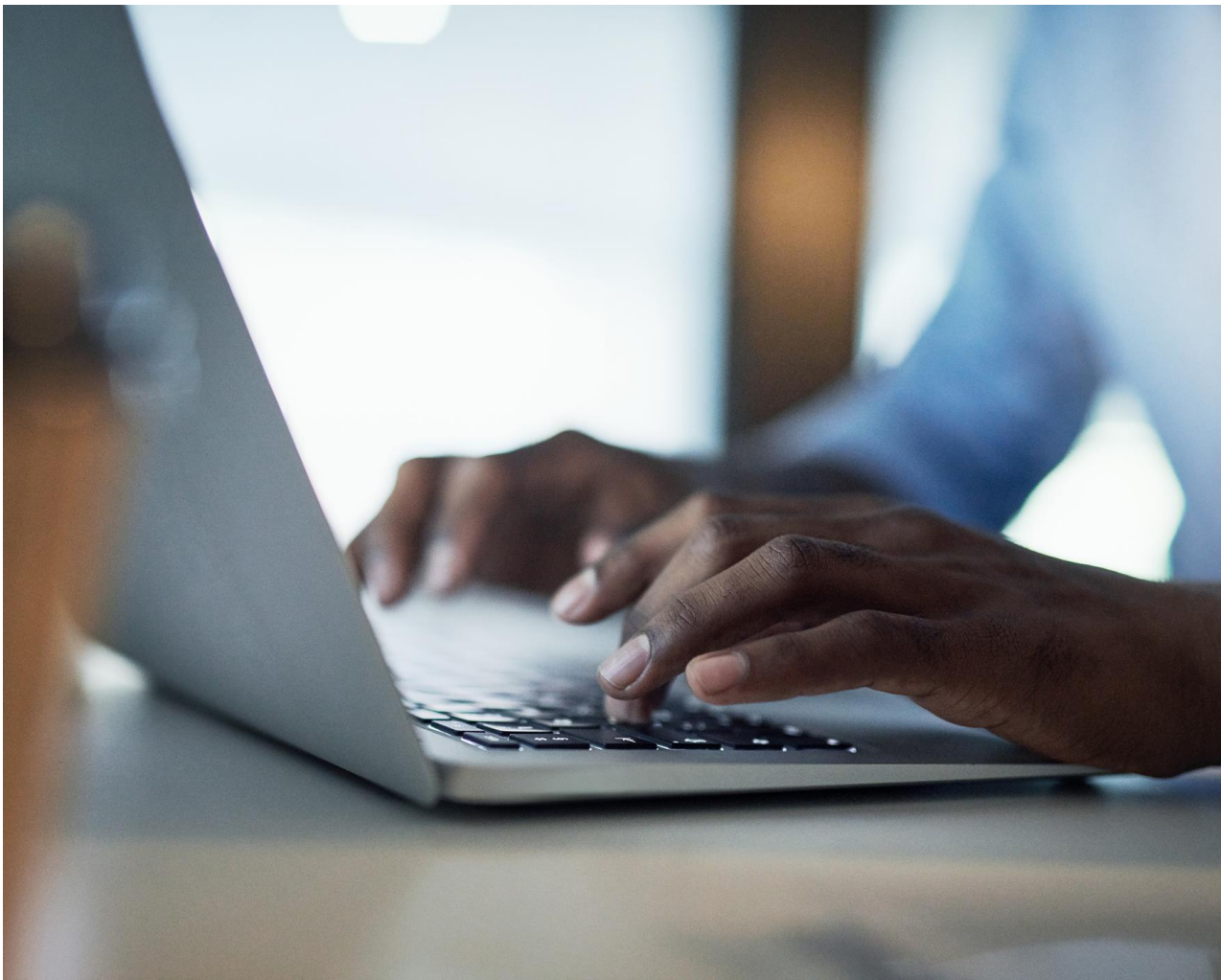


# Kind of accident statistics in Great Britain, 2021

Data up to March 2021

Annual statistics

Published 16th December 2021





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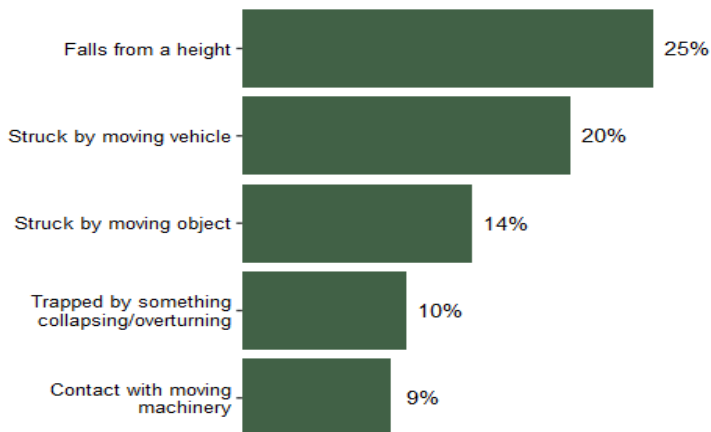
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## Summary

This document can be found at: [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/kinds-of-accident.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causinj/kinds-of-accident.pdf).

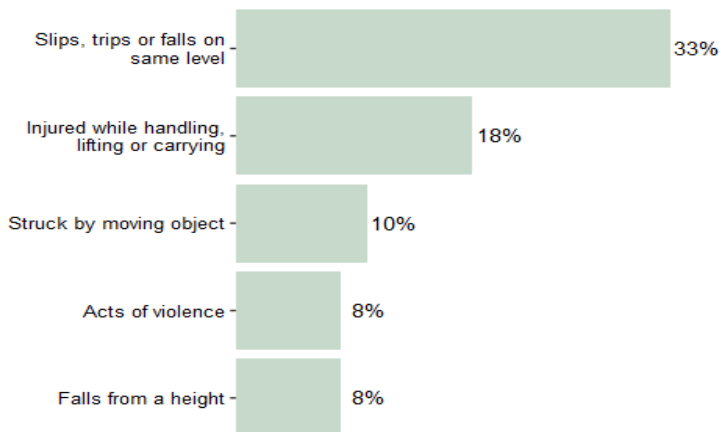
### Fatal injuries to workers by most common accident kinds

Source: RIDDOR 2016/17-2020/21



### Non-fatal injuries to employees by most common accident kinds

Source: RIDDOR 2020/21



**Note:** RIDDOR: Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations. Injury numbers for 2020/21 are at this stage provisional and will be finalised during 2022.

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 2020/21, 142 workers<sup>1</sup> were killed at work. In addition, an estimated 441,000 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 seven days absence from work or specified on a pre-defined list of injuries)<sup>2</sup>. There were 51,211 such reported incidents to employees in 2020/21 (although it is known that RIDDOR defined non-fatal injuries to employees are substantially under reported by employers, with estimates showing the reporting level at around a half). Despite long-term reductions in the number of workers injured each year, the kind of accident profile remains similar year on year.

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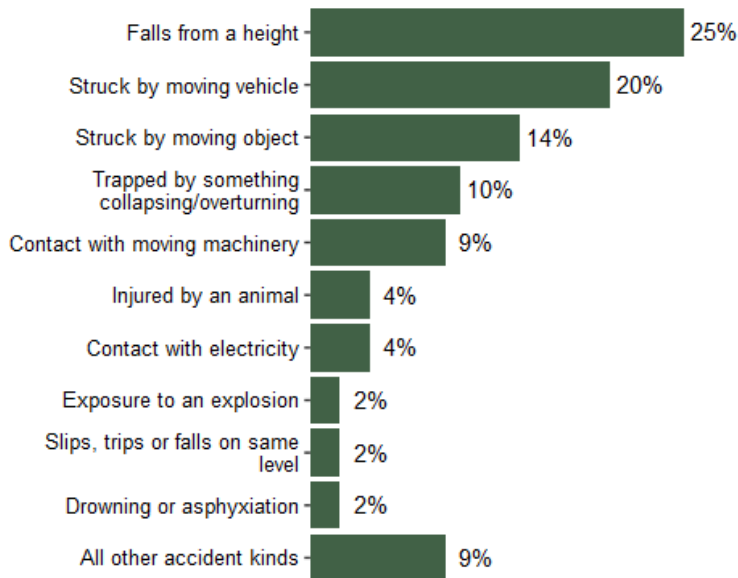
<sup>1</sup> The term 'worker' includes employees and the self-employed combined.

<sup>2</sup> For more details on what is reportable, see [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf).

# Fatal injuries

**Figure 1: Fatal injuries to workers by accident kinds, 2016/17-2020/21<sup>3,4</sup>**

Source: *RIDDOR*



Forty-five percent 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 struck by moving vehicle.

- Falls from a height accounted for 25% of all fatal injuries (an average of 34 fatal injuries per year).
  - 53% of all fatal injuries due to falls from a height were in the construction sector (annual average 18 per year)
- Struck by moving vehicle accounted for 20% of all fatal injuries (an average of 27 fatal injuries per year).
  - 32% of all struck by moving vehicle fatal injuries over the last five years were in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (annual average 9 per year). A further 19% of deaths were in the transportation and storage sector (annual average of 5 per year)

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<sup>3</sup> 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 were a total of 680 fatal injuries over this period, an annual average of 136.)

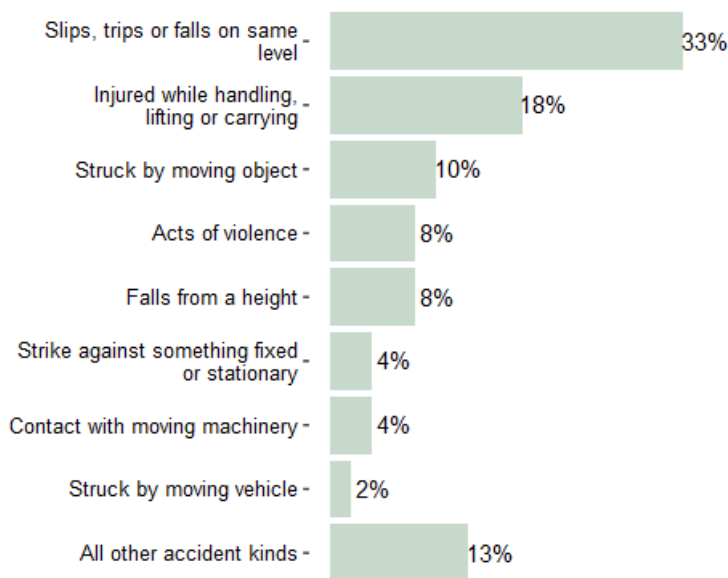
<sup>4</sup> Fatal injury numbers for 2020/21 are at this stage provisional and will be finalised in summer 2022.

## 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, 2020/21<sup>5</sup>**

Source: RIDDOR



- Fifty-one percent of all employer reported non-fatal injuries to employees were accounted for by just two different accident kinds: slips, trips or falls on same level (33%) and injured while handling, lifting or carrying (18%). By contrast, these two accident kinds accounted for 3% of fatal injuries to workers over the period 2016/17-2020/21.
- Falls from a height, the most common cause of fatal injury to workers in recent years, accounted for 8% of employee reported non-fatal injuries in 2020/21.
- While there is some variation in employer reported accident kinds to employees by industry sector, slips, trips or falls on the same level was the most common reported non-fatal accident kind across all broad industry sectors in 2020/21.

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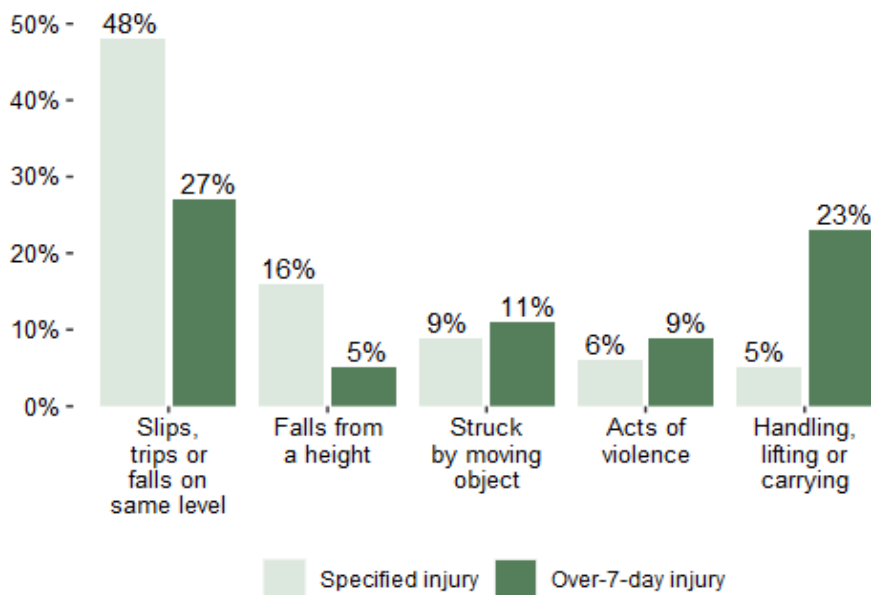
<sup>5</sup> Numbers for 2020/21 are at this stage provisional and will be finalised in autumn 2022.

RIDDOR defines two categories of reportable non-fatal injuries: specified<sup>6</sup> (a predefined list of injuries); and injuries resulting in over-7-days absence from work. Fracture (other than to fingers, thumbs, or toes) is the biggest specified injury category accounting for 91% of all reported specified injuries in 2020/21.

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, 2020/21**

Source: RIDDOR



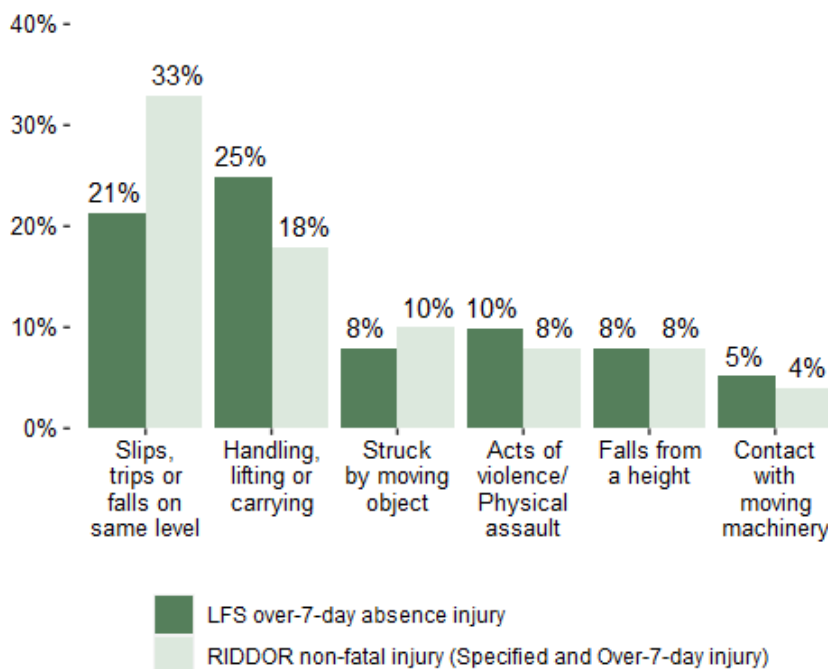
<sup>6</sup> See [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg453.pdf).



Information on the distribution of non-fatal injuries by accident kind is also available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), based on self-reports from workers. Figure 4 below shows the accident kind distribution for over-7-day absence injuries to workers from the LFS as compared with the accident kind distribution for RIDDOR reported non-fatal injuries to employees (which includes specified injuries as well as over-7-day injuries to employees). Despite slightly different coverage (the LFS estimate is for workers including the self-employed RIDDOR data covers employees only; RIDDOR data includes reported specified injuries, some of which may not have resulted in more than 7-days absence from work), 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 absence injuries to workers from the LFS and (ii) RIDDOR non-fatal injuries to employees**

*Source: RIDDOR 2020/21, Labour Force Survey, annual average 2018/19-2020/21*



## Annex 1: Sources and definitions

**The Labour Force Survey (LFS):** The LFS is a national survey run by the Office for National Statistics of currently around 37,000 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. For more details, see [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm).

- *Self-reported injuries:* Workplace injuries sustained as a result of a non-road traffic accident, as estimated by the LFS. Over 7-day absence injuries include all those with more than 7 consecutive (working and non-working) days away from work (not counting the day on which the accident happened).

**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. RIDDOR requires employers to report certain workplace non-fatal injuries, generally the more serious (those that result in more than 7 days absence from work or specified on a pre-defined list of injuries). It is known that employers substantially under-report these non-fatal injuries: the level of overall employer reporting of RIDDOR defined non-fatal injuries to employees is estimated at around a half.

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](http://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:

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

See RIDKIND [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridkind.xlsx](http://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.

**For employer-reported non-fatal injuries by nature of injury (RIDDOR):**

See RIDNAT [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridnat.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ridnat.xlsx).

**For self-reported non-fatal injuries by accident kind:**

See lfsinjknd [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/lfsinjknd.xlsx](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/lfsinjknd.xlsx).

**Other tables can be found at:** [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm).

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National Statistics status means that statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. They are produced in compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and awarded National Statistics status following assessment and compliance checks by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). The last compliance check of these statistics was in 2013.

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An account of how the figures are used for statistical purposes can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm](http://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](http://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/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/)  
Additional data tables can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/).

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