportation, the 585 truck transportation fatalities, accounting for 10 percent of all work fatalities in 2005, were up 13 percent.

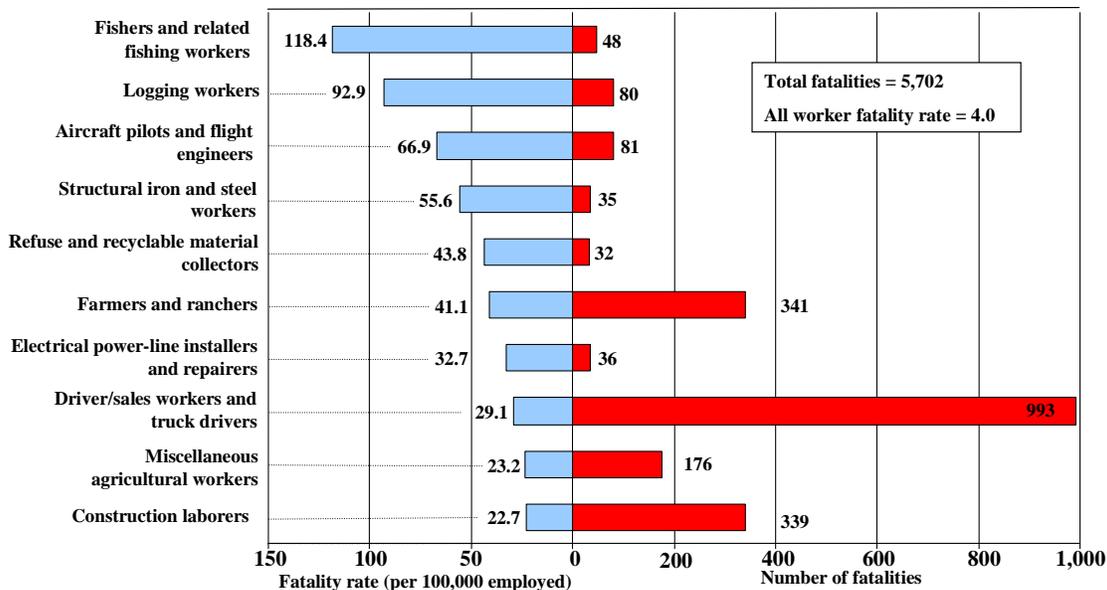
Fatalities were also higher in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting. Agriculture and mining recorded the highest fatal work injury rates among the major industry sectors in 2005—32.5 fatalities per 100,000 workers for agriculture and 25.6 fatalities per 100,000 workers for mining. Fatalities in the manufacturing sector were lower by 15 percent in 2005.

Led by increases in transportation and warehousing, professional and business services, administrative and support services, retail trade, and information, service-providing industries recorded a slight increase in the number of fatalities.

Profile of fatal work injuries by occupation

Similar to 2004, the combined number of fatalities in two occupational groups (construction and extraction occupations and transportation and material moving occupations) accounted for nearly half of all fatal work injuries in 2005 (48 percent).

Selected occupations with high fatality rates, 2005



Occupations had to meet predetermined employment and fatality count criteria to be considered for inclusion.
Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000. Employment data based on the 2005 Current Population Survey (CPS) and Department of Defense (DOD) figures.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, and US Department of Defense, 2005.

Transportation and material moving occupations accounted for the highest number of fatalities of any major occupational group (1,543 fatalities, up 2 percent from 2004). Fatalities among motor vehicle operators accounted for 71 percent of all fatal work injuries in this

occupational group and were higher by 7 percent in 2005. However, fatalities involving air transportation workers were down 26 percent (from 109 in 2004 to 81 in 2005).

Fatal work injury counts were higher by 4 percent in construction and extraction occupations in 2005 (from 1,138 fatalities in 2004 to 1,180 in 2005), although the fatality rate for this occupational group was slightly lower in 2005 due to increases in employment. Fatal work injuries were higher for construction laborers, carpenters, and construction equipment operators, but substantially lower among both painters (down 46 percent) and roofers (down 44 percent).

Fatal work injuries were significantly higher for farming, forestry, and fishing occupations in 2005. The 324 fatalities in this occupational group represented a 14 percent increase over the total recorded in 2004. The fatality rate for this occupational group rose from 28.1 in 2004 to 31.4 in 2005, and was the highest rate among major occupational groups.

Military fatalities (domestic only—see technical notes) were down sharply in 2005. Fatal work injuries among protective service occupations were also lower in 2005.

Profile of fatal work injuries by demographic characteristics

Fatal work injuries among both male and female workers were down in 2005. The total of 402 fatal work injuries among female workers in 2005 was the lowest annual total ever recorded by the fatality census. The number of fatalities among male workers was down 1 percent from the previous year (from 5,349 in 2004 to 5,300 in 2005).

The number of fatal work injuries among Hispanic or Latino workers reached a series high for the fatality census (917 fatal work injuries), but due to increased employment, the fatality rate for this population was down in 2005. Fatalities involving foreign-born Hispanic workers were also higher in 2005, rising to a series high of 625 fatal work injuries, up from 596 in 2004. Fatalities among black or African American workers rose to 577 fatal work injuries in 2005 from 546 in 2004. Fatalities involving Asians and Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders declined from 180 in 2004 to 162 in 2005.

Higher numbers of fatalities were observed for both younger workers (19 years of age and younger) and older workers (55 years of age and older). The number of fatalities among younger workers was up 18 percent (166 fatalities, up from 141 in 2004). Fatal work injuries among workers 55 years of age or older rose to 1,499—a series high for this population—though the fatality rate for older workers was lower.

Fatal work injuries among self-employed workers were down 4 percent from 2004 to 1,134 cases—the second lowest annual count ever reported by the fatality census.

Profile of fatal work injuries by State

Twenty-six States reported lower numbers of fatal work injuries in 2005 than in 2004, 22 States and the District of Columbia reported higher numbers, and two States were unchanged. Four States reported increases of at least 20 percent (Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin), while five States reported decreases of at least 20 percent (Alaska, Hawaii, Nebraska, New Mexico, and West Virginia).

A total of 29 work-related fatalities were attributable to hurricanes and their aftermath in 2005. Hurricane-related fatalities were concentrated in three States—Mississippi (10 fatalities), Louisiana (8 fatalities), and Florida (8 fatalities). Virtually all of the hurricane-related cases in Mississippi and Louisiana were attributed to Hurricane Katrina, while about half of fatal work injuries attributed to hurricanes in Florida were associated with Hurricane Wilma. Of the 29 cases identified by the fatality census, 9 involved workers who were struck by objects, 8 involved transportation-related incidents, and 5 resulted from falls.

While all data from the fatality census are subject to revision, data on work-related fatalities attributable to hurricanes were especially difficult to collect and verify, and therefore may be subject to a larger than normal revision. The census attempted to identify all fatal work injuries that were both hurricane- and work-related. This included fatalities to public safety, rescue, and repair workers, among others (including volunteers), as well as fatalities during the immediate time period of the storms and those occurring months later. While most of the hurricane-related fatalities occurred in the States most immediately affected, the census identified and included fatalities in other locations as well, such as transportation-related fatalities involving rescue workers. The BLS is grateful to all those who helped compile these data under difficult conditions and circumstances.

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. in each calendar year. The program uses diverse State and Federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (industry, occupation, and other worker characteristics; equipment being used; and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to Federal and State agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible. For the 2005 data, over 20,000 unique source documents were reviewed as part of the data collection process.

This is the 14th year that the fatality census has been conducted in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The BLS fatality census is a Federal/State cooperative program in which costs are shared equally. Additional State-specific data are available from the participating State agencies listed in table 6.

Another BLS program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry and also profiles worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses that result in lost work time. Copies of the news releases on nonfatal injuries and illnesses in 2004 are available from BLS by calling (202) 691-6170 or by accessing the website listed below. Incidence rates for 2005 by industry will be published in October 2006, and information on 2005 worker and case characteristics will be available November 2006. For additional data, access the BLS Internet site: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/>.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 2000-2005

Event or exposure ¹	Fatalities			
	2000-2004 average	2004 ²	2005	
		Number	Number	Percent
Total	5,742	5,764	5,702	100
Transportation incidents	2,467	2,490	2,480	43
Highway	1,380	1,398	1,428	25
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	682	702	716	13
Moving in same direction	143	147	175	3
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	249	276	263	5
Moving in intersection	141	145	133	2
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment in roadway	26	27	27	(³)
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road	292	316	342	6
Noncollision	342	323	314	6
Jack-knifed or overturned-no collision	281	262	272	5
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	347	338	340	6
Overturned	181	184	183	3
Worker struck by a vehicle	365	378	390	7
Rail vehicle	58	50	84	1
Water vehicle	81	91	86	2
Aircraft	233	231	147	3
Assaults and violent acts	878	809	787	14
Homicides	624	559	564	10
Shooting	484	421	439	8
Stabbing	62	68	60	1
Self-inflicted injuries	215	206	177	3
Contact with objects and equipment	952	1,009	1,001	18
Struck by object	552	602	604	11
Struck by falling object	340	373	383	7
Struck by flying object	52	42	52	1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	260	269	277	5
Caught in running equipment or machinery	135	141	121	2
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	121	117	109	2
Falls	756	822	767	13
Fall to lower level	668	738	662	12
Fall from ladder	122	135	129	2
Fall from roof	152	180	160	3
Fall from scaffold, staging	88	90	82	1
Fall on same level	67	61	83	1
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	494	464	496	9
Contact with electric current	266	254	250	4
Contact with overhead power lines	121	124	110	2
Contact with temperature extremes	39	27	55	1
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	107	116	132	2
Inhalation of substance	53	52	65	1
Oxygen deficiency	81	65	59	1
Drowning, submersion	59	51	48	1
Fires and explosions	177	159	158	3

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual. Includes other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

² The BLS news release issued August 25, 2005, reported a total of 5,703 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2004. Since then, an additional 61 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2004 to 5,764.

³ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Totals for 2005 are preliminary. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. The average count excludes fatalities from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

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

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and selected event or exposure, 2005

Industry ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for industry)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,702	100	25	10	13	11
Private industry	5,188	91	24	9	14	11
Goods producing	2,452	43	13	2	20	15
Natural resources and mining	873	15	15	1	5	21
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	714	13	13	1	4	21
Crop production	352	6	13	-	5	17
Animal production	155	3	15	3	6	14
Forestry and logging	98	2	12	-	-	67
Fishing, hunting and trapping	47	1	-	-	-	-
Agriculture and forestry support activities	58	1	17	-	5	7
Mining ⁴	159	3	22	3	7	18
Oil and gas extraction	17	(5)	24	-	-	-
Mining, except oil and gas	57	1	14	-	-	12
Support activities for mining	85	1	27	-	11	22
Construction	1,186	21	13	2	33	11
Construction	1,186	21	13	2	33	11
Construction of buildings	224	4	6	3	57	12
Heavy and civil engineering construction	242	4	18	-	5	11
Specialty trade contractors	675	12	13	1	35	11
Manufacturing	393	7	13	5	12	17
Manufacturing	393	7	13	5	12	17
Food manufacturing	46	1	20	9	13	7
Wood product manufacturing	37	1	-	-	14	24
Paper manufacturing	11	(5)	-	-	-	-
Chemical manufacturing	22	(5)	-	-	-	-
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	24	(5)	-	-	17	21
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	59	1	17	7	7	27
Primary metal manufacturing	23	(5)	-	-	-	22
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	43	1	19	-	19	26
Machinery manufacturing	20	(5)	15	-	-	35
Transportation equipment manufacturing	37	1	-	-	14	19
Service providing	2,736	48	34	16	9	7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,512	27	45	15	6	7
Wholesale trade	204	4	44	2	8	13
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	105	2	32	3	8	17
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	92	2	57	-	9	9
Retail trade	397	7	21	46	9	5
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	72	1	36	25	7	8
Building material and garden supply stores	47	1	38	11	11	17
Food and beverage stores	105	2	10	72	8	-
Gasoline stations	58	1	9	71	-	-
General merchandise stores	19	(5)	-	37	26	-
Miscellaneous store retailers	29	1	24	24	17	-
Nonstore retailers	22	(5)	55	-	18	-
Transportation and warehousing	881	15	56	5	4	6
Air transportation	29	1	-	-	-	-
Rail transportation	23	(5)	13	-	-	-
Water transportation	23	(5)	-	-	-	-
Truck transportation	585	10	70	1	4	6
Transit and ground passenger transportation	68	1	43	40	-	6
Support activities for transportation	79	1	18	8	-	14
Couriers and messengers	34	1	85	-	-	-
Warehousing and storage	27	(5)	-	-	15	-
Utilities	30	1	23	-	23	-
Information	67	1	54	12	7	-
Information	67	1	54	12	7	-
Publishing industries, except Internet	39	1	74	10	-	-
Financial activities	98	2	24	22	18	3
Finance and insurance	42	1	26	26	7	-
Credit intermediation and related activities	23	(5)	22	48	-	-
Real estate and rental and leasing	56	1	23	20	27	-
Real estate	36	1	11	25	33	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and selected event or exposure, 2005 — Continued

Industry ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for industry)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Rental and leasing services	19	(⁵)	47	—	—	—
Professional and business services	481	8	21	5	15	10
Professional and technical services	82	1	23	9	12	—
Professional and technical services	82	1	23	9	12	—
Administrative and waste services	398	7	20	5	16	12
Administrative and support services	319	6	18	6	18	12
Waste management and remediation services	79	1	32	—	6	10
Educational and health services	149	3	26	9	11	—
Educational services	45	1	13	7	11	—
Educational services	45	1	13	7	11	—
Health care and social assistance	104	2	31	11	11	—
Ambulatory health care services	50	1	36	10	—	—
Hospitals	19	(⁵)	16	—	16	—
Nursing and residential care facilities	13	(⁵)	—	—	23	—
Social assistance	21	(⁵)	43	14	14	—
Leisure and hospitality	210	4	12	42	8	5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	76	1	11	7	9	13
Performing arts and spectator sports	36	1	—	—	14	22
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	35	1	14	11	—	—
Accommodation and food services	134	2	13	63	7	—
Accommodation	27	(⁵)	—	59	15	—
Food services and drinking places	107	2	15	64	6	—
Other services, except public administration	208	4	16	20	11	13
Other services, except public administration	208	4	16	20	11	13
Repair and maintenance	113	2	12	9	5	22
Personal and laundry services	47	1	15	57	6	—
Membership associations and organizations	43	1	30	—	28	—
Government⁶	514	9	33	16	7	6
Federal government	103	2	30	3	9	5
Public administration	66	1	23	—	6	—
National security and international affairs	53	1	17	—	—	—
State government	106	2	37	15	3	4
Public administration	61	1	41	20	—	5
Justice, public order, and safety activities	37	1	30	30	—	8
Local government	298	5	33	21	8	7
Public administration	163	3	36	29	4	4
Justice, public order, and safety activities	148	3	35	32	4	5

¹ Based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

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

³ "Highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. It excludes incidents occurring entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms; incidents involving trains; and deaths to pedestrians or other nonpassengers.

⁴ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

⁵ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

⁶ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for 2005 are preliminary. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

There were 11 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific industry classification, although a distinction between private and government was made for each.

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

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and selected event or exposure, 2005

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for occupation)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,702	100	25	10	13	11
Management occupations	567	10	15	7	9	13
Top executives	30	1	37	—	—	—
Advertising, marketing, promotions, public relations, and sales managers	7	(4)	57	—	—	—
Operations specialties managers	34	1	15	15	12	—
Other management occupations	496	9	14	7	9	14
Business and financial operations occupations	36	1	33	8	19	—
Business operations specialists	23	(4)	30	—	17	—
Financial specialists	13	(4)	38	—	23	—
Computer and mathematical occupations	6	(4)	—	—	—	—
Computer specialists	6	(4)	—	—	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	53	1	21	6	15	6
Architects, surveyors, and cartographers	9	(4)	—	—	—	—
Engineers	29	1	24	—	14	—
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	15	(4)	20	—	27	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	17	(4)	41	18	—	—
Life scientists	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Physical scientists	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and related workers	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Life, physical, and social science technicians	6	(4)	50	—	—	—
Community and social services occupations	25	(4)	36	16	12	—
Counselors, social workers, and other community and social service specialists	14	(4)	29	21	—	—
Religious workers	11	(4)	45	—	—	—
Legal occupations	17	(4)	41	29	—	—
Lawyers, judges, and related workers	15	(4)	40	27	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	25	(4)	24	20	12	—
Postsecondary teachers	11	(4)	27	—	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	6	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other teachers and instructors	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Librarians, curators, and archivists	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	52	1	17	10	21	10
Art and design workers	10	(4)	—	—	30	—
Entertainers and performers, sports and related workers	29	1	14	—	21	17
Media and communication workers	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Media and communication equipment workers	9	(4)	—	—	—	—
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	42	1	26	12	—	—
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	23	(4)	22	13	—	—
Health technologists and technicians	19	(4)	32	—	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	18	(4)	39	22	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	17	(4)	41	18	—	—
Protective service occupations	256	4	29	35	5	5
First-line supervisors managers, protective service workers	15	(4)	47	—	—	—
Fire fighting and prevention workers	28	(4)	43	—	—	14
Law enforcement workers	141	2	32	40	4	4
Other protective service workers	72	1	15	43	7	6
Food preparation and serving related occupations	58	1	5	62	12	—
Supervisors, food preparation and serving workers	26	(4)	—	65	—	—
Cooks and food preparation workers	15	(4)	—	53	20	—
Food and beverage serving workers	13	(4)	—	77	—	—
Other food preparation and serving related workers	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	264	5	12	4	23	12
Supervisors, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers	36	1	25	—	31	11
Building cleaning and pest control workers	58	1	9	10	36	—
Grounds maintenance workers	170	3	10	2	17	17
Personal care and service occupations	61	1	13	33	7	7
Supervisors, personal care and service workers	6	(4)	—	67	—	—
Animal care and service workers	5	(4)	—	—	—	—
Entertainment attendants and related workers	7	(4)	—	—	—	—
Personal appearance workers	11	(4)	—	100	—	—
Transportation, tourism, and lodging attendants	12	(4)	25	—	—	—
Other personal care and service workers	19	(4)	21	26	—	—
Sales and related occupations	320	6	22	54	6	3
Supervisors, sales workers	132	2	14	58	5	5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and selected event or exposure, 2005 — Continued

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for occupation)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Retail sales workers	112	2	6	75	8	4
Sales representatives, services	17	(4)	59	—	—	—
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	26	(4)	85	—	—	—
Other sales and related workers	33	1	42	33	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	106	2	26	28	13	4
Supervisors, office and administrative support workers	8	(4)	—	62	—	—
Financial clerks	7	(4)	—	57	—	—
Information and record clerks	22	(4)	14	41	18	—
Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing workers	54	1	41	17	11	6
Secretaries and administrative assistants	9	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other office and administrative support workers	6	(4)	—	—	—	—
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	324	6	11	2	4	25
Supervisors, farming, fishing, and forestry workers	12	(4)	25	—	—	33
Agricultural workers	178	3	17	2	6	8
Fishing and hunting workers	48	1	—	—	—	—
Forest, conservation, and logging workers	86	2	5	—	—	74
Construction and extraction occupations	1,180	21	11	2	33	12
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	122	2	15	5	20	11
Construction trades workers	890	16	9	1	38	11
Helpers, construction trades	23	(4)	13	—	35	—
Other construction and related workers	64	1	20	5	11	—
Extraction workers	81	1	14	—	14	21
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	396	7	17	3	13	16
Supervisors of installation, maintenance, and repair workers	19	(4)	16	—	16	—
Electrical and electronic equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	17	(4)	24	—	29	—
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	138	2	17	2	5	29
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	222	4	17	3	17	9
Production occupations	274	5	8	8	12	21
Supervisors, production workers	39	1	8	18	—	21
Assemblers and fabricators	26	(4)	—	—	15	31
Food processing workers	9	(4)	—	33	—	—
Metal workers and plastic workers	84	1	6	—	19	26
Printing workers	8	(4)	—	—	—	—
Textile, apparel, and furnishings workers	5	(4)	—	—	—	—
Woodworkers	7	(4)	—	—	—	71
Plant and system operators	15	(4)	33	—	—	—
Other production occupations	81	1	5	9	11	15
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,543	27	50	4	4	7
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	23	(4)	13	13	—	13
Air transportation workers	81	1	—	—	—	—
Motor vehicle operators	1,095	19	67	5	3	6
Rail transportation workers	23	(4)	—	—	—	—
Water transportation workers	35	1	—	—	—	—
Other transportation workers	15	(4)	—	27	—	—
Material moving workers	271	5	15	2	10	17
Military occupations	47	1	17	—	—	—

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification system.

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

³ "Highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. It excludes incidents occurring entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms; incidents involving trains; and deaths to pedestrians or other non passengers.

⁴ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Totals for 2005 are preliminary. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

There were 15 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific occupation classification.

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

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by selected worker characteristics and selected event or exposure, 2005

Characteristic	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ¹ (percent of total for characteristic category)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ²	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,702	100	25	10	13	11
Employee status						
Wage and salary ³	4,568	80	28	9	14	10
Self-employed ⁴	1,134	20	13	14	12	15
Sex						
Men	5,300	93	24	9	14	11
Women	402	7	33	24	9	4
Age⁵						
Under 16 years	24	(⁶)	—	—	—	12
16-17 years	30	1	13	13	10	20
18-19 years	112	2	21	10	16	11
20-24 years	403	7	26	10	10	9
25-34 years	1,005	18	24	12	11	10
35-44 years	1,239	22	26	12	12	11
45-54 years	1,383	24	26	9	14	10
55-64 years	924	16	28	8	16	10
65 years and older	575	10	20	6	17	15
Race or ethnic origin⁷						
White	3,940	69	26	7	13	11
Black or African-American	577	10	29	20	8	8
Hispanic or Latino	917	16	19	10	20	12
American Indian or Alaska Native	49	1	31	—	8	10
Asian	153	3	12	46	9	6
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	(⁶)	—	—	—	—
Other or not reported	55	1	15	25	11	7

¹ The figure shown is the percent of the total fatalities for that demographic group.

² "Highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder, or surrounding area. It excludes incidents occurring entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms; incidents involving trains; and deaths to pedestrians or other nonpassengers.

³ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁴ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, members of partnerships, and may include owners of incorporated businesses.

⁵ There were 7 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine the age of the decedent.

⁶ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

⁷ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude Hispanic and Latino workers.

NOTE: Totals for 2005 are preliminary. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

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

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries by State and event or exposure, 2004-2005

State of injury	Total fatalities ¹		Event or exposure ⁴ 2005					
	2004 ² (revised)	2005 ³	Transportation incidents ⁵	Assaults and violent acts ⁶	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	5,764	5,702	2,480	787	1,001	767	496	158
Alabama	133	128	55	19	23	21	8	-
Alaska	42	29	21	-	-	3	-	-
Arizona	84	99	42	16	17	9	11	-
Arkansas	70	80	53	5	9	8	3	-
California	467	453	165	87	76	59	51	14
Colorado	117	125	76	8	17	9	11	3
Connecticut	54	46	12	14	10	8	-	-
Delaware	10	10	-	-	-	3	-	-
District of Columbia	11	12	-	4	-	4	-	-
Florida	422	404	186	47	39	72	50	8
Georgia	232	200	81	32	31	39	13	3
Hawaii	25	15	6	-	-	3	4	-
Idaho	38	35	15	-	12	5	-	-
Illinois	208	194	74	30	34	24	26	6
Indiana	153	157	72	15	25	23	14	8
Iowa	82	88	44	3	26	8	-	4
Kansas	80	81	40	12	16	4	5	-
Kentucky	143	122	54	16	30	16	5	-
Louisiana	121	106	53	11	18	10	13	-
Maine	16	15	5	-	5	3	-	-
Maryland	81	95	31	23	16	19	4	-
Massachusetts	72	75	23	12	15	14	7	4
Michigan	127	110	40	16	20	19	10	5
Minnesota	80	87	34	12	26	11	3	-
Mississippi	88	111	49	19	20	17	6	-
Missouri	165	183	91	20	42	12	12	6
Montana	39	50	19	8	14	7	-	-
Nebraska	46	36	18	4	10	3	-	-
Nevada	61	57	26	7	7	10	6	-
New Hampshire	15	18	9	-	5	3	-	-
New Jersey	129	111	51	17	16	15	6	5
New Mexico	57	44	23	9	4	4	-	-
New York (including N.Y.C.)	254	239	87	49	40	33	23	7
New York City	107	88	18	29	11	17	9	4
North Carolina	183	165	62	22	31	30	15	5
North Dakota	24	22	9	-	5	5	3	-
Ohio	202	168	71	23	34	18	18	4
Oklahoma	91	95	57	9	10	10	5	4
Oregon	60	65	31	5	15	11	-	-
Pennsylvania	230	223	107	41	30	33	10	-
Rhode Island	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	113	133	61	18	21	13	17	-
South Dakota	24	28	16	-	7	3	-	-
Tennessee	145	139	70	18	29	14	5	3
Texas	440	495	200	67	80	54	63	31
Utah	50	54	29	-	12	5	4	-
Vermont	7	7	-	-	4	-	-	-
Virginia	171	186	69	22	35	33	21	6
Washington	98	83	40	6	20	8	8	-
West Virginia	58	46	23	5	7	3	7	-
Wisconsin	94	125	48	20	22	25	6	3
Wyoming	43	46	25	3	11	-	-	-

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

² The BLS news release issued August 25, 2005, reported a total of 5,703 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2004. Since then, an additional 61 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2004 to 5,764. Includes 2 fatalities that occurred within the territorial boundaries of the United States, but a State of incident could not be determined.

³ Includes 1 fatality that occurred within the territorial boundaries of the United States, but a State of incident could not be determined.

⁴ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

⁵ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁶ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injuries, and attacks by animals.

NOTE: Totals for 2005 are preliminary. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

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

Table 6. CFI participating agencies and telephone numbers

State	Agency	Telephone number
Alabama	Department of Labor	(334) 242-3460
Alaska	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(907) 465-4539
Arizona	Industrial Commission of Arizona	(602) 542-3739
Arkansas	Department of Labor	(501) 682-4542
California	Department of Industrial Relations	(415) 703-4757
Colorado	Department of Public Health and Environment	(303) 692-2173
Connecticut	Labor Department	(860) 263-6933
Delaware	Department of Labor	(302) 761-8221
District of Columbia	State Center for Health Statistics	(202) 442-9010
Florida	Department of Financial Services	(850) 413-1611
Georgia	Department of Labor	(404) 679-0687 ext. 113
Hawaii	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	(808) 586-9001
Idaho	Industrial Commission	(208) 334-6090
Illinois	Department of Public Health	(217) 558-0500
Indiana	Department of Labor	(317) 232-2668
Iowa	Division of Labor Services	(515) 281-5151
Kansas	Department of Labor	(785) 296-1640
Kentucky	Department of Labor	(502) 564-3070 ext. 280
Louisiana	Department of Labor	(225) 342-3126
Maine	Bureau of Labor Standards	(207) 624-6454
Maryland	Division of Labor and Industry	(410) 767-2356
Massachusetts	Department of Public Health	(617) 624-5679
Michigan	Department of Labor and Economic Growth	(517) 322-1851
Minnesota	Department of Labor and Industry	(651) 284-5568
Mississippi	Department of Health	(601) 576-7816
Missouri	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	(573) 751-2454
Montana	Department of Labor and Industry	(406) 444-3297
Nebraska	Workers' Compensation Court	(402) 471-3547
Nevada	Division of Industrial Relations	(775) 684-7081
New Hampshire	Div. of Vital Records Administration	(603) 271-4647
New Jersey	Department of Health and Senior Services	(609) 292-9553
New Mexico	Occupational Health and Safety Bureau	(505) 476-8740
New York State	Department of Health	(518) 402-7900
New York City	Department of Health	(212) 788-4585
North Carolina	Department of Labor	(919) 733-0337
North Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(312) 353-7200 ext. 410
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 466-4183
Oklahoma	Department of Labor	(405) 528-1500
Oregon	Department of Consumer and Business Services	(503) 947-7991
Pennsylvania	Department of Health	(717) 783-0295 ext. 210
Rhode Island	Department of Health	(401) 222-2812
South Carolina	Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation	(803) 896-7673
South Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(312) 353-7200 ext. 410
Tennessee	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(615) 741-1749
Texas	Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation	(512) 804-4599
Utah	Utah Occupational Safety and Health Statistics	(801) 530-6823
Vermont	Department of Labor and Industry	(802) 828-5076
Virginia	Department of Labor and Industry	(804) 786-1035
Washington	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5512
West Virginia	Division of Labor	(304) 558-7890 ext. 112
Wisconsin	Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene	(608) 221-6289
Wyoming	Department of Employment	(307) 473-3819

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

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

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2005 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work exposures make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

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

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities

In 2005, there were 73 cases included for which work relationship could not be independently verified; however, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job-related. Data for these fatalities are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 21 fatalities submitted by States were not included because the source documents had insufficient information to determine work relationship and could not be verified by either an independent source document or a follow-up questionnaire.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection closeout for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work

related. States have up to seven months to update their initial published State counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that legitimate cases are not excluded from the counts. Thus, each year's report should be considered preliminary until final data are issued. Over the last 5 years, increases in the published counts based on additional information have averaged fewer than 22 fatalities per year or less than 0.5 percent of the revised total. The BLS news release issued August 25, 2005, reported a total of 5,703 fatal work injuries for 2004. Since then, an additional 61 fatal work injuries were identified, bringing the total for 2004 to 5,764. Revised counts for 2005 will be available in April 2007.

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.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any Federal or State agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 20 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and State and local government employees in States without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the States have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover State and local government employees.)

Acknowledgements

BLS thanks the participating States, New York City, and the District of Columbia for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all Federal, State, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); 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.