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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS WORK-RELATED INJURIES AND ILLNESSES REQUIRING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK - 2019

Little Rock – In 2019, there were 4,490 cases of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work in Arkansas private industry. There were 4,940 cases in 2018.

Key findings from the 2019 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for private industry workers in the State of Arkansas include:

- The goods-producing sector reported 1,390 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work, compared to 1,440 in 2018.
 - Within this sector, the manufacturing category had 960 cases with days away from work. The construction category had 370 cases, and the natural resources and mining category had 60 cases.
- The service-providing sector reported 3,100 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work, compared to 3,480 in 2018.
 - Within this sector, the trade, transportation, and utilities category had a total of 1,320 cases with days away from work. The education and health services category had 1,050 cases. The leisure and hospitality category had 330 cases. The professional and business services category had 290 cases, and the financial activities category had 40 cases.

Four characteristics are used to describe occupational injuries or illnesses: nature of injury or illness, part of body affected, source of injury or illness, and event or exposure.

- Nature – Sprains, strains, and tears totaled 1,400 cases (31.2 percent) with days away from work in 2019. There were 640 cases with fractures (14.3 percent). Cuts, lacerations, and punctures had 440 cases (9.8 percent).

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- Part of body – Upper extremities, which include the shoulder, arm, wrist, and hand, accounted for 1,490 cases (33.2 percent), with injuries to the hand totaling 640 of those cases. Injuries to the trunk had 1,010 cases (22.5 percent), with back injuries totaling 660 of those cases. Injuries to lower extremities, which include the leg, ankle, and foot, had 990 cases (22.0 percent), with injuries to the knee totaling 320 of those cases.
- Source – Vehicles were the source in 760 cases (16.9 percent). Floors, walkways, and ground surfaces totaled 680 cases (15.1 percent). Parts and materials were the source in 540 cases (12.0 percent).
- Event or Exposure – Overexertion and bodily reaction had 1,250 cases (27.8 percent), with overexertion in lifting or lowering totaling 430 of those cases. Contact with object/equipment had 1,130 cases (25.2 percent), with struck by object/equipment totaling 640 of those cases. Falls, slips, and trips accounted for 1,080 cases (24.1 percent), with falls on the same level totaling 670 of those cases.

Public Sector

Public sector data has been collected now for the past twelve years and is reported voluntarily.

There were 1,300 cases of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work reported in the local and state government public sector in 2019, compared to 1,550 in 2018.

- Local government workers totaled 800 cases with days away from work in 2019, compared to 950 in 2018.
 - Nature – Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for 270 cases (33.8 percent) with days away from work.
 - Part – The lower extremities totaled 240 cases (30.0 percent).
 - Source – Floors, walkways, and ground surfaces had 200 cases (25.0 percent).
 - Event – Falls, slips, and trips totaled 260 cases (32.5 percent).
- State government workers totaled 500 cases with days away from work in 2019, compared to 590 in 2018.
 - Nature – Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for 130 cases (26.0 percent) with days away from work.
 - Part of body – The upper extremities totaled 160 cases (32.0 percent).
 - Source – Person, other than the injured or ill worker, had 140 cases (28.0 percent).
 - Event – Falls, slips, and trips totaled 150 cases (30.0 percent).

These findings are from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, which is an annual survey conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing, Division of Labor, OSH/CFOI Section, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The next release will be issued in December 2020 and will cover work-related fatalities from the 2019 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. For more information regarding this survey, please visit www.bls.gov/iif or www.labor.ar.gov. #