

TEXAS RATES OF WORK-RELATED INJURIES  
AND ILLNESSES REQUIRING DAYS AWAY  
FROM WORK

2017



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE  
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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## 2017 Texas Rates of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Away from Work

Of approximately 183,400 nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses reported by Texas private industry employers, 26 percent, or 48,490 of these cases were of a more serious nature and resulted in days away from work (DAFW) for 2017. This resulted in an incident rate for DAFW cases of 57.4 per 10,000 full-time employees (FTE), according to estimates from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII). The median days away from work for private industry employers, a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses, was seven in 2017. (Table 1)

**Table 1. Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work, Private Industry, Texas 2016-2017**

Private Industry	2016	2017
Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work	51,470	48,490
Incidence rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work per 10,000 FTEs	61.4	57.4
Median days away from work	8	7

The data in this report are the latest available from SOII conducted by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) in cooperation with BLS. It covers the circumstances of the injuries and illnesses, as well as the characteristics of the employees reported in cases that involved days away from work. The occupational injury and illness rates are based on a statistical sample of private businesses in Texas. This data helps employers, safety professionals, and policymakers identify occupational safety and health issues. Employers with questions about participating in this survey may call DWC at 866-237-6405. 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](http://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.

### Industries

The goods-producing industries reported 12,370 DAFW cases and an incident rate of 66.1 per 10,000 FTEs. Meanwhile, the service-providing industries reported a higher count of cases at 36,120 and a lower incident rate of 54.9. Median days away from work for the service-providing industries was six days, which was lower than the 13 days for the goods-producing industries. Education and health services was the only industry sector to report a significant decrease in both the count (from 7,370 to 5,860) and incidence rate (from 61.8 to 48.2) for DAFW cases in 2017. (Table 2)

**Table 2. Number and Incidence Rate of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Selected Major Industry Sectors, Private Industry, Texas 2017**

Industry	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases	Median Days Away from Work
<b>Private Industry</b>	57.4	48,490	7
<b>Goods-producing</b>	66.1	12,370	13
Natural resources and mining	56.8	1,570	30
Construction	63.3	4,550	17
Manufacturing	71.4	6,250	9
<b>Service-providing</b>	54.9	36,120	6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	85.1	17,830	9
Information	68.6	1,220	17
Financial, insurance, and real estate	22.3	1,510	4
Professional and business services	29.9	3,800	4
Education and health services	48.2	5,860	5
Leisure, entertainment, and hospitality	51.5	4,580	5
Other services (except public administration)	50.9	1,320	4

### Occupations

The occupations that experienced a statistically significant decrease in incidence rate from 2016 are farm, fishing, and forestry occupations (231.8 per 10,000 FTEs to 80.6); arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations (75.8 to 10.8); and community and social service occupations (45.4 to 17.2). (Table 3)

**Table 3. Incidence Rates and Numbers of Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work and Median Days Away from Work by Major Occupational Group, Private Industry, Texas 2017**

Major Occupational Group	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases	Median Days Away from Work
Transportation and material moving	167.3	11,950	9
Installation, maintenance, and repair	147.8	6,150	12
Healthcare support	107.4	2,460	4
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	89.6	1,950	7
Production	87.7	5,110	8
Farming, fishing, and forestry	80.6	310	6
Construction and extraction	75.7	3,920	20
Protective service	59.0	540	7
Healthcare practitioners and technical	50.3	2,370	5
Food preparation and serving related	49.8	3,890	4
Sales and related	34.9	3,530	7
Management	30.3	1,170	4
Office and administrative support	25.6	3,460	8
Education, training, and library	22.4	210	4
Personal care and service	18.2	470	4
Community and social service	17.2	70	4

Major Occupational Group	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases	Median Days Away from Work
Business and financial operations	13.3	570	3
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	10.8	90	7
Architecture and engineering	7.6	150	2
Life, physical, and social science	6.2	30	3
Legal	4.0	20	1
Computer and mathematical	2.0	60	21

### Case Characteristics

Accounting for 37 percent of the total DAFW cases, sprains, strains, and tears in the nature of injury, illness category had 17,860 cases. Eyes, in the part of body affected category, saw a decrease in case count from 1,940 in 2016 to 810 in 2017 and incident rate from 2.3 to 1.0. In the source of injury, illness category, person, other than injured or ill worker saw a decrease in cases from 2,930 to 2,320 and incident rate from 3.5 to 2.7. Within the event or exposure category, overexertion and bodily reaction reported 13,850 cases; contact with object, equipment had 13,480 cases; and falls, slips, trips had 13,080 cases, with the three components accounting for 83 percent of all cases. (Table 4)

**Table 4. Incidence Rates and Numbers of Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Selected Characteristics, Private Industry, Texas 2017**

Nature of Injury, Illness	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Fractures	5.9	5,020
Sprains, strains, tears	21.1	17,860
Amputations	0.5	420
Bruises, contusions	5.1	4,290
Chemical burns and corrosions	0.3	250
Heat (thermal) burns	0.9	780
Soreness, pain	6.3	5,330
Cuts, lacerations, punctures	7.5	6,330
Carpal tunnel syndrome	0.2	160
Tendonitis	0.1	130
Multiple traumatic injuries	1.3	1,070
Part of Body Affected	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Head	5.5	4,620
Eye	1.0	810
Neck	0.6	490
Trunk	12.6	10,620
Back	9.3	7,900
Upper extremities	17.7	14,980
Shoulder	3.8	3,180
Arm	2.3	1,970
Wrist	2.1	1,750
Hands	8.6	7,270
Lower extremities	14.8	12,510
Knee	4.9	4,170

Ankle	3.4	2,850
Foot	3.1	2,640
Toe, toenail	0.6	520
<b>Body systems</b>	1.4	1,170
<b>Multiple body parts</b>	4.7	3,930
<b>Source of Injury, Illness</b>	<b>Incidence Rate</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
<b>Chemicals, chemical products</b>	0.9	730
<b>Containers</b>	6.8	5,720
<b>Furniture, fixtures</b>	1.7	1,430
<b>Machinery</b>	3.2	2,680
<b>Parts and materials</b>	5.8	4,920
<b>Person, injured or ill worker</b>	6.9	5,810
Worker motion or position	6.8	5,740
<b>Person, other than injured or ill worker</b>	2.7	2,320
Patient	1.8	1,530
<b>Floors, walkways, ground surfaces</b>	10.1	8,520
<b>Ladder</b>	1.6	1,340
<b>Hand tools</b>	2.8	2,330
<b>Vehicles</b>	8.1	6,870
Trucks	3.3	2,800
Cart, dolly, hand truck-nonpowered	0.7	610
<b>Event or Exposure</b>	<b>Incidence Rate</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
<b>Violence and other injuries by persons or animal</b>	2.1	1,790
Intentional injury by other person	0.6	510
Injury by person-unintentional or intent unknown	0.2	180
Animal and insect related incidents	1.3	1,110
<b>Transportation incidents</b>	4.2	3,550
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles	3.1	2,610
<b>Fires and explosions</b>	0.1	120
<b>Falls, slips, trips</b>	15.5	13,080
Slips, trips without fall	2.1	1,740
Fall on same level	8.7	7,310
Fall to lower level	4.5	3,810
<b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>	3.0	2,520
<b>Contact with object, equipment</b>	15.9	13,480
Struck by object or equipment	10.0	8,450
Struck against object or equipment	2.8	2,340
Caught in or compressed by object or equipment	2.7	2,260
<b>Overexertion and bodily reaction</b>	16.4	13,850
Repetitive motion involving micro tasks	0.7	590
Overexertion in lifting or lowering	5.4	4,530

## Demographics

The age groups that had a statistically significant decrease were in the service providing industries. They were ages 45-54, from 9,540 in 2016 to 7,470 in 2017 and ages 55-64, from 6,830 to 5,950. (Table 5)

**Table 5. Incident Rate and Number of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Age of Employee and Major Industry Sector, Private Industry, Texas 2017**

Age	Private Industry Incident Rate	Private Industry Case Count	Goods Producing Industries Case Count	Service Providing Industries Case Count	Median Days Away from Work
16 to 19	54.6	1,340	120	1,210	3
20 to 24	61.8	4,970	1,120	3,850	5
25 to 34	49.6	10,540	2,590	7,950	5
35 to 44	55.0	10,700	2,920	7,780	7
45 to 54	60.8	10,430	2,960	7,470	13
55 to 64	64.9	8,190	2,240	5,950	14
65 and over	66.3	2,180	410	1,780	7

## Length of Service

Employees with more than 1-5 years of service reported 18,170 DAFW cases for 2017. Employees with more than 5 years of service had the highest median DAFW at 12 days. They also had a decrease in the number of reported DAFW cases for the entire private industry, from 15,220 in 2016 to 13,100 in 2017, and a decrease in number of DAFW cases reported in the service-providing industry from 11,820 to 9,500. (Table 6)

**Table 6. Number of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Length of Service and Major Industry Sector, Private Industry, Texas 2017**

Length of Service with Employer	Private Industry	Goods Producing Industries	Service Providing Industries	Median Days Away from Work
Less than 3 months	6,150	1,590	4,550	7
3 to 11 months	10,840	2,690	8,150	5
1 to 5 years	18,170	4,490	13,680	6
More than 5 years	13,100	3,600	9,500	12

This report is a companion to the 2017 industry summary data report. DWC will issue a report covering work-related fatalities from the 2017 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in December 2018.

Additional Texas nonfatal occupational injury and illness data are available by contacting DWC at 512-804-4640, by email at [InjuryAnalysis@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:InjuryAnalysis@tdi.texas.gov), or by visiting [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/index.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/index.html). Details about the national BLS injury and illness data can be found at [www.htm.bls.gov/iif](http://www.htm.bls.gov/iif).

*Note: Beginning with survey year 2011, the classification system used to code case characteristics and occupations was revised and 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 prior to 2011.*

*Details about the data reported in this report:*

- *Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 FTEs and were calculated as:  $(N / EH) \times 20,000,000$  where, N = number of injuries and illnesses, EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year, 20,000,000 = base for 10,000 FTEs (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).*
- *Days away from work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.*
- *Data excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.*
- *Data for mining (Sector 21 in the North American Industry Classification System) includes establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to BLS by the MSHA, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect the changes OSHA made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.*
- *Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. These data do not reflect the changes OSHA made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.*
- *Because of rounding and data exclusion of nonclassifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals.*

*Source: U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, November 2018.*

