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## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### ARKANSAS WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES FOR 2020

**Little Rock** - The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, has released the 2020 non-fatal injury and illness data.

Private industry employers in Arkansas reported 25,100 non-fatal injuries and illnesses in 2020, up from 19,100 in 2019. These estimates were obtained through the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

There was a decline in non-fatal injuries, with private industry employers reporting 15,200 in 2020, compared to 18,100 in 2019. Private industry employers had an incidence rate of 1.7 injury cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, compared to 2.0 in 2019.

There were 9,900 illness cases reported from private industry employers in 2020, up from 1,000 in 2019. The rate of illness cases increased from 11.3 cases per 10,000 FTE workers to 111.7 cases. The increase was driven by the rise in the number of respiratory illness cases, which rose from 100 cases in 2019 to 9,100 cases in 2020.

There were 13,030 non-fatal injuries and illnesses that caused a private industry worker to miss at least one day of work in 2020, compared to 4,490 cases in 2019. Of these cases, 8,520 (65.4 percent) were categorized as other diseases due to viruses not elsewhere classified, which includes reported COVID-19-pandemic related illnesses.

Occupational injuries and illnesses collected in the 2020 SOII include cases of COVID-19 when a worker was infected as a result of performing their work-related duties and met other recordkeeping criteria. COVID-19 is considered a respiratory illness under criteria established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The SOII collects detailed case information, including nature, for incidences requiring at least one day away from work and codes these cases using the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS). While OIICS does not include a code specifically for COVID-19, applicable days away from work cases were included in the Nature code 3299 – “Other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified.”

## **Public Sector**

**State Government** - State government employers in Arkansas reported 1,000 non-fatal injury cases in 2020, compared to 1,600 in 2019. The incidence rate for injury cases in state government was 1.6 cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers in 2020, compared to 2.5 in 2019.

There were 500 illness cases reported from state government employers in 2020, compared to 100 in 2019. The rate of illness cases increased from 22.9 cases per 10,000 FTE workers to 75.7 cases. Respiratory illness cases went from 100 cases in 2019 to 400 cases in 2020.

There were 770 non-fatal injury and illness cases that caused a state government employee to miss at least one day of work. Of these cases, 270 were categorized as other diseases due to viruses not elsewhere classified, which includes reported COVID-19-pandemic related illnesses.

**Local Government** – Local government employers in Arkansas reported 3,400 non-fatal injury cases in 2020, compared to 3,700 in 2019. The incidence rate for injury cases in local government was 3.6 cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers in 2020, compared to 3.9 in 2019.

There were 400 illness cases reported from local government employers in 2020, compared to 200 in 2019. The rate of illness cases increased from 17.1 cases per 10,000 FTE workers to 41 cases.

There were 1,040 non-fatal injury and illness cases that caused a local government employee to miss at least one day of work, compared to 800 in 2019. Of these cases, 240 were categorized as other diseases due to viruses not elsewhere classified, which includes reported COVID-19-pandemic related illnesses.

Note: Because of rounding, components may not add to totals.

## **Background**

The survey was administered 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 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2017) was used to group company data by industry. Arkansas employers are randomly selected for the survey each year.

For additional information, please go to [www.bls.gov/iif](http://www.bls.gov/iif) or [www.labor.arkansas.gov](http://www.labor.arkansas.gov).

Fatal occupational injuries for 2020 were not included in this study. A separate publication will be issued in December 2021.