

Handling injuries in Great Britain, 2014

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Summary

The information in this document relates to Health and Safety Statistics for 2013/14. It can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/handling-injuries.pdf

This document gives an overview of handling injuries to employees that were reported to all RIDDOR enforcing authorities in 2013/14p.

Handling is a broad category of work-related injury. Handling injuries include: injuries due to lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling loads; strains; sprains; trapped fingers and cuts from sharp objects.

In 2013/14p:

- an estimated 909 000 working days were lost due to handling injuries (LFS);
- an average of 6.6 days were lost for each handling injury (LFS);
- handling caused nearly a quarter of reported injuries (24%) (RIDDOR, LFS);
- eight percent of major/specified and more than a quarter of over-seven-day injuries to employees involved handling (1 431 major /specified; 16 923 over-seven-day). There were no fatal injuries (RIDDOR);
- over-7-day injuries accounted for more than nine in ten of the total (18 354) (RIDDOR);
- the latest 3 year averaged estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) showed an estimated 54 000 reportable handling injuries resulted in more than three days' absence from work - this was a rate of 190 per 100 000 workers (LFS).

Handling¹

Handling injuries include: strains; sprains; lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling loads; trapped fingers and cuts from sharp objects.

Since the introduction of a new RIDDOR coding system (2011/12) and changes in the definition of specified and lost time injuries (2012/13 and 2013/14), injury numbers and rates cannot be directly compared with earlier years. The main impacts of the new system on handling statistics were:

- handling was formerly the most common kind of injury reported. From 2012/13, this has not been the case, due to the reduction in numbers following the change from over-three-day to over-seven-day reporting;
- reporters classified a lower proportion of injuries as handling and a greater proportion as “Unknown” or “Other”, (RIDDOR) but
- LFS estimates do not show significantly lower handling injury rates than in the period from 2008/09-2011/12; (LFS); and
- the loss of handling sub-category information. Before 2011/12, handling was subdivided into more detailed kinds, such as “lifting or putting down loads”.

Table 1 Handling, lifting and carrying injuries, 2013/14p (RIDDOR)

Injury	Employee	Self-employed	Workers
Fatal	0	0	0
Major/Specified	1 431	59	1 490
Over-seven-day	16 923	162	17 085
Total	18 354	221	18 575

¹ In 2011/12, the RIDDOR reporting system changed. There were also changes to what injuries had to be reported in 2012/13 (over-3 to over-7-day absence) and mid-way through 2013/14 (from major to specified injuries) The system changes affected the way that incidents were coded by reporters, for example the kind is coded as “other” much more frequently. (www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm#riddor provides further explanation)..

Handling injuries by industry (2013/14p)

- Health & social care, manufacturing and transport & storage, together accounted for more than half of reported employee handling injury numbers, but less than a third of employees. (RIDDOR)
- Health & social care had the highest number of reported handling injuries in 2013/14p (3 770).

Figure 1 Industries with highest rates of handling injury to employees, 2013/14p (RIDDOR)



- The highest rate of reported injury was in water & waste (water supply, sewerage, waste management & remediation) despite relatively low numbers of injuries.
- Transportation & storage had the next highest rate. In the previous five years, it had the highest rate, followed by water & waste.
- These two industries had much higher handling injury rates than manufacturing, which had the third highest rates.

Handling injuries by occupation

In 2013/14p:

- elementary storage occupations had the highest numbers of handling injuries, (2 028) more than the next two occupations: retail assistants (604) and nursing auxiliaries & assistants (789) combined. The rate of handling injury in elementary storage occupations was also high, at 523.4 per 100 000 employees;
- nurses and care & nursing assistants, taken together, accounted for 11% of the total (1 929). The combined rate of injuries for these occupations was 120.8 per 100 000 employees. This is much lower than the rates of handling injury to ambulance staff (1 981.8) and paramedics (1 900.5).

Table 2 Known occupations with most reported handling injuries 2013/14p (RIDDOR)

SOC2010 4-digit occupations	Major/ Specified	Absence	Total	% of handling major/ specified	% of handling over-7- day	% of handling Total
9260 - Elementary storage occupations	123	1 905	2 028	9%	11%	11%
6141 - Nursing auxiliaries & assistants	33	756	789	2%	4%	4%
7111 - Sales & retail assistants	66	538	604	5%	3%	3%
2231 - Nurses	12	578	590	1%	3%	3%
8239 - Other drivers & transport operatives nec	40	547	587	3%	3%	3%
6145 - Care workers & home carers	22	528	550	2%	3%	3%
5223 - Metal working production & maintenance fitters	70	472	542	5%	3%	3%
8211 - Large goods vehicle drivers	45	463	508	3%	3%	3%
9235 - Refuse & salvage occupations	31	468	499	2%	3%	3%
7219 - Customer service occupations nec ²	47	422	469	3%	2%	3%
8111 - Food, drink & tobacco process operatives	16	443	459	1%	3%	3%
3213 - Paramedics	5	439	444	0%	3%	2%
8149 - Construction operatives nec	54	387	441	4%	2%	2%
9272 - Kitchen & catering assistants	31	352	383	2%	2%	2%
6142 - Ambulance staff (excluding paramedics)	9	373	382	1%	2%	2%
9233 - Cleaners & domestics	14	311	325	1%	2%	2%
8212 - Van drivers	23	286	309	2%	2%	2%

² nec= not elsewhere classified

Enforcement action on handling risks

The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (MHO) require employers and employees to reduce the risks of injury from manual handling as far as reasonably practicable. In 2013/14p there was one completed case prosecuted under MHO.

For further information on enforcement see HSE statistics enforcement pages³.

Table 3 Prosecutions instituted under the Manual Handling Operations Regulations at an offence level (2008/09 - 2013/14p)

Year	Cases ⁴	Number of offences	Conviction % rate	Average fine per conviction (offence level)
2008/09	3	4	100%	£2 125
2009/10	-	-	-	-
2010/11	1	1	100%	£1 500
2011/12	1	1	100%	£3 000
2012/13	-	-	-	-
2013/14p	1	1	-	£4 500

Table 4 Number of enforcement notices with requirements quoting the Manual Handling Operations Regulations (2008/09 - 2013/14p)

Year	Improvement	Immediate / Deferred prohibition	Total notices
2010/11	62	9	71
2011/12	43	12	55
2012/13	26	6	32
2013/14p	37	7	44

³ See www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/enforcement.htm

⁴ A case may include one or more offences.

Links to data sources and tables

Data Sources	Web Address (URL)
Labour Force Survey (LFS)	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm#lfs
RIDDOR (The Reporting Of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations)	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm#riddor
Tables/further information	Web Address (URL)
RIDKIND1	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridkind1.xls
RIDKIND2	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridkind2.xls
RIDKIND3	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridkind3.xls
INJKIND1	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/injkind1.xls
INJKIND1_3YR	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/injkind1_3yr.xls
INJKIND2	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/injkind2.xls
Kinds of injury	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/kinds-of-accident.htm
	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/kinds-of-accident.pdf
Slips trips and falls	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/slips-trips-and-falls.pdf
Vehicle injuries	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/moving-vehicles.pdf
Handling injuries	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/handling-injuries.pdf
Handling injuries (finalised for 2010/11)	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/handlinginjuries-2006-07to2010-11.pdf
Workplace transport injuries (finalised for 2010/11)	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/workplace-transport.pdf
Other tables	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm

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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