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2023

Texas Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

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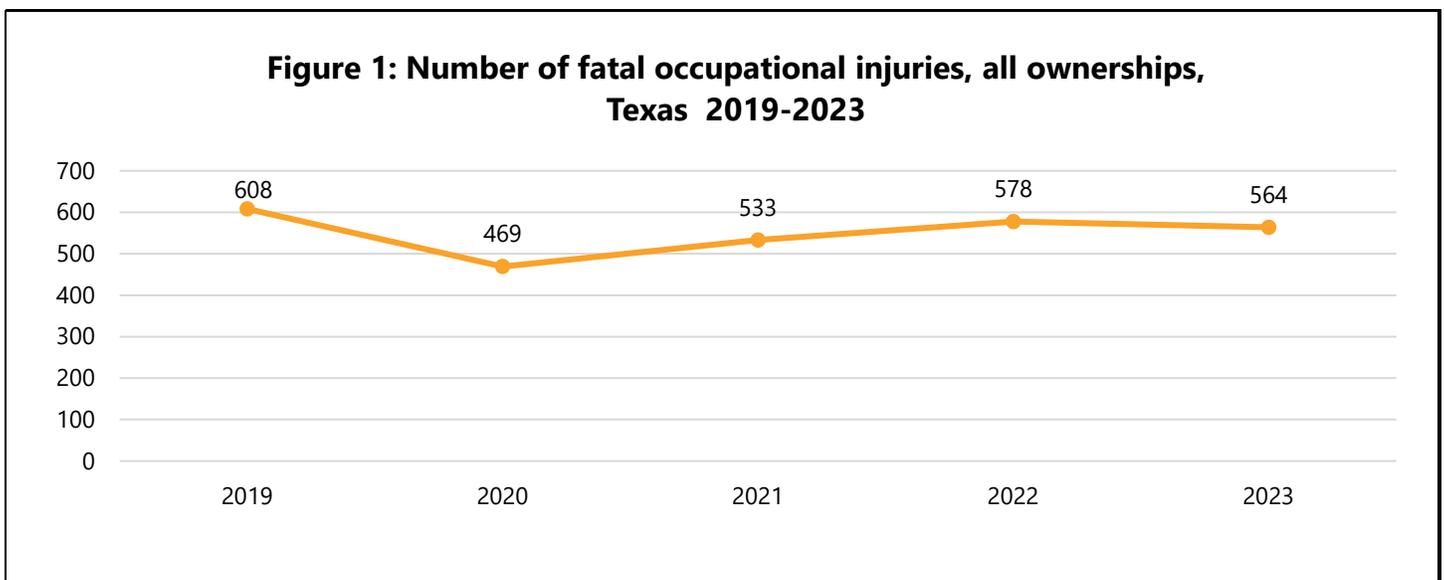
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Executive summary

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 2023, there were 564 fatal occupational injuries in Texas, 14 fewer than 2022 (Figure 1). The incident rate of fatalities in Texas was 4.1 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2023.



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

Private sector employees represented 93% of total fatalities with 526 incidents in 2023. The other 38 incidents involved public/governmental sector employees — a decrease of 11 from 2022 (49).

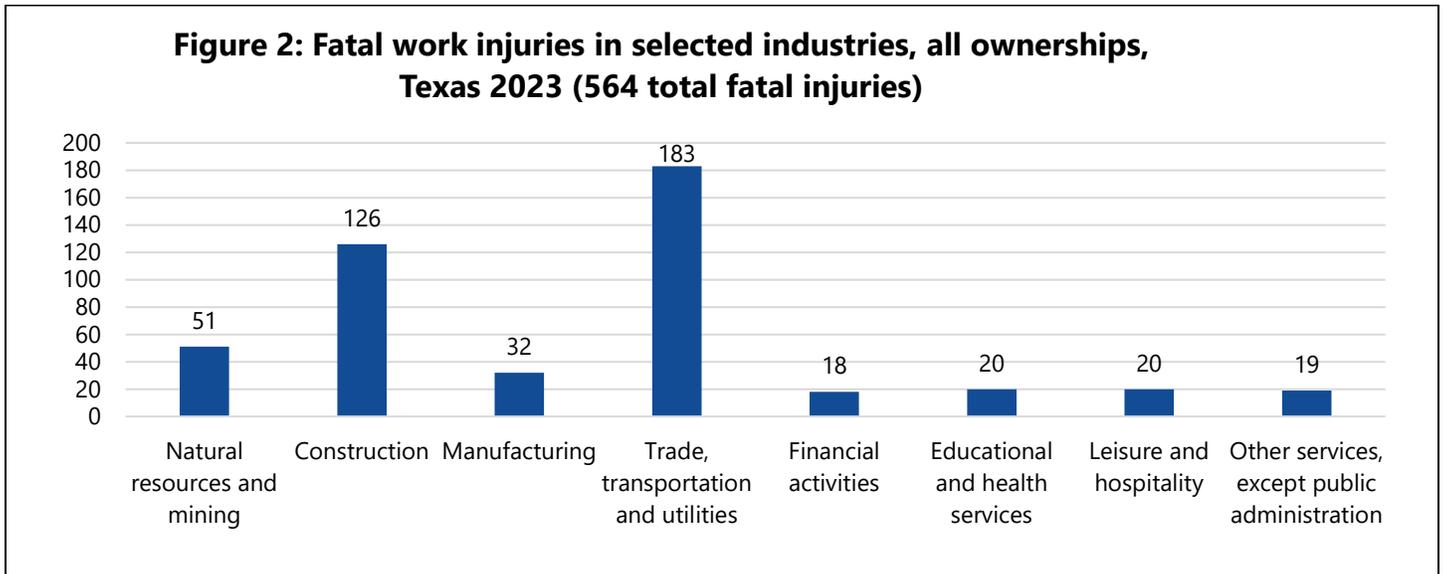
Nationally, there were 5,283 fatal occupational injuries — an incident rate of 3.5.

Workplace characteristics

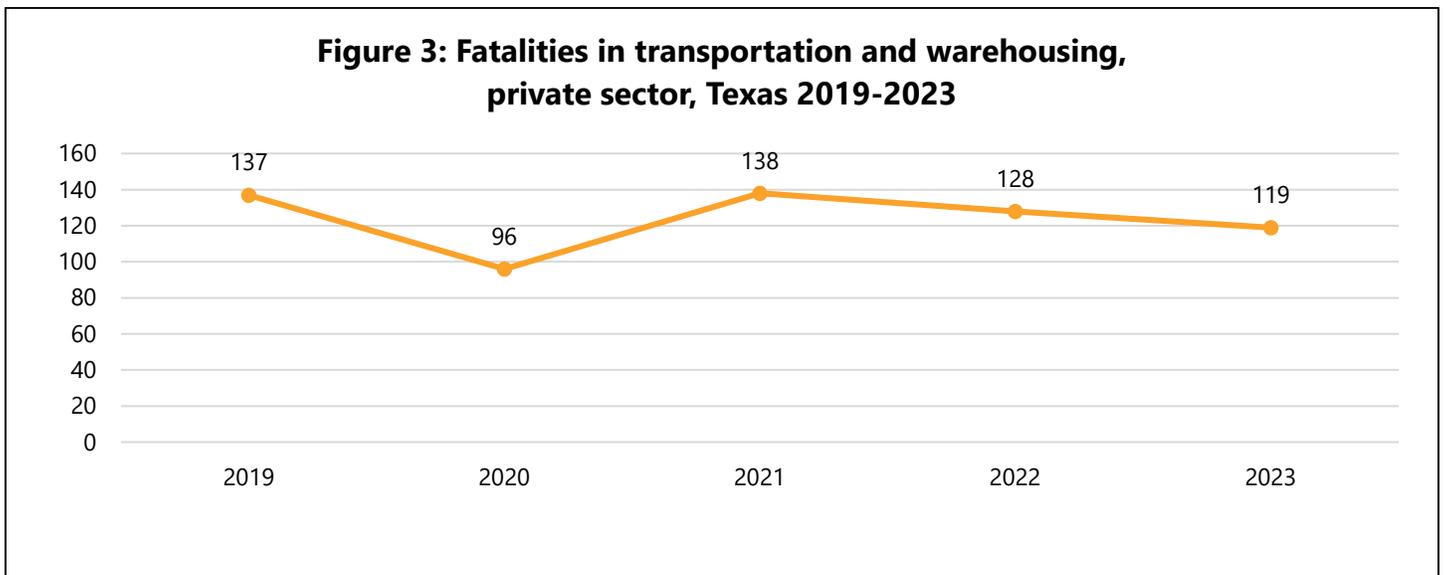
This report contains information about the industries and occupations of fatally injured employees. Industry information refers to the type of business where an employee worked. Occupation information refers to the type of work an employee did. For example, a transportation company employs managers and 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 trade, transportation, and utilities industry (public and private sector) had the highest number of fatalities with 183 incidents. The construction industry had a decrease in the number of fatalities in 2023 (126) down from 2022 (141) incidents, representing 22% of all fatalities in Texas (Figure 2). As shown in Figure 3, fatalities in the private sector of the transportation and warehousing industry decreased from 128 in 2022 to 119 in 2023 and accounted for 21% of all fatalities in Texas.



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

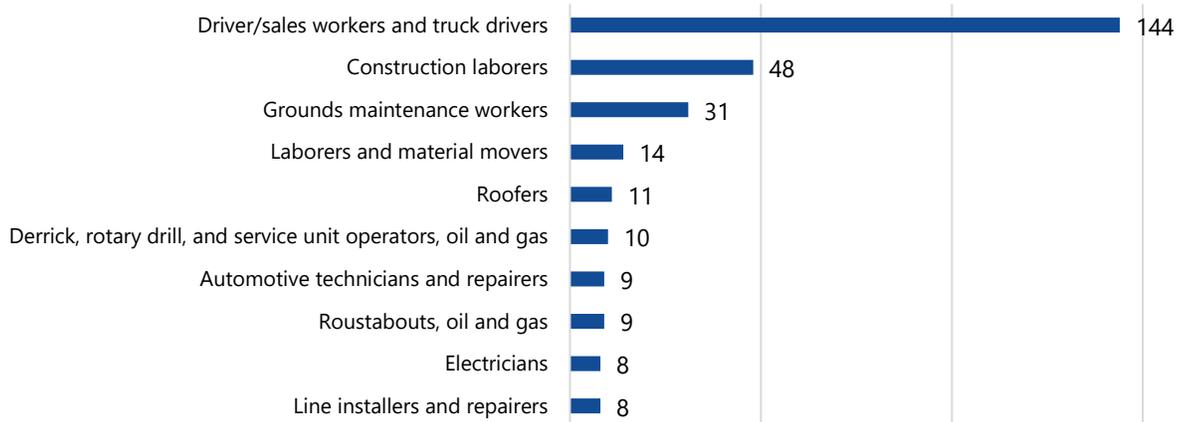


Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

Occupations

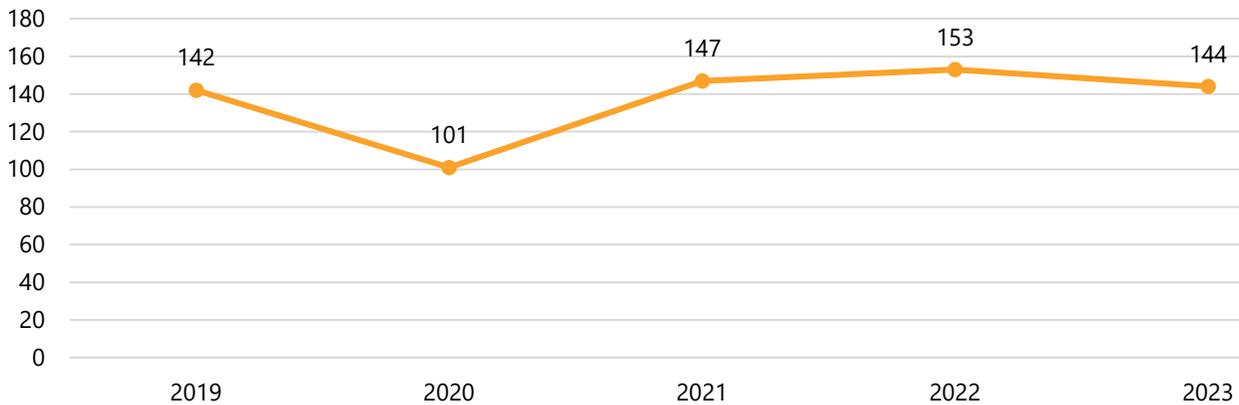
Figure 4 shows that the occupation with the highest number of fatalities was driver/sales workers and truck drivers. Figure 5 shows that incidents among drivers/sales workers and truck drivers decreased from 153 in 2022 to 144 in 2023, representing 26% of all incidents.

Figure 4: Occupations with the largest number of worker fatal injuries, all ownerships, Texas, 2023 (564 total fatal injuries)



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

Figure 5: Fatalities in driver/sales workers and truck drivers, all ownerships, Texas 2019-2023



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

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 564 because of data from non-selected industries.

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 end note for more information.

Goods-producing industries

Among the goods-producing industries in the private sector, the construction industry continues to have the highest number of fatalities with 124 in 2023 accounting for 24% of the total private sector fatalities. Within construction, specialty trade contractors had a decrease of 16%, going from 94 (2022) to 79.

Natural resources and mining decreased 16%, from 61 in 2022 to 51 in 2023, and accounted for 10% of private sector fatalities in 2023 (Table 1).

Service-providing industries

Among the service-providing industries in the private sector, trade transportation and utilities had the highest number of incidents at 174. Transportation and warehousing industries experienced a decrease overall, with truck transportation decreasing 12%, from 89 in 2022 to 78 in 2023. Meanwhile, the utilities and real estate and rental leasing industries had increases of seven and eight fatalities respectively.

Government

Of the 38 fatalities that involved governmental employees, 22 were employees in local government. Fourteen of those in local government were in justice, public order, and safety activities — down from 18 in 2022.

Table 1: Number of fatalities by industry, Texas 2021-2023

Industry	2021	2022	2023
Private industry	498	529	526
Goods-producing	--	--	--
Natural resources and mining²	40	61	51
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	21	20	15
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ⁱ	19	41	36
Support activities for oil and gas operations	11	30	30
Construction	127	140	124
Heavy and civil engineering construction	33	26	27
Specialty trade contractors	76	94	79
Manufacturing	31	34	32
Service-providing	--	--	--
Trade, transportation, and utilities	179	179	174
Utilities	3	6	13
Wholesale trade	19	23	22
Retail trade	19	22	20
Transportation and warehousing	138	128	119
Truck transportation	105	89	78
Financial activities	11	--	18
Real estate and rental leasing	8	6	14
Professional, scientific, and technical services	8	6	5
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	52	--	65
Administrative and support services	42	--	50
Investigation and security services	5	--	7
Services to buildings and dwellings	26	--	33
Landscaping services	23	--	27
Waste management and remediation services	10	--	15
Education and health services	10	19	14
Health care and social assistance	10	15	11
Leisure and hospitality	14	23	20
Accommodation and food services	10	13	15
Food services and drinking places	--	9	11
Other services, except public administration	23	17	19
Repair and maintenance	15	13	13
Governmentⁱⁱ	35	49	38
Federal government	3	9	9
State government	4	6	5
Local government	28	34	22
Educational services	--	5	3
Justice, public order, and safety activities	14	18	14
Police protection	11	--	6
Fire protection	3	--	8
Total	533	578	564

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

Occupations

Types of occupations that saw large changes from 2022 to 2023 include:

- Construction laborers, with a 60% increase from 30 in 2022 to 48 in 2023.
- Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance, with a 46% increase from 28 in 2022 to 41 in 2023.
- Management, with a 58% decrease from 31 in 2022 to 13 in 2023.

Major occupational group	2021	2022	2023
Transportation and material moving	190	197	196
Motor vehicle operators	153	156	154
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	147	153	144
Material moving workers	26	23	34
Laborers and material movers	12	11	14
Construction and extraction	115	133	128
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	16	11	3
Construction trades workers	78	89	91
Construction laborers	28	30	48
Electricians	11	13	8
Roofers	9	16	11
Installation, maintenance, and repair	52	57	52
Protective service	24	35	28
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	30	28	41
Grounds maintenance workers	21	23	31
Production	27	23	33
Sales and related	19	16	13
Management	19	31	13
Farming, fishing, and forestry	13	9	10
Office and administrative support	7	9	12
Food preparation and serving	6	5	7
Personal care and service	4	3	4
Total	533	578	564

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

Case characteristics

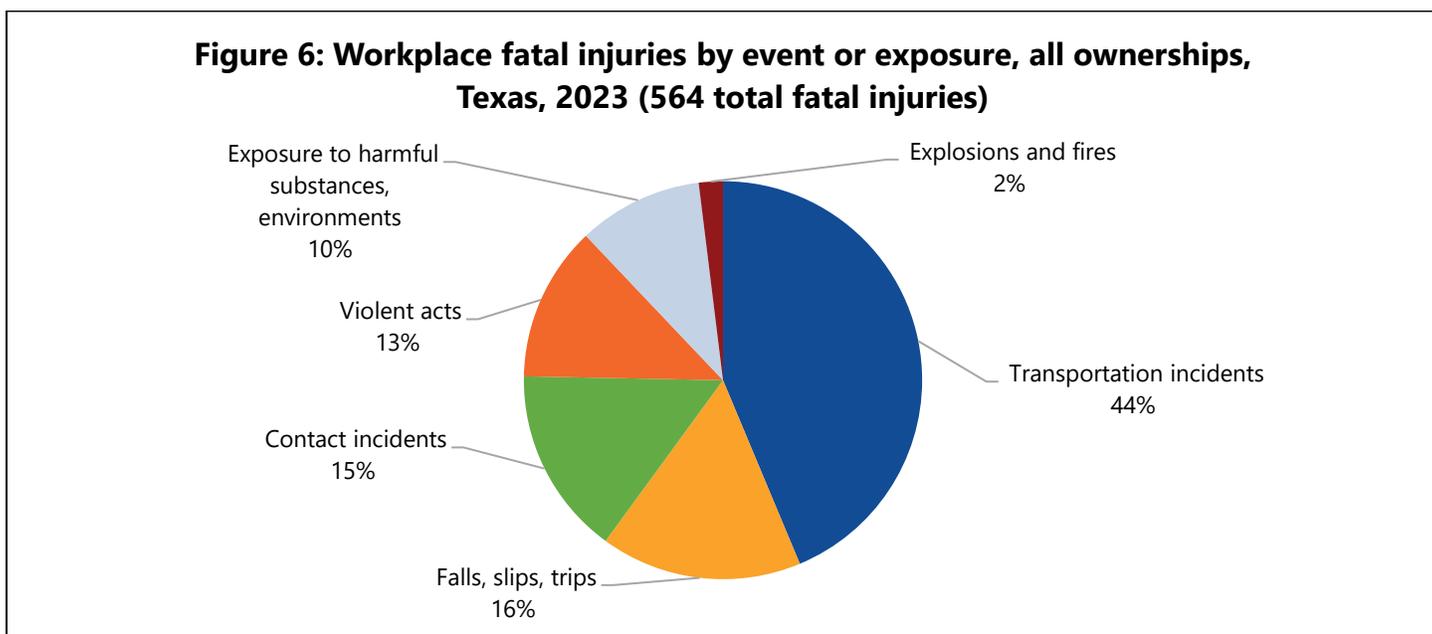
Case characteristics give details of the fatal injuries. Each injury is broken out into multiple characteristics including, nature of injury, illness; part of body affected; event or exposure; source of injury, illness; and location where injury was sustained. Two of those characteristics, event or exposure and location, are discussed below. The number of cases may not add up to 564 because of data from non-selected characteristics.

Revision of classification systems

The 2022 NAICS and the updated OIICS were implemented in this release of 2023 data. Refer to the end note for more information.

Event or exposure

There were 71 fatalities due to violent acts in 2023, with 61% from another person (43) (Figure 6 and Table 3). Twenty-eight violent act deaths were due to intentional self-harm, with 75% from self-harm shootings (21). In 2023 there were 246 transportation incidents representing 44% of all incidents. There were 192 roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles, with 59% from roadway collisions with other vehicles (114). Eleven workplace fatalities involved explosions and fires. Falls, slips, trips (92) accounted for 16% of all fatal injuries. Within this category, 56% were attributed to other falls to lower level — 6 to 30 feet (52). Exposure to harmful substances or environments (52) accounted for 10% of all cases, with 22 of them due to exposure to electricity. Fifteen percent of all fatal injuries involved contact incidents, (86) with 43% of them due to being struck by propelled, falling, or suspended objects (37).



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2023.

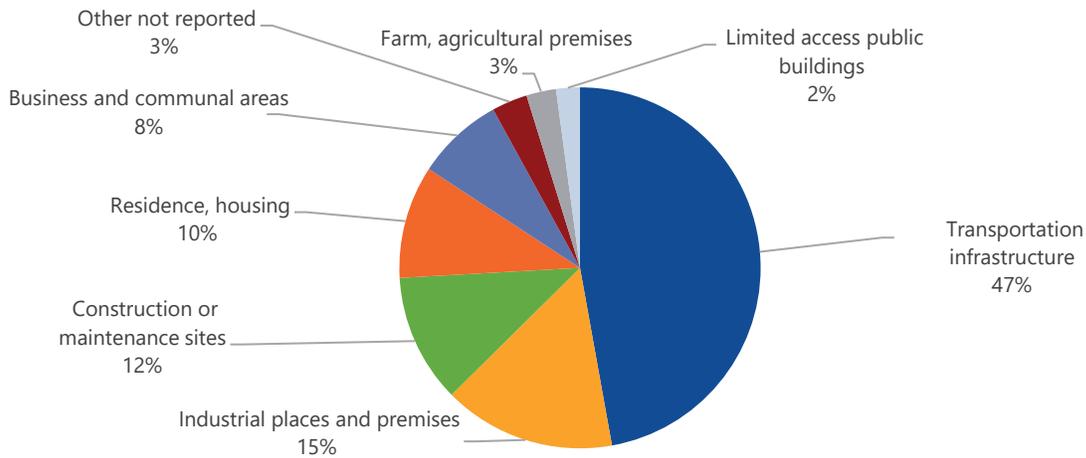
Table 3: Number of fatalities by event or exposure, all ownerships, Texas 2023^{iv}	
Event or exposure	2023
Violent acts	71
Violent acts by other person	43
Intentional self-harm	28
Intentional self-harm-- shooting	21
Transportation incidents	246
Rail vehicle incidents	4
Pedestrian incidents involving motorized land vehicles	27
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in road work zone	4
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in roadway	13
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in non-roadway area	10
Roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	192
Roadway collision with another vehicle(s)	114
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	48
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	40
Collision with object or animal on side of roadway	31
Roadway non-collision incident	38
Vehicle overturn	34
Non-roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	16
Explosions and fires	11
Falls, slips, trips	92
Fall to lower level	85
Other fall to lower level	73
Other fall to lower level— 6 to 30 feet	52
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	57
Exposure to electricity	22
Indirect exposure to electricity	11
Exposure to temperature extremes	14
Exposure to harmful substances	17
Drug, alcohol overdose	14
Exposure to oxygen deficiency	4
Contact incidents	86
Collapse, engulfment	12
Struck by propelled, falling, or suspended object	37
Struck by falling object	22
Struck, caught, or compressed by running powered equipment	27
Struck by rolling powered vehicle or machinery	12
Total	564

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

Location

The most common location for a fatal injury is on transportation infrastructure (266), accounting for 47% of all fatal injuries. Industrial place and premises (87) accounts for 15%, while construction or maintenance sites (65) account for 12% of all fatal injuries for 2023. (See Figure 7).

Figure 7: Fatal work injuries by location, all ownerships, Texas, 2023 (564 total fatal injuries)



Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, December 2024.

Demographics

Men accounted for 94% of total fatalities (531 incidents). Employees 55 and older accounted for 31% (177) of all incidents in 2023.

Hispanic or Latino employees had the highest number of fatal injuries with 285 incidents, and accounted for 51% of all fatalities, up from 47% in 2022. White (non-Hispanic) employees accounted for 35% (196). Twelve percent were Black or African American (non-Hispanic) (68).

To view CFOI data tables, visit 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 are collected under a pledge of confidentiality and require 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 are 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 are revised and final.

For all charts, see data definitions at www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm.

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 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 [www.census.gov/naics/concordances/2022 to 2017 NAICS.xlsx](http://www.census.gov/naics/concordances/2022%20to%202017%20NAICS.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 www.bls.gov/iif/definitions/oiics-version-3-major-changes.htm. This change resulted in a break in series for 2023 case characteristics data.

Note: 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 2024.

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.
- The Safety Violations Hotline.

For more information on these services, visit www.txafetyatwork.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 added cost.

ⁱ 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.

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

ⁱⁱⁱ 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/definitions/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries-definitions.htm.

^{iv} Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System 3.02 implemented for 2023 data forward.



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