



# Oregon Compensable Fatality Characteristics Calendar Year 2018

## November 2019

**AUTHOR** James Burke

The Workers' Compensation Division received notification of 35 compensable fatalities in 2018, the same number of workplace fatal accidents as in 2017, and nearly six higher than the 10-year average of 29.3 fatalities. The number of compensable fatalities in 2017 and 2018 are the highest since 2008 when 46 workers died on the job.

### OREGON COMPENSABLE FATALITIES 2009-2018

Year	WC covered employment	Fatal claims	Fatal rate
2009	1,637,400	31	1.89
2010	1,623,300	17	1.05
2011	1,641,300	28	1.71
2012	1,664,000	30	1.80
2013	1,697,600	30	1.77
2014	1,743,800	31	1.78
2015	1,800,300	27	1.50
2016	1,860,400	29	1.56
2017	1,899,400	35	1.84
2018	1,936,600	35	1.81

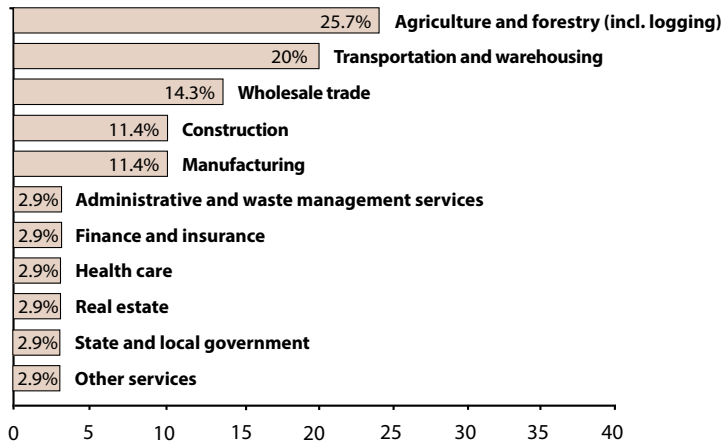
Note: Employment figures are based on data from the Oregon Employment Department. Fatality rates are the number of accepted fatal claims per 100,000 workers. The 2018 employment and fatality rate estimates are preliminary.

Data exclude deaths of workers not subject to Oregon workers' compensation coverage, such as workers who were self-employed, who worked for out-of-state employers, City of Portland police and fire employees, and federal employees.

Dedicated to CONSUMER and WORKER PROTECTION



**OREGON INDUSTRIES**  
by percent of 2018 compensable fatalities



Note: Due to rounding, percents may not sum to 100.

SOURCE of injury or disease	2018 fatalities	Percent of total
Vehicles	17	48.6
Machinery	5	14.3
Persons, plants, animals, and minerals	5	14.3
Structures and surfaces	5	14.3
Tools, instruments, and equipment	1	2.9
Other sources	2	5.7

Trucks were the source for 11 of the 17 vehicles involved in fatal accidents, three of which involved semi-trucks.

Note: Due to rounding, percents may not sum to 100.

EVENT resulting in injury	2018 fatalities	Percent of total
Roadway accidents	12	34.3
Struck by or against object	7	20.0
Caught in, compressed by	6	17.1
Fall or jump to lower level	2	5.7
Harmful exposure	2	5.7
Pedestrian accident	2	5.7
Drowning	1	2.9
Fall on same level	1	2.9
Fires or explosions	1	2.9
Non-roadway accident	1	2.9

Of the 12 workers killed in roadway accidents, four were wearing seat belts. It is unknown if the eight others were wearing seat belts.

Note: Due to rounding, percents may not sum to 100.

TENURE of worker	2018 fatalities	Percent of total
1st year	11	31.4
<i>One month or less</i>	4	11.4
<i>2nd-3rd months</i>	3	8.6
<i>4th-6th months</i>	1	2.9
<i>7th-12th months</i>	3	8.6
2nd year	5	14.3
3rd year	4	11.4
4th-5th years	1	2.9
6th-10th years	4	11.4
11th-25th years	2	5.7
26 or more years	2	5.7
Unknown	6	17.1

Note: Tenure is the amount of time the worker worked for the employer at injury and is not necessarily indicative of the worker's level of experience.

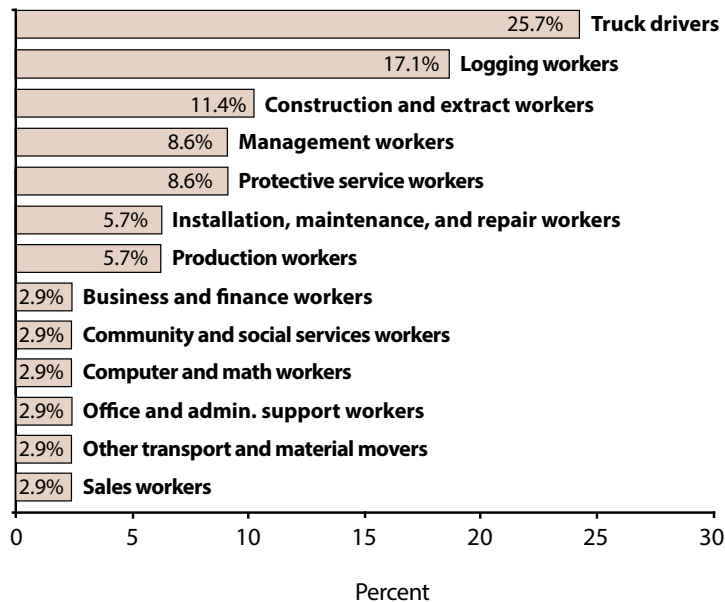
Note: Due to rounding, percents may not sum to 100.

# Compensable Fatality Facts, Oregon, 2018

- The average age of workers with fatal claims accepted during 2018 was 49, the highest single-year average since at least 2005. The average age from 2009 to 2018 was approximately 46 years old. The previous 10-year average from 1999 to 2008 was about 43 years old.
- The oldest worker was an 83-year-old security guard who fell into a small pond. The youngest worker was a 23-year-old machine tender who was entangled in a machine.
- There was one claim accepted for a female worker fatality in 2018, down from three cases in 2017. During the five-year period from 2014 to 2018, females accounted for 7.6 percent of accepted fatalities, a slight increase from the 6.7 percent in the previous five-year period (2009 to 2013).
- Of the 35 compensable fatalities in 2018, one was to a worker employed in the public sector. The five-year average is two public sector workers.

- The Oregon county with the most compensable fatalities in 2018 was Douglas County with six fatalities. Six percent, or two cases, of accepted fatalities occurred outside of Oregon. There was one fatality each in California and Idaho.
- In 2018, there were no compensable fatalities resulting from homicide. The average number of compensable homicides in the 10-year period from 2009 to 2018 was 2.4, compared to an average of 1.1 workers in the previous 10-year period from 1999 to 2008.
- During 2018, three (8.6 percent) compensable fatalities occurred to workers of Hispanic ethnicity, compared to 10 (29 percent) during 2017.

**OCCUPATION OF INJURED OREGON WORKERS  
by percent of 2018 compensable fatalities**



Note: Due to rounding, percents may not sum to 100.



## OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION (Oregon OSHA)

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) offers a wide range of services to Oregon's employers and workers to improve workplace safety and health. These services include:

- Consultations
- Education/conferences
- Technical resources and film library
- Educational grants
- Hazard abatement assistance

For more information, contact:

350 Winter St. NE  
3rd Floor  
PO Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309-0405

**503-378-3272** or **800-922-2689** (toll-free)

[osha.oregon.gov](http://osha.oregon.gov)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this publication is available in alternative formats.

Call 503-378-8254.

Information Technology and Research Section  
Central Services Division  
350 Winter St. NE, Room 300  
P.O. Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309-0405  
503-378-8254

## Fatality/claims data

Visit <http://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/reports/Pages/index.aspx> for more workers' compensation claims data and other statistical reports, or call the Information Technology and Research Section at 503-378-8254.

## Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

National work-related fatality data can be found on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' website at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfo1.htm>.

## Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Information about Oregon Health and Science University's Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Program (FACE) can be found at <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/oregon-institute-occupational-health-sciences/oregon-fatality-assessment-control-evaluation-face/about/index.cfm>.

## Employer workers' compensation coverage

For more information about employer coverage requirements, contact the Workers' Compensation Division Employer Compliance Program at [wcd.employerinfo@oregon.gov](mailto:wcd.employerinfo@oregon.gov), call 888-877-5670 (toll-free), or find it online at [wcd.oregon.gov](http://wcd.oregon.gov).

## Classification systems

Data are classified according to the following classification systems:

Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS), Standard Occupation Classification System (SOC), North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)



Visit the DCBS website [dcbs.oregon.gov](http://dcbs.oregon.gov) and select the "Statistical Reports" link at the bottom of the page for additional claims data and statistical reports, or call 503-378-8254.