

Self-reported work-related illness and workplace injury for permanent and temporary employees

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Introduction

The following analysis looks at self-reported workplace injury and work-related illness figures from the Labour Force Survey, for permanent and temporary employees.

As temporary employees tend to work fewer hours than permanent employees, rates have been calculated for full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, allowing more direct comparisons between the two groups.

Summary

Once the difference in hours worked are taken into account, by using FTE rates:

- Temporary and permanent employees have comparable rates for both injuries and ill health; however
- Temporary employees have around half the average working days lost per employee of permanent employees.

Tables

Table 1: Estimated incidence and rates of all self-reported workplace injury sustained in current job, by permanent/temporary work, for current employees, averaged 2009/10 - 2013/14

Permanent/temporary work	Averaged estimated incidence (thousands)			Averaged rate per 100 000 FTE employees		
	central	95% C.I.		central	95% C.I.	
		lower	upper		lower	upper
All	496	478	513	2480	2390	2570
Permanent	471	454	489	2480	2390	2570
Temporary	24	20	28	2380	1990	2780
Fixed contract / agency worker	16	13	20	2210	1780	2640
Other temporary employment	7	5	9	2890	2030	3750

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2: Estimated incidence and rates of self-reported workplace non-fatal injury with over-three-day absence sustained in current job, by permanent/temporary work, for current employees, averaged 2009/10 - 2013/14

Permanent/temporary work	Averaged estimated incidence (thousands)			Averaged rate per 100 000 FTE employees		
	central	95% C.I.		central	95% C.I.	
		lower	upper		lower	upper
All	163	153	173	820	770	870
Permanent	157	147	167	820	770	880
Temporary	7	5	8	660	460	850
Fixed contract / agency worker	4	2	5	520	320	710
Other temporary employment	*	*	*	*	*	*

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 3: Estimated days (full-day equivalent) off work and average days lost per (full-time equivalent) worker due to self-reported workplace non-fatal injury sustained in current job, by permanent/temporary work, for current employees, averaged 2009/10 - 2013/14

Permanent/temporary work	Averaged estimated days lost (thousands)			Average days lost per FTE employee		
	central	95% C.I.		central	95% C.I.	
		lower	upper		lower	upper
All	3102	2771	3434	0.16	0.14	0.17
Permanent	3025	2695	3354	0.16	0.14	0.18
Temporary	77	39	115	0.078	0.040	0.12
Fixed contract / agency worker	50	18	81	0.074	0.018	0.11
Other temporary employment	28	6	49	0.11	0.024	0.19

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 4: Estimated prevalence and rates of self-reported work-related illness caused or made worse by current job, by permanent/temporary work, for current employees, averaged 2008/09, 2011/12 - 2013/14

Permanent/temporary work	Averaged estimated prevalence (thousands)			Averaged rate per 100 000 FTE employees		
	central	95% C.I.		central	95% C.I.	
		lower	upper		lower	upper
All	751	730	772	3760	3660	3860
Permanent	720	699	741	3790	3680	3890
Temporary	31	27	35	3230	2790	3670
Fixed contract / agency worker	22	19	26	3060	2570	3550
Other temporary employment	9	7	11	3730	2760	4700

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 5: Estimated incidence and rates of self-reported work-related illness caused or made worse by current job, by permanent/temporary work, for current employees, averaged 2008/09, 2011/12 - 2013/14

Permanent/temporary work	Averaged estimated incidence (thousands)			Averaged rate per 100 000 FTE employees		
	central	95% C.I.		central	95% C.I.	
		lower	upper		lower	upper
All	375	360	390	1880	1800	1950
Permanent	358	344	373	1890	1810	1960
Temporary	16	13	20	1700	1380	2030
Fixed contract / agency worker	11	8	13	1510	1160	1860
Other temporary employment	6	4	7	2270	1500	3050

Table 6: Estimated days (full-day equivalent) off work and average days lost per (full-time equivalent) employee due to self-reported illness caused or made worse by current job, by permanent/temporary work, for current employees, averaged 2008/09, 2011/12 - 2013/14

Permanent/temporary work	Averaged estimated days lost (thousands)			Average days lost per FTE employee		
	central	95% C.I.		central	95% C.I.	
		lower	upper		lower	upper
All	13548	12716	14381	0.68	0.64	0.72
Permanent	13224	12398	14050	0.70	0.65	0.74
Temporary	324	220	428	0.34	0.23	0.44
Fixed contract / agency worker	230	140	319	0.32	0.19	0.44
Other temporary employment	95	42	147	0.39	0.17	0.60

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Notes:

* Sample numbers too small to provide reliable estimates

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

Technical notes

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a national survey currently consisting of around 44,000 households each quarter, which provides information on the UK labour market. The Health and Safety Executive commission's annual questions in the LFS to gain a view of work-related illness and workplace injury based on individuals' perceptions.

The LFS survey data is used to make inferences about the whole population. When data obtained from a sample is used in this way, there is an element of sampling error, or uncertainty, about the sample estimate. Confidence intervals represent the range of uncertainty resulting from the estimate being derived from a sample of people, not the entire population. They are calculated so the range has a 95% chance of including the true value in the absence of bias - that is the value that would have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed.

Temporary workers are those employees who say that their main (current) job is not permanent in one of the following ways: fixed period contract, agency temping, casual work, seasonal work or other temporary work. This is based on LFS respondents' self-assessment.

The injury and ill health estimates presented in this document are based on averages over a five year period to ensure that sample sizes are large enough to provide reliable estimates: 2009/10-2013/14 for injury and 2008/09-2011/12, 2013/14 for illness (ill health data was not collected in the LFS in 2012/13). Ill health prevalence estimates include long standing cases as well as those illnesses which first occurred in the last year (which are referred to elsewhere as incidence cases).

Workplace injuries include those sustained as a result of a non-road traffic accident.

To take account of the difference in time worked by permanent and temporary workers:

- Prevalence/incidence rates are presented as the number of current employees with an injury or illness (in the 12 months prior to the LFS interview) **per 100 000 full-time equivalent (FTE)** current employees; and
- Rates of working days lost are expressed as average annual working days lost (full-day equivalent) due workplace injury or work-related illness (in the 12 months prior to the LFS interview) amongst current employees **per full-time equivalent (FTE)** current employee.

The Office for National Statistics is the provider of the LFS data. The analysis of these data presented in this document is the sole responsibility of HSE.

More detailed information about LFS methods and data definitions can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/survey.htm.

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

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

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

Additional data tables can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/.

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