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Kansas Workplace Fatalities

TOPEKA, Kan. - Kansas had 61 fatal work-related injuries in 2018, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The CFOI program is a national census conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in partnership with the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), Division of Labor Market Information Services.

“The collected data provide valuable insight on how occupational fatalities occur,” according to Jennifer Duncan, Research Analyst for KDOL’s Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) unit. “While it is tragic to lose any lives, the number of workplace fatalities in Kansas decreased from 72 in 2017 to 61 in 2018.”

- Transportation incidents in Kansas accounted for 54.1 percent of the fatal work-related injuries in 2018 with 33 fatalities. Of the 33 transportation-related fatal injuries, 26 fatalities or 78.8 percent were roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles.
- Within the goods producing industry group, the construction sector had the most fatal work-related injuries for 2018 with 12 fatalities, or 19.7 percent of the state’s total fatal work-related injuries.
- Within the service providing industry group, the trade, transportation and utilities sector had the most fatal work-related injuries in 2018 with 21 fatalities, or 34.4 percent of the state’s total fatal work-related injuries. This industry group includes wholesale and retail trade as well as transportation and warehousing.
- Men accounted for 54 or 88.5 percent of the fatal work-related injuries that occurred in 2018.
- White, non-Hispanic workers accounted for 55 of the 61 fatal work-related injuries in 2018.
- In 2018, workers aged 55-64 accounted for 15 of the fatal work-related injuries followed by 12 fatalities in the workers aged 35-44 years category.
- In 2018, 41 fatal work-related injuries occurred in the wage and salary workers category while 20 fatalities were self-employed workers.

The CFOI program collects data from multiple sources for every fatal work-related injury recorded. Each case must have two or more substantiating documents. These source documents include death certificates, workers compensation reports, motor vehicle accident reports, OSHA reports, news accounts, coroner’s reports, obituaries, employer questionnaires, and other federal and state records. Each fatality is counted in the state where the incident occurs regardless of the state of employment. This ensures there is no duplication of reporting by the states.

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