

# 2017 Indiana Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

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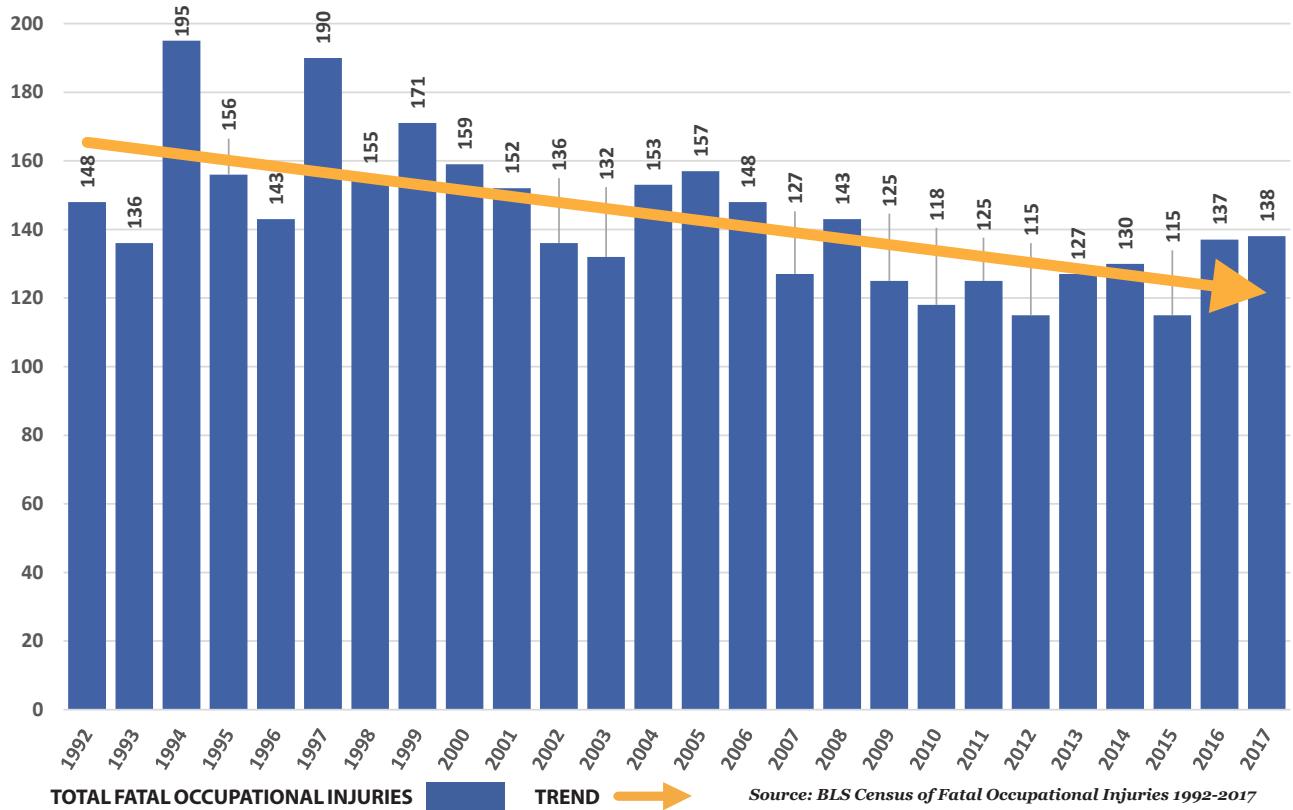
Analysis of the Census of  
Fatal Occupational Injuries  
(CFOI) Results



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



## Fatal Occupational Injuries in Indiana



In 1992, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began collecting data on fatal occupational injuries for Indiana through the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). Each year, the Indiana Department of Labor’s Quality, Metrics, and Statistics (QMS) Division reviews thousands of records including death certificates, news articles, police reports and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) findings to identify, document, and verify deaths resulting from work-related injuries. The CFOI classifies fatal occupational injuries by industry, event, exposure, demographic, primary cause, and body part injured. These classifications provide a more detailed view of how fatal injuries occurred.

The 2017 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries report shows 138 workers lost their lives in a workplace accident in the Hoosier state. This represents an increase of .73% in the number of

fatal injuries from the 2016 total of 137. This report will delve deeper into the case and demographic information regarding fatal workplace injuries in Indiana.

The data provided by the BLS are protected by stringent confidentiality rules. These rules forbid the release of information that could divulge the identity of the decedent or the company for which he or she worked. Confidential data may include any non-public information that was not previously released by a media outlet. Therefore, some of the data regarding the industry or nature of the fatality may not always add up to the reflected totals. No specific location information such as city, town or county is available.

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



## Fatal Injuries by Industry

Industry	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	16	18	28	23	33	28
Mining	-	1	1	-	-	-
Construction	20	15	18	11	14	14
Manufacturing	11	12	10	12	10	9
Utilities	1	1	1	-	1	1
Wholesale trade	8	9	9	3	7	4
Retail trade	7	9	8	4	11	10
Transportation and warehousing	21	27	13	27	21	26
Information	-	1	-	3	1	2
Finance and Insurance	-	-	-	-	1	-
Real estate and rental and leasing	3	-	-	-	3	-
Professional and Technical Services	-	-	-	1	2	1
Administrative and waste services	10	6	12	8	9	11
Accommodation and food services	1	-	5	7	6	8
Health care and social assistance	-	3	3	4	2	4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	5	1	3	1	3	1
Educational services	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other services, except public administration	4	12	11	7	5	9
Federal Government	-	-	-	2	1	1
State Government	3	1	1	-	2	
Local Government	5	6	6	2	4	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>138</b>

Source: BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries 2011-2016, Table A-1  
 Industry and sub-industry definitions are found online at  
[www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012](http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012).

The CFOI uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to identify the industries and sub-industries where workplace fatalities occur. Industry information is often reported as a broad category to ensure that no decedents or their employers can be identified.

Indiana's **agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting** industry experienced 28 fatalities in 2017; a decrease of 15.15% from the 2016 total of 33 fatal events and the highest number of fatalities in any industry. Contacts with objects and equipment incidents accounted for 11 of the 28 fatalities in this industry (39.29%), Eighteen (18) of the 28 total fatalities in **agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting** were attributed to workers in the **crop production** sub-industry. Nine (9) fatalities occurred in **animal production** and aquaculture and one (1) occurred in **forestry and logging**. Of these 28 fatalities, 24 were self-employed workers (85.71%) and four (4) were wage and salary workers (14.29%).

With 26 fatalities, Indiana's **transportation and warehousing** industry experienced the second highest number fatal injuries in 2017. This was an increase of 23.81% from 21 fatalities in 2016. The truck transportation subindustry experienced 17 of these fatal injuries, with 15 falling under the general freight trucking, long distance subindustry.

In 2017, the Indiana **mining** industry did not experience a fatal workplace injury. The last time this industry experienced a workplace fatality was in 2014. Other industries in 2017 that did not experience a workplace fatality include **finance and insurance**, and **real estate and rental and leasing**, down from 1 and 3 fatalities in 2016 respectively.

Other industries that experienced a decrease in fatal workplace injuries from 2016 to 2017 are **manufacturing; wholesale trade; retail trade; professional and technical services**; along with **arts, entertainment, and recreation**.



Event or exposure describes the manner in which a worker was killed. Although the events may sound similar to industry classifications, the two are not interchangeable and these events may occur in any industry.

Since the inception of the CFOI in 1992, **transportation-related incidents** have resulted in the highest number of Hoosier workplace fatalities. This trend continued in 2017 with 50 transportation-related incidents accounting for 36.23% of all Indiana occupational fatalities. This was a decline from 44.53% in 2016. These incidents included roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles (33), non-roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles (6) and pedestrians struck by vehicles while working (8). The sub-industry **truck transportation** experienced the highest number of transportation fatalities in 2017 (17). This was an increase from the 2016 total (13).

Transportation-related incidents can affect any industry and are not solely limited to work performed in the **transportation and warehousing** industry. In 2017, 17 fatal transportation-related incidents occurred in the transportation and warehousing industry, while 33 fatalities occurred in other industries including **agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting** (9); **administrative and waste services** (5); **manufacturing** (4) **health care and social assistance** (2); and **construction** (1).

**Violence and other injuries by persons or animals** (workplace violence) was the second leading cause of Hoosier workplace fatalities in 2017 (28). The number of cases increased from 2016 (24). Events in this category include all intentional injuries; injuries involving weapons (tools designed to be used as weapons, such as firearms and stun guns) regardless of intent; and injuries involving direct physical contact with persons, animals, or insects regardless of intent. Such injuries may be inflicted by another person, by oneself, or by an animal or insect. The majority of the fatalities included in this event

were men (26) and white (non-Hispanic) (23). All of Indiana's 2017 workplace violence fatalities were suffered by employees twenty years of age and older, with most befalling employees 35 to 64 years of age (19). **Firearms** were involved in 17 of the 138 Indiana workplace fatalities in 2017, a slight increase from 16 such cases in 2016.

For the second consecutive year, **contact with objects and equipment** was the third highest fatal Hoosier workplace event, with 21 fatal injuries in 2017. Seventeen of these cases involved being struck by an object or equipment, with the two highest specific categories being struck by a powered vehicle (non-transport) (8), and being struck by a falling object or equipment (other than a powered vehicle) (8). The other (4) cases included being caught in or compressed by equipment or objects. By occupation, **farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers** suffered a high number of recordable fatalities by **contact with objects and equipment** (8), as did **building and grounds cleaning and maintenance** workers (3).

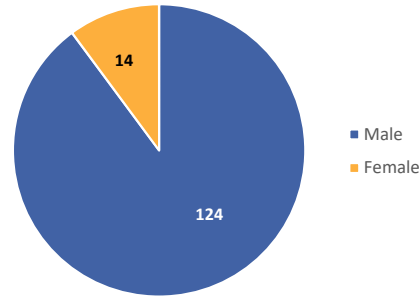
Twenty (20) fatalities in 2017 were attributed to **falls, slips, and trips**. This figure is an increase from 13 in 2016 and represents a 51.90% change from the average annual fatality count of 13.17 through the years of 2011 and 2016. Fatalities in 2017 due to **falls, slips, and trips** most often occurred in the **construction** industry (7), while no other industry had more than three. Each of these 2017 **construction** fatalities involved a **fall to a lower level**.

**Fires and explosions** related workplace fatalities accounted for 29 Indiana worker deaths through the years of 2011 and 2016, for an average of 4.83 such fatalities annually in that timeframe. 2017's total of one (1) fatality from **fires and explosions** represents a significant decrease from that average figure. This is also a large drop from 2016's **fires and explosions** fatality count of four (4).



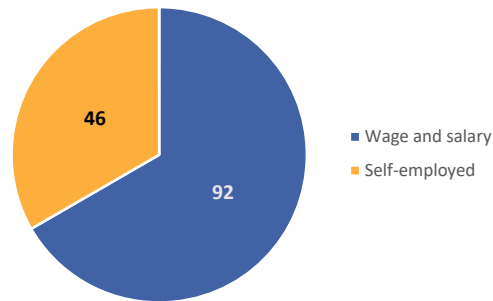
## GENDER

In 2017, 124 men suffered workplace fatalities in Indiana (89.86%). Fourteen women suffered fatalities (10.14%). Transportation incidents accounted for 45 male fatalities (36.29%) and five female fatalities (35.71%). Both men and women were most often fatally injured in transportation incidents.



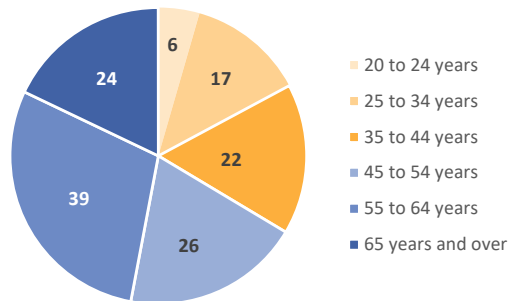
## EMPLOYEE STATUS

Wage and salary workers suffered 92 fatal injuries (66.67%). Self-employed workers suffered 46 of the 138 fatal injuries in Indiana (33.33%). Transportation incidents accounted for the greatest percentage of fatalities for both wage and salary workers (39.13%) and self-employed workers (30.43%).



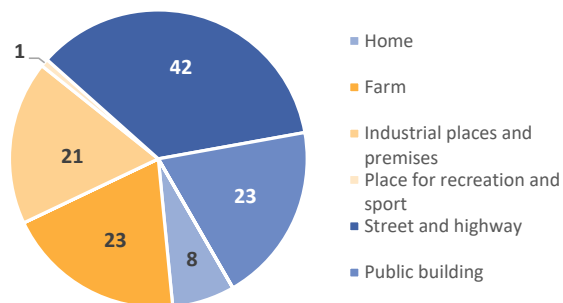
## AGE

Workers 55 to 64 years of age suffered 39 fatalities and had the highest percent of workplace fatalities in 2017 (28.26%). Workers 45 to 54 years of age suffered 26 fatalities in 2017 (18.84%), and workers 65 years of age and over suffering 24 fatalities (17.69%). Workers ages 35 to 44 suffered 22 fatalities in 2017 (15.94%). Age groups 16 to 17 and 18 to 19 years of age suffered no workplace fatalities in 2017.



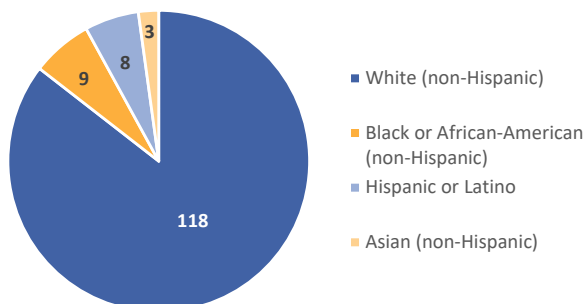
## LOCATION

In 2017 the highest number of Indiana workplace deaths (42, 30.43%) occurred on streets and highways, while 23 (16.67%) occurred on a farm, twenty-three (23, 16.67%) occurred in public buildings, 21 (15.22%) deaths occurred in industrial places and premises, and eight (5.80%) in private residences.



## RACE OR ETHNIC ORIGIN

White (non-Hispanic) Hoosiers experienced 118 work-related deaths in 2017 (85.51%). Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for nine fatalities (6.52%), and Hispanic or Latino workers experienced eight (5.78%).





Accidents, by definition, can occur at any time and are difficult to predict. Similarly, workplace violence incidents of intentional harm are difficult to foresee. For both intentional and accidental injuries, however, employers can help reduce the risk.

For transportation-related occupations, stressing driver-attentiveness is key. Drivers must pay attention to the road and not other distractions such as cell phones, food or the radio. Ensuring that drivers are in good health and getting plenty of rest are also crucial elements of ensuring the safety of the working driver and his or her fellow motorists. Setting and enforcing company policies regarding technology use, vehicle maintenance schedules, eating while driving and driver wellness can all help keep working drivers safe.

From the use of heavy machinery in crop production to the tending of large animals in animal production, the agriculture industry encompasses numerous dangerous activities. Those in the agriculture industry face many of the same dangers as the transportation-related industries. Heavy equipment, operator fatigue and worker inattentiveness are all hazards that occur frequently in agriculture. It is important that users of such machinery be effectively trained on the safe and proper use and operation of farming equipment including tractors, trucks, augers and silos. Workers in agricultural activities should respect the dangers of the job and be vigilant of emerging hazards.

While it may not be possible to plan for everything, emphasizing good communication between all levels of management—from front-line employees through senior staff—breeds a deeper culture of safety into a business. Employees should be encouraged to speak up when a safety hazard is spotted, and management should be quick to appropriately address these issues. For more information on fostering a culture of safety, or to request a free safety consultation, please visit the Indiana Department of Labor’s INSafe Division

online at [www.in.gov/dol/insafe.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/insafe.htm).

It is true that some occupations are inherently more dangerous than others, but the mentality that dying is “just part of the job” is erroneous and obsolescent. Although an occupation may be dangerous, it is the responsibility of the employer and the employee to work together to eliminate or minimize exposure to known hazards.



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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