Note: more recent data are now available

This document is the most recent detailed description of data for this sector, but does not include data for the latest year published on 2 November 2016.

The latest data tables are now available at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm

A summary of the latest headline figures is available at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/agriculture/index.htm

Health and safety in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain, 2014/15

Contents

Health and safety in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain, 2014/15 1
Contents 1
Summary 2
Introduction 3
Work-related illness and workplace injury in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector 4
Work-related illness 4
  Overall scale 4
  Musculoskeletal Disorders 5
  Other work-related illness conditions 6
  Changes over time 7
Workplace Injury 8
  Fatal injuries 8
  Non-fatal injuries 9
  Changes over time 11
Workplace risks and measures in place for managing these risks 12
Workplace risks 12
Risk control measures 13
Impacts of health and safety failings 14
Working days lost 14
Economic cost 14
Enforcement 15
Annex 1: Sources and definitions used 16
Summary
The information in this document relates to health and safety statistics for 2014/15. The document can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/agriculture/agriculture.pdf

Each year in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector…

... 4% of workers suffer an illness they believe to be work-related…

...and 4% of workers sustain a work-related injury...

...with 33 worker fatalities in 2014/15.

160 worker fatalities over the last five years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fatality</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Struck by moving vehicle</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall from height</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injured by an animal</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact with machinery</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck by object</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main injury kinds as reported by employers

- Slips, Trips and Falls (20%)
- Injured by an animal (14%)
- Lifting and Handling (13%)
- Fall from Height (13%)
- Struck by Object (11%)
- Contact with machinery (9%)

Source:
Illness prevalence, Labour Force Survey annual average 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15
Injury Kind, RIDDOR non-fatal injury 2013/14-2014/15
Fatal Injuries, RIDDOR 2010/11-2014/15
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.**

and accounts for around 1% of the UK workforce.

Also considered in this report is work-related illness and injury to workers in ‘Skilled agricultural and related trade’ occupations. This occupational group includes occupations such as farmers, horticultural trades, gardeners and groundsmen. These occupations are widely employed in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, but also in the industry group ‘Landscape service activities’ (Code 81.30 of the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification).

This report considers the current health and safety situation for agricultural workers, focusing on three aspects:

1. The scale and profile of work-related illness and injury in workers. A range of data sources is considered to allow a full assessment of the current health and safety situation. The most comprehensive data source for both work-related illness and workplace injury is the Labour Force Survey, a large scale, nationally representative survey of households. This is supplemented with a range of data from other sources (e.g. for injuries, statutory notifications of workplace injuries under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR)) to ensure as complete a picture as possible. More details on the data sources used can be found at Annex 1.

2. The profile of workplace risks in the sector and the procedures and policies in place for managing these risks;

3. The impacts of health and safety failings in terms of working days lost, costs to society and enforcement action taken against employers within the sector.

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Work-related illness and workplace injury in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector

Work-related illness

Overall scale

**Figure 1: Estimated annual number of cases of self-reported work-related illness in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector**

- 13,000 cases of work-related ill health
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Other illness conditions


Between 2011/12 and 2014/15:
- Annually, around 13,000 workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in GB were suffering from an illness they believe was caused or made worse by their work.
- Around a third of these cases were new conditions which started during the year, while the remainder were long-standing conditions.
- Musculoskeletal disorders was the most common work-related ill-health condition in workers in the sector.
- Annually around 16,000 ‘Skilled agricultural and related trade’ workers in GB were suffering from an illness they believe was caused or made worse by their work (many of these employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector but also in other sectors especially ‘Landscape service activities’).

**Figure 2: Prevalence rate of self-reported work-related illness (per 100,000 workers) in**

(i) the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector

- A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing
  - 3,690 (3.7%)
- All industries
  - 3,080 (3.1%)

(ii) ‘Skilled agricultural and related trade’ occupations

- 51: Skilled agricultural and related trades
  - 4,500 (4.5%)
- All occupations
  - 3,080 (3.1%)

Expressing the total number of work-related illness cases as a rate, annually between 2011/12 and 2014/15:
- around 3.7% of workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in GB were suffering from an illness that they believe was caused or made worse by their work in the sector.
  - This rate is not statistically significantly different than the rate for workers across all industries (3.1%).
- Within the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, there are a range of job types, some more hazardous than others and there are likely to be groups of workers within the sector who are more at risk of suffering work-related illness.
- an estimated 4.5% of workers in ‘Skilled agricultural and related trade’ occupations were suffering an illness they believe was caused or made worse by their work (though, as explained above, not all will be employed in the Agriculture forestry and fishing sector).
  - This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate across all occupations (3.1%).
Musculoskeletal Disorders

On average, musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) account for around 60% of the self-reported work-related illness cases in both the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector and in the occupational group ‘Skilled agricultural and related trade’ (Source: Labour Force Survey).

Expressing the total number of musculoskeletal disorder cases as a rate, annually between 2011/12 and 2014/15:

- around 2.2% of workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector were suffering from a musculoskeletal disorder they believed was work-related.
  - This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate across all industries (1.3%).

- The occupational group ‘skilled agricultural and related trades’ shows a similar elevated risk of musculoskeletal disorder – the rate is about double that seen in workers across all occupations.

**Other work-related illness conditions**

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

### Respiratory disease

#### Farmers lung
- Farmers lung is the most common form of the condition ‘allergic aevolitis’ and arises from the inhalation of dust or spores arising from mouldy hay, grain and straw;
- Allergic aevolitis (including farmers lung) is a recognised occupational disease under the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit' scheme (IIDB): there were 80 newly assessed cases for disablement benefit in total during the period 2003-2014.
- 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 78 deaths over the last decade with four in the most recent year, 2013. 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 than those receiving IIDB compensation.

#### Occupational 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 high 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.
Changes over time

Figure 4: Prevalence rate of self-reported work-related illness in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector

(i) all work-related illness

![Graph showing prevalence rate of work-related illness from 2003/04 to 2013/14.](image)

Over the last decade:

- the annual average rate of work-related illness in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector has fluctuated between 2,930 and 5,150 per 100,000 workers (2.9% and 5.1%) with no overall clear trend.
  - The work-related illness estimates for Agriculture, forestry and fishing are based on a relatively small number of sample cases, hence the estimates have wide confidence intervals around them (representing the uncertainty due to sampling). This makes it difficult to detect any trend that may be present.

(ii) musculoskeletal disorders

![Graph showing prevalence rate of musculoskeletal disorders from 2003/04 to 2013/14.](image)

- the annual average rate of musculoskeletal disorders has fluctuated between 1,690 and 2,990 per 100,000 workers (1.7% to 3.0%) with no overall clear trend.

Source: Labour Force Survey

(* annual estimates are actually based on the average estimate for a rolling 3 year period. Generally the 3 year average is based on consecutive years e.g. 2004/05 is based on the average for 2003/04-2005/06. However no ill health data was collected in 2002/03 or 2012/13 so the annual average for 2003/04, 2011/12 and 2013/14 is based on non-consecutive years e.g. 2013/14 is based on the average for 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15)
Workplace Injury

Fatal injuries

Figure 5: Fatal injuries to workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector by injury kind, last 5 years

- There were 33 fatal injuries to workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in 2014/15, broadly the same as the average for 2010/11-2014/15. This brings the total number of fatal injuries to workers in the sector over the last 5 years to 160.
- Figure 5 opposite shows the breakdown of these 160 fatal injury cases by injury kind.

Source: RIDDOR

Figure 6: Rate of fatal injuries to workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector per 100,000 workers, 2014/15

- The worker fatal injury rate in the sector (9.12 per 100,000 workers) remains much higher than any other industry sector: around 6 times that in construction and 20 times that across all industries (1.62 and 0.46 per 100,000 respectively).

Source: RIDDOR
## Non-fatal injuries

### Figure 7: Estimated annual cases of self-reported workplace injury in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector amongst workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Estimated Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Between 2012/13 and 2014/15:
- Annually, around 14,000 workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector sustained an injury at work.
- Within ‘Skilled agricultural and related trade’ workers (many of whom are employed in the ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector), annually around 16,000 workers sustained an injury at work.

### Figure 8: Incidence rate of all self-reported workplace injury (per 100,000 workers) in:

(i) the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Incidence Rate (per 100,000 workers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</td>
<td>4,300 (4.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All occupations</td>
<td>1,970 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(ii) ‘skilled agricultural and related trade’ occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Incidence Rate (per 100,000 workers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51: Skilled agricultural and related trades</td>
<td>4,880 (4.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All occupations</td>
<td>1,970 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expressing the total number of workplace injury cases as a rate, annually between 2012/13 and 2014/15:
- around 4.3% of workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in GB sustained a workplace injury.
  - This rate is more than double that seen in workers across all occupations (2.0%).

Similarly, the occupational group ‘Skilled agricultural and related trades’ shows an elevated risk of workplace injury.

### Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compared to all industry/occupation rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statistically significant - higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistically significant - lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No statistically significant difference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The survey estimates of non-fatal workplace injury numbers presented above give the best indication of the scale of workplace injury within the sector. A further source of intelligence on workplace non-fatal injuries comes from statutory notifications from employers under the ‘Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence’ regulations (RIDDOR). However, RIDDOR data need 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 (as a data source) may sometimes be useful in providing analysis at a detailed level not available through the LFS, mainly around the type of accident itself.

Figure 9: Employer-reported non-fatal injuries to employees in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector

Source: RIDDOR 2014/15p

Provisional figures show over 900 employer reported non-fatal injuries to employees in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in 2014/15.

Reported non-fatal injuries are categorised as either specified (a pre-defined list of certain injury types which includes for example fractures, amputations, serious burns or as resulting in over 7-days off work.

- Around 40% of the injury reports in 2014/15 were for specified injuries.

Figure 10: Employer reported non-fatal injuries to employees in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector by injury kind

(i) specified Injuries

Source: RIDDOR 2013/14r and 2014/15p

Specified Injuries:

- Around 60% of specified injuries in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector are due to either slips and trips, injuries with animals or falls from a height.

- While struck by a moving vehicle was the most common cause of fatal injury to workers in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (figure 5), it accounted for less than 5% of all specified injuries.

(ii) over 7-day injuries

Source: RIDDOR 2013/14r and 2014/15p

Over 7-day injury:

- Lifting and handling was responsible for around a fifth of over 7-day injuries in the sector (this injury kind accounted for just over 5% of specified injuries)

- Like specified injuries, ‘struck by a moving vehicle’ accounted for less than 5% of all over 7-day injuries.

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4 It is estimated that, across all industries, just under a half of all reportable non-fatal injury to employees are actually reported.

5 For the full list of specified injuries, see [www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm)

6 Prior to October 2013, reported non-fatal injuries were categorised as either ‘major’ or ‘over 7-day’, with major being a pre-defined list of injuries. This list of pre-defined injury types was revised in October 2013, and such injuries are now referred to as ‘specified’ (many injuries previously categorised as major continue to be categorised as specified, primarily most fractures and amputations). The ‘Kind’ breakdown for specified injuries presented here includes major injuries for the first half of 2013/14 and specified injuries thereafter.
Changes over time

Figure 11: Incidence rate of all self-reported workplace injury in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector

Since 2001/02, the annual average rate of self-reported non-fatal injury has fluctuated between 3,840 and 5,830 per 100,000 workers (3.8% to 5.8%) with no overall clear trend.

95% confidence interval.

Source: Labour Force Survey

(* annual estimates are actually based on the average estimate for a rolling 3 year period. The 3year average is based on consecutive years e.g. 2013/14 is based on the average for 2012/13-2014/15)
Workplace risks and measures in place for managing these risks

**Workplace risks**

A 2014 survey, commissioned by the European Union Occupational Safety and Health Agency (in collaboration with the Health and Safety Executive), explores how health and safety risks are managed at the workplace. Full details of the UK results can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/)

![Figure 12: Percentage of workplaces in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector with 5 or more employees reporting the presence of various workplace risks, 2014](image)

Source: ESENER 2014

For 16 recognised workplace risks, the survey asked “Which of the following risk factors are present in your establishment?” Results show that within the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector:

- Physical risks are the predominate risk factors.
- The most common reported physical workplace risks are the ‘risk of accidents from machines or hand tools’ (present in 80% of workplaces), ‘accidents with vehicles’ (78%) and chemical or biological substances (76%).
- While the ‘risk of accidents from machines or hand tools’ is the top reported workplace risk, ‘accidents with machinery’ account for only around 10% of both reported fatal and non-fatal injury within the sector (see Fig 5 and 10).
- Almost 60% of workplaces reported ‘Slips, trips and falls’ to be a risk factor in their workplace; this is the most common kind of non-fatal injury (see Fig 10).
- The main psychosocial risks reported by business relate to and length/irregularity of working hours and time pressure (present in 54% and 43% of workplaces respectively).
Risk control measures

Figure 13: Proportion of workplaces (i) regularly carrying out risk assessments and (ii) with a stress action plan

The survey asked about how health and safety risks are managed in the workplace. Within the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector:

- an estimated 92% of workplaces with 5 or more employees report that they regularly carry out risk assessments, a similar proportion to that across all industries (92%). (Though note this does not indicate anything about the quality of the completed risk assessments).
- an estimated 42% of workplaces with 20 or more employees have an action plan to prevent work-related stress. This is lower than the proportion across all industries (61%) and may reflect the fact that work-related stress is not a major issue in this sector.

Source: ESENER 2014

Figure 14: Proportion of workplaces with 5 or more employees implementing various measures to prevent musculoskeletal problems

Figure 14 opposite shows the proportion of workplaces implementing a range of different measures to prevent musculoskeletal problems.

- Workplaces in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector where a risk from lifting or moving is present are more likely to provide equipment to help with lifting or moving loads as a way of preventing musculoskeletal disorders compared to the average across all industries (96% compared with 83%).
- Around 4 in 5 workplaces where the risk from repetitive movements is present encourage rotation of tasks to reduce the risk.

* Percentage based on those workplaces with risk present (either lifting/moving loads of repetitive tasks)

Source: ESENER 2014
Impacts of health and safety failings

Working days lost

Figure 15: Estimated working days lost due to work-related illness and workplace injury in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.

An immediate impact of workplace injury and work-related illness (aside from the human suffering) is the impact on business in terms of lost working time due to sickness absence.

**Injury**
- Latest estimates show annually between 45,000 and 199,000 working days were lost due to workplace injury across the sector.
  - This equates to between 0.13 and 0.77 days off per worker per year (compared to 0.17 days off per worker across all industries)

**Illness**
- Latest estimates show annually between 49,000 and 228,000 working days were lost due to work-related illness across the sector.
  - This equates to between 0.13 and 0.67 days off per worker per year (compared to 0.79 days off per worker across all industries)

Economic cost

Figure 16: Economic cost of workplace injury and new cases of work-related ill health in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (2013 prices)

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 illness in terms of loss of quality of life, and for fatalities, loss of life). Taken together, this gives the total economic cost to society.

- The total economic cost of workplace injury and new cases of work-related illness in Agriculture, forestry and fishing in 2013/14 is estimated to be between £118 - £231 million (around 1% of the total cost across all industries - £14.3billion).
- Injury accounts for a bigger share of total costs than new cases of work-related illness.
- This cost is shared between individuals (e.g. the monetary valuation of the human costs), employers (e.g. sick pay costs) and government/taxpayers (e.g. healthcare costs)
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 Procurator Fiscal with a view to prosecution).

- Provisional figures for 2014/15 show a total of 235 notices issued by HSE inspectors in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector: 177 improvement notices and 58 prohibition notices (57 immediate prohibition, one deferred prohibition notice).
  - This figure is comparable to the 224 notices issued in 2013/14.
- There were 35 prosecution cases in 2014/15; 32 resulted in a guilty verdict for at least one offence.
  - The resulting fines from these prosecutions totalled over £815,000.

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7 This figure reflects proceedings instituted by HSE, and in Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. 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.
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 41,000 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](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/technicalnote.htm) for more details.

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. HSE has collected data on ill health through the LFS, periodically since 1990 and annually from 2003/04 to 2011/12. In 2012/13, the ill health data collection was suspended but from 2013/14 reverted back to an annual data collection.

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 rates 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, and are available for 2000/01 (injuries), 2001/02 (ill health), and annually (for both injuries and ill health) from 2003/04 to 2011/12. In 2012/13, the ill health data collection was suspended but from 2013/14 reverted back to annual data collection.

Reports of ill health by specialist physicians and General Practitioners (THOR & THOR-GP)
Reports of work-related ill health are gathered in surveillance schemes run by The Health and Occupation Reporting network (THOR); statistical tables covering patients seen by specialists are available annually from the early 1990s for work-related respiratory disorders and skin disease. In THOR-GP (since 2005), general practitioners are asked to report new cases of work-related ill health.

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. IIDB statistics are available annually from 2003, although earlier historical data is available.

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.

A number of key changes to the reporting system and legal requirements have occurred in recent years, with some impact on the resulting statistics:
- September 2011: the notification system used by employers changed to a predominately online system.
- April 2012: a legislative change introduced the requirement to report injuries to workers that lead to absence from work or inability to do their usual job, for over seven days (over-7-day injuries). This replaced the previous ‘over-3-day’ legal requirement.
- October 2013: more extensive legislative changes were introduced to simplify the reporting of workplace injuries. One key change was the introduction of ‘specified injuries’, which replaced the previous ‘major injury’ category.

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 both 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.
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 Enforcement data
The enforcing authorities are HSE, Local Authorities and, in Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). In Scotland, HSE and local authorities investigate potential offences but cannot institute legal proceedings and the 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.

Definitions
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.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/.

Statistician: Heidi Edwards
Contact: heidi.edwards@hse.gov.uk

Last updated: October 2015
Next update: To be announced