



Texas Department of Insurance

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Work-Related Fatalities Decreased in Texas in 2010

AUSTIN, TX — Texas recorded a preliminary total of 456 work-related fatalities in 2010, a 5 percent decrease compared to the revised 2009 total of 482 fatalities. Nationally, there were a preliminary total of 4,547 fatal work injuries in 2010, about the same as the final revised count of 4,551 in 2009, according to the most recently available data released on August 25, 2011, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

From 2003 to 2010, Texas recorded as few as 440 work-related fatalities in a year (2004) to as many as 528 fatalities in a year (2007) (Table 1).

Table 1. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas, 2003-2010

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
491	440	495	489	528	463	482	456

Regarding the data reported in this news release:

- Sources include the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC), Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor.
- Data for 2010 are preliminary. Data for prior years are revised and final.
- Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.
- Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.
- CFOI fatal injury counts exclude occupational illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

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.

Table 2. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Event or Exposure, 2003-2010

Event or Exposure	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total	491	440	495	489	528	463	482	456
Contact with objects and equipment	70	77	80	88	86	69	65	64
Struck by object	44	49	52	52	47	42	36	35
Falls	52	61	54	60	77	57	82	50
Fall to lower level	47	58	50	54	72	53	75	45
Fall to lower level from ladder	12	9	11	13	12	9	24	11
Fall to lower level from roof	12	12	9	9	14	15	21	15
Fall to lower level from scaffolding, staging	5	9	9	6	15	5	9	3
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	51	35	63	54	66	32	61	53
Contact with electric current	36	21	38	35	39	14	26	27
Exposure to caustic noxious, or allergenic substances	9	5	18	13	16	6	12	12
Transportation incidents	201	194	200	202	193	206	164	196
Highway incidents	118	121	132	129	133	142	106	134
Highway Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	61	71	54	59	79	56	53	71
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment on highway	32	23	38	42	32	32	21	25
Aircraft incidents	29	28	7	6	5	16	6	17
Fires or explosions	27	18	31	23	17	23	15	18
Assaults and violent acts	90	54	67	59	86	76	94	74
Homicides	69	37	46	45	70	55	69	48
Self-inflicted injuries	18	14	18	13	13	19	23	23

Notes for Table 2:

- The event or exposure categories are based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.
- The assaults and violent acts category includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

Causes of Fatalities

Despite a decrease in total fatalities in Texas in 2010, the category of transportation incidents experienced an increase of 20 percent from 2009 and continued to be the leading cause of fatalities with 196 incidents (43 percent of the total fatalities). The increase in transportation incidents includes increases in aircraft incidents, highway incidents, and pedestrians struck by vehicles, mobile equipment (Table 2).

Highway incidents accounted for 68 percent of the transportation incidents in 2010. Trucks were involved in 75 percent of the highway incidents, 53 percent of the incidents involved collisions with another vehicle, and 57 percent of the employees involved were in the transportation and material moving occupations. Protective service occupations accounted for 11 percent of the total highway incidents. Pedestrians struck by vehicles or mobile equipment accounted for 13 percent of the transportation incidents in 2010. Tractor trailer trucks were involved in 40 percent of those incidents and 20 percent of those pedestrians were truck drivers. The incident locations accounting for 20 percent of pedestrian incidents were: road construction zones, street and highway, and parking lots.

Aircraft incidents accounted for 9 percent of the transportation incidents in 2010. Eighty two percent of the aircraft incidents involved were wage and salary employees. Eighty eight percent of the employees involved were males, and 35 percent of the employees were in the 55 to 64 year range.

Although assaults and violent acts was the second highest cause of fatalities in 2010, the category experienced a decrease of 21 percent from 2009 and a decrease of 30 percent in workplace homicides. Workplace suicides remained unchanged from 2009. The motive for 48 percent of the homicides was robbery and a firearm was used in 77 percent of those robberies. The employee tending a retail establishment, such as a convenience store or pawn shop, was a victim in 33 percent of the homicides.

Fatalities resulting from falls decreased 39 percent from a high in 2009 (82 incidents) to 50 incidents in 2010, the record low since 2003. Falls from scaffolds, staging decreased 67 percent and falls from ladders decreased 54 percent. Falls involving Hispanic or Latino employees decreased by 51 percent from 2009 and, for the first time since 2003, falls were evenly distributed among White, non-Hispanic employees, with 48 percent each. Two thirds of the falls occurred in the construction industry, similar to the 67 percent in 2009.

Table 3. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Industry, Private Sector, 2009-2010

Industry	2009	2010
Total	482	456
Private Industry	427	415
Goods Producing	216	187
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	21	26
Mining	28	45
Oil and Gas Extraction	--	3
Support Activities for Mining	26	40
Construction	138	89
Construction of buildings	15	9
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	28	20
Specialty Trade Contractors	95	60
Manufacturing	29	27
Service Providing	211	228
Wholesale Trade	12	12
Retail Trade	31	25
Transportation and Warehousing	77	93
Truck Transportation	48	53
Utilities	--	4
Information	--	3
Finance and Insurance	8	7
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	3	8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	8	12
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	34	17
Education and Health Services	5	13
Health Care and Social Assistance	5	11
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3	5
Accommodation and Food Services	16	13
Other Services, except Public Administration	13	16

Notes for Table 3:

- Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are classified using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Industry data after 2008 are classified using the 2007 NAICS.
- Mining includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction Industries

Overall, 91 percent of fatal work injuries in Texas involved employees in the private industry in 2010 (Table 3). Service providing industries in the private sector recorded 50 percent of all fatal work injuries, while 41 percent were in the goods producing industries. The other 9 percent were spread among Governmental industries. Among the goods producing industries in the private sector, construction had the highest number of fatal work injuries in 2010; the total (89 incidents) was the lowest since 2003 (106 incidents) and represented a decrease of 36 percent from 2009. Thirty-seven percent of the construction industry fatalities were due to falls. Specialty trade contractors had the highest number of fatalities (60 incidents), a decrease of 37 percent from 2009. Economic factors show an employment decrease of 5 percent in the construction industry from 2009 to 2010.

Private sector mining had a total of 45 fatal work injuries in 2010, but unlike construction, experienced a 61 percent increase from 2009. Forty-four percent of the mining industry fatalities were due to transportation incidents. The support activities for the mining subsector had the highest number of fatalities (40 incidents), an increase of 54 percent from 2009. Economic factors also show an employment increase of 2 percent in the mining industry from 2009 to 2010.

Among the service providing industries in the private sector, transportation and warehousing had the highest number of fatal work injuries in 2010; the total (93 incidents) was the highest since 2003 and represented an increase of 21 percent from 2009. There were a total of 74 fatal transportation incidents in the transportation and warehousing sector; of those, 72 percent were highway incidents and 14 percent involved pedestrians being struck by a vehicle, mobile equipment. The truck transportation subsector had the highest number of fatalities (53 incidents), an increase of 10 percent from 2009.

Table 4. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Industry, Public Sector, 2009-2010

Industry	2009	2010
Total	482	456
Government	55	41
Federal Government	19	7
State Government	7	6
Local Government	29	28
Police Protection	8	15

Nine percent of the fatal work injury cases involved government employees (Table 4). Fatal work injuries among government employees decreased 25 percent in 2010 (41 incidents). Over two-thirds (68 percent) of the fatalities occurred in local government, 15 percent occurred in state government, and 17 percent occurred in federal government. Local government police protection fatalities increased from 8 in 2009 to 15 in 2010.

Employee Demographics

Fatal work injuries to wage and salary employees increased by 6 percent from 370 in 2009 to 394 in 2010, while fatalities among the self-employed decreased by 45 percent from 112 in 2009 to 62 in 2010.

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Women accounted for 7 percent of the total fatalities (30 incidents) in 2010. They were involved in fatal transportation incidents in 53 percent of the cases (16 incidents) and were victims of an assault or a violent act in 27 percent of the cases (8 incidents). The leading cause of fatalities among men was transportation incidents with 180 incidents (42 percent), followed by assaults and violent acts with 66 incidents (15 percent).

Fatal work injuries decreased in 2010 for employees 20 to 24 years of age to 25 incidents, from 39 incidents in 2009, and for employees 35 to 44 years of age to 85 incidents, from 108 incidents in 2009. The age group 65 years and over experienced an increase from 37 incidents in 2009 to 44 incidents in 2010.

The number of fatal work injuries rose among White, non-Hispanic employees from 239 incidents in 2009 to 255 incidents in 2010, but decreased from 43 to 26 incidents for Black, non-Hispanic (40 percent) and from 185 to 162 incidents in 2010 for Hispanic or Latino employees (12 percent). A transportation incident was the leading cause of fatal work injuries for all three groups.

The TDI-DWC provides various safety and health services to assist employers in providing safe and healthy workplaces, including free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations; regional and onsite safety training; free safety training DVD/video 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. For more information about fatal work-related incidents, contact the TDI-DWC by telephone at 512-804-4658 or send an e-mail to cfoi@tdi.texas.gov.

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