

# Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics

2018–2019



# Our Vision:

# Healthy, safe and productive lives and enterprises

## Acknowledgements

The results presented in this review come from analysis prepared by Shane Leavy on behalf of the Health and Safety Authority. The Authority is grateful to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for the provision of the statistical release from the Labour Force Survey for analysis and for the expertise provided by Sinéad Bracken of the Labour Market Statistics Division.

## 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

# Contents

<b>Foreword from the Chief Executive</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Non-fatal accidents</b>	<b>6</b>
HSA non-fatal accident data	6
CSO special annual module on work-related injury and illness	7
<b>Fatal accidents</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Data Sources and Methodology</b>	<b>8</b>
HSA non-fatal accident data	8
CSO module on work-related injury and illness in the Labour Force Survey	8
HSA fatal accident data	9
CSO Labour Force Survey working population	9
Eurostat	9
<b>2. NON-FATAL INJURY AND ILLNESS STATISTICS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Non-fatal injuries reported to the HSA</b>	<b>10</b>
Figure 2.1: Injuries reported by economic sector, 2019 (HSA)	11
Figure 2.2a: Number of reported non-fatal injuries by employment status, 2019 (HSA)	12
Figure 2.2b: Proportion of reported non-fatal injuries by employment status, 2019 (HSA)	12
Figure 2.3: Top five reported non-fatal injuries by trigger, 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (HSA)	13
Figure 2.4a: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Industry, 2019 (HSA)	14
Figure 2.4b: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Construction, 2019 (HSA)	14
Figure 2.4c: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Wholesale and Retail, 2019 (HSA)	15
Figure 2.4d: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Transportation and Storage, 2019 (HSA)	15
Figure 2.4e: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Public Administration and Defence, 2019 (HSA)	16
Figure 2.4f: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Health and Social Work, 2019 (HSA)	16
Figure 2.5: Most injured body parts in workers and non-workers in 2019 (HSA)	17
Figure 2.6: Percentage of non-fatal injuries by absence from work, 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (HSA)	18
Figure 2.7: Top five working environments for worker and non-worker accidents in 2019 (HSA)	18

<b>CSO Module results</b>	<b>19</b>
Figure 2.8: Days lost due to work-related illnesses and injuries in 2018 and five-year average 2014–2018 (CSO)	19
Figure 2.9: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2018 and five-year average 2014–2018 (CSO)	20
Figure 2.10a: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Construction, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)	21
Figure 2.10b: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Health and Social Work, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)	21
Figure 2.10c: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)	22
Figure 2.10d: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)	22
Figure 2.10e: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Public Administration and Defence, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)	23
Figure 2.10f: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Industry, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)	23
Figure 2.11: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender in 2018 and five-year average 2014–2018 (CSO)	24
Figure 2.12: Number of 0+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender and injury type in 2018 (CSO)	24
Figure 2.13: Number of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2018 and five-year average 2014–2018 (CSO)	25
Figure 2.14: Number of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender in 2018 and five-year average 2014–2018 (CSO)	26
Figure 2.15: Number of 0+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender and illness type in 2018 (CSO)	26
Figure 2.16: Number of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by age group in 2018 (CSO)	27
Figure 2.17: Number of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by occupation of victim in 2018 (CSO)	27
Figure 2.18: Number of 0+ day work-related injuries (left) and illnesses (right) per 1,000 workers by NUTS region in 2018 (CSO)	28
Figure 2.19: Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 100,000 workers in the EU in 2018 (Eurostat)	29
<b>3. FATAL INJURY STATISTICS</b>	<b>30</b>
Figure 3.1: Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers, 1998–2019 (HSA)	30
Figure 3.2: Number of fatal work-related accidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector 2019 (HSA)	31
Figure 3.3: Percentage of fatal work-related accidents by employment status of victim, 2019 (HSA)	32
Figure 3.4: Number of fatal work-related accidents by employment status of victim and NACE economic sector, 2019 (HSA)	32

Figure 3.5a: Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 1998–2019 (HSA)	33
Figure 3.5b: Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers in Construction, 1998–2019 (HSA)	33
Figure 3.5c: Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 1998–2019 (HSA)	34
Figure 3.5d: Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers in Industry (NACE B-E), 1998–2019 (HSA)	34
Figure 3.6: Number of fatal work-related accidents by gender and age band, 2019 (HSA)	35
Figure 3.7: Number of fatal work-related accidents to workers and non-workers by age band, 2019 (HSA)	35
Figure 3.8: Number of fatal work-related accidents in key NACE economic sectors involving victims aged under 65 years and 65 years or more, 2019 (HSA)	36
Figure 3.9: Percentage of fatal accidents occurring to victims aged 65 years or more each year, 1990–2019 (HSA)	36
Figure 3.10: Number of fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and nationality, 2019 (HSA)	37
Figure 3.11: Top five triggers involved in fatal accidents, 2019 (HSA)	38
Figure 3.12: Top five modes of injury involved in fatal accidents, 2019 (HSA)	39
Figure 3.13: Vehicles involved in fatal accidents, 2019 (HSA)	39
Figure 3.14: Number of fatal accidents per 100,000 workers in the EU, including the UK, 2018 (Eurostat)	40

#### **4. APPENDIX** **41**

Figure 4.1: Number and percentage of non-fatal accidents by trigger in selected economic sectors, 2018 (HSA)	41
Figure 4.2: Number and rate of people suffering injury and illness, 2013–2018 (CSO)	42
Figure 4.3: Number of reported fatal accidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector, 2010–2019 (HSA)	43
Figure 4.4: Number and rate of reported fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and employment status of victim, 2019 (HSA)	44
Figure 4.5: Number of reported fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and age band of victim, 2019 (HSA)	44
Figure 4.6: Reported worker fatal accident rates per 100,000 workers by nationality, 2012–2019 (HSA)	45
Figure 4.7: Number of reported fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and trigger, 2019 (HSA)	45
Figure 4.8: Number of reported fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and mode of injury, 2019 (HSA)	46
Figure 4.9: Rate of reported fatal accidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region 2012–2019 (HSA)	46
Figure 4.10: Rate of reported fatal accidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (HSA)	47

#### **REFERENCES** **48**

# FOREWORD

## Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics

### Introduction

2019 saw strong economic growth for Ireland. The country was almost at full employment and there was increased activity in many sectors including construction, manufacturing and retail. The number of people in fulltime employment increased from 2.2 million in 2018 to 2.3 million in 2019 according to the Central Statistics Office.

Regrettably, 47 fatal work-related accidents were reported to the Authority in 2019, representing a substantial increase from 2018, which was the lowest year on record with 39 fatal accidents. Agriculture, which accounted for 19 of the 47 deaths, remains the most dangerous sector in which to work, with the evidence suggesting that older farmers are most at risk. The number of fatalities in the construction sector more than doubled in 2019. While larger construction firms appear to have improved standards around worker safety, unfortunately what our inspectors often see on the ground is self-employed and smaller building companies not realising their duty and responsibility to staff, and cutting corners when it comes to health and safety. One death is one too many. A worker fatality has a devastating impact on the family, colleagues, and community of the person who dies. As we approach 2021, it is essential that all employers redouble their efforts to implement health and safety procedures and improve standards around worker safety.

The number of work-related non-fatal injuries also increased in 2019, with 9,335 reported to the Authority. Manual handling leading to internal injuries was the most common cause of workplace accidents in 2019, representing almost a third (29%) of all non-fatal accidents reported to the Authority. Slips or falls were the second most common, at 24%.

This review of workplace injury, illness and fatality statistics underscores how important it is to ensure that proper risk assessments and health and safety considerations are implemented to ensure that ultimately, a worker will not pay the price with their life or their health. Employers must continue to demonstrate from the top that no job is worth a loss of life, injury or illness. We must not become complacent as we continue our shared mission to prevent injury, death and ill health at work.

### Ageing Workforce

Our workforce is also getting older and this is presenting new challenges. Of the 47 fatal accidents in 2019, 16 (34%) were aged over 65. This age group was particularly prominent in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector, where 13 (59%) of the fatal accidents reported occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. The average age of victims has changed considerably over time. As a population, we are living longer, working longer and this means we need to address how best to prevent workplace injuries or deaths amongst this age group. In 2019, the Authority hosted a summit on the Future of Workers and Work, which looked at the challenges and opportunities that new ways of working present for workers and employers. The ageing workforce was highlighted as a particular group requiring focus in the workplace now and in the future.

Older workers are more likely to suffer a fatal injury, regardless of the sector in which the worker is employed. Older workers are also more likely to experience a work-related illness rather than an injury. The Authority urges all employers to implement tailored health and safety policies designed with the unique requirements of older workers in mind. People must also recognise their own limitations as they age which may affect their ability to work. As people get older, they must adjust their work practices to make sure that they avoid injury.



**Dr. Sharon McGuinness**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

## Absence from work

One area that saw improvements in 2018 was the number of work days lost to work-related non-fatal injuries. This decreased by 13%, from 709,544 in the five-year average for 2014-2018 to 620,800 in 2018, with men more likely to be absent from work as a result of injury compared to women.

In 2018, there were 9.4 non-fatal injuries leading to four or more days absence from work for every 1,000 male workers compared with 6.5 per 1,000 female workers. This has been the case in most recent years, with men experiencing higher rates of accident than women in nine of the ten years since 2009. Whereas, in 2018, men had higher rates of work-related injuries (includes any injuries that results from a slip, trip, fall or similar accident), women had higher rates of work-related illnesses (includes any physical or mental illness caused or aggravated by work).

## Looking forward to 2021

The 2019 Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics gives us a clear understanding of the causes and characteristics of injuries, illnesses and fatalities in the workplace. Our vision is for healthy, safe and productive lives and enterprises for workers in Ireland and the findings of this review will help to inform our own work programme into the future to support workplaces to put the correct systems in place to reduce work-related accidents in the future.

In 2021, we will continue to work with all sectors to increase knowledge and understanding around the application of risk assessment tools to help prevent deaths, injuries and illnesses in the workplace. In particular, we will continue to target those sectors, hazards and risks which we know cause the highest levels of injuries, ill-health and fatalities.

The work of the Authority affects every single worker, in every single workplace, in Ireland. Our inspectors and wider team work incredibly hard, in conjunction with our many stakeholders, to ensure that workplaces across the country are safe and healthy environments. Countless work-related deaths, injuries and illnesses have been prevented thanks to this shared work and dedication. I would also like to convey my gratitude to all the employers, employees and self-employed workers who continue to put health and safety at the centre of how they work. You too are saving lives.

Finally, I'd like to thank our partners in industry, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and the Authority's Board for their ongoing support and collaboration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon McGuinness". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

**Dr Sharon McGuinness**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

December 2020

# 1

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Health and Safety Authority's Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality presents the most recently available data on occupational deaths, injuries and illnesses in Ireland. There are three key sources of this data: 1) the Authority maintains a database of non-fatal accidents reported to it, 2) the Authority has a comprehensive register of all work-related accidents 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 these data. The HSA database of non-fatal accidents is limited due to under-reporting, and while the CSO data gives a fuller picture of accidents and illnesses in the Irish economy, it contains less detailed information.

This report provides an overview of the most recently available statistics (HSA data: 2019; CSO data: 2018) and compares this with the previous five-year averages.

### Non-fatal accidents

#### HSA non-fatal accident data

The most common trigger (i.e. the cause of an accident) reported to the Authority in 2019 was manual handling leading to internal injuries (29% of all non-fatal accidents). Slipping or falling accidents were the next most common, accounting for 24% of non-fatal injuries. Of these, nearly four out of five were falls on the same level and one out of five were falls from height.

Manual handling and falls were the two most common triggers in each of the five years from 2015 to 2019, which shows that these two triggers have consistently been among the most prevalent causes of non-fatal accidents in recent years.

The part of the body affected in the greatest number of non-fatal accidents to workers was the back. Back injuries were reported in 20% of worker accidents, but only 5% of non-worker accidents. This is because more workers were involved in manual handling accidents caused by lifting or moving heavy objects than non-workers. For non-workers, the part of the body injured most frequently was the head (22%). These head injuries most often followed slips or falls.

The most common working environment for non-fatal work-related accidents was industrial or maintenance areas for workers (25%) and shop or service areas for non-workers (41%).



## CSO special annual module on work-related injury and illness

The latest data available from the CSO's module on work-related injury and illness pertains to 2018, and so is not directly comparable with the Authority's data. The number of days lost to work-related non-fatal injuries fell by 13% to 620,800 in 2018, when compared with the five-year average for 2014–2018 (709,544); while the number of days lost to work-related illnesses fell by 12% from 938,521 (2014–2018 average) to 822,300 in 2018.

Work-related non-fatal accidents are more prevalent in certain economic sectors. The three economic sectors with the highest rates of non-fatal injury leading to four or more days absence from work were Construction (16.7 per 1,000 workers), followed by Health and Social Work (13.4 per 1,000 workers) and Transportation and Storage (13.2 per 1,000 workers). Construction, and Health and Social Work, together with Agriculture, are identified as priority sectors in the Authority's Programme of Work 2020, while Transportation and Storage was also identified as a sector that will be targeted for action.

In each of the five years, 2014 to 2018, Construction was among the top five sectors for accidents leading to four or more days of absence from work. For four of the five years since 2014, Transportation and Storage; Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Public Administration and Defence and Industry have been among the top five sectors for 4+ day accidents. This shows the prevalence of high rates of accidents in these sectors in recent years.

The three sectors with the lowest rates in 2018 were Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (2.9 per 1,000 employed) and Financial, Insurance and Real Estate Activities (2.8 per 1,000 employed), and Information and Communication sector (no reported injuries). In general, the data suggests that work based in offices or laboratories tends to be lower risk than work in other environments.

In 2018, there were 9.4 non-fatal accidents leading to four or more days absence from work for every 1,000 male workers, compared with 6.5 per 1,000 female workers. This has been the case in most recent years, with men experiencing higher accident rates than women in four of the five years since 2014.

The most common kinds of injury were dislocation, sprain or strain (18 per 1,000 workers) and wounds or superficial injuries (14.7 workers per 1,000 workers).

Whereas men had higher rates of work-related injuries, women had higher rates of work-related illnesses. In 2018 the rate of work-related illness for women was 15.7 per 1,000 workers, compared with 11.1 per 1,000 workers for men. Women have had higher rates of illness in four of the five years since 2014.

The most common kinds of illness were bone, joint or muscle problems (12.1 per 1,000 workers), and stress, depression or anxiety (5.5 per 1,000 workers). More women (7.2 per 1,000 workers) reported stress, depression or anxiety than men (4.1 per 1,000 workers).

The Mid-West region of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick had the highest rates of work-related injuries (31 per 1,000 workers), while the South-East region of Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford had the highest rates of work-related illnesses (35.4 per 1,000 workers).

## Fatal accidents

There were 47 fatal work-related accidents in 2019. This is an increase from the record low number of 39 fatal accidents in 2018, but comparable with the five-year average for 2015–2019 of 47.6 fatal accidents.

Looking at worker accidents only, the rate of fatalities was 1.8 per 100,000 workers in 2019, an increase from the rate of 1.5 per 100,000 in 2018, but considerably lower than the rate of 3.8 per 100,000 workers in 1998 (the earliest year of the CSO's Labour Force Survey data on the number of workers). This shows that the number of fatal accidents has declined substantially since 1998.

Deaths were strongly concentrated in a small number of economic sectors. Almost one in every two fatal accidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing alone (22). One in four accidents occurred in Construction (12). Fatal accidents also occurred in Transportation and Storage (six), Manufacturing (two), Water Supply and Waste Management (two), Wholesale and Retail Trade (one), Information and Communication (one) and Administrative and Support Services (one).

This is a similar pattern to other recent years, with half of all fatal accidents in the five-year period since 2015 occurring in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

More than half of all fatal accidents in 2019 occurred to self-employed people (25), with 16 fatalities occurring to employees and six to non-workers.

Fatal accidents happened to victims from all age groups, but the highest number involved people aged 65 years and over (16, 34%). All but three of these victims aged 65 years and older were in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, which illustrates the risks of work-related accidents to older farmers. The proportion of fatal accidents involving older victims aged 65 years or more has increased from 7% in 1990 (the first full year for which the Authority holds data), to 34% in 2019.

All but two of the 47 victims of fatal accidents were male.

The single most common trigger leading to a fatal injury was falling from height, involved in 11 (23%) fatal accidents. Other important triggers included the loss of control of vehicles (nine), loss of control of animals (seven), falls of objects onto victims (six) and victims entering dangerous areas such as the path of vehicles (six).

The most common modes of injury (i.e. the way in which victims became injured) for fatal accidents were impact from fall (seven, all of which occurred in Construction), trapping or crushing under objects (seven) and trapping or crushing between objects (seven). In Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, the single most common mode of injury for fatal accidents was drowning (five; three in Fishing, two in Agriculture).

## DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

There are three sources of information available to the Authority on accidents and illnesses in Ireland.

### HSA non-fatal accident data

Employers, self-employed people and other dutyholders must report to the Authority any work-related accident causing workers to lose four or more days of work. Work-related accidents to non-workers that lead to the victim being taken from the location of the accident for treatment in a medical facility must also be reported to the Authority.

Accidents reported in this way include important details such as the trigger (i.e. the cause of the accident) and the type of injury. Information collected in accident reports is based on European Statistics on Accidents at Work methodology, which allows comparison between EU member states.

However, there is considerable underreporting of accidents, with smaller enterprises and self-employed people less likely to report accidents than larger enterprises. Nonetheless, HSA non-fatal data provides some key insights about workplace accidents that are reported but does not tell the full story about accidents occurring in the economy.

### CSO module on work-related injury and illness in the Labour Force Survey

Each year the CSO conducts a special module on work-related accidents and illnesses in the Labour Force Survey. Around 16,000 households are surveyed about work-related accidents or illnesses that occurred to workers during the previous 12 months. The most recent data available relates to 2018.

The module includes less detailed information than the HSA data on work-related accidents, however it gives a fuller picture of work-related accidents occurring in the economy. The module also includes some important information about work-related illnesses.

In 2018 no work-related accidents in the NACE economic sector Information and Communication were reported to the Labour Force Survey. This simply means that none of the respondents to the Labour Force Survey special module on work-related accidents and illnesses that worked in Information and Communication had reported an accident in the previous 12 months, not that no such accidents occurred.

### **HSA fatal accident data**

All fatal work-related accidents reported to the Authority are investigated by inspectors, who compile detailed reports. These reports are coded using European Statistics on Accidents at Work methodology, which gives considerable detail about fatal accidents.

*This review also includes other data from the Central Statistics Office and Eurostat.*

### **CSO Labour Force Survey working population**

To compare the prevalence of work-related accidents and illnesses in different economic sectors and in different years, rates of work-related accidents and illnesses are calculated as a proportion of workers. For non-fatal accidents and illnesses, the rates are calculated per 1,000 workers, while for fatal accidents the rates are calculated per 100,000 workers.

The CSO's Labour Force Survey gives the number of workers in the economy each quarter, so rates have been calculated using the average level of employment across the four quarters of the relevant year. Thus, for 2019, the average employment level was calculated across the four quarters of 2019.

### **Eurostat**

Eurostat is the statistical agency of the European Union. Each year, member states supply data on work-related accidents to Eurostat, using European Statistics on Accidents at Work methodology. This information is available to the public on the Eurostat website. The most recent year of data fully available for all members of the European Union is 2018.

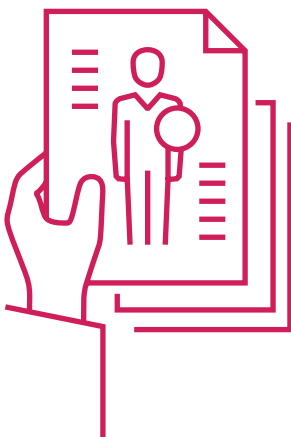
# 2

## NON-FATAL INJURY AND ILLNESS STATISTICS

### 2.1 Non-fatal injuries reported to the HSA

In 2019, 9,335 non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority. Of these, 95% related to workers. The highest number of accidents were reported in the NACE economic sector of Health and Social Work, which accounted for 20.8% of all injuries.

For non-worker accidents, the highest number was reported in Wholesale and Retail (124), representing 27.7% of all non-worker injuries. Transportation and Storage had 95 non-worker injuries, 21.3% of all non-worker injuries. There were high numbers of non-worker victims in these sectors probably because non-workers were more likely to spend time in shops and transport areas such as trains or airports than other kinds of workplace.



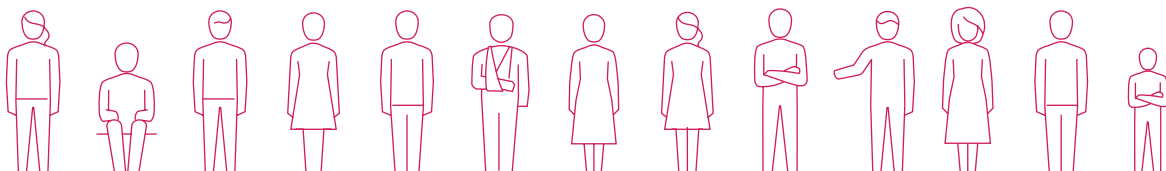
In 2019, **9,335**  
non-fatal injuries were  
reported to the Authority

**95%** of these were workers

**Figure 2.1:**

**Injuries reported by economic sector, 2019 (HSA)**

	Workers		Non-workers		All	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Q – Health and Social Work	1,904	21.4	36	8.1	1,940	20.8
C – Manufacturing	1,464	16.5	13	2.9	1,477	15.8
G – Wholesale and Retail	1,135	12.8	124	27.7	1,259	13.5
H – Transportation and Storage	851	9.6	95	21.3	946	10.1
O – Public Administration and Defence	889	10.0	15	3.4	904	9.7
F – Construction	849	9.6	18	4.0	867	9.3
N – Admin and Support Service	429	4.8	3	0.7	432	4.6
P – Education	283	3.2	75	16.8	358	3.8
I – Accommodation and Food	227	2.6	26	5.8	253	2.7
S – Other Service Activities	168	1.9	9	2.0	177	1.9
E – Water, Sewerage, Waste	158	1.8	2	0.4	160	1.7
A – Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	120	1.4	1	0.2	121	1.3
M – Professional, Scientific and Technical	97	1.1	1	0.2	98	1.0
K – Financial and Insurance	78	0.9	7	1.6	85	0.9
J – Information and Communications	82	0.9	1	0.2	83	0.9
R – Arts, Entertainment	38	0.4	18	4.0	56	0.6
D – Electricity, Gas, etc.	42	0.5	1	0.2	43	0.5
L – Real Estate	40	0.5	2	0.4	42	0.4
B – Mining and Quarrying	34	0.4	0	0.0	34	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,888</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,335</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Most victims of non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority were employees (93%)**

However, this is affected by under-reporting of accidents by self-employed people. There were 447 accidents involving non-workers reported, representing 4.8% of all injuries.

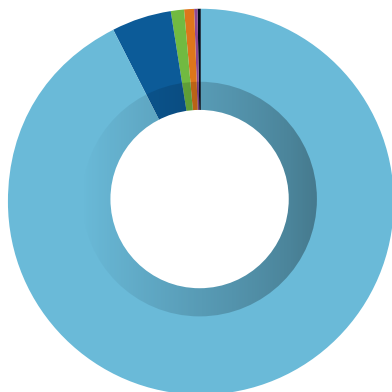
**Figure 2.2a:**

**Number of reported non-fatal injuries by employment status, 2019 (HSA)**

	N	%
Employee	8,681	93.0
Non-worker	447	4.8
Self-employed	101	1.1
Trainee	77	0.8
Employment status unknown	21	0.2
Family worker	8	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,335</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 2.2b**

**Proportion of reported non-fatal injuries by employment status, 2019 (HSA)**



**93%** Employee

**4.8%** Non-worker

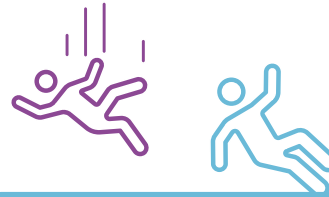
**1.1%** Self-employed

**0.8%** Trainee

**0.2%** Employment status unknown

**0.1%** Family worker

The *trigger* is the term used to describe the cause of an accident. Figure 2.3 shows the top five triggers of non-fatal accidents reported to the Authority in 2019, where a clear trigger was identified. The single most common trigger was manual handling leading to internal injury (2,737, 29%). Slipping or falling led to 2,275 injuries (24%); of these, 79% were falls on the same level while 21% were falls from height. Manual handling and falls together account for over half of all non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority in 2019.



**Slipping or falling led to**

**2,275 injuries**

**79%** were falls on the same level



**21%** were falls from height

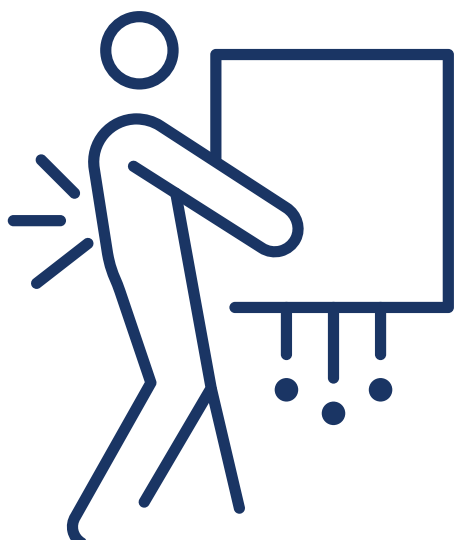
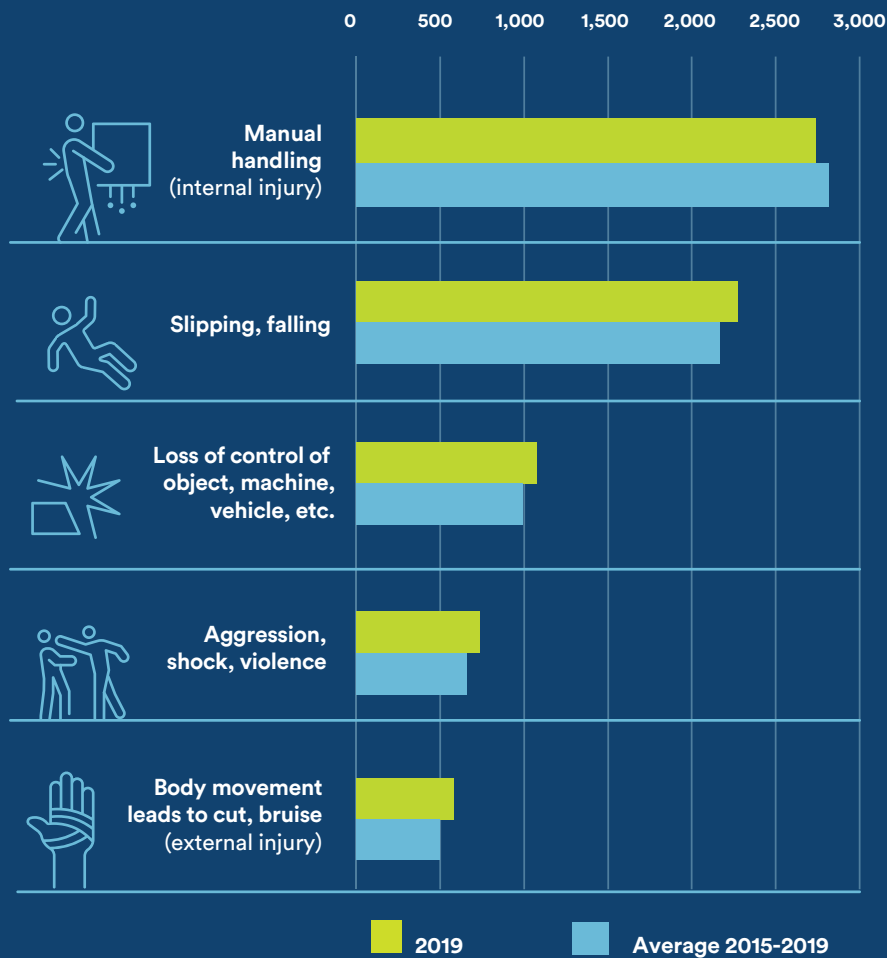


Of the 1,078 non-fatal accidents involving the loss of control of objects, machines and vehicles, 37% involved the loss of control of vehicles, 23% involved the loss of control of hand-held tools and 20% involved the loss of control of objects being worked on.

Figure 2.3 also shows the average number of accidents over the five-year period 2015–2019 for the five most common triggers, with manual handling and falls the most common triggers in recent years.

Figure 2.3

Top five reported non-fatal injuries by trigger, 2019 and five-year average 2015-2019 (HSA)



**Manual handling and falls were the most common triggers of non-fatal injuries in recent years**

Figures 2.4a to 2.4f show the top three triggers for the six economic sectors reporting the highest number of non-fatal injuries to the Authority.

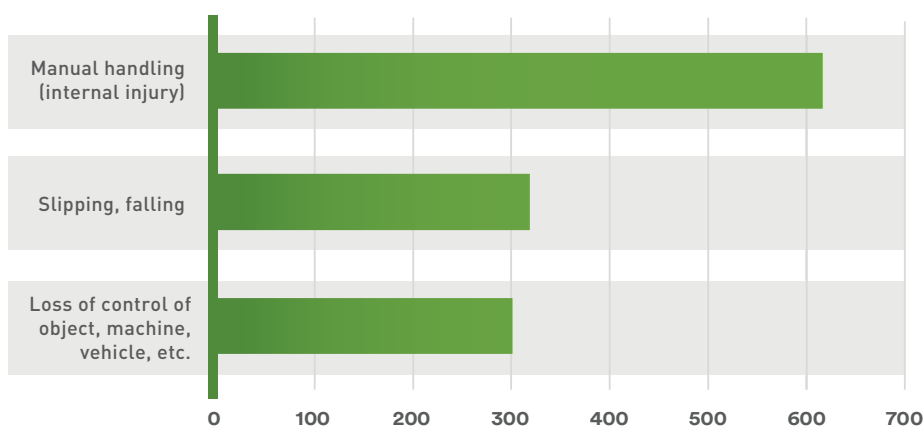
Both manual handling and slipping/falling triggers were among the top two triggers for each of the major economic sectors. Aggression, shock and violence was the third most common trigger in Public Administration and Defence; these involved mainly justice and public order activities, including An Garda Síochána.

## Industry



**Figure 2.4a**

**Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Industry<sup>1</sup>, 2019 (HSA)**

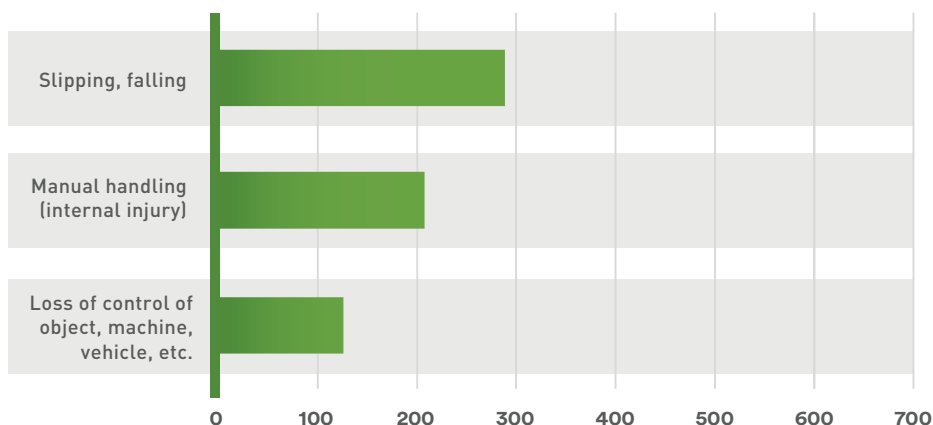


## Construction



**Figure 2.4b:**

**Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Construction, 2019 (HSA)**



<sup>1</sup> 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. These sectors are combined by the CSO when releasing data on numbers employed.

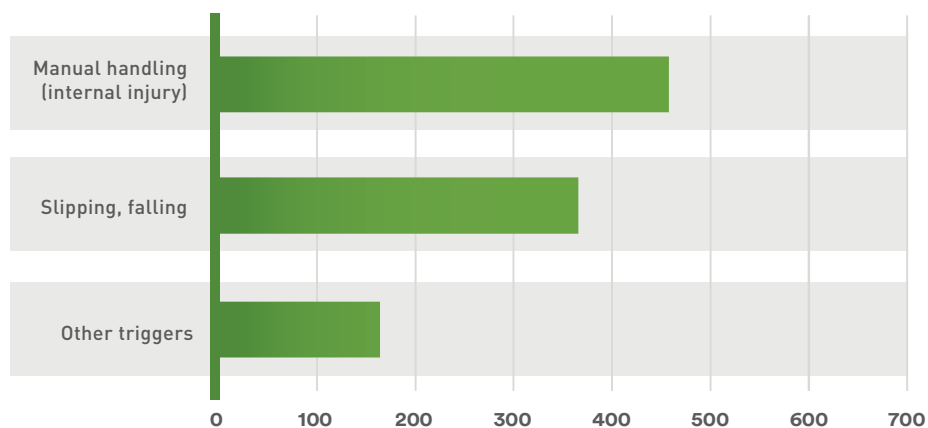


## Wholesale and Retail



**Figure 2.4c**

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Wholesale and Retail, 2019 (HSA)

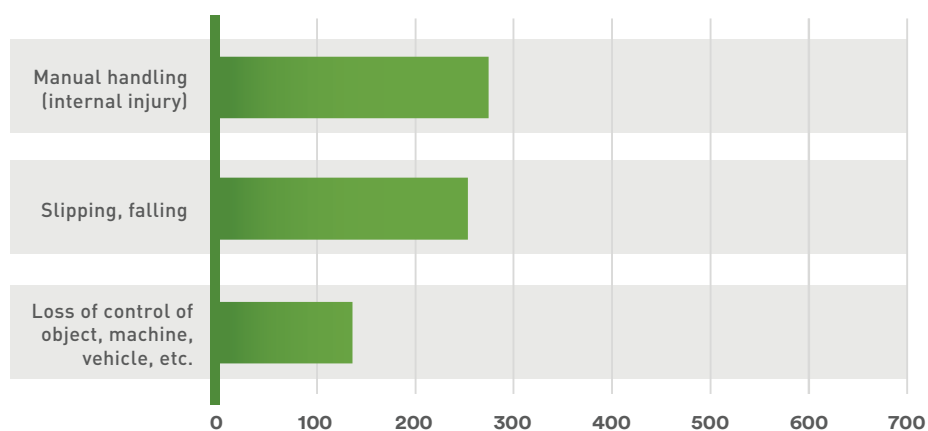


## Transportation and Storage



**Figure 2.4d**

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Transportation and Storage, 2019 (HSA)

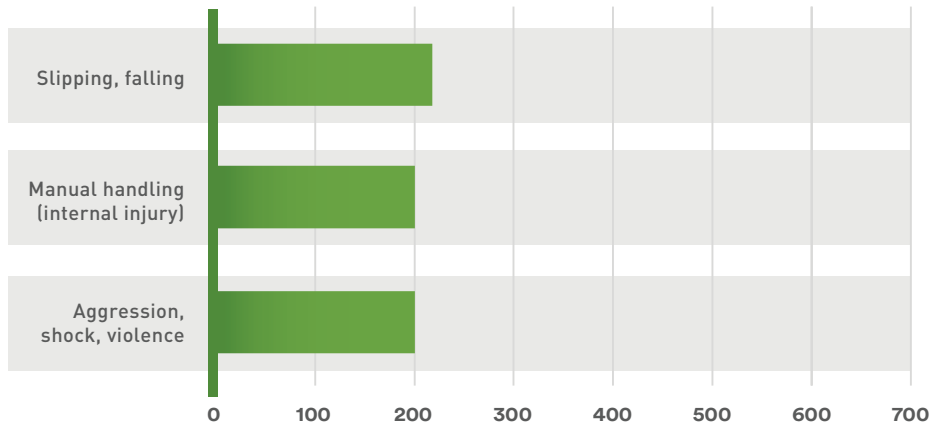


# Public Administration and Defence



Figure 2.4e

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Public Administration and Defence, 2019 (HSA)

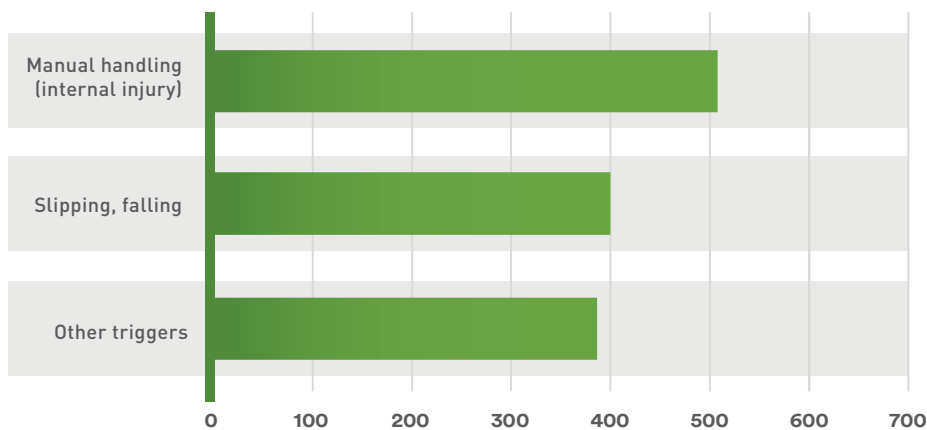


# Health and Social Work



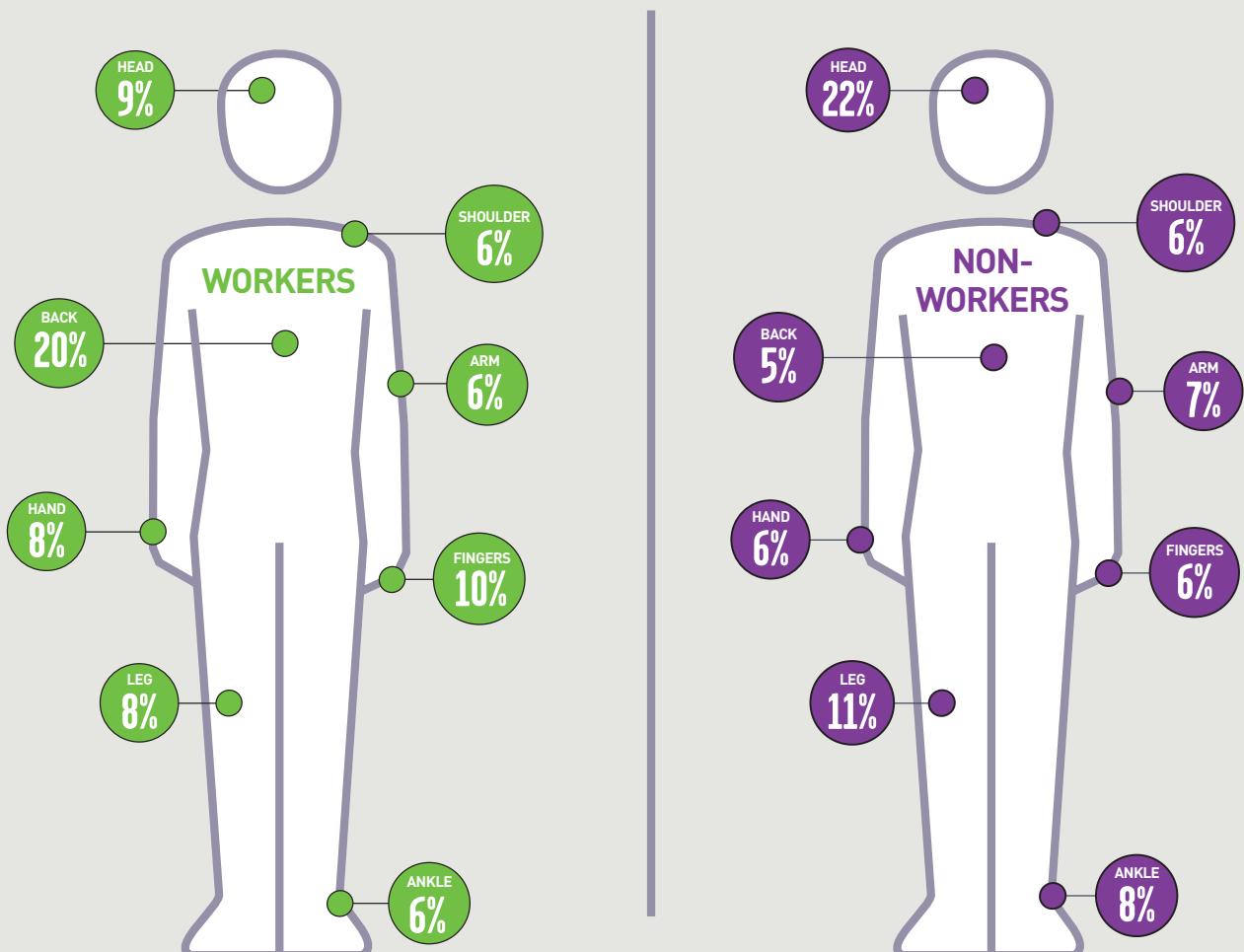
Figure 2.4f

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Health and Social Work, 2019 (HSA)



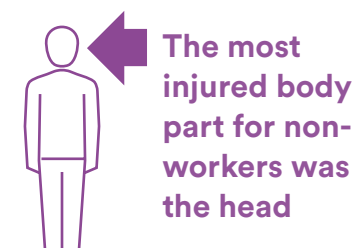
**Figure 2.5:**

**Most injured body parts in workers and non-workers in 2019 (HSA)**



The most injured body part for workers in 2019 was the back, involved in 20% of non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority. This is in keeping with recent years, with back injuries comprising 22% of all non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority between 2015 and 2019. Non-fatal back injuries were caused primarily by manual handling accidents.

The most injured body part for non-workers was the head (22%). The most common cause of head injuries in non-workers was falling or slipping, causing the victims to strike their heads.



Most non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority resulted in fewer than 14 days of work lost. In 2019, almost 60% of all reported non-fatal injuries led to 4-6 days (28%) or 7-13 days (31%) of lost work; this is in keeping with the average for 2015-2019 (Figure 2.6).

**Figure 2.6:**

**Percentage of non-fatal injuries by absence from work, 2019 and five-year average 2015-2019 (HSA)**

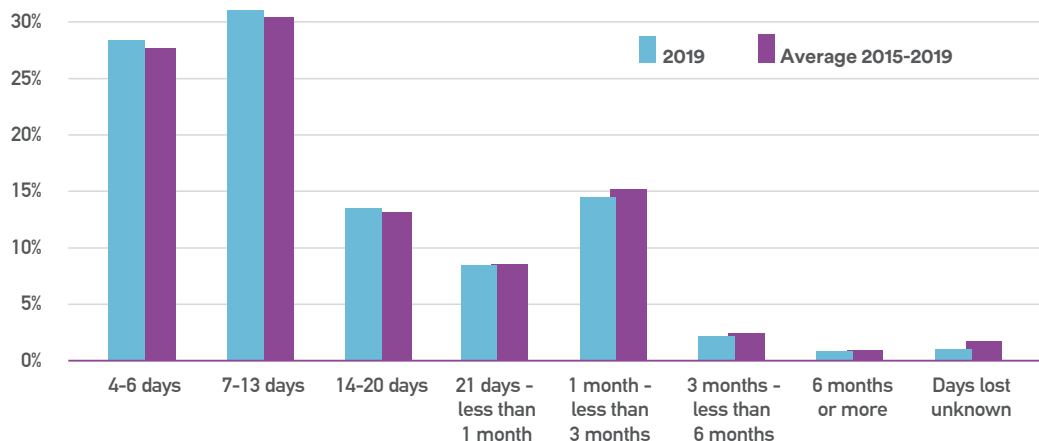
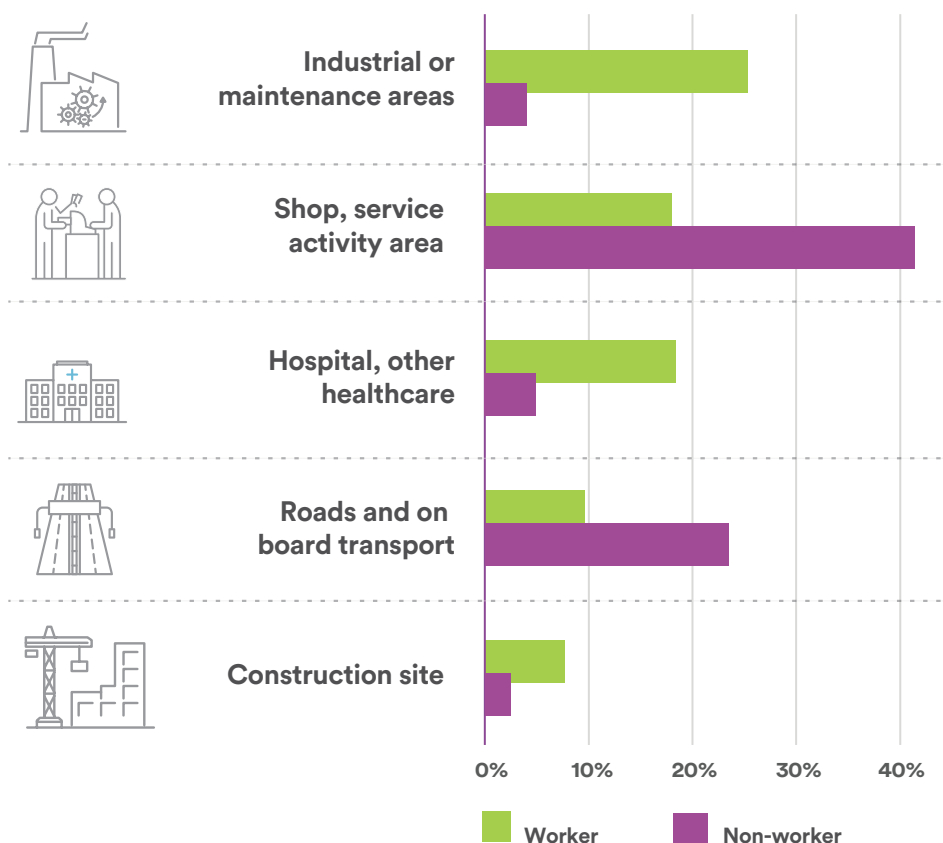


Figure 2.7 shows the top five working environments where accidents occurred to workers and non-workers, where an environment was specified. Among worker victims, 25% of reported non-fatal accidents occurred in industrial or maintenance areas, 18% occurred in shop or service activity areas and 18% occurred in hospitals or other healthcare areas. Most non-worker accidents occurred in shop or service activity areas (41%) or on roads and transport (23%).

**Figure 2.7:**

**Top five working environments for worker and non-worker accidents in 2019 (HSA)**



## 2.2 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 2018. For 2018, respondents reported 620,800 days lost due to work-related injuries, down from the five-year average of 709,544, and 822,300 days lost due to work-related illness, down from the five-year average of 938,521.

Work-related injury:

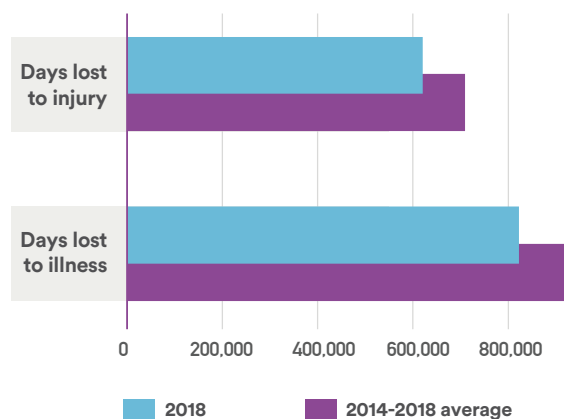
↓ 13%

Work-related illness:

↓ 12%

Figure 2.8:

Days lost due to work-related illnesses and injuries in 2018 and five-year average 2014-2018 (CSO)



In 2018, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work was Construction (16.7 per 1,000 workers), followed by Health and Social Work (13.4 per 1,000 workers), Transportation and Storage (13.2 per 1,000 workers) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (12.1 per 1,000 workers).



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

4+

days of absence from work

16.7 Construction



13.4 Health and Social Work



13.2 Transportation and Storage



12.1 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



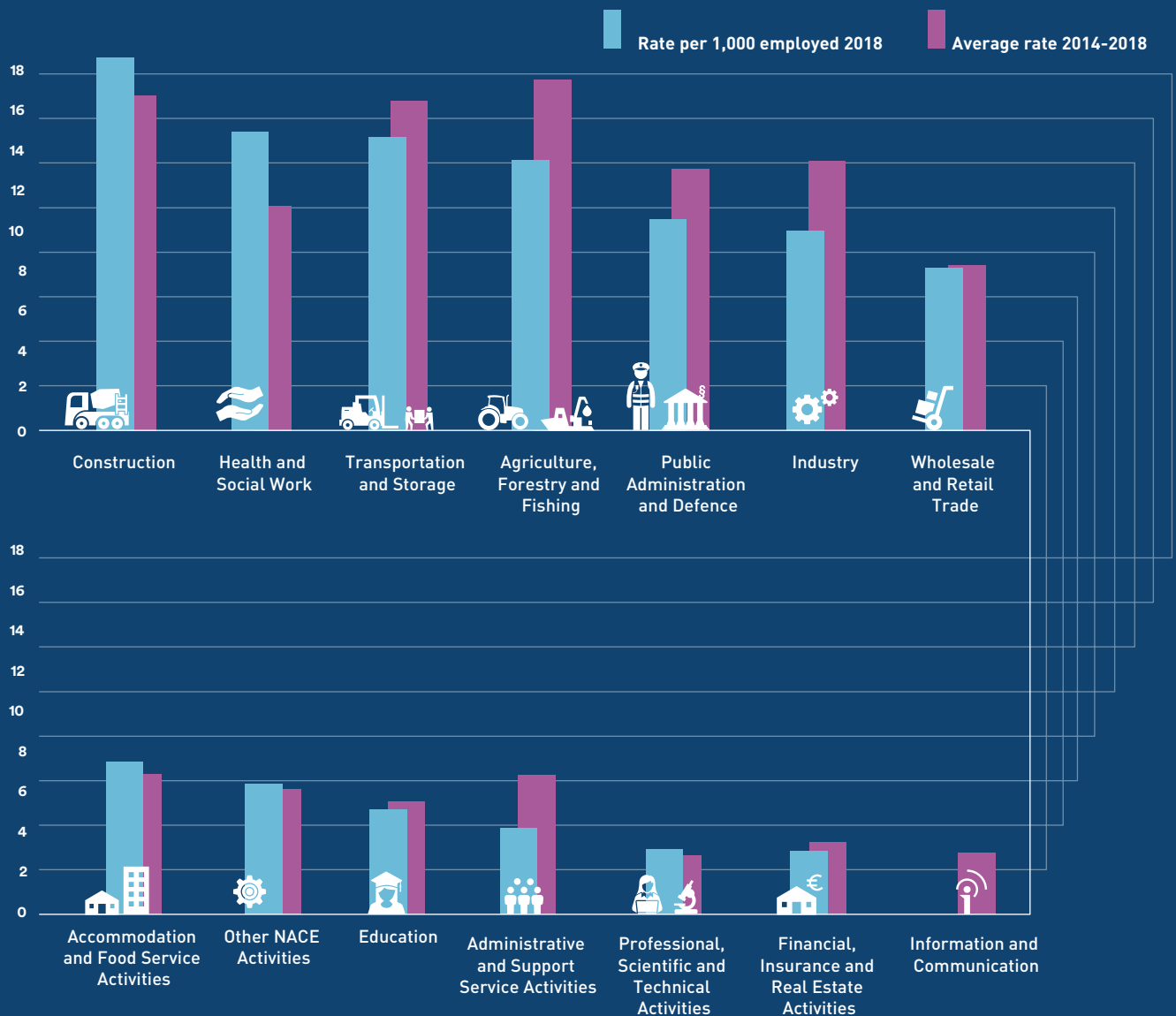
(No per 1,000 workers)

This is somewhat different from the five-year average rates for 2014-2018, in which Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing had the highest rate (15.8 per 1,000 workers), while Health and Social Work was sixth highest (10.1 per 1,000 workers). However Figure 2.9 shows that a number of key economic sectors tend to have had higher rates of injuries

in recent years, while sectors like Information and Communication (2.7 per 1,000 workers in 2014-2018), Financial, Insurance and Real Estate Activities (3.2 per 1,000 workers in 2014-2018) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (2.6 per 1,000 workers in 2014-2018) have had broadly lower rates of injury in recent years.

**Figure 2.9:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2018 and five-year average 2014-2018 (CSO)**



Figures 2.10a to 2.10f show the change in rates of work-related injuries causing four or more days of absence from work since 2004. There is considerable fluctuation in these numbers from year to year.

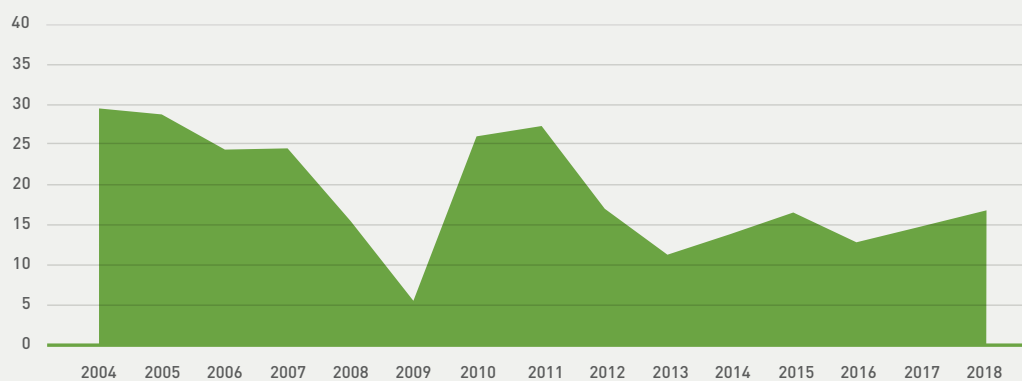
## Construction



The rate of injuries in Construction fell from 29.5 per 1,000 workers in 2004 to 5.5 per 1,000 workers in 2009 but has since risen to 16.7 injuries per 1,000 workers in 2018.

**Figure 2.10a:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Construction, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)**



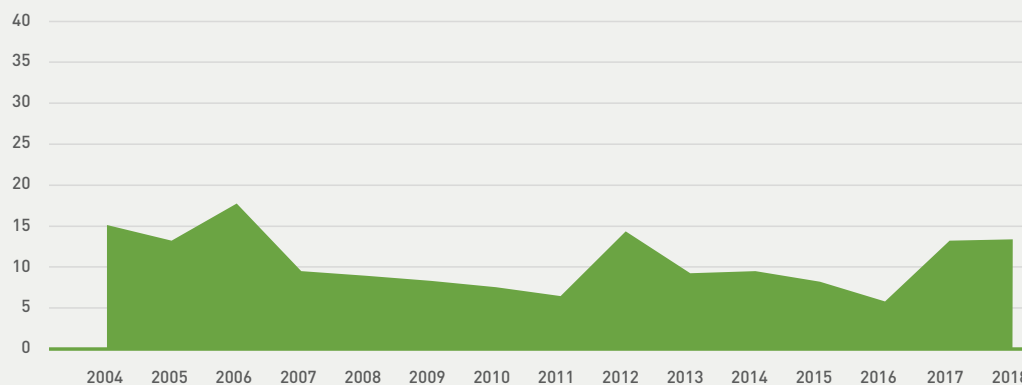
## Health and Social Work



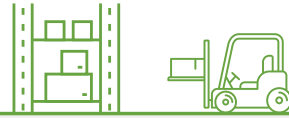
The rate of injuries fell in Health and Social Work from 15.1 per 1,000 workers in 2004 to 5.8 per 1,000 workers in 2016, rising to 13.4 per 1,000 workers in 2018.

**Figure 2.10b:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Health and Social Work, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)**



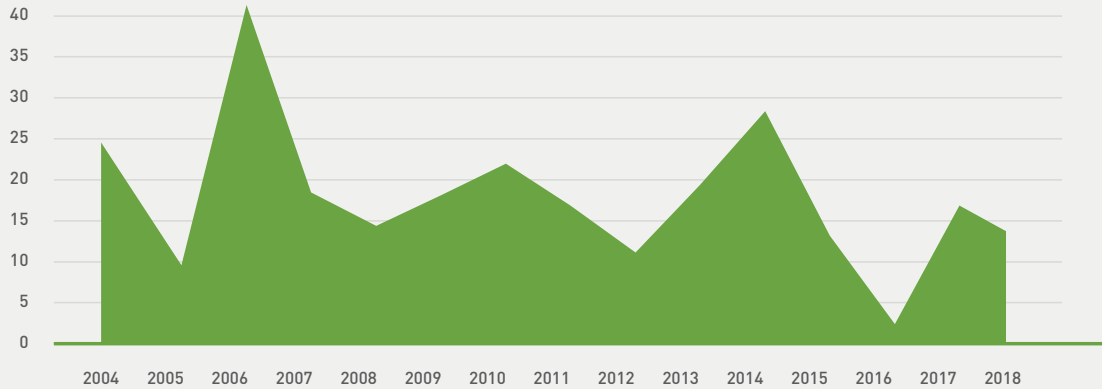
# Transportation and Storage



The rate of work-related injuries in Transportation and Storage fell from 24.8 per 1,000 in 2004 to 13.2 in 2018.

**Figure 2.10c:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)**



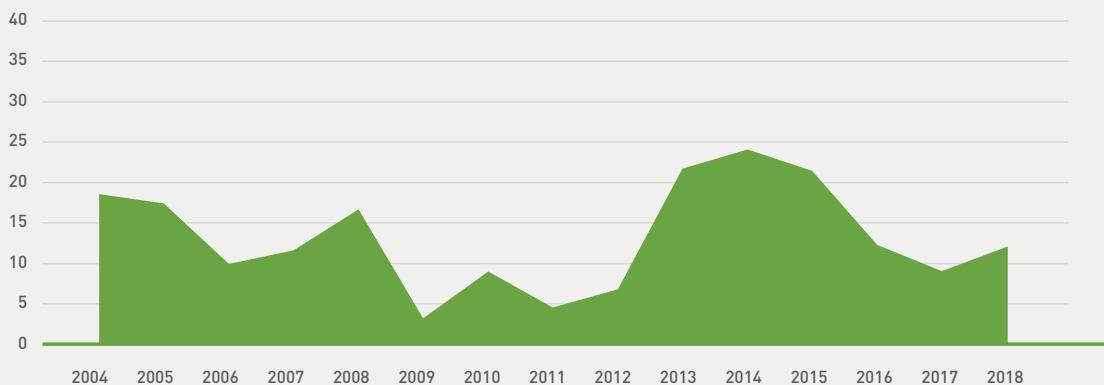
# Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



Rates of work-related injuries in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing have fluctuated considerably since 2004. The rate fell from 18.6 per 1,000 workers in 2004 to 3.2 per 1,000 workers in 2009; it was 12.1 per 1,000 workers in 2018.

**Figure 2.10d:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)**





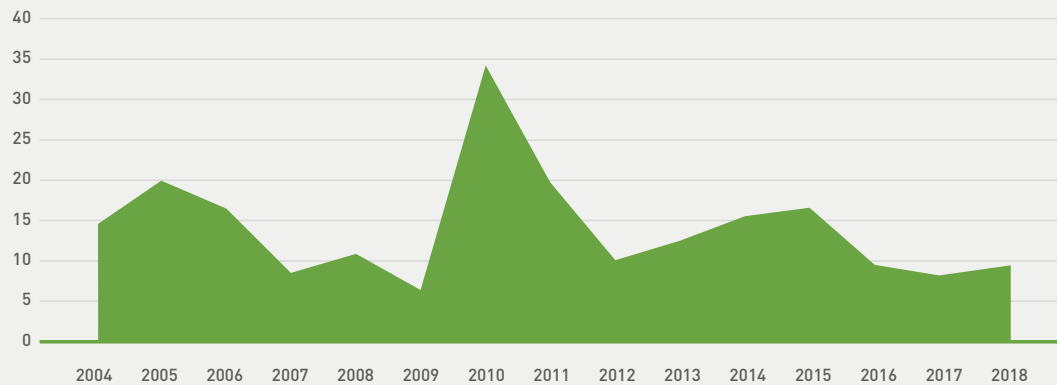
# Public Administration and Defence



The rate of work-related injuries in Public Administration and Defence peaked at 34.2 per 1,000 workers in 2010, down to 9.5 per 1,000 workers in 2018.

**Figure 2.10e:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Public Administration and Defence, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)**



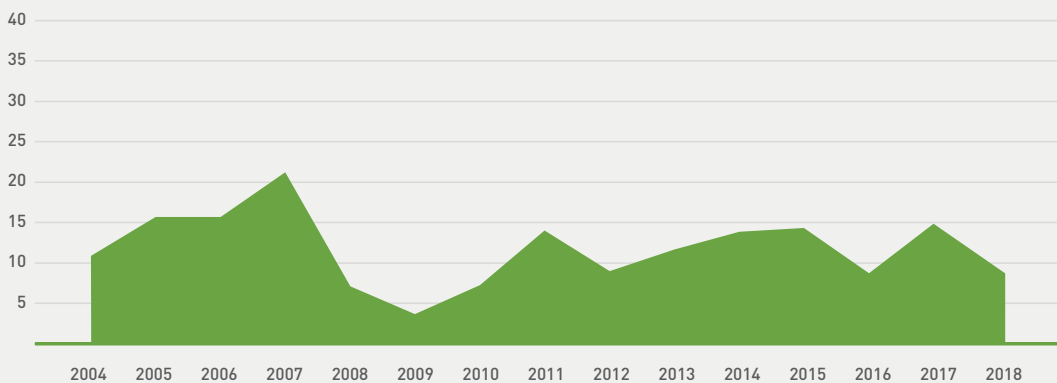
# Industry



The rate of work-related injuries in Industry rose from 10.8 per 1,000 workers in 2004 to 21.2 per 1,000 workers in 2007 and fell to 8.9 per 1,000 workers in 2018. Industry represents a combination of four NACE economic sectors: Mining and quarrying, Manufacturing, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, and Water supply and waste management.

**Figure 2.10f:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Industry, 2004 to 2018 (CSO)**



In 2018, male workers reported more work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work (9.4 per 1,000 workers) than female workers (6.5 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2014–2018.

**Figure 2.11:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender in 2018 and five-year average 2014–2018 (CSO)**

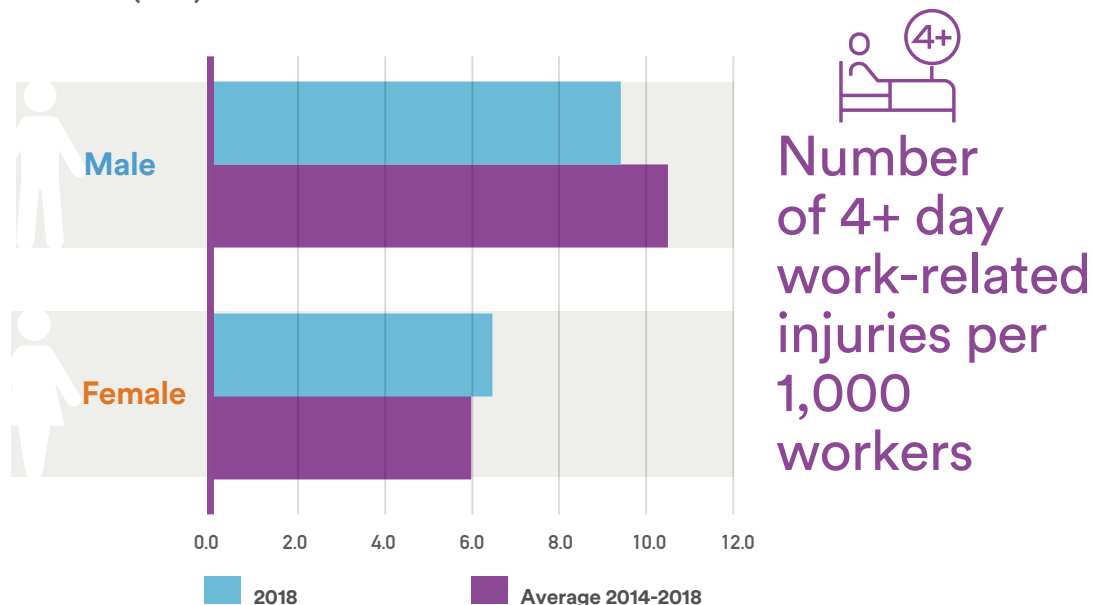
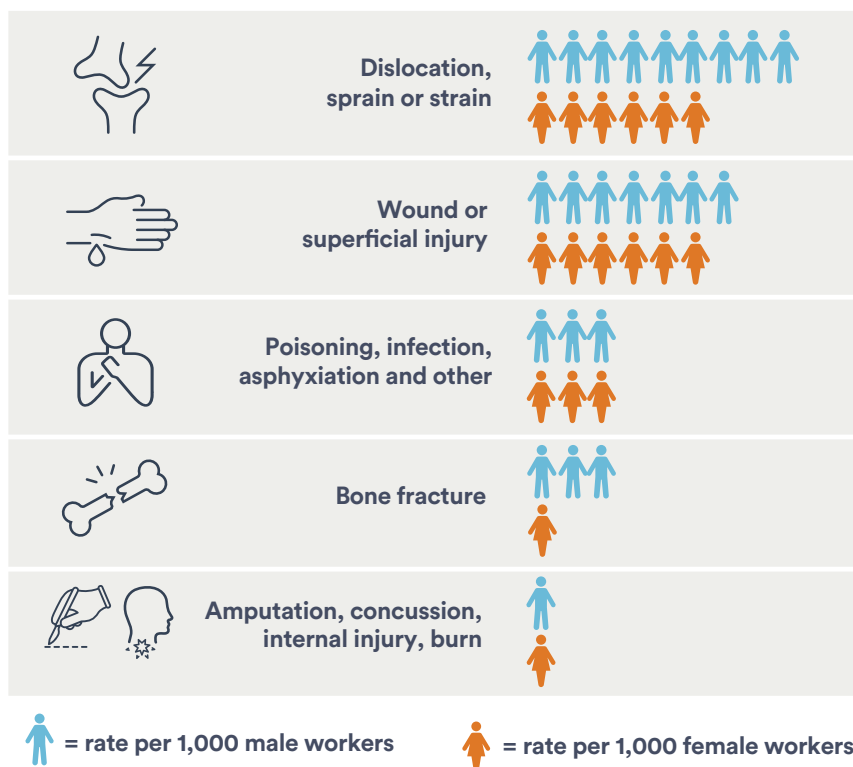


Figure 2.12 shows the kinds of injuries experienced by male and female workers. Male workers had higher rates of injury for each of the categories than female workers except poisoning, infection, asphyxiation and other, which was reported by the same number of men and women per 1,000 workers.

**Figure 2.12:**

**Number of 0+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender and injury type in 2018 (CSO)**



In 2018, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related illnesses leading to four or more days of absence from work was Health and Social Work (21.9 per 1,000 workers), followed by Education (19.9 per 1,000 workers) and Financial, Insurance and Real Estate Activities (18.9 per 1,000 workers).

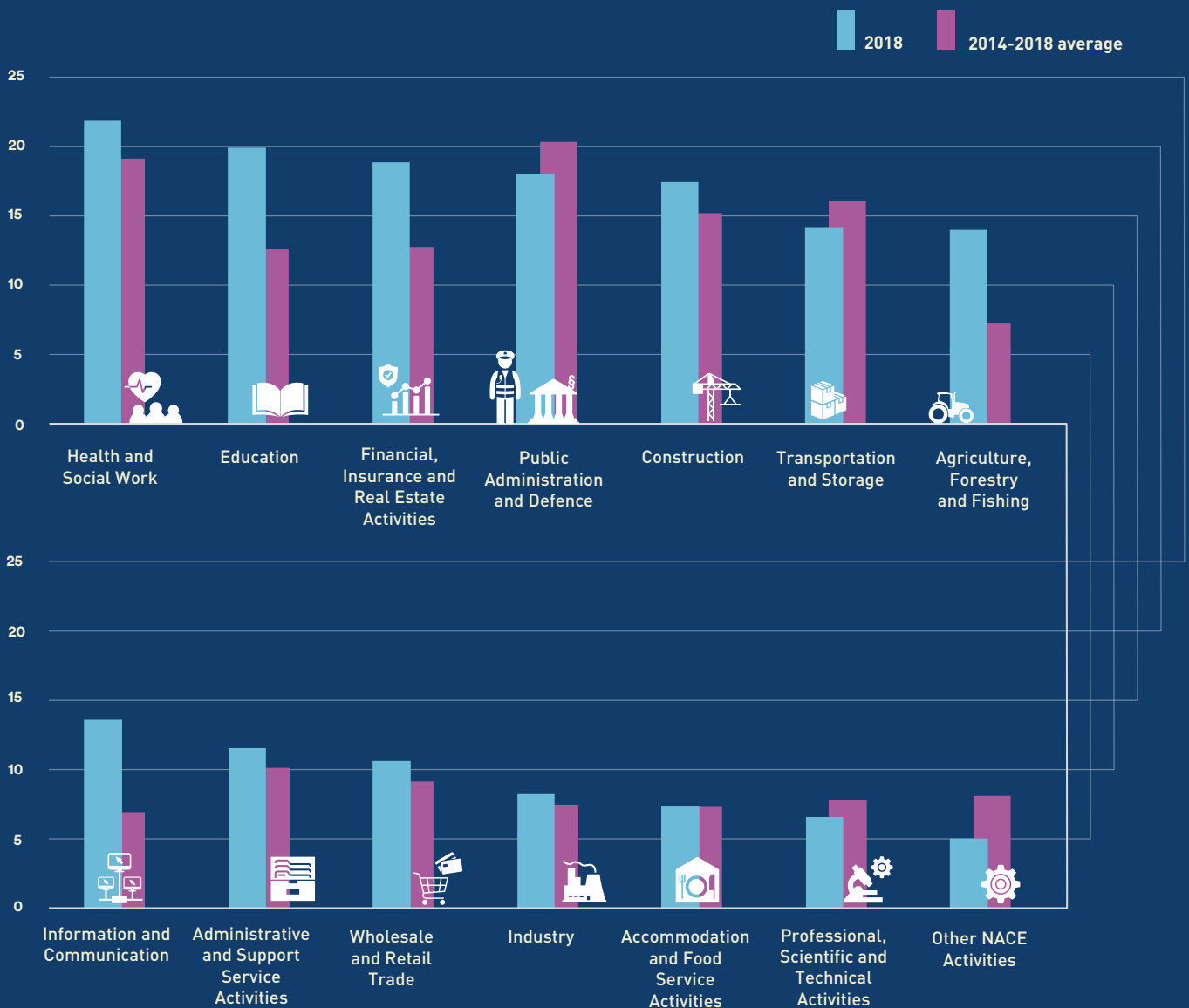
This is somewhat different from the five-year average rates for 2014–2018, in which Public Administration and Defence had the highest rate (20.3 per 1,000 workers). However, a few key economic sectors tended to have higher rates of work-related illness since 2014.

Both Health and Social Work and Public Administration and Defence were among the five sectors with the highest rates of illness in every year since 2014.

Some other sectors have consistently reported lower rates of work-related illness. Accommodation and Food Service Activities (7.4 per 1,000 workers in 2018) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (6.6 per 1,000 workers in 2018) were among the five sectors with the lowest rates of illness in four of the five years since 2014.

**Figure 2.13:**

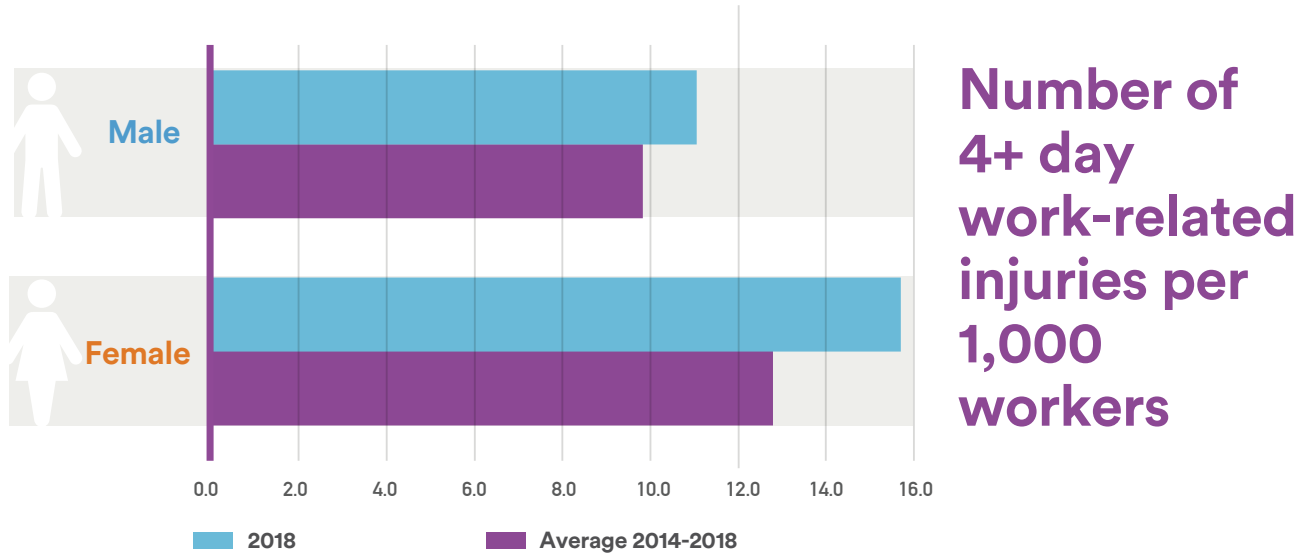
**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender in 2018 and five-year average 2014–2018 (CSO)**



In 2018, female workers had higher rates of illness (15.7 per 1,000 workers) than male workers (11.1 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2014–2018.

**Figure 2.14:**

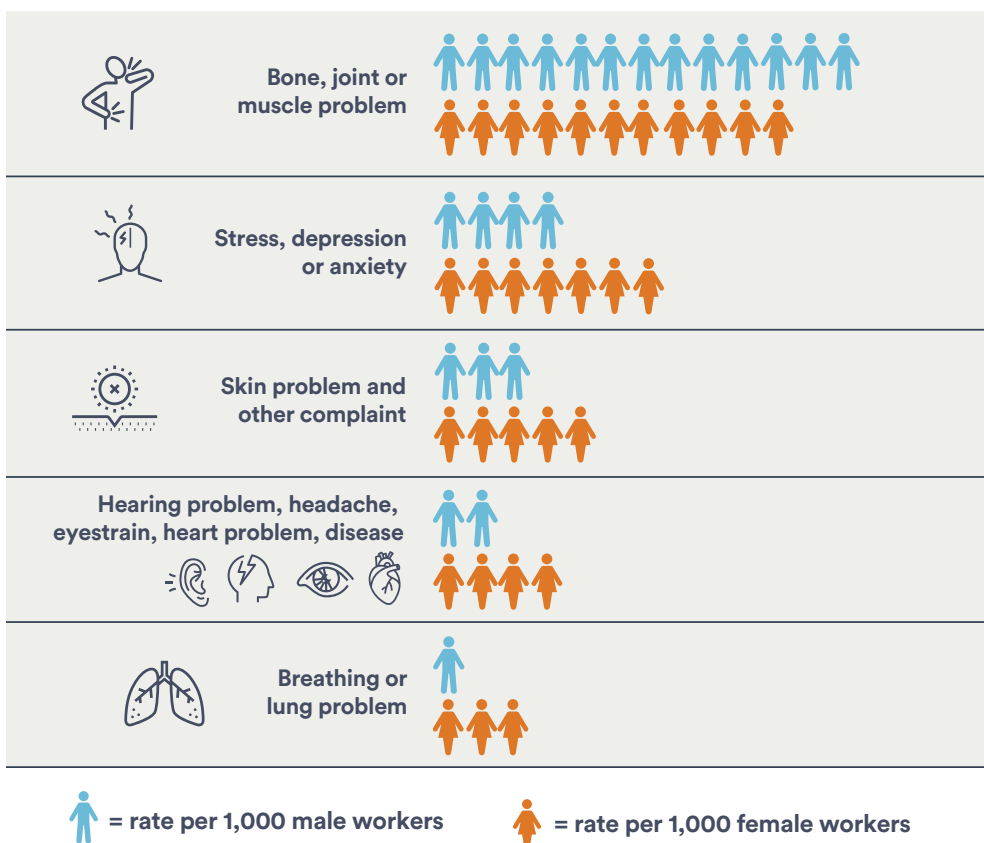
**Number of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender in 2018 and five-year average 2014–2018 (CSO)**



In 2018, male workers had higher rates of bone, joint or muscle problem (12.9 per 1,000 workers) than female workers (11.2 per 1,000 workers). However, female workers had higher rates of all other kinds of illness. Stress, depression or anxiety were reported by 7.2 women per 1,000 female workers, compared with 4.1 men per 1,000 male workers.

**Figure 2.15:**

**Number of 0+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender and illness type in 2018 (CSO)**



Rates of work-related injury were highest for the

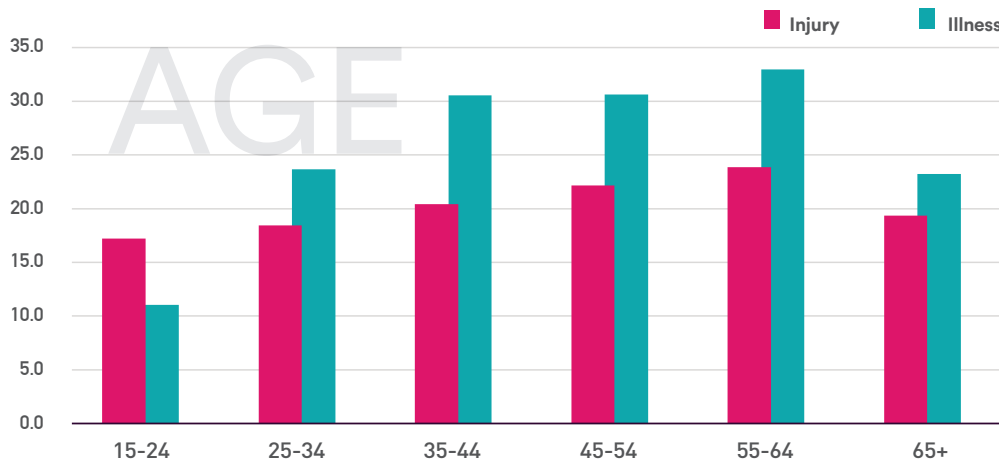
# 55–64 years group

(23.9 per 1,000 workers)

The highest rate of work-related illness occurred to the 55–64 years age group (33.0 per 1,000 workers), with high rates also in the 35–44 years group (30.5 per 1,000 workers) and 45–54 years group (30.6 per 1,000 workers). Rates of illness were higher than rates of injury for every age group except the youngest 15–24 years group, which had an illness rate of 11.1 per 1,000 workers, compared with an injury rate of 17.2 per 1,000 workers.

Figure 2.16:

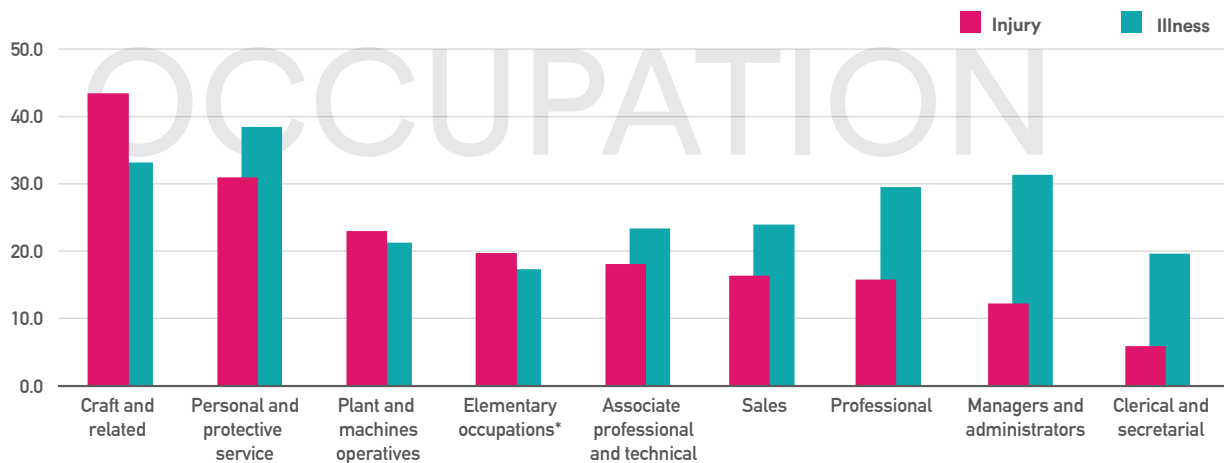
Number of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by age group in 2018 (CSO)



The highest rate of injuries involved craft and related workers, which includes house builders, electricians and food processing occupations (43.5 per 1,000 workers). The highest rate of illnesses involved personal and protective service workers, which includes childminders, home carers and hairdressers (38.5 per 1,000 workers).<sup>2</sup>

Figure 2.17:

Number of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by occupation of victim in 2018 (CSO)



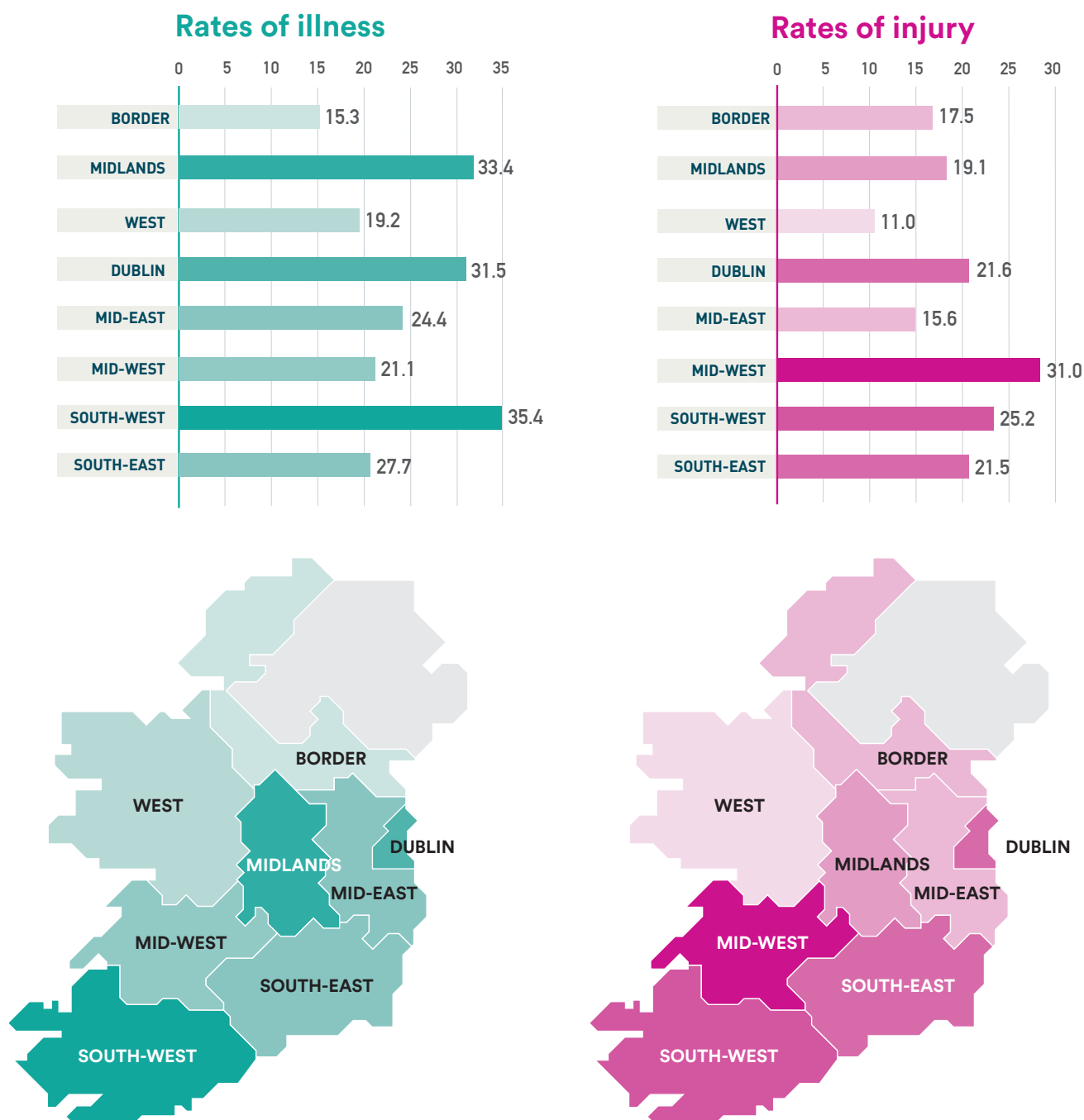
2 For more information see ONS Standard Occupational Classification 2010: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassificationsoc/soc2010>.

The highest rates of injury in 2018 were in the Mid-West region of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick (31 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates of injury were in the West region of Mayo, Roscommon and Galway (11 per 1,000 workers).

The highest rates of illness in 2018 were in the South-East region of Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford (35.4 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates of illness were in the Border region of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Monaghan and Cavan (15.3 per 1,000 workers).

**Figure 2.18:**

**Figure 2.18: Number of 0+ day work-related injuries (left) and illnesses (right) per 1,000 workers by NUTS region in 2018 (CSO)**

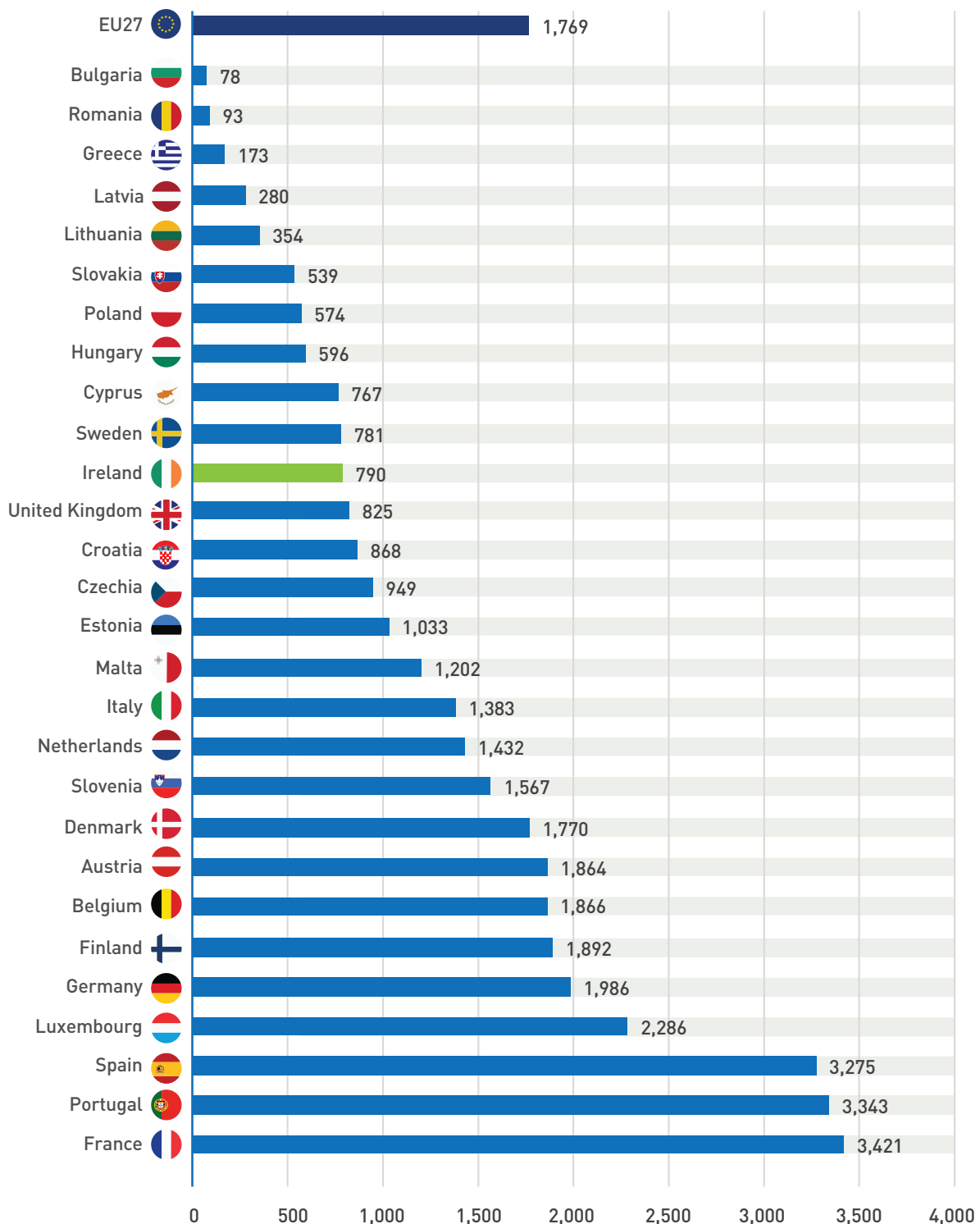


In the European Union the highest rates of non-fatal injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work occurred in France, with 3,421 injuries per 100,000 workers. Ireland had the eleventh lowest rate of accidents, with 790 per 100,000 workers. However, the member states collect information on work-related injuries in different ways, so this data should be interpreted with caution.

The most recent figures pertain to 2018. In January 2020, the United Kingdom left the European Union. To reflect this, the EU27 here represents the accident rates in 2018 for the new European Union of 27 members, which excludes the UK. However, the UK has also been included in Figure 2.19 for comparison purposes.

**Figure 2.19:**

**Number of 4+ day work-related injuries per 100,000 workers in the EU in 2018 (Eurostat)**



# 3

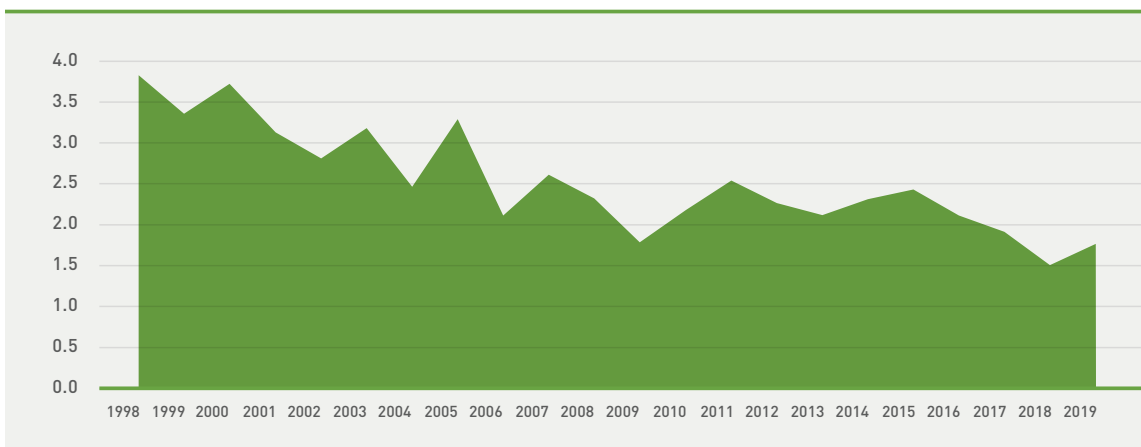
## FATAL INJURY STATISTICS

There were **47** fatal work-related accidents in Ireland in 2019.

Of these, 41 involved worker victims and six involved non-worker victims. This is a considerable improvement since 1998, the year of the earliest available CSO Labour Force Survey working population data, when 61 workers and 12 non-workers died in work-related accidents. Figure 3.1 shows that the rate of fatal accidents to workers has fallen from 3.8 per 100,000 workers in 1998 to 1.8 per 100,000 workers in 2019.

**Figure 3.1:**

Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers, 1998–2019 (HSA)





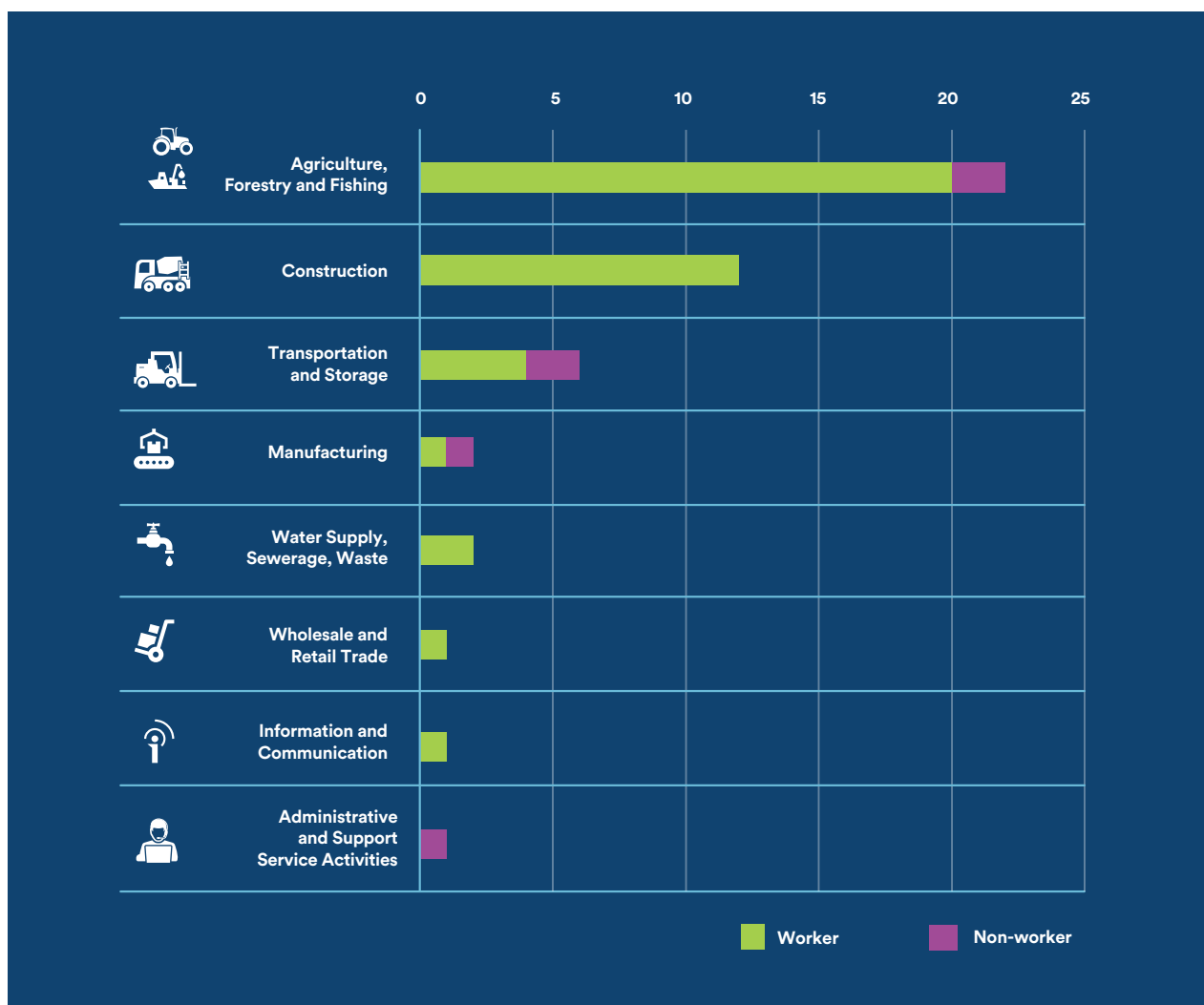


## The largest number of fatal accidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

The largest number of fatal accidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (20 workers and two non-workers), 47% of all fatal accidents in 2019. Twelve fatal accidents occurred to workers in Construction. Fatal accidents occurred to four workers and two non-workers in Transportation and Storage.

**Figure 3.2:**

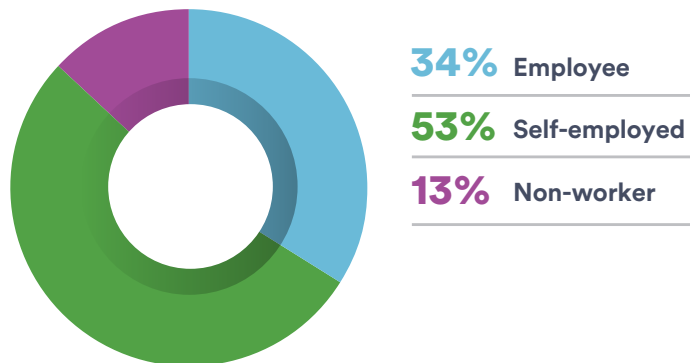
Number of fatal work-related accidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector 2019 (HSA)



Of the 47 work-related fatal accident victims, 25 (53%) were self-employed, 16 were employees (34%) and six were non-workers (13%).

**Figure 3.3:**

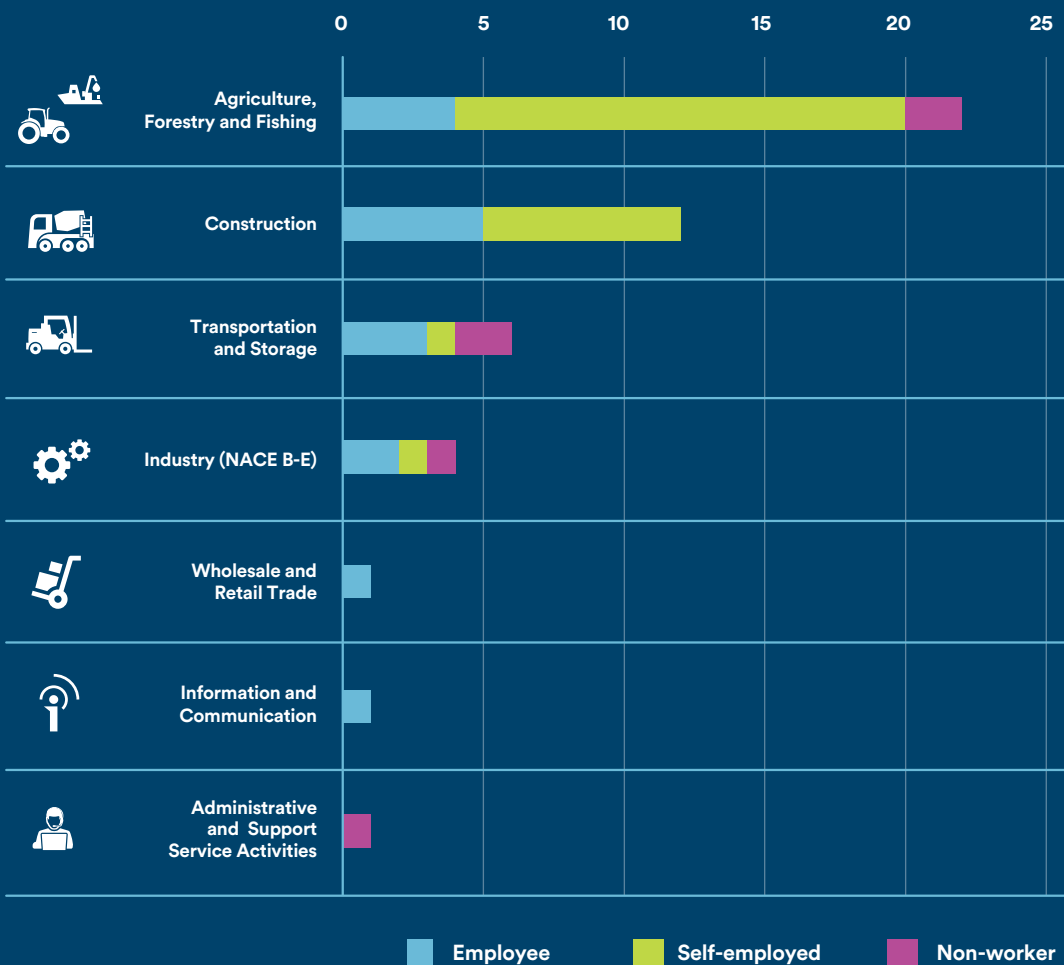
Percentage of fatal work-related accidents by employment status of victim, 2019 (HSA)



Almost three of the four work-related fatal accident victims in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing were self-employed (16, 73%). Seven victims in Construction were self-employed (58%) and five were employees (42%).

**Figure 3.4:**

Number of fatal work-related accidents by employment status of victim and NACE economic sector, 2019 (HSA)



Figures 3.5a to 3.5d show the trend of fatal accident rates per 100,000 workers in four key economic sectors since 1998.

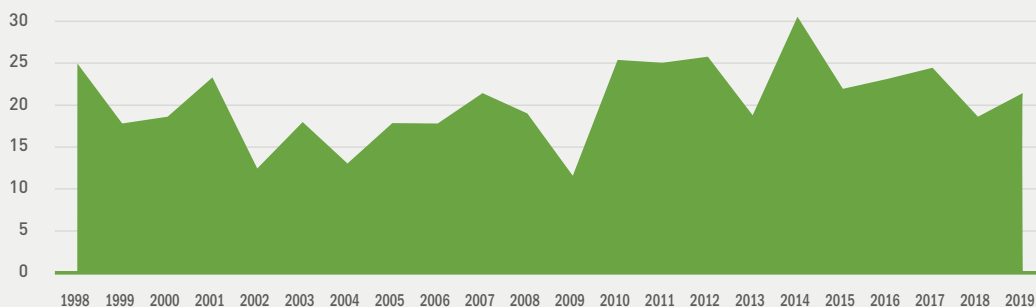
## Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



The rate of fatal accidents in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing increased during the 2010s, from 11.6 per 100,000 workers in 2009 to 21.4 per 100,000 workers in 2019.

**Figure 3.5a:**

**Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 1998–2019 (HSA)**



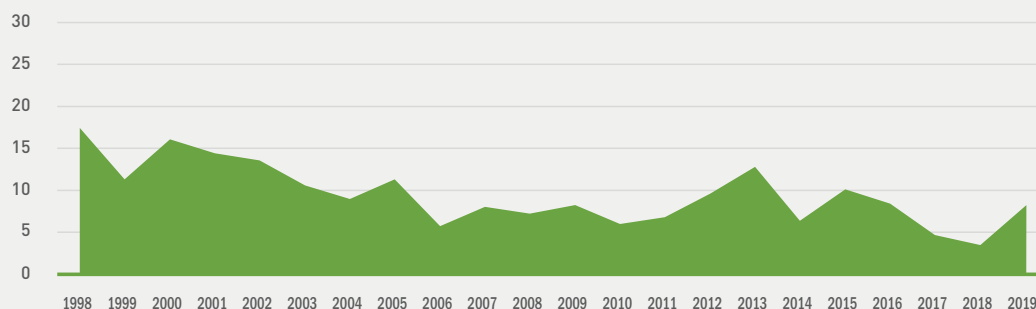
## Construction



The rate of fatal accidents per 100,000 workers in Construction has fallen considerably, from 17.4 per 100,000 workers in 1998 to 8.2 per 100,000 workers in 2019.

**Figure 3.5b:**

**Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers in Construction, 1998–2019 (HSA)**



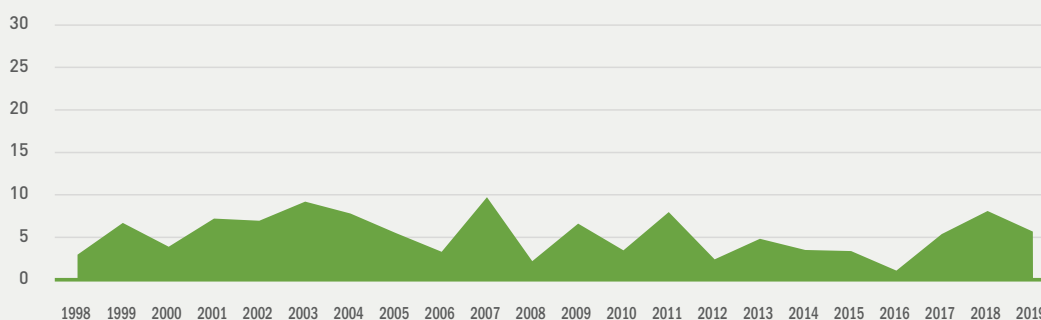
## Transportation and Storage



The rate of fatal accidents per 100,000 workers in Transportation and Storage has fluctuated over time, rising from 3.0 per 100,000 in 1998 to 5.7 per 100,000 in 2019.

**Figure 3.5c:**

**Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 1998–2019 (HSA)**



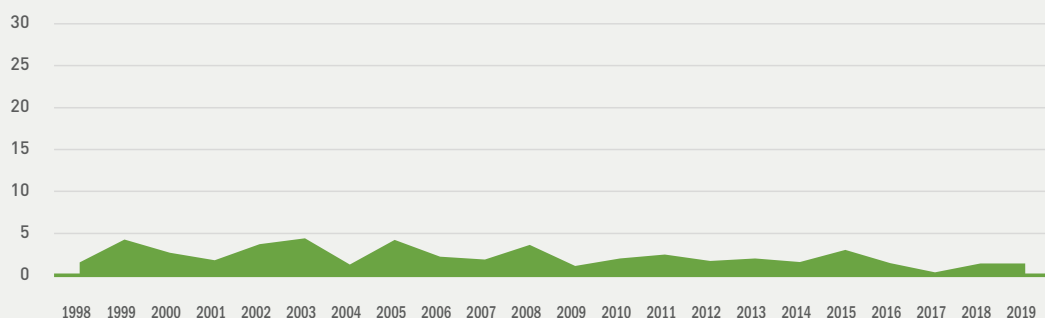
## Industry (NACE B-E)



The rate of fatal accidents per 100,000 workers in Industry has fallen slightly over time, from 1.6 per 100,000 workers in 1998 to 1.4 per 100,000 workers in 2019.

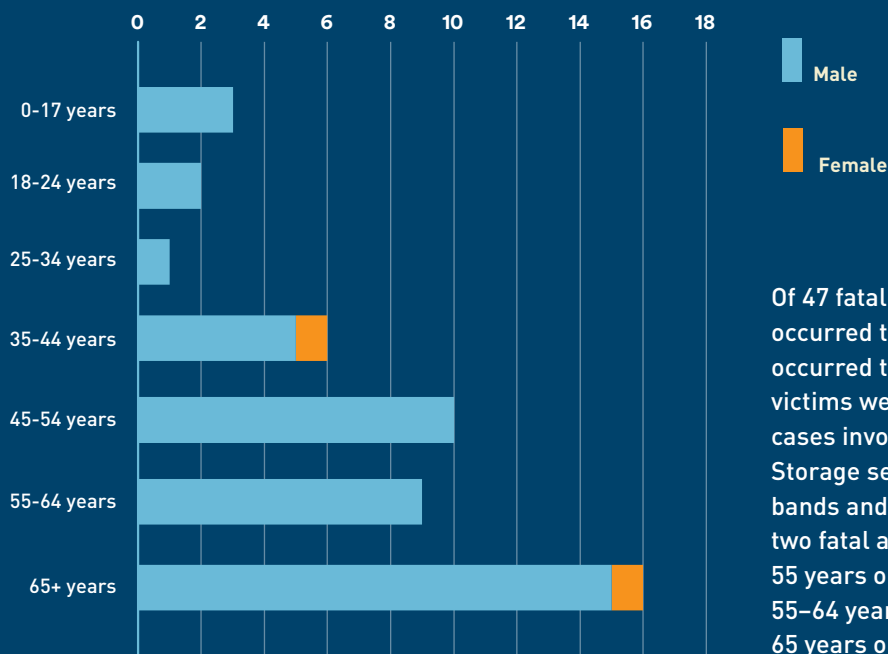
**Figure 3.5d:**

**Number of fatal work-related accidents per 100,000 workers in Industry (NACE B-E), 1998–2019 (HSA)**



**Figure 3.6:**

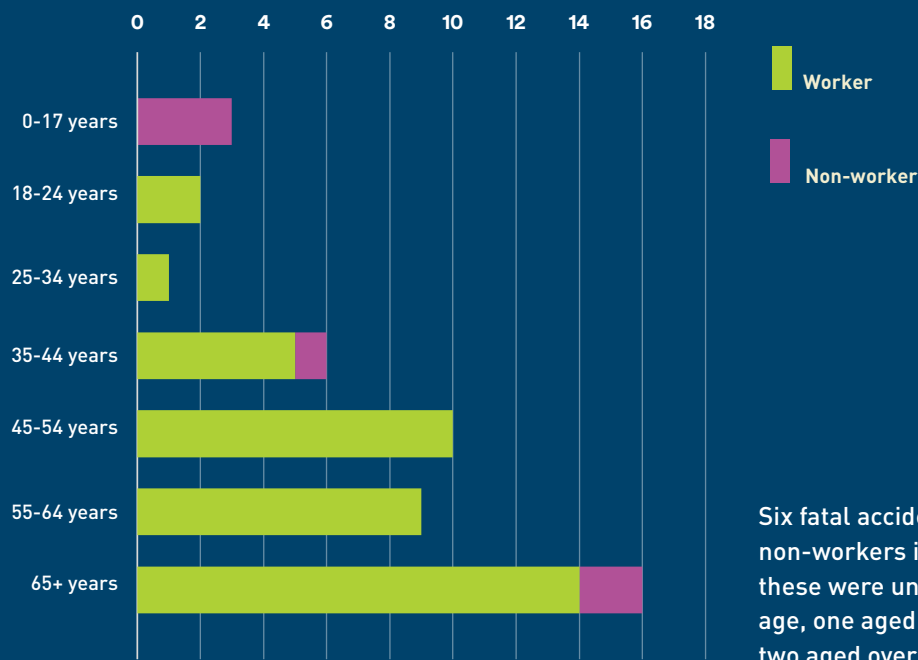
**Number of fatal work-related accidents by gender and age band, 2019 (HSA)**



Of 47 fatal accidents in 2019, two occurred to female victims and 45 occurred to male victims. Both female victims were non-workers, and both cases involved the Transportation and Storage sector. Figure 3.6 shows the age bands and gender of victims. Over one in two fatal accidents involved victims aged 55 years or more, with nine victims aged 55–64 years (19%) and 16 victims aged 65 years or more (34%).

**Figure 3.7:**

**Number of fatal work-related accidents to workers and non-workers by age band, 2019 (HSA)**



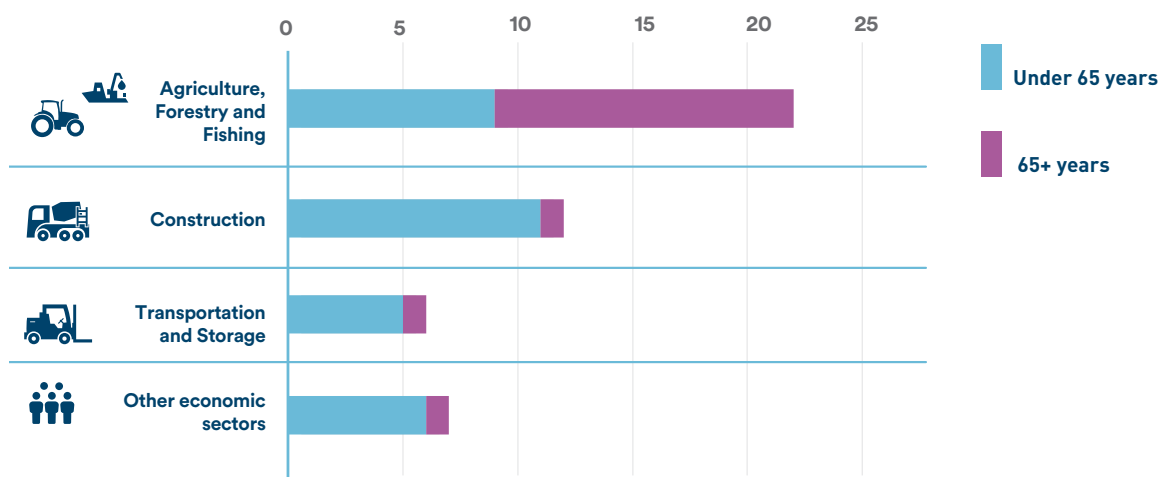
Six fatal accidents occurred to non-workers in 2019; three of these were under 18 years of age, one aged 35–44 years and two aged over 65 years.

## 59% of fatal accidents in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing occurred to victims aged 65 years or more

Of the 47 fatal accidents in 2019, 16 (34%) occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. This age group was particularly prominent in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, where 13 (59%) fatal accidents occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. By comparison, in Construction one fatal accident (8%) occurred to a victim aged 65 years or more.

**Figure 3.8:**

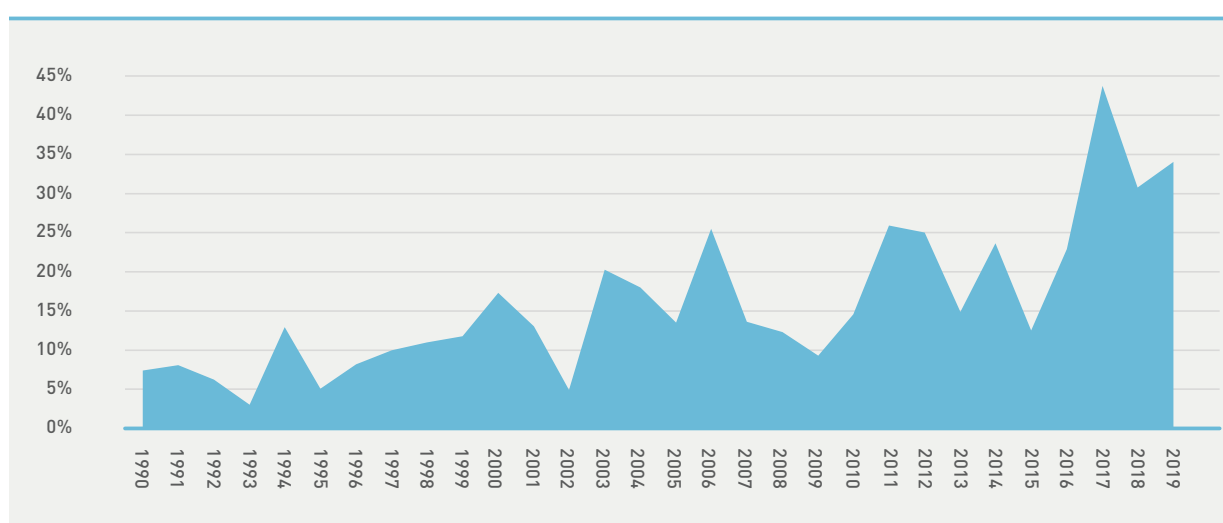
**Number of fatal work-related accidents in key NACE economic sectors involving victims aged under 65 years and 65 years or more, 2019 (HSA)**



The age of victims has changed considerably over time. Figure 3.9 shows the percentage of all fatal accidents occurring to victims aged 65 years or more each year since 1990. This shows an increase from 7% of victims aged 65 years or more in 1990 to 34% in 2019. This may be affected by the ageing of the Irish workforce; the proportion of workers aged 55 years or over has increased from 10% in 1998 to 17% in 2018.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 3.9:**

**Percentage of fatal accidents occurring to victims aged 65 years or more each year, 1990–2019 (HSA)**

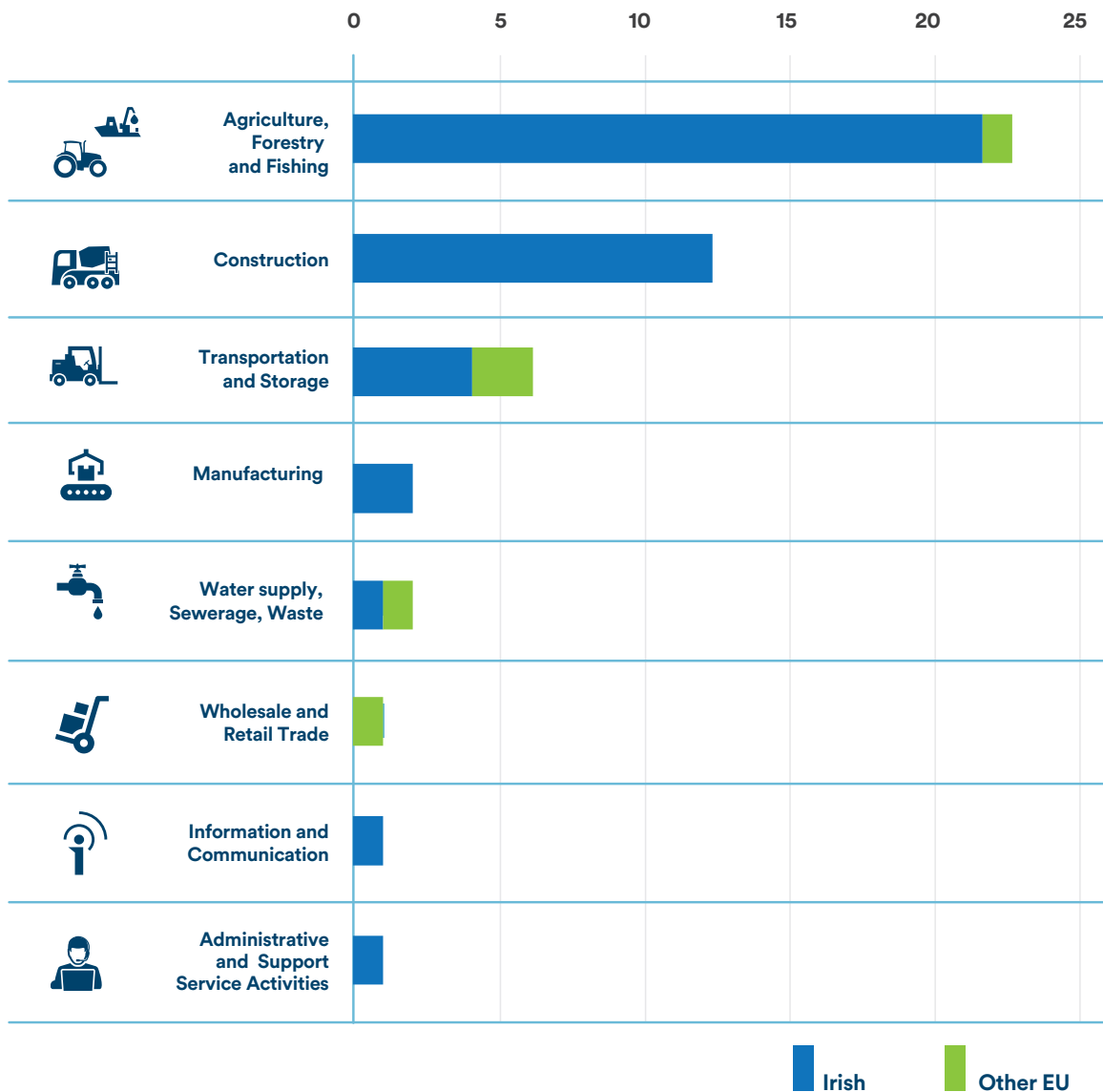


<sup>3</sup> For more information on the ageing workforce, see the ESRI publication *The Ageing Workforce in Ireland; Working Conditions, Health and Extending Working Lives*, available: [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/corporate/esri\\_report\\_2019.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/corporate/esri_report_2019.pdf).

Of the 47 fatal accidents in 2019, five occurred to victims from other EU countries. No fatal accidents occurred to victims from outside the EU. The rate of fatal accident to Irish workers was 1.9 per 100,000 workers, while the rate for other workers was 1.3 per 100,000 workers.

**Figure 3.10:**

**Number of fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and nationality, 2019 (HSA)**



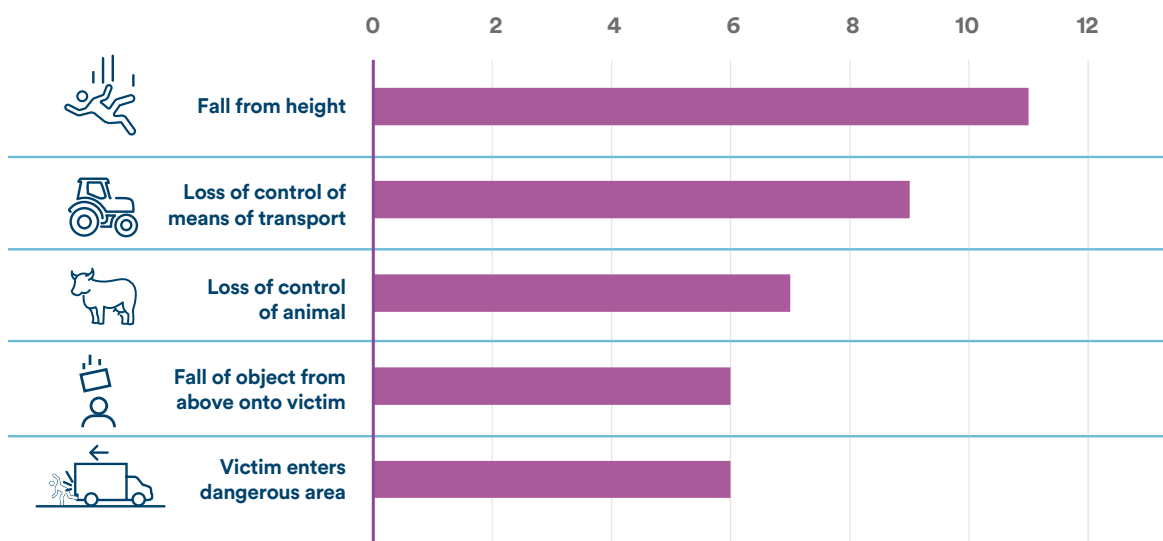


## The most common trigger associated with fatal accidents in 2019 was falls from height

The trigger is the abnormal event that causes an accident. The most common triggers associated with fatal accidents in 2019 were fall from height (11, 23%), loss of control of means of transport (nine, 19%) and loss of control of animals (seven, 15%). Cattle were involved in all the fatal accidents involving loss of control of animals.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 3.11:**

**Top five triggers involved in fatal accidents, 2019 (HSA)**



While the trigger describes the cause of an accident, the mode of injury describes how the victim became injured. The most common modes of injury were impacts from falls (seven, 15%), trapping or crushing under an object (seven, 15%) and trapping or crushing between objects (seven, 15%).

While Figure 3.11 showed 11 fatal accidents involving the trigger of fall from height, only seven fatal accidents had a mode of injury of fall. This is because five fatal accidents involved falls from height into water (four) or slurry (one) where the victims sustained drowning injuries, and one fatal accident involved the collapse of a surface from beneath the victim, leading to impact from falling.<sup>5</sup>

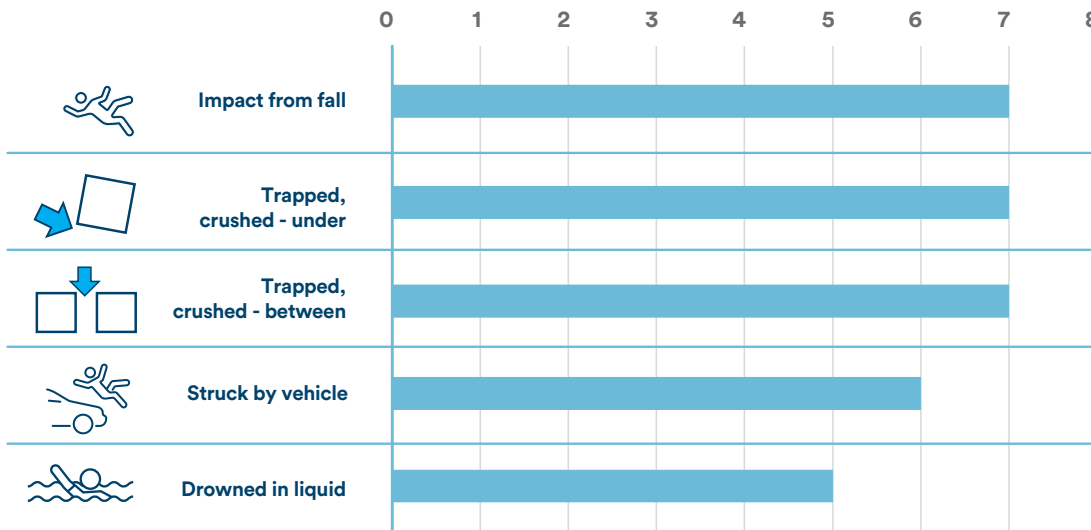
<sup>4</sup> For details on triggers associated with fatal accidents in each NACE economic sector, see Appendix Figure 4.7.

<sup>5</sup> For details on modes of injury associated with fatal accidents in each NACE economic sector, see Appendix Figure 4.8.



**Figure 3.12:**

**Top five modes of injury involved in fatal accidents, 2019 (HSA)**



In 2019, 16 of the 47 fatal accidents involved vehicles. Figure 3.13 shows the vehicles involved in these accidents. Tractors were involved in four fatal accidents (25% of all fatal accidents involving vehicles), trucks were involved in four fatal accidents (25% of all fatal accidents involving vehicles) and loaders/telehandlers were involved in three fatal accidents (19% of all fatal accidents involving vehicles).

This is in keeping with analysis of the ten-year period 2010–2019, in which the most common vehicles involved in work-related fatal accidents were tractors (29%), trucks (16%) and loaders/telehandlers (9%). The most common type of work-related fatal accident involving vehicles over the ten-year period 2010–2019 was vehicles striking people on foot or on bicycles (38%).

**Figure 3.13:**

**Vehicles involved in fatal accidents, 2019 (HSA)**

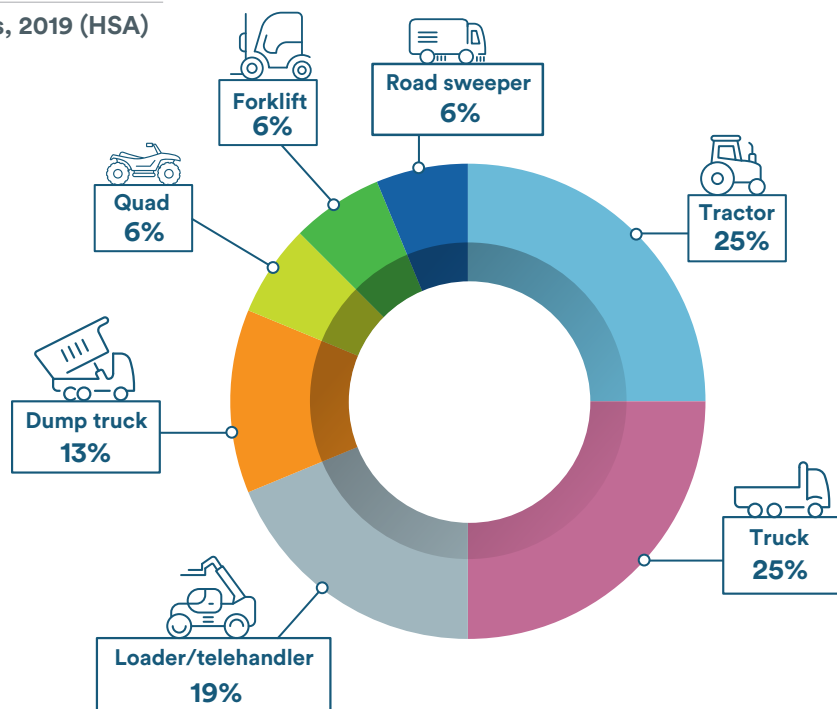


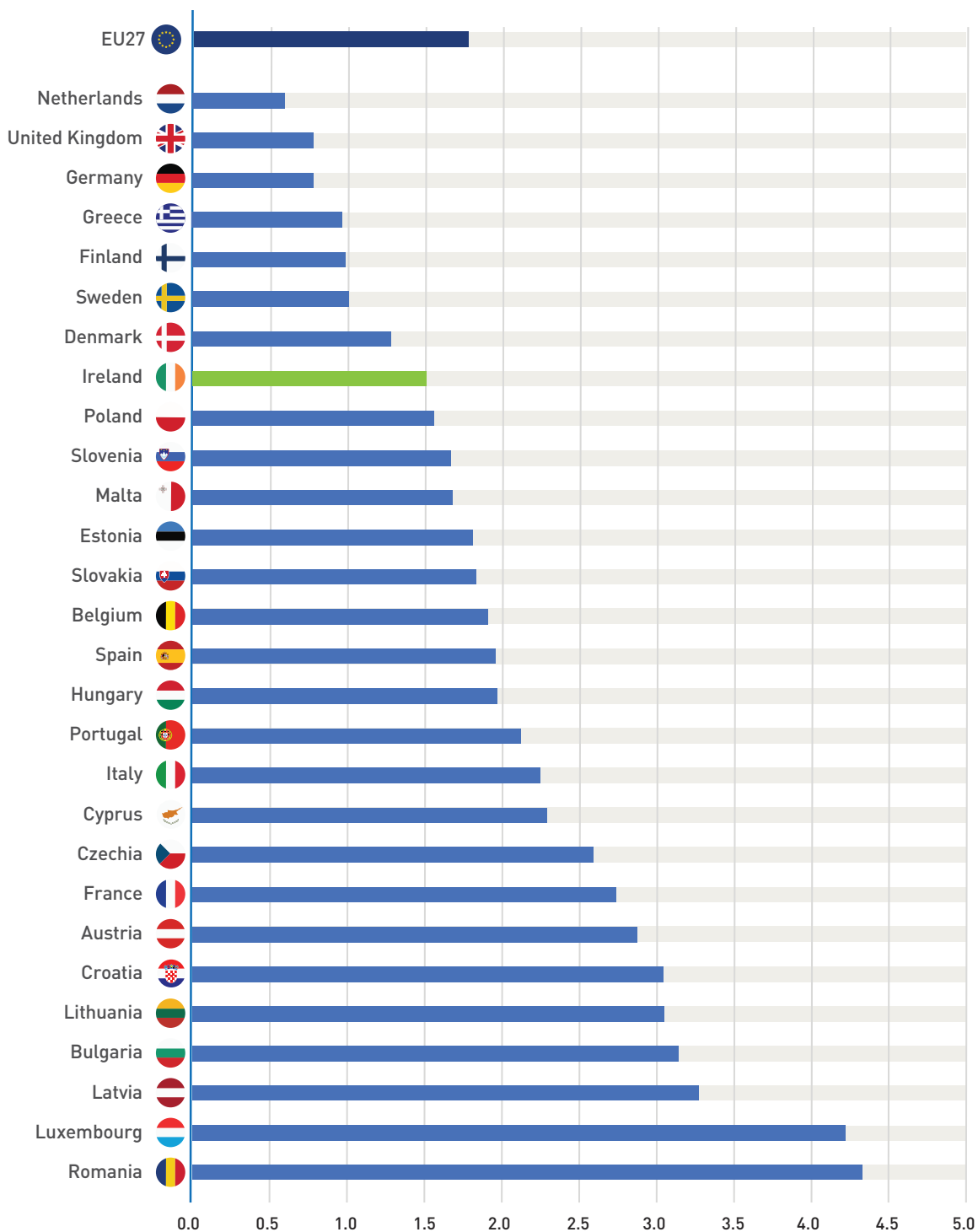
Figure 3.14 shows the rate of fatal accidents per 100,000 workers across Europe. Ireland had the eighth lowest rate of fatal accidents. Some EU member states do not report fatal accidents to self-employed people, therefore for comparability this table is based on fatal accidents to employees only.

There are currently important differences in the kinds of fatal accidents reported to Eurostat by member states, so comparisons with other countries should be interpreted with caution.

The most recent available figures pertain to 2018. In January 2020, the United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union, so to reflect this, the EU27 figure here represents the accident rates in 2018 for the new European Union of 27 members, which excludes the UK. However, for comparison purposes, the UK rates have also been included in Figure 3.14.

**Figure 3.14:**

**Number of fatal accidents per 100,000 workers in the EU, including the UK, 2018 (Eurostat)**



# 4

## APPENDIX

**Figure 4.1:**

Number and percentage of non-fatal accidents by trigger in selected economic sectors, 2018 (HSA)

	Industry		Construction		Wholesale and Retail		Transportation and Storage		Public Admin and Defence		Health and Social Work	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Manual handling (internal injury)	616	35.9	207	23.9	455	36.1	274	29.0	201	22.2	503	25.9
Slipping, falling	319	18.6	288	33.2	364	28.9	255	27.0	214	23.7	399	20.6
Other triggers	238	13.9	90	10.4	165	13.1	116	12.3	101	11.2	389	20.1
Loss of control of object, machine, vehicle, etc.	301	17.6	125	14.4	110	8.7	138	14.6	111	12.3	97	5.0
Aggression, shock, violence	11	0.6	11	1.3	17	1.4	51	5.4	199	22.0	374	19.3
Body movement leads to cut, bruise (external injury)	109	6.4	63	7.3	69	5.5	76	8.0	39	4.3	106	5.5
Breakage or collapse of object	74	4.3	65	7.5	64	5.1	24	2.5	24	2.7	37	1.9
Overflow of gas or liquid, splashing	38	2.2	13	1.5	9	0.7	7	0.7	10	1.1	25	1.3
Electrical contact, explosions or fire	5	0.3	4	0.5	4	0.3	1	0.1	4	0.4	8	0.4
No information	3	0.2	1	0.1	2	0.2	4	0.4	1	0.1	2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1714</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1259</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Figure 4.2:

Number and rate of people suffering injury and illness, 2013–2018 (CSO)

	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000	N	Rate per 1,000
Total in employment	1,937,775		1,988,775		2,057,350		2,132,250		2,194,150		2,257,550	
<b>Injury</b>												
Total suffering injury	46,573	24.0	39,319	19.8	37,440	18.2	30,800	14.4	49,500	22.6	46,300	20.5
0–3 days' absence	28,132	14.5	22,013	11.1	20,535	10.0	17,600	8.3	26,100	11.9	40,100	17.8
4+ days' absence	18,442	9.5	18,796	9.5	16,905	8.2	13,200	6.2	22,500	10.3	29,500	13.1
Days lost due to injury	758,674		750,011		810,899		481,612		884,400		620,800	
<b>Illness</b>												
Total suffering illness	54,867	28.3	49,194	24.7	41,247	20.0	37,900	17.8	62,000	28.3	61,000	27.0
0–3 days' absence	36,039	18.6	25,227	12.7	22,793	11.1	20,800	9.8	32,200	14.7	31,200	13.8
4+ days' absence	18,828	9.7	23,966	12.1	18,454	9.0	17,100	8.0	29,800	13.6	29,800	13.2
Days lost due to illness	792,875		1,106,311		912,595		746,701		1,104,700		822,300	
<b>Injury and illness</b>												
Total injury or illness	101,440	52.3	88,513	44.5	78,687	38.2	68,700	32.2	111,500	50.8	107,300	47.5
Total (4+ days' absence)	37,270	19.2	42,762	21.5	35,359	17.2	30,300	14.2	52,300	23.8	59,300	26.3
<b>Total days lost</b>	<b>1,551,550</b>		<b>1,856,322</b>		<b>1,723,495</b>		<b>1,228,312</b>		<b>1,989,100</b>		<b>1,443,100</b>	

**Figure 4.3:**

**Number of reported fatal accidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector, 2010–2019 (HSA)**

Economic sector	Number of fatal accidents										Total
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010-2019
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	28	27	28	21	33	24	26	27	20	22	<b>256</b>
- Agriculture	21	22	20	16	32	18	21	25	15	19	209
- Forestry	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	7
- Fishing	4	5	7	5	1	5	4	2	4	3	40
Mining and Quarrying	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
Manufacturing	2	2	0	1	3	3	2	0	2	2	<b>17</b>
Electricity, Gas, etc.	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Water, Sewerage, Waste	2	3	3	1	0	3	1	1	2	2	<b>18</b>
Construction	6	6	8	11	6	11	10	6	5	12	<b>81</b>
Wholesale and Retail Trade	4	2	3	3	5	3	2	3	2	1	<b>28</b>
Transportation and Storage	3	7	2	4	3	3	1	5	8	6	<b>42</b>
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
Information and Communication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
Financial and Insurance Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Real Estate Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
Administrative and Support Service Activities	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	<b>6</b>
Public Administration and Defence	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	5	0	0	<b>11</b>
Education	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Health and Social Work	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
Other Service Activities	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>490</b>

**Figure 4.4:**

Number and rate of reported fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and employment status of victim, 2019 (HSA)

	Worker						Non-worker	Total
	Employee	Self-employed	Family worker	Trainee	Total	Worker rate per 100,000		
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	4	16	0	0	20	19.5	2	22
Industry (NACE B-E)	2	1	0	0	3	1.0	1	4
Construction	5	7	0	0	12	8.2	0	12
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1	0	0	0	1	0.3	0	1
Transportation and Storage	3	1	0	0	4	3.8	2	6
Information and Communication	1	0	0	0	1	0.8	0	1
Administrative and Support Service Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>47</b>

**Figure 4.5:**

Number of reported fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and age band of victim, 2019 (HSA)

	0-17 years	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	Total
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1	0	0	1	3	4	13	22
Construction	0	0	0	3	5	3	1	12
Transportation and Storage	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	6
Manufacturing	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Water, Sewerage, Waste	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Wholesale and Retail Trade	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Information and Communication	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Administrative and Support Service Activities	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>47</b>

**Figure 4.6:**

Reported worker fatal accident rates per 100,000 workers by nationality, 2012–2019 (HSA)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Irish</b>	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.7	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.9
<b>Non-Irish</b>	2.2	2.2	1.4	1.0	3.2	0.6	2.5	1.3
<b>All workers</b>	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.8

**Figure 4.7:**

Number of reported fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and trigger, 2019 (HSA)

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Construction	Transportation and Storage	Manufacturing	Water, Sewerage, Waste	Wholesale and Retail Trade	Information and Communication	Administrative and Support Service Activities	Total	% of total
Fall from height	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	23%
Loss of control of means of transport	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	9	19%
Loss of control of animal	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	15%
Fall of object from above onto victim	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	13%
Victim enters dangerous area	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	6	13%
Loss of control of machine	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	6%
Collapse of surface from below, dragging victim down	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4%
Other kind of fall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2%
Unknown trigger	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 4.8:**

Number of reported fatal accidents by NACE economic sector and mode of injury, 2019 (HSA)

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Construction	Transportation and Storage	Manufacturing	Water, Sewerage, Waste	Wholesale and Retail Trade	Information and Communication	Administrative and Support Service Activities	Total	% of total
Impact from fall	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	15%
Trapped, crushed – under	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	15%
Trapped, crushed – between	3	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	7	15%
Struck by vehicle	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	6	13%
Drowned in liquid	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	11%
Struck by falling object	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	9%
Blow, kick, head butt	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6%
Collision with an object/ vehicle (victim is moving)	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	6%
Trapped, crushed – in	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	4%
Struck by swinging object	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4%
Horizontal motion, crash on or against	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 4.9:**

Rate of reported fatal accidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region 2012–2019 (HSA)<sup>6</sup>

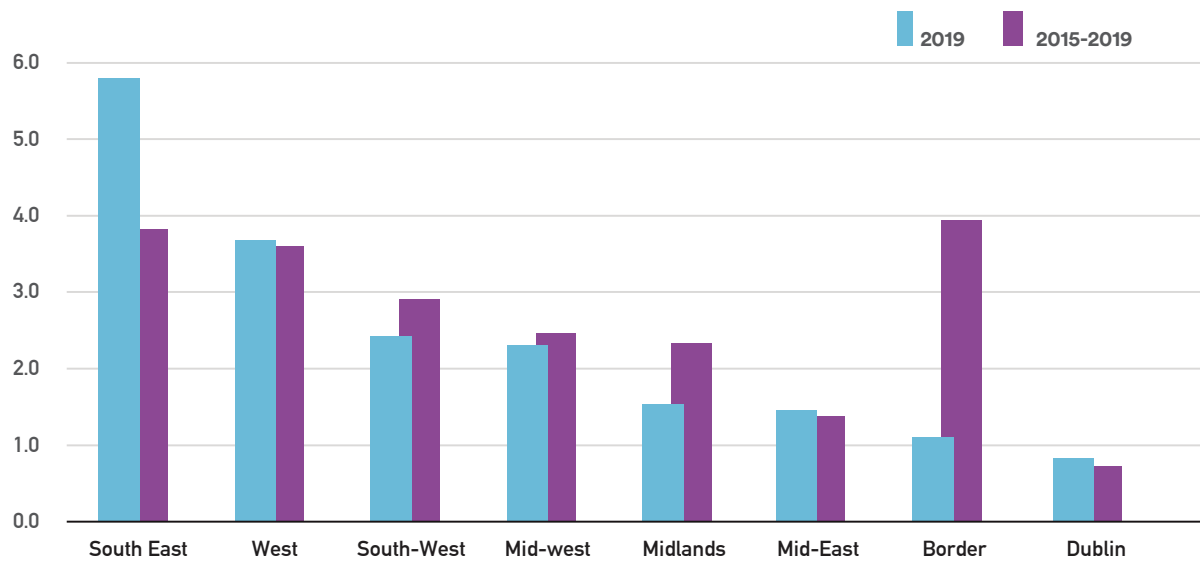
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
South East	1.9	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.3	4.9	1.1	5.8
West	3.9	3.8	3.3	4.4	2.1	4.5	3.4	3.7
South-West	3.9	4.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	2.2	2.5	2.4
Mid-west	5.3	1.0	4.6	4.0	2.9	1.9	1.4	2.3
Midlands	5.0	3.8	1.9	0.9	2.6	3.4	3.2	1.5
Mid-East	0.4	1.1	1.0	1.3	2.3	0.9	0.9	1.5
Border	6.2	3.8	5.5	8.1	3.4	3.4	4.0	1.1
Dublin	0.4	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8

<sup>6</sup> NUTS - Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, the EU standard for referencing the subdivisions of countries.



**Figure 4.10:**

Rate of reported fatal accidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (HSA)



# REFERENCES

CSO (2020a) *Person aged 15 years and over in Employment by Sex, NACE Rev 2 Economic Sector, Quarter and Statistic* [dataset] QLF03, Central Statistics Office, Ireland, available: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Staire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=QLF03&PLanguage=0> [accessed 29 August 2020].

CSO (2020b) *QLF18: ILO Participation, Employment and Unemployment Characteristics by Age Group, Sex, Quarter and Statistic*, Central Statistics Office, available: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Staire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=QLF18&PLanguage=0> [accessed 10 September 2020].

CSO (2020c) *QLF07: Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment by Sex, NACE Rev 2 Economic Sector, Region and Quarter*, Central Statistics Office, available: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Staire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=QLF07&PLanguage=0> [accessed 11 September 2020].

CSO (2020d) *QES05: Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment (ILO) by Employment Status, Detailed Occupational Group and Quarter*, Central Statistics Office, available: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Staire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?Maintable=QES05&PLanguage=0> [accessed 5 September 2020].

CSO (2020e) *QLF21: Person aged 15 years and over in Employment by Nationality, NACE Rev 2 Economic Sector and Quarter*, Central Statistics Office, available: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Staire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?Maintable=QLF21&PLanguage=0> [accessed 5 September 2020].

CSO (2020e) *QLF21: Person aged 15 years and over in Employment by Nationality, NACE Rev 2 Economic Sector and Quarter*, Central Statistics Office, available: <https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Staire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?Maintable=QLF21&PLanguage=0> [accessed 5 September 2020].

Eurostat (2013). *European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) methodology, 2013 Edition*, Luxembourg: Eurostat.

Eurostat (2020a) *Accidents at work by sex, age and NACE Rev. 2 activity (A, C-N) hsw\_mi01* [dataset] Eurostat, available: [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hs\\_w\\_mi01&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hs_w_mi01&lang=en) [accessed 16 November 2020].

Eurostat (2020b) *Fatal accidents at work by economic activity (NACE Rev. 2, all NACE activities) [hsw\_n2\_02]* [dataset] Eurostat, available: [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hs\\_w\\_n2\\_02&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hs_w_n2_02&lang=en) [accessed 16 November 2020].

Health and Safety Authority (2020), *Programme of Work, 2020*, Dublin: HSA, available: [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/corporate/programme\\_of\\_work\\_2020.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/corporate/programme_of_work_2020.pdf).

ONS (2010) *Standard Occupational Classification 2010: volume 1*, Office for National Statistics. Palgrave Macmillan, available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassificationsoc/soc2010>.

Privalko, I., Russell, H. and Maître, B. (2019) *The Ageing Workforce in Ireland; Working Conditions, Health and Extending Working Lives*, Dublin: Economic and Social Research Institute, available: [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/corporate/esri\\_report\\_2019.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/corporate/esri_report_2019.pdf).

## NACE Rev. 2 Classification of Economic Activities

<b>A</b>	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
<b>B</b>	Mining and Quarrying
<b>C</b>	Manufacturing
<b>D</b>	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply
<b>E</b>	Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities
<b>F</b>	Construction
<b>G</b>	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles
<b>H</b>	Transportation and Storage
<b>I</b>	Accommodation and Food Service Activities
<b>J</b>	Information and Communication
<b>K</b>	Financial and Insurance Activities
<b>L</b>	Real Estate Activities
<b>M</b>	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
<b>N</b>	Administrative and Support Service Activities
<b>O</b>	Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security
<b>P</b>	Education
<b>Q</b>	Human Health and Social Work Activities
<b>R</b>	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
<b>S</b>	Other Service Activities
<b>T</b>	Activities of Households as Employers; Undifferentiated Goods and Services-Producing Activities of Households for Own Use
<b>U</b>	Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies

### Further Information and Guidance:

Visit our website [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie), telephone our contact centre on **1890 289 389** or email [wcu@hsa.ie](mailto:wcu@hsa.ie)

Use BeSmart, our free online risk assessment tool at [www.besmart.ie](http://www.besmart.ie)

Check out our range of free online courses at [www.hslearning.ie](http://www.hslearning.ie)



# Our Vision:

# Healthy, safe and productive lives and enterprises



HEALTH AND SAFETY  
AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Authority

Tel: 1890 289 389

International callers

00353 1 614 7000

[www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)