

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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Contact: Kimberley A. Turner, Ph.D.

(202) 442-9010

kimberley.turner@dc.gov

CHARACTERISTICS FOR INJURIES AND ILLNESSES REQUIRING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, WASHINGTON, DC 2009

Washington – The District of Columbia’s Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2009 showed that there were 3,090 work-related injury and illness cases reported in the private industry that required days away from work. Sprains and strains accounted for approximately 33 percent of these cases and was the leading type of injury or illness. Service occupations had the most injury and illness days away from work cases and made up 1,290 or 42 percent of the cases; followed by professional and related occupations with 630 or 20 percent of the cases. (See Chart 1)

Case Characteristic Highlights

- The leading nature of the work-related injury or illness cases involving days away from work was sprains and strains (1,010 cases); other significant causes were soreness and pain (710), cuts and lacerations (370 cases) and bruises and contusions (300 cases).
- The part of the body that was most frequently affected by injuries and illnesses was the trunk (840), including the back and shoulder, which accounted for 27 percent of all days away from work cases. Upper extremities, including arm, wrist, hand, and finger, accounted for 23 percent of all days away from work cases, while lower extremities, including the knee, ankle, foot and toe, accounted for 21 percent.
- Floor, ground surfaces accounted for 26 percent of all sources of injury and illness cases.
- Cases involving contact with an object or equipment accounted for 930, the majority of these were cases involving being struck by an object which accounted for 640 cases. The next largest event category involved cases with falls on the same level which accounted for 610 cases, followed by cases involving overexertion that accounted for 600.

Demographic Highlights

- Fifty-one percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved women (1,580 cases).
- Workers in the age range 45-54 accounted for 28 percent or 860 cases.
- Forty percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved Black workers (1,230).
- Employees with a length of service with their employer from one to five years accounted for

1,300 of the injuries and illnesses.

- Of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work that reported the time of incident, the hours from 12:01 PM to 4:00 PM accounted for 810 incidents.
- Of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work that reported hours on the job before the event occurred, employees on the job from two to less than four hours made up 680 cases.
- Wednesday (630 cases) and Monday (520 cases) were the days of the week when most of the injuries and illnesses involving days away from work occurred.

Chart I

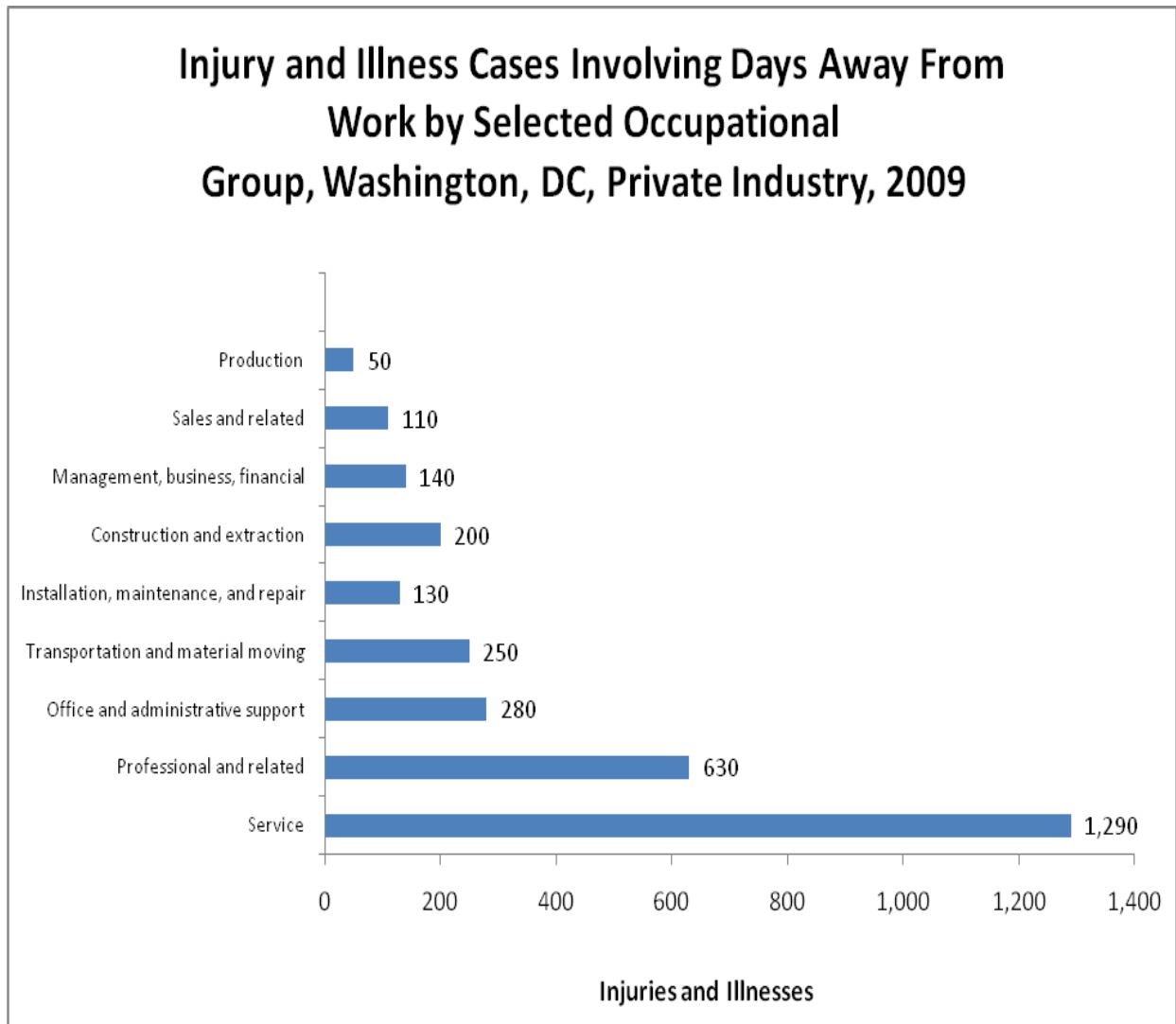
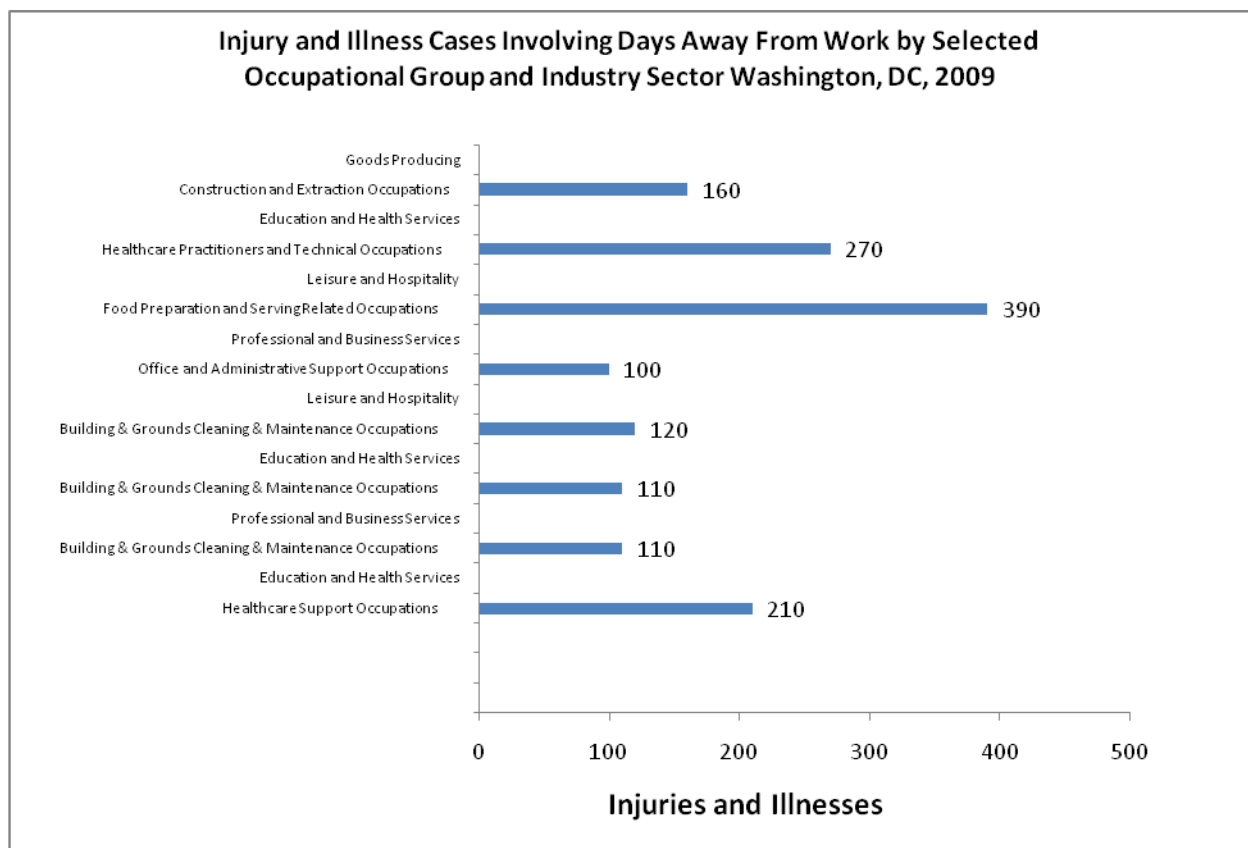


Chart II



Additional Statewide Information

For detailed statistical tables on case and demographic data from the Washington, DC Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2009, go to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics website: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm#DC>. In addition, any information can be requested by contacting Dr. Kimberley A. Turner at: (202) 442-9010 or via e-mail at: TurnerK@states.bls.gov.

Technical Notes

The Washington, DC Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses was conducted by the D.C. Department of Health in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Beginning with 2009 data, the Occupational Safety Health Statistics program began classifying industry using the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2007). Industry data from 2003 to 2008 were classified using the NAICS 2002. NAICS 2007 includes revisions across several sectors. The most significant revisions are in the information sector, particularly within telecommunications. For more information, go to <http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm>.

For technical information about and definitions for the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site here: http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a1.htm.