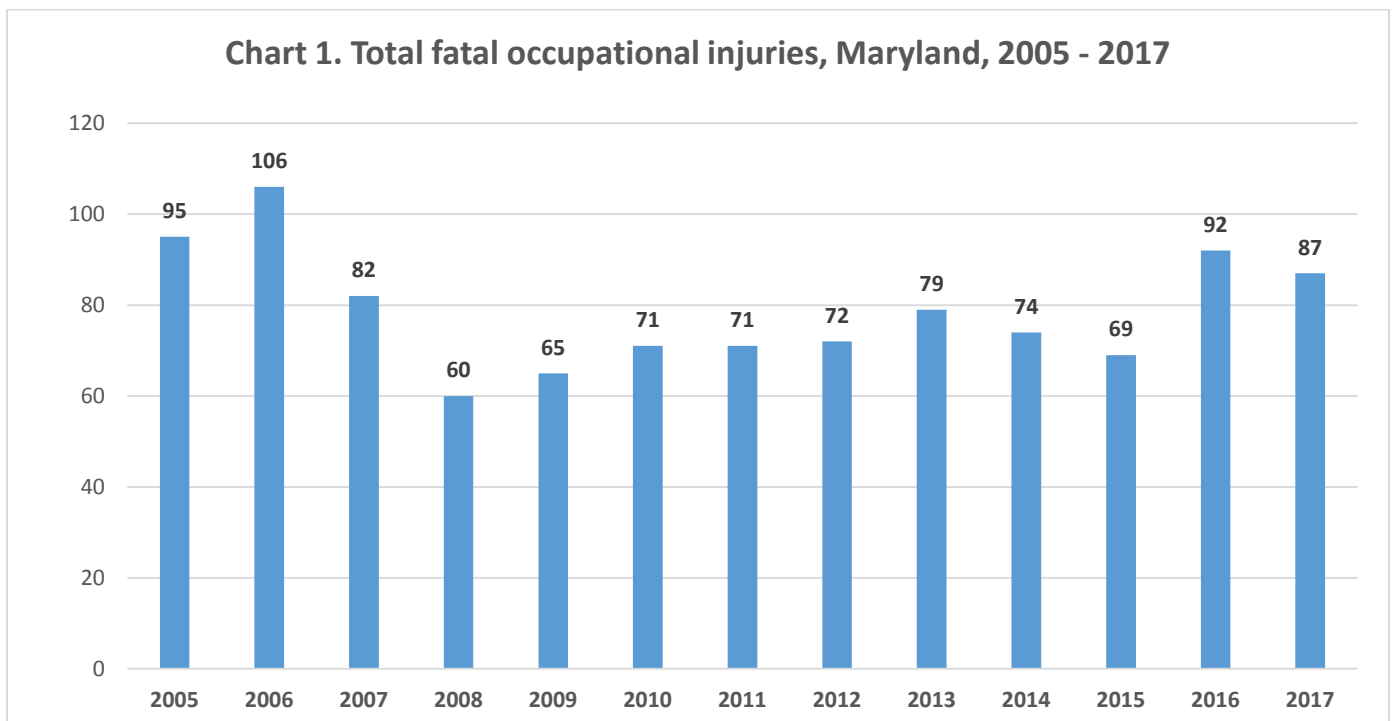


## Results from the Maryland Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2017

Eighty-seven workers died in Maryland while working on the job in 2017, according to the latest fatality census results from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The number of workplace fatalities in the State declined 5 percent from 92 reported incidents in 2016. Maryland's workplace fatal injury rate decreased to 3 deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers from 3.2 in 2016. Ninety-three percent (81 fatalities) worked in the private sector, 18 of whom were self-employed, while 6 worked in government. Nationwide, private industry accounted for 91 percent of the 5,147 occupational fatalities. Approximately three-fifths of Maryland's fatal events are not covered under the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health agency's investigative oversight. These include cases of workplace homicide and suicide; certain transportation events, such as aircraft, rail, and highway crashes; and fatalities to the self-employed. Since 1992, fatal occupational injuries in Maryland have ranged from a high of 106, reported in 2006, to a low of 60, reported in 2008.

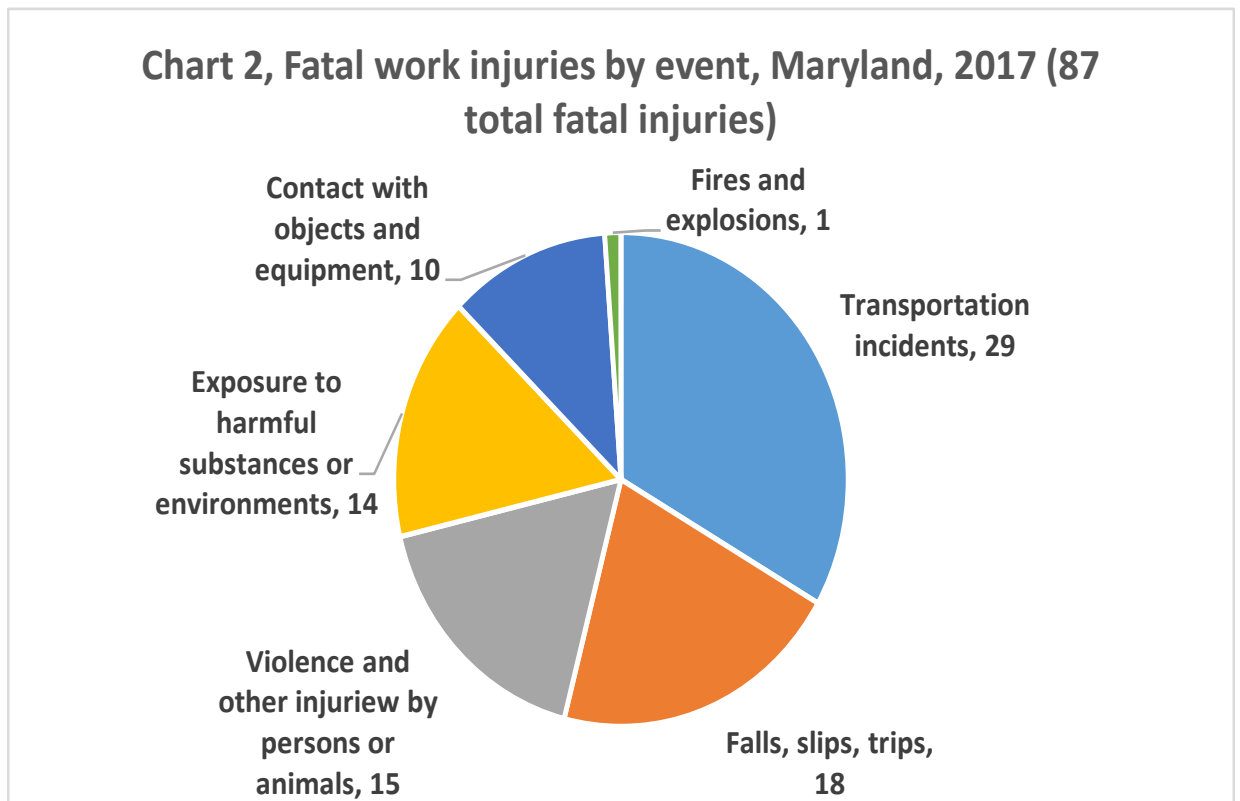
Collectively, for the U.S. workforce, 5,147 fatal workplace injuries were recorded in 2017. The national fatality count is down slightly from 5,190 fatal injuries reported in 2016. Based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' national CFOI press release, 21 states and the District of Columbia had more fatal injuries in 2017 compared to 2016 while 27 states had fewer. California and Maine had the same fatality total for both years.



Source: Maryland DLLR, Division of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, CFOI Program.

### Fatalities by Event

- With 29 reported fatalities, transportation incidents was the primary cause of death for workers in Maryland, as they are for the nation as a whole. Transportation fatalities represented one-third of all fatal workplace injuries in Maryland in 2017. Transportation events include highway crashes, as well as incidents involving aircraft, rail, water vehicles and other modes of transportation. Nine incidents were pedestrian vehicular accidents. This sub-category included two workers killed in highway work zones. Deaths from work-related transportation incidents increased by one in the State compared with 2016. With the notable exception of two years (1995 and 2014) transportation events have remained the most frequent cause of death for workers in the State of Maryland.



Source: Maryland DLLR, Division of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CFOI Program.

- Fatal falls, slips or trips were the second leading event with 18 deaths, Death from this event was down from the previous year's count of 20. Slightly more than three-fifths (11) occurred in the construction sector. Nationally, fatal workplace falls were at their highest level in the 26-year history of the fatality census accounting for 887 worker deaths.
- Death due to violence and other injuries by persons or animals was the third most frequent fatal workplace incident for Maryland in 2017. Cases of homicide increased from 10 to 13. In spite of the uptick in this subcategory, overall, fatalities involving violence and other injuries by persons or animals declined slightly in 2017.
- Fatalities from contact with objects and equipment were down 29 percent from 14 reported deaths in 2016 to 10 in 2017. Three workers died due to being struck by a falling object or equipment; another worker died in a trenching cave-in. For the nation at large, fatal injures due to contact with objects and equipment declined 9 percent from 2016 with 695 deaths reported in 2017.
- Fatal incidents associated with exposure to harmful substances or environments remained unchanged from the previous year's count with 14. Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol (unintentional overdose) accounted for 79 percent (11) of the total for this category. In addition, two workers were electrocuted and one drowned.

### **Fatalities by Industry**

Private sector employers provided for approximately 82 percent of the State's wage and salaried civilian employment.<sup>1</sup>

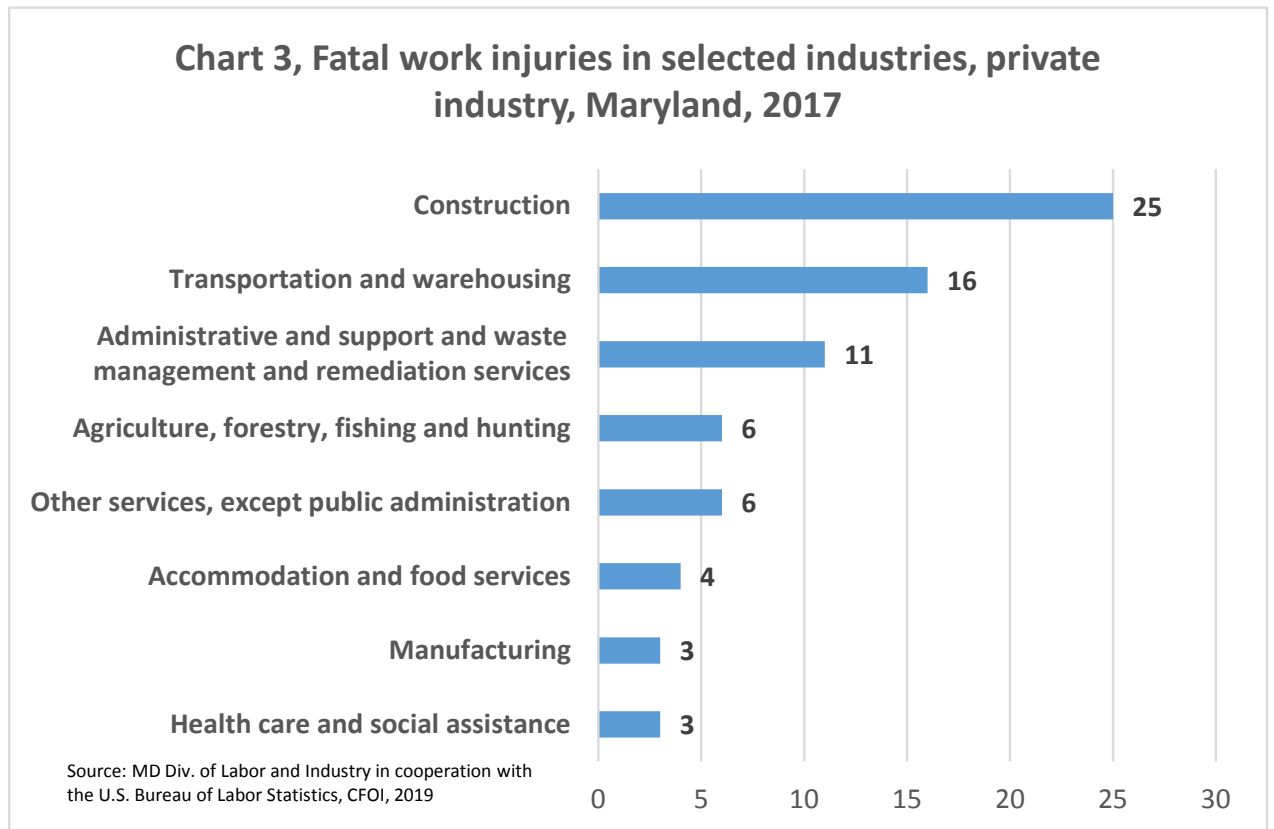
- Service-providing industries accounted for 58 percent of private industry fatal incidents while goods-producing industries represented 42 percent. For 2017, service-providing industries accounted for roughly 87 percent of the State's private sector wage and salaried civilian employment and goods-producing industries, 13 percent.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland DLLR, Office of Workforce Information and Performance, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2017 annual average.

<sup>2</sup> Maryland DLLR, Office of Workforce Information and Performance, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2017 annual average.

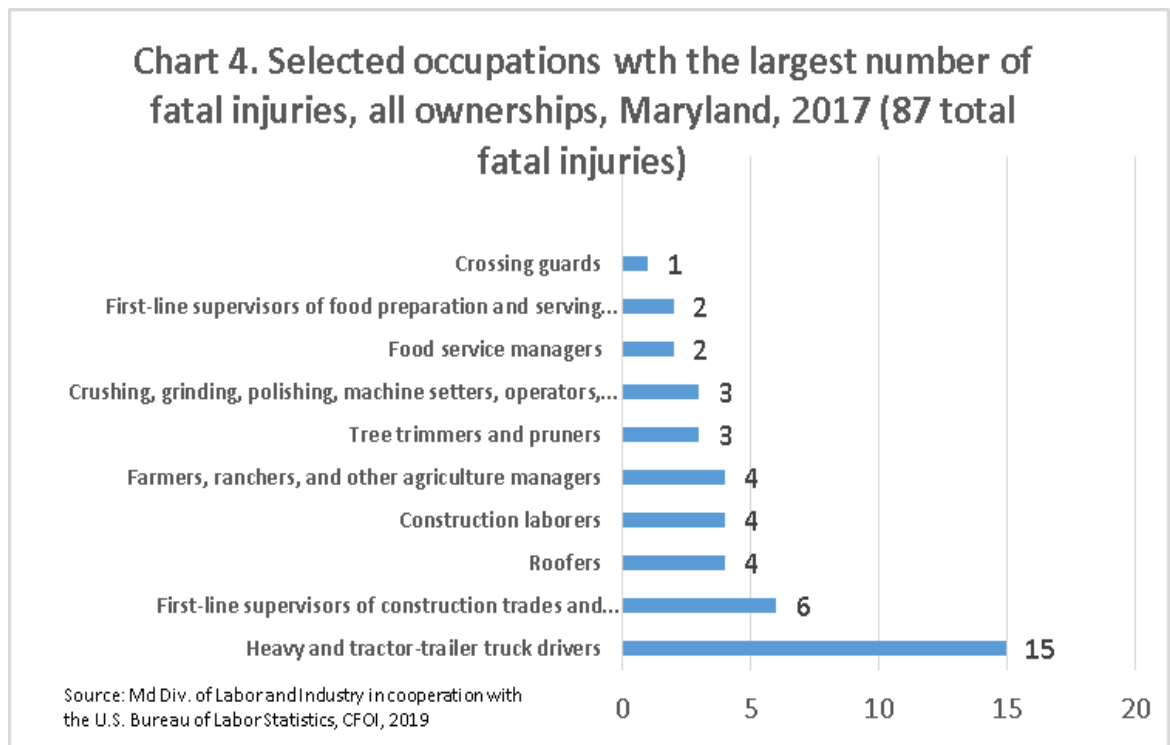
- Private sector construction (NAICS 23) recorded the most fatal injuries with 25 deaths. Construction fatalities were up one-quarter from 20 incidents in 2016.
- Sixty-four percent (16) of workers killed in private construction were in the specialty trade contractor industry (NAICS 238); six of those were in the roofing contractor industry. The number of deaths among specialty trade contractors in Maryland remained unchanged from the previous year.
- Transportation and warehousing (NAICS 48-49) reported the second highest number of fatal incidents in private industry with 16 fatalities.
- Eighty-eight percent of fatal injuries in transportation and warehousing involved the sector’s transportation component. General freight trucking and support activities for road transportation both accounted for five fatalities in the transportation and warehousing sector.



Source: Maryland DLLR, Division of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, CFOI Program.

## Fatalities by Occupation

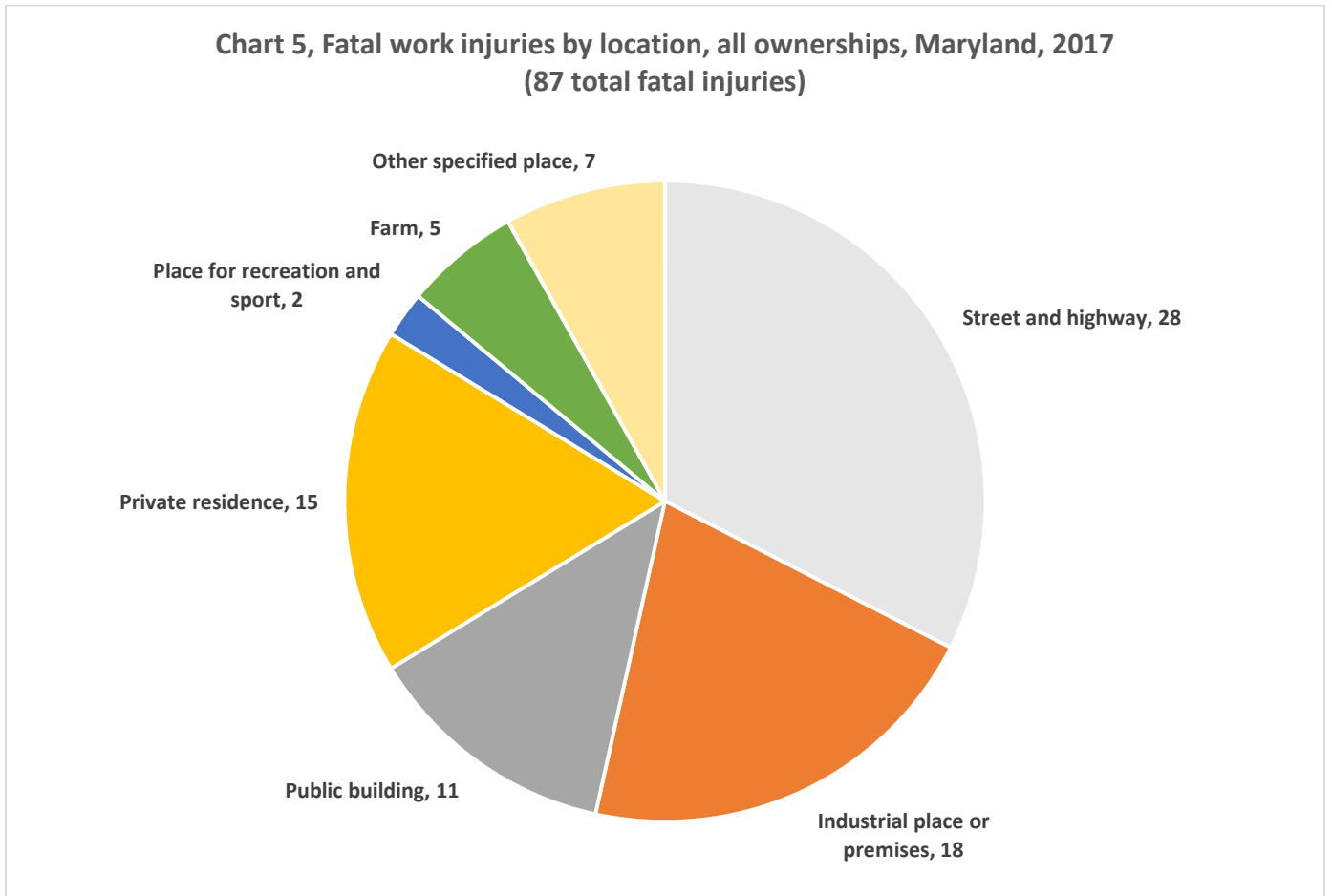
- Based on major occupational grouping, fatalities among transportation and moving occupations declined 19 percent from 26 events in 2016 to 21 in 2017. Motor vehicle operators accounted for most of the events with 17 reported fatalities. Detailed occupations in this classification include heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, light truck or delivery services drivers, and taxi drivers and chauffeurs.
- Deaths in construction and extraction occupations increased 24 percent from 17 fatal injuries in 2016 to 21 in 2017. Almost half (10) of the fatal incidents in the construction and extraction occupations resulted from falls, slips or trips.
- Fatal work injuries among the building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations declined 27 percent from 11 in 2016 to 8 in 2017. Five of the decedents were grounds maintenance workers.



Source: Maryland DLLR, Division of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CFOI Program.

## Fatalities by Location

CFOI also captures information based on location or type of structure where the fatal incident or exposure occurred. Slightly less than one-third (28) of Maryland's 2017 work-related fatalities occurred on a street or road which includes road construction workers and vehicle occupants fatally injured in a work zone. Work zones include construction, maintenance, or utility work on a road, street or highway.



Source: Maryland DLLR, Division of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CFOI Program.  
Note: Categories may not sum to total due to subcategories not displayed.

### Other Key Findings of the 2017 Maryland Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

- Wage and salary workers accounted for 79 percent (69) of the total fatalities in 2017, while the remaining 18 were self-employed. Fatal injuries to the self-employed declined 14 percent from 21 incidents reported in 2016.

- Fatalities incurred by Hispanic or Latino workers increased 50 percent from 14 reported in 2016 to 21 in 2017. White (non-Hispanic) workers showed a decline of 21 percent from 53 occupationally related deaths to 42 while black or African-Americans reported a decline of 17 percent from 23 incidents down to 19.
- The most hazardous workday for incurring an occupational fatality in Maryland in 2017 was Wednesday with 17 reported incidents. Thursday and Friday followed, each with 15 fatalities. The day of the week with the fewest fatal incidents was Saturday with five.
- August, with 15 fatalities, was the most hazardous month to incur a fatal workplace event. In contrast, June recorded the fewest incidents with 4. In 2016, April recorded the most deaths with 17, and December the fewest with two.

### **Scope and Program Technical Notes**

The Maryland Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program collects and publishes statistics on all fatal work injuries occurring in the State of Maryland. Maryland CFOI is conducted within the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. CFOI's published results are the U.S. government's official tally of workplace fatalities for the nation. Maryland has participated in the CFOI program every year since the program's inception in 1992.

CFOI provides for a complete accounting of all fatal work injuries that occur in Maryland each year. The program uses diverse data sources from a variety of federal, state, and local government administrative records, as well as the media, in order to substantiate and profile fatal work injuries. CFOI includes data for all workplace fatalities regardless of whether the fatality was under the regulatory authority of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health agency or other federal and state agencies. Any comparisons, therefore, between the CFOI program's counts and those released by other agencies or sources should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

For a fatality to be included in this census, the decedent must have been employed (defined as working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. Fatalities to volunteers and unpaid family workers who perform the same duties and functions as paid workers are also included in the count. These criteria are generally broader than those used by

state and federal agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's normal commute to and from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2017 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or impact from a crash or fall, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen, caused by a specific event or incident within a single workday or shift. Fatal injuries included in the fatality census are open wounds; intracranial and internal injuries; heatstroke; hypothermia; asphyxiation; acute poisonings, resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift; suicides and homicides; and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.