

OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION (OR-OSHA)

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) offers a wide range of services to Oregon's employers and workers to improve workplace safety and health. These services include:

- Consultations
- Education/conferences
- Technical resources and film library
- Educational grants
- Hazard abatement assistance

For more information, contact:
OR-OSHA
350 Winter St. NE, Rm. 430
P.O. Box 14480
Salem, OR 97309-0405
(503) 378-3272 or
(800) 922-2689
www.orosha.org

Fatality/claims data

Additional information about work-related fatalities, injuries, and illnesses can be found on IMD's Web site at: <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/>. From the home page, select "Statistical Reports" and on the next Web page select "Workers' Compensation." From there you can find tables, descriptions of cases, and summary reports for occupational fatalities by selecting "Fatality." Or, you may select "Claim" and "Characteristics" to find rates, tables, and summary reports for all accepted disabling Workers' Compensation injury and illness claims.

Census of fatal occupational injuries

National work-related fatality data can be found on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Web site at: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>

Fatality assessment and control evaluation

Information about Oregon Health Sciences University's Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Program (FACE) can be found at: <http://www.ohsu.edu/croet/face/>

Employer workers' compensation coverage

For additional information about employer coverage requirements, you may contact the Workers' Compensation Division Employer Compliance Program at wcd.employerinfo@state.or.us, call (888) 877-5670, or find it on the Internet at: <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/wcd/index.html>

Classification systems

Data are classified according to the following classification systems:

Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS)
Standard Occupation Classification System (SOC)
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

Department of Consumer & Business Services
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Department of Consumer & Business Services

Information Management Division



Oregon Compensable Fatality Characteristics

Calendar Year 2004



Oregon's Compensable Fatalities 2004

The Department of Consumer and Business Services' Workers' Compensation Division was notified by insurers of 46 claims accepted for fatality benefits during the 2004 calendar year, an increase of five fatalities from 2003. Employment increased by 49,300 workers. This resulted in a rate of 2.81 compensable fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Claims included in this year's statistics are fatalities that occurred during or before 2004, and were reported to the Department of Consumer & Business Services by Jan. 31, 2005. Claims with dates of death in prior years are included if the insurer accepted and reported them for the first time within the 13-month time frame (Jan. 1, 2004-Jan. 31, 2005).

Data exclude deaths of workers not subject to Oregon Workers' Compensation coverage, such as workers who were self-employed, working in Oregon for out-of-state employers, city of Portland police and fire employees, or federal employees.

Compensable fatality rates 1994-2004

Year	WC covered employment	Fatal claims	Fatal rate
1994	1,378,800	55	3.99
1995	1,431,600	48	3.35
1996	1,487,300	54	3.63
1997	1,547,800	43	2.78
1998	1,576,100	52	3.30
1999	1,602,700	47	2.93
2000	1,627,600	45	2.76
2001	1,616,400	34	2.10
2002	1,596,100	52	3.26
2003	1,585,800	41	2.59
2004	1,635,100	46	2.81

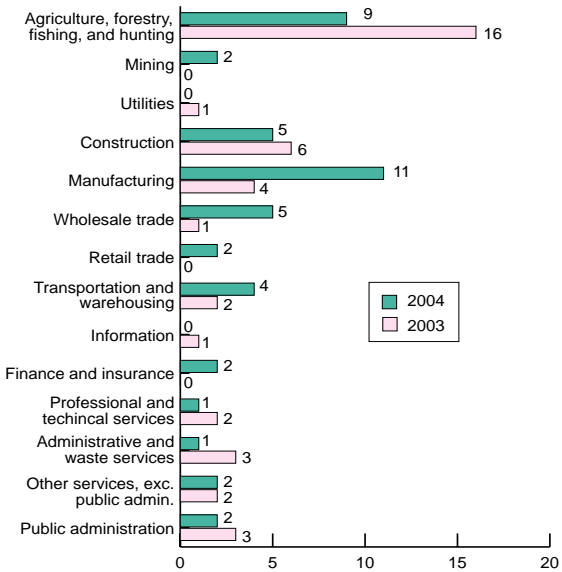
Note: Employment figures are based on data from Oregon Employment Department. Fatal rates represent the number of claims per 100,000 workers.

The compensable fatality count can be affected by tragic accidents that kill multiple victims simultaneously. During 2004 there were no incidents with multiple victims, compared with three accidents in 2003 that claimed multiple victims.

In 2004 there were five cases of occupational illnesses, including asbestosis, silicosis, and cancers; this compares with one compensable occupational illness case in 2003.

Industry

Figure 1. Fatalities by NAICS industry classification, Oregon, 2003-2004



Within the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry group, the logging industry claimed eight compensable fatalities in 2004, 17.4 percent of the total. Eight logging fatalities were also reported in 2003. The fatal rate for logging was 102.56 workers killed per 100,000 employed in 2004, compared with 105.26 in 2003.

Additional claims rates information can be found on the Internet at <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/rasums/claimsrates/99-03/claimsrate99-03.pdf>.

Other interesting findings, Oregon, 2004

- ◆ The median age of the 46 workers at injury was 44.5 years. The youngest worker killed was a 16-year-old dog trainer who died in an ATV accident. The oldest worker killed was a 71-year-old log truck driver who was driving a log truck, failed to negotiate a curve, ran off the road, and overturned the vehicle.
- ◆ Of the 46 people who died in work-related accidents, 39 were men and seven were women, compared with 38 men and three women in 2003.
- ◆ Multnomah and Washington counties claimed the most fatalities in Oregon during 2004 with six victims each, compared with four and one, respectively, in 2003. Eight fatalities occurred outside Oregon (one in Alabama, two in California, one in Idaho, and four in Washington).

Event or Exposure

Event	2004		2003	
	#	%	#	%
Struck by/against object	4	8.7%	7	17.1%
Caught in equipment/material	6	13.0%	1	2.4%
Fall from elevation	5	10.9%	2	4.9%
Bodily reaction	0	0.0%	1	2.4%
Exp. to caustic, allergenic sub.	7	15.2%	2	4.9%
Exp. to harmful environ., other	1	2.2%	1	2.4%
Contact with electric current	1	2.2%	2	4.9%
Highway accident	13	28.3%	13	31.7%
Nonhighway accident	4	8.7%	2	4.9%
Struck by vehicle	4	8.7%	1	2.4%
Aircraft accident	1	2.2%	6	14.6%
Assault or violent acts	0	0.0%	1	2.4%
Fires and explosions	0	0.0%	2	4.9%
Total	46	100.0%	41	100.0%

The event or exposure describes the manner in which the injury or illness was produced or inflicted by the source of injury or illness.

In 2004, highway motor vehicle accidents accounted for more than 25 percent of the deaths, claiming 13 lives, the same count as reported in 2003.

At least four of the 13 workers killed in highway motor vehicle accidents were not wearing seatbelts (four were unknown). Four of the 13 fatalities occurred on the interstate, four occurred on a highway, three occurred on a local road, and two had unknown locations.

Occupation

Occupation group	2004		2003	
	#	%	#	%
Management	2	4.3%	2	4.9%
Architecture and engineering	0	0.0%	1	2.4%
Life, physical, and social science	0	0.0%	1	2.4%
Community and social services	1	2.2%	0	0.0%
Education, training, and library	0	0.0%	1	2.4%
Healthcare practitioner and tech.	0	0.0%	1	2.4%
Protective service	1	2.2%	9	22.0%
Food preparation and serving	1	2.2%	0	0.0%
Bldg. and grounds cleaning/maint.	2	4.3%	1	2.4%
Personal care and service	1	2.2%	2	4.9%
Sales	3	6.5%	0	0.0%
Office and administrative support	1	2.2%	1	2.4%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	6	13.0%	6	14.6%
Construction and extraction	5	10.9%	5	12.2%
Installation, maint., and repair	2	4.3%	0	0.0%
Production	4	8.7%	5	12.2%
Transp. and material moving	17	37.0%	6	14.6%
Total	46	100.0%	41	100.0%

There were 17 transportation and material moving occupation employees (including truck drivers) killed in 2004 compared with six in 2003.

Ethnicity

Race	#	%
White	41	89.1%
Other races, including Hispanic/Latino	2	4.3%
Person of multiple races	1	2.2%
Not reported	2	4.3%
Hispanic origin?	#	%
Yes	6	13.0%
No	33	71.7%
Not reported	7	15.2%
Country of birth	#	%
Mexico	4	8.7%
Germany	2	4.3%
U.S. citizen or not reported	40	87.0%

Note: Due to rounding, the sum of percents may not equal 100.0. Persons identified as being of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

In 2004, Oregon began collecting ethnicity data for compensable fatalities in response to a national news story that stated that Hispanic workers were more likely to die on the job than non-Hispanic workers (see: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/peoplebox.htm#faq>).

Tenure

Tenure	2004		2003	
	#	%	#	%
1st year	14	30.4%	16	39.0%
A month or less	5	10.9%	5	12.2%
2nd - 3rd months	4	8.7%	5	12.2%
4th - 6th months	4	8.7%	3	7.3%
7th - 12th months	1	2.2%	3	7.3%
2nd year	5	10.9%	5	12.2%
3rd year	2	4.3%	2	4.9%
4th - 5th years	6	13.0%	1	2.4%
6th - 10th years	6	13.0%	10	24.4%
11th - 25th years	6	13.0%	2	4.9%
26th and more	2	4.3%	2	4.9%
Unknown	5	10.9%	3	7.3%
Total	46	100.0%	41	100.0%

Fourteen workers died within the first year of working for the employer in 2004. Of these 14 workers, 11 were injured in transportation accidents including motor vehicle accidents, aircraft accidents, and industrial accidents.

Tenure is the amount of time the victim had worked for the employer and is not necessarily indicative of the level of experience. However, the tenure information does indicate the need for training and supervision of new employees. The deaths of workers with longer tenure point out the need for programs to reinforce safety training.