

Characteristics of Injury Cases with Days away from Work

The total number of nonfatal occupational injury cases involving days away from work for 1992–1997 is shown in Figure 4–12 for seven injury categories. Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for the largest number of events, with approximately 799,000 cases in 1997. Nearly half those cases (about 385,000) involved the back, accounting for more than 80% of all traumatic injuries and disorders to the back. Other categories accounting for many days away from work included bruises and contusions (with nearly 166,000 cases in 1997), cuts and lacerations (with approximately 134,000 cases), and fractures (with approximately 119,000 cases). Presented separately for each of the seven injury categories are charts showing the distributions of cases by (1) major industries, (2) occupational groups, and (3) the sources of the disorder, events or exposures leading to the disorder, or the body parts affected.

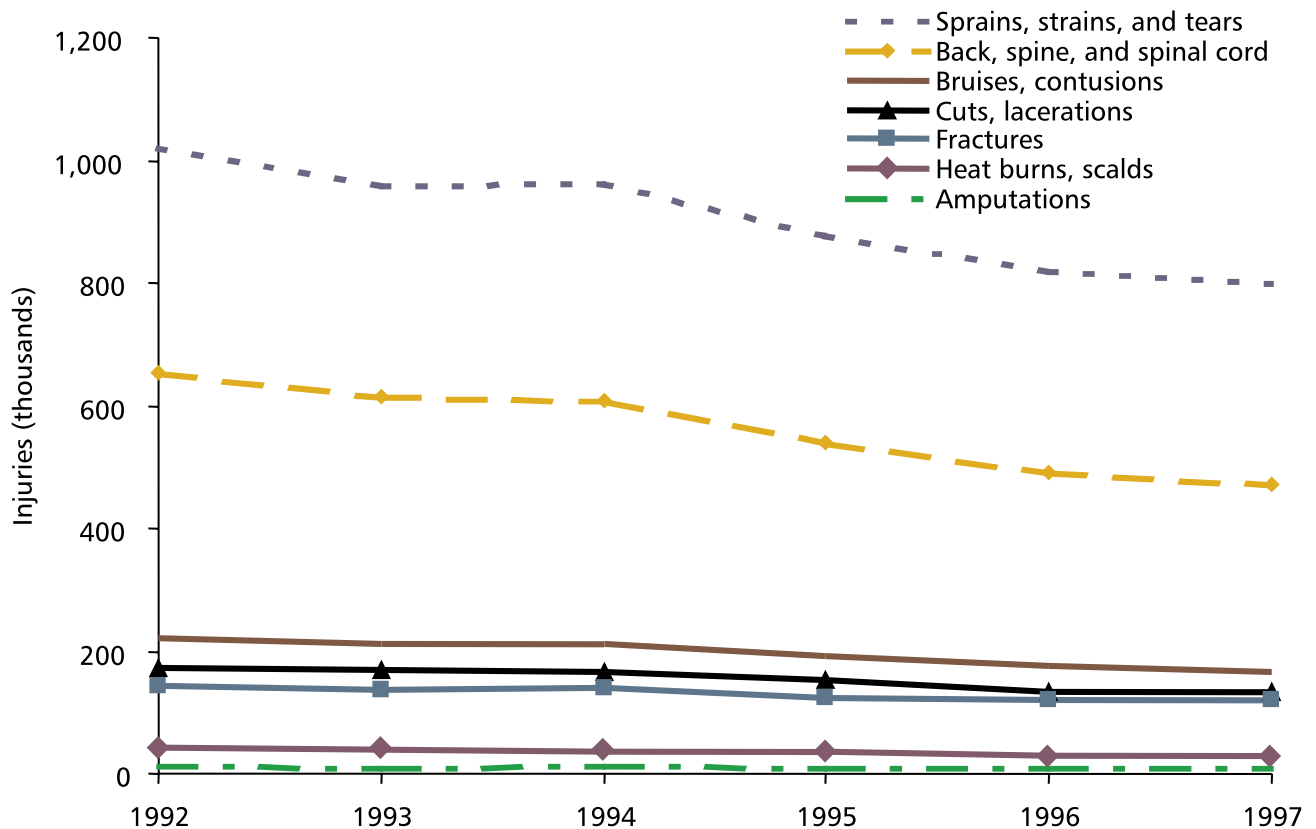


Figure 4–12. Number of nonfatal occupational injury cases with days away from work in private industry by type of injury, 1992–1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

Sprain, Strain, and Tear Cases with Days away from Work, 1997

Nearly half of the approximately 799,000 cases of sprains, strains, and tears involving days away from work in 1997 occurred in services (27%) and manufacturing (21%) (Figure 4–13). Most of these injuries were experienced by operators, fabricators, and laborers (42%) and service personnel (19%) (Figure 4–14). Overexertion was the most common event leading to a sprain, strain, or tear (Figure 4–15). Men accounted for nearly two-thirds of the sprain, strain, and tear cases. Half of the cases required 6 or more days away from work.

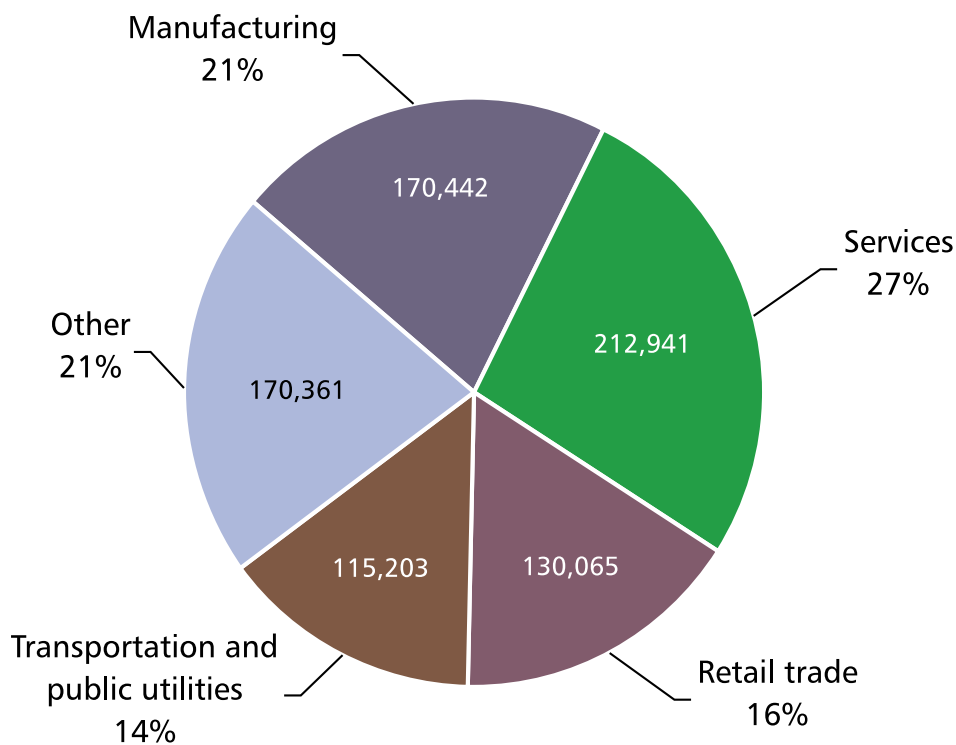


Figure 4–13. Number and distribution of sprain, strain, and tear cases with days away from work in private industry by industry division, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

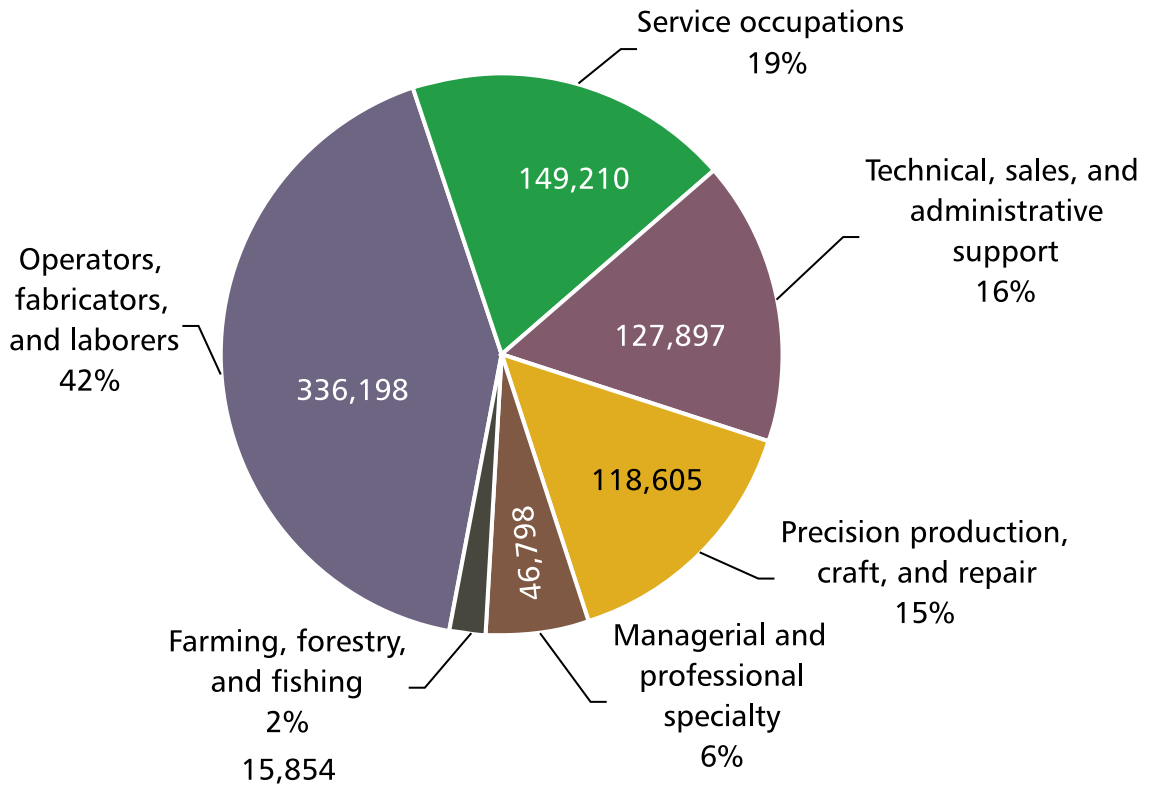


Figure 4-14. Number and distribution of sprain, strain, and tear cases with days away from work in private industry by occupational group, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

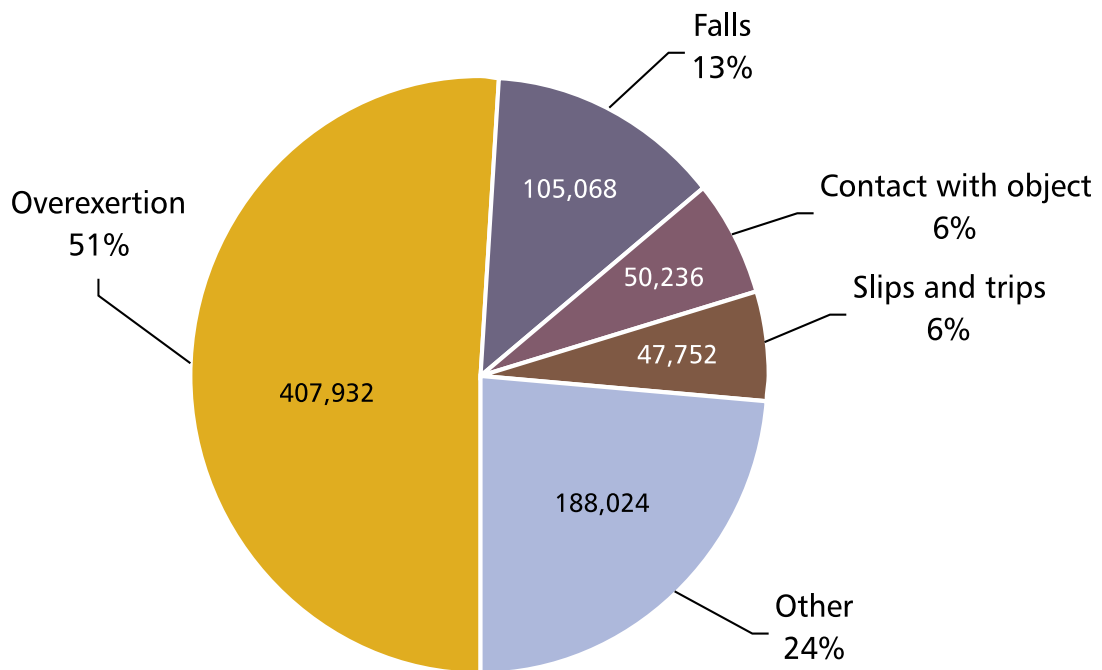


Figure 4-15. Number and distribution of sprain, strain, and tear cases with days away from work in private industry by event or exposure, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

Back, Spine, or Spinal Cord Cases with Days away from Work, 1997

Nearly two-thirds of the approximately 472,000 back, spine, and spinal cord cases in 1997 occurred in services (28%), manufacturing (21%), and retail trade (16%) (Figure 4–16). Most of the back, spine, and spinal cord disorders were experienced by operators, fabricators, and laborers (41%) and service personnel (19%) (Figure 4–17). The most common sources of cases were containers (26%), worker motion or position (17%), and parts and materials (12%) (Figure 4–18). The event associated with most cases was overexertion, which accounted for 63% of the cases.

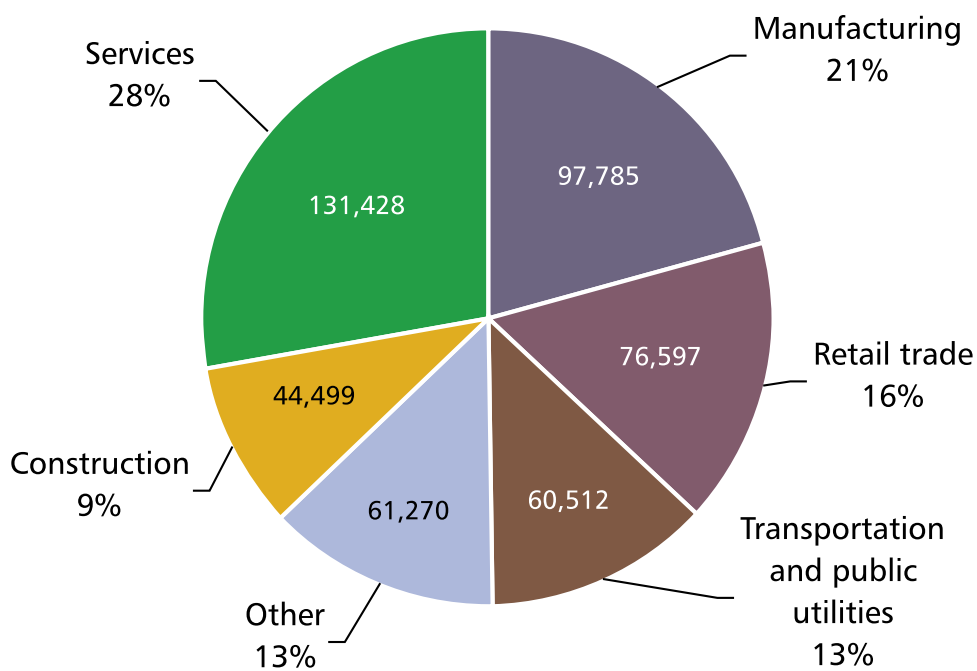


Figure 4–16. Number and distribution of back, spine, and spinal cord cases with days away from work in private industry by industry division, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

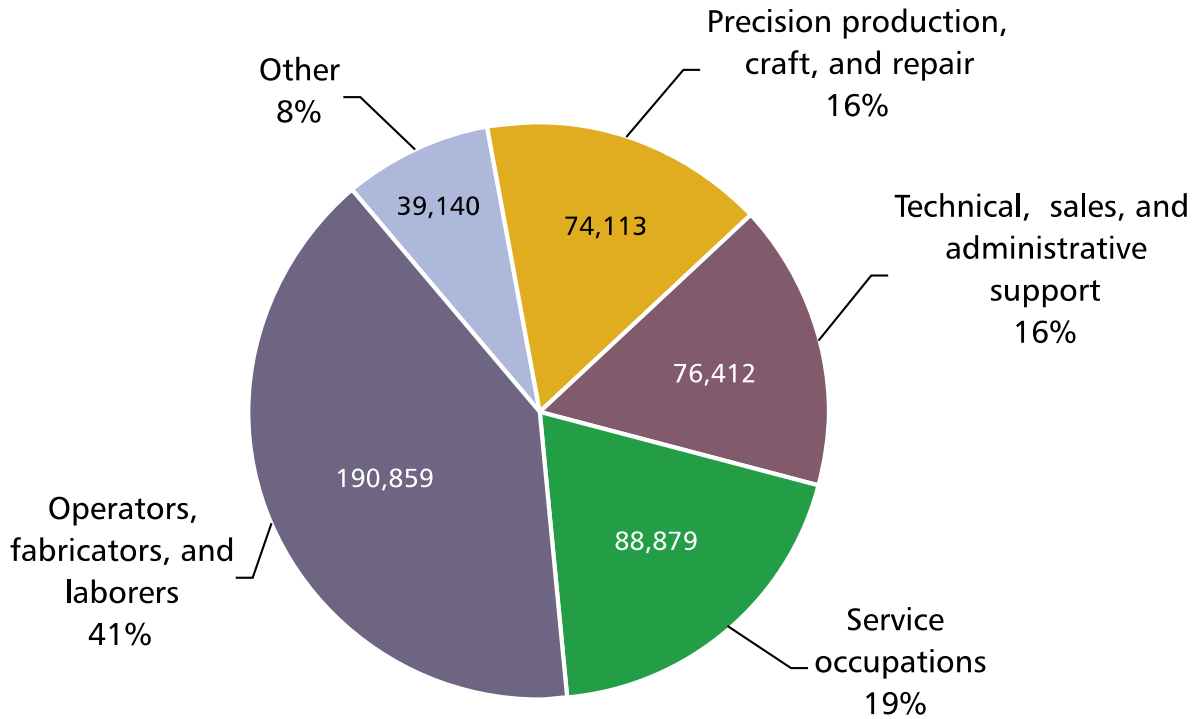


Figure 4-17. Number and distribution of back, spine, and spinal cord cases with days away from work in private industry by occupational group, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

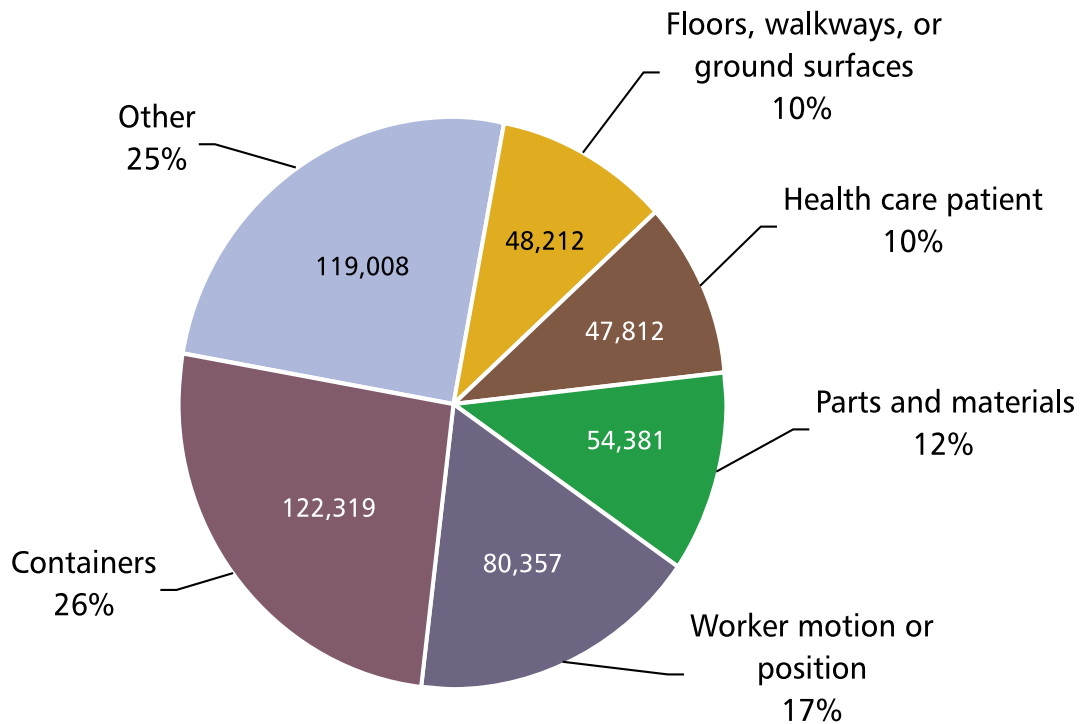


Figure 4-18. Number and distribution of back, spine, and spinal cord cases with days away from work in private industry by source of disorder, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

Bruise and Contusion Cases with Days away from Work, 1997

Most of the approximately 166,000 bruise and contusion cases with days away from work in 1997 occurred in manufacturing (24%), services (22%), and retail trade (19%) (Figure 4–19). Together, operators, fabricators, and laborers and service personnel experienced more than half of these injuries (Figure 4–20). The most common sources of injury were floors and ground surfaces (26%), vehicles (15%), and parts and materials (13%) (Figure 4–21). Most job-related bruises and contusions resulted from workers being struck by, struck against, or caught in objects, equipment, or materials. In 1997, a median of 3 lost workdays resulted from bruises and contusions. Nearly 9% of these injuries required 31 or more days away from work.

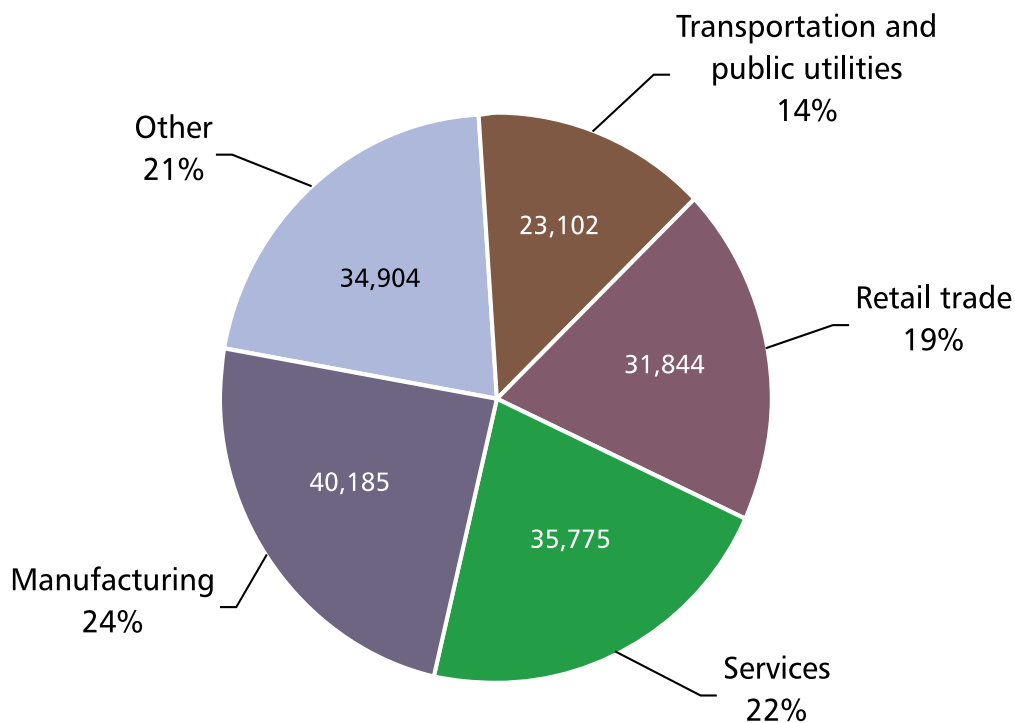


Figure 4–19. Number and distribution of bruise and contusion cases with days away from work in private industry by industry division, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

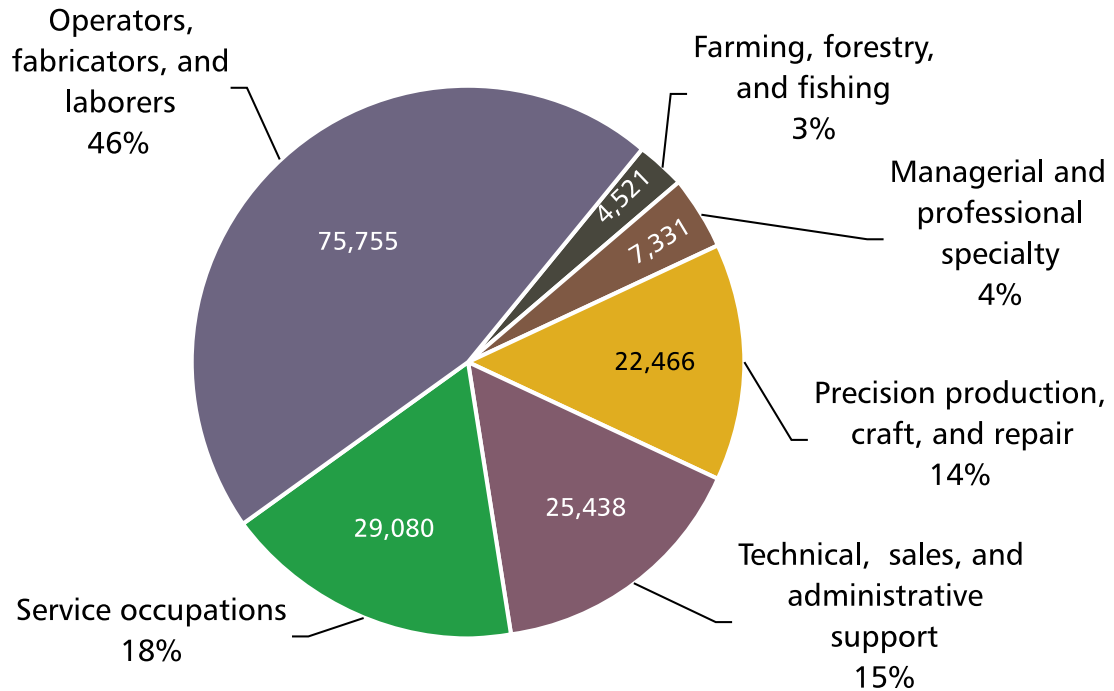


Figure 4–20. Number and distribution of bruise and contusion cases with days away from work in private industry by occupational group, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

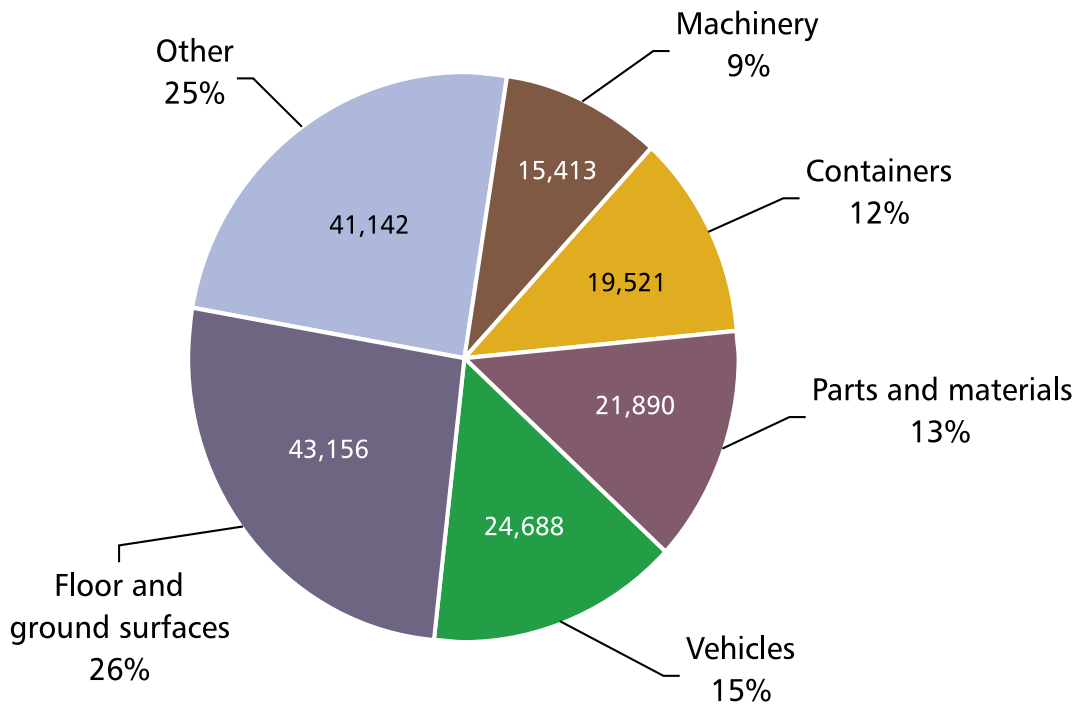


Figure 4–21. Number and distribution of bruise and contusion cases with days away from work in private industry by source of disorder, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

Cut and Laceration Cases with Days away from Work, 1997

More than half of the approximately 134,000 cut and laceration cases with days away from work in 1997 were in manufacturing (28%) or retail trade (26%) (Figure 4–22). Operators, fabricators, and laborers experienced 42% of cuts and lacerations, and precision production, craft, and repair personnel experienced 24% (Figure 4–23). The most common sources of injury were floors and ground surfaces (25%), machinery (21%), and parts and materials (20%) (Figure 4–24). Finger cuts and lacerations accounted for half of all cuts and lacerations involving days away from work. A median of 3 days away from work resulted from cuts and lacerations.

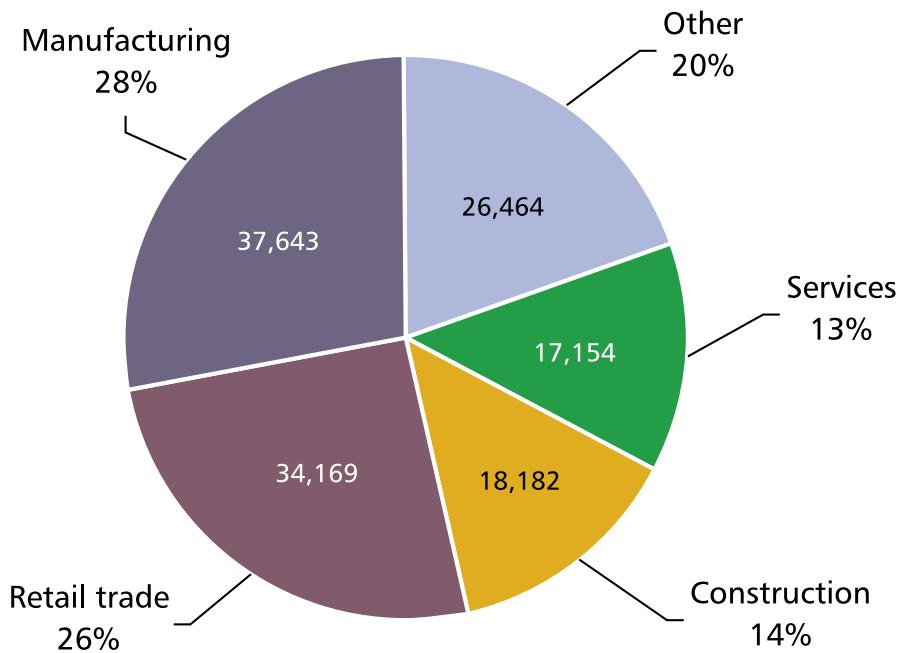


Figure 4–22. Number and distribution of cut and laceration cases with days away from work in private industry by industry division, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

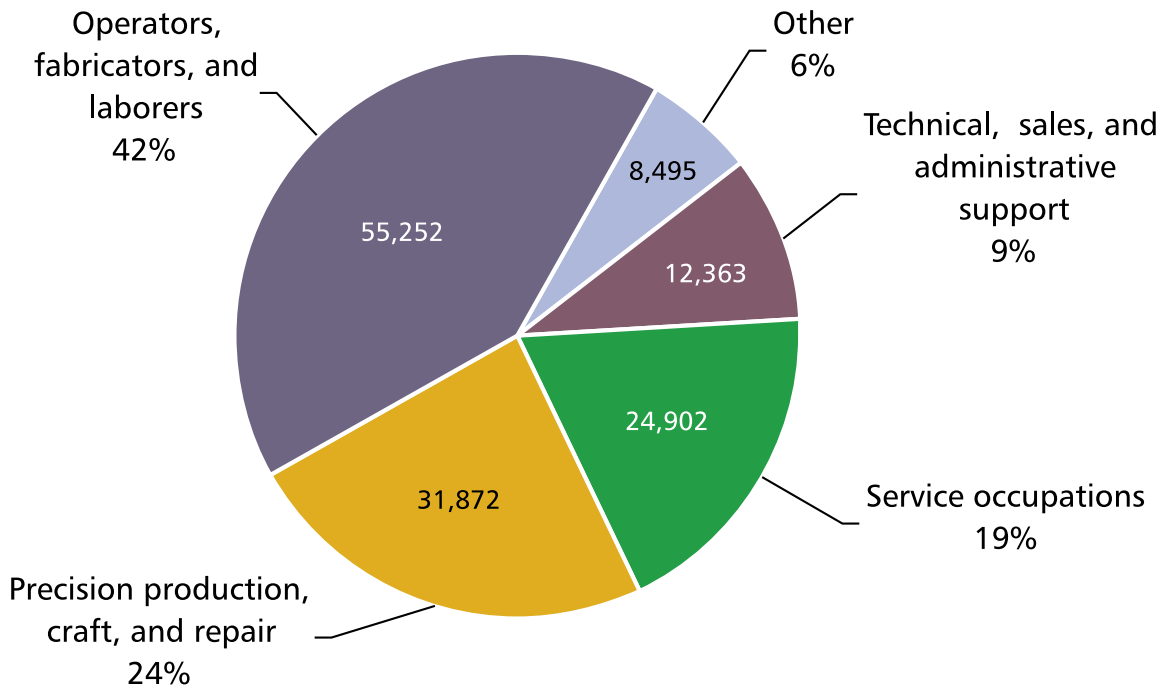


Figure 4-23. Number and distribution of cut and laceration cases with days away from work in private industry by occupational group, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

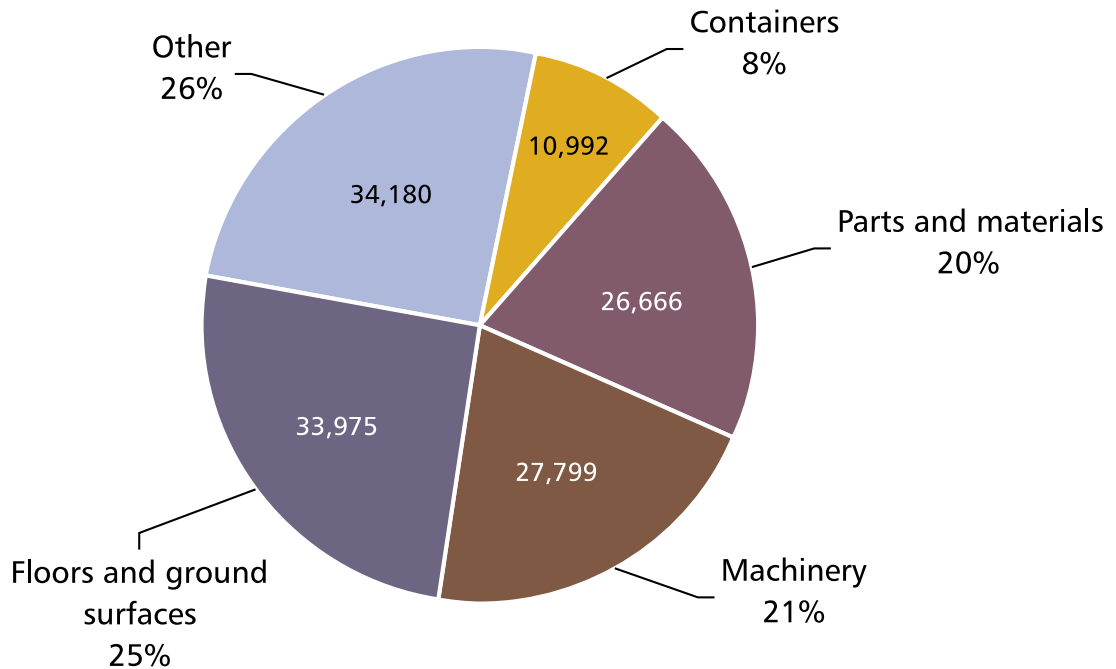


Figure 4-24. Number and distribution of cut and laceration cases with days away from work in private industry by source of disorder, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

Fracture Cases with Days away from Work, 1997

Most of the approximately 119,000 fracture cases with days away from work in 1997 occurred in manufacturing (25%), services (18%), and construction (16%) (Figure 4–25). Most of these injuries were experienced by operators, fabricators, and laborers (43%) and precision production, craft, and repair personnel (23%) (Figure 4–26). The most common sources of injury were floor and ground surfaces (43%) and parts and materials (14%) (Figure 4–27). Half of the occupational fractures in 1997 required 21 or more days away from work for recuperation. The categories *struck by object* and *falls on the same level* each accounted for more than 30,000 fractures.

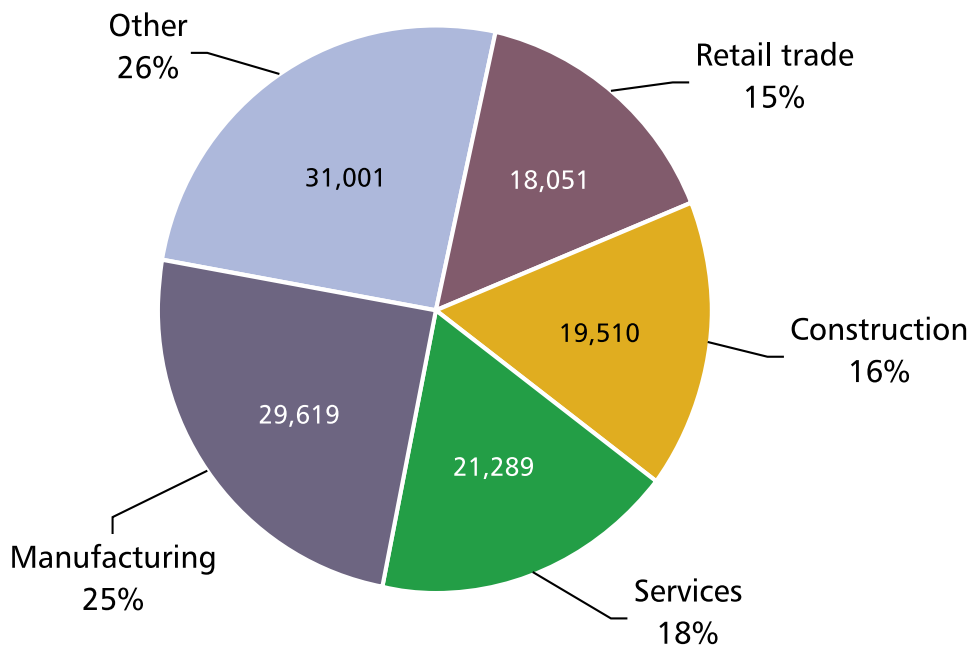


Figure 4–25. Number and distribution of fracture cases with days away from work in private industry by industry division, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

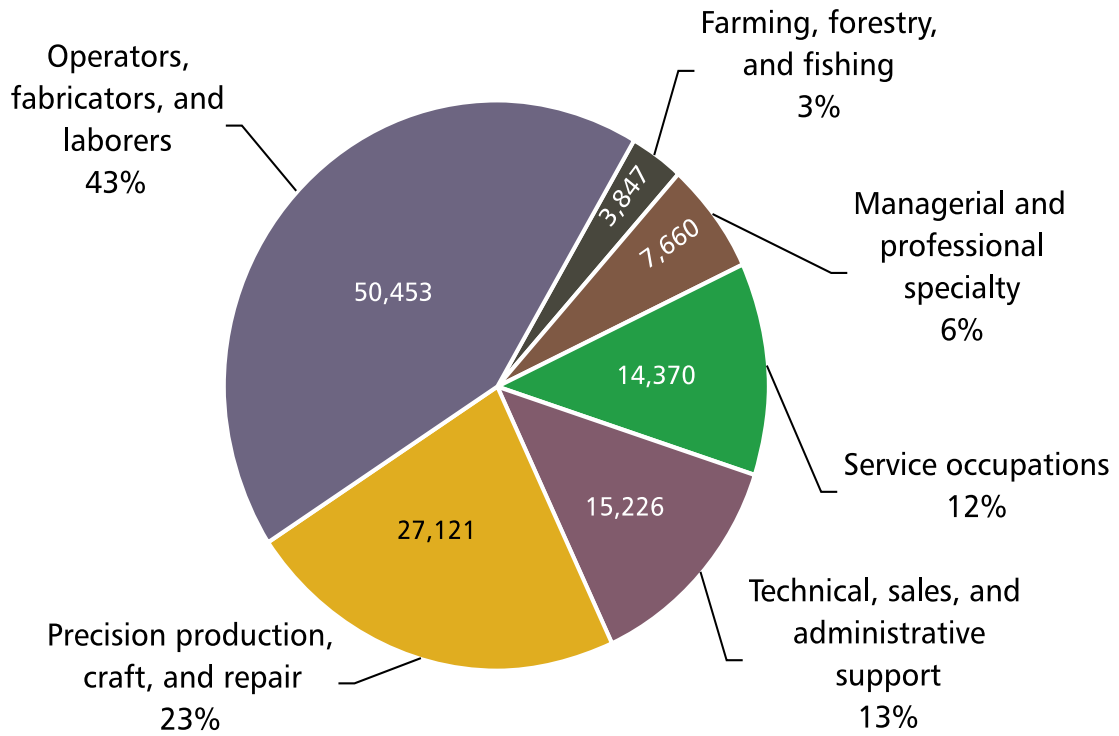


Figure 4-26. Number and distribution of fracture cases with days away from work in private industry by occupational group, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

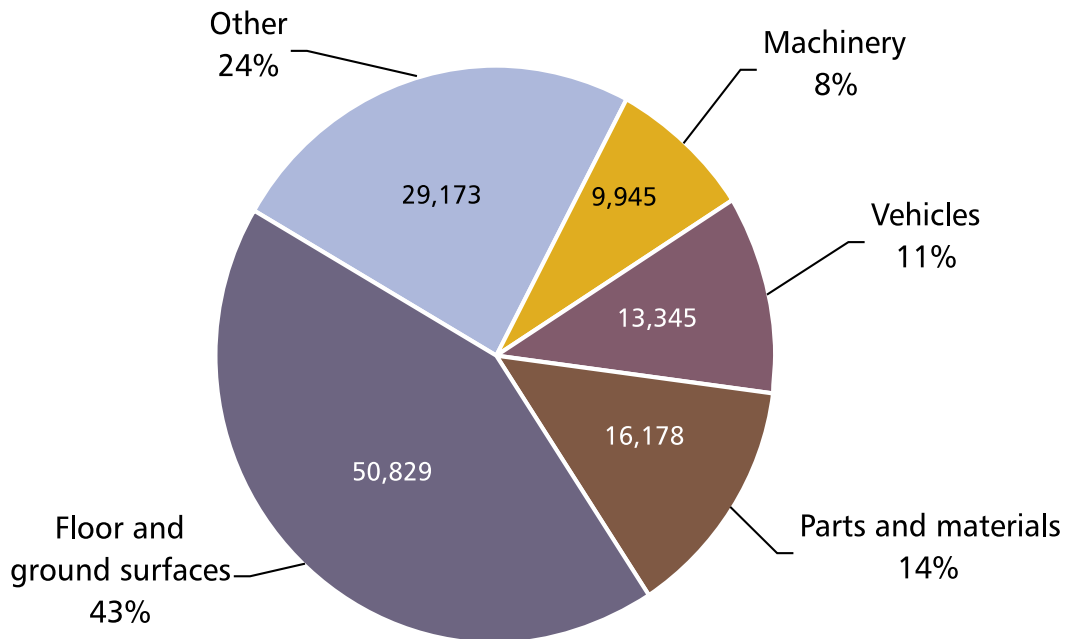


Figure 4-27. Number and distribution of fracture cases with days away from work in private industry by source of disorder, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

Heat Burn and Scald Cases with Days away from Work, 1997

More than half of the approximately 30,000 heat burn and scald cases with days away from work in 1997 occurred in retail trade (39%) and manufacturing (26%) (Figure 4–28). Most of these injuries were experienced by service personnel (44%) and operators, fabricators, and laborers (30%) (Figure 4–29). Twenty-four percent of heat burn and scald cases affected the hand (except fingers), 14% affected multiple body parts, and 12% affected the foot or toe (Figure 4–30). A median number of 4 days away from work resulted from heat burns and scalds.

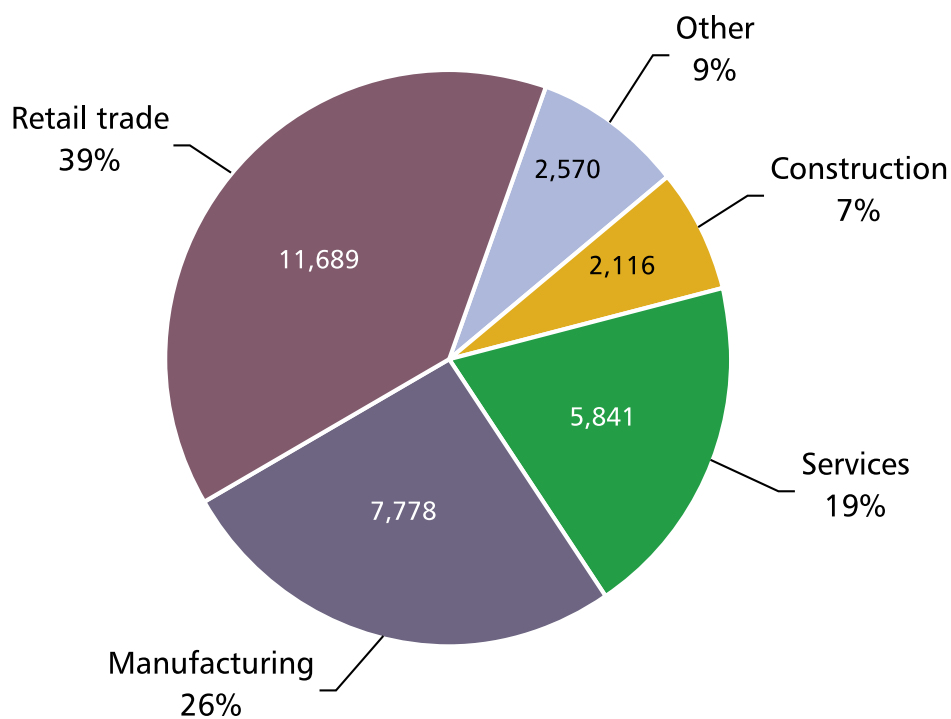


Figure 4–28. Number and distribution of heat burn and scald cases with days away from work in private industry by industry division, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

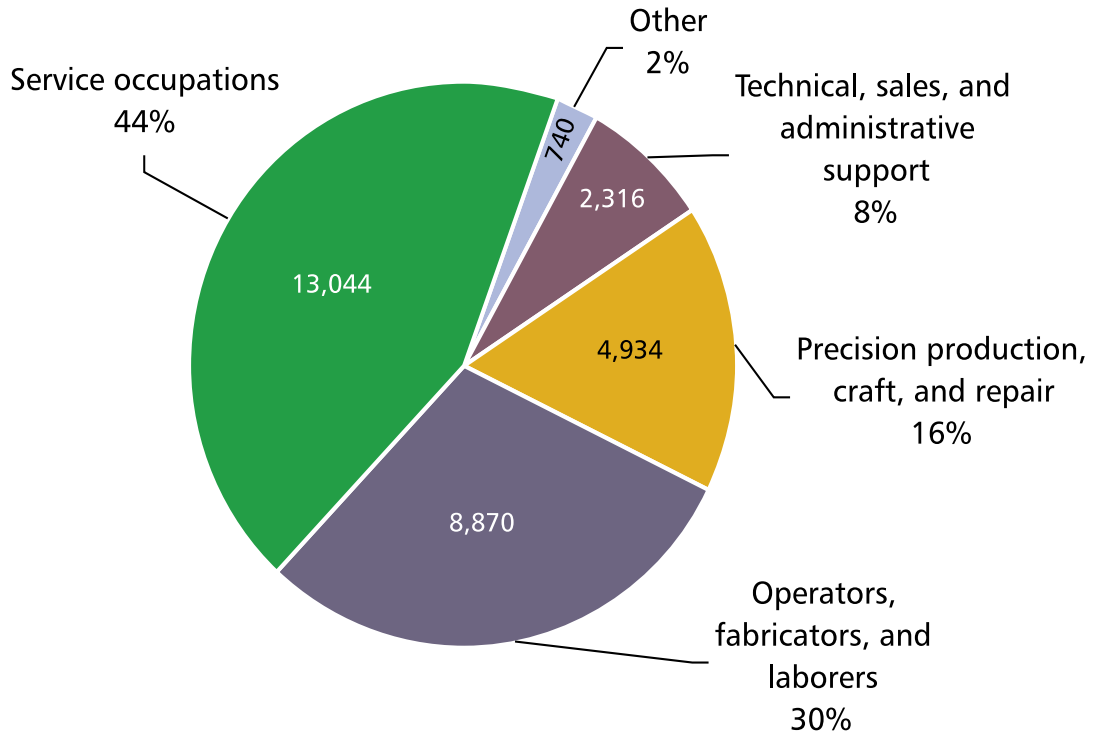


Figure 4–29. Number and distribution of heat burn and scald cases with days away from work in private industry by occupational group, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

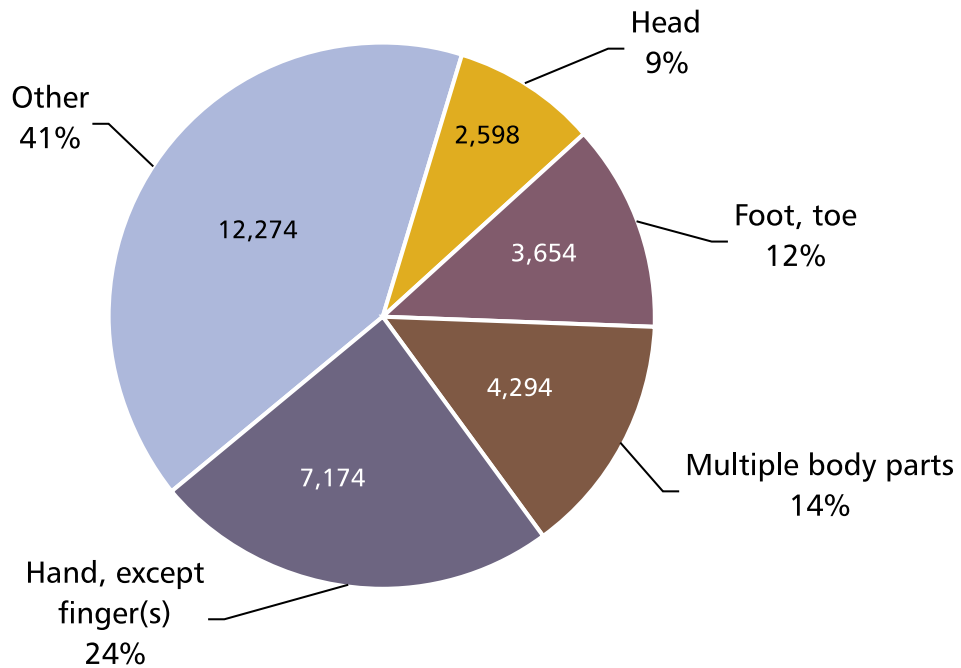


Figure 4–30. Number and distribution of heat burn and scald cases with days away from work in private industry by part of body affected, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

Amputation Cases with Days away from Work, 1997

More than half of the approximately 10,850 amputation cases with days away from work in 1997 occurred in manufacturing (51%) (Figure 4–31). Operators, fabricators, and laborers experienced 60% of amputations (Figure 4–32). Machinery was the major source of amputation injury (57%) (Figure 4–33). Men accounted for 87% of occupational amputations. Nearly 10,200 amputations (93.8%) were to fingers. A median number of 18 days away from work resulted from amputations.

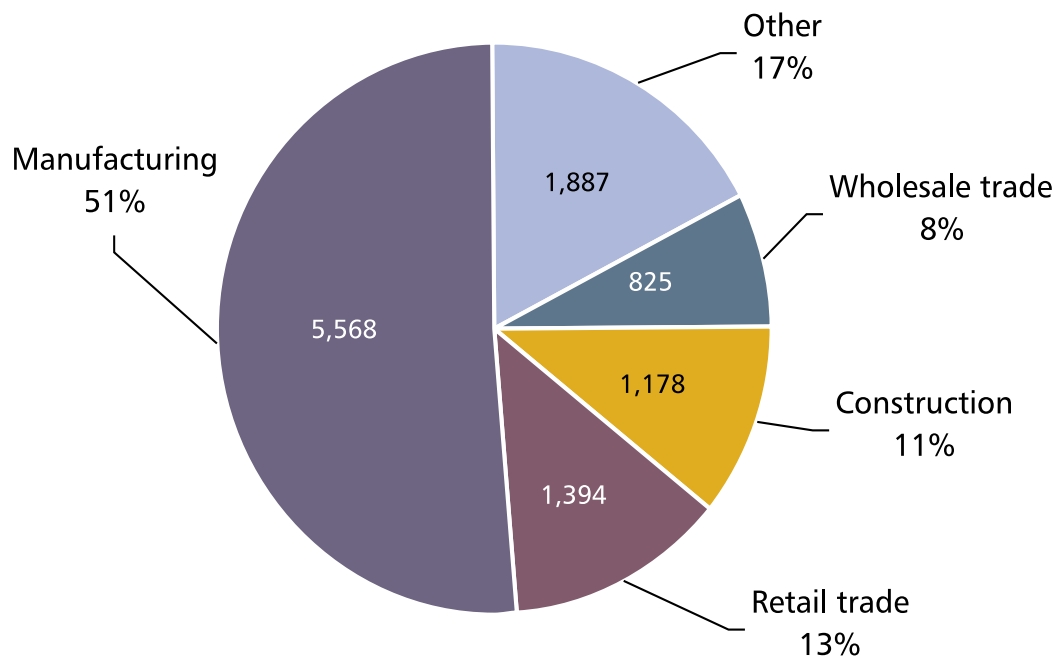


Figure 4–31. Number and distribution of amputation cases with days away from work in private industry by industry division, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

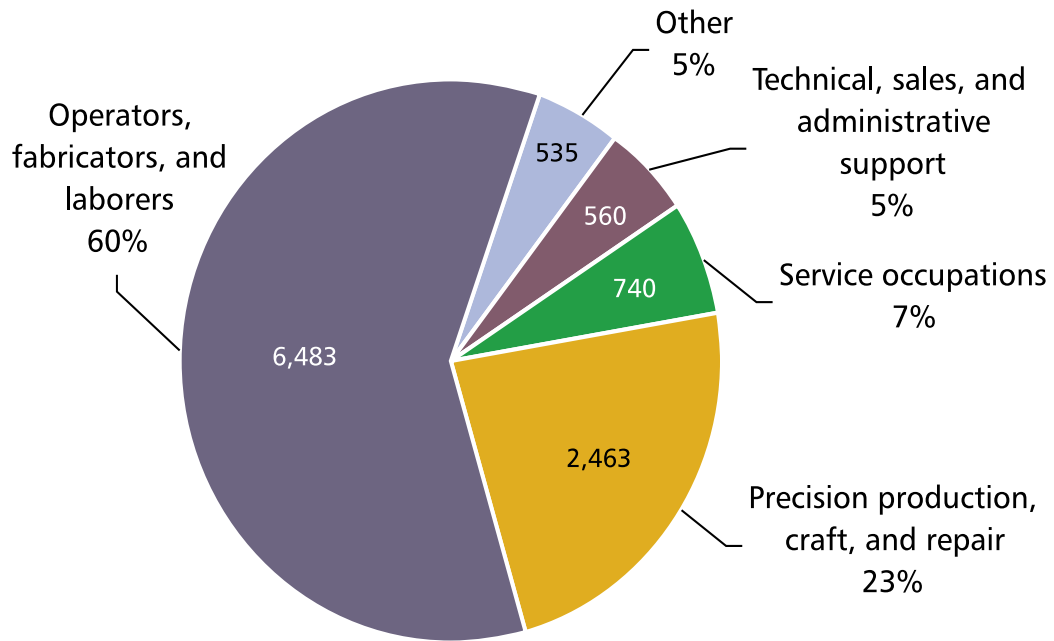


Figure 4–32. Number and distribution of amputation cases with days away from work in private industry by occupational group, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)

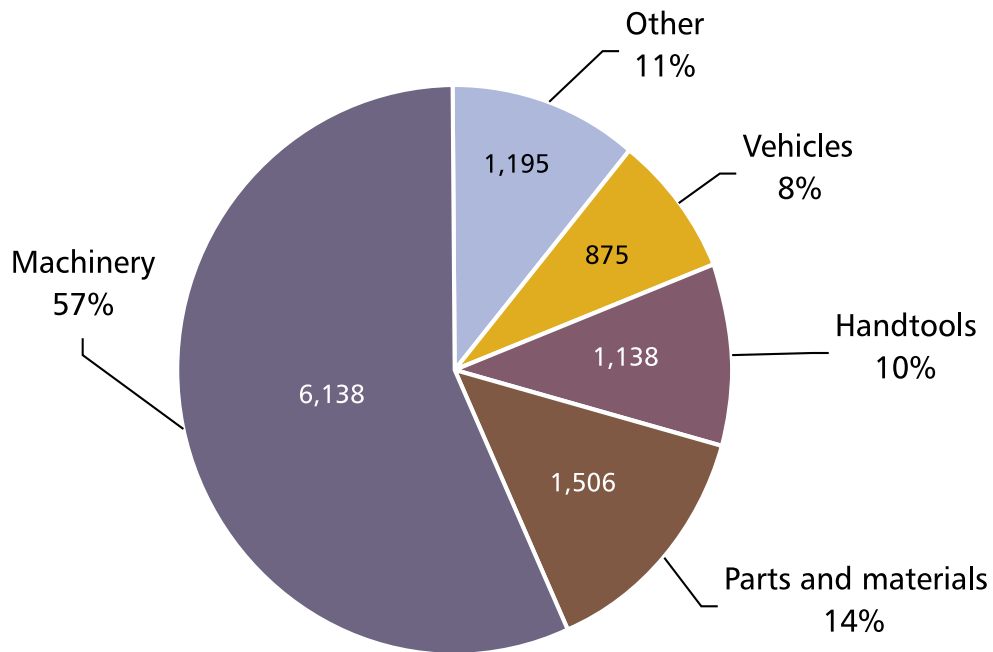


Figure 4–33. Number and distribution of amputation cases with days away from work in private industry by source of disorder, 1997. (Source: SOII [1999].)