



# Health and safety at work

## Summary statistics for Great Britain 2019



# Key facts

 **1.4**  
million

Work-related ill health cases (new or long-standing) in 2018/19

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey, people who worked in the last 12 months

 **0.6**  
million

Work-related stress, depression or anxiety cases (new or long-standing) in 2018/19

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey, people who worked in the last 12 months

 **0.5**  
million

Work-related musculoskeletal disorder cases (new or long-standing) in 2018/19

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey, people who worked in the last 12 months

 **9.8**  
billion

Annual costs of new cases of work-related ill health in 2017/18, excluding long latency illness such as cancer

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model

 **0.6**  
million

Workers sustaining a non-fatal injury in 2018/19

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey

 **69,208**

Non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers in 2018/19

Source: RIDDOR

 **147**

Fatal injuries to workers in 2018/19

Source: RIDDOR

 **5.2**  
billion

Annual costs of workplace injury in 2017/18

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model

 **28.2**  
million

Working days lost due to work-related ill health and non-fatal workplace injuries in 2018/19

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey

 **12,000**

Lung disease deaths each year estimated to be linked to past exposures at work

Source: Counts from death certificates and estimates from epidemiological information

 **2,526**

Mesothelioma deaths in 2017, with a similar number of lung cancer deaths linked to past exposures to asbestos

Source: Counts from death certificates and estimates from epidemiological information

 **15.0**  
billion

Annual costs of work-related injury and new cases of ill health in 2017/18, excluding long latency illness such as cancer

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model



# Work-related ill health

## 1.4 million

Workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) in 2018/19

## 497,000

Workers suffering from a new case of work-related ill health in 2018/19

## 23.5 million

Working days lost due to work-related ill health in 2018/19

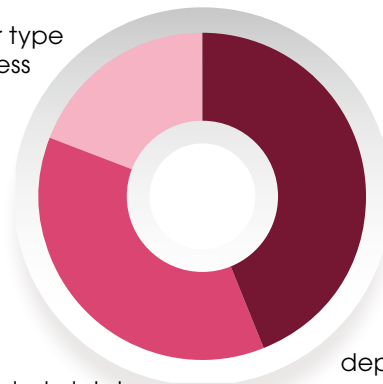
## 13,000

Deaths each year estimated to be linked to past exposure at work, primarily to chemicals or dust

New and long-standing cases of work-related ill health by type, 2018/19

**19%**

Other type of illness



**37%**

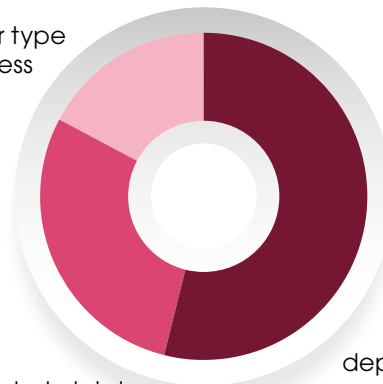
Musculoskeletal disorders

**44%**  
Stress, depression or anxiety

Working days lost by type of ill health, 2018/19

**17%**

Other type of illness

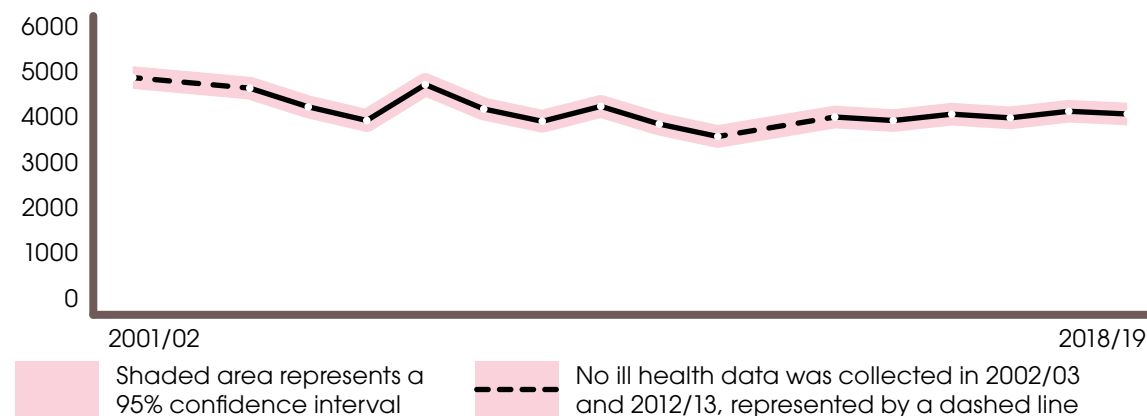


**29%**

Musculoskeletal disorders

**54%**  
Stress, depression or anxiety

Work-related ill health per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing



The rate of self-reported work-related ill health showed a generally downward trend but has been broadly flat in recent years.

Similarly, working days lost per worker due to self-reported work-related illness showed a generally downward trend but has been broadly flat in recent years.

Estimates of ill health based on Labour Force Survey (LFS) self-reports and deaths are based on counts from death certificates and estimates from epidemiological information.

To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/)



# Work-related stress, depression or anxiety

## 602,000

Workers suffering from work-related stress, depression or anxiety (new or long-standing) in 2018/19

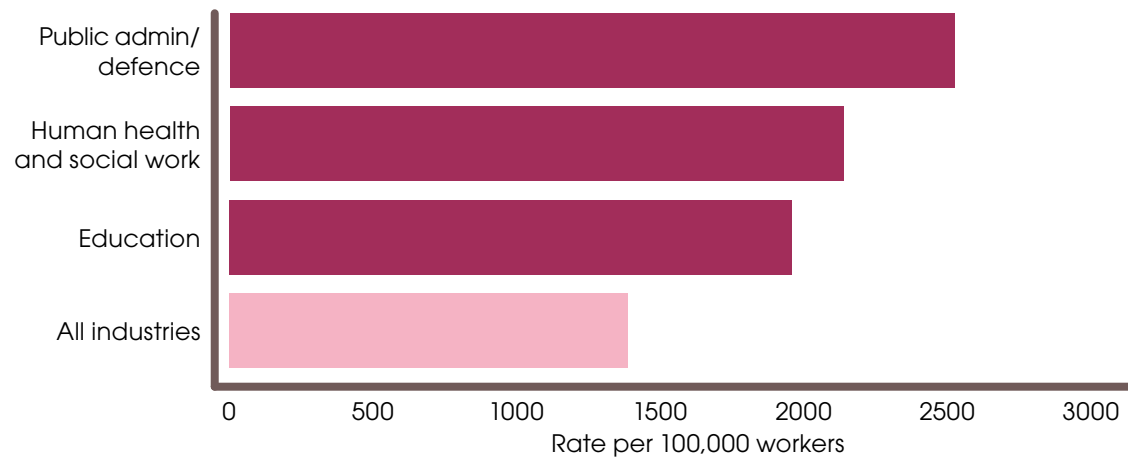
## 246,000

Workers suffering from a new case of work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2018/19

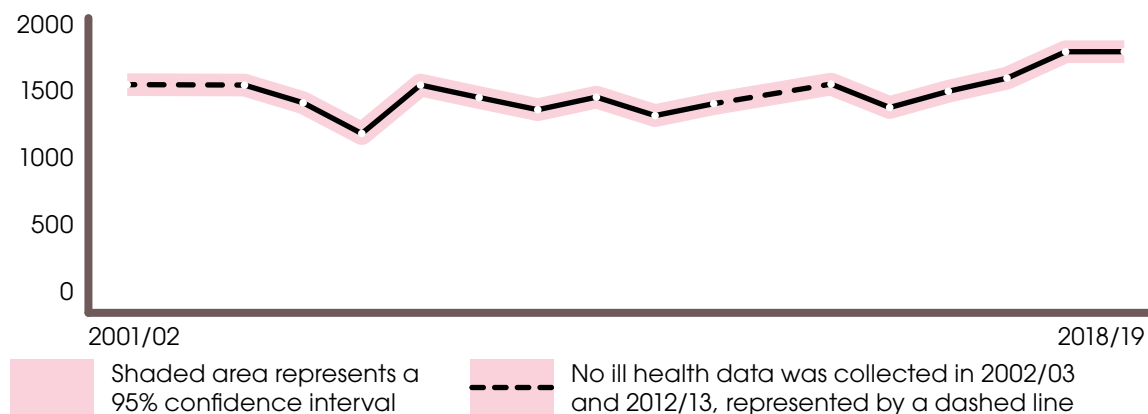
## 12.8 million

Working days lost due to work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2018/19

Industries with higher than average rates of stress, depression or anxiety, averaged 2016/17–2018/19



Stress, depression or anxiety per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing



The rate of self-reported work-related stress, depression or anxiety was broadly flat but has shown signs of increasing in recent years.

Working days lost per worker due to self-reported work-related stress, depression or anxiety shows no clear trend.

Workload, lack of support, violence, threats or bullying and changes at work are estimated to be the main causes of work-related stress, depression or anxiety based on 2009/10–2011/12 LFS data.

Estimates of work-related stress, depression or anxiety are based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis)



# Work-related musculoskeletal disorders

## 498,000

Workers suffering from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing) in 2018/19

## 138,000

Workers suffering from a new case of work-related musculoskeletal disorder in 2018/19

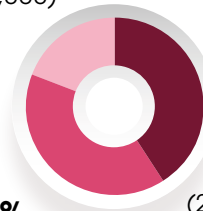
## 6.9 million

Working days lost due to work-related musculoskeletal disorders in 2018/19

Musculoskeletal disorders by affected area, 2018/19

**19%**

Lower limbs  
(95,000)

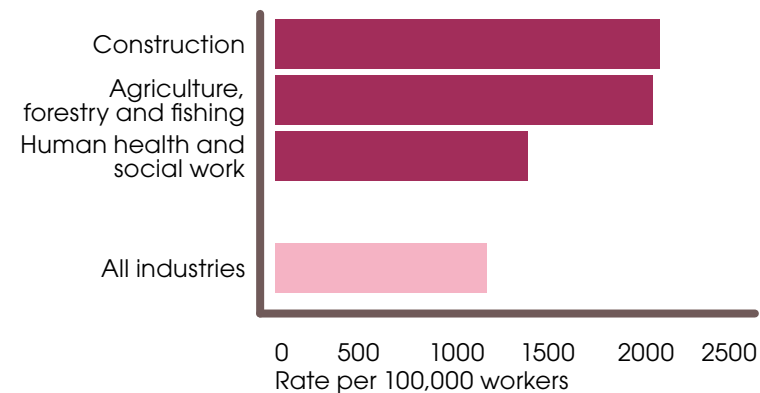


**40%**

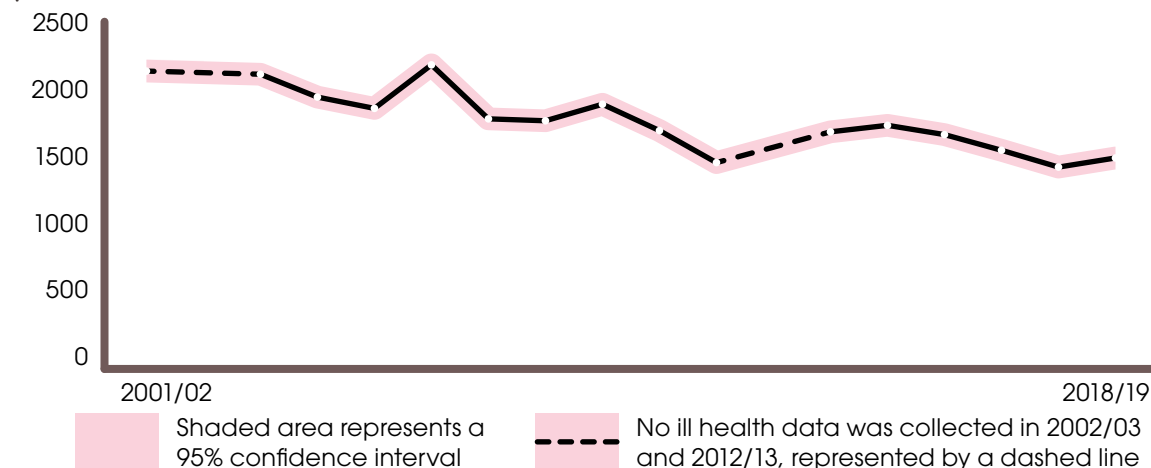
Back  
(200,000)

**41%**  
Upper limbs  
or neck  
(203,000)

Industries with higher than average rates of musculoskeletal disorders, averaged 2016/17–2018/19



Musculoskeletal disorders per 100,000 workers: new and long-standing



The rate of self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders showed a generally downward trend.

Similarly, working days lost per worker due to self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders showed a generally downward trend.

Manual handling, awkward or tiring positions and keyboard work or repetitive action are estimated to be the main causes of work-related musculoskeletal disorders based on 2009/10–2011/12 LFS data.

Estimates of work-related musculoskeletal disorders are based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/)



# Occupational lung disease

## 12,000

Lung disease deaths each year estimated to be linked to past exposures at work

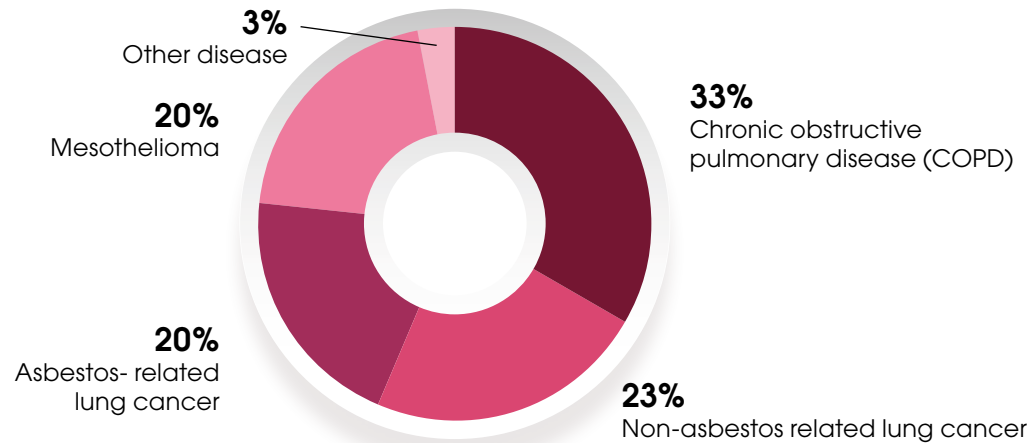
## 2,526

Mesothelioma deaths in 2017, with a similar number of lung cancer deaths linked to past exposures to asbestos

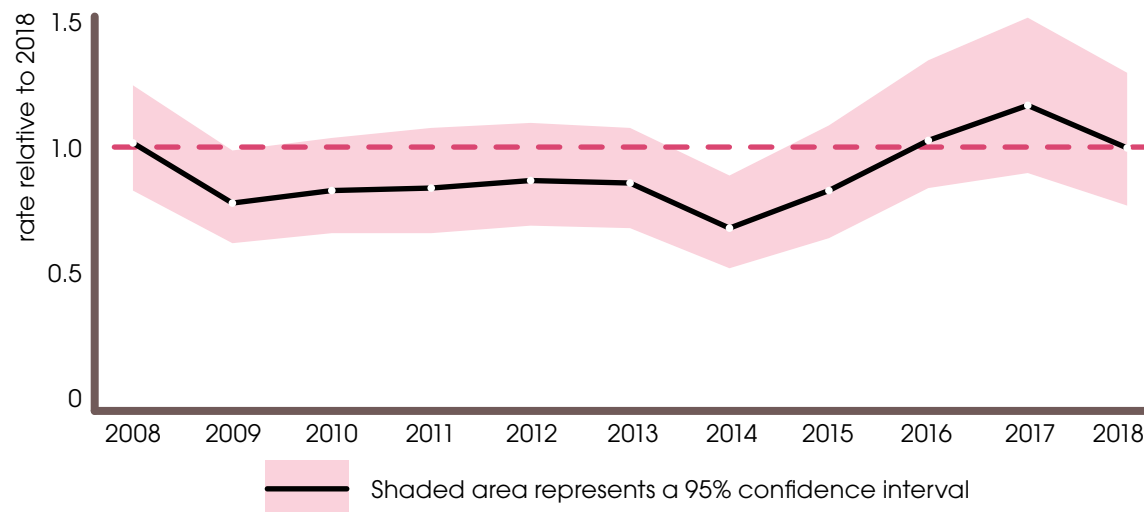
## 18,000

New cases of breathing or lung problems caused or made worse by work each year on average over the last three years according to self-reported estimates from the Labour Force Survey

Lung diseases contributing to estimated current annual deaths



Estimated rate of new cases of occupational asthma relative to 2018



There are projected to be around 2,500 mesothelioma deaths per year for the rest of the decade.

There were 132 new cases of occupational asthma seen by chest physicians in 2018, similar to the number 10 years ago.

Occupational lung diseases account for around 12,000 of the 13,000 total deaths estimated to be linked to past exposures at work.

To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/)



# Workplace injury

## 147

Workers killed at work  
in 2018/19

## 581,000

workers sustaining a  
non-fatal injury  
according to self-reports  
from the Labour Force  
Survey in 2018/19

## 69,208

Employee non-fatal  
injuries reported by  
employers under  
RIDDOR in 2018/19

## 4.7 million

Estimated working  
days lost due to non-  
fatal workplace injuries  
according to self-reports  
from the Labour Force  
Survey in 2018/19

Estimated self-reported  
non-fatal injuries, 2018/19

### 138,000

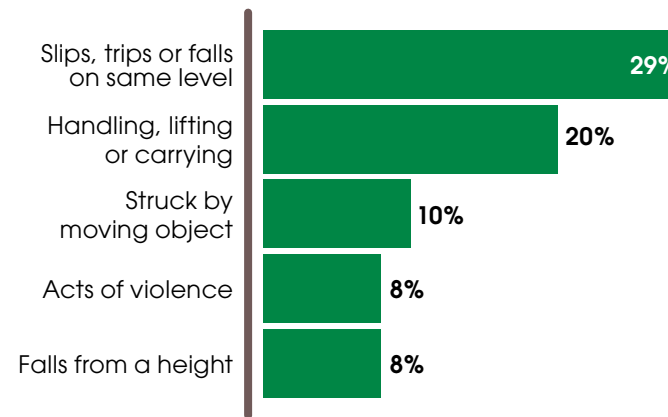
Injuries with over 7 days  
absence



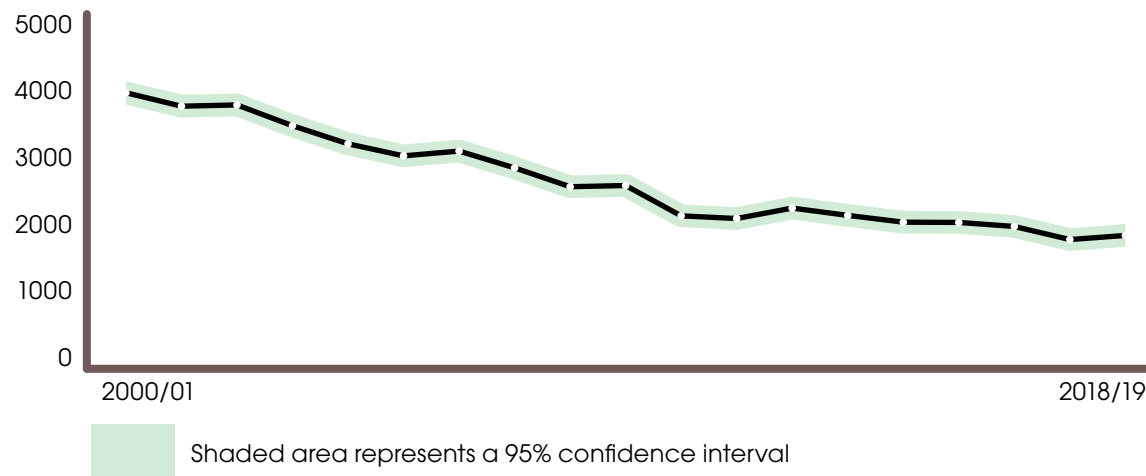
### 443,000

Injuries with up to  
7 days absence

Non-fatal injuries to employees by most common  
accident kinds (as reported by employers), 2018/19



Estimated self-reported workplace non-fatal injury per 100,000 workers



The rate of fatal injury showed a long-term downward trend but has been broadly flat in recent years.

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

The rate of non-fatal injury to employees reported by employers shows a downward trend.

Estimates of non-fatal injuries are based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/)



# £ Costs to Britain

**£15.0 billion**

Annual costs of work-related injury and new cases of ill health in 2017/18, excluding long latency illness such as cancer

**£9.8 billion**

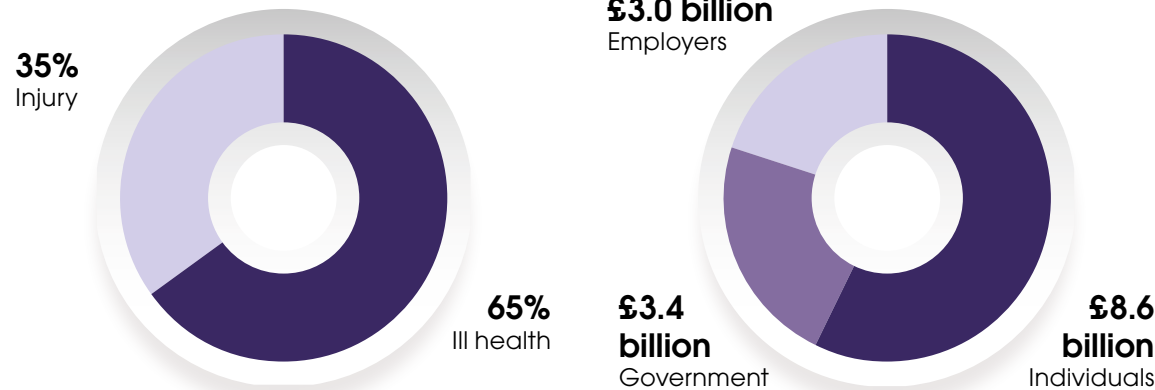
Annual costs of new cases of work-related ill health in 2017/18, excluding long latency illness such as cancer

**£5.2 billion**

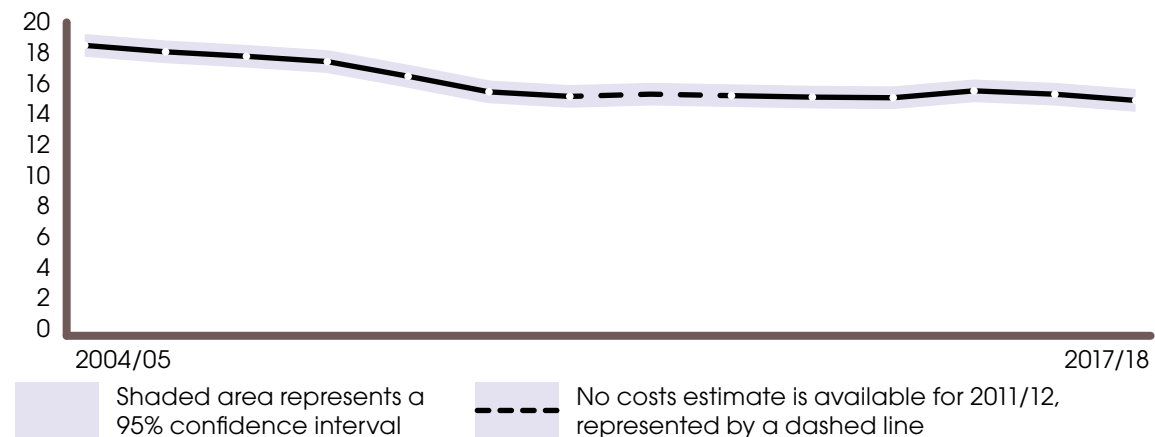
Annual costs of workplace injury in 2017/18

Estimates based on Labour Force Survey and RIDDOR for 2016/17-2018/19, and HSE Costs to Britain model.

Costs to Britain of workplace injury and new cases of work-related ill health in 2017/18 by:  
– type of incident



Costs to Britain of workplace injury and new cases of work-related ill health (£ billion, 2017 prices)



Total costs include financial costs and human costs. Financial costs cover loss of output, healthcare costs and other costs incurred. Human costs are the monetary valuation given to pain, grief, suffering and loss of life.

To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/cost.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/cost.htm)

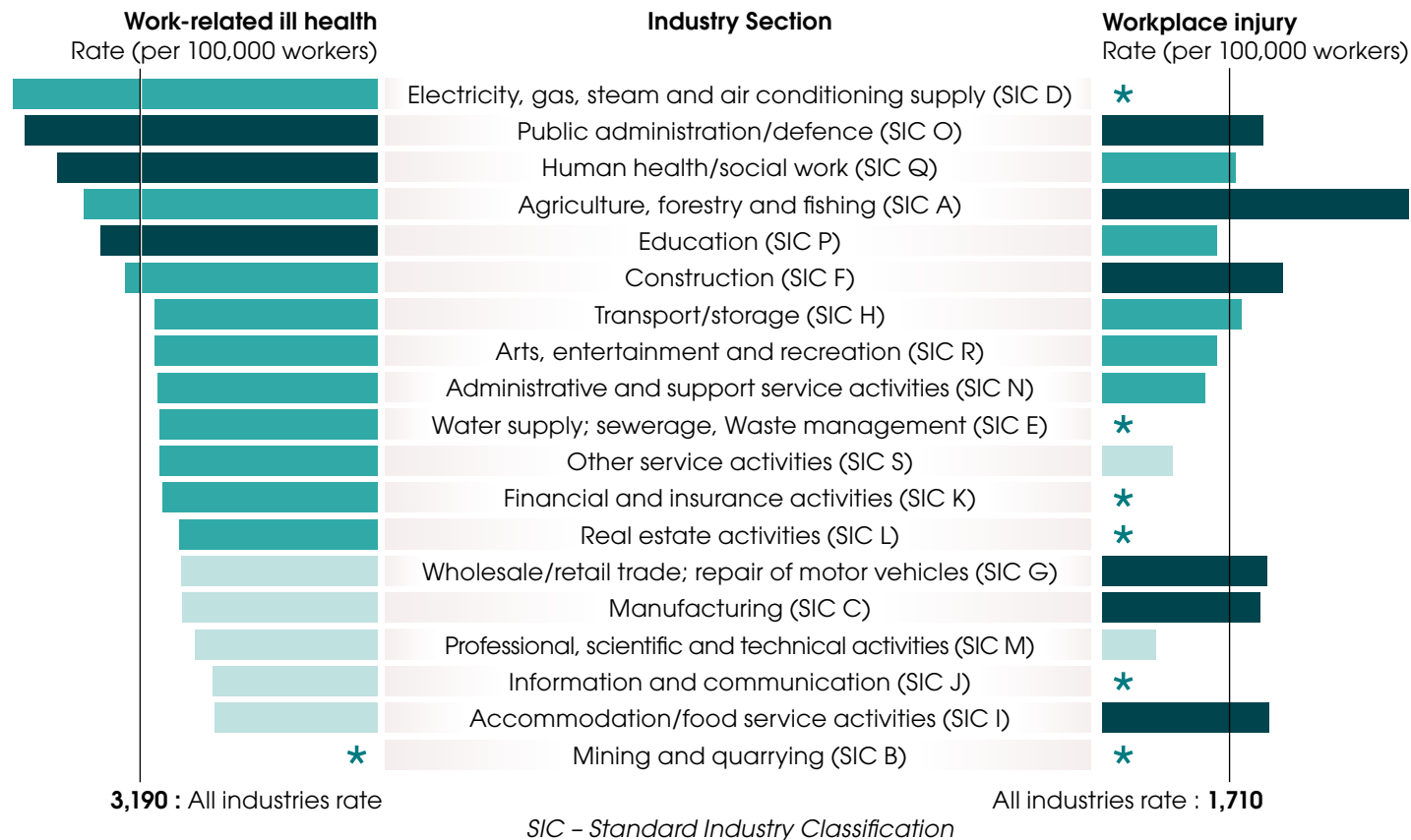
For estimates of the costs of work-related cancer in Great Britain, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr1074.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr1074.htm)





# Industries

## Rate of self-reported work-related ill health and non-fatal injury by industry



Compared to all industry rate:

statistically significant - higher
  no statistically significant difference
  statistically significant - lower

\* indicates sample cases too small to provide reliable estimate

Source: Labour Force Survey annual average estimate 2016/17-2018/19

Industries with ill health rates statistically significantly higher than the rate for all industries were Public administration and defence, Human health and social work and Education.

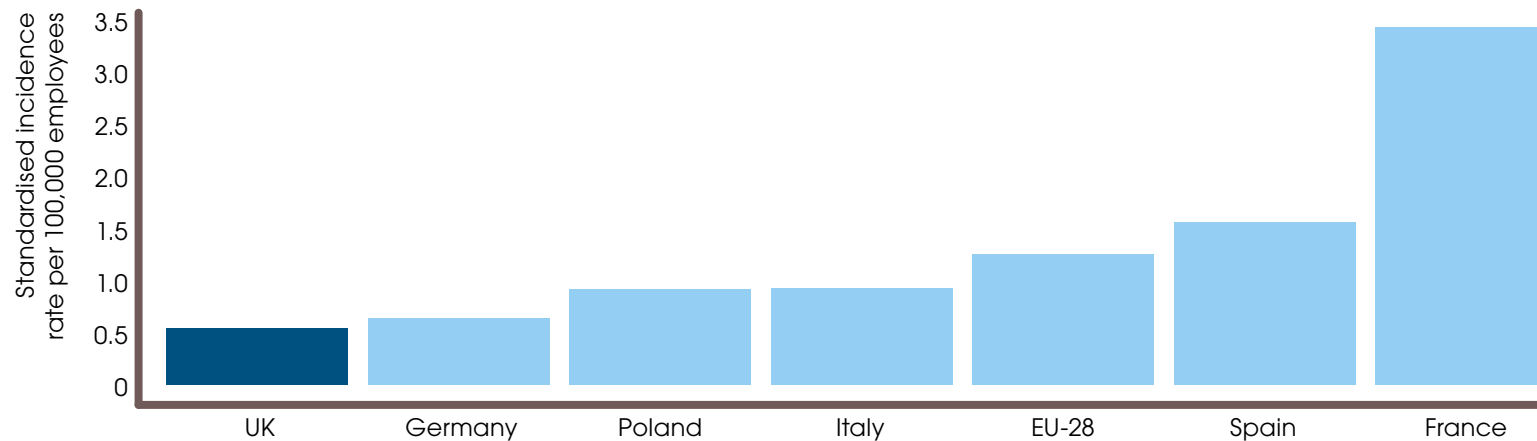
Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Construction, Accommodation and food service activities, Wholesale and retail trade (including motor vehicle repair), Public administration and defence and Manufacturing had statistically significantly higher injury rates than for all industries.

To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry)



# European comparisons

Fatal injuries in large EU economies (Eurostat 2016)

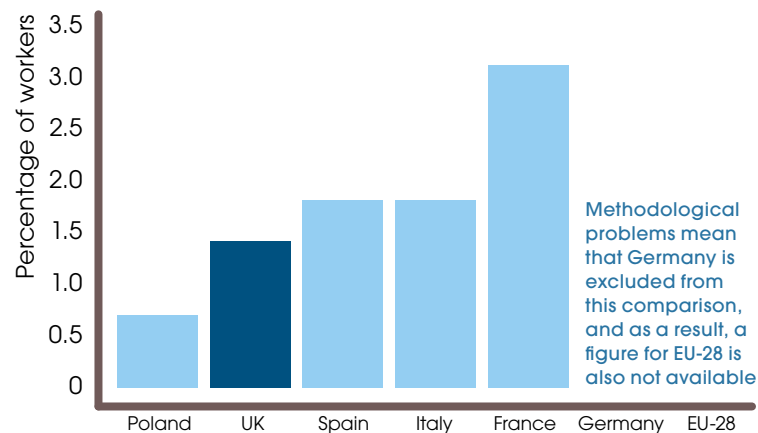


The UK consistently has one of the lowest standardised rates of fatal injury across the EU, lower than other large economies and the EU average.

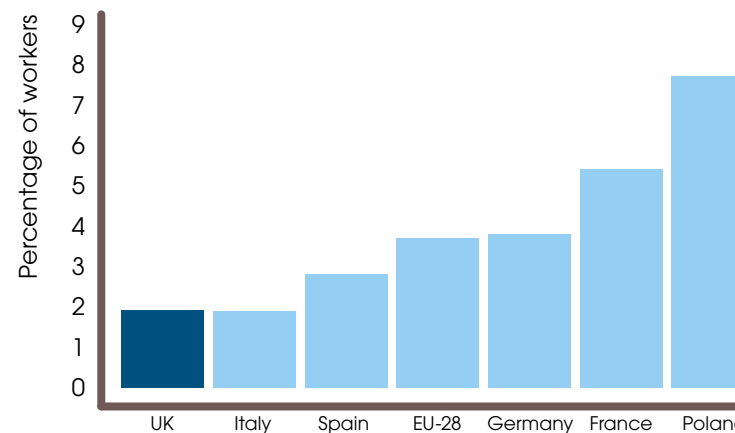
Non-fatal injuries in the UK were at a similar level to other large economies in 2013.

UK rates of work-related ill health resulting in sick leave were lower than most other EU countries.

Self-reported work-related injuries resulting in sick leave (EU Labour Force Survey 2013)



Self-reported work-related health problems resulting in sick leave (EU Labour Force Survey 2013)



To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/european/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/european/)



# Enforcement

## 364

Cases prosecuted, or referred to COPFS for prosecution in Scotland, by HSE where a conviction was achieved in 2018/19

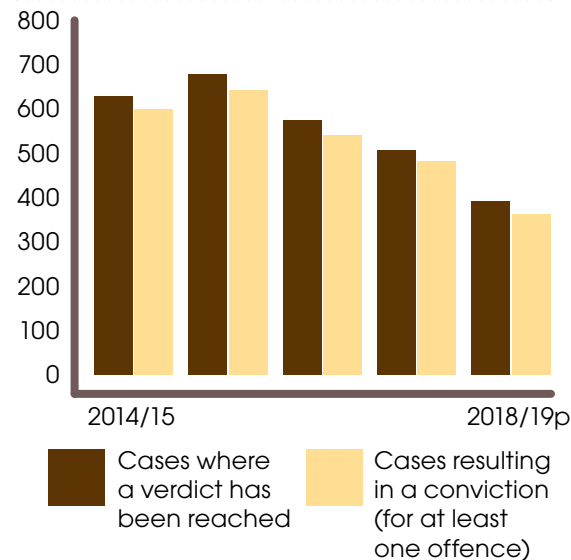
## 11,040

Notices issued by all enforcing bodies in 2018/19

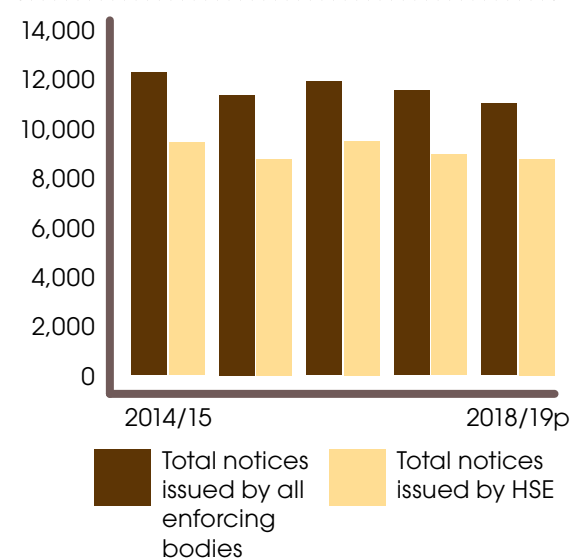
## £54.5 million

In fines resulting from prosecutions taken, or referred to COPFS for prosecution in Scotland, by HSE where a conviction was achieved in 2018/19

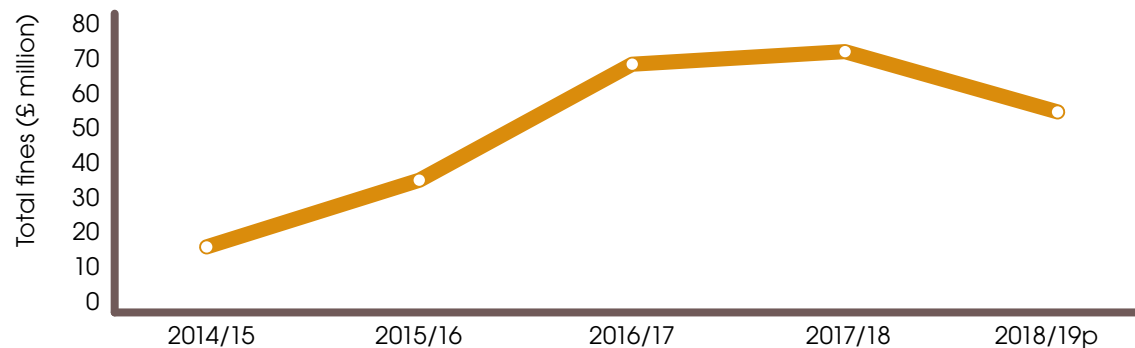
Prosecution cases brought by HSE and, in Scotland, COPFS



Enforcement notices issued by local authorities and HSE



Total fines for health and safety offences prosecuted by HSE and, in Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) (£million)



This year has seen a fall in the number of cases prosecuted, continuing the trend from the previous year.

The number of notices issued by all enforcing bodies showed a decrease compared to the previous year, continuing the long-term downward trend in notices issued.

The level of fine issued in 2018/19 has decreased compared to the previous year. The average fine per conviction is at the same level as 2017/18 so this decrease is related to the fall in the number of cases completed.

To find out the story behind the key figures, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/enforcement.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/enforcement.htm)



# Sources

## The Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The LFS is a national survey run by the Office for National Statistics. Currently around 37,000 households are surveyed 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.

## The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

Requirements under which fatal, over-seven-day and specified non-fatal injuries to workers are reported by employers.

## Specialist physician and general practitioner reporting (THOR)

Cases of work-related respiratory and skin disease are reported by specialist physicians within The Health and Occupation Research network (THOR).

## Death Certificates

Some occupational lung diseases, including the asbestos-related diseases mesothelioma and asbestosis, can be identified from the recorded cause of death.

## Enforcement

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

## HSE Costs to Britain Model

Developed to estimate the economic costs of injury and new cases of ill health arising largely from current working conditions. The economic cost estimate includes both financial and human costs.

## Eurostat

Eurostat (the statistical section of the European Commission) publishes data on fatal accidents at work. Fatality rates are standardised to take account of the different industrial structure of employment across European Union member states, and exclude road traffic accidents and accidents on board of any means of transport in the course of work.

## European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS)

A large household survey carried out in the Member States of the European Union. In 2013 the EU-LFS included an ad-hoc module asking about accidents at work and work-related health problems in the previous 12 months.

More information about our data sources can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm)



# Definitions

**Rate per 100,000** The number of annual injuries or cases of ill health per 100,000 employees or workers, either overall or for a particular industry.

**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.

**Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)** The system used in UK official statistics for classifying business by the type of activity they are engaged in. The current version is SIC 2007. Industry estimates presented here are at SIC Section level.

## National Statistics

The LFS, RIDDOR, deaths from occupational lung disease, THOR, enforcement and Costs to Britain figures in this report are 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 assessment and compliance checks by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). The last compliance check of these statistics was in 2013..

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More information about our data sources can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm)

HSE's statistics revisions policy can be seen at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/index.htm)

Data tables can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/)

For information regarding the quality guidelines used for statistics within HSE see [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/quality-guidelines.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/quality-guidelines.htm)