

Statistics on fatal injuries in the workplace in Great Britain 2014

Full-year details and technical notes

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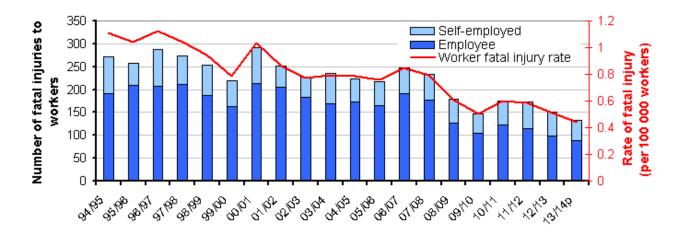


Summary

The information in this document relates to the latest 'full-year' statistics on fatal injuries in the workplace in Great Britain, for 2013/14. The document can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm.

- The provisional figure for the number of workers fatally injured in 2013/14 is 133, and corresponds to a rate of fatal injury of 0.44 deaths per 100 000 workers.
- The figure of 133 worker deaths in 2013/14 is 19% lower than the average for the past five years (164). The latest rate of fatal injury of 0.44 compares to the five-year average rate of 0.56.
- The finalised figure for 2012/13 is 150 worker fatalities, and corresponds to a rate of 0.51 deaths per 100 000 workers.
- Due to the fluctuation of recent years, it is currently too early to confirm a further stepped improvement in fatality rates.
- There were 70 members of the public fatally injured in accidents connected to work in 2013/14 (excluding railways-related incidents).

Figure 1: Number and rate of fatal injury to workers¹ 1994/95 – 2013/14p



p = Provisional.

¹ The term 'workers' describes both employees and self-employed combined.

Background

The provisional nature of the latest statistics

The figures for 2013/14 are at this stage provisional, covering the twelve months 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, and will be finalised in July 2015 following any necessary adjustments. Based on previous years, the change next year from provisional to final of the 2013/14 figure of 133, could increase or decrease by several deaths – see the Technical Note.

Details of coverage, and scope of these statistics

These statistics cover fatal accidents in workplaces in Great Britain, the primary determinant of inclusion being RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995).

Work-related deaths excluded from these statistics are mainly of two types: (i) fatal diseases; and (ii) fatal accidents on non-rail transport systems.

- (i) The asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma is one of the few examples where deaths can be counted directly. There were 2 535 such deaths in GB in 2012 see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/mesothelioma/index.htm. Deaths from other diseases that can be caused by both occupational and non-occupational factors such as most other occupational cancers usually have to be estimated rather than counted. Each year around 13 000 deaths from occupational lung disease and cancer are estimated to have been caused by past exposure, primarily to chemicals and dusts, at work (this estimate includes the mesothelioma deaths mentioned above). For more details see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm
- (ii) Fatal accidents involving workers travelling on a public highway (a 'road traffic accident'). Such incidents are enforced by the police and reported to the Department for Transport. Likewise fatal accidents involving workers travelling by air or sea; these incidents are the responsibility of the Air and Marine Accident Investigation Branches of the Department for Transport, and reported accordingly. See Technical Note for contact details.

Deaths occurring within Northern Ireland are the responsibility of HSENI - www.hseni.gov.uk/

Calculation of fatal injury rates

Changes in the size of the workforce will impact on the number of fatalities in any one year. Therefore, when making any comparisons such as: a year-to-year basis; or between one sector or region and another; or between fatal and non-fatal injuries; it is important to look at the rate of fatal injury per unit of employee, self employed or worker, as appropriate. This is derived from the numerator (the count of fatal injuries) divided by the denominator (the estimated employment using figures from the Office for National Statistics). This is then multiplied by a factor of 100 000. This is a standardised method as used across all EU states and wider.

Statistics for workplace fatal injuries – 2013/14 and previous years

Figures by main industry sector

Tables 1 - 4 below provide the latest provisional information for fatal injuries in 2013/14, and compare these data with the previous five-year average. For main industry sectors in 2013/14:

- There were 27 fatal injuries to workers in agriculture, compared to the average of 33 for the previous five years. The rate of fatal injury in 2013/14 is 8.77, compared to the five-year average rate of 9.89.
- In mining and quarrying three workers were killed, compared to an average of five deaths for the previous five years.
- There were 14 fatal injuries to workers in manufacturing, lower than the five-year average (26). The latest rate of fatal injury is 0.49, compared to an average rate of 0.91 over the previous five years.
- There were four fatal injuries to workers in waste and recycling, lower than the five-year average (7) but subject to considerable yearly fluctuations. The latest rate is 3.33 deaths per 100 000 compared to the five-year average of 5.48.

- There were 42 fatal injuries to workers in construction, 9% lower than the average figure of 46. The latest rate of fatal injury is 1.98 per 100 000 workers, compared to a five-year average of 2.07.
- There were 41 fatal injuries to workers in services, 11% lower than the average for the past five years (46). The latest rate of 0.17 deaths compares to the average five-year average rate of 0.20.
- There were 264 members of the public fatally injured in accidents connected to work in 2013/14. Of these deaths,194 (73%) related to incidents occurring on railways (See the technical note for a change in railways suicide reporting and the effect on the statistics)

Table 1: Number of fatal injuries by main industry - 2013/14p

Main Industry SIC 2007 (Section)	Employee	Self employed	Workers ¹	Members of the public	Total fatal injuries
Agriculture (A)	10	17	27	4	31
Mining and Quarrying (B)	3	0	3	1	4
Manufacturing (C)	9	5	14	0	14
Gas, electricity and water supply; sewerage, waste and recycling (D,E²)	4	2	6	1	7
- of which waste and recycling (SIC38)	2	2	4	1	5
Construction (F)	28	14	42	4	46
Services (G-U)	35	6	41	254	295
All Industries (A-U)	89	44	133	264	397

p = Provisional.

Table 2: Rate of fatal injuries (per 100 000 employees or self-employed) by main industry – 2013/14p

Main Industry SIC 2007 (Section)	Employee	Self employed	Workers ¹
Agriculture (A)	6.64	10.83	8.77
Mining and Quarrying (B)			
Manufacturing (C)	0.34	2.32	0.49
Gas, electricity and water supply; sewerage, waste and recycling (D,E ²)		:	
- of which waste and recycling (SIC38)	1.76		3.33
Construction (F)	2.21	1.63	1.98
Services (G-U)	0.17	0.18	0.17
All Industries (A-U)	0.35	0.96	0.44

p = Provisional.

¹ The term 'workers' covers employees and the self-employed combined.

² Figures for SIC Division 38 'waste collection etc' are also included in the overall figures for the combined Sections D and E.

¹ The term 'workers' covers employees and the self-employed combined.

² Figures for SIC Division 38 'waste collection etc' are also included in the overall figures for the combined Sections D and F.

^{..} Rate not calculated as the employment estimates are small or potentially unreliable.

Table 3: Number⁴ of fatal injuries by main industry, averaged from 2008/09 to 2012/13.

Note: The finalised figures for 2012/13 are shown in brackets.

Main Industry SIC2007 (Section)	Empl	oyees		Self ployed	Wor	kers¹	of	nbers the ıblic		l fatal uries
Agriculture (A)	11	(10)	21	(21)	33	(31)	6	(5)	39	(36)
Mining and Quarrying (B)	5	(2)	-	(-)	5	(2)	(-)	(-)	5	(2)
Manufacturing (C)	25	(20)	2	(1)	26	(21)	1	(1)	27	(22)
Gas, electricity and water supply; sewerage, waste and recycling (D,E)	8	(11)	1	(1)	8	(12)	3	(5)	11	(17)
- of which waste and recycling (SIC38)	6	(9)	-	(1)	7	(10)	2	(4)	9	(14)
Construction (F)	29	(26)	17	(14)	46	(40)	4	(6)	50	(46)
Services (G-U)	35	(30)	10	(14)	46	(44)	388	(398)	434	(442)
All Industries (A-U)	113	(99)	51	(51)	164	(150)	401	(415)	566	(565)

¹ The term 'workers' covers employees and the self-employed combined.

Table 4: Rate of fatal injuries by main industry, averaged from 2008/09 to 2012/13.

Note: The finalised rates for 2012/13 are shown in brackets.

Main Industry SIC2007 (Section)	Employees	Self employed	Workers ¹	
Agriculture (A)	7.20 (6.38)	12.35 (12.25)	9.89 (9.45)	
Mining and Quarrying (B)				
Manufacturing (C)	0.92 (0.77)	0.90 (0.52)	0.91 (0.75)	
Gas, electricity and water supply; sewerage, waste and recycling (D,E)				
- of which waste and recycling (SIC38)	5.40 (7.84)		5.48 (8.21)	
Construction (F)	2.09 (2.12)	2.05 (1.69)	2.07 (1.94)	
Services (G-U)	0.17 (0.15)	0.34 (0.43)	0.20 (0.19)	
All Industries (A-U)	0.45 (0.39)	1.21 (1.14)	0.56 (0.51)	

¹ The term 'workers' covers employees and the self-employed combined.

² Figures for SIC Division 38 'waste collection etc' are also included in the overall figures for the combined Sections D and E.

³ The figures for services include railway incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). For member of the public figures, the yearly average of 388 becomes 73 if railway-related incidents are excluded, and the 2012/13 figure of 398 becomes 85. See the technical note for a change in railways suicide reporting and the effect on the statistics)

⁴ Individual numbers are rounded and may not therefore sum to the subtotals or totals

² Rates are for SIC Division 38 'waste collection etc' and are not representative of Sections D and E overall.

^{..} Rate not calculated as the employment estimates are small or potentially unreliable.

Regional comparison of fatal injuries

Table 5 below shows the relevant Government Office Region (GOR) of where the death occurred. When making comparisons between regions, it should be noted that differences are strongly influenced by variations in the mix of industries and occupations. For example in Scotland and Wales compared to England, there are noticeably fewer employees in low-risk occupational groups, with relatively more in higher-risk ones. In addition, the number of fatalities in some regions is relatively small, hence susceptible to considerable variation.

Table 5: Number and rate of fatal injuries to workers, by country and Government Office Region¹ for 2012/13p and averaged from 2008/09 to 2012/13.

Note: The finalised figures for 2012/13 are shown in brackets.

		Number		Rate (pe	er 100 000)	
Country	Government office region within England	2013/14p	5 yr average ² and (2012/13)	2013/14p	5 yr average ² and (2012/13)	
England		106	134 (119)	0.41	0.53 (0.47)	
	North East	6	5 (2)	0.53	0.42 (0.17)	
	North West	15	21 (14)	0.46	0.66 (0.43)	
	Yorkshire and The Humber	17	20 (15)	0.67	0.81 (0.60)	
	East Midlands	12	11 (7)	0.57	0.52 (0.33)	
	West Midlands	12	14 (13)	0.48	0.55 (0.53)	
	East of England	9	15 (17)	0.32	0.58 (0.63)	
	London	10	13 (12)	0.22	0.30 (0.27)	
	South East	10	17 (25)	0.24	0.41 (0.60)	
	South West	14	15 (12)	0.52	0.56 (0.45)	
Wales		7	10 (8)	0.52	0.76 (0.61)	
Scotland		20	21 (23)	0.78	0.81 (0.90)	
Great Britain		133	164 (150)	0.44	0.56 (0.51)	

p = Provisional.

Commentary on longer-term trends

Fatal injuries at work are thankfully rare events. As a consequence, basic statistical principles dictate that the annual count is highly subject to chance variation, and is relatively more pronounced the smaller the number. Moreover, the effect of this chance variation can be estimated to give an indication of the amount the figure would fluctuate if the inherent dangerousness of work conditions were to stay unchanged from one year to the next.

For example it can be estimated the latest year's count of 133 worker fatalities could have been anywhere between 111 and 158 based on chance alone. This theoretical point is borne out at a practical level when the causal factors behind individual fatalities are examined. It is often found that an unfortunate set of chance events have occurred together with shortcomings in safety precautions. Annual counts of fatal injuries can also be influenced by multiple fatalities; that is, one incident resulting in more than one death (although in 2013/14 there were no such incidents).

The 133 worker deaths in the latest year represents the lowest number on record, and taking employment levels into account gives a rate of 0.44 deaths per 100 000 workers (which is also the lowest rate on record). Comparing the latest figure with the finalised 150 deaths from the previous year, this reduction is not statistically significant. However, if compared to the average for the previous five years (164) the reduction of

¹ In 2013/14 there was a fatal injury to a worker in England where the Government Office Region was not known. This incident related to a death occurring on railways where a region cannot be reliably assigned.

² Individual numbers are rounded and may not therefore sum to the subtotals or totals.

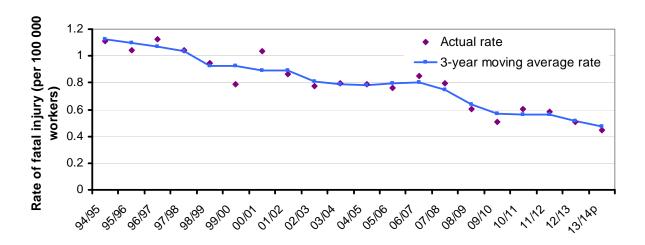
19% is statistically significant. Therefore due to the fluctuation of recent years, it is currently too early to confirm a further stepped improvement in fatality rates.

It should be noted the most recent year's figures are always provisional and, based on experience of previous years, likely to increase or decrease slightly on finalisation next year.

Figure 2 below shows the trend in the rate of fatal injury over the last 20 years. This differs from Figure 1, in that it also considers a moving three-year time frame to reduce the effects of year-on-year fluctuation, and provide an early indication of a change in the underlying trend. This suggests that:

- Over the 20-year time period there has been a downward trend in the rate of fatal injury.
- Adding the latest 2013/14 data, the rate for the most recent five years shows no clear trend.

Figure 2: Rolling three-year average rate of fatal injury to workers¹, 1994/95 – 2013/14p



p = Provisional.

Comparison with other countries

Global comparisons, for example, with the USA, Asia etc, are difficult due to differences in definitions of workplace accidents and reporting systems. Since 1990, the statistical authority for the European Union (Eurostat) has worked with member states on a harmonisation programme to give consistency to workplace injury statistics across the EU. To take account of differing industrial backgrounds across member states, Eurostat publishes standardised incidence rates.

Figure 3 and Table 6 below show the latest standardised rates of fatal accidents at work published by Eurostat (for 2011). For the first time in this series, 2011 data includes injuries for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, forming data for the United Kingdom. These data are compared with an average of the rates published over the previous five-year period (2006 – 2010).

- The standardised rate of fatal injury for the United Kingdom in 2011 was 0.74 per 100 000 workers, and compares to a five-year average rate of 0.97.
- The UK rate for 2011 was considerably lower than the corresponding EU-15 rate (1.39 per 100 000) and that of many other EU member states, including the large economies of Germany (0.94), Italy (1.5), Spain (2.16) and France (2.74).
- The GB five-year average rate (2006-2010) was one of the lowest across all EU member states.
- Standardised rates published by Eurostat are based on fatalities occurring across all main industry sectors (excluding the transport sector). Whilst road traffic accidents should not be included in these

¹ The term 'workers' includes employees and the self-employed combined.

rates, their removal may not always be complete. This should be considered when reviewing rates for individual countries.

Figure 3: Standardised incidence rates (per 100 000 workers) of fatal accidents at work for 2011 (Eurostat)

Note: Figures exclude road traffic accidents and accidents on board transport in the course of work.

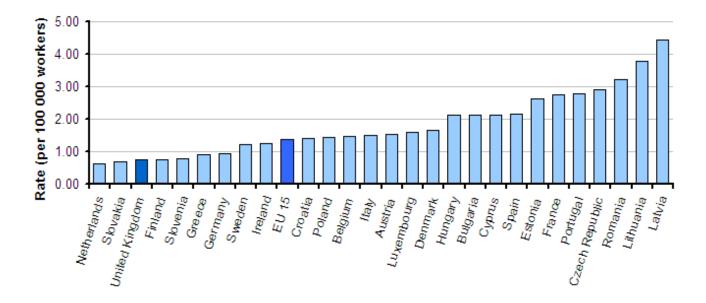


Table 6: Standardised incidence rates of fatal accidents at work for 2010 and averaged rate from 2006 – 2010 (Eurostat)

Note: Figures exclude road traffic accidents and accidents on board transport in the course of work.

Member state ¹	Eurostat - Standardised incidence rate (per 100 000 workers)				
	2011 ²	Average (2006-2010) ⁴			
Netherlands	0.63	1.22			
Slovakia	0.68	0.21			
United Kingdom ³	0.74	0.97			
Finland	0.75	1.24			
Slovenia	0.77	2.34			
Greece	0.92	2.82			
Germany	0.94	1.30			
Sweden	1.21	1.31			
Ireland	1.24	1.55			
European Union (15 countries)	1.39	1.85			
Poland	1.44	3.76			
Belgium	1.48	2.38			
Italy	1.50	2.12			
Austria	1.52	2.33			
Luxembourg	1.60	2.42			
Denmark	1.67	1.41			
Hungary	2.11	2.33			
Bulgaria	2.13	2.53			
Cyprus	2.13	4.07			
Spain	2.16	2.48			
Estonia	2.61	2.39			
France	2.74	2.13			
Portugal	2.77	4.42			
Czech Republic	2.90	1.81			
Romania	3.21	5.14			
Lithuania	3.77	4.00			
Latvia	4.43	3.19			

¹Whilst overall, work-related deaths are steadily reducing across the EU, in some cases the number of fatalities and employment levels in member states are relatively small, hence susceptible to considerable annual variation. This should be considered when making comparisons between countries, Standardised rates for 2011 are not available for Malta, Norway, or Switzerland, and hence these member states are excluded from the above analysis.

Further information on EU health and safety comparisons is available at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/european/index.htm.

²2011 rates include injuries for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, forming data for the United Kingdom, whereas five-year average rates (2006-2010) are based on GB data only.

³UK/GB injury rates shown in the above analysis may differ slightly from those elsewhere in this publication, as Eurostat standardise rates across all member states to take account of differing industrial backgrounds.

⁴From 2008, the Eurostat standardised rate of fatal injuries was calculated using updated industry data. Whilst the series differs slightly from this point on, it shows a continuing downward trend for GB

Technical notes

The provisional nature of the latest statistics

The figures for 2013/14 are at this stage provisional, covering the twelve month accident date period of 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, and will be finalised in July 2015 following any necessary adjustments. This updating a year after initial publication, allows for the fact that the investigations of workplace fatal injuries are often complex and can take considerable time. In the course of these investigations new facts can emerge to affect judgements on issues such as whether the accident was work-related or whether the worker was based at the site of the accident. This means that initial views regarding the reportability of the accident or the industrial sector to which it should be assigned can prove to be incorrect. The delay of a year in finalising the figures allows for such matters to be fully resolved in the light of formal interviews with all relevant witnesses, forensic investigation and coroners' rulings. Also, Regulation 4 of RIDDOR covers situations were someone dies of their injuries within a year of their accident.

Based on previous years, the overall change next year from provisional to final of the 2013/14 figure of 133 would be expected to increase or decrease by several deaths. Table 7 summarises these changes for previous years.

Year of death	Provisional figure	Finalised Figure	Difference
2013/14	133	-	-
2012/13	148	150	+2
2011/12	173	171	-2
2010/11	171	175	+4
2009/10	151	147	-4
2008/09	180	179	-1
2007/08	228	233	+5

Table 7: Differences in 'provisional' and 'finalised' figures

Details of coverage

Fatal injuries included in these statistics are primarily those deemed to be reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, 2013). They therefore cover accidents that are reportable to either HSE, the relevant local authority (LA) or the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). An in-depth account of the scope of RIDDOR legislation can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/. The legal changes in RIDDOR from October 2013 had no impact on the reporting of deaths, except for suicides on railways – see below. For the vast majority of such reportable accidents the Health and Safety at Work etc Act, 1974 is the main legislation applicable.

Since 1 April 2006, enforcement of safety on railways has been the responsibility of ORR, and they have provided HSE with the relevant figures since that date. Prior to this date, enforcement was the responsibility of HSE's Railways Inspectorate:

- More information on these arrangements can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/railways/
- Each year a high proportion of member of the public deaths on railways are suicides, and up to October 2013 there was a requirement under RIDDDOR to report such incidents. From this date the reporting requirement was removed. As the change took effect half way through the latest reporting year (2013/14), the reduction in the overall member of the public figure will be about half the reduction for a full year (2014/15 onwards).
- Detailed railways-specific safety statistics from ORR can be found at www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1527.

The following are clarifications of the fatal injuries that are generally included or excluded in these statistics. This is a generalised view, and each record of a fatal injury is considered on an individual basis. Although a particular fatal incident may fall outside the scope of these figures, the relevant health and safety enforcing authority (HSE, LA, or ORR) may still have an interest.

General inclusions to these figures

- Overall, fatal injuries to those classified as workers (the term 'workers' describes both employees and self-employed combined – those on a training scheme, or on work experience, are classified here as employees).
- The self-employed, where they are in control of the work or premises (although there is no legal requirement to report such accidents as there is no employer that can be assigned the task of undertaking this duty).
- Workers involved in rail track, or roadside maintenance, and refuse collection.
- Workers killed as a consequence of physical violence occurring whilst at work though there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that compliance with the reporting requirement within RIDDOR may be patchy (such deaths are primarily covered by other legislation, and the police have primacy in the investigation, hence the need to report under RIDDOR may sometimes be overlooked).
- Members of the public killed as a result of an accident, which has arisen out of or in connection with work activity, although they are not 'at work' themselves. For example:
 - Customers on retail premises;
 - Residents in residential care homes;
 - Passengers on trains,
 - Those fatally injured whilst 'working' on an unpaid, voluntary basis (whilst very few in number) are classified here as members of the public.

Also, from April 2012, any deaths as the result of an alleged illegal work activity¹, made known to HSE, will be listed separately here. However, for consistency with reports for previous years, they will not be included in the overall count of fatal injury statistics. We are not aware of any incidents for 2013/14p.

General exclusions to these figures

Fatal injuries excluded from the statistics are mainly those deemed non-reportable under RIDDOR. The most important exclusions are as follows:

- Fatal accidents involving workers travelling on a public highway (a 'road traffic accident'). Such incidents are enforced by the police and reported to the Department for Transport. Those killed whilst commuting (travelling from home to work, and vice versa) are also excluded. For road accident statistics, see https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/road-accidents-and-safety-statistics
- Fatal accidents involving workers travelling by air or sea. These incidents are the responsibility of the Air Accident Investigation Branch and Marine Accident Investigation Branch of the Department for Transport, and reported accordingly.
- Fatal injuries at work due to 'natural causes', usually heart attacks or strokes, unless brought on by trauma due to the accident.
- Accidents to members of the armed forces.
- Suicide (see note above about the recent change to railways-related incidents)
- Members of the public killed as a consequence of physical violence.

¹ The definition is that the work activity being undertaken can be done legally but due to certain regulatory, licensing, revenue and taxation, or immigration requirements not being met, it is classified as illegal.

Calculation of fatal injury rates and the source of employment estimates

Changes in the size of the workforce will impact on the number of fatalities in any one year. Therefore, when making any comparisons either on a year-to-year basis or between one sector and another it is important to look at the rate of fatal injury per employees, self employed or workers, as appropriate. This is derived from the numerator (the count of fatal injuries) and the denominator (the estimated employment). This is then multiplied by a factor of 100 000.

The source of employment data used to construct the injury rates in these figures (and all HSE statistics published from November 2011) is the Annual Population Survey (APS). The APS is a comprehensive single data source that provides HSE with insight into a wide range of working structures, as well as ensuring that employment data being used for all rate calculations (injuries and ill health) is consistent and therefore comparable.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the provider of the APS data. The analysis and interpretation of these data are the sole responsibility of HSE.

The separate publication of names and details of fatalities on the HSE website

On a monthly basis HSE publishes an updated list of the collated picture of 'as reported' information on fatalities. This includes those incidents documented in our Chief Executive's reports. The list does not purport to be a formal statistical release, and cannot be directly compared with the figures provided here, for the following reasons:

- It relates only to those incidents enforced by HSE, i.e. it does not cover incidents enforced by local authorities or ORR.
- Subsequent investigation may determine that some of the cases in the monthly list are not reportable under RIDDOR, for example deaths due to natural causes.
- Other deaths in the list may have been caused by gas incidents in the home. In such cases these deaths will not be counted in the statistics for workplace fatal injuries detailed in this report.
- The list in respect of 2013/14 names and details is at www.hse.gov.uk/foi/fatalities/2013-14.htm.

National Statistics

The fatal injuries figures in this report are National Statistics

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

An account of how the figures are used for statistical purposes can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm .

For information regarding the quality guidelines used for statistics within HSE see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/quality-guidelines.htm

A revisions policy and log can be seen at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/.htm

Additional data tables can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/.

Additional data tables of fatal and non-fatal RIDDOR injury statistics can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm#riddor

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