

Construction deaths up 10% in preliminary 2014 report; total leads all industries

Wayne Grayson | November 02, 2015 |

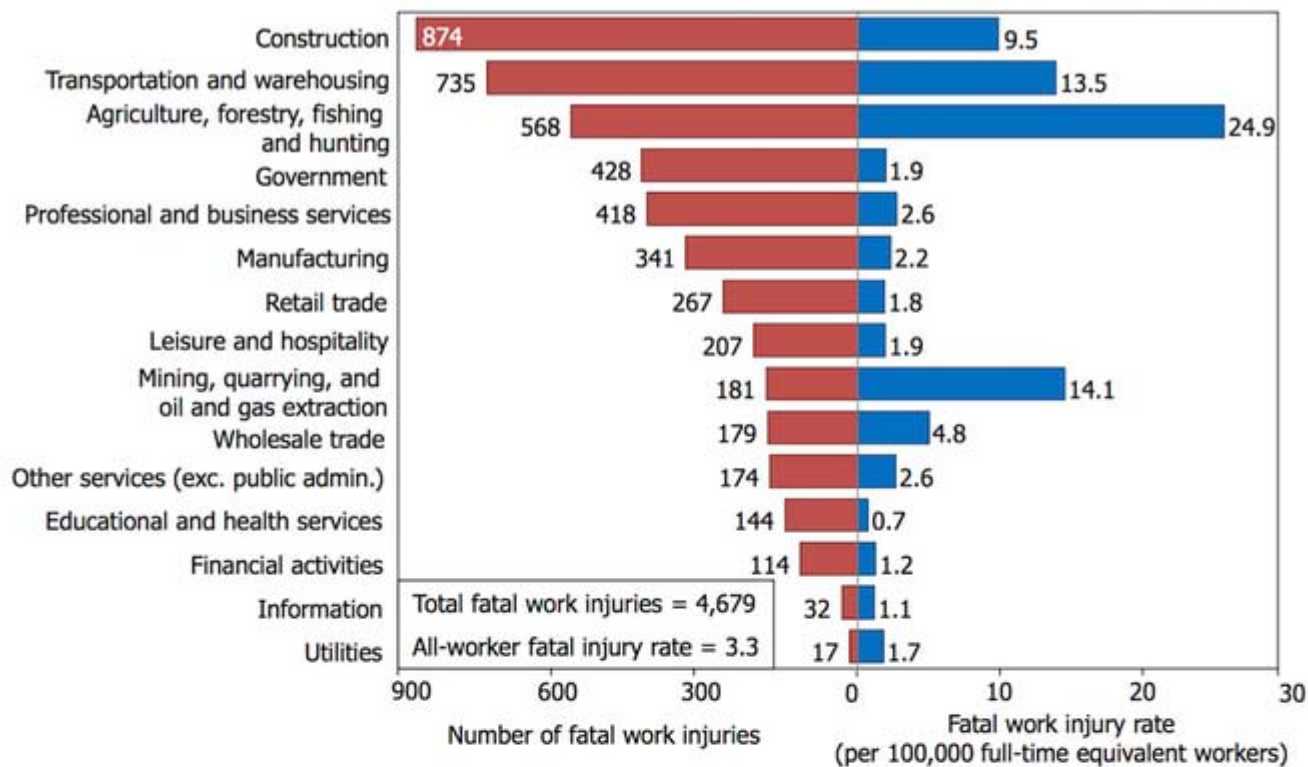


Nearly 4,700 people were killed on the job in 2014, [according to preliminary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), with the construction industry accounting for nearly one-fifth of those deaths.

The number of construction workers killed on the job increased by 10 percent in 2014 to 874, once again making the industry accountable for the highest number of worker deaths in the country.

Early data from the BLS suggests a total of 4,679 Americans died on the job in 2014.

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries by industry sector, 2014*



Private construction had the highest count of fatal injuries in 2014, but the private agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector had the highest fatal work injury rate.

*Data for 2014 are preliminary.

Note: Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. The number of fatal work injuries represents total published fatal injuries before the exclusions. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm>.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2015.

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The BLS releases two Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) reports each year: preliminary findings in the Fall and final numbers in the Spring. The CFOI pulls from multiple sources to tally construction deaths and must confirm each one in at least two ways, be it through a morgue report or investigation of the incident itself. The final number of deaths is usually higher than the preliminary report.

Second to construction in 2014 was the transportation and warehousing industry, accounting for 735 deaths, followed by Agriculture (which includes forestry, fishing and hunting) at 568.

Construction's death figure amounts to a worker death rate of 9.5 per 100,000, placing it as the fourth deadliest industry in the U.S. behind Agriculture, Mining (which includes quarrying and oil/gas extraction), and Transportation.

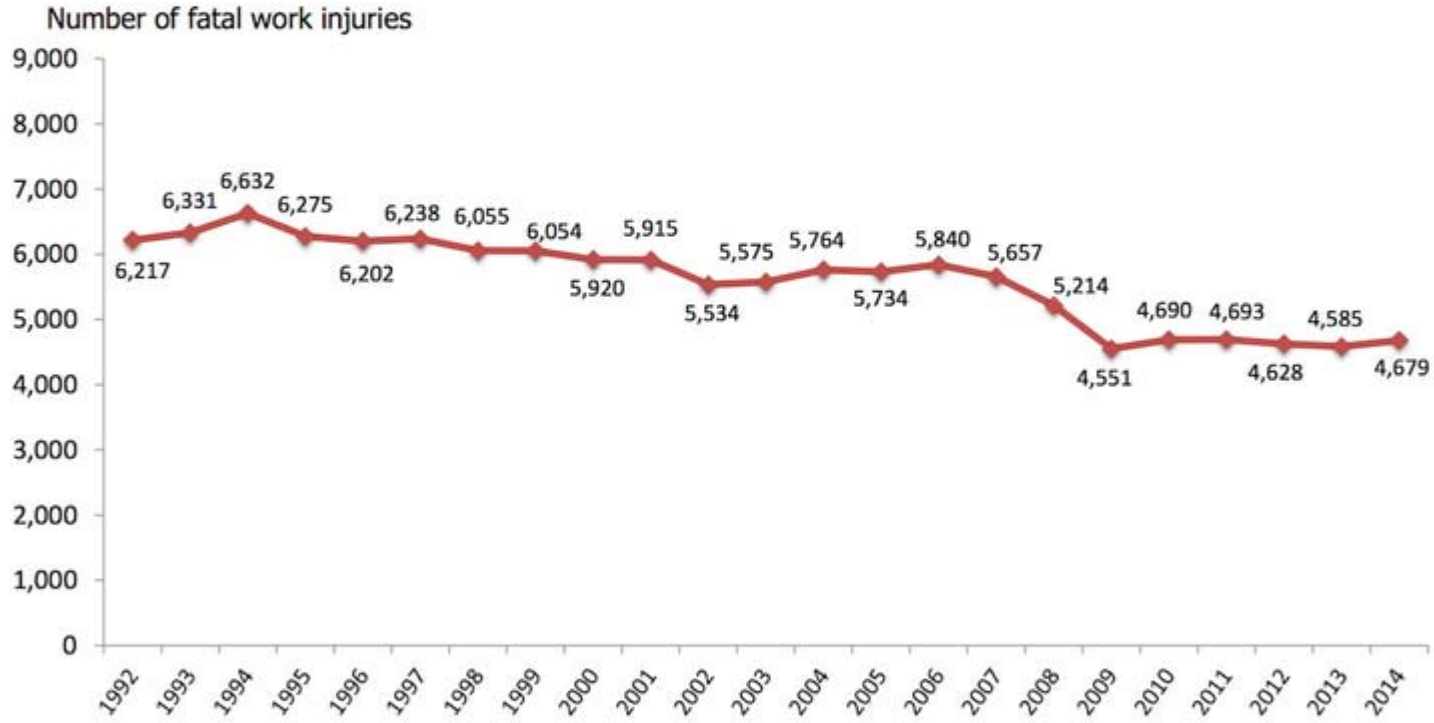
The leading cause of death in 2014 among construction workers, as has been the case for years, was falling, killing 349 workers.

Second to falls were transportation incidents at 231. These incidents typically involve vehicles in a highway work zone. Finally, exposure to harmful substances or environments killed 120 construction workers, followed by contact with objects and equipment at 114.

Roofing was the deadliest craft among construction workers, claiming the lives of 81 workers in 2014. That was followed by electrical work at 78, plumbing, heating and cooling at 62 and highway work at 61.

A total 206 jobsite laborers were killed in 2014 along with 38 equipment operators, according to the preliminary data.

Number of fatal work injuries, 1992–2014*



The preliminary total of 4,679 fatal work injuries in 2014 was 2 percent higher than the final count of 4,585 fatal work injuries reported for 2013. The count for 2014 was the highest since 2011.

*Data for 2014 are preliminary. Data for prior years are revised and final.
Note: Data from 2001 exclude fatal work injuries resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015