



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Division of Workers' Compensation

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2014 Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas (Preliminary Results)

In 2014, there were 524 fatal occupational injuries in Texas, a 3 percent increase from 508 in 2013, 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 4,679 fatal occupational injuries. The rate of fatal occupational injuries in Texas was 4.4 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2013, the latest year state fatality rates are available. Fatal occupational injury rates for 2014 at the state level will not be available until spring 2016, with the release of the final CFOI data.

Incidence rates for non-fatal injuries and illnesses by industry for 2014 will be released in October 2015. In 2013, the Texas private sector incidence rate for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses was 2.6 per 100 full-time employees, while the national rate was 3.3 per 100 full-time employees. The Texas non-fatal incidence rate has been below the national rate since data collection began in 1990.

The 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. DWC annually releases total fatal injury counts and descriptive data to provide information to assist employers, safety professionals, and policymakers identify occupational safety and health issues in the state.

DWC provides various safety and health services to assist employers provide safe and healthy workplaces, including guidance and resources for developing occupational driving safety programs on its *Driving Safety* website at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/drivesafe.html. Resources by industry and occupation can be found on the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) website at 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 www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html or call (800) 372-7713, option 2. In addition, employers that carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas can obtain accident prevention services from their insurance companies.

Key Findings

- In Texas, transportation incidents continued as the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries, accounting for 45 percent. While other types of transportation incident categories declined, roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle increased from 168 to 185 incidents.
- Transportation incidents involving the support activities for mining industry increased from 25 incidents in 2013 to 35. In the heavy and civil engineering construction industry, these incidents decreased from 21 to 8 incidents. The truck transportation industry experienced 50 transportation incidents, down from 57 in 2013.
- In the construction industry, fatal occupational injuries declined 9 percent from 116 incidents in 2013 to 105 in 2014.
- Fatal injuries resulting from falls declined 9 percent (from 74 to 67). Although the number of incidents involving contact with objects did not change from 2013 (76 incidents), they surpassed falls as the second leading cause of fatal occupational injuries. Of these, 75 percent involved being struck by an object or equipment, and 17 percent involved employees being caught in or compressed by equipment.
- The industry subsectors in Texas experiencing the highest number of fatal occupational injuries were specialty trade contractors (68 incidents), truck transportation (66 incidents), support activities for mining (64 incidents), administrative and support services (31 incidents), and heavy and civil engineering construction (26 incidents).
- Fatal injuries in local government declined 44 percent from 50 to 28 incidents. Most notably, protective service occupations such as fire fighters and police officers experienced 62 percent fewer fatalities.

- In Texas in 2014, the major occupation group with the highest number of fatalities was transportation and material moving occupations, with 172 incidents. This was a 6 percent increase from the 163 incidents in 2013. Of these, 65 percent were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with 112 incidents. This was a 2 percent increase in fatal injuries from the 110 incidents in 2013.
- The construction and extraction occupations had the second highest number of fatalities with 124 incidents. Of these, 57 percent) were construction trades workers (71 incidents), a decrease of 12 percent (81 incidents). More than a quarter (27 percent) involved extraction workers (34 incidents), an increase of 21 percent from 2013 (28 incidents).

Causes of Fatalities

Transportation Incidents

Transportation incidents continued as the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in Texas, with 237 incidents (45 percent of the total fatalities). This was an increase of 4 percent from 2013 (228 incidents). Of the transportation incidents, 185 were roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle, 21 were pedestrian vehicular accidents, 13 were non-roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle, 7 were water vehicle incidents, and both aircraft incidents and rail vehicle incidents had 5 incidents each (Table 1).

Of the roadway incidents, 60 percent were on a state or U.S. highway (111 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 (99 incidents) and 58 percent involved collisions with another vehicle (107 incidents). One hundred of the employees involved were in the transportation and material moving occupations and 32 were in the construction and extraction occupations.

The service providing industries in the private sector recorded more than half of the roadway incidents (96 incidents). Of these, almost one quarter of the incidents were in the truck transportation industry (45 incidents), a decrease of 12 percent from 2013 (51 incidents). The goods producing industries in the private sector recorded 39 percent of the roadway incidents (72 incidents). Of these, 19 percent were in the support activities for mining industry (35 incidents), an increase of 59 percent from 2013 (22 incidents). Employees between the ages of 35 to 54 were involved in 43 percent of the roadway incidents (80 incidents). More than half of the employees were White, non-Hispanic (95 incidents), a decrease of 2 percent from 2013; 37 percent were Hispanic or Latino (69 incidents), an increase of 38 percent from 2013. Eighty-four percent of the employees involved in roadway incidents (155 incidents) were born in the United States, 11 percent (21 incidents) were born in Mexico. The months with the highest number of roadway incidents were October (32 incidents) and September (23 incidents).

Of the 21 pedestrian vehicular incidents, 14 occurred on a street or highway and six occurred at an industrial place or premise. Seventeen pedestrians were struck by a highway vehicle such as an automobile, semi truck, dump truck, or pickup truck; three pedestrians were struck by an off-road and industrial vehicle such as a forklift or powered pallet jack. Almost two-thirds of the employees involved in pedestrian vehicular incidents were in the transportation and material moving occupations (13 incidents).

Contact with Objects and Equipment

The second leading cause of fatal occupational injuries was contact with objects and equipment with 76 incidents. Of these, three-quarters involved being struck by an object or equipment (57 incidents). Thirteen employees were caught in or compressed by equipment or objects, and six were struck, caught, or crushed in a collapsing structure, equipment, or material.

Twenty-eight percent of the contact with objects and equipment incidents involved a vehicle (21), almost one quarter involved machinery such as oil drilling rigs and machinery, cranes, etc. (18), and 20 percent involved parts and building materials (15 incidents). Nearly one-third of the contact with objects and equipment incidents involved employees in the construction and extraction occupations (24 incidents), 22 percent involved employees in the

transportation and material moving occupations (17 incidents), and 17 percent involved employees in the installation, maintenance, and repair occupations (13 incidents).

Twenty-two percent of the contact with objects and equipment incidents occurred in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry (17 incidents), an increase of 89 percent from 2013 (nine incidents); 21 percent occurred in the construction industry (16 incidents) a decrease of 27 percent from 2013 (22 incidents); and 12 percent occurred in the transportation and warehousing industry (nine incidents).

Falls

The third leading cause of fatal occupational injuries was falls, slips, or trips with 67 incidents, a 9 percent decrease from 2013. Of those incidents, 82 percent involved falls to a lower level (55 incidents). Twenty-two percent of the falls to a lower level were from a roof (12 incidents), 20 percent were from a ladder (11 incidents), and 15 percent were from a parked motorized freight hauling and utility truck (eight incidents). Thirty-one percent of the falls to a lower level occurred at a residential or construction site (17 incidents); and 36 percent of the employees were in the construction trades occupations (20 incidents).

Table 1. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Event or Exposure, 2013-2014

Event or Exposure	2013	2014
Total	508	524
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	66	66
Intentional injury by person	61	61
Homicides	43	39
Suicides	18	22
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	--	1
Animal and insect related incidents	5	4
Transportation incidents	228	237
Aircraft incidents	8	5
Rail vehicle incidents	6	5
Pedestrian vehicular incident	31	21
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in work zone	6	4
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in roadway	11	6
Pedestrian struck by vehicle on side of road	2	4
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in nonroadway area	12	7
Water vehicle incident	3	7
Roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	168	185
Roadway collision with other vehicle	100	107
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	39	37
Roadway noncollision incident	29	41
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	12	13
Nonroadway noncollision incident	12	11
Fire or explosion	32	24
Fire	24	7
Collapsing building, structure, or structural element during fire	7	--
Explosion	8	17
Explosion of pressure vessel, piping, or tire	4	--
Fall, slip, trip	74	67
Fall on same level	15	12

Event or Exposure	2013	2014
Fall to lower level	58	55
Other fall to lower level (from ladders, roofs, scaffolds, structural steel, trees, nonmoving vehicles, stairs)	36	46
Other fall to lower level less than 6 feet	4	6
Other fall to lower level 6 to 10 feet	4	12
Other fall to lower level 11 to 15 feet	3	5
Other fall to lower level 16 to 20 feet	7	--
Other fall to lower level 21 to 25 feet	9	6
Other fall to lower level 26 to 30 feet	--	3
Other fall to lower level more than 30 feet	5	9
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	31	53
Exposure to electricity	15	29
Exposure to temperature extremes	4	5
Exposure to other harmful substances	10	17
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol unintentional overdose	5	5
Contact with objects and equipment	76	76
Struck by object or equipment	55	57
Struck by powered vehicle nontransport	23	23
Struck by falling object or equipment	23	23
Struck by discharged or flying object	3	5
Struck by swinging or slipping object, other than handheld	3	5
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	14	13
Caught in running equipment or machinery	11	10
Struck, caught, or crushed in collapsing structure, equipment, or material	7	6

Notes for Table 1

- The 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 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 that was implemented for 2011 data forward, the violence and other injuries by persons or animals category includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.
- Total includes data for fatalities that do not meet publication criteria.
- Data for 2014 are preliminary. Data for 2013 are revised and final.
- Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Fatalities by Industry

Overall, 93 percent of fatal occupational injuries (486 incidents) in Texas involved employees in the private sector in 2014 (Table 2). The service providing industries in the private sector recorded 44 percent of all fatal occupational injuries (233 incidents), while 48 percent (253 incidents) occurred in the goods producing industries. The other 7 percent (38 incidents) occurred among several governmental industries.

Goods Producing

Among the goods producing industries in the private sector, the construction industry had the highest number of fatal occupational injuries with 105 incidents. This represented a decrease of 9 percent from 2013. Twenty-eight percent of the construction industry fatalities were attributed to falls, slips, or trips (29 incidents), a decrease of 9 percent from 2013 (32 incidents) and 27 percent were due to transportation incidents (28 incidents), a decrease of 36 percent (44

incidents). While construction trades workers had the highest number of fatalities (63 incidents) in this industry, this was a decrease of 10 percent. Forty-one percent of the construction employees involved were between the ages of 35 to 54 years (43 incidents). The deadliest months for the construction industry were August and October, each with 15 fatalities.

The mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry experienced 75 fatal occupational injuries in 2014, a 47 percent increase from 2013 (51 incidents). Fifty-two percent of those fatalities were due to transportation incidents (39 incidents), a 50 percent increase from 2013 (26 incidents), and 23 percent were due to contact with objects and equipment (17 incidents), an 89 percent increase from 9 incidents. Extraction workers had the highest number of fatalities in this industry (32 incidents), an increase of 23 percent. Transportation and material moving occupations experienced the second highest number of fatalities with 19 incidents. More than half of the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry employees involved were between the ages of 20 to 34 years (39 incidents); 99 percent were wage and salary employees (74 incidents); 59 percent were Hispanic or Latino employees, an increase of 69 percent from 2013; and 17 percent of the Hispanic or Latino employees were foreign born. The deadliest months were April (10 incidents) and October (11 incidents).

Service Providing

Among the service providing industries in the private sector, the transportation and warehousing industry had the highest number of fatal occupational injuries in 2014; the total (90 incidents) represented an increase of 10 percent from 2013. Seventy-three percent of those fatalities were due to transportation incidents (66 incidents). Of those, 57 percent were roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle (51 incidents) and 8 percent involved pedestrians being struck by a vehicle (seven incidents). The occupation with the highest number of fatalities was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (68 incidents).

The administrative and waste services industry had the second highest number of fatal occupational injuries in 2014 with 37 incidents, a 12 percent increase from 2013. Thirty-eight percent of those fatalities were due to transportation incidents (14 incidents). The occupation with the highest number of fatalities in this industry was landscaping and groundskeeping workers (seven incidents).

Government Industries

Thirty-eight fatal incidents in Texas involved employees in the public sector, a decrease of 36 percent from 2013. Of those, 74 percent were employees in local government (28 incidents), a decrease of 44 percent from 2013 (50 incidents). Fifty-three percent of government employees were involved a transportation incident (20 incidents), and 24 percent involved a homicide (9 incidents). Thirty-four percent of the employees involved were in protective service occupations such as fire fighters and police officers (13 incidents), a decrease of 62 percent from 2013 (34 incidents).

Table 2. Annual Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Industry, Private Sector, 2013-2014

Industry	2013	2014
Total	508	524
Private Industry	449	486
Goods Producing	208	253
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	16	21
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	51	75
Oil and Gas Extraction	3	8
Support Activities for Mining	47	64
Construction	116	105
Construction of buildings	12	11
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	37	26
Specialty Trade Contractors	67	68

Industry	2013	2014
Manufacturing	25	52
Service Providing	241	233
Wholesale Trade	33	19
Retail Trade	21	20
Transportation and Warehousing	82	90
Truck Transportation	68	66
Utilities	4	4
Information	5	--
Finance and Insurance	4	--
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	9	8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	8	12
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	33	37
Education and Health Services	4	6
Health Care and Social Assistance	3	6
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6	4
Accommodation and Food Services	12	12
Other Services, except Public Administration	20	17
Government	59	38
Federal Government	5	7
State Government	4	3
Local Government	50	28
Police Protection	14	9
Fire Protection	20	3

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.
- Data for 2014 are preliminary. Data for 2013 are revised and final.
- Dashes indicate no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Employee Demographics

Eighty-eight percent of the fatal occupational injuries involved wage and salary employees (461 incidents) and the remainder were self-employed.

Women accounted for 6 percent of the total fatalities (30 incidents), an increase from 2013 (23 incidents). They were the victims of homicides in 23 percent of the cases (seven incidents) and were involved in fatal roadway incidents involving a motorized land vehicle in 37 percent of the cases (11 incidents). More than a third of women who sustained fatal injuries were 35 to 54 years (11 incidents). The leading cause of fatalities among men was transportation incidents with 223 incidents (45 percent), followed by contact with objects and equipment in 75 incidents.

Fifty-one percent of the employees were White, non-Hispanic (265 incidents); 39 percent were Hispanic or Latino (204 incidents), 7 percent were Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) (36 incidents); and, 3 percent were Asian (non-Hispanic) (17 incidents).

The final 2014 fatal injury numbers and rate will be released in spring 2016. The CFOI data tables can be found on the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/fathomepage.html. For more information about fatal occupational injuries, contact DWC at (512) 804-5020 or cfoi@tdi.texas.gov.