



# Stats at Work

## A Glimpse into the Injury/ illness Rates in Ohio's Food Manufacturing Businesses

BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene Research and Statistics Program is available to assist you in understanding your industries occupational injury and illness statistics.

BWC provides statistics for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) SOII from Ohio.

**BLS hotline number**  
866-569-7806

**BLS fax number**  
614728-6460

**BLS email requests**  
**BWC** BLSinfo@ohiobwc.com

**www.bwc.ohio.gov**

**Stats at Work** provides you with examples of industry information that is available for your use as a direct result of the annual BLS survey of occupational injuries and illnesses.


Our end goal is providing an educational tool demonstrating the value of the information collected.

According to **Aaron Pitts**, senior managing director of BioHealth, Food Processing for Ohio, "Ohio is one of the top agribusiness states in the nation. Ohio boasts a remarkable concentration of companies that cultivate, process, distribute, and market food and drinks enjoyed by consumers around the world. The state's strategic location and robust distribution facilities provide access to suppliers and customers, making Ohio one of the top Agribusiness states in the nation. Ohio's world-class companies and their innovative techniques and private label brands contribute approximately \$105 billion to the state's economy. All totaled, growing, processing, transporting and retail Agribusiness operations employ more than one out of every six Ohioans, making Agribusiness the largest industry sector in the state."

Quote source: <http://jobs-ohio.com/industries/food-processing/>

### **So what can we learn from the 2014 Ohio BLS Survey results about the workplace injuries in Ohio's food manufacturing and processing industry?**

Ohio's private industries in total had an overall incidence rate of injuries of 2.9 per 100 full-time workers according to the 2014 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. In comparison, the food manufacturing operations had an overall incidence rate of injuries of 3.9 per 100 full-time workers. This represents a 33 percent higher incidence rate of injury in food manufacturing than in all other private industries combined.



In Ohio  
the Food  
Manufacturing  
Industry has  
a 33% higher  
incident rate  
of injury than  
all other private  
industries.

75% of illnesses  
reported in food  
manufacturing  
Industry were  
due to hearing  
loss.

Ohio's private industries as a whole had an overall incidence rate of injuries with days away from work or job transfer/restricted duties of 1.5 per 100 full-time workers. During the same time, Ohio's food manufacturing operations reported a rate of 2.4 cases of injuries with days away from work or restricted duties/transfer. This represents a rate that is over 60-percent higher than the average for all of Ohio's private industries. \*

---

#### **How do the workplace illness rates compare?**

Overall, the incidence rate for recordable work-related illnesses in Ohio for all private industries was 11 per 10,000 full-time workers. Again, food manufacturing reported numbers, which were significantly higher than the average for all private industry, at a number of 22.4 per 10,000 full-time workers. This indicates that in the food manufacturing industry work-related illnesses occur at 50-percent higher rate than that of all Ohio private industries combined.

---

#### **Noise matters**

In further examination of those illness rate numbers, almost 75 percent of the cases of illnesses recorded in the food manufacturing industry are because of hearing loss attributed to the work environment. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) states that hearing loss attributed to the work environment is one of the most common work-related illnesses in the United States today. According to NIOSH statistics, "Ten million people in the U.S. have a noise-related hearing loss."

A good hearing protection program as part of your company's overall safety and wellness program can greatly reduce the incidences of hearing loss. NIOSH offers a well-written guide: seven-step program to improving your health and safety program in relationship to hearing loss recordable incidents. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/stats.html>

Hearing loss can influence all work-related injuries and illnesses and is a great place to start in making a significant difference. So protect your hearing and protect the overall quality of your life.

***Learn more about workplace injury and illness statistics at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)***

**\* Number and rate<sup>1</sup> of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected industry, private industry, Ohio, 2014**

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating state agencies, Jan. 26, 2016