

# Agriculture, forestry and fishing statistics in Great Britain, 2023

Data up to March 2023

Annual statistics

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## Key statistics

### Ill health

10,000 workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) averaged over the five-year period 2018/19-2022/23

**Proportion of self-reported work-related ill health by type in Agriculture, forestry and fishing: new and long-standing**



*Source: LFS, average estimate over 2018/19-2022/23*

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported work-related illness showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest period includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

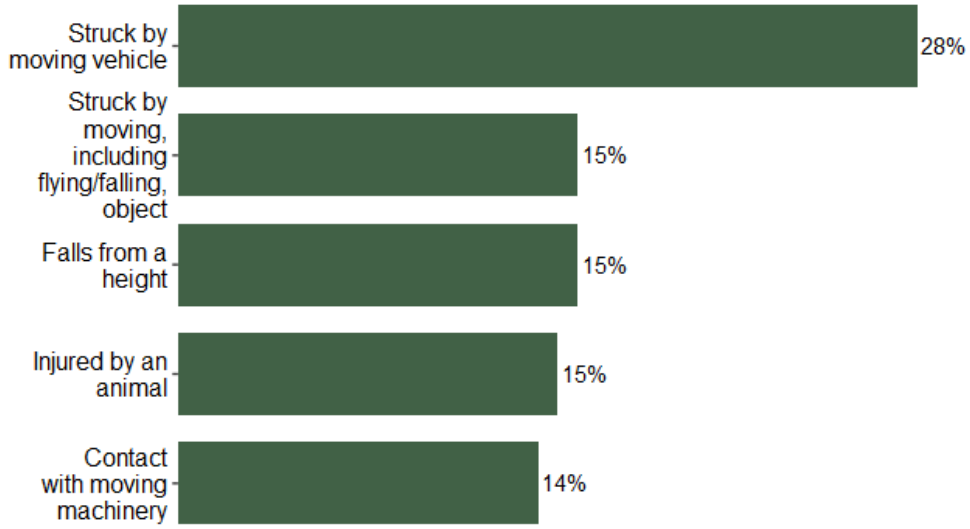
### Fatal injuries

There were 21 fatal injuries to workers in 2022/23p. This is in comparison with the annual average of 26 fatalities over the five-year period 2018/19-2022/23p.

There were 6 fatal injuries to members of the public in 2022/23p. This is in comparison with the annual average of 5 fatalities over the five-year period 2018/19-2022/23p.

*Source: RIDDOR, 2022/23p*

### Percentage of fatal injuries by accident kind in Agriculture, forestry and fishing



Accident kinds are shown for the top 5 causes of fatal injury.

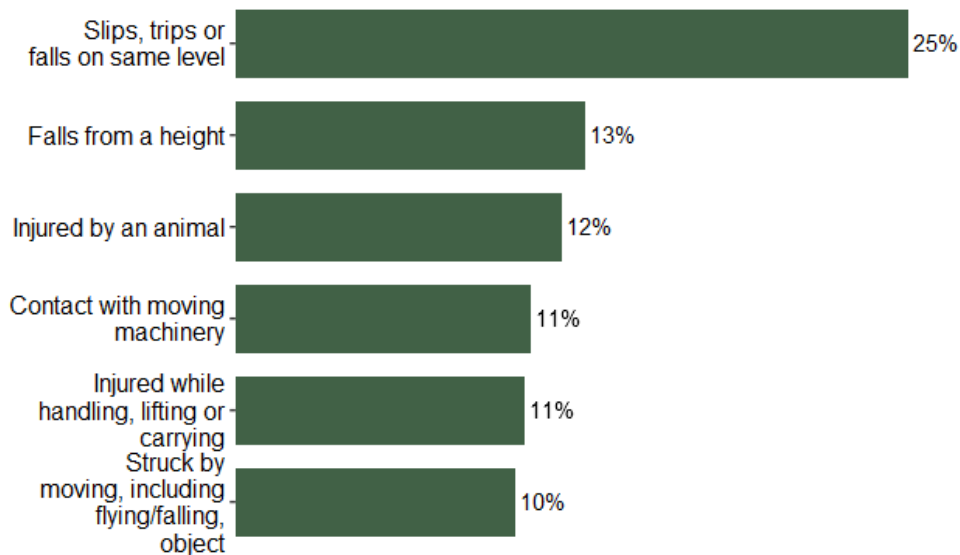
Source: RIDDOR, average over 2018/19-2022/23p

## Non-fatal injuries

9,000 workers sustained non-fatal injuries at work averaged over the three-year period 2020/21-2022/23. 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 2014/15-2016/17 period.

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2022/23

### Percentage of non-fatal injuries by accident kind in Agriculture, forestry and fishing



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 non-fatal injuries.

Source: RIDDOR, average over 2020/21-2022/23p

# Introduction

This report provides a profile of workplace health and safety in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing<sup>1</sup> 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 Britain<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/sic2007.htm) for more detail.

<sup>2</sup> Annual Population Survey, 2022

# Work-related ill health

## All illness

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated 10,000 workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing)
- 51% were musculoskeletal disorders.

*Source: LFS, average estimate over 2018/19-2022/23*

## Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries<sup>3</sup>

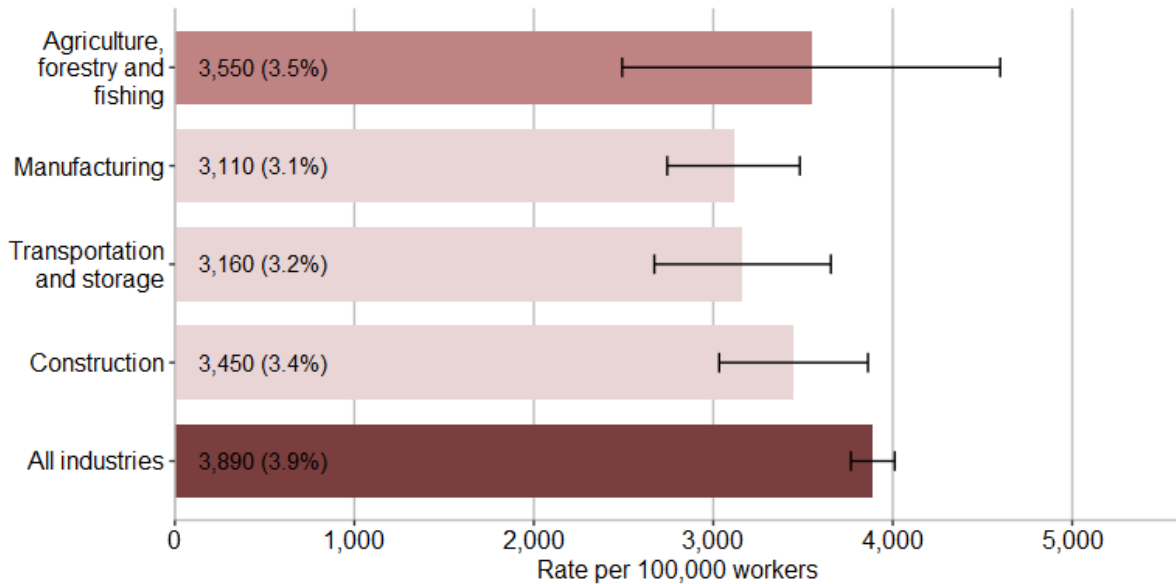
- Around 3.5% of workers in the sector suffered from work-related ill health (new or long-standing)
- This rate is not statistically different than that for workers across all industries (3.9%)

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<sup>3</sup> 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.



**Rate of self-reported work-related ill health in Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries, per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing**

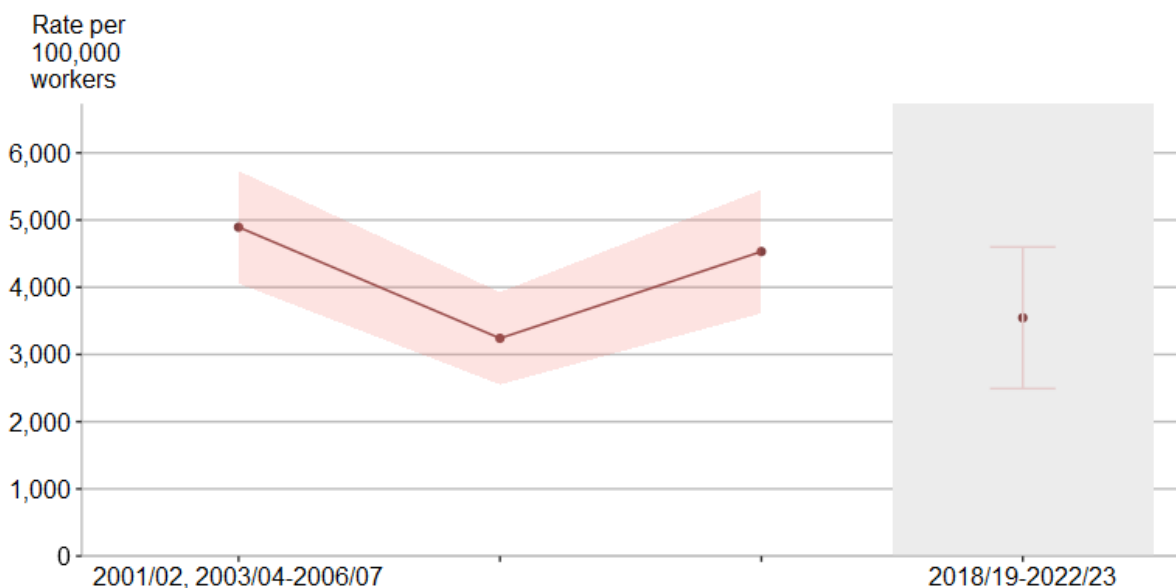


A five-year period has been used to improve the reliability of the sector estimates. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart.

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2018/19-2022/23

**Changes over time**

**Rate of self-reported work-related ill health in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing**



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported work-related illness showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest period includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

The data for 2018/19-2022/23 includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded column. 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. Shaded area and error bars represent a 95% confidence interval. A five-year period has been used to improve the reliability of the sector estimates.

*Source: LFS, average estimate from 2001/02, 2003/04-2006/07 to 2018/19-2022/23*

## Musculoskeletal disorders

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

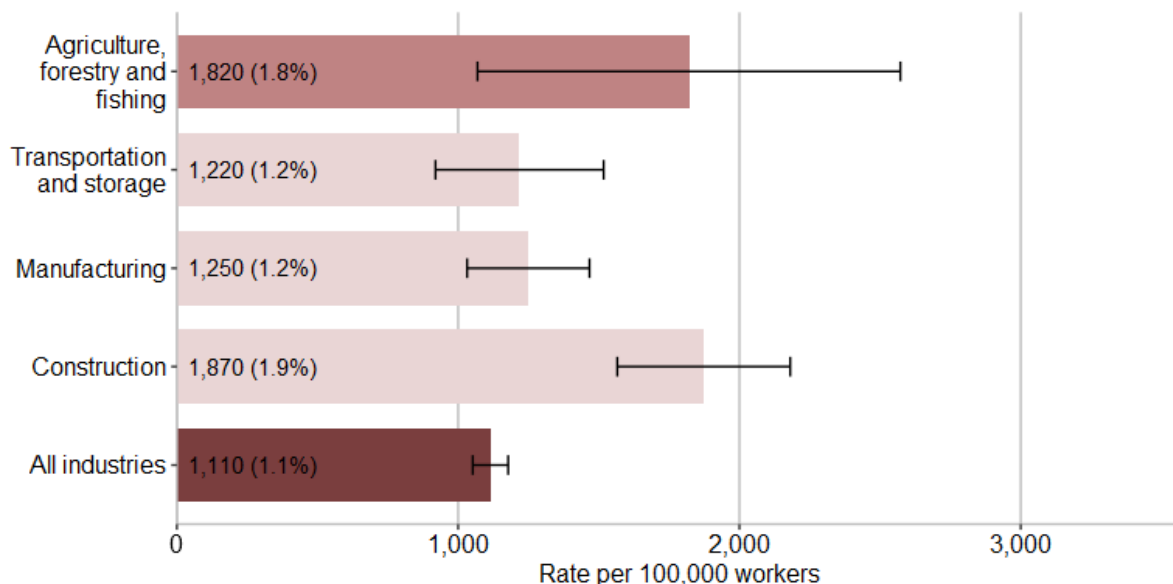
- There were an estimated 5,000 workers suffering from a work-related musculoskeletal disorder (new or long-standing), 51% of all ill health in this sector

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2018/19-2022/23

### Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries

- Around 1.8% of workers in the sector suffered from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing)
- This rate is not statistically different than that for workers across all industries (1.1%)

### Rate of self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders in Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries, per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing



A five-year period has been used to improve the reliability of the sector estimates. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2018/19-2022/23

## 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.

*Source: Death certificates, 2021*

### Occupational asthma

The chest physician reporting scheme for occupational respiratory disease 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.

*Source: THOR-SWORD, 2017-2019*

### Skin disease

The dermatologist reporting scheme for occupational skin disease 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.

*Source: THOR-EPIDERM, 2017-2019*

### **Occupational cancer**

A research study published in 2012 on the occupational burden of cancer in Great Britain showed that for each year, known and probable occupational carcinogens are estimated to account for:

- 5% of cancer deaths (8,000 deaths in 2005)
- 4% of all new cancer registrations (13,600 registrations in 2004)

Of the 13,600 registrations in 2004:

- Around 300 were attributed to past work in Agriculture industries.
- About a third of the cancer registrations were non-melanoma skin cancer related to solar radiation

*Source: Epidemiological studies*

# Workplace injuries

## Fatal injuries

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

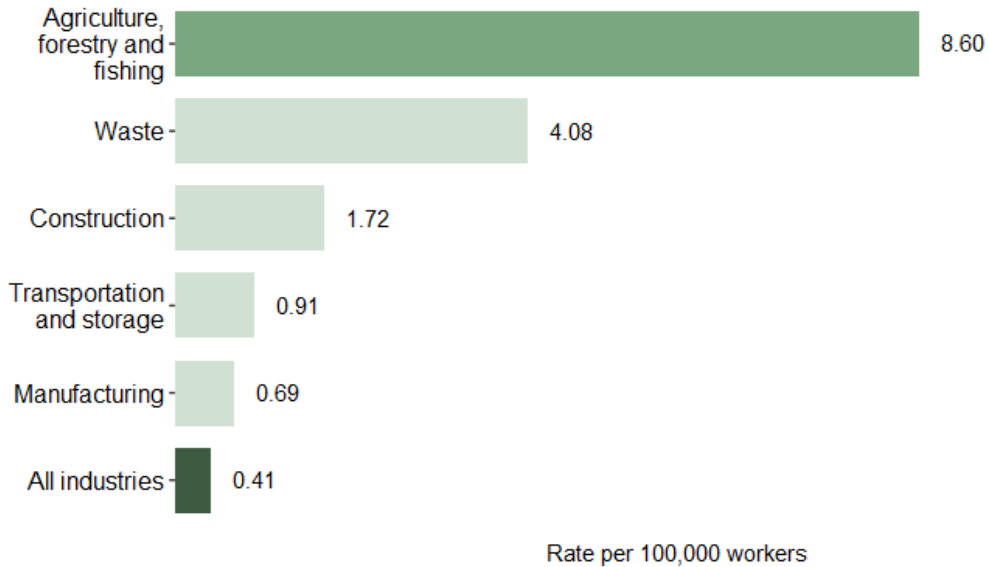
- There were 21 fatal injuries to workers in 2022/23p
- This is in comparison with the annual average number of 26 fatalities for 2018/19-2022/23p though statistically speaking, the numbers are small and prone to annual fluctuations
- 28% of deaths over the same five-year period were classified as Struck by moving vehicle
- There were 6 fatal injuries to members of the public in 2022/23p.
- This is in comparison with the annual average of 5 fatalities over the five-year period 2018/19-2022/23p

Source: *RIDDOR, 2022/23p*

## Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries

- The fatal injury rate in Agriculture, forestry and fishing is 8.6 per 100,000 workers
- This is around 21 times the all industry rate

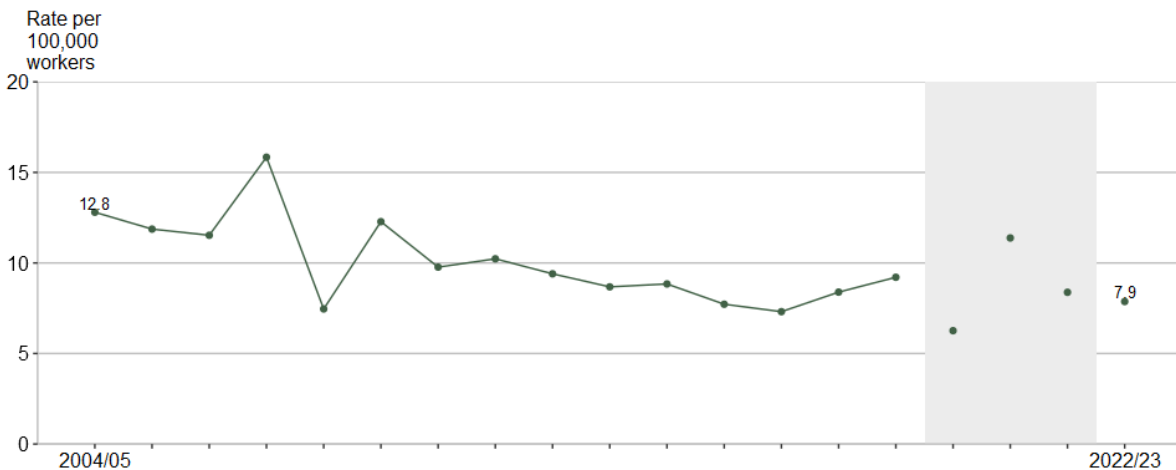
**Rate of work-related fatal injuries in Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries, per 100,000 workers**



Source: RIDDOR, average over 2018/19-2022/23p

**Changes over time**

**Rate of work-related fatal injuries in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, per 100,000 workers**



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the rate of fatal injury to workers showed a generally downward trend. In 2022/23 the rate was similar to the pre-coronavirus levels.

The data for 2019/20-2021/22 includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded column.

Source: RIDDOR, 2004/05 to 2022/23p

## Non-fatal injuries

The Labour Force Survey is HSE’s preferred data source for non-fatal injuries.

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

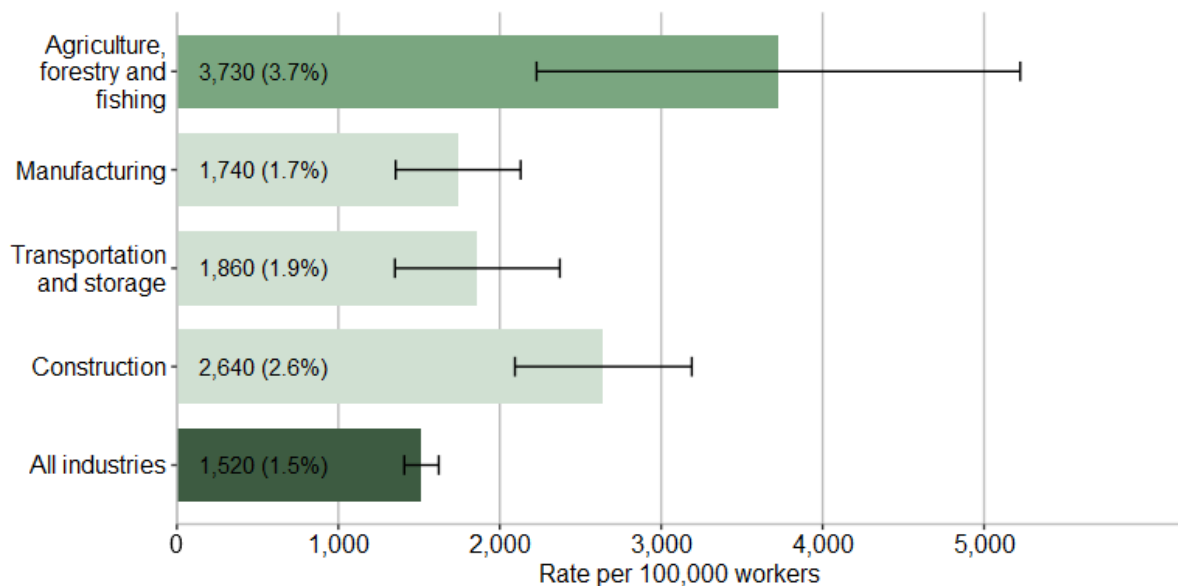
- There were an estimated 9,000 workers who reported sustaining a workplace non-fatal injury

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2022/23

### Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries

- Around 3.7% of workers in the sector sustained a workplace non-fatal injury
- This rate is statistically significantly higher than that for workers across all industries (1.5%)

### Rate of self-reported workplace non-fatal injuries in Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries, per 100,000 workers



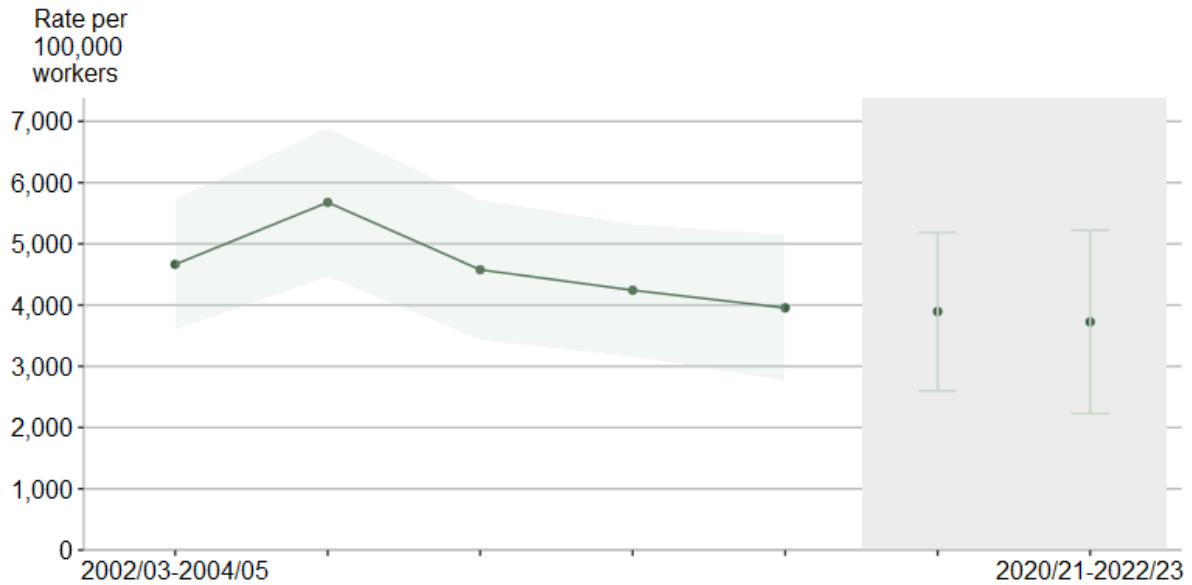
95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2022/23



### Changes over time

#### Rate of self-reported workplace non-fatal injuries in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, per 100,000 workers



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 2014/15-2016/17 period.

The data for 2017/18-2019/20 and 2020/21-2022/23 includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded column. Shaded area and error bars represent a 95% confidence interval.

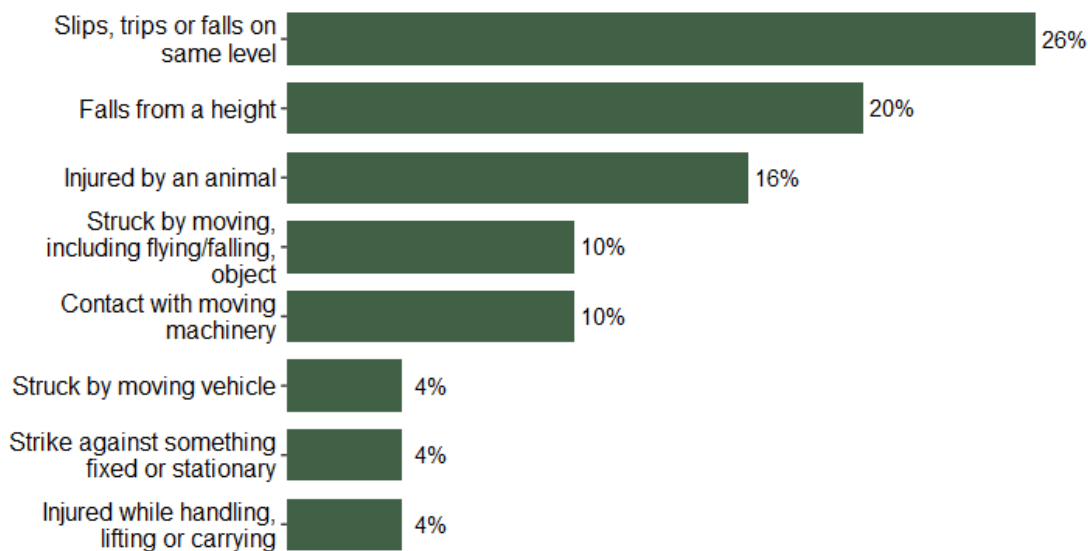
Source: LFS, average estimate from 2002/03-2004/05 to 2020/21-2022/23

Supporting information around work-related injuries is available from RIDDOR reporting<sup>4</sup>. In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were 690 non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers under RIDDOR in 2022/23p
- 327 (47%) were specified injuries<sup>5</sup> and 363 (53%) were injuries resulting in the incapacitation of a worker for over seven days

Source: RIDDOR, 2022/23p

### Percentage of non-fatal work-related specified injuries by accident kind in Agriculture, forestry and fishing

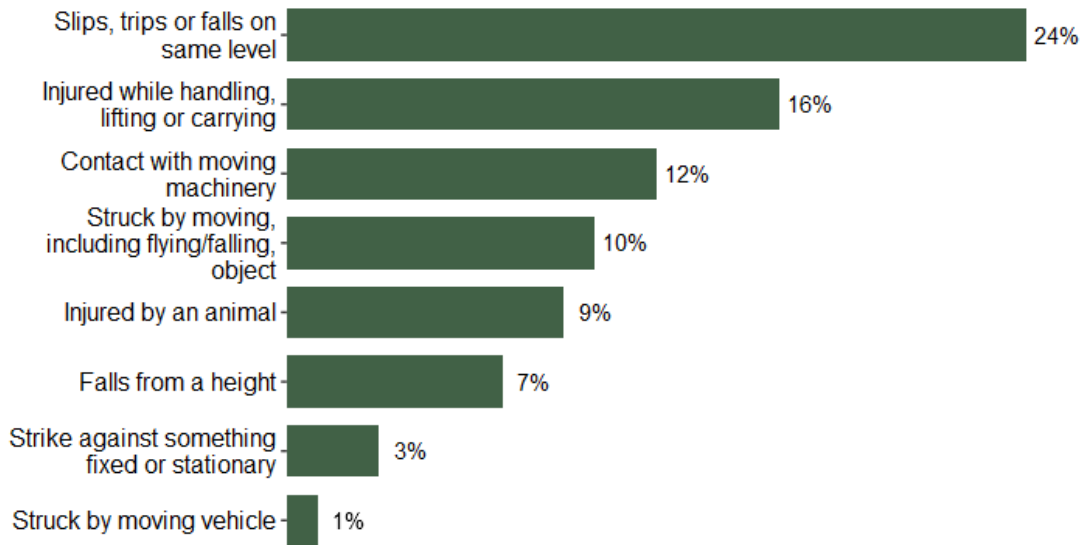


Source: RIDDOR, average over 2020/21-2022/23p

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Specified injuries are a defined list of injuries. The full list is at [www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm)

**Percentage of non-fatal work-related injuries resulting in incapacitation of a worker for over seven days by accident kind in Agriculture, forestry and fishing**



Source: RIDDOR, average over 2020/21-2022/23p

## Economic Cost

- The total cost of workplace injury and ill health in 2021/22 is estimated at between £99M - £294M
- 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 (£20.6 billion)

Note: All costs are presented in 2021/22 prices.

Source: *HSE Costs to Britain, 2021/22*

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 27,000 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.

Notes:

Percentages presented on charts in this document use rounded data and so may not sum to 100% in all cases.

p is used in this document to indicate provisional figures due to be finalised in 2024

For more information, see <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/sources.pdf>

## Annex 2: Links to detailed tables

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

### Work-related illness

lfsillind: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/lfsillind.xlsx>

THORR05: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/thorr05.xlsx>

THORS05: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/thors05.xlsx>

CAN05: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/can05.xlsx>

IIDB01: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/iidb01.xlsx>

DC01: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/dc01.xlsx>

### Workplace injuries

lfsinjind: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/lfsinjind.xlsx>

RIDIND: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridind.xlsx>

RIDFATAL: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridfatal.xlsx>

RIDHIST: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridhist.xlsx>

RIDKIND: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridkind.xlsx>

### Costs to Britain of workplace injury and illness

COST\_tables: [https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/costs\\_tables2122.xlsx](https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/costs_tables2122.xlsx)

Other tables can be found at: [www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/index.htm)

# National Statistics

National Statistics are accredited official statistics. This publication is part of HSE's accredited official statistics releases. [https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about the authority/uk-statistical-system/types-of-official-statistics/](https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/types-of-official-statistics/)

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

These official statistics were independently reviewed by the OSR in 2013 and accredited as official statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Accredited official statistics are called National Statistics within the Act). They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics.

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.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing [regulation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk) or via the OSR website.

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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/)

Additional data tables can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/)

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