



2018 Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas

TDI Division of Workers'
Compensation

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2018 FATAL OCCUPATION INJURIES IN TEXAS

The data in this report is the latest available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The report is created by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) in cooperation with BLS. DWC releases total fatal injury counts and descriptive data annually to provide information that helps employers, safety professionals, and policymakers identify occupational safety and health issues.

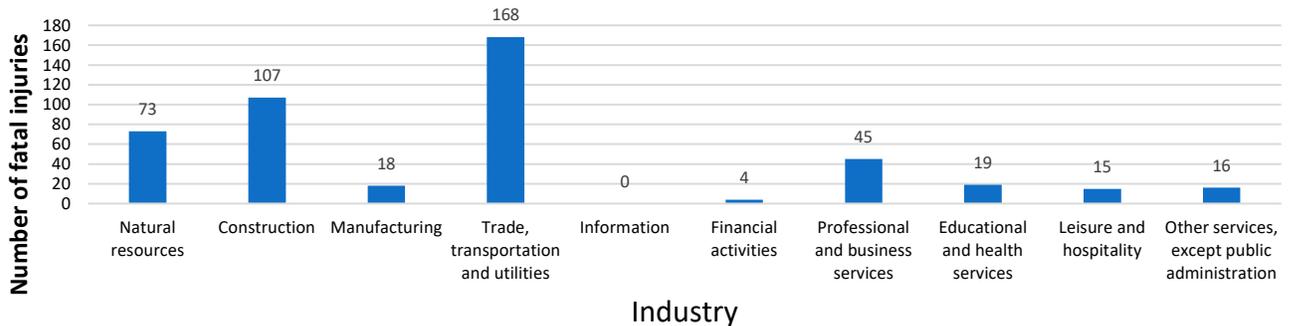
Key Findings

There were 488 fatal occupational injuries in Texas in 2018, a 9 percent decrease from 534 in 2017. The incident rate of fatal occupational injuries in Texas was 3.8 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2018. Nationally, there were 5,250 fatal occupational injuries for an incident rate of 3.5.

Industries

The industry with the highest number of fatal work injuries was trade, transportation, and utilities with 168 incidents, which accounted for 34 percent of all incidents. This was an increase from 2017 in both total number of incidents (148) and percent of total incidents (28 percent). The industry with the second highest number of fatal work injuries was construction with 107 incidents, which accounted for 22 percent of all incidents. This was a decrease in total number of incidents from 2017 (133) and a decrease in percent of total incidents (25 percent). (Chart 1)

**Chart 1 - Fatal Work Injuries in Selected Industries, All Ownerships, Texas 2018
(488 total fatal injuries)**



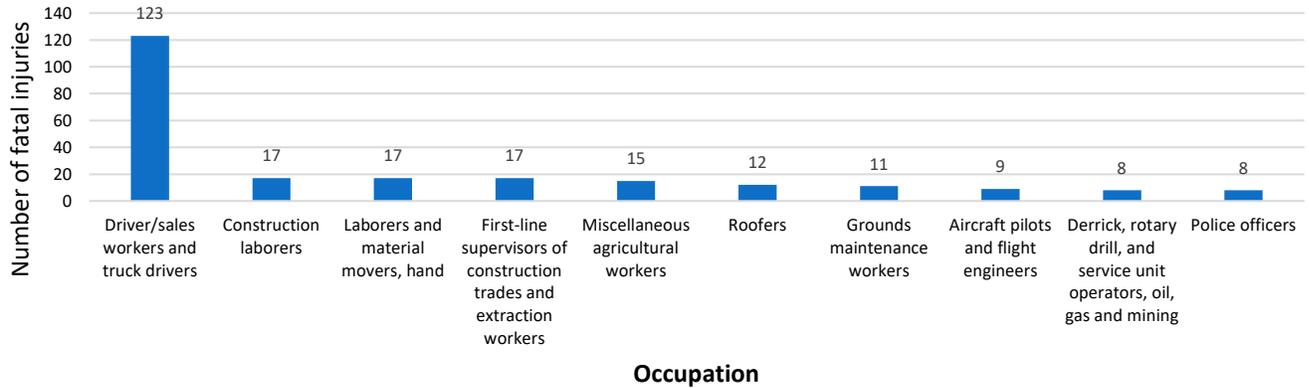
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2019

Occupations

The occupation with the highest number of fatal work injuries was driver/sales workers and truck drivers with 123 incidents, which accounted for 25 percent of all incidents. This was an increase from 2017 in both total number of incidents (116) and percent of total incidents (22 percent). Construction laborers had 17 incidents, which accounted for 4 percent of all

incidents. This was a decrease in both total number of incidents from 2017 (43) and percent of incidents (8 percent). (Chart 2)

Chart 2 - Occupations With the Largest Number of Worker Fatal Injuries, All Ownerships, Texas 2018 (488 total fatal injuries)

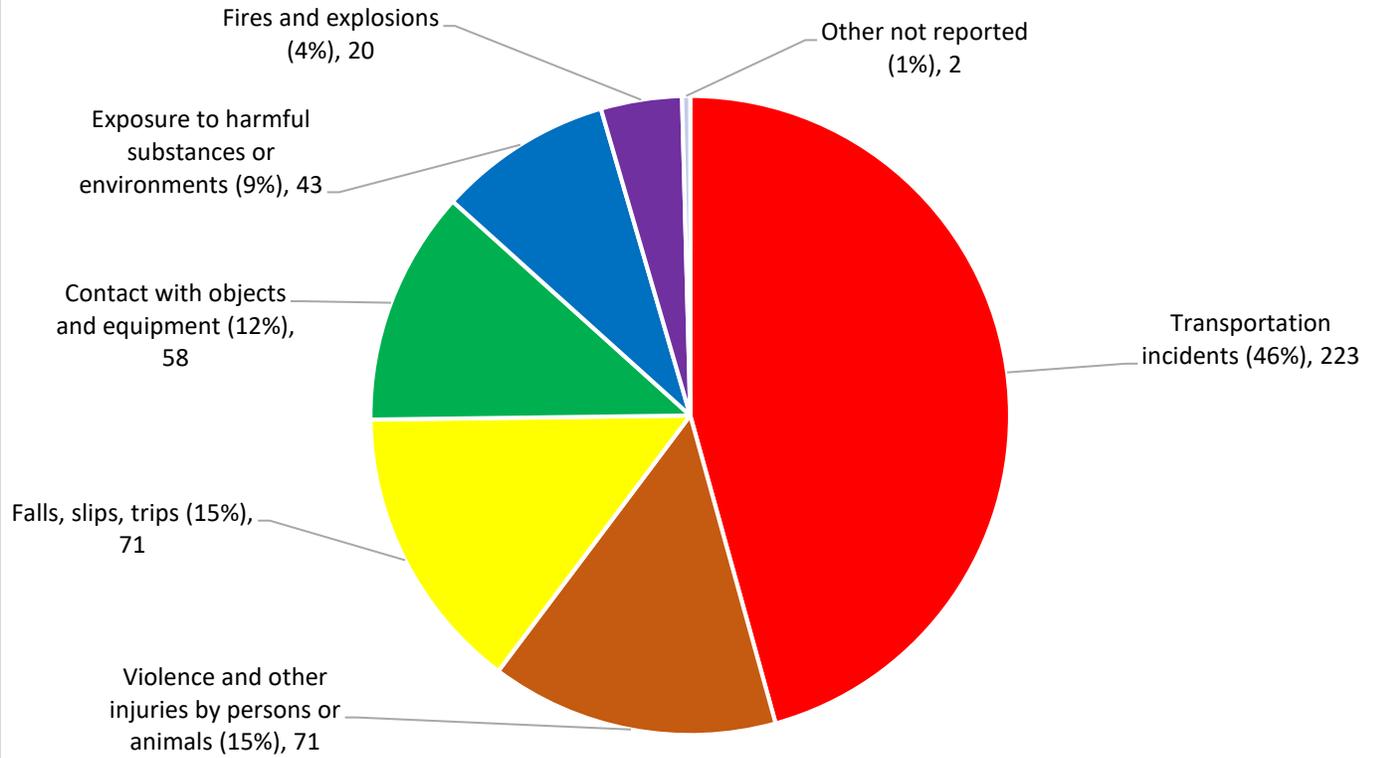


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2019

Case Characteristics

The event or exposure with the highest number of fatal work injuries was transportation incidents with 223 incidents, which accounted for 46 percent of all incidents. This was a decrease from 2017 in total number of incidents (234) but an increase in percent of total incidents (44 percent). Falls, slips, and trips, and violence and other injuries by persons or animals were tied with 71 incidents and accounted for 15 percent each of all incidents. For falls, slips, and trips this was a decrease in both the total number of incidents from 2017 (93) and in percent of total incidents (17 percent). For violence and other injuries by persons or animals this was a small decrease in both the total number of incidents from 2017 (73) and in percent of total incidents (14 percent). (Chart 3)

Chart 3 - Workplace Fatal Injuries by Event or Exposure, All Ownerships, Texas, 2018 (488 Total Fatal Injuries)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2019

Workplace Characteristics

The following two sections contain information about the industries and occupations of fatally injured employees. Industry information is about the type of business where an employee worked. Occupation information is about the 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, as well as service-providing industries. This report presents both industry and occupational information to provide a more complete picture of the workplace characteristics of fatally injured employees.

Fatalities by Industry

Private sector employers experienced 454 incidents in 2018 for 93 percent of all incidents. Goods-producing industries recorded 198 incidents, which accounted for 44 percent of all private sector incidents. This was a decrease from 2017 in total number of incidents (218). Service-providing industries recorded 256 incidents, which accounted for 56 percent. This was a decrease from 2017 in total number of incidents (273). The other 34 incidents involved governmental employees, a decrease from 2017 (43) and accounted for 7 percent of all incidents.

Goods-Producing Industries

Among the goods-producing industries in the private sector, the construction industry had the highest number of fatal injuries with 107, which accounted for 24 percent of all private sector fatal occupational injuries. This represented a decrease in both incidents from 2017 (129) and percent (26 percent). Mining incidents increased to 49 in 2018, accounting for 11 percent of all private sector incidents. This was an increase from 2017 in both number (39) and in percent of incidents (8 percent).

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 164, which accounted for 36 percent of all private sector fatal occupational injuries. This represented an increase in incidents from 2017 (147) and in percent of incidents (30 percent). The industry subsector within trade, transportation, and utilities with the highest number of fatal injuries was transportation and warehousing with 115 incidents, which accounted for 25 percent of all private industry incidents.

Government Industries

Of the 34 fatalities that involved governmental employees, 23 were employees in local government. Eleven of the 23 were involved in protective service occupations, such as police protection (eight) and fire protection (three). (Table 1)

Table 1. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas by Industry¹, 2017-2018

Industry	2017	2018
Private Industry	491	454
Goods-producing	218	198
Natural resources and mining	71	73
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	32	24
Mining ²	39	49
Oil and gas extraction	3	9
Support activities for mining	36	38
Construction	129	107
Construction of buildings	14	19
Heavy and civil engineering construction	29	21
Specialty trade contractors	85	67
Manufacturing	18	18
Service-providing	273	256

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

² 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.

Industry	2017	2018
Trade, transportation, and utilities	147	164
Utilities	3	--
Wholesale trade	16	20
Retail trade	18	28
Transportation and warehousing	110	115
Truck transportation	86	89
Information	4	--
Financial activities	6	4
Real estate and rental leasing	5	3
Professional and business services	59	44
Professional and technical services	12	13
Administrative and waste services	47	31
Administrative and support services	42	27
Waste management and remediation services	5	4
Education and health services	13	12
Educational services	--	4
Health care and social assistance	13	8
Leisure and hospitality	17	15
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	--	--
Accommodation and food services	15	13
Food services and drinking places	12	11
Other services, except public administration	26	16
Repair and maintenance	21	15
Automotive repair and maintenance	15	11
Government³	43	34
Federal government	8	5
State government	9	5
Local government	26	23
Elementary and secondary schools	6	6
Police protection	11	8
Fire protection	4	3
Total	534	488

Fatalities by Occupations

While most occupations stayed the same or saw decreases in the number of fatal occupational incidents, transportation and material moving increased from 169 in 2017 to 174 incidents in 2018. It accounted for 36 percent of all fatal work injuries, an increase from 2017 (32 percent). Two occupations saw increases in 2018 from no reported fatal

³ Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by federal, state, local, and foreign governmental organizations regardless of industry.

occupational injuries in 2017: architecture and engineering with 11 incidents, and education, training, and library with six.

The occupation with the second highest incident count was construction and extraction with 105 incidents in 2018, which accounted for 22 percent of all fatal work injuries. This was a decrease from 2017 in both total number of incidents (138) and in percent of incidents (26 percent). (Table 2)

Table 2. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Major Occupational Group⁴, 2017-2018, Texas

Major Occupational Group	2017	2018
Transportation and material moving	169	174
Construction and extraction	138	105
Installation, maintenance, and repair	45	47
Protective service	32	21
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	28	16
Production	24	16
Sales and related	14	24
Military specific occupations	5	3
Management	16	16
Farming, fishing, and forestry	19	16
Office and administrative support	7	6
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	4	--
Architecture and engineering	--	11
Healthcare practitioners and technical	7	7
Education, training, and library	--	6
Business and financial operations	3	--
Life, physical, and social science	5	--
Food preparation and serving	7	7
Personal care and service	6	3
Total	534	488

Case Characteristics

Case characteristics provide details of the fatal injuries experienced by employees. The total incident rate for each case characteristic category may not add up to the total incident rate of 3.8, and the number of cases may not add up to 488, because of rounding and data from non-selected characteristics.

⁴ 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/oshcfdef.htm.

Event or Exposure

Transportation incidents continued to be the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in Texas with 223 incidents in 2018, which accounted for 46 percent of all incidents. This was a decrease in incidents (234) from 2017, but an increase in percentage (44 percent). Within this event there were 166 roadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle; 25 pedestrian vehicular incidents; 10 aircraft incidents; 13 non-roadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle; and six rail-vehicle incidents.

Looking at the 166 roadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle, roadway collisions with other vehicles accounted for 99 incidents, or 20 percent of all fatalities. Roadway collisions with an object other than a vehicle accounted for 44 incidents, while roadway noncollisions accounted for 23 incidents.

Pedestrian vehicular incidents accounted for 25 incidents. Ten pedestrians were struck by a vehicle in a nonroadway area.

Intentional injury by person accounted for 70 incidents. Homicides were up one percent from 35 in 2017 to 40 in 2018. There were 30 suicides, up slightly from 2017 (28). Falls to a lower level accounted for 53 incidents, or 11 percent of all fatal occupational injuries for 2018. This was a decrease from 2017 for both the number of incidents (81) and percent of incidents (15 percent). Falls to a lower level of 11 to 15 feet decreased from 2017 (20 incidents) to six incidents in 2018. (Table 3)

Table 3. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure, Texas, 2017-2018

Event or Exposure	2017	2018
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	73	71
Intentional injury by person	63	70
Homicides	35	40
Suicides	28	30
Injury by person—unintentional or intent unknown	4	--
Animal and insect related incidents	6	--
Transportation incidents	234	223
Aircraft incidents	12	10
Rail vehicle incidents	3	6
Pedestrian vehicular incident	44	25
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in work zone	11	--
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in roadway	7	8
Pedestrian struck by vehicle on side of road	3	4
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in nonroadway area	20	10
Water vehicle incident	4	--
Roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	160	166
Roadway collision with other vehicle	82	99
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	37	44
Roadway noncollision incident	40	23

Event or Exposure	2017	2018
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	11	13
Nonroadway noncollision incident	10	10
Fire or explosion	9	20
Explosion	5	16
Fall, slip, trip	93	71
Fall on same level	12	17
Fall on same level due to tripping	6	6
Fall to lower level	81	53
Other fall to lower level (from ladders, roofs, scaffolds, structural steel, trees, nonmoving vehicles, stairs)	71	39
Other fall to lower level less than 6 feet	9	10
Other fall to lower level 6 to 10 feet	8	4
Other fall to lower level 11 to 15 feet	20	6
Other fall to lower level 16 to 20 feet	8	4
Other fall to lower level 21 to 25 feet	4	5
Other fall to lower level 26 to 30 feet	3	3
Other fall to lower level more than 30 feet	11	4
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	49	43
Exposure to electricity	26	23
Exposure to temperature extremes	6	5
Exposure to other harmful substances	12	10
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol unintentional overdose	8	7
Inhalation of harmful substance	4	3
Contact with objects and equipment	74	58
Struck by object or equipment	47	47
Struck by powered vehicle nontransport	20	18
Struck by falling object or equipment	21	20
Struck by discharged or flying object	4	5
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	11	8
Caught in running equipment or machinery	8	8
Struck, caught, or crushed in collapsing structure, equipment, or material	14	3
Total	534	488

Demographics

Men accounted for 93 percent of total fatalities (455 incidents). Twenty-eight percent of the total occupational fatal injuries for 2018 happened to employees over the age of 55 (139 incidents). Forty-five percent of the employees were White (non-Hispanic) (219); 41 percent were Hispanic or Latino (198); 11 percent were Black or African-American (non-Hispanic)

(56); and 2 percent were Asian (non-Hispanic) (12). Eighty-two percent of the fatal occupational injuries involved wage and salary employees (402 incidents) and the remainder were self-employed (86).

The CFI data tables can be found on the [TDI website](#). For more information about fatal occupational injuries, contact DWC at (512) 804-4640 or cfoi@tdi.texas.gov.

ENDNOTES

CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Data for all years is revised and final.

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 this year, see the [BLS definitions page](#).

This report includes fatal injuries at all establishments categorized in NAICS as Mining (Sector 21), including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction.

Beginning with survey year 2011, the classification system used to code case characteristics and occupations was revised, which created a break in series. Case characteristics (nature, body part, source, and event) and many occupations for years after 2011 are not comparable to data for years before 2011.

A dash indicates 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 2019.

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 (OSHA) regulations;
- regional and onsite 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 that carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas can get accident prevention services from their insurance companies at no additional charge.



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