Work-related fatal injuries in Great Britain, 2025

Data up to March 2025
Annual statistics
2 July 2025

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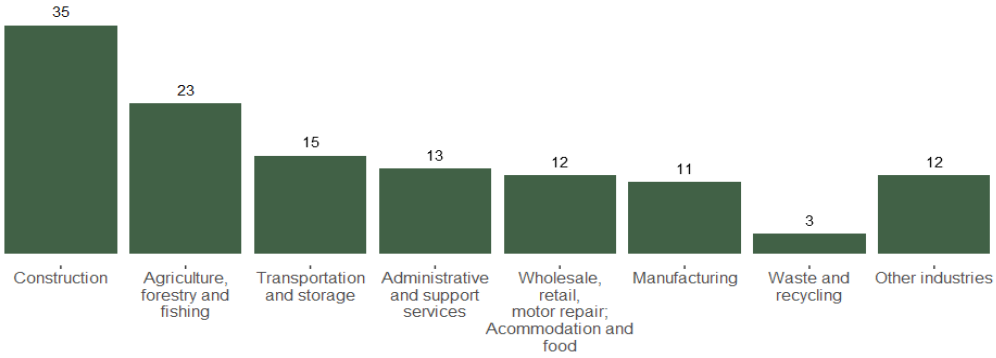
Summary

124 workers killed in work-related accidents in 2024/25.

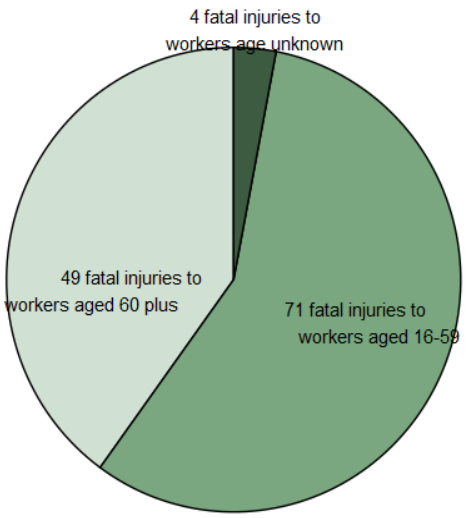
Fatal injuries to workers by main industry (2024/25)

The construction and agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors continue to account for the greatest number of workers killed in fatal accidents each year, between them accounting for just under half of all fatal injuries to workers in 2024/25.



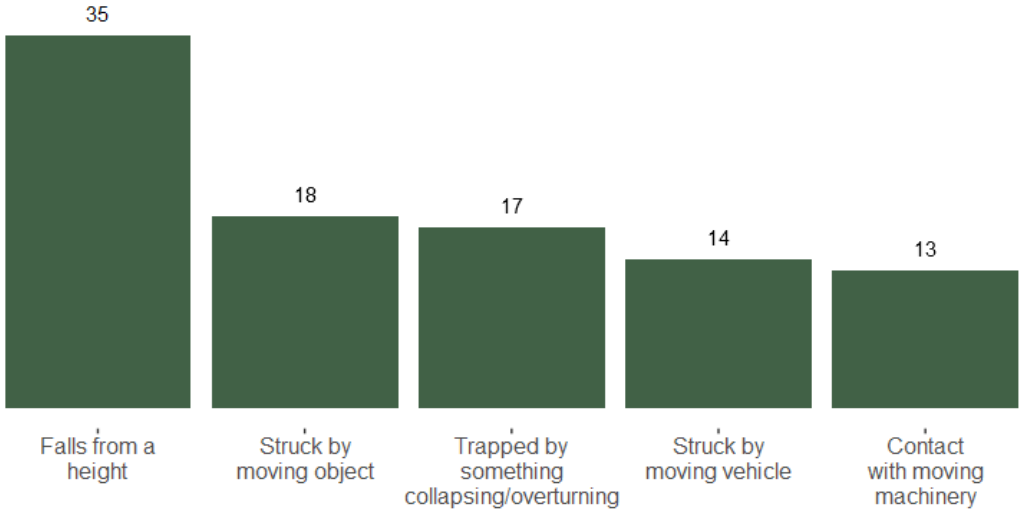
Fatal injuries to workers by gender and age (2024/25)

Male workers continue to account for the vast majority of fatal injuries, with 95% of workers fatally injured in 2024/25 being men, a similar proportion to earlier years. Furthermore, deaths to workers aged 60 and over continue to account for a substantial proportion of the total - around 40% in 2024/25.



Main kinds of fatal accidents for workers (2024/25)

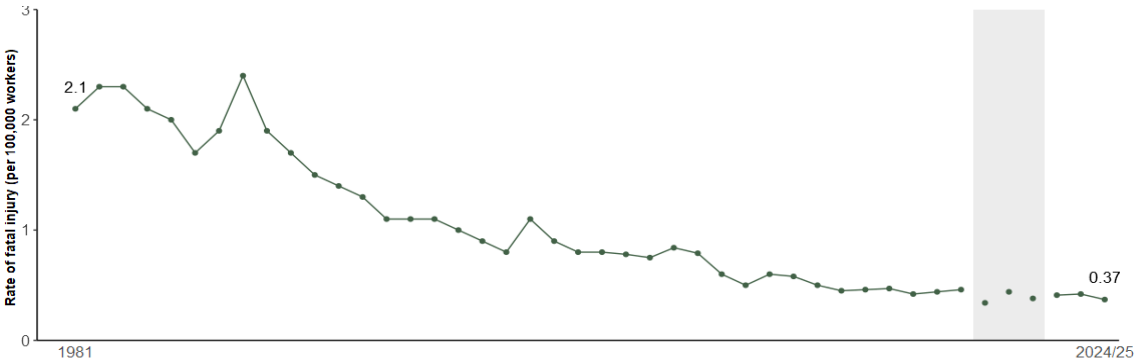
The most common kind of fatal accident continues as falls from a height, accounting for over a quarter of fatal injuries to workers in 2024/25.



Note: Chart above shows all accident kinds accounting for 10 or more deaths in 2024/25.

Rate of fatal injury per 100,000 workers

Over the long-term, the rate of fatal injury to workers showed a downward trend, though over the last decade-or-so the rate has been broadly flat (excluding years affected by the coronavirus pandemic).



Note: The data for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded area.

92 members of the public were also killed in work-related accidents in 2024/25 (excludes deaths due to work-related accidents to 'patients and service users' in the healthcare and adult social care sectors in England reportable under RIDDOR).

Data source: RIDDOR - Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations. Figures for 2024/25 are published as provisional at this stage and will be finalised in July 2026.

Introduction

This report provides headline numbers on deaths resulting from work-related accidents in 2024/25 that were reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). Numbers include both fatal injuries to workers and to members of the public[1]. The counts for 2024/25 are currently provisional and will be finalised in July 2026 to take account of any necessary adjustments. [See annex for more details]. In tables and chart headings, 2024/25 is marked as ‘p’ for clarity.

Fatal injuries are thankfully rare events. There is a degree of chance and randomness to the annual count resulting in an element of natural variation from one year’s count to the next. To allow for this natural variation, alongside figures for 2024/25, this report also presents the annual average estimate for the five years 2020/21-2024/25, which reduces the effect of year-on-year fluctuations and gives a more stable current picture.

The figures make up part of a long running series enabling both short and long-term comparisons of change. The information includes only those cases of fatal injury that the enforcing authorities have judged as meeting the reporting criteria for work-related injuries as set out in the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). Two notable exclusions from these statistics, as outside the scope of injury reporting under RIDDOR, are fatal diseases and fatal accidents on non-rail transport systems. (See Annex for more details).

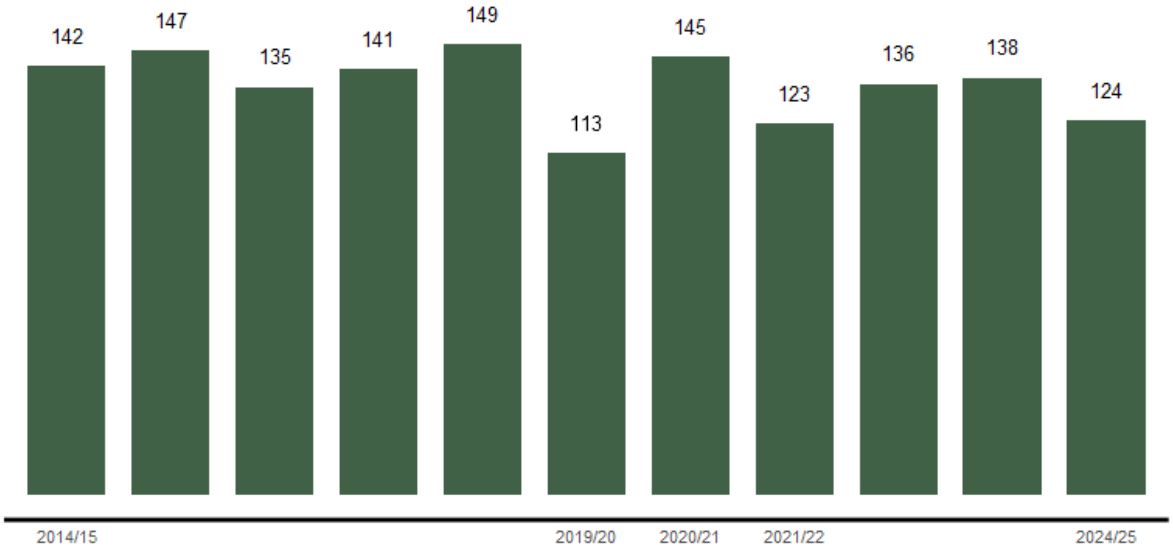
[1] These statistics include deaths reported to the four main enforcing authorities for health and safety at work, namely the Health and Safety Executive, Local Authorities, Office for Nuclear Regulation and Office of Rail and Road. The statistics of work-related deaths to members of the public do not include RIDDOR reportable deaths to ‘patients and service users’ in the healthcare and adult social care sectors in England, where the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the lead enforcement body.

Fatal injuries to workers

Headline figures

A total of 124 workers were killed in work-related accidents in Great Britain in 2024/25, a decrease of 14 fatalities from 2023/24. However, the number of deaths in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 remain broadly in line with pre-pandemic levels.[2]

Figure 1: Fatal injuries to workers: Great Britain 2014/15 - 2024/25p.



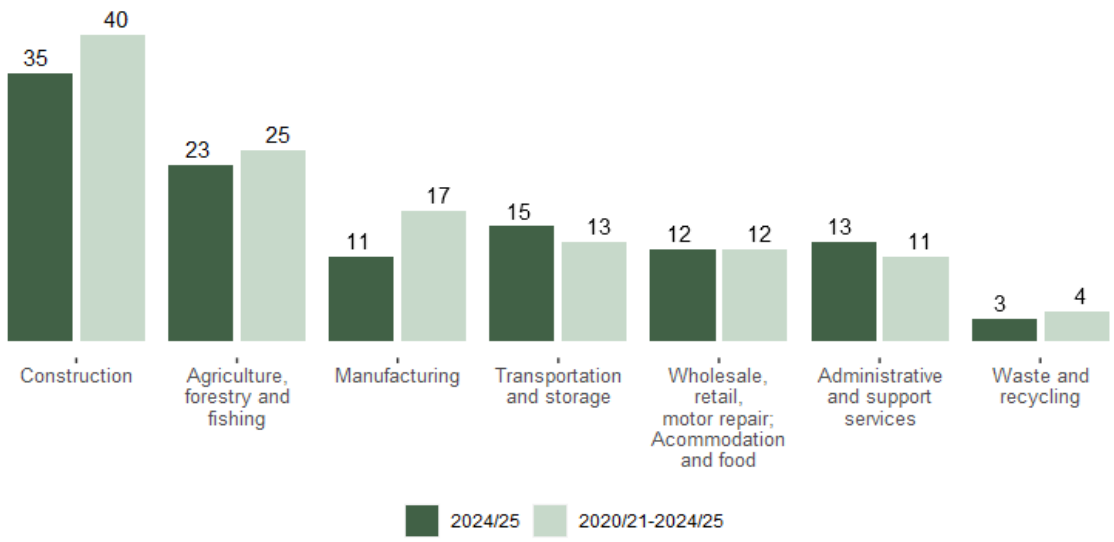
Note: Data for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

[2] Data for 2019/20 – 2021/22 include the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. More details can be found in our reports on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on health and safety statistics https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/coronavirus-pandemic-impact.htm.

Injuries by industry[3]

There are two ways of looking at fatality numbers. The first is to look at the absolute count. On this basis, construction and agriculture, forestry and fishing tend to come out worst as they account for the greatest number of fatalities each year.

Figure 2: Number of fatal injuries by selected main industry group, 2024/25p and annual average for 2020/21-2024/25p.[4]



The profile of fatal injuries to workers by industry sector in 2024/25 is broadly similar to the profile for the 5-year period 2020/21-2024/25, with just under a half (47%) of fatal injuries in 2024/25 occurring in two industry sectors: construction and agriculture, forestry and fishing.

- The construction sector continues to account for the largest share of fatal injuries to workers – 28% in 2024/25. With 35 worker deaths in construction in 2024/25 the number is back in-line with the pre-coronavirus level, having been higher in each of the 2 previous years (annual average 49 deaths 2022/23-2023/24).

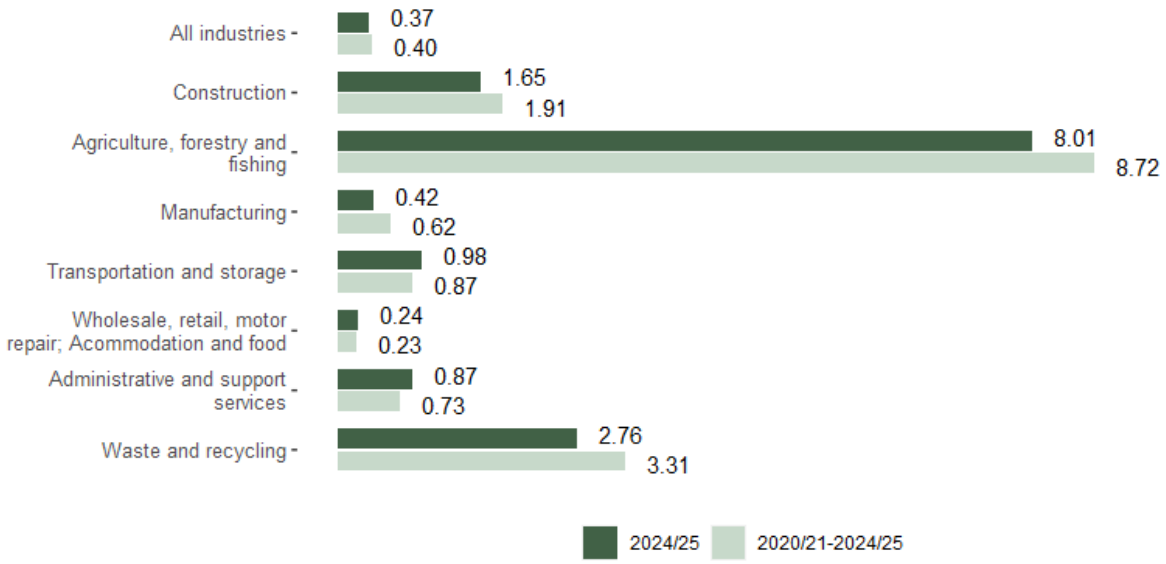
- In agriculture, forestry and fishing there were 23 fatal injuries in 2024/25, a decrease of 1 from the previous year total (24). The five-year average for fatal injuries in this sector is 25.

[3] Industry is defined using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification. See annex for more details.

[4] There were a further 12 deaths to workers in other industries, see Table 1 of RIDFATAL for more details.

The second approach of looking at fatality numbers is to consider the **fatal injury rate** in terms of the number of fatalities per 100,000 workers employed. On this basis, agriculture, forestry and fishing comes out worst.

Figure 3: Rate of fatal injuries by selected main industry group (per 100,000 workers), 2024/25p and annual average for 2020/21-2024/25p.



Based on the annual average rates for 2020/21-2024/25 (as this reduces the effect of year-on-year fluctuations and gives a more stable picture):

- The rate of fatal injury to workers in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector remains markedly higher than the average across all industries: 22 times as high as the all industry rate.
- The waste and recycling sector also has an elevated rate of fatal injury over this period compared to the average across all industries: 8 times as high.
- The rate of fatal injury in construction, while around 5 times as high as the average rate across all industries, is considerably less than the rate in agriculture, forestry and fishing despite accounting for a greater number of cases.
- The manufacturing, transportation and storage, and administration and support services sectors all have elevated rates compared to the average rate across all industries: transportation and storage around twice the average rate, manufacturing and administrative and support services around 1.5 times as high.

- While the combined ‘wholesale, retail, motor repair; accommodation and food services’ sector accounted for around 9% of fatal injuries between 2020/21 and 2024/25, in terms of rate the overall sector is relatively low risk with an injury rate of around half the average rate across all industries. However, there will be variation in risk across activities within the sector.

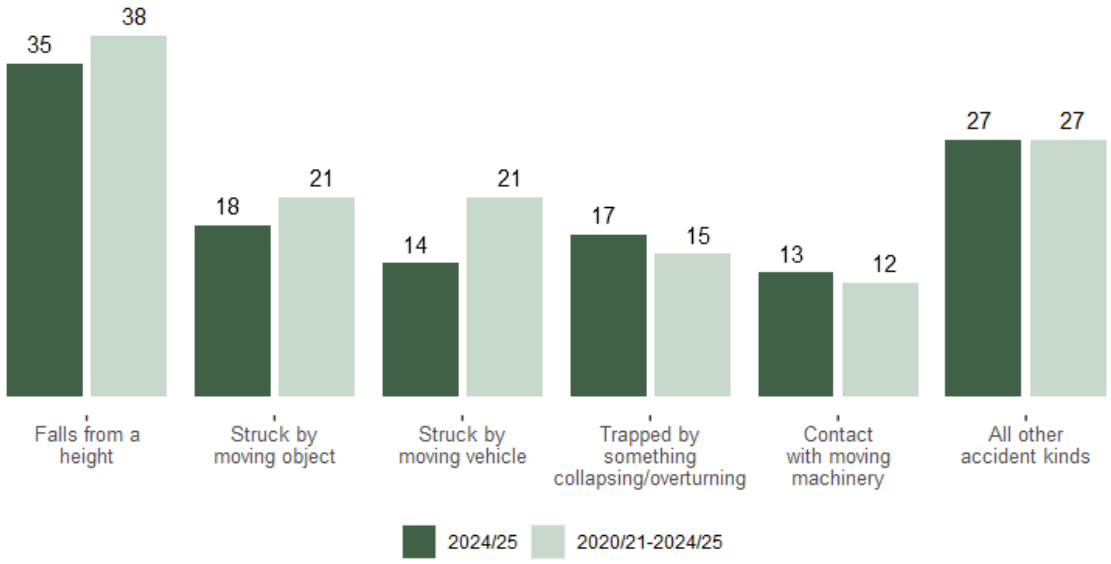
For more details of fatal injuries by main industry sector, see Table 1 www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridfatal.xlsx.

Injuries by accident kind

The profile of fatal injuries to workers by accident kind in 2024/25 is broadly similar to the profile for the 5-year period 2020/21-2024/25, with around 80% of all fatal injuries accounted for by just 5 different accident kinds in 2024/25 (see Figure 4 below).

Falls from a height has been the main cause of work-related fatal injury in almost every year since at least 2001/02.

Figure 4: Number of fatal injuries to workers by accident kind, 2024/25p and annual average for 2020/21-2024/25p.



Based on the annual average number of deaths for 2020/21-2024/25 (as this reduces the effect of year-on-year fluctuations and gives a more stable picture):

- 60% of all fatal injuries were accounted for by just three accident kinds: falls from a height, struck by a moving object, and struck by a moving vehicle.
- An average of 38 deaths per year were due to falls from a height, representing 28% of all worker fatal injuries over this period.
- Being struck by a moving object and being struck by a moving vehicle each accounted for an average of 21 deaths per year (around 15%).

- By sector, there is variation in the profile of fatal injuries to workers by accident kind, to some extent reflecting the varying risks present across industries. For example:
    - A markedly higher proportion of worker deaths in construction were due to falls from a height compared to other sectors, with over half of all deaths in construction over this five-year period accounted for by this accident kind (average of 21 deaths per year). In contrast, in both manufacturing and administrative and support services falls from a height accounted for 20% of worker deaths over this period (annual average of 4 and 2 deaths respectively).
    - While being struck by a moving vehicle accounted for around 15% of all deaths, this proportion was markedly higher in waste and recycling (53%), transportation and storage (27%) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (23%)

For more details of fatal injuries by accident kind, see Table 1 www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridkind.xlsx and https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/fatalities-reportable-under-riddor.xlsx.

Injuries by gender and age

Fatal injuries to workers are predominately to males, largely reflecting a greater proportion of men working in higher risk jobs. In 2024/25, 118 (95%) of all worker fatalities were to male workers, a similar proportion to earlier years.

In terms of age, around 40% of fatal injuries in 2024/25 were to workers aged 60 and over, even though such workers made up only 12% of the workforce.

Figure 5: Number of fatal injuries by age group, 2024/25p

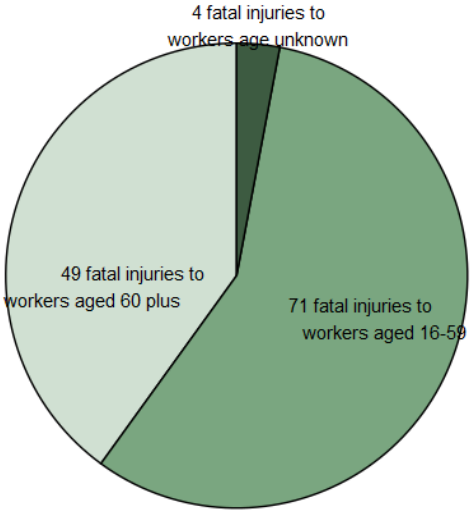
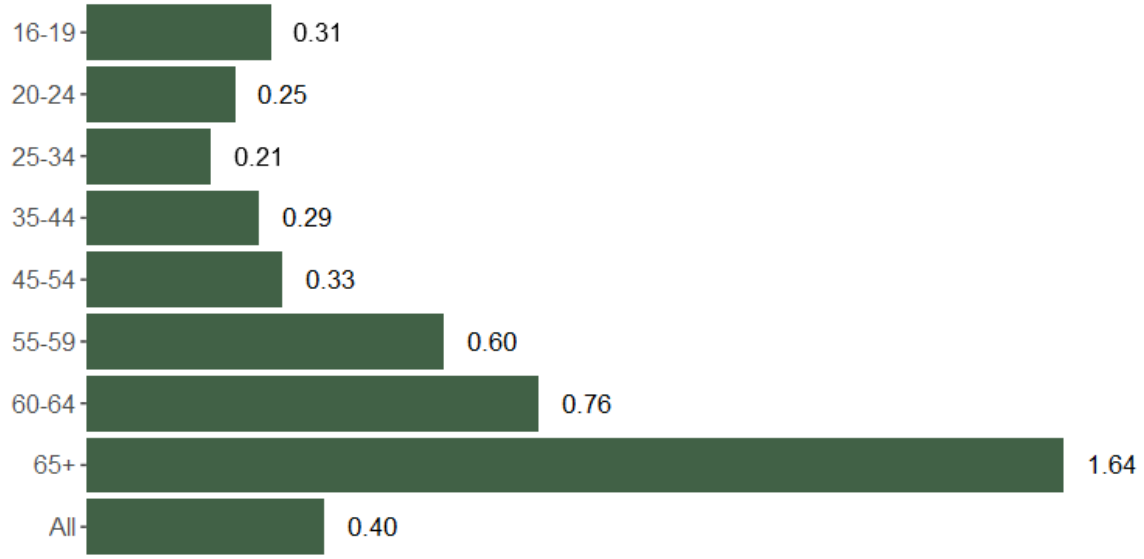


Figure 6 below shows the fatal injury rate by age group for the period 2020/21-2024/25. This clearly shows how the rate of fatal injury increases with age, with workers aged 60-64 having a rate around twice the all ages rate and workers aged 65 and over a rate that is 4 times as high as the all ages rate.

Figure 6: Rate of fatal injuries by age group (per 100,000 workers), annual average for 2020/21-2024/25p.



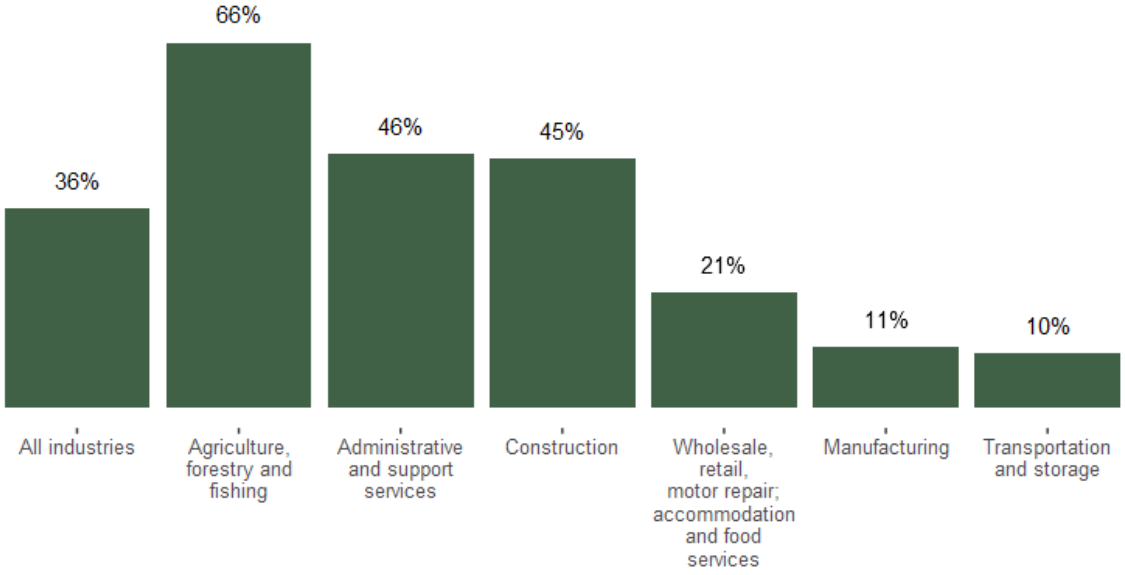
For more details of fatal injuries by age and gender see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridagegen.xlsx and Table 4 www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridfatal.xlsx.

Injuries by employment status

Around 40% of fatal injuries to workers in 2024/25 were to the self-employed, similar to the profile of worker deaths for the combined five-year period 2020/21-2024/25 (36% self-employed), even though such workers only made up around 15% of the workforce.

This disproportionate share of fatal injuries to self-employed reflects, at least in part, the greater proportion of self-employed workers in higher-risk industries. Figure 7 below shows how the proportion of fatal injuries to self-employed workers varies by industry with the proportion typically higher in the higher-risk sectors, notably agriculture, forestry and fishing and construction, where self-employment is particularly prevalent.

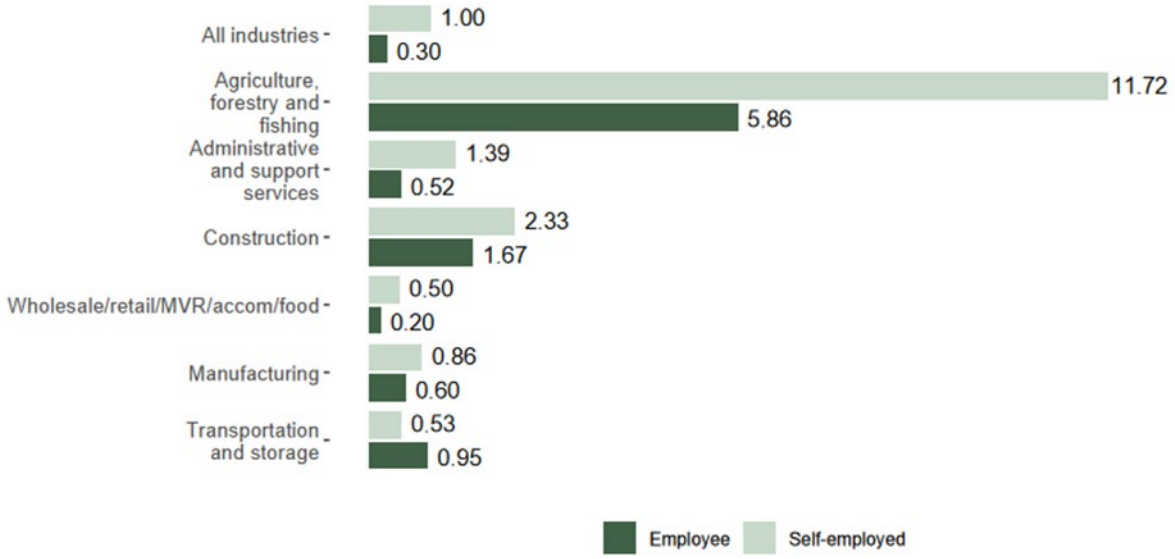
Figure 7: Percentage of fatal injuries to self-employed workers for selected industries, 2020/21-2024/25p.



However, even controlling for industry sector, differences remain. The overall fatal injury rate for the self-employed for the five-year period 2020/21-2024/25 is around 3 times that of the employee rate. While this varies by industry, the rate of fatal injury is generally higher for self-employed workers than employees across all the main industry sectors.

This increased rate for self-employed workers is particularly evident in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector and administrative and support service activities, where the fatal injury rate to self-employed workers is around 2 and 3 times the employee rate, respectively.

Figure 8: Rate of fatal injuries to employees and self-employed workers (per 100,000 employees/self-employed) for selected industries, 2020/21-2024/25p.



Note: 'Wholesale, retail, motor repair; accommodation and food services' has been abbreviated to 'Wholesale/retail/MVR/accom/food' for the purposes of this chart.

For more details of fatal injuries by employment status, see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridfatal.xlsx.

Injuries by country and region within Great Britain

Figure 9 below shows the country or region where the accident occurred for fatalities in 2024/25. The number of fatalities in some regions is relatively small, hence susceptible to considerable variation. Accidents involving multiple fatalities can also affect annual totals. Therefore, Figure 9 also shows the annual average number of deaths for the five-year period 2020/21-2024/25 as this reduces the effect of year-on-year fluctuations.

Figure 9: Number of fatal injuries by country and region within Great Britain, 2024/25p and annual average for 2020/21-2024/25p (annual average number in brackets)

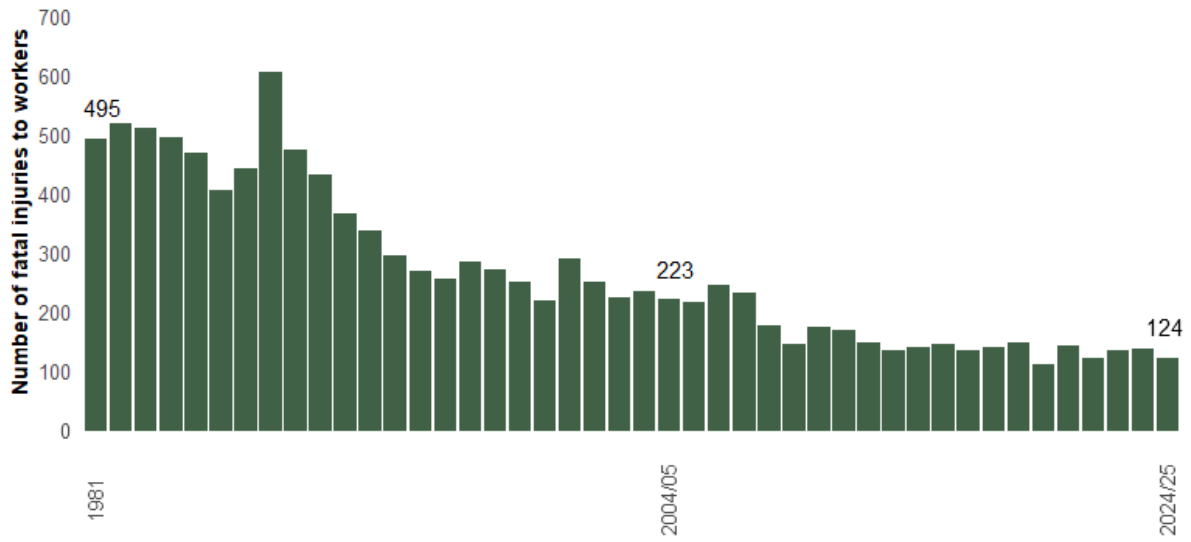
In terms of fatal injury rate, England consistently has a lower injury rate than either Scotland or Wales. However, injury rates are strongly influenced by variations in the mix of industries and occupations and in England there are a greater proportion of people working in lower risk jobs than in Scotland and Wales. The country injury rate does not make allowance for the varying composition of the workforce between these three nations.

For more details of fatal injuries by country and region within Great Britain, see Table 5, www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridfatal.xlsx.

Longer term trends

Despite long term reductions in the number of workers killed by work activities, each year such cases continue, with 124 such deaths in 2024/25. This number compares with 223 twenty years ago (2004/05) and 495 in 1981 (prior to 1981 only fatal injury numbers to employees were reported to enforcing authorities).

Figure 10: Number of fatal injuries to workers in Great Britain, 1981-2024/25p.

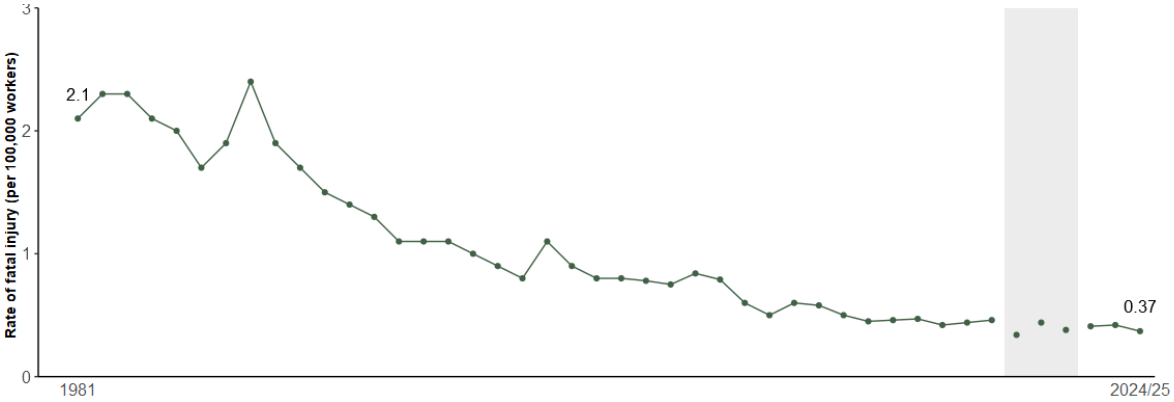


As described in earlier sections, the 124 worker deaths in 2024/25 represents a decrease of 14 from the previous year. In statistical terms the number of fatalities in 2024/25 is broadly in line with the pre-pandemic level (annual average of 142 deaths per year 2016/17-2018/19).

When considering trends over time it is preferable to consider the rate of injury rather than just the number of injuries as the rate accounts for changes in the numbers in employment between years. Taking employment levels into account, the 124 fatalities in 2024/25 gives rise to a fatal injury rate of 0.37 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Over the long-term, the rate of fatal injury to workers showed a downward trend, though over the last decade-or-so the rate has been broadly flat (excluding years affected by the coronavirus pandemic).

Figure 11: Rate of fatal injuries to workers in Great Britain, 1981-2024/25p.



Note: The data for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, shown inside the grey shaded area.

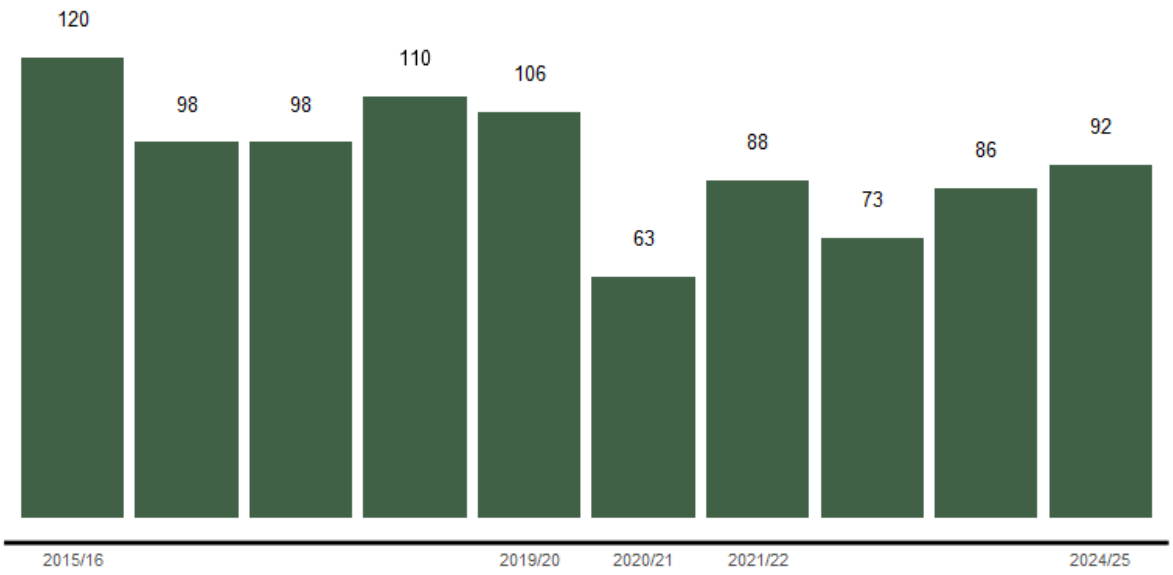
For more details see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridhist.xlsx and www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridfatal.xlsx.

Fatal injuries to members of the public

A total of 92 members of the public were killed as a result of a work-related accident in 2024/25 (excluding work-related deaths to 'patients and service users' in England in health and social care premises registered with CQC).

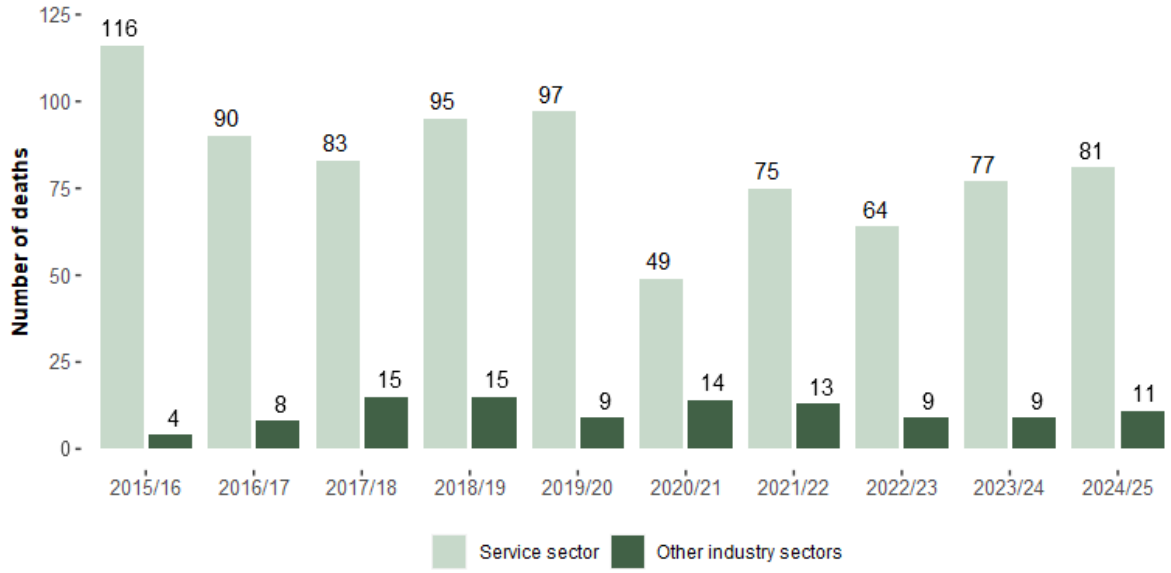
This is an increase of 6 fatalities from last year's 86 deaths, but like deaths to workers, numbers in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 remain broadly in line with pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 12: Number of work-related deaths to members of the public, 2015/16-2024/25p.



These incidents occurred across a range of sectors, including 27 on railways (for which the Office of Rail and Road has enforcement responsibility) and 54 in other service sector industries (including 29 in Health and Social Work Activities). Of the 11 deaths to members of the public in non-service sector industries, 4 were in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 4 in construction and 3 in waste and recycling.

Figure 13: Number of work-related deaths to members of the public by broad industry group, 2015/16-2024/25p.



Notes Figures 12 + 13:

- Excludes work-related deaths to ‘patients and service users’ in England in health and social care premises registered with CQC.
- Data for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

For more details see Table 2 www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridfatal.xlsx.

ANNEX: Sources and definitions

Coverage of fatal injury numbers

Fatal injuries included in this report are those that the relevant enforcing authority (namely HSE, Local authorities, Office for Nuclear Regulation or the Office of Rail and Road) have judged as reportable under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). See https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm for details of incidents reportable under RIDDOR.

Certain types of work-related injury are not reportable under RIDDOR, hence excluded from these figures. Particular exclusions include:

- Fatal accidents involving workers travelling on a public highway (a 'road traffic accident'). Such incidents are enforced by the police and reported to the Department for Transport. Those killed whilst commuting (travelling from home to work, and vice versa) are also excluded. For road accident statistics, see https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-accidents-and-safety-statistics.

- Fatal accidents involving workers travelling by air or sea. These incidents are the responsibility of the Air Accident Investigation Branch and Marine Accident Investigation Branch of the Department for Transport and reported accordingly;

- Fatalities to members of the armed forces on duty at the time of incident;

- Fatal injuries at work due to 'natural causes,' often heart attacks or strokes, unless brought on by trauma due to the accident.

Furthermore, the count of work-related deaths to members of the public does not include work-related deaths to 'patients and service users' in the healthcare and adult social care sectors in England where the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the lead enforcement body.

Fatal injury statistics presented in this report also exclude deaths from occupational diseases. Typically, for many occupational diseases, death occurs many years after first exposure to the causative agent. The asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma is one of the few examples where deaths due to an occupational disease can be counted directly. There were 2,218 such deaths in Great Britain in 2023 - see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/asbestos-related-disease.pdf. Other occupational deaths usually have to be estimated rather than counted. Each year around 13,000 deaths from occupational lung disease and cancer are estimated to have been caused by past exposure, primarily to chemicals and dust, at work. (This estimate includes the count of mesothelioma deaths).

Provisional nature of the latest statistics

On first publication, RIDDOR data is classified as provisional and marked with a 'p' suffix. The following year data are finalised and marked as 'r' (revised). The revised (finalised) figures for fatal injuries can go down as well as up, by up to +/-3% on finalisation for fatal injuries to workers. The change from provisional to final usually reflects more up-to-date information following the detailed investigations of these incidents, but also Regulation 6 of RIDDOR covers situations where someone dies of their injuries within a year of their accident. The finalised figure for 2023/24 is 138, a net change of 0 from the provisional number.

Table 1: Differences in provisional and finalised counts of fatal injuries to workers, 2020/21-2024/25p.

Year	Provisional figure	Revised finalised figure	Difference
2024/25p	124	-	NA
2023/24r	138	138	0
2022/23	135	136	+1
2021/22	123	123	0
2020/21	142	145	+3

Fatal injury rates

Differences in the size of the workforce will impact on comparisons of the number of fatalities, both over time and between one group and another within a year (e.g. between different industry groups). In order to make robust comparisons, it is important to consider the rate of fatal injury. The rate is constructed by dividing the count of fatal injuries by the employment estimate. This is then multiplied by a factor of 100,000 to give a rate per 100,000 workers, in line with international standards. The source of employment data used to construct the injury rates from 2004/05 onwards is the Annual Population Survey (APS).

Statistical significance

The total fatal injury count is subject to a degree of chance and randomness; if exactly the same conditions prevail in two different years, then it is likely that the annual count will differ due to natural variation. We use tests of statistical significance at the 95% confidence level to judge whether a difference between years is likely to be explained by natural variation alone or whether it represents a statistically significant difference. (Note statistical significance should not be confused with the significance of each injury. Every casualty is a tragedy and has both a social cost and a personal cost to those directly affected).

Industry definitions

The table below presents the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes used to define the top-level industry groupings presented in this report.

SIC Code	Industry Description
Section A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
Section B	Mining and quarrying
Section C	Manufacturing
Section D	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning supply
Section E	Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation
Division 38	Waste and recycling
Section F	Construction
Section G, I	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; accommodation and food service activities
Section H	Transportation and storage
Section J-N	Communication, business services and finance
Section N	Administrative and support services
Section O-Q	Public administration; education; human health and social work activities
Section R-U	Arts, entertainment and recreation; all other service activities

For more details of what is included in these SIC codes, please see the 2007 Standard industrial Classification.

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From 7 June 2024 the Accredited Official Statistics badge has replaced the previous National Statistics badge.

These statistics were last reviewed by OSR in 2013. It is Health and Safety Executive's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the OSR promptly. Accredited Official 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.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the OSR website.

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/.

Lead Statistician: Molly Marshall-Ridley

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