



Work-Related Compensable Fatalities, Oregon, 2004

Information Management Division

Department of Consumer & Business Services

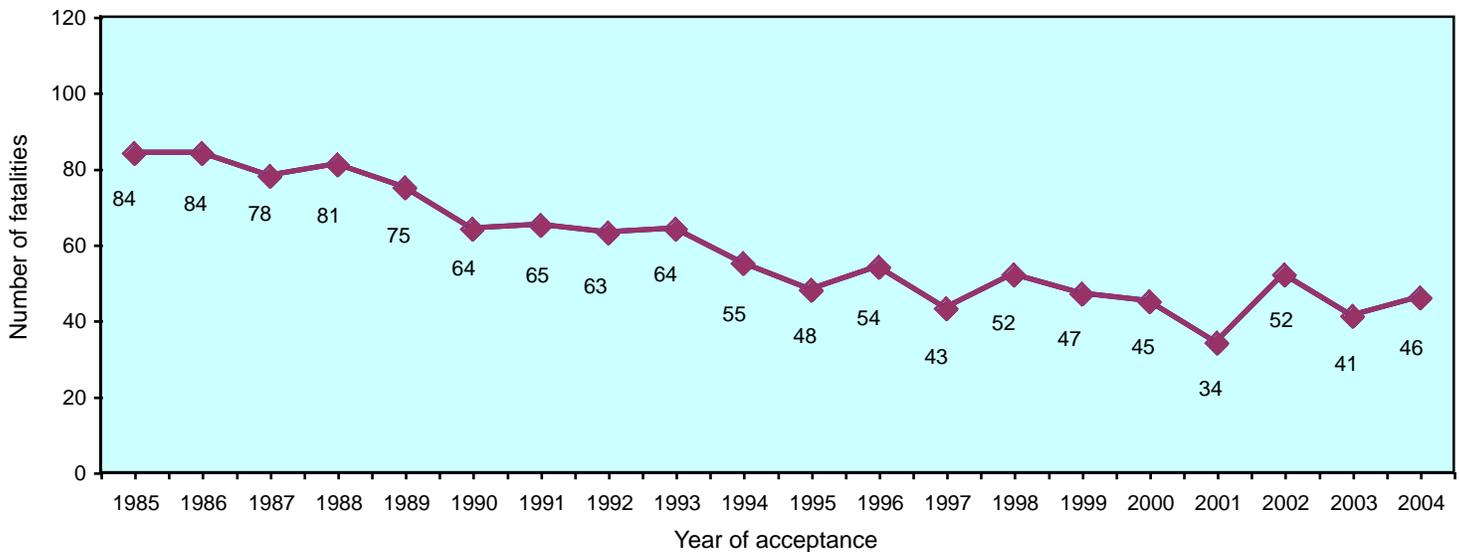
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By Elizabeth Priddy and Rhonda Thompson

The number of work-related, compensable fatalities in Oregon increased from 41 in 2003 to 46 in 2004 (see Figure 1). Claims included in this year's statistics are fatalities that occurred during or before 2004, and were reported to the Department of Consumer & Business Services by January 31, 2005. Claims with dates of death in prior years are included if the insurer accepted and reported them for the first time within the 13-month time frame.

Data exclude deaths of workers not subject to Oregon Workers' Compensation coverage, such as workers who were self-employed, working in Oregon for out-of-state employers, City of Portland police and fire employees, or federal employees. For additional information about employer coverage requirements, you may contact the Employer Compliance Program at wcd.employerinfo@state.or.us, or call 1 (888) 877-5670.

Figure 1. Work-related fatalities, Oregon, 1985-2004



Of the 46 work-related fatalities in 2004, 39 were men and seven were women, compared to 38 men and three women in 2003. The median age of these workers was 44.5 years. The youngest was a 16-year-old, employed as a laborer for a kennel, who died of chest injuries sustained when he fell from an ATV that hit a dip in a field. The oldest was a 71-year-old log truck driver, who died of massive head, chest, and abdomen injuries when his log truck failed to negotiate a curve, ran off the road and overturned.

During 2004, the Oregon Workers' Compensation Division began converting claims data from the Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system to the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This conversion will allow the U.S. to make data comparisons with Canada and Mexico. This year, graphs are presented for fatalities by SIC (Figure 2) and NAICS (Figure 3) industry classification codes.

Figure 2. Fatalities by SIC industry classification, Oregon, 2003-2004

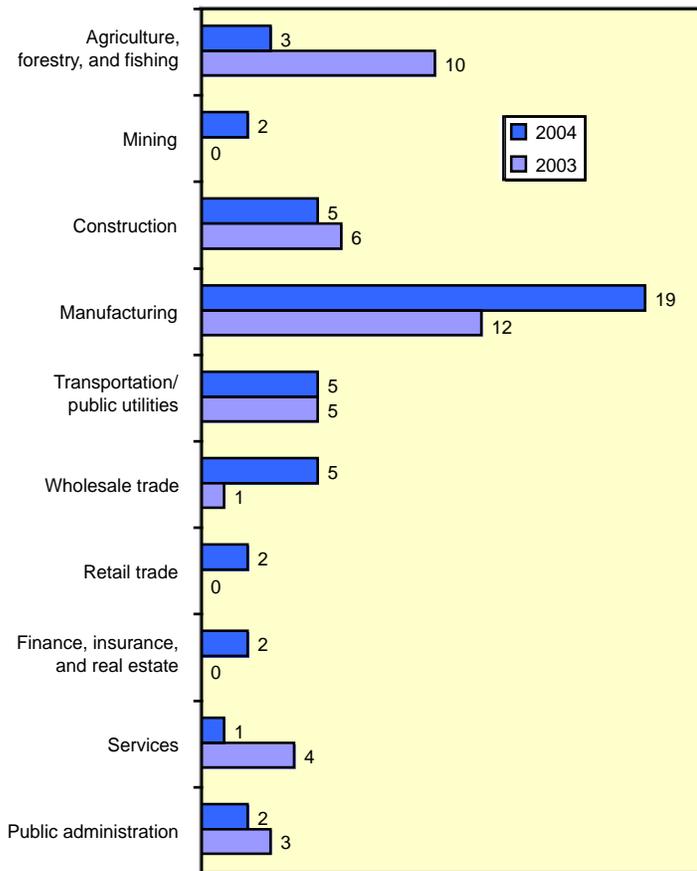
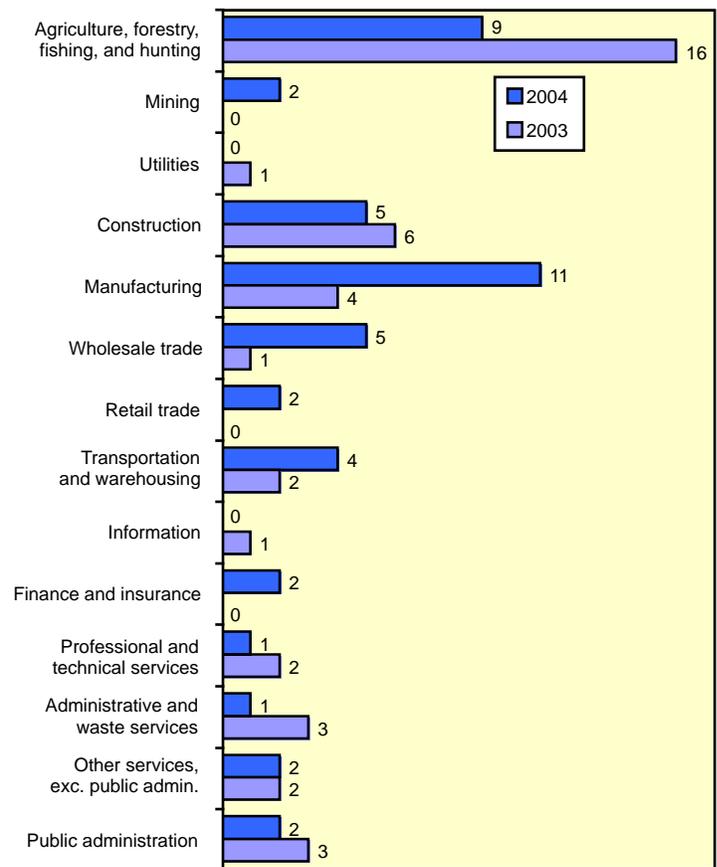


Figure 3. Fatalities by NAICS industry classification, Oregon, 2003-2004



Note that the industry representation varies between the old (SIC) and the new (NAICS) systems. For example, under SIC, logging is categorized under the manufacturing group; whereas under NAICS, logging is categorized under the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting group. Under SIC, manufacturing accounted for the highest number of fatalities with 19, eight of which were in logging. Under NAICS, manufacturing accounted for 11 fatalities, followed closely by agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting with nine fatalities. Other wood-related industries, such as sawmills and wood product manufacturing are under the manufacturing group in both systems.

The occupation category with the most compensable fatalities was transportation operators, with 15 fatalities. Eleven of those were categorized as truck drivers. When viewed by event, transportation accidents resulted in the greatest number of compensable fatalities with a total of 23 deaths. These accidents included collisions, overturned vehicles, and fatalities incurred when workers were struck or pinned by vehicles. This number also includes one worker killed in an aircraft accident and five workers killed as pedestrians. Exposure to toxic/caustic substances resulted in the death of seven workers – including four from exposure to asbestos and one from exposure to silica. No fatalities from workplace violence were reported.

Of the 46 fatalities reported in 2004, eight incidents occurred outside of Oregon. Multnomah and Washington counties accounted for six fatalities each. Fourteen fatal injuries were suffered within the first year of employment, five of which were within the first month. These early tenure fatalities emphasize the need for training and supervision of all new employees.

Additional information about the work-related fatalities can be found at:

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/claimfat.html>

Additional information about the workplace injuries and illnesses can be found at:

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/claimdata.html>

Additional information about Oregon Workers' Compensation Employer Coverage requirements can be found at:

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/wcd/index.html>

Additional information about the Standard Industry Classification System (SIC) can be found at:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sic_manual.html

Additional information about the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) can be found at:

<http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/naics-manual.html>

If you have questions about the information contained in this document, please contact by e-mail or phone: [Tasha Hodges](mailto:Tasha.Hodges@dcbs.oregon.gov), Research Analyst, (503) 947-7991, Research & Analysis Section, Information Management Division.

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