

## Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities 2022–2023



# Our Vision:

# Healthy, safe and productive lives and enterprises

## Acknowledgements

The Authority is grateful to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for the provision of data on work related injuries and illnesses that was collected as part of the Labour Force Survey in Q1 2023.

## Abbreviations

CSO Central Statistics Office

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ESAW European Statistics on Accidents at Work

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HSA Health and Safety Authority

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LFS Labour Force Survey

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NACE Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community

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NUTS Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics

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# Foreword from the Chief Executive

I am pleased to present the Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities for 2022-2023.

By the end of 2023, Ireland's employment reached 2,706,400, reflecting a 3.4% increase from the previous year. The Health and Safety Authority envisions a future where lives and enterprises are healthy, safe, and productive. With a growing population, an expanding workforce, and evolving employee expectations in an increasingly blended and digital work environment, the complexity of regulating occupational health and safety continues to rise. While addressing the new world of work, informed by reliable data, the Authority will continue to prioritise compliance with known and emerging risks and hazards.

Employers and self-employed individuals are legally required to report any work-related injuries that result in an employee's absence for four or more days, as well as incidents involving non-workers that require medical treatment. We rely on data from these reports, the CSO Labour Force Survey, and our own investigations to understand the broader impact on workers, colleagues, and business operations.

In preparing this report, we recognise the importance of providing reliable and up-to-date statistical information as an evidence base for decision-making, which is essential for setting policy objectives and informing appropriate measures and initiatives to achieve our vision of a healthy, safe, and productive work environment.

In 2023, we recorded 10,096 non-fatal injuries, an 11% increase from the previous year and 15% above the five-year average. This rise is partly due to increased employment levels following the COVID-19 pandemic. The Human Health and Social Work Activities sector reported the highest number of incidents, while Education led in non-worker injuries. Manual handling and falls were the most common causes of these injuries.

Data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for 2022 revealed that 535,000 days were lost due to work-related injuries, consistent with the five-year average. However, work-related illnesses accounted for a significantly higher 1,140,000 lost days, exceeding the five-year average. The sectors most affected by injuries were Construction and Public Administration, while Human Health and Social Work Activities had the highest rate of work-related illnesses.

Tragically, 2023 saw 43 fatal work-related incidents, a 13% increase from the previous year. Our analysis shows that there are continued dangers associated with high-risk sectors, including Agriculture and Construction, and hazards such as working at heights, and with vehicles and machinery. Notably, over half of the fatal incidents involved individuals aged 55 and older. The data highlights the growing vulnerability of older workers in the workplace, particularly in high-risk sectors such as Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing, and Construction, and the need for targeted safety measures and interventions to protect this demographic.

The statistics laid out in this report underscore the ongoing challenges in ensuring workplace safety. As a data-informed organisation, the Authority relies on statistical analysis as a foundation on which we build future programs, initiatives, and supports, so that we can better deliver on our vision of healthy, safe, and productive lives and enterprises.

Over the last 10 years, there were 98 fatalities as a result of falls from height in Irish workplaces, of which 20 were on Irish farms. Informed by the evidence, in 2024 we launched a new guidance document for farmers which provides detailed instructions on how to safely plan and execute construction projects on their farms, addressing common hazards and compliance requirements.

Other examples of specific data-informed initiatives undertaken in 2024 include:

- ▶ **Safe Work at Height:** An inspection campaign focused on preventing falls from height in agricultural settings.



**Conor O'Brien**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

- ▶ **Calving Season Safety:** A campaign aimed at ensuring the safe management of livestock during the spring calving season, addressing the increased risks associated with fatigue and stress during this busy period.
- ▶ **Psychosocial Hazards:** Interventions targeting psychosocial hazards, with a particular focus on resources for vulnerable and migrant workers, digital work, and mental health.
- ▶ **Mental and Physical Wellbeing for Farmers:** Recognising the unique pressures faced by farmers, new guidance offers practical advice and resources to support their mental and physical health.
- ▶ **UV Radiation Protection for Outdoor Workers:** This guide focuses on protecting outdoor workers from the harmful effects of UV radiation, highlighting preventive measures and best practices.
- ▶ **Seminars:** A series of seminars addressing key workplace safety topics, including violence and aggression, artificial intelligence (AI), and ergonomics.

In terms of accident rates, the sectors most impacted by work-related fatal incidents were Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing and Construction. The rate of non-fatal accidents was highest for the Construction sector, followed by Human Health and Social Work Activities, following a pattern of recent years. The Authority has established three specific advisory committees, one focusing on farm safety, one on construction safety, and one on health and social care, to provide a forum for stakeholders to advise and support the Authority in promoting best practices in occupational health and safety in these particular sectors.

In 2024, the Authority celebrated 35 years since it was first established in 1989. Looking forward, we enter a new strategic cycle from 2025 to 2027. Under our new strategy, we will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to ensure maximum impact from our regulatory activities, especially in high-risk sectors, and to amplify prevention and guidance activities.

As a regulator, the Authority monitors, inspects, and enforces, while also promoting, advising, collaborating, encouraging, supporting, and educating. We will continue to offer enterprises a range of tools and supports to enable them to meet their compliance obligations and ensure safe workplaces and business success. Informed by the evidence, we will continue our inspection program, with a focus on areas where the greatest impact can be achieved. As we move forward, our commitment to fostering a safe and healthy work environment remains steadfast, addressing evolving risks and striving to protect all workers and those impacted by work-activity.

Despite the increase in employment, the overall trajectory is of a decrease in the rate of workplace fatalities per 100,000 workers in Ireland, from a rate of 3.4 in 2003 to 1.6 in 2023. While this is undoubtedly a positive trend, it is a sad truth that each of the 43 individuals who lost their lives in 2023 died as a result of a preventable work-related incident. It cannot be repeated too often that one death is one too many.

The Authority is here to support and assist all employers and employees in achieving the safest workplaces feasible, so that illnesses, injuries, and fatalities are brought as close to zero as possible. A wealth of materials and supports are available online, making it easy to understand the basics and check your obligations.

In closing, I want to extend my personal gratitude to the staff of the Authority, our Board, our numerous stakeholders, and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for their support and collaboration. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to all employers, employees, and self-employed individuals who consistently prioritise health and safety in their daily work.

**Conor O'Brien**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

December 2024



# Executive Summary

**10,096** Non-Fatal  
Incidents reported  
to the HSA in 2023



**43** Work-Related  
Fatal Incidents



**535,000** Days lost due  
to work-related  
injuries (CSO)



**1,140,000** Days lost due  
to work-related  
illnesses (CSO)



## Non-Fatal Incidents

### HSA Non-Fatal Incident Data

In 2023, 10,096 non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority, an increase of 11% from the 9,092 reported in 2022<sup>1</sup> and 15% higher than the previous five-year average. It is likely that this can be partly explained by increased levels of employment following COVID-19 related business closures that were in place during 2020 and 2021. The highest number was reported in the NACE economic sector of Human Health and Social Work Activities, which accounted for 23% of all incidents. For non-worker incidents, the highest number was reported in Education representing 31% of all non-workers injured. Manual handling and falls were the most common triggers in 2023, as they have been in all years since 2018.

### CSO Special Module on Work-Related Injury and Illness

The latest data available from the CSO's module on work-related injury and illness pertains to 2022. During 2022, 535,000 days were lost due to work-related injuries, close to the five-year average of 534,160. As in keeping with previous years, the number of days lost to illness is notably higher: in 2022, 1,140,000 days were lost due to work-related illness, up from the five-year average of 994,660. In 2022, the NACE sectors with the highest rates of work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work were Construction and Public Administration and Defence (18.4 per 1,000 workers) followed by Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (17.3 per 1,000 workers in 2022 and notably higher than the five-year average of 10.1). In 2022, male workers reported more work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work (10.1 per 1,000 workers) than female workers (5.5 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2018–2022, in which male victims had higher rates of work-related injury.

In 2022, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related illnesses leading to four or more days of absence from work was Human Health and Social Work Activities (52.4 per 1,000 workers), followed by Education (28.0 per 1,000 workers) and Construction (23.8 per 1,000 workers). In 2022, female workers had higher rates of illness (23.4 per 1,000 workers) than male workers (21.2 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2018–2022. It is worth noting that the rates for both male and female workers have been steadily increasing since 2019.

## Fatal Incidents

There were 43 fatal work-related incidents in Ireland in 2023. Of these, 39 involved worker victims and four involved non-worker victims. This is an increase of 13% on the figure of 38 fatal accidents recorded in 2022. The rate of fatal incidents has been declining over the past twenty years from a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 workers in 2003 to 1.6 in 2023. The highest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (17 self-employed persons and three family workers) accounting for 47% of all fatal incidents in 2023. Construction accounted for a further 23% of fatalities with incidents occurring to eight workers and two non-workers in 2023. Non-workers also lost their lives as a result of work activity in Administrative and support service activities and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles. Of 43 fatal incidents in 2023, 39 (91%) occurred to male victims and four (9%) occurred to female victims. Over half of all fatal incidents involved victims aged 55 years or more, with eight victims aged 55–64 years (19%) and 14 victims aged 65 years or more (33%). 2023 was the first year since the establishment of the Authority in which no work-related fatal incidents occurred to children. The most common triggers associated with fatal incidents in 2023 were vehicles (13) and falls (12 of which 11 were falls from height) which together accounted for almost 60% of fatal incidents.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure was reported as 9,070 in the 2021-2022 Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics but some late reporting of additional incidents has brought this to 9,092 at the time of this report.



# Introduction

The Health and Safety Authority's Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics presents the most recently available data on work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses in Ireland. There are three key sources of this data:

- 1) the Authority maintains a database of non-fatal incidents reported to it,
- 2) the Authority has a comprehensive register of all work-related incidents resulting in a fatality and
- 3) the Central Statistics Office (CSO) gathers data on work-related injury and illness as a module in its Labour Force Survey (LFS).

However, there are limitations to this data. The HSA database of non-fatal incidents is limited due to under-reporting in certain sectors. The CSO data, on the other hand, is derived from a survey that contains less detailed information and for which the sample size is small. As a result, the number of respondents reporting work-related injuries and illnesses in some economic sectors can be very low. Thus, results should be interpreted with caution.

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## Data Sources and Methodology

### HSA Non-Fatal Incident Data

HSA data on fatal and non-fatal incidents in this report pertains to 2023. 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 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.

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2 The sample size is 526.

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

Non-fatal incidents are sometimes reported to the Authority months after the incident occurred. This means that the number of incidents reported in this document is subject to change. For example, the number of non-fatal incidents for 2022 was reported as 9,070 in the 2021-2022 Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics, but some late reporting of additional incidents has brought this to 9,092 at the time of this report.

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

Each year the CSO conducts a special module on work-related injuries and illnesses in the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Households are surveyed about work-related injuries or illnesses that occurred during the previous 12 months. The most recent survey was carried out in Q1 2023; hence, the data relates to 2022.

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

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

### **HSA Fatal Incident Data**

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

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

### **CSO Labour Force Survey Working Population**

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

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

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# Non-Fatal Injury and Illness Statistics

## Non-Fatal Injuries Reported to the HSA

In 2023, 10,096 non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority, an increase of 11% from the 9,092 reported in 2022 and 15% higher than the previous five-year average. It is likely that this can be partly explained by increased levels of employment following COVID-19 related business closures that were in place during 2020 and 2021.

Of the 10,096 non-fatal injuries reported in 2023, 94% related to workers. The highest number was reported in the NACE economic sector of Human Health and Social Work Activities, which accounted for 23% of all incidents. For non-worker incidents, the highest number was reported in Education representing 31% of all non-workers injured. For more detail, see Table 3.1 in the Appendix.

In 2023, **10,096** non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority,

an increase of **11%** from the **9,092** reported in 2022.



**Table 1.1:**

**Injuries reported by economic sector, 2023 (HSA)**

NACE Sector	Employee	%	Non-worker	%	Total	%
<b>Q Human Health and Social Work Activities</b>	2,296	24%	30	5%	2,326	23%
<b>C Manufacturing</b>	1,531	16%	21	3%	1,552	15%
<b>G Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles</b>	968	10%	139	22%	1,107	11%
<b>H Transportation and Storage</b>	947	10%	94	15%	1,041	10%
<b>O Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security</b>	871	9%	11	2%	882	9%
<b>F Construction</b>	746	8%	89	14%	835	8%
<b>P Education</b>	518	5%	198	31%	716	7%
<b>N Administrative and Support Service Activities</b>	541	6%	6	1%	547	5%
<b>E Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities</b>	163	2%	4	1%	167	2%
<b>I Accommodation and Food Service Activities</b>	165	2%	1	0%	166	2%
<b>S Other Service Activities</b>	143	2%	5	1%	148	1%
<b>M Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities</b>	133	1%	6	1%	139	1%
<b>A Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing</b>	96	1%	12	2%	108	1%
<b>J Information and Communication</b>	92	1%	1	0%	93	1%
<b>K Financial and Insurance Activities</b>	79	1%	7	1%	86	1%
<b>D Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply</b>	61	1%	4	1%	65	1%
<b>R Arts, Entertainment and Recreation</b>	55	1%	1	0%	56	1%
<b>B Mining and Quarrying</b>	31	0%	1	0%	32	0%
<b>L Real Estate Activities</b>	30	0%	0	0%	30	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,466</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>10,096</b>	<b>100%</b>

Most victims of non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority were employees (94%). It is likely that there is a degree of under-reporting of incidents by self-employed people and small businesses. There were 447 incidents involving non-workers reported, representing 4% of all injuries.



**Table 1.2:**

**Number of reported non-fatal injuries by employment status, 2023 (HSA)**

Employee Type	Count	%
Employee	9,466	94%
Non-worker	447	4%
Self-employed	97	1%
Trainee	71	1%
Employment status unknown	13	0%
Family worker	2	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,096</b>	<b>100%</b>

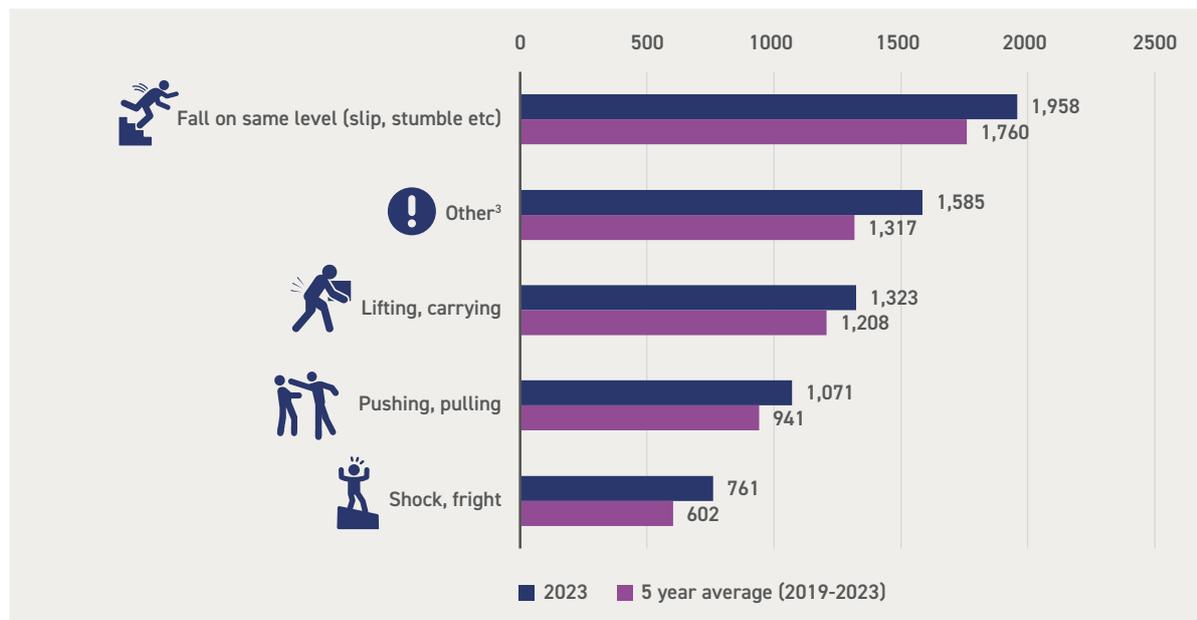
The trigger is the term used to describe the cause of an incident. Figure 1.1 shows the top five triggers of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority in 2023. The single most common trigger was a fall on the same level (1958, 19%). The exact trigger was not listed for 16% of incidents. Lifting and carrying accounted for 13%, pushing and pulling for 11% and shock/fright caused 8% of incidents.

Figure 1.1 also shows the average number of incidents over the five-year period 2019–2023 for the most common triggers, with falls and lifting/carrying the most common triggers in recent years.

Figure 1.2 shows the top three triggers for the six economic sectors reporting the highest number of non-fatal injuries to the Authority, where a clear trigger was identified. Slipping/falling and manual handling triggers (i.e. lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling) were among the top two triggers for each of the major economic sectors.

**Figure 1.1:**

**Top five reported non-fatal injuries by trigger, 2023 and five-year average 2019–2023 (HSA)**



<sup>3</sup> Most accidents in this category were reported as “trigger not listed”.

Figure 1.2a:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Human Health and Social Work Activities, 2023 (HSA)

## Human Health and Social Work Activities

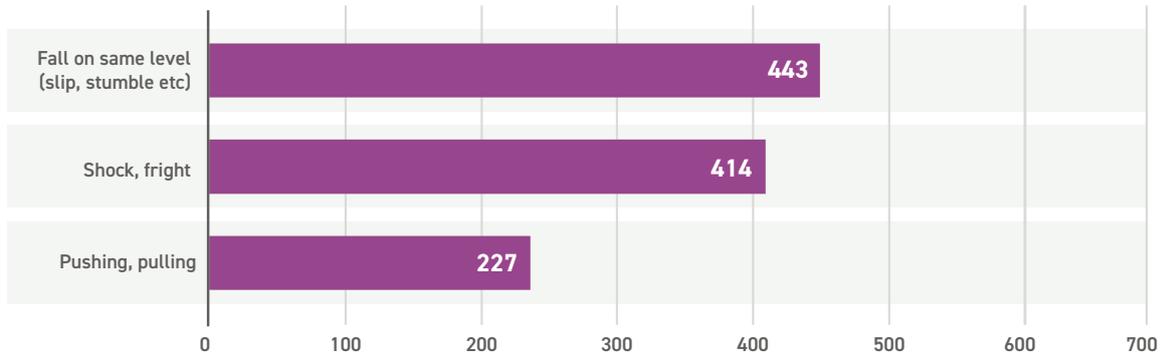


Figure 1.2b:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Industry<sup>4</sup>, 2023 (HSA)

## Industry

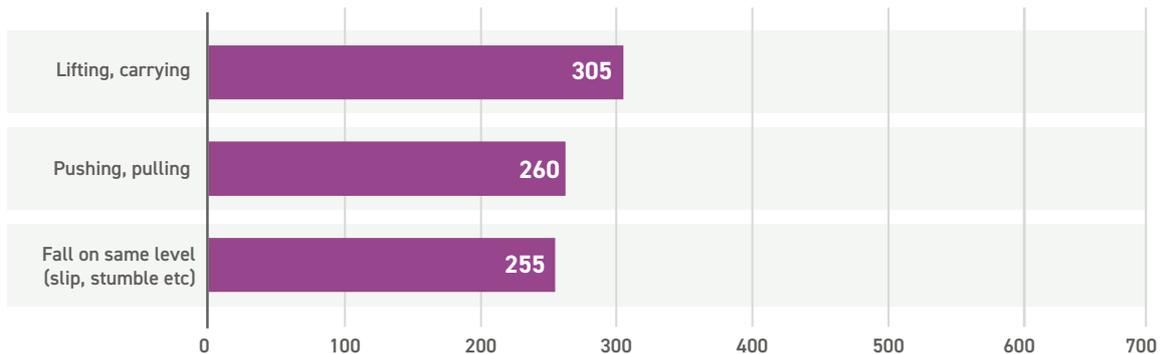
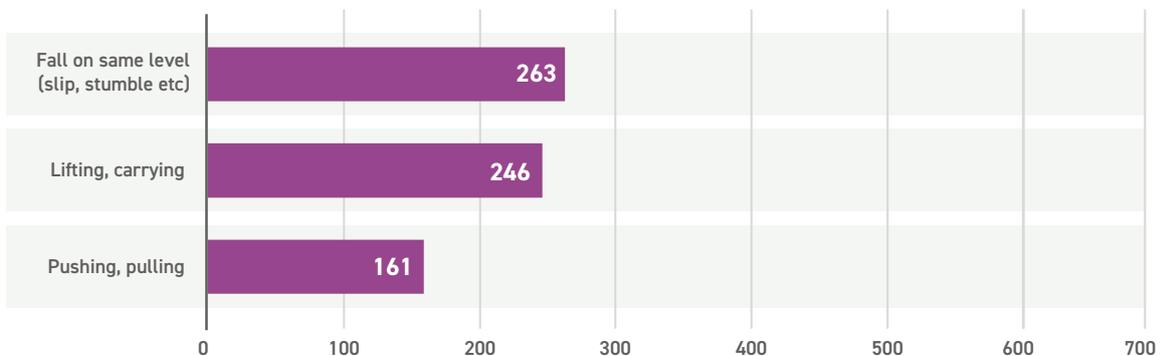


Figure 1.2c:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Wholesale and Retail Trade, 2023 (HSA)

## Wholesale and Retail Trade



<sup>4</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.

Figure 1.2d:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Transportation and Storage, 2023 (HSA)

## Transportation and Storage

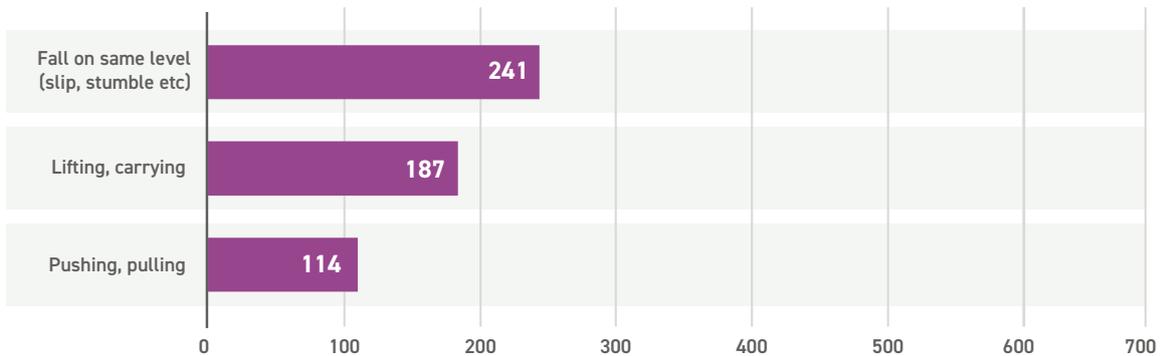


Figure 1.2e:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Public Administration and Defence, 2023 (HSA)

## Public Administration and Defence

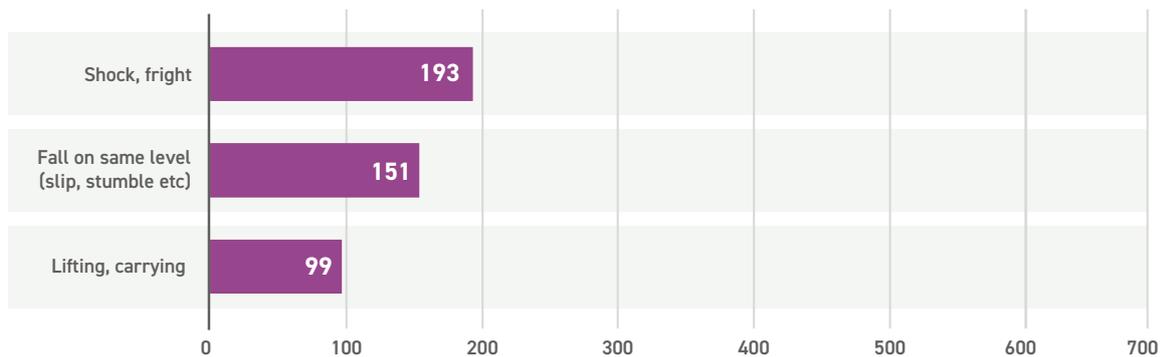
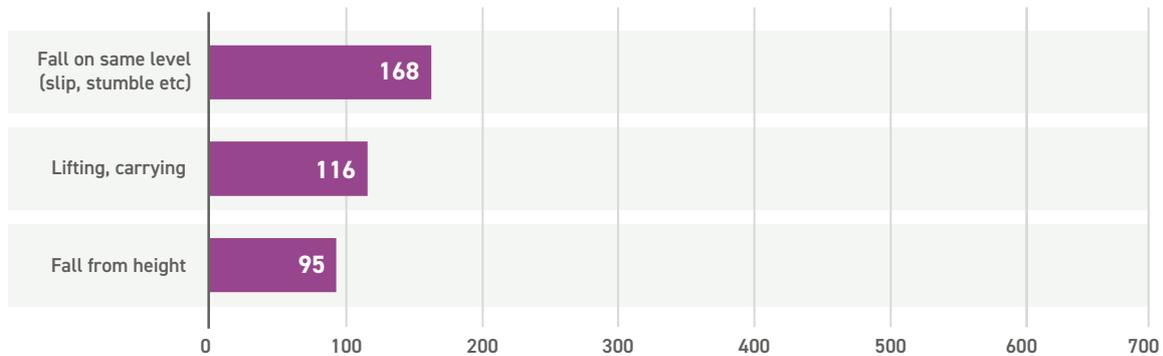


Figure 1.2f:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Construction, 2023 (HSA)

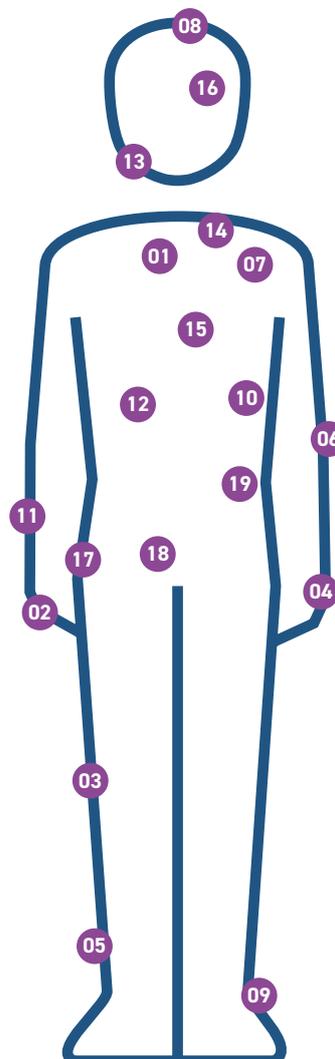
## Construction



**Figure 1.3:**

**Most injured body parts in workers and non-workers in 2023 (HSA)**

	Body Part	Worker	Non-Worker
01	Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	19%	5%
02	Finger(s)	10%	13%
03	Leg, including knee	9%	10%
04	Hand	7%	7%
05	Ankle	7%	8%
06	Arm, including elbow	6%	7%
07	Shoulder and shoulder joints	6%	6%
08	Other head injuries	5%	12%
09	Foot	5%	3%
10	Other body parts not listed	5%	6%
11	Wrist	4%	4%
12	Multiple sites of the body affected	3%	2%
13	Facial area	3%	6%
14	Neck, including spine and vertebra in the neck	3%	1%
15	Chest area including organs	2%	1%
16	Eye(s)	2%	1%
17	Hip and hip joint	1%	3%
18	Pelvic and abdominal area including organs	1%	0%
19	Other	2%	5%



The most injured body part for workers in 2023 was the back, associated with 19% of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority. This is in keeping with recent years, with back injuries comprising 21% of all non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority between 2019 and 2023. Non-fatal back injuries were caused primarily by manual handling incidents. The most injured body part for non-workers was finger(s) accounting for 13% of all injuries and overtaking the head as most common injury to non-workers in recent years.

Most non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority caused fewer than 14 days of work lost. In 2023, 61% of all reported non-fatal incidents led to 4-6 days (30%) or 7-13 days (31%) of lost work; this is in keeping with the average for 2019-2023 (Figure 1.4).

**Figure 1.4:**

**Percentage of non-fatal injuries by absence from work, 2023 and five-year average 2019–2023 (HSA)**

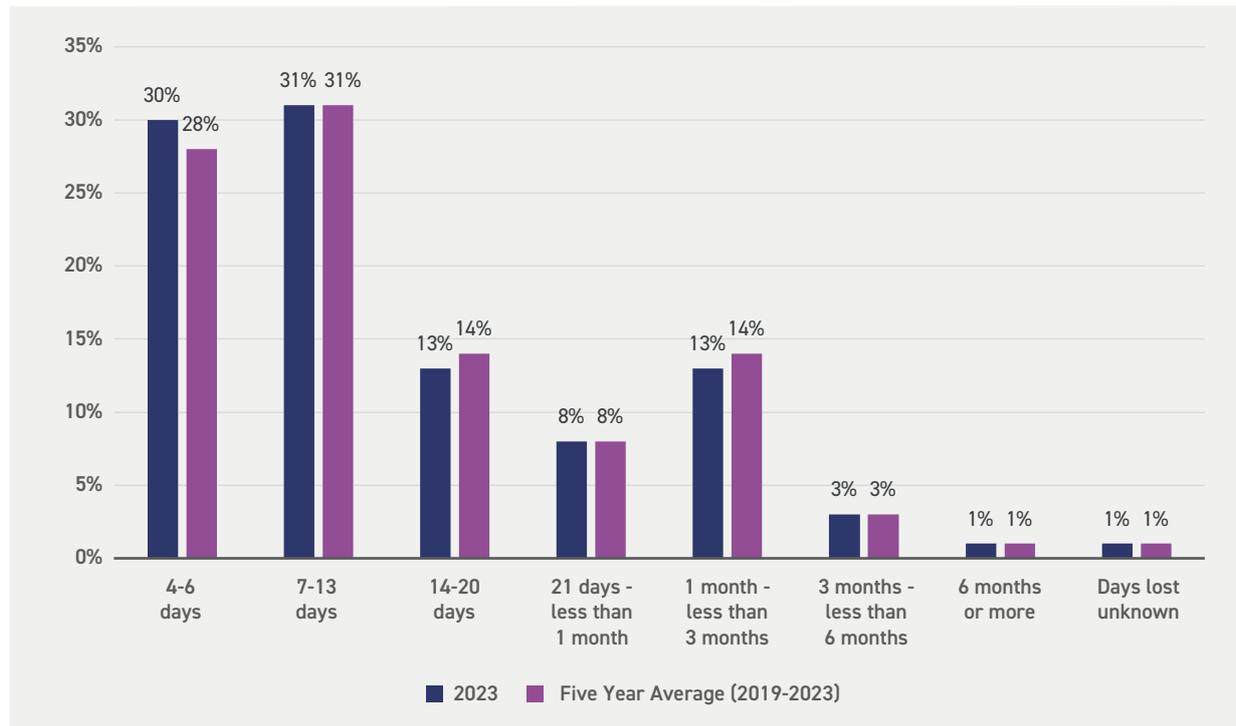
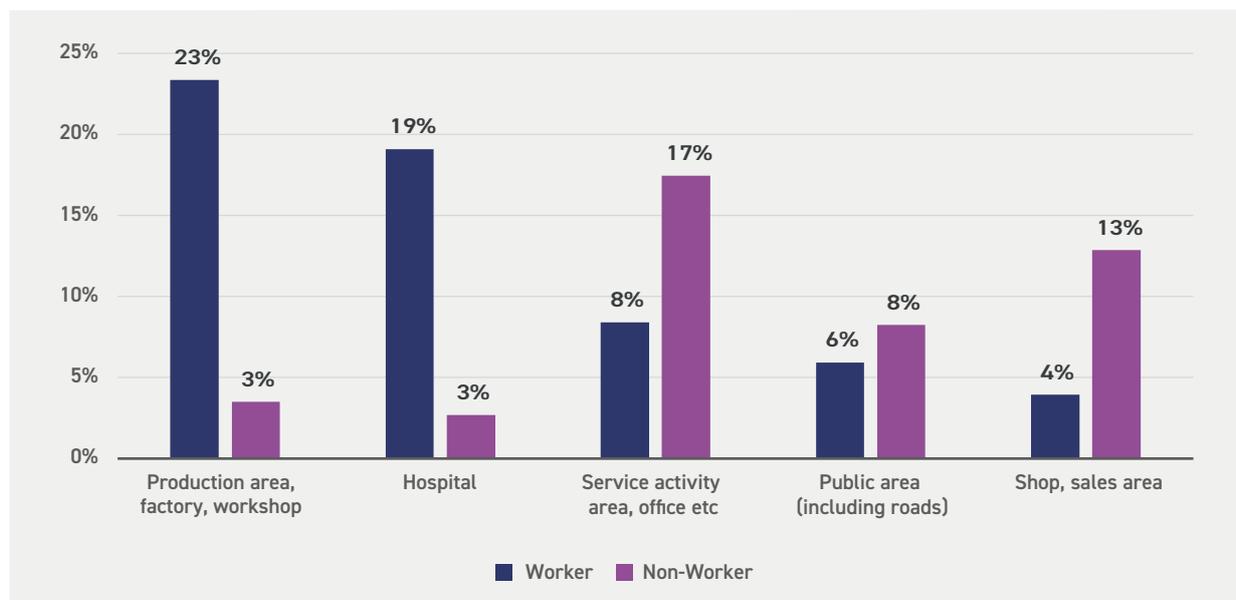


Figure 1.5 shows the top five working environments where incidents occurred to workers and non-workers, where an environment was specified. Among worker victims, 23% of reported non-fatal incidents occurred in production areas/factories/workshops, 19% occurred in hospitals or other healthcare areas and 8% occurred service activity areas. Most non-worker incidents occurred in service activity areas (17%) and shops (13%).

**Figure 1.5:**

**Top five working environments for worker and non-worker incidents in 2023 (HSA)**



## CSO Module results

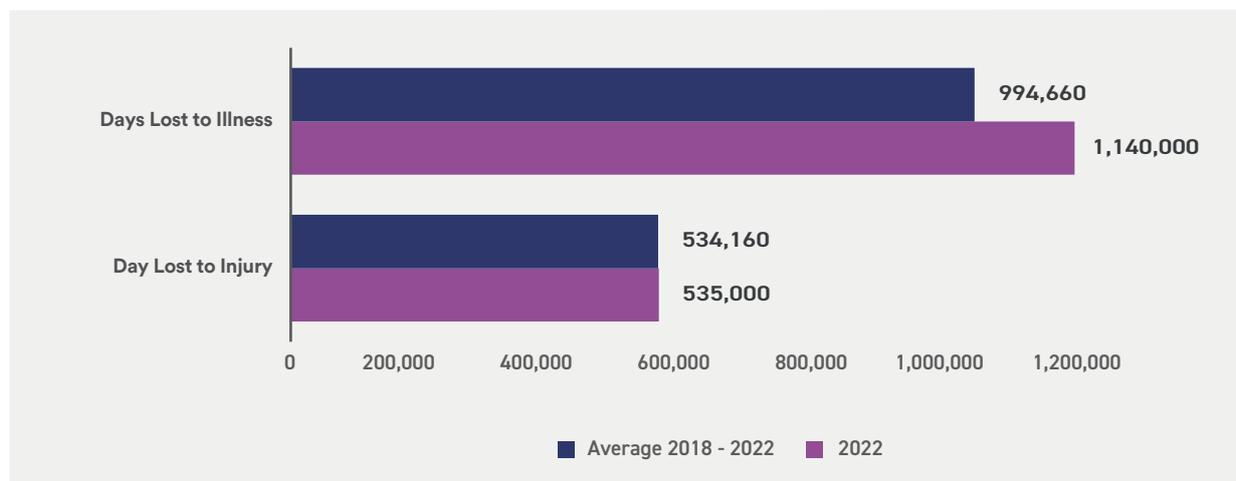
Each year the CSO undertakes a special module of the Labour Force Survey on work-related injuries and illnesses. The most recent data available from this survey relates to 2022. During 2022, 535,000 days were lost due to work-related injuries, close to the five-year average of 534,160. As in keeping with previous years, the number of days lost to illness is notably higher: in 2022, 1,140,000 days were lost due to work-related illness, up from the five-year average of 994,660 (brought down by lower rates of illness reported in 2018 and 2019). For more detail, see Table 3.2 in the Appendix.

In 2022, the NACE sectors with the highest rates of work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work were Construction and Public Administration and Defence (18.4 per 1,000 workers) followed by Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (17.3 per 1,000 workers in 2022 and notably higher than the five-year average of 10.1).<sup>5</sup>

Figure 1.7 shows that sectors like Financial, Insurance and Real Estate Activities (1.8 per 1,000 workers in 2018–2022) and Information and Communication (0.6 per 1,000 workers in 2018–2022) have had broadly lower rates of injury in recent years. No non-fatal injuries were reported in Professional, scientific and technical activities in 2022; this means that no respondents to the Labour Force Survey module working in that sector reported work-related injuries leading to four or more days absence from work.

**Figure 1.6:**

**Days lost due to work-related illnesses and injuries in 2022 and five-year average 2018–2022 (CSO)**



<sup>5</sup> Due to the small sample size, rates can fluctuate substantially from year to year for some sectors.

**Figure 1.7:**

**Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2022 and five-year average 2018–2022 (CSO)**

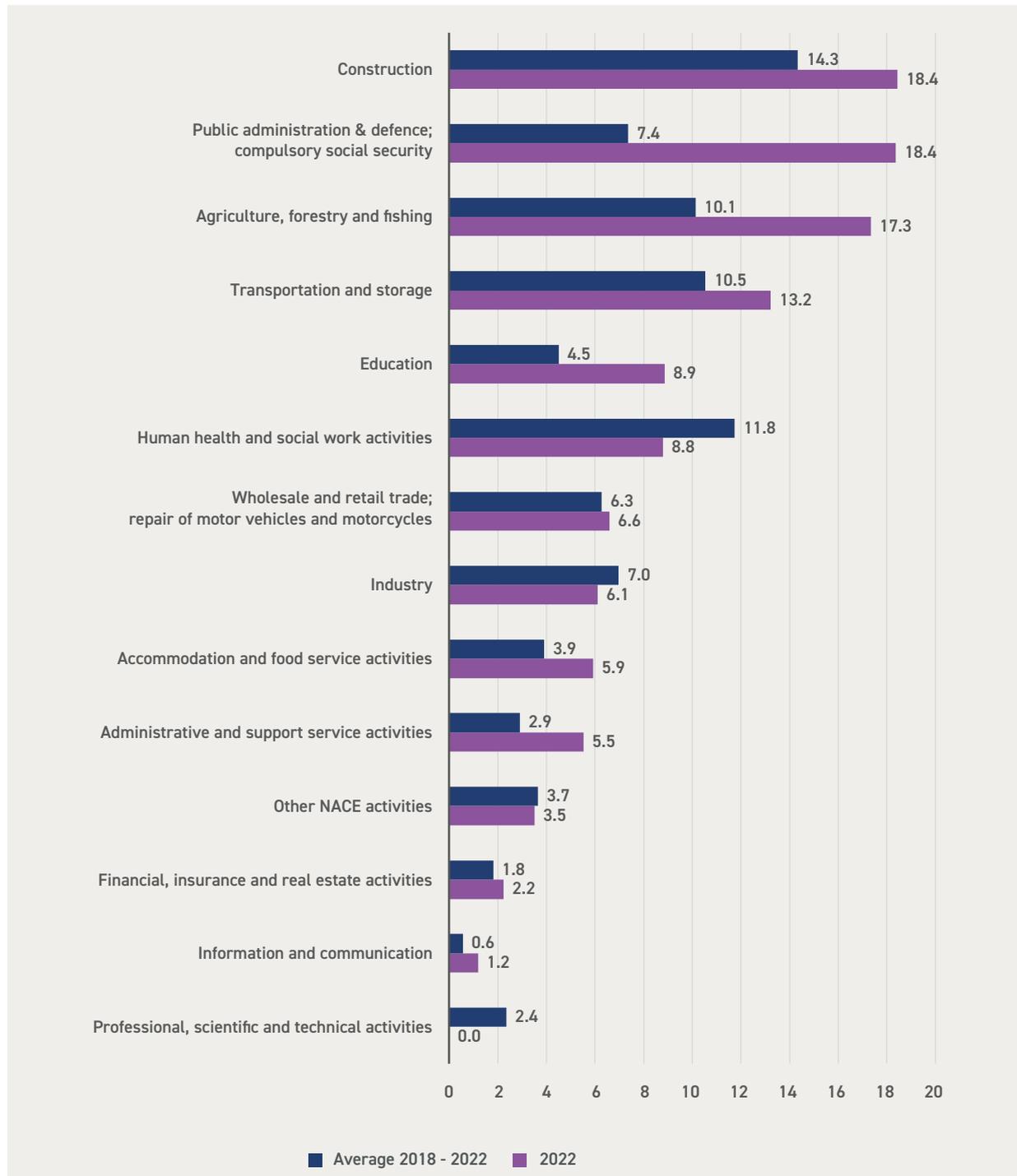


Figure 1.8 shows the change in rates of work-related injuries causing four or more days of absence from work over a ten-year period in various sectors. There can be considerable fluctuation from year to year in some sectors.

Note comparisons with 2019 should be interpreted with caution as the 2019 data was derived using the Eurostat special module<sup>6</sup> (which is conducted approx. every seven years) rather than the usual CSO module. The trendlines show that rates are generally declining, with the exception of Construction and Human Health and Social Work Activities.

<sup>6</sup> The Eurostat module contained some different questions to the usual CSO module. In addition, respondents could only respond on behalf of themselves and not on behalf of others in the household, as is normally the case.

Figure 1.8:

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers, 2018 to 2022 (CSO)

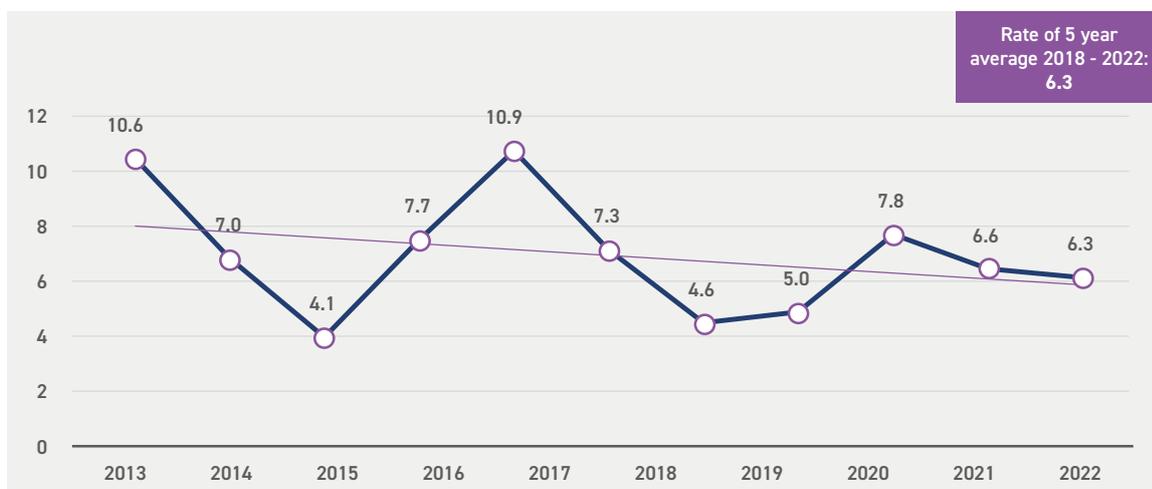
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



Transportation and Storage



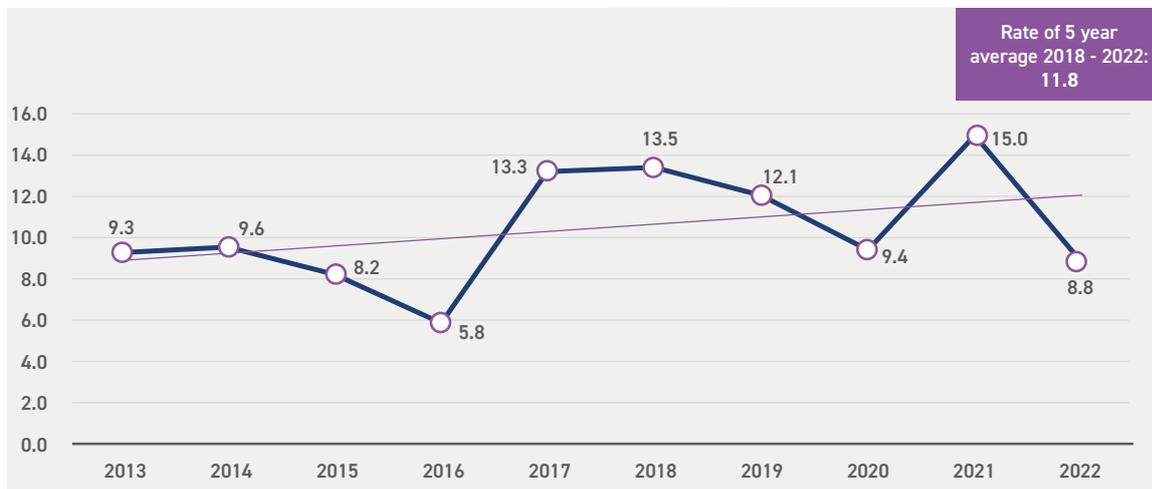
Wholesale and Retail Trade



## Construction



## Human Health and Social Work Activities



## Industry



In 2022, male workers reported more work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work (10.1 per 1,000 workers) than female workers (5.5 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2018–2022, in which male victims had higher rates of work-related injury.

**Figure 1.9:**

**Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender in 2022 and five-year average 2018–2022 (CSO)**

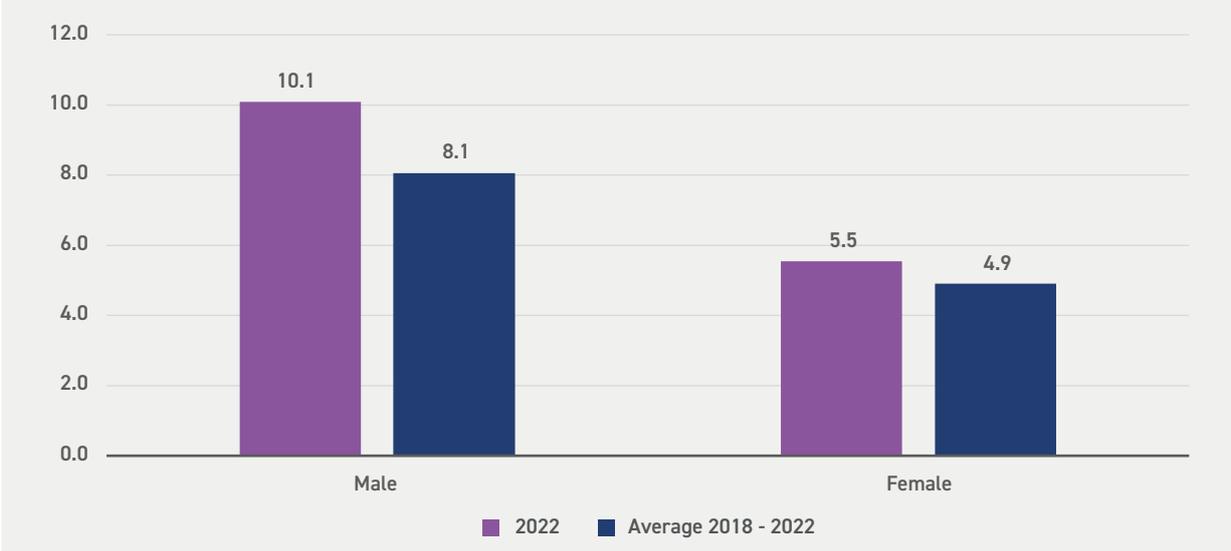
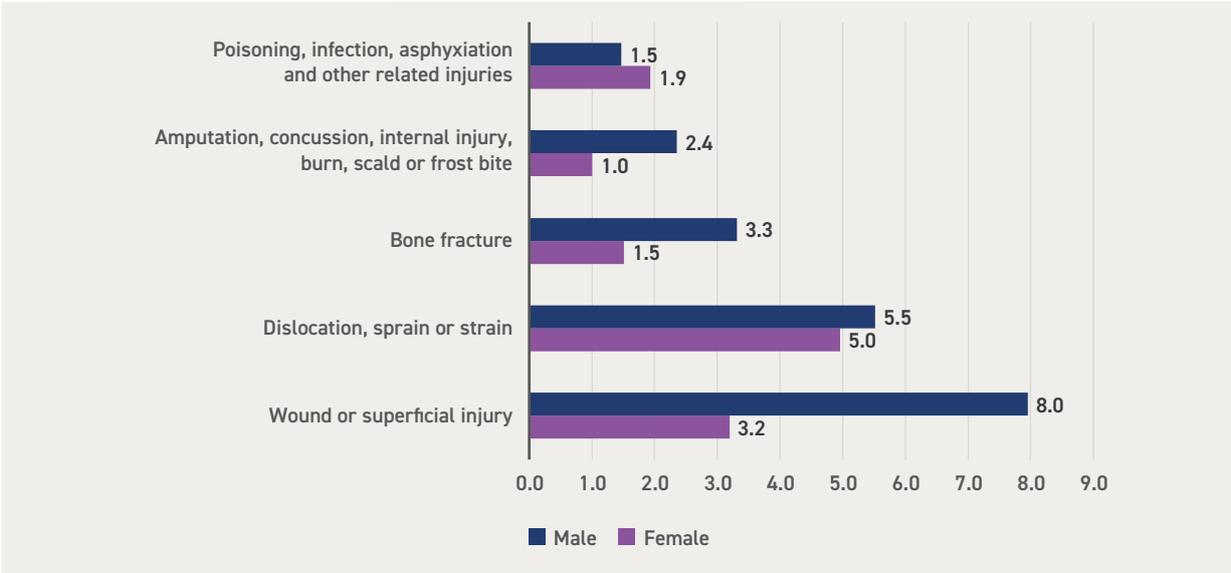


Figure 1.10 shows the kinds of injuries experienced by male and female workers. Male workers had higher rates of injury for each of the categories compared with female workers, with the exception of the category including poisoning, infection, asphyxiation and other related injuries.

**Figure 1.10:**

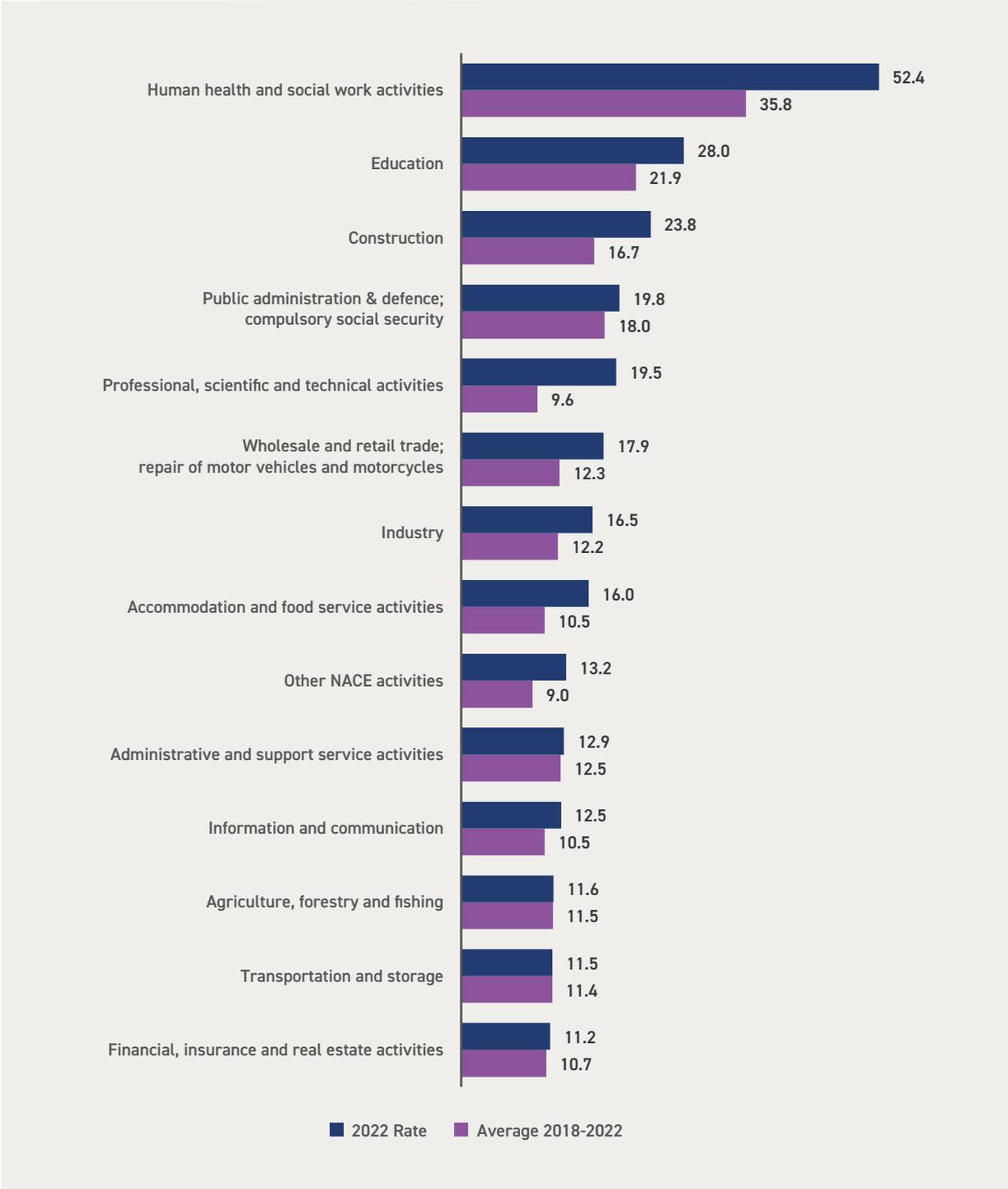
**Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender and injury type in 2022 (CSO)**



In 2022, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related illnesses leading to four or more days of absence from work was Human Health and Social Work Activities (52.4 per 1,000 workers), followed by Education (28.0 per 1,000 workers) and Construction (23.8 per 1,000 workers). Human Health and Social Work Activities has had the highest rate of illness in four of the last five-years.

**Figure 1.11:**

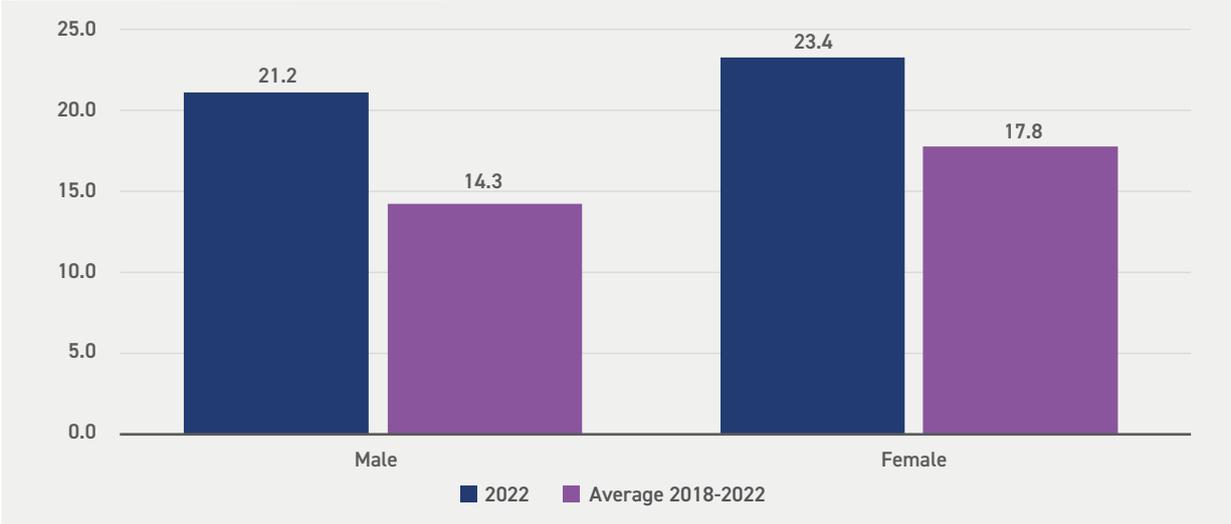
**Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2022 and five-year average 2018–2022 (CSO)**



In 2022, female workers had higher rates of work-related illnesses for most categories captured in this survey, most notably stress, depression or anxiety (7.2 per 1,000 workers), compared with male workers (4.1 per 1,000 workers). It is worth noting that the rates for skin problems and related issues were much lower in 2022 as compared with the previous ten-year period. However, due to the small sample size, results should be interpreted with caution.

**Figure 1.12:**

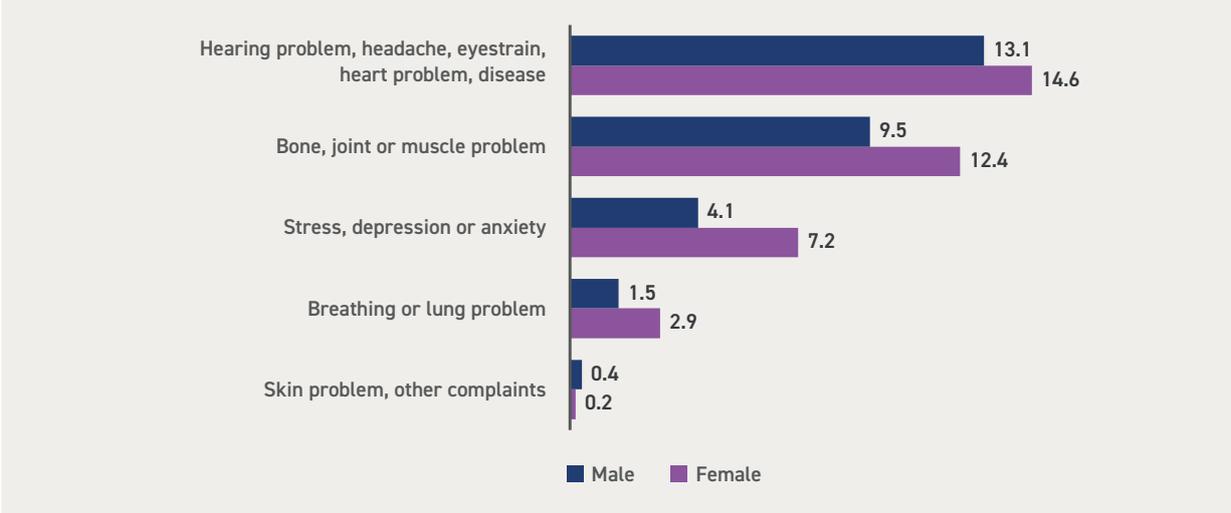
**Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender in 2022 and five-year average 2018–2022 (CSO)**



In 2022, female workers had higher rates of work-related illnesses for most categories captured in this survey, most notably stress, depression or anxiety (7.2 per 1,000 workers), compared with male workers (4.1 per 1,000 workers). It is worth noting that the rates for skin problems and related issues were much lower in 2022 as compared with the previous ten-year period. However, due to the small sample size, results should be interpreted with caution.

**Figure 1.13:**

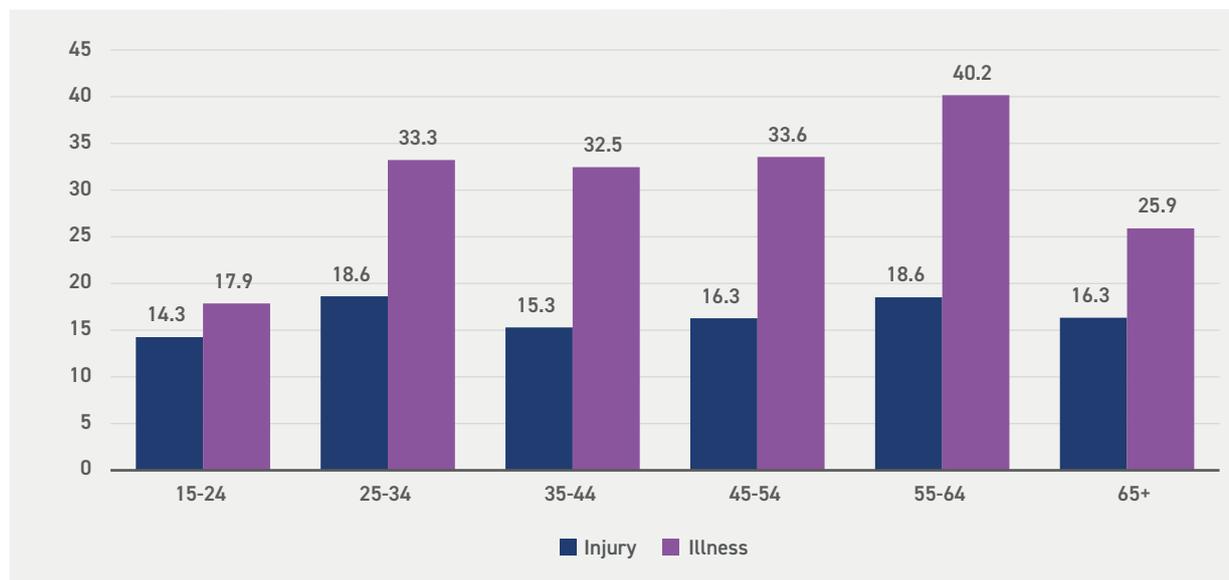
**Rate of 0+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender and illness type in 2022 (CSO)**



Rates of work-related injury were highest for the 25-34 and 55-64 age groups (18.6 per 1,000 workers). The highest rate of work-related illness occurred in the 55-64 years group (40.2 per 1,000 workers).

**Figure 1.14:**

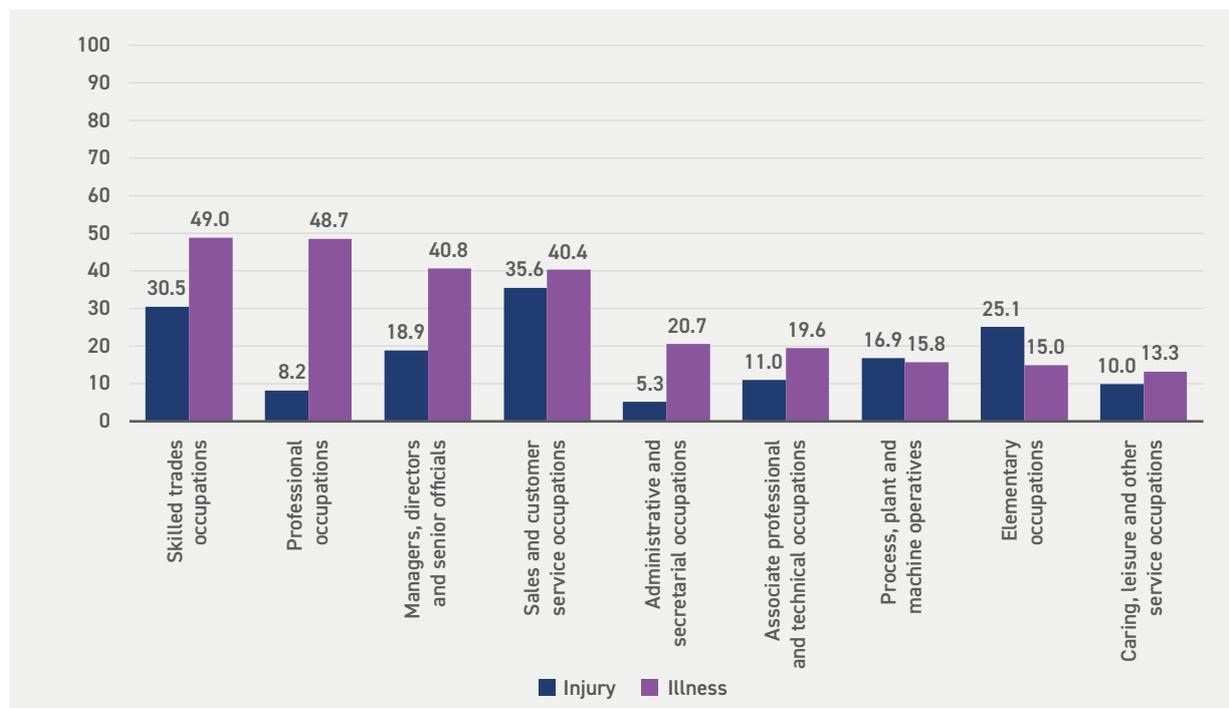
**Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by age group in 2022 (CSO)**



The highest rates of injuries occurred to those working in skilled trade occupations and sales and customer service occupations. High rates of illness also occurred in these categories, in addition to professional occupations and managers, directors and senior officials.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 1.15:**

**Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by occupation of victim in 2022 (CSO)**



<sup>7</sup> The occupation categories, as compiled by the CSO, have been revised since the publication of last year's report.



The highest rates of injury in 2022 were in the Mid-East region of Kildare, Meath, Wicklow and Louth (23.2 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates of injury were in the West and South-West (11 per 1,000 workers). The highest rates of illness were in the South-East (70.9 per 1,000 workers and double what it had been the previous year), while the lowest rates were in the midlands (14.7 per 1,000 workers). Year-on-year comparisons are difficult given that 2021 data was affected by COVID-19 related business closures.

**Table 1.3:**

**Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by NUTS region in 2022 (CSO)**

	Injury	Illness
<b>Mid-East</b>	23.2	39.4
<b>Midlands</b>	21.7	14.7
<b>South-East</b>	19.8	70.9
<b>Border</b>	17.2	27.8
<b>Dublin</b>	16.0	31.1
<b>Mid-West</b>	13.9	26.5
<b>West</b>	12.4	24.8
<b>South-West</b>	11.0	22.2



# Fatal Injury Statistics

There were 43 fatal work-related incidents in Ireland in 2023. Of these, 39 involved worker victims and four involved non-worker victims. This is an increase of 13% on the figure of 38 fatal accidents recorded in 2022.<sup>8</sup> When considering the rate of fatal accidents, there has been a slight increase from 1.5 in 2022 to 1.6 in 2023.

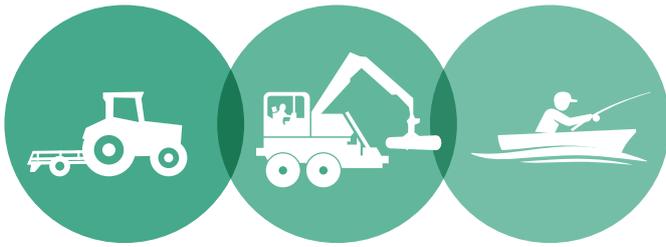
Figure 2.1 shows that the rate of fatal incidents has been declining over the past twenty years from a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 workers in 2003 to 1.6 in 2023. The average rate over the five-year period 2019-2023 is 1.8.

**Figure 2.1:**

**Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers, 2003–2023**



<sup>8</sup> The Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities 2021-2022, published in October 2023, cited 28 fatal accidents for 2022. However, due to several ongoing investigations this figure has now increased to 38.

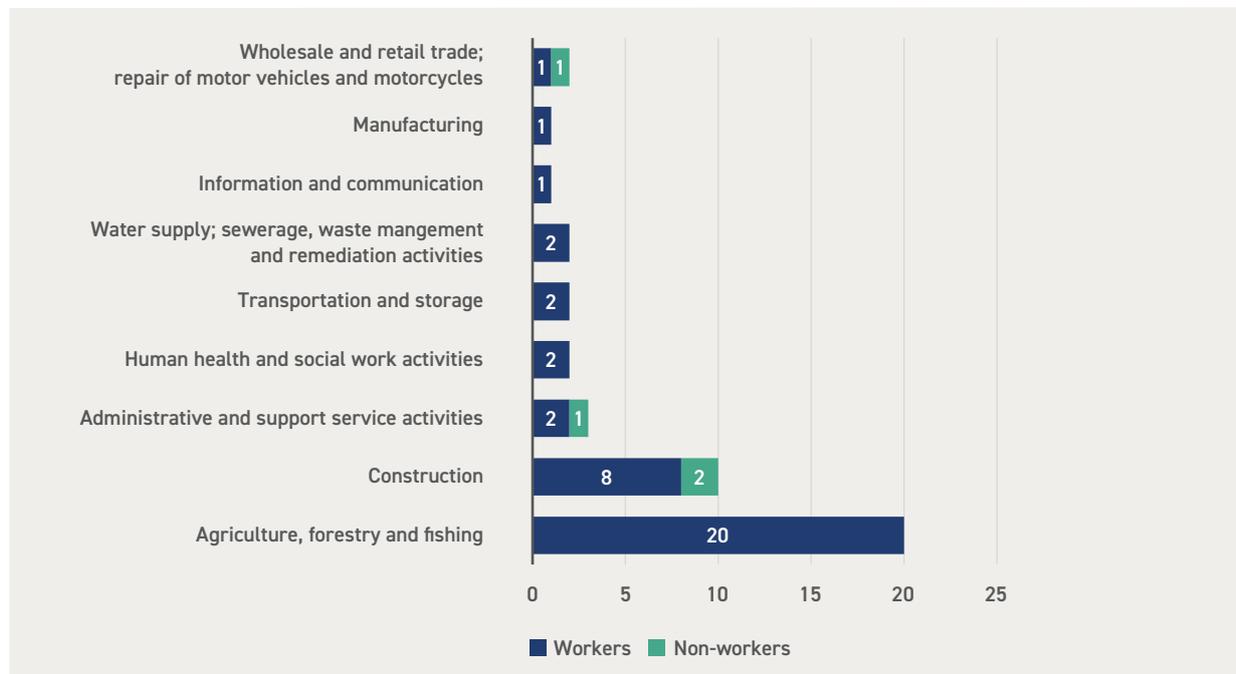


## The largest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

The highest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (17 self-employed persons and three family workers) accounting for 47% of all fatal incidents in 2023. Construction accounted for a further 23% of fatalities with incidents occurring to eight workers and two non-workers in 2023. Non-workers also lost their lives as a result of work activity in Construction, Administrative and Support Service Activities and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles.

Figure 2.2:

Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector 2023 (HSA)

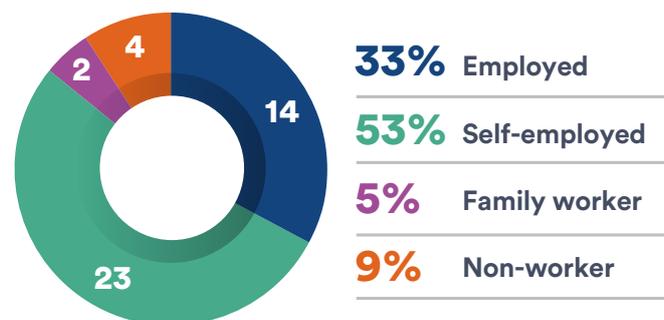


Of the 43 work-related fatal incident victims, 14 (33%) were employees, 23 (53%) were self-employed four were non-workers (9%) and two were family workers (5%).

Over four in every five work-related fatal incident victims in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing were self-employed (17, 85%). Five victims in Construction were self-employed (50%) and three were employees (33%). Altogether, work-related fatal incidents involved non-workers in three economic sectors. For more details on fatal incidents by economic sector in each year from 2014 to 2023, see Table 3.3 in the Appendix.

Figure 2.3:

Percentage of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim, 2023 (HSA)



**Figure 2.4:**

**Number of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim and NACE economic sector, 2023 (HSA)**

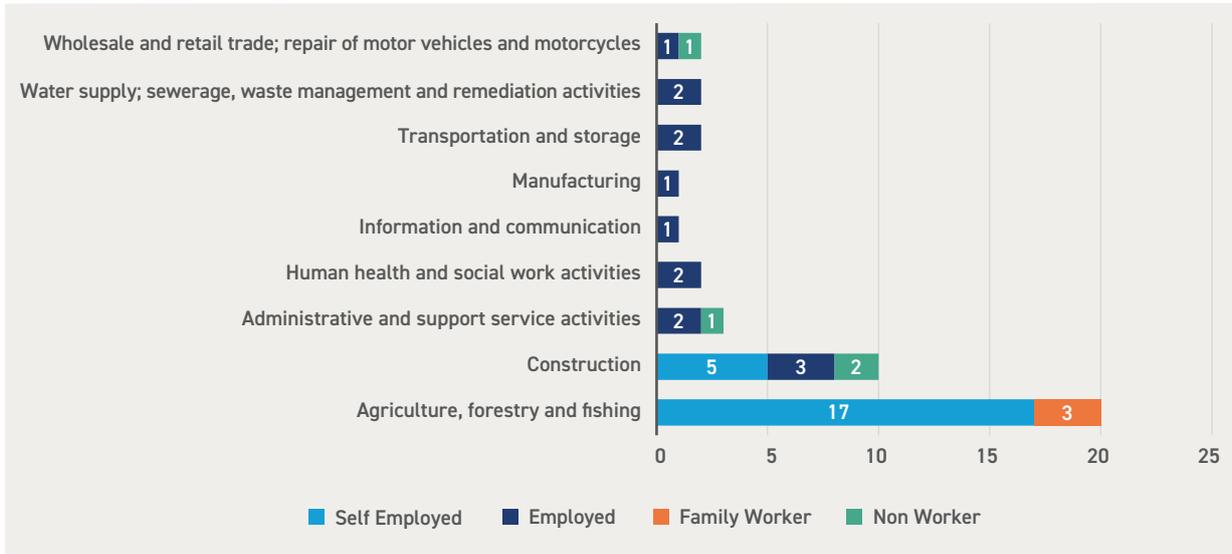


Figure 2.5a to figure 2.5d shows the trend of fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers in four key economic sectors since 2013.

**Figure 2.5a:**

**Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 2013–2023 (HSA)**

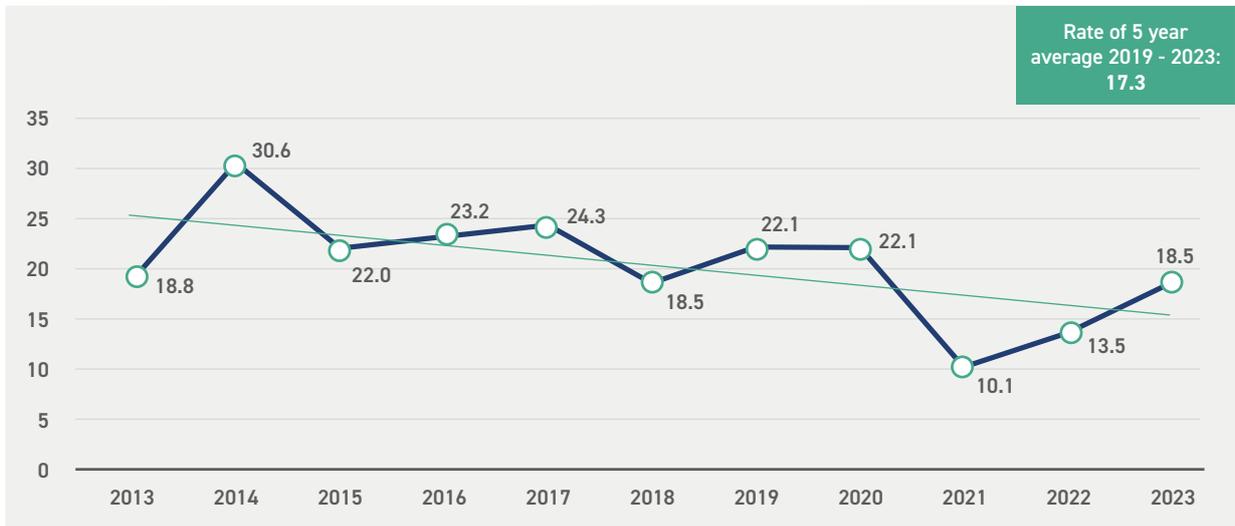


Figure 2.5b:

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Construction, 2013–2023 (HSA)

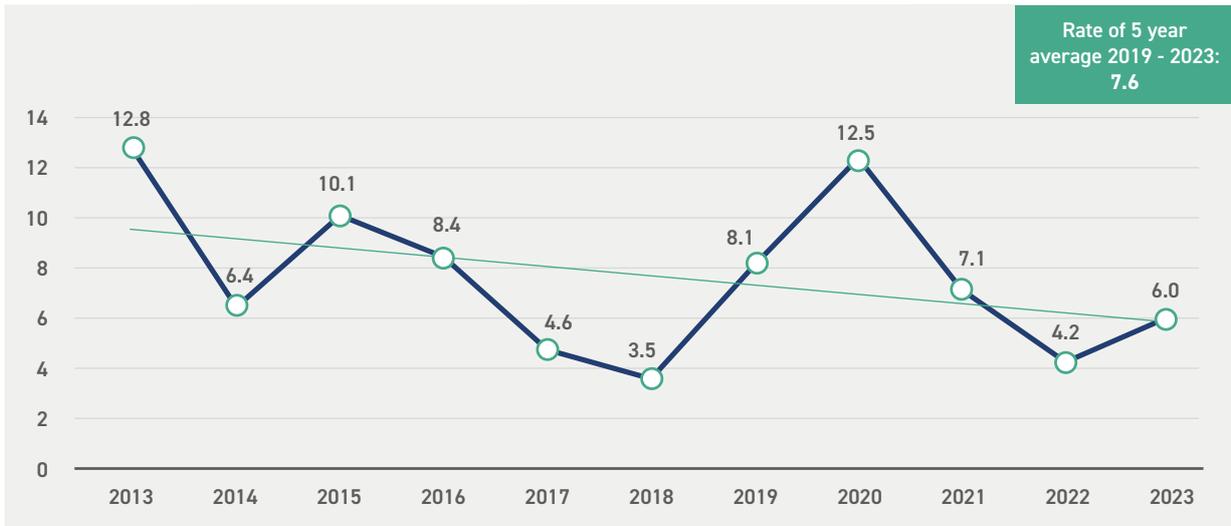


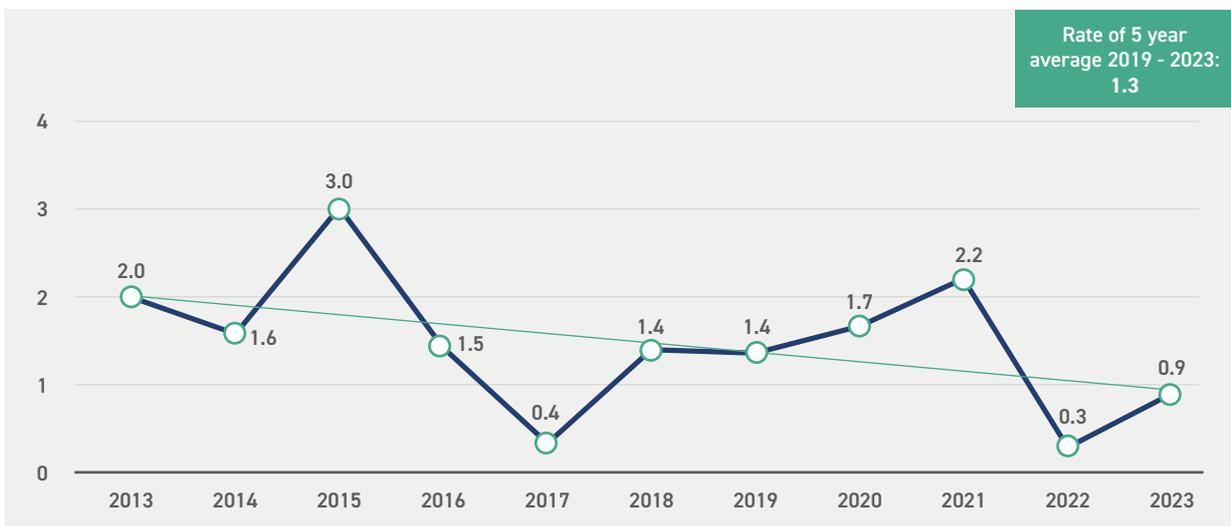
Figure 2.5c:

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 2013–2023 (HSA)



Figure 2.5d:

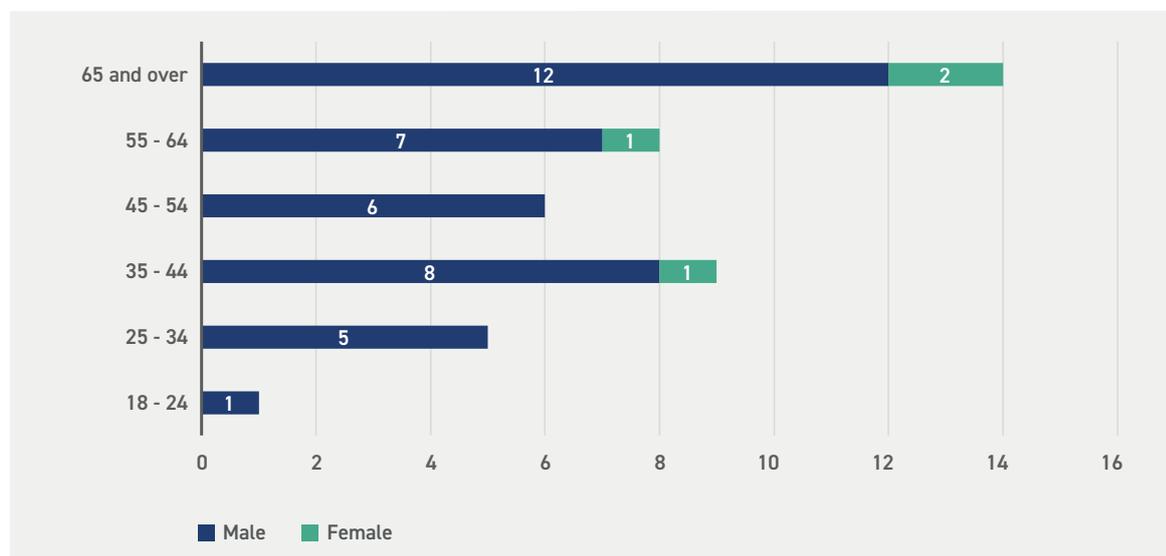
Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Industry, 2013–2023 (HSA)



Of 43 fatal incidents in 2023, 39 (91%) occurred to male victims and four (9%) occurred to female victims. Two female victims were working in the Human Health and Social Work sector while there was one family worker in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Sector and one non-worker. Figure 2.6 shows the age bands and gender of victims.

**Figure 2.6:**

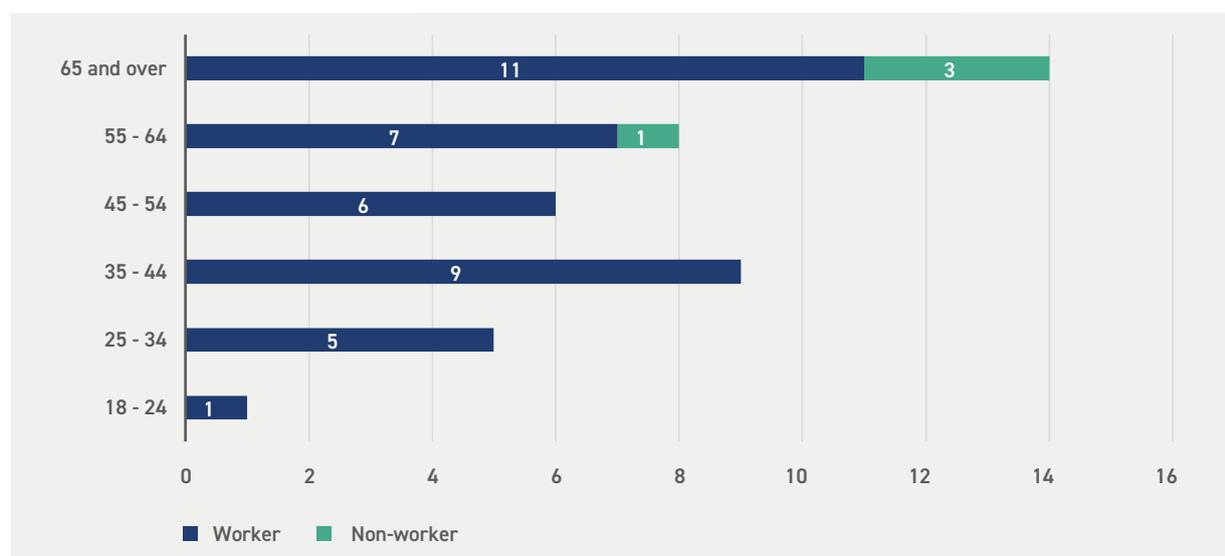
**Number of fatal work-related incidents by gender and age band, 2023 (HSA)**



Over half of all fatal incidents involved victims aged 55 years or more, with eight victims aged 55–64 years (19%) and 14 victims aged 65 years or more (33%). Four fatal incidents occurred to non-workers in 2023; none of these were children; one was aged 55-64 years while three were over 65.

**Figure 2.7:**

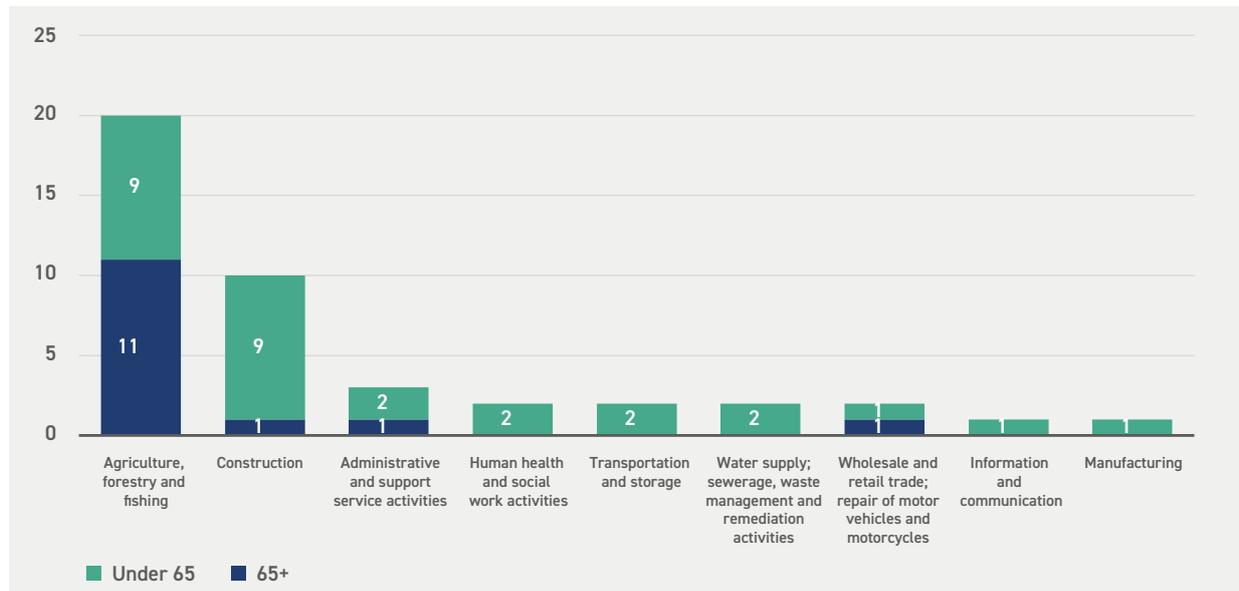
**Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by age band, 2023 (HSA)**



Of the 43 fatal incidents in 2023, 14 (33%) occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. This age group was particularly prominent in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, where 11 (55%) fatal incidents occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. For more details on the age of fatal incident victims in each economic sector, see Table 3.5 in the Appendix.

**Figure 2.8:**

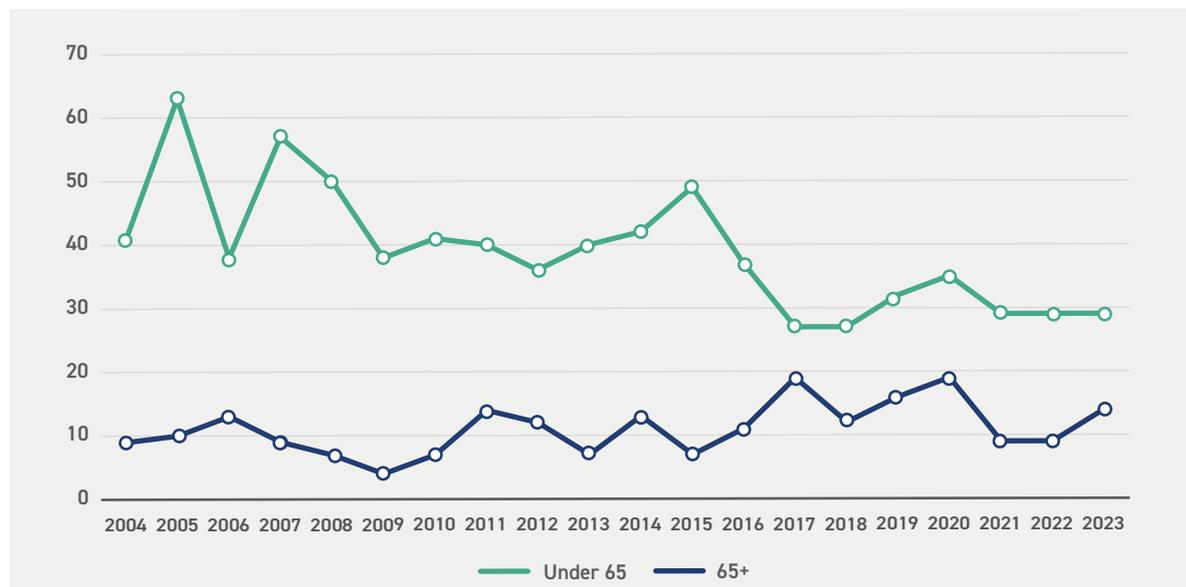
**Number of fatal work-related incidents in key NACE economic sectors involving victims aged under 65 years and 65 years or more, 2023 (HSA)**



There has been a change in the average age of victims over time. Figure 2.9 shows the number of fatal incidents involving victims aged 65 years or more over the past twenty years, peaking at 19 in 2017. In contrast, the number of fatal incidents involving younger victims has decreased significantly, from a high of 63 in 2005 to 29 in 2023. Notably, 2023 marked the first year since the establishment of the Authority in which no work-related fatal incidents occurred to children.

**Figure 2.9:**

**Number of fatal incidents occurring to victims aged 65 years or more each year, 2004–2023 (HSA)**



Of the 43 fatal incidents in 2023, six victims were non-Irish, three of whom were nationals of the European Union. In total, non-Irish workers accounted for 14% of fatalities in 2023 while this group represented 16% of the workforce in 2020.<sup>9</sup>

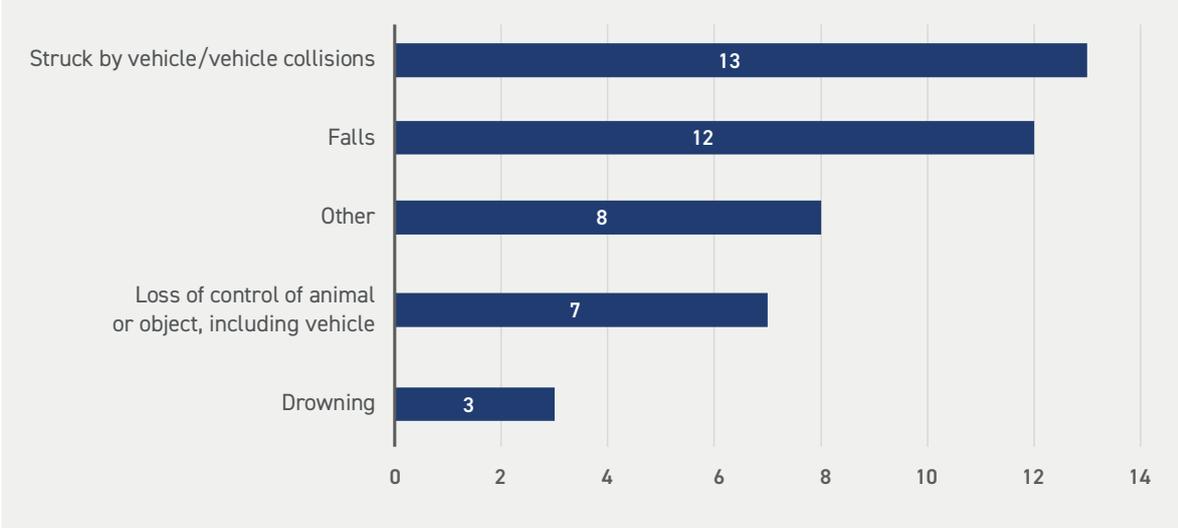
<sup>9</sup> QLF34 - Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment. At the time of this report, nationality data beyond 2020 has not yet been published by the CSO's LFS.

The trigger is the abnormal event that causes an incident. The most common triggers associated with fatal incidents in 2023 were vehicles (13) and falls (12 of which 11 were falls from height) which together accounted for almost 60% of fatal incidents. The “other” category, which includes incidents such as burns, heavy loads falling on the victim and electrocution, represent 19% of fatalities last year. For details on triggers associated with fatal incidents in each NACE economic sector, see Table 3.7 of the Appendix.

In 2023, 16 of the 43 fatal incidents involved vehicles.<sup>10</sup> Figure 3.11 shows the vehicles involved in these incidents. Trucks were involved in four fatal incidents (25% of all fatal incidents involving vehicles). The “other” category, which accounts for the largest proportion of vehicle incidents, includes a car, e-bike, JCB, rock breaker, van and rotary loader wagon.

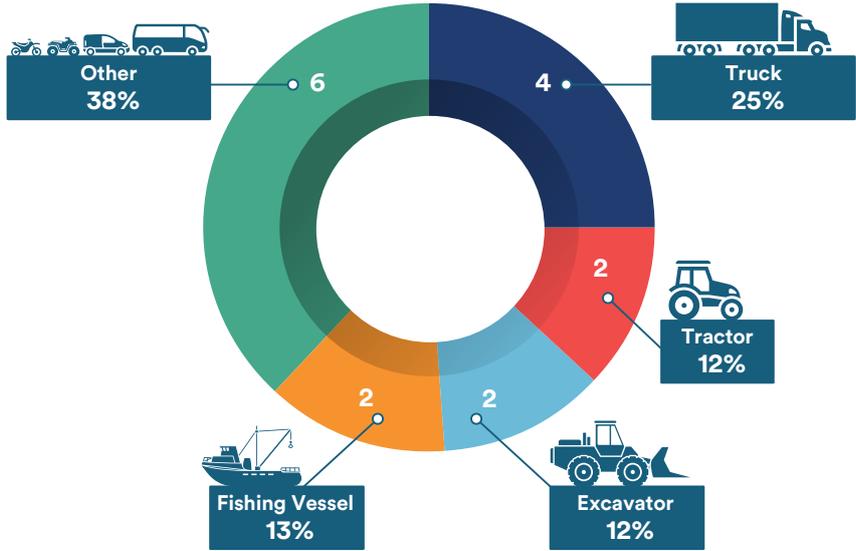
**Figure 2.10:**

**Top five triggers associated with fatal incidents, 2023 (HSA)**



**Figure 2.11:**

**Vehicles involved in fatal incidents, 2023 (HSA)**



<sup>10</sup> These include fatalities that occurred as a result of loss of control of vehicles and victims being struck or crushed by vehicles.

# 3



## Appendix

**Table 3.1:**

**Number and percentage of non-fatal incidents by trigger in selected economic sectors, 2023 (HSA)**

	Industry		Construction		Wholesale and Retail		Transportation and Storage		Public Admin and Defence		Human Health and Social Work Activities	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Fall on same level (slip, stumble etc)	255	14	168	20	263	24	241	23	151	17	443	19
Other	488	27	236	28	172	16	193	19	183	21	595	25
Lifting, carrying	305	17	44	5	246	22	187	18	99	11	192	8
Pushing, pulling	260	14	70	8	161	15	114	11	39	4	227	10
Shock, fright	2	0	8	1	3	0	41	4	193	22	414	18
Body movement (no physical stress)	122	7	49	6	77	7	51	5	35	4	121	5
Twisting, turning	94	5	27	3	50	5	51	5	60	7	200	9
Fall from height	73	4	95	11	43	4	42	4	24	3	40	2
Loss of control of means of transport or handling equipment	46	3	24	3	34	3	81	8	82	9	56	2
Breakage of material at joints	71	4	43	5	38	3	32	3	9	1	33	1
Loss of control of hand held tool	99	5	71	9	20	2	8	1	7	1	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,322</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.2:

## Number and rate of people suffering injury and illness, 2016–2022 (CSO)

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	#	Rate per 1,000												
Total in employment	2,132,200		2,199,300		2,265,025		2,335,925		2,277,550		2,427,125		2,594,975	
<b>Injury</b>														
Total suffering injury	30,800	14.4	49,500	22.5	46,300	20.4	27,200	11.6	27,800	12.2	38,900	16.0	43,100	16.6
0–3 days' absence	17,600	8.3	26,100	11.9	40,100	17.7	15,300	6.5	16,600	7.3	22,500	9.3	22,700	8.7
4+ days' absence	13,200	6.2	22,500	10.2	29,500	13.0	12,100	5.2	11,300	5.0	16,400	6.8	20,300	7.8
Days lost due to injury	481,612		884,400		620,800		486,000		597,000		432,000		535,000	
<b>Illness</b>														
Total suffering illness	37,900	17.8	62,000	28.2	61,000	26.9	44,600	19.1	57,300	25.2	84,900	35.0	83,300	32.1
0–3 days' absence	20,800	9.8	32,200	14.6	31,200	13.8	23,800	10.2	27,300	12.0	32,200	13.3	26,700	10.3
4+ days' absence	17,100	8.0	29,800	13.5	29,800	13.2	20,800	8.9	30,000	13.2	52,700	21.7	56,500	21.8
Days lost due to illness	746,701		1,104,700		822,300		783,000		1,053,000		1,175,000		1,140,000	
<b>Injury and illness</b>														
Total injury or illness	68,700	32.2	111,500	50.7	107,300	47.4	71,800	30.7	85,100	37.4	123,800	51.0	1,264,000	48.7
Total (4+ days' absence)	30,300	14.2	52,300	23.8	59,300	26.2	32,900	14.1	41,300	18.1	69,100	28.5	76,800	29.6
<b>Total days lost</b>	<b>1,228,313</b>		<b>1,989,100</b>		<b>1,443,100</b>		<b>1,269,000</b>		<b>1,650,000</b>		<b>1,607,000</b>		<b>1,675,000</b>	

**Table 3.3:**

**Number of reported fatal incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector, 2014–2023 (HSA)**

Economic sector	Number of fatal incidents										Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2013-2023
<b>A Agriculture, forestry and fishing</b>	33	24	26	27	20	23	23	11	14	20	<b>221</b>
- <i>Agriculture</i>	32	18	21	25	15	20	20	10	14	16	<b>191</b>
- <i>Forestry</i>	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	<b>5</b>
- <i>Fishing</i>	1	5	4	2	4	3	3	0	0	3	<b>25</b>
<b>B Mining and quarrying</b>	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>C Manufacturing</b>	3	3	2	0	2	2	4	5	0	1	<b>22</b>
<b>D Electricity; gas, steam and air conditioning supply</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities</b>	0	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	<b>15</b>
<b>F Construction</b>	6	11	10	6	5	12	16	10	7	10	<b>93</b>
<b>G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods</b>	5	3	2	3	2	2	4	2	11	2	<b>36</b>
<b>H Transportation and storage</b>	3	3	1	5	8	6	2	6	1	2	<b>37</b>
<b>I Accommodation and food service activities</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
<b>J Information and communication</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
<b>K Financial and insurance activities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>L Real estate activities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>M Professional, scientific and technical activities</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>N Administrative and support service activities</b>	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	<b>8</b>
<b>O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security</b>	0	4	1	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	<b>13</b>
<b>P Education</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Q Human health and social work activities</b>	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	<b>5</b>
<b>R Arts, entertainment and recreation</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>S Other service activities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>468</b>

**Table 3.4:**

**Number and rate of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and employment status of victim, 2023 (HSA)**

	Worker						Non-worker	Total	Fatality rate
	Employee	Self-employed	Family worker	Trainee	Total	Worker rate per 100,000			
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (A)	0	17	3	0	20	18.54	0	20	18.5
Construction (F)	3	5	0	0	8	4.81	2	10	6
Administrative and support service activities (N)	2	0	0	0	2	1.8	1	3	2.7
Industry (Nace B-E)	3	0	0	0	3	0.9	0	3	0.9
Wholesale and Retail Trade (G)	1	0	0	0	1	0.3	1	2	0.6
Human health and social work activities (Q)	2	0	0	0	2	0.55	0	2	0.6
Transportation and Storage (H)	2	0	0	0	2	1.76	0	2	1.8
Information and communication (J)	1	0	0	0	1	0.57	0	1	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1.6</b>

**Table 3.5:**

**Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and age band of victim, 2023 (HSA)**

	0-17 years	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (A)	0	1	2	2	1	3	11	20
Manufacturing (C)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (E)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Construction (F)	0	0	1	3	2	3	1	10
Wholesale and Retail Trade (G)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Transportation and Storage (H)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Information and communication (J)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative and support service activities (N)	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Human health and social work activities (Q)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	0%	2%	12%	21%	14%	21%	30%	100%
	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>43</b>

**Table 3.6:**

**Reported worker fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers by nationality, 2015–2023 (HSA)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Irish workers	2.7	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.5
Non Irish workers	1.0	3.2	0.6	2.5	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.2	1.2
All Workers	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.5

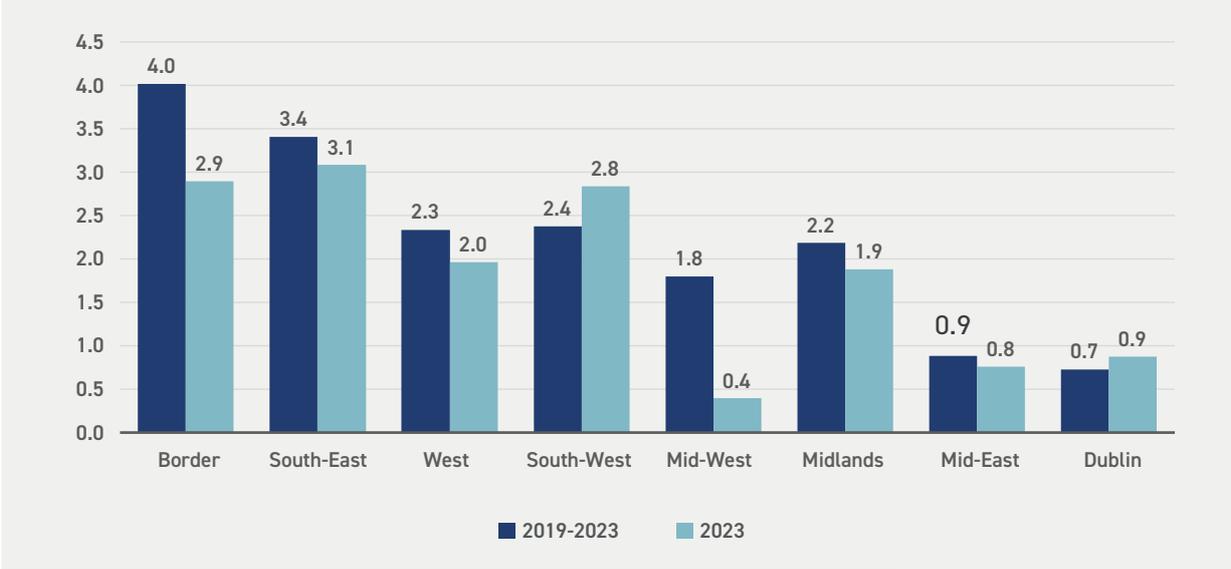
**Table 3.7:**

**Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and trigger, 2023 (HSA)**

	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Manufacturing	Water Supply, Sewerage, Wastewater	Construction	Wholesale and Retail Trade	Transportation and Storage	Information and communication	Administrative and support service activities	Human health and social work activities	Total	% of total
Fall from height	3	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	11	26
Fall on same level	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Struck by vehicle/ vehicle collisions	5	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	13	30
Struck by animal/ attack by animal	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	9
Loss of control of object	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	7
Drowning	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
Burns	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	5
Heavy load falls on victim	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Other	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 3.1:

Rate of reported fatal incidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region in 2023 and five-year average 2019–2023 (HSA)





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Health and Safety Authority

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**Tel: 0818 289 389**

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

