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NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN 2023

There were 5,283 fatal work injuries recorded in the United States in 2023, a 3.7-percent decrease from 5,486 in 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See chart 1 and table 1.) The fatal work injury rate was 3.5 fatalities per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, down from 3.7 in 2022. (See chart 2.) These data are from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

Chart 1. Number of fatal work injuries, 2014-23

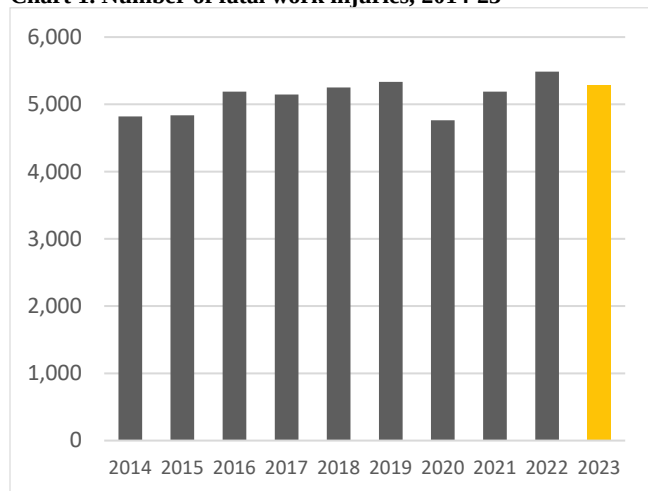
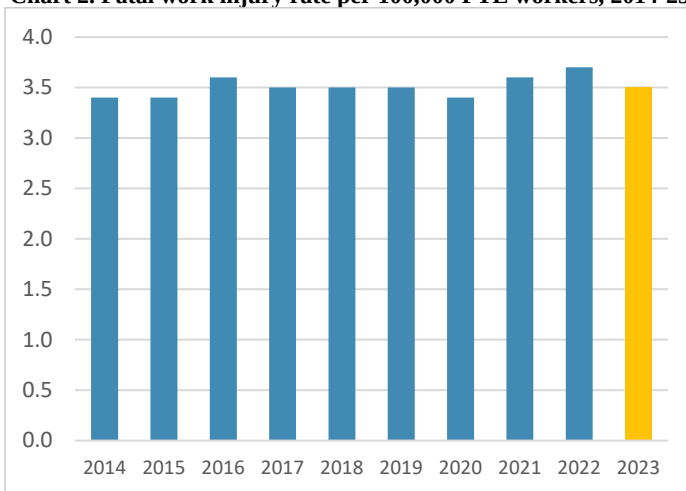


Chart 2. Fatal work injury rate per 100,000 FTE workers, 2014-23



Key findings

- A worker died every 99 minutes from a work-related injury in 2023 compared to 96 minutes in 2022.
- Transportation incidents were the most frequent type of fatal event, accounting for 36.8 percent (1,942) of all occupational fatalities in 2023.
- Fatalities due to violent acts totaled 740 in 2023. Homicides (458) accounted for 61.9 percent of violent acts and 8.7 percent of all work-related fatalities.
- Opioids were the primary source of 162 fatalities and a contributor in an additional 144 fatalities where multiple drugs were the source.
- The fatal injury count and rate for Black or African American workers decreased from 2022 to 2023. The count dropped 10.2 percent from 734 in 2022 to 659 in 2023 and the rate dropped from 4.2 to 3.6 cases per 100,000 FTE workers.

Revision of Classification Systems

The 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and the updated Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) were implemented in this release of 2023 data. Refer to the technical note for more information.

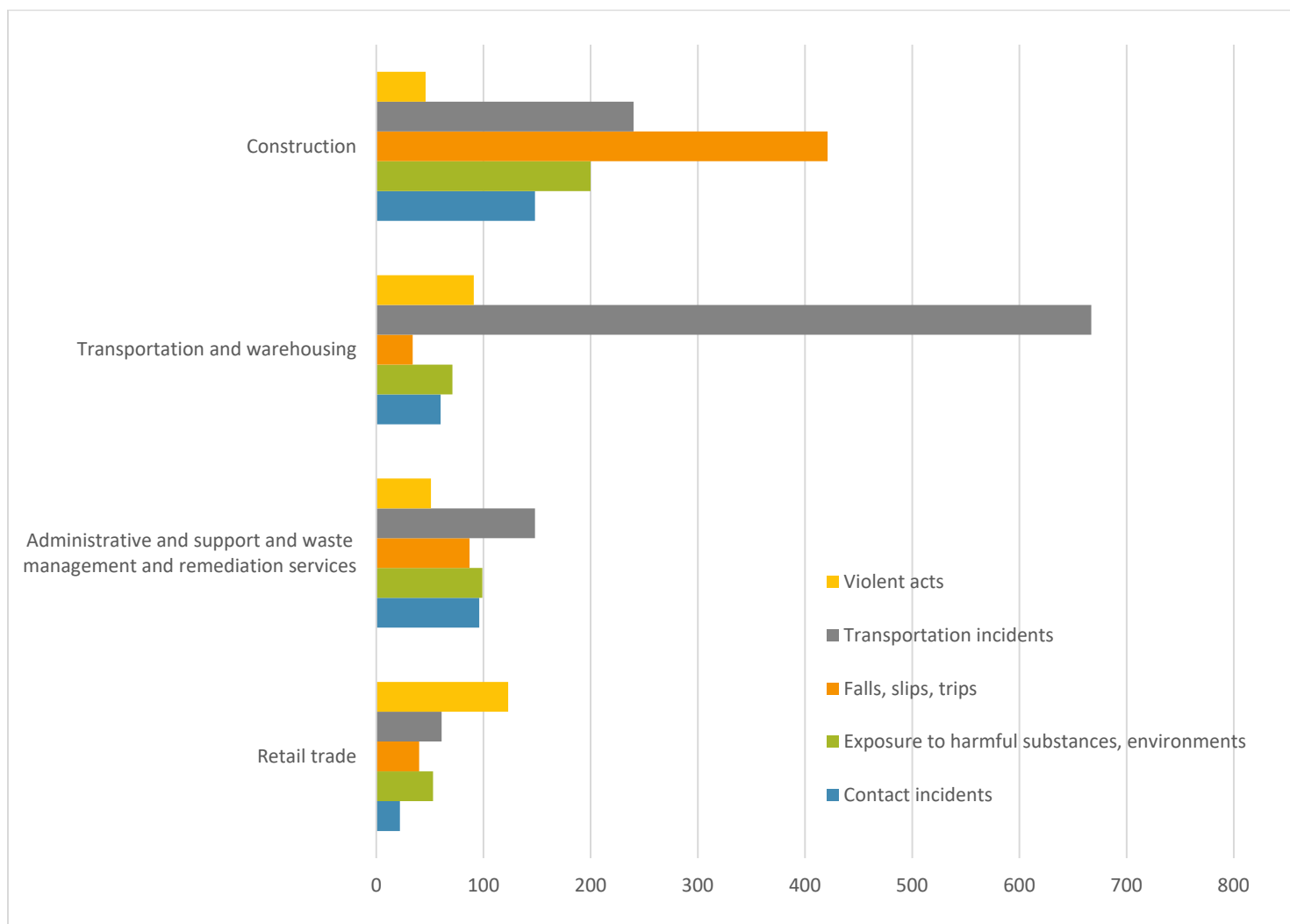
Worker characteristics

- The fatal injury rate for Hispanic or Latino workers decreased from 2022 to 2023, down from 4.6 to 4.4 cases per 100,000 FTE workers.
- Transportation incidents were the highest cause of fatalities for both Black or African American (261) and Hispanic or Latino (390) workers in 2023. The private industry sector with the highest number of Black or African American worker fatalities was transportation and warehousing (200) and for Hispanic or Latino workers it was construction (410).
- Foreign-born Hispanic or Latino workers made up 67.1 percent (839) of all Hispanic or Latino worker fatalities (1,250). Fatalities in the private construction industry sector accounted for 37.5 percent (315) of the 839 foreign-born Hispanic or Latino worker deaths in 2023.
- Women accounted for 8.5 percent (447) of all fatalities, but accounted for 18.3 percent (84) of homicides in 2023.
- Women had the highest number of fatalities in the private health care and social assistance industry sector (63) followed by the retail trade sector (59).
- Workers ages 55 to 64 continued to have the highest number of fatalities in 2023 with 1,089 (20.6 percent of total fatalities). Transportation incidents were the highest cause of fatalities for this age group (401), followed by falls, slips, and trips (226).
- Workers ages 25 to 34 had the highest number of fatalities due to violent acts (179), including 121 homicides and 58 suicides.

Private industry

- Construction had the most fatalities (1,075) among all industry sectors in 2023, and was the highest for the sector going back to 2011. Falls, slips, and trips accounted for 39.2 percent (421) of all construction fatalities, with transportation incidents accounting for another 22.3 percent (240) of fatalities.
- Most fatal falls to a lower level (260 or 64.4 percent) within construction were from a height of between 6 and 30 feet, while 67 fatal falls were from a height of more than 30 feet. Portable ladders and stairs were the primary source of 109 fatalities in construction.
- The transportation and warehousing sector had the second most fatalities (930), an 11.7-percent decrease from 1,053 fatalities in 2022. The fatal injury rate among workers in this sector also decreased from 14.1 in 2022 to 12.9 cases per 100,000 FTE workers in 2023.
- Transportation incidents accounted for 71.7 percent (667) of fatalities within the transportation and warehousing sector. Roadway collisions with another vehicle accounted for 249 fatalities and roadway collisions with an object other than a vehicle accounted for 193 fatalities. Within this sector 314 fatalities occurred on an interstate, freeway, or expressway and 117 occurred on local roads or streets.
- Approximately 30 percent of fatalities in the retail trade industry sector were homicides (94).
- Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services had 484 fatalities in 2023. Trees, logs, and limbs were the primary source of 79 of these deaths. The landscaping and groundskeeping occupation had the most fatalities (102) in this sector, followed by tree trimmers and pruners (80).

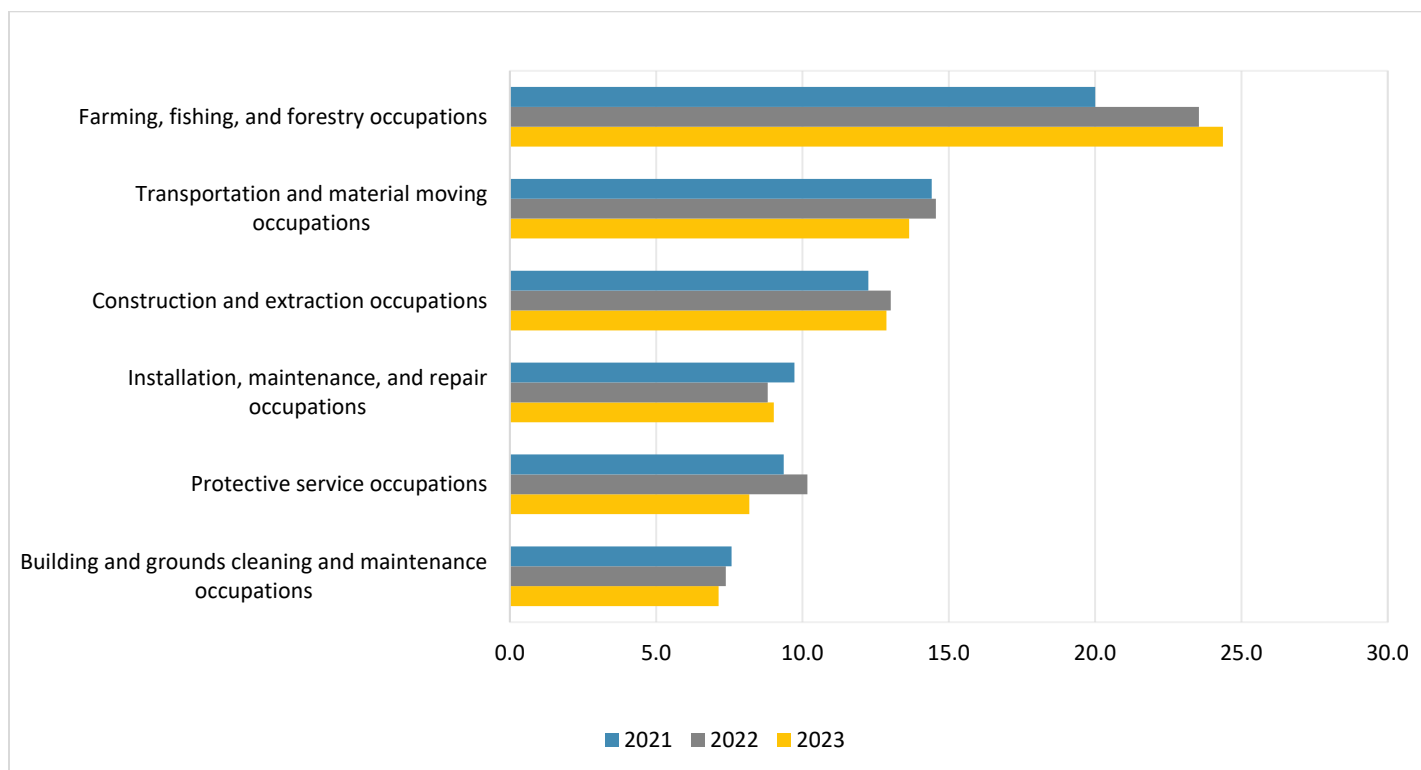
Chart 3. Fatal work injuries by selected private industry sectors and selected event or exposure, 2023



Occupation

- Workers in transportation and material moving occupations represented the occupational group with the most fatalities (1,495) in 2023. However, fatalities for this group declined 7.7 percent from 2022, driven by an 11.9-percent decrease in fatal injuries to heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. The rate for the occupational group also decreased from 14.6 per 100,000 FTE in 2022 to 13.6 in 2023.
- Fatalities among protective service occupations (276) decreased 17.6 percent in 2023, from 335 in 2022. Homicides (93) accounted for 33.7 percent of these fatalities. The rate for this occupational group decreased from 10.2 fatalities per 100,000 FTE workers in 2022 to 8.2 in 2023.
- Work fatalities among building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers (337) decreased in 2023 from 352 in 2022. The 2023 rate was 7.1 fatalities per 100,000 FTE workers and in 2022 it was 7.4. About one-quarter (25.2 percent) of these fatalities were from falls, slips, and trips (85) and another quarter (24.9 percent) were from contact incidents (84).
- There were no statistically significant increases in the 2023 fatal injury rate among the selected occupational groups presented in chart 4.

Chart 4. Fatal work injury rates per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers by selected occupational groups, 2021-23



Fatal injury counts and rates by occupation, industry, and worker demographics are available at www.bls.gov/iif/fatal-injuries-tables.htm.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Background

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities (IIF) program, is a count of all fatalities resulting from workplace injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The CFOI uses a variety of state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This ensures counts are as complete and accurate as possible. For the 2023 data, over 26,700 unique source documents were reviewed as part of the data collection process. For technical information and definitions for the CFOI, see the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cfoi/home.htm and the CFOI definitions at www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/occupational-safety-and-health-definitions.htm. Fatal injury rates are subject to sampling error as they are calculated using employment data from the Current Population Survey, a sample of households, and the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics. For more information on sampling error, see www.bls.gov/iif/additional-resources/reliability-of-estimates.htm.

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), another component of the IIF program, presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry, detailed case circumstances, and worker characteristics for nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses for cases that result in days away from work and days of job transfer or restriction. For these data, go to www.bls.gov/iif.

NAICS and OIICS Comparisons

The NAICS 2022 update resulted in minor revisions within five industries, as well as major revisions within the retail trade and information sectors. More information is available at <https://www.census.gov/naics>.

Comparison of industry data using NAICS 2022 with prior NAICS coding structures should be made with caution. For a concordance of 2017 NAICS to 2022 NAICS see https://www.census.gov/naics/concordances/2022_to_2017_NAICS.xlsx. Industry sector level comparisons made in this publication are included where the 2017 NAICS is comparable to 2022 NAICS.

A list of major changes implemented in the comprehensive OIICS revision is available at <https://www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/oics-version-3-major-changes.htm>. This change resulted in a break in series for 2023 case characteristics data.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities

In 2023, work relationship could not be independently verified by multiple source documents for 30 fatal work injuries. 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 are included.

Federal/State agency coverage

The CFOI includes data for all fatal work injuries, some of which may be outside the scope of other agencies or regulatory coverage. Comparisons between CFOI counts and those released by other agencies should account for the different coverage requirements and definitions used by each agency. For more information on the scope of CFOI, see www.bls.gov/iif/overview/cfoi-scope.htm and www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cfoi/concepts.htm.

Latency Cases

Latent fatal occupational injury cases occur when the date of injury differs from the date of death. In some cases, the death occurs in a different year than the occupational injury and are known as cross-year latent cases. In 2023, there were 208 cases where this occurred, and 186 of these latent cases occurred more than 30 days prior to the start of 2023. For more information on latent cases, see www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-10/latency-in-fatal-occupational-injuries.htm.

CFOI Methodology

Starting with the reference year 2019, CFOI modernized its disclosure methodology further strengthening its protection of confidential data. Individually identifiable data collected by the CFOI are used exclusively for statistical purposes and are protected under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). These data are collected under a pledge of confidentiality and therefore require BLS to prevent disclosure of identifying information of decedents. For more information see www.bls.gov/iif/questions-and-answers.htm.

Acknowledgements

BLS thanks the participating states, New York City, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. Although data for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam are not included in the national totals, results for these jurisdictions are available. Participating agencies may be contacted to request more detailed state results. Contact information is available at www.bls.gov/iif/state-data.htm.

BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector entities that provided 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 Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (Federal Employees' Compensation and

Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation divisions); the Federal Railroad Administration; the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor, and industrial relations and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Table 1: Fatal occupational injuries by selected demographic characteristics, 2019-23

Characteristic	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total ¹	5,333	4,764	5,190	5,486	5,283
Employee status					
Wage and salary workers ²	4,240	3,864	4,284	4,601	4,366
Self-employed ³	1,093	900	906	885	917
Gender					
Women	437	387	448	445	447
Men	4,896	4,377	4,741	5,041	4,832
Age					
Under 16 years	17	14	7	6	5
16 to 17 years	17	12	17	13	18
18 to 19 years	50	66	85	77	76
20 to 24 years	325	260	289	323	339
25 to 34 years	866	833	882	962	921
35 to 44 years	967	898	977	1,058	1,035
45 to 54 years	1,082	954	1,087	1,111	1,042
55 to 64 years	1,212	1,051	1,140	1,175	1,089
65 years and over	793	676	702	761	757
Race or ethnic origin⁴					
White (non-Hispanic)	3,297	2,898	3,103	3,167	2,963
Black or African-American (non-Hispanic)	634	541	653	734	659
Hispanic or Latino	1,088	1,072	1,130	1,248	1,250
American Indian or Alaskan Native (non-Hispanic)	30	32	41	35	37
Asian (non-Hispanic)	181	150	178	169	167
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	14	8	18	9	13
Multiple races (non-Hispanic)	22	14	11	16	25
Other races or not reported (non-Hispanic)	67	49	56	108	169

¹ The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) has published data on fatal occupational injuries for the United States since 1992. During this time, the classification systems and definitions of many data elements have changed. See the CFOI Definitions page (www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm) for a more detailed description of each data element.

² May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation. Cases where employment status is unknown are included in the counts of wage and salary workers.

³ 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.

⁴ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos. Cases where ethnicity is unknown are included in counts of non-Hispanic workers.

Note: Data for all years are revised and final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

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 sectors and selected events or exposures¹, 2023

Characteristic	Total	Violent acts	Transportation incidents	Explosions and fires	Falls, slips, trips	Exposure to harmful substances, environments	Contact incidents
Total ²	5,283	740	1,942	104	885	820	779
Private Industry (NAICS)³							
Natural resources and mining	561	-	241	-	45	52	185
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	448	18	194	9	34	39	153
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	113	-	47	-	11	13	32
Construction	1,075	46	240	17	421	200	148
Manufacturing	391	40	80	-	57	71	120
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,454	232	820	-	109	161	114
Utilities	41	2	17	-	3	13	6
Wholesale trade	177	16	75	-	32	24	26
Retail trade	306	123	61	5	40	53	22
Transportation and warehousing	930	91	667	6	34	71	60
Information	29	6	11	-	-	7	-
Financial activities	113	38	-	-	17	-	-
Finance and insurance	22	15	-	-	3	-	-
Real estate and rental and leasing	91	23	16	-	14	30	8
Professional and business services	555	-	-	3	-	110	-
Professional, scientific, and technical services	66	16	27	-	8	11	4
Management of companies and enterprises	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	484	51	148	3	87	99	96
Educational and health services	178	29	67	-	24	-	-
Educational services	45	6	27	-	5	-	-
Health care and social assistance	133	23	40	-	19	45	-
Leisure and hospitality	265	100	50	-	-	64	-
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	89	16	33	-	-	13	14
Accommodation and food services	176	84	17	3	18	51	-
Other services (except Public administration)	209	47	46	9	26	41	40

¹ Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 3.02 implemented for 2023 data forward.

² The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) has published data on fatal occupational injuries for the United States since 1992. During this time, the classification systems and definitions of many data elements have changed. See the CFOI Definitions page (www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm) for a more detailed description of each data element.

³ Industry data are based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 2022.

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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 for selected occupations, 2019-23

Characteristic	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total ¹	5,333	4,764	5,190	5,486	5,283
Occupation (SOC)²					
Management occupations	380	361	323	342	310
Business and financial operations occupations	29	23	27	32	25
Computer and mathematical occupations	15	8	6	12	11
Architecture and engineering occupations	43	31	29	41	37
Life, physical, and social science occupations	15	17	10	20	28
Community and social services occupations	31	26	40	19	25
Legal occupations	11	5	11	11	7
Educational instruction and library occupations	24	13	16	28	38
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	40	36	45	49	47
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	56	51	57	65	59
Healthcare support occupations	38	44	32	38	41
Protective service occupations	231	229	302	335	276
Fire fighting and prevention workers	24	-	-	-	-
Law enforcement workers	97	115	-	-	97
Food preparation and serving related occupations	99	82	101	123	106
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	333	307	356	352	337
Building cleaning and pest control workers	63	61	80	74	67
Grounds maintenance workers	229	202	225	222	226
Personal care and service occupations	61	58	64	61	61
Sales and related occupations	240	200	200	212	219
Supervisors, sales workers	99	73	70	67	58
Retail sales workers	96	95	83	112	130
Office and administrative support occupations	92	69	91	82	86
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	291	264	218	223	235
Agricultural workers	183	148	133	146	147
Fishing and hunting workers	44	42	23	16	19
Forest, conservation, and logging workers	49	42	46	55	55
Construction and extraction occupations	1,066	976	951	1,056	1,055
Supervisors of construction and extraction workers	136	88	117	113	113
Construction trades workers	809	771	726	811	809
Extraction workers	50	59	54	70	63
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	438	393	475	431	443
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	155	135	152	140	163
Production occupations	245	224	242	268	280
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,481	1,282	1,523	1,620	1,495
Air transportation workers	85	50	68	74	63
Motor vehicle operators	1,091	933	1,103	1,198	1,090
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	834	766	874	934	823
Material moving workers	238	218	284	281	268
Military occupations³	65	-	-	-	-

¹ The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) has published data on fatal occupational injuries for the United States since 1992. During this time, the classification systems and definitions of many data elements have changed. See the CFOI Definitions page (www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm) for a more detailed description of each data element.

² CFOI has used several versions of the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) system since 2003 to define occupation. For complete information on the version of SOC used in these years, see the CFOI definitions page. Cases where occupation is unknown are included in the total.

³ Includes fatal injuries to persons identified as resident armed forces regardless of individual occupation listed.

Note: Data for all years are revised and final. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

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 work injury rates¹ per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers by selected occupations, 2021-23

Characteristic	2021	2022	2023
All workers ²	3.6	3.7	3.5
Occupation (SOC)³			
Farming, fishing, and forestry	20.0	23.5	24.4
Transportation and material moving	14.4	14.6	13.6
Construction and extraction	12.3	13.0	12.9
Installation, maintenance, and repair	9.7	8.8	9.0
Protective service	9.4	10.2	8.2
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	7.6	7.4	7.1

¹ Fatal injury rates are per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. Complete national rates can be found at www.bls.gov/iif/fatal-injuries-tables.htm#rates. Complete state rates can be found at www.bls.gov/iif/state-data.htm. National and state rates are calculated using different methodology and cannot be directly compared. See www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cfoi/calculation.htm#comparisons-of-national-and-state-rates for more information on how rates are calculated and caveats for comparison.

² The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) has published data on fatal occupational injuries for the United States since 1992. During this time, the classification systems and definitions of many data elements have changed. See the CFOI Definitions page (www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm) for a more detailed description of each data element.

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