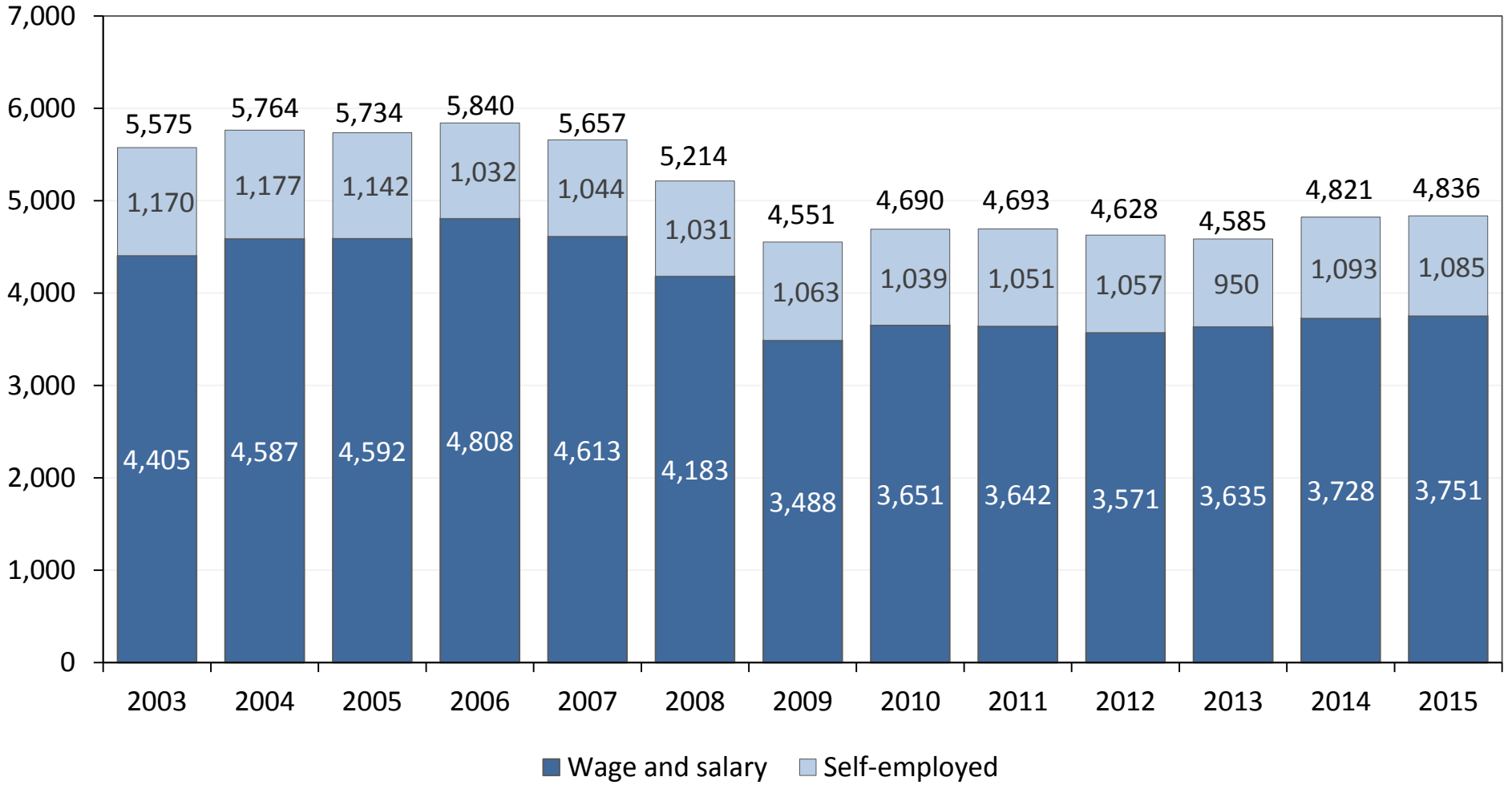
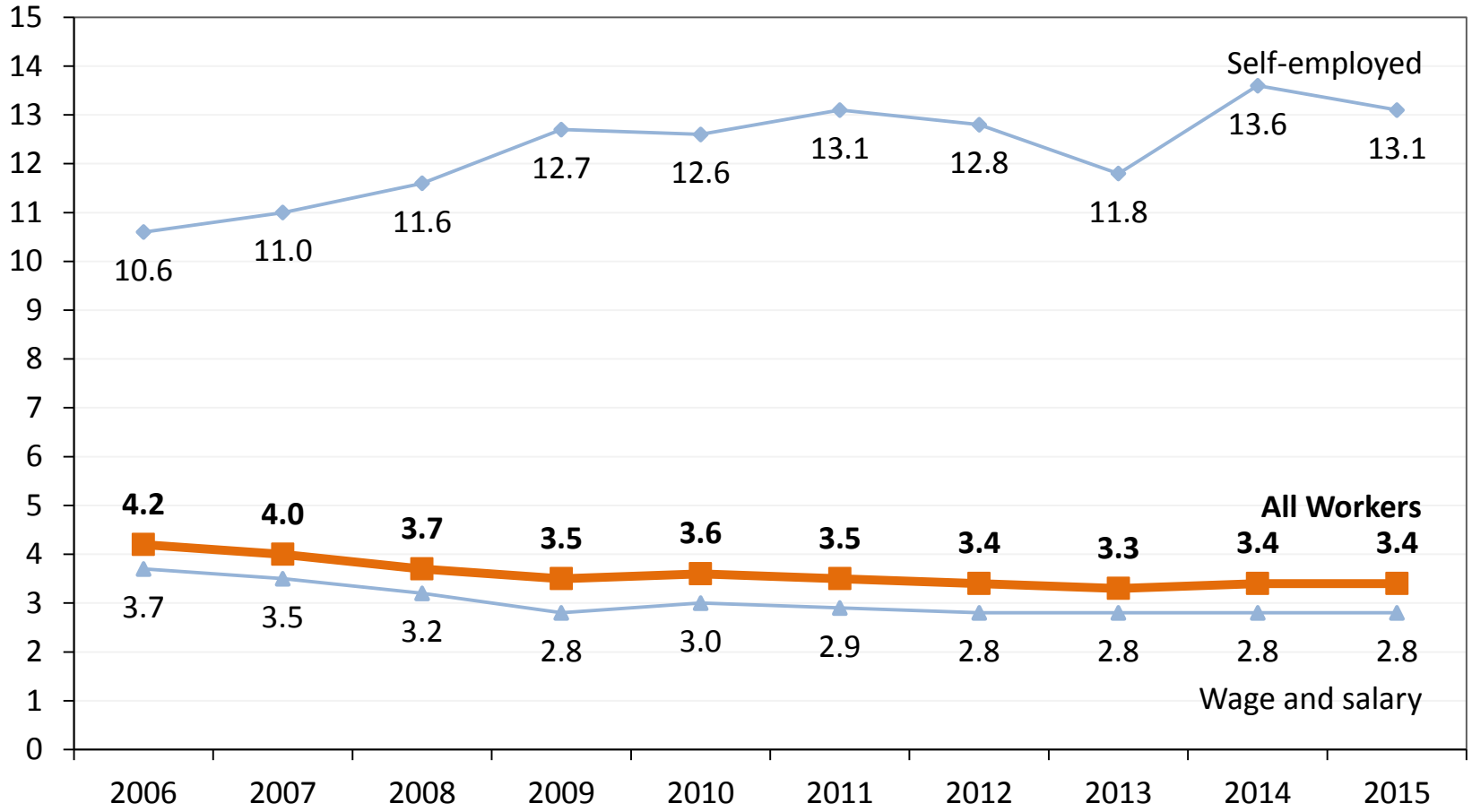
Number of fatal work injuries by employee status, 2003–15



A total of 4,836 workers died from an occupational injury in 2015. This number increased slightly from 2014 and is the highest count since 2008. Self-employed workers have consistently accounted for around one-fifth of fatal work injuries.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

Rate of fatal work injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers by employee status, 2006–15

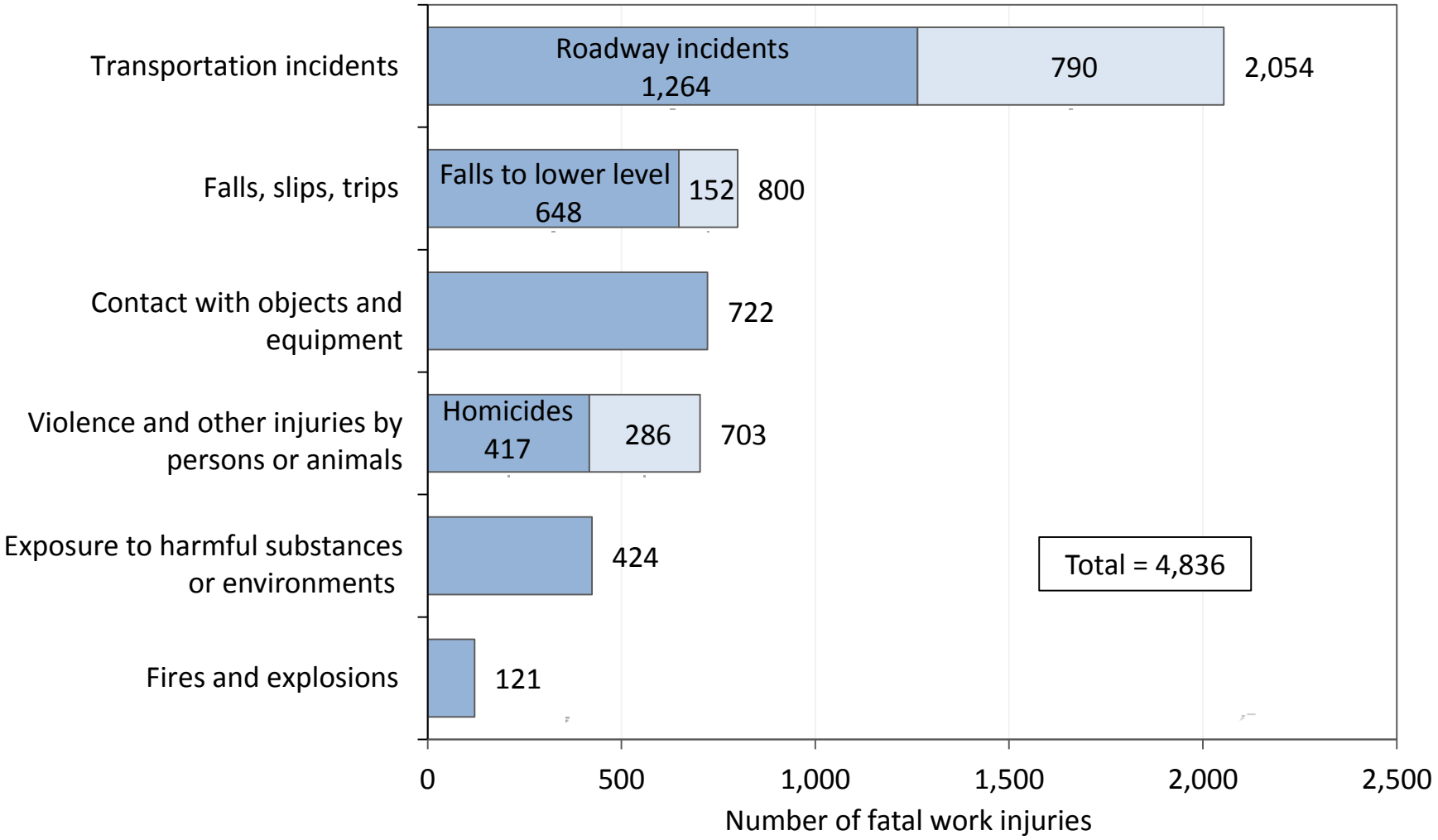


The 2015 rate of fatal work injuries for all workers was 3.4 fatal work injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers (FTEs). The rate for self-employed workers has consistently been higher than that of all workers since the adoption of hours-based rates.

Note: Rate = (Fatal work injuries/Total hours worked by all workers) x 200,000,000 where 200,000,000 = base for 100,000 full-time equivalent workers (FTEs) working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year. The total hours worked figures are annual average estimates of total at work multiplied by average hours for civilians, 16 years of age and over, from the Current Population Survey (CPS). In 2008, CFOI implemented a new methodology, using hours worked for fatal work injury rate calculations rather than employment. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2016.

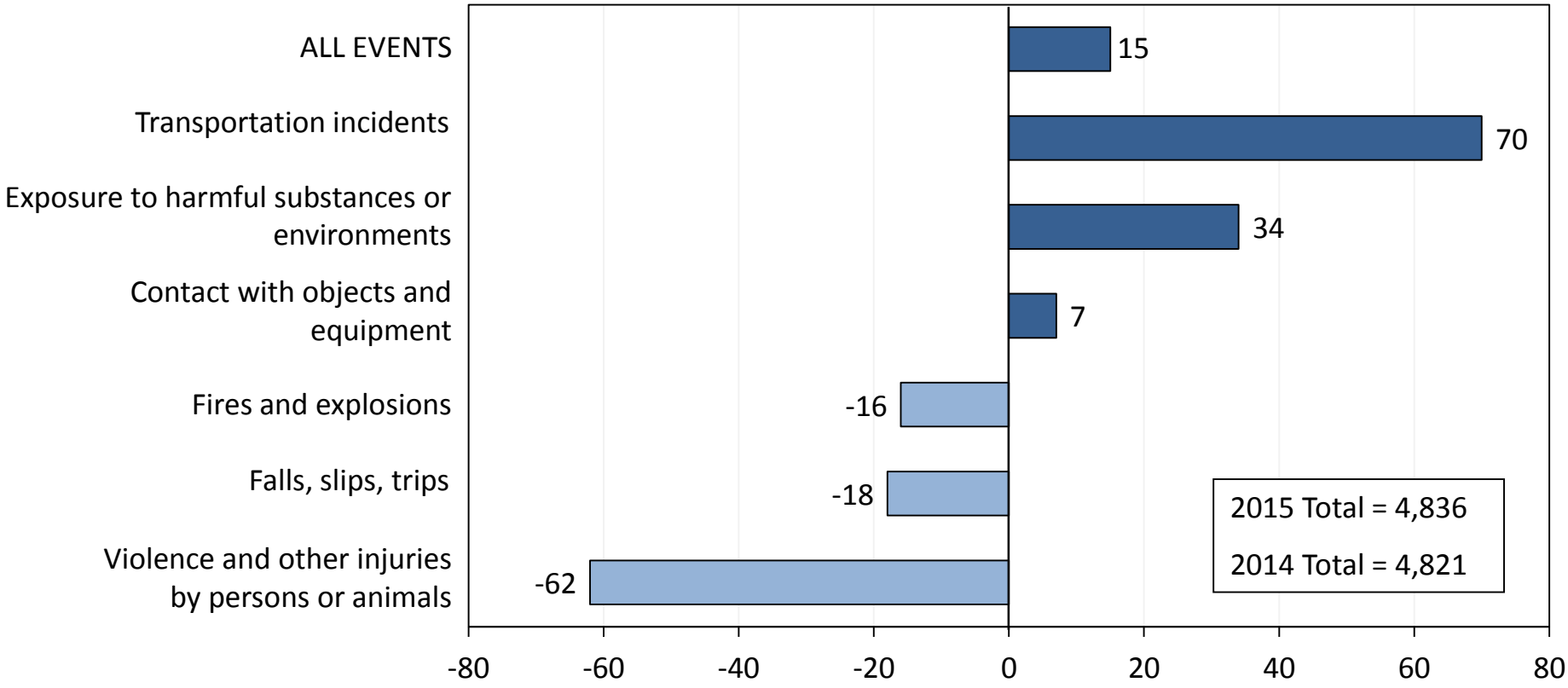
Fatal occupational injuries by major event, 2015



More fatal work injuries resulted from transportation incidents than from any other event in 2015. Roadway incidents alone accounted for about one out of every four fatal work injuries.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

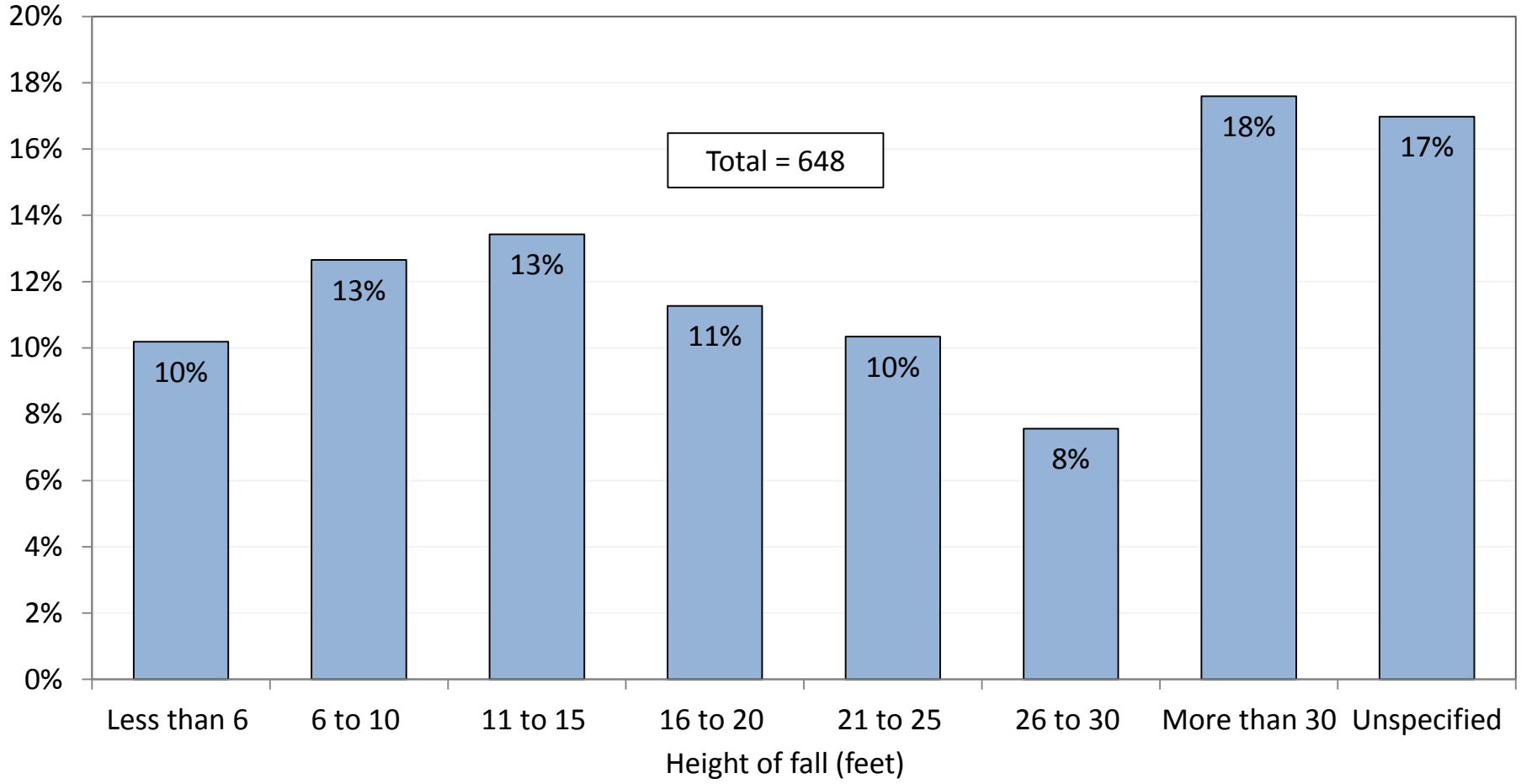
Change in fatal work injury counts from 2014 to 2015 level by event



Overall, the total for 2015 was higher by 15 cases over the 2014 total. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals saw the greatest decrease from the previous year while transportation incidents increased the most from 2014.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

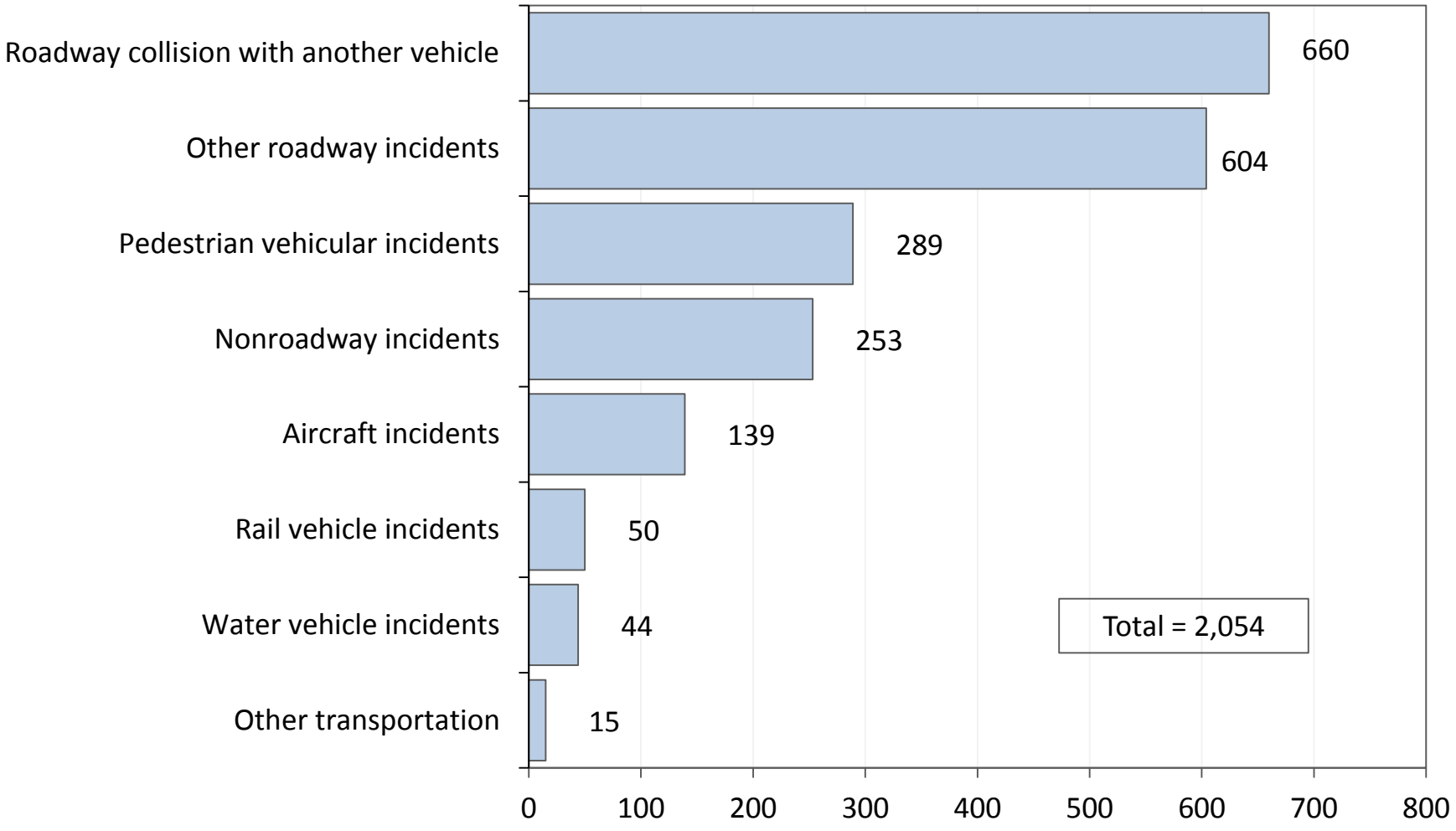
Percent of fatal falls to lower level by height of fall, 2015



In 2015, the total for falls to lower level was 648 fatal work injuries, down 2 percent from the count for 2014. Of the cases where height of fall was known (538 cases), more than 2 out of every 5 fatal falls were falls of 15 feet or less. About one in five cases with a known height involved falls from more than 30 feet.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

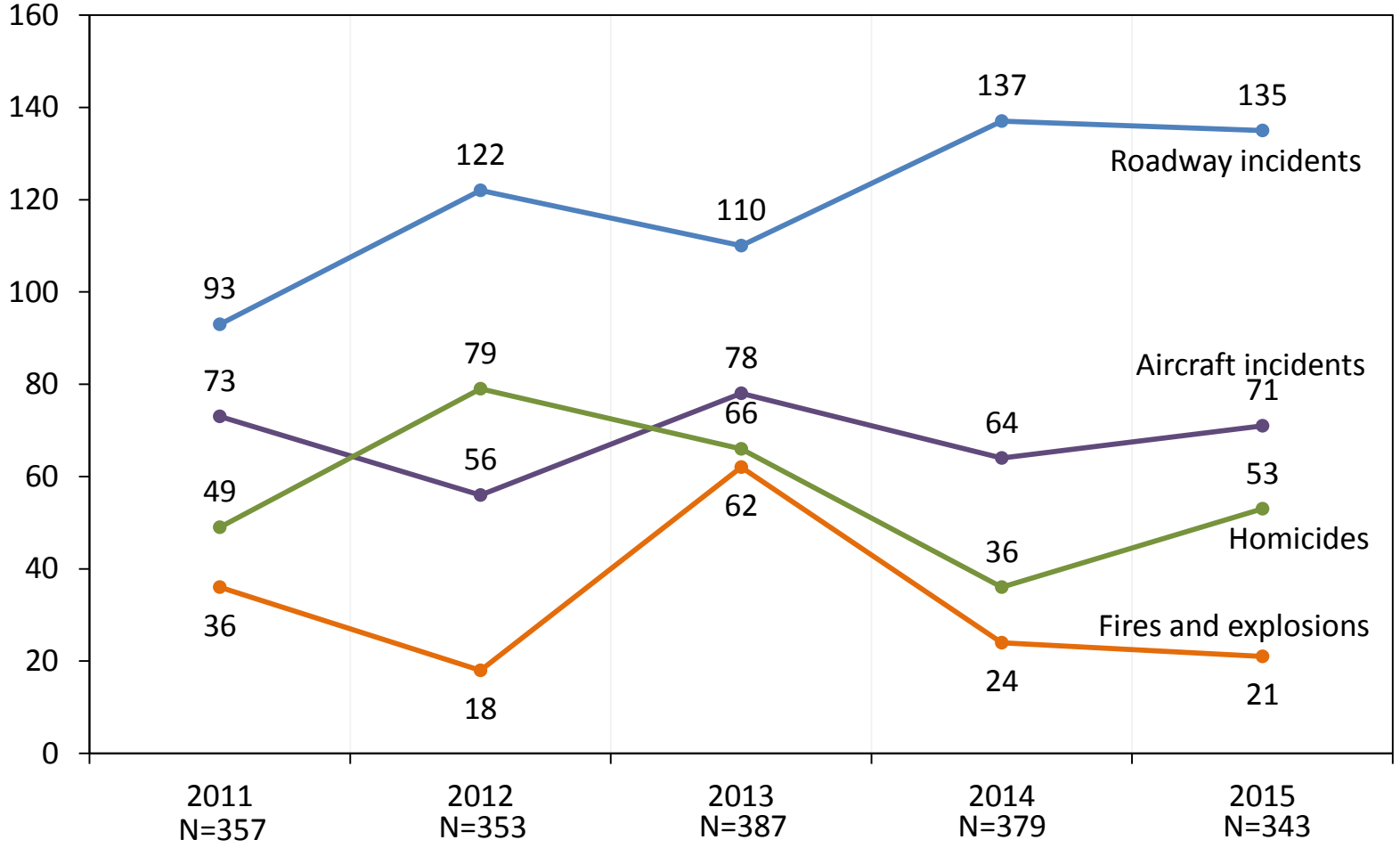
Fatal occupational injuries due to transportation incidents, 2015



Transportation incidents increased from 1,984 in 2014 to 2,054 in 2015. Roadway incidents consistently account for the greatest share of fatal work-related transportation injuries. Of these, 660 fatal injuries, or 32 percent of the total transportation incidents, resulted from a roadway collision with another vehicle.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

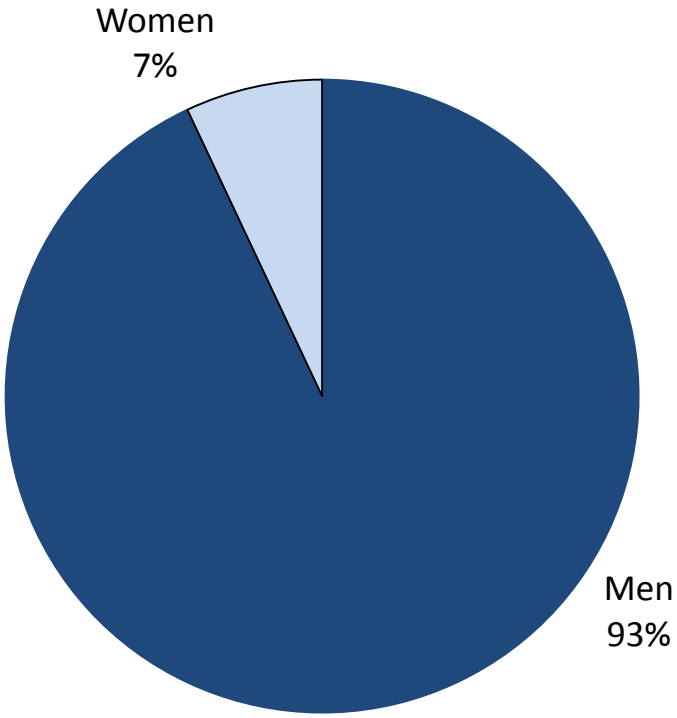
How workers died in multiple-fatality incidents by selected events, 2011-15



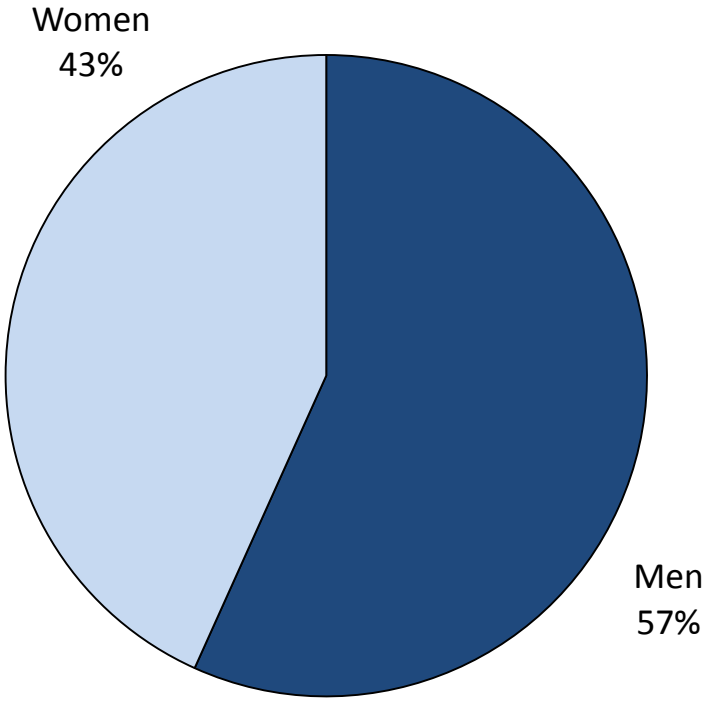
A total of 134 multiple-fatality incidents were recorded in 2015 (incidents in which more than one worker was killed). These incidents were responsible for 343 worker deaths in 2015. Roadway incidents and aircraft incidents were the two most common causes of multiple-fatality incidents.

Note: Not all event categories shown.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

Fatal work injuries and hours worked by gender of worker, 2015



Fatal work injuries = 4,836

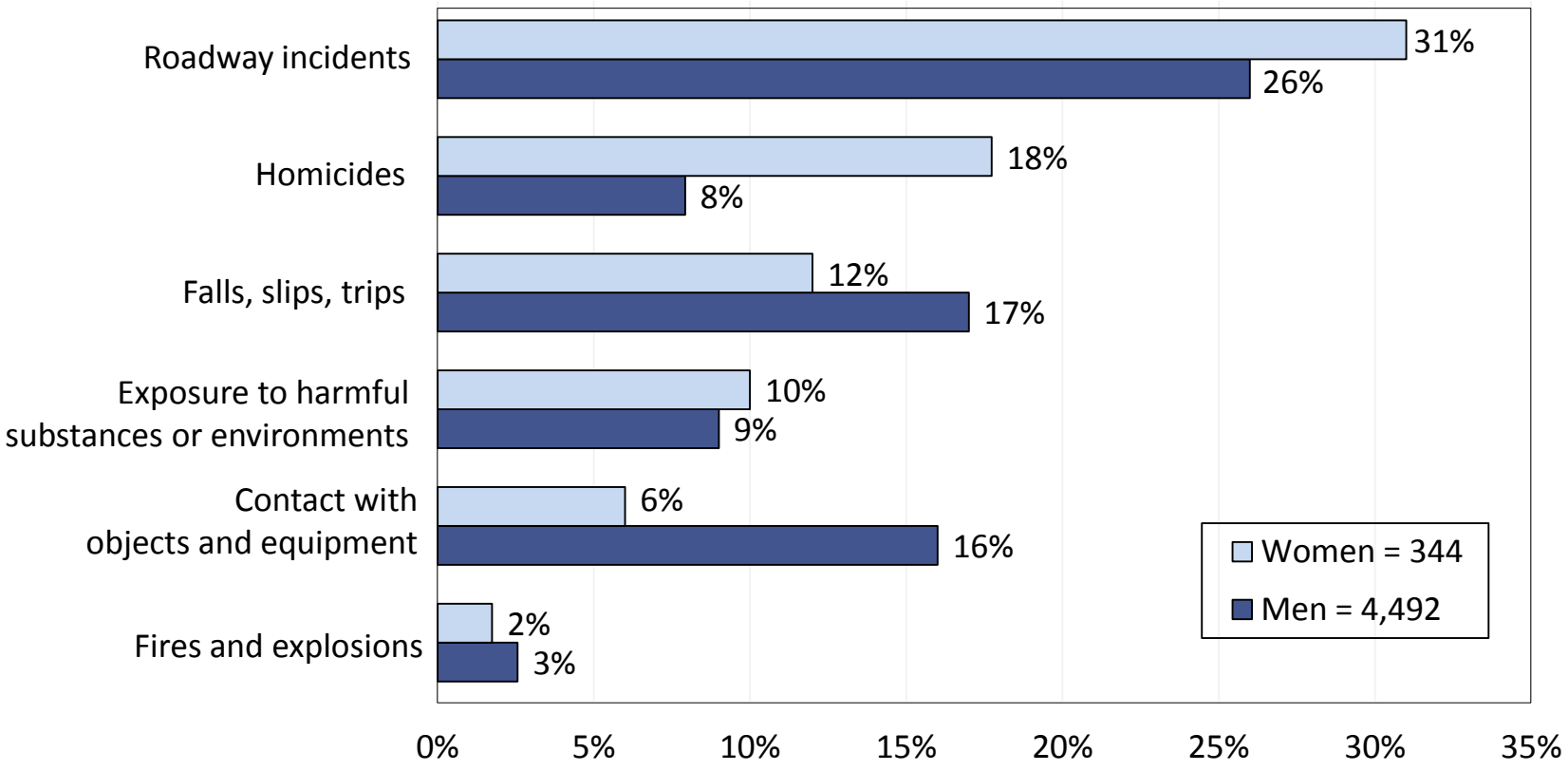


Hours worked = 277,470,310,000

A disproportionate share of fatal work injuries involved men relative to their hours worked in 2015.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2016.

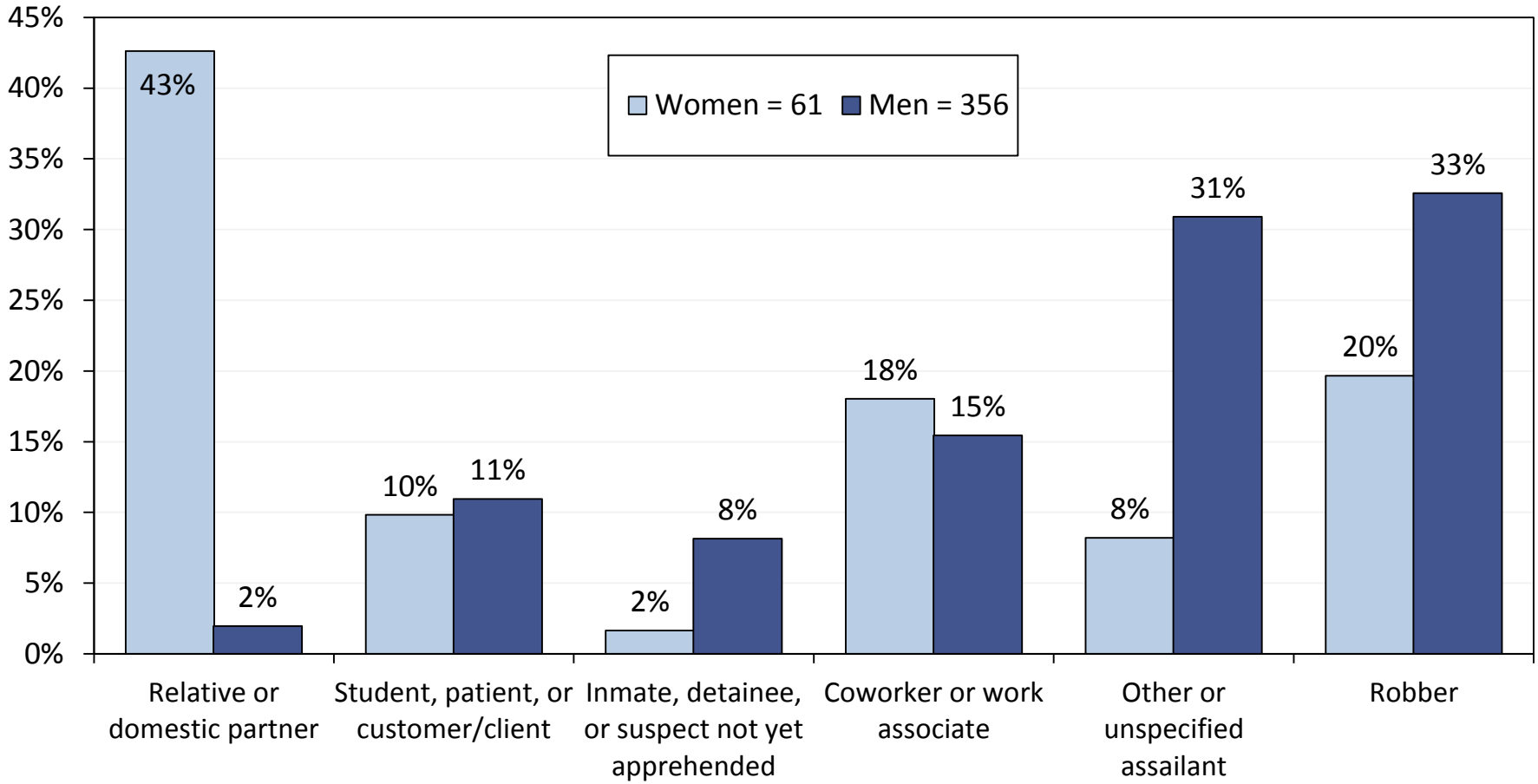
Distribution of fatal injury events by gender of worker, 2015



Women experienced a higher proportion of fatal injuries due to roadway incidents and homicides relative to men. Men incurred a higher proportion of injuries from falls, slips, and trips and contact with objects and equipment. Men and women experienced similar proportions of fatal injuries from exposure to harmful substances or environments and from fires and explosions.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

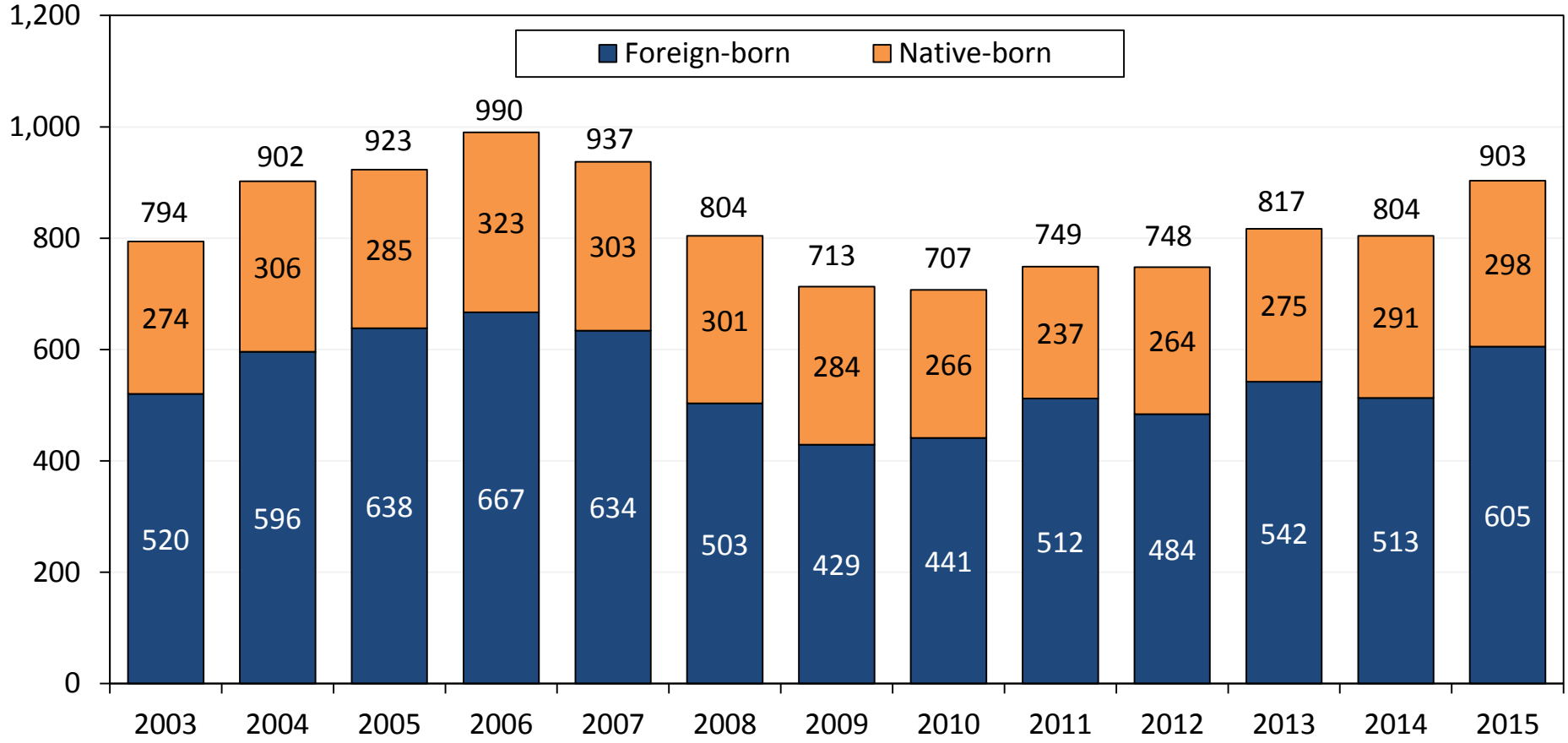
Percent of work-related homicides by gender of decedent and assailant type, 2015



Robbers were the most common type of work-related homicide assailant for men and the second-most common for women. The most frequent type of assailant in work-related homicides involving women was a relative or domestic partner.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

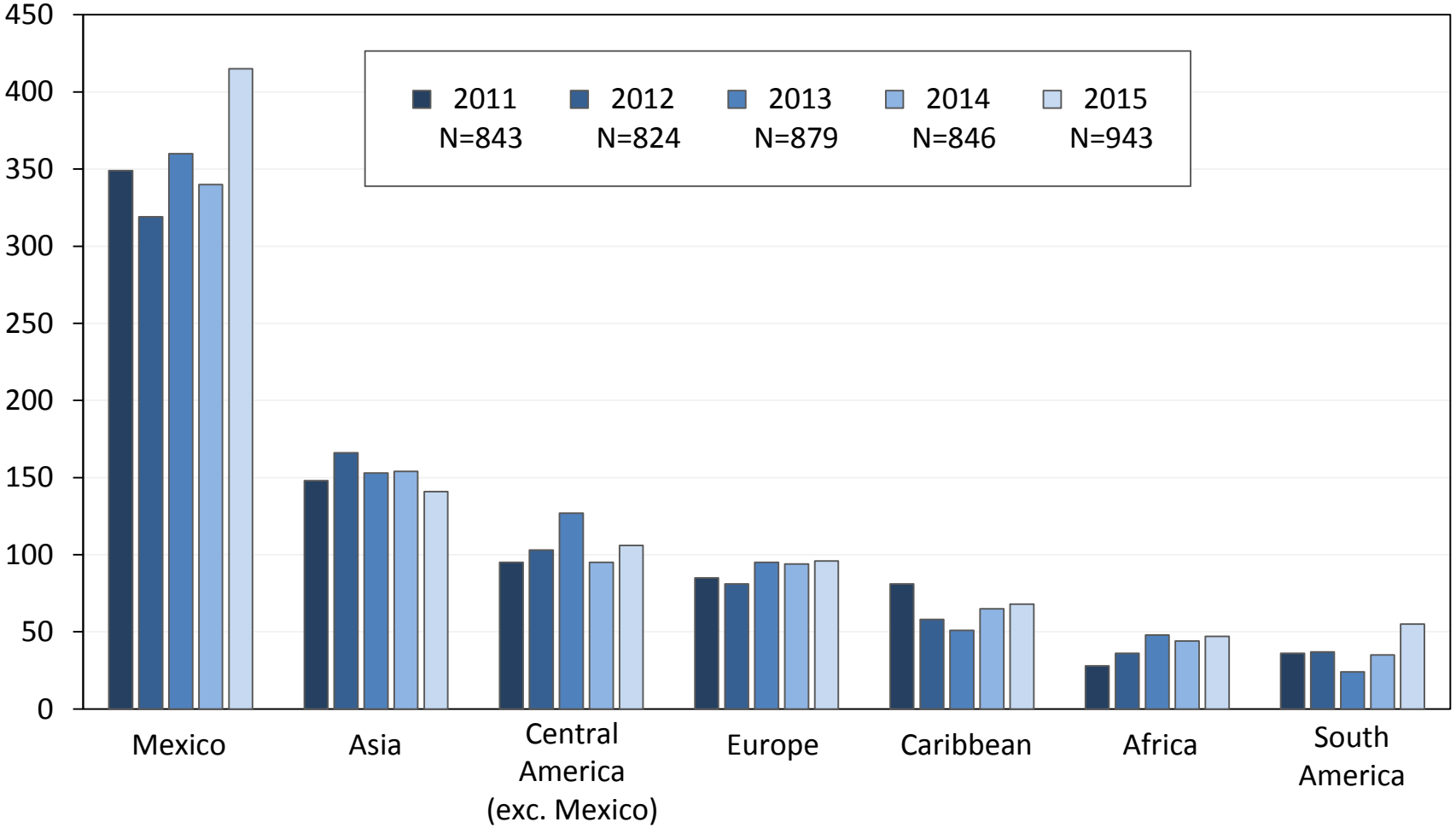
Fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers, 2003-15



Fatal work injuries involving Hispanic or Latino workers increased in 2015 to its highest level since 2007. Around two-thirds of fatally-injured Hispanic or Latino workers in 2015 were born outside of the United States.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

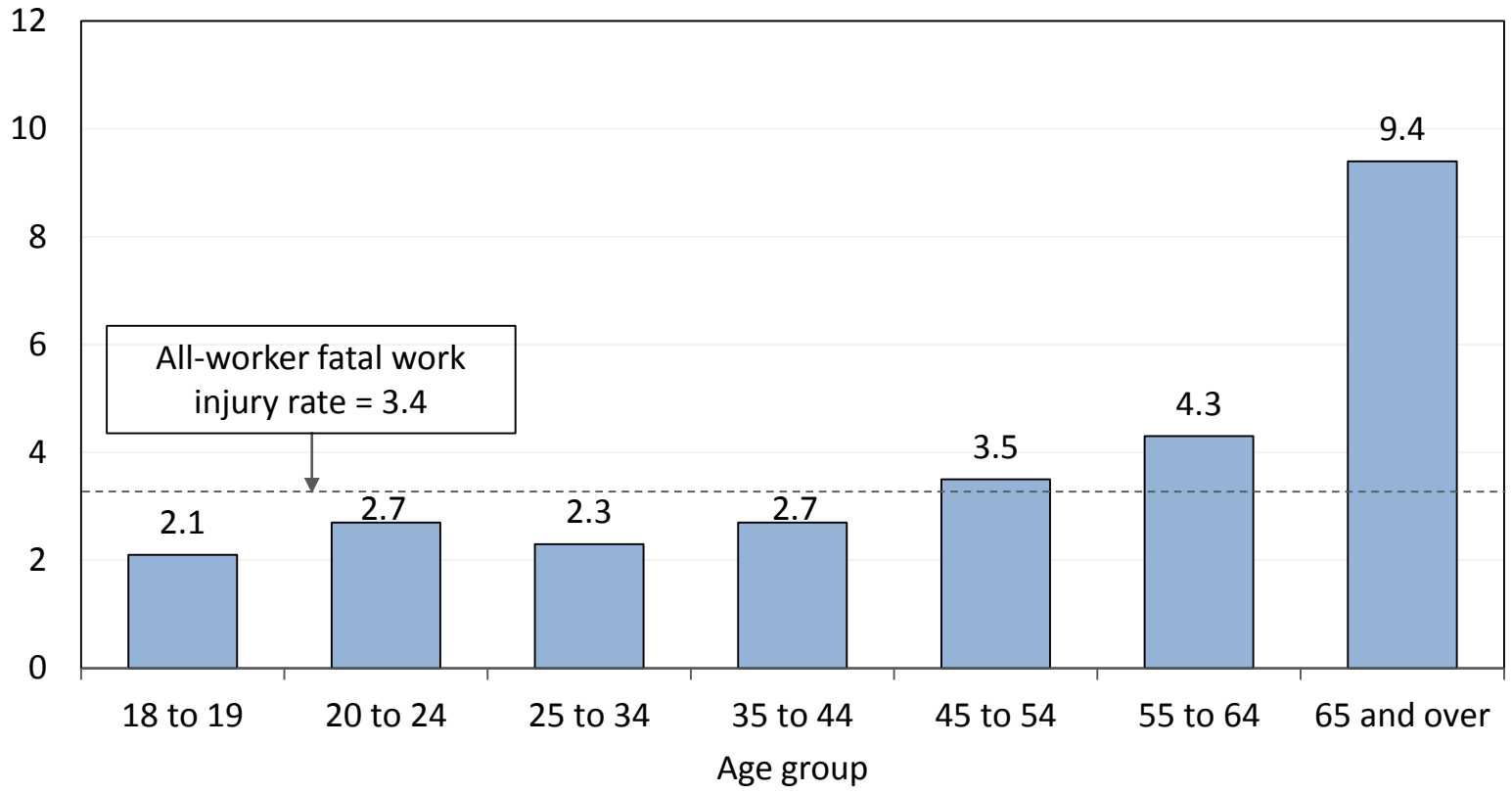
Fatal injuries involving foreign-born workers by country or region of birth, 2011-15



Workers born in Mexico have consistently accounted for the largest portion of foreign-born workers who died from work-related injuries in the United States from 2011 to 2015. Fatalities involving workers born in Asia have trended down since 2012, while fatal injuries involving workers born in Africa have trended up since 2011.

Note: Not all countries or regions of birth are shown.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

Rate of fatal work injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers by age group, 2015

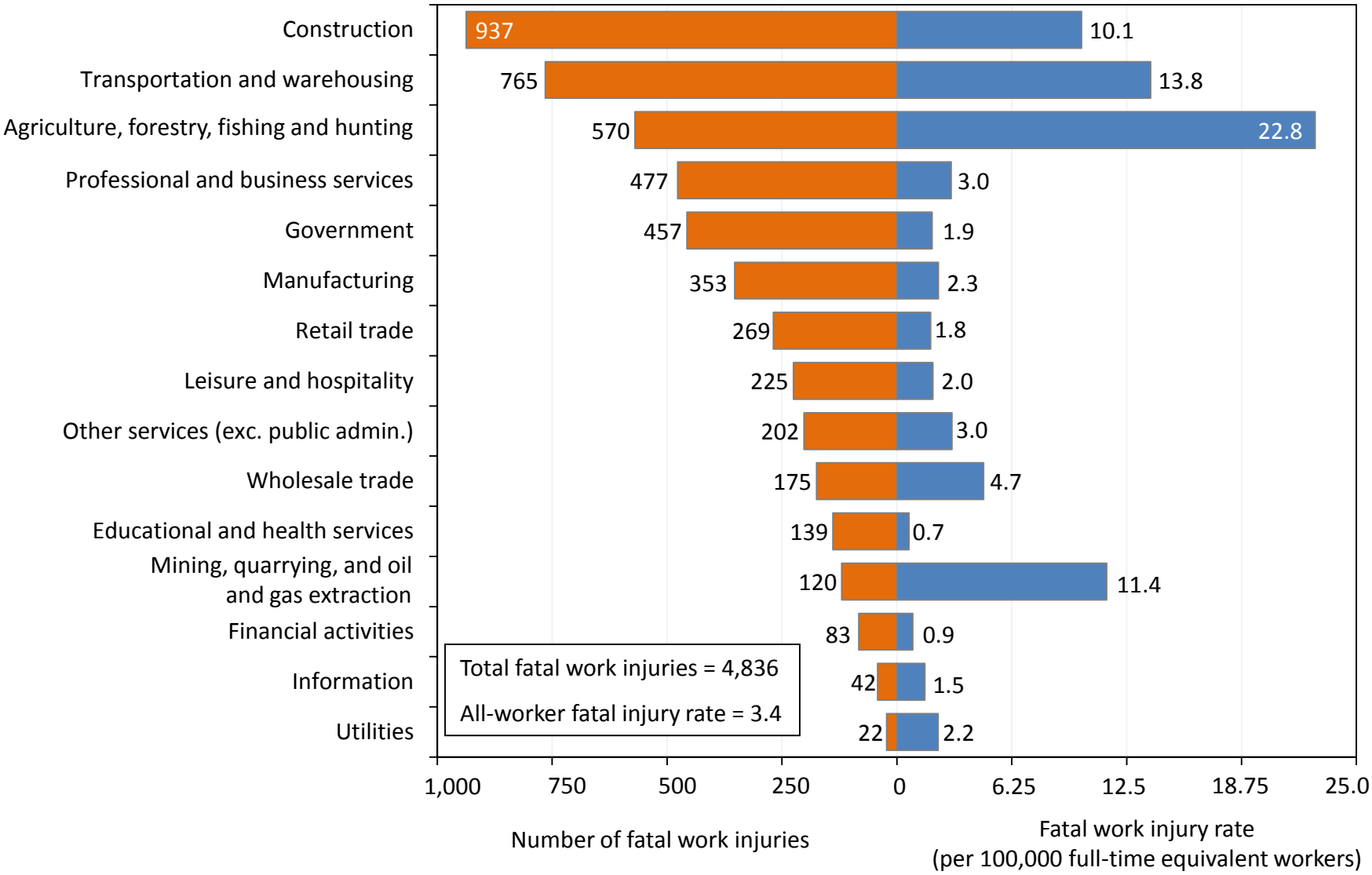


The greatest number of fatal work injuries involved workers in the 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 age groups. Workers age 65 and over had the highest fatal injury rate of all workers (9.4 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers compared to the all-worker rate of 3.4).

Note: Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2016.

Number and rate of fatal work injuries by industry sector, 2015

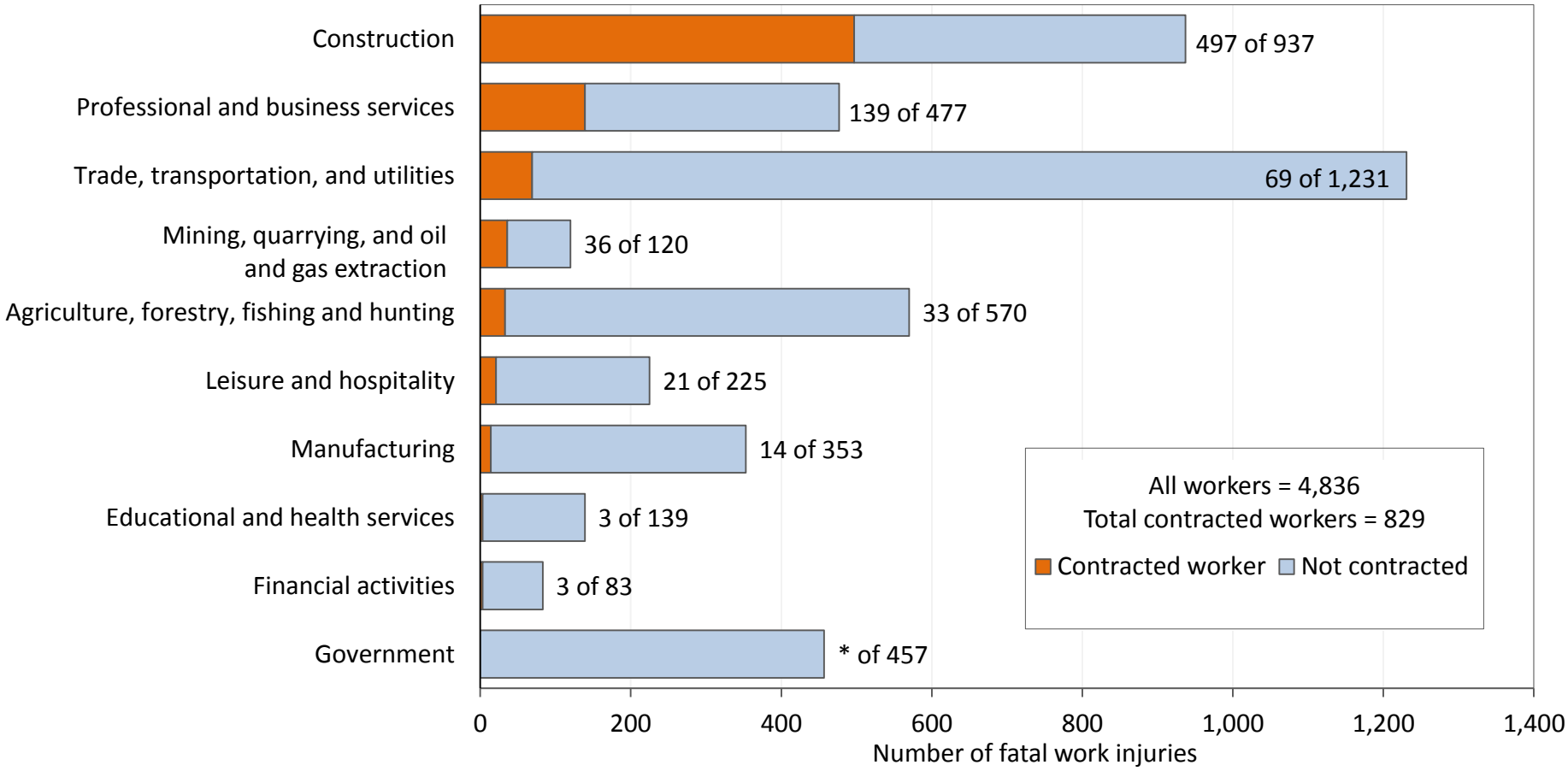


Private construction had the highest count of fatal injuries in 2015, but the private agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector had the highest fatal work injury rate.

Note: Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. The number of fatal work injuries represents total published fatal injuries before the exclusions. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2016.

Fatal work injuries involving contracted workers by industry of direct employer, 2015



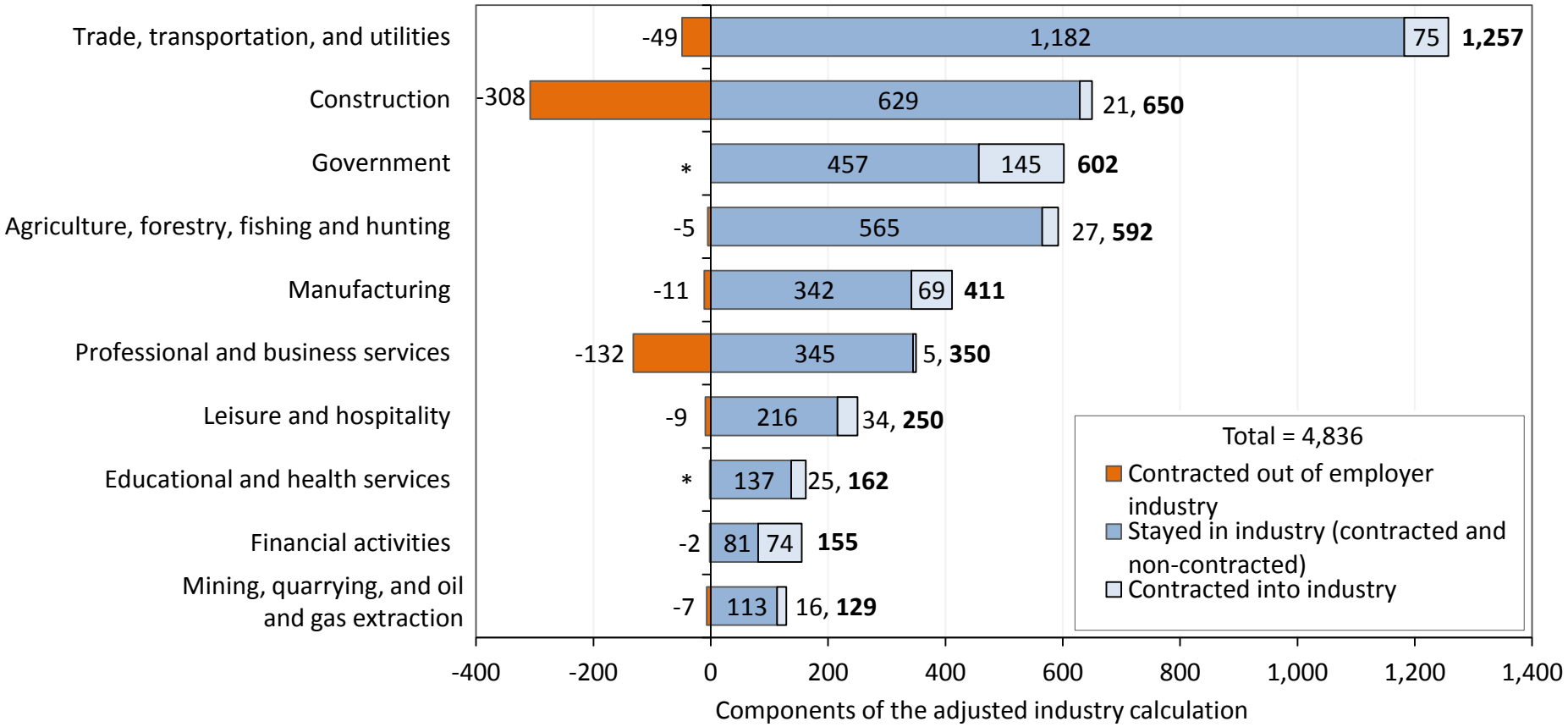
In 2015, the private construction industry had the highest number of fatal injuries involving contracted workers. Fifty-three percent (or 497 out of 937 fatal injuries) were contracted workers. Professional and business services saw the second largest number with 139 of 477 (or 29 percent) of fatal injuries involving contracted workers.

*Data not presented did not meet publication requirements.

Note: In 2011, the CFOI program began collecting data on contracted workers to capture decedents who were contracted workers at the time of the fatal incident. Industry shown here refers to the firm directly employing the decedent. All industries shown are private with the exception of government, which includes fatal injuries to workers within governmental organizations regardless of industry. See www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm for more information on contracted workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

Fatal work injuries by adjusted industry[1], 2015

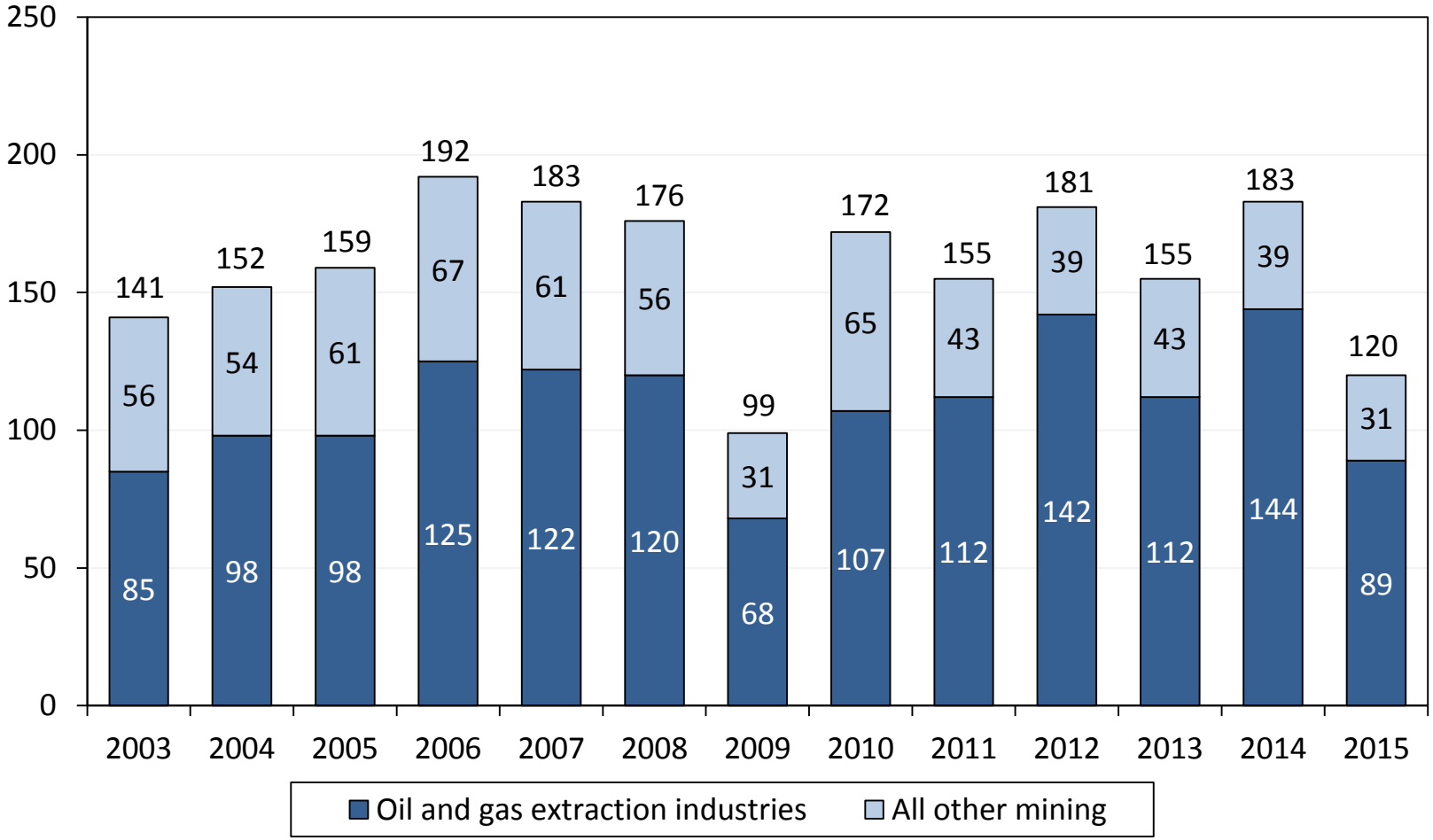


In 2015, 937 fatally injured workers were directly employed in private construction. Of these, 308 were injured at sites overseen by non-construction entities. Another 629 workers stayed in their industry and were not contracted or were contracted in the same industry as their direct employer, private construction. An additional 21 workers were contracted into private construction, but were not directly employed by a private construction firm. Thus, an adjusted total of 650 workers were fatally injured while working at a site overseen in the private construction industry.

[1] Adjusted industry is the industry of the entity that had overall responsibility for the operations at the site at which the worker was fatally injured. The formula for calculating it is: (Decedents directly employed in the industry and not a contracted worker + decedents directly employed in the industry and contracted by an entity in the same industry + decedents directly employed in another industry but contracted by an entity in the industry – decedents directly employed in the industry but contracted by an entity in another industry). All industries shown are private with the exception of government, which includes fatal injuries to workers within governmental organizations regardless of industry. See www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm for more information on contracted workers. *Data not presented did not meet publication requirements.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

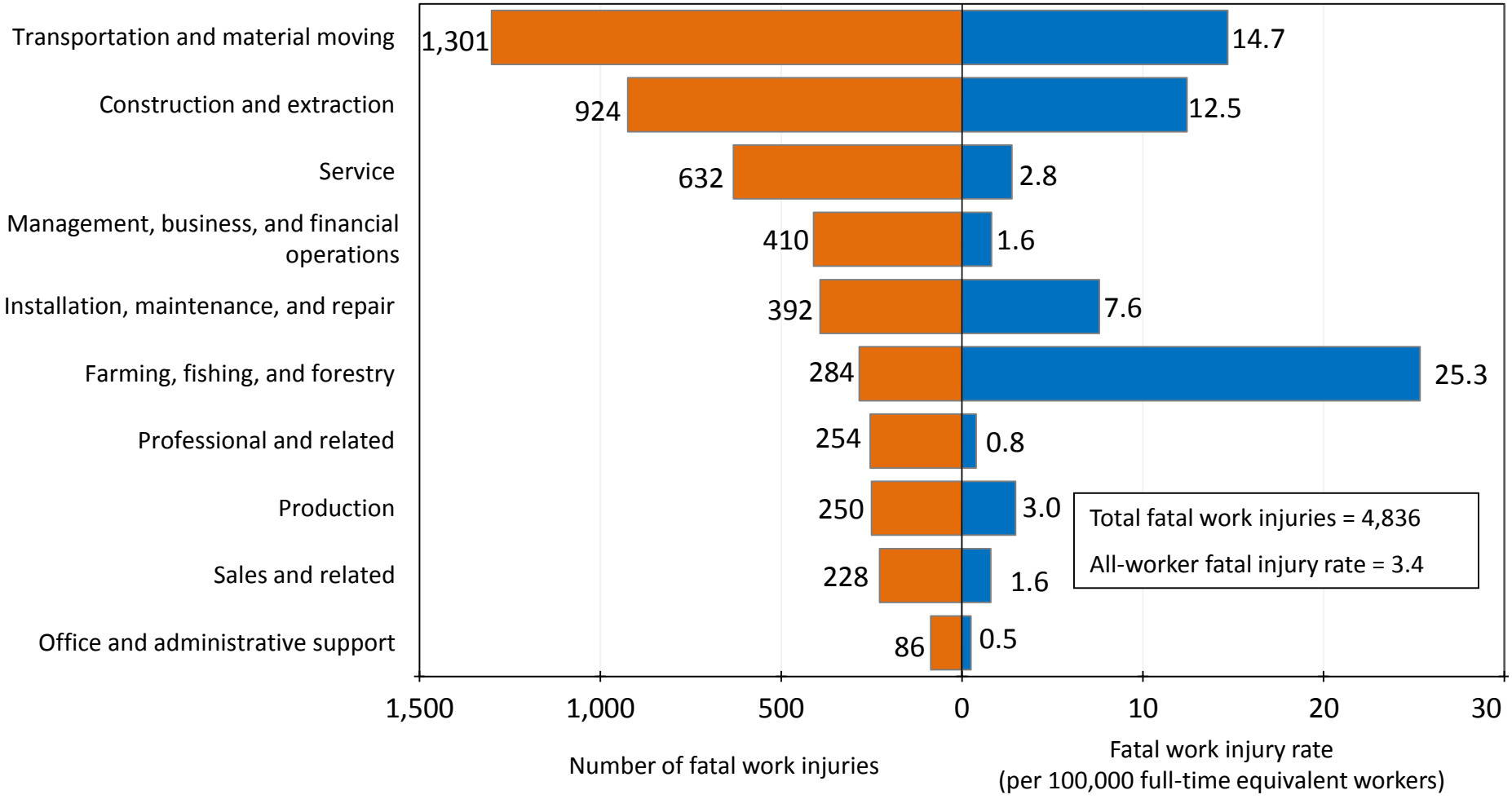
Fatal occupational injuries in the private sector mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry, 2003–15



Fatal work injuries in the private mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry decreased by 34 percent in 2015 to the lowest level since 2009. The fatal injury rate also decreased to 11.4 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers (FTE) in 2015 from 14.2 per 100,000 FTE workers in 2014. Oil and gas extraction industries accounted for 74 percent of the fatal work injuries in this sector in 2015.

Note: Oil and gas extraction industries include oil and gas extraction (NAICS 21111), drilling oil and gas wells (NAICS 213111), and support activities for oil and gas operations (NAICS 213112).
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries to civilian workers by major occupation group, 2015



Although transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of fatal work injuries in 2015, the major occupational group with the highest fatal work injury rate was farming, fishing, and forestry.

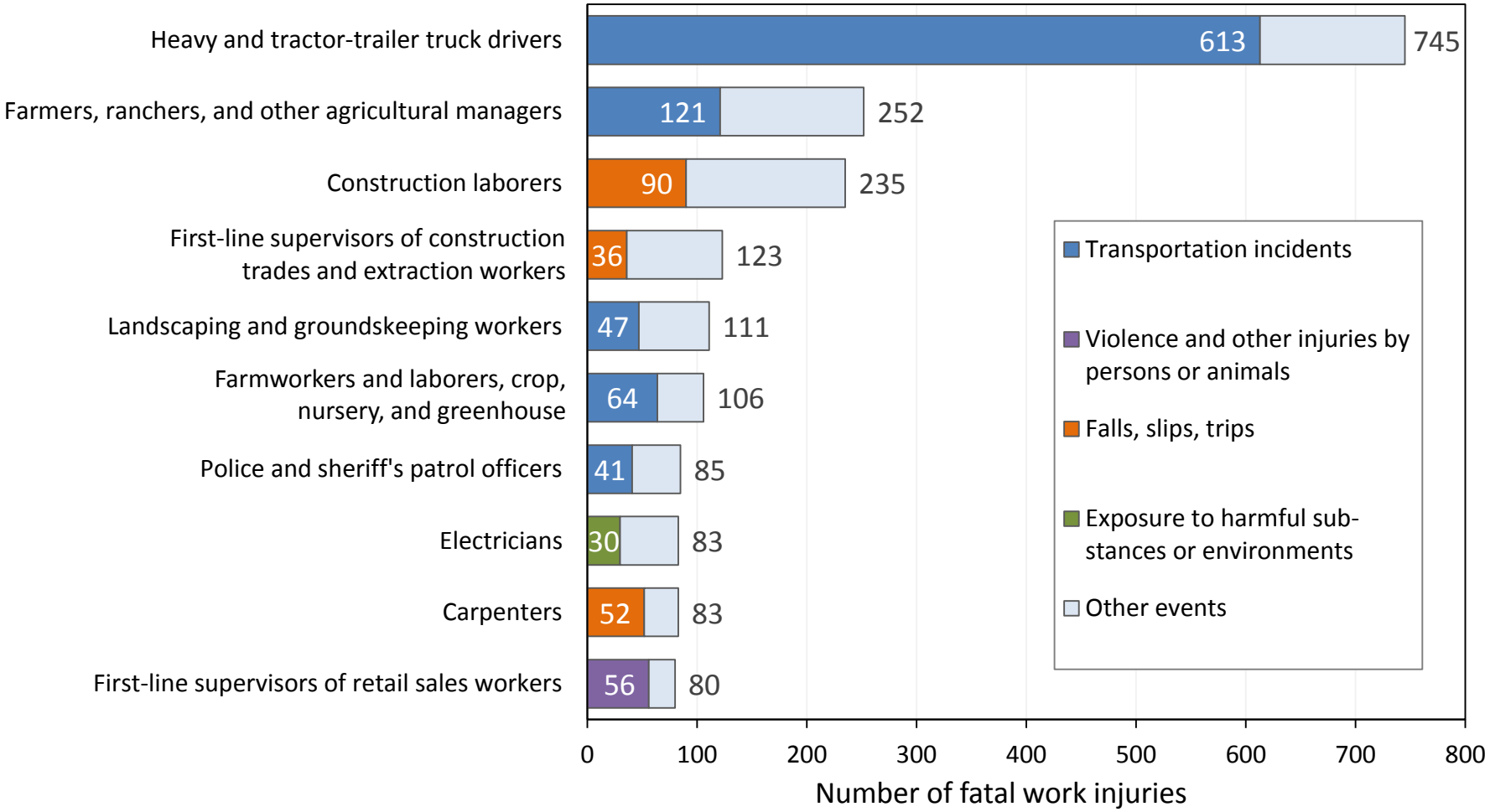
Note: Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. The number of fatal work injuries represents total published fatal injuries before the exclusions. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2016.

Civilian occupations with high fatal work injury rates, 2015

In 2015, fatal work injury rates were high for logging workers and fishers and related fishing workers. Driver/sales workers and truck drivers incurred the greatest number of fatal injuries.

Note: Fatal injury rates exclude workers under the age of 16 years, volunteers, and resident military. The number of fatal work injuries represents total published fatal injuries before the exclusions. For additional information on the fatal work injury rate methodology, please see www.bls.gov/iif/oshnotice10.htm.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2016.

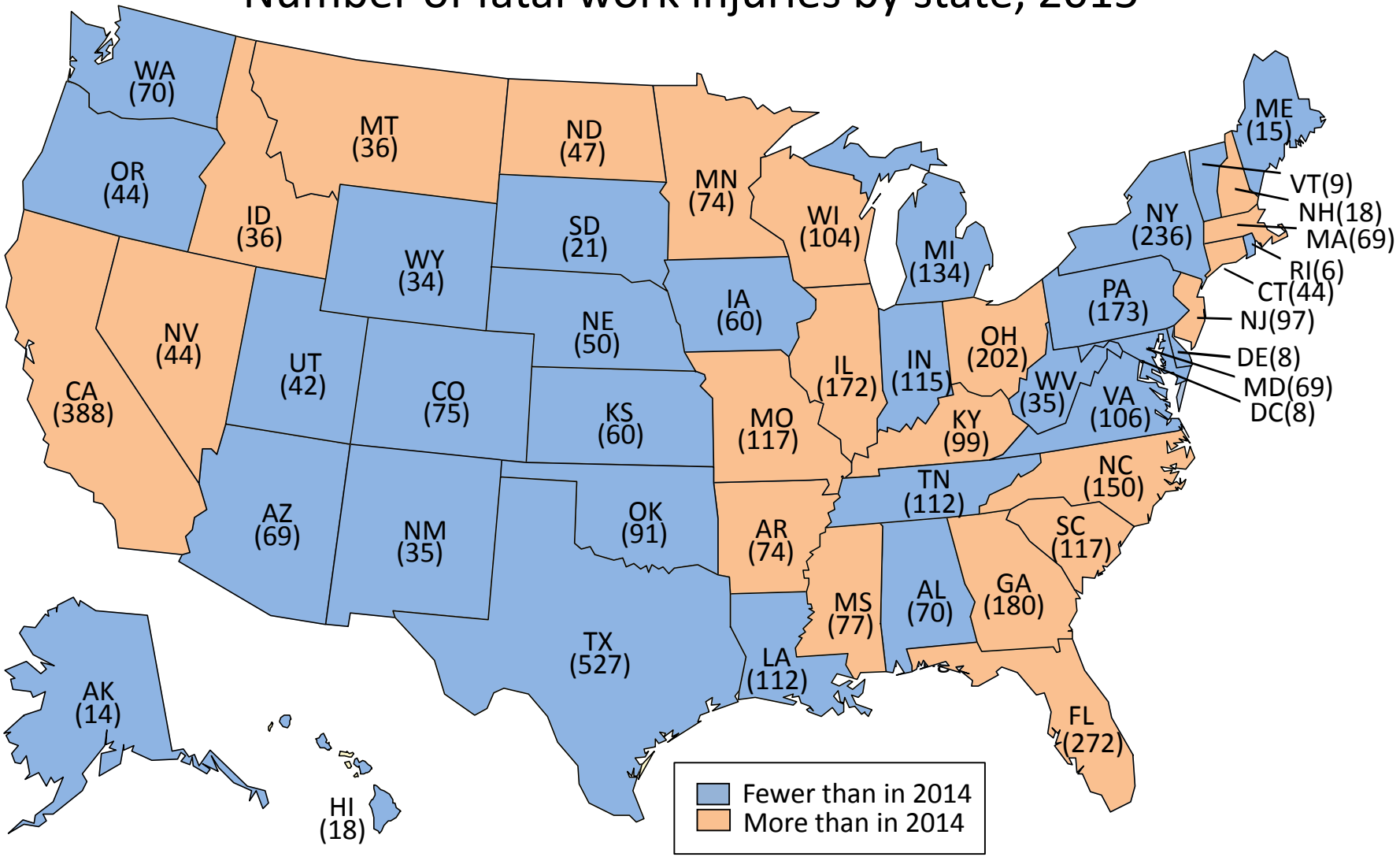
Civilian occupations with high fatal injury counts by leading event, 2015



Transportation incidents caused the highest share of fatal injuries in five of the occupations with high fatal injury counts shown. Falls, slips, and trips were the leading cause of death in three of the ten, all of which were construction and extraction occupations.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

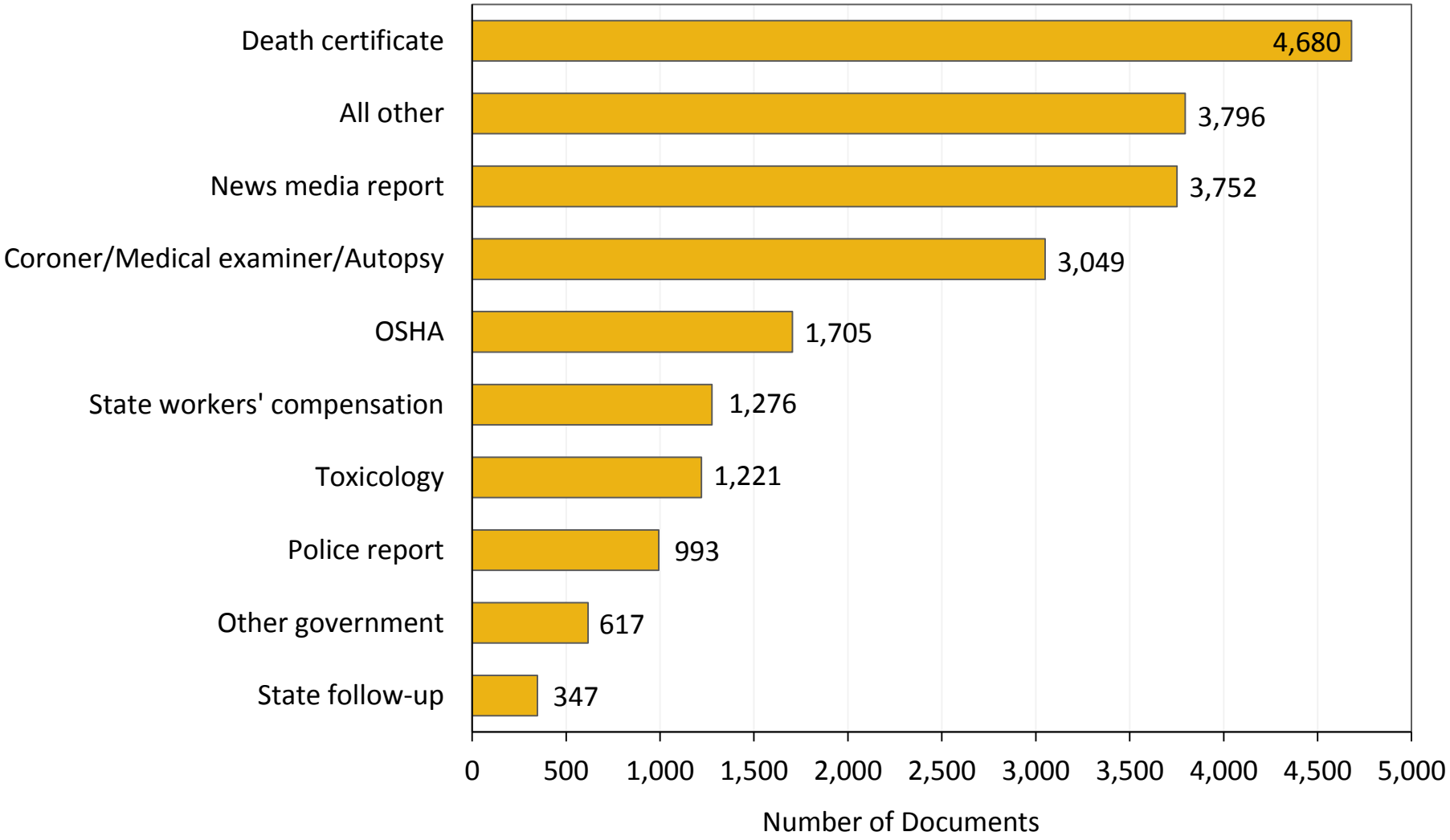
Number of fatal work injuries by state, 2015



Twenty-one states had more fatal injuries in 2015 than in 2014. Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia had fewer fatal workplace injuries in 2015 compared to 2014.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.

Sources of data on fatal work injuries, 2015



In 2015, over 21,400 source documents helped identify and verify information on 4,836 fatal work injuries, an average of 4.4 source documents per in-scope fatal injury case.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016.