

Kinds of accident in Great Britain, 2016

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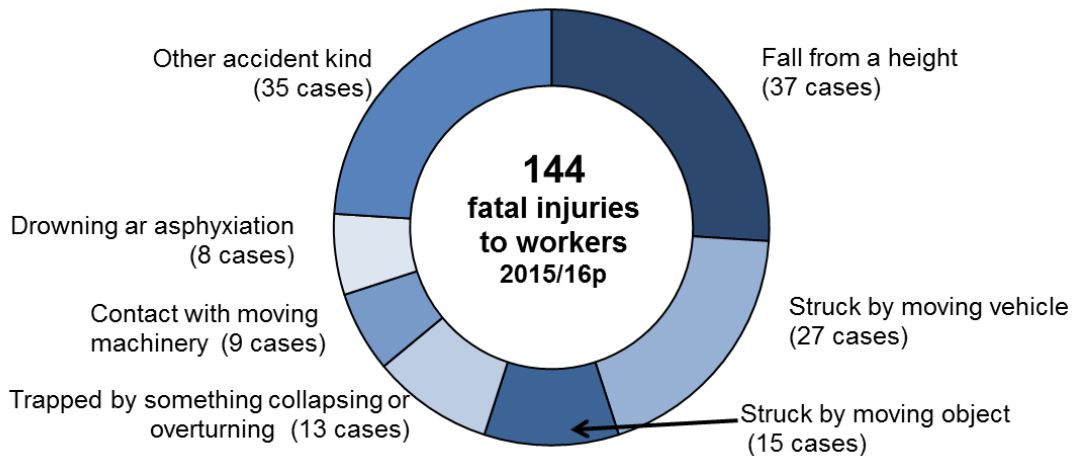
Introduction

In 2015/16¹, 144 workers² were killed at work and an estimated 621,000 workers³ suffered non-fatal injuries as a result of work activity. Despite long term reductions in the number of workers injured each year, the kinds of accident sustained remain similar year-on-year.

Fatal Injuries

Three-quarters of fatal injuries in 2015/16 were accounted for by just 6 different accident kinds, similar to earlier years.

Figure 1: Fatal injuries to workers by accident kind 2015/16p⁴



Source: RIDDOR

- Just over a quarter of all fatal injuries (37 cases) were accounted for by fall from a height.
 - 18 of the fatal falls occurred in the construction sector, 7 in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector and 4 in manufacturing.
- Being struck by a moving vehicle accounted for around a further 20 percent of workplace fatalities (27 cases)
 - These deaths occurred across a range of industries including the transportation and storage sector (6 cases) and the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (4 cases).
- Of the 35 deaths accounted for by other kinds of accident:
 - 7 were accounted for by exposure to an explosion (6 of which were in the manufacturing sector)
 - 6 were accounted for by contact with electricity or electricity discharge (4 of which were in the construction sector)
 - 3 were accounted for by exposure to fire
 - 3 were accounted for by being injured by an animal (all in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector).

For more details of accident kind by industry sector see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridkind.xlsx

¹ Data is presented on a financial year basis (April-March).

² Workers includes both employees and the self-employed

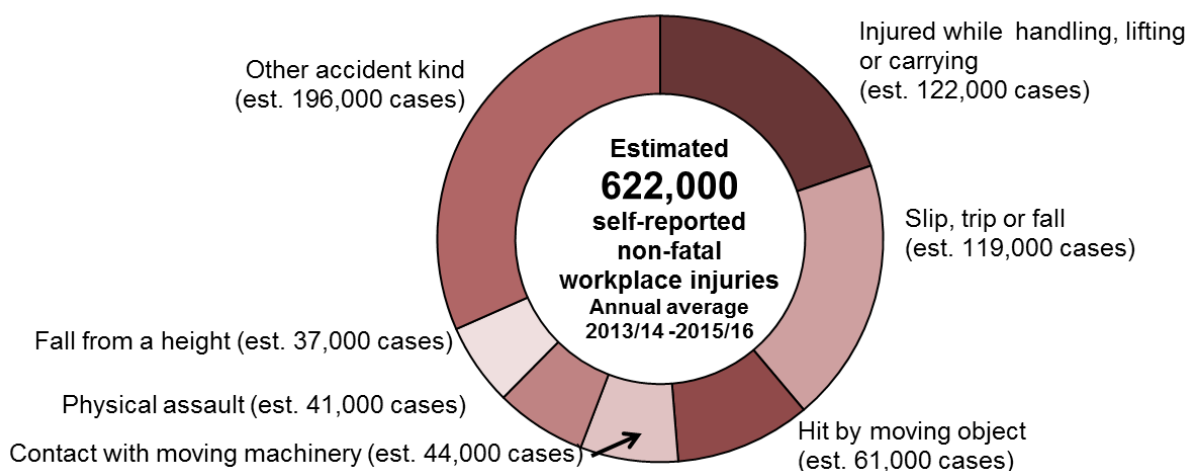
³ This estimate of 621,000 workers is based on annual data for 2015/16. The subsequent estimate in figure 2 for total workplace injury broken down by accident kind is an annual average estimate based on 3-years data from 2013/14-2015/16. The 3-year annual average estimate shows an average of 622,000 workers injured annually between 2013/14 and 2015/16.

⁴ p – provisional data.

Non-fatal injuries

The profile of non-fatal injuries by accident kind differs quite markedly to the profile of fatal injuries.

Figure 2: All self-reported non-fatal injuries to workers by accident kind, annual average 2013/14-2015/16



Source: Labour Force Survey

- While just 2% of fatal injuries were accounted for by handling, lifting or carrying and slip trip or fall accidents, they accounted for almost 40% of all self-reported non-fatal injuries to workers.
- Falls from a height, the main kind of fatal accident, accounted for just 6% of self-reported non-fatal injuries.

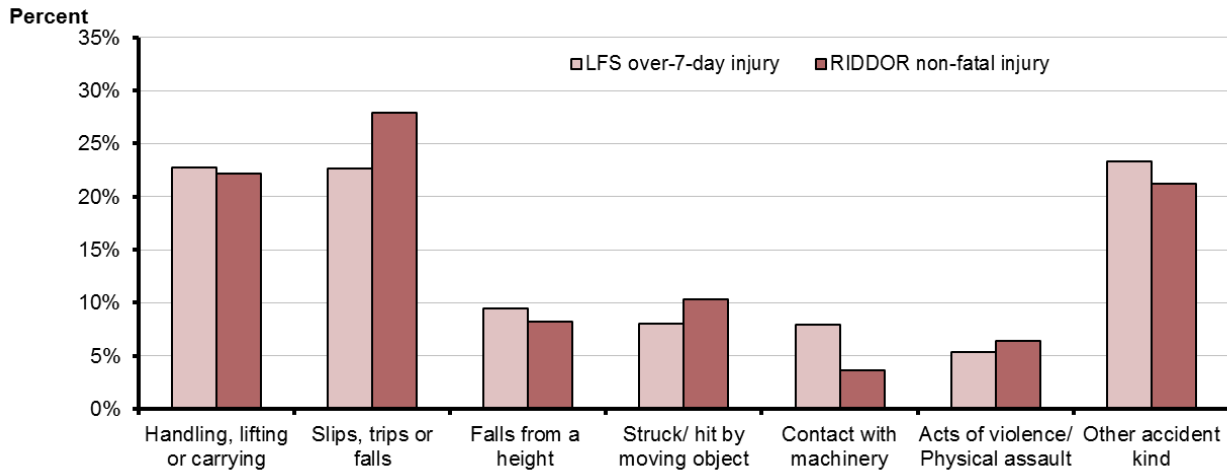
The estimates in figure 2 above are from the Labour Force Survey (LFS, a national household survey). This is the preferred source for injury statistics as it provides the most complete measure of the scale of workplace injury. A supplementary source of injury data, providing data at more detailed levels is the Reporting of Injury, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR). This source is known to suffer from under-reporting and therefore under-estimates the scale of workplace injury. However, it provides valuable supplementary data to the Labour Force Survey, particularly at more detailed levels. See [data sources](#) for more details.

In figure 3 below the accident kind distribution for over-7-day injuries to workers from the LFS is compared with the accident kind distribution for non-fatal injuries to employees reported to RIDDOR⁵.

Both sources, LFS and RIDDOR, present a very similar picture in terms of the relative importance of different accident kinds.

⁵ RIDDOR regulations define two categories of reportable non-fatal injuries: specified (a pre-defined list of injuries which was revised from the previous 'major' category in October 2013); and over-7-day (changed from 'over-3-day' in April 2012). Over-7-day injuries from the Labour Force provides an approximate match to the injuries reported under RIDDOR but will not include those RIDDOR specified injuries resulting in 7 or less days off work.

Figure 3: Percentage of non-fatal injuries accounted for by different accident kinds based on (i) Self-reported over-7-day injury estimate from Labour Force Survey and (ii) Non-fatal injury notifications to RIDDOR

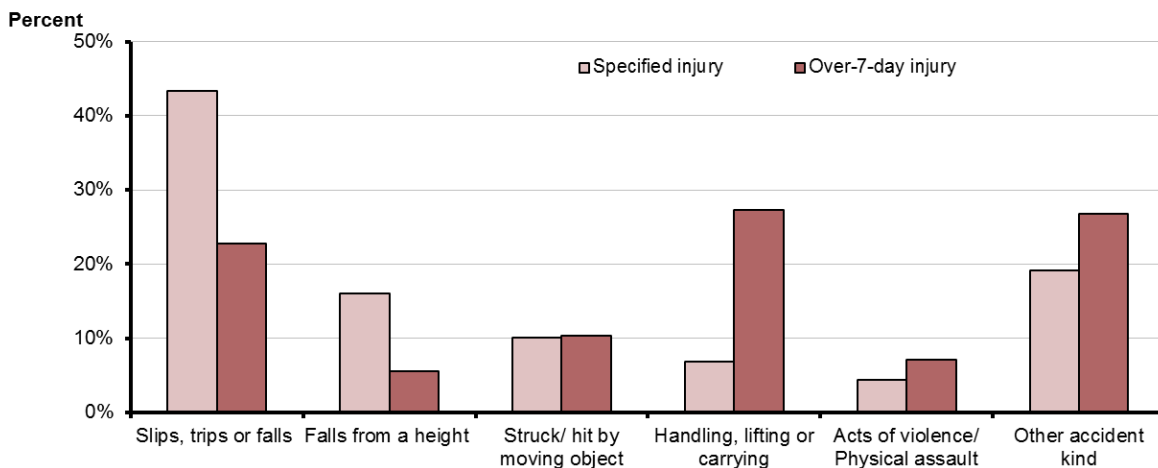


Source: Labour Force Survey, annual average 2013/14-2015/16, RIDDOR 2015/16p

RIDDOR regulations define two categories of reportable non-fatal injuries: specified (a pre-defined list of injuries which was revised from the previous ‘major’ category in October 2013); and over-7-day (changed from ‘over-3-day’ in April 2012). The specified injury listing consists of 8 injury types. Fractures, other than to fingers, thumbs or toes, is the biggest specified injury category accounting for 90% of all reported specified injuries in 2015/16. (For details of all specified injury categories see www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf.)

Given the dominance of fractures to the specified injury category, not surprisingly there is some variation in accident type between specified injuries and over-7-day injuries, as shown in figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Percentage of (i) Specified injuries and (ii) Over-7-day injuries to employees accounted for by different accident kinds 2015/16p



Source: RIDDOR

- Almost 60% of specified injuries to employees are accounted for by slips, trips or falls and falls from a height, a much larger proportion than for over-7-day injuries (29%).
- Conversely, only 7% of specified injuries to employees are accounted for by handling, lifting or carrying accidents, compared with 27% for over-7-day injuries.

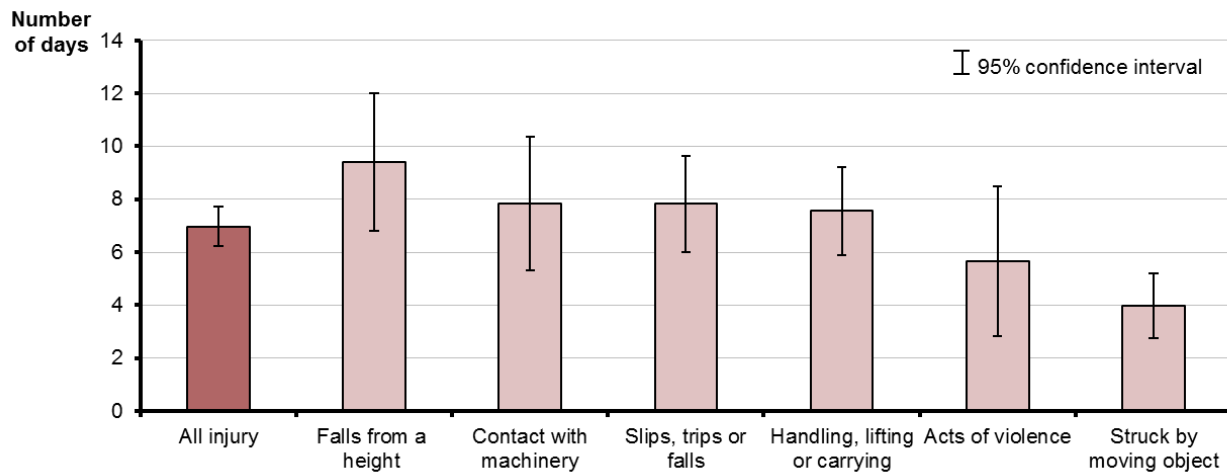
For details of non-fatal injuries by kind of accident for specific industries see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridkind.xlsx. This table allows you to flexibly view the data. For example you can view the accident kinds for a specific industry (such as construction) or you can look at a particular accident kind (such as falls from a height) and see the percentage contribution that accident kind makes to the total injury count for each industry.

Working days lost

The Labour Force Survey provides information on lost working time as a result of workplace injury. On average, 4.3 million working days were lost due to workplace non-fatal injury each year between 2013/14 and 2015/16.

Figure 5 below shows how the time lost per case varies according to accident kind.

Figure 5: Estimated days lost (full-time equivalent) per case due to workplace non-fatal injury



Source: Labour Force Survey, annual average 2013/14-2015/16

- If someone is injured by falling from a height, on average they will be off work for 9.4 days.
 - While the estimated number of days lost per case is greatest for fall from a height accidents the difference is not statistically significant from the average days lost per cost for all injuries.
- The estimated number of days lost per case for accidents involving being struck by a moving object (4.0 full-time equivalent lost working days per case), is statistically significantly lower than the average days lost per cost for all injuries (7.0).

Annex 1: Sources and definitions used

1. The Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The LFS is a national survey run by the Office for National Statistics of currently around 38,000 households each quarter. HSE commissions annual questions in the LFS to gain a view of work-related illness and workplace injury based on individuals' perceptions. The analysis and interpretation of these data are the sole responsibility of HSE. See www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/technicalnote.htm for more details.

Self-reported injuries: Workplace injuries sustained as a result of a non-road traffic accident, as estimated by the LFS. HSE has collected data on injuries through the LFS in 1990 and annually since 1993/94. LFS injury estimates are generally presented as three-year averages to provide a more robust series of estimates.

Working days lost: Days off work due to workplace injuries (and work-related ill health). The figures are expressed as full-day equivalents, to allow for variation in daily hours worked.

95% confidence interval: The range of values 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.

2. RIDDOR

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (as amended), 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.

For more information, see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm

Annex 2: Links to data tables

Table reference	Table description	Web address (URL)
LFSINJKND	LFS Workplace injury – Self-reported non-fatal injuries by accident kind	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/lfsinjknd.xlsx
RIDKIND	RIDDOR – reported injuries by accident kind and industry	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridkind.xlsx
-	Other tables	www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/

National Statistics

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All official statistics should comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

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 Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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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