

# Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities

2019–2020



# 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 Maureen Delamere 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</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Non-fatal incidents</b>	<b>6</b>
HSA non-fatal incident data	6
CSO special annual Labour Force Survey module on work-related accidents and illnesses	7
<b>Fatal incidents</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Data Sources and Methodology</b>	<b>8</b>
HSA non-fatal incident data	8
CSO survey on work-related accidents and illnesses	9
HSA fatal incident data	10
CSO Labour Force Survey working population data	10
<b>2. NON-FATAL INCIDENT AND ILLNESS STATISTICS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Non-fatal incidents reported to the HSA</b>	<b>11</b>
Figure 2.1: Incidents reported by economic sector, 2020 (HSA)	12
Figure 2.2: Number of reported non-fatal incidents by employment status, 2020 (HSA)	13
Figure 2.3: Top five reported non-fatal injuries by trigger, 2020 and five-year average 2016–2020 (HSA)	13
Figure 2.4a: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Health and Social Work, 2020 (HSA)	14
Figure 2.4b: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Industry, 2020 (HSA)	14
Figure 2.4c: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Wholesale and Retail, 2020 (HSA)	15
Figure 2.4d: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Construction, 2020 (HSA)	15
Figure 2.4e: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Public Administration and Defence, 2020 (HSA)	16
Figure 2.4f: Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Transportation and Storage, 2020 (HSA)	16
Figure 2.5: Most injured body parts in workers and non-workers in 2020 (HSA)	17
Figure 2.6: Percentage of non-fatal incidents by absence from work, 2020 and five-year average 2016–2020 (HSA)	18
Figure 2.7: Top five working environments for worker and non-worker incidents in 2020 (HSA)	18

<b>CSO Module results</b>	<b>19</b>
Figure 2.8: Days lost due to work-related injuries and illnesses in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)	19
Figure 2.9: Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)	20
Figure 2.10a: Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Health and Social Work, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)	21
Figure 2.10b: Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Construction, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)	21
Figure 2.10c: Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)	22
Figure 2.10d: Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)	22
Figure 2.10e: Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Industry, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)	23
Figure 2.10f: Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Wholesale and Retail Trade, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)	23
Figure 2.11: Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)	24
Figure 2.12: Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender and injury type in 2019 (CSO)	24
Figure 2.13: Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)	25
Figure 2.14: Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)	26
Figure 2.15: Rate of 0+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender and illness type in 2019 (CSO)	26
Figure 2.16: Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by age group in 2019 (CSO)	27
Figure 2.17: Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by occupation of victim in 2019 (CSO)	27
Figure 2.18: Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by NUTS region in 2019 (CSO)	28
<b>3. FATAL INCIDENT STATISTICS</b>	<b>29</b>
Figure 3.1: Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers, 1998–2020 (HSA)	29
Figure 3.2: Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector 2020 (HSA)	30
Figure 3.3: Percentage of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim, 2020 (HSA)	31
Figure 3.4: Number of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim and NACE economic sector, 2020 (HSA)	31
Figure 3.5a: Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 1998–2020 (HSA)	32

Figure 3.5b: Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Construction, 1998–2020 (HSA)	32
Figure 3.5c: Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 1998–2020 (HSA)	33
Figure 3.5d: Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Industry (NACE B-E), 1998–2020 (HSA)	33
Figure 3.6: Number of fatal work-related incidents by gender and age band, 2020 (HSA)	34
Figure 3.7: Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by age band, 2020 (HSA)	34
Figure 3.8: Number of fatal work-related incidents in key NACE economic sectors involving victims aged under 65 years and 65 years or more, 2020 (HSA)	35
Figure 3.9: Number of fatal incidents occurring to victims aged under 65 years and aged 65 years or older each year, 1990–2020 (HSA)	35
Figure 3.10: Number of fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and nationality, 2020 (HSA)	36
Figure 3.11: Top five triggers involved in fatal incidents, 2020 (HSA)	37
Figure 3.12: Top five modes of injury involved in fatal incidents, 2020 (HSA)	38
Figure 3.13: Vehicles involved in fatal incidents, 2020 (HSA)	38

#### **4. APPENDIX** **39**

Figure 4.1: Number and percentage of non-fatal incidents by trigger in selected economic sectors, 2020 (HSA)	39
Figure 4.2: Number and rate of people suffering injury and illness, 2014–2019 (CSO)	40
Figure 4.3: Number of reported fatal incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector, 2011–2020 (HSA)	41
Figure 4.4: Number and rate of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and employment status of victim, 2020 (HSA)	42
Figure 4.5: Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and age band of victim, 2020 (HSA)	42
Figure 4.6: Reported worker fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers by nationality, 2013–2020 (HSA)	43
Figure 4.7: Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and trigger, 2020 (HSA)	43
Figure 4.8: Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and mode of injury, 2020 (HSA)	44
Figure 4.9: Rate of reported fatal incidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region 2013–2020 (HSA)	44
Figure 4.10: Rate of reported fatal incidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region in 2020 and five-year average 2016–2020 (HSA)	45

#### **REFERENCES** **46**

# FOREWORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2020 was a year that saw significant changes across all workplaces arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost overnight, workplaces were transformed across the country. Employers, employees and the self-employed had to deal with new rules, new ways of working, new protocols, and new expectations; while many others had to cease operating and down tools.

All of these changes have had an impact on workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities. Unfortunately, workplace fatalities continued to remain high in 2020, with 53 lives lost during the year. More than half of all people who died in work-related incidents in 2020 were self-employed.

The largest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, where 18 of the victims were self-employed. Seven victims in Construction were self-employed, two victims in Wholesale and Retail Trade were self-employed, while one self-employed victim worked in Accommodation and Food Service Activities.

There are approximately 300,000 self-employed people in Ireland, many of whom work alone. These are the people who have the most to lose if they have an incident or serious illness. The HSA has a wide range of free tools, courses and supports available and we encourage all workers, particularly the self-employed, to avail of them or to contact the HSA for advice.

The highest number of fatal workplace incidents involved people aged 65 years and over (34%), with 12 in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing and three in Construction. The proportion of fatal incidents involving older victims aged 65 years or more has increased from 12.5% in 2015 to 34% in 2020. As a population, we are living and working longer, which presents its own challenges. We need to address how best to prevent workplace injuries or fatalities amongst older age groups.

We urge all employers to implement tailored health and safety policies designed with the unique requirements of older workers in mind. Self-employed individuals must also recognise their own limitations as they age, which may affect their ability to work, and they must adjust their work practices accordingly to ensure they avoid injury and stay safe.

Almost a quarter of all fatal work-related incidents in 2020 occurred to non-workers, with five victims aged under 18 years old. This drives home the need for appropriate procedures to be in place to protect everyone in a workplace, be they employees, customers or visitors. Proper risk assessments and health and safety considerations must be implemented in all workplaces to ensure everyone's safety. Employers must continue to demonstrate that no job is worth a loss of life, injury or illness.

As always, our thoughts remain with the families, friends and work colleagues of those who have died. A worker fatality has a devastating impact on those around them, and with this in mind, it is essential that all employers maximise their efforts to implement health and safety procedures and improve standards around worker safety. All work tasks and activities can be done safely and incidents in the workplace are preventable.

Non-fatal incidents declined considerably in 2020, in comparison with 2019 (a decrease of over 20%). Many businesses could not operate in 2020 because of COVID-19, or had employees working from home. As a result, it is not surprising that fewer non-fatal incidents were reported in every economic sector except Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, with the greatest decline in the hospitality and food sectors, followed by arts and entertainment.

Manual handling and falls were the most common triggers of work-related injuries in 2020, as they have been in all years since 2016. The part of the body affected in the greatest number of non-fatal incidents to workers was the back. Back injuries



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

---

were reported in 20.4% of worker incidents. For non-workers, the part of the body injured most frequently was the head (21.3%). These head injuries most often followed slips or falls. The most common working environment for non-fatal work-related incidents was industrial or maintenance areas for workers (25.5%) and shop or service areas for non-workers (54.9%).

To realise our vision of healthy, safe and productive lives and enterprises for workers in Ireland, we will continue to work together with all stakeholders and sectors to ensure they take the necessary steps to prevent and eliminate incidents and illnesses in the workplace.

In concluding, I would like to thank the staff of the Authority, our Board, our many stakeholders, and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, for their ongoing support and collaboration. I'd also like to thank all employers, employees and self-employed workers who continue to put health and safety at the centre of how they work. Making health and safety a priority for everyone at work saves lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon McGuinness', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Sharon McGuinness**

Chief Executive Officer

July 2021



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Non-fatal incidents

### HSA non-fatal incident data

In 2020 there was a substantial decline in the number of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority in comparison with 2019. It is likely that this decline was largely due to the public health measures that were implemented in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fewer non-fatal incidents were reported in every economic sector except Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. The greatest decline was in Accommodation and Food Service Activities, which reported 107 non-fatal incidents in 2020, compared with 254 in 2019, a decrease of 57.9%. Large declines in reported incidents were also noted in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (42.9%), Education (42.1%) and Transportation and Storage (41.0%).

Manual handling and falls were the most common triggers in 2020, as they have been in all years since 2016. This shows that these two triggers have consistently been amongst the most prevalent causes of non-fatal incidents in recent years.

The part of the body affected in the greatest number of non-fatal incidents to workers was the back. Back injuries were reported in 20.4% of worker incidents, but only in 4.7% of non-worker incidents. This is because more workers were involved in manual handling incidents caused by lifting or moving heavy objects than non-workers. For non-workers, the part of the body injured most frequently was the head (21.3%). These head injuries most often followed slips or falls.

The most common working environment for non-fatal work-related incidents was industrial or maintenance areas for workers (25.5%) and shop or service areas for non-workers (54.9%).



## CSO special annual Labour Force Survey module on work-related accidents and illnesses

The latest data available from the CSO's module on work-related injury and illness pertains to 2019.

The number of days lost to work-related injuries fell by 26.0% to 486,000 in 2019, when compared with the five-year average for 2015–2019 (656,742); while the number of days lost to work-related illnesses fell by 10.4% from 873,859 (2015–2019 average) to 783,000 in 2019. However, there are some important changes to this module in 2019; for details see Data Sources and Methodology.

The three economic sectors with the highest rates of injuries leading to four or more days absence from work were Health and Social Work (12.1 per 1,000 workers), followed by Construction (10.9 per 1,000 workers) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (10.7 per 1,000 workers). All three sectors are identified as priority sectors in the Authority's Programme of Work 2021 and in the 2019–2021 Strategy.

In 2019, there were 7.1 injuries leading to four or more days absence from work for every 1,000 male workers, compared with 2.8 per 1,000 female workers. This has been the case in recent years, with men experiencing higher injury rates than women in four of the five years since 2015.

Whereas men had higher rates of work-related injuries, women had higher rates of work-related illnesses. In 2019 the work-related illness rate for women was 9.7 per 1,000 workers, compared with 8.1 per 1,000 workers for men. Women have had higher illness rates in four of the five years since 2015.

## Fatal incidents

There were 53 work-related fatal incidents in 2020. This is an increase from the 47 fatal incidents in 2019, and the highest number of fatal incidents since 56 were recorded in 2015.

Of 53 work-related fatal incidents, 23 (43.4%) occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing alone, while 15 (28.3%) occurred in Construction. For Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, this follows a similar pattern to recent years with half of all fatal incidents in the five-year period since 2016 occurring in this sector. Construction fatalities, however, have shown considerable variation in recent years, dropping to five in 2017 and showing increases since then.

More than half of all fatal incidents in 2020 occurred to self-employed people (28), with 12 fatalities occurring to employees and 13 to non-workers.

Fatal incidents happened to victims from all age groups, but the highest number involved people aged 65 years and over (18, 34.0%). Twelve of these victims aged 65 years and older were in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, with three in Construction. The proportion of fatal incidents involving older victims aged 65 years or more has increased in recent years, with 12.5% in 2015, increasing to 34.0% in 2020.

All but three of the 53 victims of fatal incidents were male. The three female victims were non-workers.

# 1

## INTRODUCTION

The Health and Safety Authority's Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics presents the most recently available data on work-related fatality, incidents and illnesses in Ireland. There are three key sources of these data: 1) the HSA maintains a database of non-fatal incidents reported to it, 2) the HSA has a comprehensive register of all work-related incidents resulting in a fatality and 3) the Central Statistics Office (CSO) gathers data on work-related injury and illness as a module in its Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, there are limitations to this data. The HSA database of non-fatal incidents is limited due to under-reporting. The CSO data is derived from a survey, and the number of respondents reporting work-related injuries and illnesses in some economic sectors can be very low; furthermore, the CSO data also contains less detailed information. This review provides an overview of the most recently available statistics: HSA data on fatal and non-fatal incidents pertains to 2020 while the CSO data on work-related illnesses and incidents pertains to 2019. Results are also compared with the previous five-year averages.

### Data Sources and Methodology

#### HSA non-fatal incident data

The Authority collects data on incidents at work as part of its requirement to comply with the Framework Directive 89/391/EEC (1) on measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work. The European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) methodology specifies the information that is to be collected by the Authority. In addition, under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2016, all employers and self-employed persons are legally obliged to report the injury of an employee as a result of an incident while at work that causes workers to be absent from work for four or more days.

Work-related incidents to non-workers that lead to the victim being taken from the location of the incident for treatment in a medical facility must also be reported to the Authority.

Incidents reported in this way include important details such as the trigger (i.e. the cause of the incident) and the type of injury.

However, there can be considerable underreporting of work-related incidents, with smaller enterprises and self-employed people less likely to report incidents than larger enterprises. Nonetheless, HSA non-fatal data provides some key insights about incidents occurring in Irish workplaces every year.

Non-fatal incidents are sometimes reported to the Authority months after the incident occurred. This means that the number of incidents reported in this document is subject to change. For example, the number of non-fatal incidents for 2019 was reported as 9,335 in the 2018-2019 Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics, but some late reporting of additional incidents has brought this to 9,358 at the time of this report.

### CSO survey on work-related accidents and illnesses

Each year the CSO conducts a special module on work-related injuries and illnesses in the Labour Force Survey. Households are surveyed about work-related injuries or illnesses that occurred to workers during the previous 12 months. The most recent data available relates to 2019.

This CSO data mainly relates to injuries or illnesses leading to four or more days absence from work, described as 4+ day injuries or illnesses in this review. However, the CSO data also provides some information on injuries and illnesses that involved no loss of work. In this review, Figure 2.12, Figure 2.15, Figure 2.16, Figure 2.17 and Figure 2.18 involve this broader category, described as 0+ day injuries or illnesses.

The CSO survey includes less detailed information regarding the circumstances surrounding the incident than the HSA data on work-related incidents, however, since it is based on a representative sample of the population, it gives a more reliable picture of the incidence of work-related injuries occurring in the economy. The survey also includes some important information about work-related illnesses.

It should be noted, however, that the number of respondents to the Labour Force Survey who suffered work-related injuries or illnesses can be very low in certain sectors and, in some cases, can be zero. In the 2019 data, zero work-related incidents were reported in Other NACE Activities.<sup>1</sup> This does not mean that no work-related injuries occurred in that sector, only that none were reported in the Labour Force Survey. Thus, results should be interpreted with caution.

Every six to seven years the European Union's statistical office Eurostat carries out an ad hoc module on Accidents and Illnesses, with the most recent years being 2007, 2013 and 2020. These modules allow the comparison of occupational health and safety records amongst EU member states.

The 2020 survey was therefore based on this Eurostat ad hoc module, which has some differences to the usual Labour Force Survey module. In particular, the CSO's usual Labour Force Survey module includes the use of proxy interviews, in which someone else in the household can answer on behalf of the person concerned, but the Eurostat ad hoc module does not. The use of proxy interviews leads to a higher rate of reporting of injuries and illnesses and, as such, it is likely that the lower number of reported cases of work-related injuries and illnesses in 2019 can be partly attributed to this change.

While the CSO Labour Force Survey special module on injuries and illnesses is undertaken in the first quarter of each year, pertaining to the previous year, the Eurostat ad hoc module was undertaken in the second quarter of 2020, pertaining to Quarter 2 of 2019 to Quarter 1 of 2020.

---

<sup>1</sup> R-U Other NACE Activities is a combination of economic sectors: R – Arts, Entertainment and Recreation, S – Other Service Activities, T – Activities of Households as Employers and U - Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies.

## **HSA fatal incident data**

All fatal work-related incidents 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 breaks down fatal incident data into considerable detail.

While 53 work-related fatalities have been recorded for 2020, an additional five investigations in relation to COVID-19 related fatalities in the Healthcare sector in 2020 remain ongoing. If these are deemed as work-related fatalities, the fatality data for 2020 will be revised accordingly and updated on our website.

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

To compare work-related incidents and illnesses in different economic sectors and in different years, rates of work-related incidents and illnesses are calculated as a proportion of the number of workers in the economy. For non-fatal incidents and illnesses, the rates are calculated per 1,000 workers, while for fatal incidents the rates are calculated per 100,000 workers. This is because there are many more non-fatal incidents and illnesses than fatal. For example, in 2019 the rate of non-fatal incidents in Construction was 10.9 per 1,000 workers, while the rate of fatal incidents was 8.2 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 period (in this case Quarter 2 2019 to Quarter 1 2020).

# 2

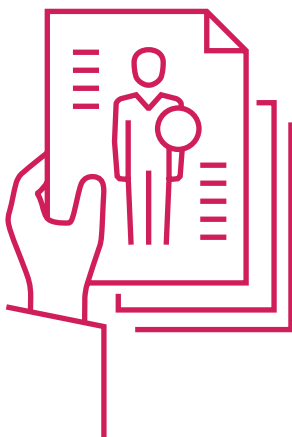
## NON-FATAL INCIDENT AND ILLNESS STATISTICS

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

In 2020, 7,417 non-fatal incidents were reported to the Authority, a 20.7% reduction from the 9,358 reported in 2019. It is likely that this reduction in reported incidents is largely due public health measures introduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reductions were recorded in every economic sector except Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Of the 7,417 non-fatal incidents reported in 2020, 96.3% related to workers. The highest number was reported in the NACE economic sector of Health and Social Work, which accounted for 23.3% of all incidents.

For non-worker incidents, the highest number was reported in Wholesale and Retail (130), representing 46.9% of all non-worker incidents. While Transportation and Storage had 95 non-worker incidents in 2019, this fell to 27 in 2020, a 71.6% decline. This decrease is probably due to the reduction in numbers using transport during the Covid-19 pandemic.

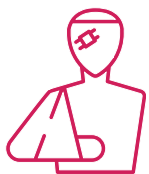


In 2020, **7,417** non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority

a **20.7%** reduction from the **9,358** reported in 2019.

**Figure 2.1:****Incidents reported by economic sector, 2020 (HSA)**

	Workers		Non-workers		All	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Q – Health and Social Work	1,715	24.0	13	4.7	1,728	23.3
C – Manufacturing	1,255	17.6	8	2.9	1,263	17.0
G – Wholesale and Retail	971	13.6	130	46.9	1,101	14.8
F – Construction	758	10.6	10	3.6	768	10.4
O – Public Administration and Defence	670	9.4	4	1.4	674	9.1
H – Transportation and Storage	532	7.5	27	9.7	559	7.5
N – Admin and Support Service	317	4.4	3	1.1	320	4.3
P – Education	168	2.4	40	14.4	208	2.8
A – Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	135	1.9	4	1.4	139	1.9
S – Other Service Activities	112	1.6	12	4.3	124	1.7
I – Accommodation and Food	96	1.3	11	4.0	107	1.4
E – Water, Sewerage, Waste	97	1.4	2	0.7	99	1.3
M – Professional, Scientific and Technical	81	1.1	1	0.4	82	1.1
J – Information and Communications	63	0.9	0	0.0	63	0.8
K – Financial and Insurance	52	0.7	6	2.2	58	0.8
L – Real Estate	34	0.5	1	0.4	35	0.5
D – Electricity, Gas, etc.	33	0.5	0	0.0	33	0.4
R – Arts, Entertainment	27	0.4	5	1.8	32	0.4
B – Mining and Quarrying	24	0.3	0	0.0	24	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,139</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,417</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Most victims of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority were employees (94.1%).**

However, this is affected by under-reporting of incidents by self-employed people. There were 277 incidents involving non-workers reported, representing 3.7% of all incidents.

**Figure 2.2:**

**Number of reported non-fatal incidents by employment status, 2020 (HSA)**

	N	%
Employee	6,977	94.1
Non-worker	277	3.7
Self-employed	99	1.3
Trainee	56	0.8
Family worker	6	0.1
Employment status unknown	2	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,417</b>	<b>100.0</b>

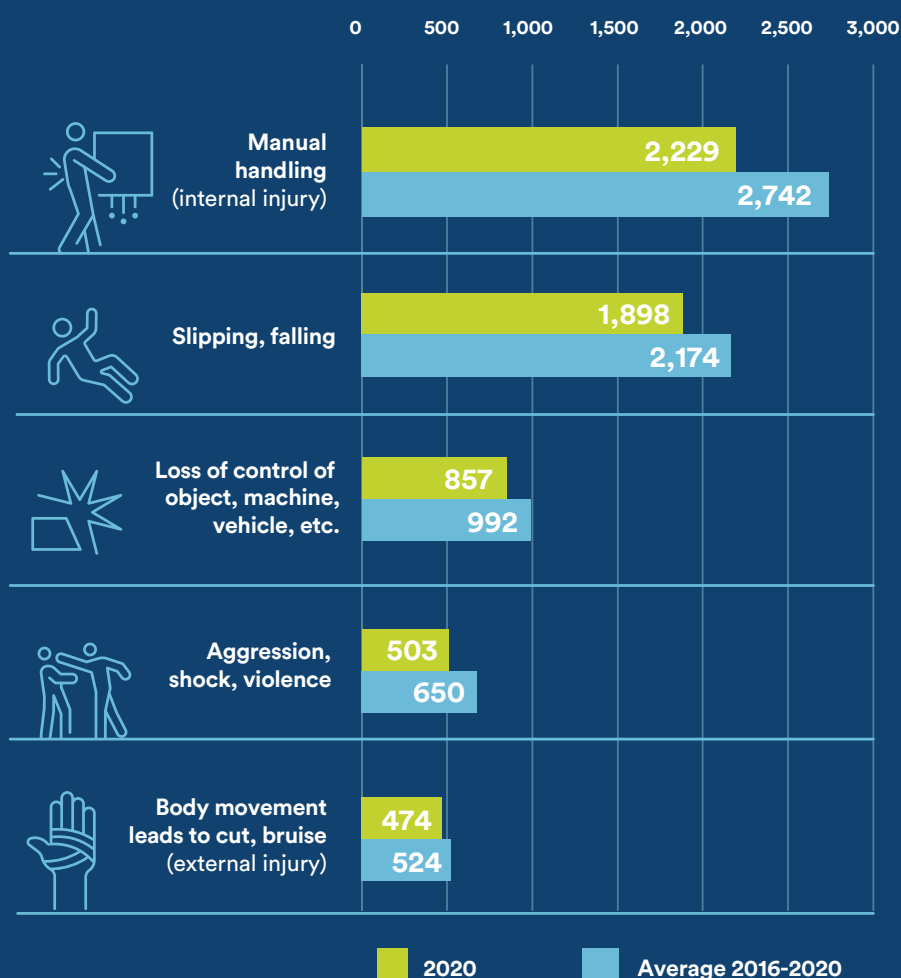
The *trigger* is the term used to describe the cause of an incident. Figure 2.3 shows the top five triggers of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority in 2020, where a clear trigger was identified. The single most common trigger was manual handling leading to internal injury (2,229, 30.1%). Slipping or falling led to 1,898 work-related incidents (25.6%); of these, 78.9% were falls on the same level while 21.0% were falls from height. Manual handling and falls together accounted for over half of all non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority in 2020.

Of the 857 non-fatal incidents involving the loss of control of objects, machines and vehicles, 30.9% involved the loss of control of vehicles, 25.1% involved the loss of control of hand-held tools and 18.7% involved the loss of control of objects being worked on.

Figure 2.3 also shows the average number of incidents over the five-year period 2016–2020 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, 2020 and five-year average 2016–2020 (HSA)**



Figures 2.4a to 2.4f show the top three triggers for the six economic sectors reporting the highest number of non-fatal incidents to the Authority, where a clear trigger was identified.

Both manual handling and slipping/falling triggers were among the top two triggers for each of these economic sectors.

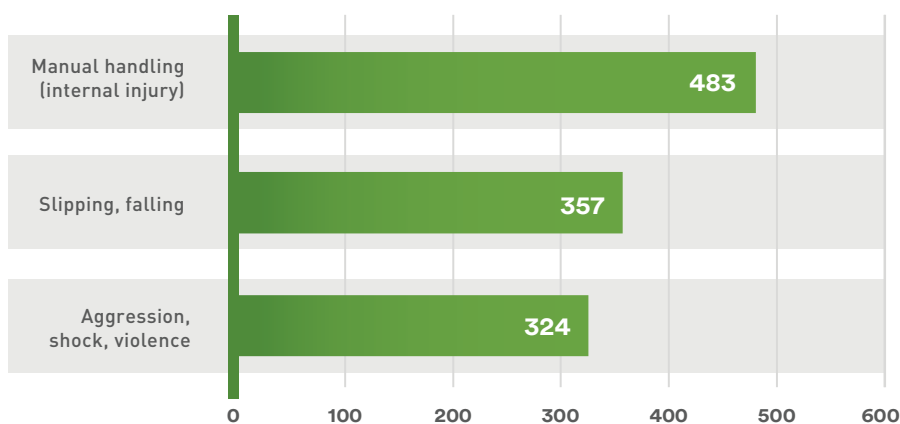
Aggression, shock and violence was the third most common trigger in Public Administration and Defence; these involved mainly justice and public order activities, including An Garda Síochána. Aggression, shock and violence was also the third most common trigger in Health and Social Work. About half of these incidents occurred in hospitals or nursing homes.

## Health and Social Work



**Figure 2.4a**

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Health and Social Work, 2020 (HSA)

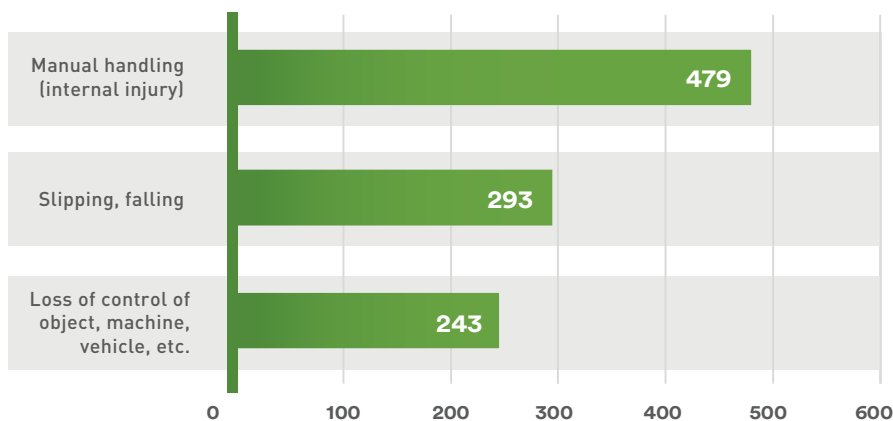


## Industry



**Figure 2.4b:**

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Industry<sup>2</sup>, 2020 (HSA)



<sup>2</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.

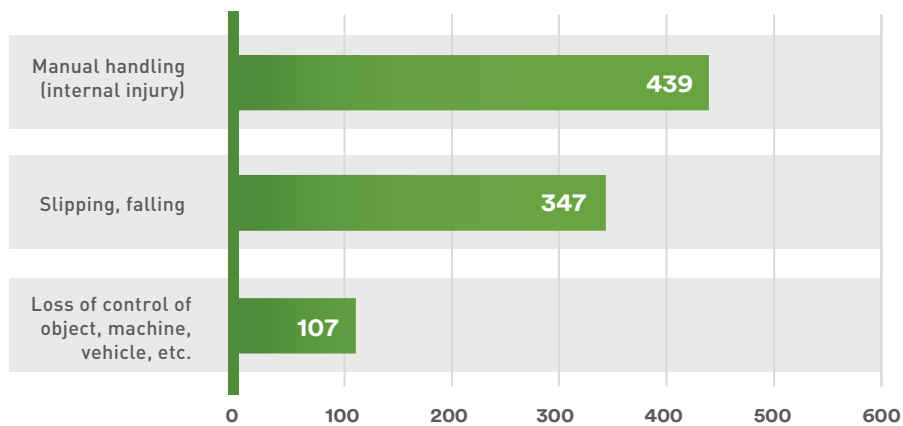


## Wholesale and Retail



Figure 2.4c

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Wholesale and Retail, 2020 (HSA)

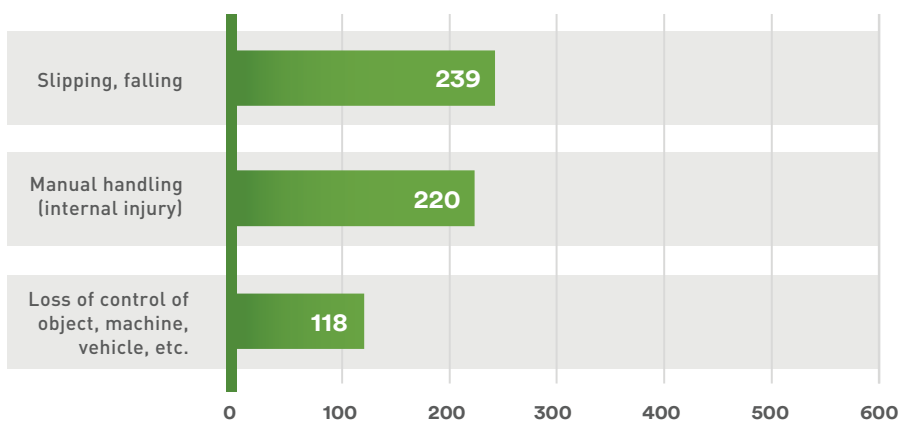


## Construction



Figure 2.4d

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Construction, 2020 (HSA)

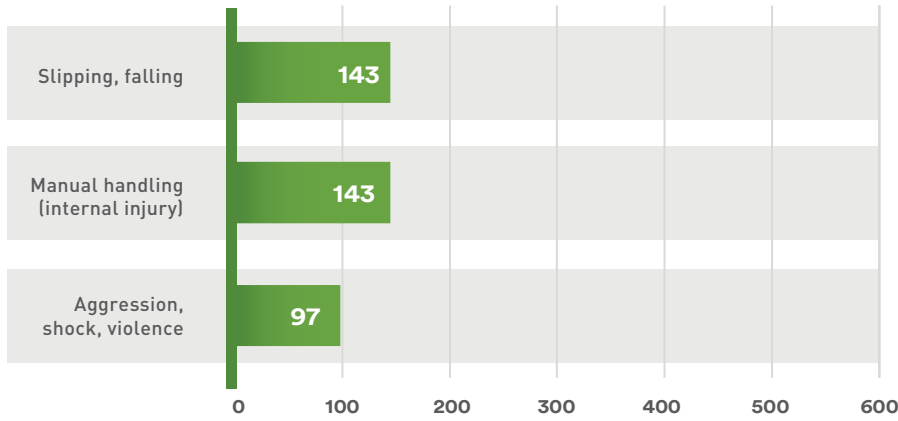


# Public Administration and Defence



**Figure 2.4e**

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Public Administration and Defence, 2020 (HSA)

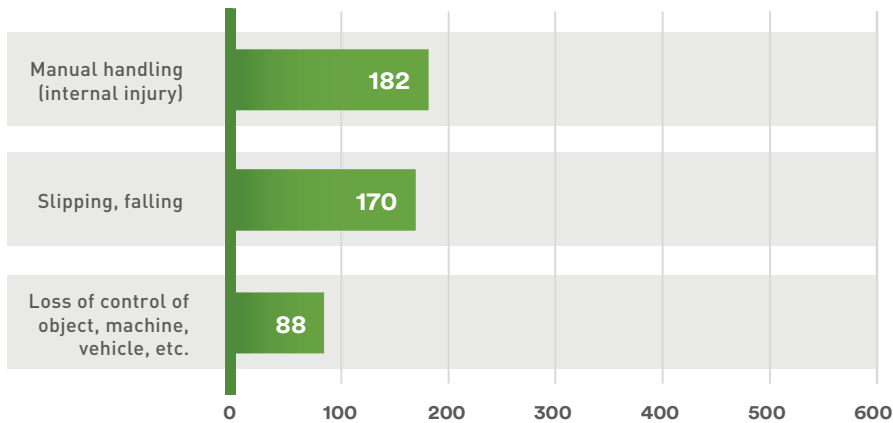


# Transportation and Storage



**Figure 2.4f**

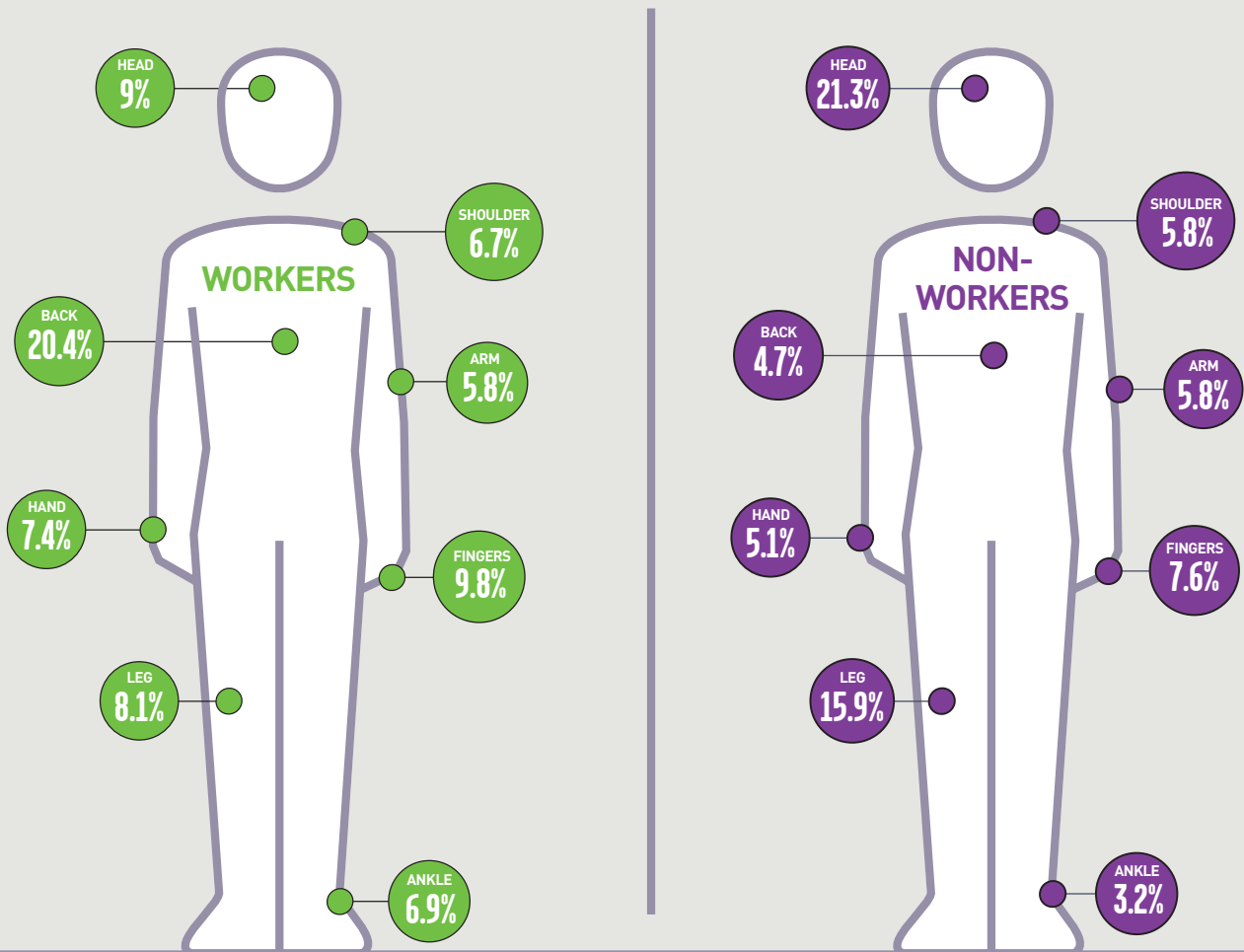
Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Transportation and Storage, 2020 (HSA)



For more details on non-fatal triggers, see Figure 4.1 in the Appendix.

**Figure 2.5:**

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



The most injured body part for workers in 2020 was the back, associated with 20.4% of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority. This is in keeping with recent years, with back injuries comprising 21.6% of all non-fatal incidents to workers reported to the Authority between 2016 and 2020. Non-fatal back injuries were caused primarily by manual handling incidents.

The most injured body part for non-workers was the head (21.3%). The most common cause of head injuries in non-workers was falling or slipping, causing the victims to strike their heads.

Most non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority caused fewer than 14 days of work lost. In 2020, almost 60% of all reported non-fatal incidents led to 4-6 days (27.4%) or 7-13 days (32.3%) of lost work; this is in keeping with the average for 2016-2020 (Figure 2.6).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The five-year average percentage for each category of days lost was generated by summing the number of days lost in each category for the period 2016-2020, and dividing them by the total number of non-fatal incidents for the period 2016-2020.

**Figure 2.6:**

**Percentage of non-fatal incidents by absence from work, 2020 and five-year average 2016–2020 (HSA)**

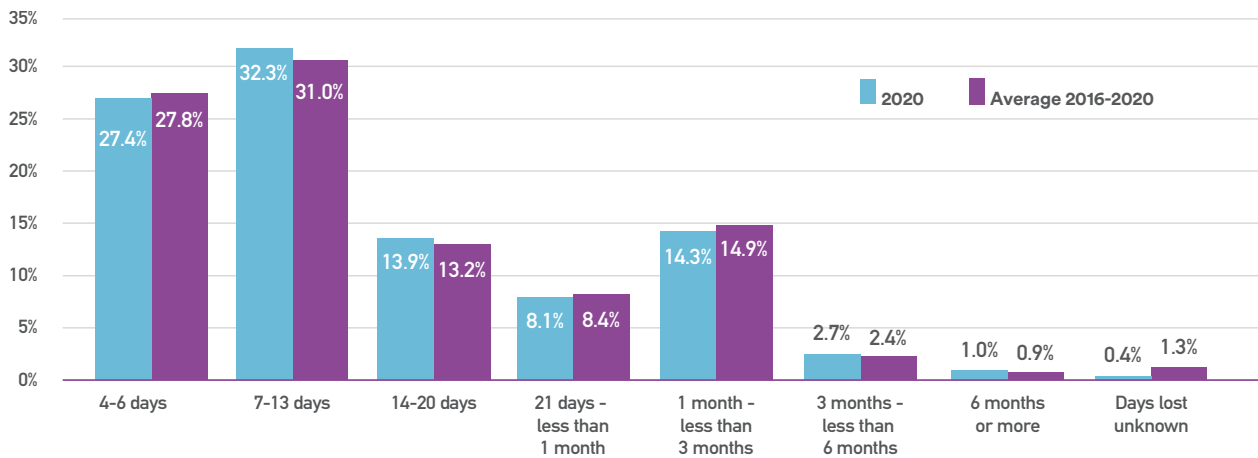
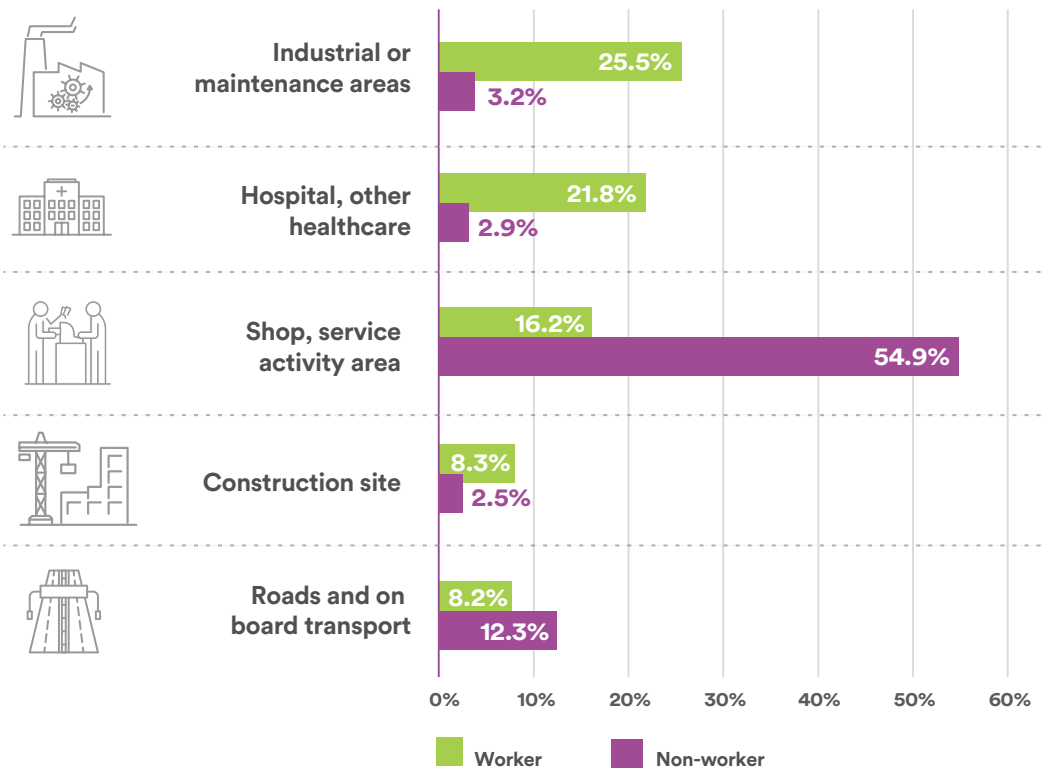


Figure 2.7 shows the top five working environments where incidents occurred to workers and non-workers, where an environment was specified. Among worker victims, 25.5% of reported non-fatal incidents occurred in industrial or maintenance areas, 21.8% occurred in hospitals or other healthcare areas and 16.2% occurred in shop or service activity areas. Most non-worker incidents occurred in shop or service activity areas (54.9%) or on roads and transport (12.3%).

**Figure 2.7:**

**Top five working environments for worker and non-worker incidents in 2020 (HSA)**



# CSO Survey Results

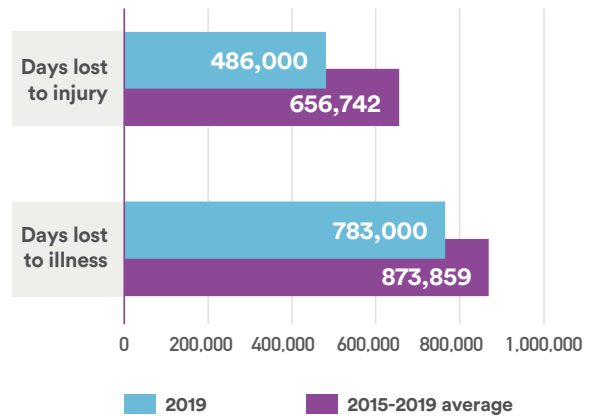
Each year the CSO undertakes a special module of the Labour Force Survey on work-related injuries and illnesses. The most recent data available for this survey relates to 2019. For 2019, respondents reported 486,000 days lost due to work-related injuries, down from the five-year average of 656,742, and 783,000 days lost due to work-related illness, down from the five-year average of 873,859.

However, the 2019 survey was based on the Eurostat ad hoc module on Accidents and Illnesses, which had some differences to the usual Labour Force Survey module. In particular, the CSO's usual Labour Force Survey module includes the use of proxy interviews, in which someone else in the household can answer on behalf of the person concerned, but the Eurostat ad hoc module does not. The use of proxy interviews leads to a higher rate of reporting of injuries and illnesses and, as such, it is likely that the lower number of reported cases of work-related injuries and illnesses in 2019 can be partly attributed to this change.

For more details on the number of days lost, see Figure 4.2 in the Appendix.

**Figure 2.8:**

**Days lost due to work-related injuries and illnesses in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)**



In 2019, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work was Health and Social Work (12.1 per 1,000 workers), followed by Construction (10.9 per 1,000 workers), Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (10.7 per 1,000 workers) and Transportation and Storage (7.6 per 1,000 workers).



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

**4+**

**days of absence from work**

**12.1** Health and Social Work



**10.9** Construction



**10.7** Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



**7.6** Transportation and Storage



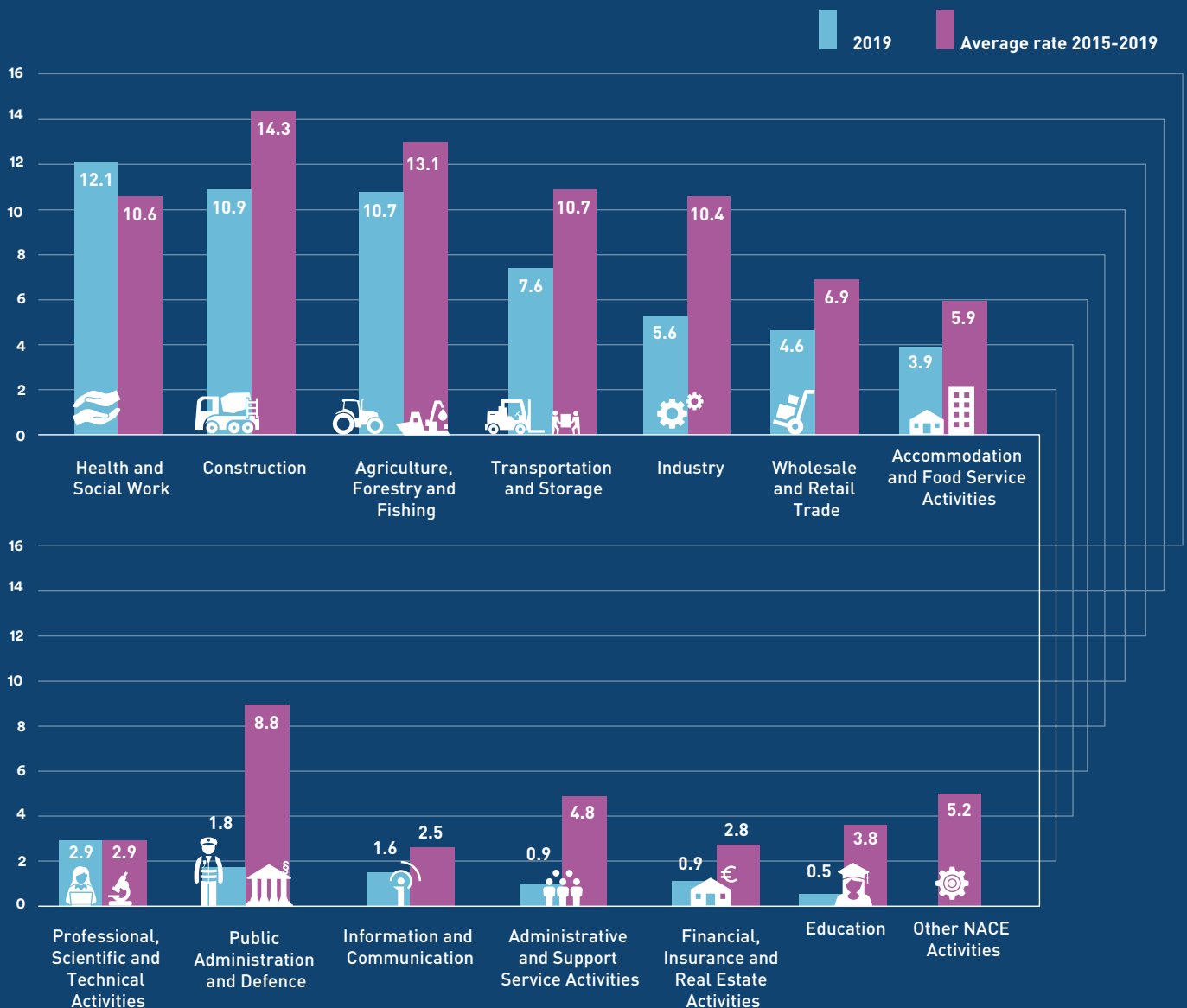
(No per 1,000 workers)

This is somewhat different from the five-year average rates for 2015–2019, in which Construction had the highest rate (14.3 per 1,000 workers). However, Figure 2.9 shows that a number of economic sectors have tended to have higher rates of work-related injuries in recent years, while sectors like Information and Communication (2.5 per 1,000 workers in 2015–2019),

Financial, Insurance and Real Estate Activities (2.8 per 1,000 workers in 2015–2019) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (2.9 per 1,000 workers in 2015–2019) have had broadly lower rates of work-related injuries in recent years.

**Figure 2.9:**

**Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)**



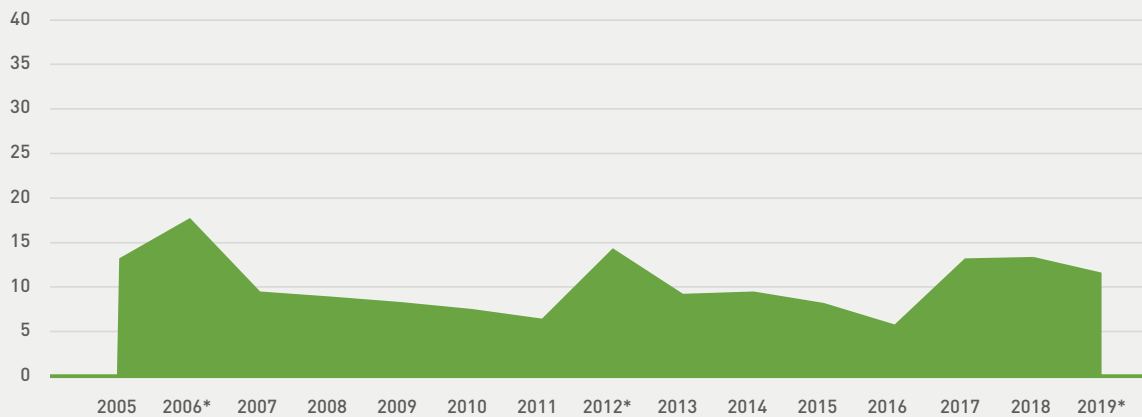
Figures 2.10a to 2.10f show the change in rates of work-related injuries causing four or more days of absence from work since 2005.<sup>4</sup> There is considerable fluctuation in these numbers from year to year.

## Health and Social Work



**Figure 2.10a:**

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Health and Social Work, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)

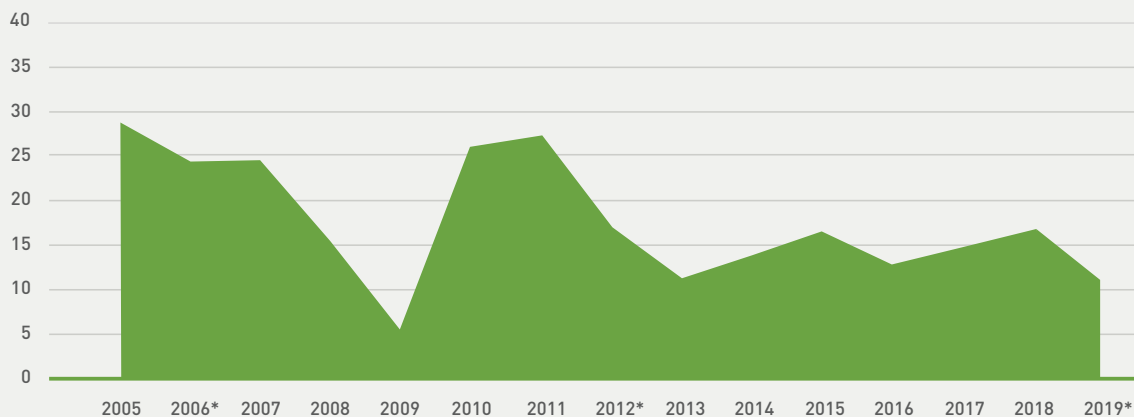


## Construction



**Figure 2.10b:**

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Construction, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)



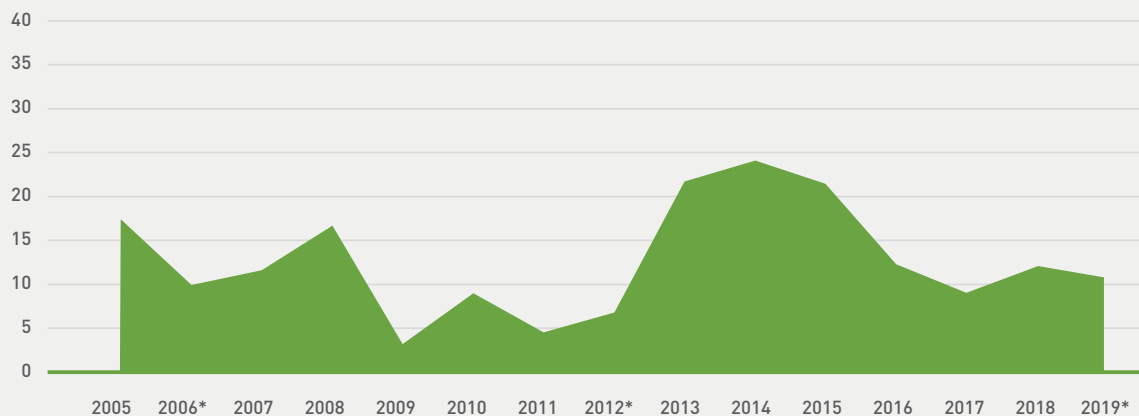
<sup>4</sup> \* indicates that the data is derived using the Eurostat ad hoc module on Accidents and Illnesses.

# Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



**Figure 2.10c:**

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)

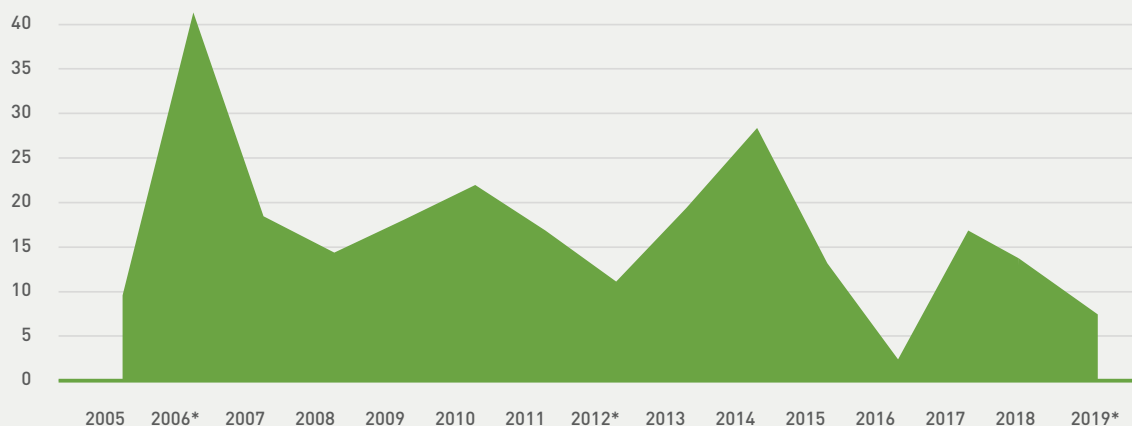


# Transportation and Storage



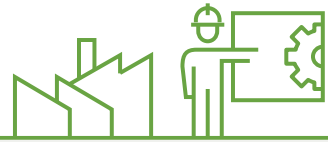
**Figure 2.10d:**

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)



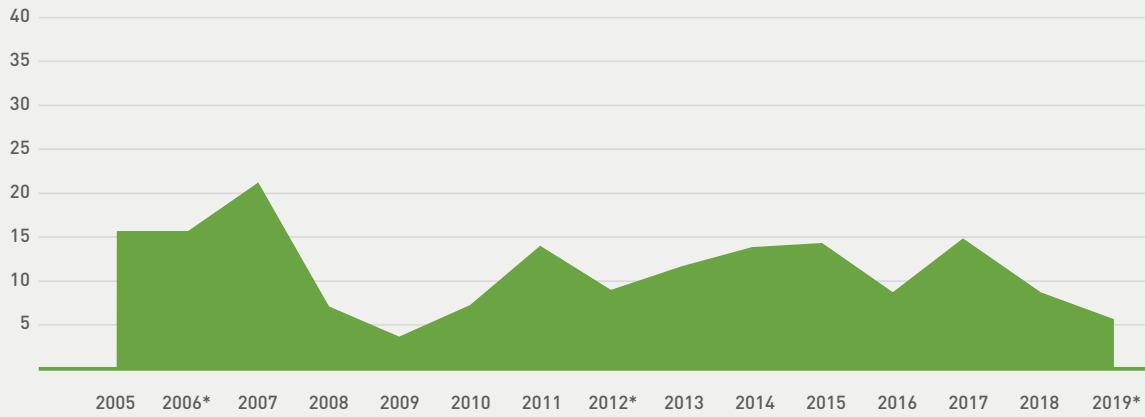


# Industry



**Figure 2.10e:**

**Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Industry,<sup>5</sup> 2005 to 2019 (CSO)**

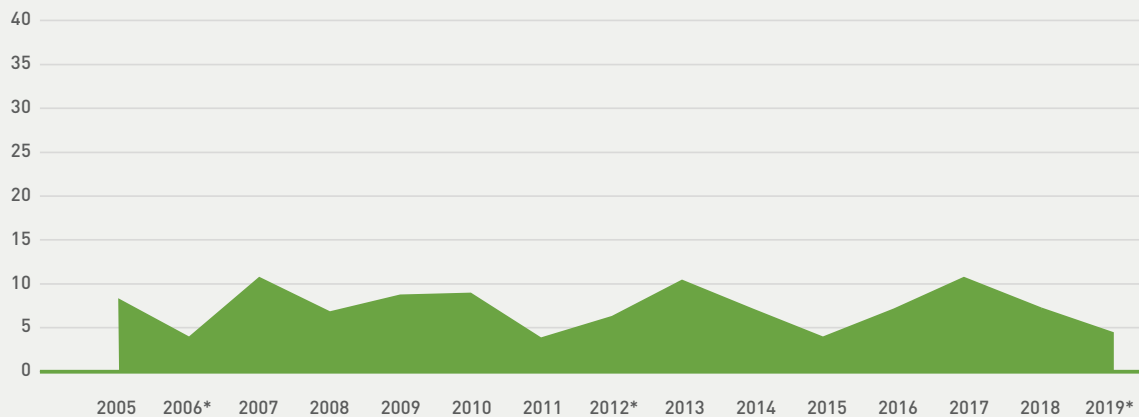


# Wholesale and Retail Trade



**Figure 2.10f:**

**Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers in Wholesale and Retail Trade, 2005 to 2019 (CSO)**



5 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.

In 2019, male workers reported more work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work (7.1 per 1,000 workers) than female workers (2.8 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2015–2019.

**Figure 2.11:**

**Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)**

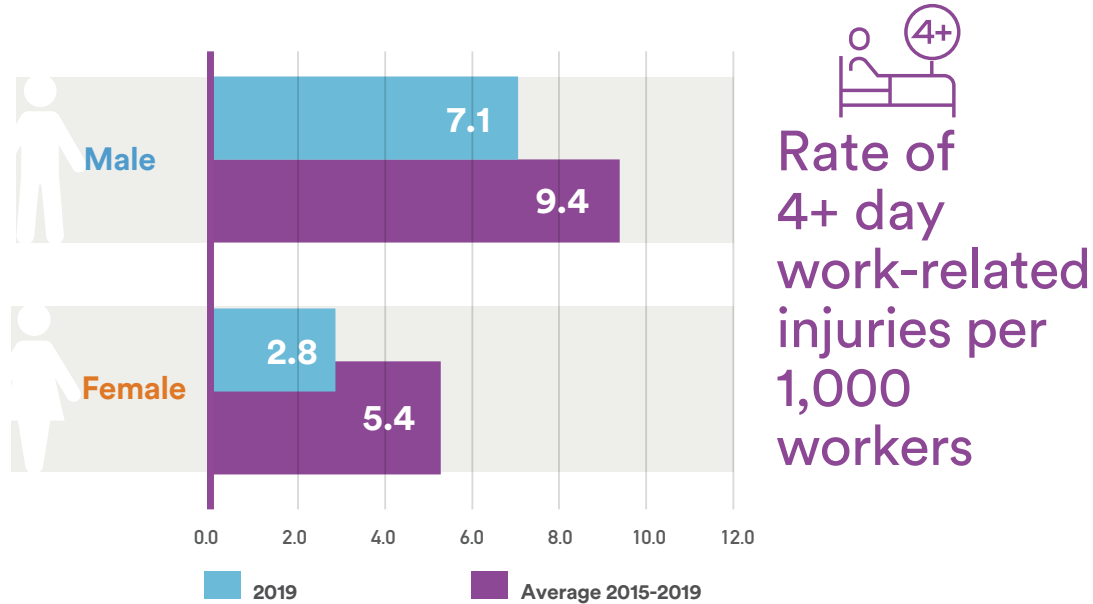
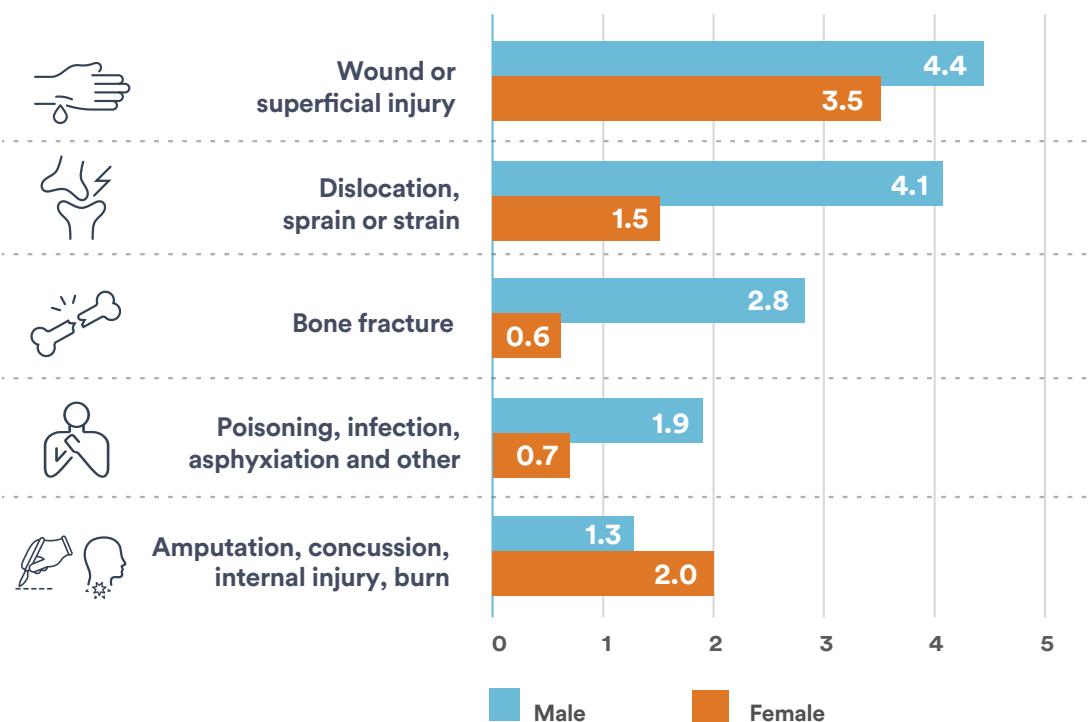


Figure 2.12 shows the kinds of injuries experienced by male and female workers. Male workers had higher rates of injury for each of the categories compared with female workers, with the exception of amputations, concussions, internal injuries and burns.

**Figure 2.12:**

**Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender and injury type in 2019 (CSO)**



In 2019, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related illnesses leading to four or more days of absence from work was Education (19.6 per 1,000 workers), followed by Health and Social Work (16.2 per 1,000 workers) and Construction (12.2 per 1,000 workers).

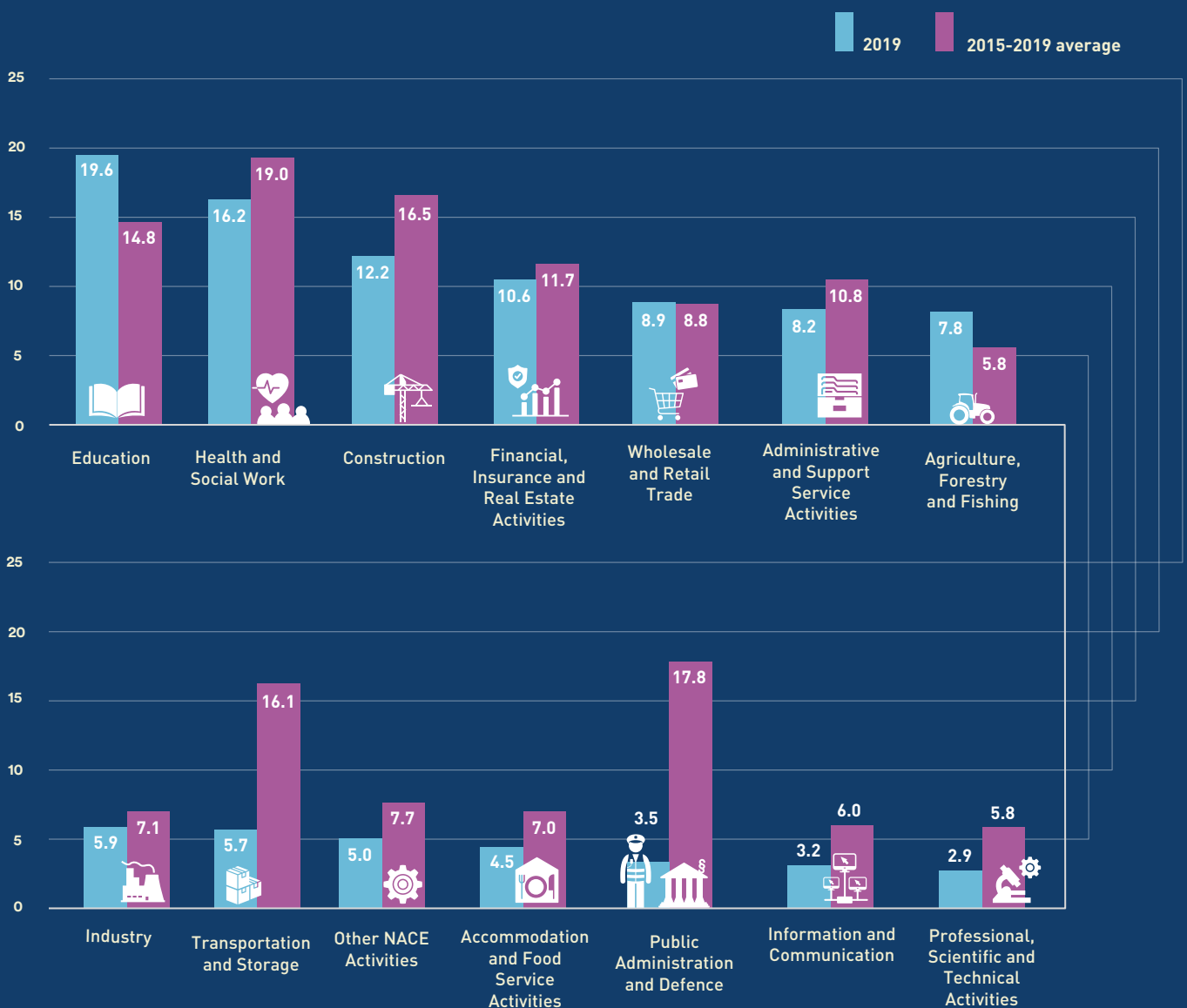
This is somewhat similar to the five-year average rates for 2015–2019, in which Health and Social Work had the highest rate (19.0 per 1,000 workers). A few economic sectors have tended to have higher work-related illness rates since 2015: Health and Social Work has been among the five sectors with the highest illness rates in every year since 2015,

while Public Administration and Defence, and Construction, have been among the five sectors with the highest illness rates in four of the five years since 2015.

Some other sectors have consistently reported lower rates of work-related illness. Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (2.9 per 1,000 workers in 2019) was among the five sectors with the lowest illness rates in every year since 2015. Information and Communication (3.2 per 1,000 workers in 2019) and Accommodation and Food Service Activities (4.5 per 1,000 workers in 2019) were among the five sectors with the lowest illness rates in four of the five years since 2015.

**Figure 2.13:**

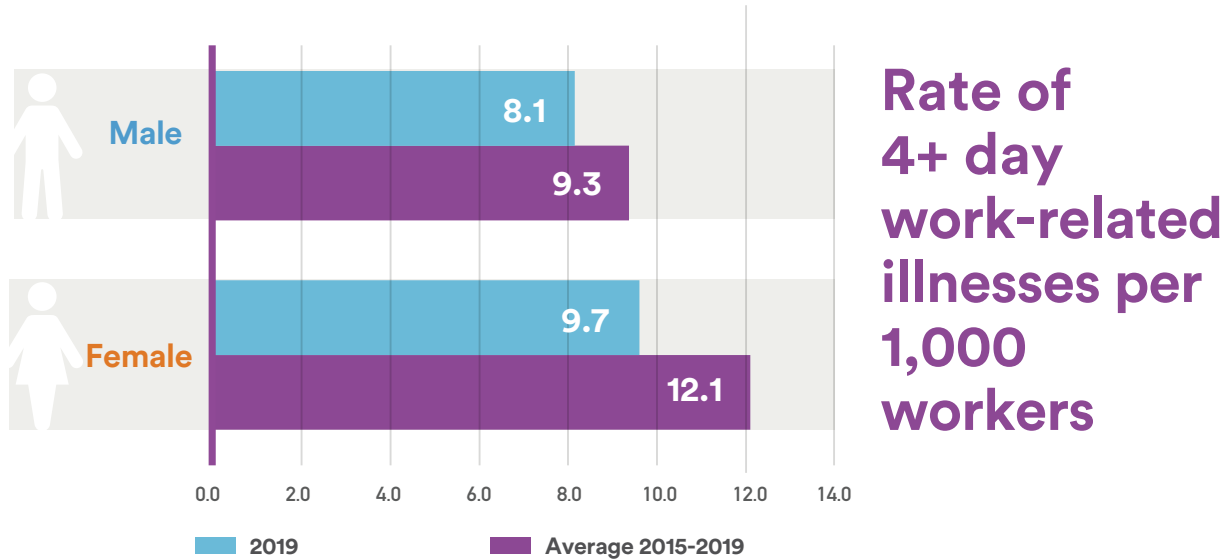
**Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019 (CSO)**



In 2019, female workers had higher illness rates (9.7 per 1,000 workers) than male workers (8.1 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2015–2019.

**Figure 2.14:**

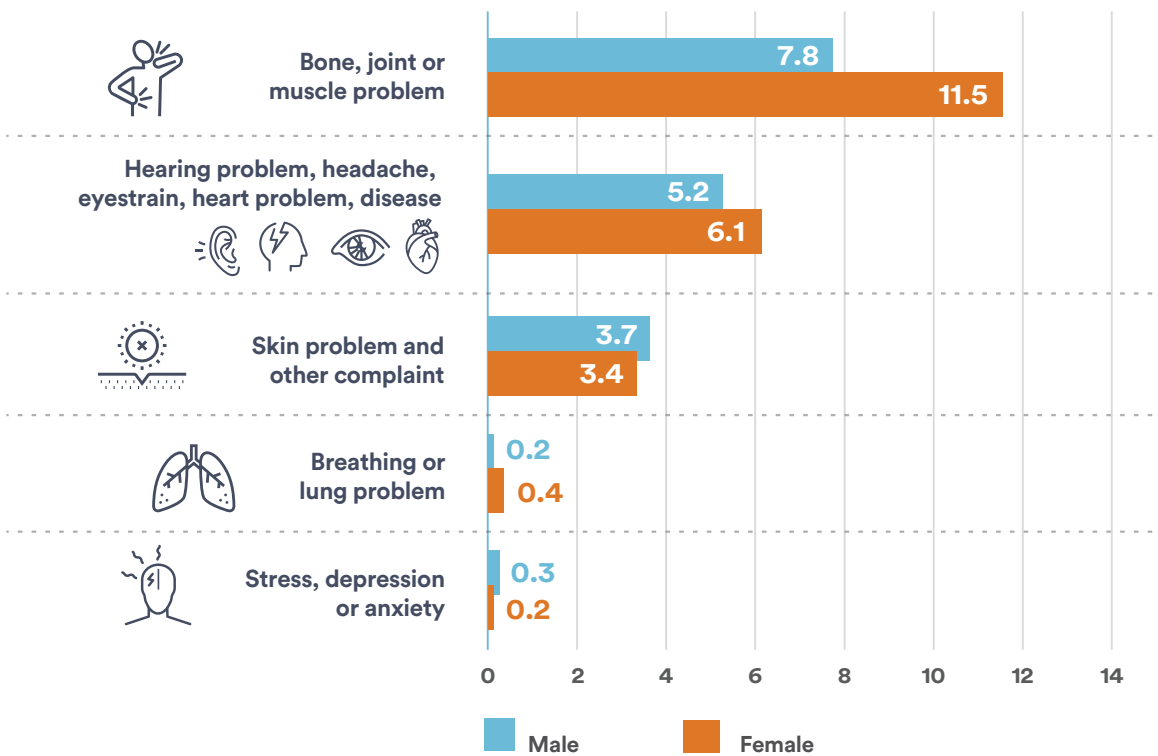
**Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender in 2019 and five-year average 2015–2019**



In 2019, female workers had higher rates of three of the five kinds of work-related illnesses, most notably bone, joint or muscle problem (11.5 per 1,000 workers), compared with male workers (7.8 per 1,000 workers).

**Figure 2.15:**

**Rate of 0+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender and illness type in 2019 (CSO)**



Rates of work-related incidents were highest for the

# 55–64 years group

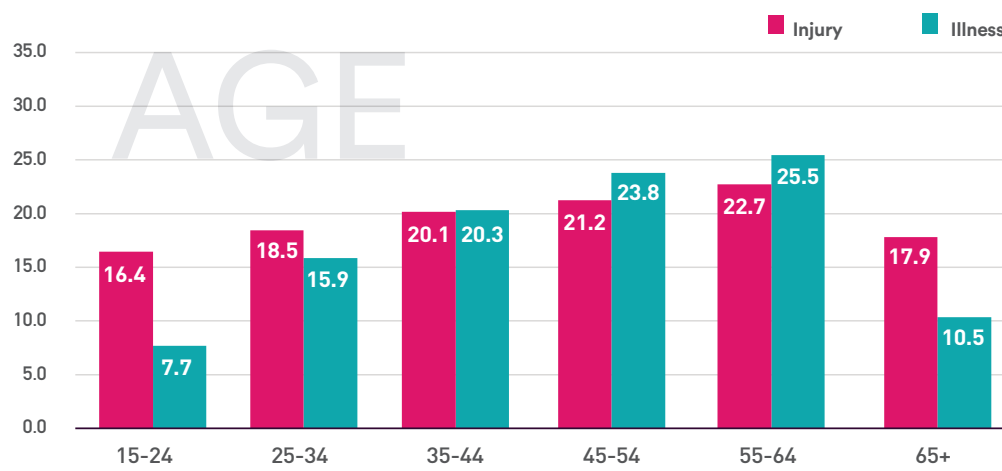
(22.7 per 1,000 workers)

The highest work-related illness rate also occurred to the 55–64 years age group (25.5 per 1,000 workers), with high rates also in the 45–54 years group (23.8 per 1,000 workers) and 35–44 years group (20.3 per 1,000 workers).

Rates of work-related illnesses were higher than rates of work-related injuries for the 35–44 years, 45–54 years and 55–64 years groups, with injury rates higher in other groups. This was particularly notable in the youngest age group (15–24), which had an illness rate of 7.7 per 1,000 workers, compared with an injury rate of 16.4 per 1,000 workers.

Figure 2.16:

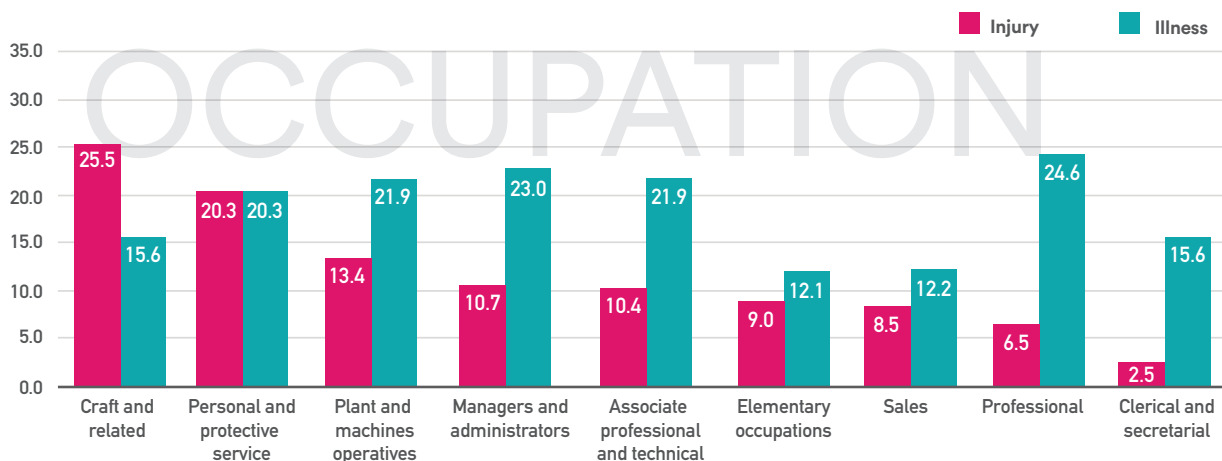
Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by age group in 2019 (CSO)



The highest rate of injuries involved craft and related workers, which includes house builders, electricians and food processing occupations (25.5 per 1,000 workers). The highest rate of illnesses involved professional workers (24.6 per 1,000 workers).<sup>6</sup>

Figure 2.17:

Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by occupation of victim in 2019 (CSO)



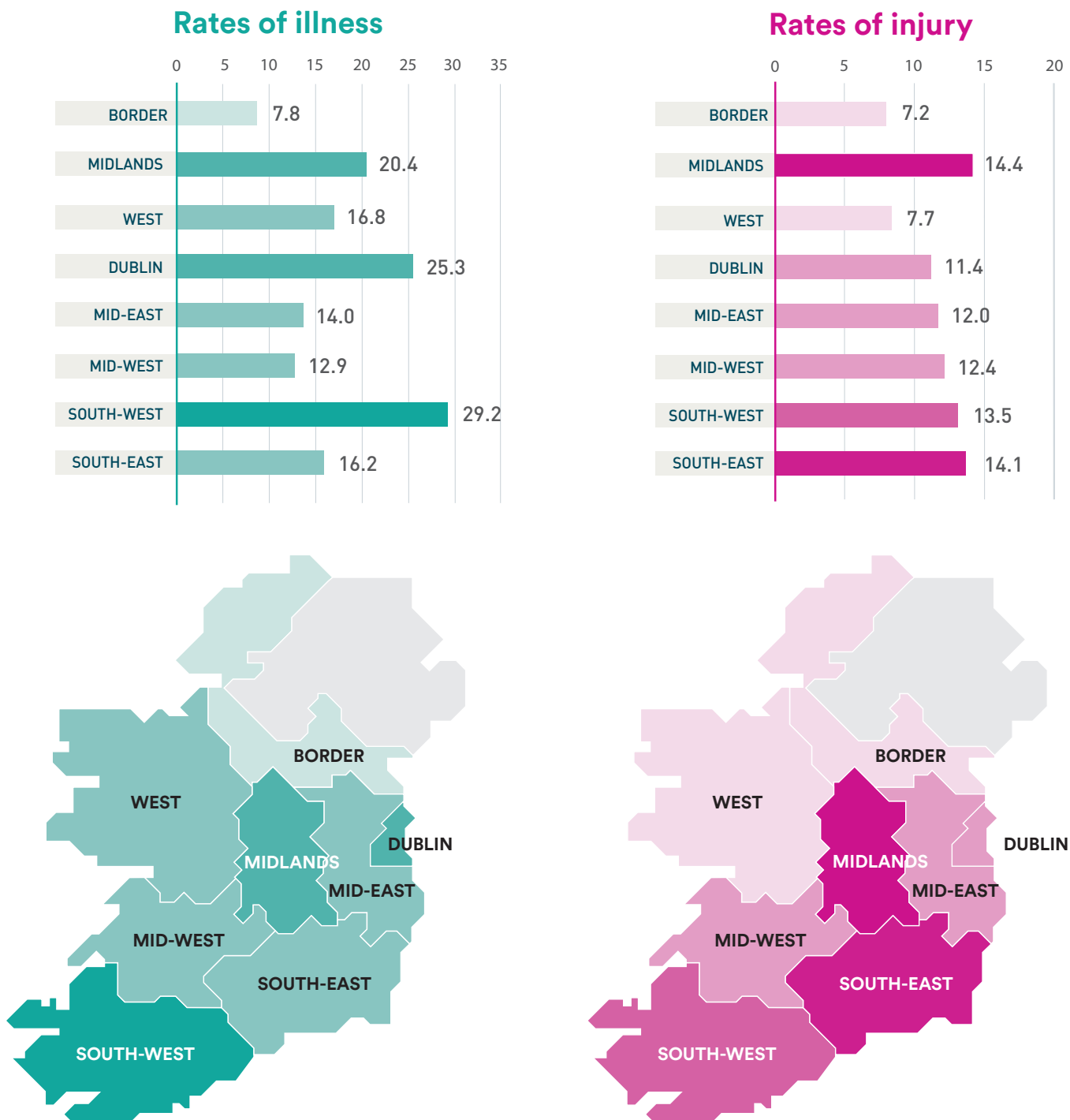
<sup>6</sup> For more information on occupation classifications see ONS Standard Occupational Classification 2010: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassificationsoc/soc2010>.

The highest rates of injury in 2019 were in the Midlands region of Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath (14.4 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates were in the Border region of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Monaghan and Cavan (7.2 per 1,000 workers).

The highest illness rates in 2019 were in the South-East region of Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford (29.2 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates were in the Border region of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Monaghan and Cavan (7.8 per 1,000 workers).

**Figure 2.18:**

Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by NUTS region in 2019 (CSO)



# 3

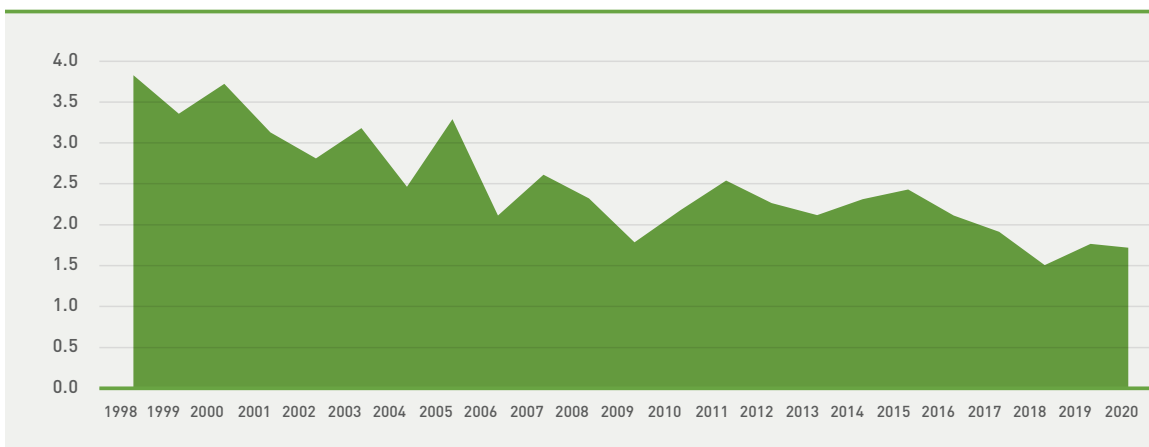
## FATAL INCIDENT STATISTICS

### There were **53** fatal work-related incidents in Ireland in 2020

Of these, 40 involved worker victims and 13 involved non-worker victims. This is an 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 incidents. However, 53 fatal work-related incidents in 2020 is an increase on the 47 incidents in 2019. Figure 3.1 shows that the rate of fatal incidents to workers has fallen from 3.8 per 100,000 workers in 1998 (the first year for which CSO employment survey data is available) to 1.7 per 100,000 workers in 2020.

**Figure 3.1:**

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers, 1998–2020 (HSA)



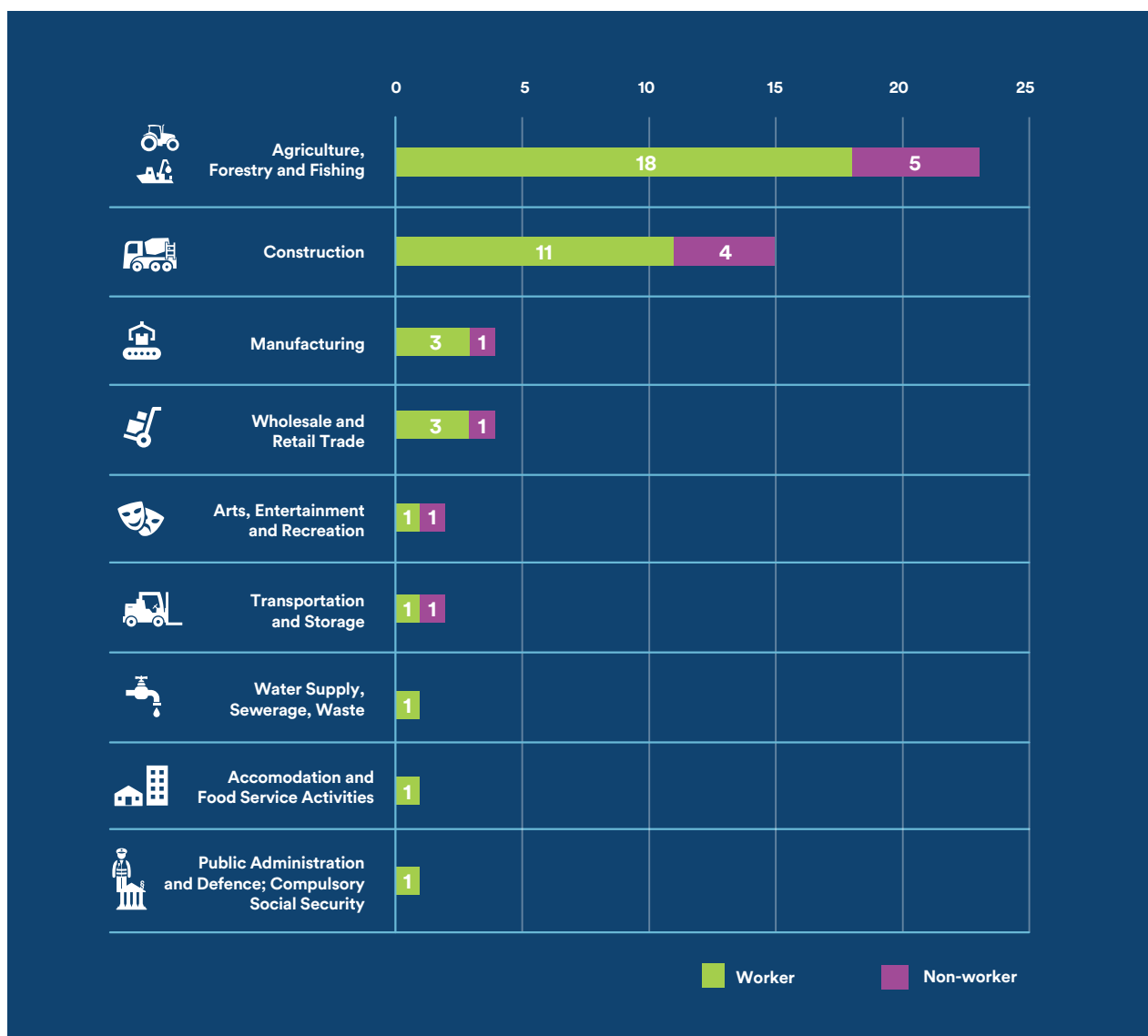


## The largest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

The largest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (18 workers and five non-workers), accounting for 43.4% of all fatal incidents in 2020. Eleven fatal incidents occurred to workers in Construction, as well as four to non-workers. Fatal incidents occurred to three workers and one non-worker in Manufacturing, and three workers and one non-worker in Wholesale and Retail Trade.

**Figure 3.2:**

**Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector 2020 (HSA)**

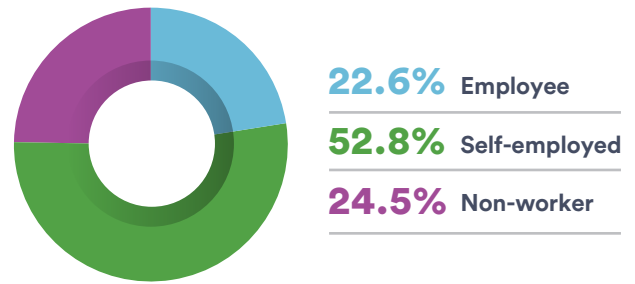




Of the 53 work-related fatal incident victims, 28 (52.8%) were self-employed, 12 were employees (22.6%) and 13 were non-workers (24.5%). For more details on the employment status of fatal incident victims, see Figure 4.4 in the Appendix.

**Figure 3.3:**

Percentage of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim, 2020 (HSA)

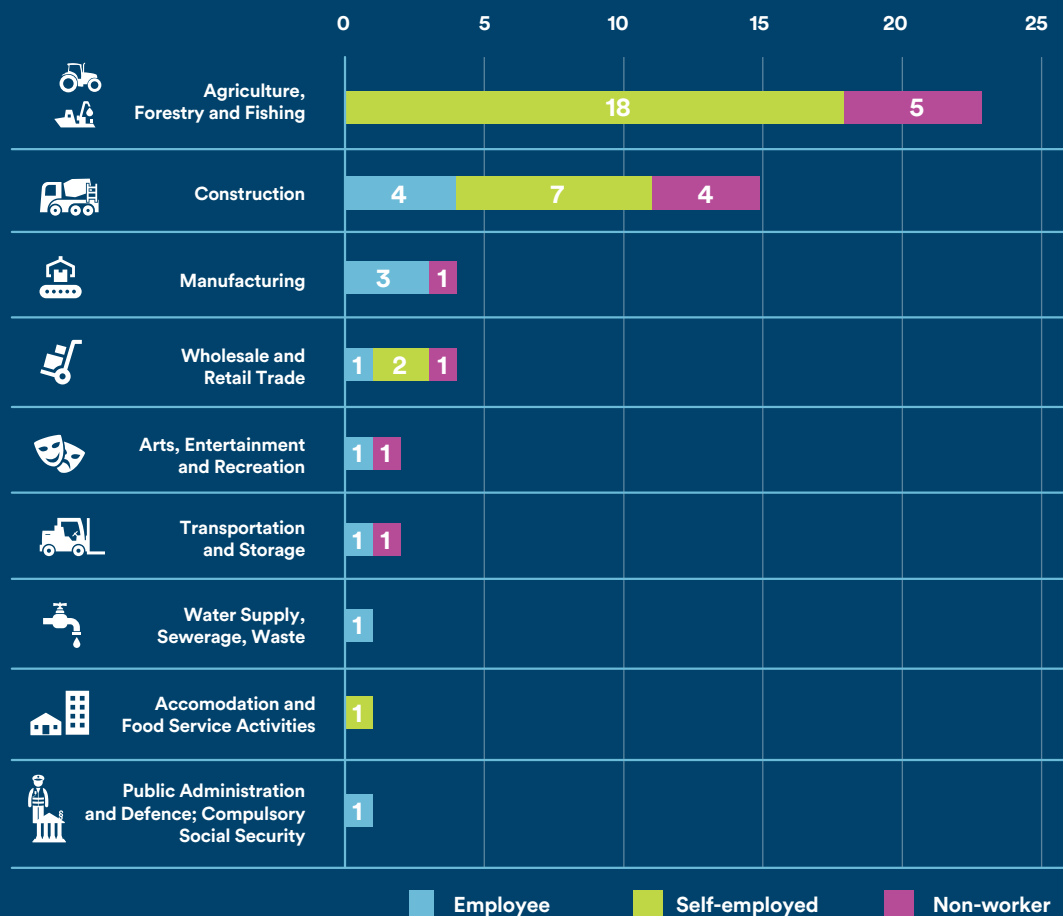


Over three in every four work-related fatal incident victims in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing were self-employed (18, 78.3%). Seven victims in Construction were self-employed (46.7%) and four were employees (26.7%). Altogether, work-related fatal incidents involved non-workers in six economic sectors.

For more details on fatal incidents by economic sector in each year from 2011 to 2020, see Figure 4.3 in the Appendix.

**Figure 3.4:**

Number of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim and NACE economic sector, 2020 (HSA)



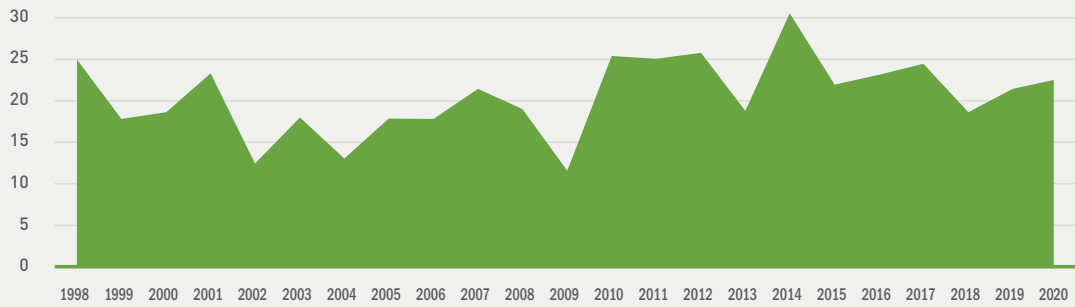
Figures 3.5a to 3.5d show the trend of fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers in four key economic sectors since 1998.

## Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



**Figure 3.5a:**

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 1998–2020 (HSA)

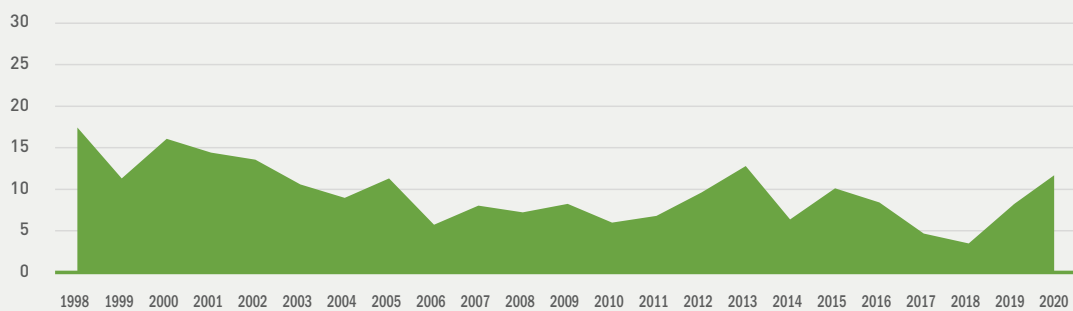


## Construction



**Figure 3.5b:**

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Construction, 1998–2020 (HSA)

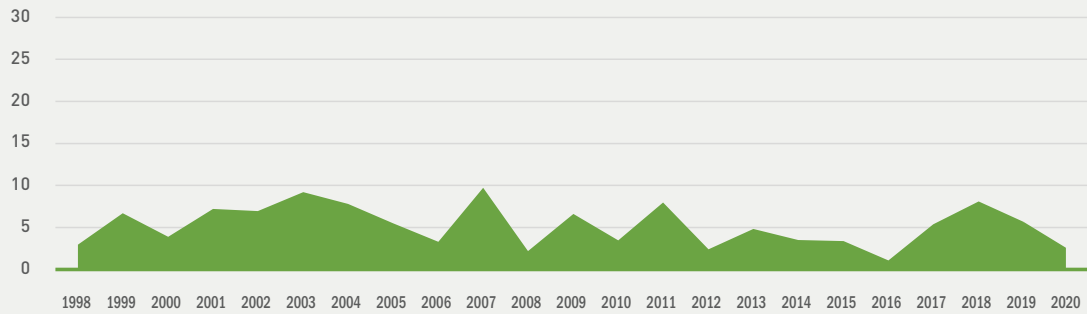


## Transportation and Storage



**Figure 3.5c:**

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 1998–2020 (HSA)

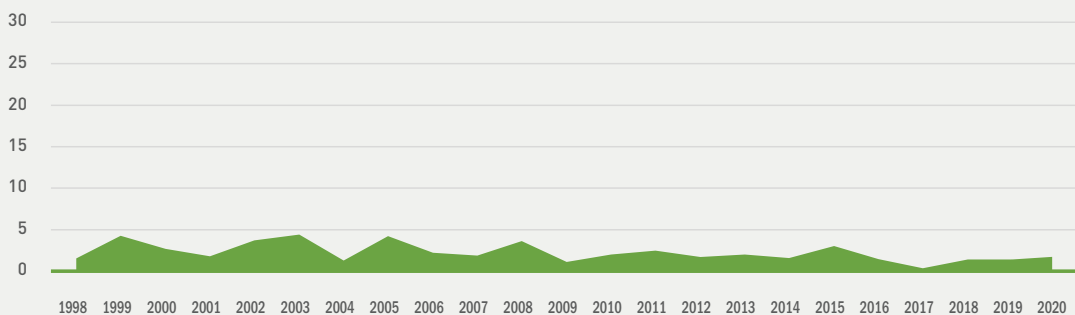


## Industry (NACE B-E)



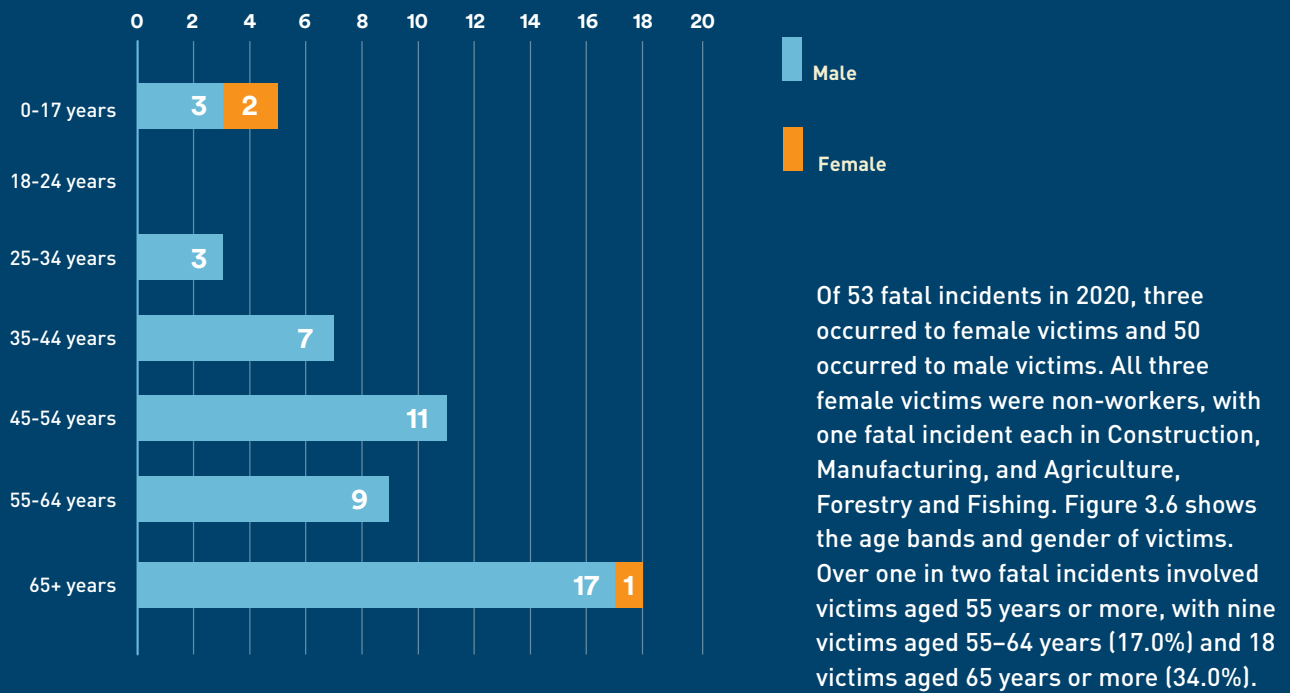
**Figure 3.5d:**

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Industry (NACE B-E), 1998–2020 (HSA)



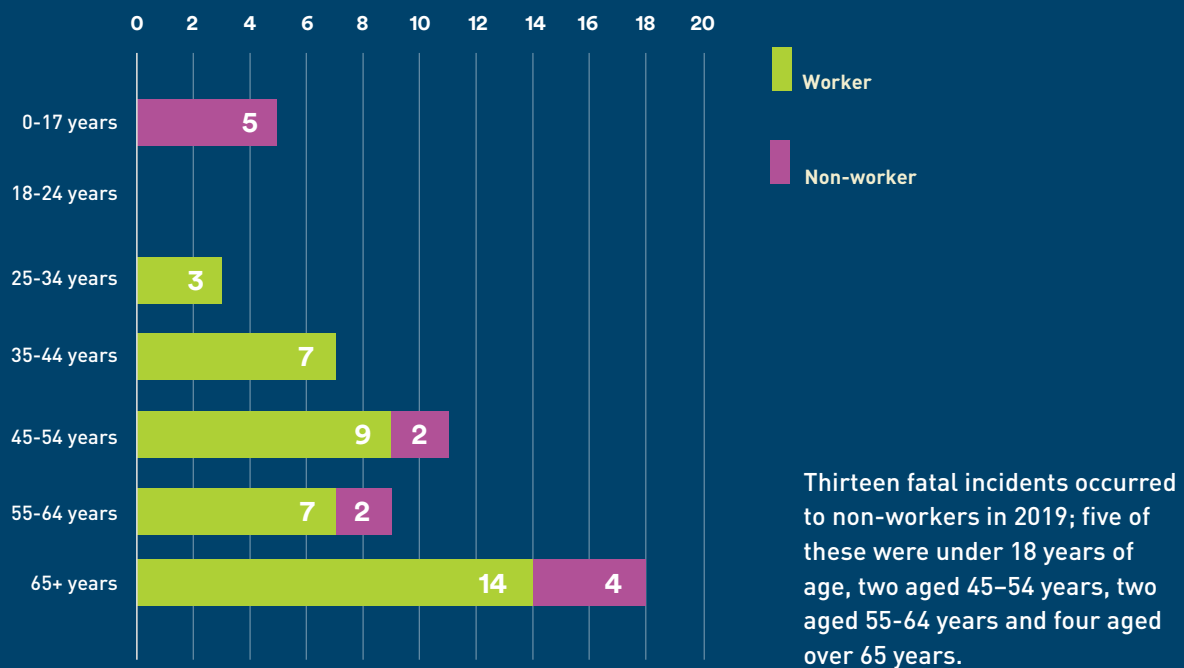
**Figure 3.6:**

**Number of fatal work-related incidents by gender and age band, 2020 (HSA)**



**Figure 3.7:**

**Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by age band, 2020 (HSA)**

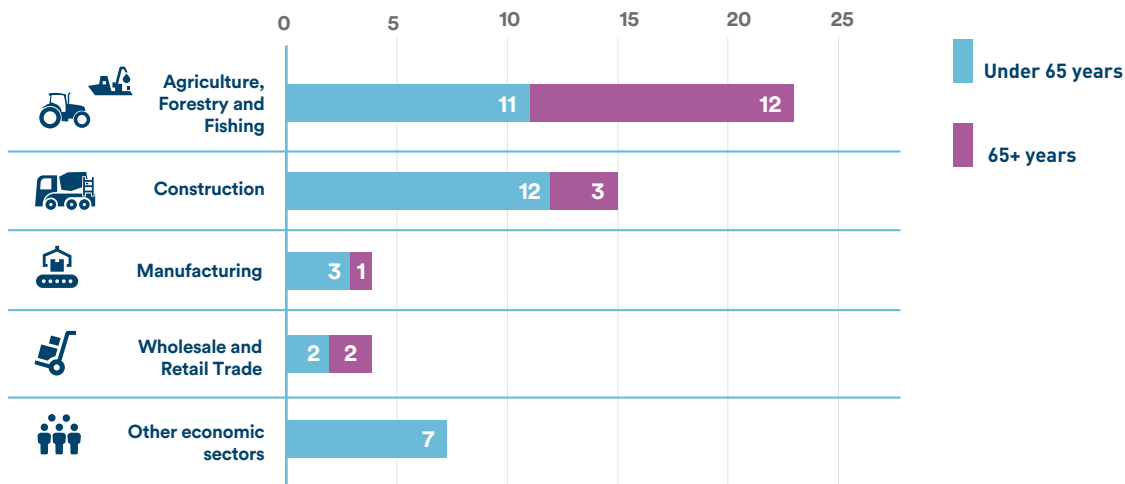


## 52.2% of fatal incidents in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing occurred to victims aged 65 years or more

Of the 53 fatal incidents in 2020, 18 (34.0%) occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. This age group was particularly prominent in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, where 12 (52.2%) fatal incidents occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. By comparison, in Construction three fatal incidents (20.0%) occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. For more details on the age of fatal incident victims in each economic sector, see Figure 4.5 in the Appendix.

**Figure 3.8:**

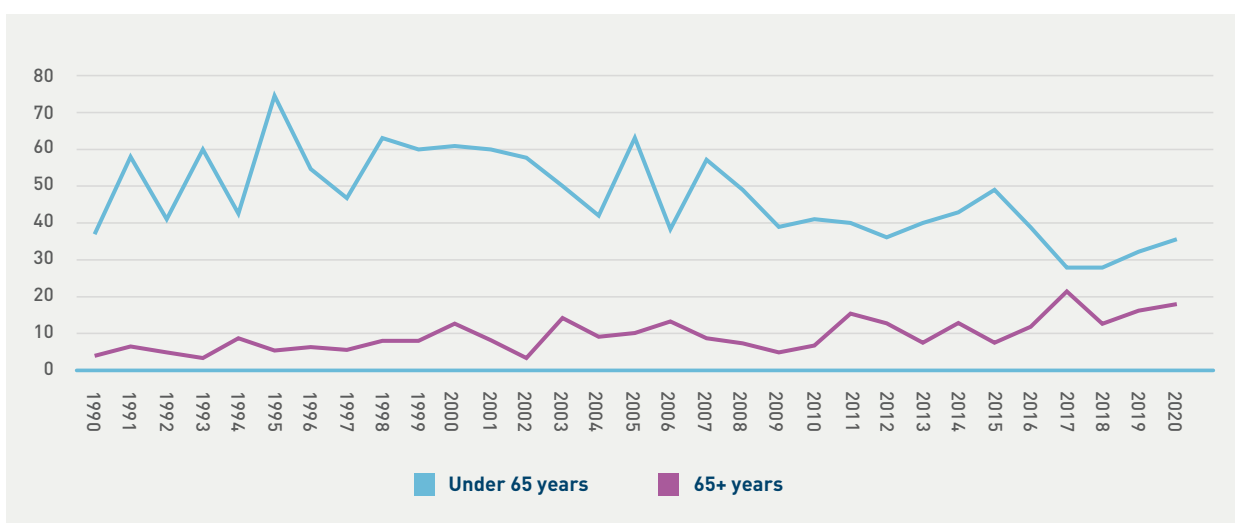
**Number of fatal work-related incidents in key NACE economic sectors involving victims aged under 65 years and 65 years or more, 2020 (HSA)**



The age of victims has changed considerably over time. Figure 3.9 shows the number of all fatal incidents occurring to victims aged under 65 years and aged 65 years or older each year since 1990.<sup>7</sup> This shows an increase from four (7.4%) victims aged 65 years or more in 1990 to 18 (34.0%) in 2020, while the number of fatal incidents to younger victims declined. It is likely that this is influenced by the ageing of the Irish workforce; the proportion of workers aged 55 years or over has increased from 10% in 1998 to 17% in 2018.<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 3.9:**

**Number of fatal incidents occurring to victims aged under 65 years and aged 65 years or older each year, 1990–2020 (HSA)**



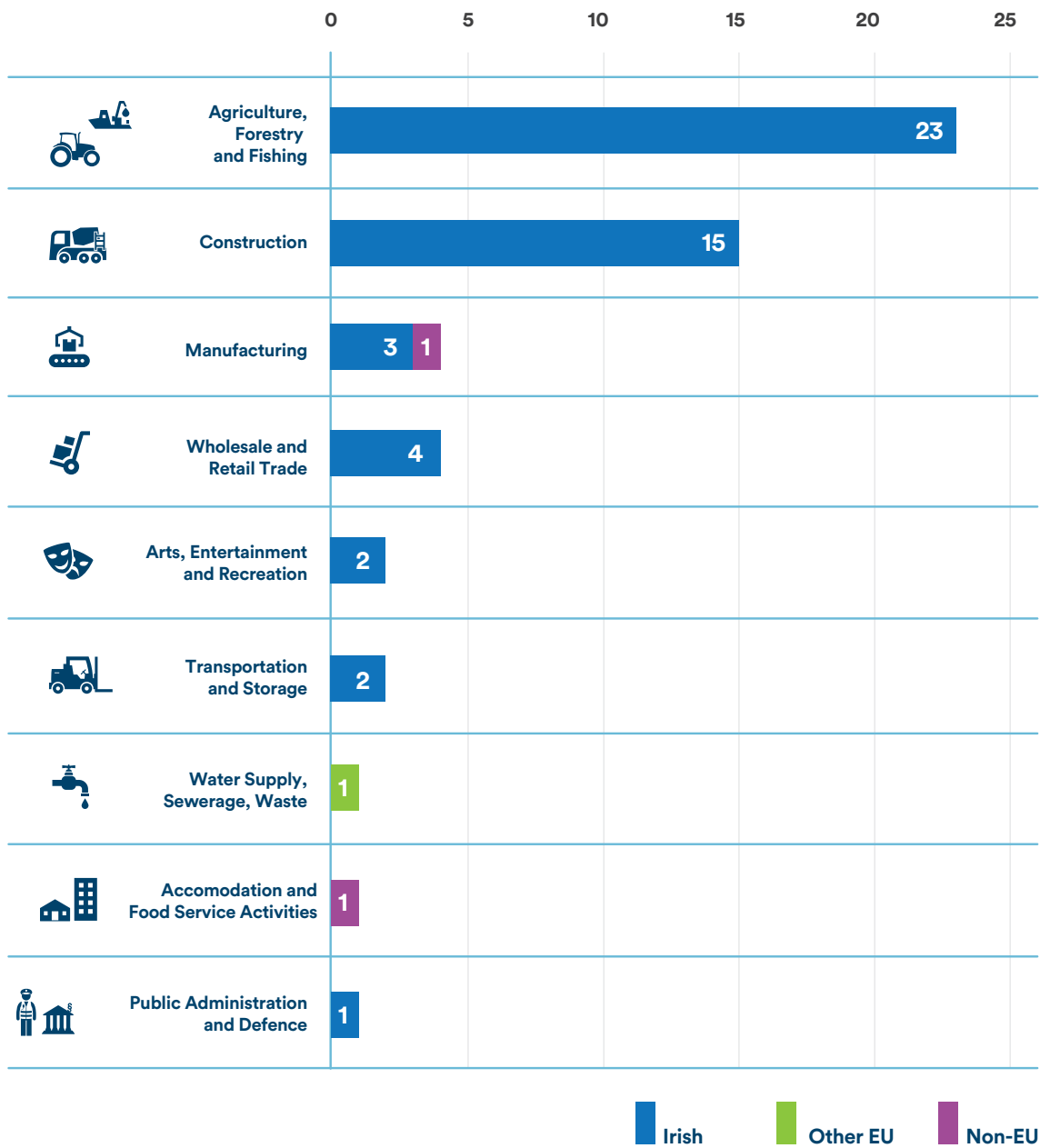
<sup>7</sup> Age of victim was unknown for a small number of fatal incidents, primarily in the early 1990s.

<sup>8</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 53 fatal incidents in 2020, one occurred to a victim from another European Union country and two occurred to victims from outside the EU. The fatal incident rate to Irish workers was 1.9 per 100,000 workers, while the rate for other workers was 0.8 per 100,000 workers. For more details on the rate of fatal incidents amongst Irish and non-Irish workers, see Figure 4.6 in the Appendix.

**Figure 3.10:**

**Number of fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and nationality, 2020 (HSA)**



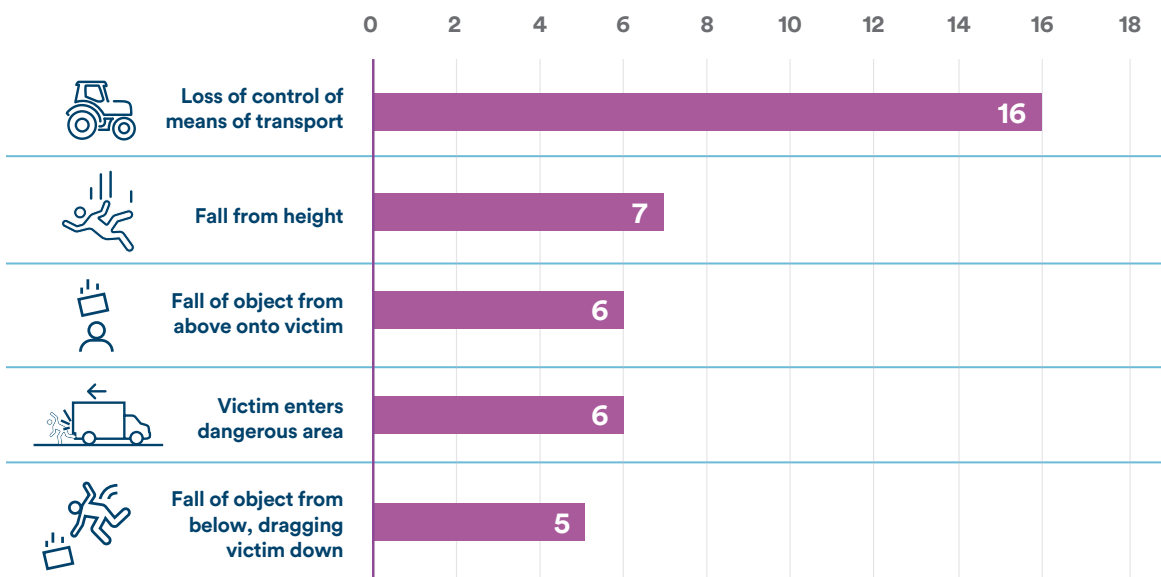


## The most common trigger associated with fatal incidents in 2020 was loss of control of means of transport

The trigger is the abnormal event that causes an incident. The most common triggers associated with fatal incidents in 2020 were loss of control of means of transport (16, 30.2%), fall from height (seven, 13.2%), fall of object from above onto victim (six, 11.3%) and victim entering dangerous area (six, 11.3%). For more details on the triggers involved in fatal incidents in each economic sector, see Figure 4.7 in the Appendix.

**Figure 3.11:**

**Top five triggers involved in fatal incidents, 2020 (HSA)**

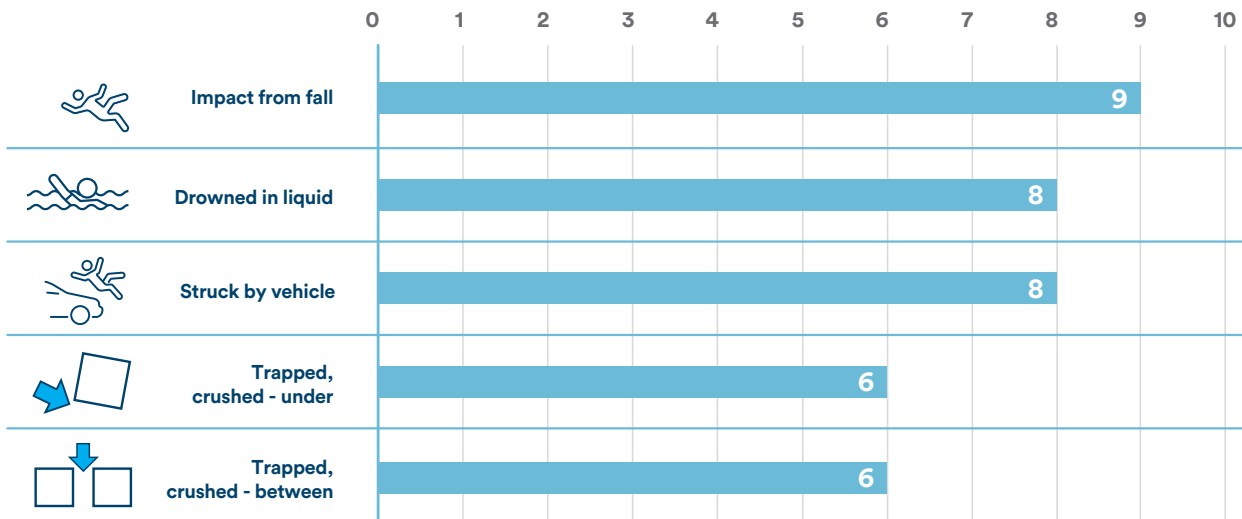


While trigger describes the cause of an incident, the mode of injury describes how the victim became injured. The most common modes of injury were impacts from falls (nine, 17.0%), drowning in liquid (eight, 15.1%) and strikes by vehicles (eight, 15.1%).

While Figure 3.11 showed seven fatal incidents involving the trigger of fall from height, nine fatal incidents had a mode of injury of impact from fall. This is because victims experienced impacts from falls after other kinds of triggers, including the collapse of objects from beneath them or the loss of control of a vehicle. For more details on the mode of injury involved in fatal incidents in each economic sector, see Figure 4.8 in the Appendix.

**Figure 3.12:**

**Top five modes of injury involved in fatal incidents, 2020 (HSA)**

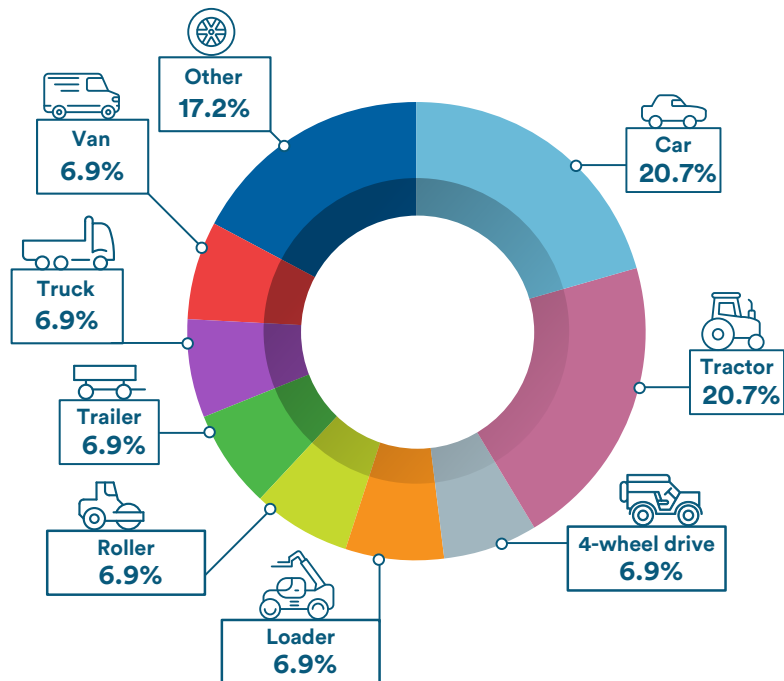


In 2020, 29 of the 53 fatal incidents involved vehicles.<sup>9</sup> Figure 3.13 shows the vehicles involved in these incidents. Cars were involved in six fatal incidents (20.7% of all fatal incidents involving vehicles), and tractors were also involved in six fatal incidents (20.7% of all fatal incidents involving vehicles). Jeeps, loaders, rollers, trailers, trucks and vans were each involved in two fatal incidents. A combine harvester, an excavator, a quad bike, a ride-on lawnmower and a train were each involved in one fatal incident.

This is in keeping with analysis of the ten-year period 2010–2019, in which the most common vehicles involved in work-related fatal incidents were tractors (29.5%), trucks (16.1%) and loaders/telehandlers (9.2%).<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 3.13:**

**Vehicles involved in fatal incidents, 2020 (HSA)**



<sup>9</sup> These are fatalities that occurred as a result of moving or static vehicles, and work being carried out on vehicles. Fatalities that occurred as a result of machinery powered by vehicles, vehicle attachments, towed equipment etc. are not included.

<sup>10</sup> For more information on work-related fatalities involving vehicles, see *A Review of Work-Related Deaths Involving Vehicles in Ireland 2010–2019*, available: [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/work\\_related\\_vehicles/work-related-vehicle-deaths-2010-2019-report.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/work_related_vehicles/work-related-vehicle-deaths-2010-2019-report.pdf).



# 4

## APPENDIX

**Figure 4.1:**

Number and percentage of non-fatal incidents by trigger in selected economic sectors, 2020 (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)	479	33.8	220	28.6	439	39.9	182	32.6	143	21.2	483	28.0
Slipping, falling	293	20.6	239	31.1	347	31.5	170	30.4	143	21.2	357	20.7
Other triggers	181	12.8	67	8.7	100	9.1	47	8.4	130	19.3	341	19.7
Loss of control of object, machine, vehicle, etc.	243	17.1	118	15.4	107	9.7	88	15.7	92	13.6	52	3.0
Aggression, shock, violence	17	1.2	10	1.3	8	0.7	14	2.5	97	14.4	324	18.8
Body movement leads to cut, bruise (external injury)	119	8.4	41	5.3	47	4.3	32	5.7	45	6.7	111	6.4
Breakage or collapse of object	55	3.9	53	6.9	45	4.1	18	3.2	13	1.9	27	1.6
Overflow of gas or liquid, splashing	26	1.8	12	1.6	5	0.5	6	1.1	5	0.7	20	1.2
Electrical contact, explosions or fire	6	0.4	5	0.7	2	0.2	1	0.2	6	0.9	4	0.2
No information	0	0.0	3	0.4	1	0.1	1	0.2	0	0.0	9	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Figure 4.2:

Number and rate of people suffering injury and illness, 2014–2019 (CSO)

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	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	1,988,775		2,057,350		2,132,250		2,194,150		2,257,550		2,335,400	
<b>Injury</b>												
Total suffering injury	39,319	19.8	37,440	18.2	30,800	14.4	49,500	22.6	46,300	20.5	27,200	11.6
0–3 days' absence	22,013	11.1	20,535	10.0	17,600	8.3	26,100	11.9	40,100	20.5	15,300	6.6
4+ days' absence	18,796	9.5	16,905	8.2	13,200	6.2	22,500	10.3	29,500	17.8	12,100	5.2
Days lost due to injury	750,011		810,899		481,612		884,400		620,800		486,000	
<b>Illness</b>												
Total suffering illness	49,194	24.7	41,247	20.0	37,900	17.8	62,000	28.3	61,000	27.0	44,600	19.1
0–3 days' absence	25,227	12.7	22,793	11.1	20,800	9.8	32,200	14.7	31,200	13.8	23,800	10.2
4+ days' absence	23,966	12.1	18,454	9.0	17,100	8.0	29,800	13.6	29,800	13.2	20,700	8.9
Days lost due to illness	1,106,311		912,595		746,701		1,104,700		822,300		783,000	
<b>Incident and illness</b>												
Total injury or illness	88,513	44.5	78,687	38.2	68,700	32.2	111,500	50.8	107,300	47.5	71,800	30.7
Total (4+ days' absence)	42,762	21.5	35,359	17.2	30,300	14.2	52,300	23.8	59,300	26.3	32,800	14.0
<b>Total days lost</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>		<b>1,269,000</b>	

**Figure 4.3:**

**Number of reported fatal incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector, 2011–2020 (HSA)**

Economic sector	Number of fatal incidents										Total
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2011-2020
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	27	28	21	33	24	26	27	20	22	23	<b>251</b>
- Agriculture	22	20	16	32	18	21	25	15	19	20	<b>208</b>
- Forestry	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	<b>4</b>
- Fishing	5	7	5	1	5	4	2	4	3	3	<b>39</b>
Mining and Quarrying	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
Manufacturing	2	0	1	3	3	2	0	2	2	4	<b>19</b>
Electricity, Gas, etc.	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Water, Sewerage, Waste	3	3	1	0	3	1	1	2	2	1	<b>17</b>
Construction	6	8	11	6	11	10	6	5	12	15	<b>90</b>
Wholesale and Retail Trade	2	3	3	5	3	2	3	2	1	4	<b>28</b>
Transportation and Storage	7	2	4	3	3	1	5	8	6	2	<b>41</b>
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	<b>3</b>
Information and Communication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<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	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
Administrative and Support Service Activities	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	<b>6</b>
Public Administration and Defence	1	0	0	0	4	1	5	0	0	1	<b>12</b>
Education	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Health and Social Work	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	<b>6</b>
Other Service Activities	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</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>53</b>	<b>495</b>

**Figure 4.4:**

Number and rate of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and employment status of victim, 2020 (HSA)

	Worker						Non-worker	Total
	Employee	Self-employed	Family worker	Trainee	Total	Worker rate per 100,000		
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	0	18	0	0	18	17.5	5	23
Industry (NACE B-E)	4	0	0	0	4	1.4	1	5
Construction	4	7	0	0	11	8.0	4	15
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1	2	0	0	3	1.0	1	4
Transportation and Storage	1	0	0	0	1	1.0	1	2
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	0	1	0	0	1	0.7	0	1
Public Administration and Defence	1	0	0	0	1	0.8	0	1
Other NACE Economic Activities (NACE R-U)	1	0	0	0	1	1.0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>53</b>

**Figure 4.5:**

Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and age band of victim, 2020 (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	3	0	0	3	1	4	12	23
Construction	2	0	2	1	6	1	3	15
Transportation and Storage	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Manufacturing	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	4
Water, Sewerage, Waste	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Public Administration and Defence	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>34.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	5	0	3	7	11	9	18	53

**Figure 4.6:**

Reported worker fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers by nationality, 2013–2020 (HSA)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Irish	2.1	2.5	2.7	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.9	1.9
Non-Irish	2.2	1.4	1.0	3.2	0.6	2.5	1.3	0.8
All workers	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.7

**Figure 4.7:**

Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and trigger, 2020 (HSA)

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale and Retail Trade	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	Transportation and Storage	Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	Public Administration and Defence	Total	% of total
Loss of control of means of transport	6	5	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	16	30.2%
Fall from height	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	13.2%
Victim enters dangerous area	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	6	11.3%
Fall of object from above onto victim	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	11.3%
Collapse of surface from below, dragging victim down	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	9.4%
Loss of control of animal	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	5.7%
Loss of control of machine	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5.7%
Unknown trigger	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.8%
Electrical problem - leading to direct contact	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Fall on same level	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Breakage of material at joint	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Being caught or carried away by something	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Violence from person external to company	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Figure 4.8:**

Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and mode of injury, 2020 (HSA)

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale and Retail Trade	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	Transportation and Storage	Water, Sewerage, Waste	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	Public Administration and Defence	Total	% of total
Impact from fall	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	17.0%
Drowned in liquid	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	15.1%
Struck by vehicle	2	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	8	15.1%
Trapped, crushed - under	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	11.3%
Trapped, crushed - between	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	11.3%
Struck by falling object	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	7.5%
Blow, kick, head butt	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	5.7%
Collision with an object/ vehicle (victim is moving)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	5.7%
Trapped, crushed - in	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.8%
Struck by swinging object	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Contract with electricity	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Contact with hard or rough object	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.9%
Contact with pointed or sharp object	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Figure 4.9:**Rate of reported fatal incidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region 2013–2020 (HSA)<sup>11</sup>

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Border	3.8	5.5	8.1	3.4	3.4	4.0	1.1	4.1
South-East	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.3	4.9	1.1	5.8	3.7
West	3.8	3.3	4.4	2.1	4.5	3.4	3.7	3.6
South-West	4.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	2.2	2.5	2.4	4.2
Mid-West	1.0	4.6	4.0	2.9	1.9	1.4	2.3	2.8
Midlands	3.8	1.9	0.9	2.6	3.4	3.2	1.5	2.2
Mid-East	1.1	1.0	1.3	2.3	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.2
Dublin	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6

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

**Figure 4.10:**

Rate of reported fatal incidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region in 2020 and five-year average 2016–2020 (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://data.cso.ie/table/QLF03>.

CSO (2020b) *QLF18: ILO Participation, Employment and Unemployment Characteristics by Age Group, Sex, Quarter and Statistic*, Central Statistics Office, available: <https://data.cso.ie/table/QLF18>.

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://data.cso.ie/table/QLF07>.

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://data.cso.ie/table/QES05>.

CSO (2020e) *QLF34: Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment (Thousand) by NACE Rev, Quarter and Nationality*, Central Statistics Office, available: <https://data.cso.ie/table/QLF34>.

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

Health and Safety Authority (2021), *Programme of Work, 2021*, Dublin: HSA, available: [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/corporate/programme\\_of\\_work\\_2021.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/corporate/programme_of_work_2021.pdf).

Health and Safety Authority (2021), *A Review of Work-Related Deaths Involving Vehicles in Ireland 2010–2019*, Dublin: HSA, available: [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications\\_and\\_forms/publications/work\\_related\\_vehicles/work-related-vehicle-deaths-2010-2019-report.pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/work_related_vehicles/work-related-vehicle-deaths-2010-2019-report.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).



# NOTES

# NOTES

### 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)