Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2017/18
Number of deaths:
- Thirty-three people were killed in agriculture: 4 more than last year and 1 more than the 5-year average of 32
- Of these 33 deaths, 4 members of the public were killed, 2 of which were children

Age:
- Nearly half the workers killed were over 65
- The youngest person killed was 4 and the oldest was 85

Main cause:
- While the number of deaths by each cause varies each year, the most common are:
  - Killed by an animal
  - Struck by moving vehicle
  - Trapped by something collapsing
  - Struck by an object
  - Fall from height
  - Contact with electricity
Main causes of death 2017/18\((p)\) compared to the 5-year annual average (2013/14–2017/18\((p)\))

The main causes of death are broadly the same in comparison with the 5-year annual average. This pattern hasn’t changed significantly over several years.

During 2017/18\((p)\) the highest number of deaths were as a result of being injured by animals (cattle). This is similar to the 5-year annual average, where struck by a vehicle, killed by an animal and falls are the top causes of fatal injury.
Worker fatalities over time

Fatal injury rate (per 100,000) to workers, 1981/82-2017/18(p)

Number of fatal injuries to workers over a 36-year period (1981/82–2017/18(p))

Rate of fatal injury to workers (per 100,000) in agriculture and construction compared to all industry group (2017/18(p)) and average (2013/14–2017/18(p))

8.44
Worker fatal injury rate (per 100,000) 2017/18(p)

8.20
Worker fatal injury rate (per 100,000) annual average over 5 years

Longer term trends
The rate of fatal injury (per 100,000) while broadly flat up to 2003/04, shows a generally downward trend since the early 2000s

The number of fatal injuries to workers in the agricultural sector has fallen by around a half since 1981

Agriculture has the worst rate of worker fatal injury (per 100,000) in the main industrial sectors: nearly **18 times higher** than the all industry rate
Detailed cause of fatal injury during 2017/18

- **8 (24%)** Killed when injured by an animal
  - 5 Cattle
  - 3 Bull

- **6 (18%)** Killed by moving vehicle
  - 2 Tractor, tractor and trailer
  - 2 Telescopic handler (telehandler)
  - 2 Forestry harvester, skid steer loader

- **5 (15%)** Killed when trapped by something collapsing
  - 4 Vehicle, machinery and equipment
  - 1 Log stack

- **4 (12%)** Killed when struck by an object
  - 2 Trees/logs
  - 1 Bale
  - 1 Concrete beam

- **3 (9%)** Killed by fall from height
  - 1 Edge of floor (farm building)
  - 1 Fork lift truck (FLT)
  - 1 Bale stack

- **3 (9%)** Killed by contact with electricity
  - 2 Electrical equipment/wiring
  - 1 Overhead electricity power lines (OHPL)

- **2 (6%)** Killed by slip, trip or fall on same level
  - 1 farm yard
  - 1 farm equipment (transport trailer)

- **1 (3%)** Killed by contact with machinery
  - 1 Potato harvester

- **1 (3%)** Killed by asphyxiation/drowning
  - 1 Water

Source: RIDDOR and operational intelligence

Total number of people killed: 33
Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2017/18

Detailed cause of fatal injury over 5 years (2013/14–2017/18(p))

38 (24%) Killed by moving vehicle
- 15 Tractor, trailer including farm equipment
- 9 All-terrain vehicle (ATVs)
- 7 Telescopic handlers
- 7 From transport of any other kind

29 (18%) Killed when injured by an animal
- 21 Cattle
- 8 Bull

23 (15%) Killed by fall from height
- 12 Roof
- 2 Ladders
- 2 Bale stack
- 7 Other means of access

16 (10%) Killed when struck by an object
- 6 Trees/tree branch
- 5 Bales of straw/hay
- 5 Equipment or parts of machinery

15 (9%) Killed when trapped by something collapsing
- 8 Vehicle, machinery and equipment
- 2 Excavation, drainage ditches etc
- 2 Parts of buildings or structures
- 3 Other

10 (6%) Killed by asphyxiation/drowning
- 5 Pond, water, slurry lagoon or slurry pits/tank
- 4 Grain bins or silos
- 1 Other

8 (5%) Killed by contact with electricity
- 5 Overhead electricity power lines (OHPL)
- 2 Electrical wiring/installations
- 1 Other electrical contact

7 (4%) Killed by other causes
Other categories including: slip, trip or fall on same level; exposure to a fire etc

Source: RIDDOR and operational intelligence
Workers aged 65 or over account for nearly half of all fatal injuries (14 out of 29 worker deaths).

Nearly three quarters of workers killed were over the age of 60.

Compared to younger age groups the fatal injury rate is:

- Nearly three times higher in workers aged 60–64
- Nearly five times higher in workers aged 65 and over

The annual fatal injury rate in the 65+ age group has been consistently higher over the past decade.

In 2017/18(p):

- 48% of fatal injuries occurred to workers over 65
- 24% occurred to workers aged 60–64

### Age of workers killed in agriculture during 2017/18 (p)

- 14 (48%) age 65+
- 8 (28%) age 20–59
- 7 (24%) age 60–64

### Five year average rate of injury by age group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16–59</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60–64</td>
<td>12.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>22.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RIDDOR
Employment status

Worker deaths in 2017/18(p)

19 Self-employed
10 Employed
29 Total number of workers killed

Worker deaths
During 2017/18(p) 19 self-employed workers were killed.
In 2017/18(p) and over a 5-year period (2013/14–2017/18(p)) nearly twice as many self-employed people were killed as employees

Members of the public 2017/18(p)
Four members of the public were killed in 2017/18(p), 2 of which were children under the age of 16
Over a 5-year period, 12 members of the public have been killed of which 5 were children

Employment status over 5 years 2013/14–2017/18(p)

- 58% self-employed
- 32% employees
- 10% members of the public

Members of the public killed in the last 5 years (2013/14–2017/18 (p))

- 2013/14: 2 adults, 2 children
- 2014/15: 4 adults, 0 children
- 2015/16: 2 adults, 2 children
- 2016/17: 1 adult, 2 children
- 2017/18: 2 adults, 0 children

Source: RIDDOR
### Number of fatalities by geographical area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Total number in 2017/18(p)</th>
<th>Five-year average (2013/14–2017/18(p)) in brackets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Midlands</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and the Humber</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average figures rounded to nearest number</td>
<td>Total number of people killed</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RIDDOR
Additional data sources, definitions and presentation of statistics in this report

1 This report summarises fatal workplace injuries in agriculture in Great Britain in 2017/18 and makes comparison with the five-year average (2013/14–2017/18), 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: fatal diseases, and fatal injuries involving workers travelling on a public highway (‘road traffic accident’).

2 The figures for 2017/18 are provisional, covering the 12 months from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, and will be finalised in July 2019 following any necessary adjustments. The 2016/17 figure has now finalised, and is one less than last year’s 2016/17 provisional figure. The provisional 2017/18 fatality figure could increase or decrease slightly when finalised.

3 Statistics in this report are compiled in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics (produced by the UK Statistics Authority). Fatal incident statistics are published for all industrial sectors annually (usually early July), at which time the provisional figures for the 12 months to the end of the previous March are published and the figures for the preceding year are finalised.

4 Statistical data in this report has been supplemented by factual detail gathered during HSE’s investigative work. This is referred to as ‘operational intelligence’.

5 HSE’s industry-specific sectors use data of this kind to work out patterns of incident causation, trends and incidence rates. This helps HSE prioritise and devise effective interventions with particular industry sectors and types of businesses.

6 The numbers of fatalities tend to fluctuate year-on-year due to random variation, and therefore caution should be applied when making comparisons and/or considering longer-term trends.

7 The number of fatal injuries in the agriculture sector each year continues to be a cause of concern for HSE, the Farm Safety Partnerships (FSP) in England, Scotland and Wales, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) and the industry itself.

8 HSE’s agriculture strategy has been developed to address the hazards and risks in the industry, defined as traditional farming activities such as arable, dairy, livestock and mixed farming, growing fruit and vegetables, forestry, production horticulture, aquaculture, agricultural and animal husbandry services.

Summaries of the circumstances of the individual fatal injuries can be read on HSE’s agriculture webpage http://www.hse.gov.uk/agfoodsec/resources/fatal.htm.

Detailed data and tables can be seen at http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatal.htm.

If you have any queries about this report, contact: The Health and Safety Executive’s Agriculture Team (agriculture@hse.gov.uk).

Further advice

Current guidance on health and safety in agriculture is available at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture. This report is available at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm

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