

Hazards Campaign

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Hazards Campaign counts the real death and illness toll of work in GB

For 2012/13 the HSE provisionally reports 148 fatalities in work-places that must report deaths to HSE & Local Authorities but which excludes the majority of workers killed at work, and ignores all those dying from poor working conditions, so must **NOT EVER** be used as a total of workers killed by work. In 2010/11, first year of Con-Dem government, the HSE reported 175 deaths, up 19% on the year before (147 deaths), and up 22% in construction. 172 deaths were reported to HSE in 2011/12. Under the deregulating, enforcement-slashing, rubbishing of workers' health & safety Coalition government, work deaths went up & stayed up in a recession when they usually go down, & only now return to 2009/10 levels. **HSE Reported Worker Deaths by Region and Country in Great Britain in recent years**

Region/Country	Fatals 2012/13 provisional	Fatals 2011/12	Fatals 2010/11	Fatals 2009/10	Fatals 2008/09	Fatals 2007/08 (+mop)	Fatals 2006/07 (+mop)	Fatals 2005/06 (+mop)
Scotland	22	19	15	23	25	31 (5)	31 (5)	32 (14)
North West	15	25	26	17	23	22 (7)	33 (10)	31 (8)
West Midlands	14	19	13	10	12	22 (10)	33 (13)	12 (15)
London	13	9	17	11	20	26 (5)	19 (9)	15 (8)
South East	22	17	14	14	15	22(11)	35 (10)	23 (11)
East of England	16	19	20	8	12	19 (4)	19 (8)	19 (5)
South West	12	15	8	18	22	28 (7)	24 (7)	17 (13)
Wales	8	19	11	7	5	18 (4)	14 (8)	13 (5)
Yorkshire	15	14	24	22	24	16 (9)	10 (8)	21 (9)
East Midlands	7	7	16	13	11	18 (5)	14 (7)	13 (5)
North East	2	5	6	3	9	7 (3)	5 (5)	11 (1)
Total GB Fatals Includes deaths unallocated to regions	148 (p) 2 unallocated	172	175	147	178	233	247	217

Mop = member of public, p= provisional. The HSE only records those fatalities at work which are reported to HSE and L.As under RIDDOR. UK Statistics Authority assessment of HSE's compliance with the code of practice for official statistics, May 2010, states 'HSE does not produce an overall figure for work-related fatalities in Great Britain.' and recommends they 'investigate the feasibility of producing statistics on the total number of work-related injuries & fatalities' Report 42 <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>.

The TUC estimates about 20,000 work-related illnesses deaths but accepts this is the lower end of realistic. **Hazards Campaign estimates of deaths due to work-related incidents** - the visible tip of the iceberg of work-related harm in GB in 2012/13 = 933 – 1,375 workers killed in work-related incidents + 113 members of the public = total 1,046 to 1,488 made up of:

- 148 workers reported to HSE & L.A. under RIDDOR (provisional figures)
- + Workers killed at sea* and in the air estimated at 50
- + 585 – 877 killed in work-related road traffic incidents- lorry drivers + some of those on their way to work + others killed in those road traffic incidents (one third to half of total Road traffic fatalities of 1,754 are work-related)
- + about 150-300 suicides due to the pressures of work (suicides up >10% in current economic crisis) <http://www.hazards.org/cryingshame>
- + Members of the public killed by work activity = 113

*Merchant seafarers killed UK water and on board UK ships, plus those killed in Fishing in UK waters.

Hazards estimates of those killed by work-related illness each year in GB - the bulk of the iceberg of work-related deaths = up to 50,000, this includes:

- 18,000 by work-related cancer at 12% (8-16%) at least 5,000 due to asbestos cancers
- Heart Disease – 20% of deaths work related due to stress, long hours, shift work = up to 20,000
- Respiratory Illness -15-20% of obstructive lung disease = about 6,000
- Other diseases including restrictive lung diseases = about 6,000

Hazards Estimates are that 140 people a day or 6 per hour are killed by work in Great Britain. Compare this with about 600 murders a year and 620 British soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan over 11 years.

The UN International Labour Organisation estimates that worldwide more people are killed by work than war every year: **a minimum 2.3 million killed by work EVERY YEAR.**

For the reasoning behind the realistic estimates by Hazards Campaign and other authorities of the total work-related deaths including all those NOT reported to the HSE see **'The Whole Story'** published in Safety and Health Practitioner December 2008 <http://gmhazards.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/the-whole-story-shp-december-20081.doc>

HSE 2012/13 provisional figures, deaths by sector 2012/13

Major Sectors Only	Fatalities 2012/13(provisional)	Fatalities 2011/12	Rate per 100,000 workers 2012/13	Average No. Fatalities last 5 years
Construction	39	48	1.9	53
Agriculture	29	35	8.8	36
Waste & Recycling	10	5	8.2	6
Manufacturing	20	31	0.7	28
Services	46	42	0.2	50
Total for All sectors	148	172	0.5	181

NOTE: This does not include workers on roads, in air or at sea, suicides or members of the public

People injured at work according to HSE RIDDOR reports 2012/13 (2011/12):

78,222 (111,164) non-fatal injuries, of these 19,707 (22,433) were major injuries, and 58,515 were >7 day injuries compared to 88,731) over 3 day injuries in 2011/12. Due to Lord Young 'Common Sense Common Safety' recommendation RIDDOR was amended from April 2012 and employers now only have to report over 7 day injuries, but still record over 3 day injuries. HSE estimates this resulted in a loss of 29% of injury reports. Due to RIDDOR changes it is impossible to see whether injuries are going up or down.

NOTE: There has always been massive under reporting under RIDDOR, this is now exacerbated by change from over 3 day to over 7 day reporting, plus HSE's Fee for Intervention.

In 2011/12 The number of people suffering ill-health due to work was 1.8 million (1.9 million 2010/11) according to the Labour Force Survey; figures for 2012/13 are not available yet.

Working days lost 2011/12 = 27 million – 22.7 million due to work-related illness and 4.3 million to work-related injury, up from 2010/11. However the HSE estimates 5.2 million days lost due to injuries in 2012/13 (No figs for illness) up from 4.3 million in 2011/12, yet claims the number of reported injuries has gone down as a great success.

One person dies of occupational cancer every hour throughout the day (by HSE unrealistically low estimates, more than 2 every hour by Hazards campaign estimates)

HSE Asbestos deaths for 2011: Mesothelioma deaths = 2,291 (2,360 in 2011/12) + at least same number of lung cancer, + 429 asbestosis deaths.

Good health and safety is not a 'burden on business' it's a burden on us! The cost of the harm caused by poor workplace health and safety

The HSE records the costs of poor health and safety i.e. deaths, injuries and illnesses (over 70% caused by poor management according to the HSE) as £13.8 billion per year at 2010/11 prices. But **this does not include the long latency illnesses like cancers.** Each incident fatality costs £1.5 million and each occupational cancer costs £2.5 million (DEFRA costing). So, even taking HSE's gross under-estimate of 8,000 work cancer deaths per year would add £20 billion to this total making it nearer £40 billion per year. Taking Hazards figures would make it nearer £60 billion.

Of this cost, according to the HSE:

- individuals and families pay 57%,
- the state - us, tax payers, the public purse! - pays 22%, and
- employers, whose criminal negligence caused the harm, pay 21%

See HSE Annual Statistics Report 2012/13: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/hssh1213.pdf>

HSE Provisional Fatality Statistics: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

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