



2020–21

# HSE Annual Health and Safety Statistics

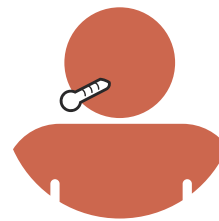
Provided by: Plan Insurance Brokers



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# General Overview

The following graphic illustrates the key findings from the 2020-21 Annual Workplace Health and Safety Report for Great Britain, released by the HSE. This year's edition will also include industry-specific statistics. Many of the injuries and fatalities that occurred this past year could have been prevented through simple workplace health and safety measures. As you read through these statistics, consider what your organisation can do to improve workplace health and safety practices.



**1.7 million** working people currently suffer from work-related illnesses.



**441,000** working people sustained a non-fatal injury at work, according to the Labour Force Survey.



**51,211** injuries to employees were reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

# Work-related Ill Health

This section provides a visual representation of the top work-related health concerns in Great Britain this year, such as stress, depression and anxiety, and musculoskeletal disorders. During the past year, approximately **850,000** new cases of work-related ill health were reported among UK workers. This represented an approximate **33 per cent increase** compared to the 638,000 new cases reported last year.

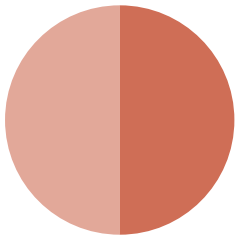
Industries with the **highest** rates of work-related ill health among employees:

- 1 Human health and social work
- 2 Public administration and defence
- 3 Education

Industries with the **lowest** rates of work-related ill health:

- 1 Real estate activities
- 2 Information and communication
- 3 Accommodation/food service activities

## Stress, Depression and Anxiety



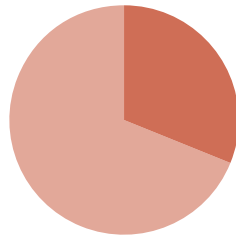
**50%** of work-related ill health concerns are stress, depression or anxiety.

**822,000** workers suffer from work-related stress, depression or anxiety, and **451,000** workers reported new cases in the past year.

Industries with the highest average rates of stress, depression or anxiety included public administration and defence, human health and social work, and education.

Leading causes of stress, depression and anxiety include workload, lack of support, violence, threats or bullying, and changes at work.

## Musculoskeletal Disorders



**28%** of work-related ill health concerns are musculoskeletal disorders

**470,000** workers suffer from work-related musculoskeletal disorders, and **162,000** workers reported new cases in the past year.

The main causes of work-related musculoskeletal disorders include manual handling, awkward or tiring positions, and repetitive actions, such as keyboard work.

## Occupational Lung Diseases

Approximately **12,000** lung disease deaths each year are believed to be linked to past exposures at work.

The top lung diseases contributing to annual deaths are:

- 1 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (**34%**)
- 2 Non-asbestos-related lung cancer (**23%**)
- 3 Asbestos-related lung cancer (**20%**)
- 4 Mesothelioma (**20%**)

**17,000** new cases of breathing or lung problems are caused or worsened due to work conditions each year.

# Workplace Injury

The following section reveals top findings related to the past year's workplace injuries, including fatalities, employer-reported non-fatal injuries and self-reported injuries. This year's numbers show a sizable increase in work-related fatalities but a decrease of over 250,000 work-related non-fatal injuries. Still, it remains clear that workplace disasters can happen to any worker across any industry. Use this data to analyse where you can improve your organisation's health and safety measures.

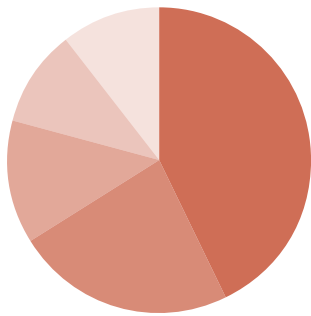
**142 workers were killed at work,**  
up from 111 in 2019-20.

Of the **441,000** (down from 693,000 in 2019-20) non-fatal injuries among workers this year:

**102,000** resulted in over seven days of absence.

**339,000** resulted in up to seven days of absence.

## Top causes of non-fatal injuries included:



● Slips, trips or falls (**33%**)

● Handling, lifting or carrying (**18%**)

● Struck by moving object (**10%**)

● Acts of violence (**8%**)

● Falls from height (**8%**)

## Industries with the highest rates of workplace injuries:

- 1** Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- 2** Construction
- 3** Accommodation and food service activities

## Industries with the lowest rates of workplace injuries:

- 1** Professional, scientific and technical activities
- 2** Other service activities
- 3** Administrative and support service activities

Reliable estimates for workplace injuries are not available due to sample cases being too small for the following industries: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management, Financial and insurance activities, Information and communication, Real estate activities, Mining and quarrying

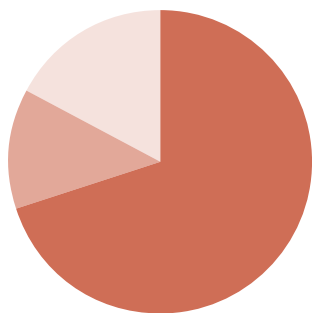
# Coronavirus Pandemic

New in this edition of the HSE's report is a section devoted to COVID-19's impact on workers. The ongoing effects of the coronavirus pandemic can be detrimental for workers in many ways other than the physical illness caused by COVID-19. This section is not compared with other years since it wasn't included in the 2019-20 publication; however, it may still provide organisations with valuable insight into the health and well-being of their employees.

**93,000 people** diagnosed with COVID-19 during 2020-21 believe they were exposed at work.

**645,000 workers**, not including the aforementioned **93,000**, reported suffering from a work-related illness either caused or exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Leading cases of work-related ill health either caused or made worse by the coronavirus pandemic include:**



● Stress, depression or anxiety **(70%)**

● Musculoskeletal disorders **(13%)**

● Other types of illness **(17%)**

**Industries with the highest rates of workers reporting ill health caused or made worse by the pandemic include:**

- 1** Human health and social work
- 2** Public administration/defence
- 3** Education

# Enforcement

This section illustrates the various enforcement actions—such as notices and prosecutions—organisations have faced due to health and safety offences. There were sizable decreases in prosecutions, total fines and the number of notices issued by enforcing bodies this year. Help keep your risk of HSE prosecutions and fines low by prioritising workplace health and safety, and consider these 2020-21 figures:



**185 cases** were prosecuted by the HSE or, in Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) this year.

Down from 325 in 2019-20



**2,929 total notices** were issued by all enforcing bodies this year.

Down from 7,075 in 2019-20

Organisations paid **£26.9 million** in total fines resulting from prosecutions (or referrals to COPFS in Scotland) where a conviction took place this year.

Down from £34.9 million in 2019-20 and less than half of the £54.5 million paid two years ago in 2018-19

Average fine per conviction: **£145,000**

Up from £107,000 in 2019-20

Total number of cases resulting in fines of £1 million or more: 7

# Industry-specific Findings

The following sections provide overviews of 2020-21 findings as they relate to certain industries. It is worth noting that many industries may have experienced an unusual year due to the coronavirus pandemic forcing employers to alter their normal operations. For some industries, the HSE has included additional statistics specifically regarding the effects of COVID-19. Employers across these sectors should analyse these findings and consider any workplace changes to minimise risk and maximise safety.

- 8 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- 9 Construction
- 10 Education
- 11 Human Health and Social Work
- 12 Manufacturing
- 13 Public Administration and Defence
- 14 Transportation and Storage
- 15 Waste Management

# Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

## Workplace Fatalities

**34 fatal injuries** to workers in 2020-21

**8.47 per 100,000 workers** fatality rate is the highest among main industry sectors compared to .42 across all industries

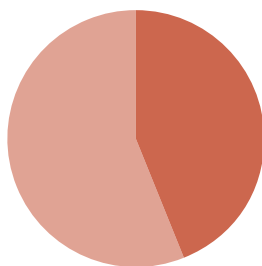
Leading causes of fatalities over the last five years:

- 1 Struck by moving vehicle (**30%**)
- 2 Injured by animal (**16%**)
- 3 Fall from height (**13%**)
- 4 Struck by moving or falling object (**13%**)
- 5 Trapped by something collapsing or overturning (**10%**)

## Work-related Ill Health

**11,000 workers** currently suffer from work-related ill health.

**3.6%** of agriculture, forestry and fishing workers suffer from ill health compared with 3.7% across all industries during the same time period.



**44%** of ill-health cases are musculoskeletal disorders.

## Non-fatal Injuries at Work

**738 non-fatal injuries** were reported by employers under RIDDOR.

**4%** of workers in agriculture, forestry and fishing suffered from an injury compared with 1.7% across all industries during the same time period.

Leading causes of specified non-fatal injuries over the last three years:

- 1 Slip, trip or fall (**23%**)
- 2 Injured by animal (**16%**)
- 3 Fall from height (**13%**)
- 4 Lifting/carrying (**11%**)
- 5 Contact with moving machinery (**10%**)

## Enforcement in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



**10 cases** prosecuted by the HSE or COPFS where a verdict was reached

**8 cases** resulted in a conviction for at least one offence.

**£66,000** in total fines for all convictions.



**50 notices** issued to employers

**64%** were improvement notices.

**36%** were prohibition notices.



# Construction

## Workplace Fatalities

**39 fatal injuries** to workers in 2020-21

**1.62 per 100,000 workers** fatality rate compared with .42 across all industries.

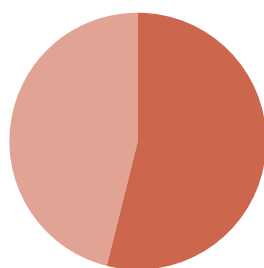
Leading causes of fatalities over the last five years:

- 1** Fall from height (**50%**)
- 2** Trapped by something collapsing or overturning (**13%**)
- 3** Struck by moving or falling object (**11%**)
- 4** Struck by moving vehicle (**10%**)

## Work-related Ill Health

**74,000** workers currently suffer from work-related ill health.

**3.4%** of workers in construction suffer from ill health compared with 3.7% across all industries during the same time period.



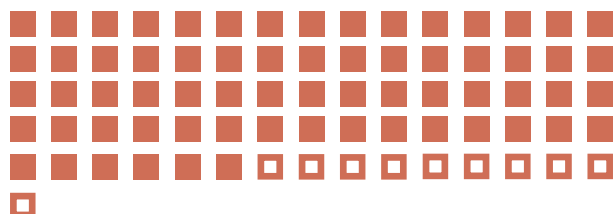
**54%** of ill-health cases are musculoskeletal disorders.

## Non-fatal Injuries at Work

**3,464** non-fatal injuries reported by employers under RIDDOR.

**2.9%** of workers in construction suffered from an injury compared with 1.7% across all industries during the same time period.

## Enforcement in Construction



**76 cases** prosecuted by the HSE or COPFS where a verdict was reached

**66** cases resulted in a conviction for at least one offence.

**£5.3 million** in total fines for all convictions.



**1,260 notices** issued to employers

**46%** were improvement notices.

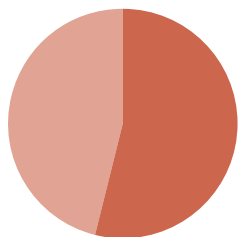
**54%** were prohibition notices.

# Education

## Work-related Ill Health

**154,000** workers currently suffer from work-related ill health.

**4.3%** of workers in education suffer from ill health compared with 3.7% across all industries during the same time period.



**54%** of ill-health cases are stress, depression or anxiety.

**87,000** workers reported suffering from a work-related illness caused or made worse by the coronavirus pandemic.

## Non-fatal Injuries at Work

**2,746** non-fatal injuries were reported by employers under RIDDOR.

**1.6%** of workers in education suffered from an injury compared with 1.7% across all industries during the same time period.

## Workplace Fatalities

There were zero worker fatalities in the education sector this year.

## Enforcement in Education



**3 cases** prosecuted by the HSE or COPFS where a verdict was reached

**3 cases** resulted in a conviction for at least one offence.

**£73,000** in total fines for all convictions.



**10 notices** issued to employers

**70%** were improvement notices.

**30%** were prohibition notices.

# Human Health and Social Work

## Work-related Ill Health

**253,000** workers currently suffer from work-related ill health.

**5.7%** of workers in human health and social work suffer from ill health compared with 3.7% across all industries during the same time period.

**49%** of ill-health cases are stress, depression or anxiety.

**52,000** workers diagnosed with COVID-19 believe they were exposed at work.

**138,000** workers reported suffering from a work-related illness caused or made worse by the coronavirus pandemic.

## Non-fatal Injuries at Work

**11,406** non-fatal injuries reported by employers under RIDDOR.

**1.9%** of workers in human health and social work suffered from an injury compared with 1.7% across all industries during the same time period.

## Workplace Fatalities

**There were zero worker fatalities in the human health and social work sector this year.**

## Enforcement in Human Health and Social Work



**6 cases** prosecuted by the HSE or COPFS where a verdict was reached

**6 cases** resulted in a conviction for at least one offence.

**£266,000** in total fines for all convictions.



**23 notices** issued to employers

**96%** were improvement notices.

**4%** were prohibition notices.

# Manufacturing

## Workplace Fatalities

**20 fatal injuries** to workers in 2020-21

**.65** per 100,000 workers fatality rate compared with **.42** across all industries

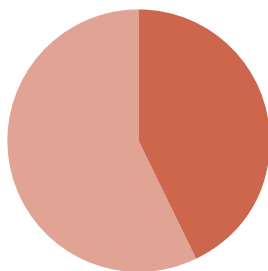
Leading causes of fatalities over the last five years:

- 1** Fall from height (**16%**)
- 2** Struck by moving or falling object (**15%**)
- 3** Contact with moving machinery (**15%**)

## Work related Ill Health

**88,000** workers currently suffer from work-related ill health.

**2.9%** of workers in manufacturing suffer from ill health compared with **3.5%** across all industries during the same time period.



**43%** of ill-health cases are musculoskeletal disorders.

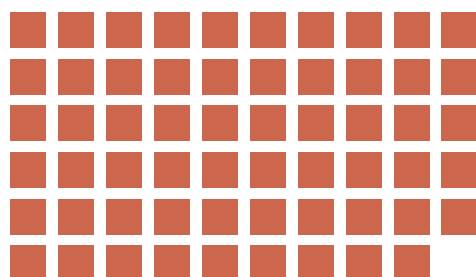
**41%** of ill-health cases are stress, depression or anxiety.

## Non-fatal Injuries at Work

**8,713** non-fatal injuries were reported by employers under RIDDOR.

**2.1%** of workers in manufacturing suffered from an injury compared with **1.7%** across all industries during the same time period.

## Enforcement in Manufacturing



**59 cases** prosecuted by the HSE or COPFS where a verdict was reached

**59 cases** resulted in a conviction for at least one offence.

**£8 million** in total fines for all convictions.



**801 notices** issued to employers

**80%** were improvement notices.

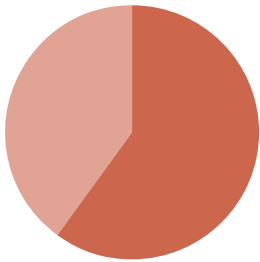
**20%** were prohibition notices.

# Public Administration and Defence

## Work-related Ill Health

**117,000** workers currently suffer from work-related ill health.

**5.2%** of workers in public administration and defence suffer from ill health compared with 3.7% across all industries during the same time period.



**60%** of ill-health cases are stress, depression or anxiety.

**65,000** workers reported suffering from a work-related illness caused or made worse by the coronavirus pandemic.

## Non-fatal Injuries at Work

**3,050** non-fatal injuries were reported by employers under RIDDOR.

**1.7%** of workers in public administration and defence suffered from an injury compared with 1.7% across all industries during the same time period.

## Workplace Fatalities

**There was one worker fatality in the public administration and defence sector this year.**

## Enforcement in Public Administration and Defence



**3 cases** prosecuted by the HSE or COPFS where a verdict was reached

**3 cases** resulted in a conviction for at least one offence.

**£973,000** in total fines for all convictions.

**1 improvement notice** was issued to employers.

The HSE may have used different periods of time to calculate ill health and non-fatal injury rates for each industry with the goal of improving the reliability of sub-sector estimates. For the public administration and defence sector, results included annual averages from 2018-19 through 2020-21.

# Transportation and Storage

## Workplace Fatalities

**10 fatal injuries** to workers in 2020-21

**.85** per 100,000 workers fatality rate compared with **.42** across all industries

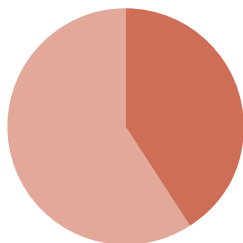
Leading causes of fatalities over the last five years:

- 1** Struck by moving vehicle (**37%**)
- 2** Fall from height (**22%**)
- 3** Trapped by something collapsing or overturning (**13%**)
- 4** Struck by moving or falling object (**12%**)

## Work-related Ill Health

**44,000** workers currently suffer from work-related ill health.

**3.1%** of workers in transportation and storage suffer from ill health compared with **3.4%** across all industries during the same time period.



**41%** of ill-health cases are stress, depression or anxiety.

**37%** of ill-health cases are musculoskeletal disorders.

## Non-fatal Injuries at Work

**7,127** non-fatal injuries were reported by employers under RIDDOR.

**2.1%** of workers in transportation and storage suffered from an injury compared with **1.8%** across all industries during the same time period.

## Enforcement in Transportation and Storage



**5 cases** prosecuted by the HSE or COPFS where a verdict was reached

**5 cases** resulted in a conviction for at least one offence.

**£560,000** in total fines for all convictions.



**65 notices** issued to employers

**82%** were improvement notices.

**18%** were prohibition notices.

# Waste Management

## Workplace Fatalities

**3 fatal injuries** to workers in 2019-20

**6.99** per 100,000 workers fatality rate compared with .42 across all industries

Leading causes of fatalities over the last five years:

- 1** Struck by moving vehicle (**30%**)
- 2** Contact with moving machinery (**30%**)
- 3** Struck by moving or falling object (**22%**)

## Work-related Ill Health

**5,000** workers currently suffer from work-related ill health.

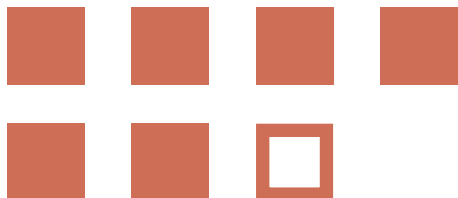
**4%** of workers in waste management suffer from ill health compared with 3.4% across all industries during the same time period.

## Non-fatal Injuries at Work

**1,476** non-fatal injuries were reported by employers under RIDDOR.

**3.5%** of workers in waste management suffered from an injury compared with 1.8% across all industries during the same time period.

## Enforcement in Waste Management



**7 cases** prosecuted by the HSE or COPFS where a verdict was reached

**6 cases** resulted in a conviction for at least one offence.

**£1.4 million** in total fines for all convictions.



**191 notices** issued to employers

**73%** were improvement notices.

**27%** were prohibition notices.