

SOII Release Background Paper

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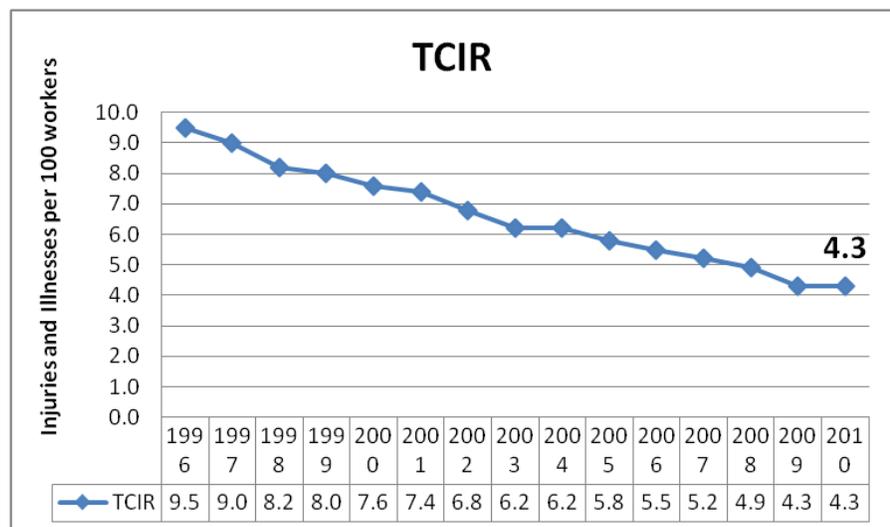
What is SOII?

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) is conducted each year to find out from selected companies across the United States the status of workplace safety. The SOII generates the estimates we use to plan safety initiatives at the Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL). SOII workers at IDOL's Division of Quality, Metrics, and Statistics poll over 5,000 Hoosier businesses from hospitals and foundries, to financial companies and professional sports teams. This data is then sent to the BLS to compile estimates of NON-fatal workplace injuries and work-related illnesses for the entire state.

To be counted as an incident for the SOII, a worker must be engaged in work at the workplace or off-site because of work; he or she must be injured or have acquired an illness from their work and require some medical attention. These estimates are used on a macro (state-wide) scale to give us an idea of the safety of Hoosiers in the workplace. These are used to target the resources available at the IDOL to assure that Indiana businesses are complying with and effectively implementing safety programs. The SOII is an effective yardstick of occupational risk that has led to great improvements in Hoosier workplace safety.

What is the State of Indiana's Rate?

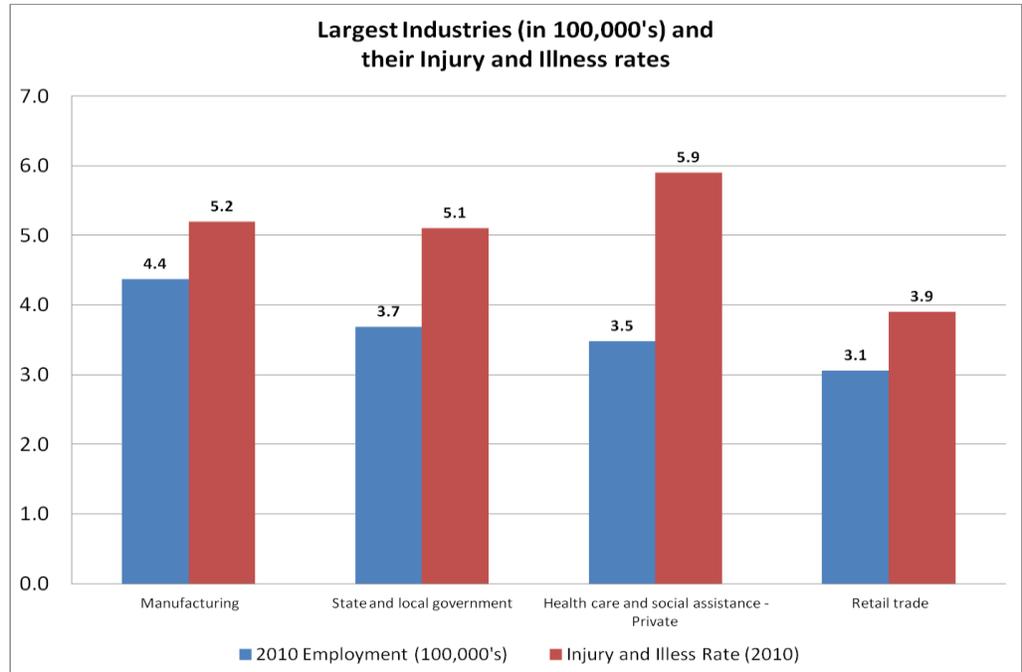
We at the IDOL calculate several statewide statistics for safety improvement. The broadest measure of injury and illnesses is the Total Case Incidence Rate (TCIR). The TCIR for 2010 in Indiana was 4.3 injuries and illnesses related to work per 100 full time equivalent persons employed in the whole state. This TCIR rate is again the lowest since we have calculated the estimates. 2009 also had a TCIR of 4.3 per 100. The rate of injury and illness has decreased from 9.5 per 100 in 1996. This decline has been happening every year, with temporary plateaus in 2003 and 2004 (TCIR= 6.2) and 2009-2010 (4.3). The bottom line is that Hoosiers continue to be increasingly safer at work, and that we have achieved a decline of more than half of the TCIR (54%) since 1996. From 2001 through 2010, the decline has been just over 40%.



How does this affect Indiana's Largest Industries?

As mentioned above, we also keep the rates of injury and illness for industry groups.

The largest private Hoosier industries are Manufacturing



(438,000 employed), State and Local Government (368,600), Health Care and Social Assistance (348,000), and Retail Trade (306,000) [see graph].

Manufacturing in Indiana had an Injury and Illness (I&I) rate of 5.2 per 100 workers. There were 22,800 recordable events from a total working population of 437,000. State and Local Government employed 368,600 Hoosiers in 2010. The 14,500 events in the workplace led to a rate of 5.1 in the SOII. Health Care and Social Assistance had 16,200 events within a working population of 348,100. This gave the industry an I&I rate of 5.9 in 2010. Retail Trade (both brick and mortar and on-line shopping) had 306,200 employees, 8,700 incidents, and a rate of 3.9 per 100 workers [see table below].

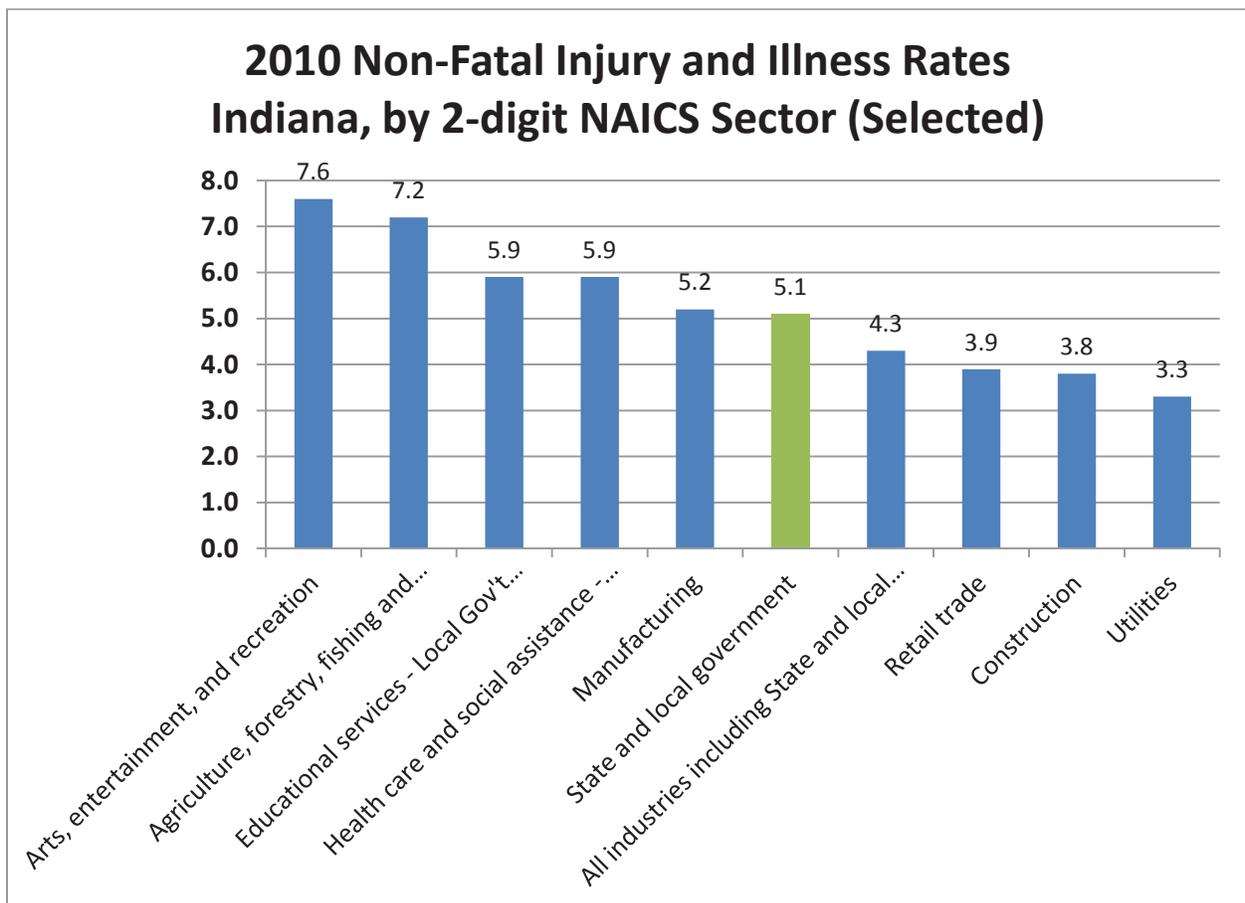
Industry	2010 Indiana Employment	2010 Injury and Illness Rate per 100 workers	Recordable Events (Injury and Illness)
<i>Manufacturing</i>	437,600	5.2	22,800
<i>State and local government</i>	368,600	5.1	14,500
<i>Health care and social assistance</i>	348,100	5.9	16,200
<i>Retail trade</i>	306,200	3.9	8,700

Where were the big changes in other industries?

On an industry scale, we find that despite the stable overall rate of 4.3 per 100 for the state, industries within that mix have fluctuations in terms of their rates. Significant upward changes (an increase in TCIR) happened in Agriculture (from 2009- 2.8 TCIR to 2010- 7.2), Manufacturing (2009- 4.7 to 2010- 5.2), Local Schools (2009- 4.6 to 2010- 5.9), and Information Services (2009- 2.9 to 2010- 3.6). Historically, Agriculture has been an industry with one of the highest injury and illness rates. 2009 was an exception that returned to a more expected number in 2010.

Local Schools includes school maintenance and grounds-workers, which accounts for much of the increase in that industry. Most service industries are relatively safe in terms of Injury and Illness rates. The relatively small increase in ALL Service industries (0.7%), affects the overall Indiana rate. It also serves as an indicator that some service industries need the education and training that our Goods Producing Industries have instituted to bring their rates down over the years.

Indiana also has some important success stories of industries and sub-industries that have lowered their rates in the past year. Construction injuries and illnesses dropped 17.9 percent, to a rate of 3.8 per 100 workers. Construction was below the overall average rate of 4.3, and well below its industry rate from 2009 of 4.6. Private Health Care and Social Assistance (-9.2%), and Retail Trade (-9.3%) are relatively large industries that also showed significant declines in the past year.



Conclusion

While the overall rate for Indiana stayed static for another year, there were appreciable improvements in significant industries, including Construction, Health Care and Social Assistance and Retail Trade. Industries in which the rates went up include Manufacturing, Transportation and Warehousing and Agriculture.

To the extent that broad generalizations can be made, IOSHA has little jurisdiction in Agriculture or the transportation segment of Transportation and Warehousing, both of which showed increases. The nearly 11% increase in Manufacturing, however, is disappointing, in that a significant amount of effort and resources of the agency are focused on Manufacturing. Whether the economic challenges of 2010 affected the rate or it was another factor, this increase in Indiana's largest employment sector kept other improvements in other areas from positively reducing the overall state rate.