Key points from 04/05 statistics

Fatal injuries

220 workers were killed, a rate of 0.7 per 100 000 workers.

361 members of the public were fatally injured.

Non-fatal injuries

150 559 other injuries to employees were reported, a rate of 587 per 100 000 employees.

363 000 reportable injuries occurred, according to the Labour Force Survey, a rate of 1330 per 100 000 workers (2003/04).

Ill health

2.0 million people were suffering from an illness they believed was caused or made worse by their current or past work.

576 000 of these were new cases in the last 12 months.

Working days lost

35 million days were lost overall (1.5 days per worker), 28 million due to work-related ill health and 7 million due to workplace injury.

Progress with, and implications for, targets

Progress against the Revitalising mid-point targets is:

Injuries: 5% target not met. No change in the fatal and major injury rate

Ill health: 10% target probably met. Incidence rate down 8-23%

Days lost: 15% target possibly met. Days lost per worker down 3-23%

Ironically, the scale of the challenge in meeting the PSA 2004 targets (which take the 04/05 stats as a baseline) is greater where we have made good progress during the first half of Revitalising. Indeed, the ill health reduction target for the PSA period (-6%) would, if achieved, take us below the Revitalising end-point target.

Trends during the first half of Revitalising

We should not focus too heavily on a single year’s statistics (which, for 04/05 are generally down from 03/04) but rather consider trends over the five years since the Revitalising targets were adopted. Unless otherwise stated, %age falls or rises are given for 99/00 – 04/05.

Injury

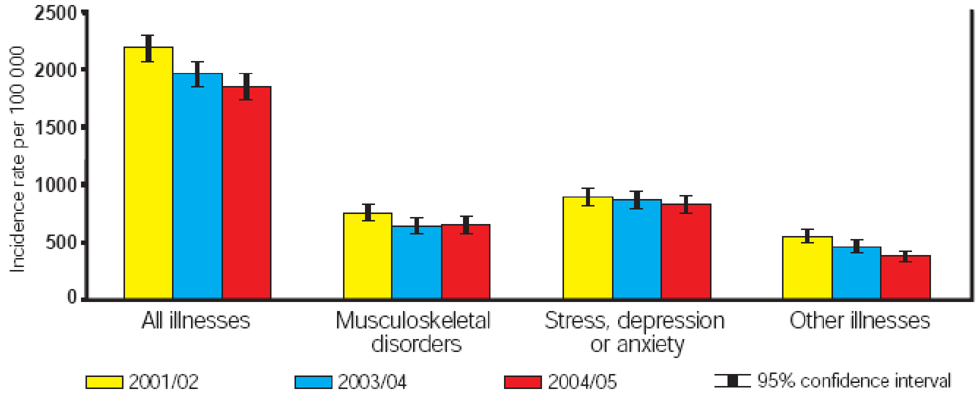
There is a mixed picture here with the all injury rate falling (-12%) but the fatal and major injury rates flat (-0.5%,+1%). There are strong differences on major injury between sectors with construction falling (-25%), manufacturing decreasing slightly (-6%) and services rising (+17%). There is also strong variation between different causes of major injury with falls (-33%), machinery (-21%) and struck by (-15%) declining and slips & trips (+14%) and handling (+60%) rising. The latter two account for ~50% of all major injuries.

Annex 2 contains charts that illustrate these trends in more detail.

Ill health

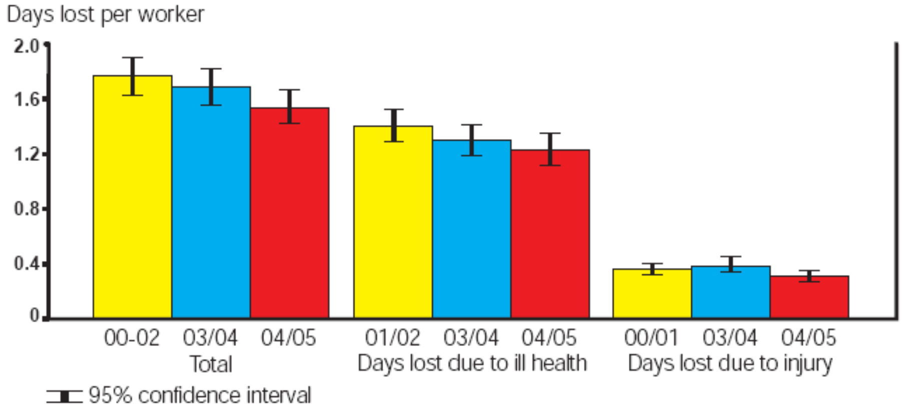
There is a fairly consistent picture of improvement across all our sources of data on ill health. (The exception, of course, is in long-latency diseases such as mesothelioma where deaths are still rising due to past exposure.) The trend for the main diseases, MSD, stress-related, asthma and dermatitis are all down, although for stress the reduction is small after an earlier rise. Three quarters of all work-related ill health is due to stress or MSD.

Figure 10: Estimated incidence rates of self-reported work-related illness, for people working in the last 12 months



Days lost

Figure 11: Estimated working days lost per worker due to work-related ill health and workplace injuries



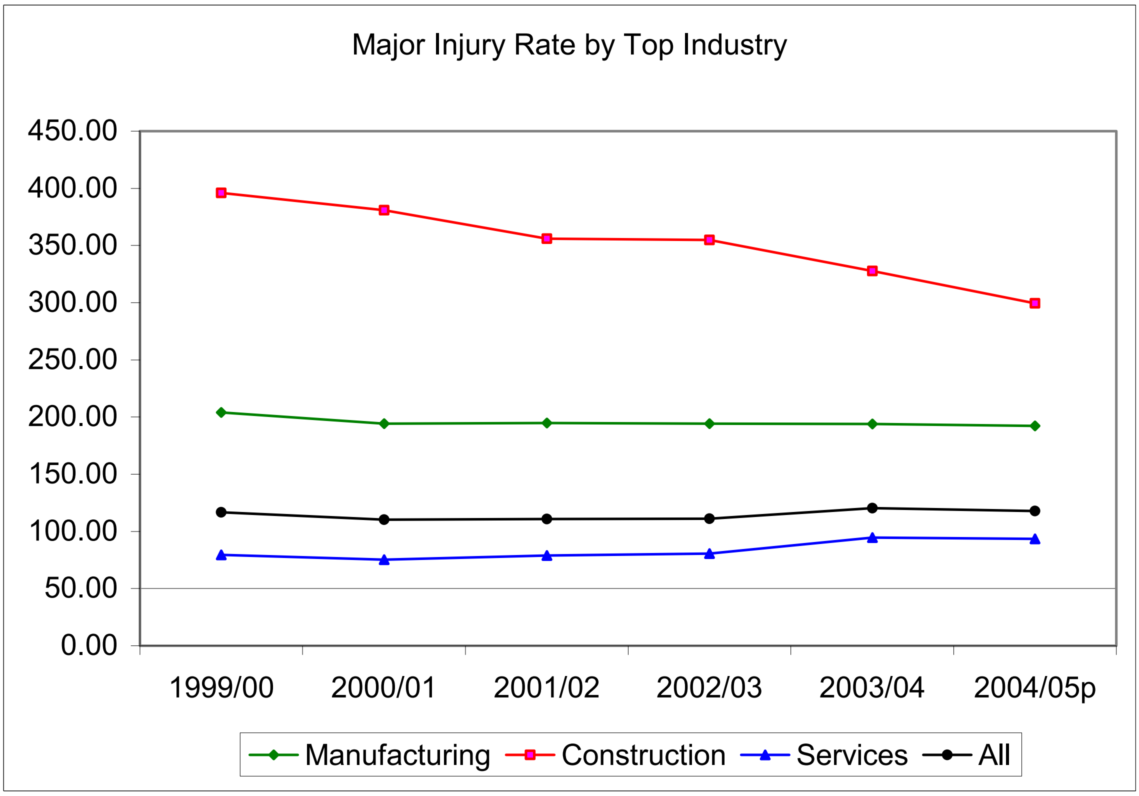


Figure 1

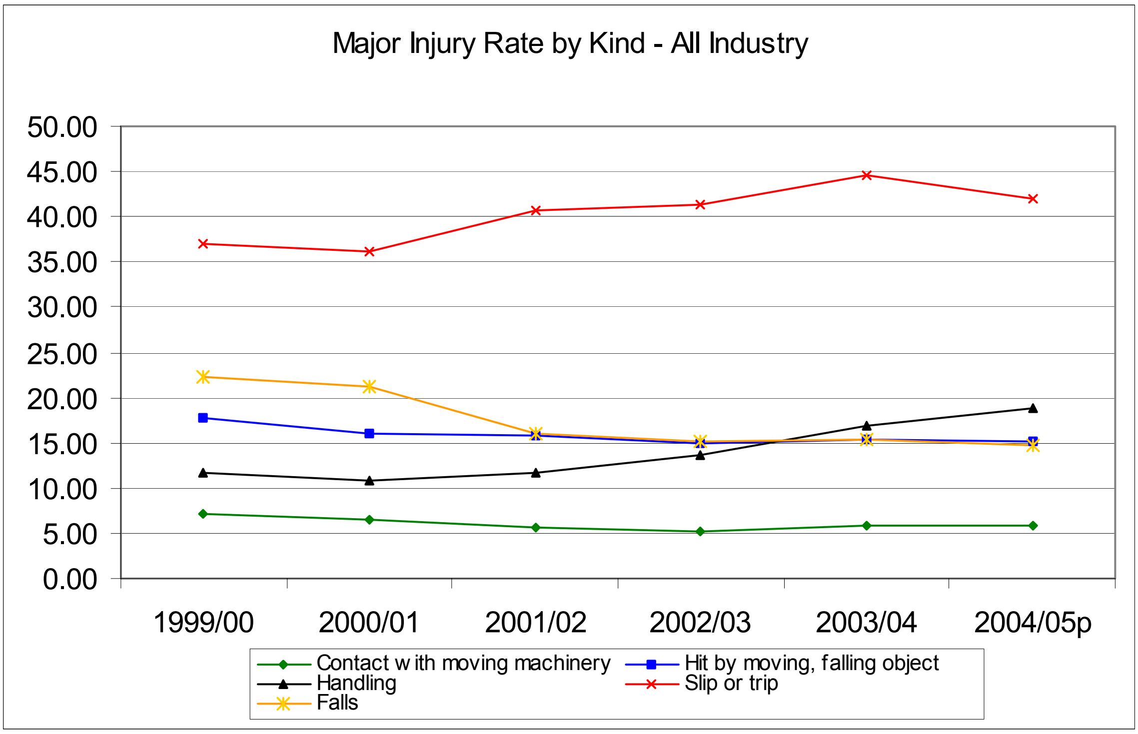


Figure 2

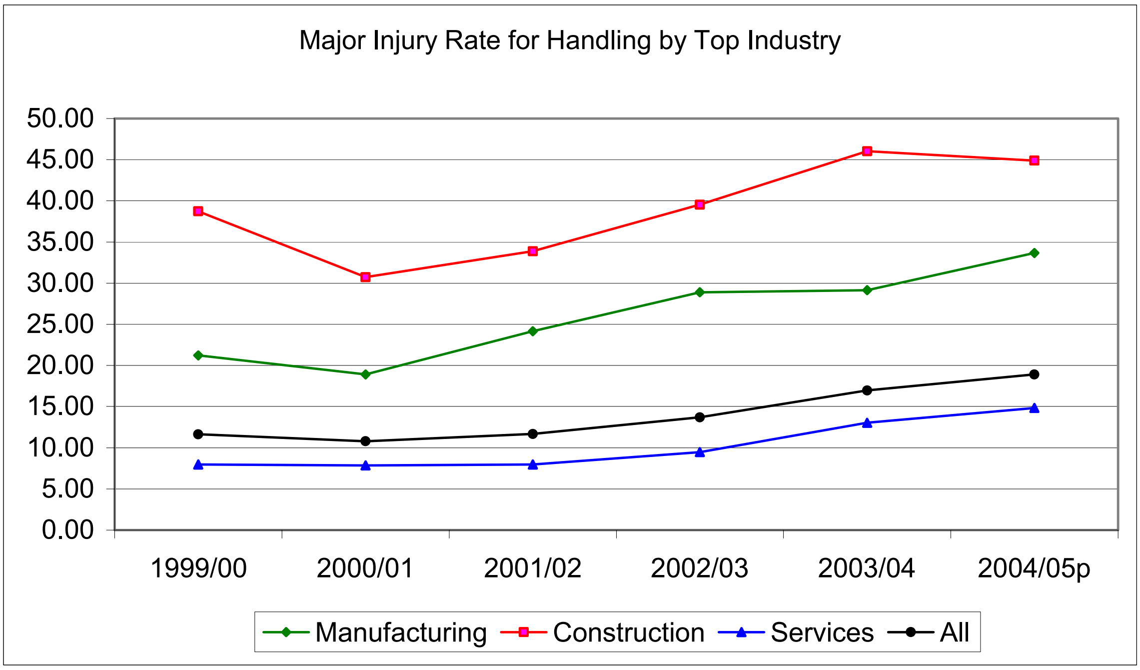


Figure 3

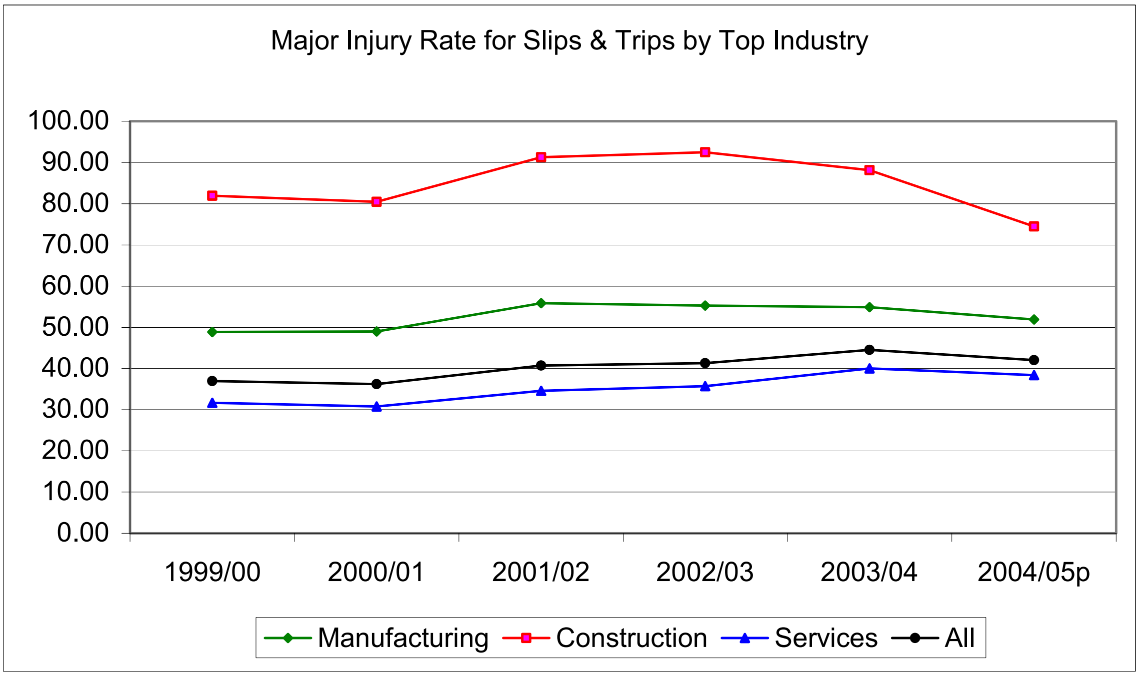


Figure 4

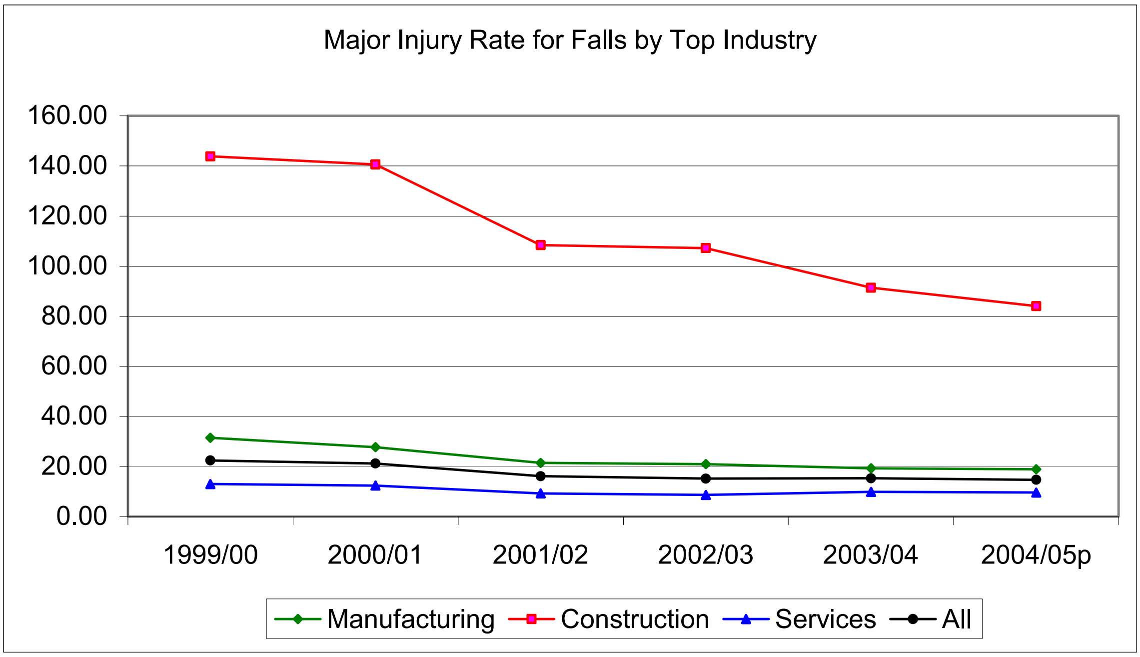


Figure 5

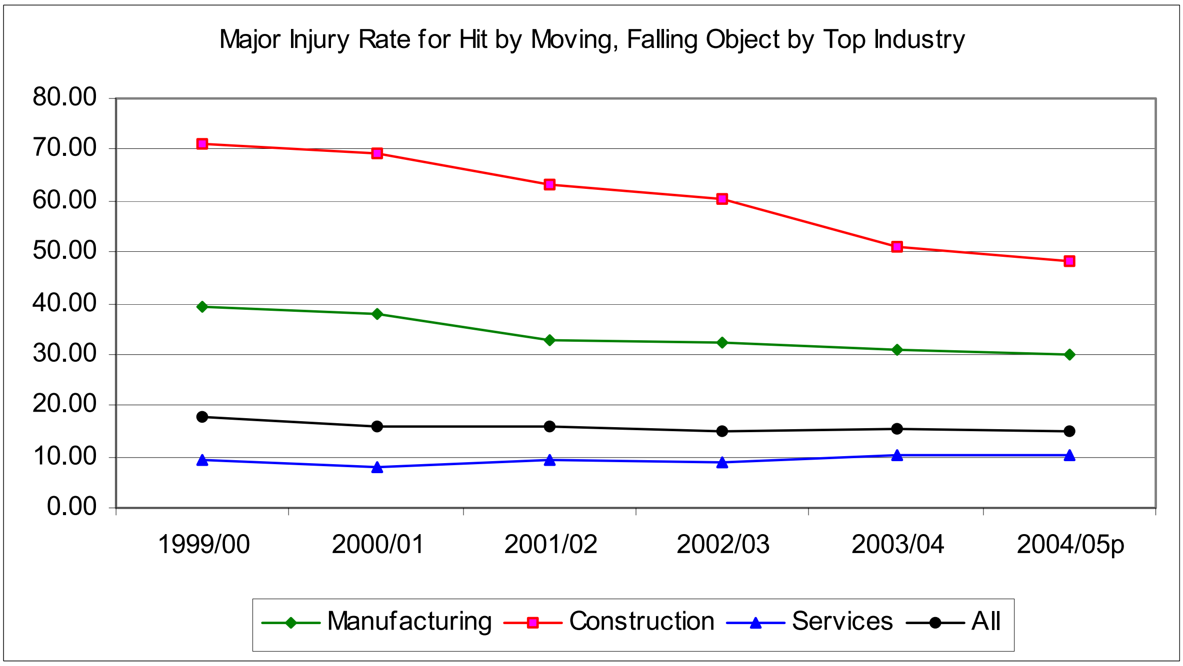


Figure 6

Main findings of the Institute for Employment Research study

A key finding is that the rate of major injury rises during economic upturns (a 1% increase in GDP above trend is associated with a 1.4% increase in rate of major injury), and the net effect of the recent upswing and occupational change is a 1% to 5% increase in major injury rate.

This provides both a possible explanation for our difficulty in making progress on the injury reduction target and hope for success in the PSA 2004 period. Most indications suggest that the economy is slowing down and the combination of this and the continuing structural change (a shift from blue to white collar occupations) should lead to a decline in major injury rate of 1-8% irrespective of any other influence.

The IER work also provides hard evidence for the proposition that 'new' employees are at higher risk. They found that an employee's risk of injury during the first 4 months with an employer is double that for longer-standing workers. This is one of the underlying reasons for the economic cycle effect.

Other key findings are:

a) half the reduction in the RIDDOR injury rate since 1986 is due to change in the occupation of workers, and

b) differences in job characteristics can explain most if not all (i) the higher injury rates in men, (ii) the variation in injury rate with age and (iii) the variation in regional injury rates.

Industry	Major Injury Rate Trend 99/00 to 04/05p	Major Injuries 04/05p Employees	Employees 04/05p (1000's)	Rates Relative to Overall Rate	Context
Production Industries					
Forestry	Down	35	10	1.9	
Extraction & Utility Supply	Down	400	172	7.5	Specialised industries. Committed TAs[1]
Food/Drink	Down	1122	418	2.3	Central initiatives with TAs. “Recipe for Safety”
Wood	Down	273	79	2.9	Many TAs and SMEs. Initiatives on Sawmills & Machine safeguards.
Paper	Down	160	79	1.7	Special initiatives by Paper Mill companies and
Chemicals	Down	325	205	1.3	Specialised industry
Rubber & Plastics	Down	424	206	1.7	
Basic Metals	Down	337	86	3.3	
Machinary & Equipment nec	Down	327	276	1.0	
Other Transport Equipment	Down	191	139	1.2	
Construction	Down	3760	1,256 (2,067)*	2.5	Strategic Programme of initiaitves to target specific issues. New Construction Division. Summits in 2001 & 2005 where Industry set and monitored its own targets.
Agriculture & Fishing	No change	478	215 (402)*	1.9	Small farms. Family run. High risk of fatality.
Textiles	No change	135	89	1.3	
Publishing	No change	234	325	0.6	
Motor Vehicles	No change	335	194	1.5	Large companies. Drop in major injury rate 2001/02 but little change thereafter.
Other Manufacturing	No change	584	535	0.9	
Furniture; Manufacturing nec	Up	548	181	2.6	
Recycling	Up	143	14	8.4	
Fabricated Metal products	Up	940	335	2.4	
Services Industries					
Education	Down	1011	2,256	0.4	HSE.
Other Services	Down	238	529	0.4	Mainly LA inspected
Sewage & Refuse	No change	291	99	2.5	Mainly HSE inspected.
Recreational Events	No change	645	724	0.8	Mix of HSE & LA inspection.
Health	No change	1537	1,926	0.7	HSE. Major rate up in last 2 years. Large employers (PCTs, NHS).
Retail & Wholesale	Up	3861	4,502	0.7	Mainly LA inspected. Large TAs - BRC
Hotels/Catering	Up	1224	1,764	0.6	Mainly LA inspected.
Finance/Business	Up	3082	5,123	0.5	Mix of LA and HSE inspection.
Transport	Up	3658	1,538	2.0	HSE but LA inspection in storage.
Social work	Up	736	939	0.7	Mix of HSE & LA inspection.
Public Administration	Up	3179	1,447	1.9	HSE inspected. Mix of Govt, LAs as employers, Police, Fire, and Defence.
Total	No change	30213	25,661	1.0	

* The figures in brackets denote the total number of Workers 04/05p

[1] Trade Associations

Key:
General Downward Trend over 5 years
No Apparent Trend over 5 years
General Upward Trend over 5 years

Key:
Low Relative Rate < 0.9
0.9 ≤ Medium Relative Rate < 1.6
High Relative Rate ≥ 1.6