



# Indiana

## Department of Labor

Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Non-fatal Workplace Injuries and Illnesses Remain at Historic Low

INDIANAPOLIS (Oct. 20, 2011) – Non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses in Indiana remained at a historically low rate for the second year in a row, according to the Indiana Department of Labor's 2010 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) report. The rate represents the 13th consecutive year the injury and illness rate has not increased, moving from 7.4 non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses per 100 workers in 2001 to 4.3 non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses per 100 workers in 2009 and 2010. There were an estimated 93,200 incidents in 2010, which was a slight drop from the estimated 94,800 incidents in 2009.

Key findings of the report include changes in the top three Hoosier industries:

- Manufacturing increased 10.6 percent (5.2 incidents per 100 workers)
- State and local government increased 2 percent (5.1 incidents per 100 workers)
- Healthcare and social assistance decreased 9.2 percent (5.9 incidents per 100 workers)

"The report shows improvements in some industries, but it is disappointing that Indiana's statewide rate did not continue to decrease. Even with significant improvements in other industries, the overall rate is greatly affected when the two largest industry sectors of Indiana employers, manufacturing and state and local government, experience increases in incidents," said Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Labor Lori A. Torres. "We must continue to address workplace health and safety in an effective and tangible way."

In addition, the following industries had a significant rate increase or decrease in 2010:

- Public education incidents increased 28.3 percent, (9 incidents per 100 workers).
- Agriculture incidents increased 157 percent (7.2 incidents per 100 workers)
- Construction incidents decreased 17.4 percent (3.8 incidents per 100 workers).
- Private schools, which includes K-12 and post-secondary institutions, decreased 17.9 percent (2.3 incidents per 100 workers)
- Retail trades decreased 9.3 percent (3.9 incidents per 100 workers)

The increase in the agriculture industry was from an exceptional record low of 2.8 incidents per 100 workers in 2009 to a more typical rate of 7.2 incidents per 100 workers in 2010. Other industries where injury and illness rates rose in 2010 were utilities (26.9 percent), transportation and warehousing (8.9 percent), and arts and entertainment (5.6 percent).



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This non-fatal injury and illness report follows the 2010 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Data that reported a record-setting low of 115 fatal incidents in Hoosier workplaces for 2010, compared to 123 fatal incidents in 2009.

To read the 2010 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) report, visit [www.in.gov/dol/2438.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/2438.htm).

Further detailed information regarding injuries and illnesses in particular occupations, industries, worker characteristics and injury event types will be released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in November.

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### **About the Indiana Department of Labor (DOL):**

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. [www.in.gov/dol](http://www.in.gov/dol).

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