



---

# Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Illinois, 2017

Epidemiologic Report Series 19:01

October 2019

# Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Illinois, 2017



A Publication of the  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
Division of Epidemiologic Studies  
Springfield, IL

October 2019

This project supported by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the cooperative effort of the local, state, and federal agencies that provide source documents used to identify fatal occupational injuries. Among these agencies are the county coroners' offices; the Cook County Medical Examiner's office; the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the Illinois Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health; the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Vital Records; the Illinois Department of Transportation, Traffic Safety Division; the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission; the Illinois State Police, local police departments, and sheriffs' offices; the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration; and the National Transportation Safety Board. The IDPH Division of Epidemiologic Studies would like to thank each of these agencies for their continued support and cooperation in helping IDPH collect and publish data on fatal occupational injuries.

## Suggested Citation

Swenny M and Wamack J. Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Illinois, 2017. Epidemiologic Report Series 19:01. Springfield, Ill.: Illinois Department of Public Health, July 2019.

## Copyright Information

All material in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission; a citation as a source appreciated.

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	iii
Suggested Citation .....	iii
Copyright Information .....	iii
Table of Contents.....	iv
Fatal Occupational Injuries – 2017 .....	1
Major Findings.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Methods .....	2
Results .....	3
Overall Trends.....	3
Demographics .....	3
Incident Data.....	4
Table 1.....	5
Figure 1.....	6
Table 2.....	7
Table 3.....	8
Table 4.....	9
Table 5.....	10

# Fatal Occupational Injuries – 2017

## Major Findings

- There were 163 fatal work-related injuries in 2017. This is a 4.7% decrease from 2016's count of 171 fatal work-related injuries.
- The majority of decedents worked for wages or salary (76.1%), were male (91.4%), and were non-Hispanic white (79.8%).
- The industry sectors per the North American Industry Classification System, 2012 edition, with the greatest percentage of injury-related fatalities in 2017 were:
  - Transportation and warehousing (25.8%)
  - Construction (16.0%)
  - Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (9.2%)
  - Manufacturing (7.4%)
  - Administrative and waste services (6.7%)
- The detailed occupations per the Standard Occupational Classification Manual, 2010 edition, with the greatest percentage of injury-related fatalities within their assigned industries were:
  - Transportation and material handling (59 total fatal injuries): motor vehicle operators accounted for 28.8% of work-related deaths.
  - Construction and extraction occupations (25 total fatal injuries): construction trade workers accounted for 12.3% of work-related deaths.
  - Management occupations (14 total fatal injuries): farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers accounted for 6.1% of work-related deaths.
  - Protective service occupations (8 total fatal injuries): law enforcement workers accounted for 3.7% of work-related deaths.
  - Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations (8 total fatal injuries): vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers accounted for 2.5% of work-related deaths.
  - Production operations occupations (8 total fatal injuries): supervisors of production work accounted for 1.8% of work-related deaths.

- For all industries, these events or exposure resulted in the most fatalities:
  - Transportation (37.4%)
  - Falls, slips, trips (16.6%)
  - Contact with objects and equipment (14.1%)
  - Exposure to harmful substances or environments (13.5%)
  - Violence and other injuries by persons or animals (12.3%)
  - Fires and explosions (4.3%)

## Introduction

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Epidemiologic Studies conducts the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) with partial support from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This partnership has been in existence since 1993. The purpose of the Illinois CFOI is to monitor, verify, and record all instances of workplace fatalities. Upon receipt of fatality data, CFOI staff works to verify fatalities and collect additional information on fatality circumstances and demographics of the decedent. This report presents data collected through the Illinois CFOI program for calendar year 2017.

## Methods

The Illinois CFOI obtains data elements from a variety of public and confidential source documents. These documents include, but are not limited to, coroner and medical examiner reports, death certificates, National Transportation Safety Board reports, news media articles and reports, Mine Safety and Health Administration reports, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports, police reports, and workers' compensation reports.

For verification purposes, a minimum of two source documents are required for each fatality case. CFOI staffers match source documents with cases using the decedent's name, place of employment, date and approximate time of death, or any other combination of identifying elements that can help differentiate existing cases from new ones. For some cases, the second source document is a questionnaire completed by the decedent's employer or another informant. In instances where two source documents are unavailable, BLS and state employees review cases to determine if the data is sufficiently reliable for inclusion. If a fatality does not

meet BLS' criteria, the cases are marked out-of-scope and the data will not appear in either the national aggregate data or this report.

For injury-related fatalities to be included, cases must meet the following criteria: the incident must have occurred in Illinois, the death must have occurred during calendar year 2017, and the injury must be work-related according to the BLS guidelines. The injury must have occurred either: on the employer's premises while the person was there to work, or off the employer's premises and the person was at a specific location to work or the event/exposure where the death occurred was related to the person's work or employee status. 'Work' is defined by the BLS guidelines as 'duties, activities, or tasks that produce a product or result; that are done in exchange for money, goods, services, profit or benefit; and that are legal activities in the United States.'

## Results

The following data tables present some of the data collected during the 2017 CFOI cycle. Columns and rows may not add up to 100% as not all included cases may be publishable. Cases that lack publicly accessed source documents and have three or less total cases associated with the subcategory are not published to protect the deceased's privacy. Cells with double dash marks (--) are empty due to unpublishable data or because there was no data reported.

## Overall Trends

In 2017, there were 163 fatal occupational injuries reported, which is a decrease of 4.7% over the 171 work-related fatalities collected in the 2016 CFOI (Figure 1). Compared to the previous year, fatalities decreased by 8.1% in the private sector and increased by 33.3% in the public sector.

## Demographics

When documenting fatal occupational injuries, the Illinois CFOI collects data on the demographics of the decedent and the circumstances of the incident. Of the 163 injury-related fatalities in 2017, 124 (76.1%) occurred among wage/salary workers, and 39 (23.9%) occurred among the self-employed (Table 1).

Men made up a significantly larger section of the fatally injured, with 149 (91.4%) injuries compared to the 14 (8.6%) fatal injuries sustained by women (Table 1). People in the 55 to 64 years age group had the highest occurrence of fatal injuries (23.3%). The next highest were those ages 35 to 44 years(19.6%), and those 65 years and older (18.4%) (Table 1). The majority of reported fatalities involved non-Hispanic white workers (79.8%), and Hispanic or Latino workers experienced the second-highest reported fatalities (10.4%) (Table 1).

#### Incident Data

The transportation and warehousing industry sector (per North American Industry Classification System codes 2012) incurred the most injury-related fatalities with 42 (25.8%); followed by construction with 26 (16.0%); agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting with 15 (9.2%); and manufacturing with 12 (7.4%) (Table 2).

The major group occupations (per Standard Occupational Classification 2010) suffering the most injury-related fatalities were transportation and material handlers with 59 fatalities (36.2%); followed by construction and extraction occupations with 25 (15.3%). Management occupations saw 14 fatalities (8.6%), protective service occupations followed with eight fatalities (4.9%), and installation, maintenance, and repair occupations had eight fatalities (4.9%) (Table 3).

The event or exposure causing the injury-related fatality is another important aspect in describing work-related fatalities. Transportation incidents continue to cause the most injury-related occupational fatalities in 2017 with 61 fatalities. (37.4% ). Falls, slips, and trips are the second most prevalent type of incident causing 27 fatalities (16.6%). Contact with objects and equipment caused 23 fatalities (14.1%) and exposure to harmful substances or environment cause 22 (13.5%), ranking third and fourth in injury-related fatalities (Table 4).

When cross tabulating the event or exposure that caused the injury-related fatality with the industry sector in which the fatality occurred, certain industries are more susceptible to certain events. Within industry sectors, transportation incidents were the leading cause of fatalities for transportation and warehousing (55.0%); agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (40.0%); and leisure and hospitality (40.0%). Falls, slips, and trips were the leading event for fatalities in construction (38.5 percent); wholesale trade (40.0%); and administrative and waste services



(36.4%). Contact with objects and equipment was the leading cause of fatalities for manufacturing (41.7%) (Table 5).

<b>Table 1. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Selected Socio-Demographic Characteristics, Private and Public Ownership, Illinois, 2017</b>		
	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentages<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Employment Status</b>		
Wage and salary workers	124	76.1
Self-employed <sup>1</sup>	39	23.9
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	149	91.4
Women	14	8.6
<b>Age</b>		
<20	6	3.7
20-24	4	2.5
25-34	25	15.3
35-44	32	19.6
45-54	28	17.2
55-64	38	23.3
65 years and older	30	18.4
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White (non-Hispanic)	130	79.8
Black	11	6.7
Hispanic or Latino	17	10.4
Other	4	2.5

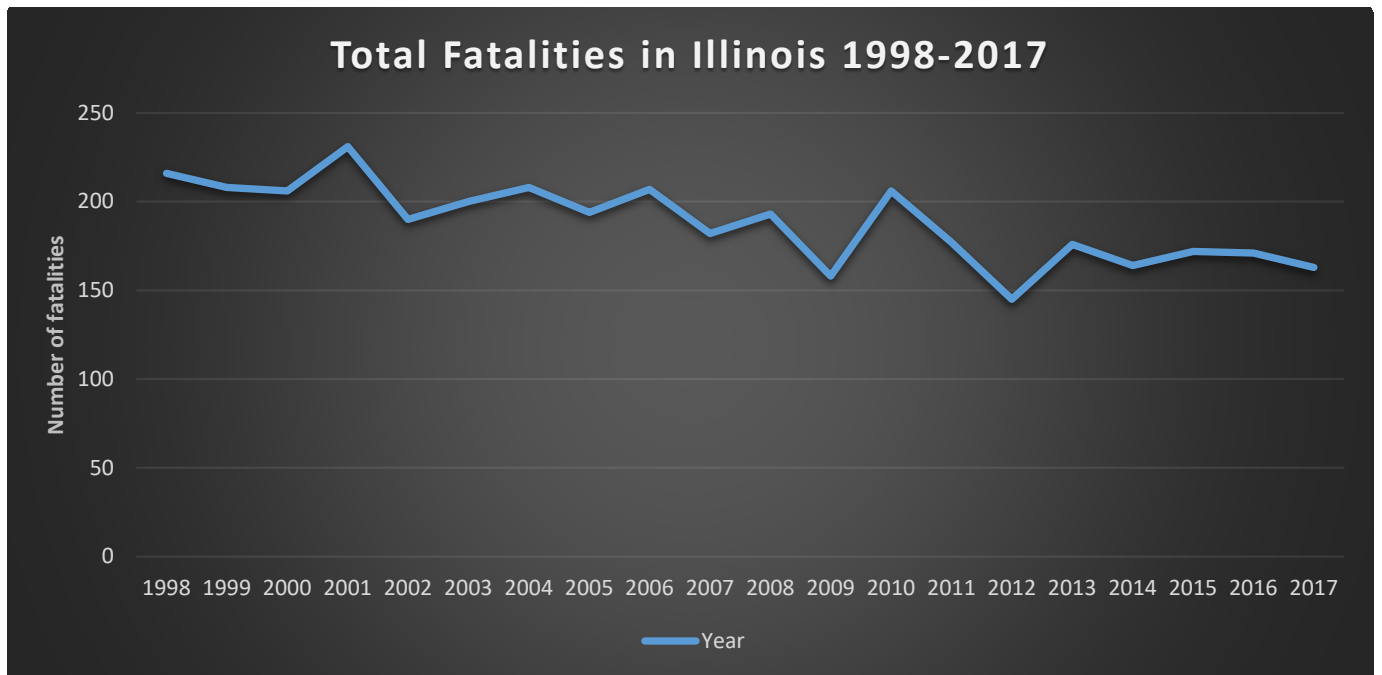
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

<sup>1</sup>Includes paid and unpaid family workers and may include owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

<sup>2</sup>Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## TABLES AND FIGURES

Figure 1. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Illinois, 1998-2017



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

<b>Table 2. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry<sup>1</sup>, Illinois, 2017</b>		
	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentage<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Transportation and warehousing</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>25.8</b>
Truck transportation	26	16.0
<b>Construction</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16.0</b>
Specialty trade contractors	21	12.9
Construction of buildings	3	1.8
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, fishing, and hunting</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Crop production	10	6.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Fabricated metal production manufacturing	6	3.7
<b>Administrative and waste services</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Administrative and support services	8	4.9
<b>Wholesale trade</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	6	3.7
Merchant wholesalers, non-durable goods	4	2.5
<b>Arts, entertainment, and recreation</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Other services, except public administration</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Repair and maintenance	3	1.8
<b>Retail trade</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Accommodations and food services</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Food services and drinking places	4	2.5
<b>Public Administration</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health

<sup>1</sup>North American Industry Classification System, 2012 edition.

<sup>2</sup>Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 3. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Occupation<sup>1</sup>, Illinois, 2017**

	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentages<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Transportation and material handlers occupations</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>36.2</b>
Motor vehicle operators	47	28.8
Material moving workers	9	5.5
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15.3</b>
Construction trade workers	20	12.3
<b>Management occupations</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers	10	6.1
<b>Protective service occupations</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Law enforcement workers	6	3.7
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers/repairers	4	2.5
<b>Production occupations</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Supervisors of production workers	3	1.8
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Supervisors of building and grounds cleaning/maintenance workers	3	1.8
<b>Sales and related occupations</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Supervisors of sales workers	4	2.5
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing	3	1.8
<b>Food preparation and serving related occupations</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Personal care and service occupations</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

<sup>1</sup>Standard Occupational Classification Manual, 2010 edition.

<sup>2</sup>Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

<b>Table 4. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure<sup>1</sup>, Illinois, 2017</b>		
	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentages<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Transportation incidents</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>37.4</b>
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle	31	19.0
Non-roadway incident involving motorized land vehicles	12	7.4
Pedestrian vehicular incident	11	6.7
<b>Falls, slips, trips</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16.6</b>
Falls to lower level	20	12.3
Falls on same level	7	4.3
<b>Contact with objects and equipment</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14.1</b>
Struck by object or equipment	19	11.7
<b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13.5</b>
Exposure to other harmful substances	17	10.4
Exposure to electricity	4	2.5
<b>Violence and other injuries by persons or animals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12.3</b>
Homicides	13	8.0
Suicides	4	2.5
<b>Fires and explosions</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.3</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward.

<sup>2</sup>Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Private Ownership, Illinois, 2017**

Industry	Event or Exposure													
	Total Fatalities		Transportation		Violence and other injuries by persons or animals		Contact with objects and equipment		Falls, slips, trips		Exposure to harmful substances or environments		Fires and Explosions	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting</b>	15	9.2	6	40.0	--	--	3	20.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Construction</b>	26	16.0	3	11.5	--	--	3	11.5	10	38.5	8	30.8	--	--
<b>Manufacturing</b>	12	7.4	--	--	--	--	5	41.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Trade, transportation, and utilities</b>	58	35.6	31	53.4	8	13.8	7	12.1	5	8.6	6	10.3	--	--
<b>Wholesale trade</b>	10	6.1	3	30.0	--	--	--	--	4	40.0	--	--	--	--
<b>Retail trade</b>	4	2.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Transportation and warehousing</b>	42	25.8	23	54.8	6	14.3	5	11.9	--	--	6	14.3	--	--
<b>Accommodations and food services</b>	4	2.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Professional and technical services</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Administrative and waste services</b>	11	6.7	3	27.3	--	--	--	--	4	36.4	--	--	--	--
<b>Leisure and hospitality</b>	10	6.1	4	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Other services, except public administration</b>	6	3.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Public Administration</b>	3	1.8	--	--	--	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.  
 Note: Numbers and percentages may not add to totals due to exclusions of categories that do not meet publication criteria.