

2021

# Indiana Nonfatal Injuries & Illnesses

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



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



# INTRODUCTION

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 measure 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 a notification a year 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. For the 2021 SOII, Indiana exceeded the federal minimum standard with a response rate of 88.50%.

The SOII uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to identify the industries and sub-industries where workplace injuries and illnesses occur. NAICS codes provide a detailed description of the business activity of the injured or ill worker. To maintain respondent confidentiality, data that could potentially identify a particular respondent or employee, 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 based on a diagnosis of a physician or other licensed health care professional are also considered recordable, 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.

Over the last 30 years of collecting SOII data, QMS has observed that many employers over-record injuries and illnesses sustained in the workplace. 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 or illness. Injuries and/or illnesses that do not meet the minimum reporting requirements are excluded from the survey. As the SOII deals solely with nonfatal injuries and illnesses, cases resulting in death are also excluded. Fatal events are analyzed by the BLS in the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (CFOI). The 2021 CFOI results will be released in December 2022.

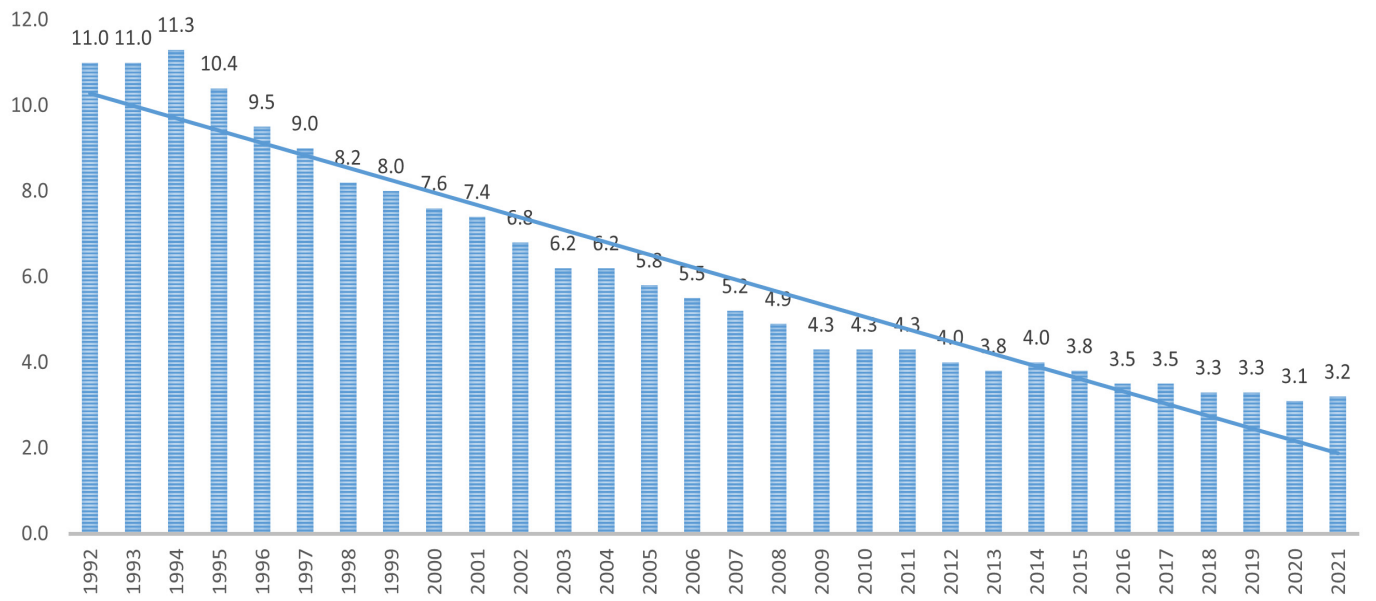
The SOII rates are reported as the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers. To calculate these rates, BLS divides the total number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses reported in an industry (N) by the total number of hours worked by employees in that industry (EH). To represent the 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).



## Indiana's Nonfatal Occupational Injury and Illness Rate

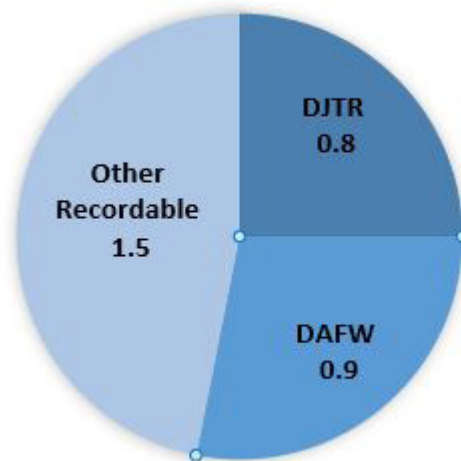


At an estimated 3.2 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers, the 2021 nonfatal injury and illness rate for Indiana is one of the lowest rates of nonfatal injuries and illnesses in the state's history. The estimated rate increased by 3.2% from the 2020 injury and illness rate of 3.1. At the inception of the SOII program in 1992, the overall nonfatal injury and illness rate was 11.0 injuries per 100 full-time workers. However, the rate reached a high of 11.3 in 1994 and has since declined 71.68%.

BLS estimates that approximately 75,800 Hoosier workers experienced a nonfatal OSHA-recordable injury or illness in 2021. This is a 2.71% increase from the 2020 estimate of 73,800 injuries or illnesses.

More than half (53.96%) of all recordable injuries and illnesses in 2021 resulted in one or more days away from work (DAFW) or days with job transfer or restriction (DJTR). This was a slight decrease from 2020 recordable DAFW and DJTR injuries and illnesses of 59.62%.

### 2021 Overall Injury and Illness Rate



PLEASE NOTE: Because of rounding, components may not add to totals.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses 2021 (per 100 full-time workers)



## 2019-2021 Injury and Illness Rates By Industry

Industry Sector	Estimated Injury/Illness Rate		
	2019	2020	2021
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	4.7	4.3	4.3
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	4.0	2.4	2.2
Construction	2.7	1.9	2.6
Manufacturing	3.7	3.4	3.6
Wholesale trade	3.0	2.1	2.8
Retail trade	3.5	3.0	3.4
Transportation and warehousing	4.7	3.7	4.1
Utilities	1.9	1.4	2.5
Information	2.0	0.8	1.1
Finance and insurance	0.7		0.5
Real estate and rental and leasing			1.9
Professional, scientific, and technical services	0.8	0.4	1.5
Management of companies and enterprises	0.8	0.6	0.4
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	1.9	1.3	2
Educational services	1.6	0.9	1.4
Health care and social assistance	4.6	6.9	4.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3.7	3.8	3.3
Accommodation and food services	2.9	2.1	2.6
Other services (except public administration)	1.6	2.1	1.4
State government	2.3	1.8	1.6
Local government	5.3	4.3	4.8

In 2021, companies with 50 to 249 employees had the highest nonfatal injury and illness rate of 3.9; an increase from the 2020 estimated rate of 3.8. Companies with 1,000 or more employees and 250 to 999 employees both tied with the next highest estimated injury and illness rate of 3.6. For companies with 11 to 49 employees, the estimated rate increased from 2.3 in 2020 to 2.6 in 2021. Finally, the 2021 estimated rate for companies with 1 to 10 employees was unchanged from the 2020 rate of .9.

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 composition of companies surveyed.

From the 2021 SOII data, 6 industries experienced decreases in their nonfatal injury and illness rates from 2020 to 2021. These included:

- mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction
- management of companies and enterprises
- health care and social assistance
- arts, entertainment, and recreation
- other services (except public administration)
- state government

In contrast, 12 industries experienced an increase in injury and illness rates from 2020 to 2021. These included:

- construction
- manufacturing
- wholesale trade
- retail trade
- transportation and warehousing
- utilities
- information
- professional, scientific and technical services
- administrative and support and waste management and remediation services
- educational services
- accommodation and food services
- local government





The rate for the **agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting** industry did not change in 2021.

In 2021, both **management of companies and enterprises** and **other services (except public administration)** tied for the largest estimated rate decrease (33.33%) from their 2020 estimated rate.

**Management of companies and enterprises** is comprised of establishments that hold the securities of (or other equity interests in) companies and enterprises for the purpose of owning a controlling interest of influencing management decisions or establishments (except government establishments) that administer, oversee and manager establishments of the company or enterprises and that normally undertake the strategic or organizational planning and decision making role for the company or enterprises. Respectfully, the estimated injury and illness rate has decreased the last two years and has decreased by 50% since 2019 estimated rate of .8%.

**Other Services (except public administration)** sector is comprised of establishments engaged in providing services not classified elsewhere in the NAICS system. A few activities that are included in this sector include grantmaking, advocacy, machinery repair, and personal care services. The 33.33% decrease in 2021 comes after a 31.25% increase from 1.6 in 2019 to 2.1 in 2020.

In 2020, the **health care and social assistance** industry sector had both the largest estimated injury and illness rate increase and the highest nonfatal injury and illness rate per 100 full-time workers. In 2021, however, this industry experienced the second-largest decrease in estimated injury and illness rate. The rate decreased by 31.88% from its 2020 rate of 6.9 to its 2021 rate of 4.7. The estimated number of recordable work-related injury and illness cases decreased by 29.03% from 21,700 cases in 2020 to 15,400 in 2021. Of the estimated recordable work-related injury and illness cases for 2021, 50.65% resulted in days away from work or days of job transfer or restriction.



In 2021, the **state government** industry sector also saw an 11.11% decrease in its estimated work-related injury and illness rate; from 1.8 in 2020 to 1.6 in 2021. Since its 2019 rate of 2.3, this industry has seen a 30.43% decrease in the estimated nonfatal work-related injury and illnesses. State government experienced an estimated 1,600 cases in 2021, over half of which (62.50%) involved a DAFW or a DJTR day case.

In 2021, the **mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction** industry saw an 8.3% rate decrease from 2.4 in 2020 to 2.2 in 2021. This industry has experienced a 45% decrease in its estimated nonfatal injury and illness rate over the last two years, from 4.0 in 2019 to 2.2 in 2021. The mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction sector comprises establishments that extract naturally occurring mineral solids, such as coal and ores; liquid minerals, such as crude petroleum; and gases, such as natural gas. This industry had an estimated 100 recordable nonfatal work-related injury and illness, and all cases resulted in one or more days away from work or days of job transfer or restriction.

The **professional, scientific, and technical service** industry sector had the third-lowest injury and illness rate in 2021 at 1.5, however it experienced the highest estimated nonfatal work-related injury and illness rate increase (275%); from .4 in 2020 to 1.5 in 2021. This industry had an estimated 1,700 work-related injury and illness cases in 2021. Of the 1,700 estimated recordable cases, 35.29% resulted in DAFW or DJTR. This industry is comprised of establishments that specialize in performing professional, scientific, and technical activities for others.

In 2021, the **utilities** industry experienced the second highest estimated nonfatal work-related injury and illness rate increase of 78.57% from its 2020 rate of 1.4 to the 2021 rate of 2.5. Utilities industry sector is comprised of establishments engaged in the provision of the following utility services: electric power; natural gas; steam supply; water supply; and sewage removal.

In 2021, **educational services** experienced the third highest estimated injury and illness rate increase, 55.56% from .9 in 2020 to 1.4 in 2021. It is estimated that educational services had 400 recordable work-related injury and illness case. 75% recordable cases were due to another work-related recordable injury and did not involve any time away from work.

Each case that is submitted from the respondent goes through a coding process to determine the nature of the injury or illness, the part of body affected, the event that caused the injury or illness, and any source and secondary source that contributed to the injury or illness. The nature identifies the principal physical characteristic(s) of the work-related injury or illness. The event or exposure describes the manner in which the injury or illness was produced or inflicted by the source of injury or illness. Finally, the source and secondary source identify objects, substances, equipment, and other factors that precipitated the event or exposure. The source and secondary source are coded according to the previously-identified event or exposure as dictated by the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) rules of selection. The data collected from the cases submitted can be used by the workplace to help make a safer environment for their employees. Starting with the 2021 SOII, case and demographic information and statistics will not be available until the release of the 2022 SOII in November 2023, as the BLS has implemented a new subsampling case methodology. Case and demographic details will now be released biennially.



Indiana's nonfatal occupational injury and illness rate has been below 4.0 per 100 full-time workers for seven of the last eight survey years. These steadily low rates reflect the dedication of employers and employees to a culture of workplace safety and health excellence. The nonfatal injury and illnesses rate has decreased by 71.68% since the program high of 11.3 in 1994.

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

For many 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 employee exposure to hazards by being diligent in addressing safety concerns the moment they arise. Hazard recognition and elimination are key factors in making workplaces safer. Working together to foster a culture of safety and health ensures each employee 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 provides 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 <https://www.in.gov/dol/stats.htm>.

*At the time of initial publication of this document (11/2022), INSafe, the Indiana Consultation State Plan, receives 79 % of its budget from a grant of \$959,700 in federal funds. The remaining 21% of the State Plan budget is financed through \$255,999 in Indiana state funds. IOSHA, the Indiana Enforcement State Plan, receives 50% of its budget from a grant of \$2,640,000 in federal funds. The remaining 50% of the State Plan budget is financed through \$2,64,000 in Indiana state funds.*









**Indiana Department of Labor**  
**Quality, Metrics and Statistics**  
402 West Washington Street, Room W195  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-2655 | [www.in.gov/dol](http://www.in.gov/dol)  
[stats@dol.in.gov](mailto:stats@dol.in.gov)