

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

www.mass.gov/dos

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
Governor  
TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
Lieutenant Governor

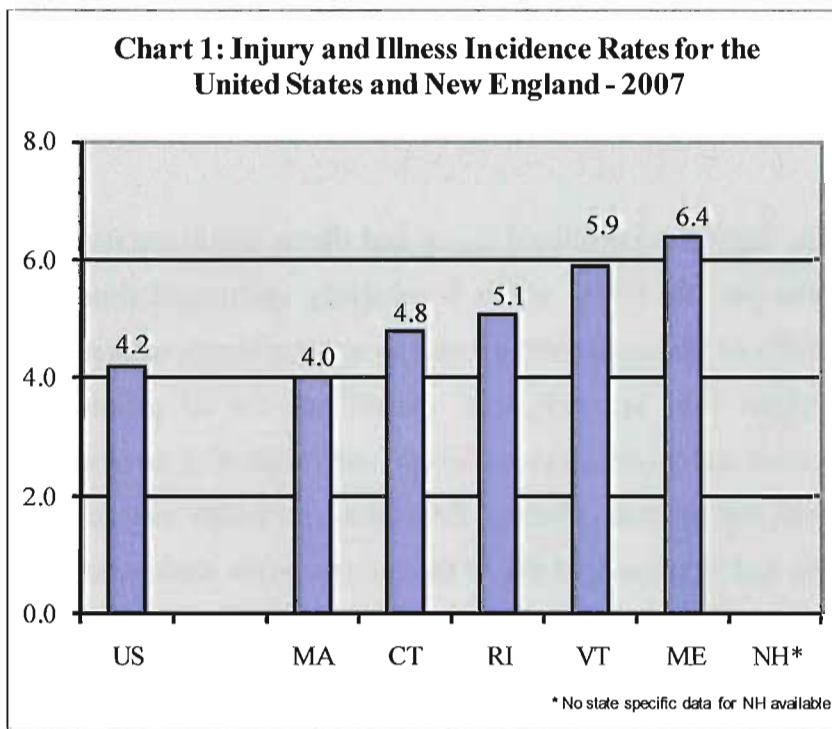


SUZANNE M. BUMP  
Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development  
GEORGE NOEL  
Director of Labor  
LAURA M. MARLIN  
Commissioner

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**MASSACHUSETTS OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES  
REPORT, 2007**

The Division of Occupational Safety (DOS) has released data on workplace injuries and illnesses for 2007. A total of 89,600 nonfatal injuries and illnesses were reported among the more than 2.8 million



private sector workers. This equates to an incidence rate of 4.0 injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time equivalent workers (FTEs). Massachusetts' rate of 4.0 injuries per 100 workers represents the lowest rate among the reporting New England states (see chart 1), and compares favorably to the national incidence rate of 4.2 cases per 100 FTEs in private industry for the same period.

DOS Commissioner Laura Marlin, stated, "Massachusetts' rate of workplace illness and injuries continues to

be below the national average and the lowest rate among all New England states. We will continue to target ways to reach out to companies and make workplace safety a priority."

Of the 89,600 workplace injuries and illnesses in Massachusetts during 2007, roughly 42,400 (47%) did not result in lost workdays, while approximately 47,200 (53%) of cases involved days away from work, job transfer, restriction or any combination of these actions. Cases with days away from work,

job transfer, or restriction can be broken into two types: those requiring at least one full day away from work, with or without job transfer or restriction, and those requiring only job transfer or restriction. Approximately 36,650, or 41% of workplace injuries and illnesses required days away from work, while 10,500 (12%) required only job transfer or restricted duty. The incidence rate for cases with days away from work was 1.6 cases per 100 FTE's, while job transfer or restriction had an incidence rate of 0.5 per 100 FTE's, and the rate for other recordable cases was 1.9, all relatively similar to the 2006 rates.

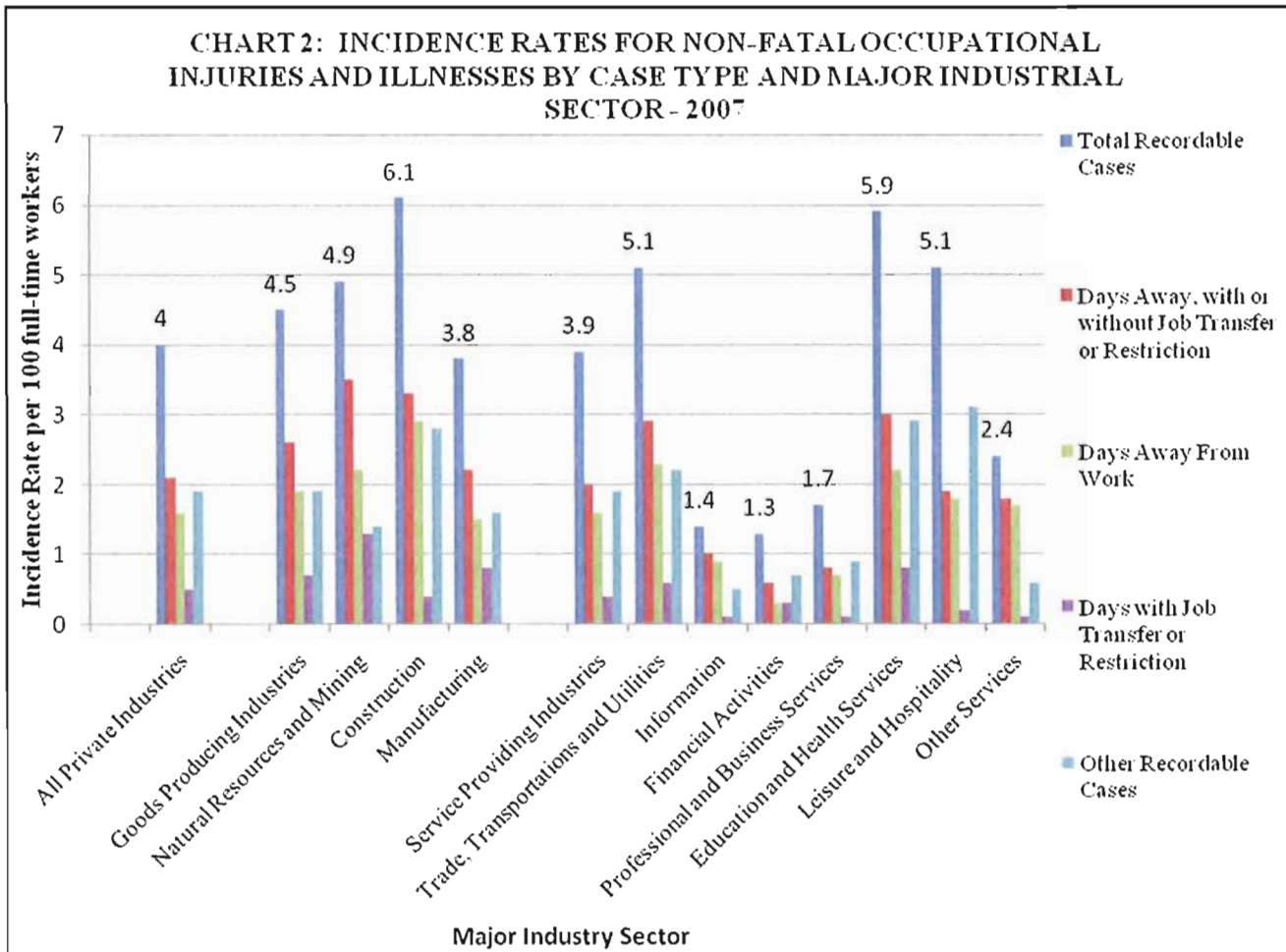
As a whole, goods-producing industries, which employed about 16% of the private sector workforce in Massachusetts, had a higher incidence rate than service-providing industries, which employed the remaining 84% of the private sector workforce in 2007. The incidence rate for goods-producing industries, which includes the three major industry sectors of: (1) natural resources and mining, (2) construction, and (3) manufacturing, was 4.5 injuries and illnesses per 100 FTEs. The Service-providing industries included the following seven major industry sectors: (1) trade, transportation, and utilities, (2) information, (3) financial activities, (4) professional and business services, (5) education and health services, (6) leisure and hospitality, and (7) other services. The Service-providing industries, collectively, had an incidence rate of 3.9 injuries and illnesses per 100 FTE's.

Among the ten major industry sectors, the highest occupational injury and illness incidence rate occurred in construction with a rate of 6.1 cases per 100 FTEs, which is relatively unchanged from 2006's rate of 6.4. Approximately 140,900 or 5.0% of Massachusetts' private sector employees worked in construction. Other industries with rates higher than Massachusetts' overall rate for all private industries (4.0 cases per 100 FTEs) were: education and health services, leisure and hospitality, natural resources and mining and the trade, transportation, and utilities industry. Education and health services had an incidence rate of 5.9 cases per 100 FTEs, and employed 20.6% of the private sector workforce; while leisure and hospitality employed 10.7% of private sector employees, but had an incidence rate of 5.1 injuries and illnesses per 100 FTEs. Trade, transportation, and utilities had an incidence rate of 5.1 cases per 100 FTEs, and employed 20.2% of private sector workers.

One of the smallest industries to have a high incidence rate was the natural resources and mining industry. This industry sector includes occupations within the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting fields. In 2007 it comprised 0.3% (7,200 workers) of the private sector workforce, but had an incidence rate of 4.9 injuries and illnesses per 100 FTEs, relatively unchanged from 2006.

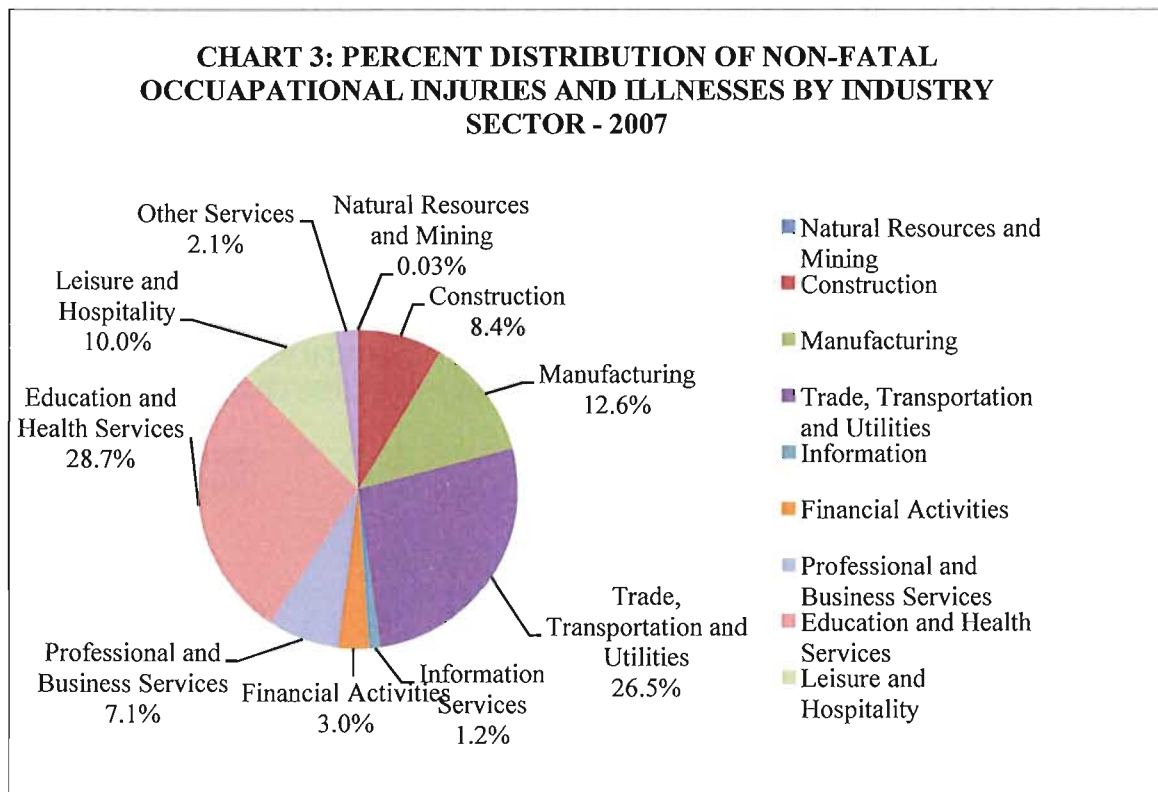
The lowest injury and illness incidence rate, 1.3 injuries and illnesses per 100 FTEs, occurred in financial activities, which employed 8.0% of the private sector workforce. The remaining major industry sectors had incidence rates lower than Massachusetts' overall incidence rate for all private industries. These sectors include: manufacturing professional and business services, information, and other services. Manufacturing employed 10.5% of private sector workers and had an incidence rate of 3.8 cases per 100 FTE's. Professional and

business services employed 17.1% of private sector workers within the state, and had an incidence rate of 1.7 cases per 100 FTEs. Approximately 3.1% of private sector employees worked in the information industry, which had an incidence rate of 1.4 injuries and illnesses per 100 FTEs, while the other services industries employed 4.5% of the private sector workforce in Massachusetts, and had an incidence rate of 2.4 (see chart 2).



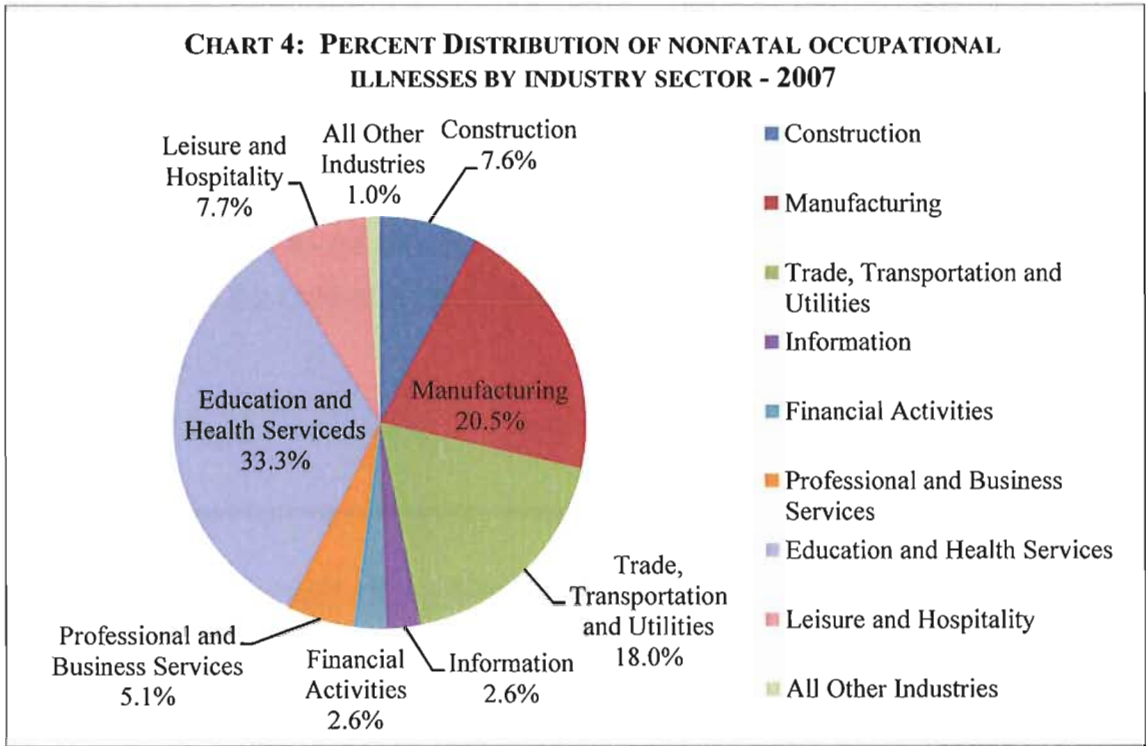
Nonfatal occupational injuries accounted for approximately 96% of the 89,600 injury and illness cases in 2007. The incidence rate for occupational *injuries-only* was 3.8 cases per 100 FTEs, for a total

of 85,700 injured workers during 2007. Education and Health Services was the industry which had the largest number of injury-only cases in Massachusetts, with roughly 28% of all reported cases. Trade, transportation, and utilities had the second highest number of injury-only cases, with approximately 27% of the total reported cases. In the education and health services industry, health services and social assistance accounted for 21,600 cases out of the total 24,300 cases, while education services represented a much smaller portion, with approximately 2,700 cases (see chart 3).



The remaining 4% of nonfatal occupational injury and illness cases were work-related illnesses. For occupational *illnesses-only*, the overall incidence rate was 17.3 cases per 10,000 FTEs, for a total of 3,900 cases. Of the illnesses-only cases, the illness category “skin diseases or disorders” comprised roughly 13% of the total; the “respiratory conditions” category comprised 10%, and the “hearing loss” category 7.6% of the total. Education and health services had the largest number of illness-only cases with 1,300 (33%) of the total reported cases. Within the education and health services industry 92% of illness-only cases fell into the health care and social assistance category, while a much smaller portion of illness-only cases occurred in the educational services industry (8%). The education and health services industry was followed by manufacturing with 800 (21%) illnesses-only cases (see chart 4).

**CHART 4: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF NONFATAL OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESSES BY INDUSTRY SECTOR - 2007**



For injury and illness incidence rates by employer size, establishments having 1-10 employees had the lowest incidence rate at 2.4 cases per 100 FTEs, and establishments having 50-249 employees had the highest incidence rate at 5.3 injuries and illnesses per 100 FTEs. The largest establishments having 1,000 or more employees, experienced an incidence rate of 3.8 cases per 100 FTEs.

Readers are advised that not all results for 2007 are comparable to those from years prior to 2004 because a new occupational classification system was implemented for the 2004 survey year. This nationwide Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses stopped using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system in 2002, and began using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) in 2003. Since Massachusetts did not publish state-specific reports for 2003, this is the fourth year that survey results are being presented using the new classification system. The substantial differences between these two systems result in breaks in series for industry data, thereby minimizing the ability to make true and accurate time-series comparisons among the major industrial categories.

Survey data is derived from mandatory logs kept by private industry employers during the calendar year. All survey responses are confidential and are used for statistical purposes only. The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses is a federal-state government partnership between the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety (DOS).



Additional data is available that details worker case and demographics such as age, gender, occupation, length of service, and race of injured workers, as well as specific aspects of the injuries and illnesses that occurred. Interested persons can generate their own data tables based on self-selected criteria by using the “Profiles” system on the BLS website at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov). On the homepage under the “Safety and Health” category, click on “Profiles.” Annual reports published by DOS are available online at [www.mass.gov/dos](http://www.mass.gov/dos). For more information, please contact DOS at 617-626-6945 x 2.

For more information about the data contained within this report please contact us at:

Telephone: (617) 626-6945 x2

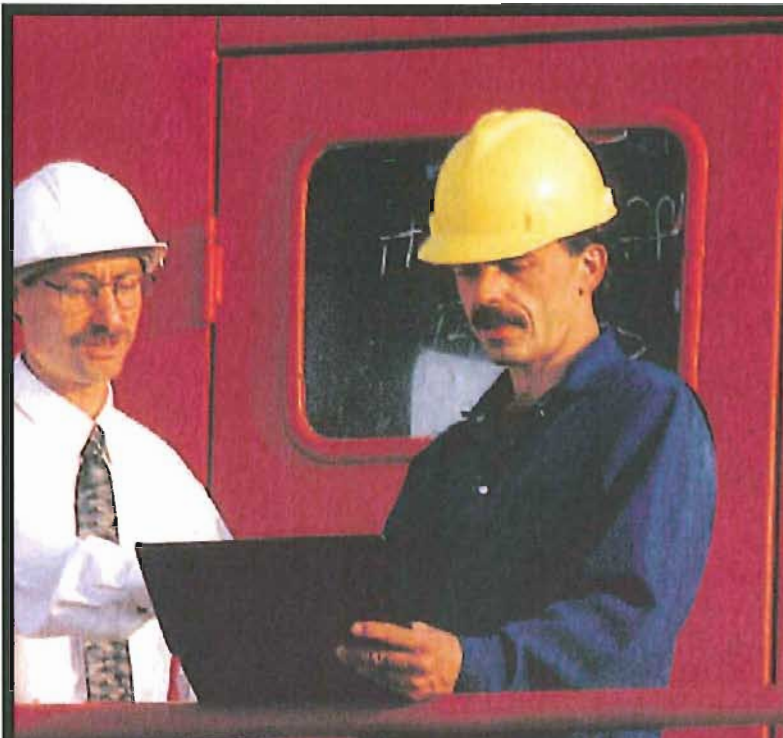
Fax: (617) 626-6944

Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety  
Occupational Health and Safety Statistics Program

19 Staniford Street, 2nd Floor

Boston, MA 02114

[www.mass.gov/dos/](http://www.mass.gov/dos/)



Providing a  
Safe and Healthy  
Workplace Pays  
Great Dividends!

**Decreased workers compensation rates • Decreased insurance premiums •  
Fewer OSHA citations • Increased productivity • Improved employee morale**

**The Massachusetts Division  
of Occupational Safety offers:**

- **Free consultation service** helps employers recognize and control safety and health hazards at their worksite.
- Keeps your firm's name and all unsafe and unhealthy **information confidential.**
- **No fees or penalties** for infractions. The only requirement is to agree to correct any problems.

If you would like more information on the consultation program, need technical advice on an OSHA standard or would like a consultant to visit your workplace to assist you in complying with the OSHA standards please contact us at:

**Massachusetts Division  
of Occupational Safety**  
On-Site Consultation Program  
1001 Watertown Street  
West Newton, MA 02465

Or call (617) 969-7177 x306,  
E-mail [kathy.flannery@state.ma.us](mailto:kathy.flannery@state.ma.us)  
or visit [www.mass.gov/dos/consult](http://www.mass.gov/dos/consult).

**Call for your  
FREE CONSULTATION  
TODAY!**