



# Health and safety at work

## Summary statistics for Great Britain 2017

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# Key facts



**1.3**  
million

Work-related ill health cases  
(new or long-standing) in 2016/17

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



**0.5**  
million

Work-related stress, depression  
or anxiety cases (new or long-  
standing) in 2016/17

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 2016/17

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



**9.7**  
billion

Annual costs of new cases of  
work-related ill health in 2015/16,  
excluding long latency illness  
such as cancer

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model



**0.6**  
million

Non-fatal injuries to workers  
in 2016/17

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



**70,116**

Non-fatal injuries to employees  
reported by employers in 2016/17

Source: RIDDOR



**137**

Fatal injuries to workers in 2016/17

Source: RIDDOR



**5.3**  
billion

Annual costs of workplace injury  
in 2015/16

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model



**31.2**  
million

Working days lost due to work-  
related ill health and non-fatal  
workplace injuries in 2016/17

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



**2,542**

Mesothelioma deaths in 2015,  
with a similar number of lung  
cancer deaths linked to past  
exposures to asbestos

Source: Death certificates



**14.9**  
billion

Annual costs of work-related  
injury and new cases of ill health  
in 2015/16, excluding long  
latency illness such as cancer

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model



# Work-related ill health

## 1.3 million

Workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) in 2016/17

## 516,000

Workers suffering from a new case of work-related ill health in 2016/17

## 25.7 million

Working days lost due to work-related ill health in 2016/17

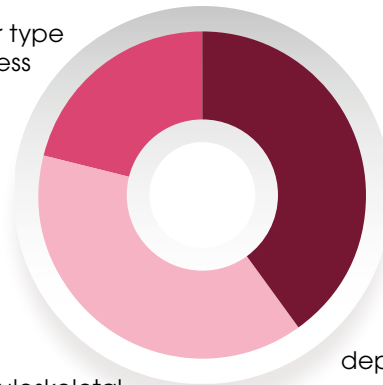
## 13,000

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, 2016/17

**21%**

Other type of illness



**39%**

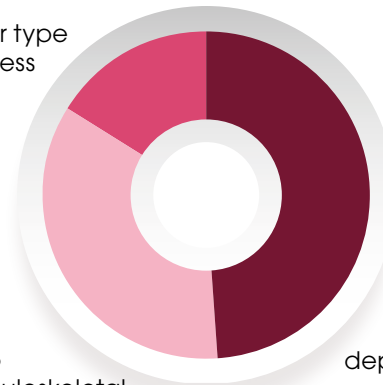
Musculoskeletal disorders

**40%**  
Stress, depression or anxiety

Working days lost by type of ill health, 2016/17

**16%**

Other type of illness

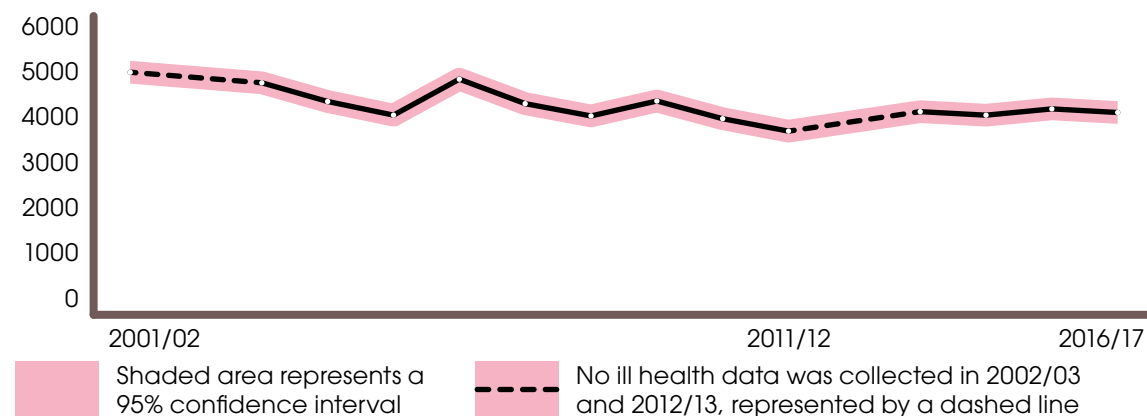


**35%**

Musculoskeletal disorders

**49%**  
Stress, depression or anxiety

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



- The rate of work-related ill health showed a generally downward trend to around 2011/12; more recently the rate has been broadly flat.

- Working days lost per worker due to work-related ill health showed a generally downward trend up to around 2010/11; since then the rate has remained broadly flat.

Estimates of ill health based on Labour Force Survey (LFS) self-reports and deaths based on proportions estimated to be linked to work.

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

**526,000**

Workers suffering from work-related stress, depression or anxiety (new or long-standing) in 2016/17

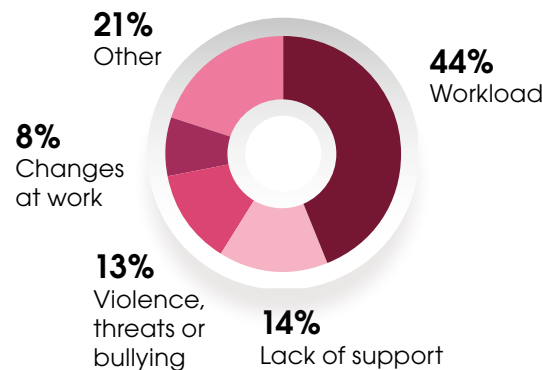
**236,000**

Workers suffering from a new case of work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2016/17

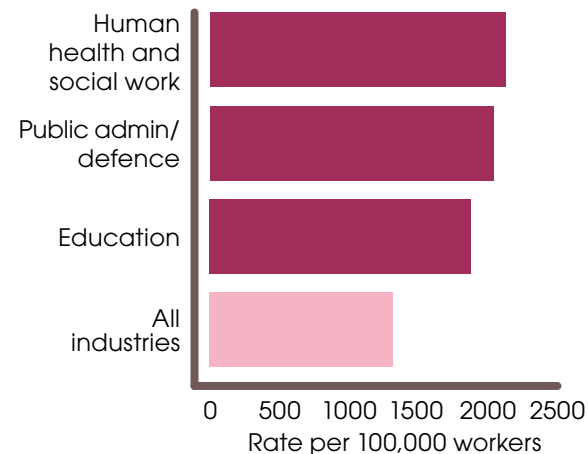
**12.5 million**

Working days lost due to work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2016/17

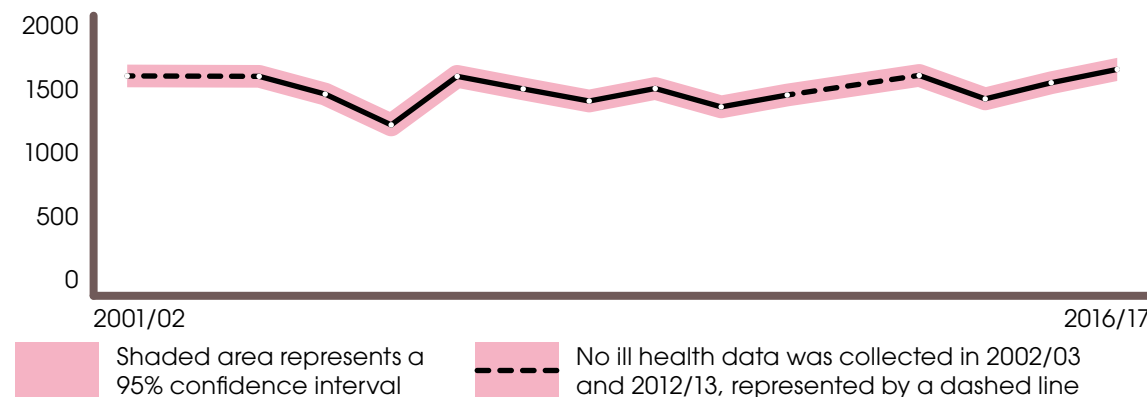
Stress, depression or anxiety by cause, averaged 2009/10–2011/12



Industries with higher than average rates of stress, depression or anxiety, 2014/15–2016/17



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



The rate of self-reported work-related stress, depression or anxiety has remained broadly flat but has shown some fluctuations. A similar picture was observed for working days lost.

Working days lost due to stress, depression or anxiety accounted for 49% of all working days lost due to ill health in 2016/17.

Estimates of work-related stress, depression or anxiety 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/stress](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/stress)



# Work-related musculoskeletal disorders

## 507,000

Workers suffering from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (new or long-standing) in 2016/17

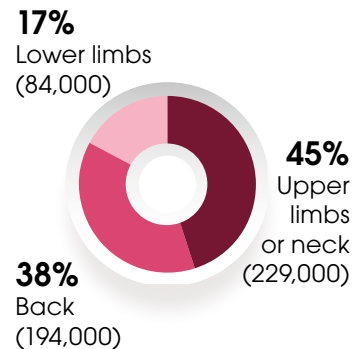
## 159,000

Workers suffering from a new case of work-related musculoskeletal disorder in 2016/17

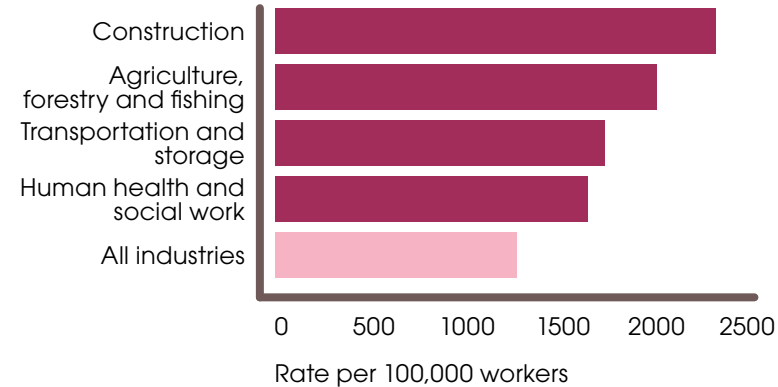
## 8.9 million

Working days lost due to work-related musculoskeletal disorders in 2016/17

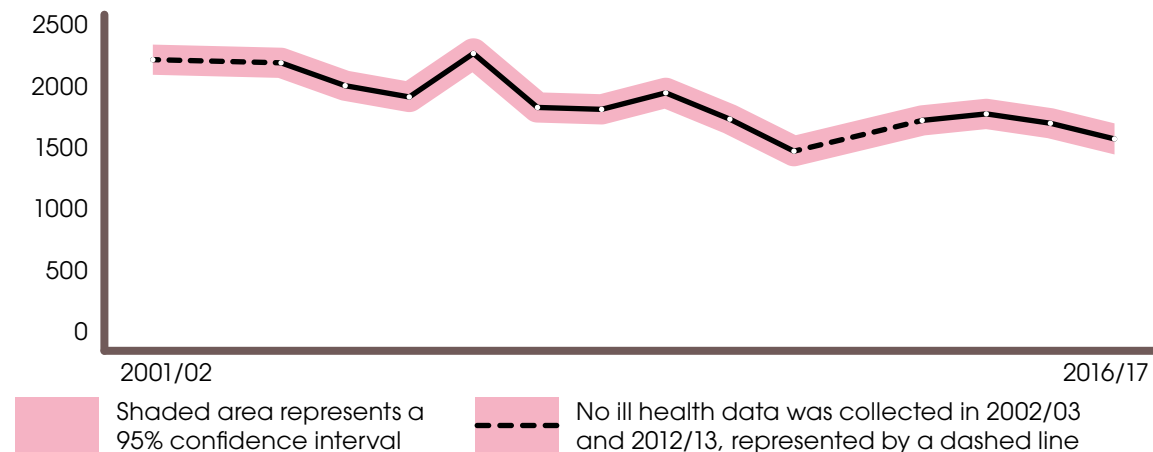
Musculoskeletal disorders by affected area, 2016/17



Industries with higher than average rates of musculoskeletal disorders, averaged 2014/15-2016/17



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



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

Working days lost per worker showed a generally downward trend up to around 2010/11; since then the rate has remained broadly flat.

Manual handling, awkward or tiring positions and keyboard work or repetitive action are estimated to be the main causes of work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

Estimates of work-related musculoskeletal disorders 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/musculoskeletal/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/musculoskeletal/)



# Occupational lung disease

**12,000**

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

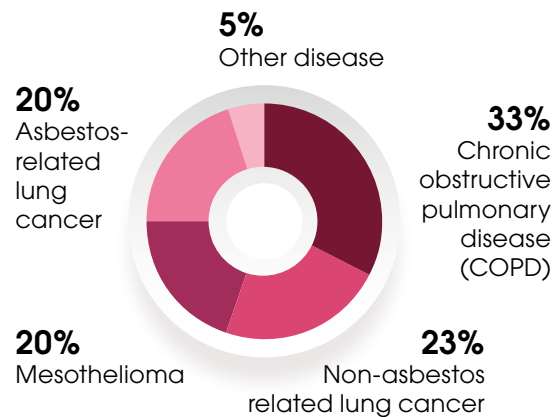
**2,542**

Mesothelioma deaths in 2015, with a similar number of lung cancer deaths linked to past exposures to asbestos

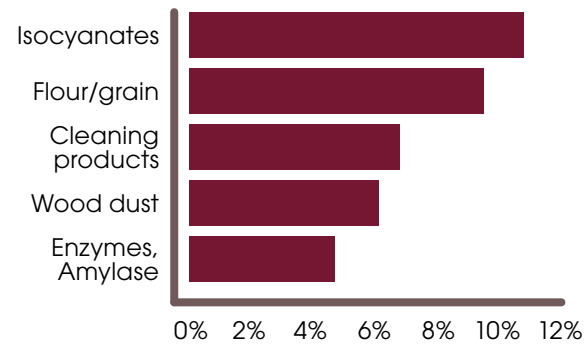
**18,000**

Estimated 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-reports from the Labour Force Survey

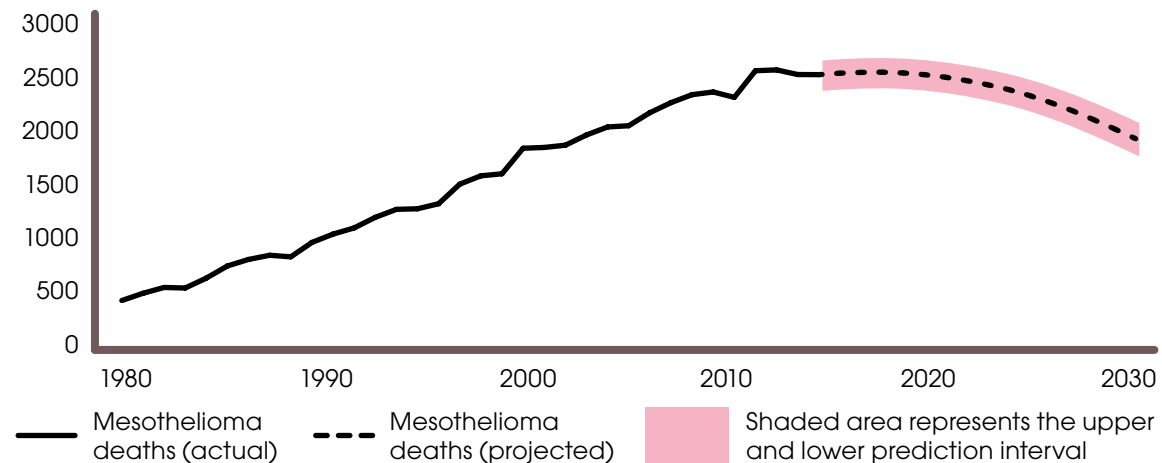
Lung diseases contributing to estimated current annual deaths



Occupational asthma; causal agents most commonly reported by chest physicians during 2012-2016



Mesothelioma in Great Britain: annual actual and predicted deaths



● There are projected to be around 2,500 mesothelioma deaths per year for the rest of the decade before numbers begin to decline.

● There are an estimated 200-300 new cases of occupational asthma seen by chest physicians each year, with no change over the last decade.

● 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/respiratory-diseases](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/respiratory-diseases)

# Workplace injury

137

Workers killed at work in 2016/17

609,000

Estimated non-fatal injuries to workers according to self-reports from the Labour Force Survey in 2016/17

70,116

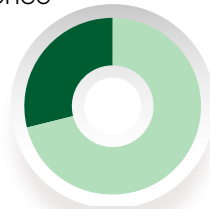
Employee non-fatal injuries reported by employers under RIDDOR in 2016/17

5.5 million

Estimated working days lost due to non-fatal workplace injuries according to self-reports from the Labour Force Survey in 2016/17

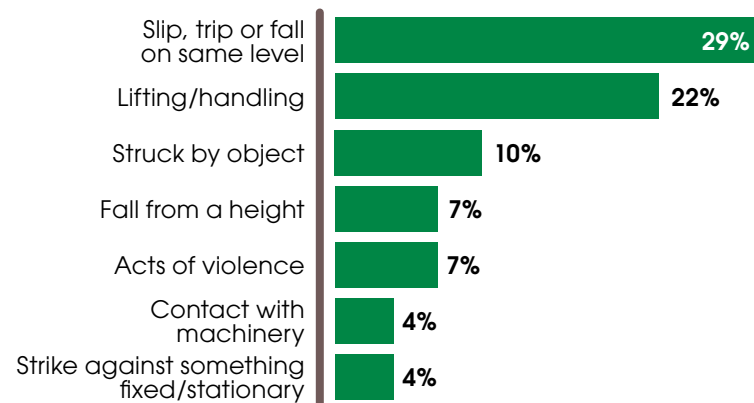
Estimated self-reported non-fatal injuries 2016/17

175,000  
Injuries with over 7 days absence

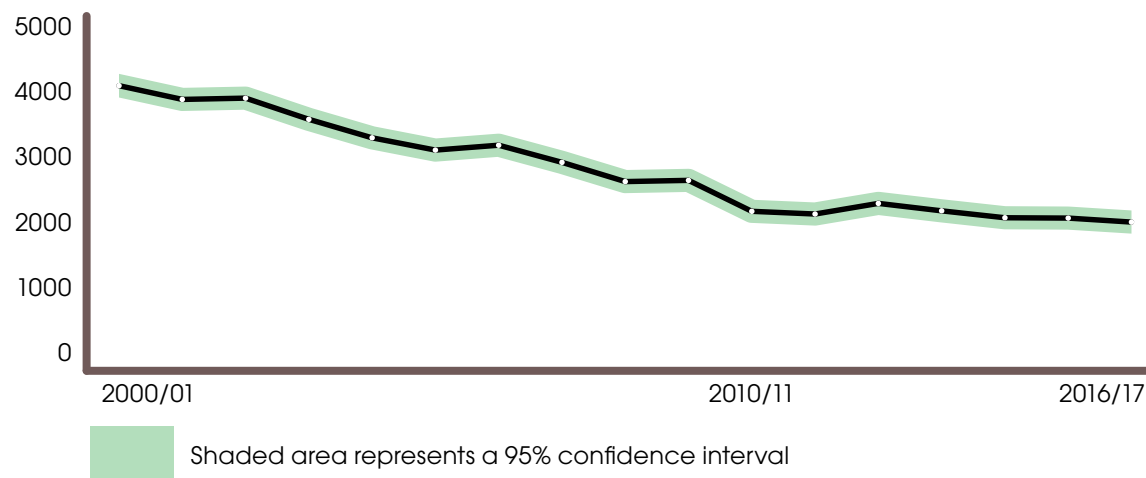


434,000  
Injuries with up to 7 days absence

Non-fatal injuries to employees by main accident kinds (as reported by employers), 2016/17



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



● There has been a long term downward trend in the rate of fatal injury, with indications of levelling off in recent years.

● The rate of self-reported non-fatal injury to workers showed a downward trend up to 2010/11; since then the rate has been broadly flat.

● The rate of non-fatal injury to employees reported by employers also shows a long-term downward trend, which has continued in more recent years. Reporting is known to be incomplete and may be distorting the trend.

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

# £ Costs to Britain

**£14.9 billion**

Annual costs of work-related injury and ill health in 2015/16, excluding long latency illness such as cancer

**£9.7 billion**

Annual costs of new cases of work-related ill health in 2015/16, excluding long latency illness such as cancer

**£5.3 billion**

Annual costs of workplace injury in 2015/16

Estimates based on Labour Force Survey and RIDDOR for 2014/15-2016/17, and HSE Costs to Britain Model

Costs to Britain of workplace injuries and new cases of work-related ill health in 2015/16 by: type of incident

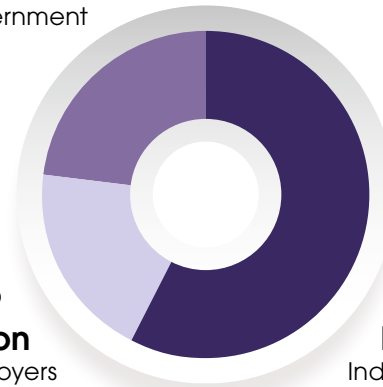
**35%**  
Injury



**65%**  
Ill health

cost bearer

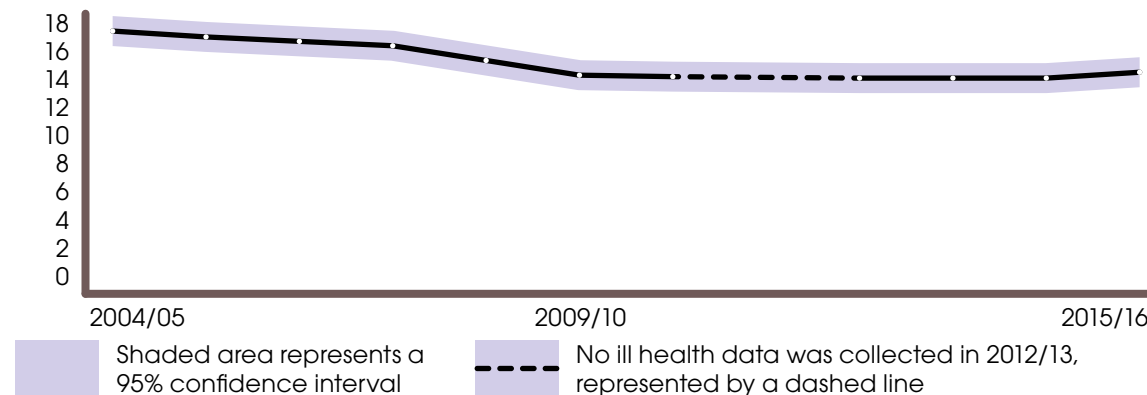
**£3.4 billion**  
Government



**£2.9 billion**  
Employers

**£8.6 billion**  
Individuals

Costs to Britain of workplace injuries and new cases of work-related ill health (£ billion, 2015 prices)



Shaded area represents a 95% confidence interval

No ill health data was collected in 2012/13, represented by a dashed line

- Total costs showed a downward trend between 2004/05 and 2009/10; this fall was driven by a reduction in the number of workplace injuries. Since then, the annual cost has been broadly level.

- Total costs include financial costs and human costs. Financial costs cover loss of output, healthcare costs and other payments made. 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/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/cost/)

HSE has published research on the costs of work-related cancer. See [www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr1074](http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr1074)

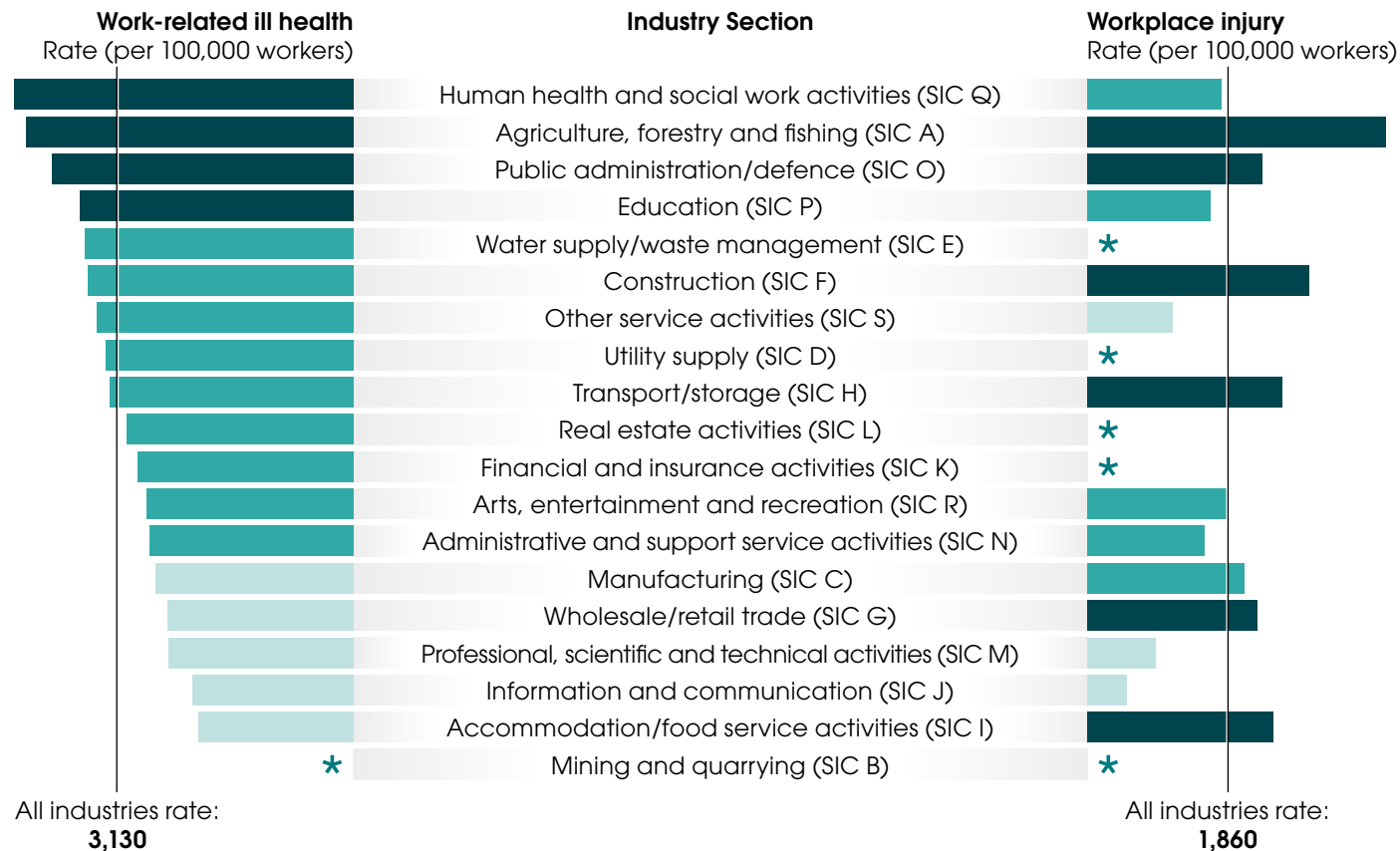




# Industries

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

367



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 2014/15-2016/17

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

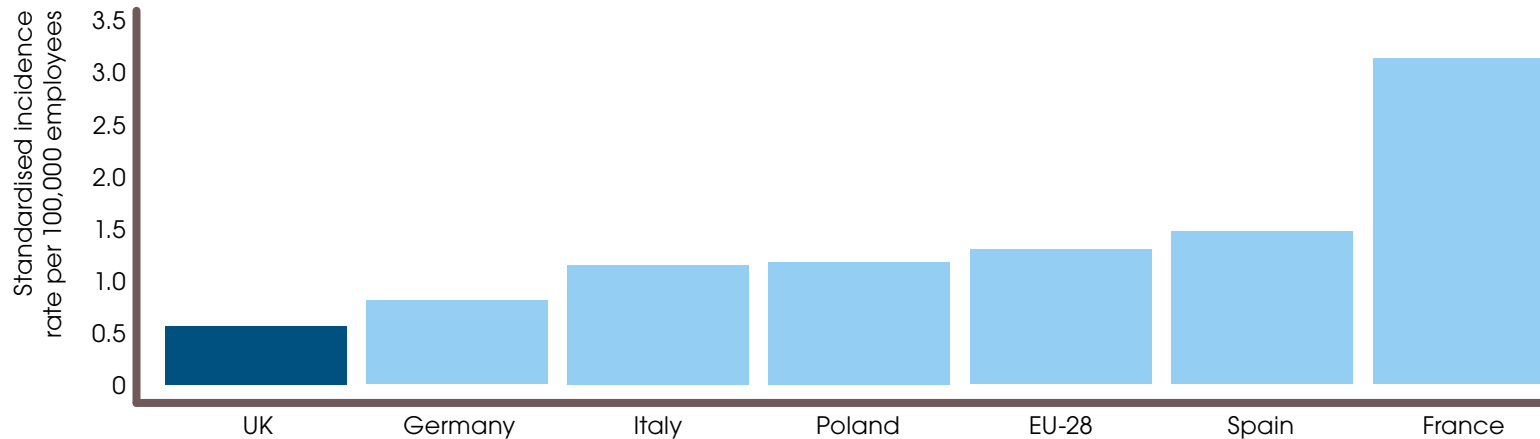
Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Construction, Transport and storage, Accommodation and food services, Public administration and defence and Wholesale and retail trade had statistically significantly higher injury rates than for all industries.

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

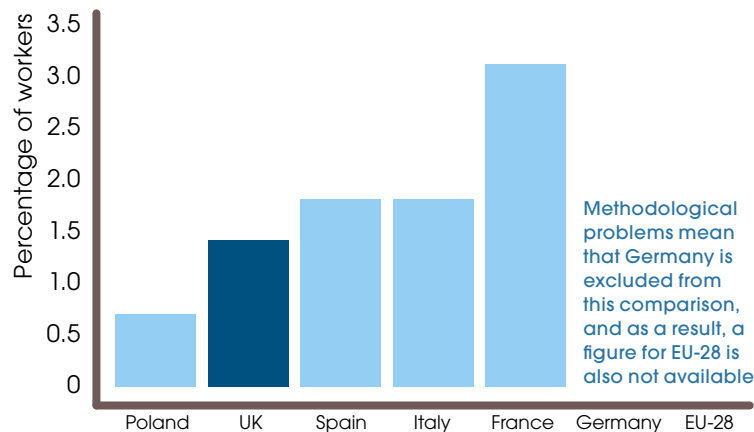


# European comparisons

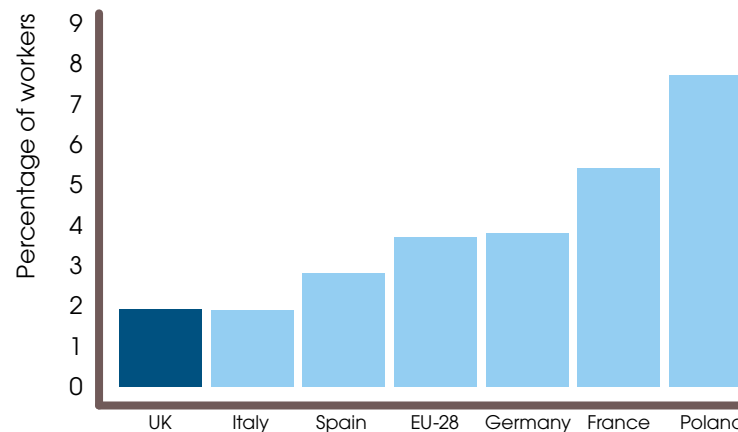
Fatal injuries in large EU economies (Eurostat 2014)



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)



- 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.

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



# Enforcement

**554**

Cases prosecuted, or referred to COPFS for prosecution in Scotland, by HSE where a conviction was achieved in 2016/17

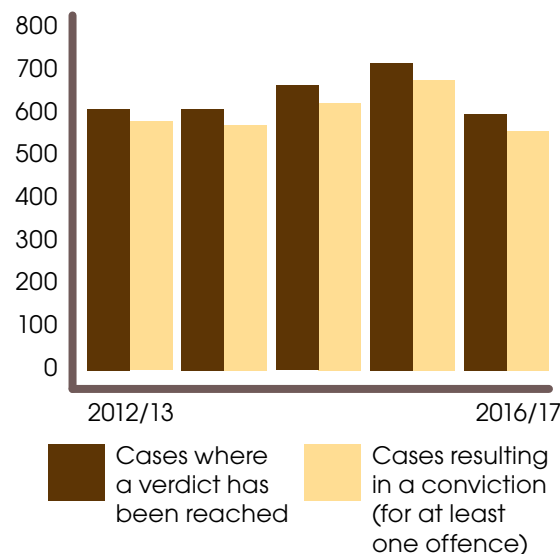
**11,913**

Notices issued by all enforcing bodies in 2016/17

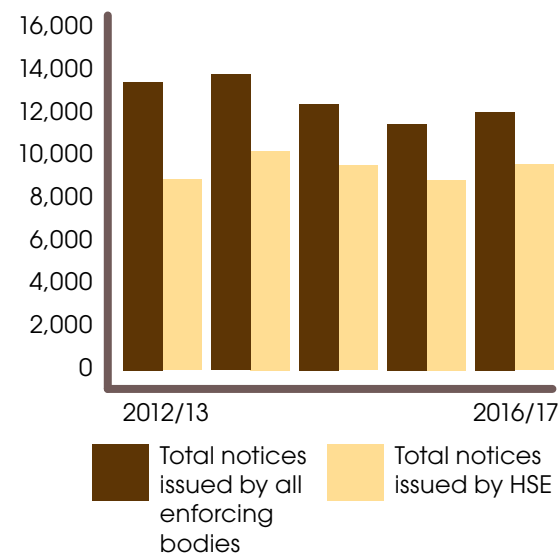
**£69.9 million**

In fines resulting from prosecutions taken, or referred to COPFS for prosecution in Scotland, by HSE where a conviction was achieved in 2016/17

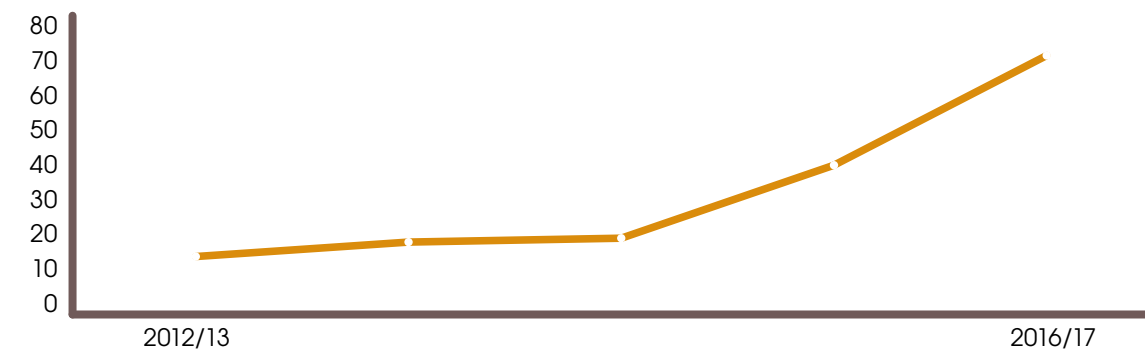
Prosecution cases brought by HSE and, in Scotland, COPFS



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 following several years of an upward trend.
- The number of notices issued by all enforcing bodies rose this year following several years of a downward trend.
- This is the first full year where new sentencing guidelines have been in effect. Under these guidelines 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.

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



# 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 the 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 mean 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](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources)



# 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 are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

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

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

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](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/quality-guidelines)

