

# 2019

## Indiana Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

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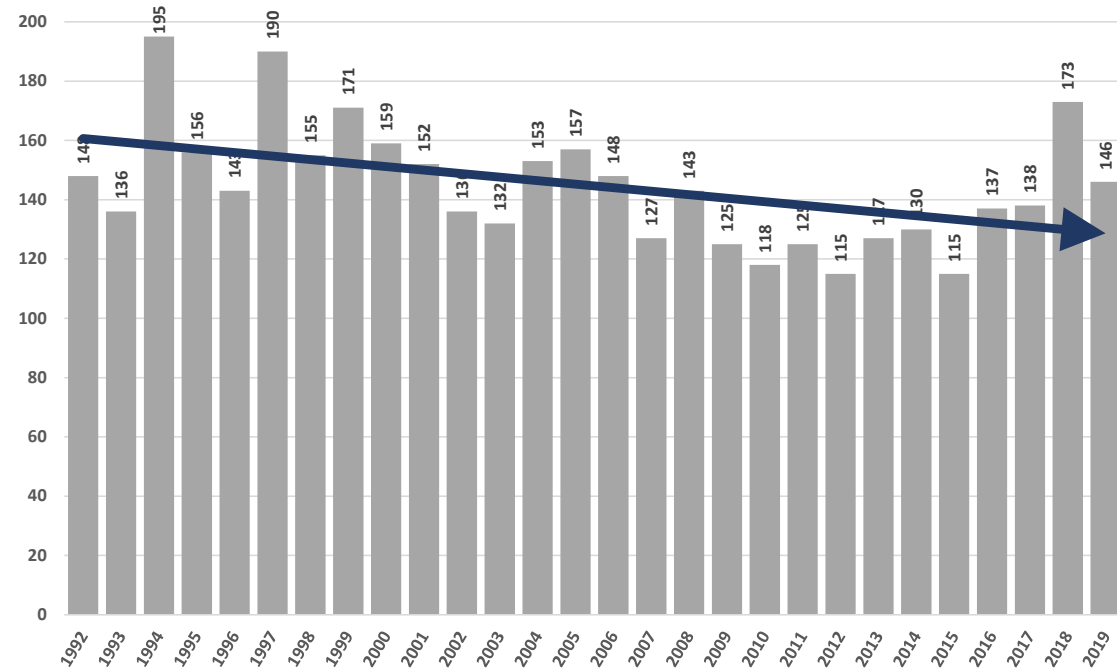
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Analysis of the Census of  
Fatal Occupational Injuries  
(CFOI) Results



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

## Fatal Occupational Injuries in Indiana



TOTAL FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES TREND Source: BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries 1992-2019

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 2019 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries report shows 146 workers lost their lives in a workplace accident in the Hoosier state. This represents a decrease of 15.61% in the number of fatal injuries from the 2018 total of 173. This report will dive 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 (IOHSA) 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 IOHSA'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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	28	23	33	28	30	18
Mining	1	-	-	-	2	-
Construction	18	11	14	14	31	21
Manufacturing	10	12	10	9	15	14
Utilities	1	-	1	1	-	1
Wholesale trade	9	3	7	4	6	-
Retail trade	8	4	11	10	14	14
Transportation and warehousing	13	27	21	26	28	27
Information	-	3	1	2	-	-
Finance and insurance	-	-	1	-	-	1
Real estate and rental and leasing	-	-	3	-	2	-
Professional and technical services	-	1	2	1	7	2
Administrative and waste services	12	8	9	11	12	12
Accommodation and food services	5	7	6	8	8	5
Health care and social assistance	3	4	2	4	3	4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3	1	3	1	3	6
Educational services	-	-	1	2	-	-
Other services, except public administration	11	7	5	9	3	12
Federal government	-	2	1	1	1	1
State government	1	-	2	-	-	-
Local government	6	2	4	6	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>146</b>

Source: BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries 2014-2019 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.

With 27 fatalities, Indiana's **transportation and warehousing** industry experienced the highest number of fatal injuries in 2019. This count decreased by 3.57% from fatalities in 2018 (28). In 2019, most workplace fatalities for this industry occurred on the street or highway (17). Highway vehicles, motorized were the primary source for a workplace fatality (15). In this industry, age group 65 years and older experienced the highest number of workplace fatalities in 2019 (7).

The **construction** industry experienced the second highest number of workplace fatalities for 2019 (21). This is a 32.26% decrease from the 2018 total 31. The three highest causes for fatal incidents in this industry were **falls, slips, and trips** (11), followed by **transportation incidents** (5), and **exposure to harmful substances or environments** (3). Men (21) who were white (non-Hispanic) (17) experienced the highest fatal workplace fatalities in this industry. Wage and salary employees experienced the most workplace fatalities (15). Most cases (8) involved the worker doing constructing, repairing, or cleaning work.

Indiana's **agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting** industry experienced the third highest (18) number of workplace fatalities in 2019; also decreasing 40% from the 2018 total of 30. Transportation incidents accounted for ten of the 18 fatalities in this industry (56%), twelve (12) of the 18 total fatalities in **agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting** were attributed to workers in the **crop production** sub-industry. Six (6) fatalities occurred in **animal production and aquaculture**. Most of the incidents occurred on a farm (13).

Both **manufacturing** and **retail trade** industries tied for the fourth highest workplace fatalities in 2019 (14). Which **manufacturing** experienced a 6.7% decrease from 2018 of (15), however, **retail trade** incidents did not change from 2018 workplace fatalities case count (14).

The **other services, except public administration** industry increased by 300% from 2018 (3) incidents to 2019 (12). The Other Services (except Public Administration) sector comprises establishments engaged in providing services not specifically provided for elsewhere in the classification system. The three top events that caused fatal incidents in this industry were violence and other injuries by persons or animals (4), fires and explosions (3), and contact with objects and equipment (3). Most cases (4) involved the worker doing constructing, repairing, or cleaning work. In contrast, **professional and technical service** decreased by 71.43% from 2018 (7) to 2019 (2).

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 2019 with 55 transportation-related incidents accounting for 37.67% of all Indiana occupational fatalities. These incidents included roadway incidents involving vehicles (47), of which highway vehicles, motorized (36) was the leading cause of the fatalities, non-roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles (13). Pedestrians struck by vehicles while working (7), decreased by 46.15% from 2018 (13).

The majority of **transportation-related** fatalities were suffered by men (49) and white (non-Hispanic) (44). The age group of 65 years and older had the most cases (23).

**Transportation-related** incidents can affect any industry and are not limited to work performed in the transportation and warehousing industry. In 2019, 15 fatal transportation-related

incidents occurred in the **transportation and warehousing** industry. Other industries that have had transportation-related fatalities in 2019 include **agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting** (10); **construction** (4); **manufacturing** (4); **administrative and waste services** (4); and **arts, entertainment, and recreation** (3).

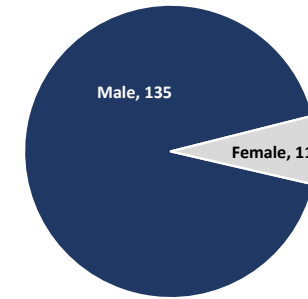
**Contact with objects and equipment** tied as the second leading cause of Hoosier workplace fatalities in 2019 (24). The number of cases for **contact with object and equipment** decreased by 25% from 2018 (32). All incidences in this event were men (24) with most being between the age group of 55 to 64 years (6). Three sources with the highest number of cases include machinery (7), person, plants, animals, and minerals (5), and vehicles (5). Most workers activity in this event were constructing repairing, or cleaning (13), or they were using or operating tools or machinery (8).

**Falls, slips, and trips** tied with the second leading cause of Hoosier workplace fatalities in 2019 (24). This figure increased from 2018 (23). Since 2017, this event has increased by 20%. Fatalities in 2019 due to **falls, slips, and trips** most often occurred in the **construction** industry (11). Most of the **falls, slips, and trips** events were to a lower level (15).

**Violence and other injuries** was the fourth leading cause of workplace fatality in both 2019 (19) and 2018 (22). 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. All the fatalities included in this event were suffered by men (19) and most white (non-Hispanic) (9). The age group of 35 to 44 years suffered the most workplace fatalities (5), followed by the age group of 55 to 64 years (4).

### GENDER

In 2019, 135 men (92.47%) and 11 women (7.5%) suffered workplace fatalities in Indiana. The most common fatal workplace event in 2019 was transportation incidents, and accounted for 49 male fatalities and six female fatalities.



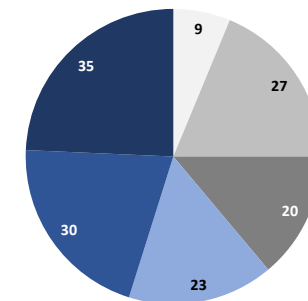
### EMPLOYEE STATUS

Wage and salary workers suffered 104 fatal injuries (76.47%). Self-employed workers suffered 42 of the 146 fatal injuries in Indiana (28.77%). Transportation incidents accounted for the greatest percentage of fatalities for both wage and salary workers (36.54%) and self-employed workers (40.48%).



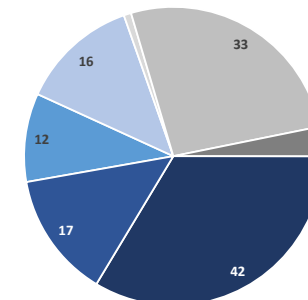
### AGE

Workers 65 years and over suffered 35 fatalities and suffered highest percent of all Indiana workplace fatalities in 2019 (24%). Workers 55-64 years of age suffered 30 fatalities in 2019 (20.55%), and workers ages 25 to 34 suffered 27 fatalities in 2019 (18.50%). Workers 45 to 54 years of age and over suffered 23 workplace fatalities in 2019 (15.75%). Age groups 35 to 44 suffered 20 workplace fatalities in 2019 (13.70%), and age group 20 to 24 years of age suffered nine workplace fatalities in 2019 (6.16%).



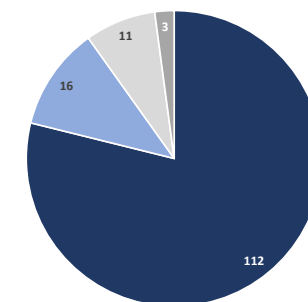
### WORKING LOCATION

The following locations in 2019 with the highest number of Indiana workplace deaths are streets and highways (42), industrial places and premises (33), and farms (16).



### RACE OR ETHNIC ORIGIN

White (non-Hispanic) workers experienced 112 work-related deaths in 2019 (76.71%). Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 16 fatalities (11%). Hispanic or Latino workers experienced 11 (7.53%), and Asian (non-Hispanic) suffered four (2.7%) of workplace fatalities.





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 (12/2020), 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 (12/2020), 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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