



Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2017/18



Key points 2017/18 (p)



Killed when injured by an animal

Incidents involved cattle



Killed when struck by moving vehicle

Incidents included tractors, trailers, telescopic handlers, harvesters



Killed when trapped by something collapsing

Incidents included machinery supported by lifting equipment, trailer, logs



Killed when struck by an object

Incidents included bales, a tree, a log, part of a building



Killed by fall from height

Incidents involved a fall from bale stack, lift truck, floor edge



Killed by contact with electricity

Incidents involved overhead power lines, electrical equipment



Killed by slip, trip or fall on same level

Incident in farmyard and involving farm machinery



Killed by contact with machinery

Incident involved a potato harvester



Killed by asphyxiation/drowning

Incident in water

33 people killed

Number of deaths:

- Thirty-three people were killed in agriculture: 4 more than last year and 1 more than the 5-year average of 32
- Of these 33 deaths, 4 members of the public were killed, 2 of which were children

Age:

- Nearly half the workers killed were over 65
- The youngest person killed was 4 and the oldest was 85

Main cause:

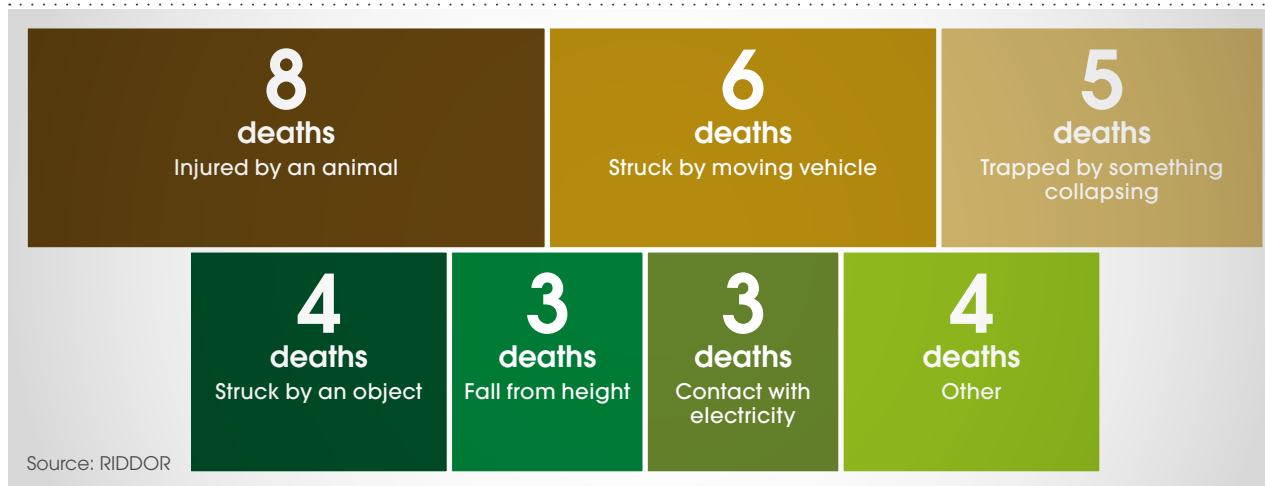
- While the number of deaths by each cause varies each year, the most common are:
 - Killed by an animal
 - Struck by moving vehicle
 - Trapped by something collapsing
 - Struck by an object
 - Fall from height
 - Contact with electricity

Source: RIDDOR

This information is also available as a poster at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm

Main causes of death 2017/18^(p) compared to the 5-year annual average (2013/14–2017/18^(p))

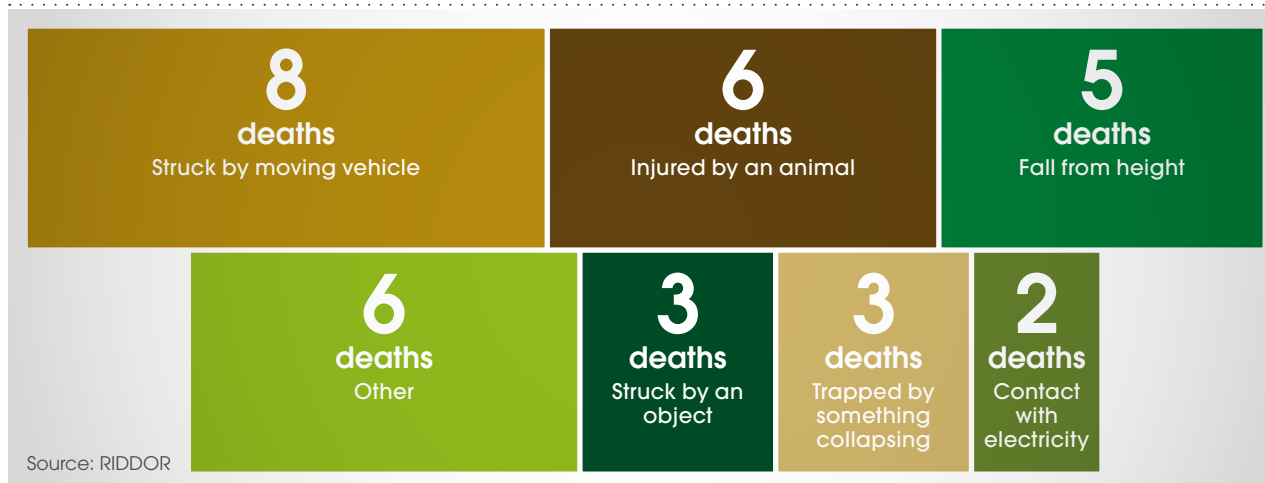
Main causes of death (2017/18^(p))



The main causes of deaths are broadly the same in comparison with the 5-year annual average. This pattern hasn't changed significantly over several years

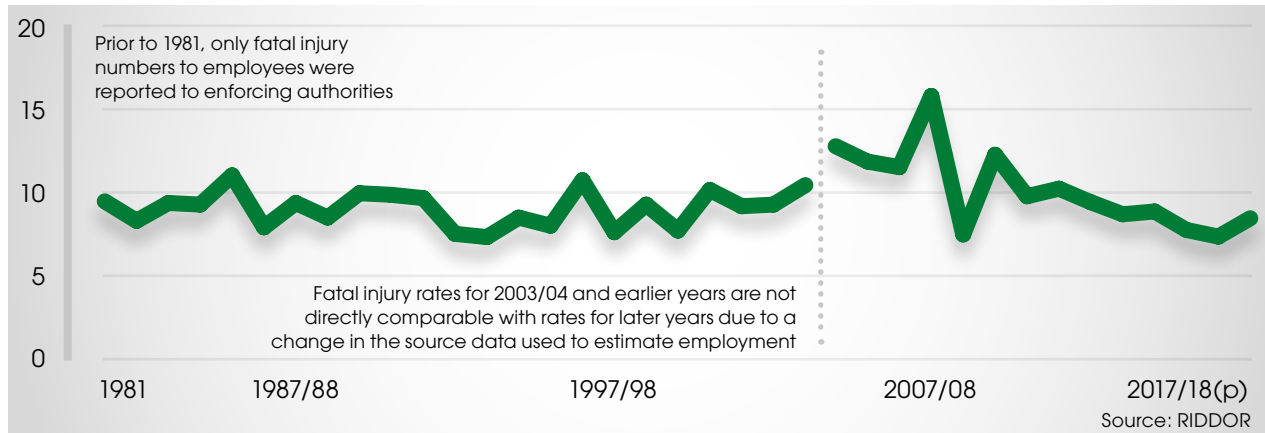
During 2017/18^(p) the highest number of deaths were as a result of being injured by animals (cattle). This is similar to the 5-year annual average, where struck by a vehicle, killed by an animal and falls are the top causes of fatal injury

Main causes of death: 5-year average (2013/14–2017/18^(p))



Worker fatalities over time

Fatal injury rate (per 100,000) to workers, 1981/82–2017/18(p)



8.44

Worker fatal injury rate (per 100,000) 2017/18(p)

8.20

Worker fatal injury rate (per 100,000) annual average over 5 years

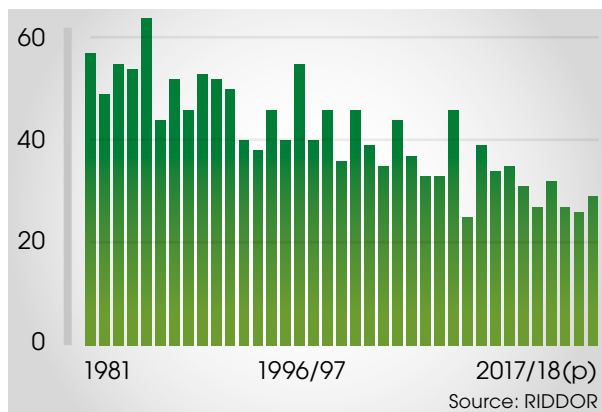
Longer term trends

The **rate** of fatal injury (per 100,000) while broadly flat up to 2003/04, shows a generally downward trend since the early 2000s

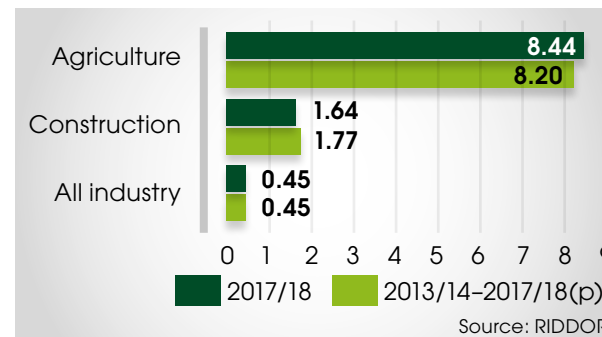
The **number** of fatal injuries to workers in the agricultural sector has fallen by around a half since 1981

Agriculture has the worst rate of worker fatal injury (per 100,000) in the main industrial sectors: nearly **18 times higher** than the all industry rate

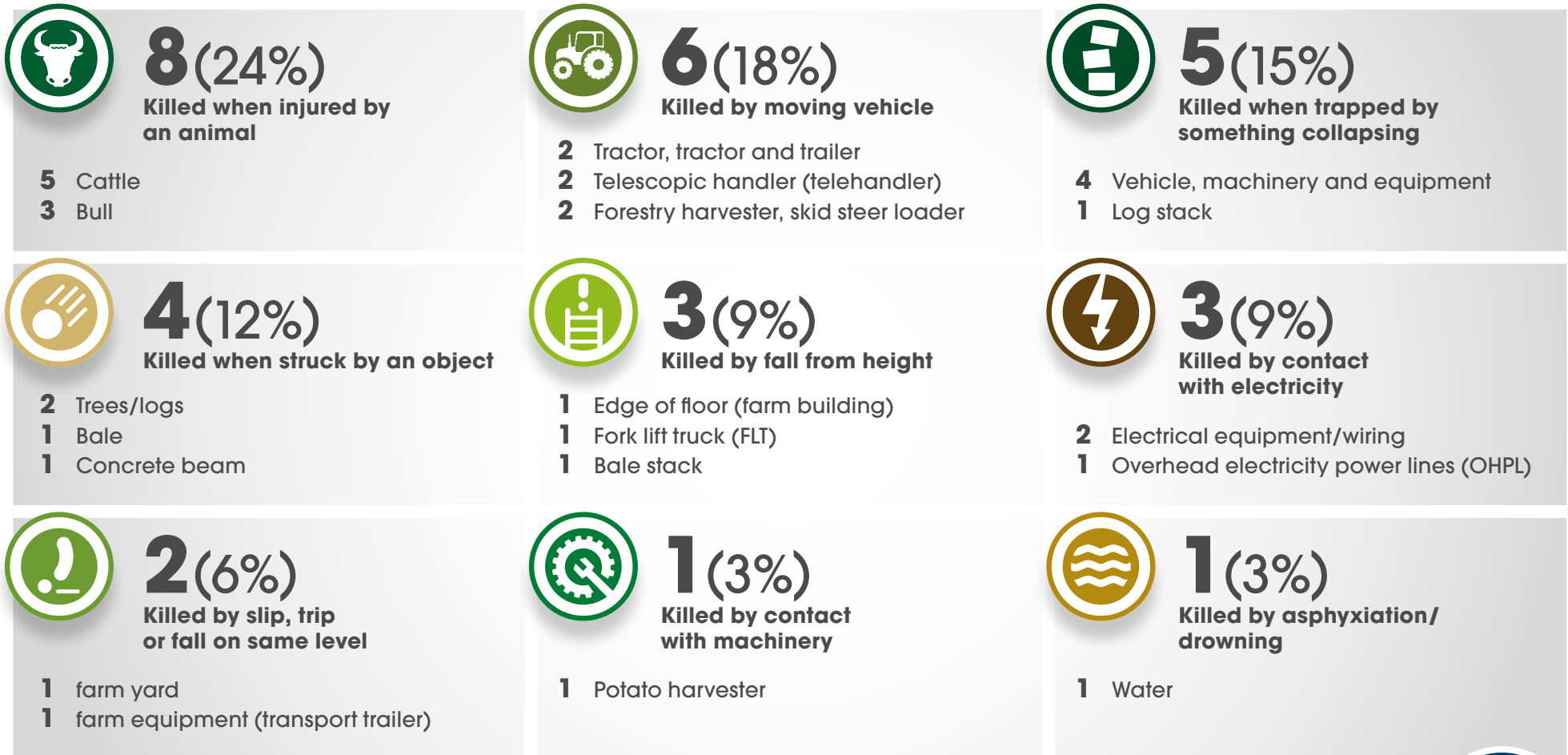
Number of fatal injuries to workers over a 36-year period (1981/82–2017/18(p))



Rate of fatal injury to workers (per 100,000) in agriculture and construction compared to all industry group (2017/18(p)) and average (2013/14–2017/18(p))



Detailed cause of fatal injury during 2017/18 (p)



Source: RIDDOR and operational intelligence

Total number of people killed

33

Detailed cause of fatal injury over 5 years (2013/14–2017/18(p))



38 (24%)

Killed by moving vehicle

- 15 Tractor, trailer including farm equipment
- 9 All-terrain vehicle (ATVs)
- 7 Telescopic handlers
- 7 From transport of any other kind



29 (18%)

Killed when injured by an animal

- 21 Cattle
- 8 Bull



23 (15%)

Killed by fall from height

- 12 Roof
- 2 Ladders
- 2 Bale stack
- 7 Other means of access



16 (10%)

Killed when struck by an object

- 6 Trees/tree branch
- 5 Bales of straw/hay
- 5 Equipment or parts of machinery



15 (9%)

Killed when trapped by something collapsing

- 8 Vehicle, machinery and equipment
- 2 Excavation, drainage ditches etc
- 2 Parts of buildings or structures
- 3 Other



12 (8%)

Killed by contact with machinery

- 6 Vehicles including attached machinery: combine harvester; wagon feeders etc
- 5 Other powered machines: PTOs, hay turning machines, balers, silo sweep augers etc
- 1 Chainsaw



10 (6%)

Killed by asphyxiation/drowning

- 5 Pond, water, slurry lagoon or slurry pits/tank
- 4 Grain bins or silos
- 1 Other



8 (5%)

Killed by contact with electricity

- 5 Overhead electricity power lines (OHPL)
- 2 Electrical wiring/installations
- 1 Other electrical contact



7 (4%)

Killed by other causes

Other categories including: slip, trip or fall on same level; exposure to a fire etc

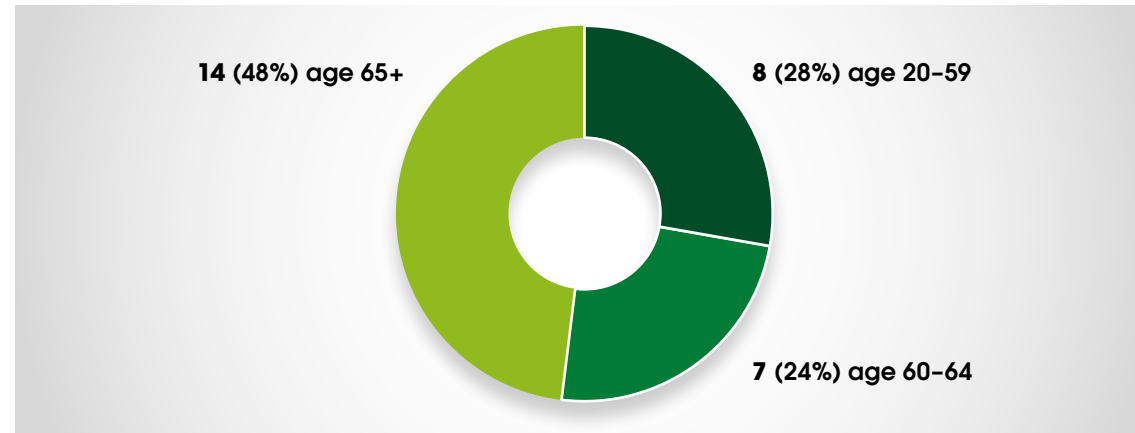
Age of workers killed in agriculture

In 2017/18(p):

48%
of fatal injuries occurred
to workers over 65

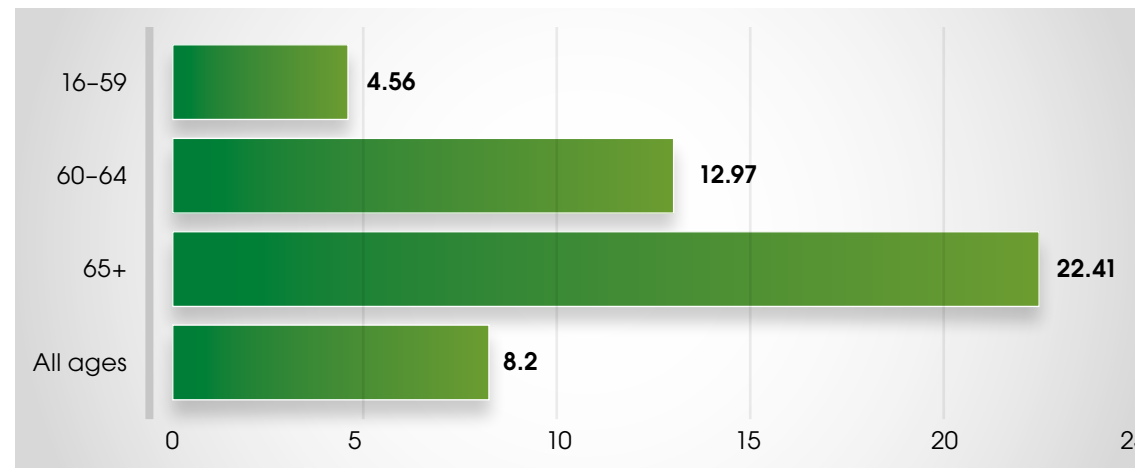
24%
occurred to workers
aged 60-64

Age of workers killed in agriculture during 2017/18 (p)



Source: RIDDOR

Five year average rate of injury by age group



Source: RIDDOR

Workers aged 65 or over account for nearly half of all fatal injuries (14 out of 29 worker deaths)

Nearly three quarters of workers killed were over the age of 60

Compared to younger age groups the fatal injury rate is:

- Nearly three times higher in workers aged 60-64
- Nearly five times higher in workers aged 65 and over

The annual fatal injury rate in the 65+ age group has been consistently higher over the past decade

Employment status

Worker deaths in 2017/18(p)

19

Self-employed

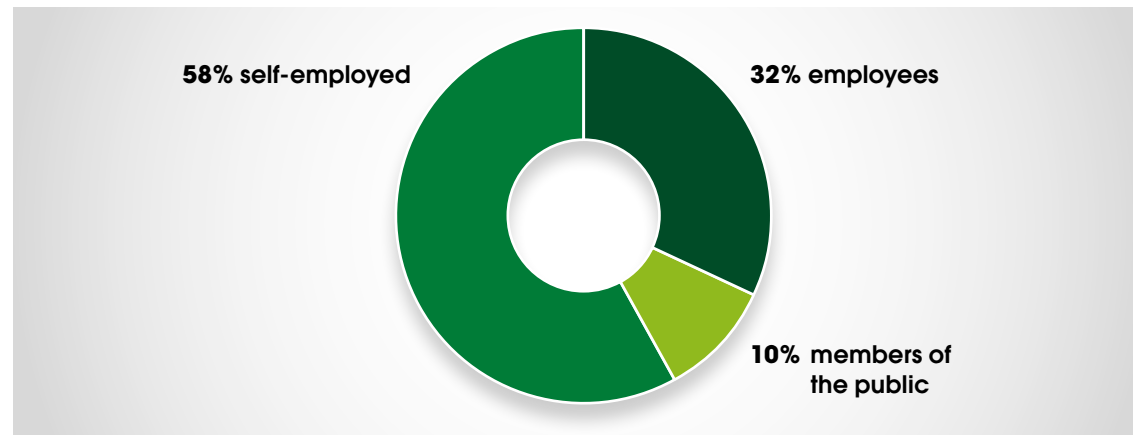
10

Employed

29

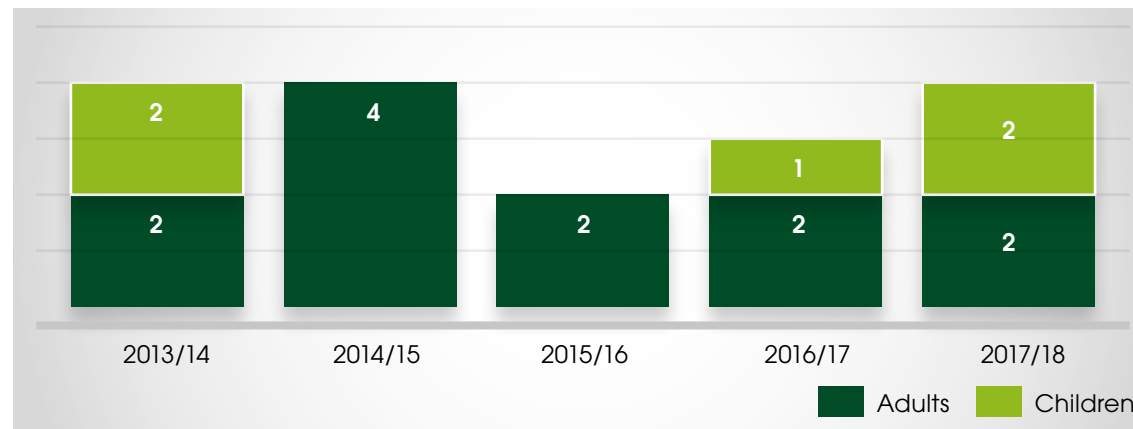
Total number of workers killed

Employment status over 5 years 2013/14–2017/18(p)



Source: RIDDOR

Members of the public killed in the last 5 years (2013/14–2017/18 (p))



Source: RIDDOR

Worker deaths

During 2017/18(p) 19 self-employed workers were killed.

In 2017/18(p) and over a 5-year period (2013/14–2017/18(p)) nearly twice as many self-employed people were killed as employees

Members of the public 2017/18(p)

Four members of the public were killed in 2017/18(p), 2 of which were children under the age of 16

Over a 5-year period, 12 members of the public have been killed of which 5 were children

Number of fatalities by geographical area

Total number in 2017/18(p) and five-year average (2013/14–2017/18(p)) in brackets

North West
West Midlands
Wales
South West

Scotland

North East

Yorkshire and the Humber

East Midlands

East

London

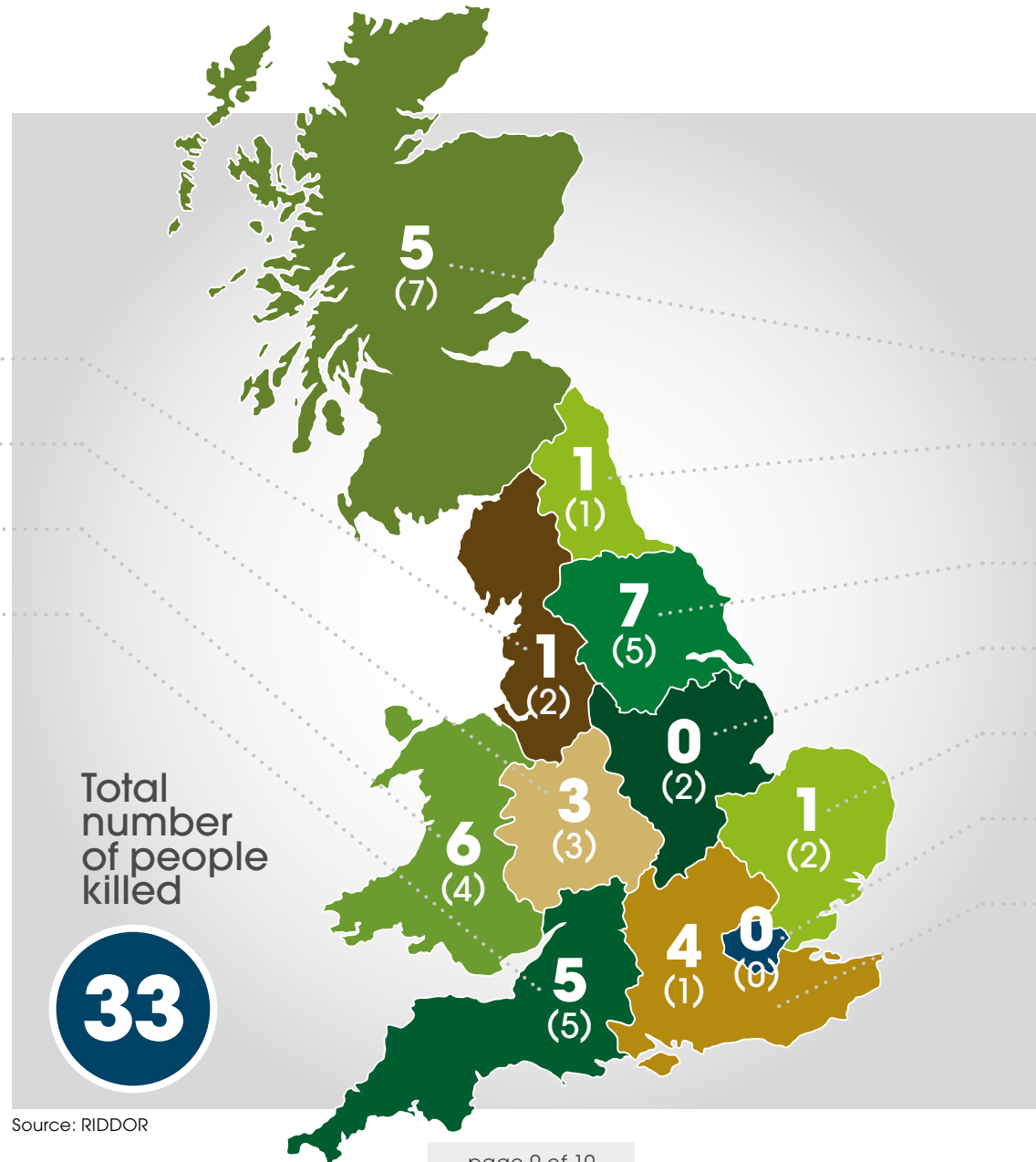
South East

Total number of people killed

33

Source: RIDDOR

Average figures rounded to nearest number



Additional data sources, definitions and presentation of statistics in this report

1 This report summarises fatal workplace injuries in agriculture¹ in Great Britain in 2017/18(p) and makes comparison with the five-year average (2013/14–2017/18(p)), the primary determinant of inclusion being RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). Work-related deaths excluded from these statistics are mainly of two types: fatal diseases, and fatal injuries involving workers travelling on a public highway (a ‘road traffic accident’).

2 The figures for 2017/18 are provisional, covering the 12 months from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, and will be finalised in July 2019 following any necessary adjustments. The 2016/17 figure has now finalised, and is one less than last year’s 2016/17 provisional figure. The provisional 2017/18 fatality figure could increase or decrease slightly when finalised.

3 Statistics in this report are compiled in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics (produced by the UK Statistics Authority). Fatal incident statistics are published for all industrial sectors annually (usually early July), at which time the provisional figures

for the 12 months to the end of the previous March are published and the figures for the preceding year are finalised.

4 Statistical data in this report has been supplemented by factual detail gathered during HSE’s investigative work. This is referred to as ‘operational intelligence’.

5 HSE’s industry-specific sectors use data of this kind to work out patterns of incident causation, trends and incidence rates. This helps HSE prioritise and devise effective interventions with particular industry sectors and types of businesses.

6 The numbers of fatalities tend to fluctuate year-on-year due to random variation, and therefore caution should be applied when making comparisons and/or considering longer-term trends.

7 The number of fatal injuries in the agriculture sector each year continues to be a cause of concern for HSE, the Farm Safety Partnerships (FSP) in England, Scotland and Wales, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) and the industry itself.

8 HSE’s agriculture strategy has been developed to address the hazards and risks in the industry, defined as traditional farming activities such as arable, dairy, livestock and mixed farming, growing fruit and vegetables, forestry, production horticulture, aquaculture, agricultural and animal husbandry services.

Summaries of the circumstances of the individual fatal injuries can be read on HSE’s agriculture webpage <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agfoodsec/resources/fatal.htm>.

Detailed data and tables can be seen at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatal.htm>.

If you have any queries about this report, contact: The Health and Safety Executive’s Agriculture Team (agriculture@hse.gov.uk).

Further advice

Current guidance on health and safety in agriculture is available at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture. This report is available at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm

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1 Agriculture SIC 2007 classification comprises farming; horticulture; crop and animal production; hunting and related service activities; forestry and logging; fish farming and aquaculture.