

Agriculture, forestry and fishing statistics in Great Britain, 2025

Data up to March 2025

Annual statistics

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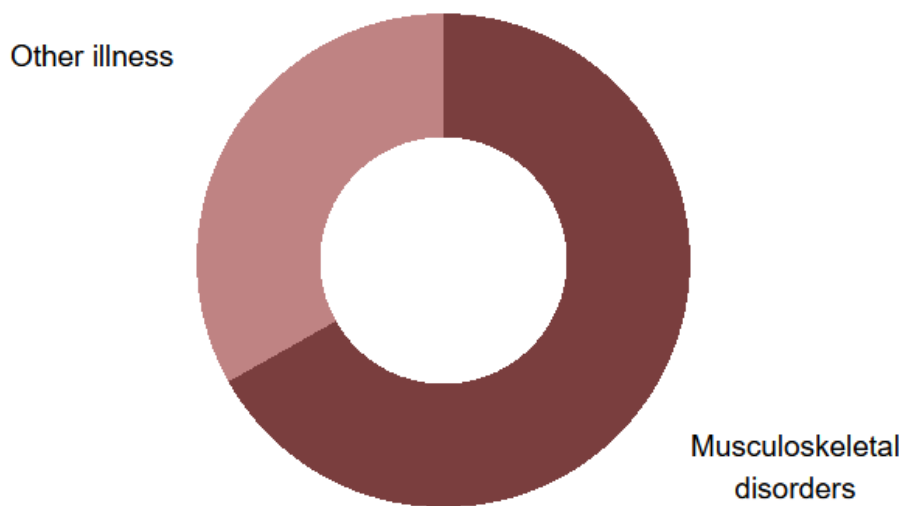
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Key statistics

Ill health

9,000 workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) averaged over the five-year period 2020/21-2024/25.

Proportion of self-reported work-related ill health by type in Agriculture, forestry and fishing: new and long-standing



Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2024/25

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported work-related illness showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest available period (2019/20 - 2021/22), which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the 2016/17- 2018/19 period.

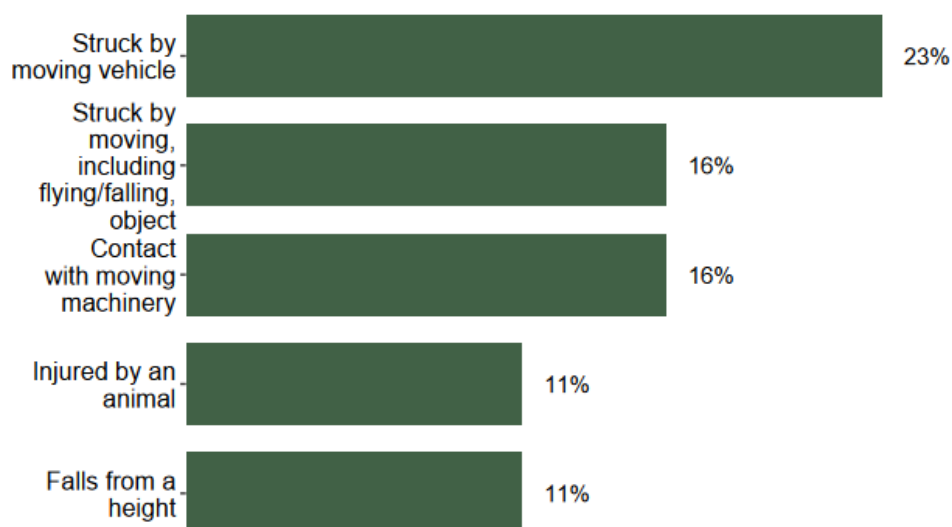
Fatal injuries

There were 23 fatal injuries to workers in 2024/25p. This is in comparison with the annual average of 25 fatalities over the five-year period 2020/21-2024/25p.

There were 4 fatal injuries to members of the public in 2024/25p. This is in comparison with the annual average of 5 fatalities over the five-year period 2020/21-2024/25p.

Source: RIDDOR, 2024/25p

Percentage of fatal injuries by accident kind in Agriculture, forestry and fishing



Accident kinds are shown for the top 5 causes of fatal injury.

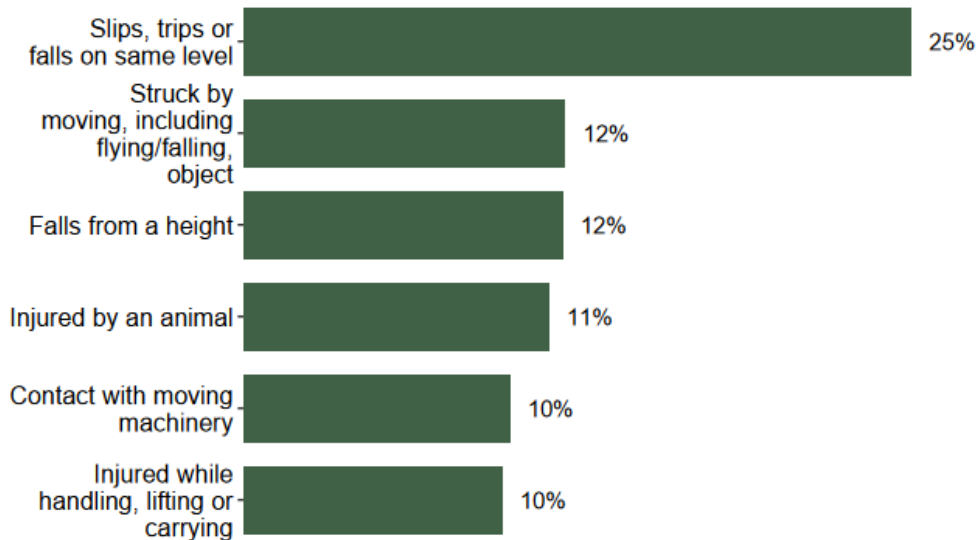
Source: RIDDOR, average over 2020/21-2024/25p

Non-fatal injuries

8,000 workers sustained non-fatal injuries at work averaged over the five-year period 2020/21-2024/25. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest available period (2019/20 - 2021/22), which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the 2016/17- 2018/19 period.

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2024/25

Percentage of non-fatal injuries by accident kind in Agriculture, forestry and fishing



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 5% or more of non-fatal injuries.

Source: RIDDOR, average over 2022/23-2024/25p

Introduction

This report provides a profile of workplace health and safety in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing¹ sector which comprises three broad industry groups:

- Agriculture – this division includes two basic activities, 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 1% of the workforce in Great Britain²

¹ The Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is defined by section A within the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification. See www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/sic2007.htm for more detail.

² Annual Population Survey, 2024

Work-related ill health

All illness

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated 9,000 workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing)
- 67% were musculoskeletal disorders.

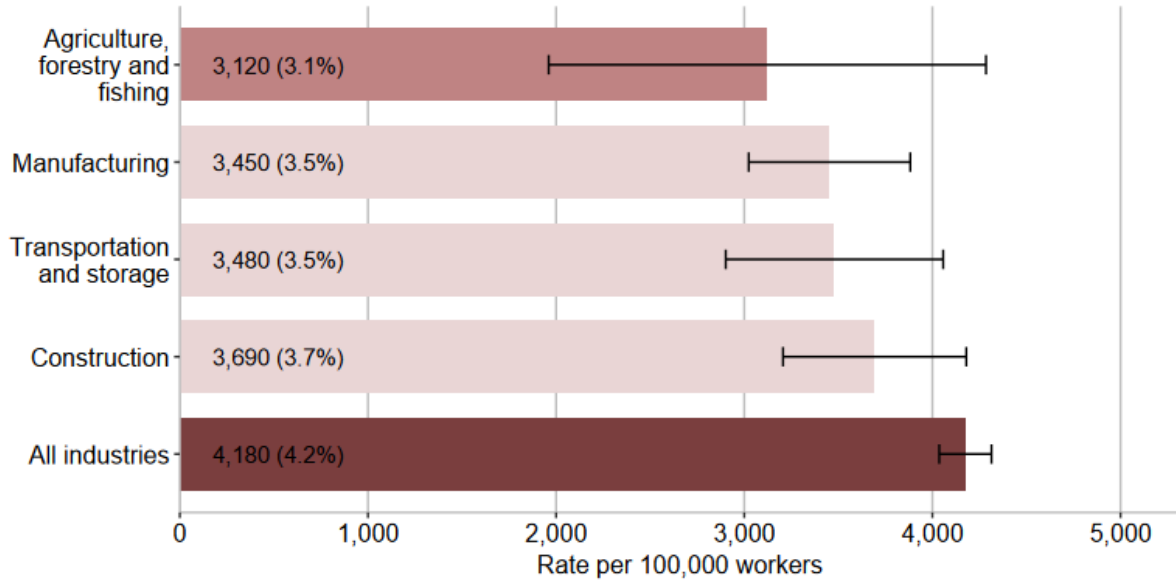
Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2024/25

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries³

- Around 3.1% of workers in the sector suffered from work-related ill health (new or long-standing)
- This rate is not statistically different than that for workers across all industries (4.2%)

³ Selected manual type industries are generally those with either a higher rate of work-related ill health or workplace injury compared to the rate for all industries.

Rate of self-reported work-related ill health in Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries, per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing

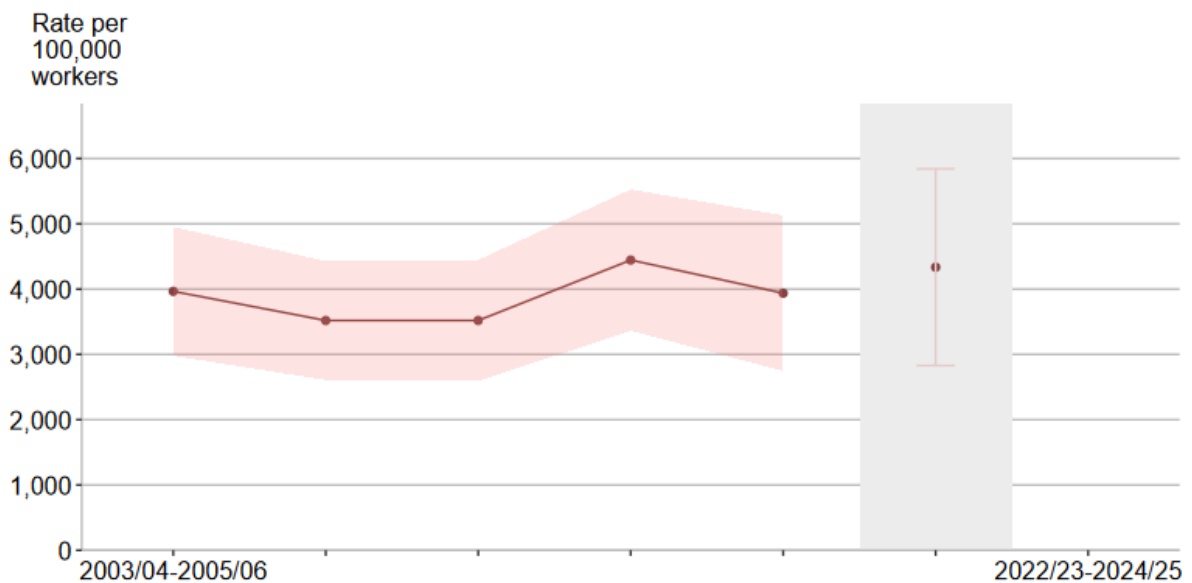


A five-year period has been used to improve the reliability of the sector estimates. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart.

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2024/25

Changes over time

Rate of self-reported work-related ill health in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported work-related illness showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest available period (2019/20 - 2021/22), which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the 2016/17- 2018/19 period.

The data for 2019/20 - 2021/22 includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded column.

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.

The final data point displayed is for 2019/20–2021/22, as the sample numbers are too small to provide a reliable estimate for 2022/23–2024/25. Shaded area and error bars represent a 95% confidence interval.

Source: LFS, average estimate from 2003/04-2005/06 to 2019/20-2021/22

Musculoskeletal disorders

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

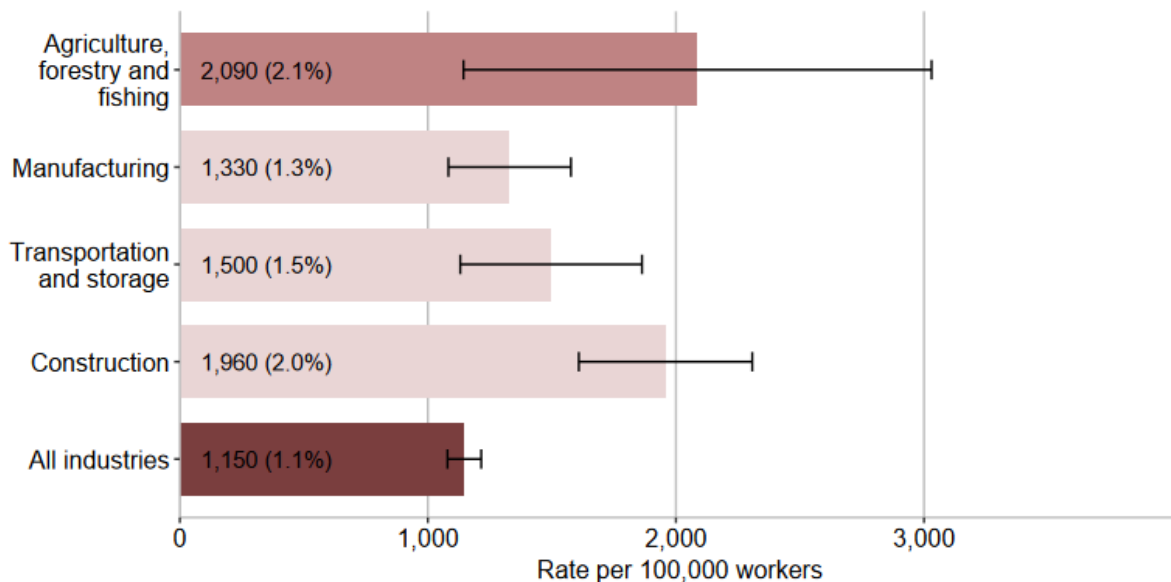
- There were an estimated 6,000 workers suffering from a work-related musculoskeletal disorder (new or long-standing), 67% of all ill health in this sector.

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2024/25

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries

- Around 2.1% of workers in the sector suffered from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing)
- This rate is statistically significantly higher than that for workers across all industries (1.1%)

Rate of self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders in Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries, per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing

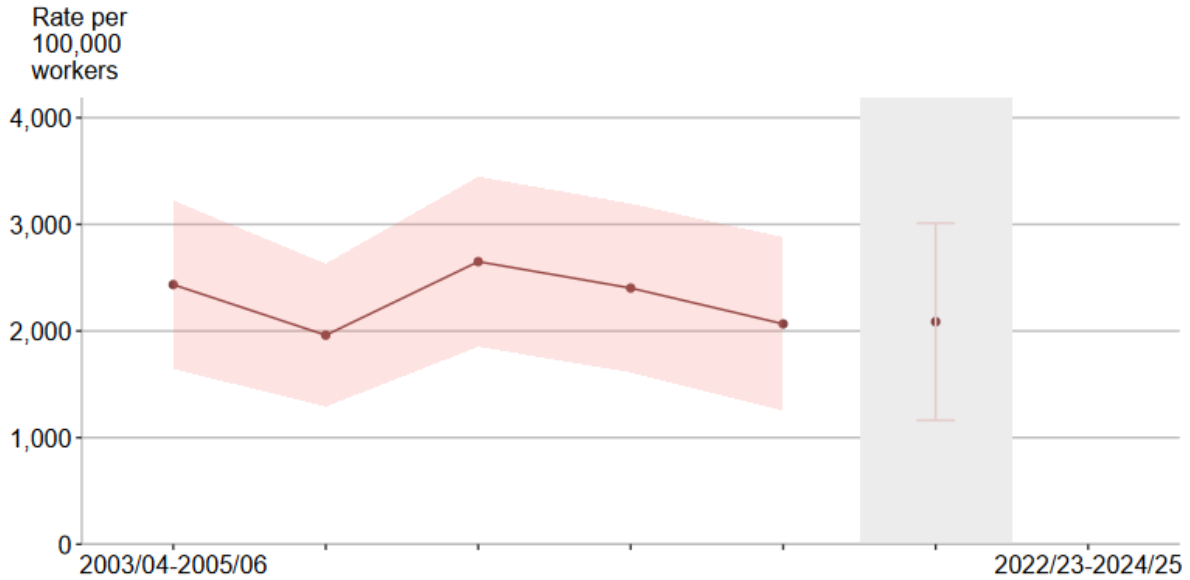


A five-year period has been used to improve the reliability of the sector estimates. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart.

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2024/25

Changes over time

Rate of self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest available period (2019/20 - 2021/22), which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the 2016/17- 2018/19 period.

The data for 2019/20 - 2021/22 includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded column.

The final data point displayed is for 2019/20–2021/22, as the sample numbers are too small to provide a reliable estimate for 2022/23–2024/25. Shaded area and error bars represent a 95% confidence interval.

Source: LFS, average estimate from 2003/04-2005/06 to 2019/20-2021/22

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 survey, this source can be limited when looking at less common work-related ill health cases. There are a range of supporting ill health data sources to supplement the Labour Force Survey estimates, including death certificates, specialist physician surveillance schemes (THOR) and epidemiological research.

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. In the period 1993-2024 there have been, on average, 7 deaths per year where farmers' lung (or a similar condition) was recorded as the underlying cause on the death certificate. 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.

Source: Death certificates, 2024

Occupational asthma

The chest physician reporting scheme for occupational respiratory disease suggests that while the incidence of occupational asthma in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is somewhat higher than the average for all industries combined, it is not among those industries with the highest rates. However, this assessment is uncertain due to the small numbers of actual reported cases in the sector.

Source: THOR-SWORD, 2017-2019

Skin disease

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

Source: THOR-EPIDERM, 2017-2019

Occupational cancer

A research study published in 2012 on the occupational burden of cancer in Great Britain showed that for each year, known and probable occupational carcinogens are estimated to account for:

- 5% of cancer deaths (8,000 deaths in 2005)
- 4% of all new cancer registrations (13,600 registrations in 2004)

Of the 13,600 registrations in 2004:

- Around 300 were attributed to past work in Agriculture industries.
- About a third of the cancer registrations were non-melanoma skin cancer related to solar radiation

Source: Epidemiological studies

Workplace injuries

Fatal injuries

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

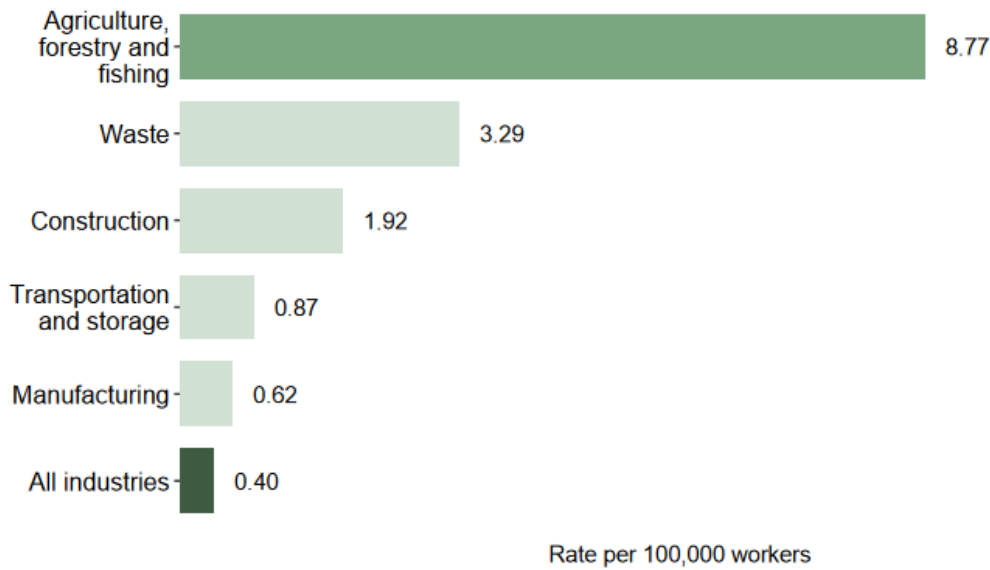
- There were 23 fatal injuries to workers in 2024/25p.
- This is in comparison with the annual average number of 25 fatalities for 2020/21-2024/25p though statistically speaking, the numbers are small and prone to annual fluctuations.
- 23% of deaths over the same five-year period were classified as Struck by moving vehicle.
- There were 4 fatal injuries to members of the public in 2024/25p.
- This is in comparison with the annual average of 5 fatalities over the five-year period 2020/21-2024/25p.

Source: RIDDOR, 2024/25p

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries

- The fatal injury rate in Agriculture, forestry and fishing is 8.77 per 100,000 workers.
- This is around 22 times the all industry rate.

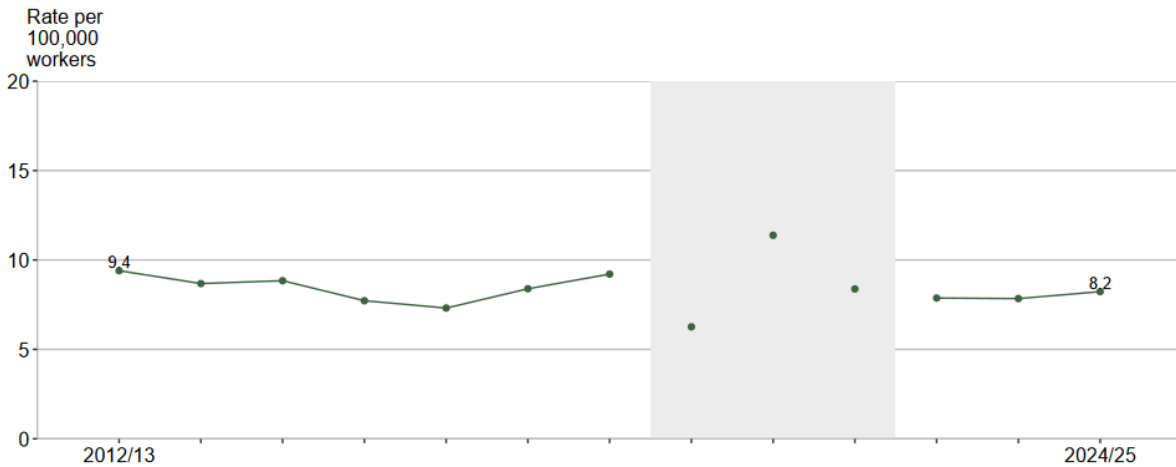
Rate of work-related fatal injuries in Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries, per 100,000 workers



Source: RIDDOR, average over 2020/21-2024/25p

Changes over time

Rate of work-related fatal injuries in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, per 100,000 workers



The rate of fatal injury to workers in agriculture, forestry and fishing showed a generally downward trend, with signs of flattening out in more recent years.

The data for 2019/20 - 2021/22p includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded column.

Source: RIDDOR, 2004/05 to 2024/25p

Non-fatal injuries

The Labour Force Survey is HSE’s preferred data source for non-fatal injuries.

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

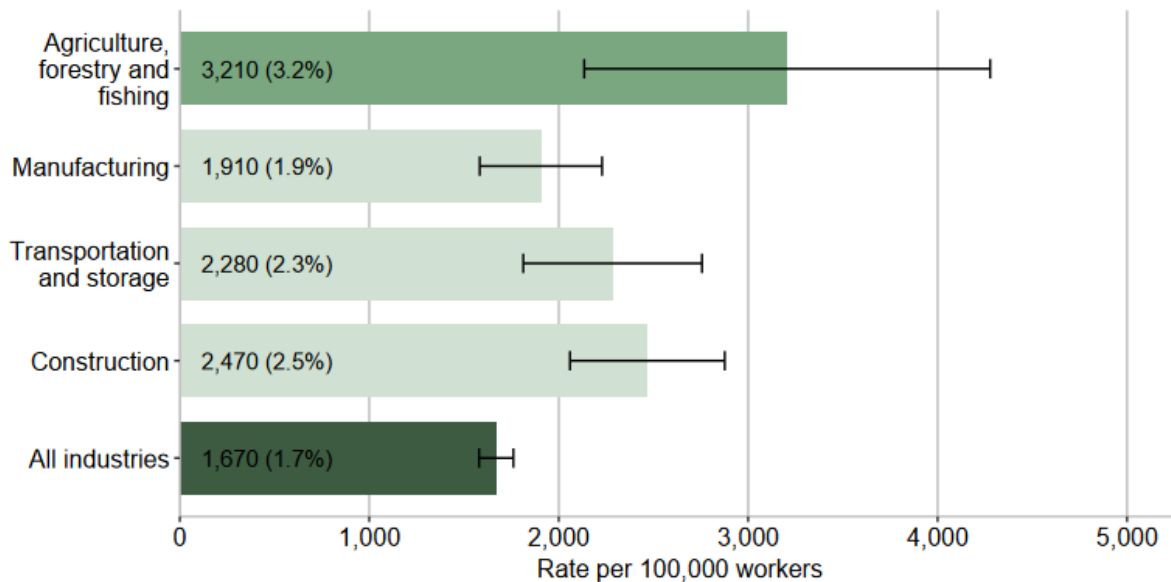
- There were an estimated 8,000 workers who reported sustaining a workplace non-fatal injury.

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2024/25

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries

- Around 3.2% of workers in the sector sustained a workplace non-fatal injury.
- This rate is statistically significantly higher than that for workers across all industries (1.7%)

Rate of self-reported workplace non-fatal injuries in Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries, per 100,000 workers

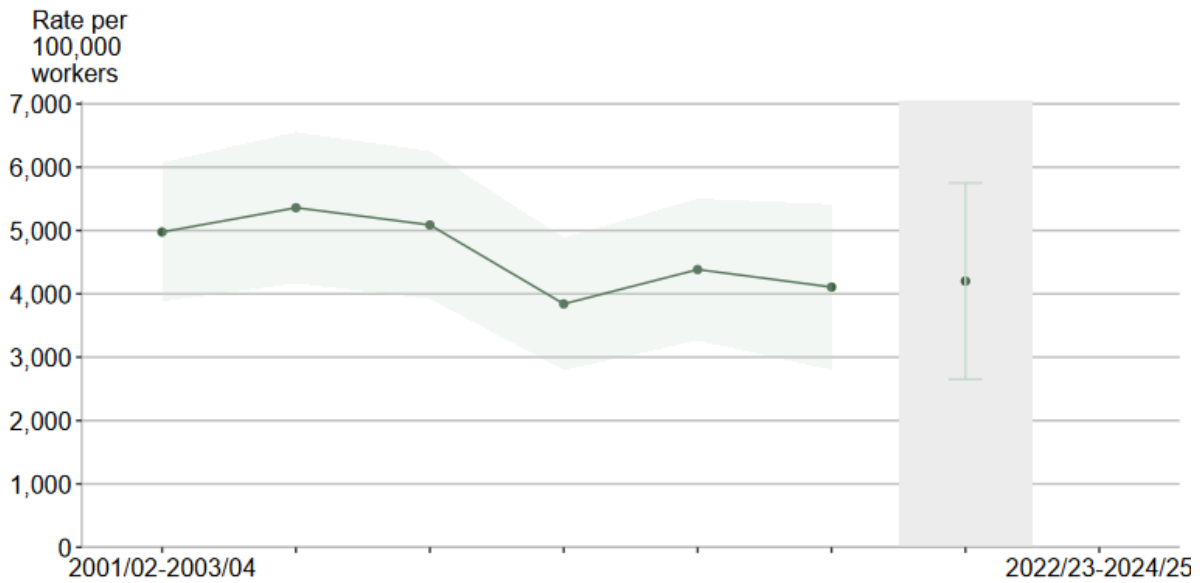


95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart.

Source: LFS, average estimate over 2020/21-2024/25

Changes over time

Rate of self-reported workplace non-fatal injuries in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, per 100,000 workers



Prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers showed no clear trend. The rate for the latest available period (2019/20 - 2021/22), which includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, was not statistically significantly different from the 2016/17- 2018/19 period.

The data for 2019/20 - 2021/22 includes years affected by the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded column.

The final data point displayed is for 2019/20–2021/22, as the sample numbers are too small to provide a reliable estimate for 2022/23–2024/25. Shaded area and error bars represent a 95% confidence interval.

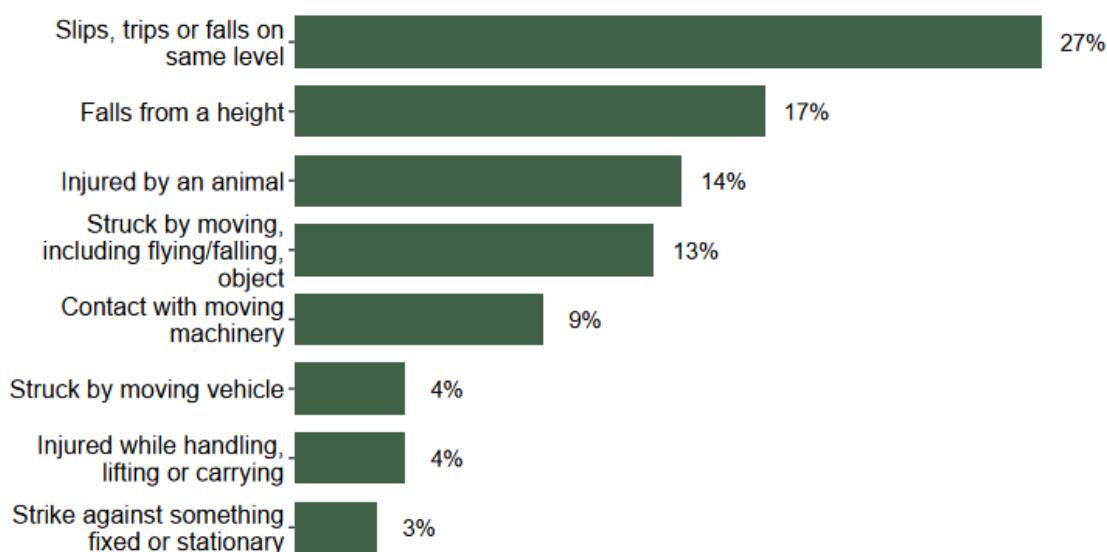
Source: LFS, average estimate from 2001/02-2003/04 to 2019/20-2021/22

Supporting information around work-related injuries is available from RIDDOR reporting⁴. In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were 726 non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers under RIDDOR in 2024/25p.
- 356 (49%) were specified injuries⁵ and 370 (51%) were injuries resulting in the incapacitation of a worker for over seven days

Source: RIDDOR, 2024/25p

Percentage of non-fatal work-related specified injuries by accident kind in Agriculture, forestry and fishing



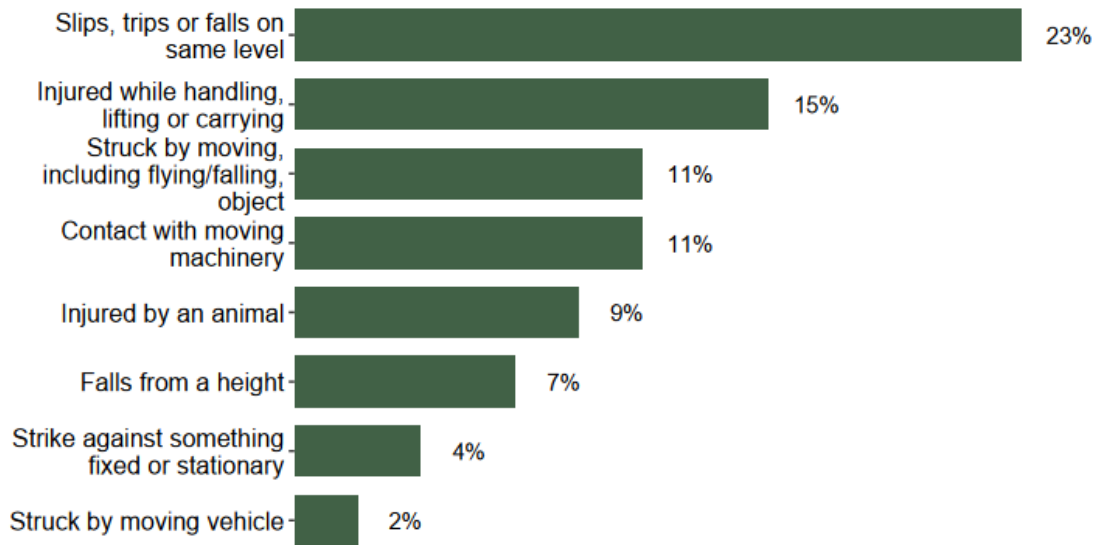
Source: RIDDOR, average over 2022/23-2024/25p

Accident kinds are shown that account for 1.5% or more of non-fatal injuries.

⁴ 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. Possible variations in reporting rates both between industries and over time make comparisons difficult. However, RIDDOR can be used for analysis at a detailed level not available through the LFS, for example, around the kind of incident.

⁵ Specified injuries are a defined list of injuries. The full list is at www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm

Percentage of non-fatal work-related injuries resulting in incapacitation of a worker for over seven days by accident kind in Agriculture, forestry and fishing



Source: RIDDOR, average over 2022/23-2024/25p

Accident kinds are shown that account for 1.5% or more of non-fatal injuries.

Economic Cost

- The total cost of workplace injury and ill health in 2023/24 is estimated at between £67M - £213M.
- The total cost of injury and ill health in this sector accounts for 1% of the total cost of all work-related ill health and injury (£22.9 billion)

Note: All costs are presented in 2023/24 prices.

Source: HSE Costs to Britain, 2023/24

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. This cost is shared between individuals, employers and government/taxpayers.

The injury costs estimate 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.

Annex 1: Sources and definitions

The Labour Force Survey (LFS): The LFS is a national survey run by the Office for National Statistics of currently around 31,000 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.

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.

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. Reporting of respiratory disease by chest physicians is through the Surveillance of Work-Related and Occupational Respiratory Disease scheme (THOR-SWORD). Reporting of skin disease cases by consultant dermatologists is through the occupational skin surveillance scheme (THOR-EPIDERM).

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.

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.

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

95% confidence interval: The range of values within 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.

Notes:

Percentages presented on charts in this document use rounded data and so may not sum to 100% in all cases.

p is used in this document to indicate provisional figures due to be finalised in 2026

For more information, see <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/sources.pdf>

Annex 2: Links to detailed tables

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

Work-related illness

lfsillind: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/lfsillind.xlsx>

THORR05: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/thorr05.xlsx>

THORS05: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/thors05.xlsx>

CAN05: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/can05.xlsx>

IIDB01: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/iidb01.xlsx>

DC01: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/dc01.xlsx>

Workplace injuries

lfsinjind: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/lfsinjind.xlsx>

RIDIND: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridind.xlsx>

RIDFATAL: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridfatal.xlsx>

RIDHIST: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridhist.xlsx>

RIDKIND: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridkind.xlsx>

Costs to Britain of workplace injury and illness

COST_tables: https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/costs_tables.xlsx

Other tables can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/index.htm

Accredited Official Statistics

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From 7 June 2024 the Accredited Official Statistics badge has replaced the previous National Statistics badge.

These statistics were last reviewed by OSR in 2013. It is Health and Safety Executive's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the OSR promptly. Accredited Official Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored. Details of OSR reviews undertaken on these statistics, quality improvements, and other information noting revisions, interpretation, user consultation and use of these statistics is available from <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about.htm>.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the OSR website.

An account of how the figures are used for statistical purposes can be found at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm>.

For information regarding the quality guidelines used for statistics within HSE see <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/quality-guidelines.htm>.

A revisions policy and log can be seen at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/>.

Additional data tables can be found at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/>.

Lead Statistician: [Rebecca Simpson](#)

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Email: statsfeedback@hse.gov.uk

Journalists/media enquiries only: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/contact.htm>

