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Reflecting on the HSE's Annual Health & Safety Figures

The [Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#) have released the annual health and safety figures for the year 2019/2020.

In this edition of 4Warned, we take a closer look at the latest figures and examine how they compare to rates and statistics from previous years.

Key facts

Key facts and figures from the report have been summarised as follows:

- Work-related ill health cases (new or long-standing) are up by 14% to 1.6 million.
- Work-related stress, depression or anxiety cases (new or long-standing) are up by 33% to 0.8 million.
- Annual costs of new cases of work-related ill health (excluding long-latency illness such as cancer) are up by 8% to £10.6 billion.
- Annual costs of workplace injury are up by 7% to £5.6 billion.
- Annual costs of work-related injury and new cases of ill health are up by 7% to £16.2 billion.
- Workers sustaining a non-fatal injury are up by 17% to 0.7 million.
- Over the period 10 April 2020 – 13 March 2021, 31,380 occupational disease notifications of COVID-19 in workers have been reported to enforcing authorities (HSE and LAs), including 367 death notifications.
- 147 to 111 (a reduction of 24.5%).
- Non-fatal injuries are down from 69,208 to 65,427 (a reduction of 5.5%).

Meanwhile, the number of work-related musculoskeletal disorder cases and lung disease deaths each year estimated to be linked to past exposures at work remained unchanged.

Ill health and injuries

On a positive note, the following key statistics demonstrate a reduction in fatal and non-fatal injuries from the previous period in 2019/20:

- Fatal injuries are down from

The public administration and defence, human health and social work and education sectors recorded significantly higher rates of self-reported work-related ill health and non-fatal injury than that for all industries as a whole.

Meanwhile, agriculture, forestry and fishing, construction, accommodation and food service activities, manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade (including motor vehicle repair) had significantly higher injury rates compared to all industries.

Within Europe, the UK consistently has one of the lowest standardised rates of fatal injury – lower than other large economies and the EU average. (This data relates to when the UK was a member of the EU):

- › Non-fatal injuries in the UK were at a similar level to other large economies in 2013
- › Rates of work-related ill health resulting in sick leave were lower than most other EU countries.

Prosecuted cases

2019/2020 has seen a fall in the number of cases prosecuted, continuing the trend from the previous year. The number of notices issued by HSE showed a decrease compared to the previous year, continuing the long-term downward trend in notices issued.

Furthermore, the level of fine issued in 2019/20 has decreased compared to the previous year, with the average fine per conviction significantly lower as well (currently standing at £110,000, compared to £150,000 in 2018/19).

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