



2021 | Texas Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
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TDI Division of Workers' Compensation

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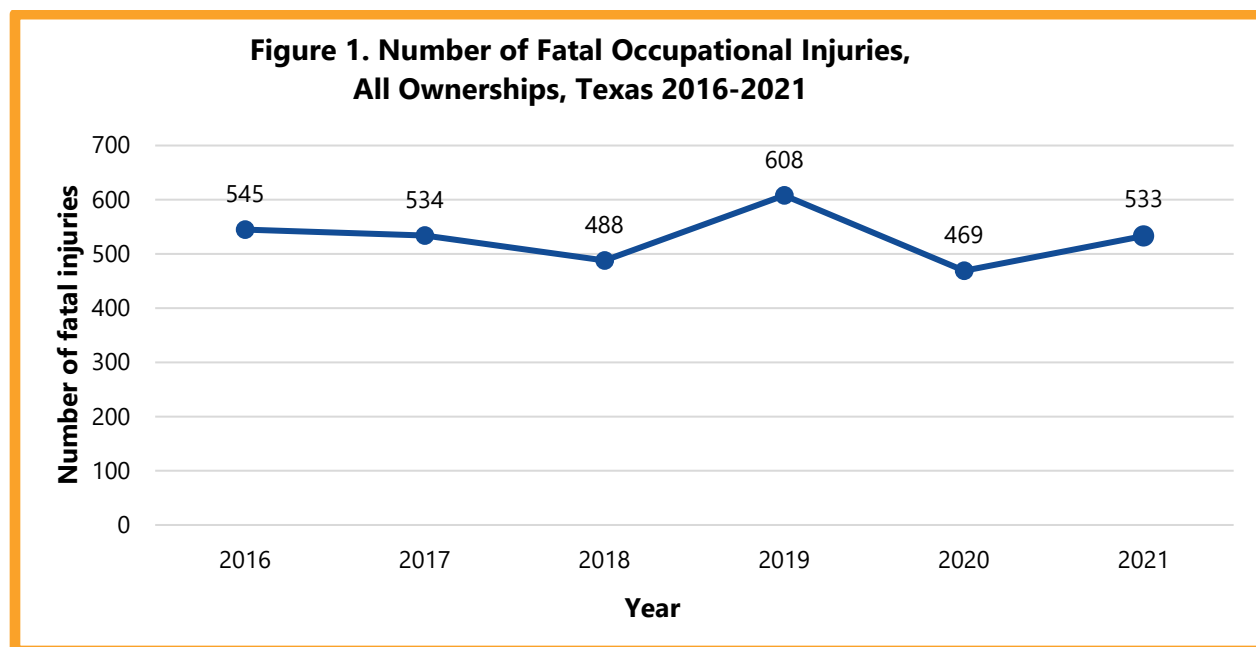
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Executive Summary

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) releases this report each year to help employers, safety professionals, and policymakers identify occupational safety and health issues. The data in this report are the latest available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless caused by an injury event. COVID-19-related deaths are not included in the findings below.

Key Findings

In 2021, there were 533 fatal occupational injuries in Texas, 64 more than 2020 (469) – a 12% increase, and 75 less than 2019 (608) — a 12% decrease (See Figure 1). Most of the increases from 2020 are industries returning to their pre-pandemic levels, including transportation and warehousing. The incident rate of fatalities in Texas was 4.2 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2021.



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022

Private sector employees represented 93% of total fatalities with 498 incidents in 2021 — an increase of 67 from 2020 (431). The other 35 incidents involved public/governmental sector employees — a decrease of three from 2020 (38) and the same as 2019 (35).

Nationally, there were 5,190 fatal occupational injuries — an incident rate of 3.6.

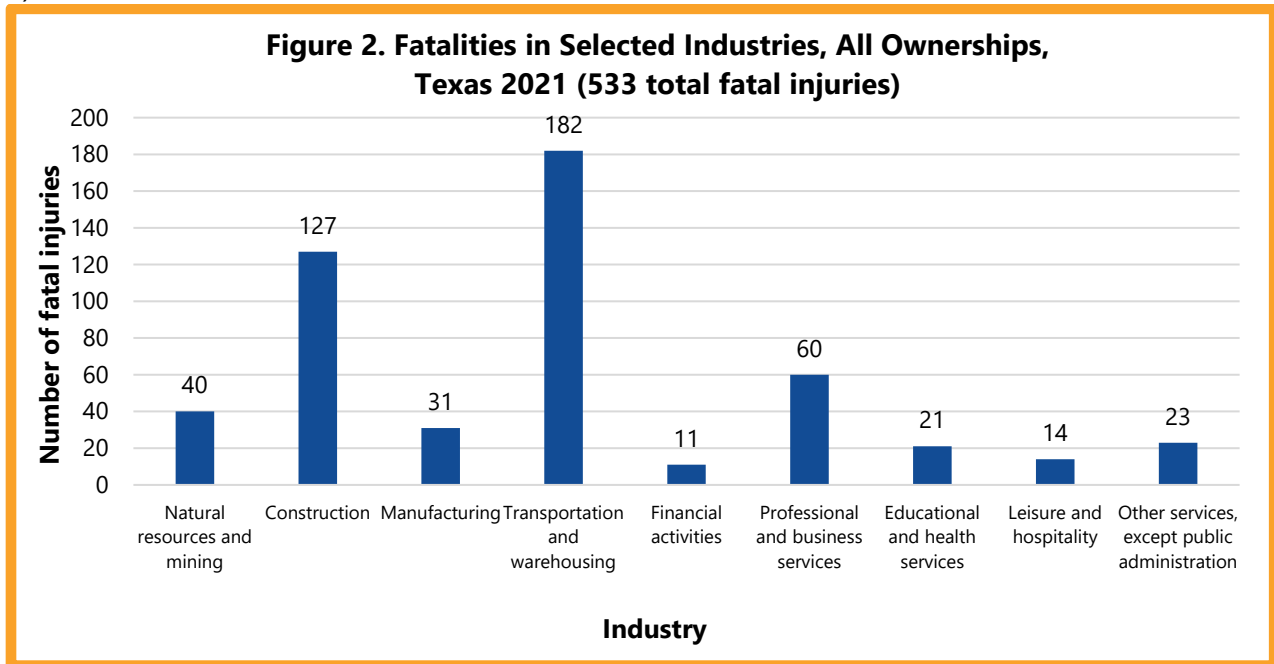
Workplace Characteristics

This report has information about the industries and occupations of fatally injured employees. Industry information refers to the type of business where an employee worked. Occupation information refers to the type of work an employee did. For example, a transportation company employs managers and salespeople, as well as truck drivers. Transportation and material moving

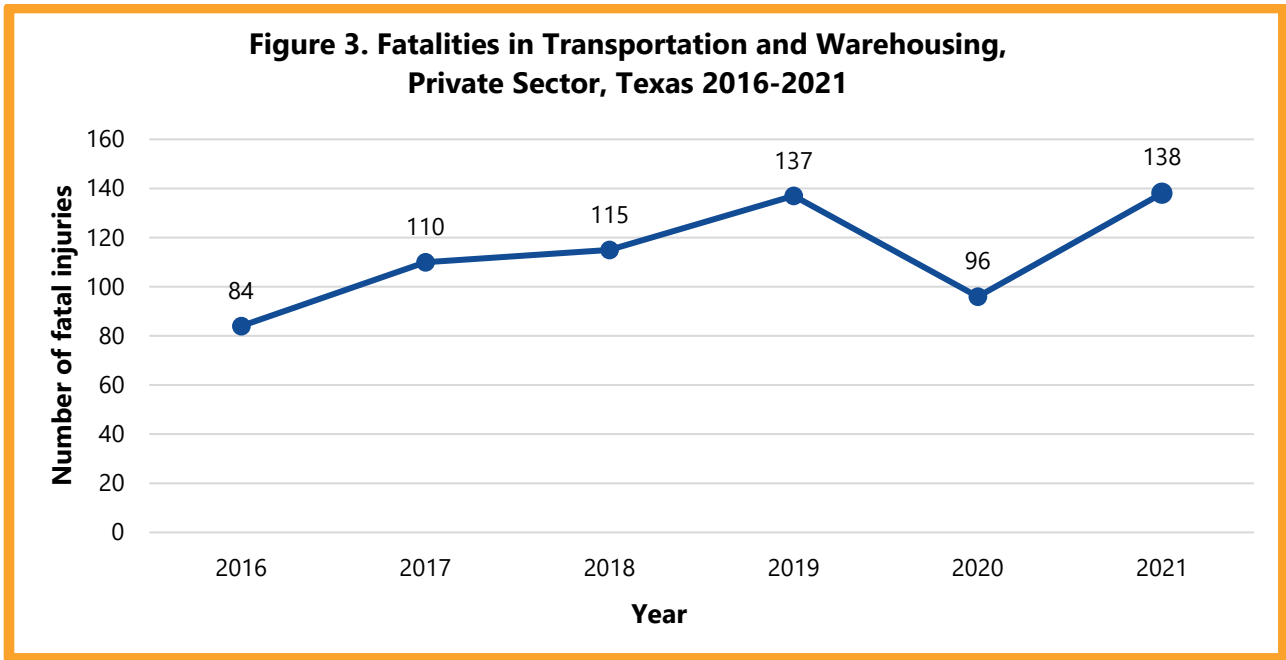
occupations are found in both goods-producing industries and service-providing industries. This report shows both industry and occupation information to give a more complete picture of the workplace characteristics of fatally injured employees. Reported categories may change from year to year to limit the disclosure of information about individual employees.

Industries

The transportation and warehousing industry (public and private sector) had the highest number of fatalities with 182 incidents. As shown in Figure 3, fatalities in just the private sector of the transportation and warehousing industry increased to 138 representing 26% of all fatalities in Texas, up from both 2020 (96) and 2019 (137). The construction industry had the same number of fatalities in 2021 as 2020 with 127 incidents, representing 24% of all fatalities in Texas (see Figure 2).



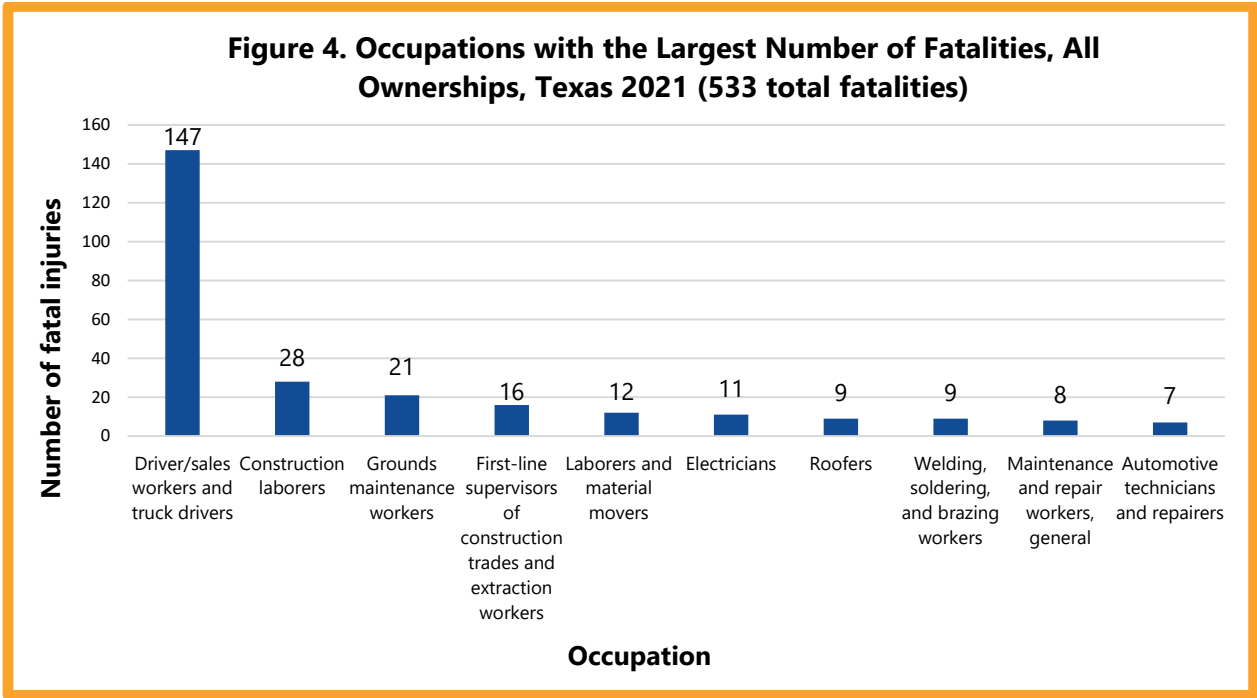
Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022

Occupations

Figure 4 shows that the occupation with the highest number of fatalities was driver/sales workers and truck drivers with 147 incidents, representing 28% of all fatal work injuries.



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022

Industries

Industry numbers are broken down by private sector (goods-producing, and service-providing) and public sector (governmental). The number of cases may not add up to 533 because of data from non-selected industries.

Goods-producing industries

Among the goods-producing industries in the private sector, the construction industry continues to have the highest number of fatalities with 127 in 2021 (see Table 1). In 2021, there were 40 natural resources and mining fatalities — 14 less than 2020 (54) and 32 less than 2019 (72).

Service-providing industries

Among the service-providing industries in the private sector, transportation and warehousing had the highest number of incidents at 138. Within transportation and warehousing, truck transportation accounted for 19% of all fatalities with 105 fatalities.

Government

Of the 35 fatalities that involved governmental employees, 28 were employees in local government. Eleven of those in local government were in police protection — down from 14 in 2020.

**Table 1. Number of Fatalities by Industry,¹
Texas 2019-2021**

Industry	2019	2020	2021
Private industry	573	431	498
Goods-producing	--	--	--
Natural resources and mining	72	54	40
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	23	30	21
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ²	49	24	19
Oil and gas extraction	5	4	--
Support activities for mining	42	17	15
Construction	123	127	127
Heavy and civil engineering construction	21	40	33
Manufacturing	--	29	31
Service-providing	--	--	--
Trade, transportation, and utilities	195	--	179
Wholesale trade	29	14	19
Retail trade	24	20	19
Transportation and warehousing	137	96	138
Truck transportation	91	73	105
Real estate and rental leasing	10	5	8
Professional and business services	--	45	60
Professional, scientific, and technical services	13	4	8
Education and health services	--	7	10
Leisure and hospitality	--	15	14
Accommodation and food services	14	12	10
Food services and drinking places	11	--	--
Other services, except public administration	17	14	23
Repair and maintenance	12	11	15
Government³	35	38	35
Federal government	9	3	3
State government	--	5	4
Local government	24	30	28
Educational services	3	6	--
Executive, legislative, and other government support	3	--	--
Police protection	11	14	11
Total	608	469	533

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022

¹ CFOI has used several versions of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) since 2003 to define industry. For complete information on the version of NAICS used this year, see the definitions page at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm. Cases where ownership is unknown are included in private industry counts. Cases classified as foreign government and other government are included in all government counts, but not displayed separately. Cases where industry is unknown are included in the service sector counts.

² Includes fatal injuries at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in NAICS, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

³ Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by federal, state, local, and foreign governmental organizations regardless of industry.

Occupations

Incidents among drivers/sales workers and truck drivers increased from 101 in 2020 to 147 in 2021, representing 28% of all incidents. Construction and extraction occupations continue a downward trend to 115 in 2021. Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations incidents continue to increase, up to 52 in 2021. The number of cases may not add up to 533 because of rounding and data from non-selected characteristics.

**Table 2. Number of Fatalities by Major Occupational Group,⁴
Texas 2019-2021**

Major Occupational Group	2019	2020	2021
Transportation and material moving	202	141	190
Motor vehicle operators	151	106	153
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	142	101	147
Material moving workers	31	22	26
Laborers and material movers	15	9	12
Construction and extraction	136	125	115
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	24	13	16
Construction trades workers	81	81	78
Construction laborers	29	35	28
Electricians	10	9	11
Roofers	14	15	9
Installation, maintenance, and repair	42	50	52
Protective service	29	26	24
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	46	21	30
Grounds maintenance workers	32	12	21
Production	34	17	27
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers	10	9	9
Sales and related	31	15	19
Management	23	24	19
Farming, fishing, and forestry	15	21	13
Office and administrative support	9	6	7
Food preparation and serving	7	6	6
Personal care and service	1	3	4
Total	608	469	533

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022

⁴ CFOI has used several versions of the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) system since 2003 to define occupation. For more information on the version of SOC used this year, see the definitions page at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm.

Case Characteristics

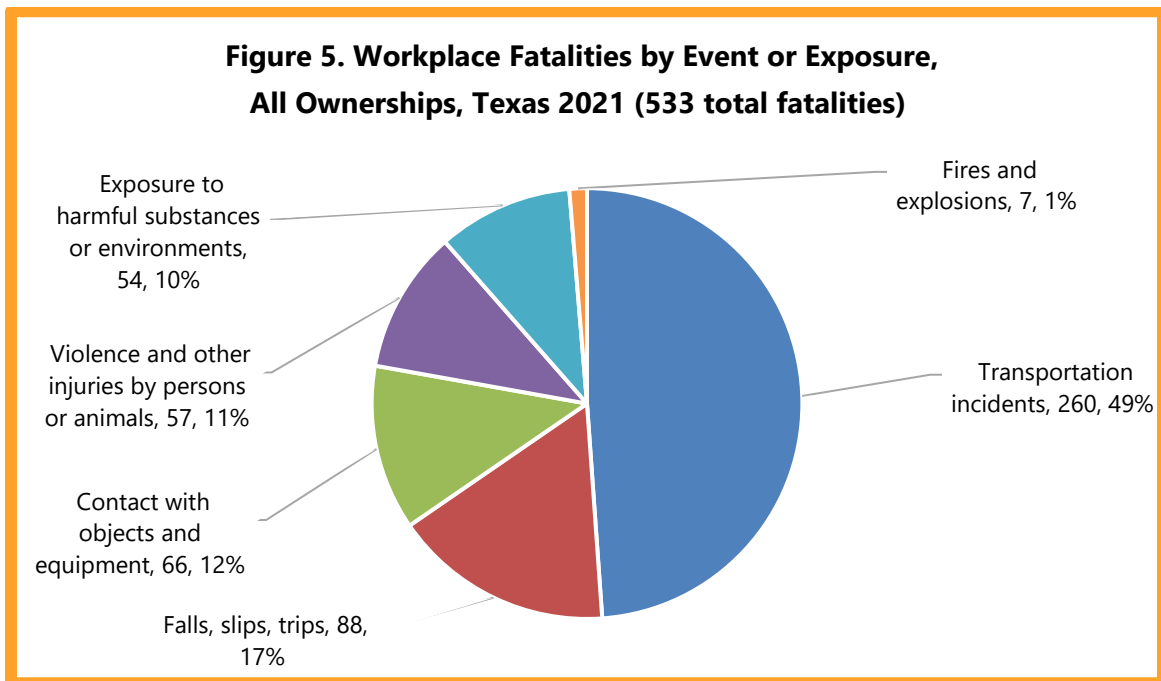
Case characteristics give details of the fatal injuries. Each injury is broken out into multiple characteristics including Nature of Injury, Illness; Part of Body Affected; Event or Exposure; and Source of Injury, Illness; Location where injury was sustained, etc. Two of those characteristics, Event or Exposure and Location, are discussed below. The number of cases may not add up to 533 because of data from non-selected characteristics.

Event or exposure

The event or exposure with the highest number of fatalities was transportation incidents with 260, representing 49% of all incidents (see Figure 5). This was an increase in total number of incidents from 2020 (214) but less than 2019 (283). Most categories within transportation incidents increased from 2020 to 2021. Roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle increased from 146 (2020) to 199 (2021) and is higher than the number of incidents in 2019 (181) (see Table 3).

Violence and other injuries by persons or animals increased to 57 from 2020 (55) and included 52 incidents that were intentional injury by person, up from 2020 (46).

Falls, slips, and trips increased to 88 from 2020 (71) and is lower than 2019 (96).



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022

**Table 3. Number of Fatalities by Event or Exposure,⁵
Texas 2019-2021**

Event or Exposure	2019	2020	2021
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	86	55	57
Intentional injury by person	78	46	52
Transportation incidents	283	214	260
Aircraft incidents	21	9	--
Rail vehicle incidents	7	--	4
Pedestrian vehicular incident	45	35	34
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in work zone	7	7	3
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in roadway	11	12	11
Pedestrian struck by vehicle on side of road	7	9	5
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in nonroadway area	19	7	14
Roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	181	146	199
Roadway collision with other vehicle	123	92	116
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	31	35	47
Roadway noncollision incident	27	19	36
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	27	12	17
Fire or explosion	18	--	7
Falls, slips, trips	96	71	88
Fall on same level	15	13	--
Fall to lower level	79	58	71
Other fall to lower level (from ladders, roofs, scaffolds, structural steel, trees, nonmoving vehicles, stairs)	66	48	54
Other fall to lower level less than 6 feet	11	6	9
Other fall to lower level 6 to 10 feet	11	9	15
Other fall to lower level 11 to 15 feet	13	9	11
Other fall to lower level 16 to 20 feet	7	6	8
Other fall to lower level 21 to 25 feet	4	8	--
Other fall to lower level 26 to 30 feet	4	5	--
Other fall to lower level more than 30 feet	6	--	6
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	60	48	54
Exposure to electricity	29	19	21
Exposure to other harmful substances	21	22	23
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol, unintentional overdose	12	13	13
Inhalation of harmful substance	9	9	6
Contact with objects and equipment	63	70	66
Struck by object or equipment	49	50	38
Struck by powered vehicle nontransport	21	22	15
Struck by falling object or equipment	22	22	12

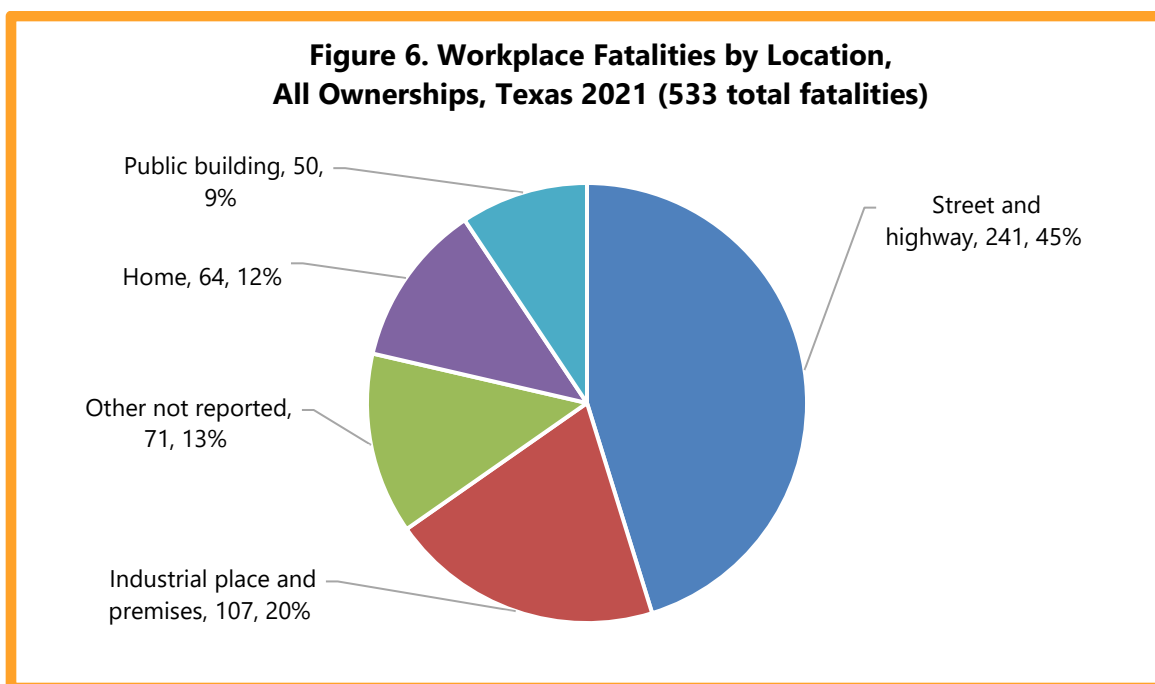
⁵ Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward.

Event or Exposure	2019	2020	2021
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	11	12	18
Caught in running equipment or machinery	7	9	12
Total	608	469	533

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022

Location

The most common location for a fatal injury is on streets or highways with a total of 241 incidents, accounting for 45% of all fatal injuries. Industrial place and premises, includes maritime dockyards, industrial yards, loading platforms, railyards, warehouses, constructions, factories, plants, and repair shops. These locations represent 20% of all fatalities with 107 incidents (See Figure 6).



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2022

Demographics

Men accounted for 92% of total fatalities (493 incidents) — down from 93% of total fatalities (438) in 2020. Employees over the age of 55 accounted for 35% (185) of all incidents in 2021 — up from 33% (155 incidents) in 2020.

All race or ethnic origins saw increases in the number of incidents, in line with the overall increase in incidents from 2020 to 2021. Hispanic or Latino employees had the highest number of fatal injuries with 231 incidents, up from 2020 (221) and accounted for 43% of all fatalities. White (non-Hispanic) accounted for 40% (213). Thirteen percent were Black or African American (non-Hispanic) (68), and 3% were Asian (non-Hispanic) (18).

The CFOI data tables are at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/fathomepage.html. For more information about fatal occupational injuries, contact DWC at 512-804-4640 or cfoi@tdi.texas.gov.

Endnotes

In accordance with [BLS policies](#), individually identifiable data collected by the CFOI program is used exclusively for statistical purposes and is protected under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). Data is collected under a pledge of confidentiality and requires BLS to prevent disclosure of identifying information of decedents. Disclosure of confidential information is a serious issue, a violation of CIPSEA, and a matter that BLS has addressed with new disclosure protections beginning with the 2019 CFOI release. These disclosure protections have significant impacts on the data that is publishable for 2019 to present and have resulted in the suppression of some private sector numbers to protect the confidentiality of all employees in the private and public sectors.

CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless caused by an injury event.

Data for all years is revised and final.

See data definitions at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm.

Beginning with survey year 2011, the classification system used to code case characteristics and occupations was revised, which created a break in series. Case characteristics (nature, body part, source, and event) and many occupations for years after 2011 are not comparable to data for years before 2011.

A dash in place of a number in a table or chart means data does not meet publication guidelines.

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with participating state agencies, December 2021.

DWC Resources

DWC provides various safety and health services to help reduce injuries and illnesses in the workplace, including:

- free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations;
- regional and onsite safety training;
- free safety and health publications;
- free safety training streaming videos; and
- the Safety Violations Hotline.

For more information on these services, visit www.txsafetyatwork.com or call 800-252-7031, option 2. Employers that carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas can get accident prevention services from their insurance companies at no additional charge.



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