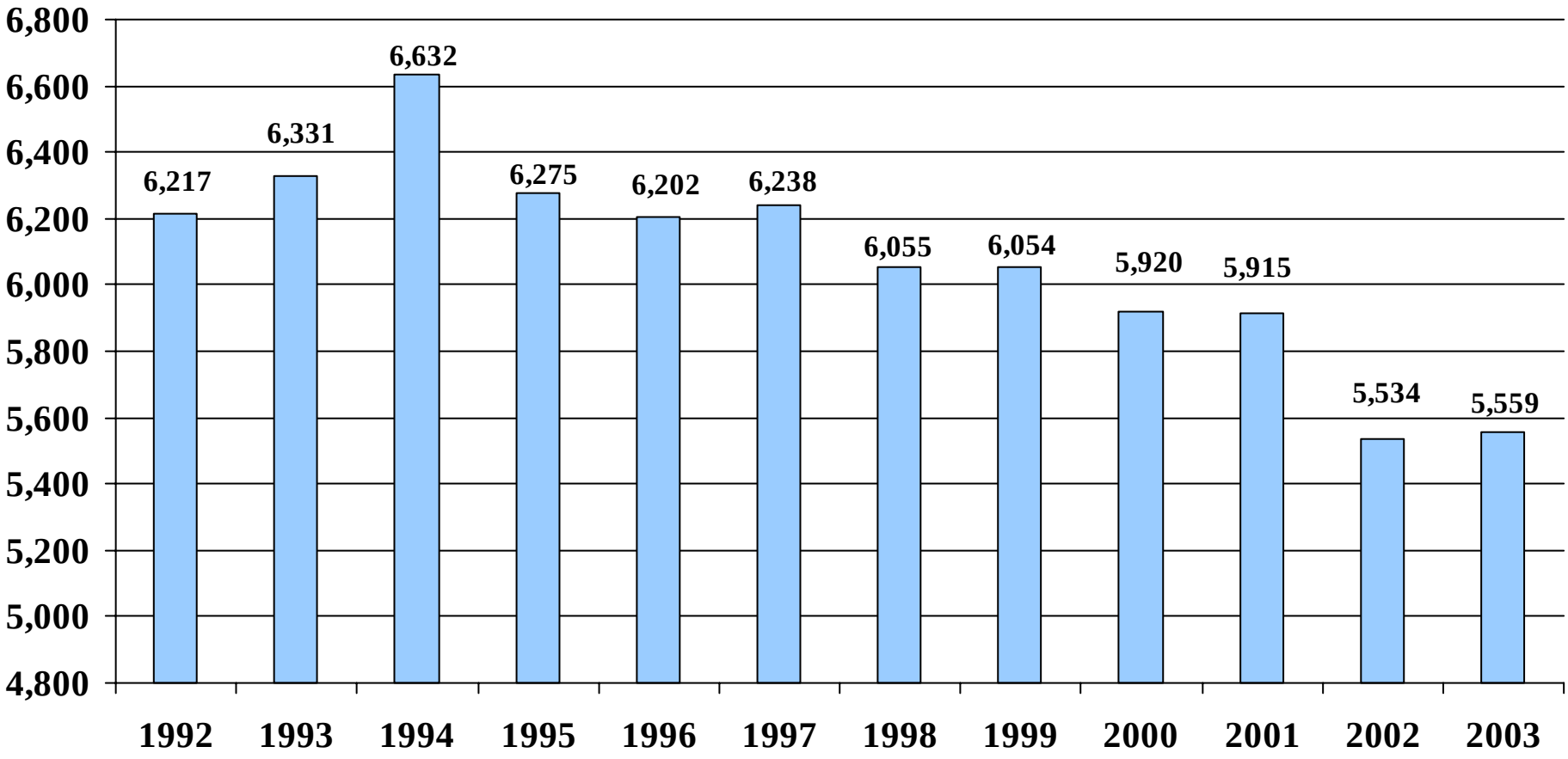
Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

2003 Data

INFORMATION ON DEADLY WORK HAZARDS

- ☐ Selected Charts
- ☐ Selected Worker Profiles
- ☐ Supplementary Tables
- ☐ 2003 Fatality Rates

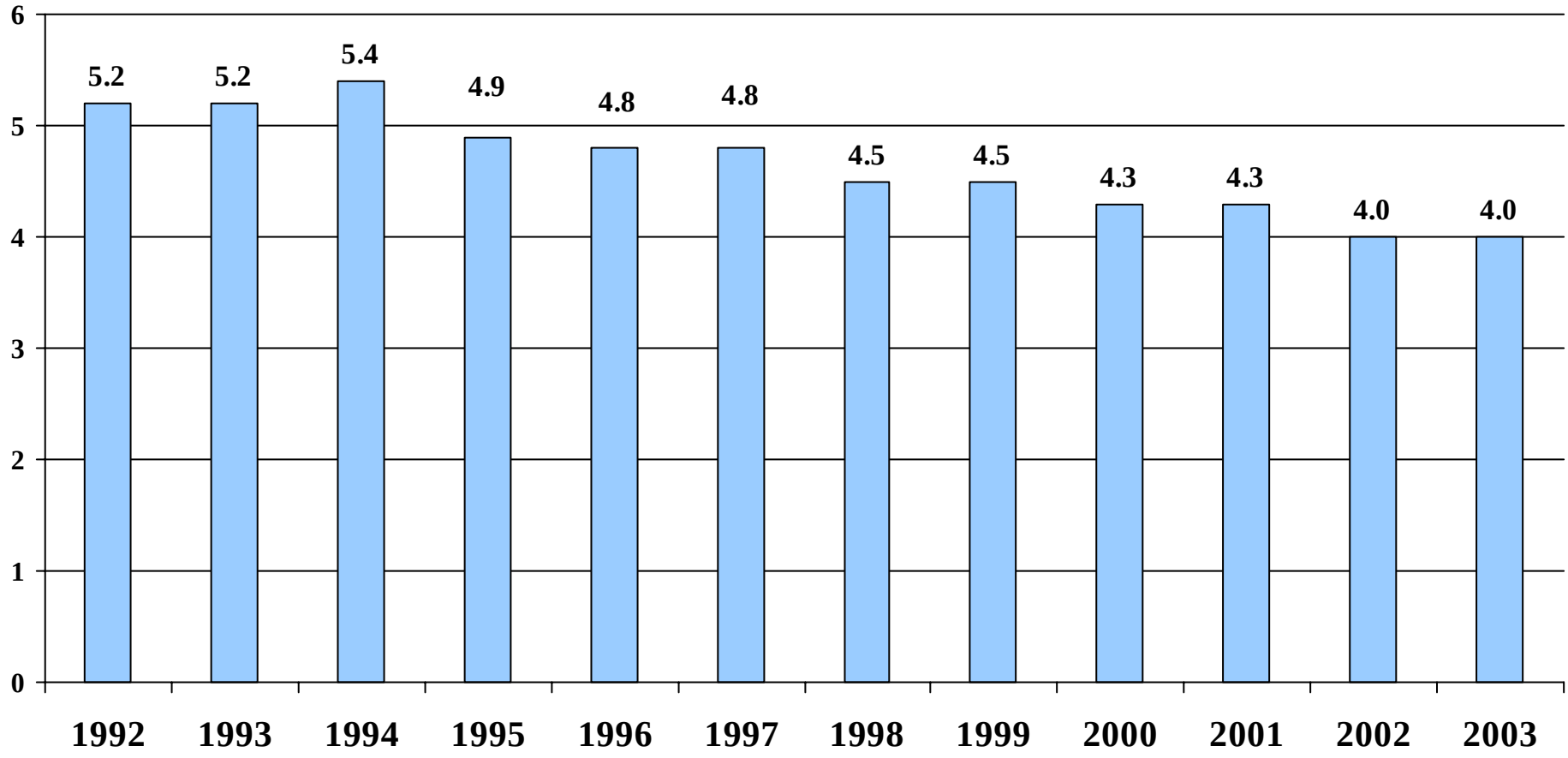
Number of fatal work injuries, 1992-2003



The 5,559 work-related fatalities recorded in 2003, was a small increase from the revised total reported for 2002.

NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from September 11 terrorist attacks.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.

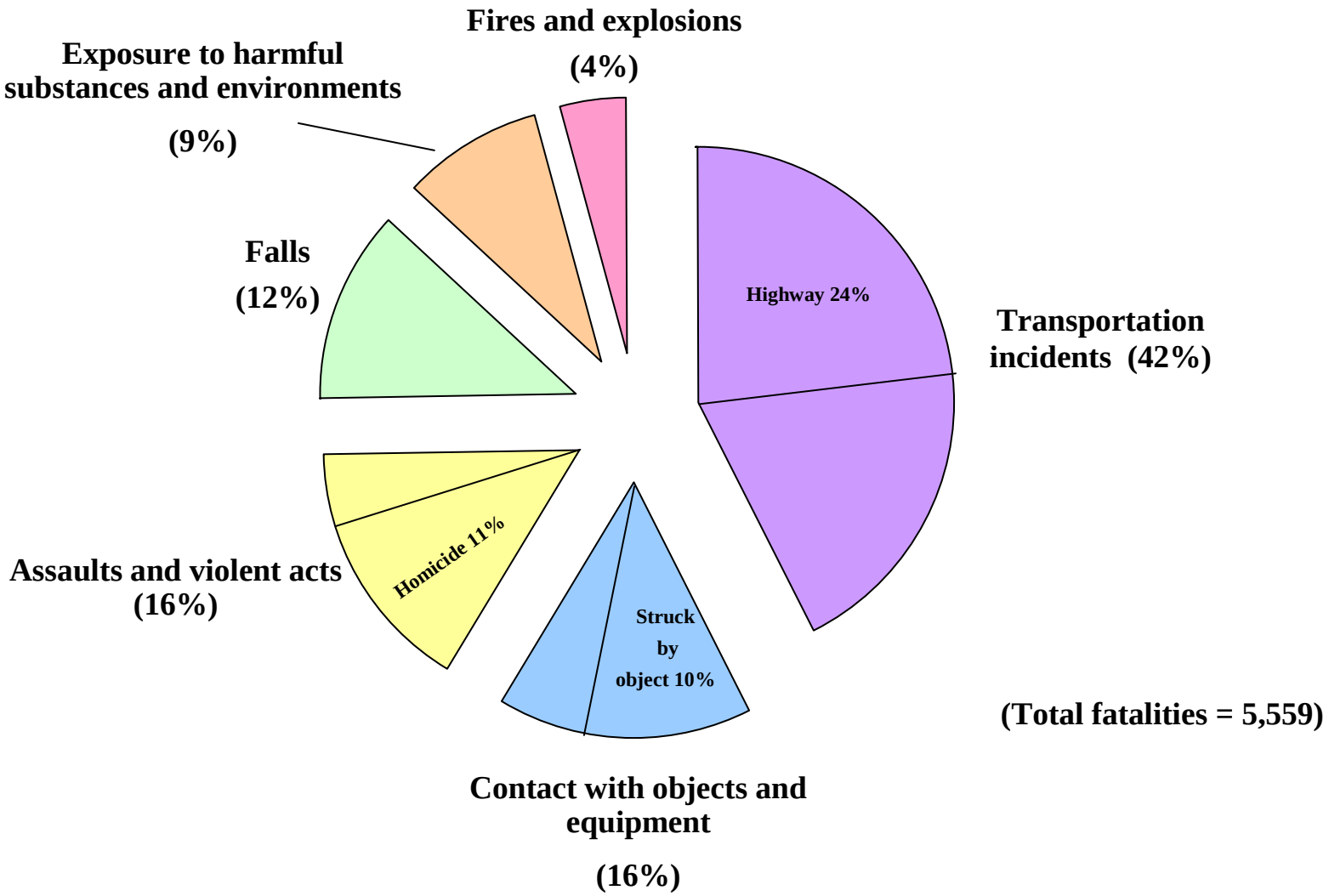
Rate of fatal work injury per 100,000 workers, 1992-2003



The rate of fatal work injury in 2003 was 4.0 fatalities per 100,000 workers, unchanged from the rate recorded in 2002. The rate of 4.0 is the lowest recorded since the fatality census began in 1992.

Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000 employed. Employment data extracted from the 2003 Current Population Survey (CPS). The fatality rates were calculated using employment as the denominator; employment-based rates measure the risk for those employed during a given period of time, regardless of exposure hours.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.
http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0002.pdf

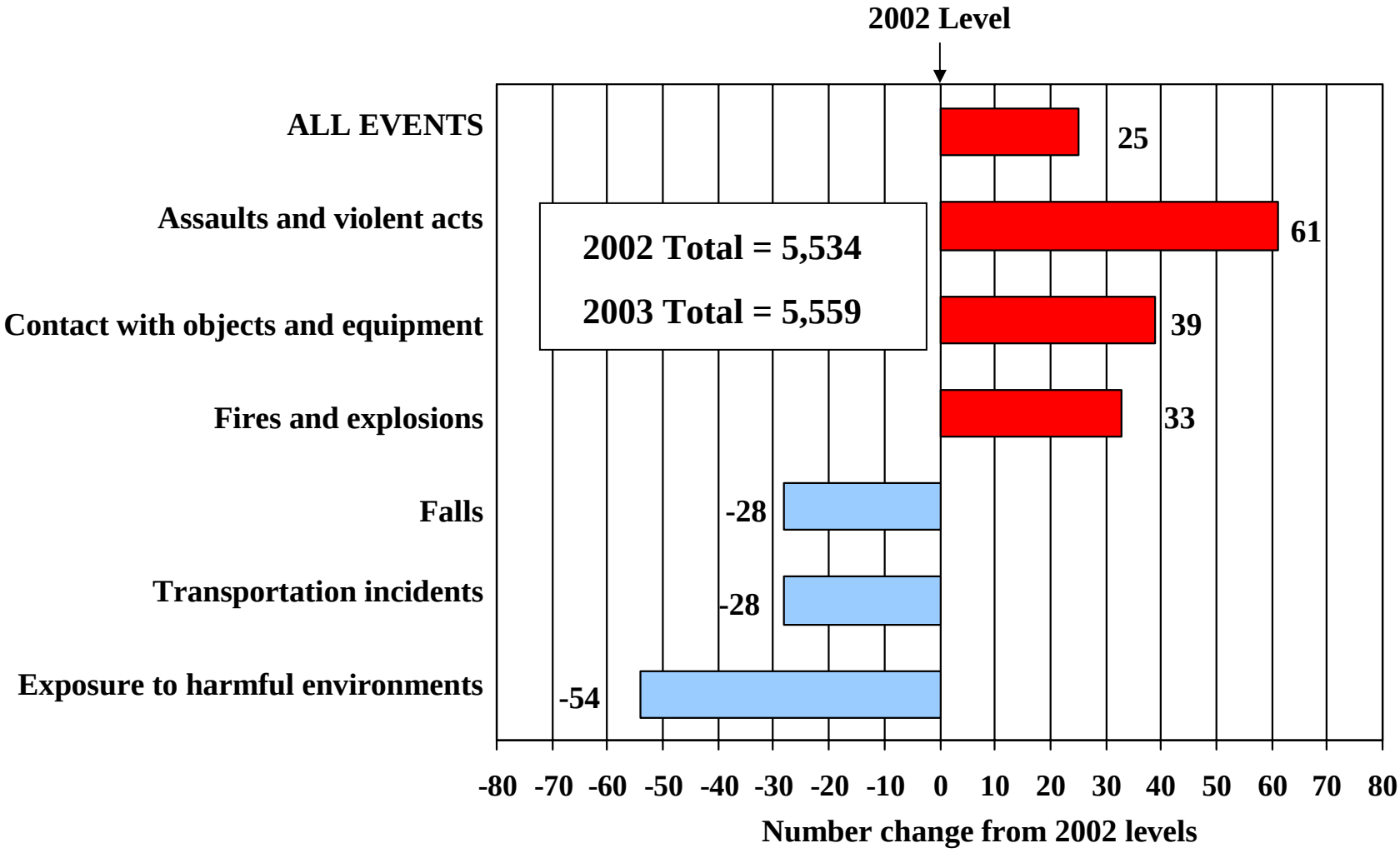
The manner in which workplace fatalities occurred, 2003



More work-related fatalities resulted from transportation incidents than from any other event.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.
http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0002.pdf

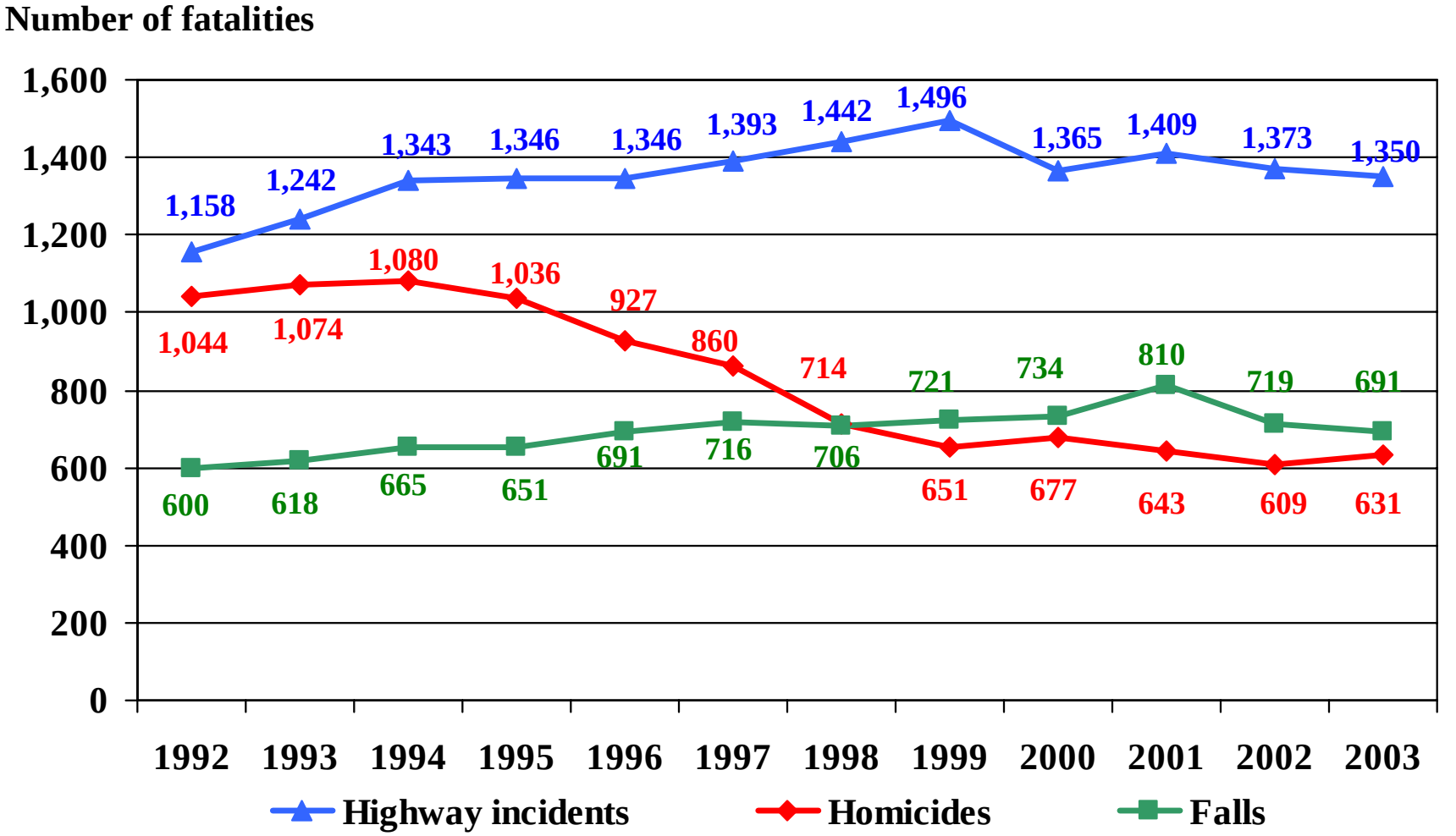
Difference in workplace fatality counts from 2002 to 2003 by fatal event



Fatal work injuries resulting from assaults and violent acts, contact with objects and equipment, and fires and explosions all increased in 2003; fatalities resulting from falls, transportation incidents, and exposure to harmful substances declined.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.
http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0002.pdf

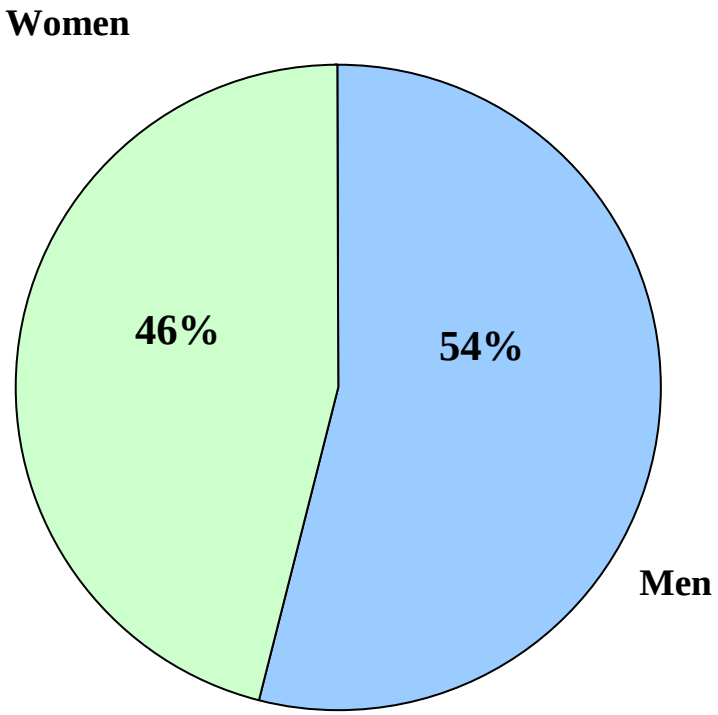
The three most frequent work-related fatal events, 1992-2003



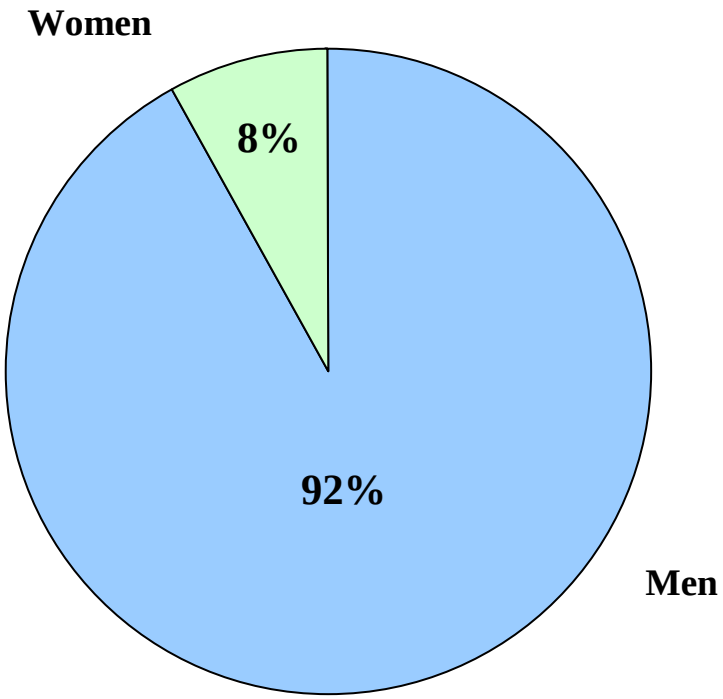
Workplace homicide has declined substantially since the early 1990's, while highway incidents and falls have trended higher.

NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from September 11 terrorist attacks.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.

Employment and fatality profiles by gender of worker, 2003



Employment =138,928,000

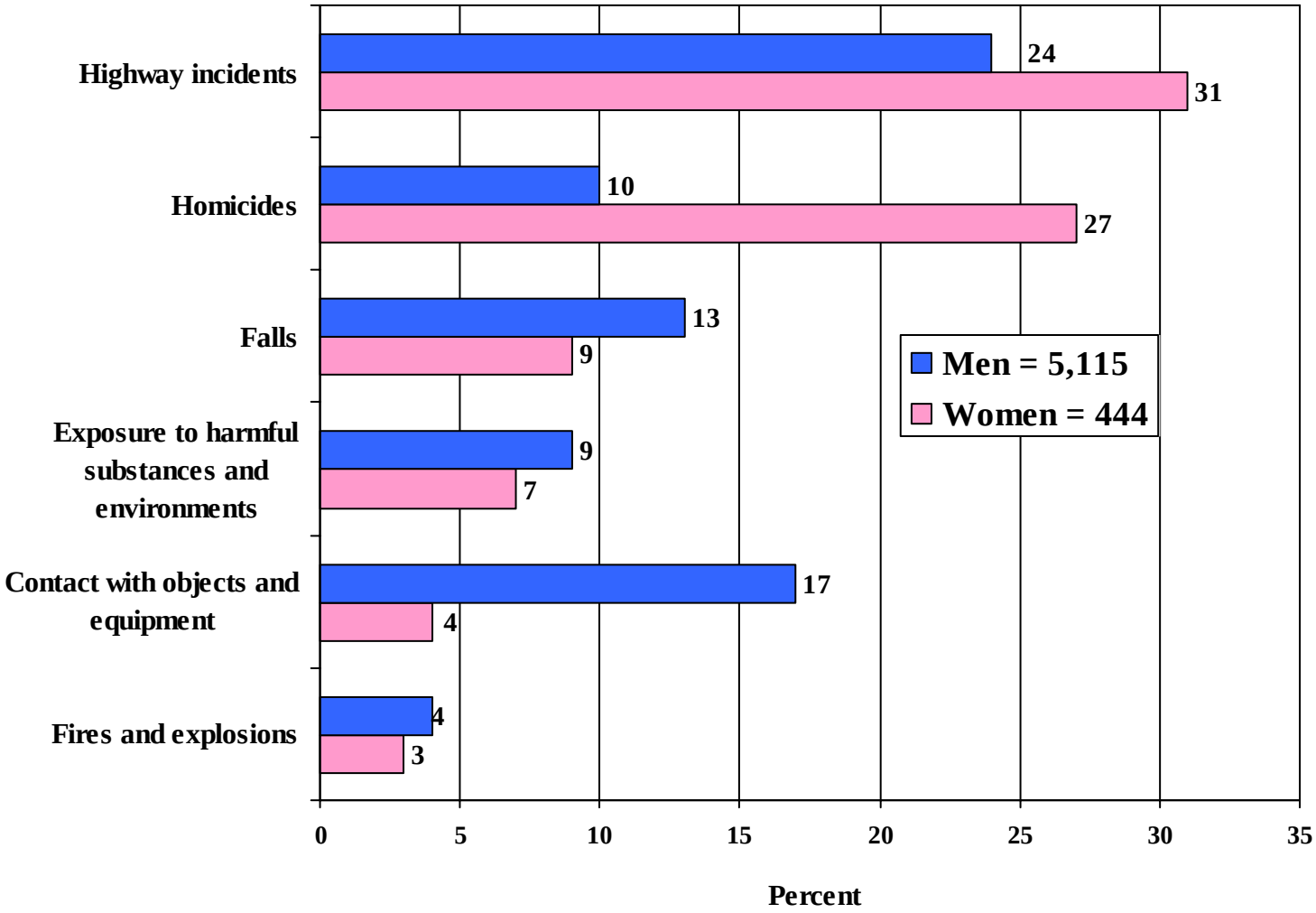


Fatalities = 5,559

Men recorded a disproportionate share of fatalities relative to their employment in 2003.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, and U.S. Department of Defense, 2003.

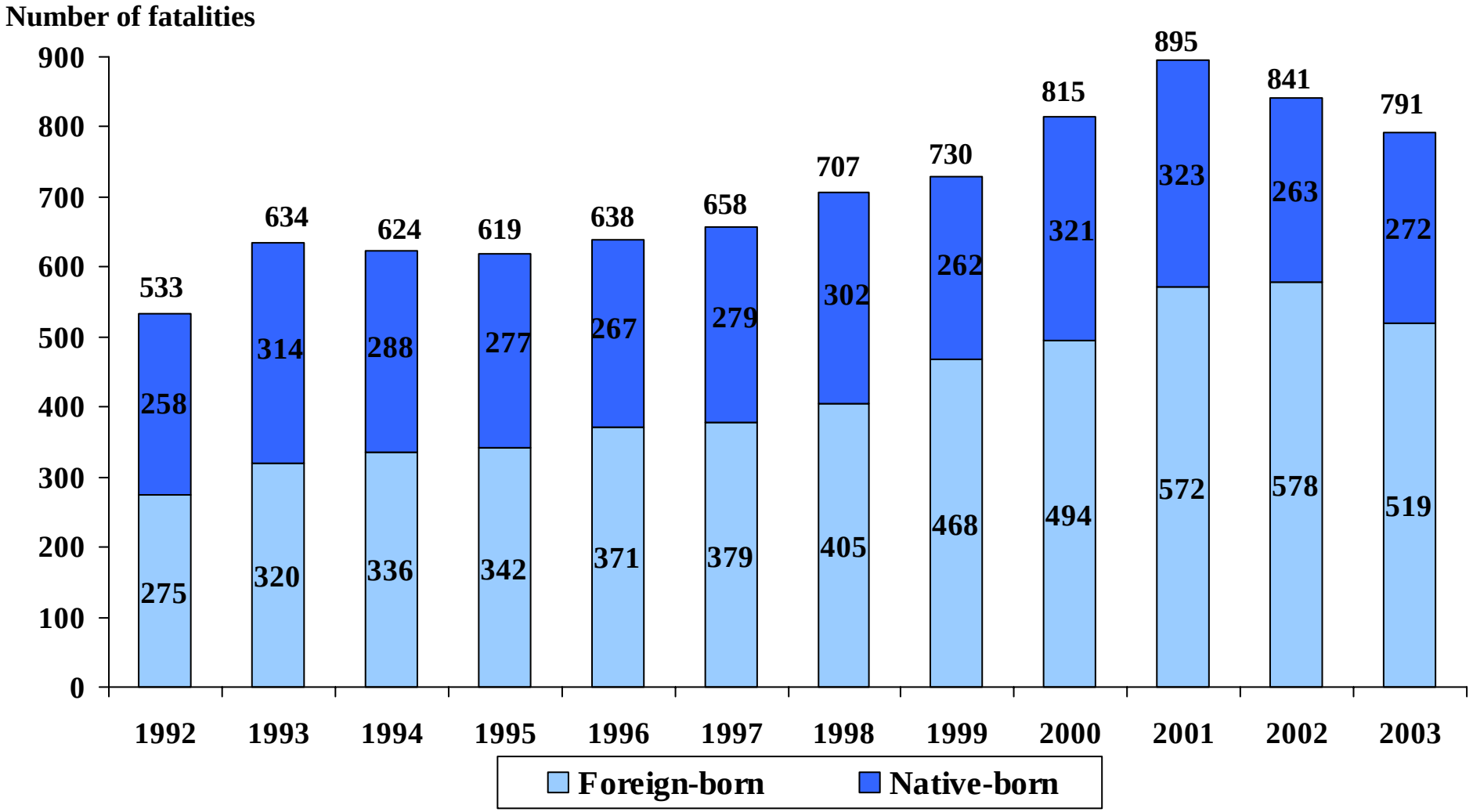
Fatal work injury incidents varied between men and women, 2003



Women had a higher percentage of fatal injuries resulting from highway incidents and homicides than men, while men had a higher percentage of fatal work injuries from falls and from contact with objects and equipment.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.
http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0002.pdf

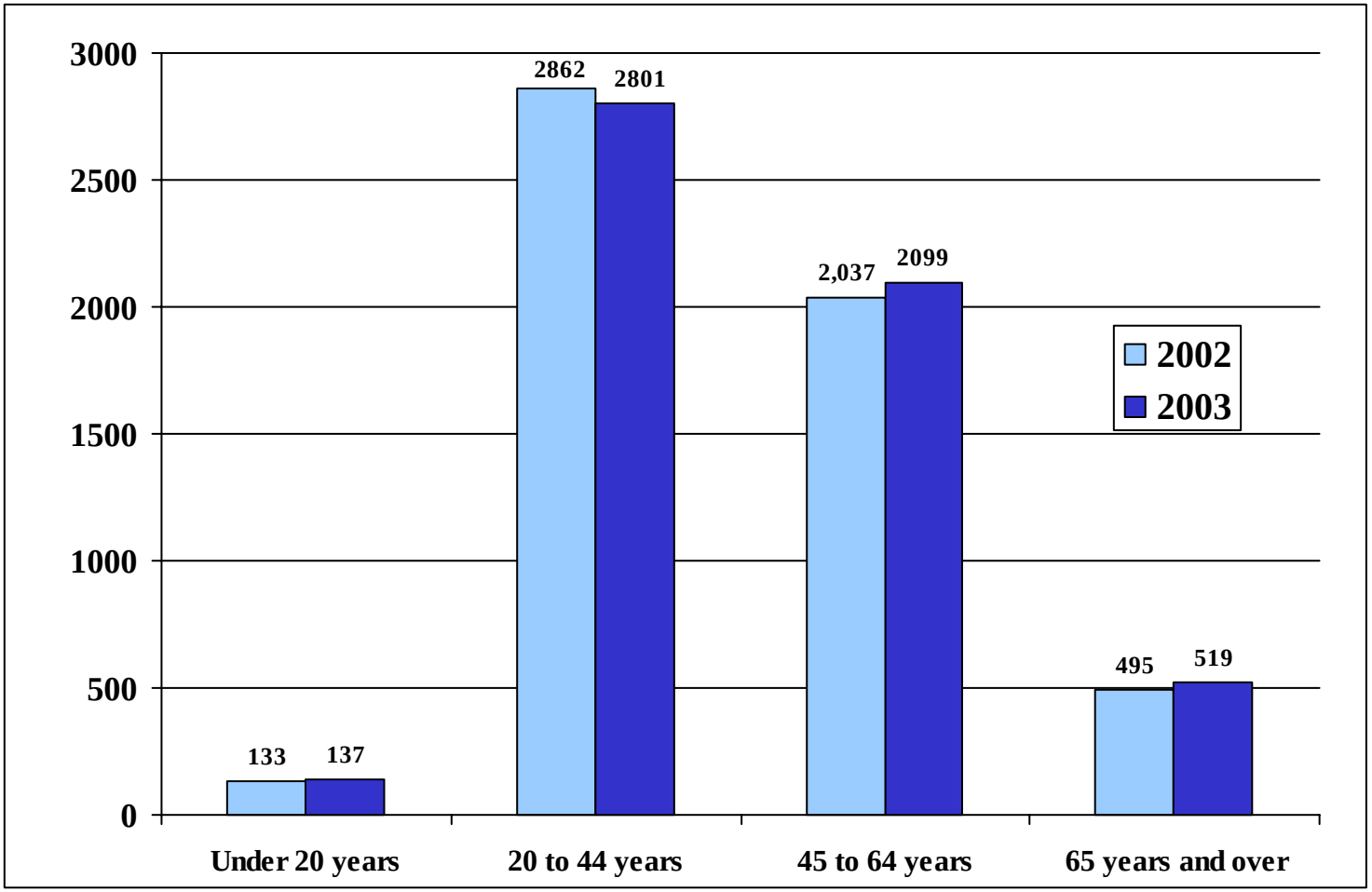
Number of fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers, 1992-2003



Fatalities to Hispanic workers declined for the second consecutive year. Fatal work injuries among foreign born Hispanic workers were lower for the first time since the fatality census began in 1992.

NOTE: Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from September 11 terrorist attacks.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.

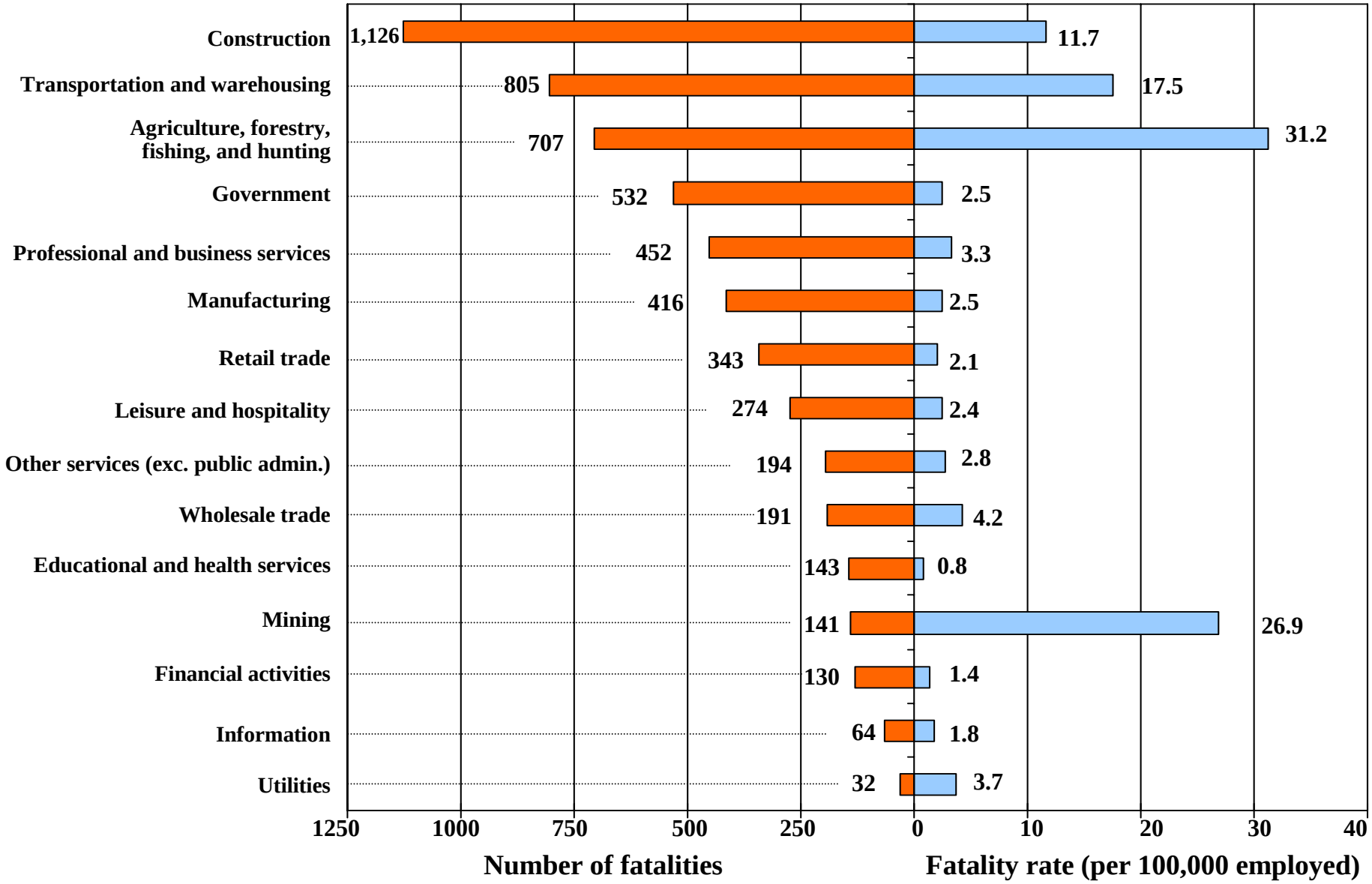
Comparison of fatal work injury counts from 2002 to 2003 by age groups



The number of fatal injuries rose for workers under 20 and for workers 45 years of age and older in 2003, though workers from 20 through 44 years of age recorded fewer fatalities.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.
http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0002.pdf

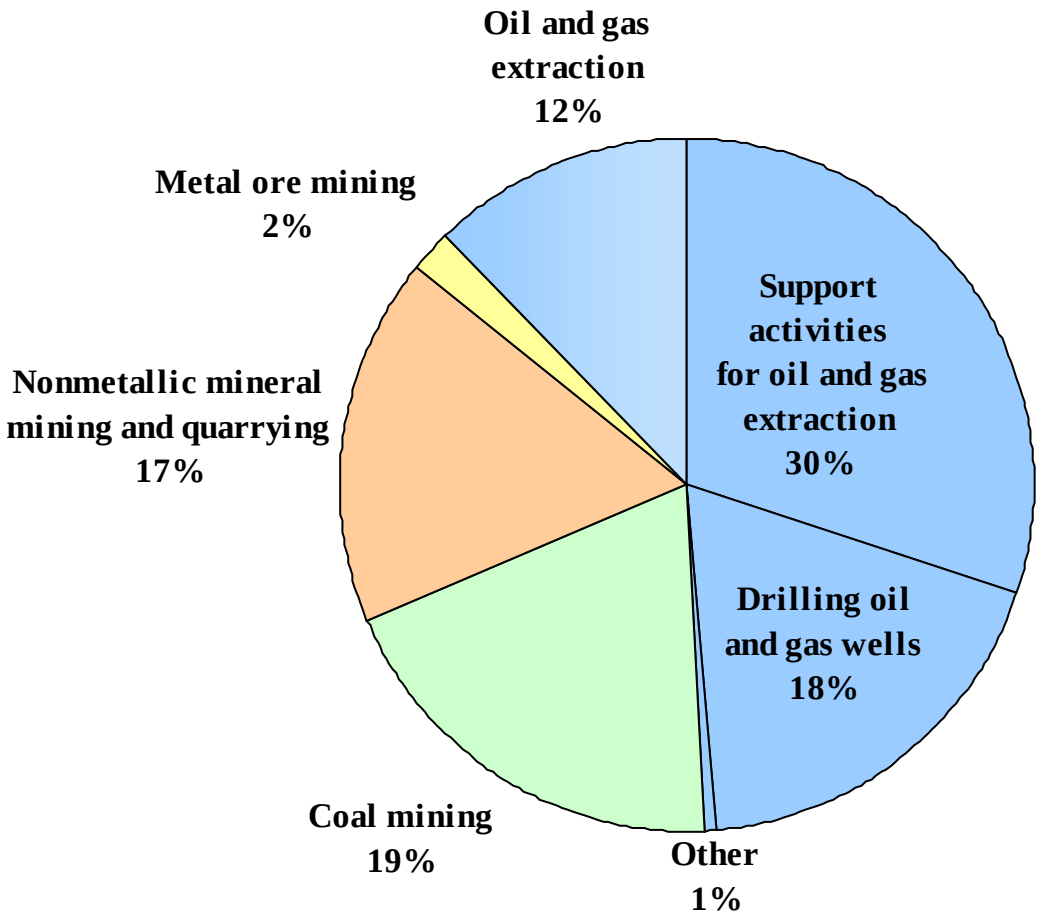
Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries by industry sector, 2003



Though construction recorded the highest number of fatal work injuries, the highest fatality rates were in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.

Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000 employed. Employment data extracted from the 2003 Current Population Survey (CPS). The fatality rates were calculated using employment as the denominator; employment-based rates measure the risk for those employed during a given period of time, regardless of exposure hours.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.

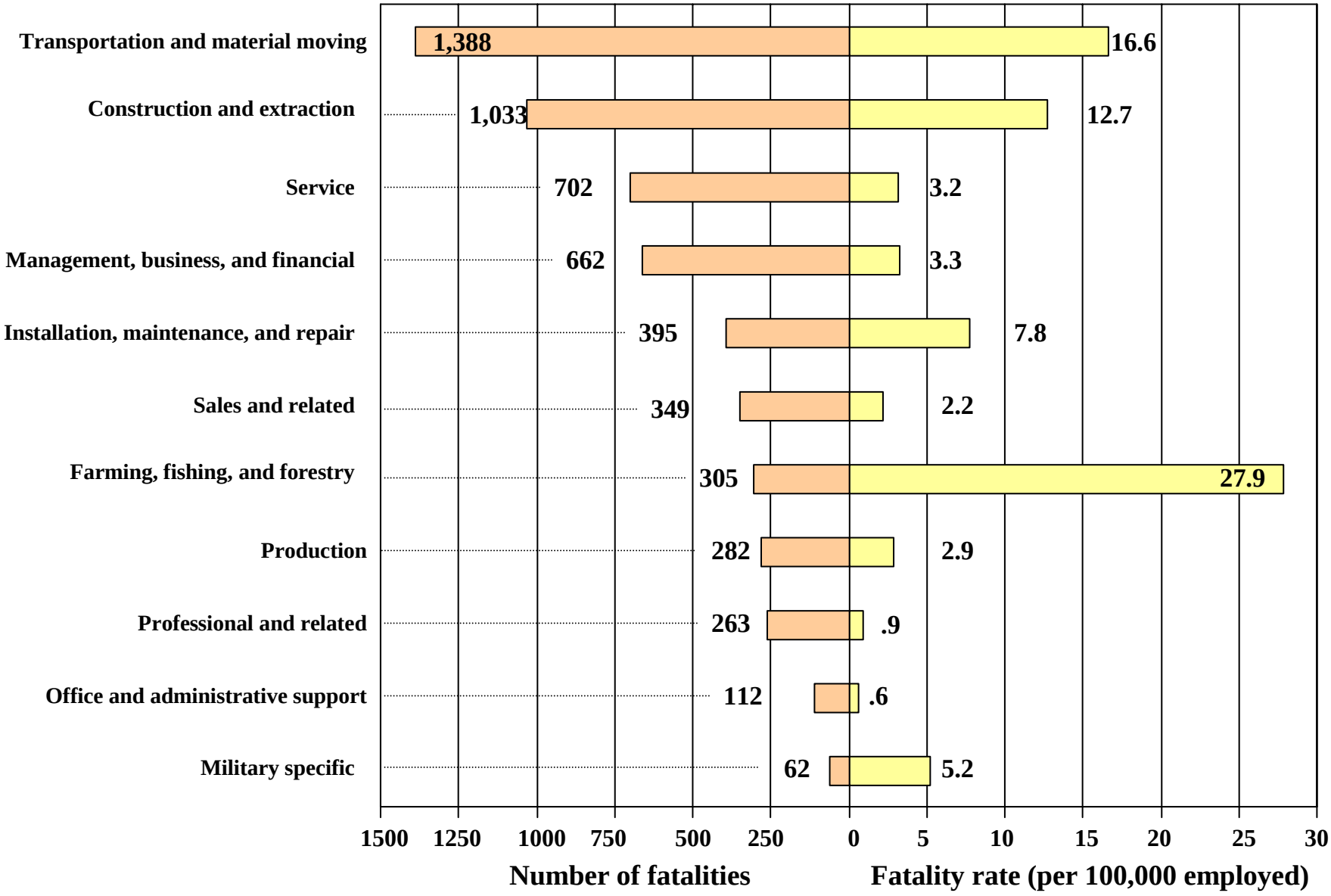
Fatal occupational injuries in the private mining industry, 2003



Oil and gas extraction combined with oil and gas support activities accounted for three out of every five fatal work injuries in mining.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.
http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0002.pdf

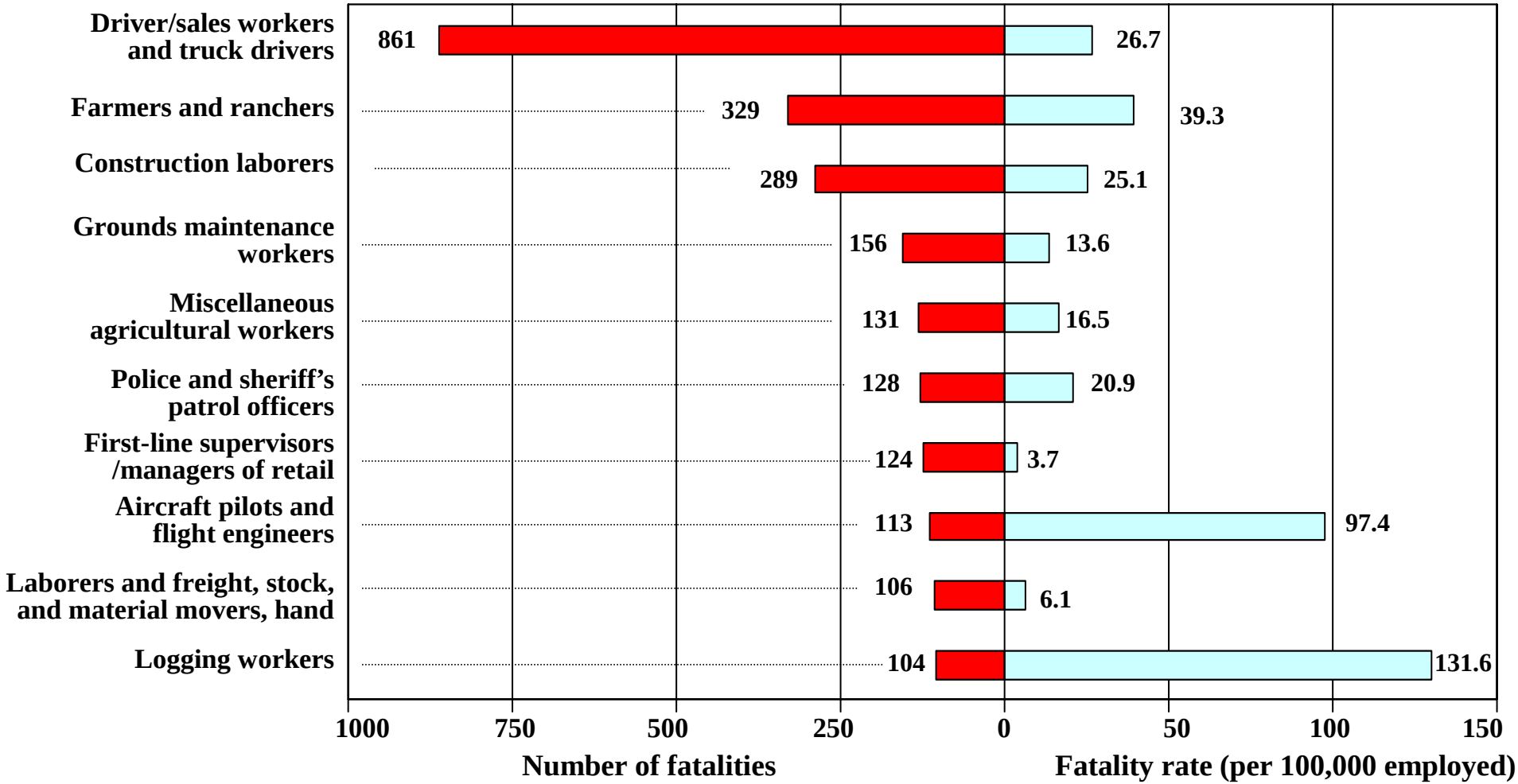
Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries by major occupation groups, 2003



Though transportation and material moving occupations recorded the highest number of fatal work injuries, the highest fatality rates were in farming, forestry, and fishing.

Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000 employed. Employment data extracted from the 2003 Current Population Survey (CPS). The fatality rates were calculated using employment as the denominator; employment-based rates measure the risk for those employed during a given period of time, regardless of exposure hours.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries for selected occupations, 2003



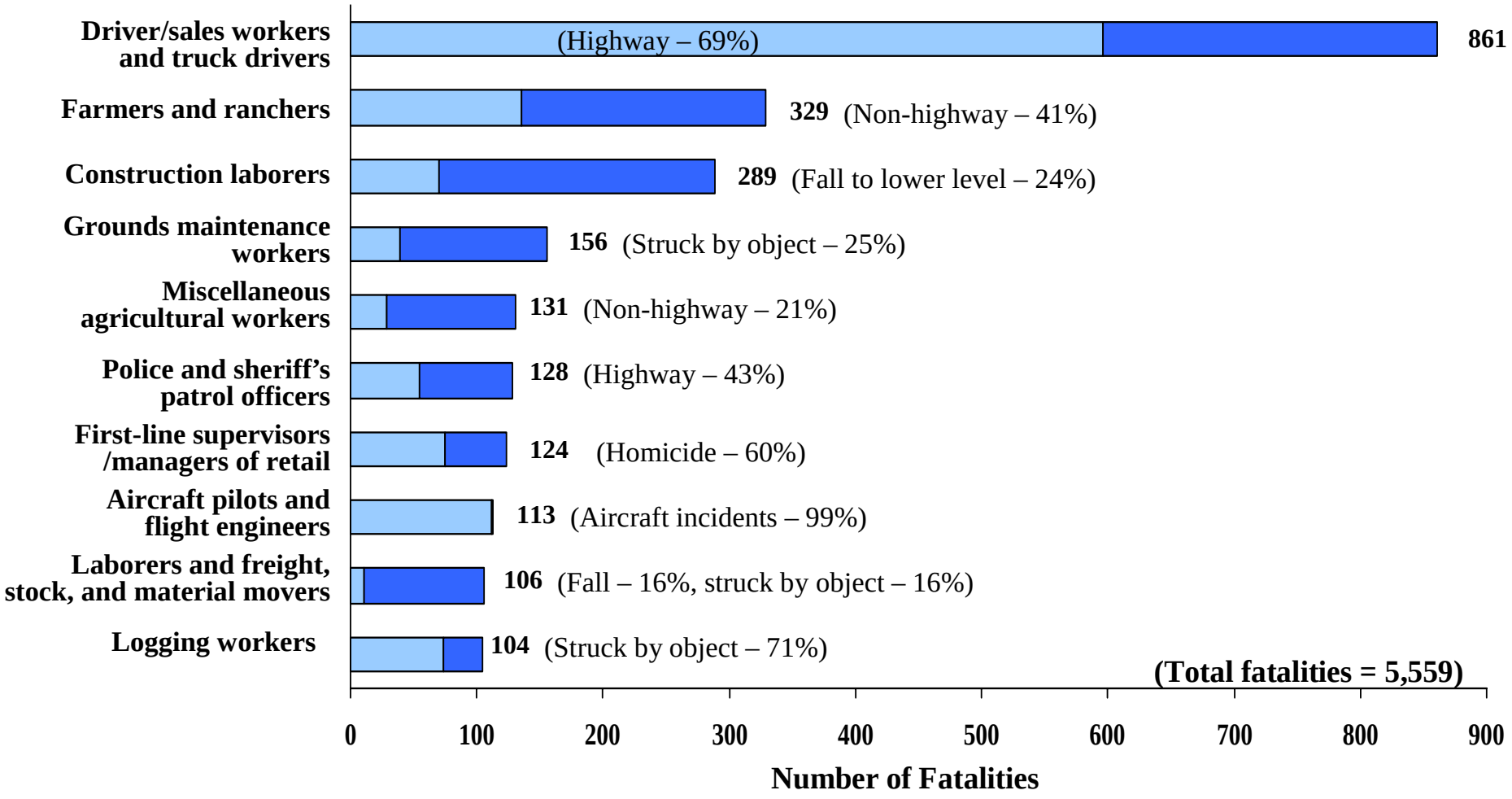
Though driver/sales workers and truck drivers accounted for the highest number of fatalities in 2003, the highest fatality rate was recorded by logging workers.

Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Employment) x 100,000 workers. Employment data extracted from the 2003 Current Population Survey (CPS). The fatality rates were calculated using employment as the denominator; employment-based rates measure the risk for those employed during a given period of time, regardless of exposure hours.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003

http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0002.pdf

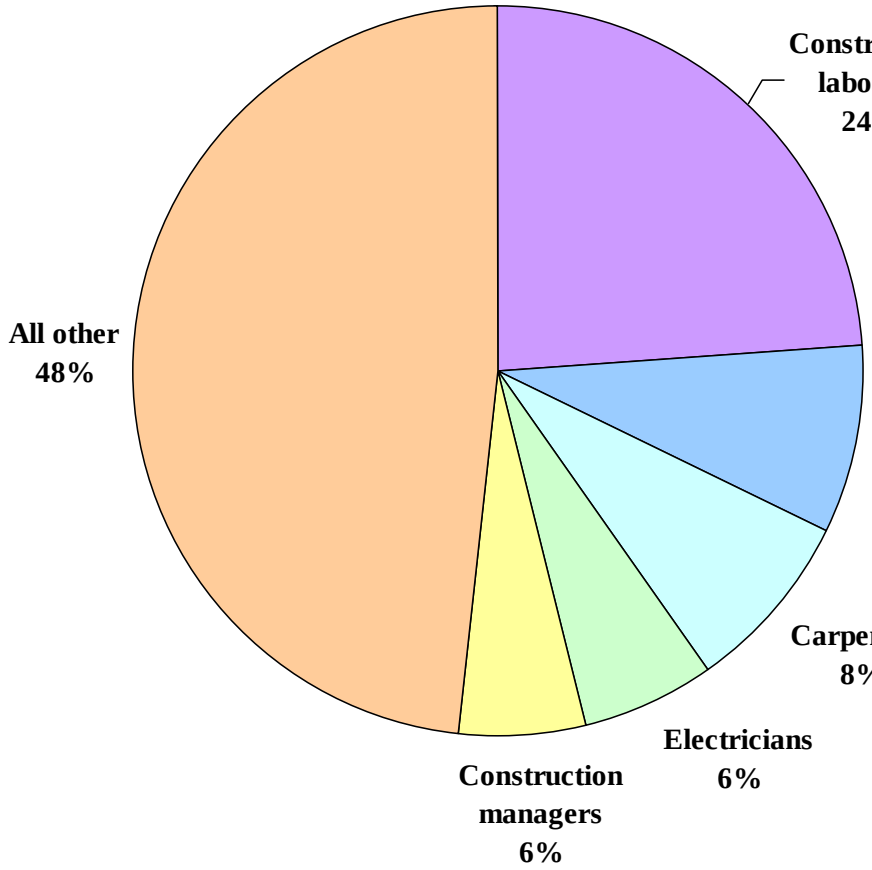
Selected occupations with large numbers of worker fatalities and most frequent event, 2003



Drivers/sales workers and truck drivers accounted for the highest number of fatal work injuries of any occupation; nearly 7 out of every 10 were killed in highway incidents.

*Farm occupations include the following: Non-horticultural farmers, non-horticultural farm managers, farm workers, and farm worker supervisors.
NOTE: "Highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants resulting from traffic incidents that occur on the public roadway, shoulder or surrounding area. "Non-highway" includes deaths to vehicle occupants that occur entirely off the roadway, such as in parking lots and on farms.
SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Occupations in the private construction industry with the highest number of fatalities, 2003



Total fatalities = 1,126

Fatal work injuries involving construction laborers accounted for one out of every four private construction fatalities.

SOURCE: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2003.
http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0002.pdf