

# 2018

## Indiana Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

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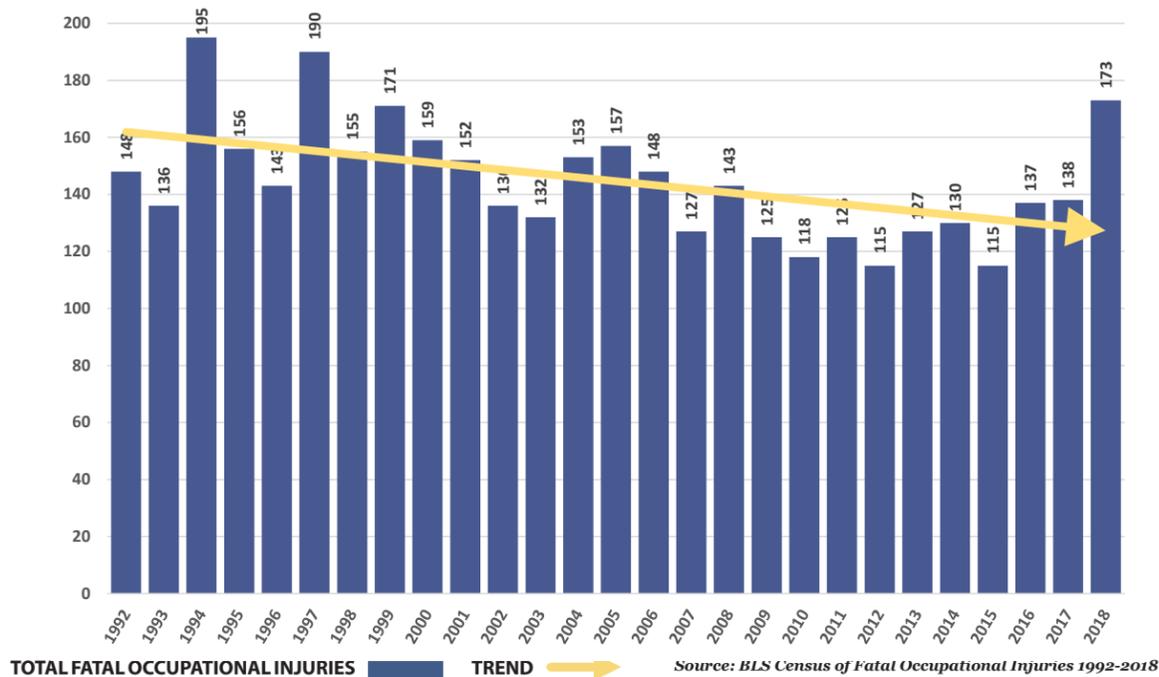
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Analysis of the Census of  
Fatal Occupational Injuries  
(CFOI) Results



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 in 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 2018 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries report shows 173 workers lost their lives in a workplace accident in the Hoosier state. This represents an increase of 25.36% in the number of fatal injuries from the 2017 total of 138. 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 releasing information that could divulge the identity of the decedent or the company for which the decedent worked. Confidential data may include any non-public information that was not previously released by a media outlet. Therefore, some of the table data regarding the industry or nature of the fatality may not add up to the reflected totals. No specific location information such as city, town or county is available due to case confidentiality. For more information regarding state and national fatal occupational injuries, visit [www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm).

This report includes data for fatal workplace injuries, including those that may be outside the jurisdiction of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) and the Indiana Worker's Compensation Board. For example, fatalities occurring on the roadway and on farms with fewer than ten employees are almost always outside IOSHA's jurisdiction. However, these fatalities are still part of the CFOI records. Consequently, data from the CFOI and reports released by other state or federal agencies may differ. This report does not include fatalities of natural causes.

## Fatal Injuries by Industry

Industry	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	18	28	23	33	28	30
Mining	1	1	-	-	-	2
Construction	15	18	11	14	14	31
Manufacturing	12	10	12	10	9	15
Utilities	1	1	-	1	1	-
Wholesale trade	9	9	3	7	4	6
Retail trade	9	8	4	11	10	14
Transportation and warehousing	27	13	27	21	26	27
Information	1	-	3	1	2	-
Finance and insurance	-	-	-	1	-	-
Real estate and rental and leasing	-	-	-	3	-	2
Professional and technical services	-	-	1	2	1	7
Administrative and waste services	6	12	8	9	11	12
Accommodation and food services	-	5	7	6	8	8
Health care and social assistance	3	3	4	2	4	3
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1	3	1	3	1	3
Educational services	-	-	-	1	2	-
Other services, except public administration	12	11	7	5	9	3
Federal government	-	-	2	1	1	1
State government	1	1	-	2	-	-
Local government	6	6	2	4	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>173</b>

Source: BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries 2012-2018  
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.

The **construction** industry experienced the highest number of workplace fatalities for 2018 (31); a 121% increase from the 2017 total of 14. The three highest causes for fatal incidents in this industry were falls, slips and trips (11), followed by transportation incidents (9), and contact with objects and equipment (6). Men (30) who were white (non-Hispanic) (29) experienced the highest number of fatal workplace injuries in this industry. Most cases (16) involved the worker performing constructing, repairing, or cleaning work.

Indiana's **agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting** industry experienced the second highest (30) number of workplace fatalities with 30 in 2018; an increase of 7.14% from the 2017 total of 28. Contact with objects and equipment incidents accounted for 10 of the 30 fatalities in this industry (33.33%), sixteen (16) of the 30 total fatalities in **agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting** were attributed to workers in the **crop production** sub-industry. Eleven (11) fatalities occurred in **animal production and aquaculture** and one (1) occurred in **forestry and logging**.

With 27 fatalities, Indiana's **transportation and warehousing** industry experienced the third highest number of fatal injuries in 2018. This was an increase of 3.85% from 26 fatalities in 2017. For the second year in a row, the **truck transportation** sub-industry experienced 20 of these fatal injuries, with 14 of those 20 occurring in general freight trucking, long distance.

In 2018, the Indiana **mining** industry experienced two fatal workplace injuries, both males. The last recorded workplace fatality in the Hoosier mining industry was in 2014.

Three industries experienced a decrease in fatal workplace injuries from 2017 to 2018: **healthcare and social service; other services, except public administration; and local government**.

Event or exposure describes the manner in which a worker was fatally injured. 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 2018 with 78 transportation-related incidents accounting for 45.09% of all of Indiana's occupational fatalities. This was a 56% increase from the 2017 total of 50. These incidents included roadway incidents involving vehicles (70). Incidents involving highway vehicles, motorized (40) were the leading cause of the fatal transportation incidents, along with non-roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles (17), and pedestrians struck by vehicles while working (13). Workplace fatalities involving aircrafts increased from (1) in 2017 to (8) 2018. Despite the increased from 2017 (17), the **truck transportation** sub-industry experienced the highest number of transportation fatalities in 2018 (20).

The majority of **transportation-related** fatalities were suffered by men (72) and white (non-Hispanic) workers (67). Workers **45 to 54** and **55 to 64** experienced the most cases with (18) in each age group.

**Transportation-related** incidents can affect any industry and are not limited to work performed in the **transportation and warehousing** industry. In 2018, 20 fatal transportation-related incidents occurred in the transportation and warehousing industry. Other industries that experienced transportation-related fatalities in 2018 include **agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting** (15); **construction** (9); **manufacturing** (5); **administrative and waste services** (4); and **health care and social assistance** (2).

**Contact with objects and equipment** was

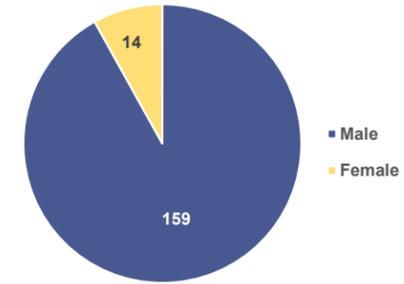
the second leading cause of Hoosier workplace fatalities in 2018 (32). This was a 52% increase from 21 cases in 2017. Twenty one (21) of the 2018 cases involved being struck by a falling object or equipment, with the two highest specific categories being struck by a falling object or equipment other than a powered vehicle (14), and caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (9). By occupation, both **Construction and extraction occupations** and **Farming, fishing and forestry occupations** suffered the highest recordable fatalities with (6) each, followed by **farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers** (5).

**Falls, slips, and trips** were the third highest leading cause of Hoosier workplace fatalities in 2018 (23). This figure is an increase from the 20 cases reported in 2017. Fatalities in 2018 due to **falls, slips, and trips** most often occurred in the **construction** industry (11). Each 2018 case in the construction industry involved a **fall to a lower level**. No other industry experienced more than one fatal slip, trip or fall in 2018.

**Violence and other injuries** was the fourth leading cause of workplace fatalities in 2018 with 22 cases. 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 suffered by men (20) and white (non-Hispanic) workers (13). In 2018, workplace violence fatalities occurred amongst all age groups except those under 16 years of age and employees ages 18 to 19. The age group of **35 to 44** years of age suffered the most workplace violence fatalities in 2018 with 7 cases. **Firearms** were involved in 15 (68%) of the 22 Indiana workplace violence fatalities in 2018.

**GENDER**

In 2018, 159 men (92%) and 14 women (8.1%) suffered a workplace fatality in Indiana Transportation incidents accounted for 72 male fatalities (45.28%) and six female fatalities (42.86%). The most common event resulting in workplace fatalities for both men and women was transportation incidents.



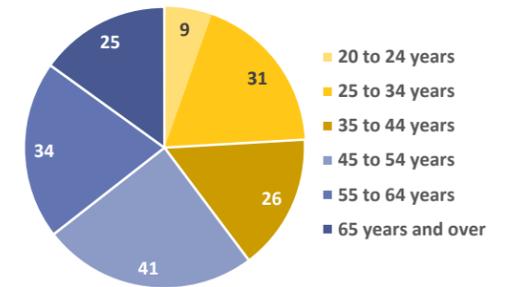
**EMPLOYEE STATUS**

Wage and salary workers suffered 128 fatal injuries (74%). Self-employed workers suffered 45 of the 173 fatal injuries in Indiana (26.01%). Transportation incidents accounted for the greatest percentage of fatalities for both wage and salary workers (46.88%) and self-employed workers (40.00%).



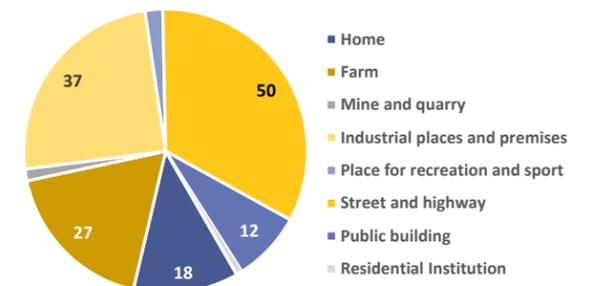
**AGE**

Workers 45-54 years of age suffered 41 fatalities and suffered highest percent of all Indiana workplace fatalities in 2018 (23.70%). Workers 55-64 years of age suffered 34 fatalities in 2018 (19.65%), and workers 25 to 34 years of age suffered 31 fatalities (17.94%).



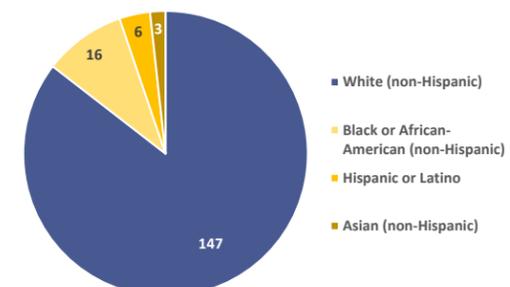
**WORKING LOCATION**

The following working locations in 2018 with the highest number of Indiana workplace fatalities were streets and highways (50), industrial places and premises (37), and farms (27).



**RACE OR ETHNIC ORIGIN**

White (non-Hispanic) workers experienced 147 work-related deaths in 2018 (85%). Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 16 fatalities (9.2%). Hispanic or Latino workers experienced six (3.4%), and Asian (non-Hispanic) suffered three (1.7%) workplace fatalities in 2018.



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 no 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 maybe 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.

At the time of initial publication of this document (12/2019), IOSHA, the Indiana Enforcement State Plan, receives 48.1% of its budget from a grant of \$2,308,000 in federal funds. The remaining 51.9% of the State Plan budget is financed through \$2,492,006 in Indiana state funds.

At the time of initial publication of this document (12/2019), INSafe, the Indiana Consultation State Plan, receives 79.2% of its budget from a grant of \$893,000 in federal funds. The remaining 20.8% of the State Plan budget is financed through \$234,572 in Indiana state funds.

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