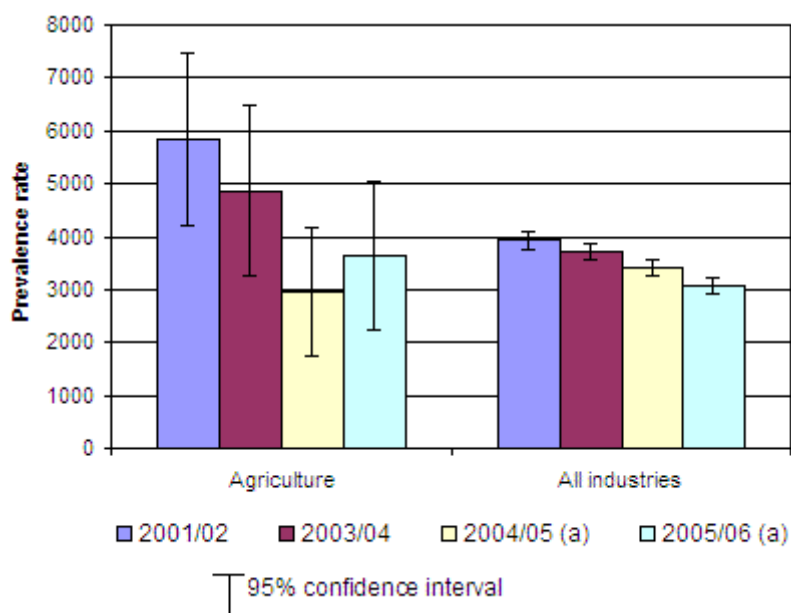


WORK RELATED SELF-REPORTED ILL HEALTH IN AGRICULTURE

In 2005/06, the agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing sector carried a prevalence rate of work-related illness similar to the average for all industries.

The latest survey of self-reported work-related illness (SWI) carried out in 2005/06 estimated that between 8 and 19 thousand people whose current or most recent job in the last year was in the agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing industry suffered from an illness which was caused or made worse by this job. The associated prevalence rate, between 2200 and 5000 per 100 000 people (between 2.2% and 5.0%) working in the last year, was of a similar order (not statistically significantly different) to that for all industries (3100 per 100 000 people – 3.1%).

Estimated prevalence rates of self-reported illness caused or made worse by the current or most recent job, per 100 000 people working in the last 12 months



The prevalence rate for this sector was lower in 2005/06 than in 2001/02.

Comparing this rate for agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing with corresponding rates from earlier SWI surveys indicates that the estimated prevalence rate in 2005/06 was of a similar order (not statistically significantly different) to those in 2004/05 (between 1700 and 4200 per 100 000 people – between 1.7% and 4.2%) and 2003/04 (4900 per 100 000 people – 4.9%), but was statistically significantly lower than the rate in 2001/02 (5900 per 100 000 people – 5.9%).

Musculoskeletal disorders are the most common ill health conditions in this sector. More detailed prevalence data by type of illness are not yet available from SWI05/06. However, earlier SWI surveys indicate that the prevalence rates for musculoskeletal disorders in 2003/04 and 2001/02 were statistically significantly higher than the corresponding rate for all industries in 2004/05 were too small to provide reliable estimates for musculoskeletal disorders. Corresponding rates for stress, depression or anxiety are not available, as sample numbers were not sufficiently large to provide reliable rates. THOR data shows incidence rates substantially above average for asthma and upper limb disorders.