

State's fatal work-injuries increase in 2010

Sixty-nine fatal work-injuries were recorded in Minnesota in 2010, an increase of nine cases from 2009, but three fewer cases than in 2008. The 2010 total is below the average of 73 cases a year for 2005 through 2009. These and other workplace fatality statistics come from the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

The CFOI also provided the following statistics for Minnesota's workplace fatalities during 2010.

Industries

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting had the highest number of fatalities, with 27 cases, compared to 20 cases in 2009, which was also the highest number of fatalities. Most of the fatalities were caused by either contact with objects and equipment or transportation incidents.
- Construction recorded the second-highest number of worker fatalities, with nine cases, up from seven cases in 2009, but below the 13 cases in 2008.
- Retail trade had the third-highest number of fatalities, with seven cases.

Types of incidents

- Transportation incidents accounted for 25 fatalities and continued to be the most frequent fatal work-injury event. Fatalities resulting from transportation incidents increased from 22 cases in 2009, but remained below the 28 cases in 2008.
- Contact with objects and equipment continued to be the second-highest event category, with 17 fatalities, an increase from 14 cases in 2009, but well below the 26 cases in 2008. The most common incidents in this category were being struck by a falling object and getting caught in or crushed in collapsing materials.
- Fatalities due to assaults and violent acts increased from three cases in 2008, to 10 cases in 2009 and to 13 cases in 2010.
- There were 10 fatalities resulting from falls in 2010, compared to nine fall fatalities in 2009.



Worker characteristics

- Men accounted for 63 of the 69 fatally injured workers in 2010.
- Workers age 55 and older accounted for 24 fatalities. Twelve of these fatalities were in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry division.
- Self-employed workers accounted for 23 fatalities, including 18 fatalities to workers in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. There were 21 fatalities to self-employed workers in 2009.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' occupational safety and health statistics program, provides the most complete count of fatal work-injuries available. Workplace fatalities due to illnesses are not included.

The program uses diverse data sources to identify, verify and profile fatal work-injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry collects the information about Minnesota's workplace fatalities for the CFOI.

Minnesota CFOI tables are available at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatFatal.asp. National data from the CFOI program is available at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm.