

# Indiana Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses 2015

**Analysis of the 2015 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 data collected during this survey are confidential to the public, but are used by BLS to estimate the nonfatal occupational injury and illness rate, or the number of workplace injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers. The SOII is conducted by requesting data from employers' Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) logs showing OSHA recordable injuries that occurred in the previous calendar year.

The Indiana Department of Labor's Quality, Metrics and Statistics (QMS) division 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% 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 94.97% for the 2015 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 identify a particular business, such as county or city information are not published by BLS.

The SOII estimates are based on injuries defined as recordable by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Recordable injuries are injuries that result 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 survey team in Indiana, 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. Cases where injuries 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 2015 CFOI will be released in December 2016.

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.

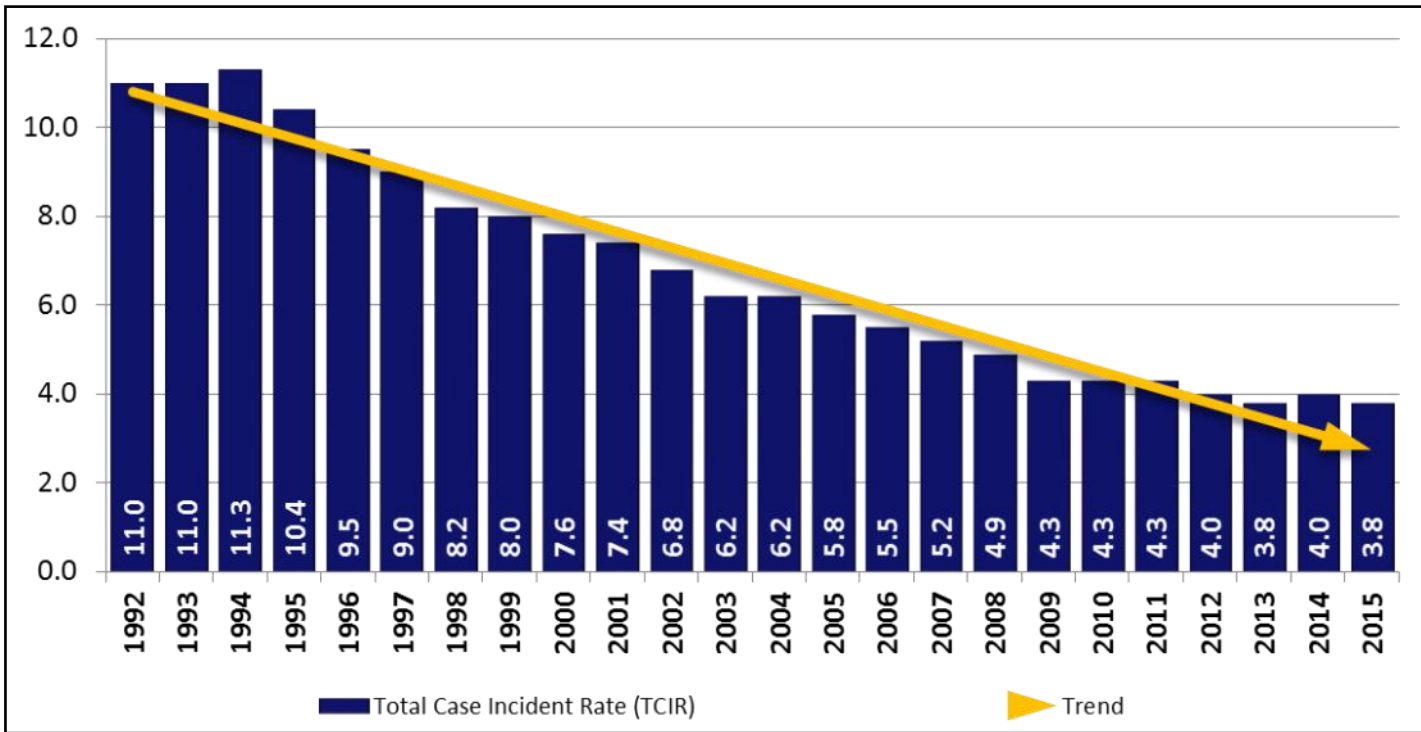
$$\frac{N}{EH} \times (100 \times 40 \times 50) = \text{Nonfatal Injury and Illness Rate}$$

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. Case and demographic information regarding the nature of the injuries and illnesses, as well as the estimated age, gender, ethnicity and years-of-service of the injured/ill will be available on or after November 10, 2016.

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

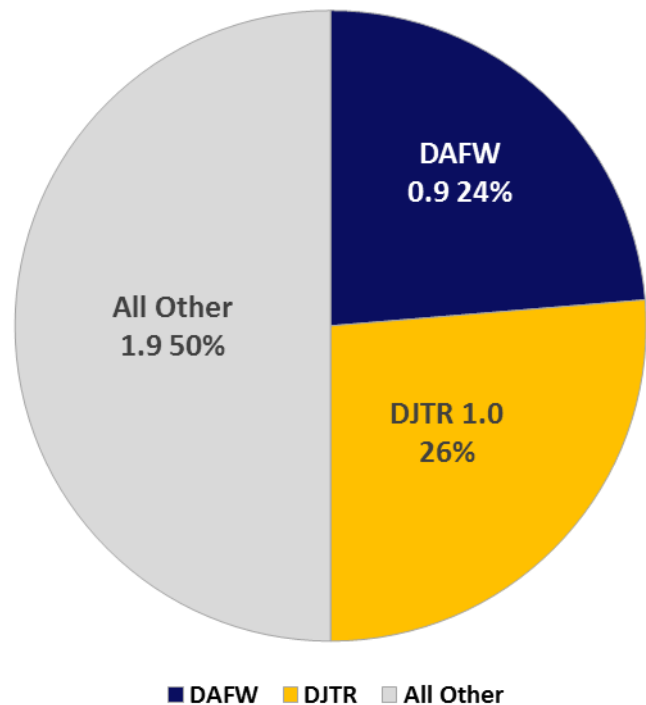


At 3.8 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers, the 2015 nonfatal injury and illness rate for Indiana tied the record for the lowest number of injuries and illnesses recorded in Indiana history. This represents a 5% decrease from the 2014 rate of 4.0. At the inception of the SOII program in 1992, 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 66.37% over the last 21 years.

The BLS estimates that 88,700 Hoosier workers experienced an OSHA-recordable injury or illness in 2015. This is a 4.93% decrease in from the 2014 estimate of 93,300 injuries or illnesses.

Companies with 50 to 249 employees had the highest nonfatal injury and illness rate at 4.5, with companies of 250 to 999 employees following closely with a rate of 4.3. Half of all recordable injuries and illnesses in 2015 resulted in one or more days away from work or days with job transfer or restriction.

### 2015 Overall Injury and Illness Rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses 2015 (per 100 full-time workers)



The continued decline in the nonfatal injury and illness rate is even more remarkable when compared to the increase in Hoosier employment since 1992. It is often thought that the injury and illness rate will rise in times of economic boon. Mathematically, the SOII data is reported as a rate per 100 full-time workers, so the number of Hoosiers working should have little direct effect on the calculation. What can potentially have an effect, however, is a sudden decrease in employment, such as during the 2008 recession, and a sharp increase in workers taking on new roles and new responsibilities perhaps in a new or unfamiliar industry.

The data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) show that Indiana's employment has steadily increased 17.03% from 2,456,778 working Hoosiers in 1992 to 2,875,101 in 2015. Meanwhile, the overall injury and illness rate has declined 65.46% since 1992. In just the short time since the lowest point of the recession in 2009, Hoosier employment climbed 8.72% in just six years, while the injury and illness rate continued to drop by 11.63%.

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 in a particular industry can also affect the rates, as can the sample size and the companies surveyed.

### 2015 Injury and Illness Rates By Industry

Industry	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	7.1	5.5	3.6	7.2	9.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	6.3	6.2	4.4	5.2	4.9
Local government	5.8	6.7	6.0	5.9	5.3
Healthcare and social assistance	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.3	6.3
Manufacturing	4.7	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.2
Transportation and warehousing	4.6	4.4	3.9	4.5	4.6
Retail trade	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.7
Other services (except public administration)	3.6	3.0	2.7	3.6	3.9
Wholesale trade	3.2	3.2	2.9	4.0	3.6
Accommodation and food services	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.5
Construction	2.8	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.9
Real estate and rental and leasing	2.7	6.4	2.8	2.7	3.0
Mining	2.7	2.7	3.2	2.6	4.7
State government	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.9	3.2
Administrative and waste services	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.5	3.0
Educational services	2.4	2.0	2.2	1.8	2.0
Utilities	2.2	1.5	2.8	3.2	N/A
Information	1.6	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.3
Finance and insurance	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.7

Source: BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses 2011-2015

This data shows the estimated number of injuries per 100 full-time workers.

Industry and sub-industry definitions are online at [www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012](http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012).



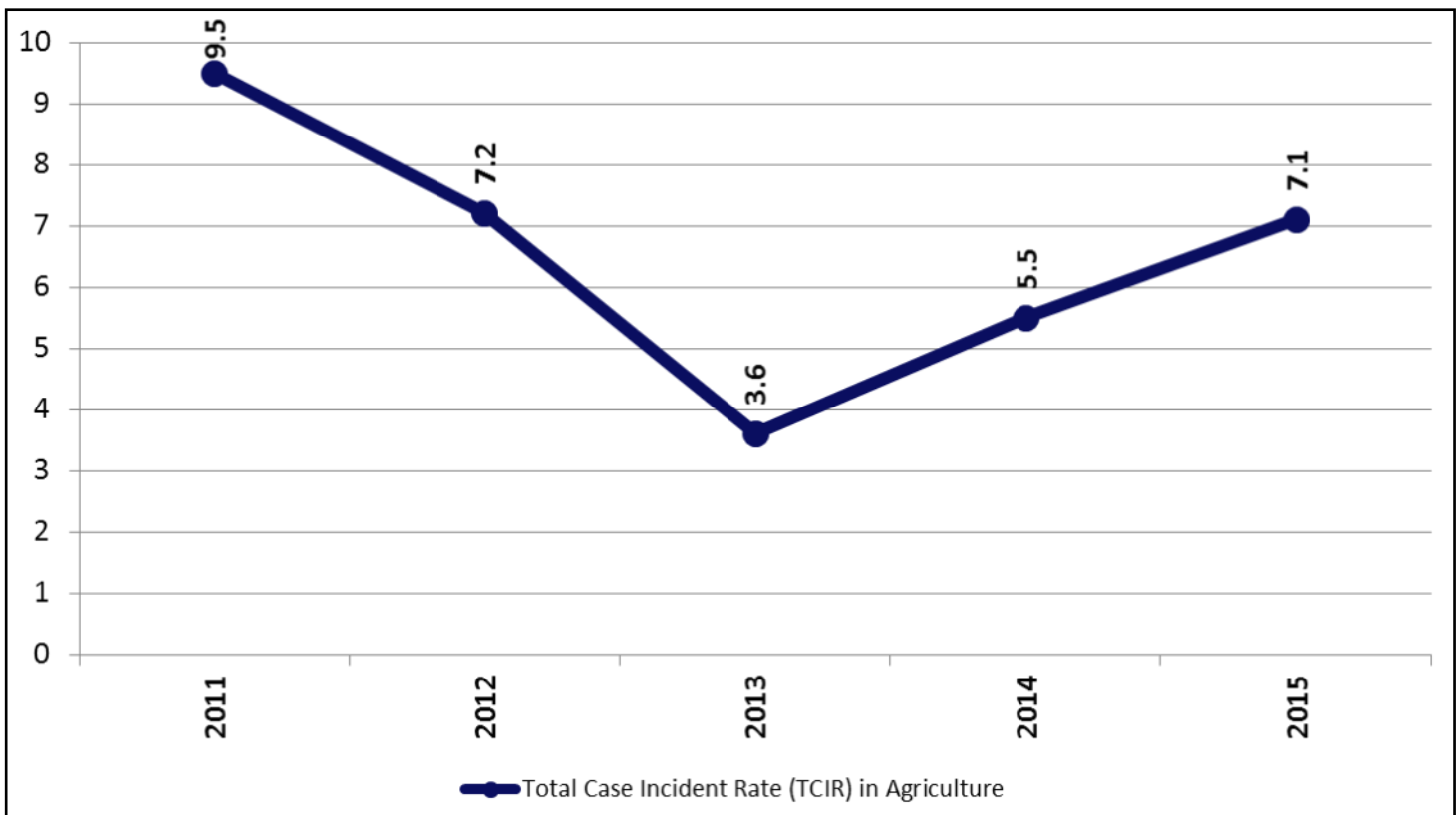
A historically hazardous industry, **agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting** experienced the highest rate of injuries and illnesses in 2015 with 7.1 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers. This represents a 29.09% increase from the 2014 rate of 5.5. While the use of large machines in sowing and harvesting crops may be perceived as responsible for these injuries, the sub-industry of animal production and aquaculture actually had the highest injury and illness rate in agriculture with 9.6 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers.

Of the injuries in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, 1.5 cases per 100 full-time workers involved days away from work and 1.8 involved job transfer and restriction—meaning nearly half of the cases (3.4) involved injuries that resulted in lost workdays or job transfer or restriction. In hard numbers, an estimated 800 workers were injured or made ill in the Hoosier

agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry in 2015, with nearly 400 of these injuries and illnesses resulting in at least one day of missed work or at least one day of job transfer or restriction.

The agriculture industry is especially difficult to survey. Farms with ten or fewer employees are outside OSHA’s jurisdiction and are exempt from participating in the SOII. The SOII estimates, therefore, are based on the cases occurring at larger farms. The rate in agriculture fluctuates quite a bit from year to year. In the last five surveys alone, the rate has shifted upward and downward dramatically.

**Injury and Illness Rates in Agriculture 2011-2015**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses 1992-2015 (per 100 full-time workers)

The **arts, entertainment and recreation** industry experienced the second-highest nonfatal injury and illness rate of 6.3 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers in 2015. While this is only a nominal increase from 6.2 in 2014, many of the industries with higher rates from previous years saw sharp declines in their injury and illness rates.

This category includes the sub-industry of *performing arts, spectator sports and related industries* which had an injury and illness rate of 20.4. This sub-industry includes professional sports teams and injuries to athletes, trainers and staff. It is estimated that less than one injury per every 100 full-time workers (0.6) in arts, entertainment and recreation will result in at least one day away from work, and that 1.7 injuries per 100 full-time workers will result in job transfer or restriction. Most injuries (4.0 per 100 full-time workers) were recordable, but resulted in no lost work days or job restrictions.

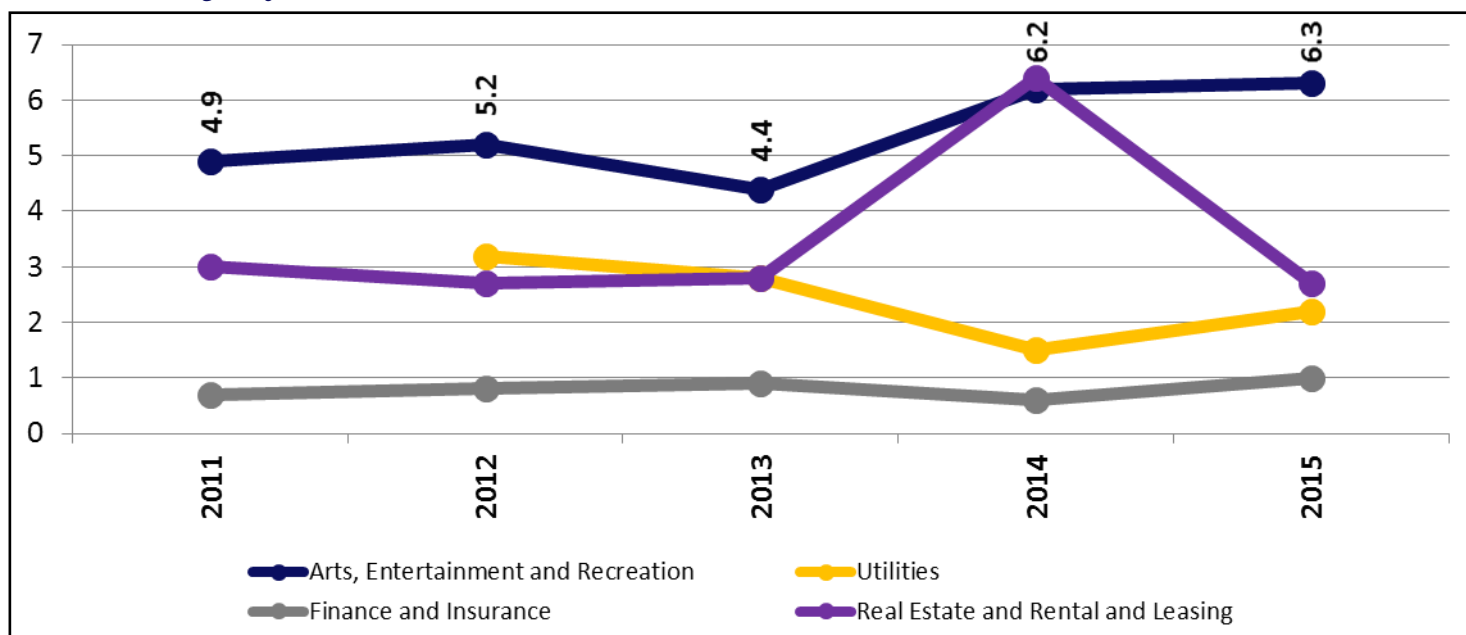
The **utilities** industry experienced a sharp increase of 46.67% from the 2014 of 1.5 injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers to 2.2 in 2015. This equates to approximately 300 injuries and illnesses. Approximately 200 of these injuries and illnesses occurred in the *electric power generation, transmission and*

*distribution* sub-industry. These establishments operate generation facilities that produce electric energy, operate transmission systems that convey the electricity from the generation facility to the distribution system, or operate distribution systems that convey electric power received from the generation facility or the transmission system to the final consumer.


Although experiencing a 66.67% increase over the 2014 rate of 0.6 recordable injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers, 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 1.0. The majority of the injuries were attributed to the *credit intermediation and related activities* sub-industry.

The biggest percent of decrease in the injury and illness rates per major industry came in the area of **real estate and rental and leasing**. With a decrease from 6.4 injuries per 100 full-time workers to 2.7, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a decrease of nearly 1,000 injuries and illnesses between 2014 and 2015. Approximately half (500) of the recordable injuries in real estate and rental and leasing resulted in days with job transfer or restriction.

**Injury and Illness Rates in the Profiled Industries 2011-2015**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses 1992-2015 (per 100 full-time workers)



Indiana's nonfatal occupational injury and illness rates have continued to hover around 4.0 per 100 full-time workers for the last four survey years. These steady rates reflect the dedication of employers and employees to a culture of workplace safety and health excellence. Decreasing from a rate of 11.0 in 1992 to a rate of 3.8 in 2015, the number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses befalling Hoosier workers has decreased by nearly two-thirds (65.45%) 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 66.37%.

While significant progress has been made in reducing Indiana's injury rates, 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 safety and trade associations, organized labor and Hoosier employers 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 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 (IDOL) 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 data on behalf of the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data is used to identify occupational safety and health trends in Indiana and nationwide. QMS also assists other IDOL divisions with performance metrics and process improvement.



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