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EMPLOYER-REPORTED WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES – 2020

Private industry employers reported 2.7 million nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in 2020, down from 2.8 million in 2019, a decrease of 5.7 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. In 2020, the incidence rate of total recordable cases (TRC) in private industry was 2.7 cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. These estimates are from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII).

The decline in injury and illness cases was due to a drop in injury cases, with private industry employers reporting 2.1 million nonfatal injuries in 2020, down from 2.7 million in 2019. At the same time, total reported illness cases more than quadrupled to 544,600 cases, up from 127,200 cases in 2019. (See chart 1.) This increase was driven by a nearly 4,000 percent increase in employer reported respiratory illness cases in 2020 at 428,700, up from 10,800 in 2019. (See chart 2.)

The rate of injury cases also decreased in 2020, with private industry employers reporting a rate of 2.2 cases per 100 FTE workers compared to 2.6 cases in 2019. Over the same period, the rate of illness cases increased from 12.4 cases per 10,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers to 55.9 cases. The increase was driven by the rise in the respiratory illness rate, which rose from 1.1 cases per 10,000 FTE workers to 44.0 cases.

Chart 1. Total reported, injury, and illness case counts, private industry, 2019-20

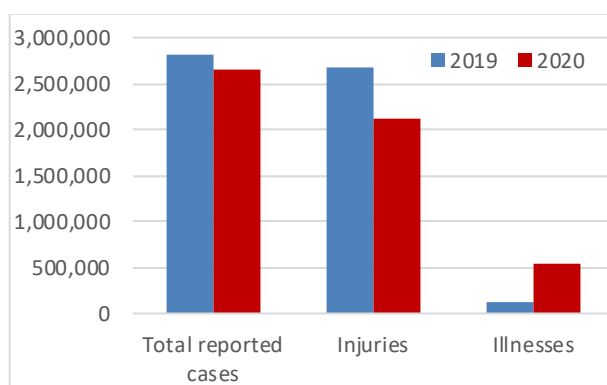
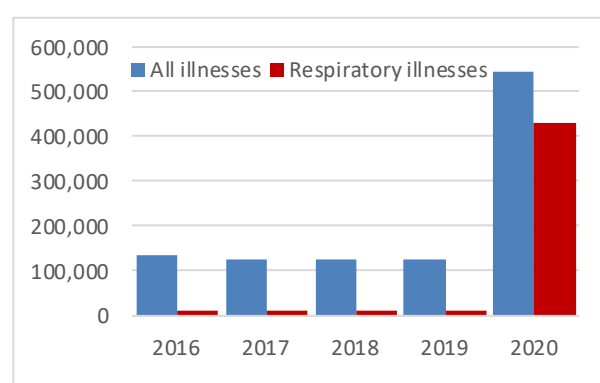


Chart 2. Counts of cases of all illnesses and respiratory illnesses, private industry, 2016-20



There were 1,176,340 nonfatal injuries and illnesses that caused a private industry worker to miss at least one day of work in 2020, 32.4 percent higher than in 2019. Of these cases, 33.2 percent (390,020 cases) were categorized as other diseases due to viruses not elsewhere classified, which includes reported COVID-19-pandemic related illnesses. (See table 3.)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact in SOII Results

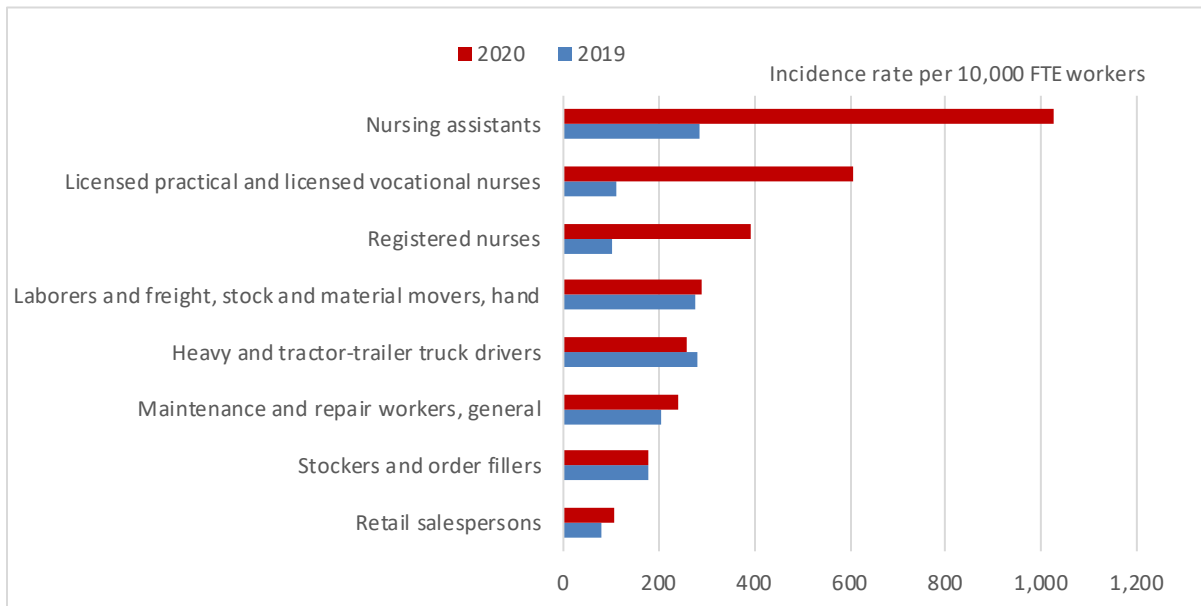
Occupational injuries and illnesses collected in the 2020 SOII include cases of COVID-19 when a worker was infected as a result of performing their work-related duties and met other recordkeeping criteria. COVID-19 is considered a respiratory illness under criteria established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The SOII collects detailed case information, including nature, for incidences requiring at least one day away from work and codes these cases using the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS). While OIICS does not include a code specifically for COVID-19, applicable days away from work cases were included in the Nature code 3299 – “Other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified.”

Occupation

Ten occupations accounted for 38.3 percent of all private industry cases involving days away from work (DAFW) in 2020. Of these, nursing assistants had the highest number of DAFW cases with 96,480, an increase of 68,890 cases (249.7 percent) from 2019. In 2020, DAFW cases for registered nurses increased by 58,590 cases (290.8 percent) to 78,740 cases. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers had 43,500 DAFW cases in 2020, a decrease of 4,490 cases (9.4 percent). DAFW cases for laborers and freight, stock and material movers, hand were essentially unchanged in 2020. (See table 4.)

Included in the ten occupations mentioned above, nursing assistants, registered nurses, and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses had notable increases in their DAFW incidence rates in 2020. Nursing assistants, specifically, had a DAFW incidence rate of 1,023.8 per 10,000 FTE workers in 2020, an increase from 283.5 in 2019. The private industry rate for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers decreased from 280.0 per 10,000 FTE workers in 2019 to 259.7 in 2020. (See chart 3.)

Chart 3. Incidence rates for cases resulting in days away from work in selected occupations, private industry, 2019-20



In 2020, the median number of days away from work in all private industry occupations was 12 days, an increase from 8 days in 2019. Nursing assistants also had a median number of 12 days, doubled from 6 days in 2019. Days away from work for registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses increased in 2020 to 13 days and 12 days, respectively. The median days for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers increased to 23 days in 2020 from 19 days in 2019.

Industry

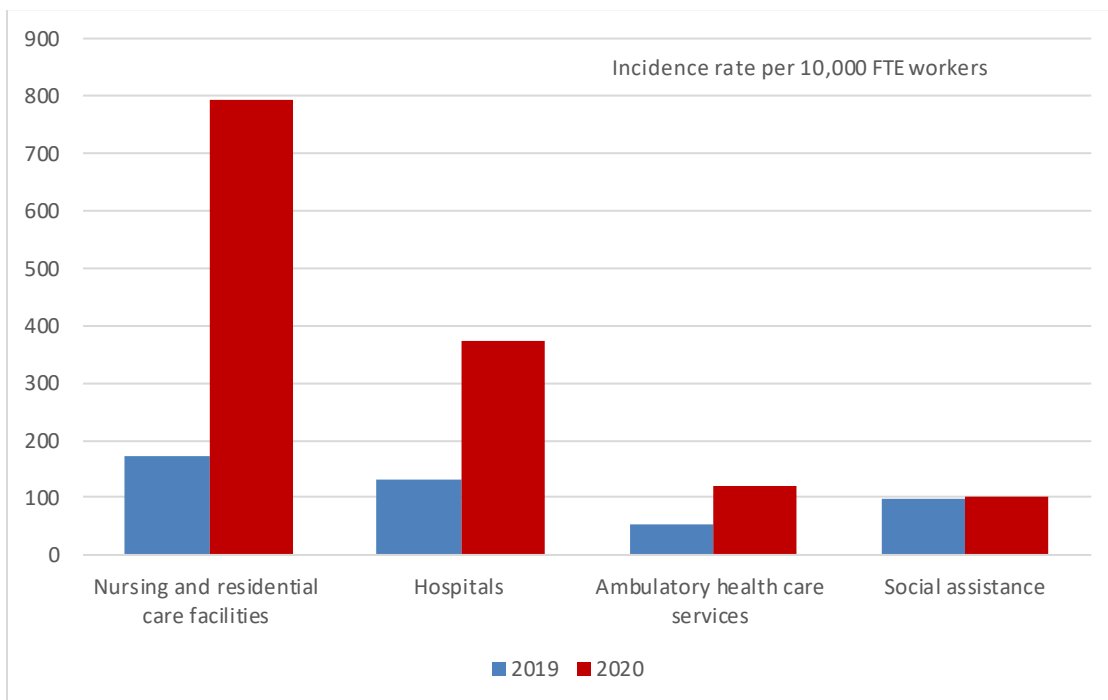
Total injury and illness cases decreased or remained the same in all private industry sectors, except for health care and social assistance, which increased 40.1 percent in 2020. (See table 3.) The health care and social assistance sector had 806,200 private industry injury and illness cases in 2020, over half (447,890) of which resulted in at least one day away from work. In 2019, this sector had 575,200 private

industry cases, with 151,410 resulting in at least one day away from work. The total incidence rate for this sector was 5.5 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2020, compared to 3.8 per 100 FTE workers in 2019.

Of the 390,020 private industry DAFW cases due to other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified, the health care and social assistance sector represented 288,890 (74.1 percent) of those cases. (See table 3.)

Among health care and social assistance industries, three industries had increases in DAFW rates in 2020. The 2020 DAFW rates for nursing and residential care facilities, hospitals, and ambulatory health care services were 791.7, 371.7, and 121.4 cases per 10,000 FTE workers, respectively. In 2019, these rates were 170.9, 129.7, and 53.5 cases per 10,000 FTE workers. In 2020, the DAFW rate for social assistance was essentially unchanged. (See chart 4.)

Chart 4. Incidence rates for cases resulting in days away from work in selected health care and social assistance industries, private industry, 2019-20



Additional Highlights

- DAFW cases for women in private industry increased 68.0 percent to 585,540 in 2020, from 348,600 in 2019. DAFW cases for men in private industry increased 7.8 percent to 577,990 in 2020, from 535,980 in 2019.
- Private industry workers age 65 years or over had a median of 14 days away from work due to injuries and illnesses in 2020, compared to 16 days for this same group of workers in 2019. All private industry workers had a median of 12 days away from work in 2020.
- The rate of total recordable cases of nonfatal injuries and illnesses in the private leisure, entertainment, and hospitality industry decreased from 3.3 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2019 to 2.7 cases in 2020, driven by a drop in injury cases from 3.2 to 2.4 cases per 100 FTE workers.
- Both the total recordable cases and rate were down in the private retail trade industry in 2020: the number of cases fell 13.8 percent to 341,100 cases, and the rate declined from 3.4 in 2019 to

3.1 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2020. At the same time, the DAFW case rate increased, rising from 1.0 per 100 FTE workers in 2019 to 1.1 cases in 2020. (See tables 2 and 3.)

Additional Information

This news release is the first of two releases from BLS covering occupational safety and health statistics for the 2020 calendar year. The SOII presents estimates of counts and incidence rates of employer reported nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses by industry and type of case, as well as detailed estimates of case circumstances and worker characteristics for cases that resulted in days away from work. A second release on December 16, 2021, will provide results from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year.

Nonfatal occupational injury and illness estimates by industry and case type are available at www.bls.gov/web/osh/summ1_00.htm and www.bls.gov/web/osh/summ2_00.htm. Tables including cross-tabulations for various case circumstances and worker characteristics are available at www.bls.gov/web/osh.supp.toc.htm.

Incidence rates and counts by industry and case type published by the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) are rounded. However, estimates, percent changes, and significant changes are determined using unrounded data. www.bls.gov/iif/rounding-published-estimates.htm

Incidence rates for days away from work cases are published per 10,000 full-time employees. Incidence rates per 10,000 workers can be converted to rates per 100 workers by moving the decimal point left, two places, and rounding the resulting rate to the nearest tenth. Data users are cautioned to account for different levels of precision when analyzing estimates presented in this release.

BLS has generated estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for many industries as defined in the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) manual. Estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses have been generated for many occupations as defined in the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) manual. For additional information on nonfatal injury and illness estimates, see www.bls.gov/iif/soii-overview.htm.

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses relies on OSHA recordkeeping requirements, which mandate employers record certain work-related injuries and illnesses on their OSHA 300 log, including the recording of cases of COVID-19. (See www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2020-05-19). For cases resulting in days away from work, COVID-19 cases were coded in Nature code 3299 – “Other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified.” (See www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-on-workplace-injuries-and-illnesses-compensation-and-occupational-requirements.htm)

All statements of comparison made in this news release are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level. Additional background and methodological information regarding the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program is located in the BLS Handbook of Methods at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/home.htm. Additional data from the SOII are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/iif, from BLS staff at (202) 691-6170, or by email at IIFSTAFF@bls.gov. Information in this release is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877- 8339.

TABLE 1. Counts of total nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses, injuries, illnesses, and respiratory illnesses, private industry, 2016-20 (thousands)

Year	Total cases ⁽¹⁾	Injuries	Illnesses	Respiratory illnesses
2016	2,857.4	2,719.8	137.5	11.0
2017	2,811.5	2,685.1	126.4	10.4
2018	2,834.5	2,707.8	126.8	12.1
2019	2,814.0	2,686.8	127.2	10.8
2020	2,654.7	2,110.1	544.6	428.7

Footnotes:

(1) Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

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

TABLE 2. Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected industry and case types, private industry, 2019-20

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Total recordable cases ⁽²⁾		Cases with days away from work ^{(2),(3)}	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Private industry ⁽⁴⁾	2.8	2.7	0.9	1.2
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting ⁽⁴⁾	5.2	4.6	1.7	1.9
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ⁽⁵⁾	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.6
Utilities	2.2	1.5	0.7	0.6
Construction	2.8	2.5	1.1	1.1
Manufacturing	3.3	3.1	0.9	1.1
Wholesale trade	2.7	2.4	1.0	1.0
Retail trade	3.4	3.1	1.0	1.1
Transportation and warehousing ⁽⁶⁾	4.4	4.0	2.0	1.9
Information	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.4
Finance and insurance	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	2.3	2.1	0.7	0.9
Professional, scientific, and technical services	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.2
Management of companies and enterprises	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.2
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	–	2.0	–	0.9
Educational services	2.0	1.1	0.6	0.4
Health care and social assistance	3.8	5.5	1.0	3.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	4.0	3.0	1.1	1.0
Accommodation and food services	3.2	2.6	0.9	0.8
Other services (except public administration)	2.0	1.8	0.7	0.9

Footnotes:

(1) Data are coded using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information on the version of NAICS used in this year, see our Handbook of Methods concepts page: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/concepts.htm>.

(2) The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as: $(N/EH) \times 200,000$, where N = number of injuries and illnesses; EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year; 200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

(3) Days-away-from-work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

(4) Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

(5) Data for Mining (Sector 21 in the North American Industry Classification System) 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 the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect changes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates of other industries.

(6) Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Note: Dash indicates data do not meet publication guidelines, data may be too small to be displayed.

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

TABLE 3. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected industry and case types, private industry, 2019-20 (thousands)

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Total recordable cases		Cases with days away from work ⁽²⁾		Other diseases due to viruses not elsewhere classified ⁽⁶⁾
	2019	2020	2019	2020	
Private industry ⁽³⁾	2,814.0	2,654.7	888.2	1,176.3	390.0
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting ⁽³⁾	50.9	45.9	17.0	18.8	2.1
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ⁽⁴⁾	9.4	7.5	4.2	4.0	0.1
Utilities	12.0	8.4	3.7	3.4	0.4
Construction	200.1	174.1	79.7	74.5	4.7
Manufacturing	421.4	373.3	116.1	135.9	30.5
Wholesale trade	153.6	132.2	55.5	56.5	8.6
Retail trade	395.7	341.1	120.2	125.6	19.1
Transportation and warehousing ⁽⁵⁾	227.9	206.9	103.6	99.8	3.9
Information	31.6	19.6	13.0	10.2	0.4
Finance and insurance	26.1	17.4	7.5	7.8	2.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	46.2	41.8	14.9	17.1	2.9
Professional, scientific, and technical services	72.8	59.5	17.2	16.9	4.4
Management of companies and enterprises	16.9	14.9	4.7	4.8	1.2
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	–	103.4	–	46.9	7.0
Educational services	38.6	22.5	12.1	7.7	0.9
Health care and social assistance	575.2	806.2	151.4	447.9	288.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	56.4	34.3	15.3	11.5	1.0
Accommodation and food services	288.7	191.0	82.9	60.9	8.6
Other services (except public administration)	64.6	54.7	21.8	26.2	3.3

Footnotes:

(1) Data are coded using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information on the version of NAICS used in this year, see our Handbook of Methods concepts page:

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/concepts.htm>.

(2) Days-away-from-work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

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(5) Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

(6) Data are coded using Occupational Injury and Illness Classification system. This coding applies only to cases resulting in days away from work. For more information, see our manual page: <https://www.bls.gov/iif/osh/iics.htm>.

Note: Dash indicates data do not meet publication

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

TABLE 4. Number, incidence rates, and median days for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work (DAFW), selected occupations, private industry, 2019-20

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	2019			2020		
	Number	Rate ⁽²⁾	Median DAFW	Number	Rate ⁽²⁾	Median DAFW
Nursing assistants	27,590	283.5	6	96,480	1,023.8	12
Registered nurses	20,150	102.1	8	78,740	390.6	13
Laborers and freight, stock and material movers, hand	64,160	275.5	12	64,930	289.8	14
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	47,990	280.0	19	43,500	259.7	23
Stockers and order fillers	27,390	176.3	10	31,280	176.2	13
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	5,350	109.5	8	29,230	608.4	12
Retail salespersons	24,870	80.2	8	28,110	106.6	11
Personal care aides	14,960	–	6	27,750	–	12
Production workers, all other	25,110	–	8	26,850	–	10
Maintenance and repair workers, general	21,490	204.6	12	23,400	241.9	10

Footnotes:

(1) Data are coded using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). For more information on the version of SOC used in this year, see our Handbook of Methods concepts page: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/concepts.htm>.

(2) The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time workers 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 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

Note: Dash indicates data do not meet publication guidelines, data may be too small to be displayed.

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

TABLE 5. Numbers and incidence rates for cases resulting in days away from work of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses in selected private health care and social assistance industries, 2019-20

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Rate ⁽²⁾		Number	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Health care and social assistance	101.1	304.3	151,410	447,890
Nursing and residential care facilities	170.9	791.7	44,020	205,780
Hospitals	129.7	371.7	52,140	148,360
Ambulatory health care services	53.5	121.4	32,050	70,110
Social assistance	97.0	100.5	23,210	23,630

Footnotes:

(1) Data are coded using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information on the version of NAICS used in this year, see our Handbook of Methods concepts page: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/concepts.htm>.

(2) The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time workers 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 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

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