

United States Department of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Philadelphia, Pa. 19106-3305

Internet address: www.bls.gov/ro3/

INFORMATION: Gerald Perrins

Gerald Perrins PLS - 4468 (215) 597-3282 FOR RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT: Sheila Watkins

(215) 861-5600

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008

Workplace Fatalities in the Philadelphia Area for 2007

Fatal work injuries in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) totaled 93 in 2007, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Please note that the 2007 figures are preliminary; final numbers will be released in April 2009. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the 2007 fatality count was similar to the revised total of 90 deaths recorded in 2006. Most work-related fatalities in the Philadelphia area in 2007 were the result of homicides (27), falls to a lower level (14), and highway crashes (12), which together accounted for 57 percent of the total.

The Philadelphia area had the 5th-largest population nationally, and in terms of work-related fatalities, the area ranked 6th among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Not unexpectedly, the most populated area in the country, New York, also had the highest number of workplace fatalities (211) in 2007. The three smallest metropolitan areas in this group—San Francisco, Boston, and Detroit—had the three lowest fatality counts, ranging from 43 to 52. (See table A.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries by selected event groups in the 12 largest metropolitan areas¹ in 2007

Metropolitan Areas ²		Homicides	Falls to a lower level	Highway crashes
United States ⁴	5,488	610	733	1,311
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.YN.JPa.	211	35	45	35
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas	125	30	20	16
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, Fla.	120	23	20	12
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IllIndWis.	109	11	15	19
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.	106	18	19	17
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PaN.JDel Md.	93	27	14	12
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	91	14	16	14
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.	86	16	15	15
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.CVaMdW.Va.	76	13	16	16
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.	52	10	7	6
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass N.H.	45	4	10	3
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	43	11	3	10

¹ Largest metropolitan areas by 2006 population: www.census.gov/compendia/statab/tables/08s0020.pdf

² Metropolitan areas used in this table are categorized into Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget Bulletin Number 08-01, November, 2007.

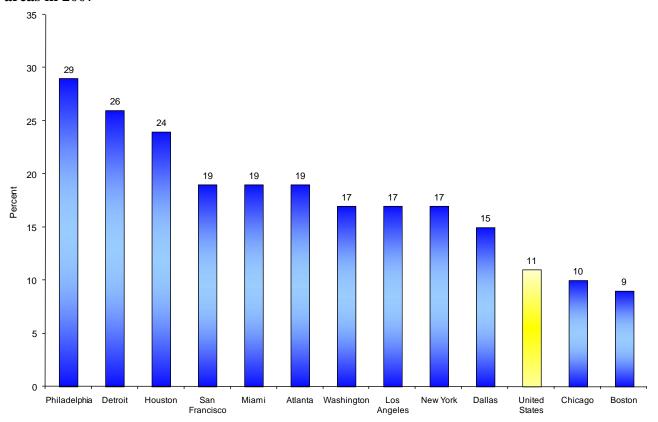
³ Data are based on a preliminary total of 5.488 fatal work injuries.

⁴ Also includes fatalities occurring in nonmetropolitan areas.

¹ Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. See the Occupational Injury & Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual on our Web site at www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in this survey.

As mentioned, homicides were the most frequent fatal occupational injury in the Philadelphia metropolitan area; this was also true in Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, Miami, and San Francisco. In Philadelphia, workplace homicides accounted for 29 percent of the city's fatality count, the highest percentage among the 12 largest metropolitan areas. At the other end of the spectrum, Boston and Chicago recorded shares of 9 and 10 percent, respectively. Nationally, homicides accounted for an 11-percent share of workplace fatalities. (See chart A.)

Chart A. Homicides as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2007



Falls to a lower level accounted for 15 percent of fatal occupational injuries in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Almost all of the 12 largest metropolitan areas had a higher-than-average percentage of occupational fatalities resulting from falls to a lower level. In fact, only Detroit, with a 7-percent share, was below the 13 percent registered nationally in 2007, while San Francisco matched the national share. The Boston metropolitan area had the largest share attributable to falls to a lower level, 22 percent. (See chart B.) Falls to a lower level was the most frequent fatal workplace event in Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, and New York in 2007. In Washington, falls to a lower level and highway crashes tied as the most frequent fatal event among workers.

All of the 12 largest areas had a lower percentage of occupational fatalities resulting from highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents) than the national share of 24 percent; only Detroit had a share (23 percent) close to that for the nation. In Philadelphia, 13 percent of on-the-job fatalities were attributed to highway crashes, matching that of Houston. Boston had the lowest percentage share of highway crashes with 7 percent. (See chart C.) Nationwide, highway crashes was the most frequent fatal workplace event; this was also true in Chicago.

Chart B. Falls to a lower level as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2007

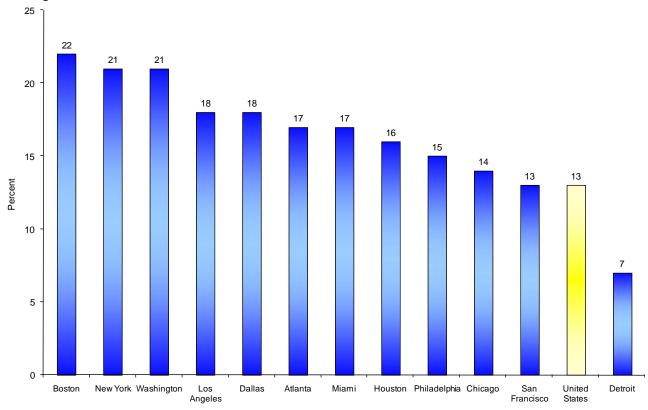
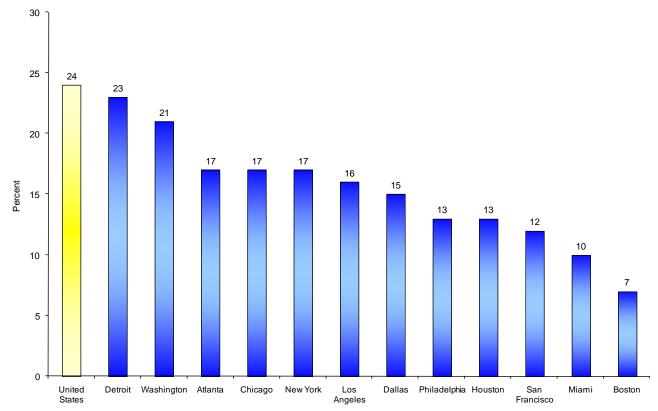


Chart C. Highway crashes as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2007



<u>Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md.</u> metropolitan area in 2007:

- Men accounted for 92 percent (86) of the work-related fatalities in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Assaults and violent acts and transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, accounted for the majority of deaths among both men and women. (See table 2.)
- Sixty-five percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic (60), 17 percent were black, non-Hispanic (16), 14 percent were Hispanic or Latino (13), and 3 percent were Asian (3). The most frequent fatal event for white, non-Hispanic workers was transportation incidents; among non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanic or Latino workers, it was assaults and violent acts. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 65, or 70 percent, of the work-related fatalities in Philadelphia in 2007; this was higher than the proportion of worker deaths for this age group at the national level, 63 percent. (See table 2.)
- Eighty-five percent (79) of the workers killed on the job in the area worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed. Transportation incidents accounted for the largest number of deaths (23) among wage and salary workers; among the self-employed, assaults and violent acts made up the most frequent fatal event with 6 fatalities. (See table 2.)
- The construction industry sector accounted for almost one-quarter of Philadelphia's fatal workplace injuries with 22 deaths; 14 of these were from falls. The administrative and support and waste management and remediation services sector followed with 12 fatalities, two-thirds of which were attributable to assaults and violent acts and contact with objects and equipment, each with 4 fatalities. The transportation and warehousing sector accounted for 11 fatalities, 4 of which were from transportation incidents. These three industry sectors combined to account for 48 percent of the total fatal work injuries. (See table 3.)
- Transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of on-the-job fatalities, 21, followed by construction and extraction occupations with 17. Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 41 percent of all workplace fatalities in the Philadelphia area. Transportation incidents made up over half of the workplace fatalities among transportation and material moving occupations, while falls accounted for over three-quarters of the fatal injuries among construction and extraction workers. (See table 4.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at www.bls.gov/iif/. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Create Customized Tables, 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. For personal assistance or further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and other programs and surveys are available on our Web site at www.bls.gov/ro3/.

Technical Note

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, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS Web site. To get to that document, click on Workplace Injuries on the BLS home page, scroll down to IIF Documentation, and then click on "BLS Handbook of Methods." The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part 2 of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

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.

Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the Pennsylvania Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Delaware Department of Labor and Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation 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 entities 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 Federal Railroad Administration; 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.

The Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of the Camden, N.J. Metropolitan Division (MD); the Philadelphia, Pa. Metropolitan Division (MD); and the Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J. Metropolitan Division (MD). The Camden, N.J. MD consists of Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in New Jersey.

The **Philadelphia**, **Pa. MD** consists of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania.

The <u>Wilmington, Del.-Md.-N.J. MD</u> consists of New Castle County in Delaware, Cecil County in Maryland, and Salem County in New Jersey.

Chart 1. Total workplace fatalities in the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, 2007

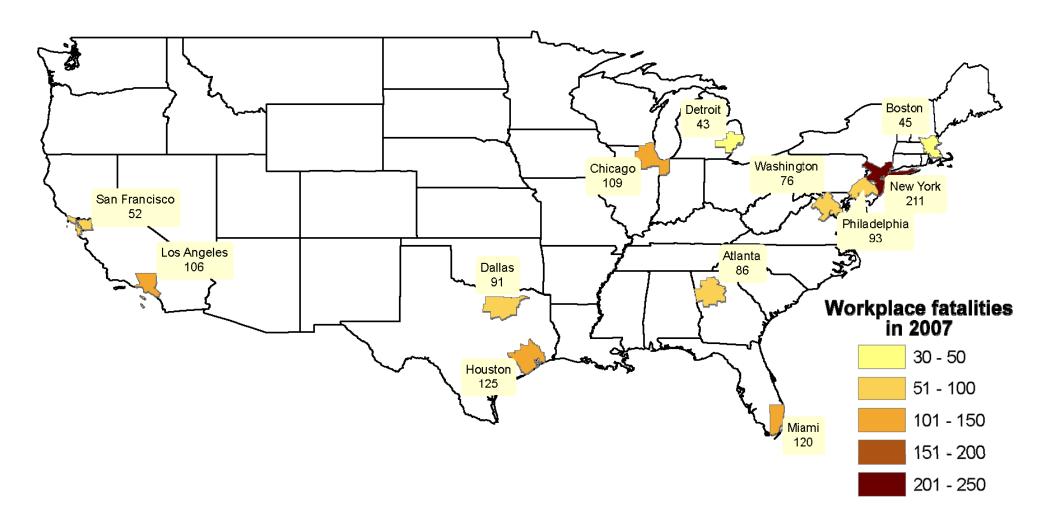


Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure for all fatalities and major private industry sector, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., 2007

		Goods producing			Service providing								
Event or exposure ²	Total fatalities (number)	Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining ³	Construc- tion	Manufac- turing	Total service providing	Trade, transpor- tation, and utilities	Informa- tion	Financial activities	Profes- sional and business services	Education and health services		Other services
Total	93	28		22	4	56	23	-		14	4		9
Contact with objects and equipment	11	4		3		6				4			
Struck by object or equipment						4				3			
Struck by falling object or equipment													
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects													
Caught in running equipment or machinery													
Falls		14		14									
Fall to lower level		12		12									
Fall from ladder		5		5									
Fall from roof		3		3									
Fall from roof edge		3		3									
Fall on same level													
Fall to floor, walkway, or other surface													
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	9					7				3			
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic													
substances	4					4							
Transportation accidents		6		3	3	16	8						
Highway accident	12	4			3	7	5						
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment						6	4						
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	4					4							
Vehicle struck object on side of road	3												
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water	4												
Noncollision accident	3												
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle,													
mobile equipment	7					5							
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile													
equipment in roadway	4					4							
Fires and explosions													
Assaults and violent acts	27					23	9			5			5
Assaults and violent acts by person(s)						23	9			5			5
Shooting	24					21	8			5			4

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Data for 2007 are preliminary.

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

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ 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.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., 2007

		Event or exposure ¹							
Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions		
Total	93	25	27	11	17	9	3		
Employee Status									
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	79	23	21	8	15	8	3		
Self-employed ⁵			6	3					
Gender									
Men	86	22	24	11	17	8	3		
Women	7	3	3						
Age									
Under 16 years									
16 to 17 years									
18 to 19 years	4								
20 to 24 years									
25 to 34 years		3	5	4	5	3			
35 to 44 years		-	9		4				
45 to 54 years	25	5	8	5	3				
55 to 64 years		6							
65 years and over	9	5							
Race or Ethnic Origin ⁶									
White, non-Hispanic	60	17	14	6	12	7	3		
Black, non-Hispanic		4	8	3					
Hispanic or Latino			4		3				
American Indian or Alaska Native									
Asian	3								
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander									

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2007 are preliminary.

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

² Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁵ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

 $^{^6}$ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., 2007

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total		93	25	27	11	17	9	3
Private Industry		84	22	24	10	16	9	
Goods Producing		28	6		4	14		
Construction		22	3		3	14		
Construction	. 23	22	3		3	14		
		5			· ·	5		
Construction of buildings Residential Building Construction		4				4		
Residential Building Construction	. 23611	4				4		
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction		4	3					
Specialty Trade ContractorsFoundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors		12 6				9 5		
Building Equipment Contractors		3						
Building Finishing Contractors	. 2383	3				3		
Manufacturing		4	3					
Manufacturing	. 31-33	4	3					
Service providing		56	16	23	6		7	
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		23	8	9				
Retail Trade	. 44-45	8		7				
Food and Beverage Stores		5		5				
Grocery Stores		5		5				
Supermarkets and Other Grocery (except Convenience) Stores		4		4				
Transportation and Warehousing	. 48-49	11	4					
Truck Transportation	484	4						
General Freight Trucking		3						
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation Taxi and Limousine Service		3						
Taxi Service		3						
Professional and Business Services		14		5	4		3	
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	. 56	12		4	4		3	
Administrative and Support Services	561	10		4	4			
Services to Buildings and Dwellings		7			4			
Landscaping Services	. 56173	6			4			
Education and Health Services		4						
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	3		-				
Other Services		9		5				
Other Services, except Public Administration	81	9		5				
Repair and Maintenance	811	6		3				
Automotive Repair and Maintenance		5		3			-	
Other Automotive Repair and Maintenance		4 3						
Government ⁶		9	3	3				
Local Government		7		3				
Service providing		7		3		 		
Public Administration		4						
Public Administration		4					-	
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities		4						-
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities		4						

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2007 are preliminary.

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

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

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

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

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., 2007

		Event or exposure ²							
Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions		
Total	93	25	27	11	17	9	3		
Management occupations	6								
Top executives	5								
Architecture and engineering occupations	3	3							
Protective service occupations	5		4						
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10			5					
Supervisors, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers	3								
First-line supervisors/managers, building and grounds cleaning									
and maintenance workers	3								
First-line supervisors/managers of landscaping, lawn									
service, and groundskeeping workers	3								
Grounds maintenance workers	6			3					
Grounds maintenance workers	6			3					
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	4								
Personal care and service occupations	3								
Sales and related occupations	7		5						
Supervisors, sales workers	4		4						
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	4		4						
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	4		4						
Office and administrative support occupations	5		3						
Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing workers	4								
Construction and extraction occupations	17				13				
Construction trades workers	15				13				
Carpenters	3				3				
Carpenters	3				3				
Construction laborers	5				4				
Construction laborers	5				4				
Roofers	3				3				
Roofers	3				3				
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	7		4						
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4								
Production occupations	4								
Metal workers and plastic workers	3								
Transportation and material moving occupations	21	11	4						
Motor vehicle operators	15	8	3						
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	11	7							
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	6								
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	3								
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	3								
Material moving workers	5								
Laborers and material movers, hand	4								
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	3								

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2007 are preliminary.

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

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.