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## **Kansas Workplace fatalities drop significantly**

*Kansas Department of Labor census finds 28 percent decrease from 2007 to 2008*

TOPEKA — After inching up each of the past five years, the number of workplace fatalities in Kansas took a significant fall in 2008. The state recorded just 73 fatalities in 2008, down from 101 in 2007. It represents a 27.7 percent decrease from the previous year and the lowest number of workplace fatalities in the state in the past five years. The numbers are reported in the 2008 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries released today by the Kansas Department of Labor's (KDOL) Labor Market Information Services.

Despite significant changes in the numbers recorded, other aspects of the report remain unchanged. Natural resources and mining continues to be the sector with the highest rate of occupational fatalities, accounting for 26 of the 73 fatalities reported in 2008, or 35.6 percent. Within this sector, the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry had 23 of the sector's 26 fatalities.

As in previous years, transportation incidents were the leading cause of work-related deaths in the state, accounting for 52.1 percent of all occupational fatalities. Among the transportation-related fatalities, highway accidents were the leading cause of deaths, accounting for 57.9 percent.

Other findings from the survey include:

- Agricultural managers was the occupational group with the highest number of worker fatalities in 2008 with 28.8 percent of the recorded deaths for the year. Drivers/sales workers and truck drivers' occupations were a distant second with 6.8 percent of all workplace fatalities.
- Men accounted for 63 of the 73 work-related fatalities in 2008.
- White, non-Hispanic workers accounted for 60 of the 73 fatalities in 2008 and 93 of the 101 fatalities in 2007.
- Workers aged 55 to 64 years accounted for 20 of the workplace fatalities in 2008, followed by 16 workers in the 65 years and over age group and 13 workers in the 45-54 years age group. In 2007, workers aged 45-54 years accounted for 21 of the total 101 worker fatalities, followed by 19 workers each in the 25-34 years and 55-64 years age groups.
- Thirty-nine work-related fatalities occurred in the wage and salary workers category in 2008, while 34 of the fatalities were among self-employed workers. For 2007, 73 worker fatalities occurred among wage and salary workers and 28 occurred in the self-employed category.
- The highest number of fatal work-related injuries in 2008 - nine of the 73 - occurred in July. Eight fatalities were recorded in September, with March, June, August and November following closely with seven each.
- Fatal workplace injuries in 2008 occurred most frequently on Wednesday, with 17 workplace fatalities occurring on that day of the week. Monday and Saturday followed, incurring 11 and 10 fatal injuries respectively.

- Peak times of day for fatal injuries to occur were between 10 am and 11 am, and from 3-4 pm. There were seven fatalities recorded in each of those time periods. There were six work-related fatalities each in the time periods from 8-9 a.m. and 5-6 p.m.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program is a national census program conducted in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The program collects data for every workplace fatality recorded in the state. The information comes from multiple sources, including death certificates, workers compensation reports, motor vehicle accident reports, OSHA reports, news media including obituaries and other federal and state records. While the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been collecting workplace fatality data since 1972, the CFOI program was not implemented in all states until 1992.

For more information regarding this survey, please visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at [www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm). Additionally, charts and tables for Kansas may be viewed on the [KDOL website](#).

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