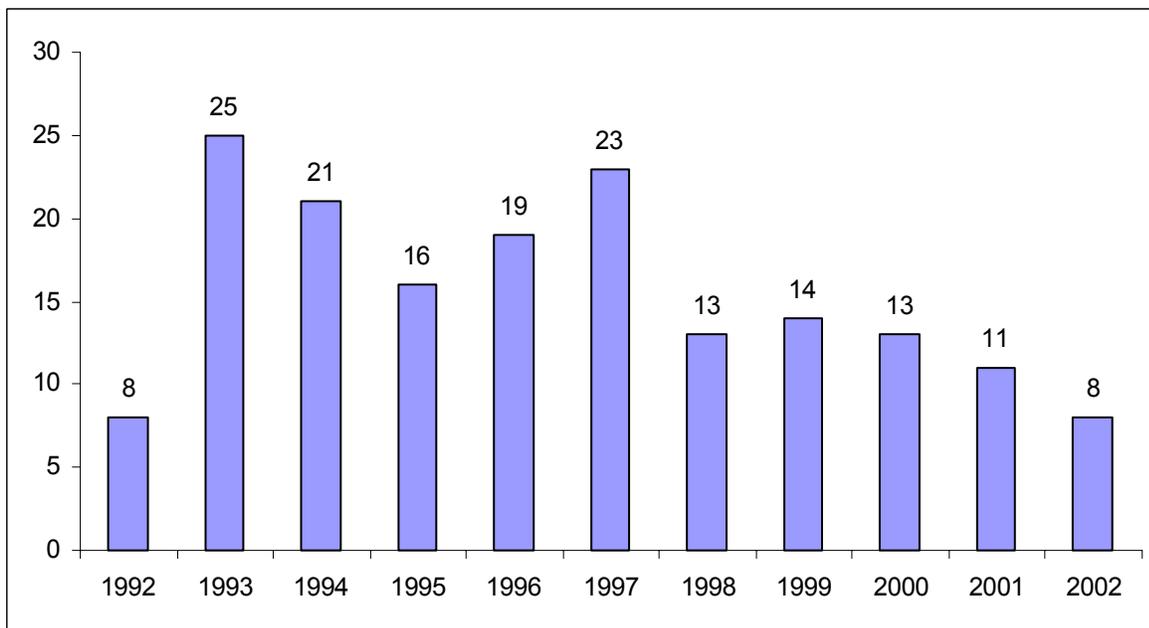




## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 1998-2002**

Fatal work injuries totaled 8 in 2002 for the District of Columbia, one-half of them occurring in the construction industry, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that this year's count was the lowest since the series began in 1992 when an identical number of workplace fatalities also occurred. The 2002 total was slightly below the 11 deaths recorded in 2001 and almost 70 percent lower than the series high of 25 workplace fatalities that occurred in 1993. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Fatal occupational injuries in the District of Columbia from 1992-2002



During the years 1998 to 2002, fatal work injuries in the District of Columbia totaled 59. Homicides were the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities over this time period in the District, accounting for 21 deaths, or 36 percent of the total. (See table 1.) Work-related deaths due to homicides accounted for 11 percent of the United States total over this same five-year period. Fatal injuries resulting from falls to lower level (13) represented 22 percent of the fatality count for the District and 11 percent of the U.S. total from 1998 to 2002.

Other leading causes of fatal workplace injuries in the District of Columbia for the five year period from 1998 to 2002 were pedestrian incidents (7), struck by object (4), and contact with electric current (4). Fatalities resulting from pedestrian incidents accounted for 12 percent of the work-related deaths in the District, twice the percentage recorded nationally. Deaths resulting from being struck by an object and contact with electric current each made up 7 percent of the total for the District. Nationally, fatal work injuries as a result of being struck by an object accounted for 9 percent of the total while contact with electric current accounted for 5 percent.

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data is available on the BLS Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Selective Access, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. The Mid-Atlantic Information Office can provide assistance accessing these files by calling (215) 597-3282.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the District of Columbia and the United States by selected event groups, five year total (1998-2002)

| Event group                   | District of Columbia |            | United States |            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
|                               | Number               | Percent    | Number        | Percent    |
| Homicides                     | 21                   | 36         | 3,294         | 11         |
| Falls to lower level          | 13                   | 22         | 3,252         | 11         |
| Pedestrian incidents          | 7                    | 12         | 1,899         | 6          |
| Struck by object              | 4                    | 7          | 2,735         | 9          |
| Contact with electric current | 4                    | 7          | 1,444         | 5          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>59</b>            | <b>100</b> | <b>29,468</b> | <b>100</b> |

### **Key characteristics of fatal work injuries from 1998 to 2002 in the District of Columbia:**

- Men (55) accounted for 93 percent of the work-related fatalities in the District. Assaults and violent acts accounted for two-fifths of these deaths and falls made up one-fourth. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old — the prime working age group — made up almost three-fifths or 35 of the 59 work-related fatalities from 1998 to 2002. (See table 2.)
- Eighty-one percent of workers killed on-the-job in the District worked for wages and salaries, the rest were self-employed. Both wage and salary and self-employed workers died primarily from assaults and violent acts. (See table 2.)
- Three industry divisions made up three-quarters of the 59 workplace fatalities in the District over the five year period— construction (19), government (13), and services (12). Work-related deaths in construction were mainly due to falls, while fatalities in government and services were primarily due to assaults and violent acts. (See table 3.)
- Construction laborers (7), police and detectives, public services (4), and taxicab drivers and chauffeurs (4) accounted for one-quarter of all work-related fatalities in the District. The cause of death for most construction laborers was transportation incidents, while all police and detectives, public services and taxicab drivers and chauffeurs died due to assaults and violent acts. (See table 4.)

### **TECHNICAL NOTES**

#### **Definitions**

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

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2002 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 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.

### Federal/state

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of 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 in activities regulated by federal agencies other than OSHA accounted for about 15 percent of the fatal work injuries in 2002. 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 19 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.)

### Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the DC Department of Health 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.

**Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry division, District of Columbia, 1998-2002**

| Event or exposure <sup>1</sup>  | Total fatalities (number) | Private Industry <sup>2</sup> (percent) |                     |              |               |                                     |                 |              |                                     |          |
|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
|   |                           | Agriculture, forestry, and fishing      | Mining <sup>3</sup> | Construction | Manufacturing | Transportation and public utilities | Wholesale trade | Retail trade | Finance, insurance, and real estate | Services |
| Total   | 59                        | --                                      | --                  | 32.2         | --            | 10.2                                | --              | 11.9         | --                                  | 20.3     |
| <b>Transportation incidents</b>   | 8                         | --                                      | --                  | 62.5         | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment                      | 7                         | --                                      | --                  | 71.4         | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in parking lot or non-roadway area | 4                         | --                                      | --                  | 75.0         | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| <b>Assaults and violent acts</b>  | 24                        | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | 20.8                                | --              | 25.0         | --                                  | 20.8     |
| Homicides   | 21                        | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | 23.8                                | --              | 28.6         | --                                  | 19.0     |
| Shooting  | 15                        | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | 26.7                                | --              | 33.3         | --                                  | 20.0     |
| <b>Contact with objects and equipment</b>   | 6                         | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Struck by object  | 4                         | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Struck by falling object  | 3                         | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| <b>Falls</b>  | 14                        | --                                      | --                  | 71.4         | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Fall to lower level   | 13                        | --                                      | --                  | 69.2         | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Fall from roof  | 4                         | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Fall from roof edge   | 3                         | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Fall to lower level, n.e.c.   | 4                         | --                                      | --                  | 75.0         | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| <b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>                             | 4                         | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |
| Contact with electric current   | 4                         | --                                      | --                  | --           | --            | --                                  | --              | --           | --                                  | --       |

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>2</sup> Classified according to the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987*

<sup>3</sup> Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Division B) in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

NOTE: 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. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified."

Data for 2002 are preliminary; data for previous years are final.

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

**Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, District of Columbia, 1998-2002**

| Worker characteristics               | Total fatalities (number) | Event or exposure <sup>1</sup> (percent) |  |                                    |       |  |                      |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|-------|--|----------------------|
|                                      |                           | Transportation incidents <sup>2</sup>    | Assaults and violent acts <sup>3</sup> | Contact with objects and equipment | Falls | Exposure to harmful substances or environments | Fires and explosions |
| Total                                | 59                        | 13.6                                     | 40.7                                   | 10.2                               | 23.7  | 6.8  | --                   |
| <b>Employee Status</b>               |                           |  |  |                                    |       |  |                      |
| Wage and Salary Workers <sup>4</sup> | 48                        | 14.6                                     | 37.5                                   | 12.5                               | 22.9  | 6.3  | --                   |
| Self-employed <sup>5</sup>           | 11                        | --                                       | 54.5                                   | --                                 | 27.3  | --   | --                   |
| <b>Sex</b>                           |                           |  |  |                                    |       |  |                      |
| Men                                  | 55                        | 12.7                                     | 40.0                                   | 10.9                               | 25.5  | 7.3  | --                   |
| Women                                | 4                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Age</b>                           |                           |  |  |                                    |       |  |                      |
| Under 16 years                       | --                        | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| 16 to 17 years                       | --                        | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| 18 to 19 years                       | --                        | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| 20 to 24 years                       | 5                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| 25 to 34 years                       | 11                        | --                                       | 36.4                                   | 27.3                               | --    | --   | --                   |
| 35 to 44 years                       | 12                        | --                                       | 50.0                                   | --                                 | 25.0  | --   | --                   |
| 45 to 54 years                       | 12                        | --                                       | 25.0                                   | --                                 | 33.3  | --   | --                   |
| 55 to 64 years                       | 13                        | 23.1                                     | 46.2                                   | --                                 | 23.1  | --   | --                   |
| 65 years and over                    | 4                         | --                                       | 75.0                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>2</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities.

<sup>3</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

<sup>4</sup> May include volunteers and other workers receiving compensation.

<sup>5</sup> Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

NOTE: 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.

Data for 2002 are preliminary; data for previous years are final.

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 industry and event or exposure, District of Columbia, 1998-2002**

| Industry <sup>1</sup>                                       | SIC code <sup>1</sup> | Total fatalities (number) | Event or exposure <sup>2</sup> (percent) |  |                                    |       |  |                      |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|-------|--|----------------------|
|   |                       |                           | Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>    | Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup> | Contact with objects and equipment | Falls | Exposure to harmful substances or environments | Fires and explosions |
| Total   |                       | 59                        | 13.6                                     | 40.7                                   | 10.2                               | 23.7  | 6.8  | --                   |
| <b>Private Industry</b>                                     |                       | 46                        | 17.4                                     | 37.0                                   | 10.9                               | 26.1  | 8.7  | --                   |
| <b>Construction</b>   |                       | 19                        | 26.3                                     | --                                     | --                                 | 52.6  | --   | --                   |
| Special trade contractors                                   | 17                    | 16                        | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | 62.5  | --   | --                   |
| Plumbing, heating, air-conditioning                         | 171                   | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Miscellaneous special trade contractors                     | 179                   | 6                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | 50.0  | --   | --                   |
| Wrecking and demolition work                                | 1795                  | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Transportation and public utilities</b>                  |                       | 6                         | --                                       | 83.3                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Local and interurban passenger transit                      | 41                    | 5                         | --                                       | 100.0                                  | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Taxicabs  | 412                   | 4                         | --                                       | 100.0                                  | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Retail trade</b>   |                       | 7                         | --                                       | 85.7                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Services</b>   |                       | 12                        | --                                       | 41.7                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Government<sup>5</sup></b>                               |                       | 13                        | --                                       | 53.8                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Federal Government (including resident armed forces)</b> |                       | 7                         | --                                       | 57.1                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Public Administration</b>                                |                       | 4                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>State Government</b>                                     |                       | --                        | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Local Government</b>                                     |                       | 5                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Public Administration</b>                                |                       | 5                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Justice, public order, and safety                           | 92                    | 4                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Public order and safety                                     | 922                   | 4                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Fire protection   | 9224                  | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |

<sup>1</sup> Classified according to the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987*.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities.

<sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

<sup>5</sup> Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

There were less than 5 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific industry classification, though a distinction between private and government was made for each.

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NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, District of Columbia, 1998-2002**

| Occupation <sup>1</sup>   | Total fatalities (number) | Event or exposure <sup>2</sup> (percent) |  |                                    |       |  |                      |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|-------|--|----------------------|
|   |                           | Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>    | Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup> | Contact with objects and equipment | Falls | Exposure to harmful substances or environments | Fires and explosions |
| Total   | 59                        | 13.6                                     | 40.7                                   | 10.2                               | 23.7  | 6.8  | --                   |
| <b>Managerial and professional specialty</b>                        | 9                         | --                                       | 44.4                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial                           | 6                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Professional specialty  | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Technical, sales, and administrative support</b>                 | 7                         | --                                       | 85.7                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Sales occupations   | 5                         | --                                       | 80.0                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations                      | 3                         | --                                       | 100.0                                  | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Service occupations</b>  | 12                        | --                                       | 75.0                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Protective service occupations                                      | 9                         | --                                       | 77.8                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Firefighting and fire prevention occupations, including supervisors | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Firefighting occupations  | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Police and detectives, including supervisors                        | 4                         | --                                       | 100.0                                  | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Police and detectives, public services                              | 4                         | --                                       | 100.0                                  | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Service occupations, except protective and household                | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| <b>Precision production, craft, and repair</b>                      | 11                        | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | 63.6  | --   | --                   |
| Mechanics and repairers   | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Mechanics and repairers, except supervisors                         | 3                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Construction trades   | 6                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | 66.7  | --   | --                   |
| Construction trades, except supervisors                             | 4                         | --                                       | --                                     | --                                 | 75.0  | --   | --                   |
| <b>Operators, fabricators, and laborers</b>                         | 17                        | 29.4                                     | 29.4                                   | --                                 | 23.5  | --   | --                   |
| Transportation and material moving occupations                      | 8                         | --                                       | 62.5                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Motor vehicle operators   | 8                         | --                                       | 62.5                                   | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs                                      | 4                         | --                                       | 100.0                                  | --                                 | --    | --   | --                   |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers                 | 8                         | 50.0                                     | --                                     | --                                 | 37.5  | --   | --                   |
| Construction laborers   | 7                         | 57.1                                     | --                                     | --                                 | 42.9  | --   | --                   |

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities.

<sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

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