

Waste statistics in Great Britain, 2018

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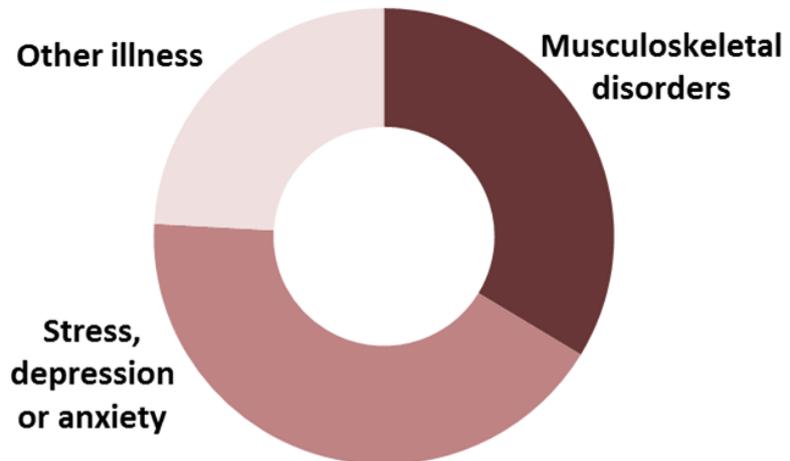
This document can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/waste-recycling.pdf

Key statistics in the Waste sector in Great Britain, 2018



5,000

workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing)



Source: LFS, annual average 2008/09-2011/12, 2013/14-2017/18. A nine-year period is used to enable a combined percentage of musculoskeletal disorders and Stress, depression or anxiety to be shown. Due to the low number of sample cases on which estimates are based, the percentages have been omitted from the chart.

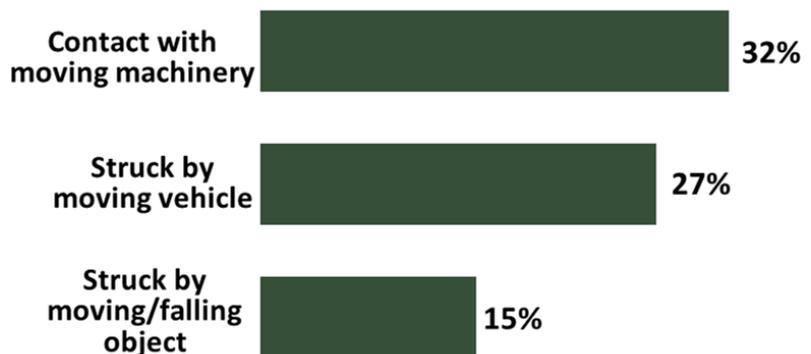


12

fatal injuries to workers in 2017/18

This is slightly above the annual average number of fatalities for 2013/14-2017/18 (8)

Source: RIDDOR

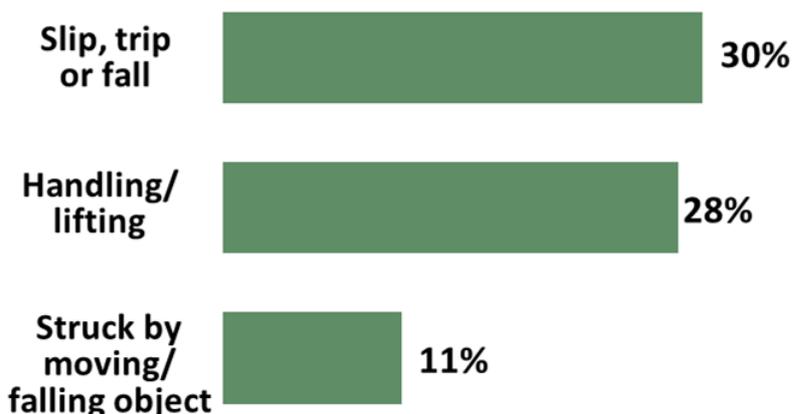


Source: RIDDOR, 2013/14-2017/18. Accident kinds are shown that account for 10% or more of injuries.



5,000

non-fatal injuries to workers each year



Source: LFS, annual average 2011/12-2017/18 (latest 7 years).

Source: Non-fatal injuries reported under RIDDOR 2013/14-2017/18. 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 10% or more of injuries.

Introduction

This report provides a profile of workplace health and safety for workers in the waste sector.

For this report, the waste sector has been defined with reference to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)¹, an internationally agreed classification of industries and includes the following activities: Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery (SIC 38)

Some activities associated with waste fall outside of this definition of the waste sector. Most notably the wholesale of waste and scrap² (including collecting, sorting, separating, stripping of used goods) is an industry that is often associated with the waste sector, but within the Standard Industrial Classification is classified in the wholesale and retail trade sector. The wholesale of waste and scrap industry is small relative to the waste sector: statistics show the contribution of the wholesale of waste and scrap to the totality of work-related illness and injury in the combined sector (including both waste and wholesale of waste and scrap) to be small. Further, the rate of illness and injury is broadly similar for the combined industry group and the waste sector on its own. Therefore, statistics in this report are mostly presented for the waste sector only (SIC38) and do not include wholesale of waste and scrap.

The waste sector accounts for around 0.4%³ of the jobs in Great Britain. This report considers the current health and safety situation for the waste sector, with a focus on the scale and profile of work-related illness and injury in workers in the sector. The main source of data used within this report comes from the Labour Force Survey, a large scale, nationally representative survey of households. This is the most comprehensive data source for both work-related illness and workplace injury. For workplace injuries, this survey data is supplemented with data from statutory notifications of workplace injuries under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR) to ensure as complete a picture as possible. More details on these (and other) data sources can be found at Annex 1.

Annual LFS estimates for work-related ill health and workplace injuries are produced using either the latest seven or nine years of data available; this is to ensure there are enough sample cases to generate reliable estimates – the source text will indicate the year-span.

¹ The Waste sector is defined as SIC38 in Section E of the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification. See

www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007 for more details.

² Wholesale of waste and scrap industry is defined as class 46.77 within the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification

³ Annual Population Survey 2017



Work-related ill health

All illness

In Waste:

- There were an estimated **5,000** work-related ill health cases (new or long-standing)
- Three-quarters of these were suffering from musculoskeletal disorders or stress, depression or anxiety
- The remaining workers were suffering from other types of illness, such as skin or respiratory conditions

Source: LFS, annual average 2008/09-2011/12, 2013/14-2017/18 (latest 9 years)

Waste compared with other selected industries:



- **4.5%** of workers in Waste suffered from work-related ill health (new or long standing cases), which is **statistically significantly higher** than the rate for workers across All industries (3.1%)
- This rate is a similar order to Agriculture, forestry and fishing (4.5%) and Human health and social work activities (4.6%)

Source: LFS, annual average 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14-2017/18 (latest 7 years). 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart



Workplace injuries

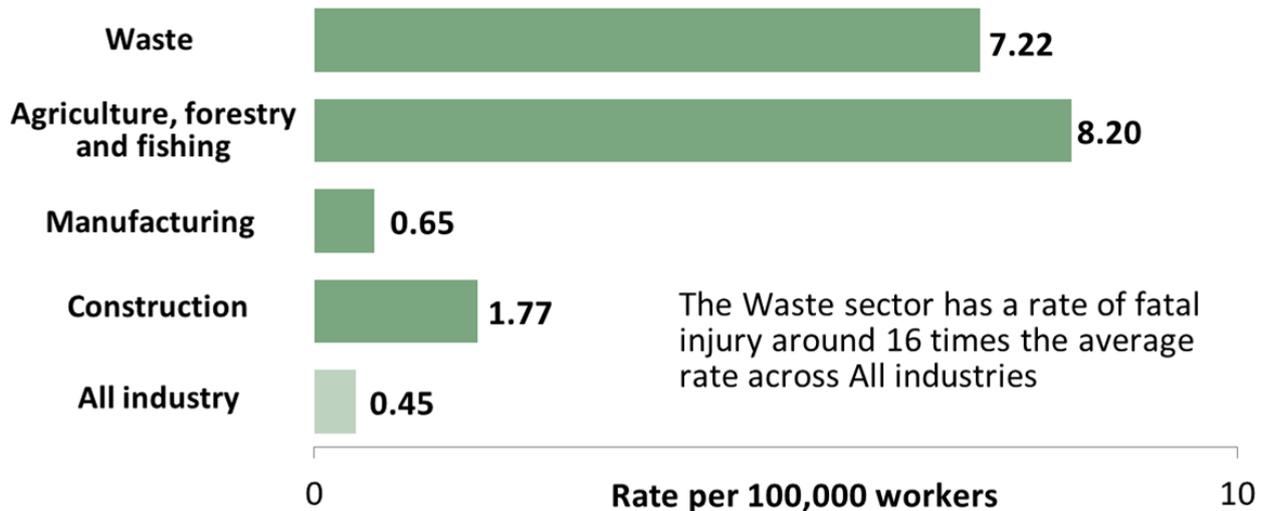
Fatalities

In Waste:

- There were **12** fatal injuries in 2017/18
- This is slightly above the annual average over the last five years (annual average **8**, 2013/14-2017/18)
- Over the same five year period, **32%** of deaths were due to contact with moving machinery, **27%** struck by a moving vehicle and **15%** struck by a moving/falling object

Source: RIDDOR

Waste compared with other industries



Source: RIDDOR, annual average 2013/14-2017/18



Workplace injuries

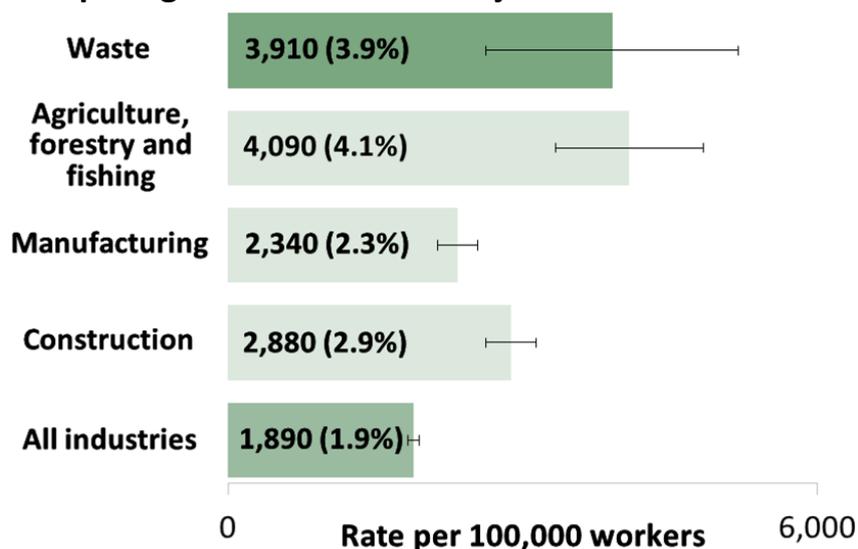
Labour Force Survey – HSE’s preferred data source for non-fatal injuries

In Waste:

- There were an estimated **5,000** workers who sustained an injury at work

Source: LFS, annual average 2011/12-2017/18 (latest 7 years)

Comparing rates of non-fatal injuries in Waste



- Around **3.9%** of workers in Waste sustained a workplace injury which is **statistically significantly higher** than the rate for workers across All industries (1.9%)
- This is similar to the rate for Agriculture, forestry and fishing (4.1%)

Source: LFS, annual average 2011/12 - 2017/18 (latest 7 years). 95% confidence intervals are shown on the chart



Work-related injuries

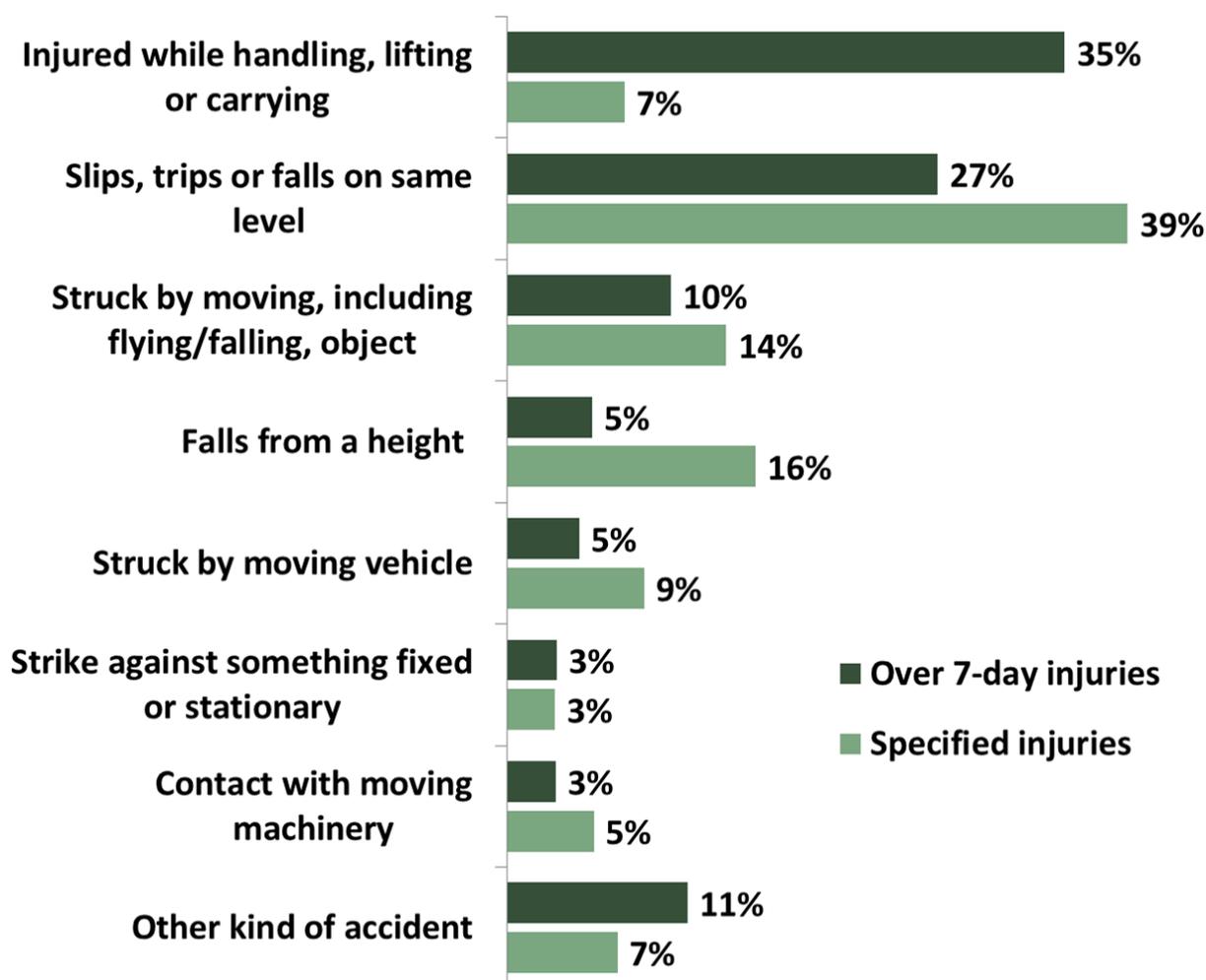
Supporting information from RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations)[#]

In Waste:

- There were **1,778** non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers to RIDDOR in 2017/18
- **440** (25%) were specified injuries^{##} and **1,338** (75%) were over 7-day injuries

Source: RIDDOR, 2017/18

Accident kind for the latest five years (2013/14 – 2017/18)



Source: RIDDOR, 2013/14 - 2017/18.

[#]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. 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

Impact of health and safety failings



Enforcement

Enforcement notices issued by HSE to businesses in this Sector, 2017/18p

420 Improvement Notices

117
Prohibition
Notices

- In addition to these enforcement notices, 29 prosecution cases[#] were brought by HSE and, in Scotland, COPFS in 2017/18p; 27 resulted in a guilty verdict for at least one offence.
- The resulting fines from these prosecutions totalled around £2.8M in 2017/18, with an average fine per case of £104,000^{##}

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.

New sentencing guidelines for health and safety offences came into force February 2016. A feature of these guidelines is that the fine is related to the turnover of organisations and, as a result, large organisations convicted of offences are receiving larger fines than seen prior to these guidelines

Annex 1: Sources and definitions used

The Labour Force Survey (LFS): The LFS is a national survey run by the Office for National Statistics of currently around 38,000 households each quarter. HSE commissions annual questions in the LFS to gain a view of self-reported work-related illness and workplace injury based on individuals' perceptions. The analysis and interpretation of these data are the sole responsibility of HSE.

- **Self-reported work-related illness:** People who have conditions which they think have been caused or made worse by their current or past work, as estimated from the LFS. Estimated total cases include long-standing as well as new cases. New cases consist of those who first became aware of their illness in the last 12 months.
- **Self-reported injuries:** Workplace injuries sustained as a result of a non-road traffic accident, as estimated by the LFS.

RIDDOR: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, under which fatal and defined non-fatal injuries to workers and members of the public are reported by employers.

Certain types of work-related injury are not reportable under RIDDOR, hence excluded from these figures. Particular exclusions include fatalities and injuries to the armed forces and injuries from work-related road collisions.

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.

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

95% confidence interval: The range of values 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

Annex 2: List of tables

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

Tables	Web Address (URL)
Work-related illness	
Ifsillind	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/lfs/lfsillind.xlsx
Ifsillwaste_7yr	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/lfsillwaste_7yr.xlsx
Workplace injuries	
Ifsinjind	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/lfs/lfsinjind.xlsx
Ifsinjwaste_7yr	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/lfsinjwaste_7yr.xlsx
RIDIND	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridind.xlsx
RIDKIND	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridkind.xlsx
RIDHIST	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridhist.xlsx
RIDFATAL	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx
Enforcement	
Notices	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/notices.xlsx
Prosecutions	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/prosecutions.xlsx
Other tables can be found at:	www.hse.gov.uk/Statistics/tables/index.htm

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 by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). The OSR considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

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.

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

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