

News

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NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN 2003

A total of 5,559 fatal work injuries were recorded in the U.S. in 2003, a small increase from the revised total of 5,534 fatal work injuries reported for 2002, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Despite the increase, fatal work injuries for both 2003 and 2002 were the lowest ever recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted each year since 1992. The rate at which fatal work injuries occurred in 2003 was 4.0 fatalities per 100,000 workers, unchanged from the rate reported for 2002.

Profile of 2003 fatal work injuries by type of incident

Fatal work injuries resulting from highway incidents, falls, and electrocutions were all lower in 2003 than in 2002, while fatal injuries involving homicides, fires and explosions, and being struck by objects increased.

Fatal highway incidents were down in 2003 for the second consecutive year, but continued to account for the highest number of fatal work injuries. The 1,350 fatal highway incidents recorded in 2003 accounted for about one out of every four fatal work injuries. Incidents involving workers struck by vehicles or mobile equipment also were down in 2003, but the number of fatal work injuries involving nonhighway transportation incidents (such as those that might occur on a farm or industrial premises) and aircraft-related incidents were both higher.

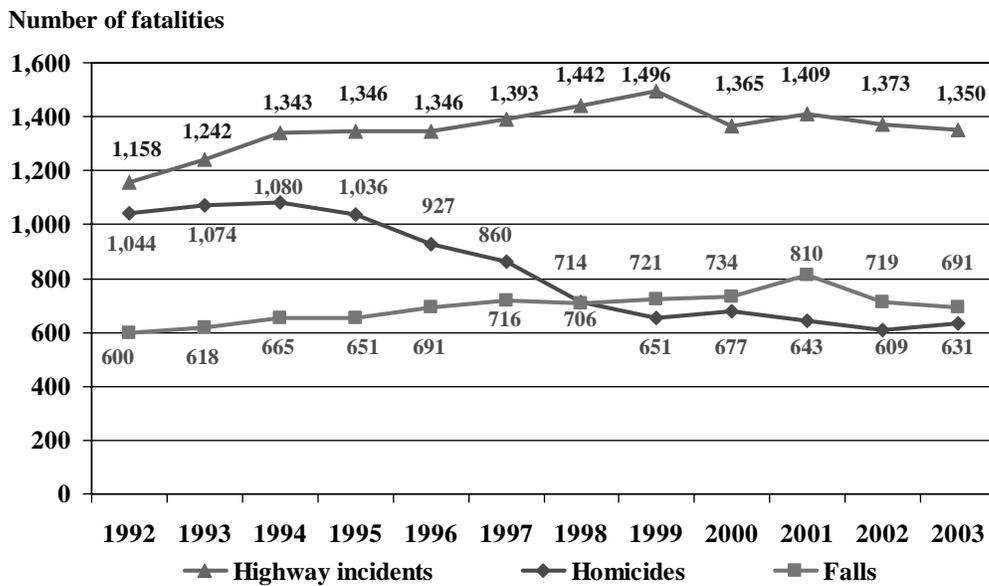
Note on industry and occupation classifications: Beginning with the 2003 reference year, CFOI began using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for industries and the Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) for occupations. Prior to 2003, the program used the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system and the Bureau of the Census occupational classification system. Because of the substantial differences between the current and previous systems, the results by industry and occupation in 2003 constitute a break in series, and users are advised against making comparisons between the 2003 industry and occupation categories and the results for previous years.

The number of workplace homicides was higher in 2003—the first increase since 2000. Despite the higher total, the 631 workplace homicides recorded in 2003 represented a 42 percent decline from the high of 1,080 workplace homicides recorded in 1994. Workplace suicides also were higher in 2003.

Fatal work injuries involving falls declined in 2003. The 691 fatal falls recorded in 2003 was the lowest total since 1996. The number of electrocutions also was lower. The 246 electrocutions in 2003 represented a decline of 15 percent from the 2002 total and reflected a series low.

The 198 fatal work injuries resulting from fires and explosions in 2003 was 20 percent higher than the total recorded in 2002. Fatalities from being struck by objects also were higher in 2003, led by increases in worker deaths due to being struck by a falling or flying object.

The three most frequent work-related fatal events, 1992-2003



NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from September 11 terrorist attacks.
 SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.

Profile of fatal work injuries by private industry

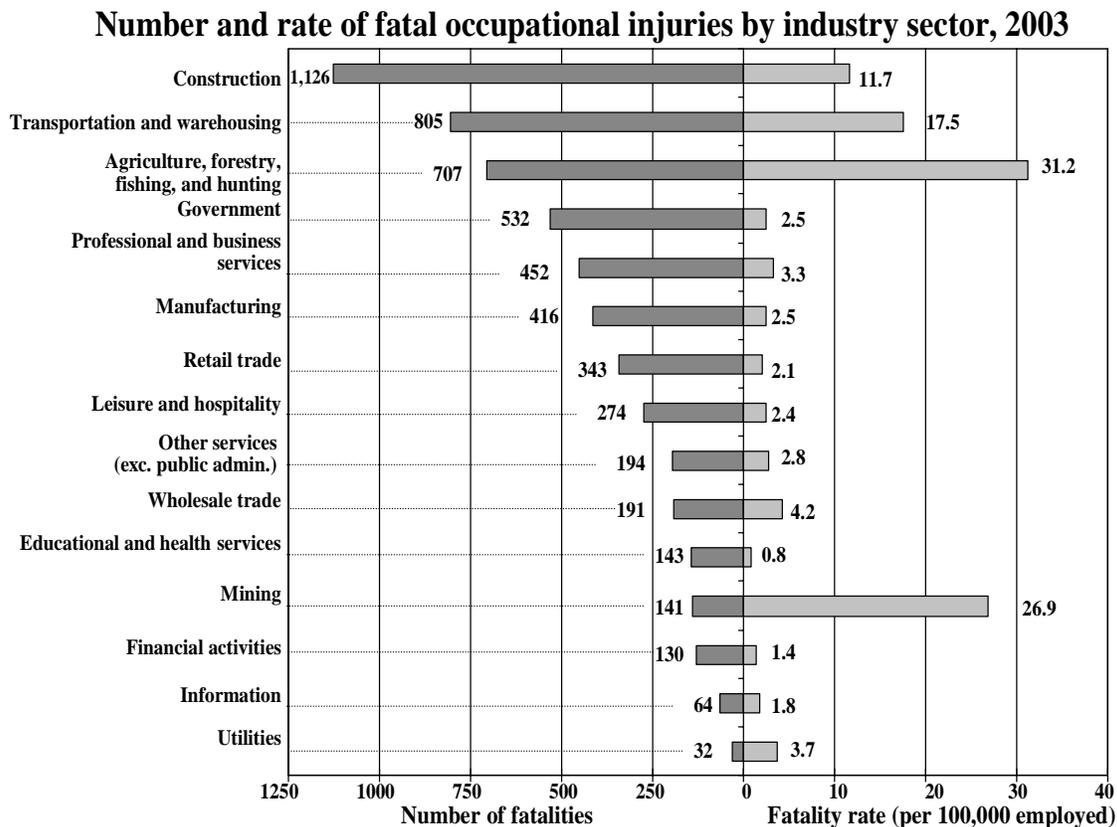
The largest number of fatal work injuries in 2003 was in the construction sector (NAICS 23). The 1,126 fatal work injuries in private construction accounted for more than one out of every five fatalities in 2003. Specialty trade contractors (NAICS 238) recorded 626 fatalities or about 56 percent of the construction total. Another 226 construction workers were fatally injured while working in building construction (NAICS 236) including 128 fatalities in residential building construction (NAICS 2361). Heavy

and civil engineering construction (NAICS 237) reported 247 fatal work injuries or about 22 percent of the construction total.

The transportation and warehousing sector (NAICS 48-49) accounted for 805 fatal work injuries or about 16 percent of the private industry total in 2003. Truck transportation (NAICS 484) recorded 517 fatal work injuries or nearly two-thirds of the transportation and warehousing total.

Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (NAICS 11) recorded 707 fatal work injuries, the third highest among NAICS sectors. Nearly half (47 percent) of the agriculture fatalities were in crop production (NAICS 111).

While private construction had the highest number of fatalities of any sector, the highest fatality rate was in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (31.2 fatalities per 100,000 workers). The second highest rate was in the mining sector (26.9 per 100,000), followed by transportation and warehousing (17.5 per 100,000) and construction (11.7 per 100,000).



Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000 employed. Employment data extracted from the 2003 Current Population Survey (CPS). The fatality rates were calculated using employment as the denominator; employment-based rates measure the risk for those employed during a given period of time, regardless of exposure hours.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.

Profile of fatal work injuries by occupation

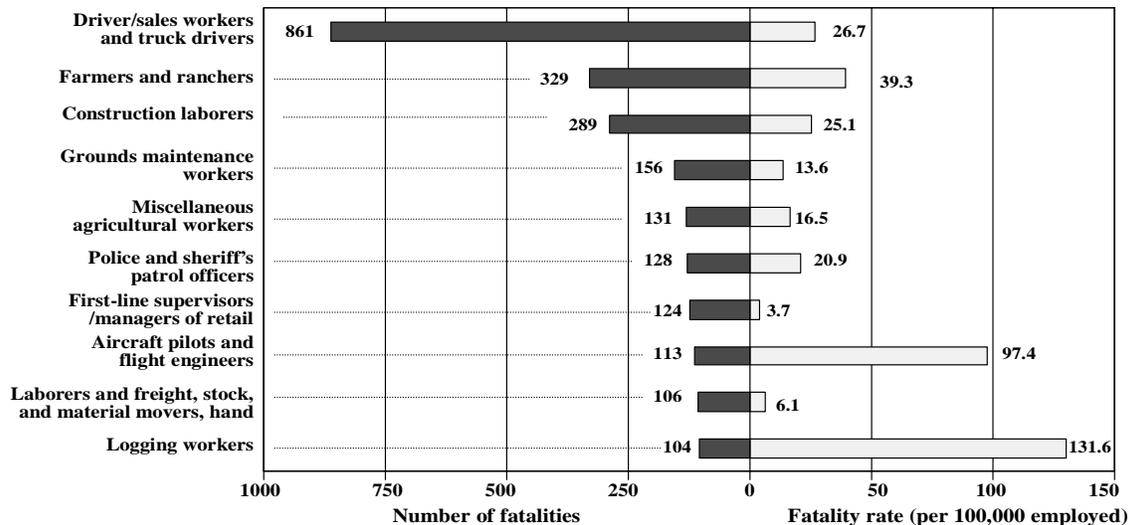
Transportation and material moving occupations (SOC 53) recorded 1,388 fatalities in 2003, the most of any major occupational group. Over half of the fatalities in this group involved drivers of heavy trucks or tractor trailers (SOC 53-3032). Construction and extraction occupations (SOC 47) had the second largest number of fatal work injuries among major occupational groups. Construction trade workers (SOC 47-2000) accounted for 784 of the 1,033 fatal work injuries in this major group, with construction laborers (SOC 47-2061) recording the most fatalities (289) of any individual occupation in the group.

Other major occupational groups with high numbers of fatalities in 2003 included: management occupations (SOC 11) with 630 fatal work injuries, installation, maintenance, and repair occupations (SOC 49) with 395 fatalities, and sales and related occupations (SOC 41) with 349 fatalities.

Among the major occupational groups with the highest fatal work injury rates were farming, fishing, and forestry occupations (27.9 fatalities per 100,000 workers), transportation and material moving occupations (16.9 per 100,000), construction and extraction occupations (12.7 per 100,000), and protective service occupations (11.4 per 100,000).

Individual occupations with particularly high rates in 2003 included logging workers (131.6 fatalities per 100,000 workers), fishers and related fishing occupations (115 per 100,000), and aircraft pilots and flight engineers (97.4 per 100,000).

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries for selected occupations, 2003



Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000 workers. Employment data extracted from the 2003 Current Population Survey (CPS). The fatality rates were calculated using employment as the denominator; employment-based rates measure the risk for those employed during a given period of time, regardless of exposure hours.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.

Profile of fatal work injuries by demographic characteristics

The number of fatal work injuries involving black workers was higher in 2003 after declining for the previous three years. The number of fatally injured black workers rose from 491 in 2002 to 542 in 2003, an increase of 10 percent. Fatalities among white, non-Hispanic workers, and Asian, native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander workers also increased in 2003.

Fatal work injuries among Hispanic or Latino workers were lower for the second consecutive year, although Hispanic workers continued to record the highest rate of fatal injuries among the racial/ethnic groups reported (4.5 fatal work injuries per 100,000 Hispanic workers). Fatal work injuries among foreign-born Hispanic workers declined for the first time ever in the fatality census, although fatalities among native-born Hispanic workers rose slightly in 2003.

The number of fatal injuries rose for workers under 25 years of age and for workers 45 years of age and older in 2003, although workers from 25 through 44 years of age recorded fewer fatalities. Workers 65 years of age and older continued to record the highest fatality rate of any age group. The rate of 11.3 fatal work injuries per 100,000 workers for workers 65 and older was more than three times the rate of 3.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers for those 25 to 34 years of age.

The total of 1,167 self-employed workers who were fatally injured in 2003 represented an increase of 11 percent over the number reported in 2002. Fatality rates for self-employed workers rose from 10.5 per 100,000 in 2002 to 11.1 per 100,000 in 2003. Fatal work injuries involving wage and salary workers were down in 2003.

Profile of fatal work injuries by state

Twenty-five states had fewer fatal work injuries in 2003 than in 2002, 24 states and the District of Columbia reported higher numbers in 2003, and one state was unchanged. Numbers were higher in the Northeast and South, but lower in the West and Midwest in 2003.

For more detailed state results, contact the individual state agency responsible for the collection of CFOI data in that state. Participating agencies and their telephone numbers are listed in table 6.

Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, provides a complete count of fatal work injuries available. The program uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (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 2003 data, over 20,000 unique source documents were reviewed.

This is the 12th 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 venture in which costs are shared equally. Additional state-specific data are available from the participating agencies listed in table 6.

Another BLS program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry and profiles worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses that result in lost work time. Copies of the news release on nonfatal injuries and illnesses in 2002 are available from BLS by calling (202) 691-6179 or by accessing the website listed below. Incidence rates for 2003 by industry will be published in December 2004, and information on 2003 worker and case characteristics will be available in the spring of 2005. For additional data, access the BLS Internet site: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/>.

To request a copy of BLS Report 977 which highlights 2002 fatality results and includes a number of analytical articles, e-mail your address to CFOIStaff@bls.gov or write to Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Room 3180, Washington, DC 20212.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 1998-2003

Event or exposure ¹	Fatalities			
	1998-2002 average	2002 ²	2003	
		Number	Number	Percent
Total	5,896	5,534	5,559	100
Transportation incidents	2,549	2,385	2,357	42
Highway	1,417	1,373	1,350	24
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	696	636	648	12
Moving in same direction	136	155	135	2
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	249	202	269	5
Moving in intersection	148	146	123	2
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment in roadway	27	33	17	(³)
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road	281	293	324	6
Noncollision	367	373	321	6
Jack-knifed or overturned-no collision	303	312	252	5
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	358	323	347	6
Overturned	192	164	186	3
Worker struck by a vehicle	380	356	336	6
Rail vehicle	63	64	43	1
Water vehicle	92	71	68	1
Aircraft	235	194	208	4
Assaults and violent acts	910	840	901	16
Homicides	659	609	631	11
Shooting	519	469	487	9
Stabbing	61	58	58	1
Self-inflicted injuries	218	199	218	4
Contact with objects and equipment	963	872	911	16
Struck by object	547	505	530	10
Struck by falling object	336	302	322	6
Struck by flying object	55	38	58	1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	272	231	237	4
Caught in running equipment or machinery	141	110	121	2
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	126	116	126	2
Falls	738	719	691	12
Fall to lower level	651	638	601	11
Fall from ladder	113	126	113	2
Fall from roof	152	143	127	2
Fall from scaffold, staging	91	88	85	2
Fall on same level	65	64	69	1
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	526	539	485	9
Contact with electric current	289	289	246	4
Contact with overhead power lines	130	122	107	2
Contact with temperature extremes	45	60	42	1
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	102	99	121	2
Inhalation of substance	50	49	65	1
Oxygen deficiency	89	90	73	1
Drowning, submersion	69	60	52	1
Fires and explosions	190	165	198	4

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 September 17, 2003, reported a total of 5,524 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2003. Since then, an additional 10 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2002 to 5,534.

³ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

NOTE: 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, 2003

Industry ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for industry)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,559	100	24	11	12	10
Private industry	5,027	90	23	11	13	10
Goods producing	2,390	43	14	3	18	14
Natural resources and mining	848	15	15	2	5	20
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	707	13	14	2	5	20
Crop production	333	6	15	3	5	14
Animal production	158	3	11	3	8	11
Forestry and logging	120	2	10	–	2	64
Fishing, hunting and trapping	49	1	–	–	–	–
Agriculture and forestry support activities	44	1	32	–	–	–
Mining ⁴	141	3	20	–	7	23
Oil and gas extraction	17	(5)	24	–	–	–
Mining, except oil and gas	55	1	5	–	11	20
Support activities for mining	69	1	30	–	6	28
Construction	1,126	20	13	2	32	10
Construction	1,126	20	13	2	32	10
Construction of buildings	226	4	11	3	42	6
Heavy and civil engineering construction	247	4	12	–	10	17
Specialty trade contractors	626	11	13	1	37	9
Manufacturing	416	7	15	6	9	12
Manufacturing	416	7	15	6	9	12
Food manufacturing	58	1	14	7	10	9
Wood product manufacturing	37	1	16	–	8	19
Paper manufacturing	16	(5)	–	–	–	–
Chemical manufacturing	28	1	11	–	–	–
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	26	(5)	15	–	–	–
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	46	1	26	–	–	15
Primary metal manufacturing	33	1	–	–	–	21
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	43	1	–	–	12	30
Machinery manufacturing	26	(5)	15	–	–	19
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	11	(5)	–	–	–	–
Transportation equipment manufacturing	44	1	7	25	14	7
Service producing	2,637	47	32	19	8	7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,371	25	42	18	5	6
Wholesale trade	191	3	41	8	8	12
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	103	2	32	10	4	20
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	81	1	51	4	14	–
Retail trade	343	6	17	50	7	4
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	66	1	30	26	8	9
Building material and garden supply stores	34	1	26	12	15	–
Food and beverage stores	99	2	3	82	6	–
Gasoline stations	42	1	10	71	–	–
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16	(5)	–	69	–	–
General merchandise stores	11	(5)	–	55	–	–
Miscellaneous store retailers	25	(5)	16	44	12	12
Nonstore retailers	22	(5)	59	18	–	–
Transportation and warehousing	805	14	54	7	3	5
Air transportation	52	1	–	–	–	–
Rail transportation	18	(5)	–	–	–	–
Water transportation	24	(5)	–	–	–	–
Truck transportation	517	9	73	2	3	5
Transit and ground passenger transportation	74	1	28	62	–	–
Support activities for transportation	63	1	21	5	–	6
Couriers and messengers	22	(5)	73	–	–	–
Warehousing and storage	23	(5)	–	–	17	22
Utilities	32	1	22	–	–	–
Information	64	1	47	11	11	–
Information	64	1	47	11	11	–
Publishing industries, except Internet	31	1	65	–	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and selected event or exposure, 2003 — Continued

Industry ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for industry)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Telecommunications	21	(5)	33	14	14	—
Financial activities	130	2	26	28	11	4
Finance and insurance	46	1	37	28	7	—
Credit intermediation and related activities	28	1	29	46	—	—
Insurance carriers and related activities	11	(5)	55	—	—	—
Real estate and rental and leasing	84	2	20	27	13	5
Real estate	52	1	12	35	19	—
Rental and leasing services	31	1	32	16	—	13
Professional and business services	452	8	23	7	15	13
Professional and technical services	97	2	25	8	8	—
Administrative and waste services	355	6	22	6	17	16
Administrative and support services	264	5	17	8	22	18
Waste management and remediation services	91	2	35	—	4	10
Educational and health services	143	3	24	10	13	—
Educational services	41	1	7	—	10	—
Health care and social assistance	102	2	30	13	15	—
Ambulatory health care services	36	1	39	8	11	—
Hospitals	24	(5)	21	—	21	—
Nursing and residential care facilities	20	(5)	15	35	30	—
Social assistance	20	(5)	35	—	—	—
Leisure and hospitality	274	5	9	40	9	2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	88	2	7	3	11	6
Performing arts and spectator sports	42	1	12	—	7	—
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	40	1	—	8	18	8
Accommodation and food services	186	3	11	58	8	—
Accommodation	40	1	12	35	15	—
Food services and drinking places	145	3	10	64	6	—
Other services, except public administration	194	3	17	28	9	11
Other services, except public administration	194	3	17	28	9	11
Repair and maintenance	121	2	9	25	7	18
Personal and laundry services	42	1	26	45	7	—
Membership associations and organizations	30	1	37	17	17	—
Government⁶	532	10	35	13	6	4
Federal government	98	2	19	3	6	6
State government	102	2	37	13	10	—
Local government	326	6	39	17	6	4

¹ Classified according to 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 non-passengers.

⁴ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the 2002 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.

⁵ Less than or equal to 0.5 percent.

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

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. There were 9 fatalities for which there was insufficient information to determine a specific industry classification, though 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, 2003

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for occupation)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,559	100	24	11	12	10
Management occupations	630	11	16	10	8	11
Top executives	40	1	25	15	10	8
Advertising, marketing, promotions, public relations, and sales managers	14	(4)	64	—	—	—
Operations specialties managers	34	1	26	18	9	—
Other management occupations	542	10	13	9	8	12
Business and financial operations occupations	32	1	31	12	12	—
Business operations specialists	11	(4)	—	—	27	—
Financial specialists	21	(4)	38	14	—	—
Computer and mathematical occupations	8	(4)	50	—	—	—
Computer specialists	7	(4)	57	—	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	54	1	28	—	11	6
Architects, surveyors, and cartographers	7	(4)	—	—	—	—
Engineers	28	1	32	—	—	—
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	19	(4)	32	—	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	20	(4)	20	—	—	—
Life scientists	8	(4)	—	—	—	—
Physical scientists	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Life, physical, and social science technicians	7	(4)	—	—	—	—
Community and social services occupations	29	1	55	10	—	—
Counselors, social workers, and other community and social service specialists	16	(4)	62	—	—	—
Religious workers	13	(4)	46	23	—	—
Legal occupations	15	(4)	—	—	—	—
Lawyers, judges, and related workers	11	(4)	—	—	—	—
Legal support workers	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	30	1	53	—	17	—
Postsecondary teachers	10	(4)	40	—	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	10	(4)	50	—	—	—
Other teachers and instructors	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Librarians, curators, and archivists	4	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other education, training, and library occupations	3	(4)	100	—	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	58	1	21	—	9	—
Art and design workers	10	(4)	—	—	—	—
Entertainers and performers, sports and related workers	30	1	17	—	—	—
Media and communication workers	12	(4)	50	—	—	—
Media and communication equipment workers	6	(4)	—	—	—	—
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	49	1	35	12	6	—
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	30	1	17	17	—	—
Health technologists and technicians	16	(4)	69	—	—	—
Other healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	3	(4)	—	—	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	20	(4)	25	30	30	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	14	(4)	21	29	43	—
Other healthcare support occupations	5	(4)	—	—	—	—
Protective service occupations	312	6	34	30	4	1
First-line supervisors managers, protective service workers	24	(4)	38	29	—	—
Fire fighting and prevention workers	45	1	47	—	—	—
Law enforcement workers	153	3	43	33	2	—
Other protective service workers	90	2	10	41	7	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	71	1	8	58	14	—
Supervisors, food preparation and serving workers	20	(4)	20	70	—	—
Cooks and food preparation workers	18	(4)	—	50	—	—
Food and beverage serving workers	27	(4)	—	59	15	—
Other food preparation and serving related workers	6	(4)	—	—	67	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	246	4	13	4	25	21
Supervisors, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers	41	1	12	—	20	27
Building cleaning and pest control workers	49	1	6	14	39	—
Grounds maintenance workers	156	3	15	2	22	25
Personal care and service occupations	53	1	11	21	6	—
Animal care and service workers	18	(4)	—	—	—	—
Entertainment attendants and related workers	10	(4)	—	—	—	—
Personal appearance workers	7	(4)	—	71	—	—
Transportation, tourism, and lodging attendants	5	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other personal care and service workers	10	(4)	—	40	—	—
Sales and related occupations	349	6	21	52	5	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and selected event or exposure, 2003 — Continued

Occupation ¹	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ² (percent of total for occupation)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ³	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Supervisors, sales workers	161	3	16	53	5	2
Retail sales workers	107	2	7	73	6	—
Sales representatives, services	14	(4)	50	—	—	—
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	27	(4)	74	—	—	—
Other sales and related workers	40	1	35	40	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	112	2	30	33	10	3
Supervisors, office and administrative support workers	7	(4)	—	—	43	—
Financial clerks	11	(4)	—	45	—	—
Information and record clerks	11	(4)	—	55	—	—
Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing workers	56	1	45	25	5	5
Secretaries and administrative assistants	10	(4)	—	50	—	—
Other office and administrative support workers	17	(4)	18	29	—	—
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	305	5	11	3	4	29
Supervisors, farming, fishing, and forestry workers	11	(4)	—	—	—	55
Agricultural workers	137	2	18	6	5	7
Fishing and hunting workers	50	1	—	—	—	—
Forest, conservation, and logging workers	107	2	7	—	4	69
Construction and extraction occupations	1,033	19	12	2	32	11
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	111	2	12	3	26	12
Construction trades workers	784	14	11	2	35	10
Helpers, construction trades	26	(4)	—	—	27	12
Other construction and related workers	44	1	18	—	30	—
Extraction workers	68	1	13	—	6	26
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	395	7	10	7	17	14
Supervisors of installation, maintenance, and repair workers	34	1	12	18	24	18
Electrical and electronic equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	20	(4)	25	—	30	—
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	122	2	9	14	6	22
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	219	4	9	1	21	10
Production occupations	282	5	6	10	7	13
Assemblers and fabricators	34	1	—	15	—	18
Food processing workers	14	(4)	—	29	—	—
Metal workers and plastic workers	83	1	4	4	10	20
Textile, apparel, and furnishings workers	7	(4)	—	43	—	—
Woodworkers	7	(4)	—	—	—	57
Plant and system operators	15	(4)	—	—	—	—
Other production occupations	84	2	6	6	5	6
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,388	25	49	6	5	6
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	16	(4)	19	19	19	19
Air transportation workers	113	2	—	—	—	—
Motor vehicle operators	955	17	66	7	3	5
Rail transportation workers	16	(4)	—	—	—	—
Water transportation workers	26	(4)	—	—	—	12
Other transportation workers	12	(4)	—	25	—	—
Material moving workers	250	4	15	4	11	14
Military occupations	62	1	13	—	—	8

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 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 7 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, 2003

Characteristic	Fatalities		Selected event or exposure ¹ (percent of total for characteristic category)			
	Number	Percent	Highway ²	Homicides	Falls	Struck by object
Total	5,559	100	24	11	12	10
Employee status						
Wage and salary ³	4,392	79	27	10	13	9
Self-employed ⁴	1,167	21	13	16	12	11
Sex						
Men	5,115	92	24	10	13	10
Women	444	8	31	27	9	1
Age⁵						
Under 16 years	25	(⁶)	24	—	—	—
16-17 years	28	1	25	—	—	11
18-19 years	84	2	24	12	11	14
20-24 years	461	8	23	14	9	8
25-34 years	1,016	18	26	14	10	8
35-44 years	1,324	24	24	12	11	10
45-54 years	1,298	23	27	11	14	10
55-64 years	801	14	23	8	15	9
65 years and older	519	9	20	9	17	11
Race or ethnic origin⁷						
White	3,976	72	26	8	12	9
Black	542	10	28	22	9	7
Hispanic	791	14	17	13	16	13
American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo	42	1	21	12	14	19
Asian	147	3	10	50	7	4
Pacific Islander	11	(⁶)	—	—	27	—
Multiple races	3	(⁶)	—	—	—	—
Other or not reported	47	1	23	34	6	6

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 non-passengers.

³ May include volunteers and other workers receiving compensation.

⁴ Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

⁵ There were 3 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 may be of any race. The individual racial categories shown exclude data for Hispanics.

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.

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, 2003

State of injury	Total fatalities ¹		Event or exposure ⁴ 2003					
	2002 ² (revised)	2003 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	5,534	5,559	2,357	901	911	691	485	198
Alabama	102	121	62	16	25	10	7	-
Alaska	42	28	13	7	3	-	3	-
Arizona	101	80	37	9	12	10	5	5
Arkansas	80	87	48	6	16	10	4	3
California	478	456	174	83	76	71	35	13
Colorado	123	102	39	23	14	19	4	-
Connecticut	39	36	17	9	4	4	-	-
Delaware	11	6	-	-	-	-	3	-
District of Columbia	8	19	-	7	-	6	3	-
Florida	354	347	153	62	42	36	43	10
Georgia	197	199	87	45	27	23	12	5
Hawaii	24	21	7	3	4	3	3	-
Idaho	39	43	24	5	6	5	-	-
Illinois	190	200	65	43	32	36	21	3
Indiana	136	132	61	24	19	16	8	4
Iowa	57	76	42	3	14	5	8	4
Kansas	89	78	41	12	11	9	4	-
Kentucky	146	145	77	12	25	11	10	9
Louisiana	103	95	39	9	28	5	12	-
Maine	30	23	9	-	7	3	4	-
Maryland	102	92	35	17	9	15	12	4
Massachusetts	46	77	27	8	12	24	-	3
Michigan	152	151	57	22	30	17	21	3
Minnesota	81	72	30	9	18	11	-	-
Mississippi	94	100	42	20	14	7	13	3
Missouri	175	154	86	16	20	17	12	3
Montana	51	39	25	6	3	3	-	-
Nebraska	83	51	28	6	11	-	3	-
Nevada	47	52	21	8	11	8	4	-
New Hampshire	19	19	7	3	4	3	-	-
New Jersey	129	104	41	16	18	19	7	3
New Mexico	63	46	19	13	6	3	-	3
New York (including N.Y.C.)	240	227	77	66	25	35	15	9
New York City	100	94	12	43	9	14	9	7
North Carolina	169	182	69	29	29	24	19	12
North Dakota	25	26	16	-	6	3	-	-
Ohio	202	206	86	28	32	23	28	9
Oklahoma	92	100	50	16	17	5	5	6
Oregon	63	75	43	4	13	5	6	3
Pennsylvania	188	208	82	34	34	32	22	4
Rhode Island	8	18	-	-	3	-	-	8
South Carolina	107	114	38	27	20	13	13	-
South Dakota	36	28	12	-	12	-	-	-
Tennessee	140	136	55	27	32	13	5	4
Texas	417	491	201	90	70	52	51	27
Utah	52	54	34	5	9	3	3	-
Vermont	11	14	9	-	4	-	-	-
Virginia	142	155	57	24	27	24	16	7
Washington	86	82	29	9	15	16	7	6
West Virginia	40	51	24	-	8	6	6	5
Wisconsin	91	103	33	14	26	20	8	-
Wyoming	33	37	26	-	4	3	3	-

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

² The BLS news release issued September 17, 2003, reported a total of 5,524 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2002. Since then, an additional 10 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2002 to 5,534.

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, and rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by vehicles.

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

NOTE: 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) 703-4776
Colorado	Department of Public Health	(303) 692-2173
Connecticut	Labor Department	(860) 566-4380
Delaware	Department of Labor	(302) 761-8221
District of Columbia	Center for Health Statistics	(202) 442-5920
Florida	Department of Financial Services	(850) 413-1611
Georgia	Department of Labor	(404) 679-0687
Hawaii	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	(808) 586-9001
Idaho	Industrial Commission	(208) 334-6090
Illinois	Department of Public Health	(217) 558-1540
Indiana	Department of Labor	(317) 232-2668
Iowa	Division of Labor Services	(515) 281-5151
Kansas	Department of Health and Environment	(785) 296-1058
Kentucky	Department of Labor	(502) 564-3070 ext. 281
Louisiana	Department of Labor	(225) 342-3126
Maine	Bureau of Labor Standards	(207) 624-6440
Maryland	Division of Labor and Industry	(410) 767-2356
Massachusetts	Department of Public Health	(617) 988-3329
Michigan	Department of Labor and Economic Growth	(517) 322-1851
Minnesota	Department of Labor and Industry	(651) 284-5568
Mississippi	Department of Health	(601) 576-7930
Missouri	Department of Labor	(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	Department of Public Health	(603) 271-4647
New Jersey	Department of Health and Senior Services	(609) 984-1863
New Mexico	Occupational Health and Safety Bureau	(505) 827-4230
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	U.S. Department of Labor	(312) 353-7253
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 466-4183
Oklahoma	Department of Labor	(405) 528-1500
Oregon	Department of Consumer and Business Services	(503) 947-7367
Pennsylvania	Department of Health	(717) 783-2548
Rhode Island	Department of Health	(401) 222-2812
South Carolina	Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation	(803) 896-7673
South Dakota	U.S. Department of Labor	(312) 353-7253
Tennessee	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(615) 741-1749
Texas	Workers' Compensation Commission	(512) 804-4637
Utah	Labor Commission	(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	Department of Labor	(304) 558-7890
Wisconsin	Department of Workforce Development	(608) 266-7850
Wyoming	Department of Employment, Research and Planning	(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 commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2003 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 2003, there were 79 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, which primarily affected self-employed workers, are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 17 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 one year to update their initial published state counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that no legitimate case is 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 less than 20 fatalities per year or less than 0.3 percent of the revised total. The BLS news release issued September 17, 2003, reported a total of 5,524 fatal work injuries for 2002. Since then, an additional 10 fatal work injuries were identified, bringing the total for 2002 to 5,534. Revised counts for 2003 will be available in May 2005.

Beginning in 2004, BLS released final updated numbers earlier than in past years. Previously, updated numbers were released along with the following year's data in the annual news release. Updated 2002 numbers were released on the BLS internet in the late spring of 2004, or about 3 or 4 months earlier than in past years.

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 21 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.