



**Information sheet: 4/00/EMSU**

(Last updated October 2000)

**Secondary analysis of the 1995**  
**Self-reported Work-related Illness survey**  
**(SWI95)**

## ***SUMMARY***

This paper presents some secondary analysis of the 1995 Self-reported Work-related Illness Survey (SWI95) for all illness caused by work and the two most commonly reported conditions: musculoskeletal disorders and stress<sup>1</sup>. The paper mostly presents estimated prevalence rates for the current and recently working (in the last 8 years) at the time of the survey

### **Social class**

- Skilled manual workers (social class III<sub>m</sub>) had the highest estimated prevalence rate of illness caused by work. This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate for all persons and twice as high as the rate for professional occupations (social class I).
- Skilled manual workers (social class III<sub>m</sub>) had the highest estimated prevalence rate for musculoskeletal disorders, musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back and musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck.
- Workers in managerial and technical occupations (social class II), which include schoolteachers and nurses, had the highest estimated prevalence rate for stress.

### **Company size**

- Individuals in companies with 2-24 employees had a statistically significantly lower estimated prevalence rate of illness caused by work than those in companies with 25 or more employees.
- Self-employed, lone workers, had statistically significantly higher estimated prevalence rates for musculoskeletal disorders and musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck than those who worked for companies with 2-24 employees.

### **Employment status**

- Self-employed workers suffering from musculoskeletal disorders had a statistically significantly higher estimated prevalence rate than employees.

### **Full or part-time**

- Part-time workers had a statistically significantly lower estimated prevalence rate of illness caused by work than those who worked full-time.
- Full-time workers suffering from stress or musculoskeletal disorders had a statistically significantly higher estimated prevalence rate than those who worked part-time.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes respondents who reported stress, depression or anxiety or an illness ascribed to stress at work. See Annex 3.

### **Total usual hours**

- Individuals who *usually* worked more than 40 hours had a statistically significantly higher estimated prevalence rate for all illness caused by work than the rate for all persons.
- Individuals who *usually* worked more than 40 hours had statistically significantly higher estimated prevalence rates for musculoskeletal disorders and musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back than those who worked less than 31 hours.

### **Total actual hours**

- Individuals who *actually* worked less than 31 hours (in the week before the Labour Force Survey interview) had the lowest estimated prevalence rate of illness caused by work. This rate is statistically significantly lower than the estimated prevalence rate for those who worked more than 40 hours and statistically significantly lower than the estimated prevalence rate for all persons.
- Individuals who *actually* worked less than 31 hours (in the week before the LFS interview) had a statistically significantly lower estimated prevalence rate for musculoskeletal disorders than those working 31-40 hours.

### **Duration of employment and time since leaving job**

- The prevalence rate for musculoskeletal disorders and stress increases with duration of employment (statistically significant positive trend) and decreases with time since leaving job (statistically significant negative trend).

## ***INTRODUCTION***

This paper has been produced by the Epidemiology and Medical Statistics Unit (EMSU) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to set out the results of some secondary analysis of the 1995 self-reported work-related illness survey (SWI95). The main results from this survey were published in the report: “Self-reported Work-related Illness in 1995: Results of a household survey” (some information about the survey design can be found in Annex 1). The report provided detailed commentary and statistics on the prevalence of work-related illness including analysis by disease, occupation, possible causative factors and economic impact. SWI95 collected a great deal of detailed information from its respondents and not all of this had been exploited in the original report. The additional analysis presented for the first time in this paper covers social class, company size, employment status, whether full or part-time, total usual hours and total actual hours. Results are only shown for all ill-health, musculoskeletal disorders and stress caused by work where sample numbers are sufficiently large to provide reliable estimates.

## ***RESULTS***

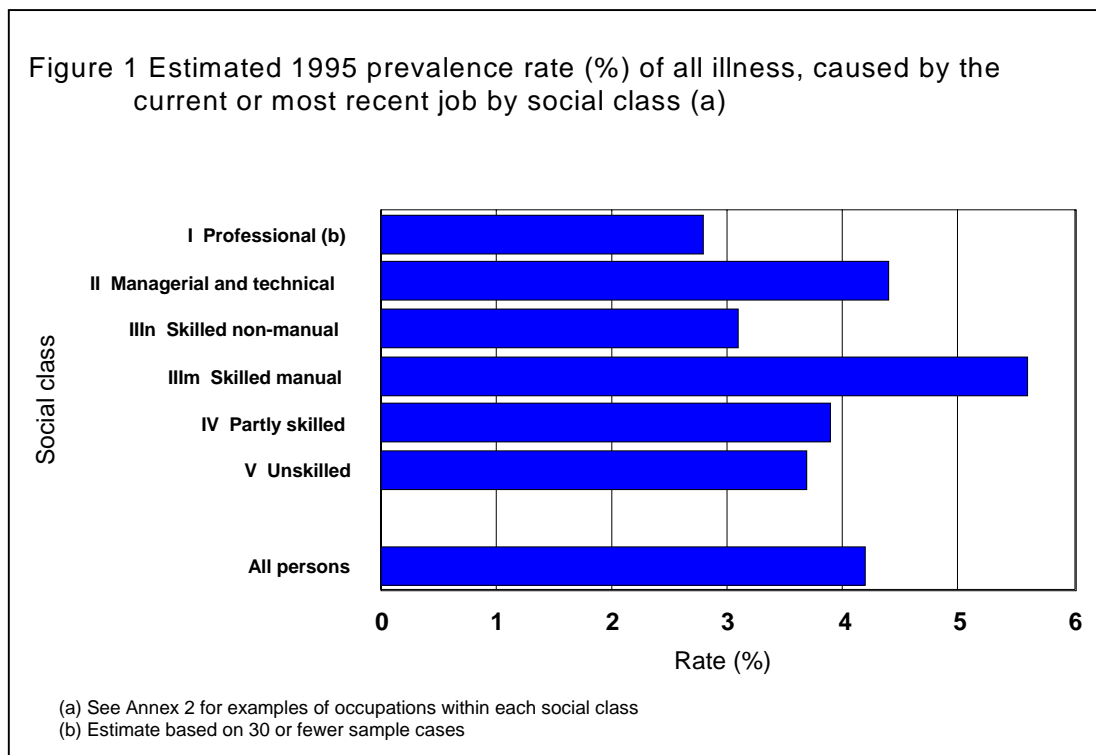
This paper mostly presents rates for the current and recently working (in the last 8 years) at the time of the survey. This is because population denominators are not available for reported cases of ill-health not ascribed to the individual’s current or most recent job, nor for any cases ascribed to a job held more than eight years before the survey (since the LFS only asks respondents about jobs they have held up to eight years ago). Annexes 2 to 4 provide further details.

Estimates quoted in this paper are based on a sample survey and are subject to a margin of error (see Annex 2 for more details). The sampling errors are expressed as 95% confidence intervals, which means that each range has a 95% chance of containing the true value (i.e. the value that would be found if the entire population had been surveyed). Confidence intervals should be quoted in preference to the central estimate whenever there are less than 30 sample cases i.e. figures shown in italics within the tables.

Tables have not been produced for those disease groups for which the sample sizes are too small to provide reliable estimates. Annex 3 shows the disease groups.

## Overall Picture

Table 1a and Figure 1 (below) shows the estimated prevalence and rates of illness in 1995 caused by the current or most recent job, by social class. Skilled manual workers (social class III<sub>m</sub>) had the highest rate of illness caused by work, an estimated 5.6% (CI: 4.8% to 6.3%), which is statistically significantly higher than the rate for all persons - 4.2% (CI: 3.9% to 4.5%) and twice as high as the rate for professional occupations (social class I) - 2.8% (CI: 1.8% to 3.8%). Professional occupations had the lowest rate of illness caused by work which is statistically significantly lower than the rate for all persons and statistically significantly lower than the rate for managerial and technical occupations. The second lowest group is skilled non-manual workers (social class III<sub>n</sub>) - 3.1% (CI: 2.6% to 3.6%) which is statistically significantly lower than the rate for both managerial and technical occupations and skilled occupations (manual) with rates 4.5% (CI: 3.9% to 5.0%) and 5.6% (CI: 4.8% to 6.3%) respectively.



The estimated prevalence and rates of illness in 1995 caused by the current or most recent job, by company size is shown in Table 1b. For the first part of the table the lowest risk group are those who work in companies with 2-24 employees with a rate of 3.4% (CI: 2.9% to 3.9%). This rate is statistically significantly lower than the rate for 25 or more employees 4.4% (CI: 4.0% to 4.8%) and statistically significantly lower than the rate for all persons 4.2% (CI: 3.9% to 4.5%). For the second part of the table there were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

Table 1c shows the estimated rates for illness in 1995 caused by the current or most recent job and the estimated prevalence for all illness caused by work, by employment status. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

The estimated prevalence and rates of illness in 1995 caused by the current or most recent job, by whether full or part-time is shown in Table 1d. The lowest risk group are those who work part-time with a rate of 2.4% (CI: 2.0% to 2.9%). This is statistically significantly lower than the rate for those who work full-time and the rate for all persons - 4.7% (CI: 4.3% to 5.1%) and 4.2% (CI: 3.9% to 4.5%) respectively.

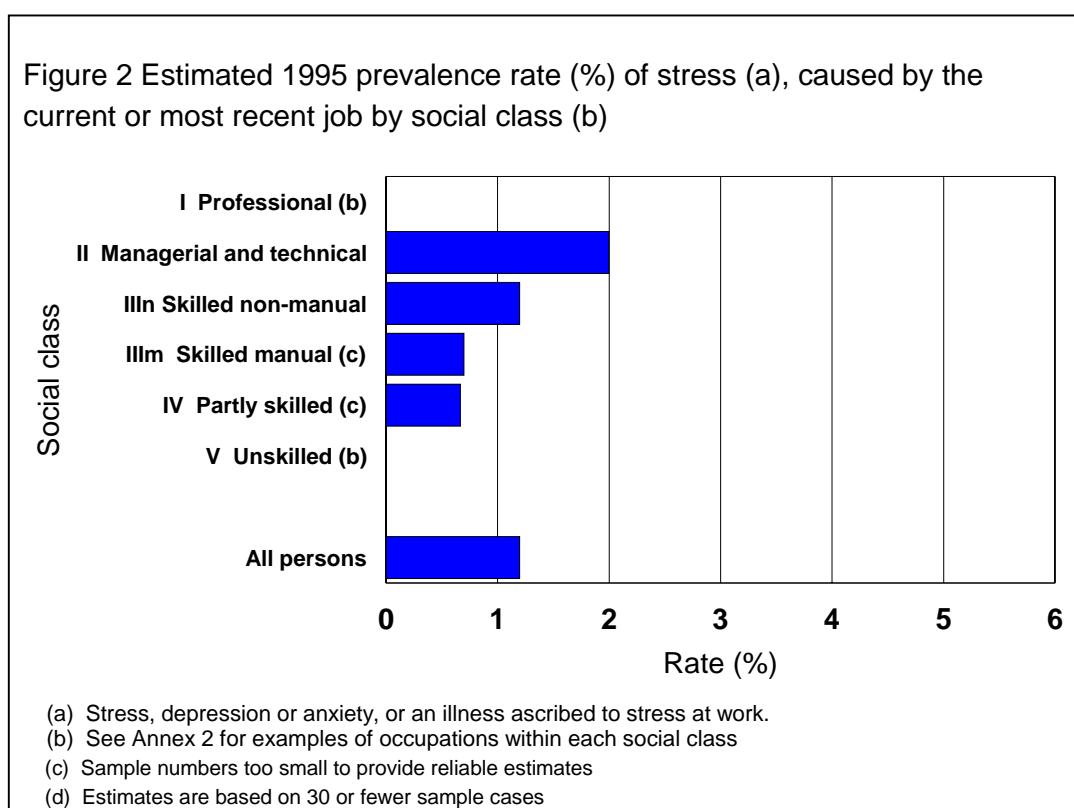
Table 1e shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by total *usual* hours for persons suffering from an illness caused by their current job. Those individuals who work more than 40 hours had a statistically significantly higher rate - 4.6% (CI: 4.1% to 5.1%) than the rate for all persons - 3.6% (CI: 3.3% to 3.9%). The lowest risk group are those who work less than 31 hours - 2.0% (CI: 1.5% to 2.4%). This is not only statistically significantly lower than the overall rate, but also the rate for those who usually work 31-40 hours and the rate for those who usually work more than 40 hours - 3.6% (CI: 3.3% to 3.9%), 3.6% (CI: 3.1% to 4.1%) and 4.6% (CI: 4.1% to 5.1%) respectively.

The estimated prevalence of illness and rates in 1995 caused by their current job by total *actual* hours (in the week before their LFS interview) is shown in Table 1f. The lowest risk group are those who work less than 31 hours - 2.4% (CI: 1.9% to 2.9%). This rate is statistically significantly lower than the rate for those who work more than 40 hours - 4.1% (CI: 3.5% to 4.7%) and statistically significantly lower than the rate for all persons - 3.6% (CI: 3.3% to 3.9%).

## Disease

### Stress

Table 2a and Figure 2 (below) show the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by social class for individuals suffering from stress caused by their current or most recent job at a level that was making them ill. Managerial and technical occupations which include schoolteachers and nurses (social class II) had the highest rates for individuals reporting stress caused by work - 2.0% (CI: 1.7% to 2.4%). This is statistically significantly higher than the rate for all persons, skilled occupations (non-manual), skilled occupations (manual) and partly skilled occupations - 1.2% (CI: 1.1% to 1.4%), 1.2% (CI: 0.87% to 1.5%), 0.70% (CI: 0.42% to 1.0%) and 0.67% (CI: 0.37% to 1.0%) respectively.



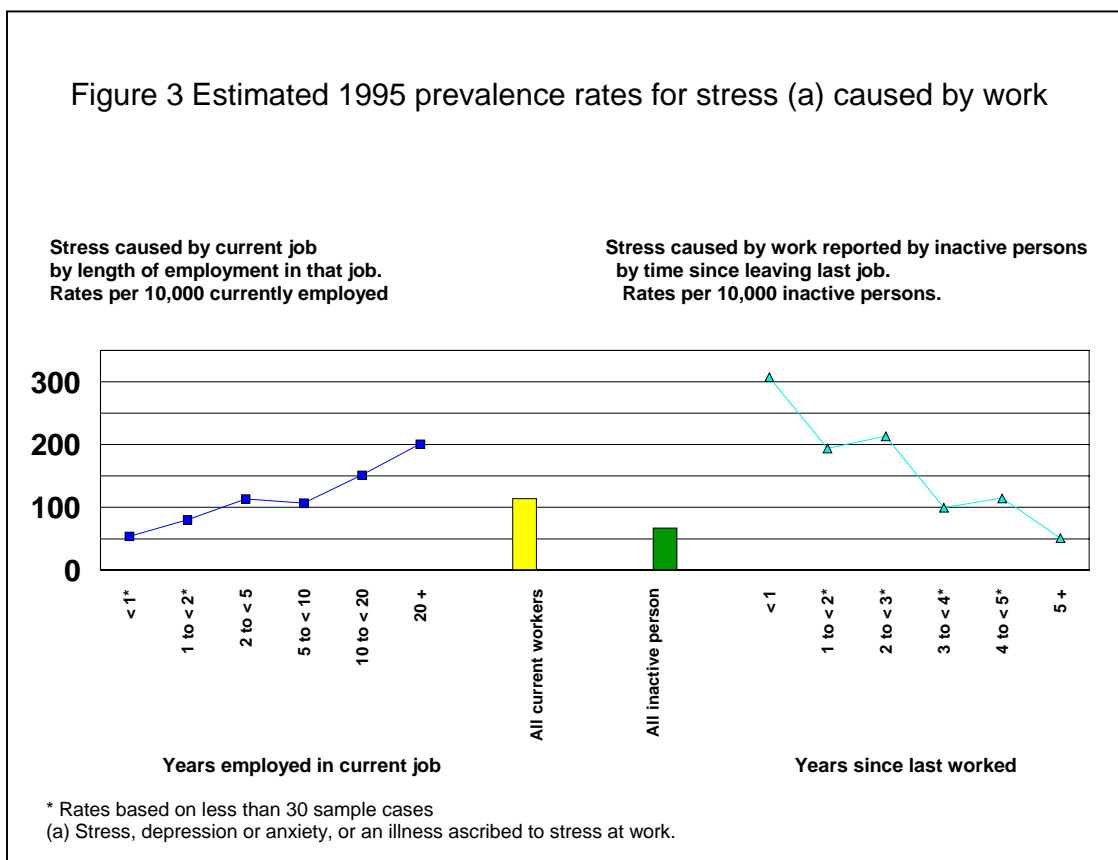
The estimated prevalence and rates in 1995 of stress caused by the current or most recent job, by company size are shown in Table 2b. For both parts of the table there were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

Table 2c shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by whether full or part-time for individuals suffering from stress caused by their current or most recent job. Those individuals who currently or recently worked part-time had a statistically significantly lower rate - 0.58% (CI: 0.38% to 0.78%) than those who currently or recently worked full-time 1.5% (CI: 1.3% to 1.7%) and a statistically significantly lower rate than the rate for all persons 1.2% (CI: 1.1% to 1.4%).

Table 2d shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by total *usual* hours for individuals suffering from stress caused by their current job. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

The estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by total *actual* hours for individuals suffering from stress caused by the current job are shown in Table 2e. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

The estimated 1995 prevalence rates for stress caused by work by duration of employment in current job and time since leaving last job is shown in Figure 3. The rate (307 per 10,000 inactive, CI: 204 to 411) amongst those who had left their job less than one year ago was almost 3 times higher than the rate for all current workers (114 per 10,000 currently employed CI: 96 to 131), indicating movement away from the job because of the condition. The inactive rate falls rapidly with increasing time since last job, and by 5 years is back to the level recorded by current workers with less than one year of employment. In other words, nearly all such cases would appear to resolve within 5 years.



***Stress, depression or anxiety***

Table 3a shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by company size for individuals suffering from stress, depression or anxiety caused by their current or most recent job. For both parts of the table there were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

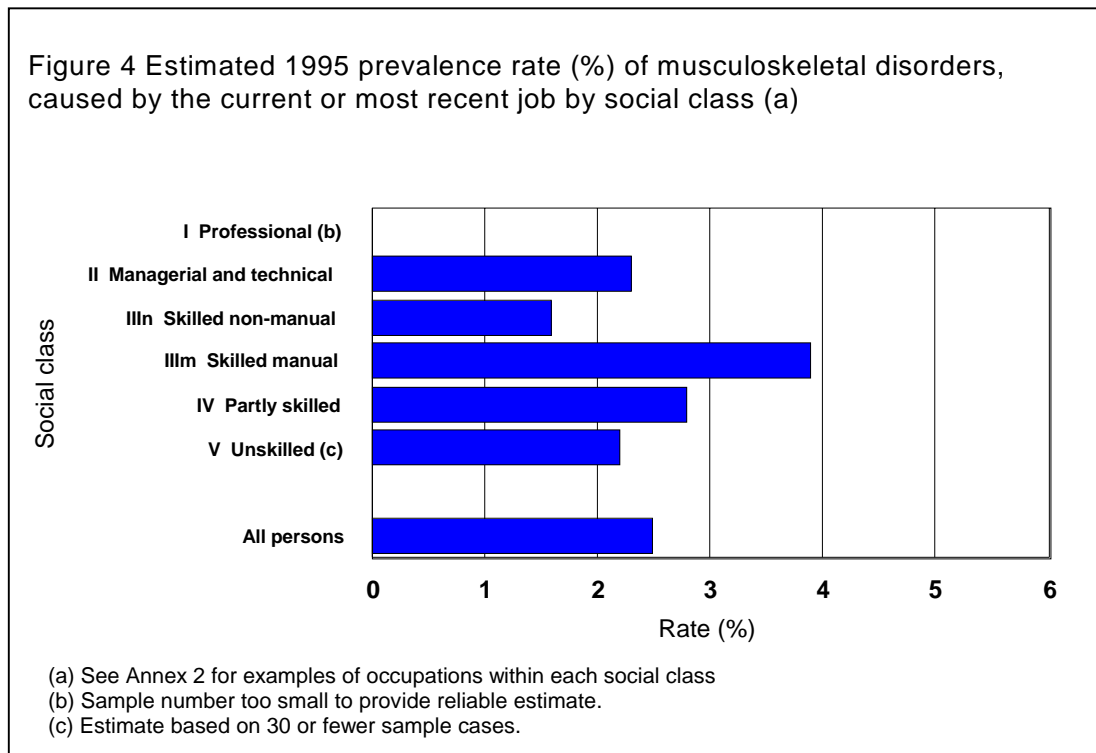


### ***Stress ascribed illness***

Table 4a shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by company size for individuals suffering from a stress-ascribed illness caused by their current or most recent job. For both parts of the table there were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

### ***Musculoskeletal disorders***

Table 5a and Figure 4 (below) shows the estimated prevalence and rates in 1995 of musculoskeletal disorders caused by the person's current or most recent job by social class. Skilled occupations (manual) (social class III<sub>m</sub>) had the highest rate of individuals suffering from a musculoskeletal disorder caused by work 3.9% (CI: 3.2% to 4.5%). This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate for all persons 2.5% (CI: 2.2% to 2.7%), is over twice as high as the lowest rate which is amongst skilled occupations (non-manual) (social class III<sub>n</sub>) 1.6% (CI: 1.2% to 1.9%) and is statistically significantly higher than the rates for unskilled occupations and managerial and technical occupations - 2.2% (CI: 1.4% to 3.1%) and 2.3% (CI: 1.9% to 2.7%) respectively.



The estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by company size for individuals suffering from a musculoskeletal disorder caused by the current or most recent job are shown in Table 5b. For the first part of the table the self-employed, working alone, had the highest rate - 3.5% (CI: 2.6% to 4.4%). This rate is statistically significantly higher than the lowest rate which is for companies with 2-24 employees - 2.1% (CI: 1.7% to 2.4%). For the second part of the table there were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

Table 5c shows the rates and prevalence in 1995 by employment status for individuals suffering from a musculoskeletal disorder caused by their current or most recent job. The self-employed had a statistically significantly higher rate 3.4% (CI: 2.7% to 4.2%) than the rate for employees, 2.3% (CI: 2.1% to 2.6%).

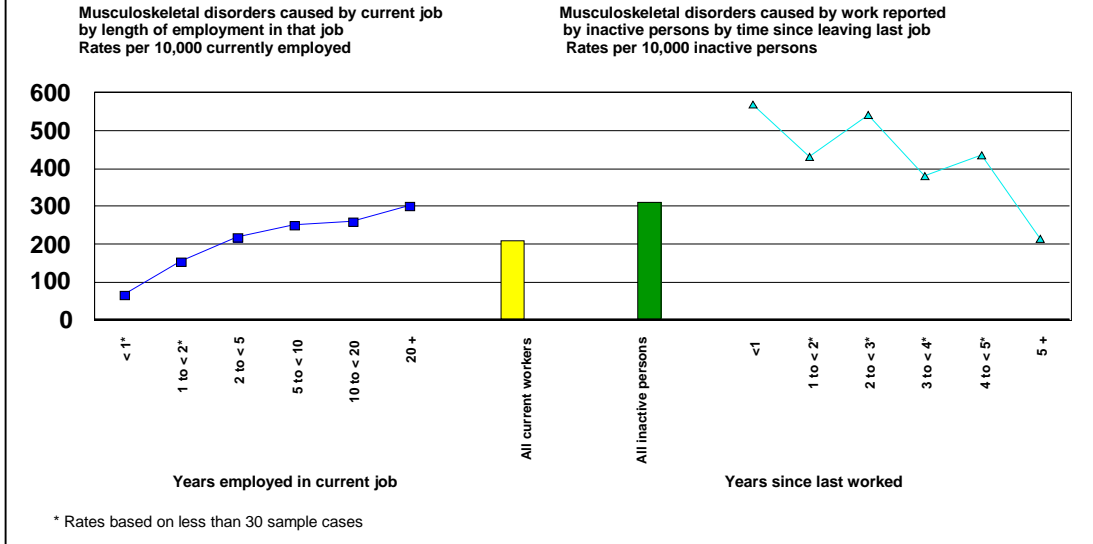
Table 5d shows the estimated prevalence and rates in 1995 of musculoskeletal disorders caused by the current or most recent job by whether full or part-time. Those individuals who currently or recently worked part-time had a statistically significantly lower rate 1.6% (CI: 1.3% to 2.0%) than for those who worked full-time 2.7% (CI: 2.4% to 3.0%) and a statistically significantly lower rate than the rate for all persons 2.5% (CI: 2.2% to 2.7%).

Table 5e shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by total *usual* hours for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders caused by their current job. Those individuals who worked less than 31 hours had the lowest rate 1.3% (CI: 0.97% to 1.7%). This rate is statistically significantly lower than the rate for subjects who work more than 40 hours 2.5% (CI: 2.1% to 2.9%) and statistically significantly lower than the rate for all persons 2.1% (CI: 1.8% to 2.3%).

The estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by total *actual* hours (in week before LFS interview) for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders caused by the current job are shown in Table 5f. The lowest risk group are those individuals who worked less than 31 hours 1.4% (CI: 1.1% to 1.8%). This rate is statistically significantly lower than the rate for all persons - 2.1% (CI: 1.8% to 2.3%) and statistically significantly lower than the rate for those who work 31-40 hours 2.3% (CI: 1.8% to 2.7%).

The estimated 1995 prevalence rates for musculoskeletal disorders caused by work by duration of employment in current job and time since leaving last job are shown in Figure 5. The rate amongst the currently employed increased steeply in the first 5 years then levelled off, indicating possible movement away from the job causing the complaint. The rate (569 per 10,000 inactive persons, CI: 434 to 705) amongst those who had left their job more than one year ago was more than double the rate for all current workers (202 per 10,000 current workers, CI 184 to 231), again possibly indicating movement away from the job causing the complaint. The inactive rate falls rapidly with increasing time since last job reaching about the same rate for current workers at 5 year or more since leaving job.

Figure 5 Estimated 1995 prevalence rates for musculoskeletal disorders caused by work



***Musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back***

Table 6a shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by social class for individuals suffering from a musculoskeletal disorder affecting the back caused by their current or most recent job. The highest risk group is skilled occupations (manual) (social class III<sub>m</sub>) - 2.2% (CI: 1.8% to 2.7%). This rate is statistically significantly higher than the all persons rate - 1.3% (CI: 1.2% to 1.5%), statistically significantly higher than the rate for managerial and technical occupations - 1.3% (CI: 0.96% to 1.6%) and over four times higher than the lowest rate which is for skilled occupations (non-manual) (social class III<sub>n</sub>) - 0.51% (CI: 0.31 % to 0.71%). Skilled occupations (non-manual) (social class III<sub>n</sub>) is statistically significantly lower than the rate for managerial and technical occupations, partly skilled occupations and all persons - 1.3% (CI: 0.96% to 1.6%), 1.6% (CI: 1.1% to 2.0%) and 1.3% (CI: 1.2% to 1.5%)

The estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by company size for individuals suffering from a musculoskeletal disorder affecting the back caused by current or most recent job are shown in Table 6b. For both parts of the table there were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

Table 6c shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by employment status for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by current or most recent job. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

Table 6d shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by their current or most recent job by whether full or part-time. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

Table 6e shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by total usual hours for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by their current job. The highest rate is for those who worked 41 or more hours 1.4% (CI: 1.1% to 1.7%). This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate for those who work less than 31 hours - 0.75% (CI: 0.47% to 1.0%).

The estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by total actual hours for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by their current job is shown in Table 6f. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

***Musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck***

Table 7a shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by social class for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by their current or most recent job. The highest rate is for skilled occupations (manual) (social class III<sub>m</sub>) - 1.6% (CI: 1.2% to 2.0%). This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate for managerial and technical occupations (social class II) - 0.87% (CI: 0.63% to 1.1%).

Table 7b shows the estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by company size for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by their current or most recent job. For the first part of the table the highest rate is for the self-employed, working alone, 1.7% (CI: 1.1% to 2.3%) which is over double the lowest rate which is for companies employing 2-24 employees 0.68% (CI: 0.47% to 0.89%). The rate for companies employing 2-24 employees is statistically significantly lower than the rate for all persons 1.1% (CI: 0.98% to 1.3%) and statistically significantly lower than the rate for companies employing 25 or more employees. For the second part of the table there were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

Table 7c shows the estimated rates and prevalence estimates in 1995 by employment status for individuals suffering from work-related musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

The estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by whether full or part-time for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by the current or most recent job are shown in Table 7d. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

Table 7e shows the estimated rates and prevalence estimates in 1995 by total usual hours for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by their current job. There were no statistically significant differences between the rates.

The estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by total actual hours for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by their current job are shown in Table 7f. The lowest rate is for those who work less than 31 hours 0.58% (CI: 0.34% to 0.81%). This rate is statistically significantly lower than the rate for those who work 31-40 hours 1.2% (CI: 0.91% to 1.6%).

***Musculoskeletal disorders affecting the lower limbs***

The estimated rates and prevalence in 1995 by company size for individuals suffering from musculoskeletal disorders affecting the lower limbs caused by their current or most recent job are shown in Table 8a. The rates are almost identical for both companies with 1-24 employees and companies with 25 or more employees 0.38% (CI: 0.24% to 0.51%) and 0.36% (CI: 0.24% to 0.47%) respectively in the first part of the table and in the second part of the table for both companies with 1-49 employees and companies with 50 or more employees - 0.37% (CI: 0.25% to 0.49%) and 0.36% (CI: 0.23% to 0.49%).

***DISCUSSION***

This paper provides a range of useful reference information, published for the first time, from SWI95. The findings presented should be considered in the context of other research if they are to be used as a basis of any action. This is particularly so for the findings on social class and stress which differ from those suggested in other research e.g. studies relating psychosocial work conditions to risk of cardiovascular disease.

## TABLES

**Table 1a: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of all illness caused by the current or most recent job by social class**

Social class+	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
I Professional occupations	30	2.8	<i>1.8</i>	3.8	48	<i>31</i>	66
II Managerial and Technical occupations	265	4.5	3.9	5.0	428	374	482
III <sub>n</sub> Skilled occupations (non manual)	151	3.1	2.6	3.6	238	199	278
III <sub>m</sub> Skilled occupations (manual)	210	5.6	4.8	6.3	388	334	441
IV Partly skilled occupations	120	3.9	3.2	4.6	210	171	248
V Unskilled occupations	44	3.7	2.6	4.8	78	54	101
Armed forces	5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Missing/unknown	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	835	4.2	3.9	4.5	1417	1317	1517

*Note: Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases*  
 + See Annex 2 for examples of occupations within each social class.  
 \* Sample numbers too small to provide reliable estimates  
 .. Not applicable  
 The missing/unknown category includes unpaid family workers

**Table 1b: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of all illness caused by the current or most recent job by company size**

Company size	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
1-24	299	3.7	3.3	4.1	519	458	579
1 (self-employed)	80	4.6	3.6	5.6	141	109	173
2-24	219	3.4	2.9	3.9	378	325	430
25+	514	4.4	4.0	4.8	858	781	935
Missing/unknown	22	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-49	387	3.8	3.4	4.1	665	596	734
50+	423	4.5	4.1	5.0	707	636	777
Missing/unknown	25	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	835	4.2	3.9	4.5	1417	1317	1517

*Note: .. Not applicable*  
 Missing values differ between the two parts of the table  
 because for 1-50 and 50+, individuals who gave the response  
 'Don't know but over 24' have been coded as missing/unknown.

**Table 1c: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of all illness caused by the current or most recent job by employment status**

Employment status	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					All cases+		
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Sample cases	Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.				95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper		central	lower	upper
Employee	727	4.1	3.8	4.4	1051	1777	1665	1890
Self-employed	108	4.7	3.8	5.5	125	218	179	257
Missing/unknown	0	..	..	..	16	..	..	..
All persons	835	4.2	3.9	4.5	1188	2017	1897	2136

Note: + Sample cases and prevalent estimates may sum to more than the total because people may have more than one illness caused by a different job

**Table 1d: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of all illness caused by the current or most recent job by whether full or part-time in main job**

Full or part-time in main job	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
Full-time	680	4.7	4.3	5.1	1156	1066	1246
Part-time	132	2.4	2.0	2.9	217	179	255
Missing/unknown	23	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	835	4.2	3.9	4.5	1417	1317	1517

Note: .. Not applicable

**Table 1e: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of all illness caused by the current job by total usual hours**

Total usual hours	Illnesses ascribed to their current job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	77	2.0	1.5	2.4	123	95	151
31-40	187	3.6	3.1	4.1	312	266	358
41+	291	4.6	4.1	5.1	489	431	547
Missing/unknown	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	558	3.6	3.3	3.9	928	848	1008

Note: .. Not applicable

**Table 1f: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of all illness caused by the current job by total actual hours**

Total actual hours	Illnesses ascribed to their current job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	101	2.4	1.9	2.9	165	132	198
31-40	159	3.4	2.8	3.9	261	219	303
41+	195	4.1	3.5	4.7	333	285	381
Missing/unknown#	103	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	558	3.6	3.3	3.9	928	848	1008

Note: .. Not applicable

# People who were temporarily away from work

eg on sick leave or on holiday were not asked this question



**Table 2a: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of stress (a), caused by the current or most recent job by social class**

Social class+	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
I Professional occupations	14	*	*	*	*	*	*
II Managerial and Technical occupation:	126	2.0	1.7	2.4	196	160	231
III <sub>n</sub> Skilled occupations (non manual)	57	1.2	0.87	1.5	91	67	116
III <sub>m</sub> Skilled occupations (manual)	26	<i>0.70</i>	<i>0.42</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>67</i>
IV Partly skilled occupations	20	<i>0.67</i>	<i>0.37</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>53</i>
V Unskilled occupations	8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Armed forces	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Missing/unknown	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	256	1.2	1.1	1.4	419	366	472

Note: (a) Stress, depression or anxiety, or an illness ascribed to stress at work

Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases

+ See Annex 2 for examples of occupations within each social class

\* sample numbers too small to provide reliable estimates

.. Not applicable

The missing/unknown category includes unpaid family workers

**Table 2b: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of stress (a) caused by the current or most recent job by company size**

Company size	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
1-24	86	1.0	0.77	1.2	140	109	170
25+	166	1.4	1.2	1.6	271	228	313
Missing/unknown	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-49	115	1.0	0.84	1.2	184	149	218
50+	136	1.5	1.2	1.7	226	186	265
Missing/unknown	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	256	1.2	1.1	1.4	419	366	472

Note: (a) Stress, depression or anxiety, or an illness ascribed to stress at work.

.. Not applicable

Missing values differ between the two parts of the table

because for 1-50 and 50+, individuals who gave the response

"Don't know but over 24' have been coded as missing/unknown.

**Table 2c: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of stress (a) caused by the current or most recent job by whether full or part-time in main job**

Full-time or part-time in main job	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
Full-time	218	1.5	1.3	1.7	358	309	407
Part-time	33	0.58	0.38	0.78	51	33	70
Missing/unknown	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	256	1.2	1.1	1.4	419	366	472

Note: (a) Stress, depression or anxiety, or an illness ascribed to stress at work.

.. Not applicable

**Table 2d: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of stress (a) caused by the current job by total usual hours**

Total usual hours	Illnesses ascribed to their current job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	19	*	*	*	*	*	*
31-40	63	1.2	0.9	1.5	101	75	128
41+	100	1.5	1.2	1.8	160	127	192
Missing/unknown	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	183	1.1	0.97	1.3	292	248	336

Note: (a) Stress, depression or anxiety, or an illness ascribed to stress at work.

.. Not applicable

\* sample numbers too small to provide reliable estimates

**Table 2e: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of stress (a) caused by the current job by total actual hours**

Total actual hours	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	33	0.80	0.51	1.1	54	35	74
31-40	42	0.85	0.58	1.1	66	45	87
41+	67	1.3	0.99	1.6	107	80	134
Missing/unknown#	41	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	183	1.1	0.97	1.3	292	248	336

Note: (a) Stress, depression or anxiety, or an illness ascribed to stress at work.

.. Not applicable

# People who were temporarily away from work

eg on sick leave or on holiday were not asked this question

**Table 3a: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of stress, depression or anxiety caused by the current or most recent job by company size**

Company size	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
1-24	54	0.62	0.45	0.79	87	63	111
25+	86	0.72	0.56	0.88	140	109	171
Missing/unknown	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-49	71	0.63	0.48	0.79	112	85	139
50+	68	0.73	0.55	0.91	114	86	142
Missing/unknown	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	142	0.69	0.57	0.81	233	193	273

Note: .. Not applicable

Missing values differ between the two parts of the table

because for 1-50 and 50+, individuals who gave the response

"Don't know but over 24" have been coded as missing/unknown.

**Table 4a: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of stress ascribed illness caused by the current or most recent job by company size**

Company size	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
1-24	36	0.42	0.28	0.55	59	39	78
25+	84	0.70	0.55	0.86	136	106	166
Missing/unknown	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-49	49	0.45	0.32	0.58	79	56	102
50+	71	0.75	0.57	0.93	116	88	144
Missing/unknown	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	122	0.58	0.48	0.69	198	162	234

Note: .. Not applicable

Missing values differ between the two parts of the table because for 1-50 and 50+, individuals who gave the response "Don't know but over 24" have been coded as missing/unknown.

**Table 5a: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders caused by the current or most recent job by social class**

Social class+	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
I Professional occupations	10	*	*	*	*	*	*
II Managerial and Technical occupations	129	2.3	1.9	2.7	217	178	255
III <sub>n</sub> Skilled occupations (non manual)	79	1.6	1.2	1.9	120	93	147
III <sub>m</sub> Skilled occupations (manual)	147	3.9	3.2	4.5	267	223	312
IV Partly skilled occupations	88	2.8	2.2	3.3	148	117	180
V Unskilled occupations	28	2.2	<i>1.4</i>	<i>3.1</i>	47	29	65
Armed forces	4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Missing/unknown	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	490	2.5	2.2	2.7	830	753	906

Note: Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases  
+ See Annex 2 for examples of occupations within each social class  
\* Sample numbers too small to provide reliable estimates  
.. Not applicable  
The missing/unknown category includes unpaid family workers

**Table 5b: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders caused by the current or most recent job by company size**

Company size	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
1-24	193	2.4	2.0	2.7	336	287	384
1 (self-employed)	61	3.5	2.6	4.4	106	79	134
2-24	132	2.1	1.7	2.4	229	189	270
25+	283	2.4	2.1	2.7	470	412	527
Missing/unknown	14	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-49	244	2.4	2.1	2.7	420	366	475
50+	230	2.5	2.1	2.8	382	330	433
Missing/unknown	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	490	2.5	2.2	2.7	830	753	906

*Note: Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases*

*.. Not applicable*

*Missing values differ between the two parts of the table*

*because for 1-50 and 50+, individuals who gave the response*

*"Don't know but over 24" have been coded as missing/unknown.*

**Table 5c: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders caused by the current or most recent job by employment status**

Employment status	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					All cases		
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Sample cases	Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.				95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper		central	lower	upper
Employee	411	2.3	2.1	2.6	582	983	900	1067
Self-employed	79	3.4	2.7	4.2	89	156	122	189
Missing/unknown	0	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
All persons	490	2.5	2.2	2.7	679	1155	1064	1246

*.. Not applicable*

**Table 5d: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders caused by the current or most recent job by whether full or part-time in main job**

Full-time or part-time in main job	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
Full time	386	2.7	2.4	3.0	658	590	727
Part-time	89	1.6	1.3	2.0	145	115	176
Missing/unknown	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	490	2.5	2.2	2.7	830	753	906

Note: .. Not applicable

**Table 5e: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders caused by the current job by total usual hours**

Total usual hours	Illnesses ascribed to their current job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	53	1.3	0.97	1.7	83	60	106
31-40	106	2.1	1.7	2.5	181	145	216
41+	158	2.5	2.1	2.9	267	224	311
Missing/unknown	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	319	2.1	1.8	2.3	534	473	595

Note: .. Not applicable

**Table 5f: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders caused by the current job by total actual hours**

Total actual hours	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	61	1.4	1.1	1.8	97	73	122
31-40	105	2.3	1.8	2.7	175	140	209
41+	96	2.1	1.6	2.5	168	133	202
Missing/unknown#	57	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	319	2.1	1.8	2.3	534	473	595

Note: .. Not applicable

# People who were temporarily away from work

eg on sick leave or on holiday were not asked this question

**Table 6a: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by the current or most recent job by social class**

Social class+	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
I Professional occupations	7	*	*	*	*	*	*
II Managerial and Technical occupation:	71	1.3	0.96	1.6	121	92	150
III <sub>n</sub> Skilled occupations (non manual)	26	<i>0.51</i>	<i>0.31</i>	<i>0.71</i>	39	24	54
III <sub>m</sub> Skilled occupations (manual)	84	2.2	1.8	2.7	156	121	190
IV Partly skilled occupations	50	1.6	1.1	2.0	85	61	109
V Unskilled occupations	15	*	*	*	*	*	*
Armed forces	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Missing/unknown	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	260	1.3	1.2	1.5	450	394	507

Note: Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases

+ See Annex 2 for examples of occupations within each social class

\* Sample numbers too small to provide reliable estimates

.. Not applicable

The missing/unknown category includes unpaid family workers

**Table 6b: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by the current or most recent job by company size**

Company size	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
1-24	118	1.5	1.2	1.7	205	167	243
1 (self-employed)	32	1.8	1.2	2.5	56	36	76
2-24	86	1.3	1.1	1.6	149	116	181
25+	132	1.2	0.97	1.4	227	188	267
Missing/unknown	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-49	147	1.4	1.2	1.7	254	212	297
50+	101	1.1	0.90	1.4	175	140	210
Missing/unknown	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	260	1.3	1.2	1.5	450	394	507

Note: .. Not applicable

Missing values differ between the two parts of the table because for 1-50 and 50+, individuals who gave the response "Don't know but over 24" have been coded as missing/unknown.

**Table 6c: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by the current or most recent job by employment status**

Employment status	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					All cases		
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Sample cases	Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.				95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper		central	lower	upper
Employee	220	1.3	1.1	1.4	322	554	491	617
Self-employed	40	1.8	1.2	2.3	46	81	57	106
Missing/unknown	0	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
All persons	260	1.3	1.2	1.5	372	642	574	710

.. Not applicable



**Table 6d: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by the current or most recent job by whether full or part-time in main job**

Full-time or part-time in main job	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
Full time	198	1.4	1.2	1.6	345	296	395
Part-time	50	0.94	0.68	1.2	83	60	107
Missing/unknown	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	260	1.3	1.2	1.5	450	394	507

Note: .. Not applicable

**Table 6e: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by the current job by total usual hours**

Total usual hours	Illnesses ascribed to their current job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	29	<i>0.75</i>	<i>0.47</i>	<i>1.0</i>	47	29	64
31-40	49	0.94	0.67	1.2	82	58	106
41+	85	1.4	1.1	1.7	149	116	181
Missing/unknown	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	164	1.1	0.92	1.3	279	235	323

Note: *Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases*  
 .. Not applicable

**Table 6f: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the back caused by the current job by total actual hours**

Total actual hours	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	36	0.85	0.57	1.1	58	39	77
31-40	42	0.9	0.63	1.2	70	48	91
41+	54	1.2	0.87	1.5	97	71	123
Missing/unknown#	32	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	164	1.1	0.92	1.3	279	235	323

Note: .. Not applicable

# People who were temporarily away from work

eg on sick leave or on holiday were not asked this question

**Table 7a: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by the current or most recent job by social class**

Social class+	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
I Professional occupations	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
II Managerial and Technical occupation:	51	0.87	0.63	1.1	84	60	107
III <sub>n</sub> Skilled occupations (non manual)	56	1.1	0.82	1.4	86	63	109
III <sub>m</sub> Skilled occupations (manual)	62	1.6	1.2	2.0	110	82	138
IV Partly skilled occupations	39	1.2	0.84	1.6	66	45	87
V Unskilled occupations	16	*	*	*	*	*	*
Armed forces	3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Missing/unknown	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	231	1.1	0.98	1.3	383	332	434

Note: \* Sample numbers too small to provide reliable estimates

.. Not applicable

The missing/unknown category includes unpaid family workers

+ See Annex 2 for examples of occupations within each social class

**Table 7b: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by the current or most recent job by company size**

Company size	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
1-24	73	0.90	0.69	1.1	127	98	157
1 (self-employed)	30	<i>1.7</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>2.3</i>	52	33	71
2-24	43	0.68	0.47	0.89	76	52	99
25+	152	1.3	1.1	1.5	245	205	285
Missing/unknown	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-49	98	0.96	0.77	1.2	170	135	204
50+	127	1.3	1.1	1.5	203	166	240
Missing/unknown	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	231	1.1	0.98	1.3	383	332	434

*Note: Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases*

*.. Not applicable*

*Missing values differ between the two parts of the table*

*because for 1-50 and 50+, individuals who gave the response*

*"Don't know but over 24" have been coded as missing/unknown.*

**Table 7c: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by the current or most recent job by employment status**

Employment status	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					All cases		
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Sample cases	Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.				95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper		central	lower	upper
Employee	194	1.1	0.9	1.2	259	430	376	484
Self-employed	37	1.6	1.1	2.1	42	74	51	97
Missing/unknown	0	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
All persons	231	1.1	1.0	1.3	302	506	447	565

*.. Not applicable*

**Table 7d: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by the current or most recent job by whether full or part-time in main job**

Full-time or part-time in main job	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
Full time	180	1.2	1.0	1.4	300	255	346
Part-time	46	0.83	0.59	1.1	74	52	96
Missing/unknown	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	231	1.1	0.98	1.3	383	332	434

Note: .. Not applicable

**Table 7e: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by the current job by total usual hours**

Total usual hours	Illnesses ascribed to their current job						
	Sample cases	Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	27	<i>0.68</i>	<i>0.42</i>	<i>0.95</i>	43	26	59
31-40	55	1.1	0.78	1.3	93	68	118
41+	62	0.92	0.68	1.1	97	72	122
Missing/unknown	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	145	0.91	0.76	1.1	234	195	273

Note: Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases

.. Not applicable

**Table 7f: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the upper limbs or neck caused by the current job by total actual hours**

Total actual hours	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
30 or under	24	<i>0.58</i>	<i>0.34</i>	<i>0.81</i>	39	23	55
31-40	59	1.2	0.91	1.6	96	70	121
41+	33	0.67	0.44	0.91	55	35	74
Missing/unknown#	29	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	145	0.9	0.76	1.1	234	195	273

Note: Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases

.. Not applicable

# People who were temporarily away from work

eg on sick leave or on holiday were not asked this question

**Table 8a: Estimated 1995 prevalence and rate (%) of musculoskeletal disorders affecting the lower limbs caused by the current or most recent job by company size**

Company size	Sample cases	Illnesses ascribed to their current/most recent job					
		Rate (%)			Prevalence estimates (thousands)		
		95% C.I.			95% C.I.		
		central	lower	upper	central	lower	upper
1-24	30	<i>0.38</i>	<i>0.24</i>	<i>0.51</i>	53	34	72
25+	41	0.36	0.24	0.47	69	47	91
Missing/unknown	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-49	38	0.37	0.25	0.49	66	44	87
50+	33	0.36	0.23	0.49	56	36	77
Missing/unknown	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
All persons	74	0.37	0.29	0.46	126	97	156

Note: Figures in italics are estimates based on 30 or fewer sample cases

.. Not applicable

Missing values differ between the two parts of the table

because for 1-50 and 50+, individuals who gave the response

"Don't know but over 24" have been coded as missing/unknown.

## ANNEX 1

### *SURVEY DESIGN OF THE SWI95*

As part of a continuing programme to develop information on work-related illness, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) undertook a survey based on the perceptions of affected individuals. From August 1995 to February 1996 nearly 40,000 subjects in the fifth wave<sup>2</sup> of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) were asked:

"In the last 12 months have you suffered from any illness, disability or other physical problem that was caused or made worse by your work? Please include any work you have done in the past."

Respondents who said "Yes" to this question were asked if they would agree to a further interview to record details of their work-related illness. Those who agreed (about 70%) were re-interviewed to collect detailed information about their work-related illness.

The main aim of the survey was to measure the numbers and types of illnesses caused by people's work. What the survey actually recorded was the opinion of individuals who believe themselves to be so affected. This is of interest and importance in its own right, but cannot be taken directly as an indicator of the 'true' extent of work-related illness. People's beliefs may be mistaken: they may ascribe the cause of illness to their work when there is no such link; and they fail to recognise a link with working conditions when there is one.

With respondents' written consent, the details of their work related illnesses were checked with their own treating doctor (usually the GP). The detailed information available in the survey, including that from doctors, enabled HSE to make its own assessment as to whether cases could be regarded as work-related. On the basis of this information a number of cases were excluded from the analysis. The remainder were used for the main analysis and presented in the published report and they have also been used for the secondary analysis.

Since the publication of the results from the 1995 survey, revisions have been made to the Economic impact estimates. An information sheet<sup>3</sup> giving detailed information of the revised data can be obtained from HSE's Epidemiology and Medical Statistics Unit.

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2 Each household in the LFS sample is interviewed five times at approximately quarterly intervals. During each quarter, households on their initial interview are referred to as the first wave, those on their second interview the second wave, and so on. Fifth wave households are those having their final LFS interview.

3 Information sheet 2/99/EMSU Economic Impact: Revised data from the self-reported work-related illness survey in 1995 (SWI95) - to obtain a copy phone 0151 951 3051.

## ANNEX 2

### **CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS**

#### ***Current/recent workers***

The SWI survey was based on the sample of individuals participating in the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Within the LFS, respondents were asked about their current job or a job they had held up to eight years ago. Certain information such as company size and social class was only collected as part of the LFS, therefore there is no information available for illnesses which were caused by a job other than the current job or their most recent job (within the last 8 years). Hence this paper mostly presents the prevalence estimates and rates for the currently and recently working (in last 8 years) at the time of the survey.

#### ***Employed/self-employed***

Employment status information was collected as part of the LFS as described above. However, a question on 'employment status' was included in the SWI follow up survey. For the employment status tables in this report the data is shown in two ways. For all subjects employed in the last eight years, rates are presented for illnesses ascribed to the respondents' current or most recent job by employment status. In addition, the tables show the total sample cases and the corresponding national prevalence estimates which include individuals not ascribing their illness to their current or most recent job. (see Annex 4 for details of LFS question and coding frame).

#### ***Full-time/Part-time***

Full or part-time information was only collected as part of the LFS (see current/recent workers above)

The classification of employees, self-employed, those on government work-related training programmes and unpaid family workers in their main job as full-time or part-time is on the basis of self-assessment. People on Government-supported training and employment programmes who are at college in the survey reference week are classified, by convention, as part-time (see Annex 4 for details of LFS question and coding frame).

#### ***Hours worked (actual and usual)***

Respondents to the LFS were asked a series of questions enabling the identification of both their usual hours and their actual hours worked within the week prior to the LFS interview. Only people who were currently working were asked the questions and so the sample cases are small and prevalence estimates and rates are only available for current workers.

#### ***Social class***

Social class information was only collected as part of the LFS (see current/recent workers above). For those in employment in the reference week of the survey, the occupation (social class) was that of their current job, and for those not in employment, their occupation (social class) was their last if they had done any paid work in the previous eight years.

Examples of the occupations within each of the 6 social classes are as follows:

I Professional occupations (including doctors, solicitors, chemists, university professors and clergymen)

II Managerial and technical occupations (including school teachers, computer programmers, personnel managers, nurses, actors and laboratory technicians)

III Skilled occupations:

(N) Non-manual (including typists, clerical workers, photographers, sales representatives and shop assistants)

(M) Manual (including cooks, bus drivers, railway guards, plasterers, bricklayers, hairdressers and carpenters)

IV Partly skilled occupations (including bar staff, waitresses, gardeners and caretakers)

V Unskilled occupations (including refuse collectors, messengers, lift attendants, cleaners and labourers).

### ***Standard Errors***

Estimates based on sample surveys are subject to a margin of error. The main thing which determines the width of the margin of error around a given estimate is the number of sample cases it is based on. Errors on estimates involving some form of measurement of individuals are also affected by the variability of the measure from person to person. All errors are also affected by aspects of the survey design, in particular whether the sample is stratified or clustered. The LFS is both stratified (by post code sector) and clustered (at household level).

The sampling errors in this paper are expressed as 95% confidence intervals. These represent a range of values which has a 95% chance of containing the true value. The confidence intervals were calculated using the survey analysis module of the Stata statistical analysis package and take account of sampling weights and household clustering. Because of confidentiality concerns, ONS did not make available the information on stratification, so this element could not be allowed for. The methods used by Stata can produce a negative lower confidence limit for estimates based on very few sample cases. These have been set to zero.

Tests of statistical significance have been used to examine whether differences between rates at different levels of each variable e.g. social class are due to sampling error alone.



## ANNEX 3

### *DISEASE CODING*

Respondents reporting a work-related illness recorded details about the nature of their illness(es) in response to follow-up questions. Further information was provided by the respondents' doctor or specialist if they completed a questionnaire. Using these descriptions, each illness was coded by HSE staff using the International Classification of Disease (version 9) basic tabulation list.

### *DISEASE GROUPINGS*

The following disease groupings have been used in this report.

- Stress
  - Stress depression or anxiety
  - Stress ascribed illness
- Musculoskeletal Disorders

Each musculoskeletal disorder was coded according to which areas of the body were affected: back; upper limbs or neck (ULN); lower limbs (LL); back and ULN; back and LL; ULN and LL; back, ULN and LL; internal and whole body. The main analysis in this report is however based on three categories as well as musculoskeletal disorders as a whole

- Back affected (all cases where the back was affected)
- Upper limbs or neck affected (all cases where the upper limbs or neck were affected)
- Lower limbs affected (all cases where the lower limbs were affected).

Tables have not been presented for disease groups where sample numbers are too small to provide reliable estimates.

## ANNEX 4

### *LFS CODING*

Details of LFS standard and derived variables used in this paper.

#### **Standard variables**

##### **STAT- Employment Status in main job**

*Were you working as an employee or were you self-employed?*

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | employee             |
| 2 | self-employed        |
| 3 | government scheme    |
| 4 | unpaid family worker |

Coverage: All persons.

##### **MPNO - Number of employees at workplace**

*How many employees were there at the place where you worked?*

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | 1-10                    |
| 2 | 11-19                   |
| 3 | 20-24                   |
| 4 | don't know but under 25 |
| 5 | 25-49                   |
| 6 | don't know but over 24  |
| 7 | 50 or more              |

Coverage: Persons currently working, but not self-employed.

##### **MPNOL - Number of employees at workplace in last job**

*How many employees were there at the place where you worked?*

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | 1-10                    |
| 2 | 11-19                   |
| 3 | 20-24                   |
| 4 | don't know but under 25 |
| 5 | 25-49                   |
| 6 | don't know but over 24  |
| 7 | 50 or more              |

Coverage: Persons who did no work in reference week and were not away from any job or business but have worked in the past 8 years.

**SOLO - Self-employed with or without employees**

*Were you working on your own or did you have employees?*

- 1 on own/with partner(s) but no employees
- 2 with employees

Coverage: All self-employed persons

**MPN - Number of employees at workplace**

*How many people did you employ at the place where you worked?*

- 1 1-10
- 2 11-19
- 3 20-24
- 4 don't know but under 25
- 5 25-49
- 6 don't know but over 24
- 7 50 or more

Coverage: All self-employed with employees.

**FTPTWK - whether full time or part time in main job**

*In your (main) job were you working...*

- 1 full-time
- 2 or part-time?

Coverage: All persons in employment or those currently unemployed or inactive who have had a previous job within the last 8 years.

**Derived variables**

**Usual hours worked**

**TOTUS1 - Total usual hours worked excluding lunch breaks (no overtime)**

- (0-96) Hours of work
- (97) 97 or more
- (99) Don't know/No answer
- (-9) Does not apply

Coverage: All employees, self-employed and those on employer based government schemes who never work paid or unpaid overtime.

**TOTUS2 - Total usual hours worked excluding lunch breaks (no overtime)**

- (0-96) Hours of work
- (97) 97 or more
- (99) Don't know/No answer
- (-9) Does not apply

Coverage: All employees, self-employed and those on employer based government schemes who may work paid or unpaid overtime

TOTUS1 and TOTUS2 were combined to form TOTAL which was then recoded into the following groups to form TOTALGP (30 or under, 31-35, 36-40, 41-50, 51-60, over 60).

### **Actual hours worked**

#### **TOTAC1 - Total actual hours worked (no overtime)**

- (0-96) Hours of work
- (97) 97 or more
- (99) Don't know/No answer
- (-9) Does not apply

Coverage: All employees, self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on employer based government schemes who never work overtime and actually worked in the reference week (weren't temporarily away, e.g. sick or on holiday)

#### **TOTAC2 - Actual hours worked including paid and unpaid overtime**

- (0-96) Hours of work
- (97) 97 or more
- (99) Don't know/No answer
- (-9) Does not apply

Coverage: All employees, self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on employer based government schemes who work overtime and actually worked in the reference week (weren't temporarily away, e.g. sick or on holiday)

TOTAC1 and TOTAC2 were combined to form ACTUAL which was then recoded into the following groups to form ACTGP (30 or under, 31-35, 36-40, 41-50, 51-60, over 60).

### **Social Class**

#### **SOCLASM - Social class in main job**

- (1) Professional occupations
- (2) Intermediate occupations
- (3) Skilled occupations (non-manual)
- (4) Skilled occupations (manual)
- (5) Partly skilled occupations
- (6) Unskilled occupations
- (7) Armed forces
- (-8) No answer
- (-9) Does not apply

Coverage: All persons in employment other than those on college based schemes.

**SOCLASL - Social class in last job**

- (1) Professional occupations
- (2) Intermediate occupations
- (3) Skilled occupations (non-manual)
- (4) Skilled occupations (manual)
- (5) Partly skilled occupations
- (6) Unskilled occupations
- (7) Armed forces
- (-8) No answer
- (-9) Does not apply

Coverage: Persons who did no work in the reference week and were not away from any job or business but have worked in the past 8 years.

**Time since leaving last job****WNLEFT - When left last job**

- (1) Less than 3 months
- (2) 3 months but less than 6 months
- (3) 6 months but less than 12 months
- (4) 1 year but less than 2 years
- (5) 2 years but less than 3 years
- (6) 3 years but less than 4 years
- (7) 4 years but less than 5 years
- (8) 5 years or more
- (9) Never had a paid job
- (-8) No answer
- (-9) Does not apply

Coverage: Persons who did no work in the reference week and were not away from any job or business but have worked in the past eight years.

WNLEFT was recoded to form WNLEFTGTP (less than 1 year, 1 year but less than 2 years, 2 years but less than 3 years, 3 years but less than 4 years, 4 years but less than 5 years, 5 years or more).

**Duration of employment in current job****EMPMON - Months continuously employed (employees and self-employed)**

Number of months

- (-8) No answer
- (-9) Does not apply

Coverage: All persons in employment

EMPMON was recoded to form EMPMONGP (less than 1 year, 1 year but less than 2 years, 2 years but less than 5 years, 5 years but less than 10 years, 10 years but less than 20 years, 20 years or more).