

# 2017

## Indiana Nonfatal Injuries & Illnesses

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Analysis of the Survey of  
Occupational Injuries and  
Illnesses (SOII) Results



Prepared by the Indiana Department of Labor  
Quality, Metrics and Statistics Division

Each year, nearly 5,800 Indiana businesses participate in the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) conducted by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The Survey is designed to provide an estimate of the number of work related injuries and illnesses and a measure of the frequency at which they occur. The SOII is conducted by requesting data from employers' Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) logs showing OSHA recordable work related injuries and or illnesses that occurred in the previous calendar year. The sampled employers receive notification prior to the year they will be on the survey. After the calendar year has ended, they receive a notification that it is time to submit their OSHA logs.

The Quality, Metrics and Statistics (QMS) division of the Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) collects and codes this data on behalf of the BLS between January and July of each year. In order to ensure a representative sample size, BLS requires that 85.0% of the distributed surveys be returned within the timeframes established for the SOII. Indiana far exceeded the federal minimum standard with a response rate of 92.7% for the 2017 SOII.

The SOII uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to identify the industries and sub-industries where workplace injuries and illnesses occur. These industries can be pared down to a very detailed description of the business activity of the injured or ill worker. To maintain respondent confidentiality, data that could potentially identify a particular business, such as county or city information or industries with only a few employers in the state, are not published by BLS.

The SOII estimates are based on work related injuries or illnesses defined as recordable by OSHA. Recordable injuries and illnesses can be anything that resulted in death, days away from work (DAFW), days with job transfer or restrictions (DJTR), medical treatment beyond first aid, or loss of consciousness. Cases that meet the general recording criteria diagnosed by a physician or other licensed health care professional, even if they do not result in death, days away from work, restricted work or job transfer, medical treatment beyond first aid, or loss of consciousness, are also considered recordable.<sup>1</sup>

While collecting the SOII data, QMS has found that many employers over-record all injuries and illnesses sustained in the workplace in the OSHA logs they submit for the SOII regardless of whether they meet the minimum reporting criteria. The Indiana survey team and our counterparts in other state and federal offices screen each submitted case individually to ensure the injury or illness reported meets the requirements for a recordable injury. Injuries and/or illnesses that do not meet the minimum reporting requirements are excluded from the survey. Cases resulting in death are also excluded as the SOII deals solely with nonfatal injuries and illnesses. Fatal events are analyzed by the BLS in the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (CFOI). The 2017 CFOI will be released in December 2018.

The rates are reported as the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers. To calculate these rates, BLS divides the total number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses reported in an industry (N) by the total number of hours worked by employees in that industry (EH). To represent the hours worked by 100 full-time workers, the result is then multiplied by 200,000 to represent 100 full-time workers working 40 hours per week for 50 weeks per year.

$$\frac{N}{EH} \times (100 \times 40 \times 50) = \text{Nonfatal Injury and Illness Rate}$$

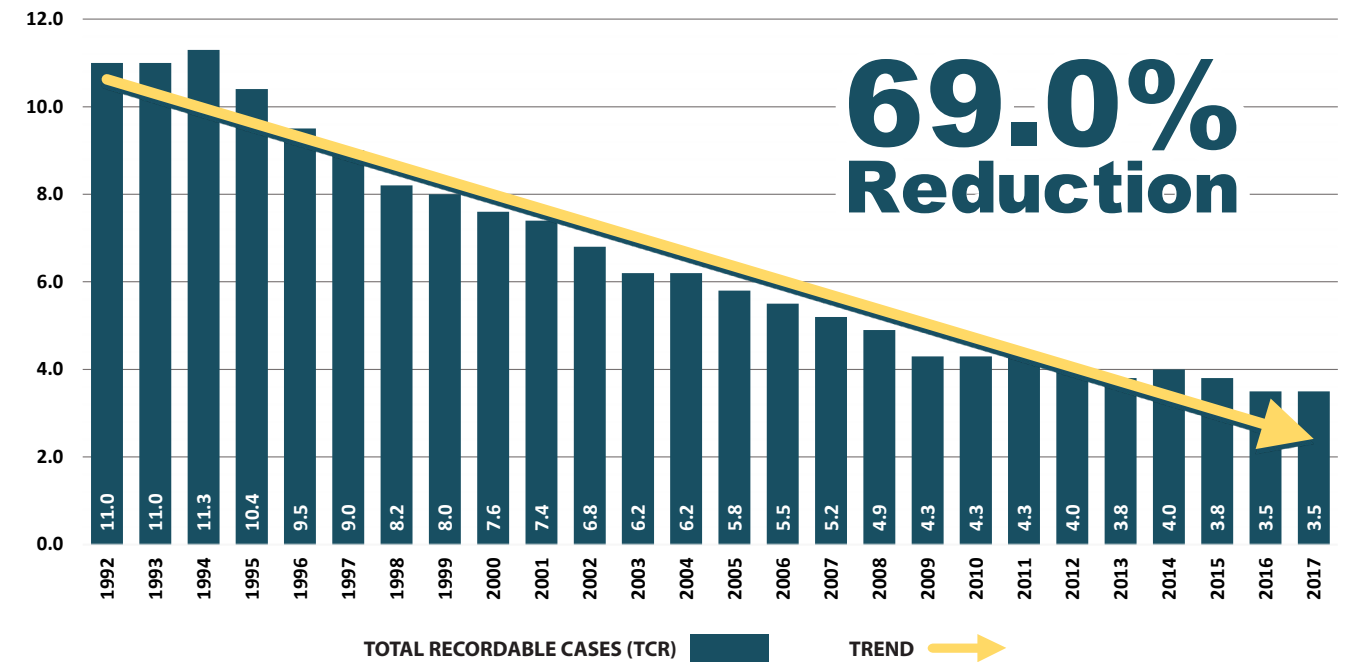
The results are parsed to show the rates for each surveyed industry, as well as the number of cases resulting in days away from work, job transfer or restriction.

For more information regarding state and national nonfatal occupational injury and illness rates, visit [www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm).

<sup>1</sup>The definitions of OSHA Recordable cases may be found online at: [https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=9638](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9638)



## Indiana's Nonfatal Occupational Injury and Illness Rate

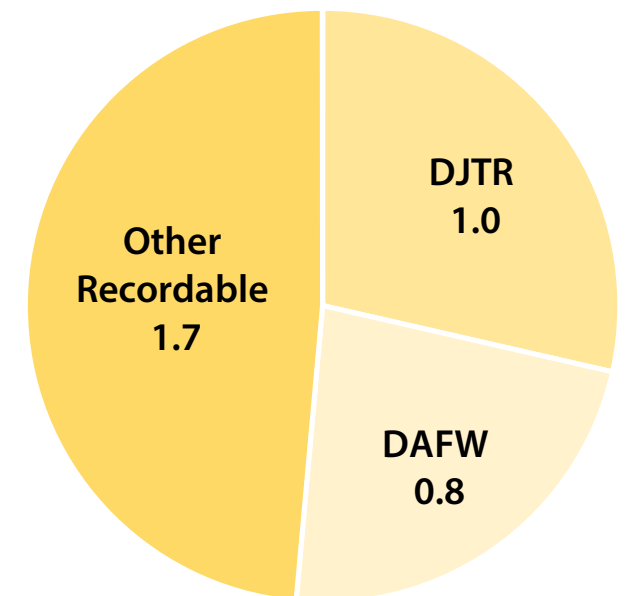


At 3.5 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers, the 2017 nonfatal injury and illness rate for Indiana tied the 2016 rate as the lowest rate of nonfatal injuries and illnesses in Indiana history. At the inception of the SOII program in 1992, the overall nonfatal injury and illness rate was 11.0 injuries per 100 full-time workers. The rate reached a high of 11.3 in 1994 and has declined by 69.0%.

The BLS estimates that around 83,500 Hoosier workers experienced a nonfatal OSHA-recordable injury or illness in 2017. This is less than a 1.0% decrease from the 2016 estimate of 84,300 injuries or illnesses.

Just over half (50.2%) of all recordable injuries and illnesses in 2017 resulted in one or more days away from work (DAFW) or days with job transfer or restriction (DJTR). This was a slight increase from 2016 recordable injuries and illnesses of 48.6%. Companies with 50 to 249 employees had the highest nonfatal injury and illness rate at 4.1, with companies of 1000 or more employees following closely with a rate of 4.0. Companies with 1 to 10 employees had the lowest nonfatal injury and illness rate at 1.3.

### 2017 Overall Injury and Illness Rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses 2017 (per 100 full-time workers)

## 2015-2017 Injury and Illness Rates By Industry

INDUSTRY	2015	2016	2017
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	7.1	4.3	5.3
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	2.7	2.6	2.7
Construction	2.8	2.8	2.6
Manufacturing	4.7	4.1	4.2
Wholesale trade	3.2	3.1	2.3
Retail trade	4.0	3.8	3.4
Transportation and warehousing	4.6	4.7	4.2
Utilities	2.2	1.4	2.1
Information	1.6	1.4	1.5
Finance and insurance	1.0	0.4	0.4
Real estate and rental and leasing	2.7	3.6	2.0
Professional, scientific, and technical services	0.7	1.1	1.3
Management of companies and enterprises	0.8	0.8	1.1
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	2.5	1.3	2.7
Educational services	2.4	2.3	1.8
Health care and social assistance	4.9	4.9	4.8
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	6.3	4.9	5.0
Accommodation and food services	3.1	3.4	3.3
Other services (except public administration)	3.6	2.5	2.4
State government	2.6	2.4	2.3
Local government	5.8	5.2	5.2

Data is courtesy of the BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2011 - 2016. These data show the estimated number of injuries per 100 full-time workers. Industry and sub-industry definitions are available online at [www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012](http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012).

Numerous factors can affect the nonfatal injury and illness rate of a particular industry. Employers, employees, regulatory agencies, outreach programs, trade organizations and labor unions can positively impact occupational safety and health through safety awareness programs, enforcement of occupational safety and health standards, training and education.

Economic factors such as the number of employees can also affect the rates, as can the sample size and the companies surveyed.

From the 2017 SOII data, 10 industries experienced decreases in their nonfatal injury and illness rates from 2016 to 2017. These included **construction, wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation and warehousing, real estate and rental leasing, educational services, health care and social assistance, accommodation and food services, other services (except public administration)** and **state government**.

In contrast, **manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, arts, entertainment and recreation, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction** and **administrative and support and waste management and remediation services** all experienced an increase in nonfatal injury and illness rates. The rates for **local government** and **finance and insurance** remained the same.

**Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services** experienced an increase in rate from 1.3 in 2016 to 2.7 in 2017. In contrast, **transportation and warehousing** saw a decrease in rate from 4.7 to 4.2 in that same timeframe.

Although the **manufacturing** industry experienced an injury and illness rate in 2017 of 4.2 injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers, a few manufacturing sub-industries had outlying rates. Specifically, **motor vehicle body and trailer manufacturing** and **manufactured home (mobile home) manufacturing** had injuries

and illnesses rates of 9.7 and 9.0 respectively. These two rates were the highest of all industries and sub-industries surveyed.

The **finance and insurance** industry continues its historic trend of having the lowest injury and illness rate of any major industry sector with a rate of 0.4, the same rate as in the 2016 SOII. All of the publishable injuries were attributed to the **credit intermediation and related activities** and **insurance carriers and related activities** sub-industries.

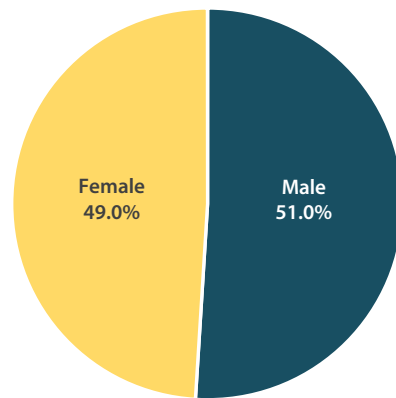
**Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting** experienced the highest estimated rate of injuries and illnesses increase in 2017 with 5.3 injuries and illnesses per 100 full time workers. In 2016, the rate was at a low 4.3 after 2015 rate of 7.1. The rate for **agriculture** has been volatile, with dramatic fluctuations in the nonfatal injury and illness rates from year to year. Some of this can be attributed to the occupational safety and health regulations surrounding farms. For example, OSHA has no jurisdiction over farms with ten or fewer employees. These smaller farms are also exempt from participating in the SOII. Therefore, the SOII estimates are often based on the cases occurring at larger farms.

The classification of **local government** includes work activities performed by a city, town, township, county or other similar governing body. Local government rates do not include federal or state government data. These duties often include administrative staff, political appointees, schools, hospitals, police, fire, emergency management, bus drivers, sanitation workers and street maintenance. Of the injuries and illnesses in local government, 0.8 cases per 100 full-time workers resulted in days away from work and 1.2 involved job transfer and restriction. Thus, 40.4% of the 2017 cases involved injuries that resulted in lost workdays or job transfer or restriction. An estimated 9,900 Hoosier workers were injured or made ill in local government in 2017, with nearly 4,000 of these injuries and illnesses resulting in at least one day of missed work or at least one day of job transfer or restriction.



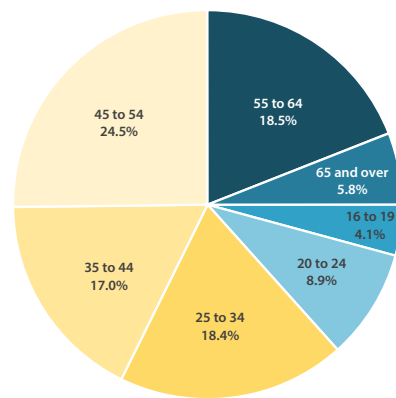
**Gender**

Per the United States Census Bureau’s Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) data, Indiana’s workforce in 2017 was comprised of nearly equal percentages of males (51.0%) and females (49.0%). Hoosier males, however, experienced the majority (57.5%) of the recordable workplace injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work. Females experienced 42.0%.



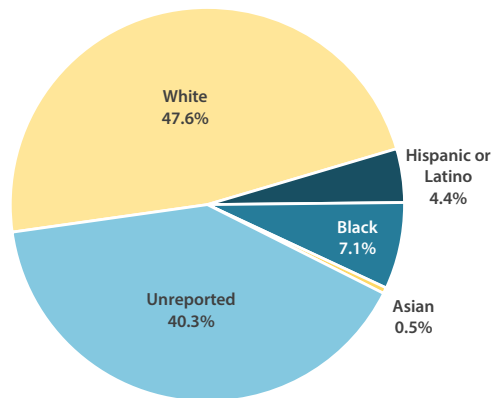
**Age**

There is a frequent misconception that workplace injuries most often befall younger workers. However, the 2017 estimates show Hoosiers 45 to 54 years of age experienced the highest percentage (24.5%) of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses involving days away from work. Workers 55 to 64 experienced 18.5 % and workers 25 to 34 experienced 18.4%. These percentages are similar to the ages of workers in Indiana as reported by the QWI.



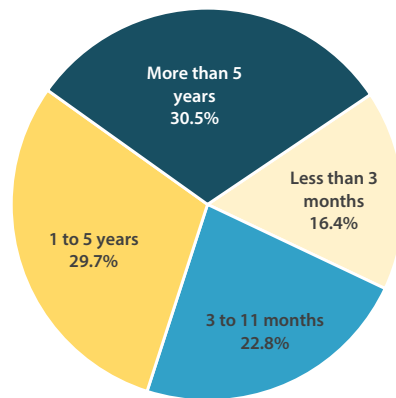
**Race or Ethnic Origin**

From our 2017 estimates, it was found that 47.6% of the nonfatal injuries and illnesses that involved days away from work affected workers classified as white only. Hispanic or Latino workers experienced 4.4%, Black workers only experienced 7.1%, and Asian workers experienced .5%. In 2017, 40.3% of surveyed injuries and illnesses involved a worker for whom race or ethnicity was either unreported or not known.



**Length of Service with Employer**

In 2017, the majority of injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work affected employees with more than 5 years (30.5%) and 1 to 5 years (29.7%) of service with their employers. Newer hires with fewer than 3 months of service accounted for 16.4% these cases.



Indiana’s nonfatal occupational injury and illness rate has been below 4.0 per 100 full-time workers for four of the last six survey years. These steady rates reflect the dedication of employers and employees to a culture of workplace safety and health excellence. Decreasing from an initial rate of 11.0 in 1992 to a rate of 3.5 in 2017, the number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses befalling Hoosier workers has decreased by more than two-thirds (68.2%) since the SOII program began. Since the program-high rate of 11.3 in 1994, the nonfatal injury and illnesses rate in Hoosier workplaces has decreased by 69.0%.

While significant progress has been made in reducing nonfatal injuries and illnesses Indiana, there is still work to be done. The Indiana Department of Labor continues to pursue its mission to advance safety, health and prosperity in the workplace and continues to educate Hoosier workers and their employers about best practices, changing standards and emphasis programs as they arise.

Over the last several years, the Indiana Department of Labor has worked alongside Hoosier employers, safety and trade associations, and organized labor to identify and correct hazards, but also to change the culture inside Hoosier businesses. The most successful occupational safety and health programs combine full management commitment with active employee involvement. Employees should be encouraged to speak up and alert management if they spot a hazard or potential safety issue. Employers can reduce employees’ exposure to hazards by being diligent in addressing safety concerns the moment they arise. Working together to foster a culture of safety and health ensures each individual is participating in and taking ownership of the well-being of his or her coworkers.

Hoosier businesses and organizations involved in the Indiana Department of Labor’s cooperative programs including partnerships, alliances, the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and the Indiana Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (INSHARP) represent employers and employees who wholly embrace workplace safety and health management at all levels—from front-line employees to upper

management. As such, these businesses regularly have lower injury and illness rates than many of their industry peers.

The Indiana Department of Labor exists to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace by providing a comprehensive framework of enforcement and compliance assistance for employers. Regulatory jurisdiction extends to occupational health and safety, coal mine safety and wage and hour requirements. For more information about the Indiana Department of Labor and its programs and divisions, please visit [www.in.gov/dol](http://www.in.gov/dol).

The Quality, Metrics and Statistics (QMS) division collects occupational safety and health data on behalf of the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These data are used to identify occupational safety and health trends in Indiana and nationwide. QMS also assists other Indiana Department of Labor divisions with performance metrics and process improvement. For more information, please visit [www.in.gov/dol/stats.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/stats.htm).



Largely funded by a federal grant, INSafe is a division of the IDOL which provides occupational safety and health compliance assistance to Hoosier employers at no cost. Through its onsite workplace consultation service, the goal of the program is to reduce work-related injuries and illnesses by assisting employers with identifying and correcting potential safety and health hazards. Employers who are interested in learning more about these services may visit [www.in.gov/dol/insafe](http://www.in.gov/dol/insafe). Employers may also contact INSafe directly by emailing [insafe@dol.in.gov](mailto:insafe@dol.in.gov), or calling (317) 232-2688.



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