

Agriculture, forestry and fishing statistics in Great Britain, 2022

Data up to March 2022

Annual statistics

Published 23 November 2022



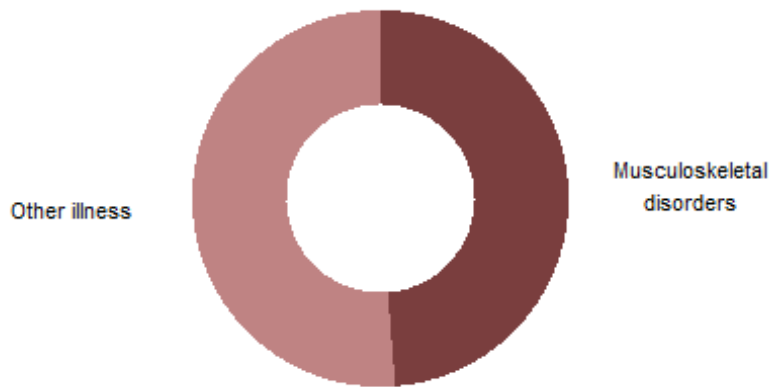
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Key statistics

Ill health

12,000 workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) each year averaged over the three-year period 2019/20-2021/22.



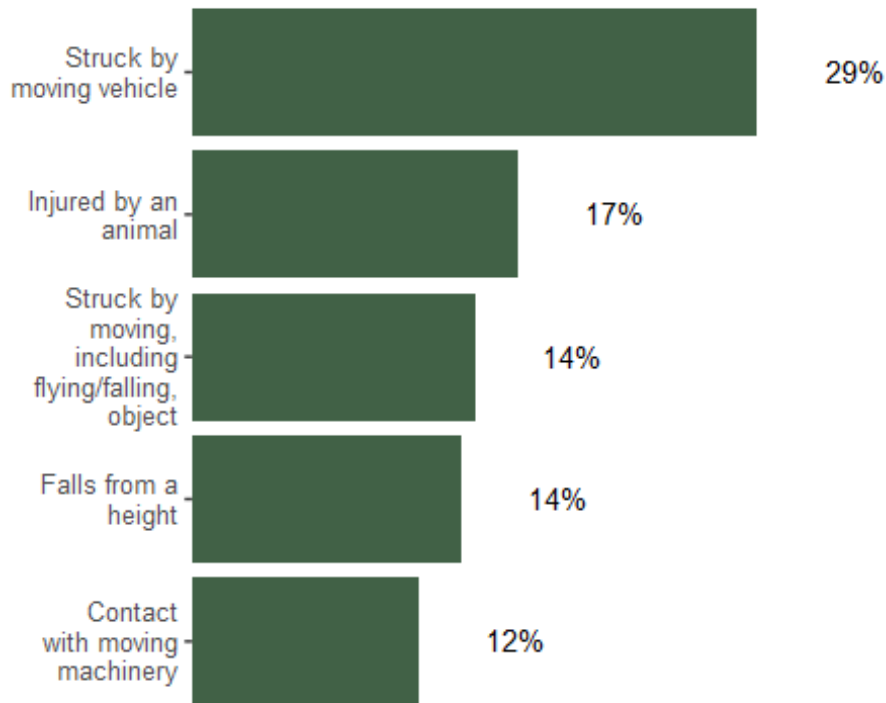
Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported work-related illness showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest period, which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the previous period.

Source: LFS estimated annual average 2019/20-2021/22

Fatal injuries

22 fatal injuries to workers in 2021/22. This compares to an annual average of 28 fatalities for 2017/18-2021/22.

Source: RIDDOR

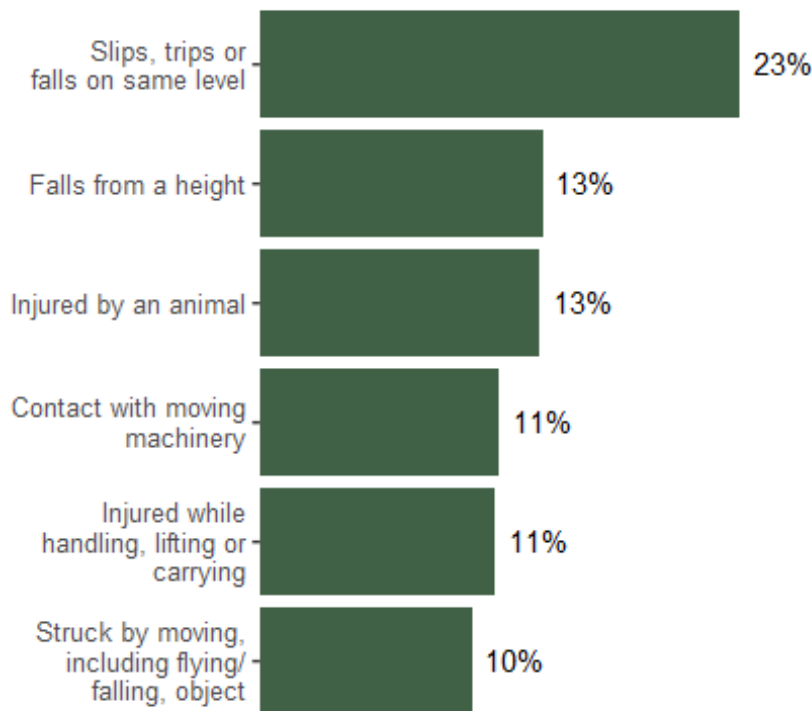


Source: RIDDOR, 2017/18-2021/22. Accident kinds are shown for the top 5 causes of fatal injury.

Non-fatal injuries

11,000 workers sustain non-fatal injuries at work each year averaged over the three-year period. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest period, which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the previous period.

Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2019/20-2021/22



Source: Non-fatal injuries reported under RIDDOR 2019/20-2021/22. RIDDOR is used here as the LFS is not able to provide a breakdown to this level of detail. Accident kinds are shown that account for 5% or more of injuries

Introduction

This report provides a profile of workplace health and safety in Agriculture, forestry and fishing ¹ sector which comprises three broad industry groups:

- Agriculture – this division includes two basic activities, the production of crop products and production of animal products;
- Forestry and logging – this division includes the production of roundwood as well as the extraction and gathering of wild growing non-wood products (e.g., mushrooms, berries and nuts); and
- Fishing and aquaculture.

This sector accounts for 1% of the workforce in Great Britain²

Important Note

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the government's response has impacted recent trends in health and safety statistics published by HSE and this should be considered when comparing across time periods. More details can be found in our [reports](#) on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on health and safety statistics.

¹ The Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is defined by section A within the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification. See www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/sic2007.htm for more detail.

² Annual Population Survey, 2021

Work-related ill health

All illness

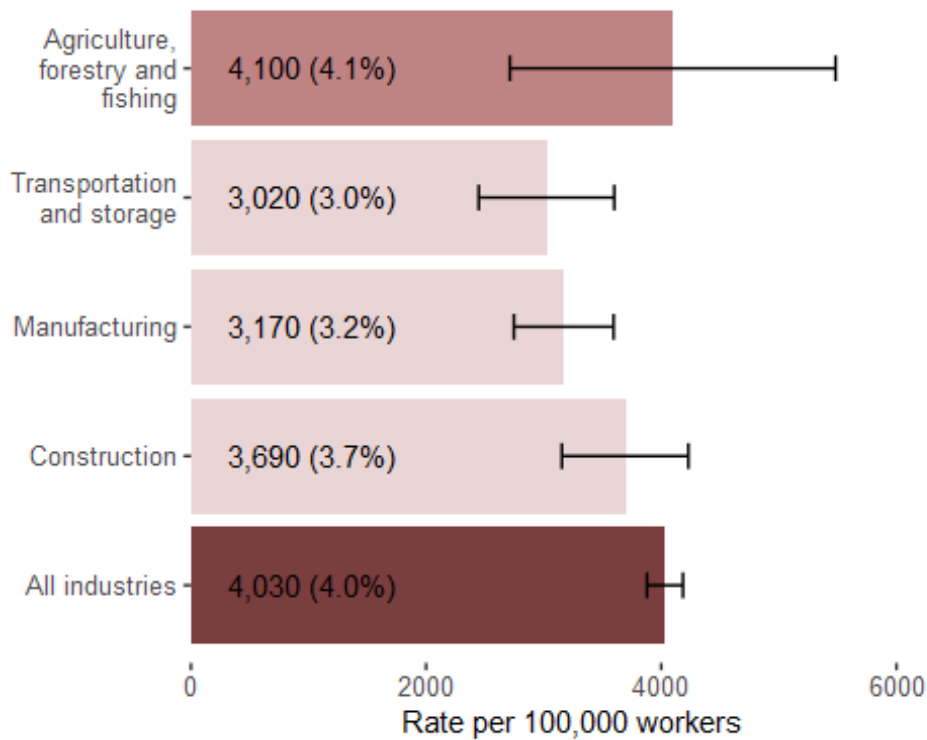
In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated 12,000 work-related ill health cases (new or long-standing)
- 49% were musculoskeletal disorders.

Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2019/20-2021/22

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries³

- Around 4.1% of workers suffered from work-related ill health (new or long-standing cases)
- This rate is not statistically different than that for workers across all industries (4.0%)

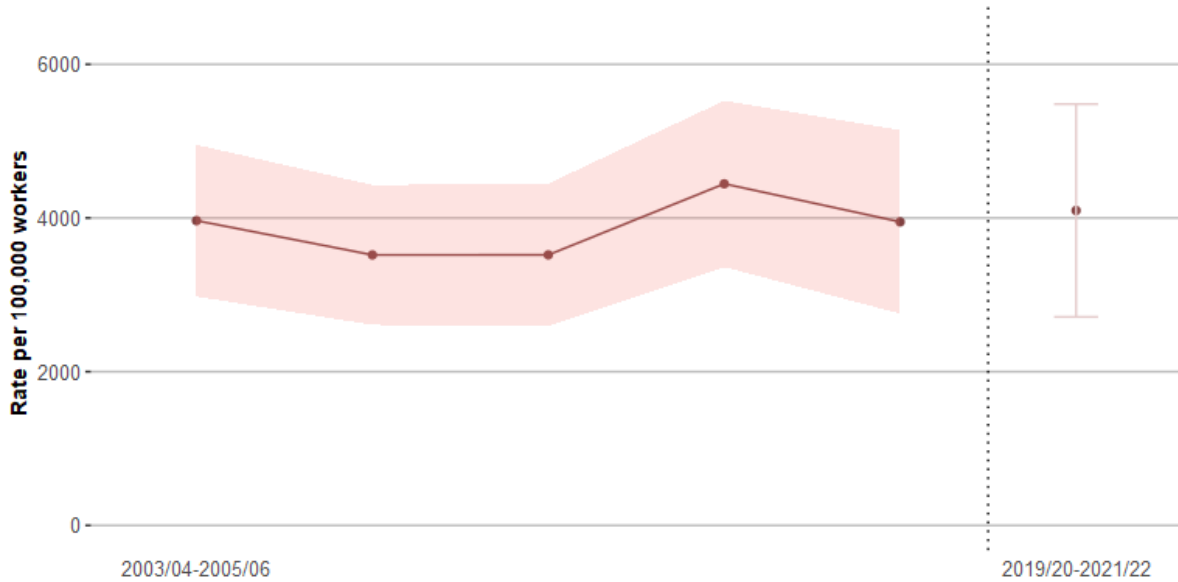


Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2019/20-2021/22
95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart

³ Selected manual type industries are generally those with either a higher rate of work-related ill health or workplace injury compared to the rate for all industries.

Changes over time

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported work-related illness showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest period, which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the previous period



Shaded area represents a 95% confidence interval

Latest data includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, shown as a break in the time series.

Source: LFS annual averages (new and long-standing cases), grouped by 3 years from 2003/04-2005/06. Estimates for this sector are based on a relatively small number of sample cases, resulting in wide confidence intervals; this makes trends difficult to identify

Musculoskeletal disorders

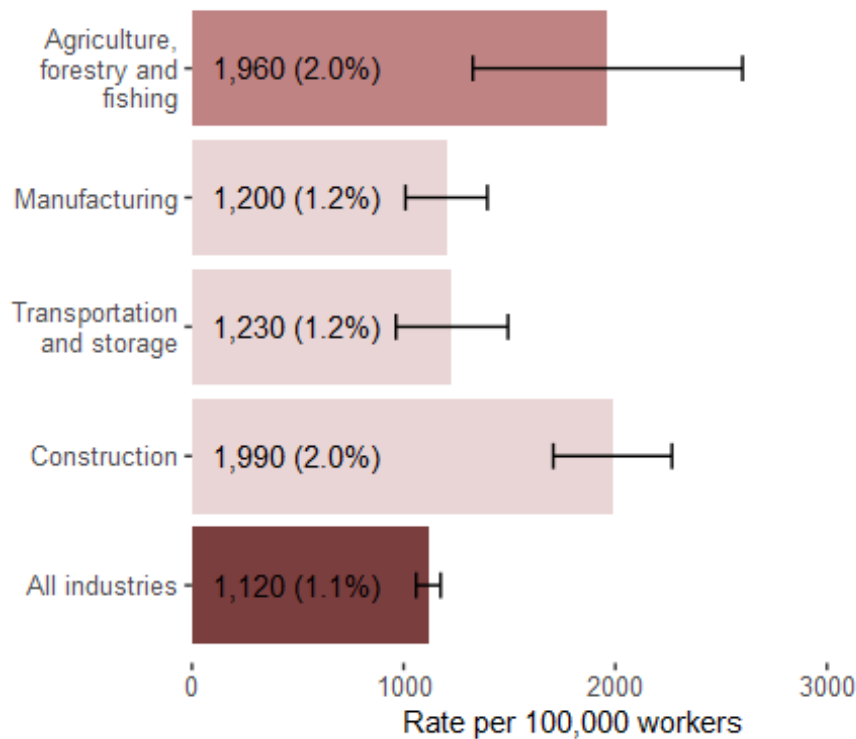
In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated 6,000 work-related cases of musculoskeletal disorder (new or long-standing), around half of all ill health in this sector

Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2017/18-2021/22

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries

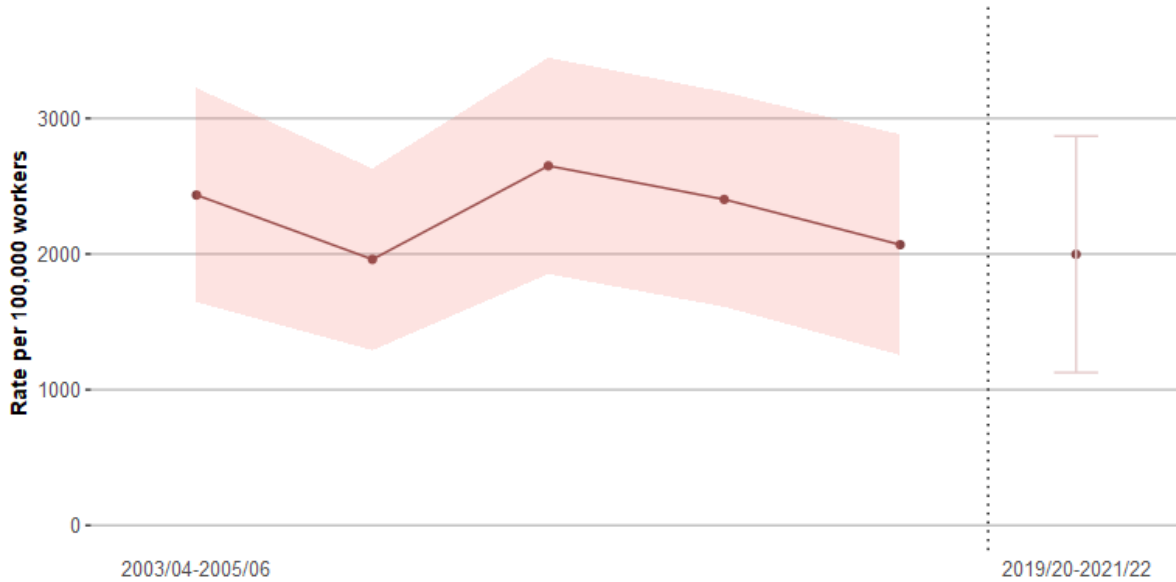
- Around 2.0% of workers suffered from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing cases)
- This rate is statistically significantly higher than that for workers across all industries (1.1%)



Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2017/18-2021/22
95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart

Changes over time

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest period, which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the previous period.



Shaded area represents a 95% confidence interval

Latest data includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, shown as a break in the time series.

Source: LFS annual averages (new and long-standing cases), grouped by 3 years from 2003/04-2005/06. Estimates for this sector are based on a relatively small number of sample cases, resulting in wide confidence intervals; this makes trends difficult to identify

Other conditions

Self-reports of work-related ill health from the Labour Force Survey give the best indication of the overall scale of work-related ill health in Great Britain. However, since estimates are based on a survey, this source can be limited when looking at less common work-related ill health cases. There are a range of supporting ill health data sources to supplement the Labour Force Survey estimates, including death certificates, specialist physician surveillance schemes (THOR) and epidemiological research.

Farmers' lung

Farmers' lung is a common form of the condition 'allergic alveolitis' and arises from the inhalation of dust or spores arising from mouldy hay, grain and straw. In the period 2012-2021 there have been, on average, 6 deaths per year where farmers' lung (or a similar condition) was recorded as the underlying cause on the death certificate. The disease only rarely progresses to a life-threatening level, suggesting that there are substantially more non-fatal cases of farmers' lung occurring each year.

Occupational asthma

The chest physician reporting scheme for occupational respiratory disease (THORSWORD – see annex 1) suggests that while the incidence of occupational asthma in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is somewhat higher than the average for all industries combined, it is not among those industries with the highest rates. However, this assessment is uncertain due to the small numbers of actual reported cases in the sector. This assessment is based on the most recent data prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

Skin disease

The dermatologist reporting scheme for occupational skin disease (THOR-EPIDERM –see annex 1) provides no clear indication that the incidence of contact dermatitis in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is any higher than the average for all industries combined. This assessment is based on the most recent data prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

Occupational cancer

A research study on the occupational burden of cancer in Great Britain shows that occupational exposure to solar radiation resulted in about 1,500 non melanoma skin cancer registrations in 2004, with around 100 of these cases in workers across the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.

Work-related injuries

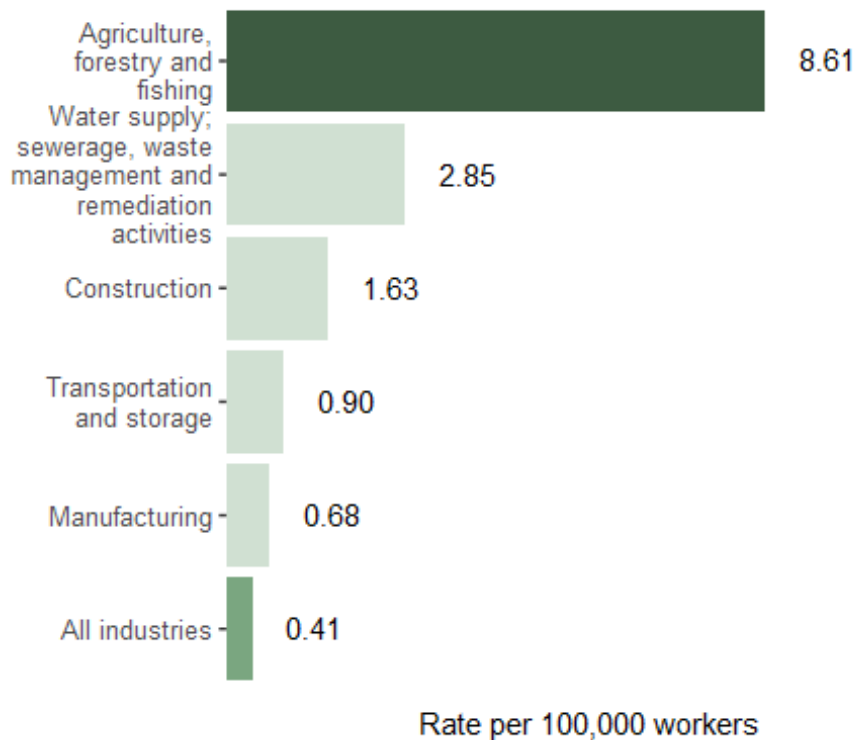
Fatalities

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing there were:

- There were 22 fatal injuries to workers in 2021/22
- This compares to an annual average number of 28 fatalities over the last five years though statistically speaking, the numbers are small and prone to annual fluctuations.
- 29% of deaths over the same five-year period were classified as Struck by moving vehicle

Source: RIDDOR

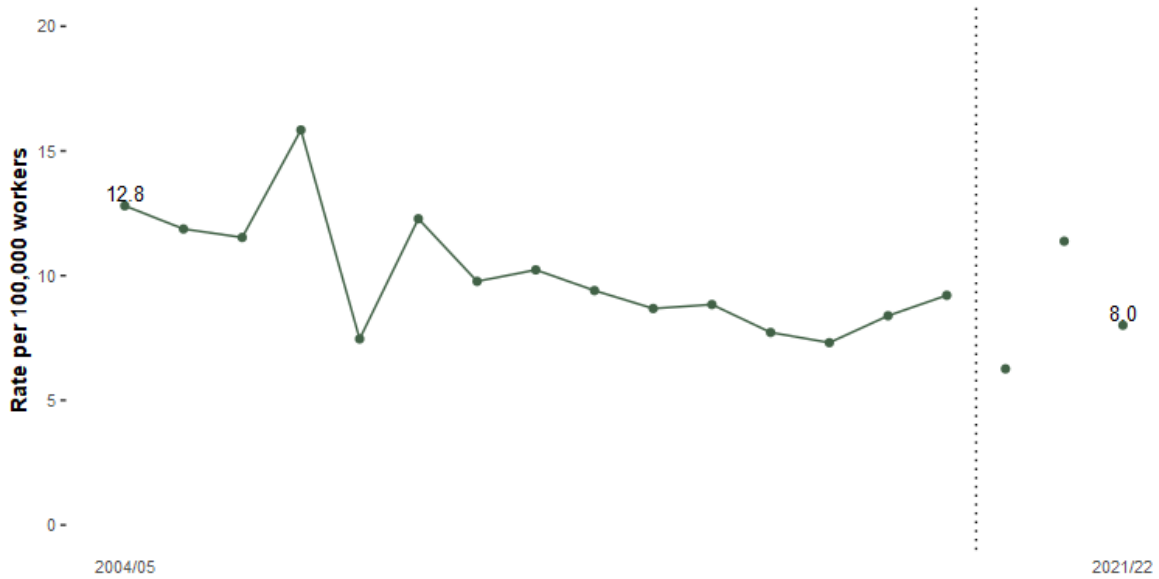
Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries



The fatal injury rate (8.61 per 100,000 workers) is around 21 times the all industry rate

Source: RIDDOR, 2017/18-2021/22

Changes over time



In the recent years prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the rate of fatal injury to workers showed a generally downward trend. In 2021/22 the rate was similar to the pre-coronavirus levels.

Source: RIDDOR 2004/05 to 2021/22

Latest data includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, shown as a break in the time series.

Non-fatal injuries

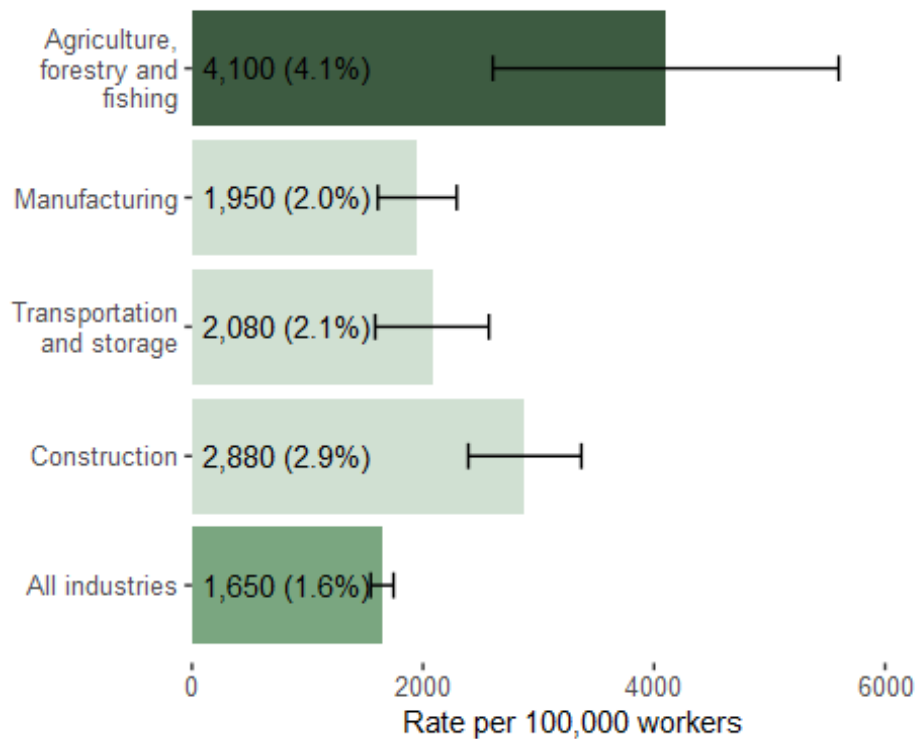
In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated 11,000 workers each year who sustained an injury at work.

Source LFS, estimated annual average 2019/20-2021/22

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other industries

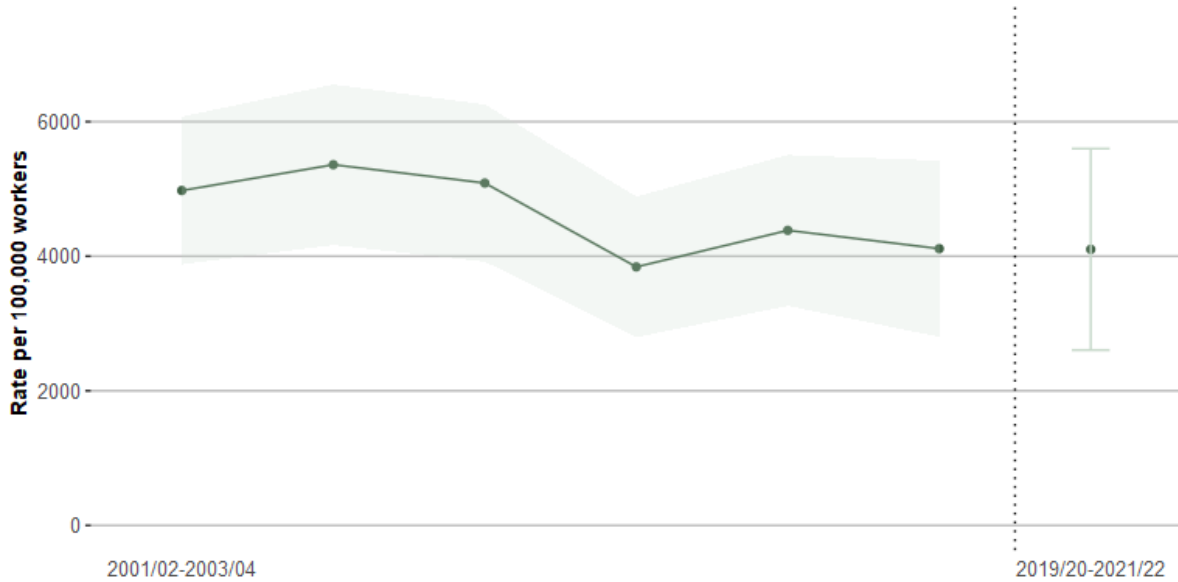
- Around 4.1% of workers in this sector sustained a workplace injury annually.
- This rate is statistically significantly higher than that for workers across all industries (1.6%)



Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2019/20-2021/22
95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart

Changes over time

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest period, which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the previous period



Source: LFS, grouped by 3 years, estimated annual average from 2001/02-2003/04 to 2019/20-2021/22

Latest data includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, shown as a break in the time series.

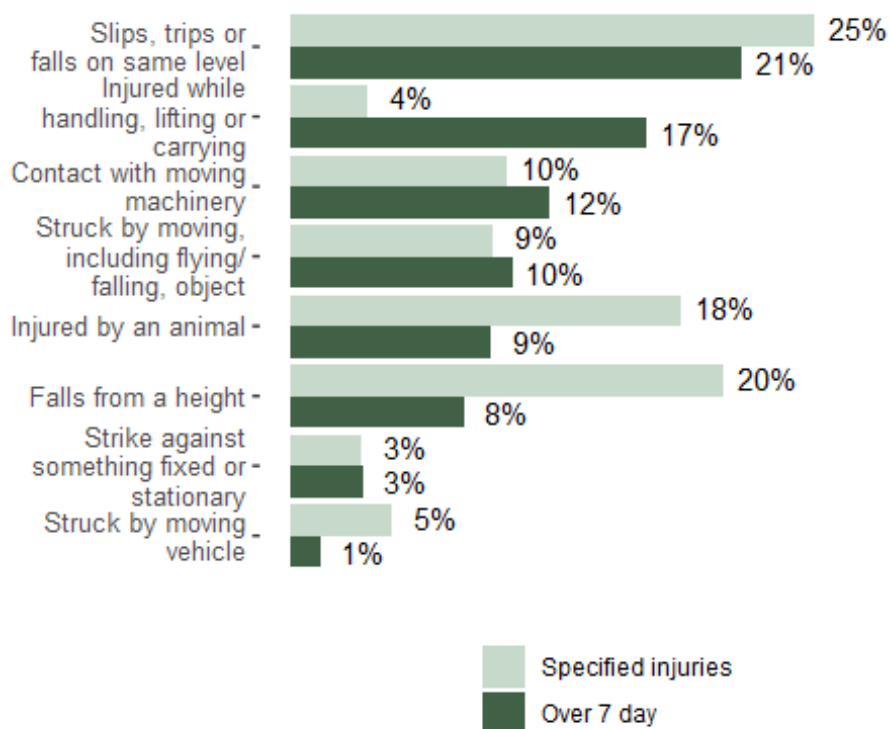
Shaded area represents a 95% confidence interval

Supporting information around work-related injuries is available from RIDDOR reporting⁴. In Agriculture, forestry and fishing there were:

- 915 non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers to RIDDOR in 2021/22
- 398 (43%) were specified injuries⁵ and 517 (57%) were over seven-day injuries

Source: RIDDOR, 2021/22p

Main accident kinds for the latest three years (2019/20-2021/22)



Source: RIDDOR, 2019/20-2021/22

⁴ The LFS gives the best indication of the scale of workplace injury within the sector. RIDDOR provides additional information for non-fatal injuries but needs to be interpreted with care since it is known that non-fatal injuries are substantially under-reported, especially for the self-employed. Possible variations in reporting rates both between industries and over time make comparisons difficult. However, RIDDOR can be used for analysis at a detailed level not available through the LFS, for example, around the kind of incident.

⁵ For the full list of specified injuries, see www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm

Economic Cost

- The total cost of workplace injury in 2019/20 is estimated at between **£94M - £279M**
- The total cost of work-related ill health in 2019/20 is estimated at between **£6M - £94M**
- The total cost of injury and ill health in this sector accounts for 1% of the total cost of all work-related ill health and injury (£18.7 billion)

Source: HSE Costs to Britain, 2019/20

Workplace injury and ill health impose costs: both financial (for example in terms of lost output and healthcare costs) and non-financial (the monetary valuation of the human cost of injury and illness in terms of loss of quality of life, and for fatalities, loss of life). Taken together, this gives the total economic cost to society. This cost is shared between individuals, employers and government/taxpayers.

The injury costs estimate for the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector are based on a small number of sample cases hence the wide confidence interval around the estimates. For such estimates, it is preferable to quote the 95% confidence interval rather than the estimate itself to reflect the uncertainty in the precision of the estimate.

Annex 1: Sources and definitions

The Labour Force Survey (LFS): The LFS is a national survey run by the Office for National Statistics of currently around 36,000 households each quarter. HSE commissions annual questions in the LFS to gain a view of self-reported work related illness and workplace injury based on individuals' perceptions. The analysis and interpretation of these data are the sole responsibility of HSE.

- Self-reported work-related illness: People who have conditions which they think have been caused or made worse by their current or past work, as estimated from the LFS. Estimated total cases include long-standing as well as new cases. New cases consist of those who first became aware of their illness in the last 12 months.
- Self-reported injuries: Workplace injuries sustained as a result of a non-road traffic accident, as estimated by the LFS.

RIDDOR: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, under which fatal and defined non-fatal injuries to workers and members of the public are reported by employers.

Certain types of work-related injury are not reportable under RIDDOR, hence excluded from these figures. Particular exclusions include fatalities and injuries to the armed forces and injuries from work-related road collisions.

Specialist physician surveillance schemes (THOR): Cases of work-related respiratory and skin disease are reported by specialist physicians within The Health and Occupation Reporting network (THOR) surveillance schemes. Reporting of respiratory disease by chest physicians is through the Surveillance of Work-Related and Occupational Respiratory Disease scheme (THOR-SWORD). Reporting of skin disease cases by consultant dermatologists is through the occupational skin surveillance scheme (THOR-EPIDERM).

Ill health assessed for disablement benefit (IIDB): New cases of specified 'prescribed diseases' (with an established occupational cause) assessed for compensation under the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme.

HSE Costs to Britain Model: Developed to estimate the economic costs of injury and new cases of ill health arising from current working conditions. The economic cost estimate includes estimates of financial (or direct) costs incurred (either in terms of payments that have to be made or income/output that is lost) and the monetary valuation of the impact on quality and loss of life of affected workers.

Rate per 100,000: The number of annual workplace injuries or cases of work-related ill health per 100,000 employees or workers.

95% confidence interval: The range of values within which we are 95% confident contains the true value, in the absence of bias. This reflects the potential error that results from surveying a sample rather than the entire population.

Statistical significance: A difference between two sample estimates is described as 'statistically significant' if there is a less than 5% chance that it is due to sampling error alone.

For more information, see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.pdf

Annex 2: Links to detailed tables

The data in this report can be found in the following tables:

Work-related illness

lfsillind: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/lfs/lfsillind.xlsx

THORR05: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/thorr05.xlsx

THORS05: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/thors05.xlsx

CAN05: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/can05.xlsx

IIDB01: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/iidb01.xlsx

DC01: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/dc01.xlsx

Workplace injuries

lfsinjind: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/lfs/lfsinjind.xlsx

RIDIND: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridind.xlsx

RIDFATAL: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx

RIDHIST www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridhist.xlsx

RIDKIND www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridkind.xlsx

Costs to Britain of workplace injury and illness COST_tables:

www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/costs_tables1920.xlsx

Other tables can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/index.htm

National Statistics

National Statistics status means that statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. They are produced in compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics and awarded National Statistics status following assessment and compliance checks by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). The last compliance check of these statistics was in 2013.

It is Health and Safety Executive's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected by National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the OSR promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained and reinstated when standards are restored. Details of OSR reviews undertaken on these statistics, quality improvements, and other information noting revisions, interpretation, user consultation and use of these statistics is available from www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about.htm

An account of how the figures are used for statistical purposes can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm.

For information regarding the quality guidelines used for statistics within HSE see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/quality-guidelines.htm

A revisions policy and log can be seen at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/
Additional data tables can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/.

General enquiries: sam.wilkinson@hse.gov.uk

Journalists/media enquiries only: www.hse.gov.uk/contact/contact.htm





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