



Statistics of workplace fatalities and injuries

Falls from a height



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Introduction

This report gives the statistics of fatal and non-fatal injuries to workers in 2006/07p and recent years, for Great Britain. It provides top level and detailed statistics for injuries resulting from falls from a height in support of monitoring the targets set under Revitalising Health and Safety (RHS), launched by the Health and Safety Commission and the Government in June 2000. The target for the whole economy is to reduce the rate of fatal and major injury to workers by:

- 5% by 2004/05
- 10% by 2009/10

Under the reporting regulations, HSE and local authorities get to know of all fatal injuries, but it is known from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) that non-fatal injuries are under-reported. The latest reporting level for 2006/07 for employee non-fatal (major and over-3-day) injuries for the whole economy is estimated to be 54%, but there is a severe under reporting from the self-employed people who are estimated to report less than 10% of non-fatal injuries. This means that numbers and rates of injury are more meaningful for employees than the self-employed as is the assessment on progress against targets.

In 2003/04, there was a change to the employer database against which HSE injury reports are assigned. This affected the spread of injury numbers by industry, with a major impact on the public administration sector and education sector. As a result, injury figures prior to 2003/04 cannot be compared with more recent data for these sectors. The change in coding practice affects injury numbers but not the corresponding workforce figures and hence injury rates will also be affected.

Top level statistics for topics such as numbers and percentage share of agents of accident in falls from a height for employees and the self-employed contain provisional numbers for 2006/07p. Provisional figures are denoted by 'p'.

Summary

Fatal injuries

- The total number of fatal injuries to workers for 2006/07p was 241 compared with 217 for 2005/06. Of these, the number of workers fatally injured as a result from falling from a height dropped from 48 in 2005/06 to 45 in 2006/07p, a decrease of 6%.
- Ladders, roofs and scaffold were the most common agents associated with a fatal injury to workers during 2006/07p with 12, 9 and 5 fatalities respectively.
- The construction industry accounted for 51% of all fatalities to workers as a result of falling from a height in 2006/07p.

Major injuries

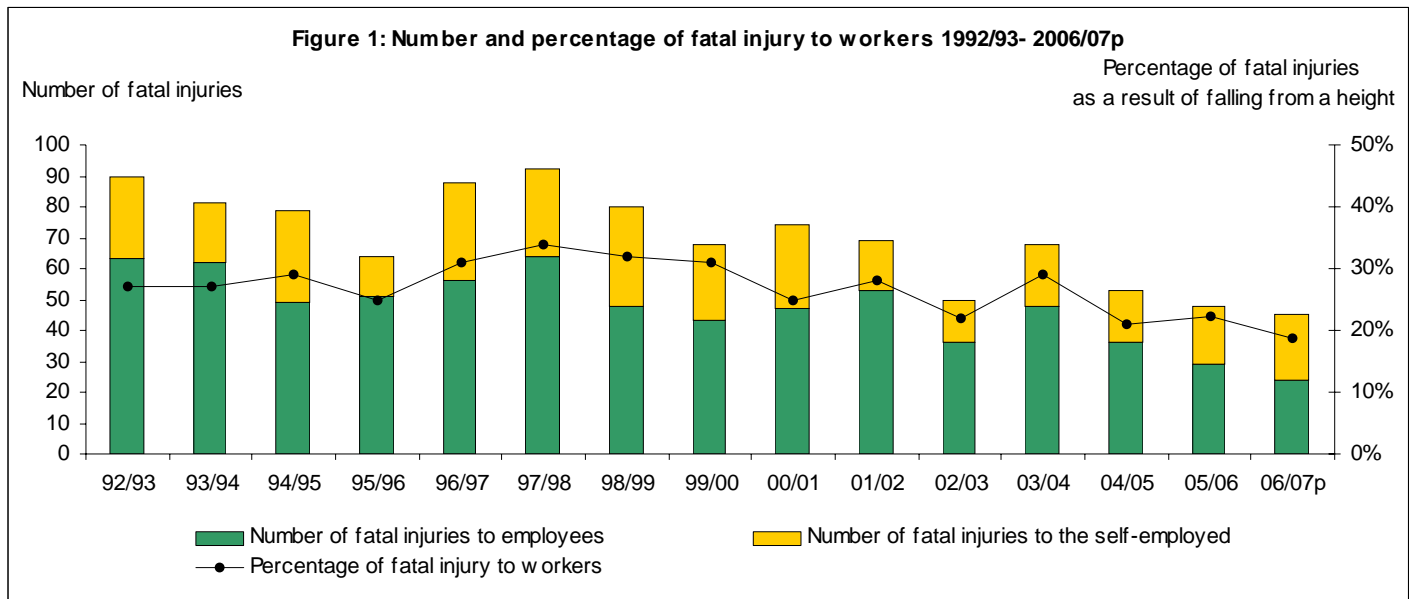
- Major injuries to employees due to falling from a height accounted for 12% (3,409) of all major injuries in 2006/07p.
- The number of major injuries to the self-employed from falling from a height in 2006/07p was 341, compared with 408 in 2005/06, a decrease of 16%.
- Ladders accounted for the greatest number of major injuries to employees due to high falls (39%) and low falls (29%) in 2006/07p.
- The construction industry accounted for 32% (1,206) of all major injuries to workers as a result of falling from a height in 2006/07p.
- In 2006/07p falling from height accounted for 27% of all major injuries to employees in the construction industry, 14% in agriculture, 13% in the extraction and utility supply industries and 9% in manufacturing and services.

Over-3-day injuries

- The total numbers of over-3-day injuries to employees in 2006/07p was 113 083 and of these 3% (3,922) were as a result of falling from a height. The corresponding figures for 2005/06 are 119 045 with 4% (4,231) as a result of falling from a height.
- The number of over-3-day injuries to the self-employed in 2006/07p is 148 from a total of 1,139 this compares with 156 injuries from a total of 1,223 in 2005/06. These figures illustrate the low level of reporting amongst the self-employed.
- In 2006/07p, the industries with the greatest number of over 3 day injuries to employees as a result of falling from height were in the large service industry (2,603) followed by manufacturing (647) and construction (582).

Fatal injuries to workers due to falls from a height – reported under RIDDOR

(For Figure 1 see supplementary tables [1](#) & [2](#))

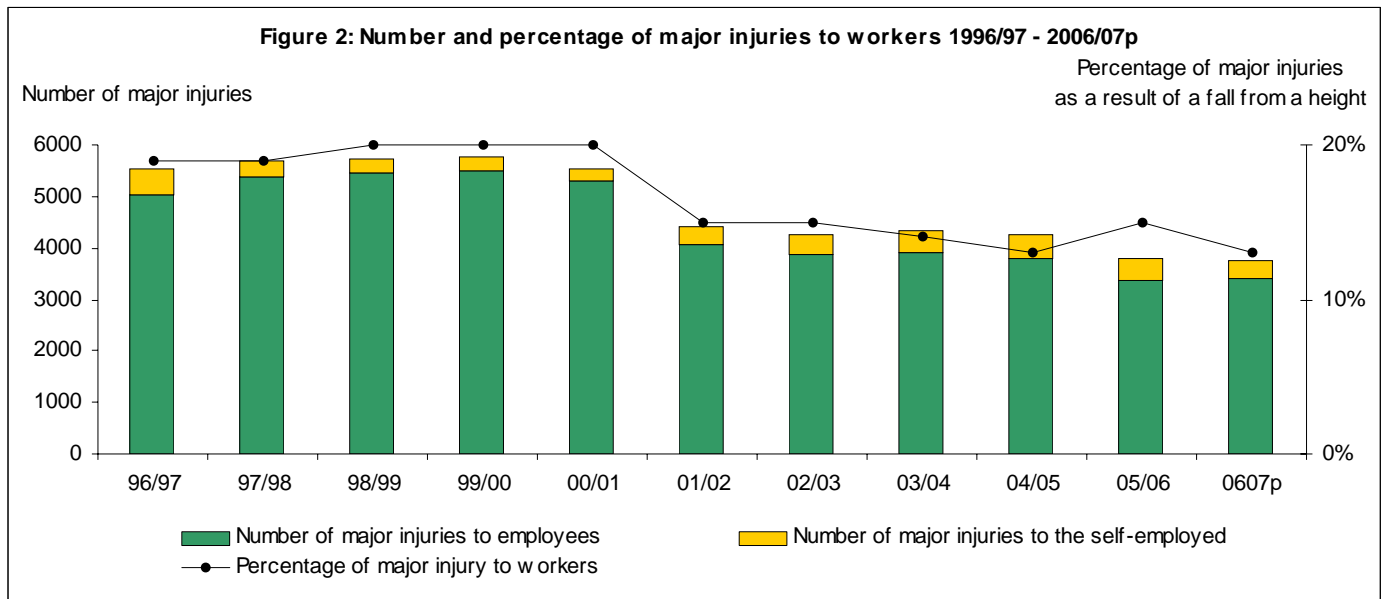


- There were 24 fatalities to employees as a result of a fall from a height in 2006/07p compared with 29 in 2005/06, a decrease of 17%.
- Fatal injuries to the self-employed reached 32 in 1996/97 and 1998/99. Since then the number has decreased to 21 in 2006/07p, a decrease of 34%.
- Fall injuries in 2006/07p represented 13% of all reported fatal injuries to employees, this is the lowest proportion since 1992. Over the past 14 years the proportion of fatal injuries as a result of a fall from height has ranged between 20 and 30%.
- Fall injuries accounted for 38% of all fatal injuries to self-employed reported in 2006/07p. The percentage of injuries has fluctuated over all the years from 27% to 49%; this is to be expected due to the small number of self-employed injuries reported.
- For all years, between half and two-thirds of fatalities from falls from a height occur in the construction industry.
- There had been no overall trend in the number of fatalities in the services industry. The numbers have fluctuated in the last 11 years, ranging from 18 in 2003/04 to 7 in 2006/07p. See table [9](#) for a more detailed breakdown of the fatalities in the services industry.
- Ladders and roofs are the most commonly cited agent associated with fatalities due to high falls (2 metres or above) with ladders and scaffold the most common agents for low falls (up to and including 2 metres).
- During the period 2001/02 – 2006/07p falling from a roof accounted for 19% (63 of the 333) of fall fatalities to workers.
- During the same period the most common agents for high falls causing fatalities to workers were roofs (55), ladders (43) and scaffolds (30). For low falls the most common agents of fatalities to workers were ladders (14) and scaffold (9).

See tables [14](#) and [15](#) for a detailed breakdown of all falls by agent, tables [16](#) and [17](#) for a for a detailed breakdown of high falls by agent, tables [18](#) and [19](#) for a for a detailed breakdown of low falls by agent, and tables [20](#) and [21](#) for a for a detailed breakdown of height not known falls by agent.

Major injuries to workers due to falls from a height – reported under RIDDOR

(For Figure 2 see supplementary tables [3](#) & [4](#))



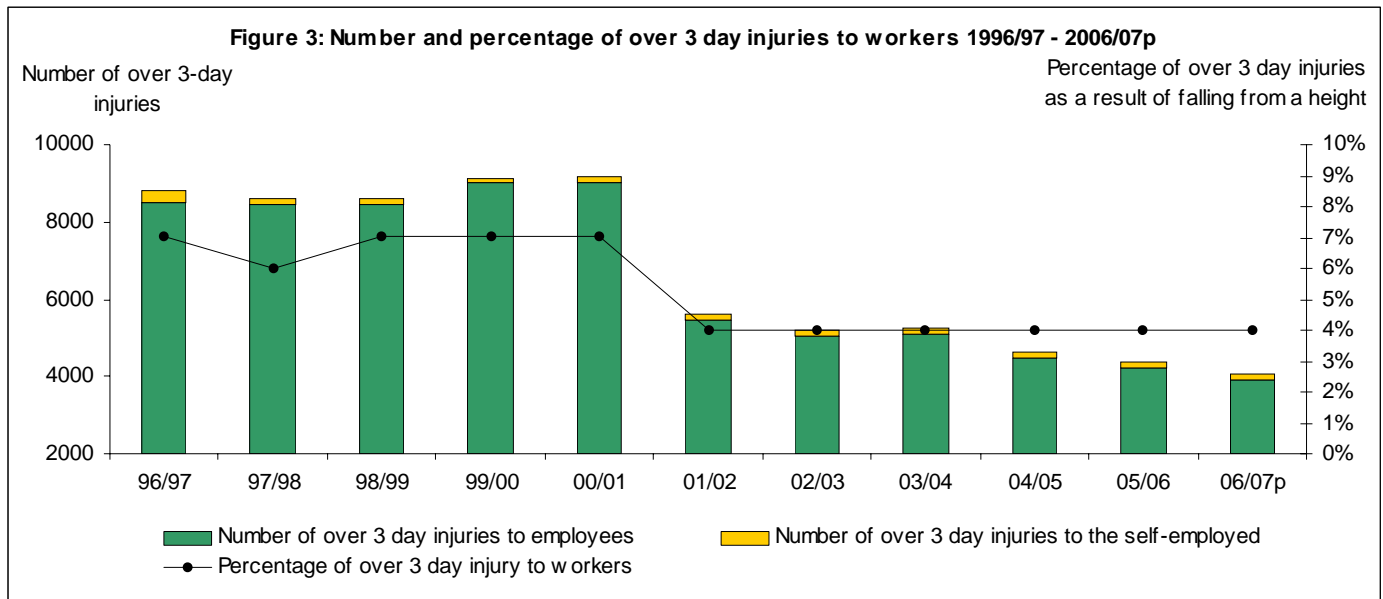
- In 2006/07p, falling from a height was the fourth most common kind for major injuries to employees accounting for 12%. The most common kind of accident was slips/trips (38%), followed by injured while handling (15%) and struck by moving object (13%).
- The number of major injuries to employees reached a peak of 5,500 in 1999/00 and has decreased to 3,409 in 2006/07p.
- The largest number of falls is in the large and varied service industries. The number has fluctuated between approximately 1750 and 2050 over the past 5 years.

See table [10](#) for trends in number of major injuries in individual service industries.

- The most commonly cited agent for major injuries in 2006/07p for both high and low falls were ladders, followed by scaffold for high falls and vehicles for low falls.
- The number of major injuries to the self-employed decreased from 408 in 2005/06 to 341 in 2006/07p, this represents a decrease of 16%.
- Falls from height to the self-employed accounted for 29% of all major injuries in 2006/07p.
- As with employees, the agents most commonly associated with major injuries from high falls are ladders followed by scaffold and roofs. Ladders and scaffold are also the two most common agents for low falls.

Over-3-day injuries to workers due to falls from a height – reported under RIDDOR

(For Figure 3 see supplementary tables [5](#) & [6](#))

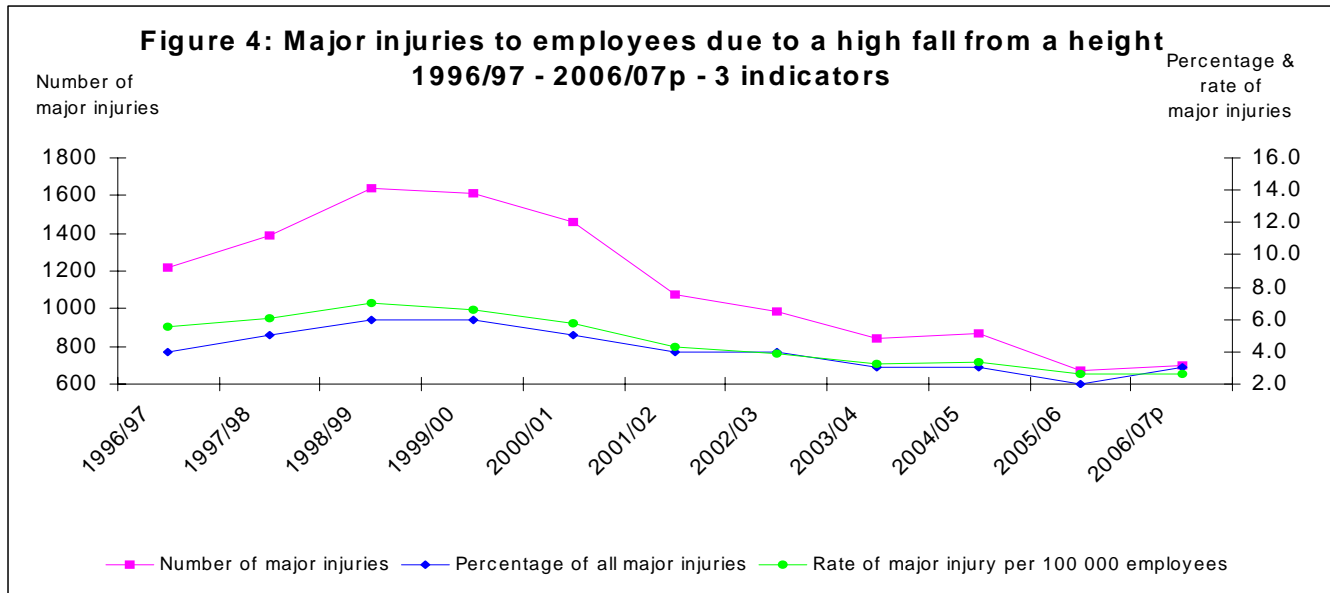


- Fall injuries accounted for 3% of all over 3-day injuries to employees reported in 2006/07p.
- The number of over 3 day fall from a height injuries to employees dropped in 2006/07p.
- The service industries also had the highest number of over 3 day injuries to employees caused by falls from a height 2 603 in 2006/07p. This is a decrease on the average of approximately 3 000 injuries between 2001/02 and 2004/05.

See table [12](#) for a detailed breakdown of the service industries.

- In 2006/07p falling from a height accounted for approximately 13% of all over 3 day injuries to the self employed.
- The number of over 3 day injuries to employees as a result of a fall from height has been steadily decreasing from 5 459 (2001/02) to 3 922 (2006/07p).

Indicators for high falls



Indicator for high fall major injuries to employees 1996/97 – 2006/07p

Year	Number of major injuries	Percentage of major injuries	Rate of major injuries per 100 000 employees
1996/97	1 220	4%	5.6
1997/98	1 392	5%	6.1
1998/99	1 640	6%	7.0
1999/00	1 616	6%	6.6
2000/01	1 459	5%	5.8
2001/02	1 079	4%	4.3
2002/03	983	4%	3.9
2003/04	845	3%	3.3
2004/05	872	3%	3.4
2005/06	675	2%	2.6
2006/07p	700	2%	2.7

The numbers of injuries due to a fall from a height are simple to understand but do not allow for the changing number of workers or exposure of workers to being at a height. Neither does the number allow for any change in the reporting of non-fatal injuries. Three indicators of fall injuries are given in the table above and in Figure 4.

The indicators used are: the number of reported fall major injuries; the percentage share of major injuries due to falls; the number of fall major injuries expressed per 100,000 employees - rate of reported fall major injury.

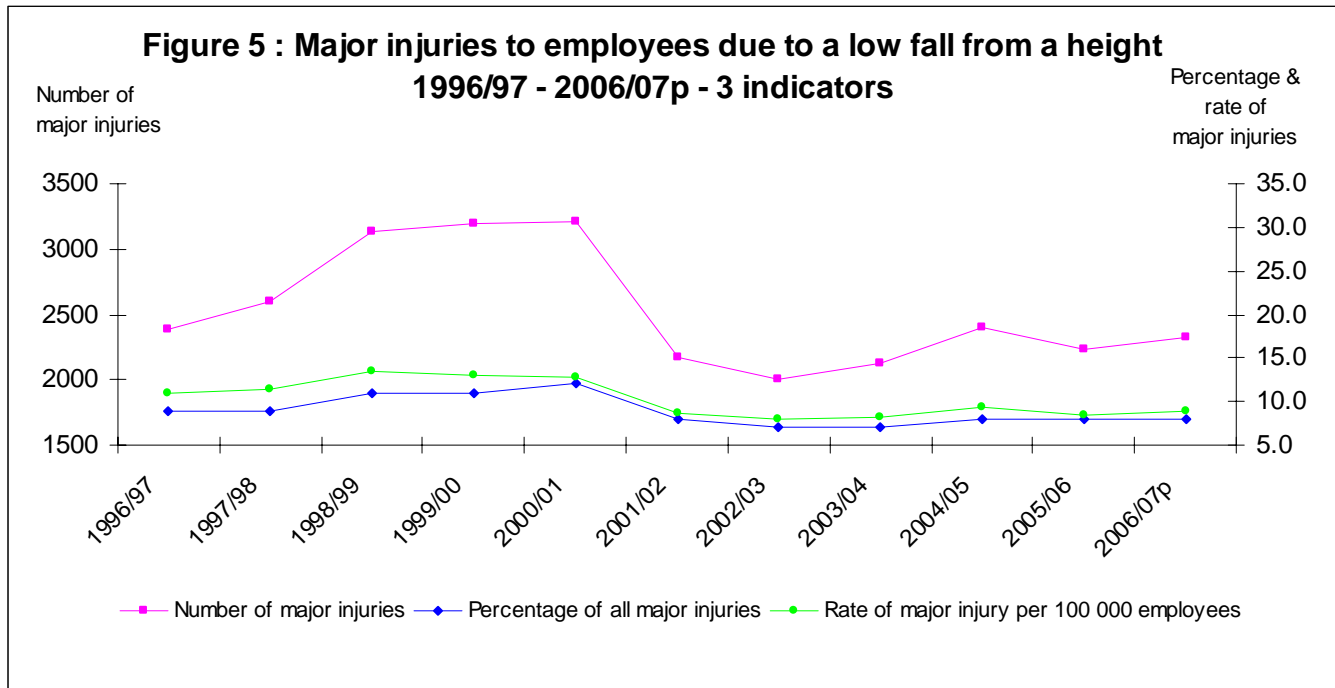
High Falls

Since 1998/99, high falls have dropped in the number and percentage share of major injuries. From the percentage, falls are showing relatively good progress compared with other kinds of accident (and the percentage would have dropped in 2001/02 despite new guidelines to distinguish falls from slips/trips on the same level).

The rate of major injury due to high falls (expressed per 100,000 employees) has also dropped since 1998/99.

This indicates a genuine reduction in high falls since 1998/99. A qualification is that these indicators cannot allow for any changed exposure of workers to working at a height

Indicators for low falls



Indicator for low fall major injuries to employees 1996/97 – 2006/07p

	Number of major injuries	Percentage of major injuries	Rate of major injuries per 100 000 employees
1996/97	2 387	9%	10.9
1997/98	2 593	9%	11.3
1998/99	3 140	11%	13.5
1999/00	3 196	11%	13.0
2000/01	3 205	12%	12.8
2001/02	2 174	8%	8.6
2002/03	2 009	7%	7.9
2003/04	2 126	7%	8.3
2004/05	2 408	8%	9.3
2005/06	2 230	8%	8.5
2006/07p	2 324	8%	8.8

Low falls

Using the same indicators described on the previous page it can be seen that the number and percentage share due to low falls has increased until 2000/01. The reduction in 2001/02 stems partly from the new coding guidelines. Analysis suggests that if the new guidelines had been applied in 1999/2000 and 2000/01, the percentage share and rate of low falls would have increased slightly between 1998/99 and 2001/02 but fallen again in 2002/03. The number and rate of low falls both increased in 2004/05 but fell again in 2005/06 and 2006/07p to a similar level to 2003/04.

Supplementary tables

Table 1 Fatal injuries to workers due to falls from a height 1992/93 – 2006/07p

Year	Employees	Self-employed	Workers
1992/93	63	27	90
1993/94	62	19	81
1994/95	49	30	79
1995/96	51	13	64
1996/97	56	32	88
1997/98	64	28	92
1998/99	48	32	80
1999/00	43	25	68
2000/01	47	27	74
2001/02	53	16	69
2002/03	36	14	50
2003/04	48	20	68
2004/05	36	17	53
2005/06	29	19	48
2006/07p	24	21	45

Table 2 Percentage of fatal injury to workers due to falls from a height 1992/93 – 2006/07p

Year	Employees	Self-employed	Workers
1992/93	23%	43%	27%
1993/94	25%	37%	27%
1994/95	26%	37%	29%
1995/96	24%	27%	25%
1996/97	27%	40%	31%
1997/98	30%	45%	34%
1998/99	26%	49%	32%
1999/00	27%	43%	31%
2000/01	22%	34%	25%
2001/02	26%	36%	28%
2002/03	20%	32%	22%
2003/04	29%	29%	29%
2004/05	21%	33%	24%
2005/06	18%	36%	22%
2006/07p	13%	38%	19%

Table 3 Major injuries to workers due to falls from a height 1996/97 – 2006/07p

Year	Employees	Self-employed	Workers
1996/97	5 023	496	5 519
1997/98	5 382	325	5 707
1998/99	5 454	275	5 729
1999/00	5 500	275	5 775
2000/01	5 286	266	5 552
2001/02	4 066	356	4 422
2002/03	3 860	380	4 240
2003/04	3 896	458	4 354
2004/05	3 799	453	4 252
2005/06	3385	408	3793
2006/07p	3409	341	3750

Table 4 Percentage of major injury to workers due to falls from a height 1996/97 – 2006/07p

Year	Employees	Self-employed	Workers
1996/97	18%	37%	19%
1997/98	18%	40%	19%
1998/99	19%	40%	20%
1999/00	19%	42%	20%
2000/01	19%	42%	20%
2001/02	15%	38%	15%
2002/03	14%	35%	15%
2003/04	13%	36%	14%
2004/05	12%	36%	13%
2005/06	12%	31%	13%
2006/07p	12%	29%	13%

Table 5 Over-3-day injuries to workers due to falls from a height 1996/97 – 2006/07p

Year	Employees	Self-employed	Workers
1996/97	8 492	324	8 816
1997/98	8 452	163	8 615
1998/99	8 452	137	8 589
1999/00	9 019	116	9 135
2000/01	9 023	127	9 150
2001/02	5 459	146	5 605
2002/03	5 052	148	5 200
2003/04	5 087	147	5 234
2004/05	4 500	152	4 652
2005/06	4 231	156	4 387
2006/07p	3 922	148	4 070

Table 6 Percentage of over-3-day injury to workers due to falls from a height 1996/97- 2006/07p

Year	Employees	Self-employed	Workers
1996/97	7%	14%	7%
1997/98	6%	17%	6%
1998/99	6%	16%	7%
1999/00	7%	16%	7%
2000/01	7%	18%	7%
2001/02	4%	16%	4%
2002/03	4%	16%	4%
2003/04	4%	13%	4%
2004/05	4%	13%	4%
2005/06	4%	13%	4%
2006/07p	3%	13%	4%

**Table 7 Fatal injuries to employees by industry due to falls from a height
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Fatal	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
Agriculture	3	-	2	3	-	2
Extraction and Utility Supply ¹	2	-	3	-	1	1
Manufacturing	10	4	1	7	4	4
Construction	26	23	28	16	15	10
Retail	1	2	2	1	-	-
Hotels & Restaurants	-	1	1	1	-	-
Transport	6	3	5	5	2	4
Offices	3	2	1	3	4	1
Public administration	-	1	-	-	1	1
Education	2	-	-	-	1	-
Health & Social Work	-	-	2	-	-	-
Other Services	-	-	3	-	1	1
Total	53	36	48	36	29	24

**Table 8 Fatal injuries to self-employed by industry due to falls from a height
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Fatal	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
Agriculture	2	3	4	3	5	3
Manufacturing	1	-	1	-	2	-
Construction	11	10	11	10	10	13
Retail	-	-	1	-	-	1
Hotels & Restaurants	-	-	-	1	1	-
Transport	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offices	2	1	3	2	1	2
Health & Social Work	-	-	-	-	-	1
Public administration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Services	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	16	14	20	17	19	21

¹ Utility supply, Quarries, Nuclear

**Table 9 Fatal injuries to workers by industry due to falls from a height
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Fatal	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
Agriculture	5	3	6	6	5	5
Extraction and Utility Supply ¹	2	-	3	-	1	1
Manufacturing	11	4	2	7	6	4
Construction	37	33	39	26	25	23
Retail	1	2	3	1	-	1
Hotels & Restaurants	-	1	1	2	1	-
Transport	6	3	5	5	2	4
Offices	5	3	4	5	5	3
Public administration	-	1	-	-	1	1
Education	2	-	-	-	1	-
Health & Social Work	-	-	2	-	-	1
Other Services	-	-	3	1	1	2
Total	69	50	68	53	48	45

¹ Utility supply, Quarries, Nuclear

**Table 10 Major injuries to employees by industry due to falls from a height
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Major	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
Agriculture	131	93	78	73	90	63
Extraction and Utility Supply ¹	72	59	42	48	45	51
Manufacturing	778	723	630	597	511	484
Construction	1 234	1217	1109	1054	925	987
Retail	391	400	401	392	333	347
Hotels & Restaurants	69	57	65	64	46	64
Transport	499	442	563	592	545	487
Offices	274	269	400	370	327	314
Public administration	169	200	247	237	231	240
Education	154	139	97	87	79	98
Health & Social Work	109	87	79	103	101	108
Other Services	186	174	185	182	152	166
Total	4 066	3 860	3 896	3 799	3385	3409

**Table 11 Major injuries to self- employed by industry due to falls from a height
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Major	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
Agriculture	20	17	18	17	18	13
Extraction and Utility Supply ¹	3	4	1	3	4	2
Manufacturing	34	31	35	42	26	21
Construction	230	276	287	287	261	219
Retail	9	10	16	8	7	17
Hotels & Restaurants	1	2	6	3	4	7
Transport	9	16	15	11	11	13
Offices	16	9	42	26	28	27
Public administration	4	3	5	9	4	4
Education	3	1	7	7	12	5
Health & Social Work	10	3	6	6	7	4
Other Services	17	8	20	34	26	9
Total	356	380	458	453	408	341

¹ Utility supply, Quarries, Nuclear.

**Table 12 Over-3-day injuries to employees by industry due to falls from a height
2001/02 –2006/07p**

Over 3 day	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
Agriculture	97	92	59	68	50	33
Extraction and Utility Supply ¹	113	80	81	70	58	57
Manufacturing	1 266	1132	957	801	730	647
Construction	964	847	807	698	705	582
Retail	581	571	596	582	538	512
Hotels & Restaurants	93	89	83	65	79	63
Transport	945	886	1039	998	891	825
Offices	279	315	434	321	330	322
Public administration	466	480	530	466	427	431
Education	180	164	100	96	93	126
Health & Social Work	211	179	226	198	181	167
Other Services	264	217	175	137	149	157
Total	5 459	5 052	5 087	4 500	4231	3922

**Table 13 Over-3-day injuries to self-employed by industry due to falls from a height
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Over 3 day	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
Agriculture	4	1	2	3	-	4
Extraction and Utility Supply ¹	-	1	-	1	-	-
Manufacturing	5	8	11	8	7	9
Construction	121	117	103	118	127	108
Retail	2	2	3	5	4	3
Hotels & Restaurants	1	-	-	1	2	1
Transport	1	3	1	1	2	3
Offices	6	5	11	6	3	7
Public administration	1	3	-	2	1	4
Education	-	1	1	-	1	3
Health & Social Work	1	2	1	1	2	1
Other Services	4	5	14	6	7	5
Total FOD, LA's and NSD	146	148	147	152	156	148

¹ Utility supply, Quarries, Nuclear

**Table 14 Fatal injuries to workers due to falls from a height by agent breakdown
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Agent group	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	55	39	51	40	37	34
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	10	8	13	12	11	9
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	11	6	8	6	8	5
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	13	13	13	10	8	12
	Other specified agents	19	12	14	11	10	7
01.90	Not known	2	-	3	1	-	1
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground	-	-	2	-	-	-
04	Hand held tools and equipment	-	-	1	-	-	-
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	4	4	7	4	1	6
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	1	6	3	8	4	2
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	1	-	-	-	-	-
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	4	-	1	1	2	-
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	-	-	1	-	-	-
15	Animals, trees, plants	1	-	1	-	1	-
00	No information	3	1	1	-	3	3
	Total	69	50	68	53	48	45

Table 15 Fatal injuries to workers due to high falls by agent 2001/02 – 2006/07p

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	38	32	41	29	23	25
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	9	8	13	7	9	9
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	8	4	7	3	4	4
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	8	10	7	8	5	5
	Other specified agents	12	10	11	10	5	6
01.90	Not known	1	-	3	1	-	1
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground	-	-	1	-	-	-
04	Hand held tools and equipment	-	-	1	-	-	-
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	4	2	6	3	-	5
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	-	3	-	5	-	1
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	2	-	1	1	1	-
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	-	-	1	-	-	-
15	Animals, trees, plants	-	-	1	-	-	-
00	No information	-	1	-	-	2	1
	Total	44	38	52	38	26	32

Table 16 Fatal injuries to workers due to low falls by agent 2001/02 – 2006/07p

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	9	3	5	5	5	6
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	3	-	1	1	3	1
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	3	2	3	2	-	4
	Other specified agents	3	1	1	2	2	1
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	-	1	-	-	-	1
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	-	1	1	2	3	-
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	1	-	-	-	-	-
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	1	-	-	-	1	-
15	Animals, trees, plants	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Total	11	5	6	7	10	7

**Table 17 Fatal injuries to workers due to falls of an unspecified height by agent
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	8	4	5	6	9	3
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	-	2	-	2	1	-
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	2	1	3	-	3	3
	Other specified agents	5	1	2	4	5	-
01.90	Not known	1	-	-	-	-	-
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	-	-	1	-	-	-
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	-	1	1	1	1	-
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	1	2	2	1	1	1
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	Animals, trees, plants	1	-	-	-	-	-
00	No information	3	-	1	-	1	2
	Total	14	7	10	8	12	6

Table 18 Major injuries to employees due to falls from a height by agent breakdown 2001/02 – 2006/07p

Agent group no	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	2594	2338	2244	2239	1881	1863
01.01	Floors (e.g. fell through floor)	374	109	71	65	53	41
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	209	215	278	235	199	188
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	1195	1233	1205	1186	1068	1050
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	112	134	131	135	82	107
01.07, 01.08	Stairs/steps	254	251	167	179	122	83
01.09	Doors, walls, partitions	71	64	65	71	61	57
	Other specified agents	367	313	303	322	260	321
01.90	Not known	12	19	24	46	36	16
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	28	25	26	31	21	24
03	Systems for the distribution of materials or substances	6	8	10	9	4	2
04	Hand held tools and equipment	2	3	2	2	1	1
05	Systems for energy and storage, motors	2	1	4	5	3	3
06	Conveying/ lifting/storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled trnspt	180	228	293	265	260	244
06.06	Elevators, lifts, hoisting devices	21	34	5	9	6	5
06.17	Storage systems & containers inc. skips (mobile), transport containers	22	20	37	19	34	21
06.18	Storage accessories, shelving, pallet racks, pallets, racking	53	62	56	69	48	50
06.19	Miscellaneous portable containers	30	42	36	26	35	34
06.22	Vehicle lift platform	-	-	43	54	54	52
	Other specified agents	53	70	115	88	83	82
06.90	Not known	1	-	1	-	-	-
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	673	713	771	805	717	737
07.26	Lorry loader (n/a after 2002/03)	120	115	-	-	-	-
07.27	Van/light van	54	60	58	69	68	64

07.28	Other heavy goods vehicle	128	126	266	293	236	238
07.29	Trailer	150	183	157	146	156	149
07.45	Cycle	25	29	66	67	87	98
07.50	Fork lift truck	45	52	48	52	34	46
	Other specified agents	147	143	163	163	129	134
07.90	Not known	4	5	13	15	7	8
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	36	55	39	37	50	36
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	144	168	137	85	98	105
09.01	Building materials including bricks, tiles, beams, girders	26	23	12	10	11	7
09.02	Machine components including casing, housing	11	8	7	5	2	6
09.03	Vehicle components including handle, wheels, tyres, doors	31	51	62	32	44	52
09.13	Stored products in stacks	13	3	13	12	9	8
	Other specified agents	61	79	39	23	31	32
09.90	Not known	2	4	4	3	1	-
10	Substances and radiation	7	3	-	1	3	1
11	Safety devices and equipment	5	-	-	-	-	1
12	Furniture, washing/ bathing facilities, office equipment, personal equip	164	182	238	185	229	250
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	13	13	13	22	21	15
14	People	47	36	7	16	10	12
15	Animals, trees, plants	68	61	91	81	71	100
16	Physical, phenomena and natural elements	6	-	1	2	2	2
99	Other, firearms and not known	1	1	-	-	3	-
00	No information	90	25	20	14	11	13
	Total	4066	3860	3896	3799	3385	3409

Table 19 Major injuries to employees due to high falls by agent 2001/02 – 2006/07p

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	860	803	688	717	535	580
01.01	Floors (e.g. fell through floor)	107	33	26	23	16	14
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	91	104	121	101	88	80
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	369	396	325	336	245	274
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	82	95	80	102	63	79
01.07, 01.08	Step/stair	40	28	14	23	12	8
	Other specified agents	169	139	113	124	98	121
01.90	Not known	2	8	9	8	13	4
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	8	6	3	3	3	3
03	Systems for the distribution of materials or substances	2	1	-	3	-	-
05	Systems for energy and storage, motors	1	-	2	3	1	1
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	45	54	48	38	40	35
06.06	Elevators, lifts, hoisting devices, elevating work platforms	10	15	2	4	3	2
06.17	Storage systems and containers including skips (mobile), transport containers	6	6	11	6	7	4
06.18	Storage accessories, shelving, pallet racks, pallets, racking	13	10	12	8	8	7
	Other specified agents	16	23	23	20	22	22
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	61	55	56	56	57	40
07.26	Lorry loader (n/a after 2002/03)	11	6	-	-	-	-
07.28	Other heavy goods vehicle	13	10	12	18	22	14
07.29	Trailer	13	15	10	11	13	11
07.50	Fork lift truck	5	6	10	13	3	6
	Other specified agents	18	17	24	13	19	9
07.90	Not known	1	1	-	1	1	-
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	8	6	2	7	9	3
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	22	31	20	17	5	11
10	Substances and radiation	2	1	-	1	-	-
11	Safety devices and equipment	2	-	-	-	-	-
12	Furniture, washing and bathing facilities, office equipment, personal equipment	2	-	4	1	2	3
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	3	2	5	3	6	4
14	People	14	9	2	5	1	2
15	Animals, trees, plants	11	8	7	3	12	13
16	Physical, phenomena and natural elements	1	-	1	1	-	-
00	No information	37	7	7	4	4	5
	Total	1 079	983	845	872	675	700

Table 20 Major injuries to employees due to low falls by agent 2001/02 – 2006/07p

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	1 249	1091	1118	1258	1081	1105
01.01	Floors (e.g. fell through floor)	173	56	29	36	31	23
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	95	89	117	116	84	96
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	621	604	638	691	664	674
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	19	20	26	21	12	16
01.07, 01.08	Step/stairs	127	133	111	125	89	67
	Other specified agents	207	178	184	232	179	219
01.90	Not known	7	11	13	37	22	10
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	17	15	16	26	15	16
03	Systems for the distribution of materials or substances	4	6	7	5	2	1
04	Hand held tools and equipment for drilling	-	3	1	2	-	1
05	Systems for energy and storage, motors	1	1	2	1	1	2
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	112	115	172	185	185	178
06.17	Storage systems and containers including skips (mobile), transport cont.	15	11	22	11	24	17
6.18	Storage accessories, shelving, pallet racks, pallets, racking	32	30	33	48	31	35
06.19	Miscellaneous portable containers	24	27	25	20	29	27
	Other specified agents	41	47	92	106	101	99
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	472	475	482	626	581	596
07.26	Lorry loader (n/a after 2002/03)	91	82	-	-	-	-
07.27	Van/light van	39	46	41	53	59	54
07.28	Other heavy goods vehicle	87	84	179	234	183	194
07.29	Trailer	118	131	117	122	132	125
07.50	Fork lift truck	27	36	25	26	27	32
	Other specified agents	108	93	109	179	174	183
07.90	Not known	2	3	11	12	6	8
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	23	41	31	22	33	30
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	95	101	105	61	83	81
09.01	Building materials including bricks, tiles, beams, girders	14	13	8	6	7	5
09.02	Machine components including casing, housing	10	6	5	4	2	6
09.03	Vehicle components including handle, wheels,	24	37	55	27	39	45

	tyres, doors						
09.13	Stored products in stacks	10	2	8	8	8	6
	Other specified agents	35	40	26	14	27	19
09.90	Not known	2	3	3	2	-	-
10	Substances and radiation	3	1	-	-	2	1
11	Safety devices and equipment	3	-	-	-	-	-
12	Furniture, washing and bathing facilities, office equipment, personal equipment	98	107	149	156	191	221
12.01	Furniture including desk, chair table, bed	95	103	147	149	183	208
	Other specified agents	3	4	2	7	8	13
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	7	3	5	18	11	8
14	People	24	17	4	10	5	8
15	Animals, trees, plants	15	17	26	29	30	69
16	Physical, phenomena and natural elements	1	-	-	1	1	2
99	Other, firearms and not known	1	1	-	-	1	-
00	No information	49	15	9	8	8	5
	Total	2 174	2009	2127	2408	2230	2324

**Table 21 Major injuries to employees due to falls of an unspecified height by agent
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	485	444	438	264	265	178
01.01	Floors (e.g. fell through floor)	94	20	16	6	6	4
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	23	22	40	18	27	12
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	205	233	242	159	159	102
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	11	19	25	12	7	12
01.07, 01.08	Stairs/steps	87	90	42	31	21	8
01.09	Doors, walls, partitions	12	21	14	15	10	6
	Other specified agents	50	39	57	22	34	32
01.90	Not known	3	-	2	1	1	2
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	3	4	7	2	3	5
03	Systems for the distribution of materials or substances	-	1	3	1	2	1
04	Hand held tools and equipment	2	-	1	-	-	-
05	Systems for energy and storage, motors	-	-	-	1	1	-
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	23	59	73	42	35	31
06.06	Elevators, lifts, hoisting devices	2	4	1	2	-	1
06.18	Storage accessories, shelving, pallet racks, pallets, racking	8	22	11	13	9	8
06.19	Miscellaneous portable containers	6	11	10	6	4	3
	Other specified agents	6	22	51	21	22	19
06.90	Not known	1	-	-	-	-	-
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	140	183	233	123	79	101
07.26	Lorry loader (n/a after 2002/03)	18	27	-	-	-	-
07.27	Van/light van	13	12	13	13	7	9
07.28	Other heavy goods vehicle	28	32	75	41	31	30
07.29	Trailer	19	37	30	13	11	13
07.45	Cycle	19	26	46	10	11	23
07.50	Fork lift truck	13	10	13	13	4	8
	Other specified agents	29	38	54	31	15	18
07.90	Not known	1	1	2	2	-	-
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	5	8	6	8	8	3
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	27	36	12	7	10	13
10	Substances and radiation	2	1	-	-	1	-
12	Furniture, washing and bathing facilities, office equipment, personal equipment	64	75	85	28	36	26
12.01	Furniture including desk, chair table, bed	60	72	84	24	34	25
	Other specified agents	4	3	1	4	2	1
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	3	8	3	1	4	3
14	People	9	10	1	1	4	2
15	Animals, trees, plants	42	36	58	39	29	18
15.05	Horse	37	35	57	39	27	17
	Other specified agents	5	1	1	-	2	1
16	Physical, phenomena and natural elements	4	-	-	-	1	-
00	No information	4	3	4	2	2	4
	Total	813	868	924	519	480	385

Table 22 Major injuries to self-employed due to falls from a height by agent breakdown 2001/02 – 2006/07p

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	290	316	372	368	336	284
01.01	Floors (e.g. fell through floor)	26	14	8	10	9	9
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	47	63	93	81	71	64
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	140	156	170	157	150	133
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	18	35	39	45	36	25
01.07, 01.08	Step/stair	11	9	9	18	12	3
	Other specified agents	47	39	51	56	58	50
01.90	Not known	1	-	2	1	-	-
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	2	1	2	6	3	3
03	Systems for the distribution of materials or substances	1	-	3	-	-	-
04	Hand held tools and equipment for drilling	1	-	-	-	-	-
05	Systems for energy and storage, motors	1	-	-	-	-	-
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	13	11	19	17	10	9
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	14	23	30	28	25	26
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	1	1	1	1	3	-
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	16	11	17	11	9	9
10	Substances and radiation	-	-	1	-	-	-
11	Safety devices and equipment	-	-	-	-	1	-
12	Furniture, washing and bathing facilities, office equipment, personal equipment	2	6	4	6	5	2
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	2	1	1	-	2	-
14	People	1	-	-	3	-	1
15	Animals, trees, plants	7	6	5	11	13	5
16	Physical, phenomena and natural elements	1	-	-	-	-	-
00	No information	4	4	3	2	1	2
	Total	356	380	458	453	408	341

Table 23 Major injuries to self-employed due to high falls by agent 2001/02 – 2006/07p

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	154	146	159	181	127	114
01.01	Floors (e.g. fell through floor)	13	5	4	8	5	4
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	29	22	43	39	27	21
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	70	72	55	65	46	46
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	14	26	32	35	26	21
	Other specified agents	27	21	24	33	23	22
01.90	Not known	1	-	1	1	-	-
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	-	-	-	1	1	1
03	Systems for the distribution of materials or substances	-	-	2	-	-	-
04	Hand held tools and equipment for drilling	1	-	-	-	-	-
05	Systems for energy and storage, motors	1	-	-	-	-	-
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	6	7	8	8	4	3
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	2	5	4	4	4	2
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	1	-	-	-	1	-
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	9	2	5	6	3	2
12	Furniture, washing and bathing facilities, office equipment, personal equipment	-	1	-	-	-	-
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	2	-	1	-	-	-
14	People	1	-	-	1	-	-
15	Animals, trees, plants	2	4	1	4	5	4
16	Physical, phenomena and natural elements	1	-	-	-	-	-
00	No information	2	3	1	-	-	1
	Total	182	168	181	205	145	127

Table 24 Major injuries to self-employed due to low falls by agent 2001/02 – 2006/07p

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	90	123	168	140	165	151
01.01	Floors (e.g. fell through floor)	9	6	3	1	3	5
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	15	33	36	36	35	37
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	43	58	93	70	82	79
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	3	6	6	3	7	3
01.07, 01.08	Step/stair	7	5	5	11	7	3
	Other specified agents	13	15	24	19	31	24
01.90	Not known	-	-	1	-	-	-
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	2	-	1	4	2	2
03	Systems for the distribution of materials or substances	1	-	1	-	-	-
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	5	3	8	5	4	6
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	8	10	20	15	17	22
08	Machines and equipment – not hand tools	-	1	1	1	1	-
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	7	8	7	4	5	5
10	Substances and radiation	-	-	1	-	-	-
11	Safety devices and equipment	-	-	-	-	1	-
12	Furniture, washing and bathing facilities, office equipment, personal equipment	-	5	3	3	5	2
13	Leisure, entertainment and sports equipment	-	1	-	-	2	-
14	People	-	-	-	2	-	1
15	Animals, trees, plants	2	-	1	-	3	1
00	No information	1	-	1	2	1	-
	Total	116	151	212	176	206	190

**Table 25 Major injuries to self-employed due to falls of an unspecified height by agent
2001/02 – 2006/07p**

Agent group no.	Agent description	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07p
01	Surfaces, structures and building access equipment	46	47	45	47	44	19
01.01	Floors (e.g. fell through floor)	4	3	1	1	1	-
01.13, 01.14	Scaffold	3	8	14	6	9	6
01.15, 01.16	Ladders	27	26	22	22	22	8
01.03, 01.04	Roofs	1	3	1	7	3	1
01.08	Step/stair	3	3	-	1	4	-
	Other specified agents	8	4	7	10	5	4
02	Surfaces and structures – below ground level	-	1	1	1	-	-
06	Conveying, lifting, storage systems and hand held pushed/pulled transport equipment	2	1	3	4	2	-
07	Vehicles, plant and earth moving equipment	4	8	6	9	4	2
09	Materials, objects, products, machine components	-	1	5	1	1	2
12	Furniture, washing and bathing facilities, office equipment, personal equipment	2	-	1	3	-	-
15	Animals, trees, plants	3	2	3	7	5	-
00	No information	1	1	1	-	1	1
	Total	58	61	65	72	57	24

Table 26 Number and percentage of major injuries to employees due to falls from a height by industry breakdown 2004/05 – 2006/07p

<i>Industry</i>	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07p	
	Number of major injuries due to falls from height	% of all major injuries in each industry	Number of major injuries due to falls from height	% of all major injuries in each industry	Number of major injuries due to falls from height	% of all major injuries in each industry
Agriculture	73	14%	90	19%	63	14%
Extraction and Utility Supply	48	12%	45	12%	51	13%
Manufacturing	597	10%	511	9%	484	9%
Construction	1054	28%	925	25%	987	27%
Retail	392	10%	333	9%	347	10%
Hotels & Restaurants	64	5%	46	4%	64	6%
Transport	592	16%	545	16%	487	15%
Offices	370	13%	327	12%	314	12%
Public administration	237	7%	231	7%	240	7%
Education	87	9%	79	8%	98	9%
Health & Social Work	103	4%	101	4%	108	5%
Other Services	182	15%	152	14%	166	14%
Total	3799	12%	3385	12%	3409	12%

Table 27 Number and percentage of major injuries to employees due to high falls by industry breakdown 2003/04 – 2006/07p

Industry	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07p	
	Number of major injuries due high falls	% of all major injuries in each industry	Number of major injuries due high falls	% of all major injuries in each industry	Number of major injuries due high falls	% of all major injuries in each industry
Agriculture	28	5%	26	6%	20	5%
Extraction and Utility Supply	12	3%	4	1%	13	3%
Manufacturing	131	2%	105	2%	102	2%
Construction	385	10%	309	8%	343	9%
Retail	63	2%	32	1%	31	1%
Hotels & Restaurants	10	1%	5	*	10	1%
Transport	57	2%	69	2%	52	2%
Offices	97	3%	65	2%	64	2%
Public administration	34	1%	25	1%	29	1%
Education	14	1%	7	1%	10	1%
Health & Social Work	6	*	9	*	9	*
Other Services	35	3%	19	2%	17	1%
Total	872	3%	675	2%	700	2%

* less than 0.5%

Table 28 Number and percentage of major injuries to employees due to low falls by industry breakdown 2003/04 – 2006/07p

Industry	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07p	
	Number of major injuries due to low falls	% of all major injuries in each industry	Number of major injuries due high falls	% of all major injuries in each industry	Number of major injuries due high falls	% of all major injuries in each industry
Agriculture	33	6%	49	11%	35	8%
Extraction and Utility Supply	30	7%	38	10%	35	9%
Manufacturing	417	7%	351	6%	332	7%
Construction	569	15%	503	14%	561	15%
Retail	241	6%	236	6%	273	8%
Hotels & Restaurants	42	3%	30	3%	45	4%
Transport	450	12%	428	12%	372	11%
Offices	224	8%	203	7%	215	8%
Public administration	172	5%	169	5%	175	5%
Education	66	6%	64	6%	71	6%
Health & Social Work	74	3%	72	3%	87	4%
Other Services	90	7%	87	8%	123	10%
Total	2408	8%	2230	8%	2324	8%

Table 29 Number and percentage of major injuries to employees due to falls of an unspecified height by industry breakdown 2003/04 – 2006/07p

<i>Industry</i>	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07p	
	Number of major injuries due to unspecified falls	% of all major injuries in each industry	Number of major injuries due to unspecified falls	% of all major injuries in each industry	Number of major injuries due to unspecified falls	% of all major injuries in each industry
Agriculture	12	2%	15	3%	8	2%
Extraction and Utility Supply	6	1%	3	1%	3	1%
Manufacturing	49	1%	55	1%	50	1%
Construction	100	3%	113	3%	83	2%
Retail	88	2%	65	2%	43	1%
Hotels & Restaurants	12	1%	11	1%	9	1%
Transport	85	2%	48	1%	63	2%
Offices	49	2%	59	2%	35	1%
Public administration	31	1%	37	1%	36	1%
Education	7	1%	8	1%	17	2%
Health & Social Work	23	1%	20	1%	12	1%
Other Services	57	5%	46	4%	26	2%
Total	519	2%	380	1%	385	1%

Table 30 Major injuries to employees by occupation (SOC) and kind of fall 2006/07p

Occupation	SOC 2000	High fall	Low fall	Unspecified Fall	Total
Managers in distribution, storage and retailing	Minor group 116	3	18	3	24
Managers & proprietors in other services n.e.c.	1239	4	19	4	27
Engineering professionals	Minor group 212	20	48	8	76
Teaching professionals	Minor group 231	1	43	8	52
Science and engineering technicians	Minor group 311	18	32	5	55
Protective service occupations	Minor group 331	4	37	20	61
Agricultural trades	Minor group 511	7	25	6	38
Metal forming, welding and related trades	Minor group 521	15	27	6	48
Metal working production and maintenance fitters	5223	25	37	8	70
Vehicle Trades	Minor group 523	4	36	5	45
Electricians, electrical fitters	5241	28	100	12	140
Other electrical trades	Others in minor group 524	15	36	7	58
Carpenters and joiners	5315	41	75	10	126
Roofers, roof tilers and slaters	5313	47	25	4	76
Other construction trades	Others in minor group 531	62	124	23	209
Painters and decorators	5323	31	45	11	87
Other building trades	Minor group 532	9	16	4	29
Animal care occupations n.e.c.	6139	3	52	13	68
Caretakers	6232	11	36	6	53
Sales assistants and retail cashiers	Minor group 711	4	94	21	119
Process operatives	Minor group 811	24	97	15	136
Plant and machine operatives	Minor group 812	8	45	5	58
Scaffolders, staggers, riggers	8141	33	14	3	50
Other construction operatives	Others in minor group 814	35	71	4	110
Heavy goods vehicle drivers	8211	34	264	34	332
Transport drivers and operatives	Others in minor group 821	12	151	26	189
Elementary construction occupations	Minor group 912	68	98	14	180
Elementary goods storage occupations	Minor group 914	23	144	17	184
Postal workers, mail sorters, messengers, couriers	9211	1	38	6	45
Elementary cleaning operations	Minor group 923	16	74	4	94
Other occupations		94	403	73	570
Grand Total		700	2324	385	3409

Technical Note

The injury statistics given in this report for 1996/97 – 2006/07p were compiled from reports made to HSE and local authorities under the Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). These Regulations came into effect on 1 April 1996 and replaced RIDDOR 85, the Railways (Notice of Accidents) Order 1986, and certain provisions of the Offshore Installations (Inspectors and Casualties) Regulations 1973 and the Submarine Pipelines (Inspectors etc) Regulations 1977. Certain provisions of the Regulation of Railways Act 1871 and the Transport and Works Act 1992 were also repealed or amended.

Deaths of all employed people and members of the public arising from work activity are reportable to either HSE or the local authority. There are three categories of reportable injury to workers defined under the regulations: fatal, major and over-3-day injury. Examples of major injuries include: fractures (except to fingers, thumbs or toes), amputations, dislocations (of shoulder, hip, knee, spine) and other injuries leading to resuscitation or 24 hour admittance to hospital. Over-3-day injuries include other injuries to workers, which lead to their absence from work, or inability to do their usual job, for over three days. A non-fatal injury to a member of the public is reportable if it results in the injured person being taken from the site of the incident to hospital.

Certain reporting requirements under RIDDOR 95 differ from those under the previous regulations, RIDDOR 85. For example, the definition of a major injury to workers was widened and that of members of the public was altered to include the hospital criterion. Therefore statistics of worker fatalities are comparable, but other injury statistics including major injuries, dangerous occurrences from 1996/97 cannot be compared with those for previous years. RIDDOR 95 also introduced acts of violence at work, and acts of suicide or trespass on railways or other transport systems.

Injuries which are not reportable under RIDDOR 95 are: road traffic accidents involving people travelling in the course of their work, which are covered by road traffic legislation; accidents reportable under separate merchant shipping, civil aviation and air navigation legislation; accidents to members of the armed forces; and fatal injuries to the self-employed arising out of accidents at premises which the injured person either owns or occupies.

Injury rates for employees produced by HSE are based on employment estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The Short Term Employment Survey is used to obtain top-level employment data and the Annual Business Inquiry has been used to obtain SIC 92 four-digit employment data since 2000/01, previously this was taken from the Annual Employment Survey. Such estimates are normally subject to a number of revisions based on information from the Annual Employment Survey. When HSE finalises the provisional injury statistics, rates are revised using the employment data available at that particular time. Injury rates are not revised to incorporate subsequent revisions to employment estimates by the ONS.

HSE developed the Labour Force Survey (LFS) as a source of information on workplace injury, to complement the flow of the injury reports made by employers and others under RIDDOR. HSE placed a supplement of detailed questions on workplace injury in the 1990 LFS, and has placed a limited set of injury questions annually since 1993. The LFS gives estimates on the levels of workplace injury which are not subject to under-reporting, and together with the rates of reported injury, give estimates of the levels of reporting of injuries in industries. LFS injury rates are presented as three year moving averages, to reduce annual fluctuations, which stem from sampling error (2000/01 rate is the average of 1999/2000, 2000/01, and 2001/02 surveys).

Every three years a further question is asked to establish the actual number of days off work following the workplace injury. The total working days lost figure is based on those injuries that result in at least one full day being taken off work. No estimates are made for the small proportion of people who are still off work following an injury at the time of interview, or expect never to return to work. Further results and background information are available in the LFS fact sheet (www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/2002/lfsfct01.pdf).

The statistics are derived from a number of different sources, some of which are surveys and are therefore subject to sampling errors (because the estimates are based on a sample rather than the whole population). Where possible, "95% confidence intervals" are quoted to indicate the range of uncertainty due to this: each of these shows the range of values which we are 95% confident contains the true value. Correspondingly, a difference between two estimates is described as "statistically significant" if there is a less than 5% chance that it is due to sampling error alone.