

Hazards Campaign

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

Provisional HSE figures for 2013/14: 133 fatalities down from 150 for 2012/13

For 2012/13 the HSE provisionally reported 150 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. Under the deregulating, enforcement-slashing, rubbishing of workers' health & safety Coalition government, work deaths went up & stayed up initially while in a recession when they usually go down, then declined to 2009/10 levels and in 2013/14 now lowest on record at 133.

HSE Reported Worker Deaths by Region and Country in Great Britain in recent years

Region/Country	Fatals 2013/14 provisional	Fatals 12/13	Fatals 11/12	Fatals 10/11	Fatals 09/10	Fatals 08/09	Fatals 07/08	Fatals 06/07	Fatals 05/06
Scotland	20	22	20	15	23	26	32	31	32
North West	15	15	25	25	19	22	23	33	31
West Midlands	12	14	18	13	9	12	18	33	12
London	10	13	8	17	11	20	28	19	15
South East	10	22	17	14	15	15	24	35	23
East of England	9	16	19	20	10	12	19	19	19
South West	14	12	16	8	17	22	28	24	17
Wales	7	8	18	11	7	5	15	14	13
Yorkshire	17	15	14	24	23	24	16	10	21
East Midlands	12	7	8	16	12	12	18	14	13
North East	6	2	5	6	3	9	7	5	11
Total GB Fatals (Includes deaths unallocatd to regions)	133	150 (+ 4)	173 (5)	171 (2)	152 (3)	180 (1)	229 (1)	241 (4)	212 (5)

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/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 2013/14 = 854 – 1,290 workers killed in work-related incidents + 70 members of the public = total 986 to 1,433** made up of:

- 133 workers reported to HSE & L.A. under RIDDOR (provisional figures)
- + Workers killed at sea* and in the air estimated at 50
- + 583-880 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 1,760 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 = 70

*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 per year and compare this with 532 murders last 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 of total work-related deaths see 'The Whole Story' Safety and Health Practitioner December 2008 <http://gmhazards.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/the-whole-story-shp-december-20081.doc>

HSE 2013/14 provisional figures, worker deaths by sector 2013/14

Major Sectors Only	Fatalities 2013/14 provisional	Fatalities 2012/13	Rate per 100,000 2013/14	Rate per 100,000 2012/13
Construction	42	40	1.98	1.94
Agriculture	27	31	8.77	9.45
Waste & Recycling	4	10	3.33	8.21
Manufacturing	14	21	0.49	0.75
Extractive	3	2	n/c	n/c
Utilities	2	2	n/c	n/c
Services	41	44	0.17	0.17
Total for All sectors	133	150	0.44	0.51

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

People injured at work according to HSE RIDDOR reports 2013/14 = 77,593 (12/13 = 78,222, 11/12 = 111,000) injuries; major injuries = 19,707 (22,000) and 58,515 were >7 day injuries compared to 88,731 over 3 day injuries in 2011/12; 629,000 self-reported injuries

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 the change from over 3 day to over 7 day reporting, reductions in incidents and injuries to be reported and possibly HSE's Fee for Intervention.**

In 2013/14 The number of people suffering ill-health due to work was 2.0 million (1.9 million 2010/11) according to the Labour Force Survey;

Working days lost 2013/14 = 28.2 million days (27 m in 2011/12) lost to injury & illness: 23.5million (22.7 m) to illness, 4.7 m to injury (4.3m)

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 2012: 2, 535 Mesothelioma deaths, up from 2,291 in 2011 (2,360 in 2011/12) + at least same number of lung cancer, + over 400 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, i.e. deaths, injuries and illnesses (over 70% caused by poor management according to the HSE) is recorded by the HSE as £14.28 billion in 2012/13 at 2012 prices. But **this does not include the long latency illnesses like cancers.** Each incident fatality costs £1.5 million and each occupational cancer costs over £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 over £30 billion per year. Taking Hazards figures would make it nearer £60 billion.

Who Pays? We Do! 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%

HSE Cost to Britain: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/cost.htm>

HSE Statistics: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/>

Annual Statistics Report 2013/14: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/hssh1314.pdf>

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