

# Masachusetts Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Report 2008

## CONSTRUCTION

The construction industry has traditionally been the industry in Massachusetts with the highest incidence rate from year to year. However, 2008 data shows a significant decrease in the number of total recordable incidents, or, more specifically, the total number of recordable injuries-only cases. Common occupations in the construction industry include: construction laborers, carpenters, brick and stone masons, roofers, house painters, electricians, street and bridge workers, welders and cutters, and plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters.

### *Key Construction Industry Findings*

- The total recordable case (TRC) incidence rate was 4.8 incidents per 100 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs); in 2007 the TRC rate was 6.1.
- The days away or restricted or transferred duty (DART) rate was 2.8 cases per 100 FTEs; the days away from work only rate (DAFW) was 2.6 cases; the days with job transfer or restriction only rate (DJTR) was 0.3; and the other recordable case rate (ORC) was 2.0 cases per 100 FTE's.
- The construction industry was responsible for a total of 6,100 recordable cases, which is 7.4% of the total number of injuries in the private sector and 37.2% of all goods-producing incidents.
- It employed roughly 138,400 employees or 4.9% of the private sector workforce, and 31.8% of the goods-producing industry.
- Of the 6,100 recordable cases: approximately 3,200 (53%) required DAFW, 400 (7%) required DJTR and 2,500 (41%) were ORC.
- Approximately 5,900 of all recordable cases were injury-only incidents.
- Approximately 200 cases were illness-only incidents.



#### **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor  
Joanne F. Goldstein, Secretary  
Executive Office of Labor and  
Workforce Development  
George E. Noel, Director  
Department of Labor  
Laura M. Marlin, Commissioner  
Division of Occupational Safety

#### **Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development**

#### **Division of Occupational Safety**

**19 Staniford Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02114**

**617-626-6975**

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

# CONSTRUCTION

## *Case and Demographic Findings*

**OCCUPATION:** The occupations with the highest number of DAFW cases were: construction laborers (590 cases); plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters (490 cases); carpenters (250 cases); electricians (240 cases); and construction equipment operators (200 cases).

**GENDER:** Of the 3,200 DAFW cases, 96% (3,080 workers) were men; 3% (100 workers) were women.

**AGE:** The 25 to 34 age group accounted for the highest number of DAFW cases with 1,210 cases (~38%); the 35 to 44 group accounted for 690 cases (22%); the 45 to 54 accounted for 650 cases (20%); the 55 to 64 accounted for 290 cases (9%); the 20 to 24 group accounted for 270 cases (8%); the 65 and over group accounted for 40 cases (1%); and the 16 to 19 group accounted for 20 cases (.6%).

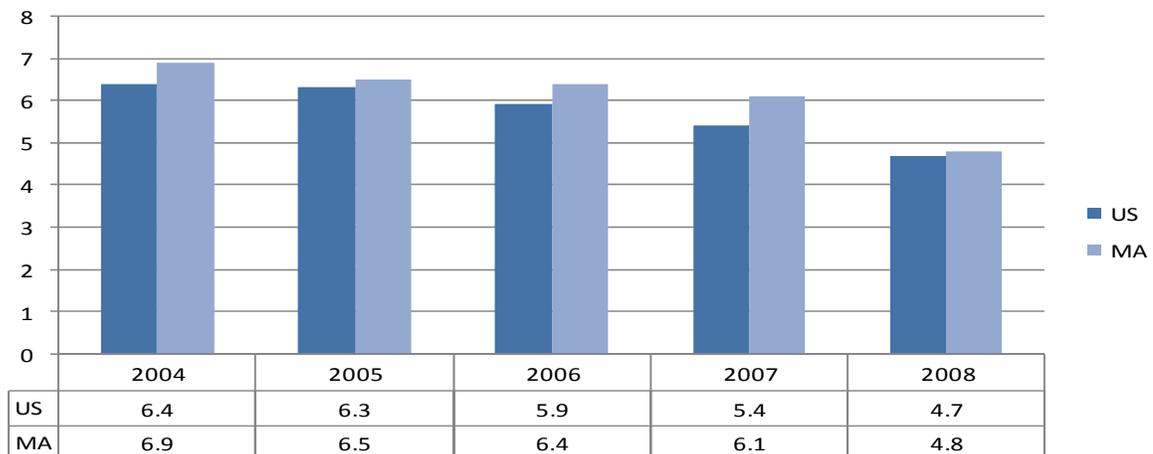
**NATURE:** Sprains, strains and tears accounted for 1,350 cases (42%) of the total 3,200 DAFW cases; fractures accounted for 370 cases (12%); disorders of the eye, adnexa, vision (not elsewhere classified) accounted for 280 cases (8%); cuts and lacerations accounted for 220 cases (7%); heat burns accounted for 100 cases or 3%, and bruises and contusions accounted for 140 cases (4%).

**EVENT:** Struck by flying object accounted for most DAFW cases with 390 cases (12%); overexertion in lifting accounted for 380 cases (~12%); bodily reaction accounted for 310 cases (10%); falls on same level accounted for 290 cases (9%); and struck against object or equipment accounted for 240 cases (8%).

**SOURCE:** Structures and surfaces was the most common source group that caused injury; it accounted for 630 DAFW cases (~20%); parts and materials accounted for 510 cases (16%); persons, plants, animals and minerals accounted for 470 cases (15%); other sources, mainly scrap, waste and debris, accounted for 450 cases (14%).

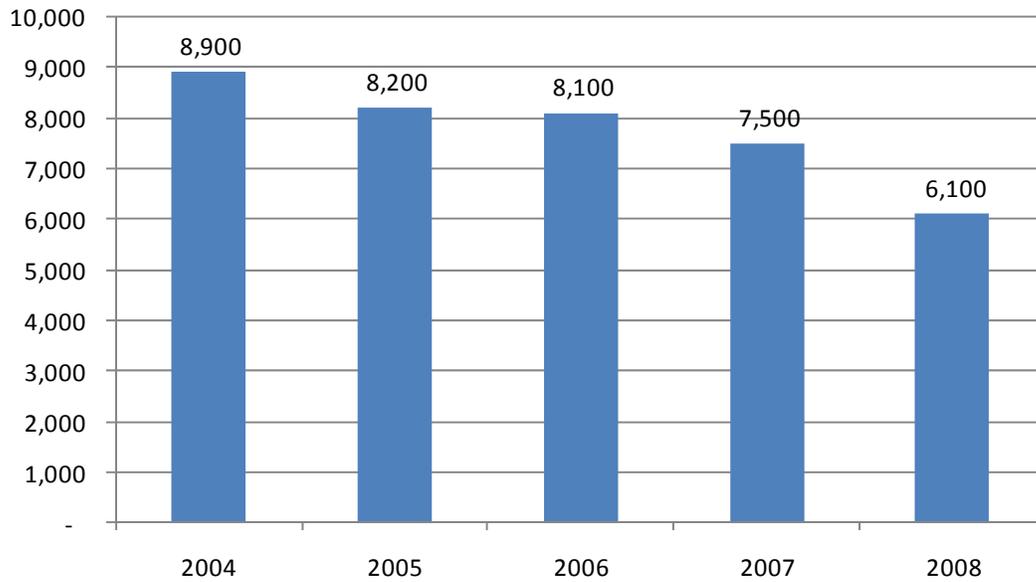
**PART OF BODY:** 1,180 cases (37%) affected the trunk region (shoulder, chest and back); 600 cases (19%) affected the upper extremities (arms, wrists, hands, fingers); 570 cases (18%) affected the lower extremities (legs, ankles, feet, toes); and 490 cases (15%) affected the head region (including the face).

**Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses (per 100 full time workers), construction, MA & US, 2004 - 2008**

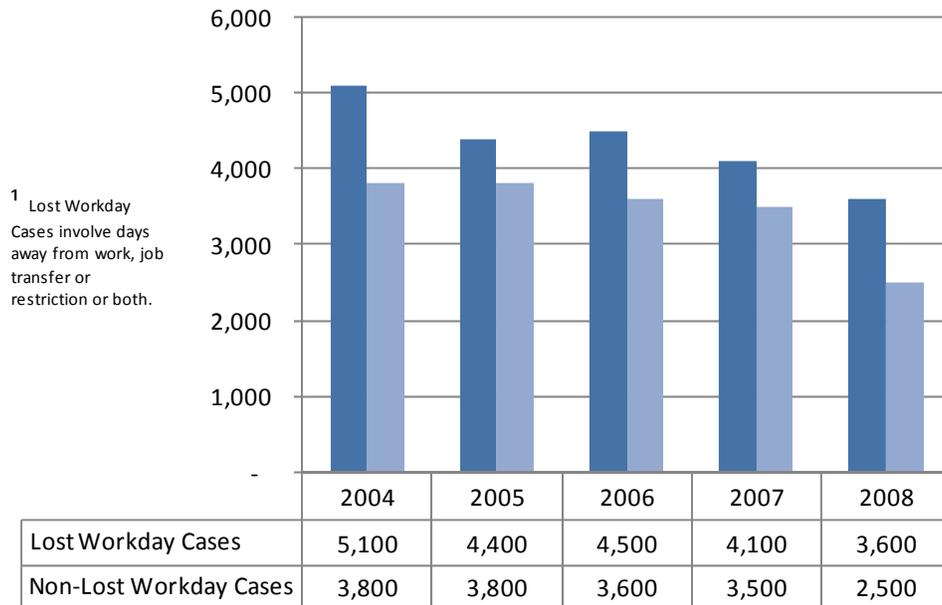


# CONSTRUCTION

**Numbers of nonfatal injuries and illnesses, construction, 2004 - 2008**

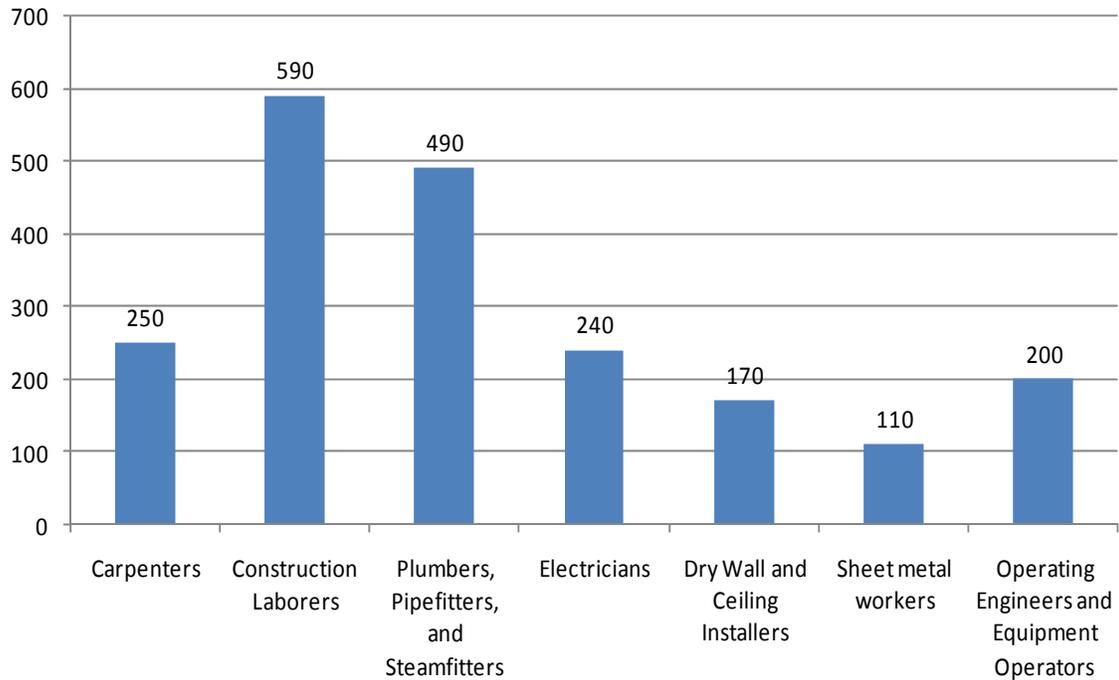


**Number of lost workday<sup>1</sup> vs. non-lost workday cases of nonfatal injuries and illnesses, construction, 2004 - 2008**

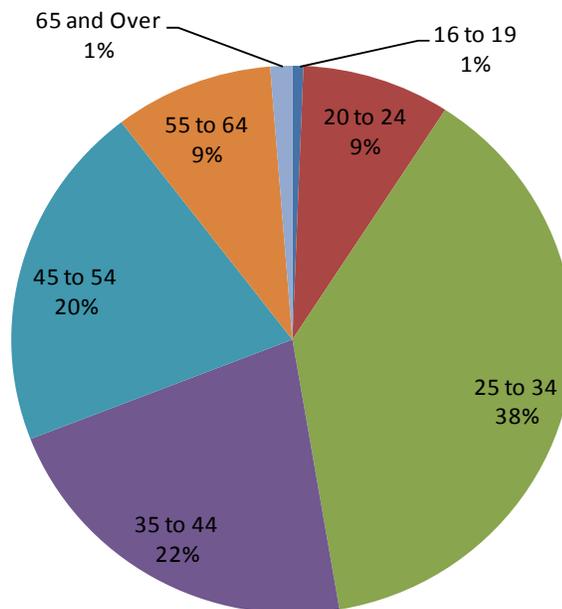


# CONSTRUCTION

**Selected occupations with the highest number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work, construction, 2008**

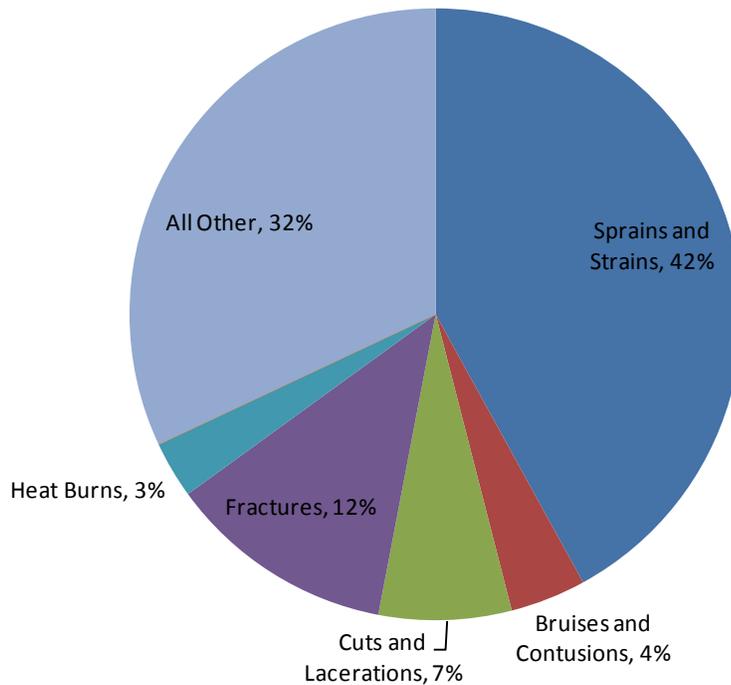


**Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by age of worker, construction, 2008**

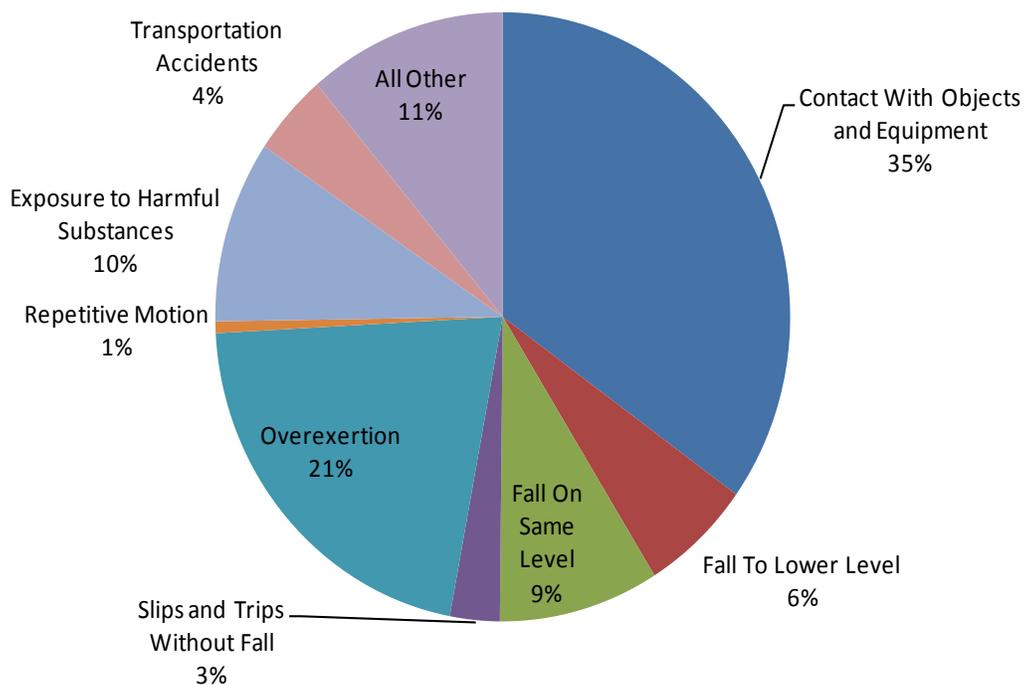


# CONSTRUCTION

Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by nature of injury or illness, construction, 2008

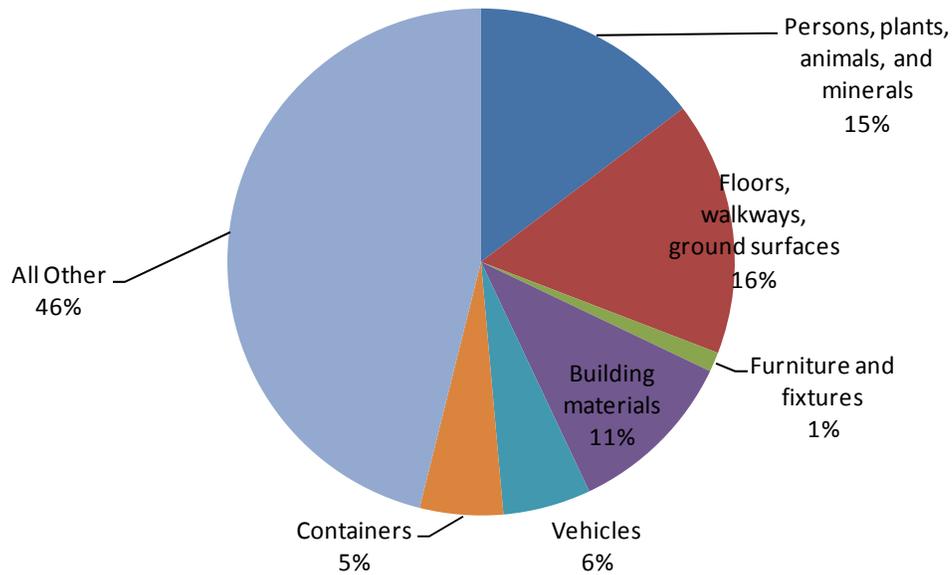


Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by event or exposure, construction, 2008



# CONSTRUCTION

Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by source, all private industries, construction, 2008



Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by part of body, all private industries, construction, 2008

