

# Massachusetts Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Report

# 2020

**Compiled by:**
Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
Department of Labor Standards,
Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program

**Total Number of Recordable Cases (TRC) and Incidence rates:** In 2020, there were approximately 69,400 work-related injuries and illnesses reported by employers across the private and public sector workforce in Massachusetts. This resulted in a Total Recordable Incidence Rate of 2.5 cases per 100 full-time equivalent workers (FTEs).

**Private Sector Workforce**

Of the total number of cases 58,800 nonfatal work-related injuries and illnesses were reported from Massachusetts' Private Sector workforce. This total translates into an incidence rate of 2.4 cases per 100 FTE workers. In the private sector, there were 40,200 cases that resulted in either days away from work and/or job transfer or restriction, also referred to as DART cases. Of that total there were 35,900 cases with Days Away from Work (DAFW), and approximately 4,400 that resulted in Days with Job Transfer or Restriction (DJTR). There were also 18,500 recordable cases that were less severe but recordable under the OSHA recordkeeping requirements.

**Public Sector Workforce**

State and local government employers reported an estimated 10,600 recordable cases in 2020. The corresponding TRC incidence rate was 3.5 incidents per 100 FTEs.

**State Government**

There was an estimated total of 2,500 recordable incidents in the State government workforce in 2020. This translates to an incidence rate of 2.5 incidents per 100 FTEs.

**Local Government**

There were an estimated 8,000 recordable work-related incidents involving local government workers. The total recordable incidence rate was 4.0 incidents per 100 FTEs.

**Year-to-Year Comparisons**:

There were several statistical changes in the data from 2019 to 2020. Some of these changes correlate directly to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the changes that it caused to the workplace. Most noticeably, the closure of workplaces and shift to remote work could be a factor in the decrease in work-related incidents. In addition, the number of respiratory conditions due to COVID-19 rose drastically.

**Statistically significant changes in the Total Number of Injuries and Illnesses:**

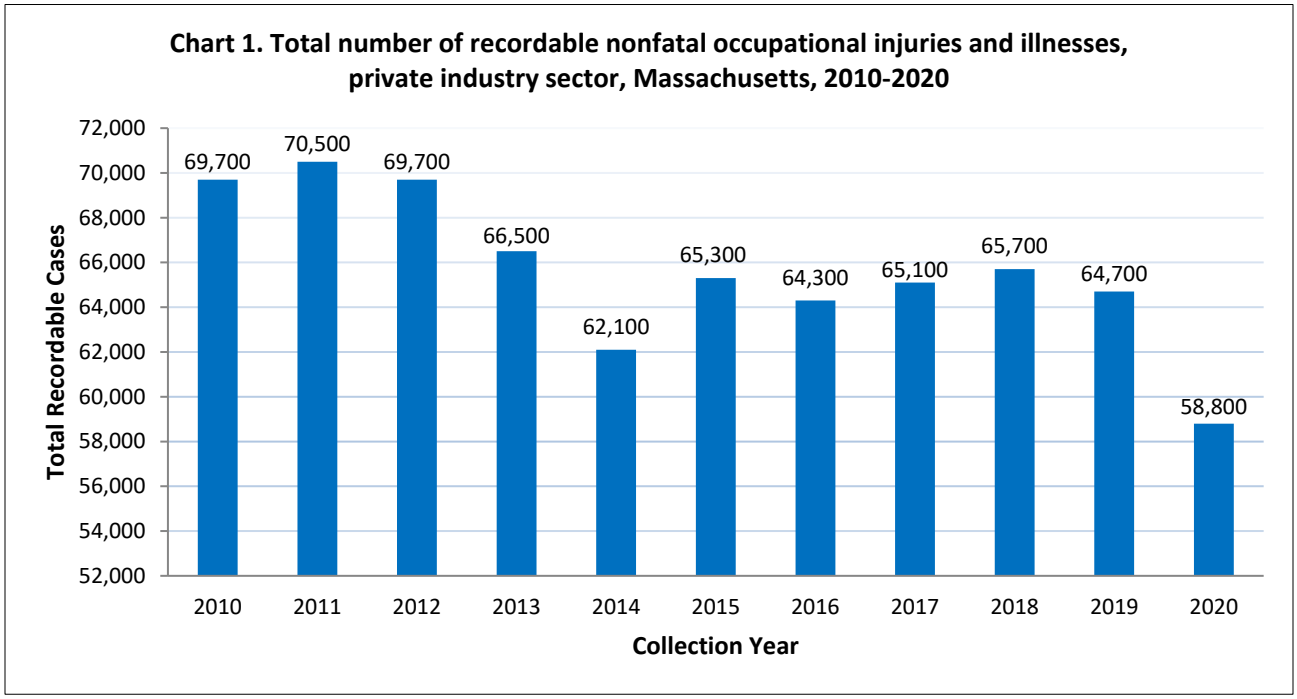
- The total number of occupational injuries and illnesses in the private industry sector decreased from 64,700 cases in 2019, to 58,800 cases in 2020.
- The total number of cases in State government decreased from 4,300 cases in 2019 to 2,500 cases in 2020.
- There was a significant increase in the private industry total illness rate in 2020. The rate increased from 8.8 incidents per 10,000 full time workers in 2019, to 60.7 incidents per 10,000 full-time workers in 2020.
- The Goods producing sector which includes the Natural Resources and Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing industries saw a decrease in total count of cases from 12,200 in 2019 to 9,900 in 2020.
- The Service providing sector's numbers of incidents remained relatively unchanged. However, there was a decrease in the count of total recordable cases in the Manufacturing industry from 6,600 cases in 2019 to 5,400 cases in 2020

- Education and Health Services industry had an increase in the total number of cases from 22,200 in 2019 to 27,500 in 2020. One of the only increases in cases throughout all sectors.
- The Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry saw decrease in the number of total recordable cases from 14,600 in 2019 to 11,000 in 2020.
- Leisure and Hospitality industry had a decrease of 6,900 total cases in 2019 to 4,000 cases in 2020.
- Financial Activities industry saw a decrease from 1,400 total cases in 2019 to 400 in 2020.

**Statistically Significant Changes in the Total Recordable Case Rate:**

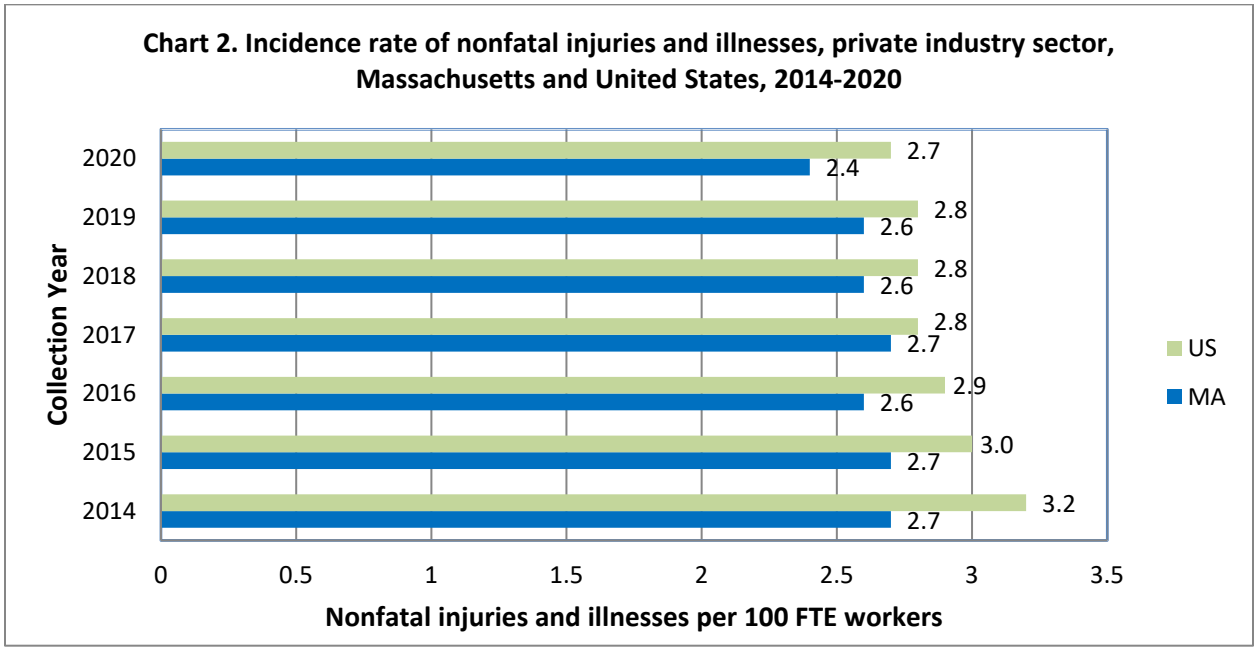
- Similar to the counts of injuries and illnesses change, the private industry total recordable case rate (TRC), along with its DAFW, DART, and other recordable case (ORC) decreased from 2019 to 2020.
- The total number of private industry illness-only cases grew from 2,200 in 2019 to 14,700 cases in 2020, with 12,900 of those cases categorized as Respiratory conditions.
- The TRC, as well as the DART and ORC rates in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry decreased from 2019 to 2020.
- The Leisure and Hospitality industry's TRC rate decreased from 3.2 incidents per 100 FTEs in 2019 to 2.3 incidents in 2020.
- The Financial Activities industry saw a decrease in TRC rate from 0.7 incidents per 100 FTEs in 2019 to 0.2 in 2020.
- Education and Health Services industry increased from 4.2 incidents in 2019 to 5.2 incidents in 2020.

**Chart 1** shows the total number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses from 2010-2020 for employees working in the private industry sector of Massachusetts.



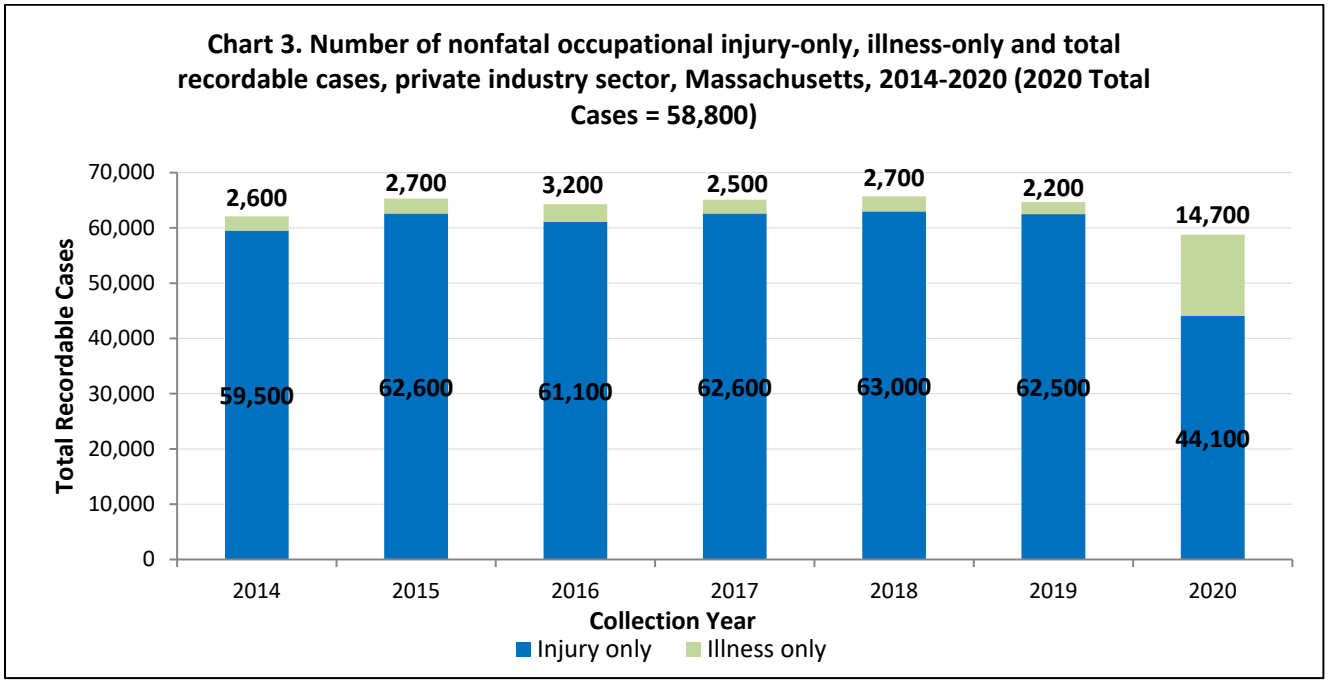

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Chart 2** compares the incidence rates between the United States and Massachusetts private industry sector workforce from 2014 to 2020.



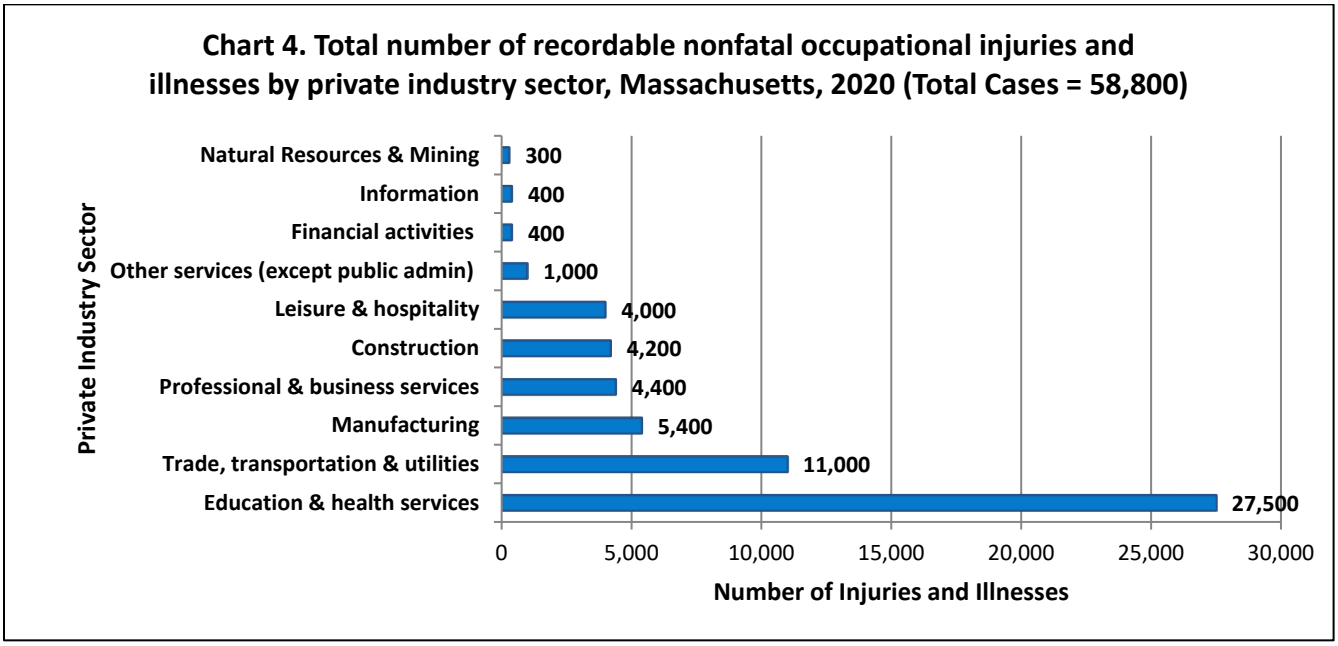

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Chart 3** shows a comparison of the total number of injury-only to illness-only cases in relation to the total number of incidents in the Massachusetts private industry sector over a seven-year period.




Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Chart 4** displays the TRC numbers of both injuries and illnesses within the private industry sector in Massachusetts.




Note: because of rounding and data exclusion of non-classifiable responses, data may not sum to totals.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2020

**Table 1** below illustrates the total number of recordable occupational illnesses within the private sector, and their respective incidence rates based on the type of illness sustained. There was a total of 14,700 illness-only cases in 2020. This translates to a total recordable case (TRC) incidence rate of 60.7 illnesses per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers (FTEs). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Respiratory conditions spiked in 2020. There were an estimated 12,900 work-related respiratory condition illness cases, compared to an estimated 300 cases in 2019. The breakdown of illness type by category is the following: skin diseases or disorders, respiratory conditions, poisonings, hearing loss, and all other illnesses.

| Table 1. Incidence rate and number of illness-only cases, private industry sector, Massachusetts, 2020 | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Type of Illness** | **Incidence rate (per 10,000 FTE)** | **Number of Illnesses (n=14,700)** |
| **All other illnesses** | 4.6 | 1,100 |
| **Skin disorders** | 1.2 | 300 |
| **Hearing loss** | 1.4 | 300 |
| **Respiratory conditions** | 53.5 | 12.900 |
| **Poisonings** | * | * |

*Data was unpublishable
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2020

**Table 2** below compares the 2020 TRC incidence rates by major industry sector for Massachusetts and the United States.

| Table 2. Incidence rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses per 100 FTEs, by major private industry sector and state government, Massachusetts and United States, 2020 | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Industry** | **Massachusetts** | **United States** |
| **All Private Industry** | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| **Goods-producing sector** | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| **Natural Resources and Mining** | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| **Construction** | 3.0 | 2.5 |
| **Manufacturing** | 2.3 | 3.1 |
| **Service-providing sector** | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** | 2.6 | 3.1 |
| **Information** | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| **Financial Activities** | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| **Professional and Business Services** | 0.8 | 1.1 |
| **Educational and Health Services** | 5.2 | 5.0 |
| **Leisure and Hospitality** | 2.3 | 2.7 |
| **Other Services (except public administration)** | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| **State Government** | 2.5 | 3.3 |
| **Local Government** | 4.0 | 4.2 |

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States. Department of Labor, 2020

**Injury and Illness Case Types**

Work-related injuries and illnesses are recorded as three individual case types by employers:

1. **Cases with Days Away From Work** commonly identified in this report as **DAFW**.
2. **Cases with Job Transfer or Restricted duty** commonly identified as **DJTR**.
3. **Other Recordable Cases** commonly identified as **ORC**.

For a case to be considered recordable by an employer, there are two criteria about the incident that must be met. First, the injury or illness must be determined to be work-related or caused by the work environment. Second, the incident needs to involve loss of consciousness, require days away from work, job transfer or restricted duty, medical treatment beyond first aid (i.e., stitches, prescribed medication from a doctor, surgery, etc.), involve a significant work-related injury or illness diagnosed by a physical or licensed healthcare professional or meet other recordkeeping criteria as specified under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's regulation 29 CFR 1904. If both criteria are met, the incident is recordable.

DAFW cases are considered the most serious type of case since the employee was not healthy enough to attend work (usually recommended by a medical professional) due to the severity of their injury or illness. DJTR cases are deemed as such when a work-related injury or illness prohibits an employee from performing one or more of the main functions of that employee's job duties. Cases that require more than first aid treatment or meet other recordkeeping criteria, but where there is no lost work time or job transfer or restriction, are considered ORCs.

In 2020, there were a total of 45,000 cases with DAFW and/or DJTR (also known as DART cases) reported by all industries including state and local government. There was a total of 40,200 DART cases in the private sector, and 4,800 DART cases in the public sector. Of the 45,000 DART cases, 40,500 were DAFW cases and 4,500 were DJTR cases. In addition to these cases, there were 24,300 ORCs that were classified as recordable under OSHAs recordkeeping requirements.

**Table 3** below provides the breakdown of the DAFW cases, DJTR cases and ORCS by major private industry sector and the state government in 2020. The total count for DART cases can be calculated by adding the cases with DAFW and DJTR.

**Table 3. Total number of cases by major private industry and case type, All industries including public sector, Massachusetts, 2020 (Total cases=69,400)**

| Industry | DAFW Cases (n=40,500) | DJTR Cases (n=4,500) | Other Recordable Cases (n=24,300) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Education and Health Services** | 18,800 | 1,100 | 7,600 |
| **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** | 6,600 | 1,400 | 3,100 |
| **Manufacturing** | 2,800 | 800 | 1,800 |
| **Leisure and Hospitality** | 1,600 | 200 | 2,300 |
| **Construction** | 2,500 | 400 | 1,300 |
| **Professional and Business Services** | 2,400 | 400 | 1,600 |
| **State Government** | 1,200 | 100 | 1,300 |
| **Financial Activities** | 200 | * | 200 |
| **Information** | 300 | * | 100 |
| **Natural Resources and Mining** | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| **Other Services** | 600 | * | * |
| **Local Government** | 3,400 | 100 | 4,500 |

*Indicates data was unpublishable. Note: Because of rounding and data exclusion data may not sum to totals.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2020

### Incidence rates

**Table 4** below shows the breakdown of incidence rates for the ORC, DAFW, DJTR, DART, and TRC by each private industry sector and state government.

| Table 4. Total recordable incidence rate per 100 FTE workers by case type, private industry sector and state government, Massachusetts, 2020 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Industry** | **ORC Rate** | **DAFW Rate** | **DJTR Rate** | **DART Rate (DAFW+DJTR)** | **TRC Rate (ORC+DART)** |
| **Education and Health Services** | 1.4 | 3.5 | 0.2 | 3.8 | 5.2 |
| **State Government** | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 2.5 |
| **Leisure and Hospitality** | 1.3 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 1.9 | 2.6 |
| **Natural Resources and Mining** | 1.0 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 2.4 | 3.4 |
| **Construction** | 0.9 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 3.0 |
| **Manufacturing** | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 2.3 |
| **Other Services (except public administration)** | * | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 1.4 |
| **Professional and Business Services** | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| **Financial Activities** | 0.1 | 0.1 | * | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| **Information** | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.4 |

*Indicates data is unpublishable. Note: because of rounding, data may not sum to totals.
Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Table 5** shows selected industries with the highest total recordable rate incidence rates in Massachusetts.

| Table 5. Industries with the highest incidence rate of total nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses, All industries, Massachusetts, 2020 | |
|---|---|
| **Industry** | **Value** |
| **Private industry Nursing and Residential Care Facilities** | **13.4** |
| **State Government Hospitals** | **12.5** |
| **Local Government Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities** | **9.4** |
| **Private-Industry Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing** | **8.5** |
| **Private-Industry Hospitals** | **6.9** |
| **Private-Industry Warehousing and Storage** | **5.8** |
| **Private-Industry Textile Mills** | **5.4** |
| **Private Industry Miscellaneous Store Retailers** | **4.7** |
| **Private industry general merchandise stores** | **4.6** |

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Table 6** below shows the total recordable incidence rates by the establishment employment size.

| Table 6. Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses per 100 FTE workers, by industry sector and employment size, All industries, Massachusetts, 2020 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Industry sector** | **All Establishments** | **Establishment employment size (workers)** | | | | |
| | | **1 to 10** | **11 to 49** | **50 to 249** | **250 to 999** | **1000 or more** |
| **Private Industry** | 2.4 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| **Natural Resources and Mining** | 3.4 | -- | 3.0 | 4.2 | -- | -- |
| **Construction** | 3.0 | -- | 3.5 | 3.7 | 2.8 | -- |
| **Manufacturing** | 2.3 | -- | 2.5 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 1.2 |
| **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** | 2.6 | -- | 2.3 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| **Information** | 0.4 | -- | -- | 0.9 | 0.7 | -- |
| **Financial Activities** | 0.2 | -- | -- | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| **Professional and Business services** | 0.8 | -- | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| **Education and Health Services** | 5.2 | -- | 2.4 | 8.6 | 6.2 | 4.8 |
| **Leisure and Hospitality** | 2.3 | -- | 2.1 | 3.4 | 4.2 | 1.4 |
| **Other Services** | 1.4 | -- | 1.2 | 2.5 | 1.4 | -- |
| **State Government** | 2.5 | -- | 2.3 | 2.3 | 3.2 | 2.2 |
| **Local Government** | 4.0 | -- | 5.3 | 5.9 | 2.2 | 2.4 |

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

### Case and Demographic Findings

The following section details the cases in which the injured or ill employee endured at least one full lost workday due to their incident. In 2020, there were an estimated total of 40,500 cases reported with days away from work in the entire Massachusetts workforce. This is approximately 58.4% of the 69,400 total recordable cases, compared to 43.4% of the total in 2019. Workers in the private sector accounted for 35,900 DAFW cases, while state and local government workers accounted for 4,600 DAFW cases.

Some basic information is asked about the employee, such as job title, age, or date of birth, date of hire, or length of service, race, or ethnic background, work shift start time, and time of injury or illness. It is with this data that we compile and publish specific demographic information about the characteristics of the employee. In addition to demographic information, specific case information that describes the nature, event, source, secondary source (if applicable), and part of body affected, is also collected.

**Gender**: Of the 35,890 total cases with days away from work occurring in the private sector workforce, 19,400 cases or approximately 54.1% were reported to involve a female employee. Male workers accounted for 16,060 or 44.7% of the DAFW cases. Because of rounding and data exclusion of non-classifiable responses, data may not sum to totals.

**Table 7** below shows the distribution of occupational injuries and illnesses by gender in major private industry sector in 2020.

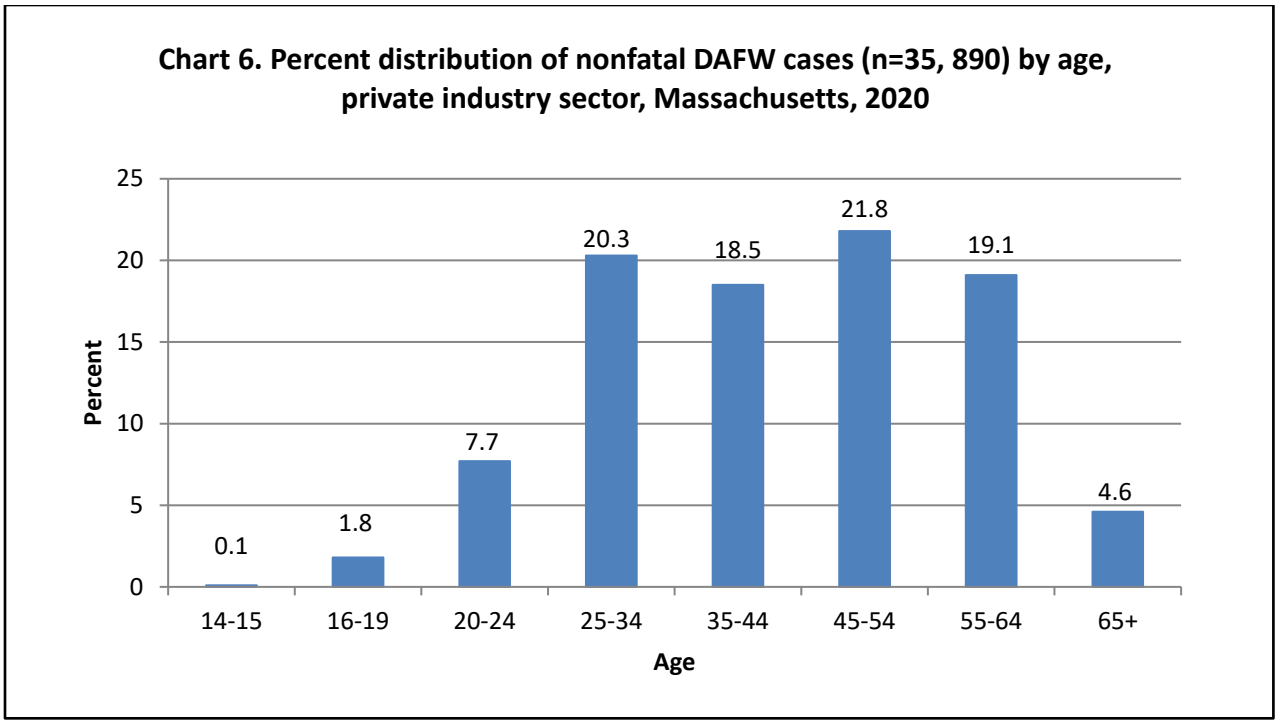
| Table 7. Number of injuries and illnesses involving DAFW by private industry sector and gender, Massachusetts, 2020 | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Industry** | **Female** | **Male** |
| **Education and Health Services** | 14,850 | 3,690 |
| **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** | 1,770 | 4,720 |
| **Leisure and Hospitality** | 880 | 670 |
| **Professional and Business Services** | 800 | 1,590 |
| **Manufacturing** | 680 | 2,140 |
| **Other Services** | 250 | 330 |
| **Natural resources and mining** | 60 | 80 |
| **Construction** | 50 | 2,410 |
| **Financial activities** | 50 | 190 |
| **Information** | 20 | 240 |

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Age:** The following tables show the total number, as well as the percent distribution of DAFW cases by age group of workers in the Massachusetts private sector in 2020:

| Table 8. Number of Injuries and Illnesses Involving DAFW by age of worker, private industry sector, Massachusetts, 2020 (Total Cases = 35,890) | |
|---|---|
| **Age group of workers** | **Number of DAFW cases** |
| 14 to 15 | 20 |
| 16 to 19 | 660 |
| 20 to 24 | 2,770 |
| 25 to 34 | 7,290 |
| 35 to 44 | 6,640 |
| 45 to 54 | 7,820 |
| 55 to 64 | 6,850 |
| 65 and over | 1,650 |

*Indicates data is unpublishable. Due to rounding and exclusion of non-classifiable responses, data may not sum to totals. Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020




Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Length of Service**

Table 9 below shows the total number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work based on the length of service that the worker had with the employer.

**Table 9. Number of nonfatal DAFW cases by length of services, private industry, Massachusetts 2020**

| Length of services with employer | Number of DAFW cases |
|---|---|
| Less than 3 months | 2,680 |
| 3 to 11 months | 6.450 |
| 1 to 5 years | 12,640 |
| More than 5 years | 13,050 |

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Race:** Reporting for race or ethnic background is an optional field on the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. Of the 35,890 cases with days away from work, 17,180 cases did not report race or ethnic background.

**Table 10** below summarizes the total number of DAFW cases by race or ethnic background of worker by selected industries in 2020.

| Table 10. Number of DAFW cases by race or ethnic background of workers, private industry sector, Massachusetts, 2020 (Total Cases=35,890) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Industry** | **White** | **Black** | **Hispanic or Latino** | **Asian** | **American Indian or Alaskan Native** | **Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander** | **Multi-race** |
| **Private sector** | 10,570 | 3,740 | 3,710 | 550 | 60 | 40 | 20 |
| **Goods producing** | 2,210 | 230 | 970 | 80 | 40 | * | * |
| **Natural resources and mining** | 40 | * | 40 | * | * | * | * |
| **Construction** | 1,340 | 40 | 250 | * | * | * | * |
| **Manufacturing** | 820 | 190 | 680 | 70 | * | * | * |
| **Service providing** | 8,360 | 3,510 | 2,740 | 470 | 20 | 40 | 20 |
| **Trade, transportation, and utilities** | 1,740 | 220 | 510 | 40 | * | * | * |
| **Information** | 80 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| **Financial activities** | 60 | 30 | 20 | * | * | * | * |
| **Professional and business services** | 510 | 110 | 480 | 50 | * | * | * |
| **Education and health services** | 5,390 | 3,010 | 1,300 | 310 | * | 30 | * |
| **Leisure and hospitality** | 350 | 100 | 320 | 60 | * | * | * |
| **Other services** | 230 | 30 | 100 | * | * | * | * |

*Indicates data was unpublishable. Due to rounding and exclusion of unusable responses, data may not sum to totals.
Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Table 11** below summarizes the total number of DAFW cases and the percent distribution of those cases by the nature of incident.

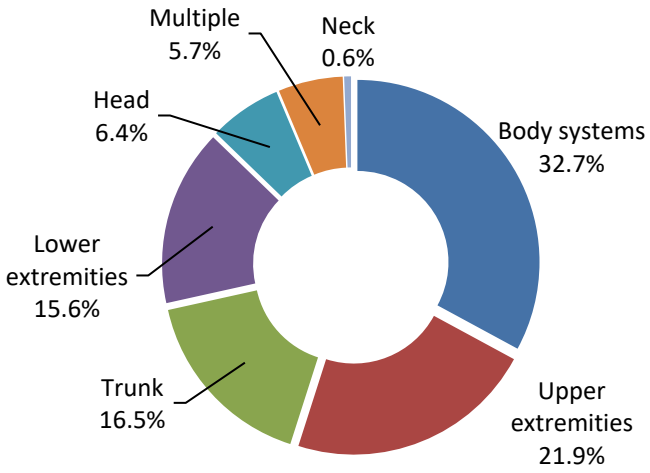
| Table 11. Total number of cases and percent distribution of DAFW cases by nature, private industry sector, Massachusetts, 2020 [Total Cases = 35,890] | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Nature of Injury or Illness** | **Count** | **Percentage** |
| **Sprains, strains, tears** | 8,700 | 24.2% |
| **Soreness, pain** | 5,500 | 15.3% |
| **Cuts, lacerations, punctures** | 2,630 | 7.3% |
| **Bruises, contusions** | 2,130 | 5.9% |
| **Fractures** | 1,600 | 4.5% |
| **Multiple traumatic injuries** | 430 | 1.2% |
| **Heat (thermal) burns** | 240 | 0.7% |
| **Tendonitis** | 60 | 0.2% |
| **Amputations** | 50 | 0.1% |
| **Carpal tunnel syndrome** | 50 | 0.1% |
| **Chemical burns and corrosions** | 40 | 0.1% |

Note: Because of rounding and data exclusion of non-classifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals
Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Part of Body:** Body systems is the part of body that is typically named when an illness affects the entire body system, rather than a particular part of the external body. In 2020 body systems was the part of body named in 11,720 DAFW cases, compared to just 530 cases in 2019. Many of the cases involved workers affected by SARS-COV-2 or COVID-19. The trunk region is defined by the *Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS)* manual as the "main part of the body, where the head and limbs are attached." However, the trunk excludes the neck and shoulders. In 2020, the trunk accounted for 5,920 DAFW cases. The back alone accounted for 4,520 cases or roughly 76.4% of the cases involving the trunk region. The upper extremities, which include the shoulder, arms, hands, and fingers accounted for approximately 7,870 DAFW cases. The lower extremities, which range from the upper leg to the toes, were identified as the part of body in 5,590 DAFW cases. In 2020 the upper and lower extremities combined were accountable for roughly 13,460 DAFW cases or approximately 37.5% of the total DAFW cases. There were an estimated 2,280 cases that involved the head (including the face) as the part of body. Multiple body parts (not including two from within the same body region as listed above) accounted for 2,030 cases. Lastly, there were 200 cases involving the neck.

**Chart 7** displays the percent distribution of days away from work cases by the part of body affected.

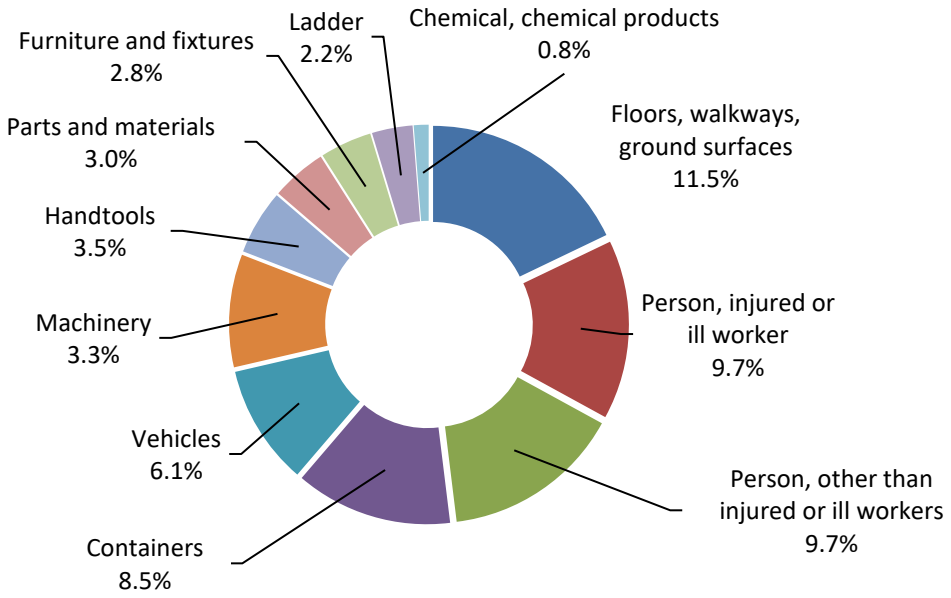
**Chart 7. Percent distribution of DAFW cases, by part of body affected, private industry sector, Massachusetts, 2020**




Note: Due to rounding and data exclusion of non-classifiable responses, components may not add to totals
Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Chart 8** below displays the percent distribution of the sources of incidents that lead to cases with days away from work in 2020.

**Chart 8. Percent distribution of DAFW cases, by source of the injury and illness, private industry sector, Massachusetts, 2020**




Note: Due to rounding and data exclusion of non-classifiable responses, components may not add to totals
Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Table 12** below shows the number of percent distribution of days away from work by the event in which the incident occurred.

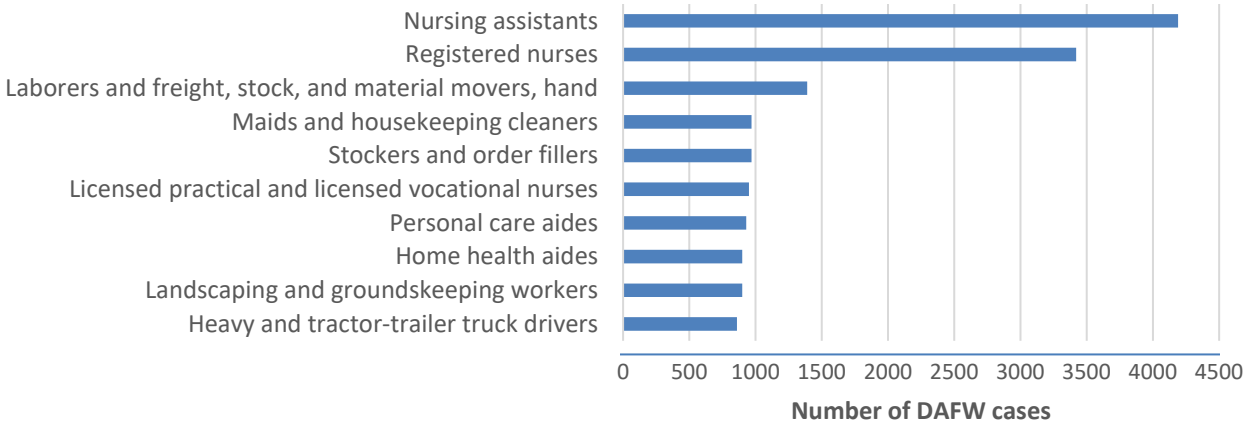
**Table 12. Number of cases and percent distribution of DAFW cases by event, private industry sector, Massachusetts, 2020 (Total Cases = 35,890)**

| Event Category | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **Exposure to harmful substances or environment** | 12,080 | 33.7% |
| **Overexertion and bodily reaction** | 8,370 | 23.3% |
| **Falls, slips, trips** | 6,400 | 17.8% |
| **Contact with object, equipment** | 5,880 | 16.4% |
| **Violence and other injuries by persons or animals** | 1,910 | 5.3% |
| **Transportation incidents** | 1,000 | 2.8% |
| **Fires and explosions** | 20 | 0.1% |

Note: Due to rounding and exclusion of some responses, data may not sum to totals.
Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

**Chart 9** below shows selected occupations with the highest number of Days Away from Work cases. As in prior years, healthcare occupations are prevalent throughout the list, however, given the timeline of the global pandemic caused by -19, healthcare occupations had some of the highest numbers of DAFW cases in 2020.

**Chart 9. Selected occupations with highest number of DAFW cases, private industry, Massachusetts, 2020**




Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, 2020

### Data Source for this Report

The data source for this report is the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), in cooperation with participating state agencies. Survey data for the SOII is derived from mandatory logs kept by private industry employers and participating public sector employers during the calendar year. All survey responses are confidential and are used for statistical purposes only. The SOII is a federal-state government partnership between the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards (DLS). For more information about the data sources and methodology visit BLS' *Concepts* page: bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/data.htm.

### About the Department of Labor Standards

The mission of the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards (DLS) is to promote and protect workers' safety and health, wages and working conditions, and to support employers and workers in the utilization of apprenticeship as a workforce development tool. In collaboration with public and private entities, DLS protects workers by means of education and training, workplace safety and health consultation and assessment, occupational injury and illness data collection and analysis, and consistent and responsible administration and enforcement of its statutes and regulations. DLS carries out its objectives in a manner that supports employers and strengthens the Commonwealth's communities and economy.

DLS' Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program administers the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) for all Private Sector and public sector industries, trades, and occupations. The SOII remains the largest occupational injury and illness surveillance system in the country, providing injury and illness counts and rates for a variety of employer, employee, and case characteristics based on a sample of approximately 230,000

establishments. Employers record cases that result in days away from work due to injury or illness. SOII contains multiple case characteristics that capture invaluable information about the nature of the industry, the injury, and the demographics of the injured employee. The Program uses this data to produce an annual occupational injury and illness report, which summarizes overall and industry-specific data on occupational safety. Reports from prior years can be found on the DLS website at mass.gov/lwd/labor-standards/occupational-safety-and-health-statistics-program/. The mission of the Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program is to support continued improvement of workplace environments by compiling and presenting data to employers, employees, researchers, industry professionals, and policymakers, so that these data can be used to devise strategies to reduce occupational injuries and illnesses.

DLS administers eight programs (including the Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program) that interact with the public on a range of occupational health and safety issues. Visit mass.gov/orgs/department-of-labor-standards for more information about DLS.

### Occupational Health and Safety Resources in Massachusetts

**On-Site Consultation Program**

This program, administered by DLS, offers a free consultation service designed to help employers recognize and control potential safety and health hazards at their worksites, improve their safety and health program, assist in training employees, and possibly qualify for a one-year exemption from routine OSHA inspections. This service targets smaller businesses (less than 250 employees per establishment or 500 employees nationwide) in high hazard industries, such as manufacturing, healthcare, and construction. It is a confidential service in which your firm's name, any other information you provide, and any unsafe or unhealthy working conditions found, will not be reported routinely to the OSHA inspection staff. Visit mass.gov/dols/consult for more information.

**Workplace Safety and Health Program**

The Workplace Safety and Health Program within DLS, provides technical assistance and performs investigations of workplace health and safety hazards within public sector workplaces in Massachusetts. Visit mass.gov/lwd/labor-standards/massachusetts-workplace-safety-and-health-program/ for more information.

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Occupational Health Surveillance Program**

The Massachusetts Occupational Health Surveillance Program within the Department of Public Health generates reports, fact sheets, and safety alerts regarding fatal occupational injuries. For more materials on this subject, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OSHA), 250 Washington Street, 4th Floor Boston, MA 02108. To speak with a representative directly, please call 1 (800) 338-5223. Reports are available on the program's website: mass.gov/orgs/occupational-health-surveillance-program

**Department of Industrial Accidents' Safety Grant Program**

The Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA), through the Office of Safety, annually awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in safety training grants to various organizations. In each fiscal year, thousands of persons receive workplace training through programs funded by these DIA grants. This highly successful program provides monies for workplace safety training aimed at workers throughout the Commonwealth. For more information explore the following link: mass.gov/lwd/workers-compensation/safety/grant-program/safety-grant-program.html

**Material Request Information**

For more information about the **2020** report or past year data, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards, Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program, 100 Cambridge Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02108 or call (617) 626-6948.

Information can also be found on our website at: mass.gov/lwd/labor-standards/occupational-safety-and-health-statistics-program/

Detailed statistical information can also be obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at: bls.gov/bls/safety.htm

Massachusetts Survey of

# Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Report

# 2020