

Kinds of accident statistics in Great Britain, 2018

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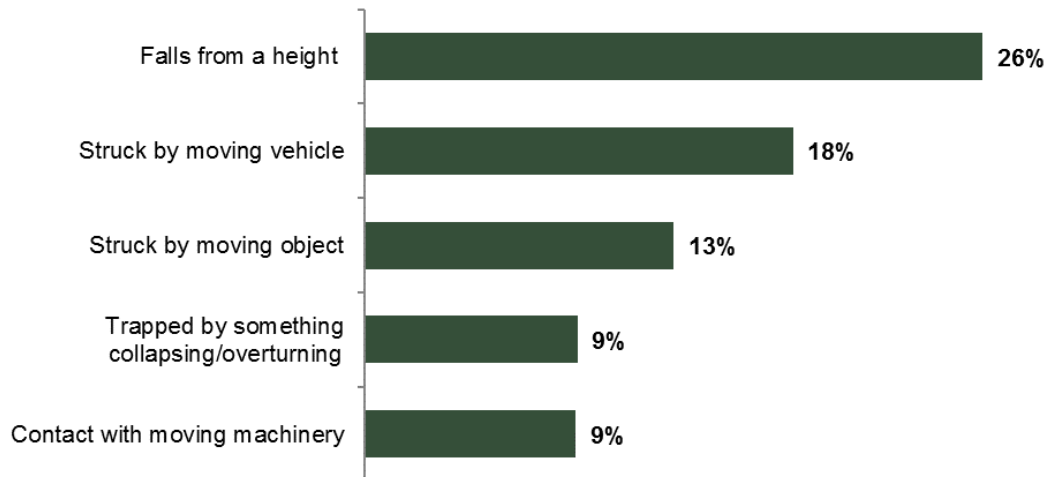


Summary

The document can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/kinds-of-accident.pdf

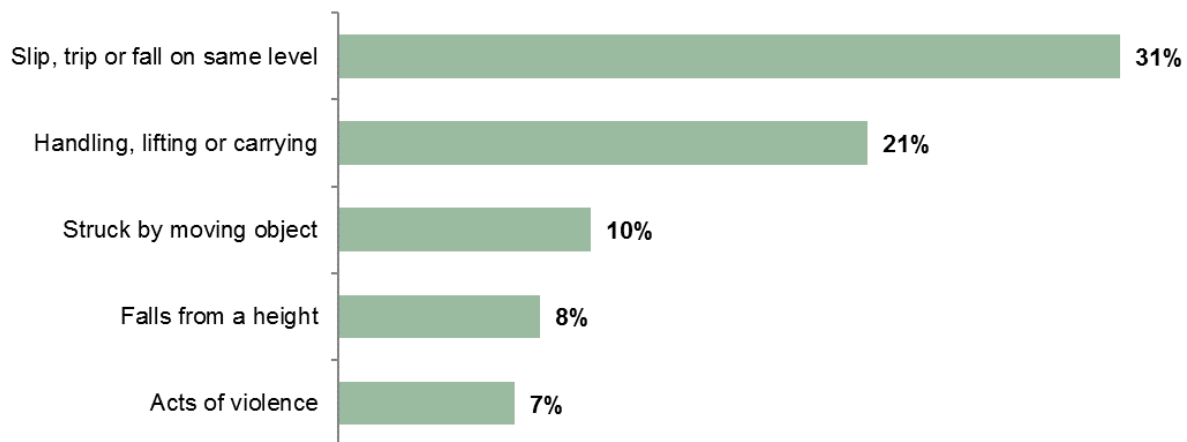
Fatal injuries to workers by most common accident kinds

(Source: RIDDOR, 2013/14-2017/18p)



Non-fatal injuries to employees by most common accident kinds

(Source: RIDDOR 2017/18p)



Note:

RIDDOR: Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations

A five-year period has been used for the breakdown of fatal injuries by accident kind. This is because the number of fatalities for some accident kinds is relatively small, hence susceptible to considerable variation. The five-year picture gives a more stable picture of fatal injuries by accident kind.

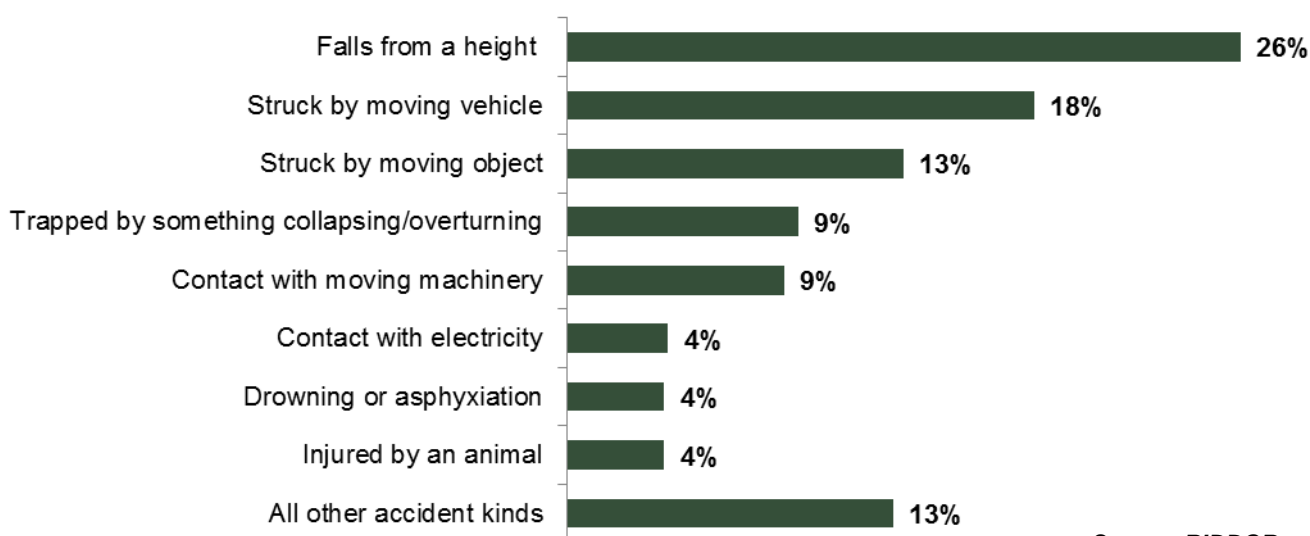
The charts above show those accident kinds that contribute to 5% or more of the total.

Introduction

In 2017/18, 144 workers¹ were killed at work. In addition an estimated 555,000 workers sustained non-fatal injuries, according to self-reports. Certain workplace non-fatal injuries (generally the more serious) require reporting by employers to the Enforcing Authorities under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (those that result in more than 7 days absence from work or specified on a pre-defined list of injuries)²: there were 71,062 such reported incidents to employees in 2017/18 (although it is known that RIDDOR defined non-fatal injuries to employees are substantially under-reported by employers, with current levels of reporting estimated at around a half). Despite long term reductions in the number of workers injured each year, the kinds of accident profile remains similar year on year.

Fatal injuries

Figure 1: Fatal injuries to workers by accident kind, 2013/14-2017/18p^{3,4}



Source: **RIDDOR**

- Almost half of the fatal injuries to workers over the last five years were accounted for by just two different accident kinds – falls from a height and being struck by a moving vehicle.
 - Falls from a height accounted for 26% of all fatal injuries (an average of 37 fatal injuries per year).
 - Half of all fall from height deaths over the last five years were in the construction sector (annual average 19 per year).
 - Struck by a moving vehicle accounted for 18% of all fatal injuries (an average of 26 fatal injuries per year).
 - Around a quarter of deaths over the last five years from being struck by a moving vehicle were in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (annual average of seven per year). On average there were five such deaths per year in the transport and storage sector, and three per year in construction over this five-year period.
- Of the deaths in the 'All other accident kinds' category (average of 18 deaths per year), there were:
 - An average of two deaths per year for each of slips, trips or falls on same level, exposure to fire and exposure to an explosion.
 - An annual average of one death per year from strike against something fixed or stationary, handling, lifting or carrying accidents, from being exposed to harmful substances and from acts of violence.
 - The remaining deaths were categorised as 'other kind of accident'.

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

² See www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf for more details of what is reportable

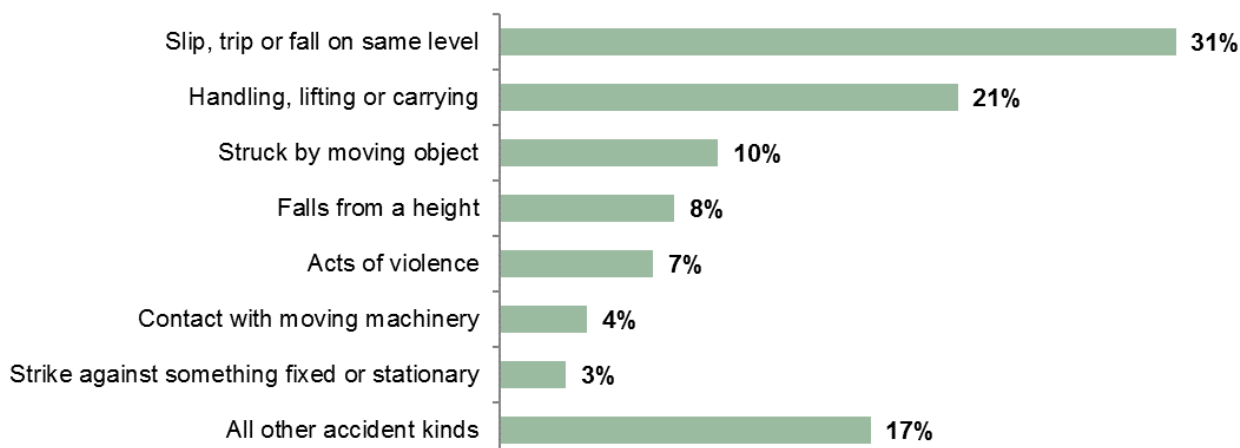
³ A five-year period has been used for the breakdown of fatal injuries by accident kind. This is because the number of fatalities for some accident kinds is relatively small, hence susceptible to considerable variation. The five-year picture gives a more stable picture of fatal injuries by accident kind. (There was a total of 704 fatal injuries over this period, an annual average of 141).

⁴ Fatal injury numbers for 2017/18 at this stage provisional and will be finalised summer 2019.

Non-fatal injuries

The profile of non-fatal injuries by accident kind differs quite markedly to the profile of fatal injuries.

Figure 2: Non-fatal injuries to employees (as reported by employers) by accident kind, 2017/18⁵



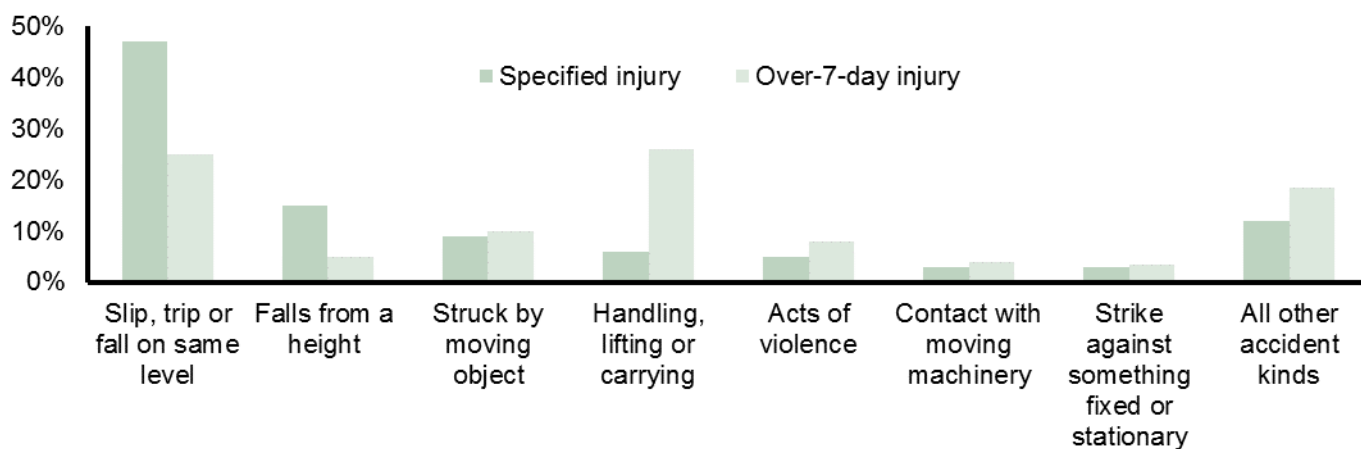
Source: **RIDDOR**

- Over half of all employer reported non-fatal injuries to employees in 2017/18 were accounted for by just two different accident kinds (similar to earlier years); slip trip or fall on same level accidents (31%) and handling, lifting or carrying accidents (21%). In contrast, these two accident kinds accounted for only 2% of fatal injuries to workers over the period 2013/14-2017/18.
 - This picture is broadly similar across all the main industry sectors.
- Falls from a height, the most common cause of fatal injury to workers over the last five years, accounted for 8% of employer reported non-fatal injuries in 2017/18 (a similar proportion to earlier years).
 - There is some variation by industry sector, with the proportion of non-fatal injuries accounted for by falls from a height highest in Construction (18% in 2017/18).

RIDDOR defines two categories of reportable non-fatal injuries: specified⁶ (a pre-defined list of injuries); and injuries resulting in over-7-days absence from work. Fractures (other than to fingers, thumbs or toes) is the biggest specified injury category accounting for around 90% of all reported specified injuries in 2017/18.

Given the dominance of fractures to the specified injury category, not surprisingly there is some variation in accident kind between specified injuries and over-7-day injuries, as shown in figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Percentage of (i) Specified injuries and (ii) Over-7-day injuries to employees accounted for by different accident kinds, 2017/18p



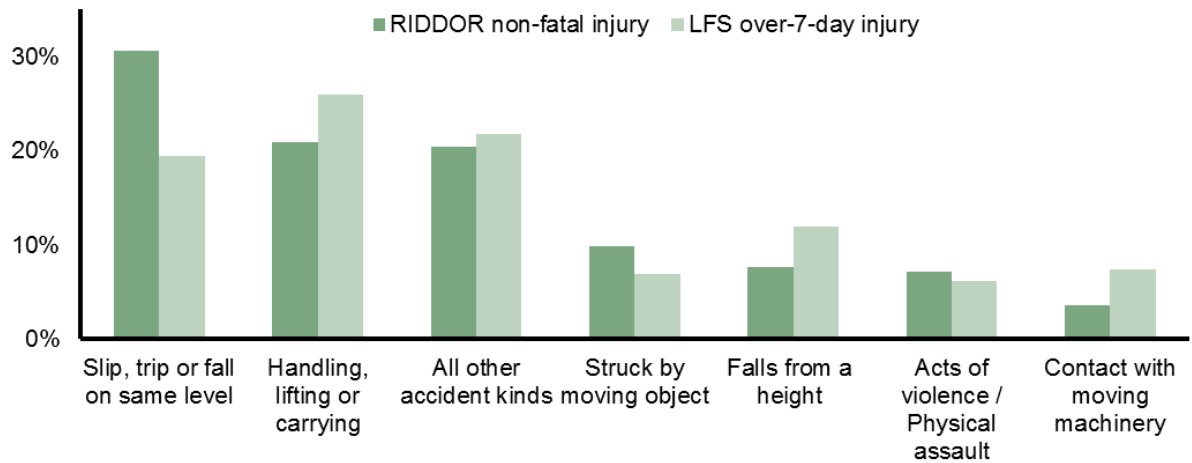
Source: **RIDDOR**

⁵ Numbers for 2017/18 are at this stage provisional and will be finalised in autumn 2019

⁶ see www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf

Information on the distribution of non-fatal injuries by accident kind is also available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Figure 4 below shows the accident kind distribution for over-7-day injuries to workers from the LFS as compared with the accident kind distribution for RIDDOR non-fatal injuries to employees. Both sources present a similar picture in terms of the relative importance of different non-fatal accident kinds.

Figure 4: Percentage of non-fatal injuries accounted for by different accident kinds based on (i) Self-reported over-7-day injuries to workers from the LFS and (ii) RIDDOR non-fatal injuries to employees



Source: *RIDDOR 2017/18p, Labour Force Survey, annual average 2015/16-2017/18*

Annex 1: Sources and definitions used

The Labour Force Survey (LFS): The LFS is a national survey run by the Office for National Statistics of currently around 38,000 households each quarter. HSE commissions annual questions in the LFS to gain a view of work-related illness and workplace injury based on individuals' perceptions. The analysis and interpretation of these data are the sole responsibility of HSE. See www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/technicalnote.htm for more details.

- **Self-reported injuries:** Workplace injuries sustained as a result of a non-road traffic accident, as estimated by the LFS.

RIDDOR: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (as amended), under which fatal and defined non-fatal injuries to workers and members of the public are reported by employers.

Certain types of work-related injury are not reportable under RIDDOR, hence excluded from these figures. Particular exclusions include fatalities and injuries to the armed forces and injuries from work-related road collisions.

For more information, see www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm.

Annex 2: Links to detailed tables

The data in this report can be found in the following tables:

Employer-reported non-fatal injuries by kind of accident and broad industry group (RIDDOR)

RIDKIND www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridkind.xlsx.

This table allows you to flexibly view the data. For example, you can view the accident kinds for a specific industry (such as construction) or you can look at a particular accident kind (such as falls from a height) and see the percentage contribution that accident kind makes to the total injury count for each industry.

Employer-reported non-fatal injuries by nature of injury (RIDDOR)

RIDNAT www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridnat.xlsx.

Self-reported non-fatal injuries by accident kind

lfsinjknd www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/lfsinjknd.xlsx.

Other tables can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm

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It is Health and Safety Executive's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected by National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the OSR promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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

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

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