Agriculture, forestry and fishing statistics in Great Britain, 2020

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This document can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/agriculture.pdf
**Key statistics in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in Great Britain, 2020**

13,000 workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) each year

Since 2003/04, the rate of total self-reported work-related ill health shows no clear trend.

*Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2017/18-2019/20*

20 fatal injuries to workers in 2019/20

This compares to an annual average of 27 fatalities for 2015/16-2019/20

*Source: RIDDOR*

12,000 Workers sustain non-fatal injuries at work each year

Since 2001/02, the rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers shows signs of a downward trend

*Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2017/18-2019/20*

*Source: Non-fatal injuries reported under RIDDOR 2017/18-2019/20. 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 injuries.*
Introduction

This report provides a profile of workplace health and safety in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing\(^1\) 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 around 1% of the workforce in Great Britain\(^2\).

\(^1\) The ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ sector is defined by section A within the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification. See [www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007](http://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007) for more details

\(^2\) Annual Population Survey, 2019
Work-related ill health

All illness

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated 13,000 work-related ill health cases annually (new or long-standing)
- **Around half of these** were musculoskeletal disorders

*Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2017/18-2019/20*

**Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</td>
<td>3,930 (3.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>3,400 (3.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>3,400 (3.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and storage</td>
<td>3,400 (3.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All industries</td>
<td>3,400 (3.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Around 3.9% of workers suffered from work-related ill health (new or long standing cases), which is not statistically significantly different to the rate for workers across All industries (3.4%)

*Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2017/18-2019/20. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart. 
# 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.*

**Changes over time**

*Source: LFS estimated annual averages (new and long-standing cases), grouped by 3 years, from 2004/05 to 2019/20. 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.*
Work-related ill health
Musculoskeletal disorders

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated 7,000 work-related cases of musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing) annually, about half of all ill health in this Sector

Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2015/16-2019/20

### Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other industries#

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</td>
<td>2,150 (2.2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transporation and storage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All industries</td>
<td>1,170 (1.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Around 2.2% of workers suffered from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing cases)
- This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate for workers across All industries (1.2%)

Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2015/16-2019/20. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart.

# 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.

### Changes over time

The rate of self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders shows no clear trend

Source: LFS estimated annual averages (new and long-standing cases), grouped by 3 years, from 2004/05 to 2019/20. 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.
Work-related ill health
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. Over the last decade (2010-2019) 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.

Occupational Asthma
The chest physician reporting scheme for occupational respiratory disease (THOR-SWORD – see annex 1) 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.

Skin Disease
The dermatologist reporting scheme for occupational skin disease (THOR-EPIDERM – see annex 1) 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.

Occupational cancer
A research study on the occupational burden of cancer in Great Britain shows that occupational exposure to solar radiation resulted in about 1,500 non melanoma skin cancer registrations in 2004, with around 100 of these cases in workers across the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.
Workplace injuries

Fatal injuries

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were 20 fatal injuries to workers in 2019/20
- This compares to an annual average number of 27 fatalities over the last five years (2015/16 – 2019/20) though statistically speaking, the numbers are small and prone to annual fluctuations.
- Over the same five year period, 28% of deaths were due to being struck by a moving vehicle, 16% a fall from height and 15% being injured by an animal.

Source: RIDDOR

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other selected industries#

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 workers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</td>
<td>7.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities</td>
<td>4.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and storage</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All industry</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fatal injury rate (7.73 per 100,000 workers) remains higher than any other main industry sector, and around five times as high as the rate in Construction and 18 times as high as the All industry rate.

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

Source: RIDDOR, annual average 2015/16-2019/20. #Industries shown are a selection of manual type industries with a higher rate of fatal injury compared to All industries.

Changes over time

Source: RIDDOR. See [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm) for more details on fatalities in agriculture.
Workplace injuries

Non-fatal injuries (HSE’s preferred data source for non-fatal injuries Labour Force Survey (LFS))

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:

- There were an estimated 12,000 workers each year who sustained an injury at work.

Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2017/18-2019/20

Agriculture, forestry and fishing compared with other industries#

- Around 3.9% of workers in this sector sustained a workplace injury annually
- This is around double the All industries rate, and is statistically significantly higher

Source: LFS, estimated annual average 2017/18-2019/20. 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart.
# Industries shown are a selection of manual type industries with a rate of fatal or non-fatal injury higher than the rate for All industries.

Changes over time

The rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers shows signs of a downward trend

Source: LFS estimated annual averages, grouped by 3 years, from 2002/03 to 2019/20.

Supporting information from RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations)# supports this trend picture. The rate of non-fatal injury to employees reported by employers to RIDDOR has also shown signs of falling in recent years (though reporting to RIDDOR is known to be incomplete and may be distorting the trend).

#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. Variations in reporting rates both between industries and over time make such comparisons difficult. However, RIDDOR is often useful in providing analysis at a detailed level not available through the LFS, mainly around the type of accident itself.
Work-related injuries
Non-fatal injuries

In Agriculture, forestry and fishing:
- There were **832** non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers to RIDDOR in 2019/20
- **361** (43%) were specified injuries## and **471** (57%) were over 7-day injuries

Source: RIDDOR, 2019/20

Breakdown of non-fatal injuries by accident kind for the latest five years (2015/16 – 2019/20)

- Slip, trip or fall: **22%** Specified injuries, **20%** Over 7-day injuries
- Injured by animal: **11%** Specified injuries, **21%** Over 7-day injuries
- Fall from height: **8%** Specified injuries, **19%** Over 7-day injuries
- Struck by moving or falling object: **12%** Specified injuries, **10%** Over 7-day injuries
- Contact with moving machinery: **9%** Specified injuries, **10%** Over 7-day injuries
- Struck by moving vehicle: **2%** Specified injuries, **4%** Over 7-day injuries
- Lifting/carrying: **4%** Specified injuries, **18%** Over 7-day injuries
- Struck against something fixed or stationary: **2%** Specified injuries, **3%** Over 7-day injuries
- Other kind of accident: **7%** Specified injuries, **17%** Over 7-day injuries

Source: RIDDOR, 2015/16 - 2019/20

##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 such comparisons difficult. However, RIDDOR is often useful in providing analysis at a detailed level not available through the LFS, mainly around the type of accident itself.

##Specified injuries are a defined list of injuries. The full list is at [www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm)
Workplace risks
European Union Occupational Health Agency
survey 2014#

Percentage of workplaces in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector
reporting the presence of workplace risks

- Physical risks were more commonly reported than psychosocial risks
- Although ‘machines or tools’ was the top risk, accidents with machinery
  account for only about 6% of reported fatal and 10% non-fatal injuries
- The main psychosocial risks related to length/irregularity of working hours
  and time pressure

#  A 2014 survey, commissioned by the European Union Occupational Safety and Health Agency (in collaboration
with the Health and Safety Executive), explored the extent that various risks are present in the workplace
(regardless of whether the risk is under control), as reported by the person who knows most about safety and
health in the workplace. The chart shows the extent of these various risk factors in workplaces in the Agriculture,
forestry and fishing sector in the UK. Full details of the UK results, including measures of how risks are managed
within the sector can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/oshman.htm. The source is known as ESENER 2014

##  For workplaces with five or more employees reporting the presence of various workplace risks, regardless of
whether risk is under control.
Economic cost

Economic cost of workplace injury and new cases of work-related ill health in Agriculture, forestry and fishing

- The total costs of workplace injury in 2018/19 is estimated at between £108M - £274M
- This accounts for around 3% of the total injury costs across all industries (£5.6 billion)

Source: HSE Costs to Britain, 2018/19. 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.

Enforcement

Enforcement notices issued by HSE to businesses in Agriculture, forestry and fishing, 2019/20p

- In addition to the 256 notices issued, 13 prosecution cases# were brought by HSE and, in Scotland, COPFS and had a verdict reached in 2019/20p; of these, 13 resulted in a guilty verdict for at least one offence.
- The resulting fines from these prosecutions totalled around £467,000 in 2019/20p, with an average fine per case of £36,000

Source: HSE Enforcement Data. HSE and local authorities are responsible for enforcing health and safety legislation. For the most serious offences, inspectors may serve improvement notices and prohibition notices and they may prosecute (or in Scotland, report to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) with a view to prosecution).

#Cases refer to a prosecution against a single defendant. The defendant may be an individual person or a company. There may be one or more breach of health and safety legislation (offences) in each case.
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 33,000 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.

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.

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.

European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER): A large Europe-wide survey of establishments with five or more employees including all sectors of economic activity except for private households (SIC 2007 Section T) and extraterritorial organisations (SIC 2007 Section U). The surveys asks those ‘who know best’ about safety and health in establishments about the way safety and health risks are managed at their workplace, with a particular focus on psychosocial risks.
**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.

**HSE Enforcement data**: The main enforcing authorities are HSE and local authorities. In Scotland, HSE and local authorities investigate potential offences but cannot institute legal proceedings and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) makes the final decision whether to institute legal proceedings and which offences are taken.

Enforcement notices cover improvement, prohibition and deferred prohibition. Offences prosecuted refer to individual breaches of health and safety legislation; a prosecution case may include more than one offence. Where prosecution statistics are allocated against a particular year, unless otherwise stated, the year relates to the date of final hearing with a known outcome. They exclude those cases not completed, for example adjourned.

**Potential impact of COVID-19 on HSE’s main statistical data sources in 2019/20**: Disruption to the economy towards the end of 2019/20 due to the emergence of COVID-19 as a national health issue had the potential to have impacted on workplace injury and work-related ill health data for 2019/20. A paper setting out the issues in more detail along with results of analysis of the headline data from the Labour Force Survey and RIDDOR found that COVID-19 does not appear to be the main driver of changes seen in the latest year’s data. For more details see [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/adhoc-analysis/covid19-impact19-20.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/adhoc-analysis/covid19-impact19-20.pdf)

**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.

For more information, see [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.pdf)
Annex 2: Links to detailed tables

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

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Tables</th>
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National Statistics

National Statistics status means that statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. They are produced in compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and awarded National Statistics status following an assessment and compliance checks by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). The last compliance check of these statistics was in 2013.

It is Health and Safety Executive’s responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected by National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the OSR promptly. National 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 www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about.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/

General enquiries: bernie.good@hse.gov.uk
Journalists/media enquiries only: www.hse.gov.uk/contact/contact.htm