

Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities

2021–2022



Our Vision:

Healthy, safe and productive lives and enterprises

Acknowledgements

The Authority is grateful to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for the provision of data on work related injuries and illnesses that was collected as part of the Labour Force Survey in Q1 2022.

Abbreviations

CSO Central Statistics Office

ESAW European Statistics on Accidents at Work

HSA Health and Safety Authority

LFS Labour Force Survey

NACE Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community

NUTS Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics

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Foreword from the Chief Executive

I welcome the opportunity to present the Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities 2021 – 2022.

The year 2022 was the first time in 171 years that Ireland's population exceeded the five million threshold. According to last year's census results, there were 5,149,139 people in the State on Sunday, 03 April 2022, an 8% increase since the previous census in 2016. At the end of last year, an estimated 2,574,500 persons were in employment, up 2.7% (68,600) from 2,506,000 in Q4 2021.

The Health and Safety Authority's vision is one of healthy, safe, and productive lives and enterprises. Against the backdrop of a population that's expanding, a workforce that's growing, and a context of shifting employee expectations in an ever more blended and digitised working environment, our role in regulating occupational health and safety becomes increasingly complex. Producing reliable, comparable, up-to-date statistical information is vital for setting policy objectives and to inform appropriate policy measures and preventative actions to deliver our vision.

All employers and self-employed persons are legally obliged to report to the Health and Safety Authority the injury of an employee as a result of an incident while at work that causes workers to be absent from work for four or more days. Similarly, work-related incidents that impact non-workers that lead to the victim being taken from the location of the incident for treatment in a medical facility must also be reported to the Authority. We consider the data generated from the reports we receive directly, along with other data sources such as the CSO Labour Force Survey, as well as the outputs from our own investigations of serious incidents and fatalities to paint a picture of the overall landscape and to map changes over time. By relying on multiple sources, those pertaining to incidents reported directly to the HSA, and CSO data on work days lost to work-related injuries and illnesses, we begin to unpack not just the direct impacts to workers, but also the impact on colleagues, and the operation of the business itself. Each year the findings of this report give us a clear understanding of the causes and characteristics of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities that occur in workplaces across Ireland.

This report relies on data from both 2021 and 2022. By the end of this period, the preventative measures which had been in place to limit the spread of the Coronavirus and to combat the COVID-19 pandemic had largely been lifted, and we had begun to witness the economy bouncing back. However, for parts of the period under review some economic activities had been completely stopped or heavily restricted. In many sectors, working remotely or from home became quite common. Each of these items makes the period under review quite atypical and can cause challenges with year-on-year comparisons. To mitigate this insofar as is possible, throughout the report, five-year averages are presented to provide a more balanced perspective.

Despite this upheaval (and regular suspension) of the normal course of work and life, the numbers of non-fatal incidents remained high in 2021 at 8,371, and this grew by 8% to 9,070 in 2022. Manual handling and falls were the most common triggers in 2022, as they have been in all years since 2018.

While physical injury can be a devastating outcome of many workplace incidents, such incidents can also have a significant impact on days of work lost, which impacts on team workloads and normal business operations. The number of days lost to work-related non-fatal injuries fell by 40% to 432,000 in 2021, when compared with the five-year average for 2017-2021 (604,040). The most common kinds of injury were dislocation, sprain or strain (5.4 per 1,000 workers) and wound or superficial injury (5.1 per 1,000 workers).

The non-injury health and safety issues, categorised as 'illnesses' in the report, bring with them other significant impacts. At 1,175,000, the number of days lost to work-related illnesses in 2021 was 16% higher than the five-year average (2017-2021). The most common kinds of illnesses were hearing problems, headache, eyestrain, heart problems, and related diseases (12.9 per 1,000 workers), and bone, joint or muscle problems (10.6 per 1,000 workers). Female workers had higher rates of four of the five kinds of work-related illnesses, most notably stress, depression or anxiety (9.0 per 1,000 workers), compared with male workers (3.5 per 1,000 workers).



Conor O'Brien
Chief Executive Officer

The sectors most impacted by work-related fatal incidents were Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (14, 50%) and Construction (7, 25%). The over-representation of fatal incidents in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing follows a similar pattern to previous years, with 44% of all fatal incidents in the five-year period since 2018 occurring in this sector.

While the number of work-related fatalities in 2022 does mark the lowest recorded, it is important to note that ongoing investigations currently underway may see the reported/recorded number of fatalities increase.

Of the 28 lives lost to work-related incidents in 2022, all but one were male. One of the main reasons why the incidence of accidents may be higher for men (than for women) is related to the economic activities where they are more likely to work. Indeed, across the EU the rate of fatal incidents at work varies greatly depending upon the economic activity in question and is skewed in relation to activities where males currently tend to be more commonly employed.

Each of the 28 individuals who sadly lost their lives in 2022, died as a result of a preventable work-related incident. This is the lowest number of fatal incidents recorded in any year since the foundation of the Authority in 1989, and while this may sound like a positive development, it cannot be repeated too often that one death is one too many.

Though the 28 fatalities occurred across all age groups, just under three quarters involved victims aged 55 years or more, with ten victims aged 55–64 years (36%) and nine victims aged 65 years or more (32%). This age group was particularly prominent in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, where eight fatal incidents occurred to victims aged 65 years or more.

As a data-informed organisation, the Authority relies on statistical analysis as a foundation on which we build future programmes, initiatives, and supports, so that we can better deliver on our vision of healthy, safe and productive lives and enterprises. Once again, our annual review is pointing to a worrying trend of increased injuries and fatalities among older, self-employed males involved in manual work.

We will continue our efforts of targeted interventions to drive home the importance of health and safety with this particular cohort.

Over the last 10 years (2013 to 2022), the majority of work-related Farming fatalities involved tractors, quads, vehicles and machinery. The safe use of quad bikes and other farm vehicles and machinery was a key focus at the 2023 National Ploughing Championships. New regulations came into force in 2023, which require all ATV/quad bike users to wear a helmet and undertake appropriate training.

Analysing our data effectively allows us gain a fuller understanding of our landscape, and enables us to evolve our regulatory processes appropriately and ensure our focus is placed in the right areas. Together, with all stakeholders and duty holders, we will continue to work towards making health and safety a priority for everyone.

The Authority is here to support and assist all employers and employees in achieving the safest workplaces feasible, so that illnesses, injuries, and fatalities are brought as close to zero as possible. A wealth of materials and supports are available online which make it easy to understand the basics and check your obligations. Our dedicated microsite BeSMART, ie is a free online tool that lets anyone generate their own workplace risk assessments and safety statement, helping small businesses stay on top of their obligations easily.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Authority, our Board, our many stakeholders, and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, for their ongoing support and collaboration. I would also like to share my appreciation of all employers, employees and self-employed workers who continue to put health and safety at the centre of how they work.

Conor O'Brien

Chief Executive Officer
20 November 2023



Executive Summary



9,070

Non-Fatal Incidents reported to the HSA in 2022



28

Work-Related Fatal Incidents



432,000

Days lost due to work-related injuries (CSO)



1,175,000

Days lost due to work-related illnesses (CSO)

HSA Non-Fatal Incident Data

In 2022 there was an increase in the number of non-fatal incidents reported to the Health and Safety Authority in comparison with 2021. It is likely that this increase is due, in part, to the increase in employment figures and revived economic activity in 2022 following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 9,070 non-fatal incidents that were reported in 2022 were 8% higher than 2021, 16% higher than 2020 and 3% lower than 2019. An increase in non-fatal incidents was reported in 13 of the 19 economic sectors in 2022 as compared with 2021.

The biggest increase was in Finance and Insurance Activities, which reported 83 non-fatal incidents in 2022, compared with 42 non-fatal incidents in 2021.

Manual handling and falls were the most common triggers in 2022, as they have been in all years since 2018.

The part of the body affected in the greatest number of non-fatal incidents to workers was the back. Back injuries were reported in 26% of worker incidents, but only in 5% of non-worker incidents. This is because more workers were involved in manual handling injuries caused by lifting or moving heavy objects than non-workers. For non-workers, the part of the body injured most frequently was the head (37%). These head injuries most often followed slips or falls.

The most common working environment for non-fatal work-related incidents was Industrial or Maintenance Areas for workers (26%) and Shop, Service Activity Area for non-workers (50%).

CSO Special Module on Work-Related Injury and Illness

The latest data available from the CSO's module on work-related injury and illness pertains to 2021.

The number of days lost to work-related non-fatal injuries fell by 40% to 432,000 in 2021, when compared with the five-year average for 2017–2021 (604,040); while the number of days lost to work-related illnesses rose by 16% from 987,600 (2017–2021 average) to 1,175,000 in 2021.

The three economic sectors with the highest rates of non-fatal injury leading to four or more days absence from work were Transportation and Storage (15.8 per 1,000 workers) followed by Human Health and Social Work Activities (15.0 per 1,000 workers) and Construction (10.1 per 1,000 workers).

In each of the five years from 2017 to 2021, Construction and Human Health and Social Work Activities were amongst the top five sectors for incidents leading to four or more days of absence from work.

The three sectors with the lowest rates of non-fatal injury leading to four or more days absence from work in 2021 were Financial, Insurance and Real Estate Activities (1.5 per 1,000 workers), Administrative and Support Service Activities (2.1 per 1,000 workers) and Information and Communication (no reported work-related injuries).

In 2021, there were 8.5 non-fatal injuries leading to four or more days absence from work for every 1,000 male workers, compared with 5 per 1,000 female workers. This is in keeping with recent years, with male workers experiencing higher injury rates than female workers in each of the five years since 2017.

In 2021, the most common kinds of injury for both males and females were dislocation, sprain or strain (5.4 per 1,000 workers) and wound or superficial injury (5.1 per 1,000 workers).

Female workers reported higher rates of work-related illness than male workers leading to four or more days absence from work per 1,000 workers. In 2021 the rate of work-related illness for female workers was 25.9 per 1,000 workers, compared with 18.8 per 1,000 workers for male workers. Female workers have had higher rates of illness in four of the five years since 2017.

The most common kinds of illnesses were hearing problems, headache, eyestrain, heart problems, and related diseases (12.9 per 1,000 workers), and bone, joint or muscle problems (10.6 per 1,000 workers).

The Mid-West region of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick had the highest rates of work-related injuries (20.8 per 1,000 workers), while Dublin had the highest rates of work-related illnesses (40.4 per 1,000 workers).

Fatal Incidents

There were 28 work-related fatal incidents in 2022. This is the lowest number of fatal incidents of any year since the foundation of the Authority in 1989. The previous lowest number of fatal incidents occurred in 2021 (with 38 fatal incidents occurring that year).

Of the 28 work-related fatal incidents in 2022, 14 (50%) occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing alone, while seven (25%) occurred in Construction. For Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, this follows a similar pattern to recent years, with 44% of all fatal incidents in the five-year period since 2018 occurring in this sector.

Ten of all fatal incidents in 2022 occurred to employees (36%), with 14 fatalities occurring to self-employed people, three to non-workers and one to a family worker. More fatal incidents occurred to self-employed people than employees in six of the ten years from 2013 to 2022.

Fatal incidents happened to victims from all age groups except for the 18–24 years group, but the highest number involved people aged 55 – 64 years (10, 36%).

11 fatal incidents in 2022 were caused by falls from height (39%), ten as a result of loss of control of means of transport (36%) while two occurred due to falling objects from above (7%).

All but one of the 28 victims of fatal incidents were male.

1

Introduction

The Health and Safety Authority's Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics presents the most recently available data on work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses in Ireland. There are three key sources of this data: 1) the Authority maintains a database of non-fatal incidents reported to it, 2) the Authority has a comprehensive register of all work-related incidents resulting in a fatality and 3) the Central Statistics Office (CSO) gathers data on work-related injury and illness as a module in its Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, there are limitations to this data. The HSA database of non-fatal incidents is limited due to under-reporting in certain sectors. The CSO data, on the other hand, is derived from a survey that contains less detailed information and for which the sample size is small.¹ As a result, the number of respondents reporting work-related injuries and illnesses in some economic sectors can be very low. Thus, results should be interpreted with caution.

Data Sources and Methodology

HSA Non-Fatal Incident Data

HSA data on fatal and non-fatal incidents in this report pertains to 2022. The Authority collects data on incidents at work as part of its requirement to comply with the Framework Directive 89/391/EEC (1) on measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work. The European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) methodology² specifies the information that is to be collected by the Authority.

In addition, under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2016, all employers and self-employed persons are legally obliged to report the injury of an employee as a result of an incident while at work that causes workers to be absent from work for four or more days. Work-related incidents to non-workers that lead to the victim being taken from the location of the incident for treatment in a medical facility must also be reported to the Authority. Incidents reported in this way include important details such as the trigger (i.e., the cause of the incident) and the type of injury.

1 This year the sample size is 563 including direct and proxies.

2 Further information on ESAW methodology is available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5926181/KS-RA-12-102-EN.PDF/56cd35ba-1e8a-4af3-9f9a-b3c47611ff1c?t=1414782641000>.

However, it is likely that there is a degree of underreporting of work-related incidents in certain sectors, with smaller enterprises and self-employed people less likely to report incidents than larger enterprises. Nonetheless, HSA non-fatal data provides key insights about incidents occurring in Irish workplaces every year.

Non-fatal incidents are sometimes reported to the Authority months after the incident occurred. This means that the number of incidents reported in this document is subject to change. For example, the number of non-fatal incidents for 2021 was reported as 8,279 in the 2020-2021 Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics, but some late reporting of additional incidents has brought this to 8,371 at the time of this report.

CSO Module on Work-Related Injury and Illness in the Labour Force Survey

Each year the CSO conducts a special module on work-related injuries and illnesses in the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Households are surveyed about work-related injuries or illnesses that occurred during the previous 12 months. The most recent survey was carried out in Q1 2022; hence, the data relates to 2021.

This CSO data mainly relates to injuries or illnesses leading to four or more days absence from work, described as 4+ day injuries or illnesses in this review. However, the CSO data also provides some information on injuries and illnesses that involved no loss of work. In this review, Figure 2.13, Figure 2.14 and Figure 2.15 involve this broader category, described as 0+ day injuries or illnesses.

The CSO survey includes less detailed information regarding the circumstances surrounding the incident than the HSA data on work-related incidents.

Although the sample size for this particular module of the LFS is low, it is based on a representative sample of the population and, as such, it sheds light on the incidence of work-related injuries that may be underreported to the Authority. The survey also includes some important information about work-related illnesses.

HSA Fatal Incident Data

All work-related fatal incidents reported to the Authority are investigated by inspectors who compile detailed reports and are coded using European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) methodology.

On occasion, fatal incidents can be notified to the Authority some months after they occur. For example, the victim of an incident can suffer injuries that later lead to death, or a fatal incident may be determined to be work-related some time afterwards. This means that the number of incidents reported here is subject to change.

CSO Labour Force Survey Working Population

To compare the prevalence of work-related incidents and illnesses in different economic sectors and over time, rates of work-related incidents and illnesses are calculated as a proportion of workers. For non-fatal incidents and illnesses, the rates are calculated per 1,000 workers, while for fatal incidents the rates are calculated per 100,000 workers. This is because there are many more non-fatal incidents and illnesses than fatal.

The CSO's Labour Force Survey gives the number of workers in the economy each quarter, therefore rates have been calculated using the average level of employment across the four quarters of the relevant year.



2



Non-Fatal Injury and Illness Statistics

Non-Fatal Injuries Reported to the HSA

In 2022, 9,070 non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority, an increase of 8% from the 8,371 reported in 2021, 3% higher than the five-year average over the 2018 – 2022 period and a decrease of 3% compared to 2019. It is likely that this can be partly explained by increased levels of employment following COVID-19 related business closures in 2021.

Of the 9,070 non-fatal injuries reported in 2022, 96% related to workers. The highest number was reported in the NACE economic sector of Human Health and Social Work Activities, which accounted for over 22% of all incidents. For non-worker incidents, the highest number was reported in Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (99) representing 27% of all non-worker injuries. For more detail, see Table 4.1 in the Appendix.

In 2022, **9,070** non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority, an increase of **8%** from the **8,371** reported in 2021.



Table 2.1:**Injuries reported by economic sector, 2022 (HSA).**

	Workers		Non-Workers		All	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Q – Human Health & Social Work Activities	2051	23.6	19	5.2	2070	22.8
C – Manufacturing	1508	17.3	6	1.7	1514	16.7
G – Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	973	11.2	99	27.3	1072	11.8
F – Construction	878	10.1	16	4.4	894	9.9
H – Transportation & Storage	782	9	89	24.5	871	9.6
O – Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	771	8.9	13	3.6	784	8.6
P – Education	338	3.9	97	27.7	435	4.8
N – Administrative & Support Service Activities	430	4.9	2	0.6	432	4.8
I – Accommodation & Food Service Activities	153	1.8	4	1.1	157	1.7
S – Other Service Activities	136	1.6	2	0.6	138	1.5
E – Water, Sewerage, Waste Management & Remediation Services	133	1.5	3	0.8	136	1.5
A – Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	120	1.4	0	0	120	1.3
M – Professional, Scientific, & Technical Activities	112	1.3	1	0.3	113	1.3
K – Financial & Insurance Activities	78	0.9	5	1.4	83	0.9
R – Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	63	0.7	5	1.4	68	0.8
J – Information & Communications	59	0.7	1	0.3	60	0.7
B – Mining & Quarrying	45	0.5	0	0	45	0.5
D – Electricity, Gas, Steam & Air Conditioning Supply	39	0.5	1	0.3	40	0.4
L – Real Estate Activities	37	0.4	0	0	37	0.4
U – Activities of Extra Territorial Organisations & Bodies	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total	8707	100	363	100	9070	100



Most victims of non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority were employees (94%).

It is likely that there is a degree of under-reporting of incidents by self-employed people and small businesses. There were 363 incidents involving non-workers reported, representing 4% of all injuries.

Table 2.2:
Number of reported non-fatal injuries by employment status, 2022 (HSA)

	#	%
Employee	8509	93.8
Non-worker	363	4.0
Self-employed	116	1.3
Trainee	61	0.7
Family worker	4	0.04
Employment status unknown	17	0.2
Total	9070	100

The *trigger* is the term used to describe the cause of an incident. Figure 2.1 shows the top five triggers of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority in 2022, where a clear trigger was identified. The single most common trigger was manual handling leading to internal injury (2,712, 30%). Slipping or falling led to 2,264 injuries (25%); of these, 81% were falls on the same level while 19% were falls from height. Manual handling and falls together account for 55% of all non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority in 2022.

Of the 1,005 non-fatal incidents involving the loss of control of objects, machines and vehicles, 31% involved the loss of control of vehicles, 24% involved the loss of control of hand-held tools and 17% involved the loss of control of machines.

Figure 2.1 also shows the average number of incidents over the five-year period 2018–2022 for the five most common triggers, with manual handling and falls the most common triggers in recent years.

Figure 2.1:
Top five reported non-fatal injuries by trigger, 2021 and five-year average 2018–2022 (HSA).

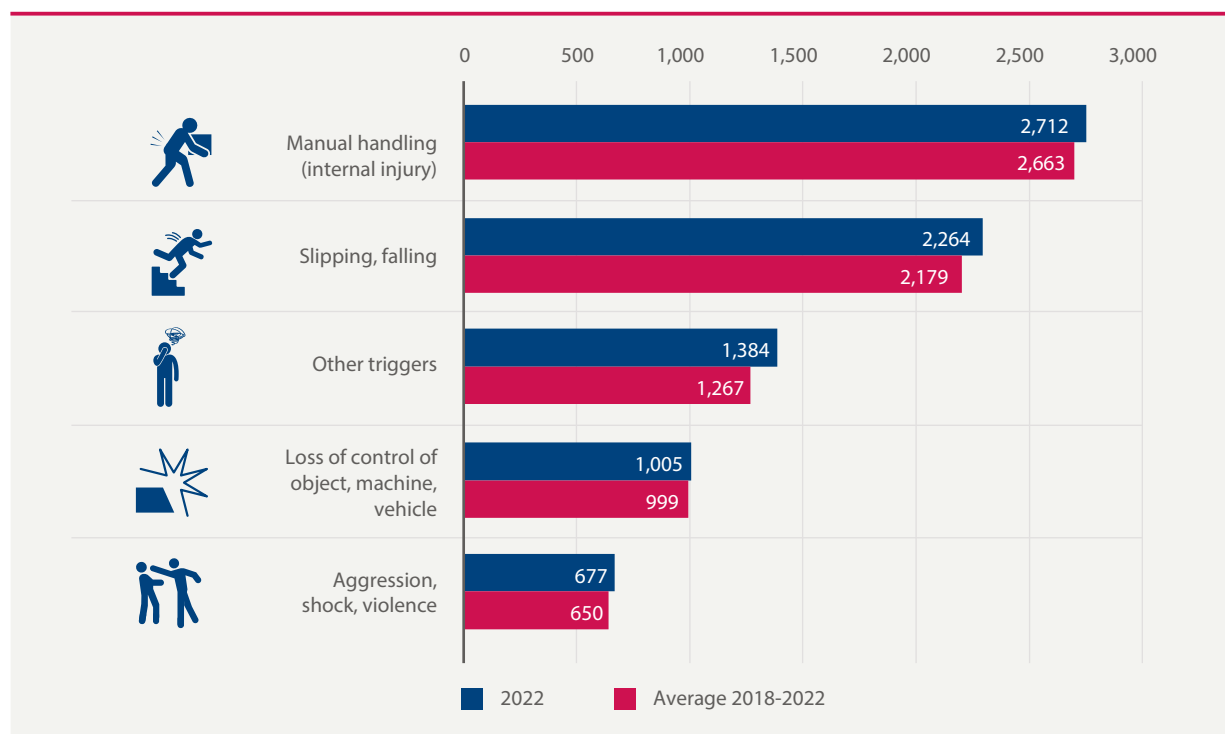


Figure 2.2 shows the top three triggers for the six economic sectors reporting the highest number of non-fatal injuries to the Authority, where a clear trigger was identified.

Manual handling and slipping/falling triggers were among the top two triggers for each of the major economic sectors.

Figure 2.2a:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers, 2022 (HSA).

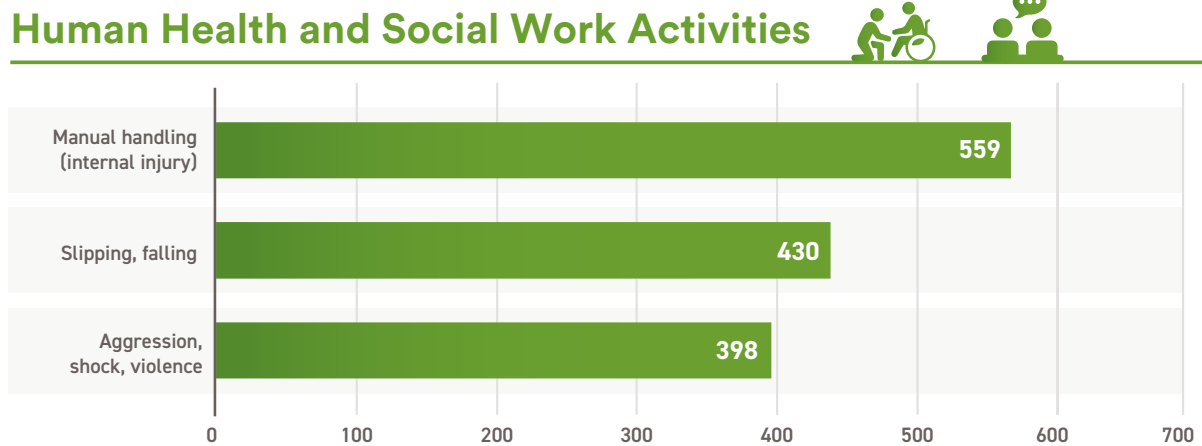


Figure 2.2b:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Industry³, 2022 (HSA)

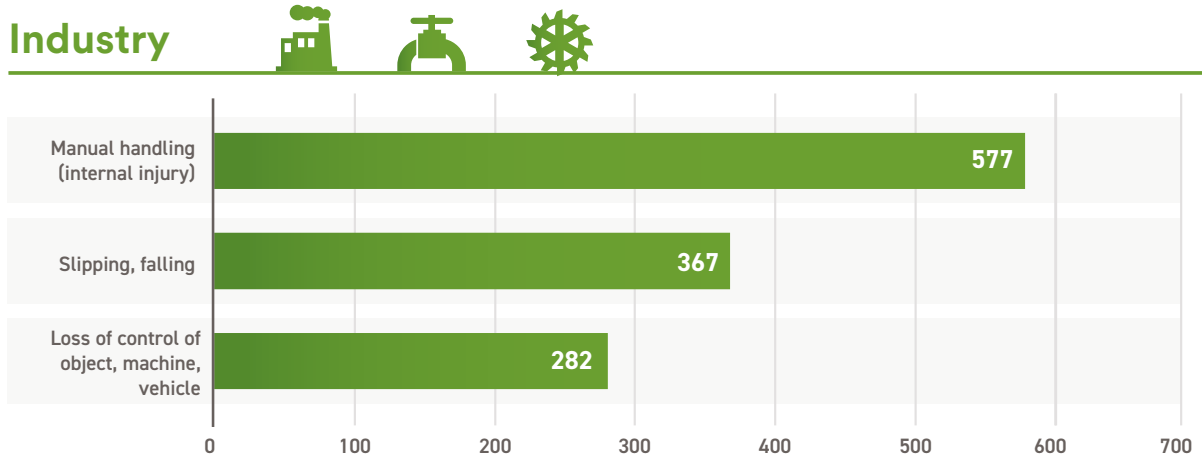
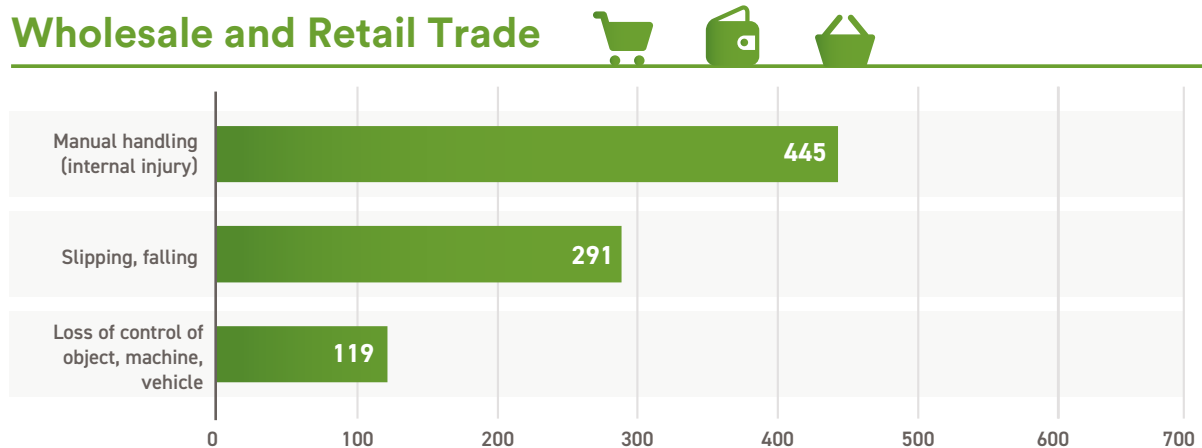


Figure 2.2c:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Wholesale and Retail Trade, 2022 (HSA)



³ Industry represents a combination of four NACE economic sectors: B – Mining and quarrying, C – Manufacturing, D – Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, and E – Water supply and waste management.

Figure 2.2d:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Construction, 2022 (HSA)

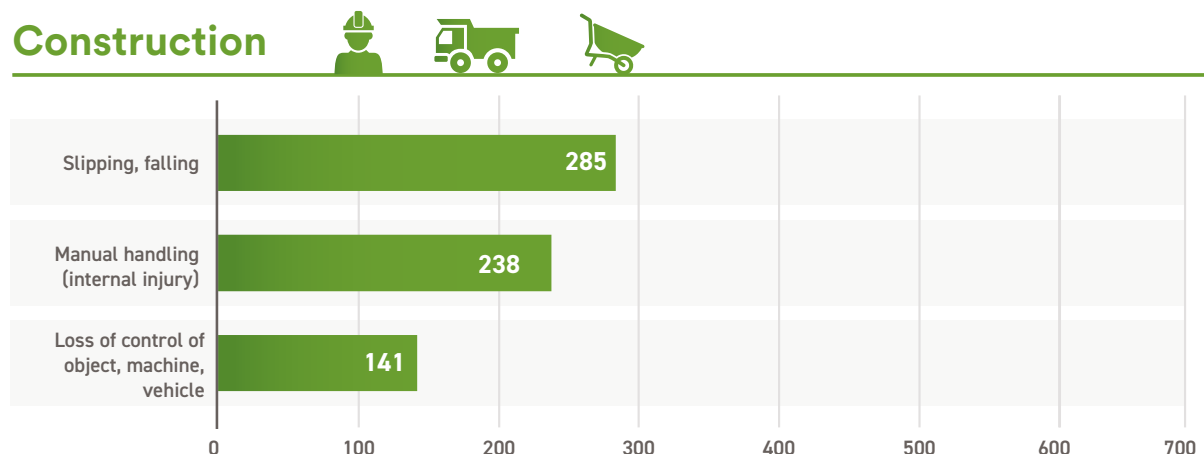


Figure 2.2e:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Public Administration and Defence, 2022 (HSA)

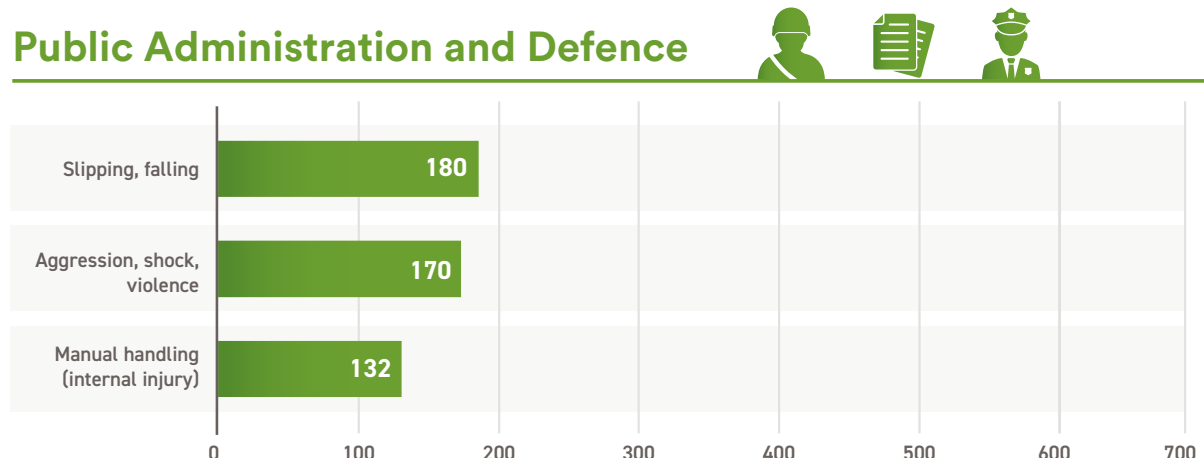


Figure 2.2f:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Transportation and Storage, 2022 (HSA)

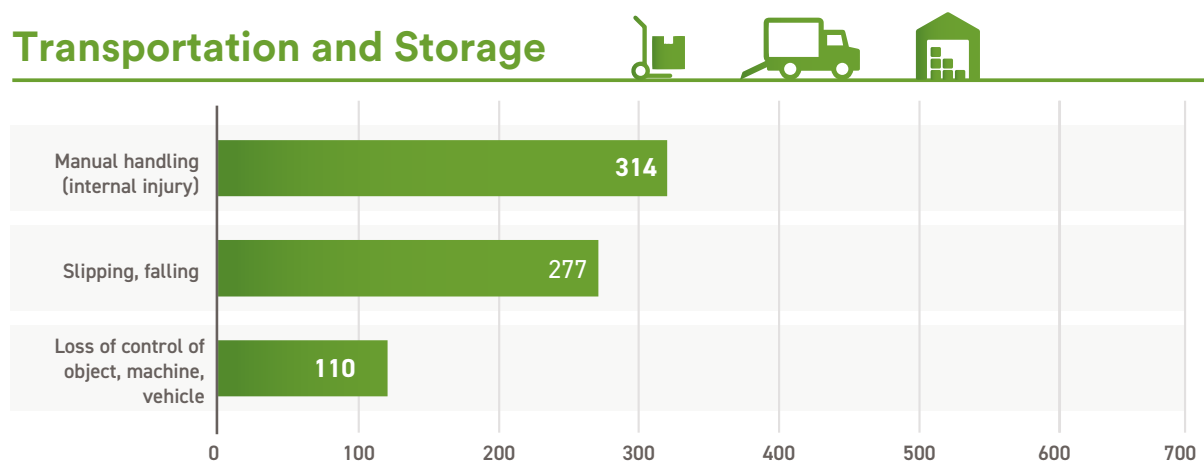
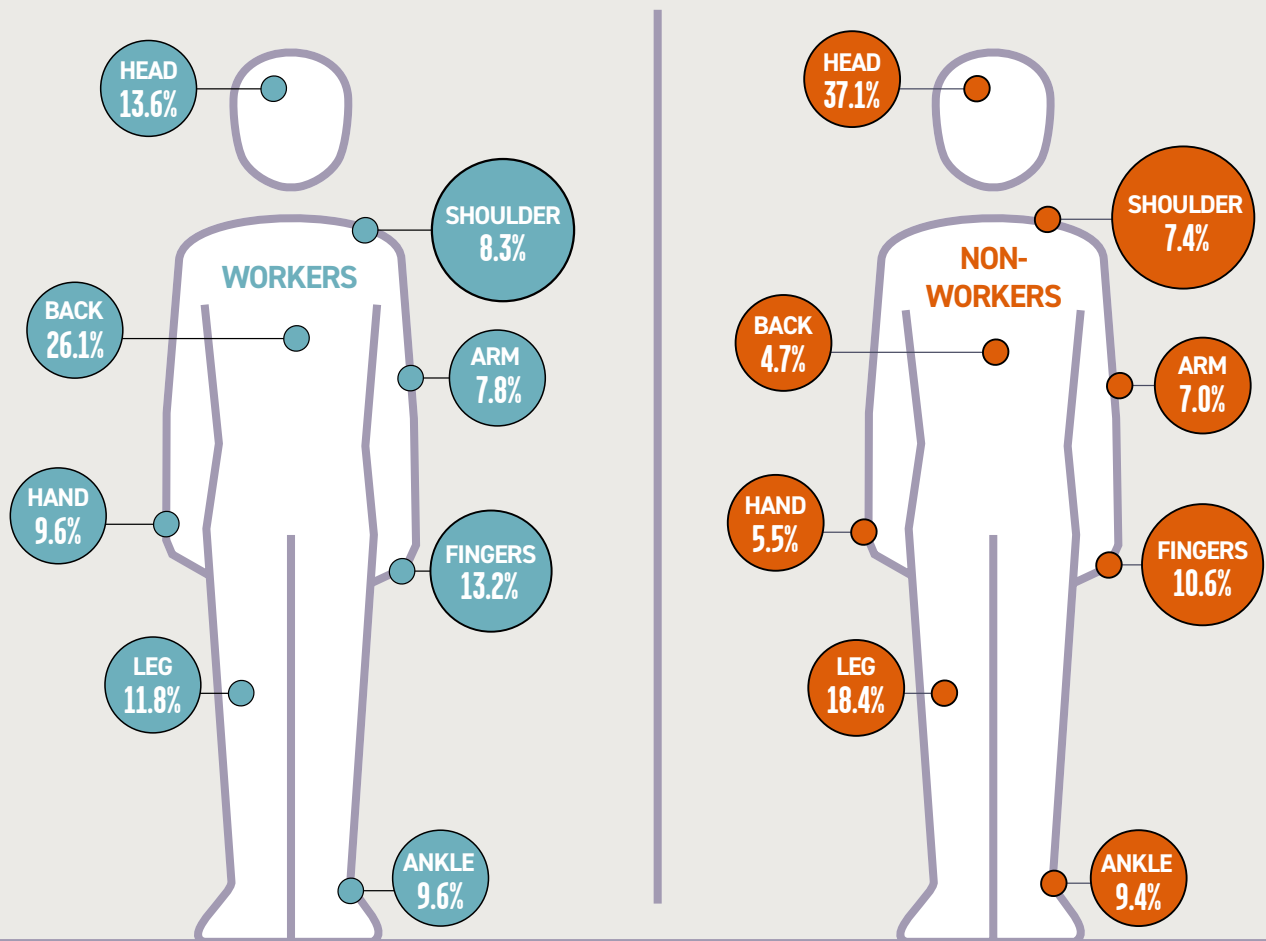


Figure 2.3:

Most injured body parts in workers and non-workers in 2022 (HSA)

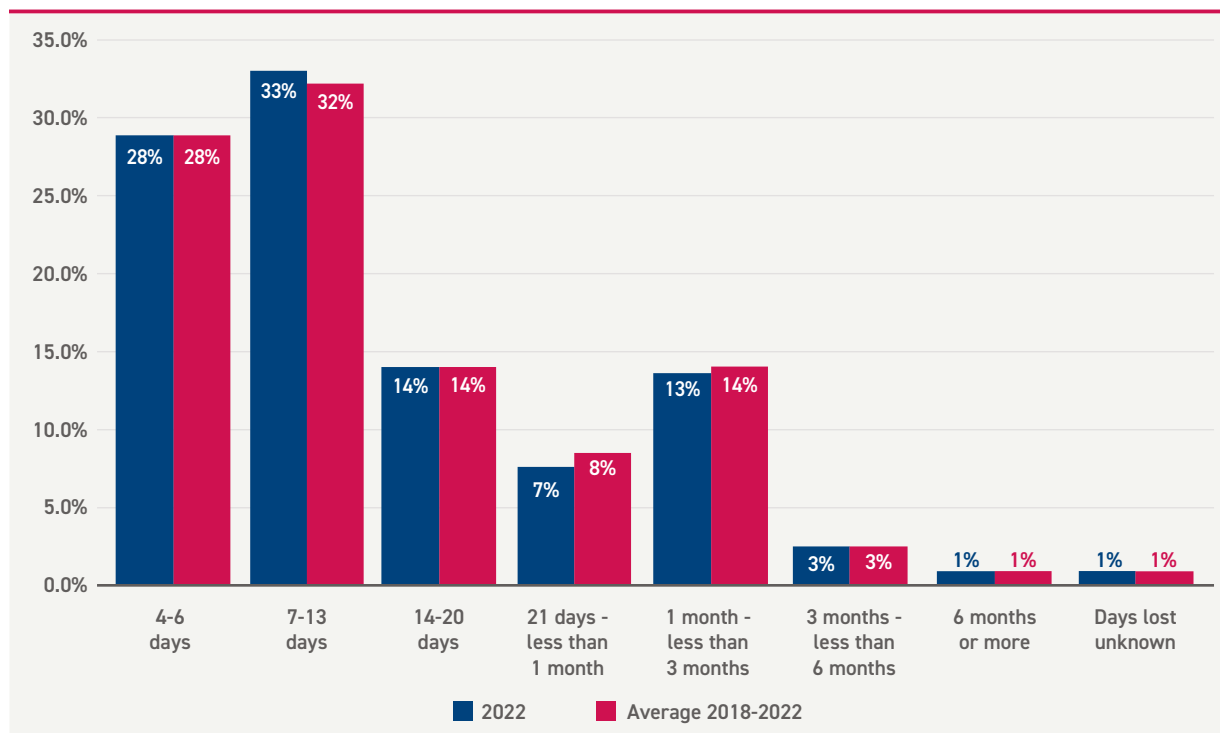


The most injured body part for workers in 2022 was the back, associated with 26% of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority. This is in keeping with recent years, with back injuries comprising 27% of all non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority between 2018 and 2022. Non-fatal back injuries were caused primarily by manual handling incidents.

The most injured body part for non-workers was the head (37%). The most common cause of head injuries in non-workers was falling or slipping, causing the victims to strike their heads.

Figure 2.4:

Percentage of non-fatal injuries by absence from work, 2022 and five-year average 2018–2022 (HSA).



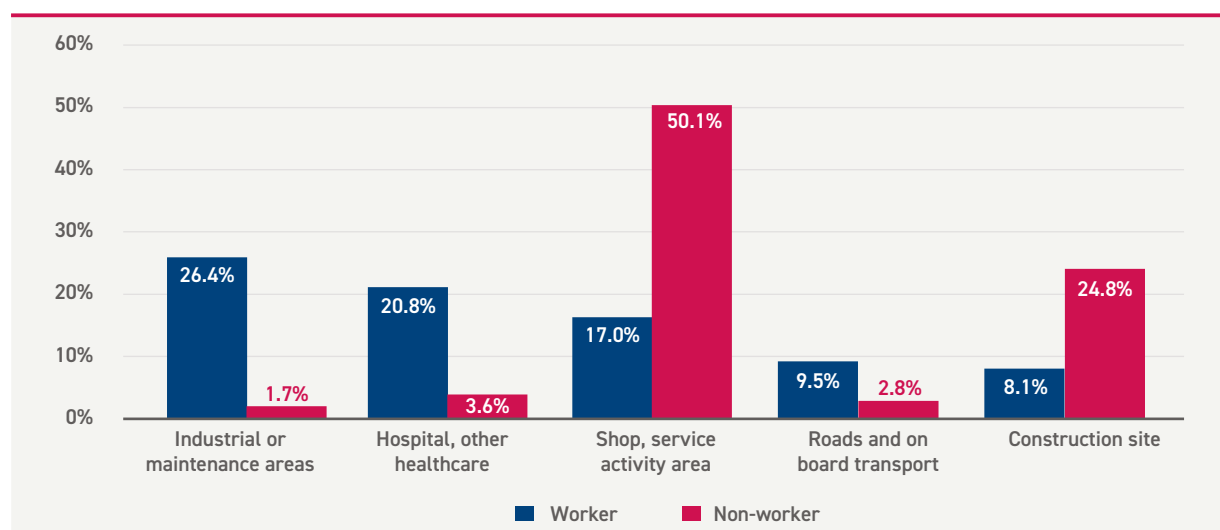
Most non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority caused fewer than 14 days of work lost. In 2022, 61% of all reported non-fatal incidents led to 4-6 days (33%) or 7-13 days (28%) of lost work; this is in keeping with the average for 2018–2022 (Figure 2.4).⁴

Among worker victims, 26% of reported non-fatal incidents occurred in industrial or maintenance areas, 21% occurred in hospitals or other healthcare areas and 17% occurred in shop or service activity areas. Most non-worker incidents occurred in shop or service activity areas (50%).

Figure 2.5 shows the top five working environments where incidents occurred to workers and non-workers, where an environment was specified.

Figure 2.5:

Top five working environments for worker and non-worker incidents in 2022 (HSA)



⁴ The five-year average for each category of days lost was generated by summing the number of days lost in each category for the period 2018-2022 and dividing them by the total number of non-fatal incidents for the same period.

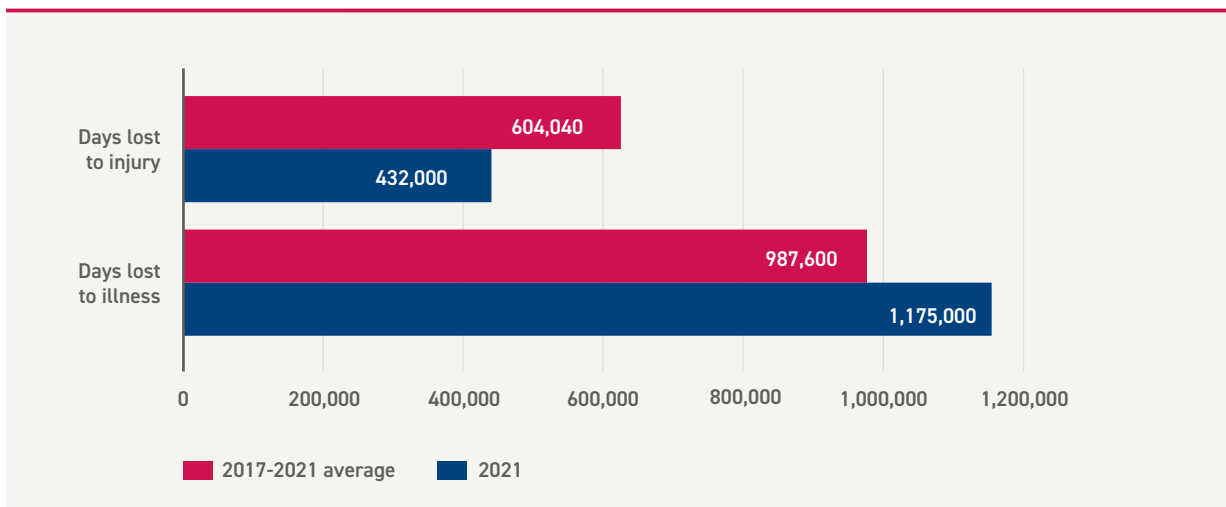
CSO Module results

Each year the CSO undertakes a special module of the Labour Force Survey on work-related injuries and illnesses. The most recent data available for this survey relates to 2021. For 2021, respondents reported 432,000 days lost due to work-related injuries, down from the five-year average of 604,040. It is likely that this is, in part, due to the COVID-19 business related closures that remained in place in early 2021.

1,175,000 days were lost due to work-related illness, up from the five-year average of 987,600, suggesting perhaps that more workers became susceptible to illness as workplaces reintroduced some of their pre COVID-19 work practices in 2021. For more detail, see Table 4.2 in the Appendix.

Figure 2.6:

Days lost due to work-related illnesses and injuries in 2021 and five-year average 2017–2021 (CSO).



In 2021, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work was Transportation and Storage (15.8 per 1,000 workers) followed by Human Health and Social Work Activities (15.0 per 1,000 workers) and Construction (10.1 per 1,000 workers).


Figure 2.7 shows that a number of key economic sectors tend to have had higher rates of injuries in recent years, while sectors like Financial, Insurance and Real Estate Activities (2.3 per 1,000 workers in 2017–2021) and Information and Communication (1.0 per 1,000 workers in 2017–2021) have had broadly lower rates of injury in recent years.




No non-fatal injuries were reported in Information and Communication in 2021; this means that no respondents to the Labour Force Survey module working in that sector reported work-related injuries leading to four or more days absence from work.

NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related injuries leading to

4+

days of absence from work



15.8	Transportation & Storage	
15.0	Human Health & Social Work Activities	
10.1	Construction	

(No per 1,000 workers)

Figure 2.7:

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2021 and five-year average 2017–2021 (CSO).

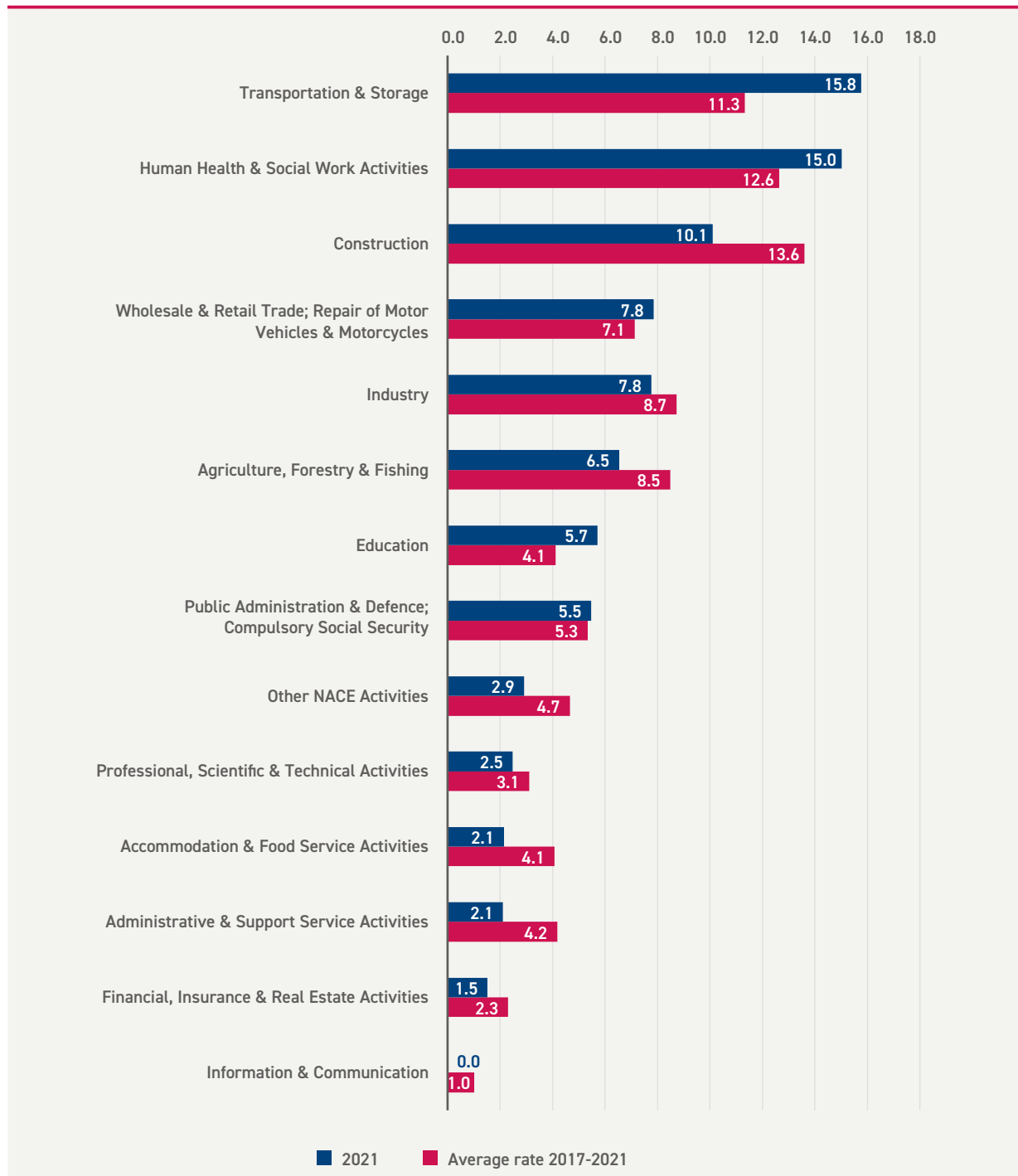
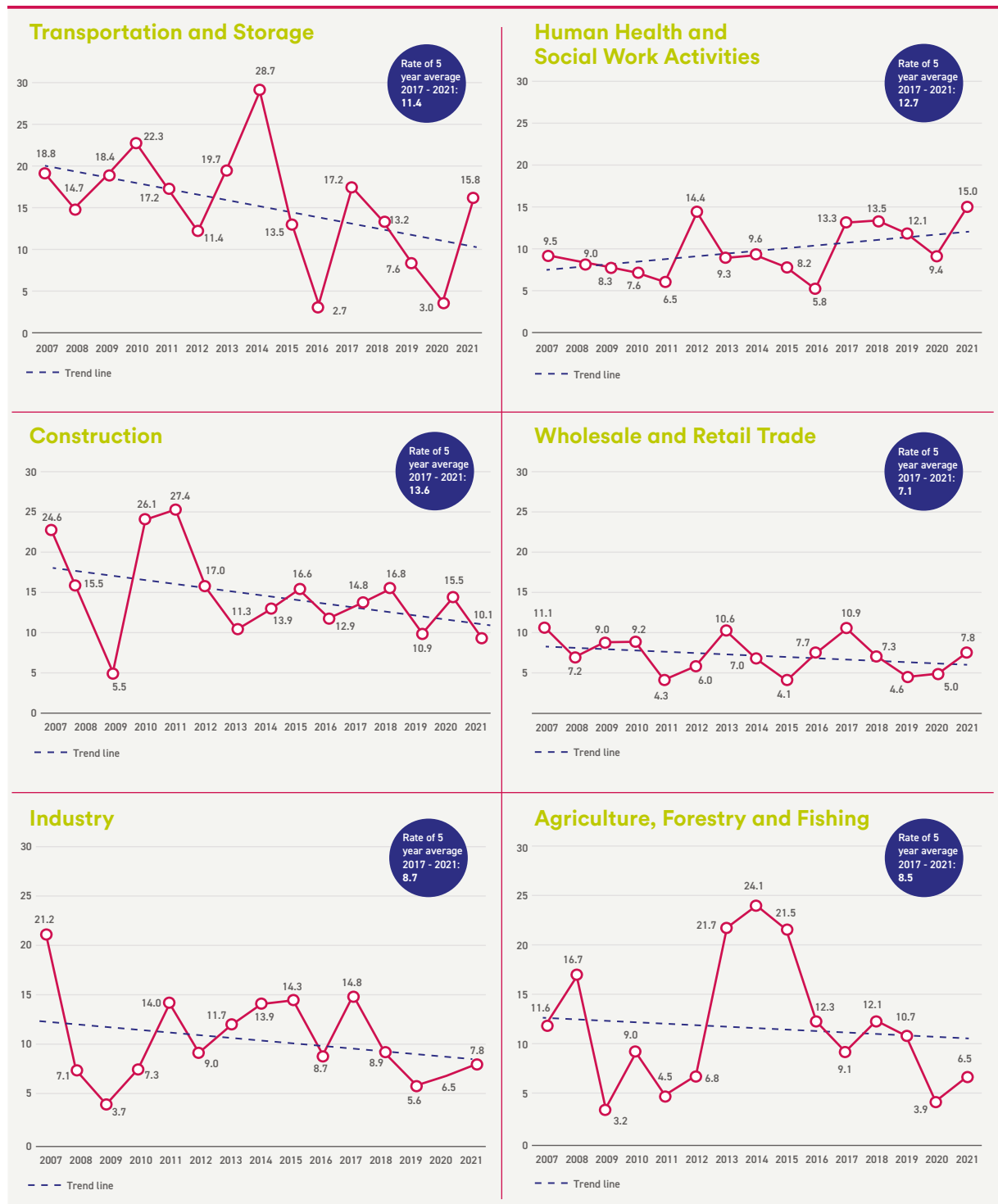


Figure 2.8 shows the change in rates of work-related injuries causing four or more days of absence from work since 2007 in various sectors. There can be considerable fluctuation from year to year in some sectors.

Note, comparisons between 2020 and 2019 should be interpreted with caution as the 2019 data was derived using the Eurostat special module⁵ (which is conducted approx. every seven years) rather than the usual CSO module.

Figure 2.8:

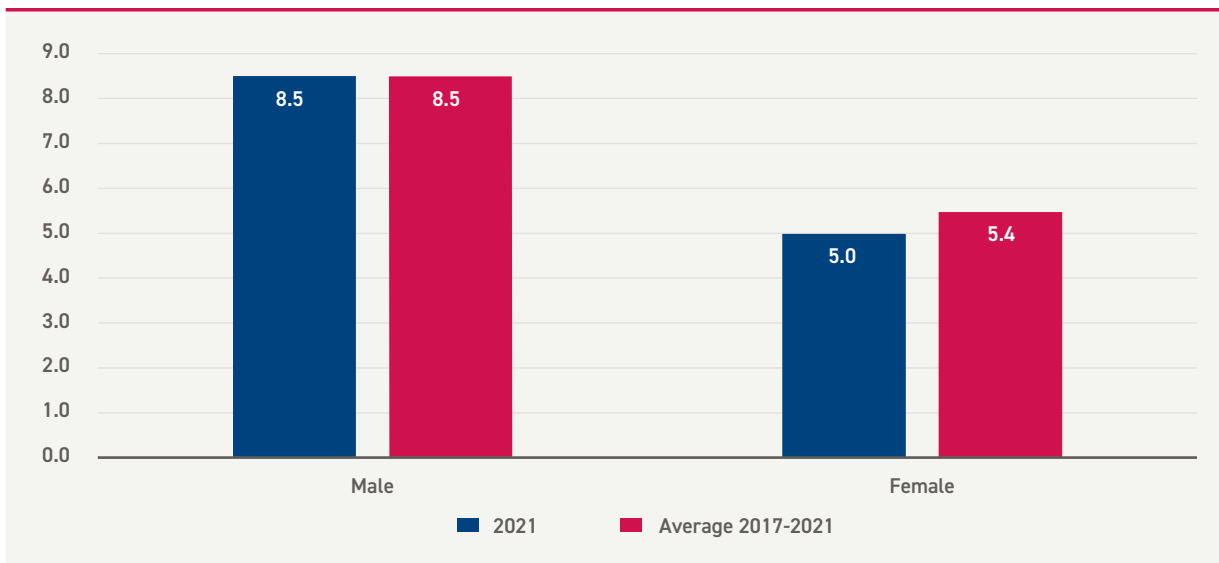
Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers, 2007 to 2021 (CSO).



⁵ The Eurostat module contained some different questions to the usual CSO module. In addition, respondents could only respond on behalf of themselves and not on behalf of others in the household, as is normally the case.

Figure 2.9:

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender in 2021 and five-year average 2017–2021 (CSO).

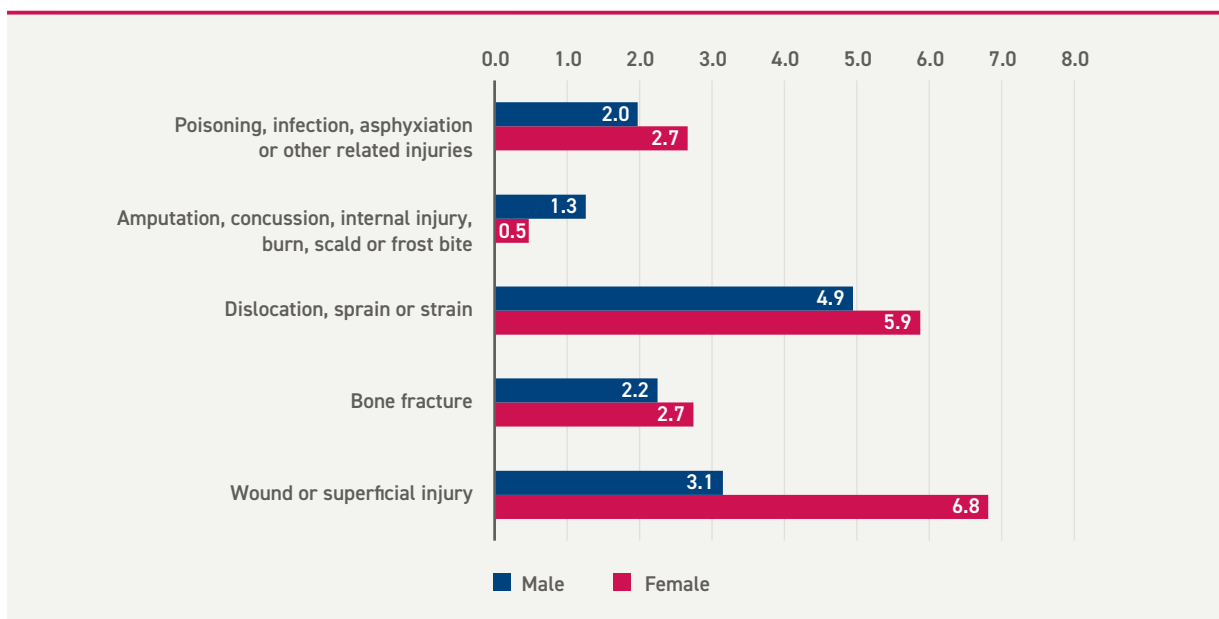


In 2021, male workers reported more work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work (8.5 per 1,000 workers) than female workers (5.0 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2017–2021, in which male victims had higher rates of work-related injury.

Figure 2.10 shows the kinds of injuries experienced by male and female workers. Male workers had higher rates of injury for each of the categories compared with female workers, with the exception of the category including amputations, concussions, internal injuries and burns.

Figure 2.10:

Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender and injury type in 2021 (CSO).

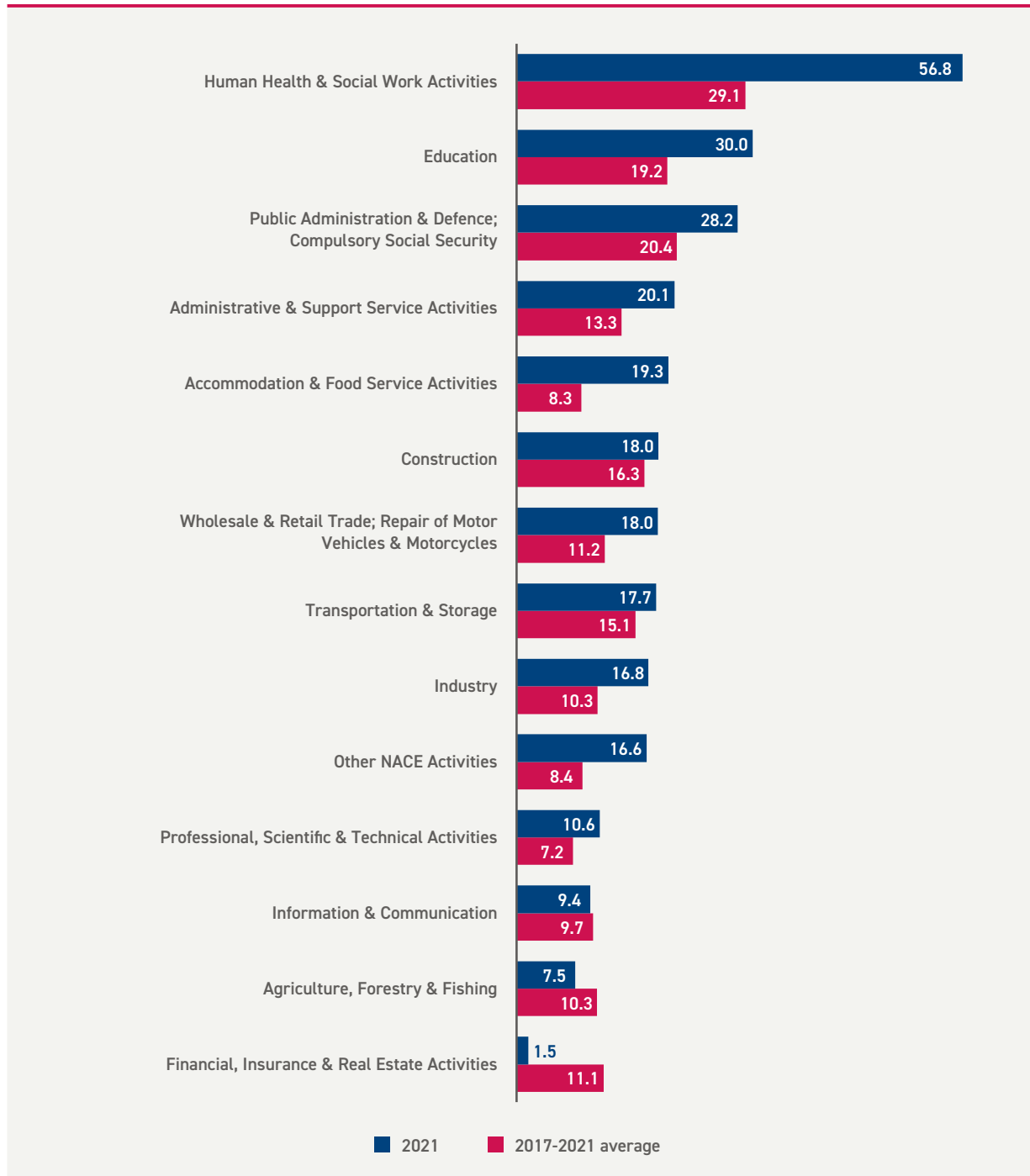


In 2021, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related illnesses leading to four or more days of absence from work was Human Health and Social Work Activities (56.8 per 1,000 workers), followed by Education (30.0 per 1,000 workers) and Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security (28.2 per 1,000 workers).

Human Health and Social Work Activities has been among the five sectors with the highest rates of work-related illness each year since 2017, while Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security has been among the five sectors with the highest rates of work-related illness in four of the five years between 2017 and 2021.

Figure 2.11:

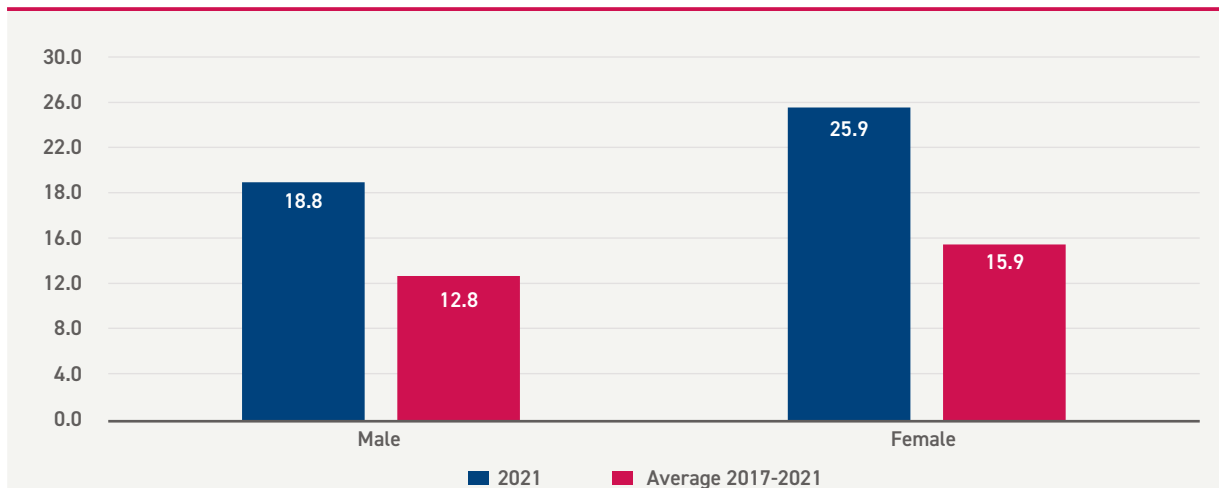
Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2021 and five-year average 2017–2021 (CSO).



In 2021, female workers had higher rates of illness (25.9 per 1,000 workers) than male workers (18.8 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2017–2021.

Figure 2.12:

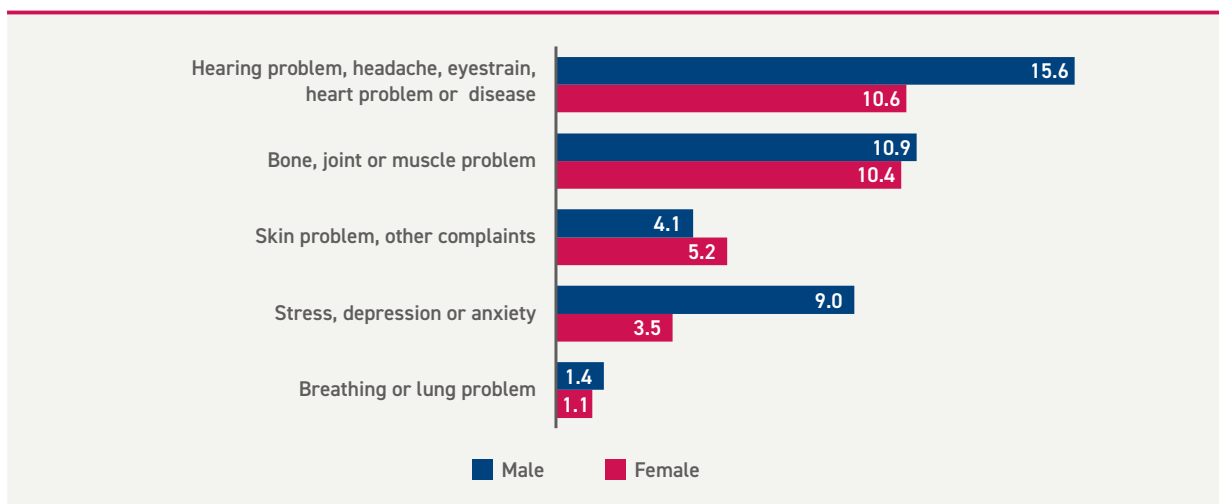
Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender in 2021 and five-year average 2017–2021 (CSO).



In 2021, female workers had higher rates of four of the five kinds of work-related illnesses, most notably stress, depression or anxiety (9.0 per 1,000 workers), compared with male workers (3.5 per 1,000 workers). Female workers also had noticeably higher rates of hearing problems, headache, eyestrain, heart problems and related diseases (15.6 per 1,000 workers), compared with male workers (10.6 per 1,000 workers).

Figure 2.13:

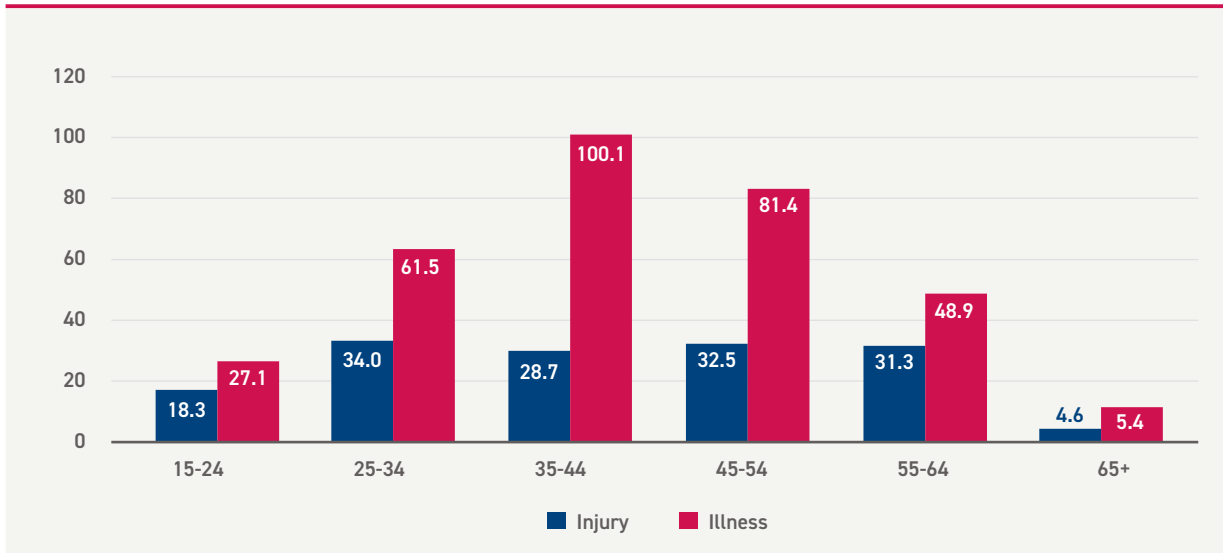
Rate of 0+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender and illness type in 2021 (CSO).



Rates of work-related injury were highest for the 25-34 years group (34 per 1,000 workers). The highest rate of work-related illness occurred to the 35-44 years group (100.1 per 1,000 workers).

Figure 2.14:

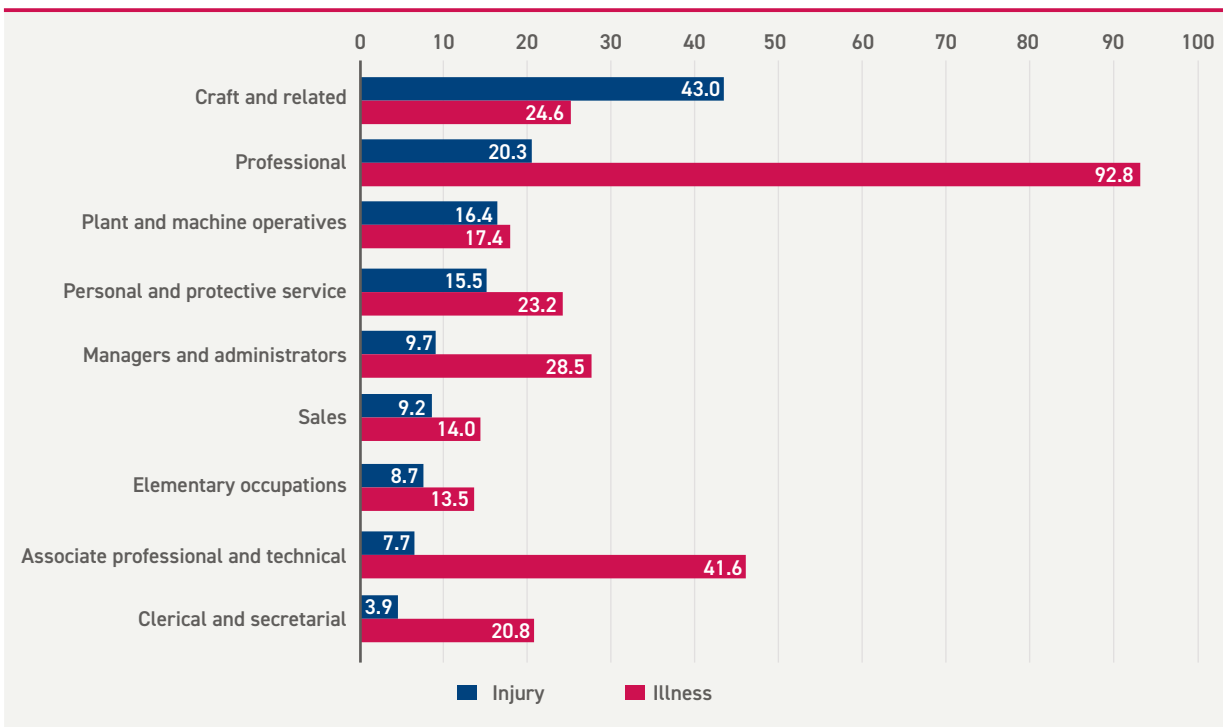
Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by age group in 2021 (CSO).



The highest rate of injuries involved Craft and related workers (43.0 per 1,000 workers). The highest rate of illnesses involved professional workers (92.8 per 1,000 workers).

Figure 2.15:

Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by occupation of victim in 2021 (CSO)



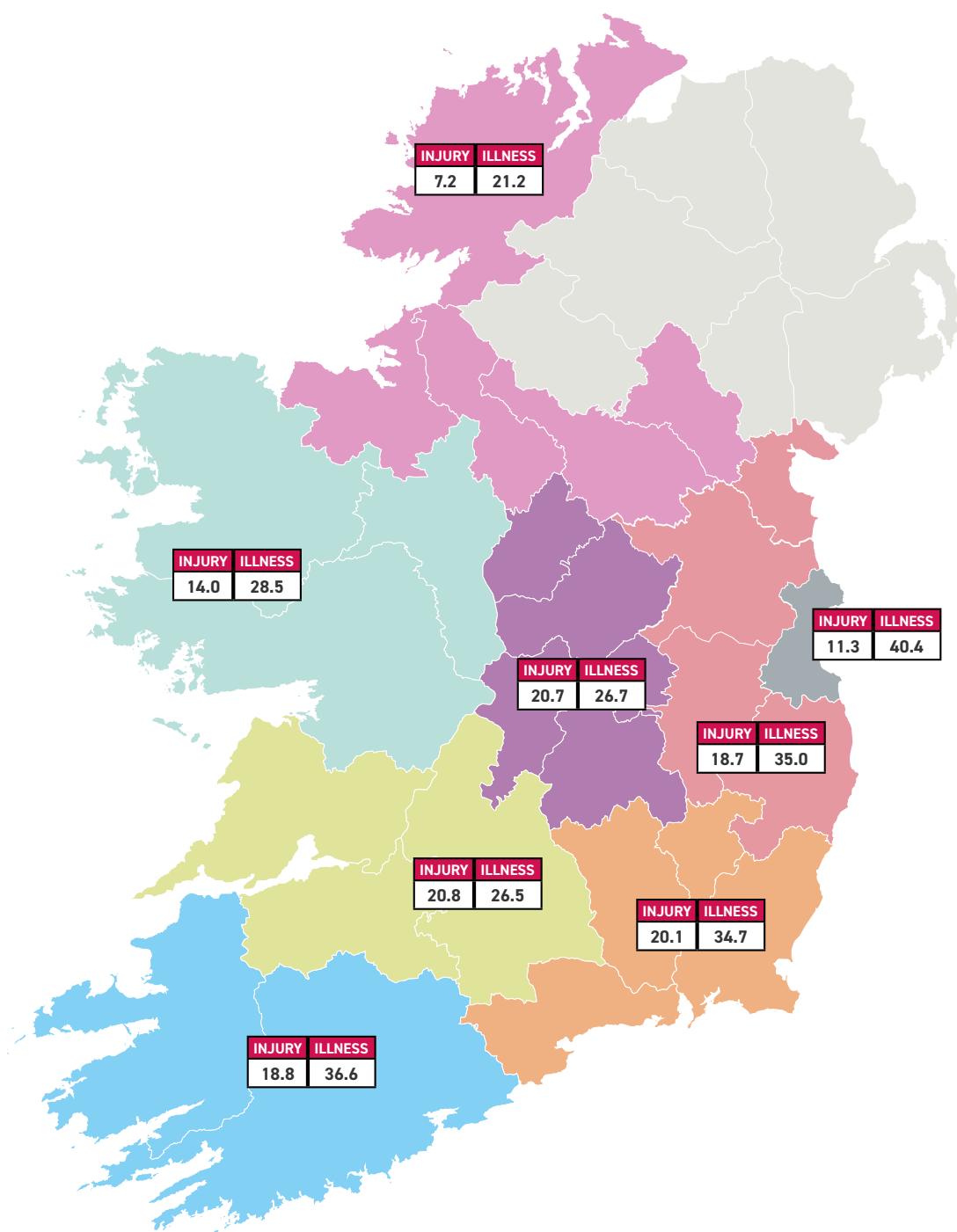
The highest rates of injury in 2021 were in the Mid-West region of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick (20.8 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates of injury were in the Border region of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Monaghan and Cavan (7.2 per 1,000 workers).

The highest rates of illness in 2021 were in Dublin (40.4 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates of illness were in the Border region of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Monaghan and Cavan (21.2 per 1,000 workers). There was an increase in rates of illness in all regions as compared with 2020, which may be partly explained by the relaxation of some COVID-19 public health measures.

Table 2.3:

Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by NUTS region in 2021 (CSO)

	INJURY	ILLNESS
Mid-West	20.8	26.5
Midlands	20.7	26.7
South-East	20.1	34.7
South-West	18.8	36.6
Mid-East	18.7	35.0
West	14.0	28.5
Dublin	11.3	40.4
Border	7.2	21.2





Fatal Injury Statistics

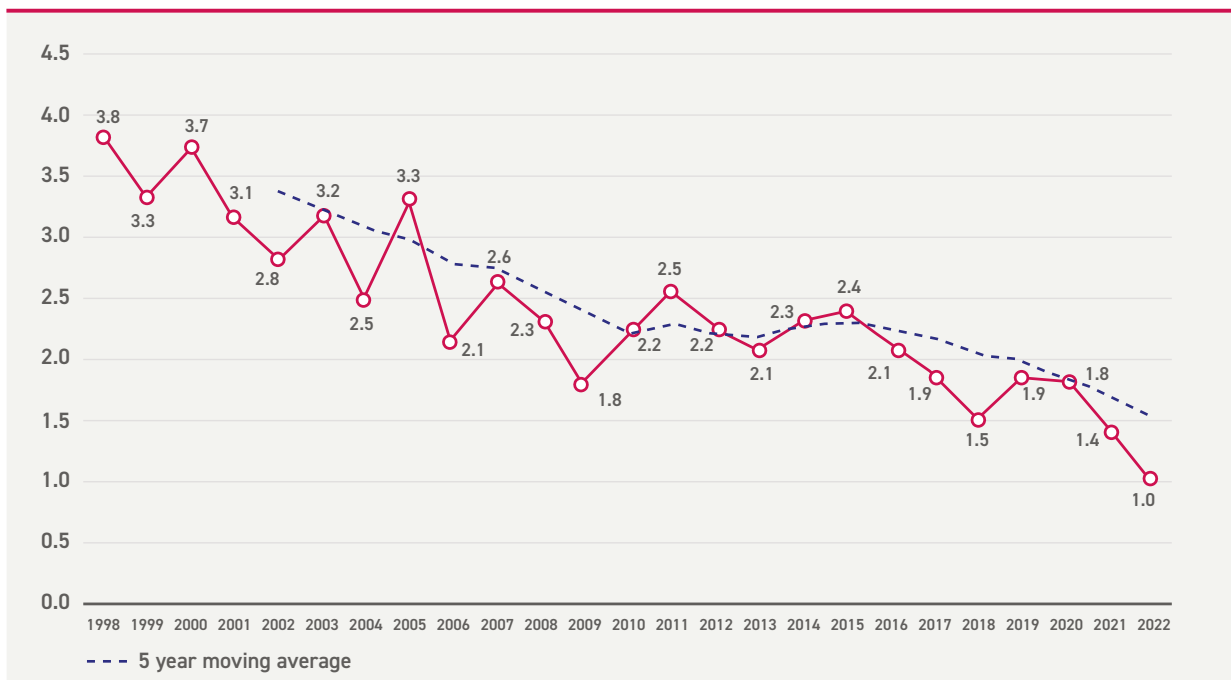
There were **28** fatal work-related incidents in Ireland in 2022.

Of these, 25 involved worker victims and three involved non-worker victims. This is the lowest number of fatal incidents recorded in any year since the foundation of the Authority in 1989. However, there are a number of ongoing investigations into fatal incidents that occurred in 2022, some of which might be confirmed as work-related fatalities. Thus, this figure is subject to change.

Figure 3.1 shows that the rate of fatal incidents to workers has fallen from 3.8 per 100,000 workers in 1998 (the first year for which CSO employment survey data is available) to 1.0 per 100,000 workers in 2022. The average rate over the five-year period 2018–2022 is 1.5.

Figure 3.1:

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers, 1998–2022.



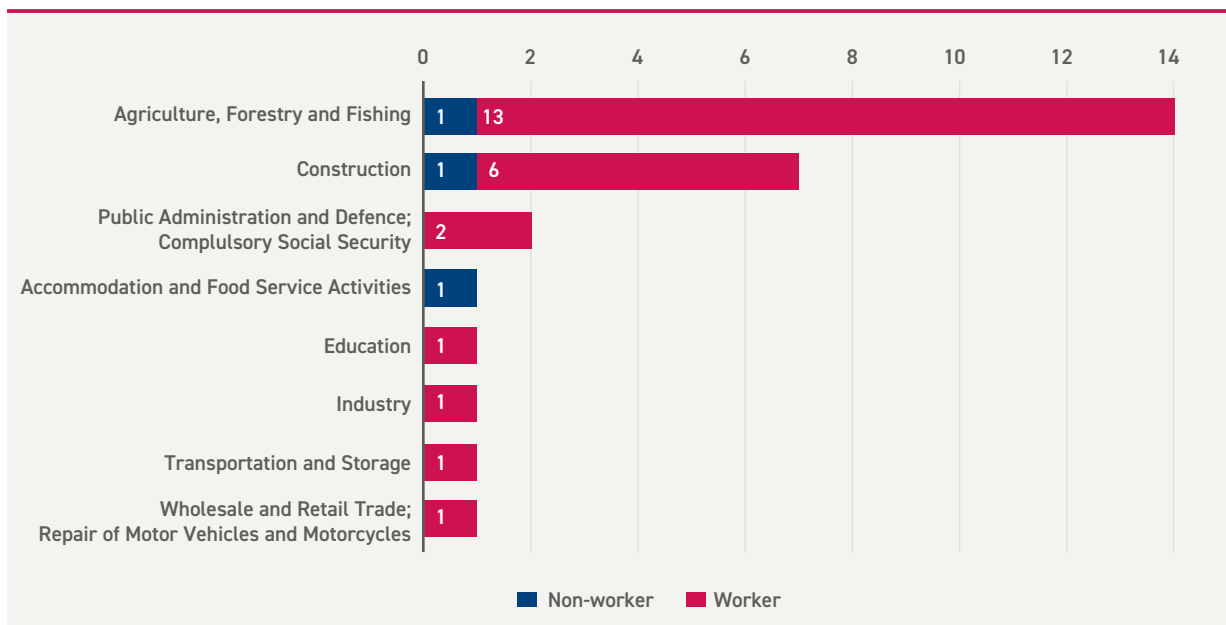


The largest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

The largest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (13 workers and one non-worker), accounting for 50% of all fatal incidents in 2022. Fatal incidents occurred to six workers and one non-worker in Construction and two workers in Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security.

Figure 3.2:

Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector 2022 (HSA).

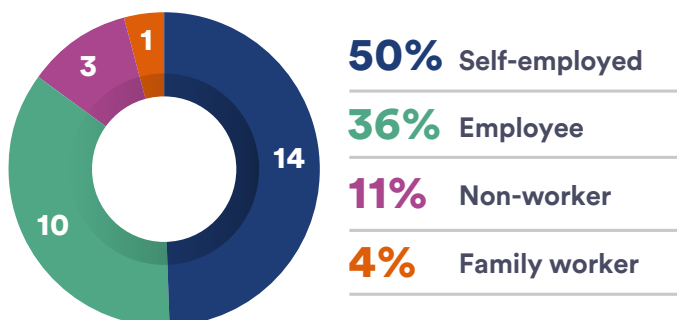


Of the 28 work-related fatal incident victims, 10 (36%) were employees, 14 were self-employed (50%), three were non-workers (11%) and one was a family worker (3%).

Over three in every four work-related fatal incident victims in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing were self-employed (12, 86%). Two victims in Construction were self-employed (29%) and four were employees (57%). Altogether, work-related fatal incidents involved non-workers in three economic sectors.

Figure 3.3:

Percentage of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim, 2022 (HSA)



For more details on fatal incidents by economic sector in each year from 2012 to 2022, see Table 4.3 in the Appendix.

Figure 3.4:

Number of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim and NACE economic sector, 2022 (HSA).



Figure 3.5 shows the trend of fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers in four key economic sectors since 1998.

Figure 3.5:

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers, 1998–2022 (HSA).

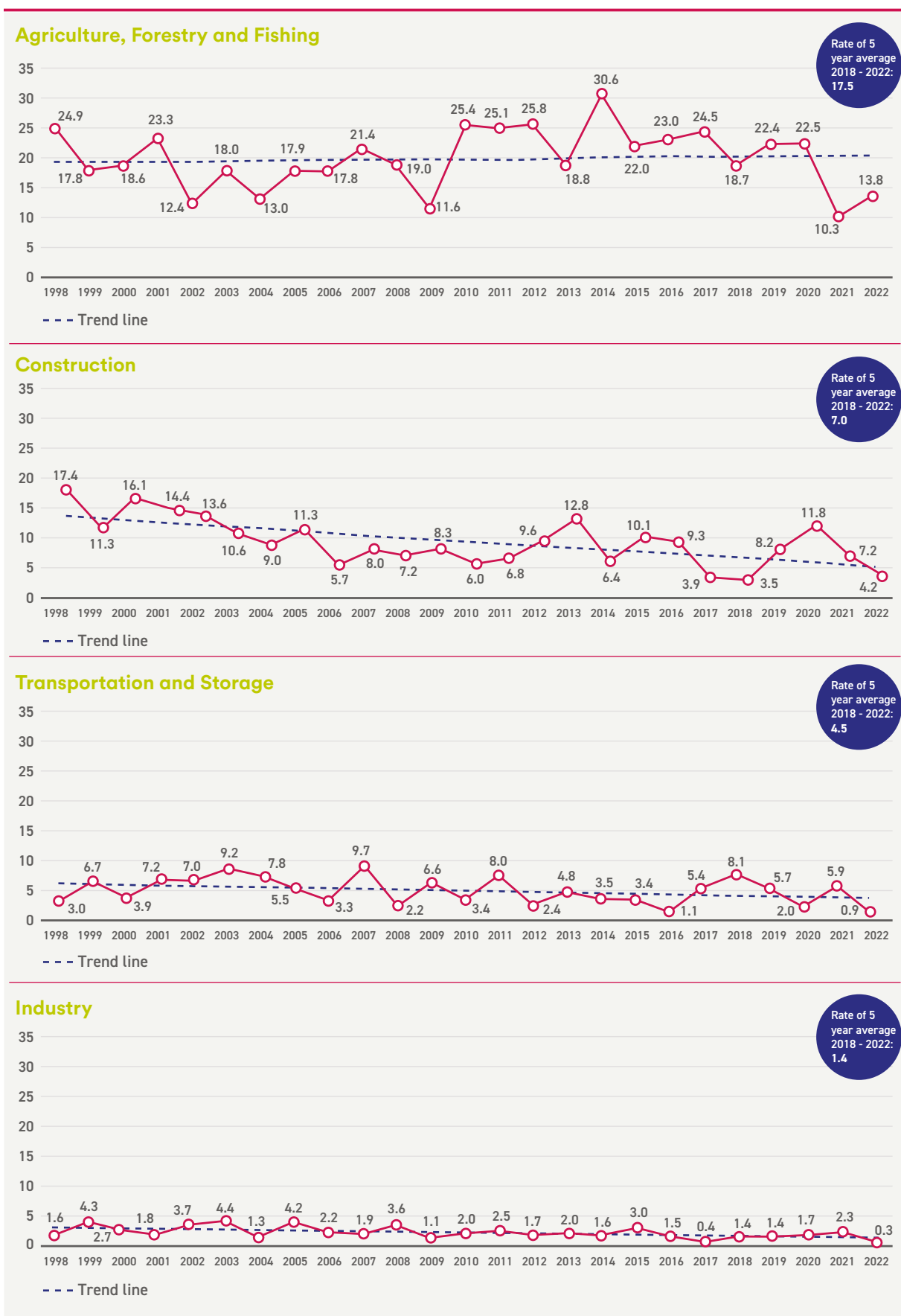
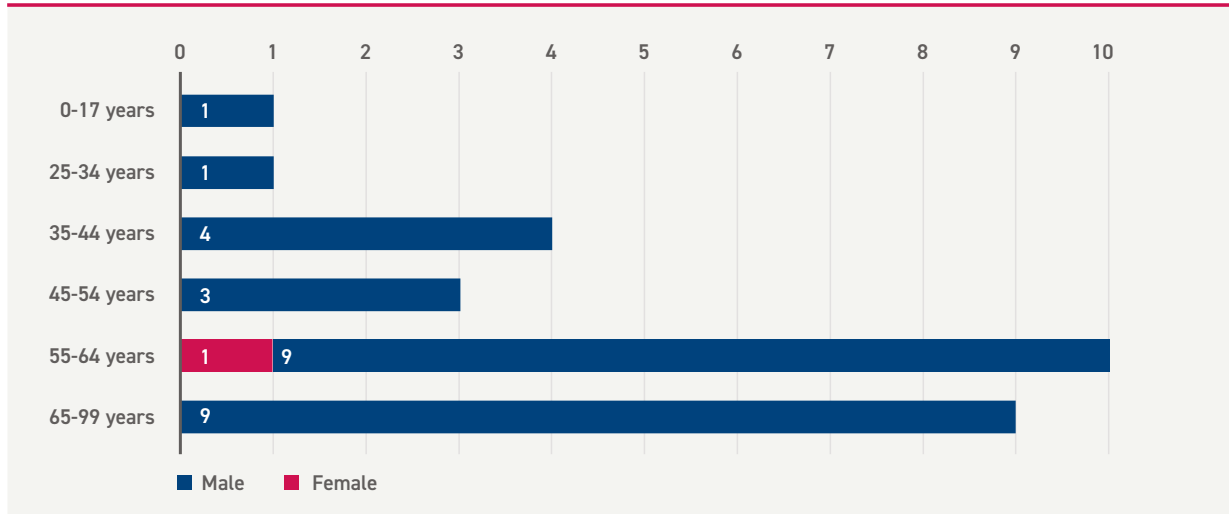


Figure 3.6:

Number of fatal work-related incidents by gender and age band, 2022 (HSA).



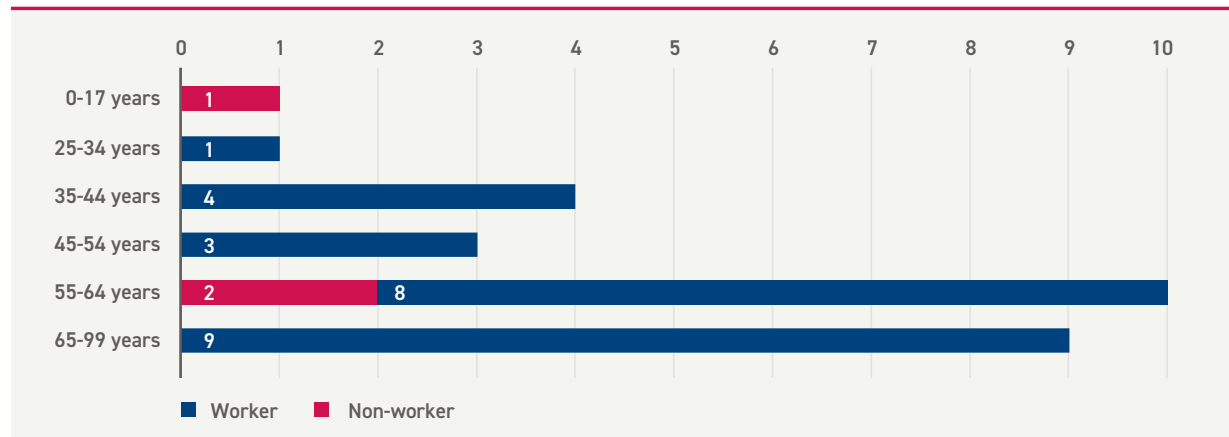
Of 28 fatal incidents in 2022, 27 occurred to male victims and one occurred to a female victim. The female victim was a non-worker; this fatal incident occurred in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector. Figure 3.6 shows the age bands and gender of victims.

Just under three in four fatal incidents involved victims aged 55 years or more, with ten victims aged 55–64 years (36%) and nine victims aged 65 years or more (32%).

Three fatal incidents occurred to non-workers in 2022; one of these was aged 0-17 years and two aged 55-64 years.

Figure 3.7:

Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by age band, 2022 (HSA).

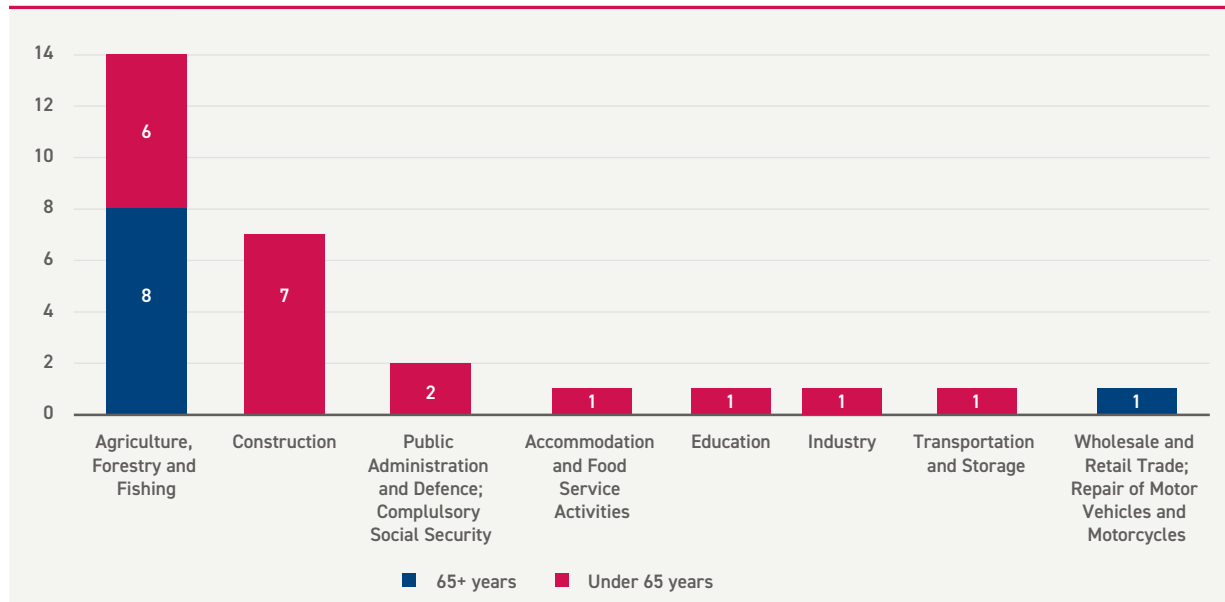


Of the 28 fatal incidents in 2022, nine (32%) occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. This age group was particularly prominent in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, where eight (57%) fatal incidents occurred to victims aged 65 years or more.

For more details on the age of fatal incident victims in each economic sector, see Table 4.5 in the Appendix.

Figure 3.8:

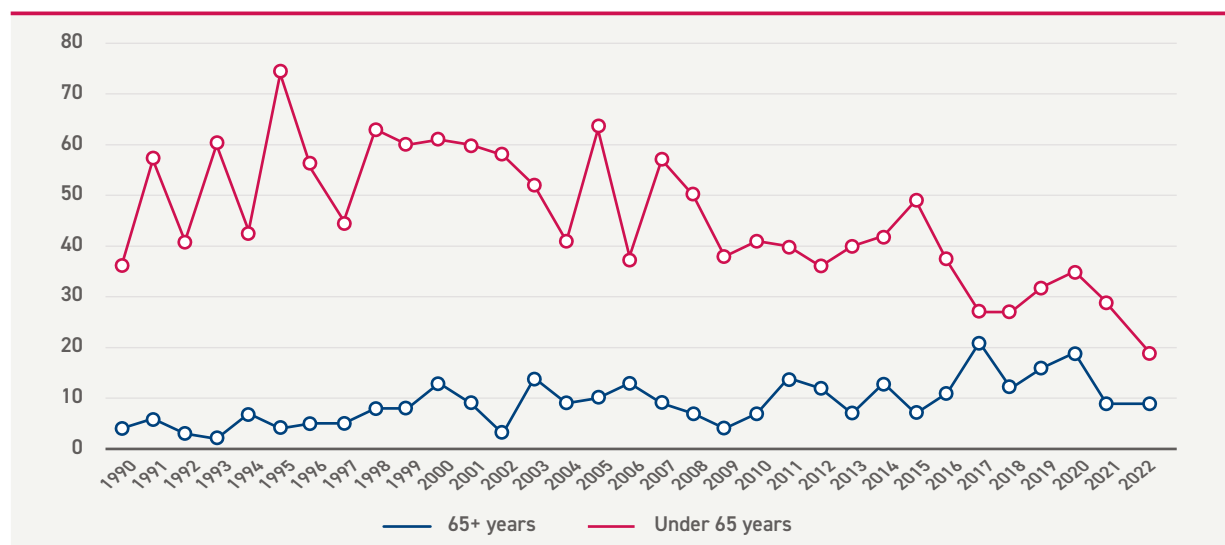
Number of fatal work-related incidents in key NACE economic sectors involving victims aged under 65 years and 65 years or more, 2022 (HSA).



There has been a change in the average age of victims over time. Figure 3.9 shows the number of all fatal incidents occurring to victims aged 65 years or more each year since 1990.⁶ This shows an increase from four (7%) victims aged 65 years or more in 1990 to nine (24%) in 2020, while the number of fatal incidents to younger victims declined. It is likely that this is influenced by the ageing of the Irish workforce; the proportion of workers aged 55 years or over has increased from 10% in 1998 to 19% in 2022.⁷

Figure 3.9:

Number of fatal incidents occurring to victims aged 65 years or more each year, 1990–2022 (HSA).



⁶ Age of victim was unknown for a small number of fatal incidents, primarily in the early 1990s.

⁷ Central Statistics Office, Labour Force Survey QLF18 - ILO Participation, Employment and Unemployment Characteristics: <https://data.cso.ie/table/QLF18>.



The most common triggers associated with fatal incidents in 2022 were fall from height and loss of control of means of transport



Of the 28 fatal incidents in 2022, one occurred to a victim from another European Union country. The non-Irish victim was employed in the Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities sector. The fatal incident rate to Irish workers was 1.1 per 100,000 workers, while the rate for other workers was 0.04 per 100,000 workers.

The trigger is the abnormal event that causes an incident. The most common triggers associated with fatal incidents in 2022 were fall from height (11, 39%), loss of control of means of transport (ten, 36%), and fall, collapse of material, from above (two, 7%). For details on triggers associated with fatal incidents in each NACE economic sector, see Table 4.7 of the Appendix.

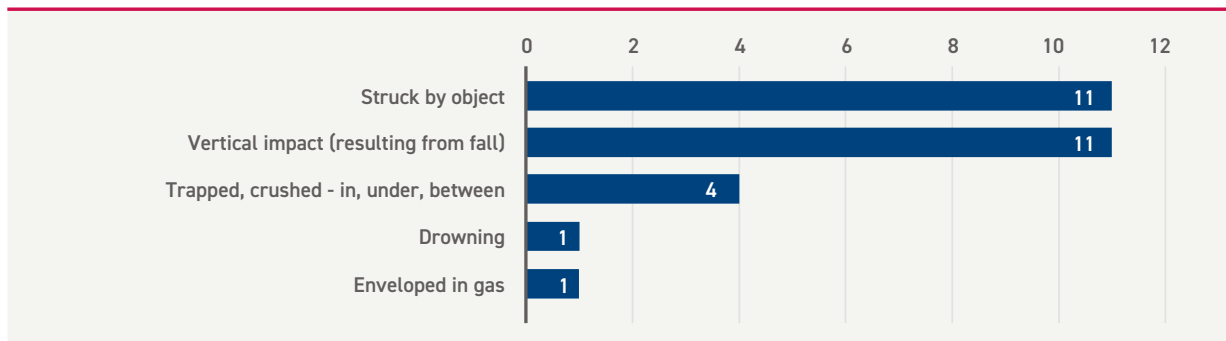
While trigger describes the cause of an incident, the mode of injury describes how the victim became injured. The most common modes of injury were impacts from falls (11, 39%) and struck by object – flying, falling, moving or transported object, including vehicles (11, 39%).

For details on modes of injury associated with fatal incidents in each NACE economic sector, see Table 4.8 of the Appendix.

In 2022, 11 of the 28 fatal incidents involved vehicles.⁸ Figure 3.11 shows the vehicles involved in these incidents. Tractors were involved in five fatal incidents (45% of all fatal incidents involving vehicles). A quad bike, pneumatic tyred roller, lorry, kerbing machine and a JCB were each involved in one fatal incident.

Figure 3.10:

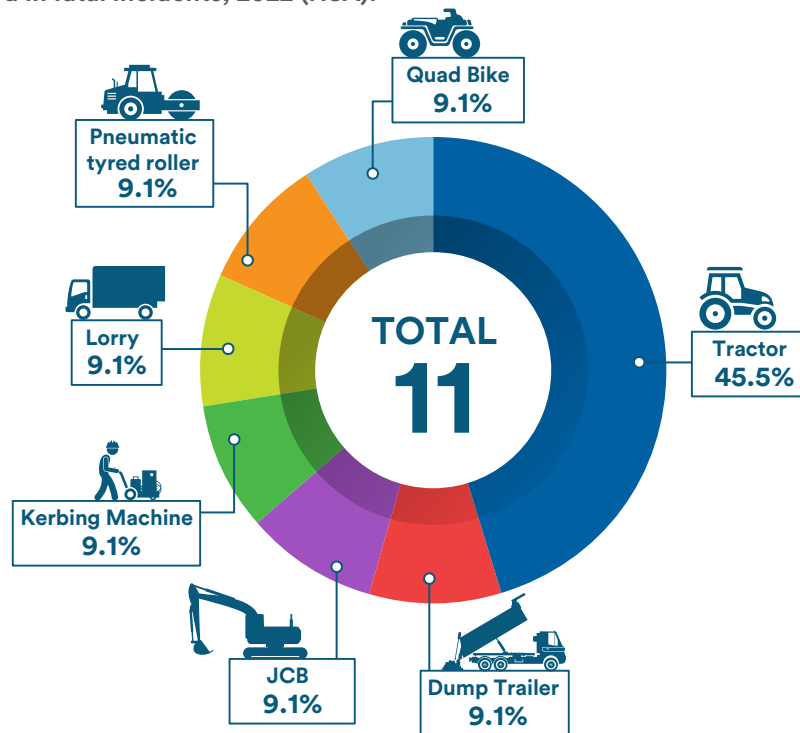
Top five modes of injury involved in fatal incidents, 2022 (HSA).



⁸ These include fatalities that occurred as a result of loss of control of vehicles and victims being struck or crushed by vehicles.

Figure 3.11:

Vehicles involved in fatal incidents, 2022 (HSA).





Appendix

Table 4.1:

Number and percentage of non-fatal incidents by trigger in selected economic sectors, 2022 (HSA).

	Human Health & Social Work Activities		Industry		Wholesale & Retail; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles		Construction		Transportation & Storage		Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Manual handling (internal injury)	559	27	577	33.3	445	41.5	238	26.2	314	36.1	180	23.0
Slipping, falling	430	20.8	367	21.2	291	27.2	285	31.9	277	31.8	170	21.7
Other triggers	437	21.1	255	14.7	88	8.2	86	9.6	67	7.7	139	17.7
Loss of control of object, machine, vehicle	88	4.3	282	1.6	119	11.1	141	15.8	110	12.6	93	11.9
Aggression, shock, violence	398	19.2	21	1.2	11	1.0	9	1.0	29	3.3	132	16.8
Body movement leads to cut, bruise (external injury)	102	4.9	114	6.6	50	4.7	50	5.6	40	4.6	45	5.7
Breakage or collapse of object	37	1.8	59	3.4	60	5.6	66	7.4	24	2.8	13	1.7
Overflow of gas or liquid, splashing	17	0.8	54	3.1	8	0.8	15	1.7	8	0.9	6	0.8
Electrical contact, explosions or fire	2	0.1	6	0.4	0	0	4	0.5	2	0.2	6	0.8
Total	2070	100	1735	100	1072	100	894	100	871	100	784	100

Table 4.2:
Number and rate of people suffering injury and illness, 2016–2021 (CSO).

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000
Total in employment	2,130,950		2,191,375		2,252,450		2,318,800		2,253,025		2,389,225	
Injury												
Total suffering injury	30,800	14.5	49,500	22.6	46,300	20.6	27,200	11.7	27,800	12.3	38,900	16.3
0–3 days' absence	17,600	8.3	26,100	11.9	40,100	17.8	15,300	6.6	16,600	7.4	22,500	9.4
4+ days' absence	13,200	6.2	22,500	10.3	29,500	13.1	12,100	5.2	11,300	5.0	16,400	6.9
Days lost due to injury	481,612		884,400		620,800		486,000		597,000		432,000	
Illness												
Total suffering illness	37,900	17.8	62,000	28.3	61,000	27.1	44,600	19.1	57,300	25.4	84,900	35.5
0–3 days' absence	20,800	9.8	32,200	14.7	31,200	13.9	23,800	10.2	27,300	12.1	32,200	13.5
4+ days' absence	17,100	8.0	29,800	13.6	29,800	13.2	20,700	8.9	30,000	13.3	52,700	22.1
Days lost due to illness	746,701		1,104,700		822,300		783,000		1,053,000		1,175,000	
Injury and illness												
Total injury or illness	68,700	32.2	111,500	50.9	107,300	47.6	71,800	30.8	85,100	37.8	123,800	51.8
Total (4+ days' absence)	30,300	14.2	52,300	23.9	59,300	26.3	32,800	14.1	41,300	18.3	69,100	29.9
Total days lost	1,228,312		1,989,100		1,443,100		1,269,000		1,650,000		1,607,000	

Table 4.3:

Number of reported fatal incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector, 2013–2022 (HSA).

Economic sector	Number of fatal incidents										Total
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2013-2022
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	21	33	24	26	27	20	23	23	11	14	222
- Agriculture	16	32	18	21	25	15	20	20	10	14	191
- Forestry	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	4
- Fishing	5	1	5	4	2	4	3	3	0	0	27
Mining & Quarrying	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Manufacturing	1	3	3	2	0	2	2	4	5	0	22
Electricity, Gas, Steam & Air Conditioning Supply	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management & Remediation Activities	1	0	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	14
Construction	11	6	11	10	6	5	12	16	10	7	94
Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	3	5	3	2	3	2	2	4	2	1	27
Transportation & Storage	4	3	3	1	5	8	6	2	6	1	39
Accommodation & Food Service Activities	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Information & Communication	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Financial & Insurance Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Administrative & Support Service Activities	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	0	0	4	1	5	0	0	1	0	2	13
Education	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Human Health & Social Work Activities	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	6
Other Service Activities	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	47	55	56	48	48	39	49	54	38	28	462

Table 4.4:

Number and rate of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and employment status of victim, 2022 (HSA).

	Worker						Non-worker	Total
	Employee	Self-employed	Family worker	Trainee	Total	Worker rate per 100,000		
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	0	12	1	0	13	12.8	1	14
Construction	4	2	0	0	6	3.6	1	7
Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	2	0	0	0	2	1.5	0	2
Industry (NACE B–E)	1	0	0	0	1	0.3	0	1
Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	1	0	0	0	1	0.3	0	1
Transportation & Storage	1	0	0	0	1	0.9	0	1
Education	1	0	0	0	1	0.5	0	1
Accommodation & Food Services Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	1	1
Total	10	14	1	0	25	1.0	3	28

Table 4.5:

Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and age band of victim, 2022 (HSA).

	0–17 years	18–24 years	25–34 years	35–44 years	45–54 years	55–64 years	65+ years	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	0	0	0	1	1	4	8	14
Construction	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	7
Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Industry (B–E)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Transportation & Storage	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Education	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Accommodation & Food Services Activities	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	4%	0%	4%	14%	11%	36%	32%	100%
	1	0	1	4	3	10	9	28

Table 4.6:

Reported worker fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers by nationality, 2015–2022 (HSA).

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Irish	2.7	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.2
Non-Irish	1.0	3.2	0.6	2.5	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.2
All workers	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.0

Table 4.7:

Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and trigger, 2022 (HSA).

	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	Construction	Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management & Remediation Activities	Transportation & Storage	Accommodation & Food Services Activities	Education	Total	% Of total
Fall from height	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	11	39%
Loss of control of means of transport or handling equipment	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	36%
Fall, collapse of material - from above	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	7%
Other Triggers	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	7%
Fall, collapse of material - from below	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4%
Loss of control of machine	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4%
Loss of control of object being worked on	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4%
Total	14	7	2	1	1	1	1	1	28	100%

Table 4.8:

Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and mode of injury, 2022 (HSA).

	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	Industry (B-E)	Construction	Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	Transportation & Storage	Accommodation & Food Services Activities	Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	Education	Total	% Of total
Impact from fall	4	0	5	1	0	0	0	1	11	39%
Struck by moving or transported object, including vehicles	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	21%
Struck by falling object	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	14%
Trapped, crushed - in	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	7%
Trapped, crushed - under	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4%
Struck by flying object	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4%
Enveloped in gas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4%
Drowned in liquid	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4%
Trapped, crushed - between	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4%
Total	14	1	7	1	1	1	2	1	28	100%

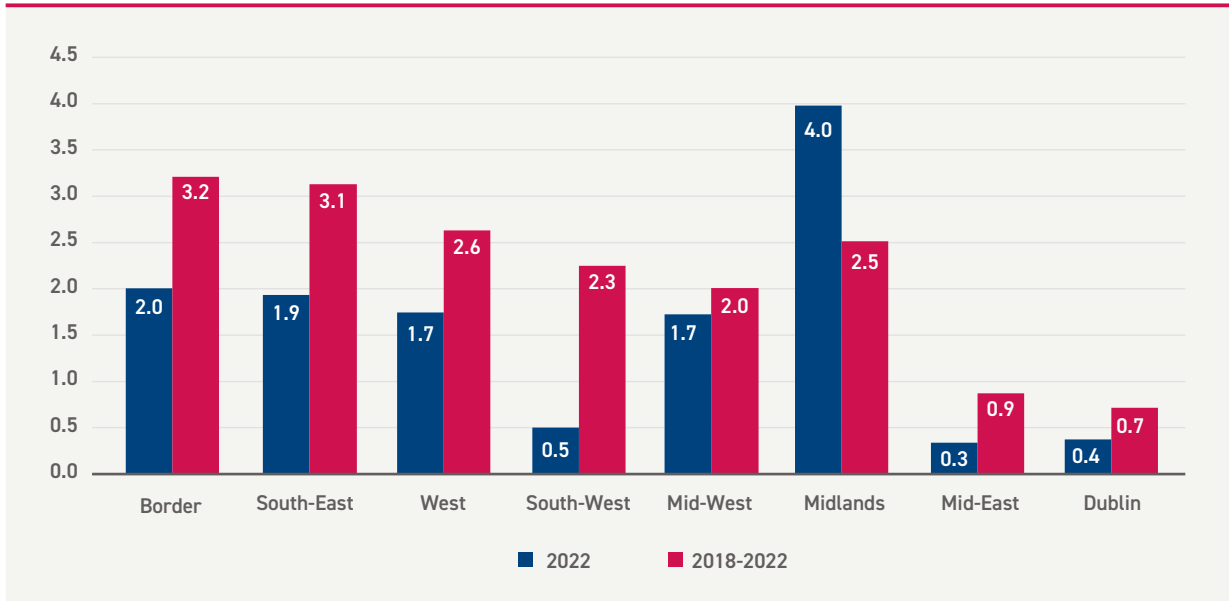
Table 4.9:Rate of reported fatal incidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region 2015–2022 (HSA)⁹.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Border	8.1	3.4	3.4	4.0	1.7	4.2	4.3	2.0
South-East	4.0	3.3	4.9	1.1	5.8	3.8	3.1	1.7
West	4.3	2.1	4.5	3.4	3.7	3.7	0.9	1.7
South-West	3.7	3.9	2.2	2.5	2.4	4.3	2.1	0.9
Mid-West	4.0	2.9	1.9	.14	2.3	2.9	1.8	0.0
Midlands	0.9	2.7	3.4	3.2	1.5	2.3	1.4	4.0
Mid-East	1.3	2.3	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.3
Dublin	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.4

⁹ NUTS - Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, the EU standard for referencing the subdivisions of countries.

Figure 4.10:

Rate of reported fatal incidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region in 2022 and five-year average 2018–2022 (HSA).



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