

Statistics on fatal injuries in the workplace in Great Britain 2015

Full-year details and technical notes

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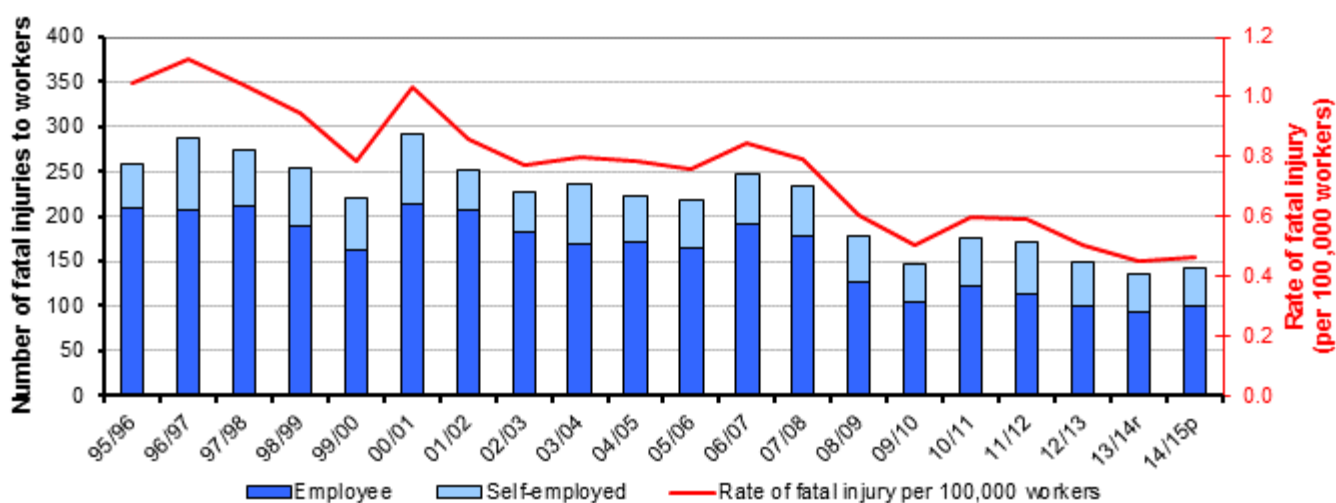


Summary

The information in this document relates to the latest 'full-year' statistics on fatal injuries in the workplace in Great Britain, for 2014/15. The document can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm.

- The provisional figure for the number of workers fatally injured in 2014/15 is 142, and corresponds to a rate of fatal injury of 0.46 deaths per 100,000 workers.
- The figure of 142 worker deaths in 2014/15 is 9% lower than the average for the past five years (156). The latest rate of fatal injury of 0.46 compares to the five-year average rate of 0.53.
- The finalised figure for 2013/14 is 136 worker fatalities, and corresponds to a rate of 0.45 deaths per 100,000 workers.
- Over the latest 20-year time period there has been a downward trend in the rate of fatal injury, although more recently (since 2008/09) the trend is less clear.
- There were 102 members of the public fatally injured in accidents connected to work in 2014/15 (excluding railways-related incidents).

Figure 1: Number and rate of fatal injury to workers¹ 1995/96 – 2014/15p



p = provisional.

r = revised

¹ The term 'workers' describes both employees and self-employed combined.

Background

The provisional nature of the latest statistics

The figures for 2014/15 are at this stage provisional, covering the twelve months 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, and will be finalised in July 2016 following any necessary adjustments. Based on previous years, the provisional 2014/15 figure of 142 could increase or decrease by several deaths when it is finalised – see the Technical Note.

Details of coverage, and scope of these statistics

These statistics cover fatal accidents in workplaces in Great Britain, the primary determinant of inclusion being RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations).

Work-related deaths excluded from these statistics are mainly of two types: (i) fatal diseases; and (ii) fatal accidents on non-rail transport systems.

- i. The asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma is one of the few examples where deaths can be counted directly. There were 2,538 such deaths in GB in 2013 – see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/mesothelioma/. Deaths from other diseases that can be caused by both occupational and non-occupational factors - such as most other occupational cancers - usually have to be estimated rather than counted. Each year around 13,000 deaths from occupational lung disease and cancer are estimated to have been caused by past exposure, primarily to chemicals and dusts, at work (this estimate includes the mesothelioma deaths mentioned above). For more details see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/
- ii. Fatal accidents involving workers travelling on a public highway (a 'road traffic accident'). Such incidents are enforced by the police and reported to the Department for Transport. Likewise fatal accidents involving workers travelling by air or sea; these incidents are the responsibility of the Air and Marine Accident Investigation Branches of the Department for Transport, and reported accordingly. See Technical Note for contact details.

Statistics on deaths occurring within Northern Ireland are the responsibility of HSENI - www.hseni.gov.uk/

Calculation of fatal injury rates

Changes in the size of the workforce will impact on the number of fatalities in any one year. Therefore, when making any comparisons such as: a year-to-year basis; or between one sector or region and another; or between fatal and non-fatal injuries; it is important to look at the rate of fatal injury per unit of employee, self-employed or worker, as appropriate. This is derived from the numerator (the count of fatal injuries) divided by the denominator (the estimated employment using figures from the Office for National Statistics). This is then multiplied by a factor of 100,000. This is a standardised method as used across all EU states and wider.

Statistics for workplace fatal injuries – 2014/15 and previous years

Figures by main industry sector

Tables 1 - 4 below provide the latest provisional information for fatal injuries in 2014/15, and compare these data with the previous five-year average (2009/10 to 2013/14). Note of caution – when making comparisons between industries or across years, the number of fatalities in some industries is relatively small, hence susceptible to considerable variation.

For main industry sectors in 2014/15:

- There were 33 fatal injuries to workers in agriculture, the same as the five year average (33). The rate of fatal injury in 2014/15 is 9.12, compared to the five-year average rate of 10.07.
- In mining and quarrying one worker was killed, compared to an average of five deaths for the previous five years.

- There were 16 fatal injuries to workers in manufacturing, 33% lower than the five-year average (24). The latest rate of fatal injury is 0.55, compared to an average rate of 0.84 over the previous five years.
- There were five fatal injuries to workers in waste and recycling, compared to the five-year average (6) but subject to considerable yearly fluctuations. The latest rate is 4.31 deaths per 100,000 compared to the five-year average of 5.19.
- There were 35 fatal injuries to workers in construction, 22% lower than the five year average of 45. The latest rate of fatal injury is 1.62 per 100,000 workers, compared to a five-year average of 2.07.
- There were 51 fatal injuries to workers in services, 21% higher than the average for the past five years (42). The latest rate of 0.21 deaths compares to the five-year average rate of 0.18.
- There were 123 members of the public fatally injured in accidents connected to work in 2014/15. Of these deaths, 21 (17%) related to incidents occurring on railways (See the technical note for a change in railways suicide reporting and the effect on the statistics).

Table 1: Number of fatal injuries by main industry – 2014/15p

Main Industry SIC 2007 (Section)	Employee	Self employed	Workers ¹	Members of the public	Total fatal injuries
Agriculture (A)	14	19	33	4	37
Mining and Quarrying (B)	1	-	1	1	2
Manufacturing (C)	15	1	16	2	18
Gas, electricity and water supply: sewerage, waste and recycling (D,E ²)	5	1	6	7	13
- of which waste and recycling (SIC38)	4	1	5	6	11
Construction (F)	24	11	35	4	39
Services (G-U)	40	11	51	105	156
All Industries (A-U)	99	43	142	123	265

p = Provisional.

¹ The term 'workers' covers employees and the self-employed combined.

² Figures for SIC Division 38 'waste collection etc.' are also included in the overall figures for the combined Sections D and E.

Table 2: Rate of fatal injuries (per 100,000 employees or self-employed) by main industry – 2014/15p

Main Industry SIC 2007 (Section)	Employee	Self employed	Workers ¹
Agriculture (A)	8.04	10.12	9.12
Mining and Quarrying (B)	..	..	..
Manufacturing (C)	0.56	0.47	0.55
Gas, electricity and water supply: sewerage, waste and recycling (D,E ²)	..	..	..
- of which waste and recycling (SIC38)	3.64	..	4.31
Construction (F)	1.86	1.28	1.62
Services (G-U)	0.19	0.31	0.21
All Industries (A-U)	0.38	0.89	0.46

p = Provisional.

¹ The term 'workers' covers employees and the self-employed combined.

² Figures for SIC Division 38 'waste collection etc.' are also included in the overall figures for the combined Sections D and E.

.. Rate not calculated as the employment estimates are small or potentially unreliable.

Table 3: Number⁴ of fatal injuries by main industry, averaged from 2009/10 to 2013/14

Note: The finalised figures for 2013/14 are shown in brackets.

Main Industry SIC 2007 (Section)	Employees	Self employed	Workers ¹	Members of the public	Total fatal injuries
Agriculture (A)	12 (10)	22 (17)	33 (27)	6 (4)	39 (31)
Mining and Quarrying (B)	5 (3)	- (-)	5 (3)	- (1)	5 (4)
Manufacturing (C)	21 (10)	3 (5)	24 (15)	- (-)	24 (15)
Gas, electricity and water supply: sewerage, waste and recycling (D,E ²)	7 (4)	1 (2)	8 (6)	3 (1)	11 (7)
- of which waste and recycling (SIC38)	5 (2)	1 (2)	6 (4)	2 (1)	8 (5)
Construction (F)	29 (30)	16 (14)	45 (44)	4 (4)	48 (48)
Services (G-U) ³	34 (35)	8 (6)	42 (41)	362 (281)	404 (322)
All Industries (A-U)	106 (92)	50 (44)	156 (136)	374 (291)	530 (427)

¹ The term 'workers' covers employees and the self-employed combined.

² Figures for SIC Division 38 'waste collection etc.' are also included in the overall figures for the combined Sections D and E.

³ The figures for services include railway incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). For member of the public figures, the yearly average of 362 becomes 69 if railway-related incidents are excluded, and the 2013/14 figure of 281 becomes 68. See the technical note for a change in railways suicide reporting and the effect on the statistics.

⁴ Individual numbers are rounded and may not therefore sum to the subtotals or totals.

Table 4: Rate of fatal injuries by main industry, averaged from 2009/10 to 2013/14

Note: The finalised rates for 2013/14 are shown in brackets.

Main Industry SIC 2007 (Section)	Employees	Self employed	Workers ¹
Agriculture (A)	7.50 (6.54)	12.35 (10.76)	10.07 (8.68)
Mining and Quarrying (B)	. .	. .	. .
Manufacturing (C)	0.79 (0.38)	1.40 (2.31)	0.84 (0.53)
Gas, electricity and water supply: sewerage, waste and recycling (D,E ²)	. .	. .	. .
- of which waste and recycling (SIC38)	4.75 (1.75)	. .	5.19 (3.31)
Construction (F)	2.18 (2.37)	1.91 (1.62)	2.07 (2.06)
Services (G-U)	0.16 (0.17)	0.26 (0.18)	0.18 (0.17)
All Industries (A-U)	0.42 (0.36)	1.14 (0.96)	0.53 (0.45)

¹ The term 'workers' covers employees and the self-employed combined.

² Rates are for SIC Division 38 'waste collection etc.' and are not representative of Sections D and E overall.

. . Rate not calculated as the employment estimates are small or potentially unreliable.

Country/region comparisons

Table 5 below shows the country or region where the death occurred. When making comparisons between countries and regions, it should be noted that differences are strongly influenced by variations in the mix of industries and occupations. For example in Scotland and Wales compared to England, there are noticeably fewer employees in low-risk occupational groups, with relatively more in higher-risk ones. In addition, the number of fatalities in some regions is relatively small, hence susceptible to considerable variation.

Table 5: Number and rate of fatal injuries to workers, by country and region for 2014/15p and averaged from 2009/10 to 2013/14

Note: The finalised figures for 2013/14 are shown in brackets.

CountryRegion		Number		Rate (per 100,000)	
		2014/15p	5 yr average ² and (2013/14)	2014/15p	5 yr average ² and (2013/14)
England ¹		113	126 (109)	0.43	0.49 (0.42)
	North East	1	4 (6)	0.09	0.37 (0.54)
	North West	20	20 (17)	0.60	0.62 (0.52)
	Yorkshire and The Humber	15	19 (18)	0.60	0.77 (0.73)
	East Midlands	14	11 (13)	0.65	0.54 (0.62)
	West Midlands	11	14 (12)	0.42	0.54 (0.47)
	East of England	11	15 (9)	0.40	0.55 (0.33)
	London	9	11 (11)	0.18	0.25 (0.23)
	South East	11	16 (9)	0.26	0.38 (0.21)
	South West	19	13 (13)	0.69	0.49 (0.48)
Wales		9	10 (7)	0.65	0.78 (0.51)
Scotland		20	20 (20)	0.76	0.76 (0.77)
Great Britain		142	156 (136)	0.46	0.53 (0.45)

p = Provisional.

¹ The number of fatal injuries in England will not sum the total for the Regions as the figure includes fatalities where the region was not known. These incidents relate to deaths occurring on railways where a region cannot be reliably assigned.

² Individual numbers are rounded and may not therefore sum to the subtotals or totals.

Commentary on longer-term trends

Fatal injuries at work are thankfully rare events. As a consequence, basic statistical principles dictate that the annual count is highly subject to chance variation, which is relatively more pronounced the smaller the number. Moreover, the effect of this chance variation can be estimated to give an indication of the amount the figure could fluctuate if the inherent dangerousness of work conditions were to stay unchanged from one year to the next. (The following references to 'chance' and 'statistically significant' are based on a standard 95% confidence interval).

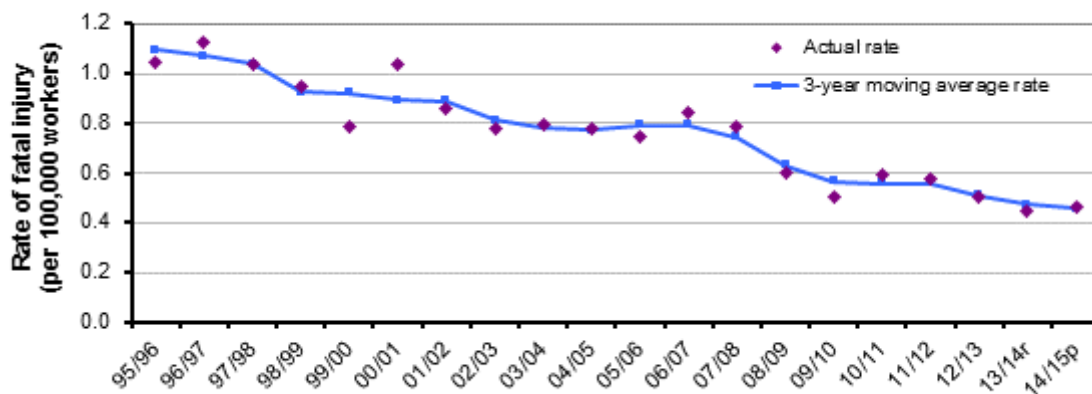
For example it can be estimated the latest year's count of 142 worker fatalities could have been anywhere between 120 and 167 based on chance alone. This theoretical point is borne out at a practical level when the causal factors behind individual fatalities are examined. It is often found that an unfortunate set of chance events have occurred together with shortcomings in safety precautions. Annual counts of fatal injuries can also be influenced by multiple fatalities; that is, one incident resulting in more than one death (in 2014/15 there was one such incident resulting in two deaths).

Taking employment levels into account, the 142 fatalities give a rate of 0.46 deaths per 100,000 workers. Comparing the latest figure with the finalised 136 deaths from the previous year, this increase of 6 is not statistically significant. Similarly, if the 142 figure is compared to the average for the previous five years (156), the reduction of 9% is also not statistically significant.

It should be noted the most recent year's figures are always provisional and, based on experience of previous years, likely to increase or decrease slightly on finalisation next year.

Figure 2 below shows the trend in the rate of fatal injury over the last 20 years. This differs from Figure 1, in that it also considers a moving three-year time frame to reduce the effects of year-on-year fluctuation, and provide an early indication of a change in the underlying trend. This suggests that over the latest 20-year time period there has been a downward trend in the rate of fatal injury, although more recently (since 2008/09) the trend is less clear.

**Figure 2: Rolling three-year average rate of fatal injury to workers¹
1995/96 – 2014/15p**



p = Provisional.

r = revised

¹ The term 'workers' includes employees and the self-employed combined.

Comparison with other countries

Global comparisons, for example, with the USA, Asia etc. are difficult due to differences in definitions of workplace accidents and reporting systems, as well as the variation in internal industry structures. However, some basic comparisons with other European countries are possible through data compiled by the statistical authority for the European Union (Eurostat). Since 1990 Eurostat has worked with member states on a harmonisation programme to give consistency to workplace injury statistics across the EU. To take account of differing industrial backgrounds across member states, Eurostat publishes standardised incidence rates.

Figure 3 and Table 6 below show the latest standardised rates of fatal accidents at work published by Eurostat. These are slightly behind that published annually by HSE - the latest comparisons available are for 2012. Figures for 2013 are expected to be published summer 2015. Data for 2011 and 2012 includes injuries for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, forming data for the United Kingdom – all data prior to this refers to GB only. Therefore the 3 year average rate included in this report, which spans 2009-2011, includes a mix of GB and UK data. This only has a negligible effect on the injury rates.

- The standardised rate of fatal injury for the United Kingdom in 2012 was 0.58 per 100,000 workers, and compares to a three-year average rate of 0.67.
- The UK rate for 2012 was considerably lower than the corresponding EU-15 rate (1.3 per 100, 000) and that of many other EU member states, including the large economies of Germany (0.9), Italy (1.29), Spain (1.99) and France (2.64).
- The GB three-year average rate (2009-2011) was one of the lowest across all EU member states.
- Standardised rates published by Eurostat are based on fatalities occurring across all main industry sectors, excluding the transport sector. While these rates are intended not to include road traffic accidents, their removal may not always be complete. This should be considered when examining rates for individual countries.

Figure 3: Standardised incidence rates (per 100,000 workers) of fatal accidents at work for 2012 (Eurostat)

Note: Figures exclude road traffic accidents and accidents on board transport in the course of work.

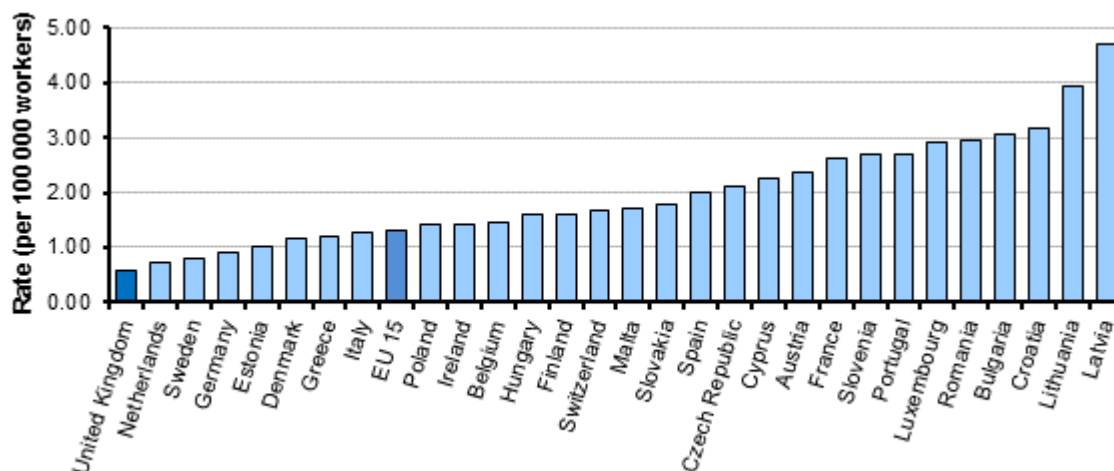


Table 6: Standardised incidence rates of fatal accidents at work for 2012 and averaged rate from 2009-2011 (Eurostat)

Note: Figures exclude road traffic accidents and accidents on board transport in the course of work.

Member state ¹	Eurostat - standardised incidence rate (per 100,000 workers)	
	2012	Average (2009-2011)
United Kingdom²	0.58	0.67
Netherlands	0.72	0.76
Sweden	0.80	1.26
Germany	0.90	0.80
Estonia	1.02	2.43
Denmark	1.18	1.10
Greece	1.20	0.85
Italy	1.29	1.58
European Union (15 countries)	1.30	1.55
Poland	1.42	3.30
Ireland	1.43	1.19
Belgium	1.46	2.04
Hungary	1.60	2.18
Finland	1.62	1.04
Switzerland	1.68	1.57
Malta	1.70	0.50
Slovakia	1.78	0.59
Spain	1.99	1.98
Czech Republic	2.10	2.01
Cyprus	2.25	3.48
Austria	2.37	2.13
France	2.64	3.22
Slovenia	2.70	1.93
Portugal	2.71	2.90
Luxembourg	2.91	2.53
Romania	2.94	4.53
Bulgaria	3.06	2.26
Croatia	3.17	1.68
Lithuania	3.93	3.75
Latvia	4.70	3.52

¹Whilst overall, work-related deaths are steadily reducing across the EU, in some cases the number of fatalities and employment levels in member states are relatively small, hence susceptible to considerable annual variation. This should be considered when making comparisons between countries. Standardised rates are not available for Norway or Iceland, and hence these countries are excluded from the above analysis.

²2011 and 2012 rates include injuries for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, forming data for the United Kingdom, whereas data from 2009 and 2010 are based on GB data only. UK/GB injury rates shown in the above analysis may differ slightly from those elsewhere in this publication, as Eurostat standardise rates across all member states to take account of differing industrial backgrounds.

Further information on EU health and safety comparisons is available at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/european/.

Technical notes

The provisional nature of the latest statistics

The figures for 2014/15 are at this stage provisional, covering the twelve month accident date period of 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, and will be finalised in July 2016 following any necessary adjustments. This updating a year after initial publication, allows for the fact that the investigations of workplace fatal injuries are often complex and can take considerable time. In the course of these investigations new facts can emerge to affect judgements on issues such as whether the accident was work-related or whether the worker was based at the site of the accident. This means that initial views regarding the reportability of the accident or the industrial sector to which it should be assigned can prove to be incorrect. The delay of a year in finalising the figures allows for such matters to be fully resolved in the light of formal interviews with all relevant witnesses, forensic investigation and coroners' rulings. Also, Regulation 4 of RIDDOR covers situations where someone dies of their injuries within a year of their accident.

Based on previous years, the overall change next year from provisional to final of the 2014/15 figure of 142 would be expected to increase or decrease by several deaths. Table 7 summarises these changes for previous years.

Table 7: Differences in 'provisional' and 'finalised' figures

Year of death	Provisional figure	Finalised figure	Difference
2014/15	142	-	-
2013/14	133	136	3
2012/13	148	150	2
2011/12	173	171	-2
2010/11	171	175	4
2009/10	151	147	-4
2008/09	180	179	-1
2007/08	228	233	5

Details of coverage

Fatal injuries included in these statistics are primarily those deemed to be reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). They therefore cover accidents that are reportable to either HSE, the relevant local authority (LA) or the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). An in-depth account of the scope of RIDDOR legislation can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/. The legal changes in RIDDOR from October 2013 had no impact on the reporting of deaths, except for suicides on railways – see below. For the vast majority of such reportable accidents the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act, 1974 is the main legislation applicable.

Since 1 April 2006, enforcement of safety on railways has been the responsibility of ORR, and they have provided HSE with the relevant figures since that date. Prior to this date, enforcement was the responsibility of HSE's Railways Inspectorate:

- More information on these arrangements can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/railways/
- Each year a high proportion of member of the public deaths on railways are suicides, and up to October 2013 there was a requirement under RIDDOR to report such incidents. From this date the reporting requirement was removed. Hence for 2014/15, this is the first year that the reduction has taken effect for the full year, and has had a very noticeable impact on the figures. As the change took effect half way through the previous reporting year (2013/14), the reduction in the 13/14 member of the public figure is about half the reduction for a full year (i.e. compared to 2014/15 onwards).
- Detailed railways-specific safety statistics from ORR can be found at <http://orr.gov.uk/statistics>

The following are clarifications of the fatal injuries that are generally included or excluded in these statistics. This is a generalised view, and each record of a fatal injury is considered on an individual basis. Although a particular fatal incident may fall outside the scope of these figures, the relevant health and safety enforcing authority (HSE, LA, or ORR) may still have an interest.

General inclusions to these figures

- Overall, fatal injuries to those classified as workers (the term 'workers' describes both employees and self-employed combined – those on a training scheme, or on work experience, are classified here as employees).
- The self-employed, where they are in control of the work or premises (although there is no legal requirement to report such accidents as there is no employer that can be assigned the task of undertaking this duty).
- Workers involved in rail track, or roadside maintenance, and refuse collection.
- Workers killed as a consequence of physical violence occurring whilst at work – though there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that compliance with the reporting requirement within RIDDOR may be patchy (such deaths are primarily covered by other legislation, and the police have primacy in the investigation, hence the need to report under RIDDOR may sometimes be overlooked).
- Members of the public killed as a result of an accident, which has arisen out of or in connection with work activity, although they are not 'at work' themselves. For example:
 - Customers on retail premises;
 - Residents in residential care homes;
 - Passengers on trains,
 - Those fatally injured whilst 'working' on an unpaid, voluntary basis (whilst very few in number) are classified here as members of the public.

General exclusions to these figures

Fatal injuries excluded from the statistics are mainly those deemed non-reportable under RIDDOR. The most important exclusions are as follows:

- Fatal accidents involving workers travelling on a public highway (a 'road traffic accident'). Such incidents are enforced by the police and reported to the Department for Transport. Those killed whilst commuting (travelling from home to work, and vice versa) are also excluded. For road accident statistics, see www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/road-accidents-and-safety-statistics
- Fatal accidents involving workers travelling by air or sea. These incidents are the responsibility of the Air Accident Investigation Branch and Marine Accident Investigation Branch of the Department for Transport, and reported accordingly.
- Fatal injuries at work due to 'natural causes', usually heart attacks or strokes, unless brought on by trauma due to the accident.
- Accidents to members of the armed forces.
- Suicide (see note above about the recent change to railways-related incidents)
- Members of the public killed as a consequence of physical violence.

Calculation of fatal injury rates and the source of employment estimates

Changes in the size of the workforce will impact on the number of fatalities in any one year. Therefore, when making any comparisons either on a year-to-year basis or between one sector and another it is important to look at the rate of fatal injury per employees, self-employed or workers, as appropriate. This is derived from the numerator (the count of fatal injuries) and the denominator (the estimated employment). This is then multiplied by a factor of 100,000.

The source of employment data used to construct the injury rates in these figures (and all HSE statistics published from November 2011) is the Annual Population Survey (APS). The APS is a comprehensive single data source that provides HSE with insight into a wide range of working structures, as well as ensuring that employment data being used for all rate calculations (fatal and non-fatal injuries) is consistent and therefore comparable.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the provider of the APS data. The analysis and interpretation of these data are the sole responsibility of HSE.

The separate publication of names and details of fatalities on the HSE website

On a monthly basis HSE publishes an updated list of the collated picture of 'as reported' information on fatalities. This includes those incidents documented in our Chief Executive's reports. The list does not purport to be a formal statistical release, and cannot be directly compared with the figures provided here, for the following reasons:

- It relates only to those incidents enforced by HSE, i.e. it does not cover incidents enforced by local authorities or ORR.
- Subsequent investigation may determine that some of the cases in the monthly list are not reportable under RIDDOR, for example deaths due to natural causes.
- Other deaths in the list may have been caused by gas incidents in the home. In such cases these deaths will not be counted in the statistics for workplace fatal injuries detailed in this report.
- The list in respect of 2014/15 names and details is at www.hse.gov.uk/foi/fatalities/2014-15.htm.

National Statistics

The fatal injuries figures in this report are National Statistics.

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

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/.

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