

# Work-related fatal injuries in Great Britain, 2023

Data up to March 2023  
Annual statistics  
6 July 2023





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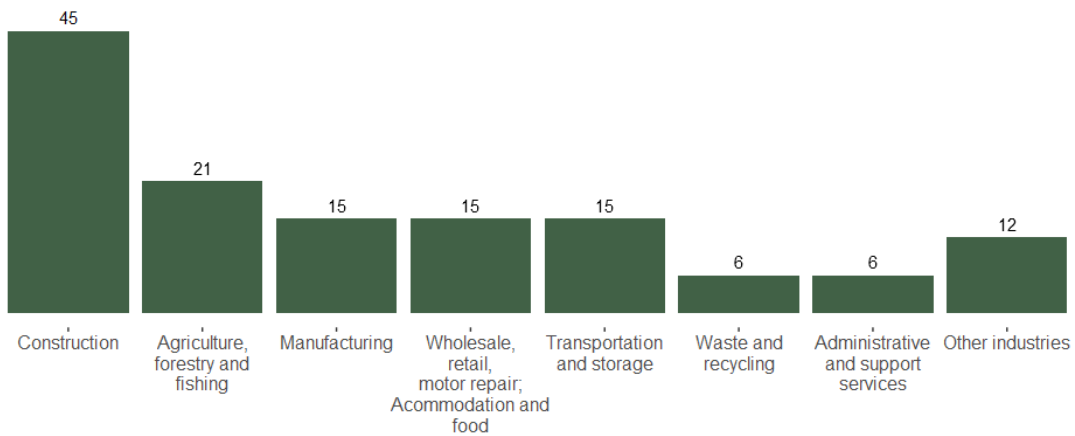
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# Summary

**135** workers killed in work-related accidents in 2022/23.

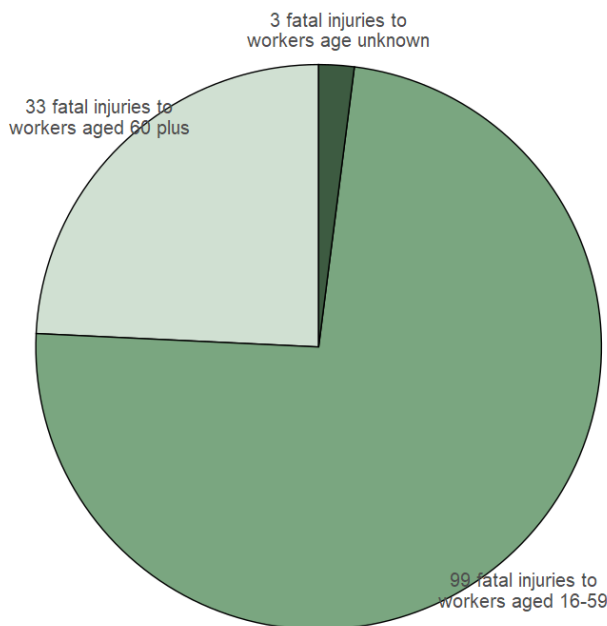
## Fatal injuries to workers by main industry (2022/23)

The construction and agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors continue to account for the greatest number of workers killed in fatal accidents each year.



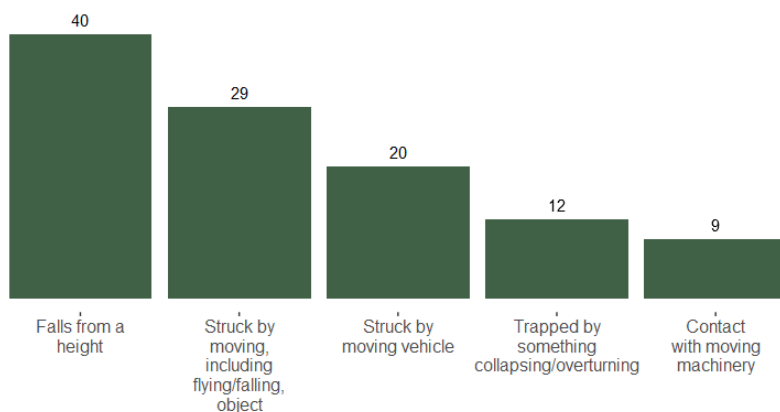
## Fatal injuries to workers by age (2022/23)

Around a quarter of the deaths in 2022/23 were to workers aged 60 and over (33), similar to the profile in earlier years.



### Main kinds of fatal accidents for workers (2022/23)

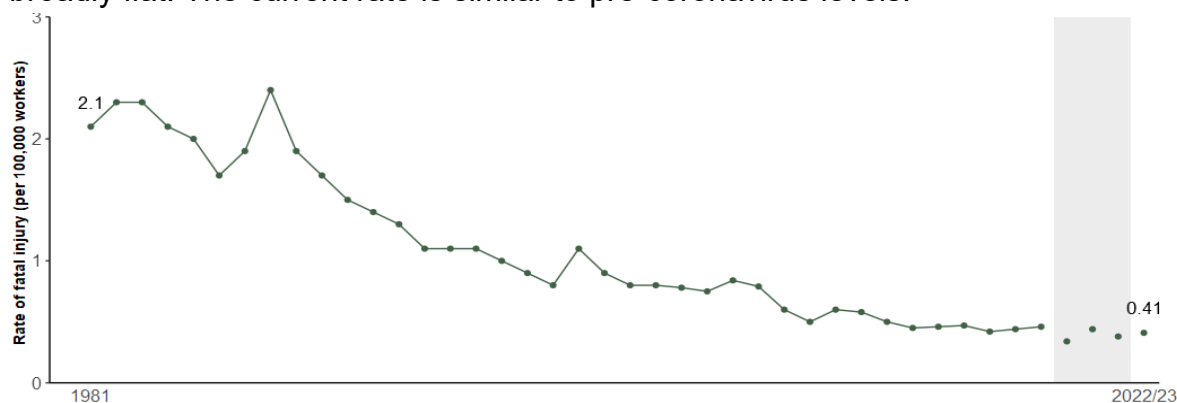
The most common kinds of fatal accidents to workers continue as falls from a height, struck by moving, including flying/falling, object, and struck by moving vehicle, between them accounting for around two-thirds of fatal injuries to workers in 2022/23.



**Note:** Chart above shows all accident kinds accounting for 5% or more of the total deaths in 2022/23.

### Rate of fatal injury per 100,000 workers.

Over the long-term, the rate of fatal injury to workers showed a downward trend, though in the recent years prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate had been broadly flat. The current rate is similar to pre-coronavirus levels.



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

**68** members of the public were also killed in work-related accidents in 2022/23 (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 2022/23 are published as provisional at this stage and will be finalised in July 2024.

## Introduction

This report provides headline numbers on deaths resulting from work-related accidents in 2022/23 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<sup>1</sup>. The counts for 2022/23 are currently provisional and will be finalised in July 2024 to take account of any necessary adjustments. [See annex for more details]. In tables and chart headings, 2022/23 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 2022/23, this report also presents the annual average estimate for the five years 2018/19-2022/23, 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 (including COVID-19) and fatal accidents on non-rail transport systems. (See Annex for more details).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

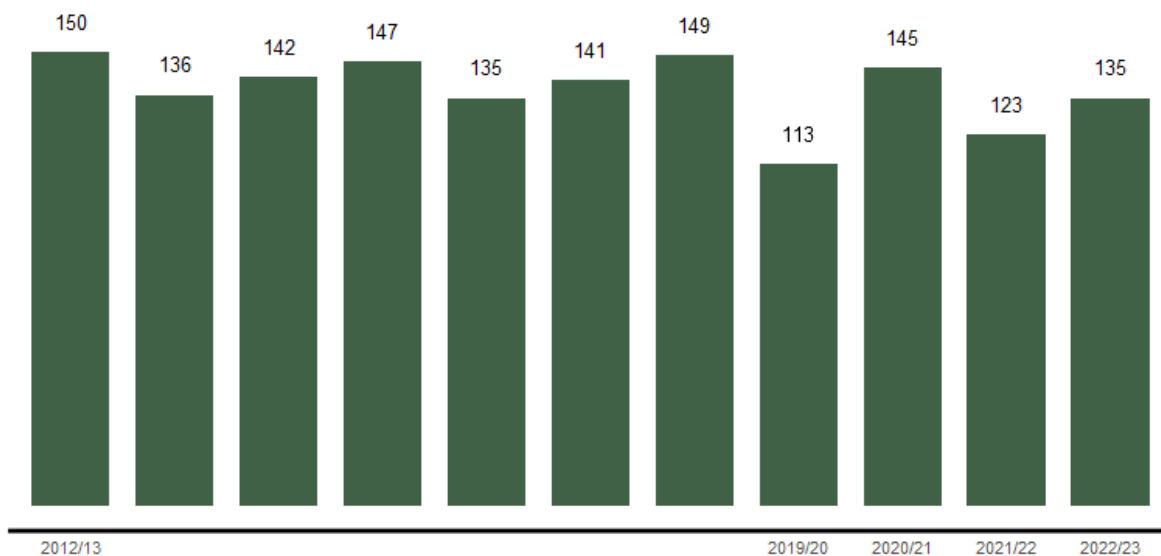
# Fatal injuries to workers

## Headline figures

A total of 135 workers were killed in work-related accidents in Great Britain in 2022/23, an increase of 12 fatalities from 2021/22.

The numbers of fatal injuries are subject to random variation, fluctuating year-on-year, therefore it is necessary to look at trends over a number of years. In the recent years prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the number of annual fatalities had been broadly flat. In 2022/23 the number of annual deaths remain broadly in line with pre-pandemic levels.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 1:** Fatal injuries to workers: Great Britain 2012/13 - 2022/23p.



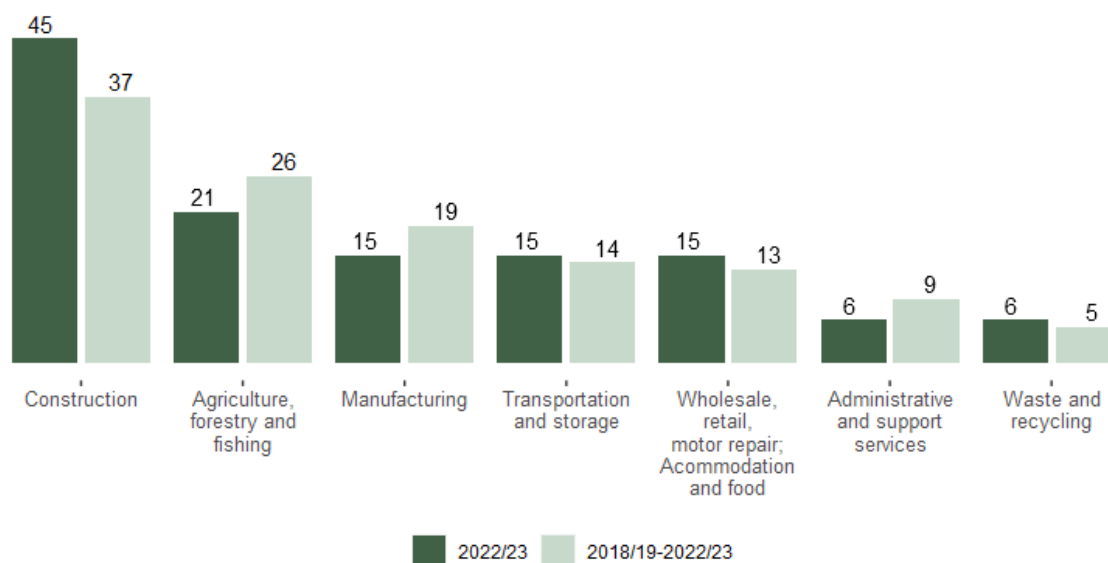
**Note:** Data for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 includes the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

<sup>2</sup> Data for 2019/20 – 2021/22 include the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19). 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<sup>3 4</sup>

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, 2022/23p and annual average for 2018/19-2022/23p.



The profile of fatal injuries to workers by industry sector in 2022/23 is broadly similar to the profile for the 5-year period 2018/19-2022/23, with 82% of fatal injuries in 2022/23 occurring in five industry sectors: construction, agriculture, forestry and fishing, manufacturing, transportation and storage and wholesale, retail, motor vehicle repair; accommodation and food services.

- The number of injuries in construction in 2022/23 was 45, an increase of 16 from the previous year total (29), though this difference is not statistically significant. The five-year average for fatal injuries in this sector is 37.
- In agriculture, forestry and fishing in 2022/23 there were 21 fatal injuries, a decrease of 2 from the previous year total (23). The five-year average for fatal injuries in this sector is 26.

<sup>3</sup> Industry is defined using the 2007 [Standard Industrial Classification](#). See annex for more details.

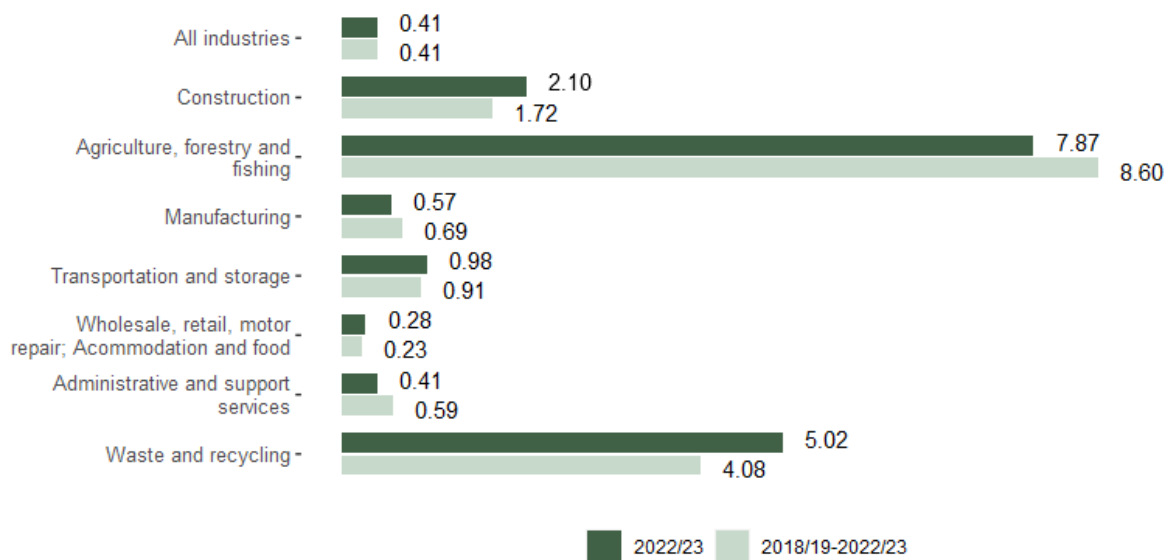
<sup>4</sup> The figure for SIC B 'Mining and quarrying' in 2022/23 does not include the case of a worker currently presumed missing at sea following a work-related accident on an offshore installation. The case is currently under investigation. In line with established statistics procedures this information will be updated when further details are confirmed.



- The manufacturing sector saw 15 fatal injuries in 2022/23, a decrease of 7 from the previous year total (22). The five-year average for fatal injuries in this sector is 19.
- In the transportation and storage sector the total number of fatal injuries in 2022/23 was 15, a decrease of 1 from the previous year total (16). The five-year average for fatal injuries in this sector is 14.
- In the combined ‘wholesale, retail, motor repair; accommodation and food services’ sector the total number of fatal injuries in 2022/23 was 15, an increase of 4 from the previous year total (11). The five-year average for fatal injuries in this sector is 13.

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), 2022/23p and annual average for 2018/19-2022/23p.



Based on the annual average rates for 2018/19-2022/23 (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: 21 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: 10 times as high.
- The rate of fatal injury in construction, while around 4 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 and the transportation and storage sectors have a rate of fatal injury around 1.5 and 2 times the average rate across all industries respectively.
- While the combined 'wholesale, retail, motor repair; accommodation and food services' sector accounted for around 10% of fatal injuries between 2018/19 and 2022/23, 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.

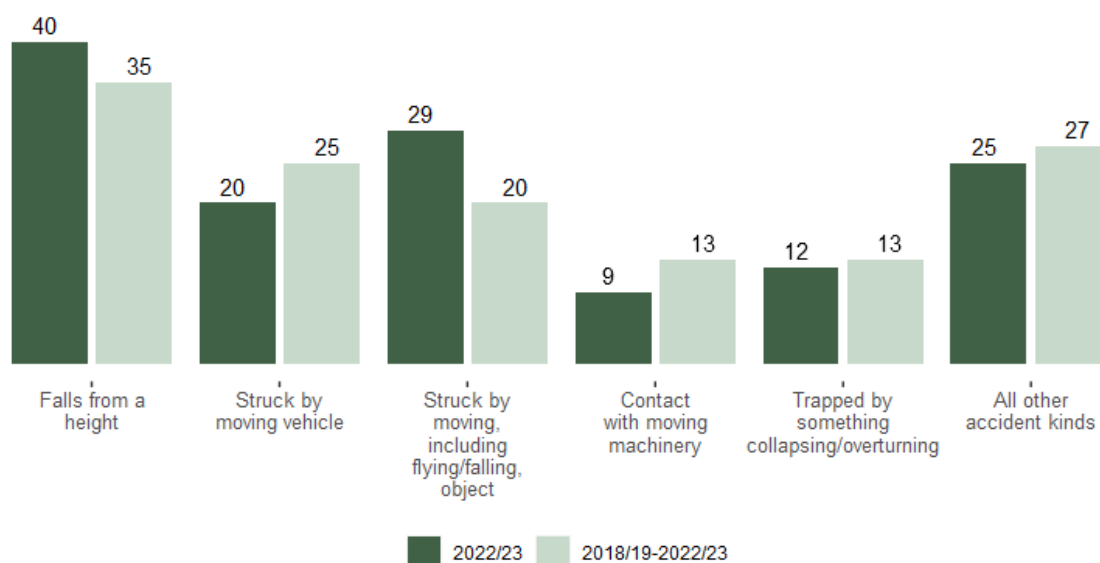
For more details of fatal injuries by main industry sector, see Table 1

[www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx).

## Injuries by accident kind

80% of all fatal injuries were accounted for by just 5 different accident kinds in the combined five-year period 2018/19-2022/23 (see Figure 4 below).

**Figure 4:** Number of fatal injuries to workers by accident kind, 2022/23p and annual average for 2018/19-2022/23p.



Falls from a height, being struck by a moving vehicle and being struck by a moving, including flying or falling, object continue as the three main causes of fatal injury, between them accounting for over half of all fatal injuries each year since at least 2001/02.

- In 2022/23, 40 fatal injuries were due to falls from a height accounting for 30% of all worker deaths over the year.
- Struck by moving vehicle accounted for 20 fatal injuries to workers in 2022/23, representing 15% of the total number of deaths over the year.
- 21% of the fatal injuries in 2022/23 were caused by struck by moving, including flying/falling, object.

For more details of fatal injuries by accident kind, see Table 3 [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx).

## Injuries by gender and age

Fatal injuries to workers are predominately to male workers. In 2022/23, 129 (96%) of all worker fatalities were to male workers, a similar proportion to earlier years.

In terms of age, 25% of fatal injuries in 2022/23 were to workers aged 60 and over, even though such workers made up only 11% of the workforce.

**Figure 5:** Number of fatal injuries by age group, 2022/23p

Base: Deaths where age was known. Excludes the 3 deaths with unknown age

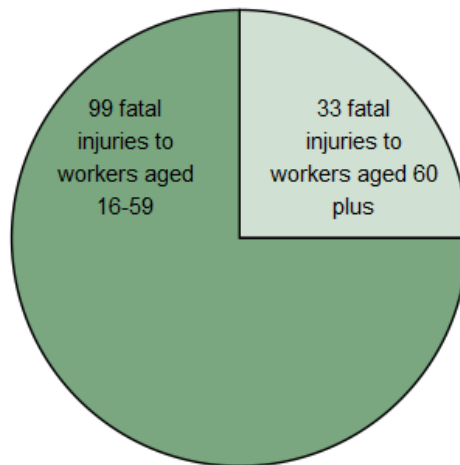
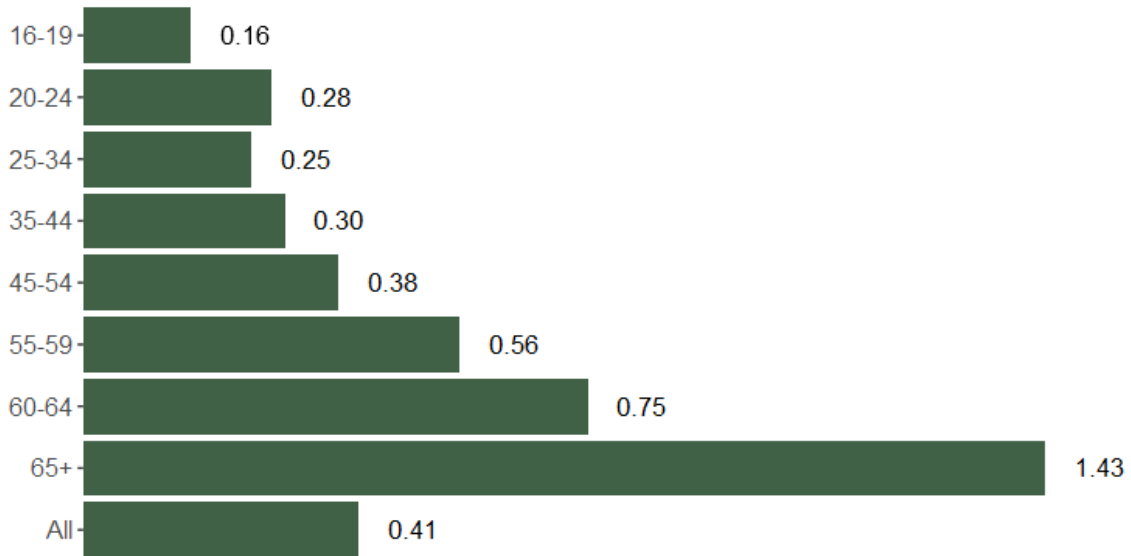


Figure 6 below shows the fatal injury rate by age group for the period 2018/19-2022/23. This clearly shows how the rate of fatal injury increases with age, with workers aged 60-64 having a rate around twice the all ages rate and workers aged 65 and over a rate that is 3 times as high as the all ages rate.

**Figure 6:** Rate of fatal injuries by age group (per 100,000 workers), annual average for 2018/19-2022/23p.



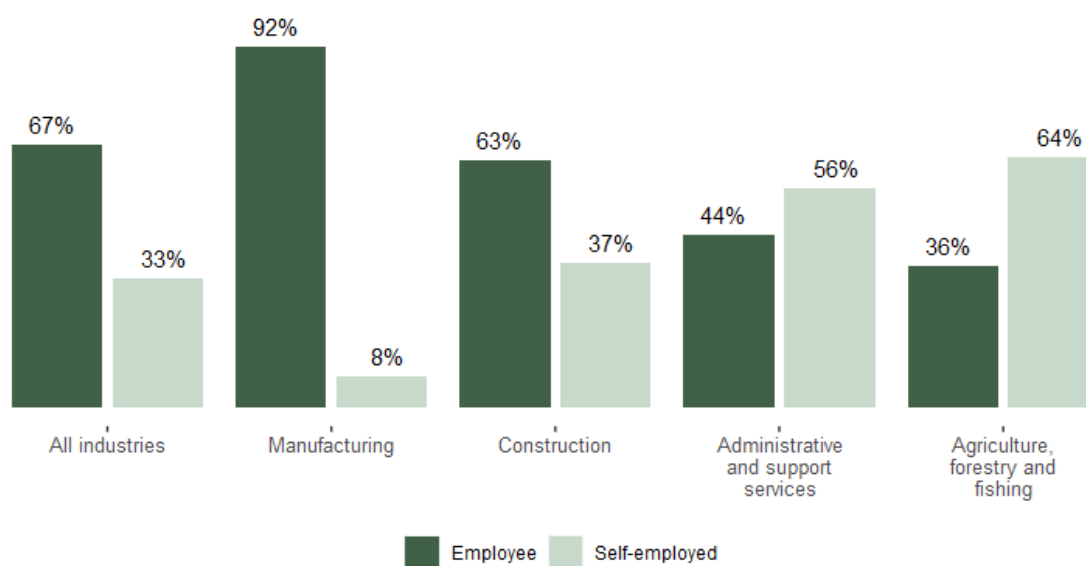
For more details of fatal injuries by age and gender see [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridagegen.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridagegen.xlsx) and Table 4 [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx).

## Injuries by employment status

In the period 2018/19-2022/23, 33% of fatal injuries to workers were to the self-employed (which was similar for 2022/23), even though such workers only made up around 15% of the workforce.

By industry, the proportion of fatal injuries to employees and the self-employed varies considerably, to some extent reflecting the relative make-up of the working population between employees and self-employed. Over the 5-year period 2018/19-2022/23, over half of fatal injuries in both agriculture, forestry and fishing and administrative and support services were to self-employed workers (64% and 56% respectively). This compares with 37% in construction and 8% in manufacturing.

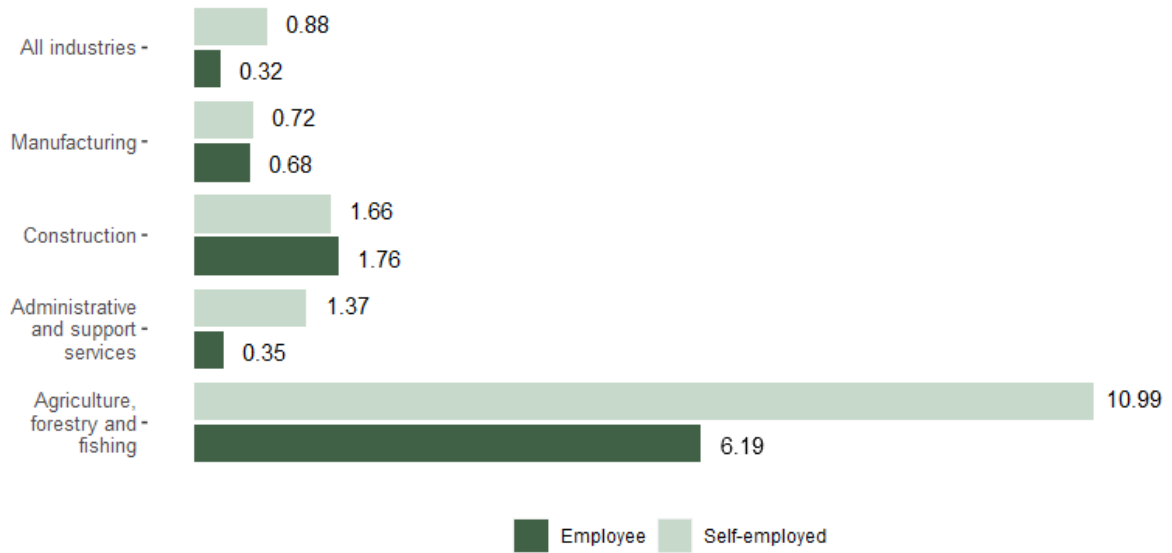
**Figure 7:** Percentage of fatal injuries to employees and self-employed workers for selected industries, 2018/19-2022/23p.



However, some of the difference in the proportion of fatal injuries to the self-employed by industry is due to variations in the rate of fatal injury to these workers. Overall, the fatal injury rate for the self-employed for the five-year period 2018/19-2022/23 is around 3 times that of the employee rate, though this varies by industry.

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 twice and 4 times the employee rate respectively. However, in construction and manufacturing, there is more parity in the rate of fatal injury between employees and self-employed workers.

**Figure 8:** Rate of fatal injuries to employees and self-employed workers (per 100,000 employees/self-employed) for selected industries, 2018/19-2022/23p.



For more details of fatal injuries by employment status, see [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/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 2022/23. 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 2018/19-2022/23 as this reduces the effect of year-on-year fluctuations.

**Figure 9:** Number of fatal injuries by country and region within GB, 2022/23p and annual average for 2018/19-2022/23p (annual average number in brackets)





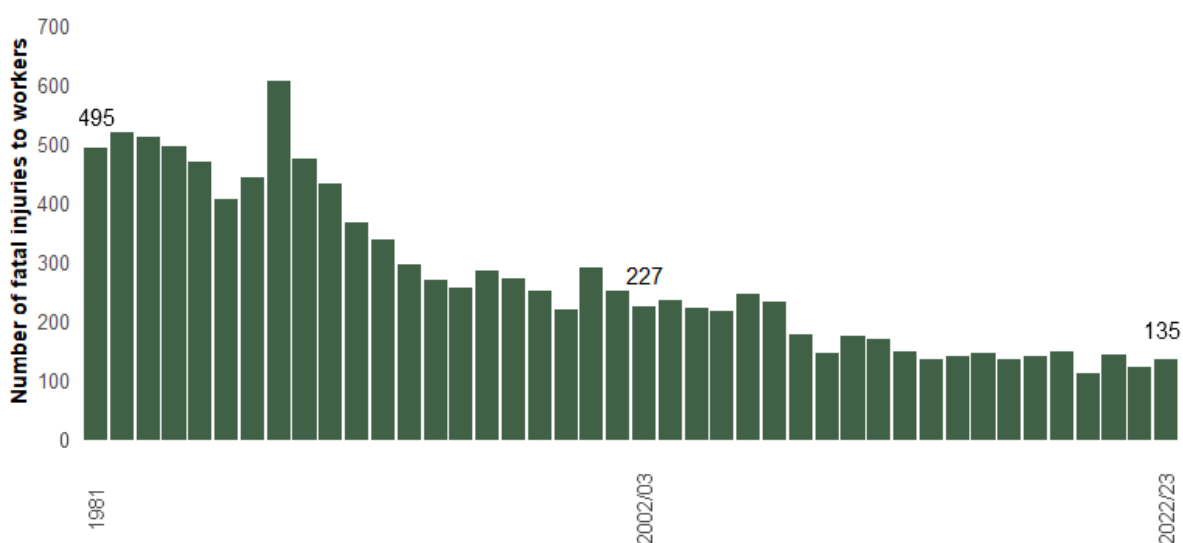
In terms of fatal injury rate, England consistently has a lower injury rate than either Scotland or Wales. However, injury rates are strongly influenced by variations in the mix of industries and occupations and in England there are a greater proportion of people working in lower risk jobs than in Scotland 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 GB, see Table 5, [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx).

## Longer term trends

Despite long term reductions in the number of workers killed by work activities, each year such cases continue, with 135 such deaths in 2022/23. This number compares with 227 twenty years ago (2002/03) 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 1981-2022/23p.



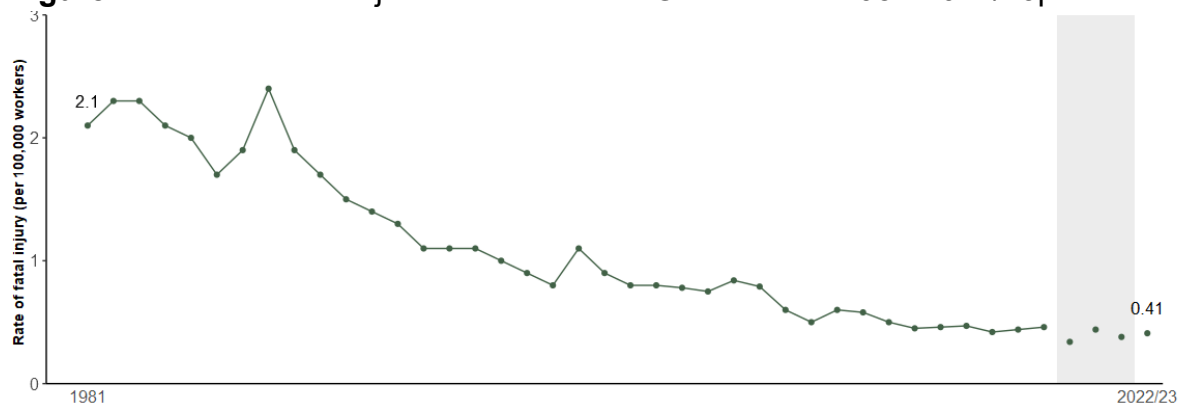
As described in earlier sections, the 135 worker deaths in 2022/23 represents an increase of 12 from the previous year, though numbers for 2021/22 (and the two earlier years) were affected by the coronavirus pandemic. In statistical terms the number of fatalities in 2022/23 is broadly in line with the 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 135 fatalities in 2022/23 gives rise to a fatal injury rate of 0.41 deaths per 100,000 workers.

The interpretation of comparisons of the current rate with earlier years is complicated by the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and the government's response to its impact which has had a significant effect on the UK labour market, particularly in 2020/21 but also in 2021/22. There is also evidence that at least some of the reduction in injuries in 2019/20 was due to early impacts of coronavirus.

Over the long-term, the rate of fatal injury to workers showed a downward trend, though in the recent years prior to the coronavirus pandemic the rate had been broadly flat. The current rate is similar to pre-coronavirus levels.

**Figure 11:** Rate of fatal injuries to workers in Great Britain 1981-2022/23p.



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

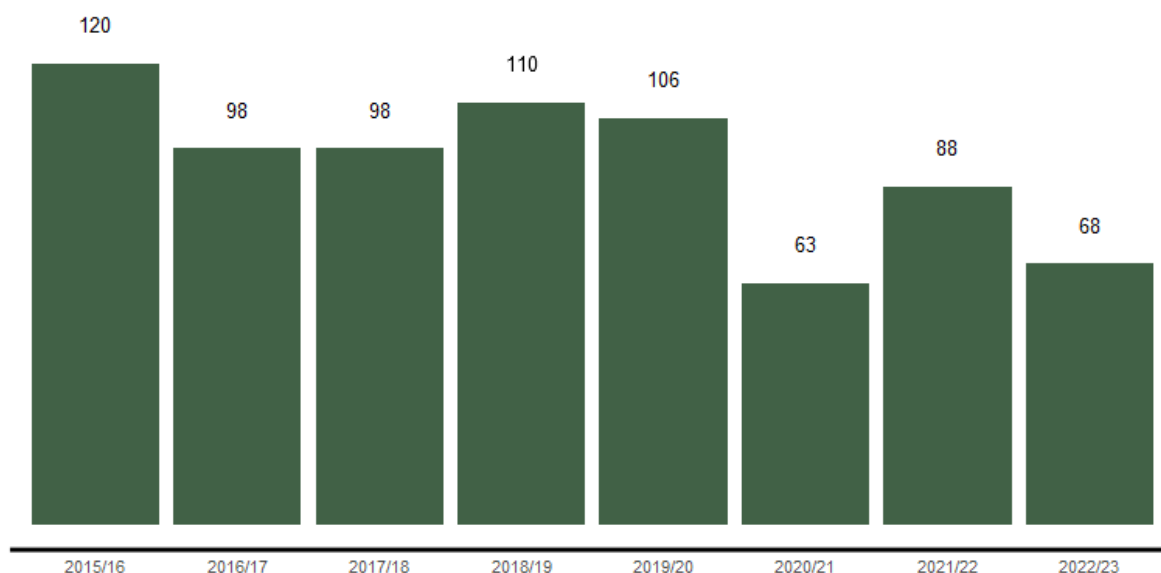
For more details see [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridhist.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridhist.xlsx) and [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridfatal.xlsx).

## Fatal injuries to members of the public

A total of 68 members of the public were killed as a result of a work-related accident in 2022/23 (excluding work-related deaths to ‘patients and service users’ in England in health and social care premises registered with CQC).

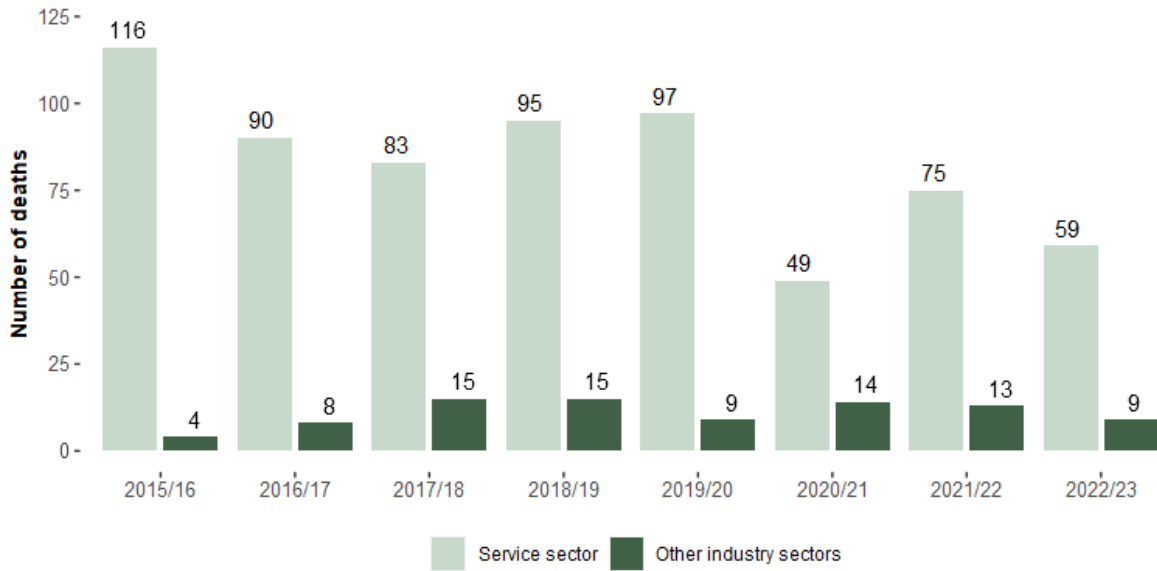
This is a decrease of 20 fatalities from last year’s 88 deaths and is statistically significantly below the pre-pandemic level. (Annual average of 107 deaths per year to members of the public over the four-year period 2015/16-2018/19).

**Figure 12:** Number of work-related deaths to members of the public 2015/16-2022/23p.



The reduction in deaths to members of the public compared to pre-pandemic levels is particularly evident in the services sector (SIC G-U), with 59 work-related deaths to members of the public in the latest year, (down from 75 in 2021/22), compared to an annual average of 96 deaths per year over the 4-year period 2015/16-2018/19.

**Figure 13:** Number of work-related deaths to members of the public by industry group, 2015/16-2022/23p.



In the latest year there were 59 fatal injuries to members of the public in a service sector setting compared to 9 in other industry sectors.

**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

## 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).

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 (including COVID-19). 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 2,268 such deaths in GB in 2021 - see [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/asbestos-related-disease.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/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 2022/23 is 123, a net change of 0 from the provisional number.

**Table 1:** Differences in provisional and finalised counts of fatal injuries to workers, 2018/19-2022/23p.

Year	Provisional figure	Revised finalised figure	Difference
2022/23p	135	-	NA
2021/22r	123	123	0
2020/21	142	145	+3
2019/20	111	113	+2
2018/19	147	149	+2

### 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](#).

## 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.

It is Health and Safety Executive's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected by National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the OSR promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained and reinstated when standards are restored. 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](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about.htm).

An account of how the figures are used for statistical purposes can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm](http://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](http://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/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/)  
Additional data tables can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/).

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