Agriculture, forestry and fishing statistics in Great Britain, 2018

Contents

Key statistics 2
Introduction 3
Work-related ill health: all illness 4
Work-related ill health: musculoskeletal disorders 5
Work-related ill health: other conditions 6
Workplace injuries: fatalities 7
Workplace injuries: non-fatal injuries 8
Workplace risks 10
Impact of health and safety failings: Economic cost 11
Impact of health and safety failings: Enforcement 11
Annex 1: Sources and definitions 12
Annex 2: Links to detailed tables 14

This document can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/agriculture.pdf
**Key statistics in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in Great Britain, 2018**

- **17,000** workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing)

  The rate of total self-reported work-related ill health shows no clear long-term trend.

  *Source: LFS, annual average 2015/16-2017/18.*

- **29** fatal injuries to workers in 2017/18

  This is broadly similar to the annual average number of fatalities for 2013/14-2017/18 (28)

  *Source: RIDDOR*  
  *Source: RIDDOR, 2013-2017/18. Accident kinds are shown that account for 10% or more of injuries.*

- **13,000** non-fatal injuries to workers each year

  The rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers shows some signs of a downward trend

  *Source: LFS, annual average 2015/16-2017/18.*  
  *Source: Non-fatal injuries reported under RIDDOR 2015/16-2017/18. RIDDOR is used here as the LFS is not able to provide a breakdown to this level of detail. Accident kinds are shown that account for 10% or more of injuries.*
Introduction

This report provides a profile of workplace health and safety in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector. Agriculture, forestry and fishing includes three broad industry groups:

- **Agriculture** – this division includes two basic activities, namely the production of crop products and production of animal products;
- **Forestry and logging** – this division includes the production of roundwood as well as the extraction and gathering of wild growing non-wood products (e.g., mushrooms, berries and nuts); and
- **Fishing and aquaculture**

This sector accounts for around 1% of the workforce in Great Britain.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) The ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ sector is defined by section A within the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification. See [www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007](http://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007) for more details.

\(^2\) Annual Population Survey, 2017
Work-related ill health

All illness

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated **17,000** work-related ill health cases (new or long-standing)
- **52%** were musculoskeletal disorders
- The rate of total self-reported work-related ill health shows no clear long-term trend

*Source: LFS, annual average 2015/16-2017/18*

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries

- Around **4.7%** of workers suffered from work-related ill health (new or long standing cases)
- This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate for workers across all industries (**3.2%**)

*Source: LFS, annual average 2015/16-2017/18. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart.*

Changes over time

*Source: LFS annual averages, grouped by 3 years, from 2001/02 to 2017/18. Estimates for this Sector are based on a relatively small number of sample cases, resulting in wide confidence intervals; this makes trends difficult to identify.*
Work-related ill health
Musculoskeletal disorders

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:
- There were an estimated 9,000 work-related cases of musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing), about half of all ill health in this Sector
- The rate of total self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders shows no clear long-term trend

Source: LFS, annual average 2015/16-2017/18

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other industries

- Around 2.5% of workers suffered from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing cases)
- This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate for workers across all industries (1.2%)

Source: LFS, annual average 2015/16-2017/18. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart.

Changes over time

No clear long-term trend

Source: LFS annual averages, grouped by 3 years, from 2001/02 to 2017/18. Estimates for this Sector are based on a relatively small number of sample cases, resulting in wide confidence intervals; this makes trends difficult to identify.
Work-related ill health

Other conditions

Self-reports of work-related ill health from the Labour Force Survey give the best indication of the overall scale of work-related ill health in Great Britain. However, since estimates are based on a sample survey, this source is limited when looking at less common work-related ill health cases. These is a range of supporting ill health data sources to supplement the Labour Force Survey estimates.

Farmers lung
- Farmers lung is a common form of the condition ‘allergic alveolitis’ and arises from the inhalation of dust or spores arising from mouldy hay, grain and straw
- The number of annual deaths where farmer’s lung (or a similar condition) was recorded as the underlying cause is generally of a similar order of magnitude with 70 deaths over the last decade (2007-2016) with five in the most recent year, 2016. The disease only rarely progresses to a life-threatening level, suggesting that there are substantially more non-fatal cases of farmers lung occurring each year.

Asthma
The chest physician reporting scheme for occupational respiratory disease (THOR-SWORD) shows that jobs associated with Agriculture, forestry and fishing are not among those with the highest rates of occupational asthma, although small numbers of cases associated with these jobs are routinely reported.

Skin Disease
The dermatologist reporting scheme for occupational skin disease (THOR-EPIDERM) provides no indication that the incidence of contact dermatitis in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is any higher than the average for all industries combined.

Occupational cancer
A research study on the occupational burden of cancer in Great Britain shows that occupational exposure to solar radiation resulted in about 1,500 non melanoma skin cancer registrations in 2004, with around 100 of these cases in workers across the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.
Workplace injuries
Fatalities

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:
- There were 29 fatal injuries in 2017/18
- This is similar to the number of fatalities each year over the last five years (annual average 28, 2013/14 – 2017/18)
- Over the same five year period, 23% of deaths were due to being struck by a moving vehicle, 17% being injured by an animal and 16% a fall from height

Source: RIDDOR

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</td>
<td>8.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities</td>
<td>5.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and storage</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All industry</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The fatal injury rate (8.44 per 100,000 workers) remains higher than any other main industry sector, and around five times than Construction and 19 times the All industry rate

Source: RIDDOR, 2017/18

Changes over time

- The rate of fatal injury while broadly flat up to 2003/04, shows a generally downward trend since the early 2000s

Source: RIDDOR. See www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm for more details on fatalities in agriculture
Workplace injuries
Labour Force Survey – HSE’s preferred data source for non-fatal injuries

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:
- There were an estimated **13,000** workers who sustained an injury at work
- The rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers shows some signs of a downward trend

*Source: LFS, annual average 2015/16-2017/18*

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other industries

- Around **3.7%** of workers in this sector suffered from an injury
- This is about **double** the All industries rate, and is statistically significantly higher

*Source: LFS, annual average 2015/16-2017/18*

Changes over time

- The rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers shows some signs of a downward trend, and is supported by a falling rate of non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers to RIDDOR

*Source: LFS 2000/01 – 2017/18*
Work-related injuries

Supporting information from RIDDOR
(Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations)°

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were 816 non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers to RIDDOR in 2017/18
- 340 (42%) were specified injuries## and 476 (58%) were over 7-day injuries

Source: RIDDOR, 2017/18

Accident kind for the latest three years (2015/16 – 2017/18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accident Kind</th>
<th>Over 7-day injuries</th>
<th>Specified injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slips, trips or falls on same level</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injured by an animal</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls from a height</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck by moving, including flying/falling, object</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact with moving machinery</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injured while handling, lifting or carrying</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck by moving vehicle</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strike against something fixed or stationary</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other kind of accident</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


°The LFS gives the best indication of the scale of workplace injury within the sector. RIDDOR provides additional information for non-fatal injuries, but needs to be interpreted with care since it is known that non-fatal injuries are substantially under-reported, especially for the self-employed. Variations in reporting rates both between industries and over time make such comparisons difficult. However, RIDDOR is often useful in providing analysis at a detailed level not available through the LFS, mainly around the type of accident itself.

##Specified injuries are a defined list of injuries. The full list is at www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm
Workplace risks
European Union Occupational Health Agency survey 2014

Percentage of workplaces in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector reporting the presence of workplace risks

- Physical risks were more commonly reported than psychosocial risks
- Although ‘machines or tools’ was the top risk, accidents with machinery account for only about 10% of reported fatal and non-fatal injuries
- The main psychological risks related to length/irregularity of working hours and time pressure

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A 2014 survey, commissioned by the European Union Occupational Safety and Health Agency (in collaboration with the Health and Safety Executive), explored the extent that various risks are present in the workplace (regardless of whether the risk is under control), as reported by the person who knows most about safety and health in the workplace. The chart shows the extent of these various risk factors in workplaces in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in the UK. Full details of the UK results, including measures of how risks are managed within the sector can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/oshman.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/oshman.htm). The source is known as ESENER 2014

For workplaces with five or more employees reporting the presence of various workplace risks, regardless of whether risk is under control.
Impact of health and safety failings

Economic cost

Economic cost of workplace injury and new cases of work-related ill health in Agriculture, forestry and fishing

- The total cost in 2016/17 is estimated at £293 million, (95% confidence interval £118M - £398M)
- This accounts for 2% of the total cost across all industries (£14.9 billion)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injury</th>
<th>£208M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illness</td>
<td>£86M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HSE Costs to Britain, 2016/17. Workplace injury and ill health impose costs: both financial (for example in terms of lost output and healthcare costs) and non-financial (the monetary valuation of the human cost of injury and ill health in terms of loss of quality of life, and for fatalities, loss of life). Taken together, this gives the total economic cost to society. This cost is shared between individuals, employers and government/taxpayers.

The costs estimates for the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector are based on a small number of sample cases hence the wide confidence interval around the estimates. For such estimates, it is preferable to quote the 95% confidence interval rather than the estimate itself to reflect the uncertainty in the precision of the estimate.

Enforcement

Enforcement notices issued by HSE to businesses in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, 2017/18p

- 17 prosecution cases" were brought by HSE and, in Scotland, COPFS in 2017/18p; 16 resulted in a guilty verdict for at least one offence.
- The resulting fines from these prosecutions totalled around £300,000 in 2017/18, with an average fine per case of £19,000""

Source: HSE Enforcement Data. HSE and local authorities are responsible for enforcing health and safety legislation. For the most serious offences, inspectors may serve improvement notices and prohibition notices and they may prosecute (or in Scotland, report to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) with a view to prosecution).

"Cases refer to a prosecution against a single defendant. The defendant may be an individual person or a company. There may be one or more breach of health and safety legislation (offences) in each case.

""New sentencing guidelines for health and safety offences came into force February 2016. A feature of these guidelines is that the fine is related to the turnover of organisations and, as a result, large organisations convicted of offences are receiving larger fines than seen prior to these guidelines.
Annex 1: Sources and definitions used

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 self-reported work-related illness and workplace injury based on individuals’ perceptions. The analysis and interpretation of these data are the sole responsibility of HSE.

- Self-reported work-related illness: People who have conditions which they think have been caused or made worse by their current or past work, as estimated from the LFS. Estimated total cases include long-standing as well as new cases. New cases consist of those who first became aware of their illness in the last 12 months.
- Self-reported injuries: Workplace injuries sustained as a result of a non-road traffic accident, as estimated by the LFS.

Specialist physician surveillance schemes (THOR): Cases of work-related respiratory and skin disease are reported by specialist physicians within The Health and Occupation Reporting network (THOR) surveillance schemes.

Ill health assessed for disablement benefit (IIDB): New cases of specified ‘prescribed diseases’ (with an established occupational cause) assessed for compensation under the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme.

RIDDOR: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, 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.

European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER): A large Europe-wide survey of establishments with five or more employees including all sectors of economic activity except for private households (SIC 2007 Section T) and extraterritorial organisations (SIC 2007 Section U). The surveys asks those ‘who know best’ about safety and health in establishments about the way safety and health risks are managed at their workplace, with a particular focus on psychosocial risks.

HSE Costs to Britain Model: Developed to estimate the economic costs of injury and new cases of ill health arising from current working conditions. The economic cost estimate includes estimates of financial (or direct) costs incurred (either in terms of payments that have to be made or income/output that is lost) and the monetary valuation of the impact on quality and loss of life of affected workers.
HSE Enforcement data: The main enforcing authorities are HSE and local authorities. In Scotland, HSE and local authorities investigate potential offences but cannot institute legal proceedings and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) makes the final decision whether to institute legal proceedings and which offences are taken.

Enforcement notices cover improvement, prohibition and deferred prohibition. Offences prosecuted refer to individual breaches of health and safety legislation; a prosecution case may include more than one offence. Where prosecution statistics are allocated against a particular year, unless otherwise stated, the year relates to the date of final hearing with a known outcome. They exclude those cases not completed, for example adjourned.

Rate per 100,000: The number of annual injuries or cases of ill health per 100,000 employees or workers.

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.

For more information, see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.pdf
### Annex 2: List of tables

The data in this report can be found in the following tables:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tables</th>
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National Statistics

National Statistics status means that statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. They are produced in compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). The OSR considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

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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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