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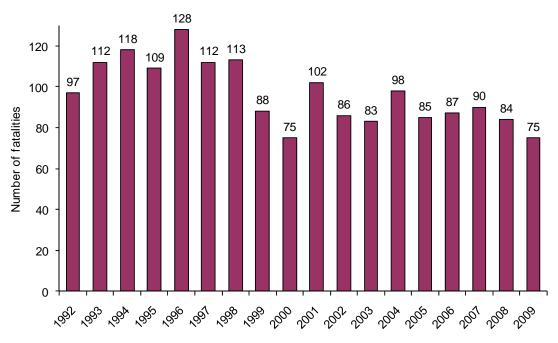
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# WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN WASHINGTON - 2009

Fatal work injuries in Washington totaled 75 in 2009, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that while these results are preliminary, the number of fatalities in Washington was down from the 84 recorded in 2008. (See chart 1.) Final 2009 national and State results will be released in April 2011.

#### Chart 1. Total workplace fatalities in Washington, 1992-2009



Note: Totals for 2009 are preliminary

The most frequent events leading to workplace fatalities in Washington in 2009 were homicides (14), followed by highway incidents (13), being struck by an object or equipment (12), and suicides (8). (See table A.) Combined, these four events<sup>1</sup> accounted for 63 percent of work-related fatalities in the State.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls, among others. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. See the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual at <u>www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm</u> for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in the census.

Fourteen fatalities from work-related homicides accounted for 19 percent of all fatal events in Washington in 2009. The State's 2009 count was one of the highest annual total recorded since the census began in 1992. Nationally, work-related homicides accounted for 12 percent of the total. (See tables A and B.)

Workplace highway incidents accounted for 13 fatalities in Washington in 2009. The series high of 29 worker fatalities from highway incidents was recorded in 1998. Highway incidents accounted for 17 percent of the State's workplace fatalities in 2009; nationally this event accounted for 20 percent of work-related deaths.

Occupational fatalities resulting from being struck by an object or equipment accounted for 12 deaths in 2009, the same as in 2008. Being struck by an object or equipment represented 16 percent of all workplace fatalities in the State and 12 percent nationwide.

Eight work-related fatalities from suicides in 2009 were the same as a year earlier. Work-related suicides represented 5 percent of on-the-job fatalities in the nation.

Year	Total Fatalities	Homid	cides	Highway	incidents	Struck by equip		Suic	ides
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	97	11	11	16	16	18	19	-	-
1993	112	7	6	20	18	20	18	-	-
1994	118	17	14	23	19	23	19	-	-
1995	109	11	10	18	17	14	13	3	3
1996	128	9	7	26	20	21	16	3	2
1997	112	10	9	24	21	11	10	5	4
1998	113	8	7	29	26	10	9	-	-
1999	88	5	6	25	28	12	14	3	3
2000	75	5	7	20	27	11	15	5	7
2001	102	6	6	22	22	13	13	3	3
2002	86	6	7	22	26	14	16	-	-
2003	83	5	6	9	11	8	10	4	5
2004	98	12	12	22	22	17	17	-	-
2005	85	4	5	23	27	15	18	-	-
2006	87	4	5	15	17	10	11	-	-
2007	90	4	4	15	17	14	16	-	-
2008 <sup>1</sup>	84	8	10	17	20	12	14	8	10
2009 <sup>2</sup>	75	14	19	13	17	12	16	8	11

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in Washington by selected event, 1992-2009

<sup>1</sup> Since the initial release of 2008 data, 1 additional job-related fatality was identified in Washington bringing the 2008 total job-related fatality count to 84.

<sup>2</sup> Totals for 2009 are preliminary.

#### Key characteristics of fatal work injuries in Washington

- Men accounted for 88 percent (66) of the work-related fatalities in Washington in 2009. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle, accounted for 29 percent of deaths among male workers. Contact with objects and equipment made up 26 percent of male work-related fatalities. (See table 2.)
- Eighty-one percent of those who died from a workplace injury in Washington were white, non-Hispanic (61) and 8 percent were Hispanic or Latino (6). (Some worker fatalities were not identified by race or ethnic origin.) Transportation incidents were the most frequent type of fatality for white, non-Hispanic workers. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 64 percent or 48 of the State's work-related fatalities in 2009. (See table 2.)
- Seventy-three percent of workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries (55), with the remaining 27 percent being self-employed. The leading fatal event for wage and salary workers was transportation incidents (17). (See table 2.)
- Two industry sectors accounted for 35 percent of the workplace fatalities in the State agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (17) and construction (9). (See table 3.)
- From an occupational perspective, transportation and material moving occupations jobs had the highest number of workplace fatalities (16), followed by farming, fishing, and forestry jobs (12). Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 37 percent of the fatal work injuries in Washington. Transportation incidents were among the most frequent cause of on-the-job fatalities for both occupational groups. (See table 4.)

#### **U.S. Workplace Fatalities**

Nationwide, a total of 4,340 fatal work injuries were reported in 2009, a decrease of 17 percent from the revised total of 5,214 recorded in 2008. This preliminary figure represents the smallest annual total since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program was first conducted in 1992. (See table B.) Economic factors played a major role in the national fatal work injury decrease as total hours worked declined during the year. Similarly, some industries that historically have accounted for a significant share of fatal work injuries, such as construction, experienced even larger declines in employment or hours worked.

Highway incidents in 2009 continued to lead all other events in the frequency of on-the-job fatalities, a position held since the program's inception in 1992. Still, the 2009 count of 882 fatal injuries from highway incidents was down 27 percent from the 2008 count of 1,215 fatal injuries.

Workplace homicides (521) declined 1 percent in 2009. Falls to a lower level decreased 13 percent (from 593 in 2008 to 518 in 2009). Around half of all fatal falls to a lower level occur in construction, so the decline in construction employment may account for the lower number of fatal work injuries due to falls to a lower level.

Workplace suicides (237) were down 10 percent nationwide in 2009 from the series high of 263 in 2008. However, the 2009 preliminary count of workplace suicides is the second highest annual total reported by the fatality census.

Thirty-seven states reported lower numbers of fatal work injuries in 2009 than in 2008, while 13 states and the District of Columbia reported higher numbers.

Year	Total Fatalities	Highway	incidents	Homi	cides	Falls to a	ower level	Struck by equip	
	i atanties	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	1,044	17	507	8	557	9
1993	6,331	1,242	20	1,074	17	534	8	565	9
1994	6,632	1,343	20	1,080	16	580	9	591	9
1995	6,275	1,346	21	1,036	17	578	9	547	9
1996	6,202	1,346	22	927	15	610	10	582	9
1997	6,238	1,393	22	860	14	653	10	579	9
1998	6,055	1,442	24	714	12	625	10	520	9
1999	6,054	1,496	25	651	11	634	10	585	10
2000	5,920	1,365	23	677	11	659	11	571	10
2001 <sup>1</sup>	5,915	1,409	24	643	11	700	12	553	9
2002	5,534	1,373	25	609	11	638	12	505	9
2003	5,575	1,353	24	632	11	604	11	531	10
2004	5,764	1,398	24	559	10	738	13	602	10
2005	5,734	1,437	25	567	10	664	12	607	11
2006	5,840	1,356	23	540	9	738	13	589	10
2007	5,657	1,414	25	628	11	746	13	504	9
2008 <sup>2</sup>	5,214	1,215	23	526	10	593	11	520	10
2009 <sup>3</sup>	4,340	882	20	521	12	518	12	414	10

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event, 1992-2009

<sup>1</sup> Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

<sup>2</sup> Totals for 2008 are revised and final. The BLS national news release issued August 20, 2009, reported a total of 5,071 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2008. Since then, an additional 143 job-related fatalities were identified bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2008 to 5,214.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 2009 are preliminary. Revised and final 2009 data are scheduled to be released April 2011.

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Website at <u>www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf</u>. Selected current and historical information is available in PDF format Detailed data may be accessed from the query system at <u>data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=fi</u> or via an extensive collection of flat text files. For further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, contact the West Information Office at 415-625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (PT).

## **Technical Note**

### Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. in each calendar year. The program uses diverse State, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site at <u>www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf</u>. The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part III of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

#### Federal/State agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or State agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Several federal and State agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in States with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

#### Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the Washington Department of Labor and Industries for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, State, local, and private sector entities that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Federal Railroad Administration; the Department of Energy; State vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; State departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; State and local police departments; and State farm bureaus.

Detailed statistics on fatal occupational injuries in Washington can be obtained from tables at <u>http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/tgs/2009/iiffi53.htm</u>

#### TABLE 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure for all fatalities and major private industry <sup>1</sup> sector, Washington, 2009

		Goods producing				Service providing							
Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining <sup>3</sup>	Construc- tion	Manufac- turing	Total service providing	Trade, transpor- tation, and utilities	Informa- tion	Financial activities	Profes- sional and business services	Education and health services		Other services
Total	75	29	17	9	3	31	19			7			
Contact with objects and equipment	19	9	7			8	6						
Struck by object or equipment		6	5			5	3						
Struck by falling object or equipment	8	3				4							
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	5												
Compressed or pinched by rolling, sliding,													
or shifting objects													
Falls		4		4									
Fall to lower level		4		4									
Fall to lower level, n.e.c													
Bodily reaction and exertion	3												
Exposure to harmful substances or environments													
Transportation accidents		10	7	3		11	6			5			
Highway accident		3				8	4			4			
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	3												
Vehicle struck object on side of road	4					4							
Noncollision accident	4	3											
Jack-knifed or overturnedno collision	3	3											
Nonhighway accident, except rail, air, water	3												
See footnotes at end of table.													

TABLE A-9. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure for all fatalities and major private industry <sup>1</sup> sector, Washington, 2009 - continued

		Goods producing				Service providing							
Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining <sup>3</sup>	Construc- tion	Manufac- turing	Total service providing	Trade, transpor- tation, and utilities	Informa- tion	Financial activities		Education and health services		Other services
Noncollision accident	3												
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle,													
mobile equipment	3												
Water vehicle accident	3	3	3										
Assaults and violent acts	22	4			3	9	6						
Assaults and violent acts by person(s)	14					6	4						
Shooting	11					4							
Self-inflicted injury	8					3							
Suicide, attempted suicide	8					3							

<sup>1</sup> Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are classified using the 2002 North American Industry Classification

Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are classified using the 2007 NAICS.
System (NAICS). Industry data after 2008 are classified using the 2007 NAICS.
<sup>4</sup> Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.
<sup>3</sup> Includes fatalities 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.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

#### Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Washington, 2009

		Event or exposure <sup>1</sup>										
Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents <sup>2</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>3</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions					
Total	75	23	22	19	5	3						
Employee Status												
Wage and Salary Workers⁴ Self-employed <sup>6</sup>			16 6	13 6	3	3 						
Gender												
Men Women	66 9	19 4	17 5	19 	5	3 						
Age												
Under 16 years												
16 to 17 years												
18 to 19 years												
20 to 24 years 25 to 34 years			3	3								
35 to 44 years			3									
45 to 54 years			5	3								
55 to 64 years		4										
65 years and over		3		5								
Race or Ethnic Origin <sup>®</sup>												
White, non-Hispanic		20	17	15	4							
Black, non-Hispanic	3											
Hispanic or Latino				4								
American Indian or Alaska Native												
Asian Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander												
Nalive nawalian of Pacific Islander												

<sup>1</sup> Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>2</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

<sup>4</sup> May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

<sup>5</sup> Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships. <sup>6</sup> Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race

categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

#### TABLE 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Washington, 2009

			Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>							
Industry <sup>1</sup>	NAICS code1	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions		
Total		75	23	22	19	5	3			
Private Industry		60	21	13	17	5				
Goods Producing		29	10	4	9	4	-			
Natural Resources and Mining		17	7		7		-			
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting		17	7		7					
Crop Production Fruit and Tree Nut Farming	1113	7 4			5 3					
Noncitrus Fruit and Tree Nut Farming Other Crop Farming		4 3			3		-			
Forestry and Logging.		3								
Logging		3								
Logging Fishing, Hunting and Trapping		5								
Fishing	1141	5	3							
Fishing Shellfish Fishing		5 4	3							
Construction		9	3			4				
		9				4				
Construction		-	3			4				
Construction of buildings Residential Building Construction		3 3								
Residential Building Construction		3								
New Single-family Housing Construction (except operative builders		3								
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	6				4	-			
Manufacturing		3		3						
Manufacturing	31-33	3		3			-			
Service providing		31	11	9	8					
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		19	6	6	6					
Wholesale Trade	42	5			3					
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	424	4								
Retail Trade	44-45	5		3						
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	9	5							
Truck Transportation General Freight Trucking		6 5	4							
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance		5	4				-			
Professional and Business Services		7	5							
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	56	5	3	-	-			-		
Administrative and Support Services		3								
Government <sup>6</sup>		15		9						
<u> </u>		10		°,						
Federal Government		3								
Service providing		3					-			
State Government		4					-			
Service providing		3					-			
Local Government		8		7						
Service providing		8		7						
Public Administration		8		7						
Public Administration		8		7						
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities	922	8		7						
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities Police Protection		8 7		7 6			-			
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<sup>1</sup> Industry data from 2003 to 2008 are classified using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Industry data after 2008 are classified using the 2007 NAICS.
<sup>2</sup> Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.
<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being

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 <sup>a</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.
 <sup>b</sup> Includes fatalities 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.

<sup>b</sup> Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry. NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

#### TABLE 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Washington, 2009

		Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>								
Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions			
Total	. 75	23	22	19	5	3				
Management occupations Other management occupations Agricultural managers Farmers and ranchers Protective service occupations Law enforcement workers Police and sheriffs patrol officers Sales and related occupations Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations Agricultural workers Miscellaneous agricultural workers Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse Fishing and hunting workers	5 4 9 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 4 12 5 5 5 4 4 4			3 3 3     4         -						
Fishers and related fishing workers	. 4 . 10	3		  4 						
extraction workers First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers Construction trades workers Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	. 3 . 7 . 3			  3 						
Transportation and material moving occupations Motor vehicle operators Driver/sales workers and truck drivers Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	. 14	10 9 8 8	3 3  	3  						

<sup>1</sup> Based on the Standard Occupational Classification System.
 <sup>2</sup> Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.
 <sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.
 <sup>a</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.
 <sup>b</sup> Military specific occupations include fatalities to persons identified as resident armed forces regardless of individual occupation listed.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. Data for 2009 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries