

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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2010 Workplace Safety Annual Report

*Spotlight on
workplace safety*



2010 WORKPLACE SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

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Message from the Secretary of Labor



In Kansas, we are focused on workplace safety with a goal of reducing workplace accidents and creating secure working environments. I was pleased to see considerable progress toward that goal when in fiscal year 2009 the total number of workplace injuries and illnesses in Kansas decreased by just more than 10 percent from the previous year. This comes on the heels of three straight years of slight increases.

In response to those increases, the Kansas Department of Labor increased its outreach efforts to employers, undertaking a six-month direct mail campaign in 2008 to targeted employers encouraging them to take advantage of the agency's free workplace safety consultations. The response was very good, so we're repeating the program. Our normal outreach efforts, detailed in this report, also continued.

This report provides a snapshot of efforts to improve workplace safety in our state, as well as the results of those efforts. I hope you will find it useful, as well as encouraging.

It is only fitting to be sharing this report in conjunction with Workers Memorial Day, which commemorates the creation of OSHA – the Occupational Safety and Health Administration – on April 28, 1971.

As we celebrate Workers Memorial Day this year, I ask that we all renew our commitment to ensuring safe workplaces in Kansas. Every worker is entitled to be safe and secure on the job.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Garner". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jim Garner
Kansas Secretary of Labor

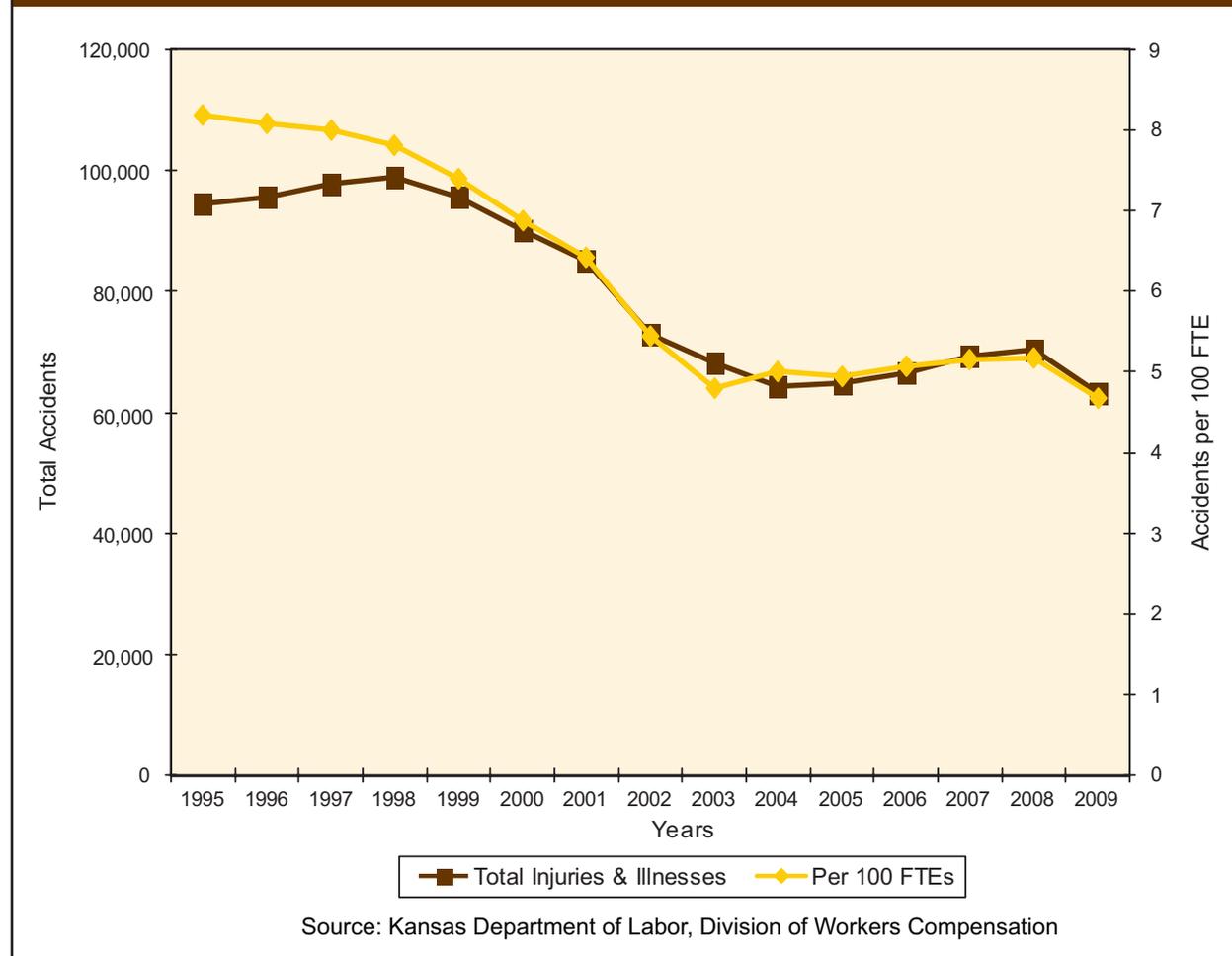
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Workplace Safety in Kansas – An Overview

The number of occupational injuries and illnesses reported to the Kansas Department of Labor's Division of Workers Compensation saw a marked decrease from 2008 to 2009 – the first decrease since 2005. Total injuries and illnesses dipped by 10.2 percent from 2008 to 2009. The reduction comes on the heels of three straight years when slight increases were experienced.

A small increase in the number of workplace accidents began to be seen in 2006, after a decade of steady declines. Although the increases experienced from 2006 through 2008 were slight, it was a reminder that constant vigilance is required in the realm of workplace safety. In Kansas, it was a call to increase efforts to make employers aware of the importance of effective safety programs and procedures. Those efforts, outlined elsewhere in this report, must continue.

Table 1
Kansas Occupational Injuries and Illnesses
FY 1995 - 2009



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Raising Awareness of Workplace Safety

In 2009, the Kansas Department of Labor pursued a successful direct marketing campaign to employers stressing the benefits of an effective workplace safety program. The first campaign, undertaken in 2008, had an impressive success rate, with more than 5 percent of the employers targeted requesting safety consultations from the agency's Division of Industrial Safety and Health (ISH).

In 2009, the campaign was revived and targeted to an all new group of businesses with a documented need for workplace safety information. The four-piece campaign, mailed out over a period of six months, promotes the free safety consultation services provided by ISH. The goal is to encourage those businesses to schedule a safety consultation and ultimately develop a workplace safety plan and program. The campaign was finalized at the end of 2009 with the first mailings going out early in 2010.

Health and Safety Outreach

In addition to the direct mail campaign, KDOL continued its emphasis on reaching out to Kansas employers to increase awareness of the need for effective safety programs in the workplace, and of the resources available to help employers establish those programs. Both the Workers Compensation division, which monitors workplace injuries and illnesses in the state, and the Division of Industrial Safety and Health, which provides programs and services to help employers develop and implement workplace safety programs, have established outreach programs.

Each year, the Workers Compensation division conducts presentations to employer groups, employee groups, insurance carriers and agents, and other interested parties. In 2009, they conducted 20 presentations, reaching more than 1,000 people throughout the state. Programs targeted to employers include information on the services available to employers through KDOL's ISH division. In addition, the division hosts an annual Workers Compensation seminar that last year attracted more than 560 people.

KDOL's ISH division conducted more than 1,200 workplace inspections and consultations in 2009. The division provided 434 public sector inspections for school districts and local units of government, and 175 state workplace inspections. In addition, the division provided 673 free safety and health consultations for small private sector businesses. The consultations are designed to:

An ounce of prevention

Each year, representatives from KDOL's Workers Compensation division participate in numerous presentations to a variety of audiences regarding workers compensation laws, regulations and issues. Every employer presentation includes information about the free safety consultation services provided by KDOL's division of Industrial Safety and Health – including the one to the 250 employers at the 2009 National Council on

Compensation Insurance Safety Seminar. Helping employers deal with workers compensation issues is a good thing, but helping them avoid workplace accidents is even better.



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- Improve employee safety and health
- Help control workers compensation insurance premiums
- Increase productivity and
- Increase profitability.

Employers are able to identify potential workplace hazards and learn how to improve safety and health management practices as part of the free consultation program. Information on effective safety programs is also provided as part of the annual Safety and Health Conference organized by the ISH division. At the conference, participants are provided with new information on improving workplace safety and health programs from experts gathered from around the country.

Recognizing Safety Efforts

In addition to the workplace inspections and consultations, the ISH division also oversees two programs to recognize and reward businesses that commit to workplace safety. For the past four years, the agency has been recognizing private employers who have reached major milestones in safe operations through the Kansas State Safety (KSafe) Award Program.

Through the KSafe program, awards are presented when businesses achieve 100,000 hours, 500,000 hours and one million hours of operating without a time-lost injury. In 2009, 14 KSafe awards were presented to Kansas businesses. Since the inception of the program, 72 KSafe awards have been presented.



Dedication leads to safety success

North American Salt's Lyons, Kansas facility employs around 160 people and has twice been honored with a KSafe award for its long-standing safety record. In 2009, the facility received a KSafe award for having achieved one million hours without a lost time injury – the highest honor in the KSafe program. The impressive safety record achieved by the Lyon's facility eludes many like-sized employers, making the accomplishment all the more extraordinary.

A second awards program, the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP), is operated in partnership with OSHA to recognize small businesses that have worked with KDOL to develop exemplary safety programs. The program provides incentives and support to small, high-hazard employers to work with their employees to develop, implement and continuously improve the effectiveness of their workplace safety and health programs. Because of the rigor of the program, companies that achieve a SHARP designation are exempt from OSHA inspections for two years. SHARP designation is a premier safety honor.

Kansas continues to be the state with the second highest number of SHARP-designated sites in the United States – second only to Texas. Given the difference in size and population for the two states, that's a significant accomplishment. Kansas bestowed the prestigious SHARP designation to a total of 148 Kansas worksites by the end of 2009.

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Tracking Workplace Accidents

Through its Division of Workers Compensation, KDOL is able to monitor workplace injuries and illnesses in the state. Employers covered under the Workers Compensation Act are required to report all employee occupational injuries and illnesses that wholly or partially incapacitate the person for more than the remainder of the day or shift to the Division of Workers Compensation within 28 days of the date that the employer is notified of the injury or the onset of illness.

During fiscal year 2009, there were 63,130 total occupational injuries and illnesses reported to KDOL, a decrease of 7,133 injuries and illnesses, or 10.2 percent, from the previous year. This marks the first decrease in total injuries and illnesses in the state since 2005. Prior to 2006, there had been a near steady 10-year decline in total injuries and illnesses. From 2005 to 2006, the number increased 2.64 percent, and from 2006 to 2007 the increase was 4.13 percent. From 2007 to 2008, the increase was 1.52 percent.

Kansas workplace fatalities in 2009 were down from the previous year, from 43 in 2008 to 34 in 2009. Kansas has a 15-year average of 53.8 workplace fatalities annually.

Safety pays big dividends

Five years ago, Lincoln Park Manor's 40-bed skilled nursing facility with nine assisted living apartments was being overwhelmed by reported accidents and workers compensation claims for its 56 employees. Since becoming a member of the SHARP program in 2004, that's all changed. Now, workers compensation premiums are \$40,000 less than before joining the program and their Experience Modification Rate has been reduced from 1.6 in 2005 to .80 in 2010. "Due to the reduced accidents and work comp premiums, we have been able to increase benefits to our employees, which helps lower our turnover," said Administrator Christen Robinson. "We've also been able to provide employer-paid health insurance for our employees and we've put in place a reward and recognition program," she said. Lincoln Park employees are now proud to be part of a safe, productive workplace.



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Accident Severity

Workplace injuries fall into categories based on their severity. The least severe incidents are termed no time lost injuries, which means the person injured was able to return to work the same day, shift, following day or following shift doing the same duties without an accommodation. More severe injuries are categorized as time lost injuries, indicating the worker was unable to return to work on the next day or shift or for a longer period.

- In 2009, time lost injuries and illnesses in Kansas totaled 31,020, a 1.3 percent decrease from the previous year.
- Time lost injuries accounted for approximately 49 percent of all reported injuries in 2009.
- The “no time lost” injuries and illnesses reported in 2009 represented 51 percent of all reported injuries and illnesses for the year. These injuries decreased by 17.3 percent from the previous year’s total.

Table 2
Kansas Total Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Severity
FY 1995 – FY 2009

Fiscal Year	Total No Time Lost Injuries & Illnesses	Total Time Lost Injuries & Illnesses	Fatal Injuries	Total Injuries & Illnesses
1995	52,473	42,030	67	94,570
1996	68,674	26,929	60	95,663
1997	73,415	24,220	64	97,699
1998	63,071	35,767	70	98,908
1999	68,995	26,674	61	95,730
2000	71,327	18,653	69	90,049
2001	64,533	20,368	44	84,945
2002	52,549	20,223	53	72,825
2003	55,101	12,994	42	68,137
2004	48,298	16,032	44	64,374
2005	36,335	28,369	57	64,761
2006	37,619	28,800	50	66,469
2007	37,444	31,718	49	69,211
2008	38,778	31,442	43	70,263
2009	32,076	31,020	34	63,130

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Division of Workers Compensation

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Accidents by Industry

Both manufacturing and the transportation and warehousing sectors had the highest total injury and illness incidence rate in Kansas in 2008 with 6.2 injuries and illnesses per 100 full time equivalent employees (FTEs).

The industry with the lowest injury rate was professional, scientific and technical services with 0.5 injuries and illnesses per 100 FTEs. Table 3 shows incident rates for all industry sectors in 2008 for both Kansas and the United States.

Table 3
Total Recordable Non-fatal Occupational Injury & Illness Rate* by Industry Sector
2008

<u>Industry</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Kansas</u>
Mining	2.9	4.8
Construction	4.7	6.1
Manufacturing.....	5.0	6.2
Wholesale Trade.....	3.7	4.0
Retail Trade	4.4	5.0
Transportation & Warehousing	5.7	6.2
Utilities	3.5	3.9
Information.....	2.0	2.0
Finance & Insurance.....	0.9	0.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.1	3.1
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	1.1	0.5
Management of Companies & Enterprises.....	1.6	1.3
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	3.1	–
Educational Services	2.3	1.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	5.4	5.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5.1	4.6
Accommodation & Food Services	4.1	4.9
Other Services except Public Administration.....	3.1	3.2

* Per 100 Full-time Equivalent Non-Federal Workers – Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Causes of Workplace Accidents

The physical act of lifting is the most frequent cause of injury, both overall and in time lost and no time lost accidents. Fifty-one percent of lifting injuries result in time lost for the injured worker.

Of all accident reports filed with KDOL's Division of Workers Compensation during 2009, strain injuries were the most common type of injury reported, with nearly 14,300 reports of these types of injuries. The second largest category was "all other specific injuries" (not otherwise classified) with more than 11,200 reports. Lacerations were the third most reported type of injury with 8,779 reports, while the 7,043 reports of contusions made it the fourth most common injury.

More information about injuries and fatalities in the workplace in Kansas can be found online in the *KDOL 2009 Workers Compensation Annual Statistical Report*.

Cooperation key to effectiveness

The leaders of Farrar Corporation, a fourth generation, family-owned ductile iron foundry and machine shop, understand what it means to do the right thing. And when it comes to their employees, ensuring a safe work environment in their two locations in Norwich and Manhattan is the right thing to do. Members of the SHARP program since 1999 in Norwich and 2000 in Manhattan, Farrar Corporation has been able to decrease workplace accidents by more than 85 percent. "We believe the SHARP program and its emphasis on cooperative efforts toward compliance are extremely effective in creating safer workplaces for employees," said Safety Director Paul Maness.

