



---

# Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2018/19



# Key points 2018/19 (p)



# 14

**Killed when struck by moving vehicle**

Incidents included tractors, trailers, telescopic handlers, farm vehicles, ATVs



# 9

**Killed when injured by an animal**

Incidents involved cattle



# 7

**Killed by fall from height**

Incidents involved a fall from a ladder, fragile roof, lifting equipment/platform, combine harvester



# 3

**Killed when struck by an object**

Incidents included a bale, tree branch, landslide



# 3

**Killed by contact with machinery**

Incident involved a stone picking machine, baler tailgate, grain dryer



# 2

**Killed by asphyxiation/drowning**

Incident in grain silo, water



# 1

**Killed when struck against something fixed**

Incident involved barbed wire

# 39 people killed

## Number of deaths:

Thirty-nine people were killed in agriculture:

- Six more than last year and 6 more than the 5-year average (33)
- Of these deaths, 7 members of the public were killed, which included 2 children

## Age:

- Nearly half of the workers killed were 60 or older
- Two young children (aged 3) were killed

## Main cause:

While the number of deaths by each cause varies each year, the most common are:

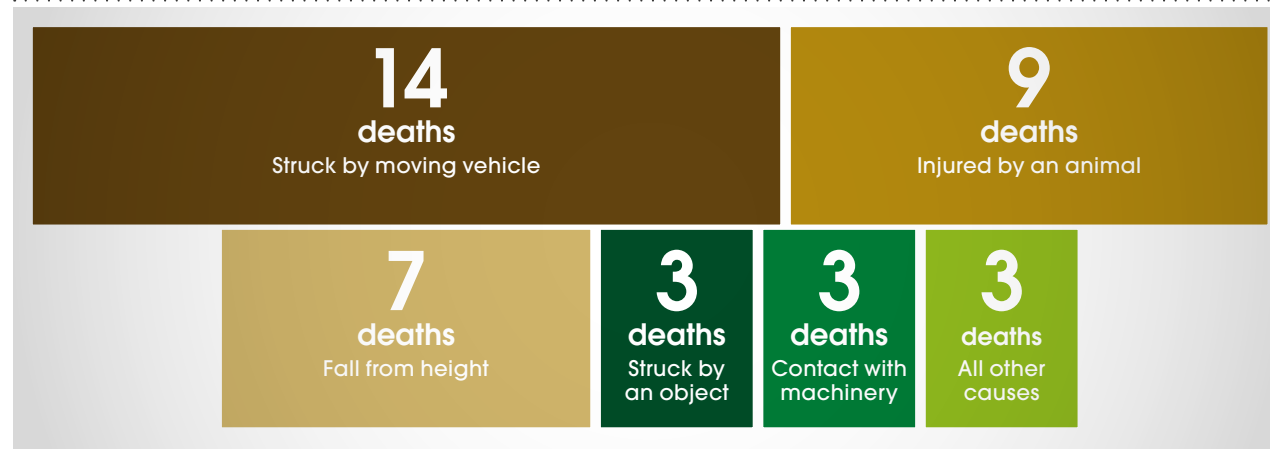
- Struck by moving vehicles
- Killed by animals
- Fall from height
- Struck by an object
- Contact with machinery

Source: RIDDOR

This information is also available as a poster at [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm)

# Main causes of death 2018/19(p) compared to the 5-year annual average (2014/15-2018/19(p))

## Main causes of death (2018/19(p))



Source: RIDDOR

The main causes of deaths in 2018/19(p) are broadly the same in comparison with the 5-year annual average. This pattern hasn't changed significantly over several years.

During 2018/19(p) the highest number of deaths were vehicle related. This is consistent with the 5-year annual average where struck by a vehicle; killed by an animal; and falls are the most common causes of a fatal injury.

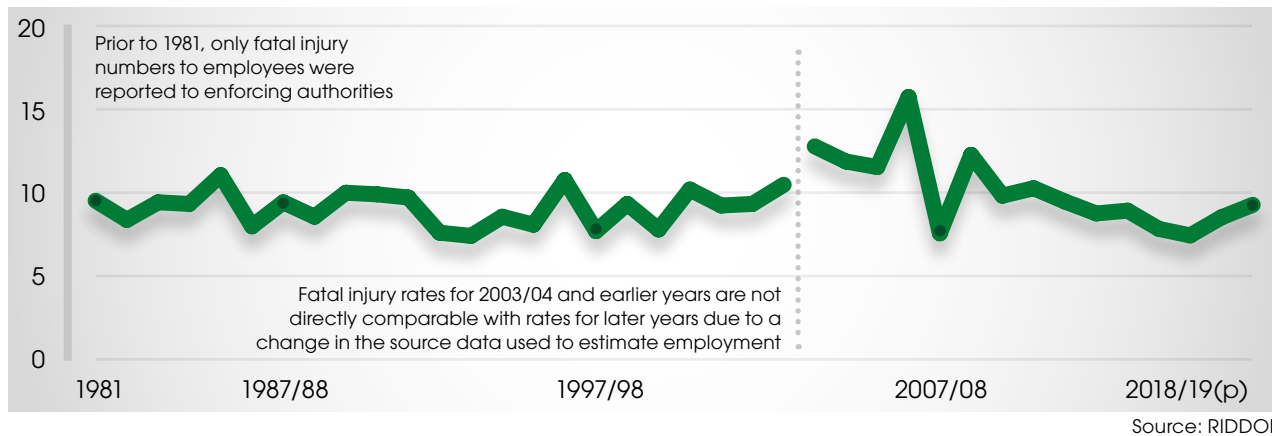
## Main causes of death: 5-year average (2014/15-2018/19(p))



Source: RIDDOR

# Worker fatalities over time

Rate of fatal injuries to workers (per 100,000), 1981–2018/19(p)



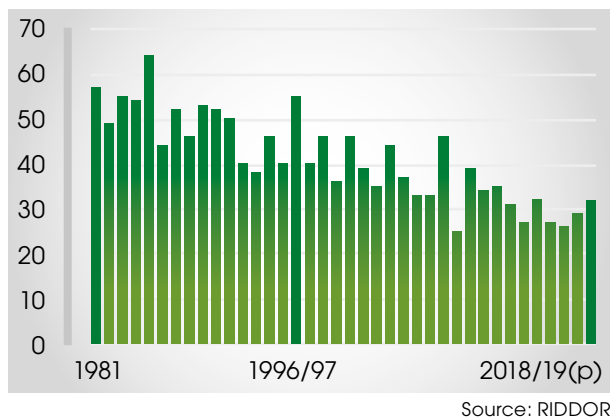
**9.21**

Worker fatal injury rate (per 100,000)  
2018/19(p)

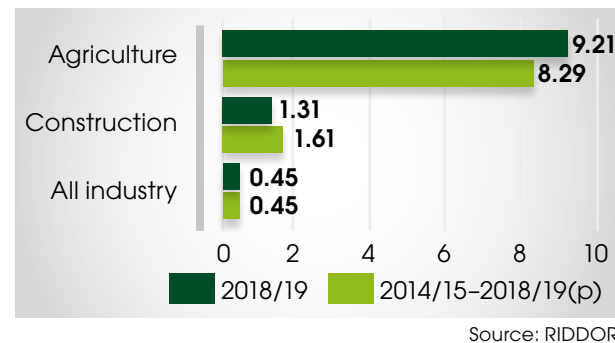
**8.29**

Worker fatal injury rate (per 100,000)  
(annual average over 5 years  
2014/15–2018/19(p))

Number of fatal injuries to workers over a 38-year period (1981–2018/19(p))



Rate of fatal injuries to workers (per 100,000) in agriculture and construction compared to all industry group (2018/19(p)) and average (2014/15–2018/19(p))



## Longer term trends

The rate of fatal injuries to workers (per 100,000) in agriculture, 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 the early 1980s

Agriculture has the worst rate of worker fatal injuries (per 100,000) of the main industrial sectors: **18 times as high** as the average rate across all industries

# Detailed cause of fatal injury during 2018/19 (p)



**14 (36%)**

**Killed by moving vehicle**

- 6 Telescopic handler (telehandler)
- 5 All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
- 2 Farm vehicle, vehicle with trailer
- 1 Tractor with sprayer



**9 (23%)**

**Killed when injured by an animal**

- 8 Cattle
- 1 Bull



**7 (18%)**

**Killed by fall from height**

- 2 Fragile/building roof
- 2 Ladder
- 2 Telehandler, excavator bucket
- 1 Combine harvester



**3 (8%)**

**Killed when struck by an object**

- 1 Tree branch
- 1 Bale
- 1 Landslide (rocks, soil, trees etc)



**3 (8%)**

**Killed by contact with machinery**

- 1 Stone picking machine
- 1 Baler tailgate
- 1 Grain dryer



**2 (5%)**

**Killed by asphyxiation/drowning**

- 1 Grain silo
- 1 Water



**1 (2%)**

**Killed when struck against something fixed**

- 1 Barbed wire

**Total number of people killed**

**39**

Source: RIDDOR and operational intelligence

# Detailed cause of fatal injury over 5 years (2014/15–2018/19(p))



**43** (26%)  
Killed by moving vehicle

- 12 Tractor, trailer including farm equipment
- 12 Telescopic handler (telehandler)
- 11 All-terrain vehicle (ATV)
- 8 From transport of any other kind



**31** (19%)  
Killed when injured  
by an animal

- 24 Cattle
- 7 Bull



**23** (14%)  
Killed by fall from height

- 11 Roof (including through a fragile surface and from roof edges)
- 4 Ladders
- 3 Lifting equipment
- 5 Other means of access



**17** (10%)  
Killed when struck by an object

- 6 Tree/tree branch
- 5 Bale of straw/hay
- 4 Equipment or parts of machinery
- 2 Other



**15** (9%)  
Killed when trapped by  
something collapsing

- 9 Vehicle, machinery and equipment
- 2 Excavation, drainage ditch etc
- 2 Parts of buildings or structures
- 2 Bales, logs



**12** (7%)  
Killed by asphyxiation/drowning

- 6 Pond, water, slurry lagoon or slurry store
- 5 Grain bins or silos
- 1 Other



**10** (6%)  
Killed by contact with machinery

- 6 Powered machines: PTO, hay turning machine, baler, baler tailgate, grain dryer etc
- 3 Vehicles including attached machinery: potato harvester, feeder wagon etc
- 1 Chainsaw



**7** (4%)  
Killed by contact with electricity

- 5 Overhead electricity power line (OHPL)
- 2 Other electric contact including electrical wiring



**8** (5%)  
Killed by other causes

- 8 Other categories including: slip, trip or fall on same level, exposure to a fire, struck against something fixed etc

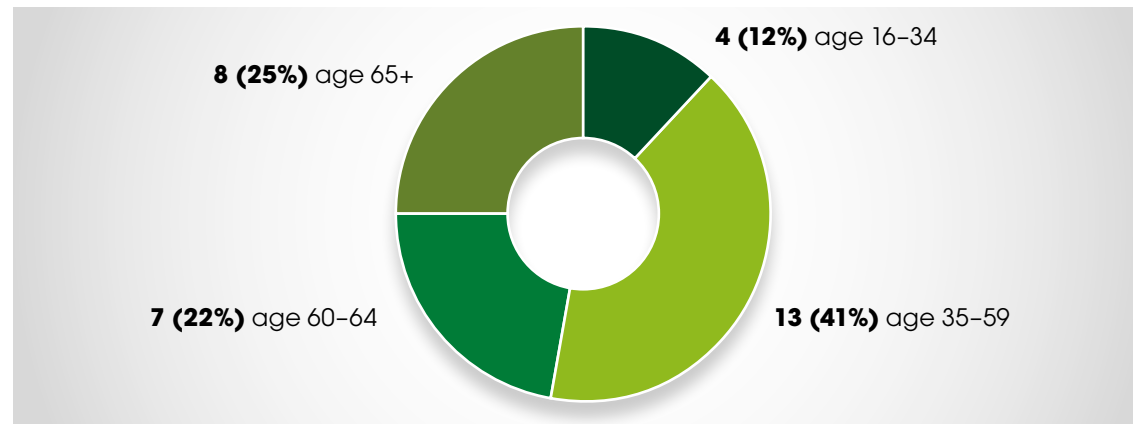
# Age of workers killed in agriculture

In 2018/19(p):

## 47%

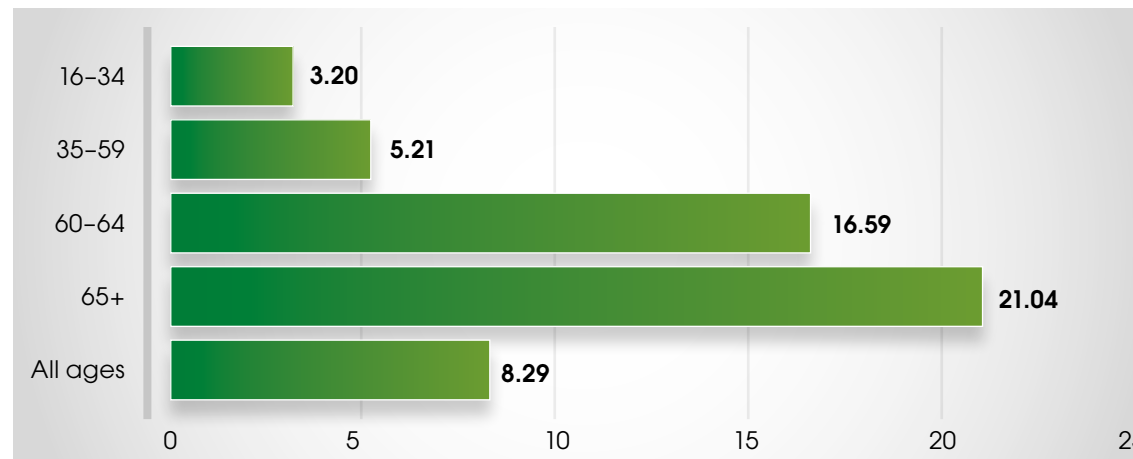
of fatal injuries occurred to workers over 60

Age of workers killed in agriculture during 2018/19 (p)



Source: RIDDOR

Five year average rate of fatal injuries (per 100,000 workers) by age group



Source: RIDDOR

Workers aged 60 and older account for 47% of all fatal injuries (15 out of 32 worker deaths)

Younger age groups had the lowest average rate of fatal injuries

Compared to the younger age group (16-34) the fatal injury rate is:

- more than five times as high in workers aged 60-64
- nearly seven times as high in workers aged 65 and over

# Employment status

## Worker deaths in 2018/19(p)

**19**  
Self-employed

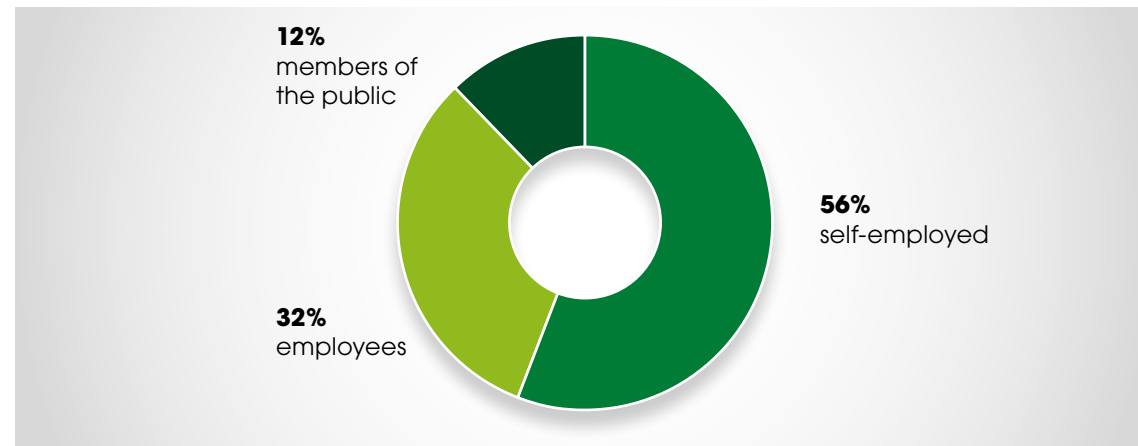
**13**  
Employed

**32**  
Total number of workers killed

## Members of the public deaths in 2018/19(p)

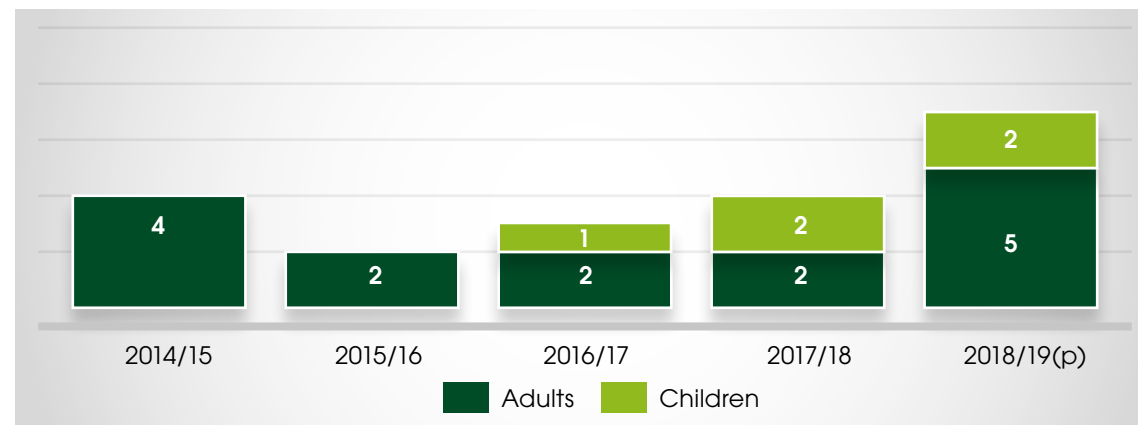
**7**

Employment status over 5 years 2014/15–2018/19(p)



Source: RIDDOR

Members of the public killed in the last 5 years (2014/15–2018/19 (p))



Source: RIDDOR

## Worker deaths

During 2018/19(p) 19 self-employed workers were killed. This is consistent with the average number of deaths over a 5-year period

In 2018/19(p) and over a 5-year period (2014/15–2018/19(p)) more self-employed people have been killed than employed people

## Members of the public

Seven members of the public were killed in 2018/19(p), two of them were children (aged 3)

Over the 5-year period, 20 members of public have been killed: a quarter of which were children



# Number of fatalities by geographical area

Total number in 2018/19(p)  
and 5-year average  
(2014/15–2018/19(p))  
in brackets

North West  
West Midlands  
Wales  
South West

Scotland

North East

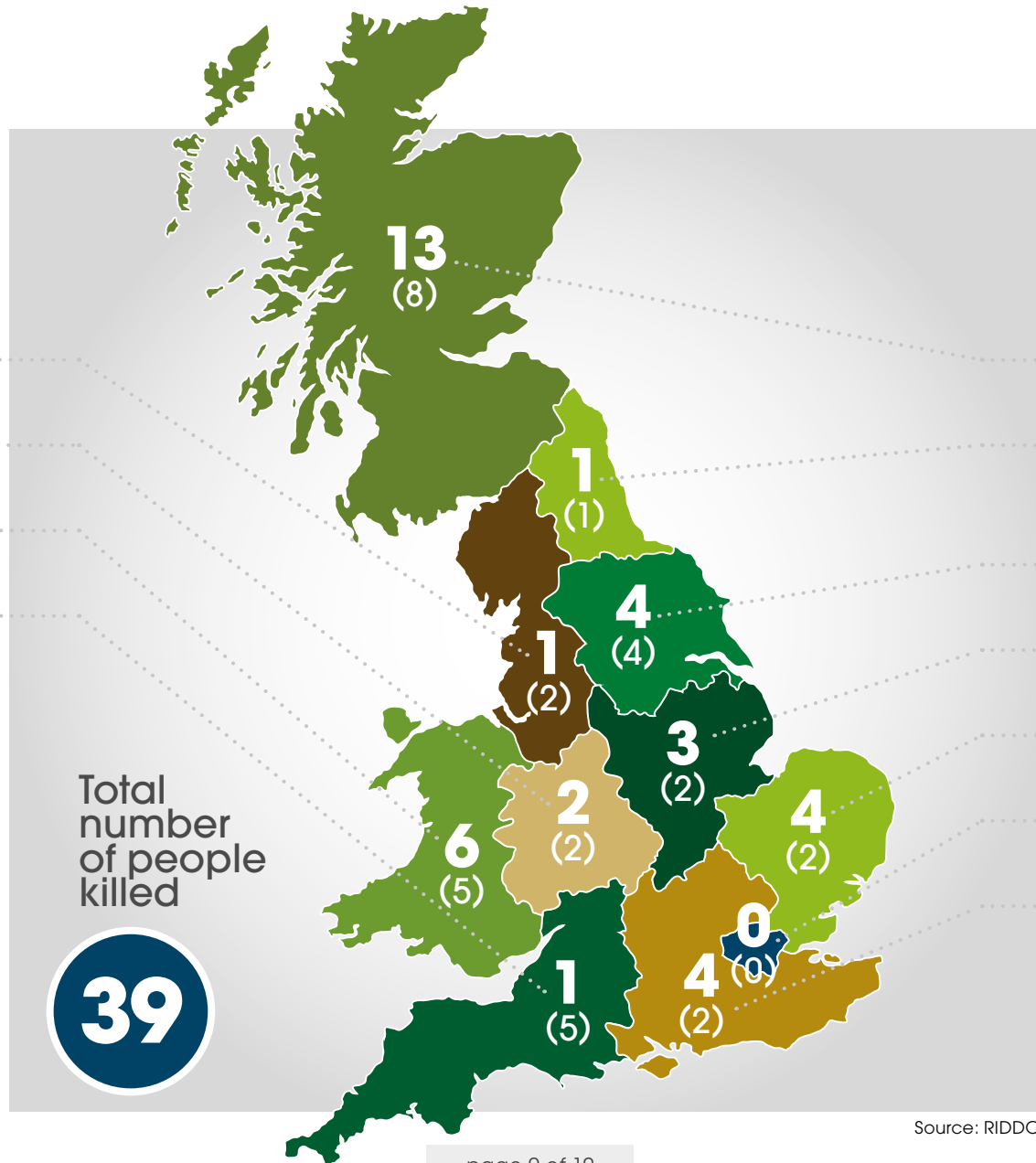
Yorkshire and  
the Humber

East Midlands

East

London

South East



Total  
number  
of people  
killed

39

Average figures rounded  
to nearest number

Source: RIDDOR

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

1 This report summarises fatal workplace injuries in agriculture<sup>1</sup> in Great Britain in 2018/19(p) and makes comparison with the 5-year average (2014/15 to 2018/19(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 2 types: fatal diseases, and fatal injuries involving workers travelling on a public highway (a 'road traffic accident').

2 The figures for 2018/19 are provisional, covering the 12 months from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, and will be finalised in July 2020 following any necessary adjustments. Based on previous years, the provisional 2018/19 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 number 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/agriculture/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](mailto:agriculture@hse.gov.uk)).

## Further advice

Current guidance on health and safety in agriculture is available at: [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture)

This report is available at: [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm)

© *Crown copyright* If you wish to reuse this information visit [www.hse.gov.uk/copyright.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/copyright.htm) for details. First published 07/19.

Published by the Health and Safety Executive 07/19

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