



# Texas Department of Insurance

## Division of Workers' Compensation

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## Texas Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2012

Nationally, there were a total of 4,383 fatal work injuries in 2012, according to preliminary data released on August 22, 2013 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The fatality rates were highest in the construction, transportation, agriculture, and mining and oil and gas extraction industries. In Texas, there were 531 work-related fatalities, an increase from 2011.

Incidence rates for nonfatal injuries and illnesses by industry for 2012 will be published in October 2013. In 2011, the Texas incidence rate for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses was 2.7 per 100 full-time workers. The Texas non-fatal rate has been below the national average since data collection began in 1990.

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) compiles detailed information on all work-related fatalities occurring in Texas for the CFOI, a program jointly administered with the BLS. The TDI-DWC annually releases total fatality counts and descriptive data in an effort to provide information to assist employers, safety professionals, and policymakers in identifying occupational safety and health issues in the state.

The TDI-DWC provides various safety and health services to assist employers in providing safe and healthy workplaces, including resources to help prevent transportation-related incidents on its *Driving Safety* website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/drivesafe.html>. Resources by industry and occupation can be found on the TDI website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/targetareas.html>. Other services include free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations; regional and onsite safety training; free safety training DVD loans; the Safety Violations Hotline; and free safety and health publications. For more information on these services, visit the TDI website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html> or call 800-687-7080. In addition, employers that carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas can obtain accident prevention services from their insurance companies at no additional charge.

### Key Findings

- At the national level, fatal work injuries in both the private construction sector and mining sector rose in 2012. The increase in the mining sector was led by a 23 percent rise in fatal injuries to workers in oil and gas extraction industries, up to 138 incidents in 2012 (an estimated 15.9 fatalities per 100,000 full-time employees).
- In Texas, transportation incidents continued as the leading cause of fatal work injuries and accounted for the majority of the total increase in 2012, rising by 90 incidents from 2011. Specifically, roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle increased from 106 to 191 incidents. The number of

incidents with exposure to harmful substances or environments, fires or explosions, and falls, slips, trips increased slightly. Contact with objects and equipment and violence and other injuries by persons or animals decreased slightly.

- At the state level, transportation incidents involving the support activities for mining industry increased from 12 incidents in 2011 to 30 in 2012. In the construction industry, these incidents increased from 22 to 42 incidents. Likewise, truck transportation experienced 66 transportation incidents, up from 43 in 2011.
- The industry subsectors in Texas experiencing the highest number of fatal occupational injuries were truck transportation (79 incidents), specialty trade contractors (59 incidents), support activities for mining (58 incidents), administrative and support services (37 incidents), and heavy and civil engineering construction (34 incidents). Collectively, fatal injuries in these industries increased by 38 percent (74 incidents).
- In Texas in 2012, the deadliest occupation was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with a 57 percent increase in fatal injuries, up from 77 incidents to 121. Construction trade workers followed, with 82 fatal injuries in 2012 compared to 59 incidents in 2011. Within the construction trade occupations, construction laborers accounted for 33 of the total fatal injuries.

### **Causes of Fatalities**

Transportation incidents were the leading cause of fatal work injuries in Texas in 2012, with 258 incidents (49 percent of the total fatalities); an increase of 54 percent from 2011 (168 incidents). Of those, 191 were roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle, 31 were pedestrian vehicular accidents, and 14 were aircraft incidents.

Of the roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle, almost two-thirds occurred on a state or U.S. highway (124 incidents). A freight hauling and utility truck such as a tractor trailer truck or delivery truck or van was involved in 54 percent of the roadway incidents (103 incidents), a 91 percent increase from 2011 (54 incidents). More than half of the incidents involved collisions with another vehicle (105 incidents). Fifty-seven percent of the employees involved were in the transportation and material moving occupations (108 incidents), a 69 percent increase from 2011. The construction and extraction occupations were involved in 18 percent of roadway incidents (34 incidents), an 89 percent increase from 2011. Employees between the ages of 35 to 54 years were involved in 44 percent of the roadway incidents (84 incidents). The months with the highest number of the incidents were March (28 incidents) and November (26 incidents). Forty-four percent of the roadway incidents (84 incidents) occurred during the morning and afternoon rush hours, 30 percent between 6 a.m. to 9:59 a.m. (58 incidents), and 14 percent between 3 p.m. to 6:59 p.m. (26 incidents). Over one quarter (26 percent) occurred at night from 8 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. (50 incidents). The lunch rush hour had 17 percent from 11 a.m. to 1:59 p.m. (33 incidents).

Almost two thirds of the pedestrian vehicular incidents occurred on a street or highway (20 incidents), a decrease of 11 percent from 2011 (18 incidents) followed by 26 percent at an industrial place or premise (8 incidents). Pedestrians were struck by a freight hauling and utility truck such as a tractor trailer truck or dump truck in 42 percent of the incidents (13 incidents), followed by a multi-purpose vehicle such as a pickup truck or sport utility vehicle in 23 percent (7 incidents). Almost half of the employees involved in pedestrian vehicular incidents were in the transportation and material moving occupations (15 incidents). Pedestrians between the ages of 35 to 44 years were involved in 32 percent of the vehicular accidents (10 incidents). The highest number of pedestrian vehicular accidents occurred in July and October with 5 incidents each month. The deadliest hours were during the morning rush hours between 6 a.m. to 9:59 a.m. (9 incidents).

There were a total of 14 aircraft incidents in 2012, an increase of 250 percent from 2011 (4 incidents). Of those, 71 percent occurred while in-flight (10 incidents). Half of the aircraft incidents involved a propeller-driven or piston engine aircraft (7 incidents), and 43 percent involved a helicopter (6 incidents). Over one-third of the pilots were between the ages of 55 to 64 years (5 incidents), and 86 percent of the employees were White (non-Hispanic).

The second leading cause of fatal work injuries was falls, slips, or trips with 75 incidents; an increase of 12 percent from 2011 (67 incidents). Of those, 77 percent involved falls to a lower level (58 incidents), an increase of 4 percent from 2011 (56 incidents). Half of the falls to a lower level were from a structure or surface (29 incidents) such as a bridge, scaffold, tower or poles (11 incidents); other structural elements such as a roof (12 incidents); and 26 percent were from a ladder (15 incidents). Twenty-eight percent of the falls to a lower level occurred at a residential and industrial construction site (16 incidents); and 55 percent of the employees were in construction and extraction occupations (32 incidents), an increase of 10 percent from 2011 (29 incidents). Forty-seven percent of the falls to a lower level involved employees between the ages of 45 to 64 years (27 incidents), and 55 percent of the employees were Hispanic or Latino (32 incidents).

**Table 1. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Event or Exposure, 2011-2012**

Event or Exposure	2011	2012
Total	433	531
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	70	66
Intentional injury by person	63	54
Homicides	42	36
Suicides	21	18
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	4	7
Animal and insect related incidents	3	5
Transportation incidents	168	258
Aircraft incidents	4	14
Rail vehicle incidents	3	7
Pedestrian vehicular incident	32	31
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in work zone	7	5
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in roadway	7	11
Pedestrian struck by vehicle on side of road	3	4
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in nonroadway area	14	10
Water vehicle incident	7	--
Roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	106	191
Roadway collision with other vehicle	46	105
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	23	37
Roadway noncollision incident	37	49
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	14	13
Nonroadway noncollision incident	12	10
Fire or explosion	18	22
Fire	7	5
Forest or brush fire	3	--
Explosion	11	17

Event or Exposure	2011	2012
Explosion of pressure vessel, piping, or tire	6	9
Fall, slip, trip	67	75
Fall on same level	10	15
Fall to lower level	56	58
Other fall to lower level (from ladders, roofs, scaffolds, structural steel, trees, nonmoving vehicles, stairs)	47	45
Other fall to lower level less than 6 feet	4	5
Other fall to lower level 6 to 10 feet	7	8
Other fall to lower level 11 to 15 feet	7	4
Other fall to lower level 16 to 20 feet	7	8
Other fall to lower level 21 to 25 feet	4	3
Other fall to lower level 26 to 30 feet	5	3
Other fall to lower level more than 30 feet	6	9
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	43	44
Exposure to electricity	16	23
Exposure to temperature extremes	9	6
Exposure to other harmful substances	16	11
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol unintentional overdose	10	6
Contact with objects and equipment	66	65
Struck by object or equipment	52	47
Struck by powered vehicle nontransport	19	22
Struck by falling object or equipment	25	19
Struck by discharged or flying object	4	--
Struck by swinging or slipping object, other than handheld	3	1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	8	5
Caught in running equipment or machinery	7	5
Struck, caught, or crushed in collapsing structure, equipment, or material	6	12

*Notes for Table 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. Please see the CFOI Definitions page on the BLS website at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm> for a more detailed description of each data element and their definitions.*
- *Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward. The violence and other injuries by persons or animals category include violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.*
- *Total includes data for fatalities that do not meet publication criteria.*
- *Data for 2012 are preliminary. Data for 2011 are revised and final.*
- *Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.*

**Fatalities by Industry**

Overall, 92 percent of fatal work injuries (487 incidents) in Texas involved employees in the private sector in 2012 (Table 3). Service providing industries in the private sector recorded 51 percent of all fatal

work injuries (271 incidents), while 41 percent (216 incidents) occurred in the goods producing industries. The other 8 percent (44 incidents) were spread among governmental industries (Table 4).

Among the goods producing industries in the private sector, construction had the highest number of fatal work injuries with 105 incidents. This represented an increase of 27 percent from 2011. Forty percent of the construction industry fatalities were attributed to transportation incidents (42 incidents), an increase of 91 percent from 2011 (22 incidents) and 27 percent were due to falls to a lower level (28 incidents). Construction trade workers had the highest number of fatalities (69 incidents), an increase of 23 percent from 2011. Almost half of the construction employees involved were between the ages of 35 to 54 years (49 incidents), 57 percent were Hispanic or Latino (60 incidents), and 31 percent were foreign born (33 incidents).

The mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry experienced a total of 66 fatal work injuries in 2012, a 61 percent increase from 2011 and the highest total since 2003. Fifty percent of those fatalities were due to transportation incidents (33 incidents); and 41 percent were evenly distributed among the fires or explosions (9 incidents); falls, slips, or trips (9 incidents); and contact with objects and equipment (9 incidents). Although extraction workers had the highest number of fatalities (27 incidents), there was a 10 percent decrease from 2011 (30 incidents). The second highest occupation group was transportation and material moving employees (19 incidents), an increase of 217 percent from 2011 (6 incidents).

Among the service providing industries in the private sector, the transportation and warehousing sector had the highest number of fatal work injuries in 2012; the total (96 incidents) represented an increase of 28 percent from 2011 and the highest total since 2003. Eighty-two percent of those fatalities were due to transportation incidents (79 incidents); of those, 64 percent were roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle (61 incidents) and 9 percent involved pedestrians being struck by a vehicle (9 incidents). The truck transportation subsector had the highest number of fatalities (79 incidents), an increase of 46 percent from 2011.

**Table 2. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Industry, Private Sector, 2011-2012**

Industry	2011	2012
Total	433	531
Private Industry	401	487
Goods Producing	174	216
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	22	22
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	41	66
Oil and Gas Extraction	5	7
Support Activities for Mining	36	58
Construction	83	105
Construction of buildings	12	11
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	24	34
Specialty Trade Contractors	46	59
Manufacturing	28	23
Service Providing	227	271
Wholesale Trade	17	24
Retail Trade	25	28
Transportation and Warehousing	75	96

Industry	2011	2012
Truck Transportation	54	79
Utilities	--	--
Information	--	5
Finance and Insurance	--	3
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	6	7
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	6	10
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	39	44
Education and Health Services	14	12
Health Care and Social Assistance	12	9
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8	4
Accommodation and Food Services	15	19
Other Services, except Public Administration	16	18

*Notes for Table 2*

- *Industry data from 2009 to the present are based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2007.*
- *Includes all fatal occupational injuries meeting this ownership criterion across all specified years, regardless of industry classification system.*
- *Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.*
- *Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.*

**Table 3. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Industry, Public Sector, 2011-2012**

Industry	2011	2012
Government	32	44
Federal Government	7	5
State Government	3	6
Local Government	22	33
Police Protection	12	11
Fire Protection	6	--

*Notes for Table 3*

- *Industry data from 2009 to the present are based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2007.*
- *Includes all fatal occupational injuries meeting this ownership criterion across all specified years, regardless of industry classification system.*
- *Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.*
- *Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.*

**Employee Demographics**

Fatal work injuries to wage and salary employees increased by 23 percent; from 357 in 2011 to 440 in 2012. Fatalities among the self-employed also increased by 20 percent from 76 in 2011 to 91.

Women accounted for 5 percent of the total fatalities (28 incidents), a decrease of 13 percent from 2011 (32 incidents). They were involved in fatal transportation incidents in 50 percent of the cases (14 incidents) and were involved in falls, slips, or trips in 25 percent of the cases (7 incidents). The average age for women who sustained fatal injuries was 55 to 64 years. Sixty-four percent of the female employees were White, non Hispanic; an increase of 22 percent from 2011 (18 incidents).

The leading cause of fatalities among men was transportation incidents with 244 incidents (49 percent), an increase of 54 percent from 2011 (158 incidents). They were involved in falls, slips, or trips in 14 percent of the cases (68 incidents). The average age for men who sustained fatal injuries was 35 to 54 years. Forty-eight percent of the male employees were White, non Hispanic.

The number of fatal work injuries increased among White, non-Hispanic employees from 217 incidents in 2011 to 258 incidents in 2012. Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) employees accounted for only 11 percent of the fatalities (59 incidents), but they had the highest increase in fatal work injuries (74 percent).

This is the first in a series of three releases of data collected by the TDI-DWC in cooperation with the BLS. The final fatal injury numbers and rate will be released in spring 2014. The CFOI data tables can be found on the TDI website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/fathomepage.html>. For more information about fatal work-related injuries, contact the TDI-DWC at 512-804-5020 or [cfoi@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:cfoi@tdi.texas.gov).