

**Table 1. Number, incidence rate <sup>1</sup>, median days away from work <sup>2</sup> and relative standard errors <sup>3</sup> of occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work <sup>4</sup> by selected natures with musculoskeletal disorders <sup>5</sup> in private industry for Alabama, 2004**

Nature of the injury or illness	Total Cases	Incidence Rate	Median Days	Relative Standard Error
All Natures	4,340	33.3	7	7.6
021 Sprains- strains- tears	2,810	21.6	6	8.1
0972 Back pain- hurt back	690	5.3	6	11.1
0973 Soreness- pain- hurt- except the back	480	3.7	11	12.5
1241 Carpal tunnel syndrome	110	0.9	14	22.7
153 Hernia	140	1.1	26	20.5
1530 Hernia- unspecified	100	0.8	26	23.5
17 Musculoskeletal system and connective tissue diseases	100	0.8	7	23.7
173 Rheumatism- except the back	100	0.8	7	24.2
1733 Tendonitis	90	0.7	7	25.4

<sup>1</sup> Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time workers and were calculated as:  $(N / EH) \times 20,000,000$  where,

N = number of injuries and illnesses,  
 EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year,  
 20,000,000 = base for 10,000 full-time equivalent workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

<sup>2</sup> Median days away from work is the measure used to summarize the varying lengths of absences from work among the cases with days away from work. Half the cases involved more days and half involved less days than a specified median. Median days away from work are represented in actual values.

<sup>3</sup> Relative standard errors are a measure of the sampling error of an estimate. Sampling errors occur because observations are made on a sample, not on the entire population. Estimates based on the different possible samples of the same size and sample design could differ. Relative standard errors less than 0.05 are not shown.

<sup>4</sup> Days-away-from-work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

<sup>5</sup> Includes cases where the nature of injury is: sprains, strains, tears; back pain, hurt back; soreness, pain, hurt, except back; carpal tunnel syndrome; hernia; or musculoskeletal system and connective tissue diseases and disorders and when the event or exposure leading to the injury or illness is: bodily reaction/bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, twisting; overexertion; or repetition. Cases of Raynaud's phenomenon, tarsal tunnel syndrome, and herniated spinal discs are not included. Although these cases may be considered MSD's, the survey classifies these cases in categories that also include non-MSD cases.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that do not meet publication guidelines or data for incidence rates less than .05 per 10,000 full-time workers. The scientifically selected probability sample used was one of many possible samples, each of which could have produced different estimates. A measure of sampling variability for each estimate is available upon request.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, May 24, 2006