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Non-fatal Workplace Injuries and Illnesses Drop to Historic Low in 2009

INDIANAPOLIS (October 21, 2010) – Non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses in Indiana fell to the lowest rate on record in 2009. According to the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), the non-fatal occupational injury and illness rate is 4.3 per 100 workers. The 2009 non-fatal injury and illness rate represents a 12% drop from the 2008 rate of 4.9 per 100 workers. This is the greatest percent decline in a one-year period on record. The total number of injury and illness incidents dropped to 94,800 in 2009. In 2008, 112,100 cases were reported.

“With each passing week, new facts are released supporting Indiana’s case as a great place to create jobs,” said Governor Mitch Daniels. “Last week Indiana was recognized for having the best business climate in the Midwest and sixth best climate nationally. This week we add historical improvements in our protection of the workforce to our long list of accomplishments benefiting Hoosier workers.”

The historically low rate of Indiana’s non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses matches the historically low number (123) of 2009 workplace fatalities reported by the Indiana Department of Labor in August.

“The continued decline of work-related injuries and illnesses is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Hoosier employers, employees, labor and trade organizations and the staff of the Indiana Department of Labor,” said Lori A. Torres, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Labor.

The industries with the highest rates of injury and illness in Indiana per 100 workers were **Arts, Entertainment and Recreation** (7.2), **Healthcare and Social Assistance** (6.5) and **Manufacturing** (4.7). The industries with highest number of injury and illness incidents were **Manufacturing** (21,500), **Healthcare and Social Assistance** (16,600) and **Retail Trade** (10,200). **State and Local Government** reported an estimated 15,300 injuries or illness resulting in a rate of 5.0 per 100 workers.

Further information regarding injuries and illnesses in particular occupations, industries, worker characteristics and injury event types will be released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in November.

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About the Indiana Department of Labor

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. www.in.gov/dol.

