

Achieving the *Revitalising Health and Safety* targets: Statistical progress report, November 2004

HSE statisticians have produced an updated assessment of the progress made since 1999/2000 against the three targets set in the *Revitalising Health and Safety* strategy.

HSE set out its approach to measuring progress against the *Revitalising* targets in a *Statistical Note* published in 2001, on the website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/statnote.pdf>. Among other things, this said that a report on progress would be prepared each autumn, comparing the latest data with those for the base year (1999/2000). Further details of this year's assessments are given in [Health and Safety Statistics Highlights 2003/04](#), pages 10-12.

For the incidence rate of fatal and major injury, the latest data show little change in the rate of fatal injury...

The rate of fatal injury to workers is at a similar level in 2003/04 as it was in the base year, 1999/2000. The rate rose in 2000/01, fell in the following two years, and then rose in 2003/04.

... with a decrease in the rate of reported major injury in the more traditional production industries ...

Rates of reported major injury have fallen since 1999/2000 in construction, manufacturing and the extractive and utility supply industries. In agriculture, the rate has fluctuated with no overall trend.

... and an increase in some service industries such as public administration, hotels/catering, transport ...

Since 2000/01, the rate of reported major injury has increased across the services sector as a whole. Within major injuries, the pattern of the types of injury reported by employers has also changed over this period, with proportionally more injuries such as lacerations, sprains, strains, contusions and superficial injuries being reported than before. The numbers of these types of injuries have increased each year since 2000/01.

... along with evidence to suggest that reporting levels have increased ...

The largest increases in reported major injuries tend to be in industries where the numbers of over-3-day injuries have also increased (or stayed level), and where comparison with the LFS suggests improved reporting of non-fatal injuries. Improved reporting stems mainly from increases in over-3-day injuries but there is likely to be an element of improved reporting for major injuries in services as well which would then be reflected in the recent increases in major injuries. However, we need more evidence about improved reporting of major injuries in services.

... leading to an overall judgement of no clear evidence of change in the incidence rate of fatal and major injury since 1999/2000, the base year of *Revitalising*. (See *Highlights* page 10).

For work-related ill health, the latest data show a fall in the incidence rate of musculoskeletal disorders ...

The latest self-reporting (SWI) survey shows a statistically significant fall in the incidence rate of work-related musculoskeletal disorders between 2001/02 and 2003/04, from 750 to 640 per 100 000 employed in the last 12 months, though there is a range of uncertainty around these figures. The estimated number of new cases seen by specialist doctors (in the THOR scheme) fell in the year to 2003, having previously been fairly stable.

... and a levelling off in the earlier rise in work-related stress ...

The 2003/04 SWI survey shows no change since 2001/02 in self-reported stress incidence: the estimated rate was 860 per 100 000 in 2003/04 and 890 in 2001/02. The available data suggest that up to then, self-reported incidence had been increasing. THOR specialist doctor data had also been rising up to 2001, and have declined a little since. The level is still likely to be higher than in 1999/2000.

... along with falls in asthma and dermatitis and a continuing rise in asbestos-related cancer ...

Estimated cases of asthma seen by specialist doctors in each of the last four years have been lower than in 1999 (and most of the 1990s), indicating a probable decrease in incidence. Specialist doctor data for dermatitis in the last three years have been consistently lower than in the late 1990s, also seeming to represent a downward trend. The number of deaths from mesothelioma has continued to rise, reflecting past asbestos exposures.

... leading to the overall assessment that there is no clear evidence of change in work-related ill health incidence since 1999/2000, the *Revitalising* base year. (See *Highlights* page 11).

For working days lost per 100 000 workers, the figures for 2003/04 show no statistically significant change since 2000-02, the closest available to the *Revitalising* base year. (See *Highlights* page 12).

The figure was 170 000 per 100 000 workers in 2003/04 compared with 180 000 in 2000-02.