Allsup Study of Workplace Injuries

Most Work-Threatening Industries by Location

Using data provided by the BLS, we can look at all industries in every reporting state to determine the most dangerous places in America to work—based on the local rates of injuries that are serious enough to involve "days of job transfer or restriction."

We also can compare those rates to the national averages within each industry to determine how much greater the risk actually is. For example, both the soft drink manufacturing industry in Texas and the household and institutional furniture and kitchen cabinet manufacturing industry in Utah have injury rates of 4.0 per 100 full-time workers. However, the national averages for those industries are 3.8 and 1.5 respectively, meaning the high injury rates in Utah are far more atypical.

There are some practical limitations to these data. Information is not always available for all states and industries. The information provided by the BLS also may be restricted, if the number of injury cases is very low and could be used to identify an individual firm. These data are therefore naturally aligned with states that have significant employment within a given industry.

Most Work-Threatening Industries by Location

State-level rates of injury and illness per 100 full-time workers Cases involving days of job transfer or restriction

#	State	Industry	Owner	State Rate	U.S. Average	Ratio of State to U.S. Avg.
1	Oregon	Animal slaughtering and processing	Private	8.3	3.1	2.7
2	Maine	Nursing and residential care facilities	State Gov't	7.1	1.5	4.7
	Maryland	Hospitals	State Gov't	7.1	1.2	5.9
4	Texas	All other wood product manufacturing	Private	7.0	2.6	2.7
5	Washington	Motor vehicle body and trailer manufacturing	Private	6.8	2.3	3.0
6	Oklahoma	Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	Private	6.4	2.5	2.6
7	Massachusetts	Natural gas distribution	Private	6.2	1.5	4.1
8	Utah	Foundries	Private	6.1	2.7	2.3



#	State	Industry	Owner	State Rate	U.S. Average	Ratio of State to U.S. Avg.
9	California	Soft drink and ice manufacturing	Private	5.6	3.5	1.6
10	Nebraska	Animal slaughtering and processing	Private	5.5	3.1	1.8
11	Massachusetts	Utilities	Private	5.4	0.9	6.0
	Nevada	Framing contractors	Private	5.4	1.3	4.2
13	Arizona	Framing contractors	Private	5.3	1.3	4.1
14	Illinois	Hospitals	State Gov't	5.2	1.2	4.3
	Maine	Warehousing and storage	Private	5.2	1.9	2.7
16	Maine	Nursing care facilities	Private	5.1	2.6	2.0
17	Kansas	Primary metal manufacturing	Private	5.0	1.7	2.9
18	Iowa	Metalworking machinery manufacturing	Private	4.9	0.9	5.4
	Maine	Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	Private	4.9	1.8	2.7
	Michigan	Support activities for agriculture and forestry	Private	4.9	1.1	4.5
21	California	Ferrous metal foundries	Private	4.7	3.1	1.5
22	Iowa	Nursing and residential care facilities	State Gov't	4.6	1.5	3.1
23	Georgia	Other wood product manufacturing	Private	4.5	2	2.3
	Kansas	Animal slaughtering and processing	Private	4.5	3.1	1.5
25	Tennessee	Animal slaughtering and processing	Private	4.4	3.1	1.4
26	Indiana	Nursing and residential care facilities	Private	4.3	2.2	2.0
	Nevada	Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	Private	4.3	1.5	2.9
	Oregon	Bakeries and tortilla manufacturing	Private	4.3	1.6	2.7
	Utah	Animal production	Private	4.3	1.8	2.4



#	State	Industry	Owner	State Rate	U.S. Average	Ratio of State to U.S. Avg.
	Wisconsin	Iron foundries	Private	4.3	2.7	1.6
31	Indiana	Steel product manufacturing from purchased steel	Private	4.2	2	2.1
	Montana	Nonresidential building construction	Private	4.2	0.7	6.0
	Nebraska	Warehousing and storage	Private	4.2	1.9	2.2
	Tennessee	Beverage manufacturing	Private	4.2	2.7	1.6
35	Arizona	Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	Private	4.1	2.5	1.6
	Michigan	Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing	Private	4.1	1.7	2.4
37	Michigan	Other furniture related product manufacturing	Private	4.0	1.7	2.4
	Texas	Soft drink manufacturing	Private	4.0	3.8	1.1
	Utah	Household and institutional furniture and kitchen cabinet manufacturing	Private	4.0	1.5	2.7

Note: The following states do not consistently report data to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and could not be incorporated into this study: Colorado, Idaho, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island and South Dakota. Florida has participated in this reporting program in the past, but 2011 data are not available. See methodology section for more information.

