

European Comparisons

Summary of GB Performance

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Summary

The information in this document has been collated as part of HSE's Health and safety statistics release for 2010/11, and presents Health and Safety data across Europe for 2007. The document can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/european/index.htm

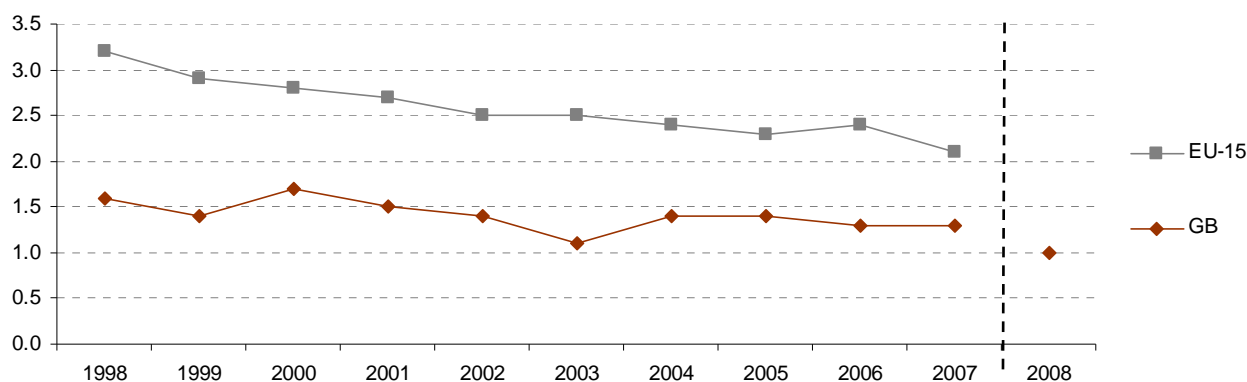
Summary of Performance

Work-related deaths have been steadily reducing across the EU, and in GB. Compared with other EU countries, GB performance is favourable, with relatively low rates of fatalities, accidents and ill health.

Although health & safety systems differ across Europe, and countries record different information, Eurostat publishes data in as standardised a form as possible:

- Rates of fatal injury across the EU-15 and GB have fallen between 1998 and 2007. EU15 includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK.
- In 2008 the rate of fatal injuries was calculated using updated industry data, so differs slightly to previous years, however GB had the lowest rate of those published by Eurostat. GB performs well against other large economies such as France (1.68 per 100 000), Germany (1.87 per 100 000), Italy (2.39 per 100 000), Spain (2.63 per 100 000) and Poland (3.54 per 100 000).
- 2% of UK workers in 2007 reported an accident resulting in sick leave. This is lower than the overall EU rate (2.3%), and other large economies such as Germany (2.4%), France (3.6%), Spain (3.2%) and Italy (2.3%), however the rate in Poland (1.0%) was lower than the UK.
- 3.2% of UK workers in 2007 reported a work related illness resulting in sick leave; this was lower than Germany (4.6%), Italy (3.3%), Spain (4.2%), Poland (12%), and the overall EU rate (5.3%).

Standardised incidence rates (per 100 000 workers) of fatal injuries at work in GB and the EU, 1998-2007, and GB 2008 estimated incidence rate (Eurostat)



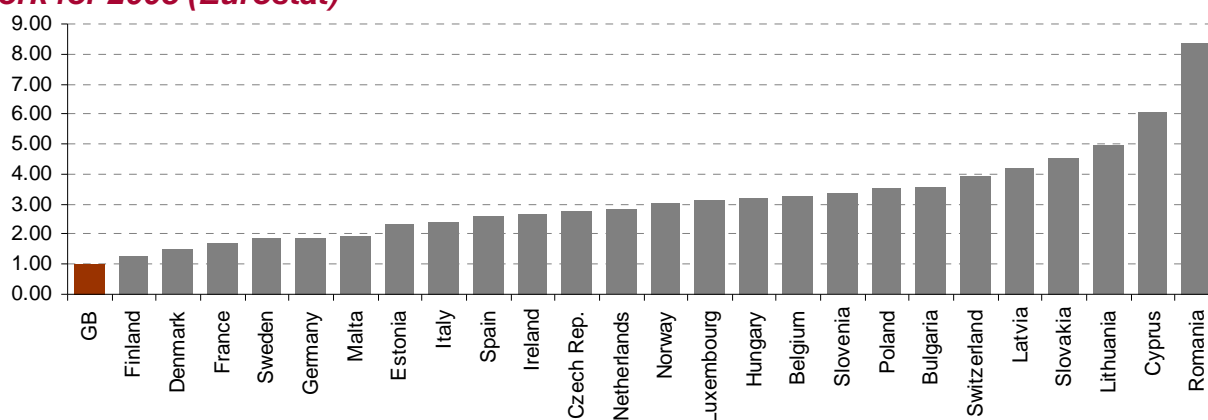
Injuries at work in the EU

Fatal injuries at work

GB has the lowest rate of fatal injury of all those published by Eurostat for 2008.

- The GB rate of 0.99 per 100 000 workers is considerably lower than many EU member states, including other large economies such as France (1.68 per 100 000), Germany (1.87 per 100 000), Italy (2.39 per 100 000), Spain (2.63 per 100 000) and Poland (3.54 per 100 000).
- Rates are based on fatalities occurring across 12 sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and construction, the transport sector is excluded.
- Road traffic accidents should not be included in these rates, although removal may not always be complete - this should be kept in mind when reviewing rates for individual countries.
- Figures used to construct this chart can be found in [Table 1](#) in the Appendix.

Estimated incidence rates (per 100 000 workers) of fatal accidents at work, excluding road traffic accidents and accidents on board transport in the course of work for 2008 (Eurostat)

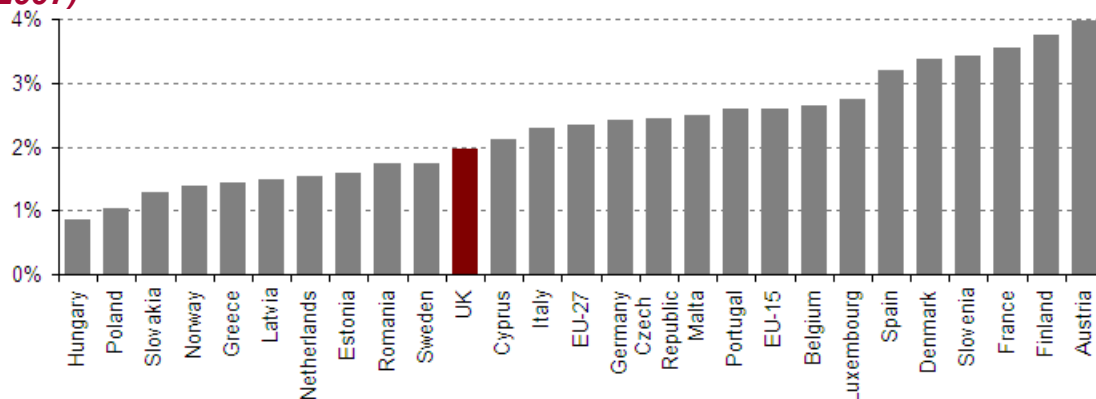


Self reported work related accidents

Figures taken from the 2007 Labour Force Survey (LFS) show that although there are countries with lower rates of work related accidents, UK performance is better than many EU countries.

- 2% of UK workers in 2007 reported an accident resulting in sick leave. This is lower than the overall EU rate (2.3%), and other large economies such as Germany (2.4%), France (3.6%), Spain (3.2%) and Italy (2.3%), however the rate in Poland (1.0%) was lower than the UK.
- This information is taken from the 2007 Labour Force Survey, this gives the most comparable data on accidents across the EU. The accidents counted here are based on workers own definitions of an accident at work, so may not be officially reported.
- Figures used to construct this chart are available in [Table 2](#) in the Appendix.

Workers who had an accident resulting in sick leave in the previous 12 months (%) (LFS 2007)

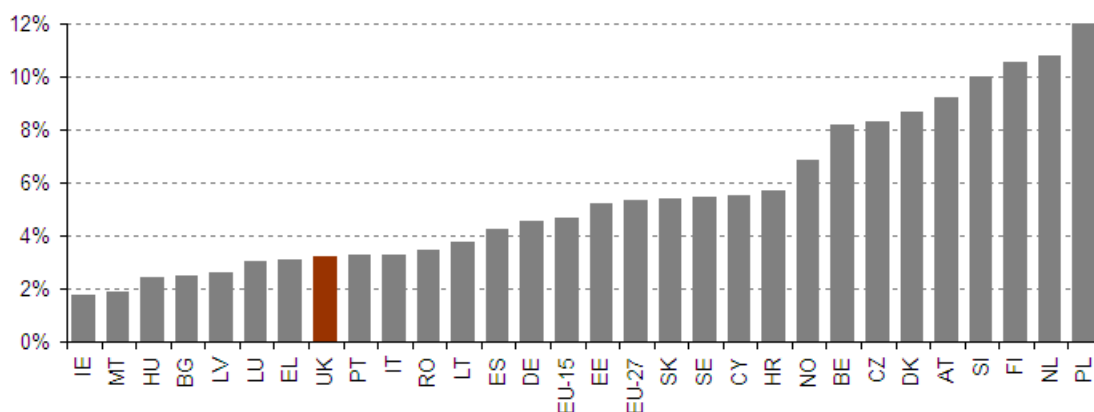


Work related ill health in the EU

3.2% of UK workers say that they suffer from a work related health problem which has caused them to take time off work, this is one of the lowest rates in the EU.

- The chart below shows the percentage of workers in each member state who reported one or more work-related health problems which caused them to take time off work. Figures used to construct this chart are available in [Table 3](#) in the Appendix.
- At 3.2%, the UK has one of the smallest proportions of workers who report a work-related ill health problem causing them to take sick leave. This is lower than the EU-27 as a whole (5.3%), Germany (4.6%), Italy (3.3%), Spain (4.2%) and Poland (12%). Data from France is not available due to differences in the way ill health questions were asked.
- European Ill health data is taken from the 2007 Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is based on workers ideas of work-related health problems and so may not match official definitions in any country.

Workers with one or more work related health problem resulting in sick leave (%) (LFS 2007)

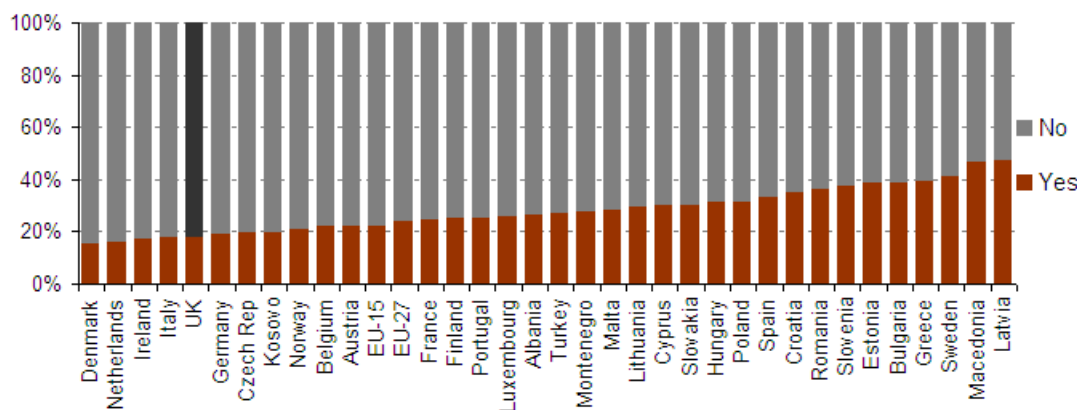


Health and safety practice in the EU

European surveys tell us that the majority of UK workers are confident that their job does not put their health or safety at risk, and that businesses in the UK are more likely to have a health and safety policy, and to follow this up with formal risk assessments, than many other countries in the EU.

- According to the 2010 European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS), 18% of UK workers think their jobs risk their health or safety; this is one of the lowest proportions in the EU, compared with around 24% of all EU-27 workers.
- Italy and Germany have similar results to the UK, while more workers in France and Spain think that their health or safety is at risk because of work. Full data used in this chart is found in [Table 4](#) in the appendix.

Do you think your health or safety is at risk because of your work? (%) (EWCS 2010)

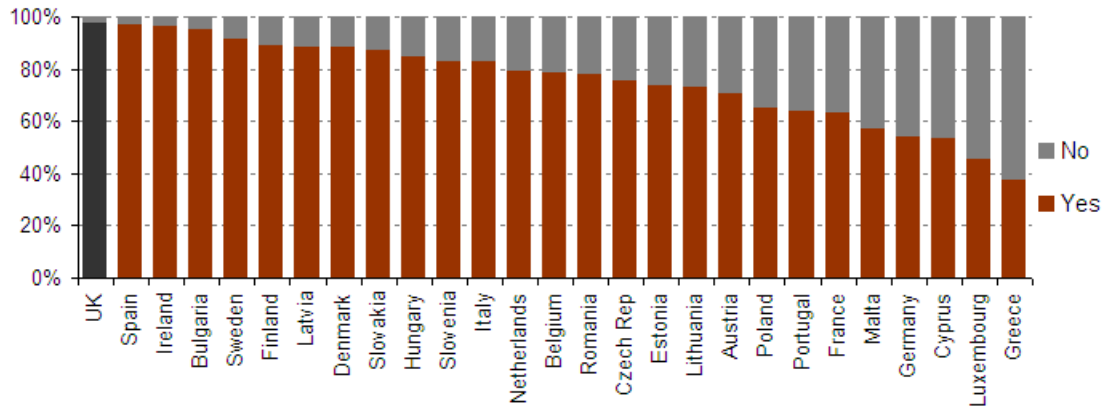


Managers in the UK businesses interviewed as part of the European Survey of New and Emerging Risks

(ESENER) in 2009 were more likely to have a documented health and safety policy, and more likely to undertake regular health and safety checks, than businesses in many other EU countries.

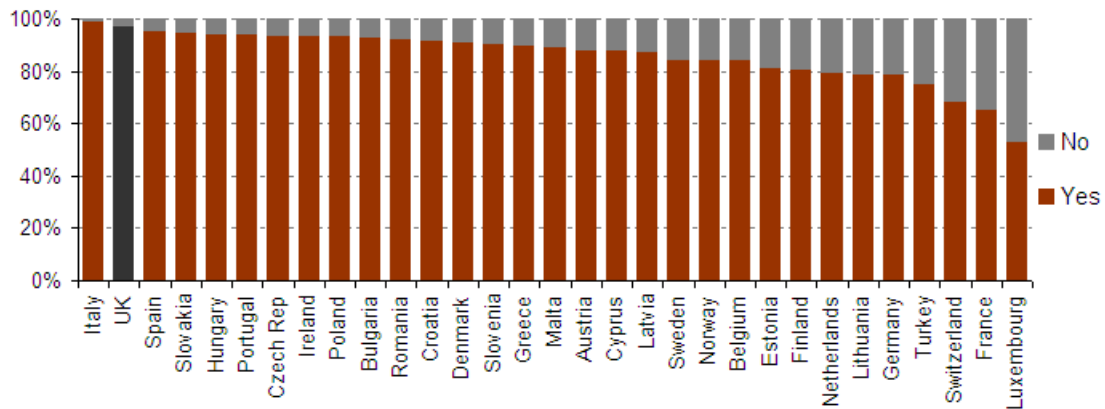
- Managers in businesses with more than 10 employees, and in all sectors apart from agriculture, were interviewed for the ESENER survey in 2009. Interviews covered specific questions about psychosocial risks such as stress and violence, as well as general health and safety management.
- Results (below) showed that around 98% of these businesses in the UK have a health and safety policy, more than in other EU countries. Data can be found in [Table 5](#) in the appendix.

Is there a documented policy, established management system or action plan on health and safety in your establishment? (ESENER 2009)



- Around 97% of UK workplaces surveyed undertake regular health and safety checks, more than in most EU countries.
- Data used to construct the chart below can be found in [Table 6](#) in the appendix. Results exclude businesses with fewer than 10 employees, and those in the agricultural sector.

Are workplaces in your establishment regularly checked for safety and health as part of a risk assessment or similar measure? (ESENER 2009)



Appendix & References

Tables of Data

Table 1: Standardised incidence rate of fatal accidents at work, excluding road traffic accidents and accidents on board transport in the course of work.

Member State	Rate of fatal injury per 100 000 workers
Austria	Not available
Belgium	3.23
Bulgaria	3.59
Cyprus	6.09
Czech Rep.	2.78
Denmark	1.5
Estonia	2.32
EU-15	Not available
EU-27	Not available
Finland	1.28
France	1.68
GB	0.99
Germany	1.87
Hungary	3.18
Ireland	2.67
Italy	2.39
Latvia	4.2
Lithuania	4.94
Luxembourg	3.15
Malta	1.93
Netherlands	2.82
Norway	3.03
Poland	3.54
Portugal	Not available
Romania	8.38
Slovakia	4.54
Slovenia	3.37
Spain	2.63
Sweden	1.84
Switzerland	3.95

Table 2: Workers who had an accident resulting in sick leave in the previous 12 months (%) (LFS 2007)

Member State	Workers reporting an accident at work in last 12 months resulting in sick leave (%)
Austria	4.0%
Belgium	2.6%
Cyprus	2.1%
Czech Republic	2.4%
Denmark	3.4%
Estonia	1.6%
Finland	3.8%
France	3.6%
Germany	2.4%
Hungary	0.9%
Italy	2.3%
Latvia	1.5%
Luxembourg	2.7%
Malta	2.5%
Netherlands	1.5%
Norway	1.4%
Portugal	2.6%
Romania	1.7%
Slovakia	1.3%
Slovenia	3.4%
Spain	3.2%
Sweden	1.7%
EU-15	2.6%
EU-27	2.3%
Greece	1.4%
Poland	1.0%
UK	2.0%

Table 3: Workers with work related health problem resulting in sick leave (%) (LFS 2007)

Member State	Workers reporting a work related health problem resulted in sick leave
Austria	9.2%
Belgium	8.2%
Bulgaria	2.5%
Croatia	5.7%
Cyprus	5.5%
Czech Republic	8.3%
Denmark	8.6%
Estonia	5.2%
EU-15	4.7%
EU-27	5.3%
Finland	10.5%
Germany	4.6%
Greece	3.1%
Hungary	2.4%
Ireland	1.7%
Italy	3.3%
Latvia	2.6%
Lithuania	3.7%
Luxembourg	3.0%
Malta	1.9%
Netherlands	10.8%
Norway	6.8%
Poland	12.0%
Portugal	3.3%
Romania	3.4%
Slovakia	5.4%
Slovenia	10.0%
Spain	4.2%
Sweden	5.4%
UK	3.2%

Table 4: Do you think your health or safety is at risk because of your work? (%) (EWCS 2010)

Member State	Workers answering 'Yes' to 'Do you feel your health or safety is at risk because of your work?' (%)
Denmark	15.5%
Netherlands	16.1%
Ireland	16.9%
Italy	17.5%
UK	17.6%
Germany	19.1%
Czech Rep	19.8%
Kosovo	19.9%
Norway	20.9%
Belgium	22.1%
Austria	22.1%
EU-15	22.2%
EU-27	24.2%
France	24.6%
Finland	24.9%
Portugal	25.1%
Luxembourg	25.5%
Albania	26.3%
Turkey	26.8%
Montenegro	27.7%
Malta	28.0%
Lithuania	29.3%
Cyprus	30.3%
Slovakia	30.3%
Hungary	31.3%
Poland	31.5%
Spain	32.9%
Croatia	35.0%
Romania	36.0%
Slovenia	37.2%
Estonia	38.5%
Bulgaria	38.7%
Greece	39.2%
Sweden	41.3%
Macedonia	46.7%
Latvia	47.2%

Table 5: Is there a documented policy, established management system or action plan on health and safety in your establishment?(ESENER 2009)

Member State	Establishments with documented policy, system or action plan (%)
UK	97.6%
Spain	96.8%
Ireland	96.1%
Bulgaria	94.9%
Sweden	91.3%
Finland	88.9%
Latvia	88.6%
Denmark	88.1%
Slovakia	87.0%
Hungary	84.9%
Slovenia	83.1%
Italy	83.1%
Netherlands	79.0%
Belgium	78.2%
Romania	77.9%
Czech Rep	75.6%
Estonia	73.5%
Lithuania	73.1%
Austria	70.5%
Poland	64.9%
Portugal	64.0%
France	63.4%
Malta	57.0%
Germany	54.0%
Cyprus	53.3%
Luxembourg	45.2%
Greece	37.5%

Table 6: Are workplaces in your establishment regularly checked for safety and health as part of a risk assessment or similar measure?(ESENER 2009)

Member State	Establishments regularly checked for health and safety as part of a risk assessment or similar measure (%)
Italy	98.8%
UK	97.1%
Spain	95.2%
Slovakia	94.4%
Hungary	94.0%
Portugal	93.8%
Czech Rep	93.1%
Ireland	93.0%
Poland	93.0%
Bulgaria	92.5%
Romania	92.2%
Croatia	91.3%
Denmark	91.0%
Slovenia	90.2%
Greece	89.3%
Malta	88.9%
Austria	87.8%
Cyprus	87.5%
Latvia	87.1%
Sweden	84.1%
Norway	84.0%
Belgium	83.9%
Estonia	80.7%
Finland	80.2%
Netherlands	79.0%
Lithuania	78.8%
Germany	78.4%
Turkey	74.7%
Switzerland	67.8%
France	65.1%
Luxembourg	53.0%

All tables are available at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm#europeancomparisons

Data Sources

Follow the links below for more details on the data used in this document, or to download the data for your own use.

Eurostat data on fatal accidents

To download European data on fatal accidents please visit the Eurostat database:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/health/health_safety_work/data/database

The fatal accident data used in this report is in the folder labelled '**Accidents at work (ESAW) - 2008 onwards**', the table is: '*Accidents at work by sex and age, excluding road traffic accidents and accidents on board of any mean of transport in the course of work (NACE Rev. 2: A_C-N except H) (hsw_mi03)*'.

For further details on the scope and coverage of the fatalities data please see the metadata provided by Eurostat: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/EN/hsw_acc_work_esms.htm

Labour Force Survey data on non-fatal accidents and ill health

LFS data is available from Eurostat:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/health/health_safety_work/data/database

The folder is: '**Work related accidents, health problems and hazardous exposure - 2007 Labour Force Survey (hsw_apex)**'.

Data on work related accidents is in the subfolder '**Accidents at Work**' and derived from the following tables: '*Persons reporting an accident at work in the past 12 months by sex, age and education - in % (hsw_ac1)*' and '*Persons reporting that their most recent accidental injury at work or in the course of work resulted in sick leave in the past 12 months, by sex, age and education - in % (hsw_ac2)*'

Data on ill health is in the subfolder '**Work related health problems (hsw_pb)**', the tables are called '*Persons reporting one or more work-related health problems in the past 12 months, by sex, age and education - in % (hsw_pb1)*' and '*Persons reporting that their most serious work-related health problem resulted in sick leave in the past 12 months, by sex, age and education - in % (hsw_pb2)*'.

For further details on the scope and coverage of the Labour Force Survey data on accidents and Ill health please see the metadata: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/EN/hsw_apex_esms.htm.

European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)

For more details on the background to the European Working Conditions Survey please visit the EWCS homepage on the Eurofound website: www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/ewcs/index.htm

To view the data, use the mapping tool: www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/smt/ewcs/results.htm The data used in this report (on whether workers think their health and safety is at risk because of their work) is under the 'Health & Wellbeing' link on the left hand side.

European Survey of New and Emerging Risks (ESENER)

The European Survey of New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) ran in 2009 and surveyed businesses across the EU with more than 10 employees in all sectors apart from agriculture. For more background on the survey, and to view the results please visit the mapping tool on the website of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work: <http://osha.europa.eu/sub/esener/en>

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