

Fatal and Nonfatal Injuries among Construction Sectors

The number and rate of fatal and nonfatal injuries¹ differ greatly among construction sectors. In 2010, there were 352 fatal injuries among Specialty Trade Contractors (NAICS 238; *see* page 1 for industrial classifications and codes), accounting for 58% of all work-related fatal injuries among private *wage-and-salary* (*see* Glossary) workers in construction (chart 39a). In the same year, there were 113 deaths in Construction of Buildings (NAICS 236), including both Residential (NAICS 2361; 52 deaths) and Nonresidential (NAICS 2362; 55 deaths).²

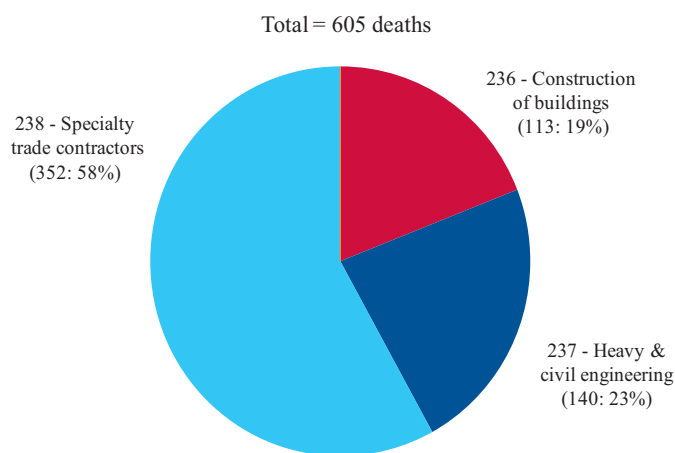
When considering trends in fatal injury rates, the rate for overall private construction declined about 20%, from 14.1 deaths per 100,000 workers in 2003 to 11.2 in 2010. The Heavy and Civil Engineering sector (NAICS 237) consistently had the highest fatality rate among the three major construction sectors, but decreased more than 34% during this period, a faster pace than both Construction of Buildings (NAICS 236) and Specialty Trade Contractors (NAICS 238; chart 39b).

For nonfatal injuries, the Specialty Trade Contractors sector also had the highest number of injuries resulting in days away from work, accounting for 69% of such injuries in construction – more than double the sum of the other two construction sectors (chart 39c).

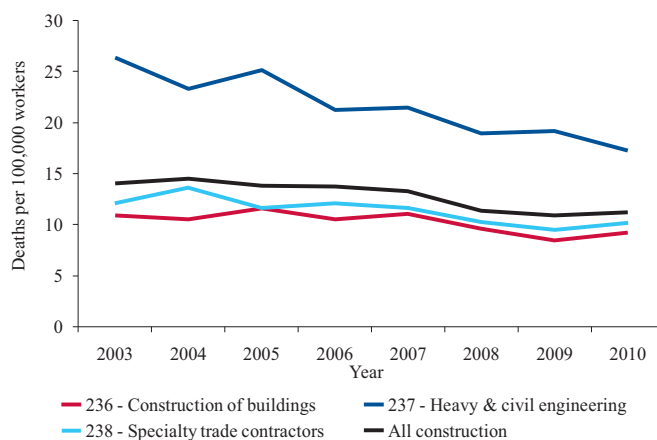
The rates of nonfatal injuries decreased significantly for all sectors from 2003 to 2010. The Specialty Trade Contractors sector consistently had the highest injury rate among all three major sectors, from 279 injuries per 10,000 *full-time equivalent workers* (FTEs, *see* Glossary) in 2003 to 167 in 2010 (chart 39d). Converse to the fatality trend, the Heavy and Civil Engineering sector had lower nonfatal injury rates, similar to those for the Construction of Buildings sector in some years during this period.

Employment numbers were obtained from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW, known as the ES-202 program until 2003), an establishment survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The QCEW collects employment data from payrolls quarterly; self-employed workers are excluded. To match the fatality data and employment data by construction sector, deaths among self-employed construction workers were excluded, and employment numbers combined the four quarters of a given year in the fatal injury rate tabulations. Fatality rates reported here are not adjusted by FTEs because the QCEW does not collect data on hours worked. Therefore, fatality data reported on this page may not be comparable to data reported on other pages.

39a. Number and percentage of fatalities, by construction sector, 2010 (Private wage-and-salary workers)



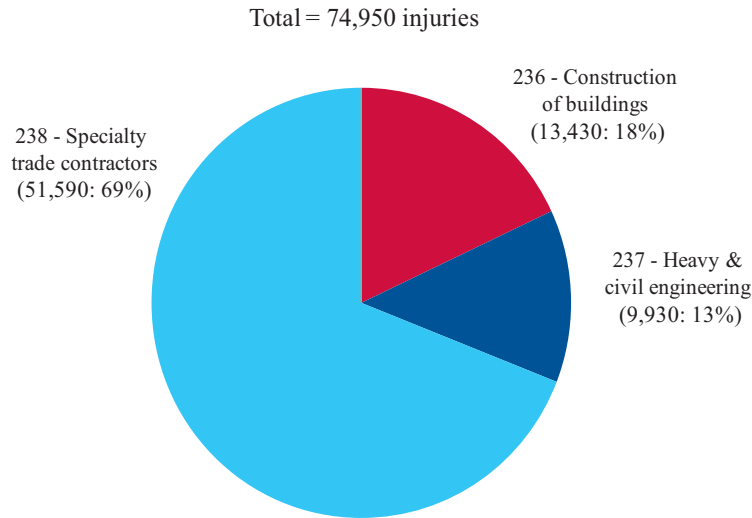
39b. Rate of fatalities, by construction sector, 2003-2010 (Private wage-and-salary workers)



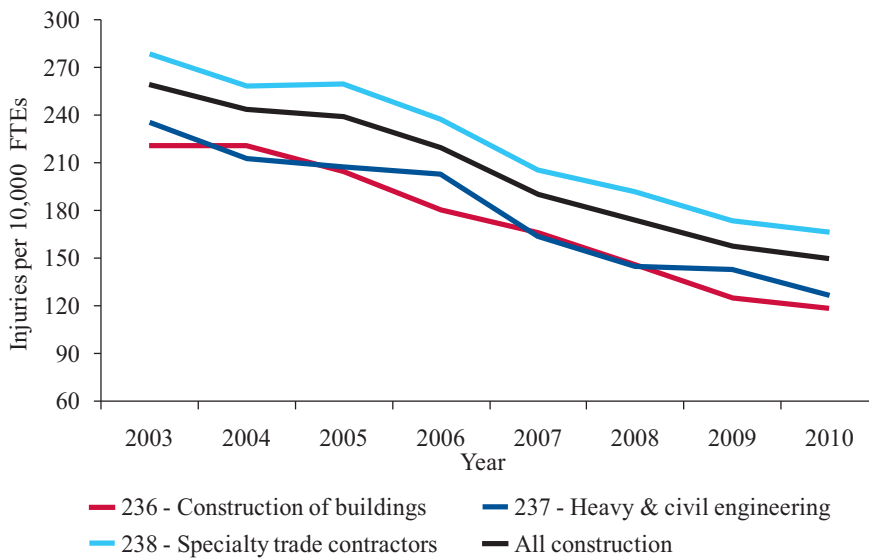
1. Illnesses comprise about 3% of all nonfatal injuries and illnesses in construction; therefore, numbers for construction largely represent injuries and will be referred to as such in this chart book.

2. Deaths without detailed NAICS codes were excluded from the calculation.

39c. Number and percentage of nonfatal injuries resulting in days away from work, by construction sector, 2010 (Private wage-and-salary workers)



39d. Rate of nonfatal injuries resulting in days away from work, by construction sector, 2003-2010 (Private wage-and-salary workers)



Source: Chart 39a - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2010 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. <http://www.bls.gov/data/#injuries> (Accessed May 2012).
 Chart 39b - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2003-2010 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. <http://www.bls.gov/data/#injuries> (Accessed May 2012). 2003-2010 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Calculations by CPWR Data Center.
 Chart 39c - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2010 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. (Table R113). <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb2937.pdf> (Accessed October 2012).
 Chart 39d - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2003-2010 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. (Table R5). (Accessed October 2012).