

The following table shows work related accidents and illnesses reported by IMSS on its affiliates between 1985 and 1990.

TABLE 4
WORK RELATED ACCIDENTS

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Workers insured (000)	7233	6978	7266	7654	7910	8876
Work related accidents & illnesses (risks) (000)	569	633	624	598	588	606
Risks per 100 workers	7.9%	9.1%	8.6%	7.8%	7.4%	6.8%
Average # of incapacity days per risk	18.4	18.6	19.1	20.3	20.5	20.8
Permanent incapacity per 1000 workers	2.2	2.8	2.6	2.3	2.2	1.9
Death rate per 10,000 workers	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.6	1.5

Source: IMSS

As can be seen in the above table, the incidence of work risks, which include accidents on the job (84% of risks), accidents on the way to work (15.5%) and illnesses (0.5%) has been dropping since 1986, from 9.1% to 6.8%, although the total number of risks, because the number of workers insured has grown significantly. The average time the worker remains out of work as a result of the accident has been increasing mostly because medical coverage has been lengthened to better service injured workers. The gravity of accidents has been decreasing, as measured by a drop in both mortality and incapability rates resulting from work related risks. All of these indicators point towards an improved medical coverage and assistance and improved safety measures on the job.

Of total work related risks, the vast majority (97%) have occurred in urban areas, in particular in Mexico City (20%) and the states of Mexico, Jalisco and Nuevo León, mostly because this is where the majority of the 587,610 industrial firms insured against job related accidents are located, although the incidence of risks as a percentage of total workers insured is slightly lower in Mexico City but highest in the other states.

The industries reported with the highest occurrence of accidents in 1989 were as follows:

Construction and civil engineering	9.4%
Social security	3.5%
Agricultural machinery manufacturing	3.0%
Metal product manufacturing	2.9%
Electrical & rail transportation	2.6%