

# 2018 Rates of Texas Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Away from Work



**TDI** Division of Workers' Compensation

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# 2018 RATES OF TEXAS WORK-RELATED INJURIES AND ILLNESSES REQUIRING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK

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The data in this report is the latest available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII). The report is created by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) in cooperation with BLS. It covers the circumstances of injuries and illnesses by industry, and the characteristics of employees reported in cases that involved days away from work (DAFW). This data helps employers, safety professionals, and policymakers identify occupational safety and health issues.

## Key Findings

Of approximately 177,977 nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses reported by Texas private industry employers in 2018, 29 percent were of a serious nature and resulted in DAFW. This resulted in an incident rate of 58.7 per 10,000 full-time employees (FTEs) for DAFW cases, according to estimates from SOII. The median DAFW for private industry employers, a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses, was nine in 2018. (Table 1)

**Table 1. Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work, Private Industry, Texas 2017-2018**

Private Industry	2017	2018
Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work.	48,490	51,250
Incidence rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work per 10,000 FTEs.	57.4	58.7
Median days away from work.	7	9

## Workplace Characteristics

The following two sections contain information about the industries and occupations of injured employees. Industry information is about the type of business where an employee works. Occupation information is about the work an employee does. 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 injured employees.

### Industries

The service-providing industries continue to have the highest number of reported DAFW cases at 39,740 and a rate of 58.6 per 10,000 FTEs. The goods-producing industries reported 11,500 DAFW cases and an incident rate of 59.3 per 10,000 FTEs.

The median DAFW number represents the midpoint between the most DAFW and the fewest DAFW. Private industry’s median DAFW for 2018 is nine days, which is an increase from seven days in 2017. Median DAFW for the service-providing industries is nine days, which is lower than the 13 days for the goods-producing industries. The service providing industries’ median DAFW increased from six days in 2017 to nine in 2018.

In the goods-producing industries, the natural resources and mining sector had a significant decrease in their median DAFW from 30 days in 2017 to five days in 2018. Among the service-providing industries, the only sector to see a significant decrease in median DAFW was the information sector, which went from 17 days in 2017 to five days in 2018. The finance, insurance, and real estate sector had an increase in their median DAFW from four days in 2017 to 16 in 2018; professional and business services saw an increase from four days in 2017 to 10 in 2018; and the leisure, entertainment, and hospitality sectors had an increase from five days in 2017 to eight in 2018. (Table 2)

**Table 2. Incidence Rate and Numbers of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Selected Major Industry Sectors, Private Industry, Texas 2018**

Industry	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases	Median Days Away from Work
<b>Private Industry</b>	58.7	51,250	9
<b>Goods-producing</b>	59.3	11,500	13
Natural resources and mining	57.4	1,710	5
Construction	57.5	4,290	18
Manufacturing	61.4	5,490	8
<b>Service-providing</b>	58.6	39,740	9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	92.6	19,880	10
Information	47.8	850	5
Financial, insurance, and real estate	17.2	1,200	16
Professional and business services	31.6	4,250	10
Education and health services	56.0	6,970	5
Leisure, entertainment, and hospitality	63.1	5,690	8
Other services (except public admin)	33.7	900	3

### Occupations

More occupations had statistically significant increases in both incident rates and number of cases than had decreases from 2017 to 2018. Occupations in business and financial operations; architecture and engineering; health care support; and installation, maintenance, and repair had decreases in both incident rates and number of cases.

Occupations in computer and mathematical; education, training, and library; arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; healthcare practitioners and technical; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; personal care and service; sales and related; farming,

fishing, and forestry; and construction and extraction all had increases in both incident rates and number of cases. All other occupations remained about the same.

Occupations in arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media experienced the greatest number of median DAFW at 175, an increase of seven days from 2017. Life, physical, and social science occupations also experienced a large increase from three median DAFW in 2017 to 44 in 2018. Other occupations that experienced an increase in median DAFW include management; transportation and material moving; community and social sciences; office and administrative support; production; food preparation and serving related; and health care support. Computer and mathematical; installation, maintenance, and repair; and sales and related occupations had decreases in median DAFW from 2017 to 2018. (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 2018**

Major Occupational Group	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases	Median Days Away from Work
Transportation and material moving	158.6	11,820	14
Farming, fishing, and forestry	133.8	550	5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	125.3	2,730	8
Installation, maintenance, and repair	112.3	4,900	9
Construction and extraction	93.9	5,270	18
Healthcare support	80.9	1,830	5
Protective service	74.9	650	7
Production	72.8	4,540	10
Healthcare practitioners and technical	66.8	3,130	5
Food preparation and serving related	50.0	4,080	8
Sales and related	40.4	4,190	5
Personal care and service	40.2	1,130	5
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	37.7	360	175
Education, training, and library	34.4	350	3
Management	30.0	1,400	15
Office and administrative support	25.3	3,570	10
Community and social service	19.9	90	13
Life, physical, and social science	10.3	50	44
Business and financial operations	8.4	380	3
Computer and mathematical	4.8	140	2
Architecture and engineering	2.4	50	6
Legal	--	--	--

## Case Characteristics

Case characteristics provide details of the injuries experienced by employees. The total incident rate for each case characteristic category may not add up to the total incident rate of 58.7 and the number of cases may not add up to 51,250, because of rounding and data from non-selected characteristics.

Sprains, strains, and tears in the nature of injury, illness category had the highest number of cases at 17,440 and accounted for 34 percent of the total DAFW cases. Arm, in the part of body affected category, had an increase in case count from 1,970 in 2017 to 2,810 in 2018. In the source of injury, illness category, ladder had a decrease in cases from 1,340 to 1,000. Injuries that have a source of “patient” increased from 1,530 cases in 2017 to 2,160 cases in 2018. Within the event or exposure category, falls, slips, trips increased from 13,080 cases in 2017 to 15,040 in 2018 and accounted for 29 percent of all cases. The fall on same level event or exposure category increased from 7,310 to 9,180, and accounted for 61 percent of the falls, slips, trips category and 18 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 2018**

Nature of Injury, Illness	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Fractures	6.8	5,970
Sprains, strains, tears	20.0	17,440
Amputations	0.8	730
Bruises, contusions	6.0	5,260
Chemical burns and corrosions	0.2	210
Heat (thermal) burns	1.1	980
Soreness, pain	8.7	7,610
Cuts, lacerations, punctures	4.8	4,180
Carpal tunnel syndrome	0.1	120
Tendonitis	--	40
Multiple traumatic injuries	2.4	2,080
Part of Body Affected	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Head	5.7	5,000
Eye	1.6	1,360
Neck	0.4	370
Trunk	12.7	11,120
Back	8.1	7,100
Upper extremities	17.7	15,420
Shoulder	3.6	3,160
Arm	3.2	2,810
Wrist	2.1	1,820

<b>Part of Body Affected-Continued</b>	<b>Incidence Rate</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
Hands	7.9	6,850
<b>Lower extremities</b>	15.5	13,530
Knee	5.4	4,720
Ankle	3.7	3,200
Foot	3.8	3,270
Toe, toenail	0.6	550
<b>Body systems</b>	1.0	830
<b>Multiple body parts</b>	5.3	4,610
<b>Source of Injury, Illness</b>	<b>Incidence Rate</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
<b>Chemicals, chemical products</b>	0.8	680
<b>Containers</b>	7.2	6,290
<b>Furniture, fixtures</b>	2.4	2,070
<b>Machinery</b>	3.8	3,300
<b>Parts and materials</b>	5.1	4,410
<b>Person, injured or ill worker</b>	6.9	6,020
Worker motion or position	6.7	5,880
<b>Person, other than injured or ill worker</b>	3.3	2,890
Patient	2.5	2,160
<b>Floors, walkways, ground surfaces</b>	10.6	9,290
<b>Ladder</b>	1.2	1,000
<b>Hand tools</b>	2.5	2,170
<b>Vehicles</b>	8.5	7,380
Trucks	3.0	2,650
Cart, dolly, hand truck-nonpowered	1.0	830
<b>Event or Exposure</b>	<b>Incidence Rate</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
<b>Violence and other injuries by persons or animal</b>	2.6	2,230
Intentional injury by other person	1.0	860
Injury by person-unintentional or intent unknown	0.5	400
Animal and insect related incidents	1.1	970
<b>Transportation incidents</b>	4.3	3,720
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles	2.7	2,320
<b>Fires and explosions</b>	0.1	100
<b>Falls, slips, trips</b>	17.2	15,040
Slips, trips without fall	2.6	2,260
Fall on same level	10.5	9,180
Fall to lower level	3.8	3,320
<b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>	2.6	2,260
<b>Contact with object, equipment</b>	16.7	14,540
Struck by object or equipment	10.3	8,960

Event or Exposure-Continued	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Struck against object or equipment	3.2	2,820
Caught in or compressed by object or equipment	2.4	2,100
<b>Overexertion and bodily reaction</b>	15.2	13,260
Repetitive motion involving micro tasks	0.6	520
Overexertion in lifting or lowering	4.4	3,850

## Demographics

### Age

Two age groups had statistically significant increases across all industry sectors: ages 16 to 19 went from 1,340 in 2017 to 1,810 in 2018, and ages 55 to 64 went from 8,190 to 9,670. (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 2018**

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	82.0	1,810	280	1,530	5
20 to 24	62.9	5,600	1,120	4,480	7
25 to 34	47.9	10,460	2,630	7,820	9
35 to 44	55.8	11,050	3,320	7,730	11
45 to 54	57.3	10,100	1,830	8,270	10
55 to 64	75.8	9,670	2,000	7,680	12
65 and up	62.3	2,370	290	2,080	9

### Length of Service

Employees with more than 1 to 5 years of service had the highest number of DAFW cases for 2018 at 17,140. Employees with less than 3 months had an increase in cases from 6,150 in 2017 to 7,270 in 2018. Employees with 3 to 11 months had an increase in cases from 10,840 in 2017 to 13,400 in 2018. (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	7,270	2,180	5,080	8
3 to 11 months	13,400	2,950	10,450	10
1 to 5 years	17,140	3,270	13,870	8
More than 5 years	13,130	3,080	10,550	10

This report is a companion to the 2018 industry summary data report which can be found at <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/nonfatalhomepag.html>. In December 2019, DWC will issue a report covering work-related fatalities from the 2018 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

To get more Texas nonfatal occupational injury and illness data, contact DWC at 512-804-4640 or email [InjuryAnalysis@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:InjuryAnalysis@tdi.texas.gov). You can also visit [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 are at [www.htm.bls.gov/iif](http://www.htm.bls.gov/iif).

## ENDNOTES

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.

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).

DAFW cases include those that result in DAFW with or without job transfer or restriction.

Private industry data excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees. Totals include data for industries not shown in this report.

Data for mining 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 MSHA, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. This data does 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 is provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. This data does 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.

A dash indicates data does not meet publication guidelines.

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating state agencies, November 2019.

## DWC RESOURCES

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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.



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