

Appendix A. National Data

A total of 5,764 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2004, an increase of 3 percent from the total for 2003. Despite the increase, the count for 2004 was the third lowest recorded by the fatality census since its inception in 1992.

Highway incidents remained the most frequent fatal event among workplace fatalities, accounting for 1,398 cases, or almost a quarter of all fatal work injuries in 2004. The number of fatal highway incidents increased by 3 percent from a total of 1,353 in 2003. Fall to a lower level was the second most frequent fatal event in 2004, accounting for 738 fatalities or 13 percent of all fatal work injuries. The 738 fatalities were a 22 percent increase from 2003 and represent the highest number ever recorded by fatality census. The third most frequent fatal event in 2004 was homicide. Of all workplace fatal injuries in 2004, a total of 559, or 10 percent, were homicides, a decrease of 12 percent from 2003. The 559 fatalities were the lowest ever recorded by the census.

Among industries in 2004, private construction recorded the highest number of fatal work injuries, accounting for 1,234 cases or a little over one-fifth of all workplace fatalities that year.

Transportation and material moving occupations recorded 1,511 fatalities in 2004, the largest number among major occupational groups, followed by construction and extraction occupations with 1,138 fatalities.

Demographically, workplace fatality counts for Hispanic or Latino workers increased from 794 to 902, an increase of 14 percent. The fatality counts for Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander workers also increased by 14 percent, from 158 to 180.

Wage and salary employees accounted for nearly all the increase in fatalities from 2003 to 2004. While fatalities to the self-employed were almost identical between 2003 and 2004, fatalities to wage and salary employees increased from 4,405 to 4,587, an increase of 4 percent. Fatalities to female workers decreased by seven percent from 446 in 2003 to 415 in 2004. However, for males, the number of fatal work injuries increased by 4 percent from 5,129 in 2003 to 5,349 in 2004. Fatal injuries sustained by older workers (age 55

and over) increased by 11 percent, from 1,325 in 2003 to 1,476 in 2004.

Fatal occupational injuries by year, 1992-2004

| Year | Total fatal injuries | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Initial | Revised ¹ |
| 1992 | 6,083 | 6,217 |
| 1993 | 6,271 | 6,331 |
| 1994 | 6,588 | 6,632 |
| 1995 | 6,210 | 6,275 |
| 1996 | 6,112 | 6,202 |
| 1997 | 6,218 | 6,238 |
| 1998 | 6,026 | 6,055 |
| 1999 | 6,023 | 6,054 |
| 2000 | 5,915 | 5,920 |
| 2001 ² | 5,900 | 5,915 |
| 2002 | 5,524 | 5,534 |
| 2003 | 5,559 | 5,575 |
| 2004 | 5,703 | 5,764 |

¹ States are allowed a one-time revision after the initial total is published. This allows additional cases, identified after the initial publication deadline, to be included in the final (revised) total.

² The 2,886 work-related fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks are not included in this tabulation.