

Hazards Campaign

Hazards Campaign Secretariat: c/o Grtr Manchester Hazards Centre
Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road
Manchester.M16 7WD Tel: 0161 636 7557
e info@hazardscampaign.org.uk

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

Provisional HSE figures for 2015/16 144 fatalities similar to 2014/15 142 when fatalities were UP from 136 for 2013/14
For 2014/15 the HSE provisionally reported 142 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; were at lowest on record at 133 (p) in 2013/14 now revised to 136. But on the rise again in 2014/15. **HSE Reported Worker Deaths by Region and Country in Great Britain in recent years**

Region/Country	Fatalities Provisional 2015/16	Fatals 14/15	Fatals 13/14	Fatals 12/13	Fatals 11/12	Fatals 10/11	Fatals 09/10	Fatals 08/09	Fatals 07/08	Fatals 06/07
Scotland	16	20	20	22	20	15	23	26	32	31
North West	17	20	15	15	25	25	19	22	23	33
West Midlands	12	11	12	14	18	13	9	12	18	33
London	17	9	10	13	8	17	11	20	28	19
South East	11	11	10	22	17	14	15	15	24	35
East of England	14	11	9	16	19	20	10	12	19	19
South West	12	19	14	12	16	8	17	22	28	24
Wales	13	9	7	8	18	11	7	5	15	14
Yorkshire & Humber	15	15	17	15	14	24	23	24	16	10
East Midlands	12	14	12	7	8	16	12	12	18	14
North East	5	1	6	2	5	6	3	9	7	5
Total GB Fatals (Includes deaths unallocated to regions)	144 provision al	Final 142	Final 136 (+3)	150 (+24)	171 (-2)	175 (+4)	147 (-4)	179 (-1)	233 (+5)	241 (+4)

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 HSE estimates 13,000 work-related illnesses deaths per year; the TUC estimates 20,000 but accepts this is the lower end of realistic. **Hazards Campaign estimates deaths due to work-related incidents - the visible tip of the iceberg of work-related harm in GB in 2015/16 = 1,021 workers killed in work-related incidents + 103 members of the public = total 1,124 made up of:**

- 144 workers reported to HSE & L.A. under RIDDOR (provisional figures)
- + Workers killed at sea* and in the air estimated at 50
- + 577 killed in work-related road traffic incidents- lorry drivers + some of those on their way to work + others killed in those road traffic incidents (at least one third of total Road traffic fatalities 1,732 are work-related = 577 in 2015)
- + over 300 suicides due to the pressures of work, 5% of total suicides 6,188 (suicides up >10% +in current economic crisis). <http://www.hazards.org/cryingshame>
- + Members of the public killed by work activity = 103
- *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
- Restrictive lung diseases, neurological and other 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. Compare this with 574 murders last year and around 630 British soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan over 14 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**. But grass roots sources in Asia say real numbers are not counted and estimate the death toll may be several million per 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 2014/15 provisional figures, worker deaths by sector 2015/16

Major Sectors Only	Fatalities 2015/16 Provisional	Fatalities 2014/15	Fatalities 2013/14	Fatalities 2012/13	Rate per 100,000 15/16	Rate per 100,000 av. 10/11 to 14/15
Construction	43	35	44	40	1.94	2.04
Agriculture	27	33	27	31	7.73	9.40
Waste & Recycling	6	5	4	10	5.71	5.59
Manufacturing	27	16	14	21	0.92	0.79
Extractive	2	1	3	2	n/c	n/c
Utilities	2	1	2	2	n/c	n/c
Services	37	51	41	44	0.15	0.19
Total for All sectors	144 prov.	142	136	150	0.46	0.52

NOTE: This does not include worker deaths on roads, in air or at sea, suicides or members of the public. 67 members of public recorded as killed)

Source HSE: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

In 2015/16 the number of people killed on UK Railways was 316: 278 were suicides or suspected suicides, 35 trespassing fatalities and three people were killed at level crossings. All of these can be considered work-related as they occur in a workplace and impact on rail workers too.

People injured at work according to employers reports to HSE under RIDDOR 2015/16: 72,702 (2014/15 = 76,054; 77,593 in 13/14; 78,222 in 12/13; 111,000 in 11/12) injuries; **major injuries = 18,084** (19,118 in 13/14; 20,214 in 12/13; 22,094 in 11/12) and **57,970** were over 7 day injuries compared to 59,553 in 13/14; (60,154 in 12/13; 89,205 in 11/12 over 3 day- over 7 days injuries revised) **However Self Reported injuries at work according to Labour Force Survey (LFS) for 2015/16 give a far higher figure of 621,000 non fatal injuries : 152,000 over 7 day absences from work and 469,000 injuries with up to 7 day absence from work** (2014/15= 611,000; 629,000 in 13/14)

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**, which is 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 2015/16 according to the LFS 1.3 million people were suffering ill-health due to work (2014/15: 2 million: 1.2 million people who had worked during last year- 0.5 million new conditions started during the year- plus further 0.8 million former workers suffering illness caused or made worse by work; 2.0 million 13/14, 1.9 million 2010/11).

Work- related Working days lost 2015/16: 30.4 million- 25.9 million from work-related illness, 4.5 million from work-related injury (2014/15: 27.3 million – 23.3 million to work-related ill-health and 4.1 million to workplace injury; 2013/14 = 28.2 million days: 23.5million (22.7 m) to illness, 4.7 m to injury (4.3m); (27 m in 2011/12)

Stress and Musculo-skeletal disorders (MSDs) remain the top work-illnesses in 2015/16: 500,000 people suffering MSDs and 500,000 suffering work-stress, depression and anxiety (2014/15: 440,000 suffering work stress and 553,000 MSDs; 487,000 and 526,000 in 13/14)

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 2014: 2, 515 Mesothelioma deaths, up from 2,291 in 2011 + at least same number of lung cancer, + 464 asbestosis deaths = 5,494 asbestos deaths minimum.

Good health and safety is not a 'burden on business' lack of it is a burden on us!

The cost of the harm to society caused by poor workplace health and safety, i.e. deaths, injuries and new cases of ill-health resulting largely from current working conditions (over 70% caused by poor management according to the HSE) is recorded by the HSE as £14.1 billion in 2014/15 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 24%, and employers, whose criminal negligence caused the harm, pay only 19%

HSE Statistics 2015/16 : <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/hssh1516.pdf?pdf=hssh1516>

Hazards Campaign January 2017