



## Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

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### **Texas Fatal Occupational Injuries Decrease in 2013 (Preliminary Results)**

In 2013, there were 493 fatal occupational injuries in Texas, an 8 percent decrease from 536 in 2012, according to preliminary data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). Nationally, there were a total of 4,405 fatal occupational injuries. The rate of fatal occupational injuries in Texas was 4.4 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2012, the latest year state fatality rates are available. Fatal occupational injury rates for 2013 at the state level will not be available until spring, 2015, when the final CFOI data are released.

Incidence rates for non-fatal injuries and illnesses by industry for 2013 will be released in October 2014. In 2012, the Texas incidence rate for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses was 2.7 per 100 full-time employees, while the national rate was 3.4 per 100 full-time employees. The Texas non-fatal incidence rate has been below the national rate since data collection began in 1990.

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) compiles detailed information on all occupational fatalities occurring in Texas for the CFOI, a program jointly administered with the BLS. The DWC annually releases total fatal injury 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 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**

- In Texas, transportation incidents continued as the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries and accounted for the majority of the total decrease in fatal occupational injuries in 2013, declining by 49 incidents from 2012. Specifically, roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle decreased from 193 to 154 incidents.
- At the state level, transportation incidents involving the support activities for mining industry decreased from 30 incidents in 2012 to 25 in 2013. In the truck transportation industry, these incidents decreased from 66 to 53 incidents. Wholesale trade experienced 18 transportation incidents, up from 12 in 2012.
- Contact with objects surpassed falls as the second leading cause of fatal occupational injuries, up from 65 in 2012 to 76 in 2013. Of these, 72 percent involved being struck by an object or equipment (55 incidents), an increase of 17 percent from 2012 (47 incidents). Eighteen percent involved

employees being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (14 incidents), an increase from 5 incidents in 2012.

- The industry subsectors in Texas experiencing the highest number of fatal occupational injuries were truck transportation (64 incidents), specialty trade contractors (64 incidents), support activities for mining (47 incidents), heavy and civil engineering construction (37 incidents), and justice, public order, and safety activities (36 incidents).
- In Texas in 2013, the occupation experiencing the most fatalities was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with 104 incidents. This was a 14 percent decrease in fatal injuries from the 121 incidents in 2012. Construction trade workers followed with 78 fatal injuries in 2013 compared to 82 incidents in 2012. Within the construction trade occupations, construction laborers accounted for 34 of the total fatal injuries.

## **Causes of Fatalities**

### *Transportation Incidents*

Transportation incidents were again the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in Texas in 2013, with 213 incidents (43 percent of the total fatalities). This was a decrease of 19 percent from 2012 (262 incidents). Of the transportation incidents, 154 were roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle, 30 were pedestrian vehicular accidents, 12 were non-roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle, 8 were aircraft incidents, 6 were rail vehicle incidents, and 3 were water vehicle incidents.

Of the roadway incidents, two-thirds occurred on a state or U.S. highway (102 incidents). A freight hauling and utility truck such as a tractor trailer truck or delivery truck or van was involved in 53 percent of the roadway incidents (82 incidents) and 60 percent of the incidents involved collisions with another vehicle (92 incidents). Eighty-nine of the employees involved were in the transportation and material moving occupations and 25 were in the construction and extraction occupations. Employees between the ages of 35 to 54 years were involved in 44 percent of the roadway incidents (67 incidents). The months with the highest number of roadway incidents were August (19 incidents) and March (17 incidents).

Of the 30 pedestrian vehicular incidents, 18 occurred on a street or highway and 6 occurred at an industrial place or premise. Ten pedestrians were struck by a multi-purpose vehicle such as a pickup truck or sport utility vehicle, 9 were struck by an automobile and 6 were struck by a freight hauling and utility truck such as a tractor trailer truck or dump truck. Over one-third of the employees involved in pedestrian vehicular incidents were in the transportation and material moving occupations (11 incidents).

There were a total of 12 non-roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle in 2013. Of those, 8 occurred during a jack-knifed or overturned vehicle. Seven of those incidents involved a construction, logging, and mining machinery such as an excavator, a loader, or a road grader and 3 involved off-road and industrial powered vehicle such as an all-terrain vehicle, a forklift, or a farm tractor.

### *Contact with Objects and Equipment*

The second leading cause of fatal occupational injuries was contact with objects and equipment with 76 incidents; an increase of 17 percent from 2012 (65 incidents). Of those, 72 percent involved being struck by an object or equipment (55 incidents), an increase of 17 percent from 2012 (47 incidents). The number of employees being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects increased from 5 in 2012 to 14. Seven incidents involved an employee being struck, caught, or crushed in a collapsing structure, equipment, or material, down from 12 in 2012.

Over one quarter of the contact with objects and equipment involved machinery such as excavating machinery, cranes, loaders, etc. (20 incidents), 24 percent involved a vehicle (18 incidents), and 16

percent involved a structure or surface (12 incidents). One-third of the contact with objects and equipment incidents involved employees in the construction and extraction occupations (25 incidents) and one quarter involved employees in the transportation and material moving occupations (19 incidents).

Nearly one-third of the contact with objects and equipment incidents occurred in the construction industry, with 22 incidents, and 9 occurred in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry. These types of incidents increased in the manufacturing industry, up from 7 to 12.

### *Falls*

The third leading cause of fatal occupational injuries was falls, slips, or trips with 73 incidents. Of those, 79 percent involved falls to a lower level (58 incidents); this was the same revised total from 2012 (58 incidents). Thirty-one percent of the falls to a lower level occurred at a residential and industrial construction site (18 incidents); and 40 percent of the employees were in construction trades occupations (23 incidents), a slight decrease from 2012 (25 incidents).

**Table 1. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Event or Exposure, 2012-2013**

Event or Exposure	2012	2013
Total	536	493
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	67	66
Intentional injury by person	54	61
Homicides	36	43
Suicides	18	18
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	7	--
Animal and insect related incidents	6	5
Transportation incidents	262	213
Aircraft incidents	14	8
Rail vehicle incidents	9	6
Pedestrian vehicular incident	31	30
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in work zone	5	6
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in roadway	11	10
Pedestrian struck by vehicle on side of road	4	--
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in nonroadway area	10	12
Water vehicle incident	--	3
Roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	193	154
Roadway collision with other vehicle	105	92
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	39	36
Roadway noncollision incident	49	26
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	13	12
Nonroadway noncollision incident	10	12
Fire or explosion	22	32
Fire	5	24
Collapsing building, structure, or structural element during fire	--	7
Explosion	17	8
Explosion of pressure vessel, piping, or tire	9	4
Fall, slip, trip	75	73

Event or Exposure	2012	2013
Fall on same level	15	14
Fall to lower level	58	58
Other fall to lower level (from ladders, roofs, scaffolds, structural steel, trees, nonmoving vehicles, stairs)	45	36
Other fall to lower level less than 6 feet	5	4
Other fall to lower level 6 to 10 feet	8	4
Other fall to lower level 11 to 15 feet	4	3
Other fall to lower level 16 to 20 feet	8	7
Other fall to lower level 21 to 25 feet	3	9
Other fall to lower level 26 to 30 feet	3	--
Other fall to lower level more than 30 feet	9	5
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	44	31
Exposure to electricity	23	15
Exposure to temperature extremes	6	4
Exposure to other harmful substances	11	10
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol unintentional overdose	6	5
Contact with objects and equipment	65	76
Struck by object or equipment	47	55
Struck by powered vehicle nontransport	23	23
Struck by falling object or equipment	19	23
Struck by discharged or flying object	--	3
Struck by swinging or slipping object, other than handheld	--	3
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	5	14
Caught in running equipment or machinery	5	11
Struck, caught, or crushed in collapsing structure, equipment, or material	12	7

#### 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/oshcdef.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 2013 are preliminary. Data for 2012 are revised and final.
- Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.

#### Fatalities by Industry

Overall, 88 percent of fatal occupational injuries (434 incidents) in Texas involved employees in the private sector in 2013 (Table 3). The service providing industries in the private sector recorded 47 percent of all fatal occupational injuries (232 incidents), while 41 percent (202 incidents) occurred in the goods producing industries. The other 12 percent (59 incidents) were spread among governmental industries (Table 4).

### *Goods Producing*

Among the goods producing industries in the private sector, construction had the highest number of fatal occupational injuries with 113 incidents. This represented an increase of 8 percent from 2012. Thirty-six percent of the construction industry fatalities were attributed to transportation incidents (41 incidents), a decrease of 2 percent from 2012 (42 incidents), and 28 percent were due to falls to a lower level (32 incidents), an increase of 14 percent from 2012 (28 incidents). Construction trades workers had the highest number of fatalities (67 incidents). Almost half of the construction employees involved were between the ages of 35 to 54 years (52 incidents).

The mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry experienced a total of 51 fatal occupational injuries in 2013, a 23 percent decrease from 2012. Fifty-one percent of those fatalities were due to transportation incidents (26 incidents). Extraction workers was the occupation group with the highest number of fatalities (26 incidents) in this industry, followed by transportation and material moving occupations with 15 incidents. Forty-seven percent of the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry employees involved were between the ages of 20 to 34 years (24 incidents).

### *Service Providing*

Among the service providing industries in the private sector, the transportation and warehousing sector had the highest number of fatal occupational injuries in 2013; the total (77 incidents) represented a decrease of 20 percent from 2012 yet the second highest total since 2007. Seventy-nine percent of those fatalities were due to transportation incidents (61 incidents); of those, 68 percent were roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle (52 incidents) and 5 percent involved pedestrians being struck by a vehicle (4 incidents). The occupation with the highest number of fatalities was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (65 incidents), a decrease of 16 percent from 2012 (77 incidents).

The wholesale trade industry experienced a total of 32 fatal occupational injuries in 2013, a 33 percent increase from 2012 and the highest total since 2007. Fifty-six percent of those fatalities were due to transportation incidents (18 incidents); of those, 44 percent were roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle (14 incidents). The top three occupations in the wholesale trade industry with the highest number of fatalities were laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand (7 incidents), heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (6 incidents), and sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing (5 incidents).

**Table 2. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Industry, Private Sector, 2012-2013**

Industry	2012	2013
Total	536	493
Private Industry	490	434
Goods Producing	217	202
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	23	15
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	66	51
Oil and Gas Extraction	7	3
Support Activities for Mining	58	47
Construction	105	113
Construction of buildings	11	12
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	34	37
Specialty Trade Contractors	59	64

Industry	2012	2013
Manufacturing	23	23
Service Providing	273	232
Wholesale Trade	24	32
Retail Trade	29	21
Transportation and Warehousing	96	77
Truck Transportation	79	64
Utilities	--	4
Information	5	5
Finance and Insurance	3	4
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	7	9
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	10	8
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	44	32
Education and Health Services	12	4
Health Care and Social Assistance	9	3
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4	6
Accommodation and Food Services	19	11
Other Services, except Public Administration	19	19

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.

*Government Industries*

Twelve percent of fatal occupational injuries (59 incidents) in Texas involved employees in the public sector in 2013 (Table 3), an increase of 28 percent and the highest total in seven years. Of those, 85 percent were employees in the local government (50 incidents), an increase of 52 percent from 2012 (33 incidents). Thirty-eight percent of those government employees were involved a fire (19 incidents) and 22 percent involved a homicide (11 incidents), an increase from 2012 (5 incidents). Seventy-two percent of the employees were public order and safety occupations. Of these, 14 incidents involved police protection occupations and 20 incidents involved fire protection occupations.

**Table 3. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Industry, Public Sector, 2012-2013**

Industry	2012	2013
Government	46	59
Federal Government	7	5
State Government	6	4
Local Government	33	50
Police Protection	11	14

Industry	2012	2013
Fire Protection	--	20

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 occupational injuries to wage and salary employees decreased by 2 percent; from 444 in 2012 to 434 in 2013. Fatalities among the self-employed also decreased by 36 percent from 92 in 2012 to 59 in 2013.

Women accounted for 5 percent of the total fatalities (23 incidents), a decrease from 2012 (28 incidents). They were the victims of a homicide in 39 percent of the cases (9 incidents) and were involved in a fatal roadway incident involving a motorized land vehicle in 30 percent of the cases (7 incidents). Forty-three percent of women who sustained fatal injuries were 45 to 54 years (10 incidents). Fifty-seven percent of the female employees were White, non-Hispanic; a decrease of 28 percent from 2012 (18 incidents).

The leading cause of fatalities among men was transportation incidents with 206 incidents (44 percent), a decrease from 2012 (248 incidents). They were involved in a contact with objects and equipment in 16 percent of the cases (76 incidents), an increase of 19 percent from 2012 (64 incidents).

Fifty percent of the employees were White, non-Hispanic (245 incidents), a decrease of 6 percent from 2012; 38 percent were Hispanic or Latino (188 incidents), a decrease of 6 percent from 2012; 9 percent were Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) (45 incidents), a decrease of 25 percent from 2012; and 3 percent were Asian or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic) (15 incidents), an increase of 25 percent from 2012.

The final fatal injury numbers and rate will be released in spring 2015. The CFI 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 occupational injuries, contact the DWC at 512-804-5020 or [cfoi@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:cfoi@tdi.texas.gov).