

FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN TEXAS

2017



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION FEDERAL DATA COLLECTION

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Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas - 2017

There were 534 fatal occupational injuries in Texas in 2017, a 2 percent decrease from 545 in 2016 according to data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The rate of fatal occupational injuries in Texas was 4.3 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2017. Nationally, there were 5,147 fatal occupational injuries.

Incidence rates for nonfatal injuries and illnesses by industry and their case characteristics for 2017 were released in November 2018. The Texas incidence rate of nonfatal injuries and illnesses in private industry was 2.2 cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers in 2017. The national rate was 2.8.

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 BLS. DWC annually releases total fatal injury counts and descriptive data to provide information to help employers, safety professionals, and policymakers identify occupational safety and health issues.

DWC provides various safety and health services to help reduce injuries and illnesses in the workplace, including:

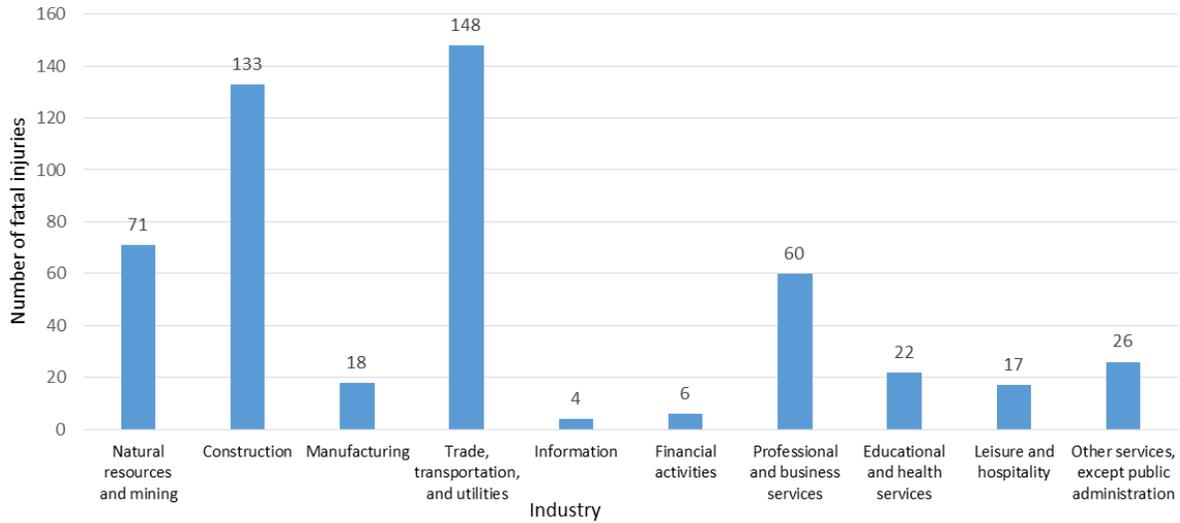
- guidance and resources for developing occupational driving safety programs on its *Driving Safety* [page](#);
- free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations;
- regional and on-site safety training;
- free safety and health publications;
- free safety training DVD loans; and
- the Safety Violations Hotline.

For more information on these services, visit www.txsafetyatwork.com or call 800-252-7031, option 2. Employers who carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas can get accident prevention services from their insurance companies at no additional charge.

Key Findings

- The industry with the highest number of fatal work injuries was trade, transportation, and utilities with 148 incidents, which accounted for 28 percent of all incidents. This is an increase from 2016 in both total number of incidents (140) and percent of total incidents (26 percent). The industry with the second highest number of fatal work injuries was construction with 133 incidents, which accounted for 25 percent of all incidents. This is a small decrease in total number of incidents from 2016 (136) that results in no change in the percentage of incidents. (Chart 1)

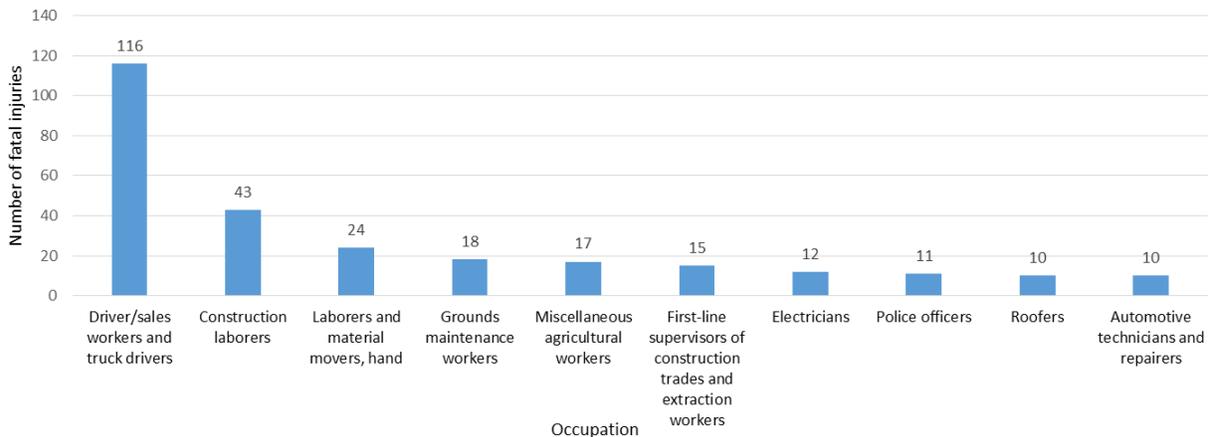
Chart 1 - Fatal work injuries in selected industries, all ownerships, Texas, 2017 (534 total fatal injuries)



[SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2018]

- The occupation with the highest number of fatal work injuries was driver/sales workers and truck drivers with 116 incidents, which accounted for 22 percent of all incidents. This is an increase from 2016 in both total number of incidents (106) and percent of total incidents (19 percent). The occupation with the second highest number of fatal work injuries was construction laborers with 43 incidents, which accounted for 8 percent of all incidents. This is a decrease in total number of incidents from 2016 (49) that results in a small change in percentage of incidents (9 percent). (Chart 2)

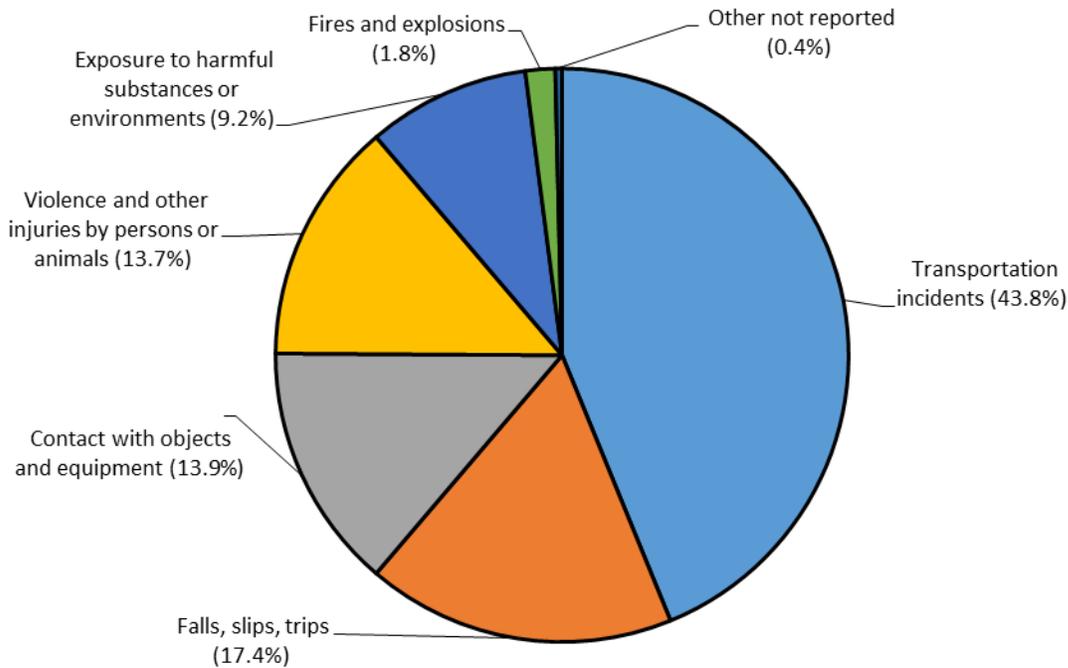
Chart 2 - Occupations with the largest number of worker fatal injuries, all ownerships, Texas, 2017 (534 total fatal injuries)



[SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2018]

- The event or exposure with the highest number of fatal work injuries was transportation incidents with 234 incidents, which accounted for 44 percent of all incidents. This is a decrease from 2016 in both total number of incidents (244) and percent of total incidents (45 percent). The event or exposure with the second highest number of fatal work injuries was falls, slips, trips with 93 incidents, which accounted for 17 percent of all incidents. This is an increase in the total number of incidents from 2016 (90). (Chart 3)

Chart 3 - Workplace fatal injuries by event or exposure, all ownerships, Texas, 2017 (534 total fatal injuries)



[SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2018]

Fatalities by Industry

Private sector employers experienced 491 incidents in 2017. Goods-producing industries recorded 218 incidents, which accounted for 44 percent. This is a decrease from 2016 in total number of incidents (223). Service-providing industries recorded 273 incidents, which accounted for 56 percent. This is an increase from 2016 in both total number of incidents (260) and in the percentage of incidents (54 percent). The other 43 incidents involved governmental employees, a decrease from 2016 (62).

Goods-Producing Industries

Among the goods-producing industries in the private sector, the construction industry had the highest number of fatal injuries with 129, which accounted for 26 percent of all private sector occupational injuries. This represents a decrease in incidents from 2016 (133). The event or exposure of falls, slips, trips, within the construction industries held steady, from 2016 to 2017 at 44 incidents which accounted for 34 percent. The majority (42) of these were falls to a lower level. The event or exposure within the construction industry with the second highest incident count was transportation incidents with 30, down from 2016 (38). Transportation incidents accounted for 23 percent of all construction incidents. Eighty-five of the construction industry fatalities occurred in the specialty trade contractors' industry subsector, which accounted for 66 percent of all construction incidents. The number of incidents in the manufacturing industry decreased by half from 36 in 2016 to 18 in 2017.

Service-Providing Industries

Among the service-providing industries in the private sector, the trade, transportation, and utilities industry had the highest number of fatal injuries with 147, which accounted for 30

percent of all private sector fatal occupational injuries. This represents an increase in incidents from 2016 (132). The industry subsector within trade, transportation, and utilities with the highest number of fatal injuries was transportation and warehousing with 110 incidents. This industry subsector accounted for 75 percent of all the trade, transportation, and utilities fatalities, and 22 percent of all private industry fatalities. The number of fatal occupational injuries within the transportation and warehousing industry subsector that were due to transportation incidents increased to 88 from 66 in 2016, and accounted for 18 percent of all private industry fatalities. The majority (68) of these were roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles.

Government Industries

Of the 43 incidents involving governmental employees 26 were employees in local government. Fifteen of the 26 were involved in protective service occupations, such as police protection (11) and fire protection (four). (Table 1)

Table 1. Number of fatal occupational injuries in Texas by industry, 2016-2017

Industry	2016	2017
Private Industry	483	491
Goods-producing	223	218
Natural resources and mining	54	71
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	19	32
Mining	35	39
Oil and gas extraction	3	3
Support activities for mining	31	36
Construction	133	129
Construction of buildings	17	14
Heavy and civil engineering construction	27	29
Specialty trade contractors	89	85
Manufacturing	36	18
Service-providing	260	273
Trade, transportation, and utilities	132	147
Utilities	5	3
Wholesale trade	22	16
Retail trade	21	18
Transportation and warehousing	84	110
Truck transportation	64	86
Information	6	4
Financial activities	9	6
Real estate and rental leasing	7	5
Professional and business services	69	59
Professional and technical services	12	12
Administrative and waste services	57	47
Administrative and support services	44	42
Waste management and remediation services	13	5

Industry	2016	2017
Education and health services	11	13
Educational services	5	--
Health care and social assistance	6	13
Leisure and hospitality	20	17
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	8	--
Accommodation and food services	12	15
Food services and drinking places	9	12
Other services, except public administration	13	26
Repair and maintenance	10	21
Automotive repair and maintenance	7	15
Government	62	43
Federal government	21	8
State government	8	9
Local government	33	26
Elementary and secondary schools	4	6
Police protection	16	11
Fire protection	--	4
Total	545	534

Notes for Table 1:

- CFOI has used several versions of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) since 2003 to define industry. For more information on the version of NAICS used in this year, see our definitions page at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm
- Includes fatal injuries 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.
- Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

Fatalities by Occupation

Transportation and material moving occupations had 169 fatal occupational injuries in 2017, which accounted for 32 percent of all fatal work injuries. This is an increase from 2016 in both total number of incidents (155) and in the percentage of incidents (28 percent). Within the transportation and material moving occupations, motor vehicle operators had the highest incident rate with 124 incidents, which accounted for 73 percent of all transportation and material moving occupation incidents. Motor vehicle operators, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers had 99 incidents, which accounted for 59 percent of all transportation and material moving occupations.

The occupation with the second highest incident count was construction and extraction with 138 incidents in 2017, which accounted for 26 percent of all fatal work injuries. This is an increase from 2016 in both total number of incidents (132) and in the percentage of incidents (24 percent). Within the construction and extraction occupations, construction trade workers had the highest number with 102 incidents, which accounted for 74 percent of all construction and extraction incidents.

Military specific occupations saw a 69 percent decrease from 16 incidents in 2016 to five incidents in 2017. Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations saw a 111 percent increase from nine incidents in 2016 to 19 incidents in 2017. (Table 2)

Table 2. Number of fatal occupational injuries by major occupational group, 2016-2017, Texas

Major Occupational Group	2016	2017
Transportation and material moving	155	169
Construction and extraction	132	138
Installation, maintenance, and repair	63	45
Protective service	30	32
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	28	28
Production	27	24
Sales and related	22	14
Military specific occupations	16	5
Management	13	16
Farming, fishing, and forestry	9	19
Office and administrative support	8	7
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	7	4
Architecture and engineering	7	--
Healthcare practitioners and technical	6	7
Education, training, and library	6	--
Business and financial operations	6	3
Life, physical, and social science	--	5
Food preparation and serving	--	7
Personal care and service	--	6
Total	545	534

Notes for Table 2:

- 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 in this year see our definitions page at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcdef.htm.
- Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward.

Causes of Fatalities

Transportation Incidents

Transportation incidents continue to be the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in Texas with 234 incidents in 2017, which accounted for 44 percent of all incidents. This is a decrease from 244 incidents in 2016. Within this event there were 160 roadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle; 44 pedestrian vehicular incidents; 12 aircraft incidents; 11 non-roadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle; four water vehicle incidents; and three rail vehicle incidents.

Looking at the 160 roadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle, roadway collisions with other vehicles accounted for 82 incidents, 28 of which were moving in the opposite direction, or oncoming. Roadway collisions with an object other than a vehicle accounted for 37 incidents, while roadway noncollisions accounted for 40 incidents. Ninety incidents occurred on a state or U.S. highway and 42 on an interstate, freeway, or expressway. A semi, tractor-trailer,

or tanker truck was involved in 72 of the roadway incidents, 31 involved a pickup, and 20 involved a delivery truck or van.

Private industry employees accounted for 218 of the transportation incidents, 93 percent of all transportation incidents. The goods-producing industries had 75 incidents or 32 percent of all transportation incidents. Meanwhile, service-providing industries had 143 incidents which accounted for 61 percent of all transportation incidents, and governmental employees accounted for 7 percent of the total transportation incidents.

Pedestrian vehicular incidents accounted for 44 incidents. Of these incidents, 24 occurred on a street or highway with 14 in a road construction zone. Sixteen of the pedestrians were struck by a pickup truck, and eight were struck by a semi tractor-trailer or tanker truck. Twenty were struck by a vehicle in a nonroadway area.

Falls

The second-leading cause of fatal occupational injuries was falls, slips, or trips with 93 incidents, which accounted for 17 percent of all fatal occupational injuries. The goods-producing industry with the most fatal falls was construction with 44 incidents. The service-providing industry with the most fatal falls was professional and business services with 16, while trade, transportation, and utilities had 13 incidents.

Falls to a lower level account for 81 incidents or 15 percent of all fatal occupational injuries for 2017. This is an increase from 2016 for both the number of incidents (71) and percentage of incidents (13 percent). Forty-seven percent of the falls to a lower level were from structures and surfaces (38 incidents), such as roofs (19 incidents) and scaffolds and staging (seven incidents). Fatal falls from all kinds of ladders accounted for 19 incidents. Falls to a lower level of 11 to 15 feet increased 82 percent from 2016 (11 incidents) to 20 incidents in 2017. Thirty of the falls to a lower level occurred at an industrial place, such as a construction site (16 incidents). Twenty-seven incidents occurred at a private residence, nine of which were construction sites. (Table 3)

Table 3. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Event or Exposure, 2016-2017

Event or Exposure	2016	2017
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	74	73
Intentional injury by person	66	63
Homicides	45	35
Suicides	21	28
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	--	4
Animal and insect related incidents	7	6
Transportation incidents	244	234
Aircraft incidents	11	12
Rail vehicle incidents	8	3
Pedestrian vehicular incident	42	44
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in work zone	11	11
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in roadway	8	7
Pedestrian struck by vehicle on side of road	7	3

Event or Exposure	2016	2017
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in nonroadway area	14	20
Water vehicle incident	4	4
Roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	169	160
Roadway collision with other vehicle	99	82
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	32	37
Roadway noncollision incident	38	40
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	10	11
Nonroadway noncollision incident	9	10
Fire or explosion	10	9
Explosion	8	5
Fall, slip, trip	90	93
Fall on same level	16	12
Fall on same level due to tripping	3	6
Fall to lower level	71	81
Other fall to lower level (from ladders, roofs, scaffolds, structural steel, trees, nonmoving vehicles, stairs)	58	71
Other fall to lower level less than 6 feet	8	9
Other fall to lower level 6 to 10 feet	11	8
Other fall to lower level 11 to 15 feet	11	20
Other fall to lower level 16 to 20 feet	9	8
Other fall to lower level 21 to 25 feet	4	4
Other fall to lower level 26 to 30 feet	6	3
Other fall to lower level more than 30 feet	6	11
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	50	49
Exposure to electricity	27	26
Exposure to temperature extremes	5	6
Exposure to other harmful substances	15	12
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol unintentional overdose	8	8
Inhalation of harmful substance	7	4
Contact with objects and equipment	75	74
Struck by object or equipment	53	47
Struck by powered vehicle nontransport	22	20
Struck by falling object or equipment	23	21
Struck by discharged or flying object	3	4
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	17	11
Caught in running equipment or machinery	15	8
Struck, caught, or crushed in collapsing structure, equipment, or material	5	14
Total	545	534

Notes for Table 3:

- Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward.

Employee Demographics

Men accounted for 93 percent of total fatalities. Forty-five percent of the total occupational fatal injuries for 2017 happened to employees between the ages of 45-64. Forty-five percent of the employees were White (non-Hispanic) (241); 41 percent were Hispanic or Latino (219); 11 percent were Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) (60); and 2 percent were Asian (non-Hispanic) (10). Eighty-three percent of the fatal occupational injuries involved wage and salary employees (441 incidents) and the remainder were self-employed (93).

The CFI 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) 804-4640 or cfoi@tdi.texas.gov

Footnotes For All Tables

- Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.
- Data for all years are revised and final.
- -- indicates no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.
- CFI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

