

2020 Rates of Texas Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Away from Work

November 2021



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TDI Division of Workers' Compensation

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Executive Summary

The data in this report are the latest available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII). The report is created by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) in cooperation with BLS. It examines the circumstances of injuries and illnesses by industry and the characteristics of employees in cases that involved days away from work (DAFW). This data helps employers, safety professionals, and policymakers identify occupational safety and health issues.

Key Findings

Of approximately 178,600 nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses reported by Texas private industry employers in 2020, 68,750 or 39 percent, were of a serious nature and resulted in DAFW. This resulted in an incidence rate of 78.1 per 10,000 full-time employees (FTEs) for DAFW cases, according to estimates from SOII. The median DAFW number represents the midpoint between the most DAFW and the fewest DAFW and is a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses. The median DAFW for private industry employers was 13 in 2020, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work, Private Industry, Texas 2019-2020

Private Industry	2019	2020
Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work.	49,840	68,750
Incidence rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work per 10,000 FTEs.	55.4	78.1
Median days away from work.	10	13

Workplace Characteristics

The following two sections contain information about the industries and occupations of injured employees. Industry information describes the type of business where an employee works and is coded using the North America Industry Classification System (NAICS). Occupation information describes the work an employee does and is coded using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) manual. For example, a transportation company employs managers and salespeople, as well as truck drivers. Transportation and material moving occupations are found in both goods-producing industries, as well as service-providing industries. This report presents both industry and occupational information to provide a more complete picture of the workplace characteristics of injured employees. Both the NAICS and SOC systems have been recently updated, which may limit comparisons to previous years.

Industries

Goods-producing industries reported 13,180 DAFW cases, an incidence rate of 67.5 per 10,000 FTEs, and a median DAFW rate of 13 days in 2020. Service-providing industries reported 55,570 DAFW cases, an incidence rate of 81.2 per 10,000 FTEs, and a median DAFW rate of 13 days. A further break down by industry sectors is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Incidence Rate and Numbers of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Selected Major Industry Sectors, Private Industry, Texas 2020

Industry	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases	Median Days Away from Work
Private Industry	78.1	68,750	13
Goods-Producing	67.5	13,180	13
Natural resources and mining	57.5	1,620	21
Construction	52.7	4,130	10
Manufacturing	83.8	7,430	14
Service-Providing	81.2	55,570	13
Trade, transportation, and utilities	87.7	18,640	14
Information	26.5	490	4
Financial activities	45.8	3,360	10
Professional and business services	37.4	5,410	14
Education and health services	166.1	21,090	12
Leisure, entertainment, and hospitality	52.1	4,360	10
Other services (except public admin)	88.8	2,220	20

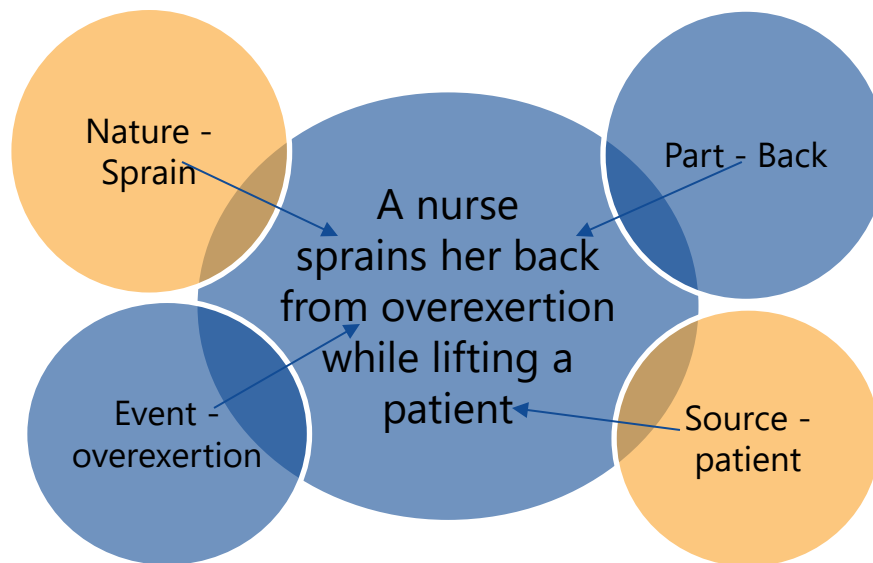
Occupations

The following table looks at occupations in the private sector, across multiple industries. Healthcare practitioners and technical had the largest incident rate at 201.3 per 10,000 FTEs and the rest of the occupations are listed in descending order of incident rate. Table 3 shows the number of cases and median days away from work for each occupation.

Table 3. Incidence Rates and Numbers of Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work and Median Days Away from Work by Major Occupational Group, Private Industry, Texas 2020

Major Occupational Group	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases	Median Days Away from Work
Healthcare practitioners and technical	201.3	9,210	11
Healthcare support	195.0	7,820	14
Farming, fishing, and forestry	156.4	750	11
Transportation and material moving	137.1	11,740	15
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	135.0	2,880	9
Installation, maintenance, and repair	122.8	5,370	10
Community and social service	121.6	590	10
Protective service	110.4	1,020	14
Personal care and service	98.0	1,550	23
Construction and extraction	97.2	5,300	14
Production	90.3	5,520	11
Life, physical, and social science	74.1	470	14
Food preparation and serving-related	48.7	3,790	10
Sales and related	47.6	4,760	13
Management	46.9	2,480	11
Office and administrative support	31.2	3,800	11
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	26.3	260	3
Educational instruction and library	15.3	170	16
Architecture and engineering	12.5	260	12
Business and financial operations	8.4	410	11
Computer and mathematical	2.3	70	15

Case Characteristics



Case characteristics provide details of the injuries experienced by employees. Table 4 shows each injury or illness separated into four categories; Nature of Injury, Illness; Part of Body Affected; Event or Exposure; and Source of Injury, Illness. The total incidence rate for each case characteristic category may not add up to the total incidence rate of 78.1, and the number of cases may not add up to 68,750, because of rounding and additional data from non-selected characteristics.

Table 4. Incidence Rates and Numbers of Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Selected Characteristics, Private Industry, Texas 2020

Nature of Injury, Illness	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Fractures	6.4	5,650
Sprains, strains, tears	19.4	17,050
Amputations	0.3	240
Bruises, contusions	5.2	4,550
Chemical burns and corrosions	0.3	240
Heat (thermal) burns	0.9	820
Soreness, pain	6.5	5,740
Cuts, lacerations, punctures	5.8	5,100
Carpal tunnel syndrome	0.3	260
Multiple traumatic injuries	1.9	1,640

Part of Body Affected	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Head	3.9	3,400
Eye	0.9	820
Neck	0.4	350
Trunk	11.1	9,810
Back	7.1	6,250
Upper extremities	16.4	14,470
Shoulder	3.6	3,170
Arm	2.3	2,030
Wrist	2.3	1,990
Hands	7.3	6,410
Lower extremities	14.9	13,150
Knee	4.5	3,990
Ankle	4.5	3,990
Foot	3.6	3,200
Toe, toenail	1.0	890
Body systems	25.5	22,410
Multiple body parts	5.5	4,870
Source of Injury, Illness	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Chemicals, chemical products	0.6	560
Containers	5.6	4,960
Furniture, fixtures	2.4	2,110
Machinery	2.8	2,500
Parts and materials	3.8	3,390
Person, injured or ill worker	7.2	6,300
Worker motion or position	7.1	6,220
Person, other than injured or ill worker	3.8	3,300
Health care patient	2.7	2,360
Floors, walkways, ground surfaces	9.5	8,360
Ladder	1.2	1,060
Hand tools	2.6	2,330
Vehicles	6.3	5,510
Trucks	2.3	2,010
Cart, dolly, hand truck - nonpowered	0.6	540
Event or Exposure	Incidence Rate	Number of Cases
Violence and other injuries by persons or animal	3.0	2,680
Intentional injury by other person	1.4	1,220
Injury by person - unintentional or intent unknown	0.4	340
Animal and insect-related incidents	1.3	1,120
Transportation incidents	3.4	3,020

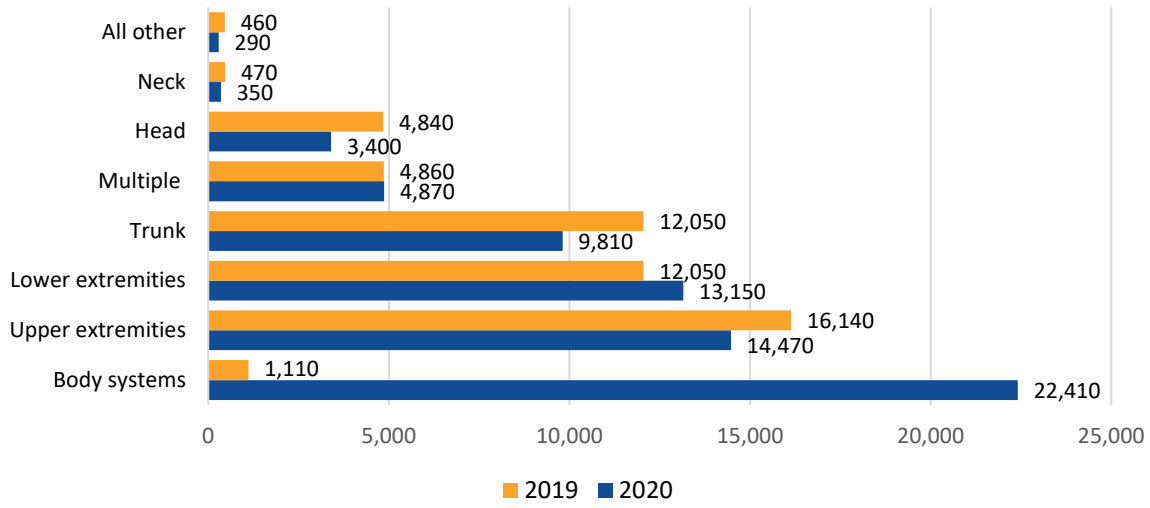
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles	2.6	2,280
Fires and explosions	0.1	120
Falls, slips, trips	15.4	13,590
Slips, trips without fall	2.6	2,300
Fall on same level	8.8	7,760
Fall to lower level	3.9	3,430
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	27.0	23,760
Contact with object, equipment	13.9	12,240
Struck by object or equipment	7.8	6,860
Struck against object or equipment	2.9	2,570
Caught in or compressed by object or equipment	2.6	2,260
Overexertion and bodily reaction	14.9	13,120
Repetitive motion involving micro tasks	0.7	650
Overexertion in lifting or lowering	4.9	4,270

COVID cases do not have a special classification, but are broken out into specific Nature of Injury, Illness, Part of Body Affected, Event or Exposure, and Source of Injury, Illness classifications. Not all classifications are included in the tables above, but COVID cases are included, along with other cases in the following: Part – Body Systems; and Event or Exposure – Exposure to harmful substances or environments.

Part of Body Affected – Body system is used when the entire body is affected, such as allergic reactions, venomous bites, dizziness, anxiety attacks, along with the effects from COVID. Figure 1 shows changes in Part of Body Affected from 2019 to 2020.

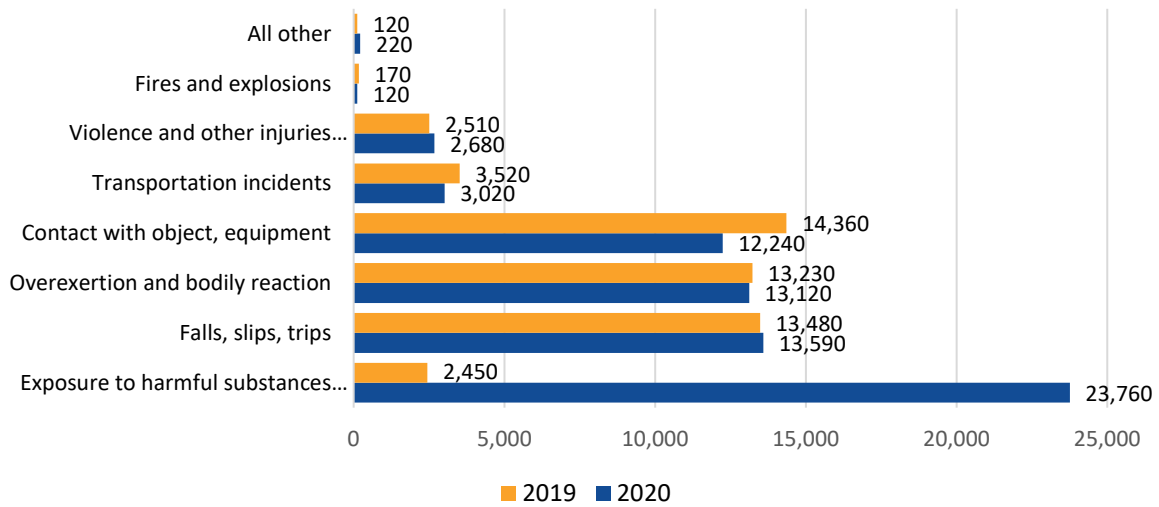
Event or Exposure – Exposure to harmful substances or environments includes poisoning, allergic reactions, contagious and infectious diseases, and drug overdoses. Figure 2 shows changes in Event or Exposure from 2019 to 2020.

Figure 1. Distribution of Injuries and Illnesses by Part of Body, Texas, Private Sector 2019 [Total Cases = 49,840] and 2020 [Total Cases = 68,750]



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating state agencies, November 2021.

Figure 2. Distribution of Injuries and Illnesses by Event or Exposure, Texas, Private sector 2019 [Total Cases = 49,840] and 2020 [Total Cases = 68,750]



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating state agencies, November 2021.

Demographics

Age

The overall private industry incident rate and case counts increased from 2019 to 2020. Table 5 shows that all but the youngest workers (ages 14 to 19), and oldest workers (age 65 and up), saw increases in incident and case counts.

Table 5. Incidence Rate and Number of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Age of Employee and Major Industry Sector, Private Industry, Texas 2020

Age	Private Industry Incidence Rate	Private Industry Case Count	Goods-Producing Industries Case Count	Service Providing Industries Case Count	Median Days Away from Work
14 to 15			--		
16 to 19	80.6	1,650	200	1,450	5
20 to 24	96.6	7,520	1,180	6,340	11
25 to 34	74.3	15,700	2,940	12,760	11
35 to 44	73.0	15,310	2,630	12,680	11
45 to 54	80.1	14,420	3,580	10,840	14
55 to 64	82.9	10,910	1,990	8,920	17
65 and up	63.7	2,640	440	2,200	14

Length of Service

All length of service employee groups saw an increase in the number of cases reported. All groups in the service-providing industries saw an increase, but only employees with one or more years of service saw an increase in the goods-producing industries, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Number of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Length of Service and Major Industry Sector, Private Industry, Texas 2020

Length of Service with Employer	Private Industry	Goods-Producing Industries	Service-Providing Industries	Median Days Away from Work
Less than 3	8,160	1,510	6,650	13
3 to 11 months	15,440	2,600	12,840	11
1 to 5 years	25,850	5,430	20,410	13
More than 5 years	19,000	3,610	15,390	13

This report is a companion to the 2020 industry summary data report which can be found at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/nonfatalhomepag.html. In December 2021, DWC will issue a report covering work-related fatalities from the 2020 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

To get more Texas nonfatal occupational injury and illness data, contact DWC at 512-804-4640 or email InjuryAnalysis@tdi.texas.gov. You can also visit www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/index.html. Details about the national BLS injury and illness data are at www.htm.bls.gov/iif.

Endnotes

Beginning with survey year 2011, the classification system used to code case characteristics and occupations was revised, which created a break in series. Case characteristics (nature, body part, source, and event) and many occupations for years after 2011 are not comparable to data for years before 2011.

Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 FTEs and were calculated as: $(N / EH) \times 20,000,000$ where, N = number of injuries and illnesses, EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year, 20,000,000 = base for 10,000 FTEs (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

DAFW cases include those that result in DAFW with or without job transfer or restriction.

Private industry data excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees. Totals include data for industries shown separately.

Data for mining include establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to BLS by MSHA, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. This data does not reflect the changes OSHA made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.

Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Data do not reflect the changes OSHA made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.

A dash indicates data do not meet publication guidelines.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating state agencies, November 2021.

DWC Resources

Employers with questions about participating in this survey may call DWC at 866-237-6405. DWC provides various safety and health services to help reduce injuries and illnesses in the workplace including:

- free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations;
- regional and onsite safety training;
- free safety and health publications;
- free safety training streaming videos; and
- the Safety Violations Hotline.

For more information on these services, visit www.txsafetyatwork.com or call 800-252-7031, option 2. Employers that carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas can get accident prevention services from their insurance companies at no additional charge.



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