

BLS Releases 2012 State, National Injury/Illness Rates

South Carolina's on-the-job injury/illness rate for private industry was 3.0 injuries/illnesses per 100 workers in 2012, a decline from 2011's rate of 3.3. The state's rates for manufacturing and construction fell – manufacturing from 3.6 to 3.4 and construction from 2.7 to 2.3.

The data comes from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

The U.S. rate for private industry in 2012 was 3.4.

The state's 2012 injury/illness rate for the public sector was 4.4, compared to 5.0 in 2011.

Sub-sector industries within private industry with the highest non-fatal occupational injury and illness incidence rates for total cases in the state were:

- crop production, 9.5
- nursing and residential care facilities, 7.9
- building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers, 7.4
- couriers and messengers, 6.3
- hospitals, 6.3
- food manufacturing, 5.4

South Carolina state and local areas with the highest non-fatal occupational injury and illness incident rates for total cases were: state gov't nursing and residential care facilities, 7.3; local gov't executive, legislative, and other gov't support, 6.9; and state gov't justice, public order, and safety activities, 6.5.

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses is a federal/state cooperative program between the state Department of LLR and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). More than 3,100 South Carolina establishments were surveyed in 2012. The survey measures nonfatal injuries and illnesses only. The survey excludes the self-employed; farms with fewer than 11 employees; private households; and federal government agencies.

Private Sector Injury/illness Rate	South Carolina	United States
2012	3.0	3.4
2011	3.3	3.5
2010	3.1	3.5
2009	3.2	3.6
2008	3.1	3.9
2007	3.6	4.2
2006	3.8	4.4
2005	3.6	4.6
2004	4.1	4.8
2003	4.4	5.0
2002	4.5	5.3
2001	4.5	5.7
2000	5.5	6.1
1999	5.7	6.3
1998	5.7	6.7
1997	5.9	7.1
1996	5.9	7.4

The annual survey provides estimates of the number and frequency (incidence rates) of workplace injuries and illnesses based on logs kept by employers during the year. These records reflect not only the year's injury and illness experience, but also the employer's understanding of which cases are work related under recordkeeping rules promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor. The number of injuries and illnesses reported in any year can be

influenced by the level of economic activity, working conditions and work practices, worker experience and training, and the number of hours worked.