American Community Survey (ACS) - A nationwide survey of households collecting information on demographics, employment, income, residence, and other socio-economic issues. The large sample size allows estimates for small population groups and geographic areas.

Blood Lead Levels (BLLs) - A standardized measurement determined by a medical test that screens a person’s blood sample for exposure to lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has established a BLL of 10 µg/dL or greater as a health risk.

Blue-collar worker - In this chart book, defined as production worker.

Body mass index (BMI) - From the National Health Interview Survey: a measure of body weight relative to height. It is calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared. Healthy weight for adults is defined as a BMI of 18.5 to less than 25; overweight as greater than or equal to a BMI of 25; obesity as greater than or equal to a BMI of 30.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) - A part of the occupational safety and health statistics program conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the CFOI compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the United States in each calendar year from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The program uses diverse data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries.

Civilian labor force - From the Current Population Survey: people who have jobs or are seeking a job, are at least 16 years old, are not serving in the military, and are not institutionalized (such as in penal and mental facilities, homes for the aged, and prisons).

Class-of-worker - Assigns workers to one of the following categories: wage-and-salary workers, self-employed workers, and unpaid family workers.

Company - See corporation.

Complete inspections - From the Occupational Safety & Health Administration: a substantially complete inspection of the potentially high hazard areas of the establishment. An inspection may be deemed comprehensive even though, as a result of the exercise of professional judgment, not all potentially hazardous conditions, operations, and practices within those areas are inspected.

Corporation - From the Internal Revenue Service: a business that is legally separate from its owners (who may be people or other corporations) and workforce and thus, among other things, forms contracts and is assessed income taxes.

Current dollar value - Dollars are not adjusted for inflation (see Annex).

Current Population Survey (CPS) - A monthly household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the CPS provides comprehensive information on the employment and unemployment experience of the U.S. population, classified by age, sex, race, and a variety of other characteristics based on interviews with about 60,000 randomly selected households.

Day laborers - Workers hired and paid one day at a time. Day laborers find work through two common routes. First, some employment agencies specialize in short-term contracts for manual labor in construction, factories, offices, and manufacturing. These companies usually have offices where workers can arrive and be assigned to a job on the spot, as they are available. Less formally, workers meet at well-known locations, usually public street corners or commercial parking lots, and wait for building contractors, landscapers, home owners, small business owners, and other potential employers to offer work. Much of this work is in small residential construction or landscaping. Day laborers are thought to be paid in cash, usually, and therefore evade having to pay income taxes.

Defined benefit pension plans - A retirement plan that uses a specific predetermined formula to calculate the amount of an employee’s future benefit. Benefits are based on a percentage of average earnings during a specified number of years at the end of a worker’s career, rather than based on investment returns. However, a new type of defined benefit plan, a cash balance plan, is becoming more prevalent. In the private sector, defined benefit plans are typically funded exclusively by employer contributions. In the public sector, defined benefit plans often require employee contributions.

Defined contribution retirement plans - A retirement plan in which the amount of the employer’s annual contribution is specified. Benefits are based on employer and employee contributions, plus or minus investment gains or losses on the money in the account. The most common type of this plan is a savings and thrift plan. Under this type of plan, the employee contributes a predetermined
portion of his or her earnings (usually pretax) to an individual account, all or part of which is matched by the employer. Examples of defined contribution plans include 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, employee stock ownership plans, and profit-sharing plans.

Displaced workers - Wage-and-salary workers aged 20 years and older who lost or left jobs because their plant or company closed or moved, there was insufficient work for them to do, or their position or shift was abolished.

Dollar value of business done - From the Economic Census: the sum of the value of construction work done (including fuel, labor, materials, and supplies) and other business receipts (such as rental equipment, legal services, finance, and other nonconstruction activities).

Economic Census - An economic survey produced by the U.S. Department of Commerce every five years - 2007 is the most recent version available - with geographic, industry, and summary series, including private-sector establishments in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Employed - From the Current Population Survey: those who during the reference week 1) did any work for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family enterprise, or 2) had jobs but who were not working because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs.

Employment Cost Index (ECI) - Part of the National Compensation Survey (NCS), the ECI is an integrated survey program conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ECI is a quarterly index measuring change over time in labor costs. In addition to compensation cost trends, the NCS provides incidence and detailed plan provisions of employee benefit plans. The survey covers nonfarm private industries in addition to state and local government workers. Federal government, agricultural, and self-employed workers are excluded.

Establishment - From the Economic Census: a single physical location, where business is conducted and services or industrial operations are performed. An establishment is classified to an industry when its primary activity meets the definition for that industry. In construction, the individual sites, projects, fields, lines, or systems of such dispersed activities are not considered to be establishments. The establishment in construction is represented by a relatively permanent main or branch office that is either 1) directly responsible for supervising such activities, or 2) the base from which personnel operate to carry out these activities. Establishments are either with or without payroll (see nonemployer).

Fatality rate - From the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries: represents the number of fatal injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers.

Full-time equivalent workers (FTEs) - To make incidence rates comparable, researchers use the number of hours, or full-time workers (also known as person-years), to calculate such rates. Typically, it is assumed that a full-time worker works 2,000 hours per year (50 weeks of 40 hours) in the United States. To determine the number of full-time equivalent workers in a population, divide the number of hours worked in the population by 2,000.

Goods-producing industry - From the North American Industry Classification System: consists of Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (NAICS 11), Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (NAICS 21), Construction (NAICS 23), and Manufacturing (NAICS 31-33).

Gravity - From the Occupational Safety & Health Administration: the level of potential harm to workers. The measurement of severity of violations, ranging from 0 to 10, with higher numbers representing more serious violations.

Green construction - Construction that uses environmentally responsible and resource-efficient technology and practices. Green construction is often certified by a green building rating system, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Green economic activities - Activities involving improving human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

Green goods and services - Found in businesses that produce goods and provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources.

Green Goods and Services (GGS) Survey - An annual survey covering 120,000 business establishments, the GGS provides a measure of national and state employment in industries that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment.

Green jobs - Green jobs are either 1) jobs in businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources, or 2) jobs in which workers’ duties involve making their establishment’s production processes more environmentally friendly or use fewer natural resources.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - From the Bureau of Economic Analysis: the market value of goods and services produced by labor and property in the United States, regardless of nationality.
**Health and Retirement Study (HRS)** - A longitudinal study that surveys a representative sample of Americans over the age of 50 every two years. The study explores the changes in labor force participation and the health transitions that individuals undergo toward the end of their work lives and in the years that follow.

**Hispanic** - From the Current Population Survey: persons who identified themselves in the enumeration or survey process as being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. Persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity may be of any race.

**Incidence rate** - From the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses: represents the number of injuries and/or illnesses per 100 (or 10,000) full-time equivalent workers.

**Incorporated worker** - See self-employed.

**Independent contractor** - Individuals who identified themselves as independent contractors, independent consultants, or freelance workers (whether self-employed or wage-and-salary workers), when interviewed by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Current Population Survey. See self-employed.

**LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)** - From the U.S. Green Building Council: a voluntary, consensus-based, market-driven program that provides third-party verification of green buildings.

**Long-tenured displaced workers** - Persons who had worked for their employer for three or more years at the time of displacement.

**Median** - the numerical value separating the higher half of a sample from the lower half. If there is an even number of observations, then there is no single middle value; the median is then usually defined to be the average of the two middle values.

**Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)** - A set of large-scale surveys of families and individuals, their medical providers, and employers across the United States. MEPS collects data on the specific health services that Americans use, how frequently they use them, the cost of these services, and how they are paid for, as well as data on the cost, scope, and breadth of health insurance held by and available to U.S. workers.

**Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)** - From the Bureau of Labor Statistics: this includes cases where the nature of the injury or illness is sprains, strains, tears; back pain, hurt back; soreness, pain, hurt, except the back; carpal tunnel syndrome; hernia; or musculoskeletal system and connective tissue diseases and disorders, when the event or exposure leading to the injury or illness is bodily reaction/bend-

**Nanomaterials** - From the National Nanotechnology Initiative: all nanoscale materials or materials that contain nanoscale structures internally or on their surfaces. These can include engineered nano-objects (such as nanoparticles, nanotubes, and nanoplates) and naturally occurring nanoparticles (such as volcanic ash, sea spray, and smoke). The nanoscale is the dimensional range of approximately 1 to 100 nanometers.

**Nanotechnology** - From the National Nanotechnology Initiative: a new technology that deals with developing materials, devices, or other structures with at least one dimension sized from 1 to 100 nanometers (or one billionth of a meter).

**Nonemployer** - From the Census Bureau: a business with no payroll or paid employees, with annual business receipts of $1,000 or more ($1 or more in the construction industry), and subject to federal income taxes. Most nonemployers are self-employed individuals operating very small unincorporated businesses. Nonemployers can be partnerships, sole proprietorships, or corporations without employees.

**North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)** - The successor to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system; NAICS is a collaborative effort of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Under NAICS, the construction industry is coded as 23. This system is updated every five years.

**Occupational Information Network (O*NET)** - Serving as the nation’s primary source of occupational information, the O*NET database contains information on hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors. The database is updated annually by ongoing surveys of each occupation’s worker population and occupation experts. Information from this database forms the heart of O*NET OnLine, an interactive application for exploring and searching occupations.

**Overexertion** - Cases of overexertion involve an outside source of injury or illness (such as a heavy container) against which excessive physical effort was directed (such as lifting or carrying) when the injury or illness occurred.

**Paid employees** - From the Economic Census: consists of full- and part-time employees, including salaried officers and executives of corporations, who are on the payroll in the pay period including March 12. Included are employ-
ees on paid sick leave, holidays, and vacations; not included are proprietors and partners of unincorporated businesses. The number of establishments with 1 to 19 employees is as of March 12.

Partial inspections - From the Occupational Safety & Health Administration: an inspection whose focus is limited to certain potentially hazardous areas, operations, conditions, or practices at the establishment.

Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) - Established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration: a legal limit in the U.S. for exposure of an employee to a chemical substance or physical agent.

Production worker - In this chart book, same as blue-collar worker. From the Current Population Survey: all workers, except managerial, professional (architects, accountants, lawyers, etc.), and administrative support staff. Production workers can be either wage-and-salary or self-employed workers.

Racial minorities - From the Current Population Survey and American Community Survey: those who chose to identify themselves as black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or some race other than white. Persons who select more than one race are classified separately in the category “two or more races,” and were counted as racial minorities in this book.

Recommended Exposure Limit (REL) - Recommended by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: they are based on risk evaluations using human or animal health effects data, and on an assessment of what levels can be feasibly achieved by engineering controls and measured by analytical techniques.

Regions - The 50 states and the District of Columbia are divided into regions as follows: Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont); South (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia); Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin); and West (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming).

Seasonal adjustment - A statistical technique which eliminates the influences of weather, holidays, and other recurring seasonal events from economic time series. This permits easier observation and analysis of cyclical, trend, and other non-seasonal movements in the data.

Self-employed - From the Current Population Survey: this chart book counts both incorporated and unincorporated (independent contractors, independent consultants, and freelance workers). However, “self-employed” in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ publications generally refers to unincorporated self-employed, while incorporated self-employed workers are considered wage-and-salary workers on their establishments’ payrolls.

Serious, willful, and repeat - From the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA): a serious violation is where there is a situation that relates to worker safety and health that has a high probability of causing death or serious physical harm that employers knew or should have known about. A willful violation is issued when an employer knowingly does not abide by OSHA standards and makes no effort to rectify the situation. A repeated violation is when employers are repeatedly cited for the same OSHA violation.

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) - This system was replaced by NAICS in 1997. The 1987 version was the last in which construction included three major categories: 15 (general contractors), 16 (heavy and highway), and 17 (specialty contractors), and 26 more precise (3- and 4-digit) subcategories (see North American Industrial Classification System).

Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) - This system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data. All workers are classified into occupations according to their job description. Construction and Extraction Occupations (47-0000) is a major group, consisting of five minor groups: Supervisors, Construction and Extraction Workers; Construction Trades Workers; Helpers, Construction Trades; Other Construction and Related Workers; and Extraction Workers. The system is updated periodically. The latest version is the 2010 SOC.

Survey of Business Owners (SBO) - A data source collected by the U.S. Census Bureau on selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status.

Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) - An annual survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the SOII collects data on non-fatal injuries and illnesses from a sample of employers. For more serious cases, those that involve one or more days away from work, it also provides a description of the injury or illness circumstances as well as the characteristics of the affected workers.
**Underemployed** - Persons who usually work part-time but who want full-time jobs and are available for full-time work.

**Unemployed** - Those who did not work during the reference week, but were available for work and had actively looked for employment at some point in the previous four weeks. People on layoff or waiting to report to work are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment rate** - The number of unemployed persons as a percent of the labor force.

**Unincorporated** - *See self-employed.*

**Value-added prices** - From the Economic Census: this measure of construction activity is equal to the value of business done, less costs for construction work subcontracted out to others and costs for materials, components, supplies, and fuels.

**Wage-and-salary** - Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, or pay from a private employer or from a government unit.