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# Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2016/17



# Key points 2016/17(p)

## Number of deaths:

- Thirty people were killed in agriculture: one more than last year, but two less than the five-year average
- One child was killed

## Age:

- Around half of the workers killed were over 65
- The youngest person killed was 3 and the oldest was 80

## Main cause:

- Whilst categories fluctuate year by year the five main causes of death are:
  - Struck by farm vehicles
  - Trapped by something collapsing
  - Struck by an object
  - Contact with electricity
  - Falling from height

**30** people killed

**32** Annual average over the last five years



Killed when struck by farm vehicles

Incidents included tractors, trailers, telescopic handlers, ATVs



Killed when trapped by something collapsing

Incidents included machinery supported by lifting equipment, parts of a building



Killed when struck by objects

Incidents included bales, tree branches, equipment



Killed by contact with electricity

Incidents involved overhead power lines



Killed by falling from height

Incidents involved roofing work



Killed by animals

Incidents involved cattle



Killed by contact with machinery

Incident involved a PTO (power take-off) shaft



Killed by asphyxiation

Incident in a grain silo



Killed when struck against something fixed

Crushed between machine and a door frame

source: RIDDOR

This information is also available as a poster at [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources.htm)

# Main causes of death 2016/17<sup>(p)</sup> compared with 5-year annual average

**30%**  
Transport related

**20%**  
Trapped by something collapsing

**17%**  
Struck by an object

**10%**  
Contact with electricity

**7%**  
Fall from a height

**7%**  
Injured by an animal

2016/17 figures (p)

Main causes of death (2016/17(p))



Main causes of death: 5-year average (2012/13–2016/17(p))



Vehicle-related activities consistently lead to more deaths than any other category.

In addition, half the workers killed by something collapsing were taking part in activities involving vehicles and machinery

Being killed by an animal is the 2nd highest cause of death when looking at the annual average

# Injury rates over time

Agriculture has the worst rate of worker fatal injury (per 100,000) in the main industrial sectors: **18 times higher** than the All Industry rate

## 7.61

Injury rate 2016/17(p)

## 8.44

Injury rate (annual average over 5 years)

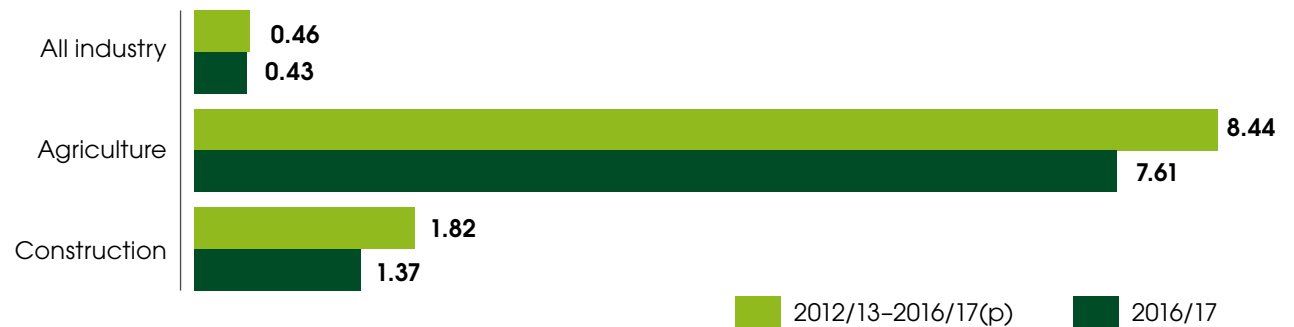
Agriculture's injury rate (2016/17(p)) is nearly **6 times higher** than construction's.

### Injury rates over last 35 years

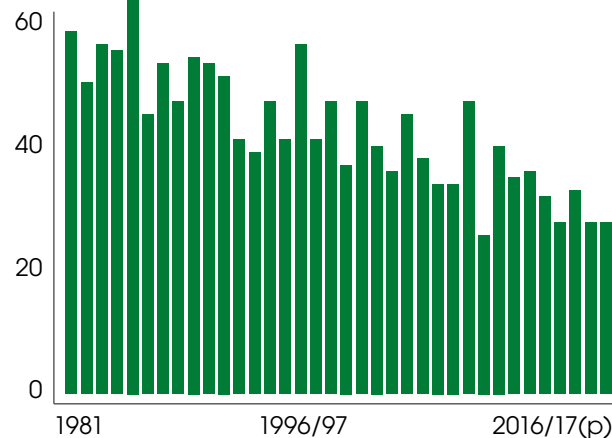
The total number of fatal accidents is falling over time.

Over the last 35 years the fatal injury rate for agricultural workers has shown no clear trend, although there are some signs of improvement in the last 5 years

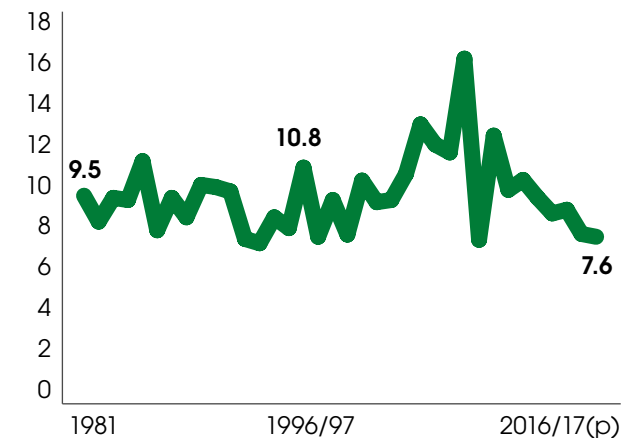
Rate of fatal injury to workers (per 100,000) in Agriculture and Construction compared to All Industry group (2016/17(p)) and average (2012/13–2016/17(p))



Number of fatal injuries to workers over a 35-year period (1981/82–2016/17(p))



Fatal injury rate (per 100,000) to workers over a 35-year period (1981/82–2016/17(p))



# Detailed cause of fatal injury 2016/17(p)

**9 (30%)**

**Transport (overturning vehicles or struck/hit by moving vehicle)**



- 4 Tractors, trailers including farm equipment
- 2 All-terrain vehicle (ATVs)
- 2 Telescopic handler
- 1 Digger

**6 (20%)**

**Trapped by something collapsing**



- 2 Vehicles supported by lifting equipment
- 1 Planter attached to a tractor
- 1 Bale of straw/hay
- 1 Wall and a door
- 1 Concrete panel

**5 (17%)**

**Struck by moving, falling or flying object**



- 2 Bales of straw/hay
- 1 Vehicle tailgate
- 1 Hedge cutter
- 1 Tree

**3 (10%)**

**Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge**



- 3 Overhead electricity power line (OHPL)

**2 (7%)**

**Fell from a height**



- 2 Fragile roofs/roof edge

**2 (7%)**

**Injured by an animal**



- 2 Cattle

**1 (3%)**

**Contact with moving machinery**



- 1 Power take-off (PTO)

**1 (3%)**

**Asphyxiation**



- 1 Grain

**1 (3%)**

**Struck against something fixed or stationary**



- 1 Mini-digger and door frame

Total **30** people killed

# Detailed cause of fatal injury (2012/13–2016/17)

**38 (24%)**

**Transport - overturning vehicles or struck by moving vehicle**



- 16** Tractors, trailers including farm equipment
- 13** All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- 8** Telescopic handler
- 1** From transport of any other kind

**18 (11%)**

**Struck by an object**



- 7** Trees/tree branches
- 5** Bales of straw/hay
- 6** Other equipment or parts of machinery

**10 (6%)**

**Trapped by something collapsing**



- 3** Vehicles, machinery and equipment
- 3** Excavations, drainage ditches etc
- 2** Parts of buildings or structures
- 2** Other

**28 (17%)**

**Injured by an animal**



- 7** Bull
- 21** Cattle

**16 (10%)**

**Contact with machinery**



- 5** Vehicles including attached machinery: combine harvesters; wagon feeders etc
- 10** Other powered machines: PTOs, hay turning machines, balers, silo sweep augers etc
- 1** Chainsaw

**6 (4%)**

**Contact with electricity**



- 5** Overhead Power Lines (OHPL)
- 1** Other electric contact

**27 (16%)**

**Fell from a height**



- 15** Fragile roof
- 3** Ladders
- 2** Silage clamp/pit
- 7** Other means of access

**12 (7%)**

**Drowned or asphyxiated**



- 5** Ponds, slurry lagoon or slurry pits/tanks
- 4** Grain bins or silos
- 3** Other including oxygen-reduced stores

**7 (4%)**

**Other categories including exposure to a fire; slip, trip or fall on same level; struck something fixed etc**



source: Operational intelligence

# Age of workers killed in agriculture during 2016/17(p) compared against 5-year average and rates

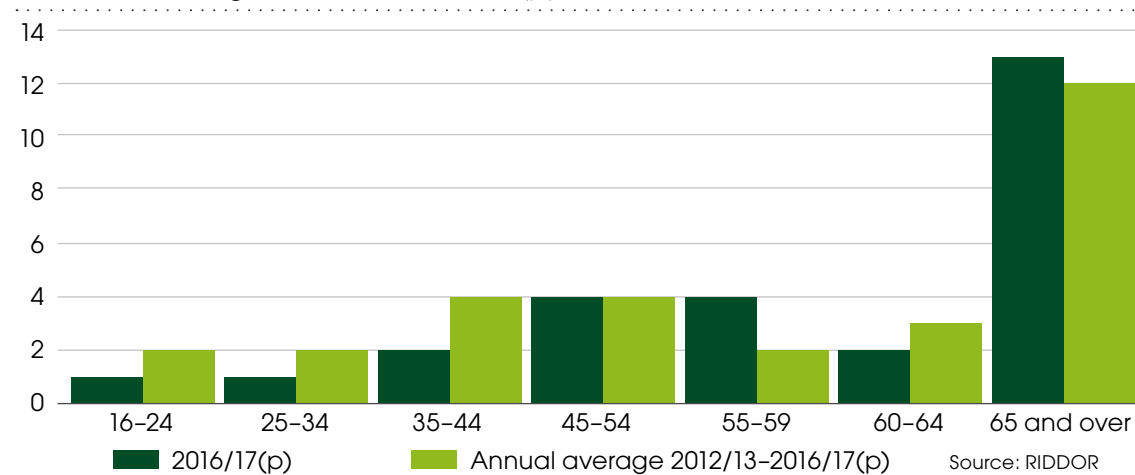
## During 2016/17(p)

Nearly half of all workers killed in agriculture were over 65 (13 out of 27 deaths)

Compared to younger age groups the fatal injury rate is:

- twice as high in the 60-64 age group
- four times as high in workers aged 65 and over

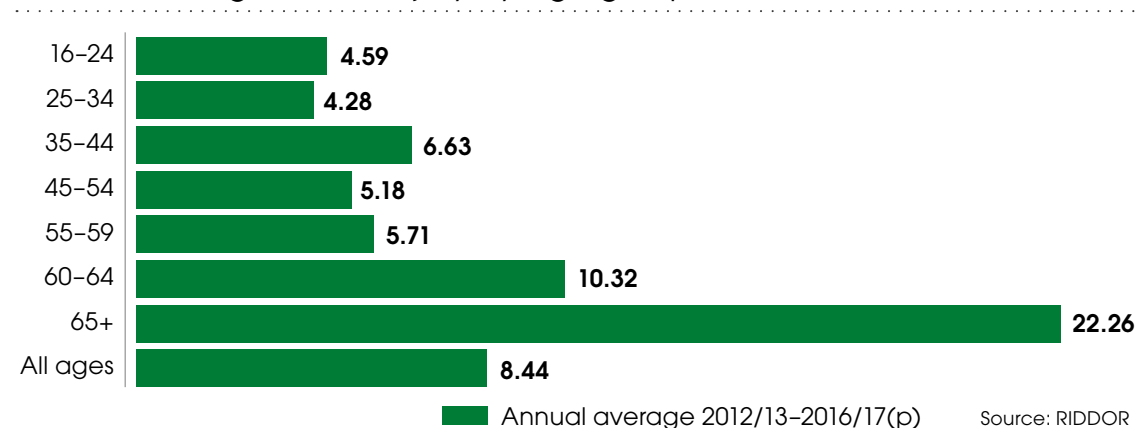
Age of workers killed in agriculture during 2016/17(p) and annual average 2012/13-2016/17(p)



More than 85% of workers killed were over the age of 45

The youngest worker was 18 years old and the oldest was 80 years.

Annual average rate of injury by age group



# Employment status

**30**

Deaths in 2016/17

**20**

self employed

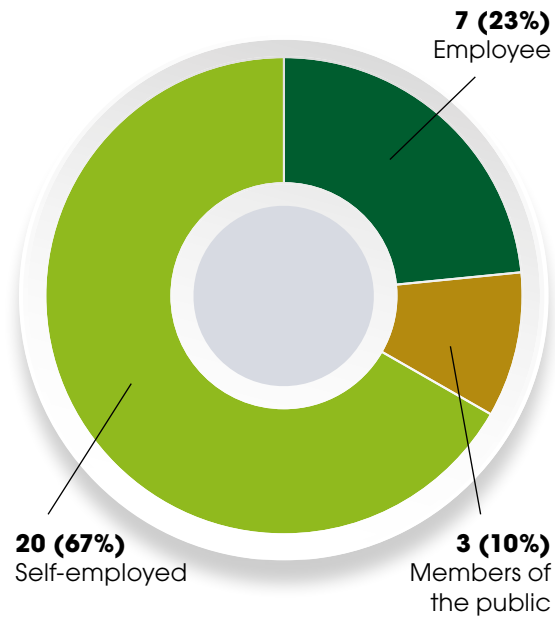
**7**

employed

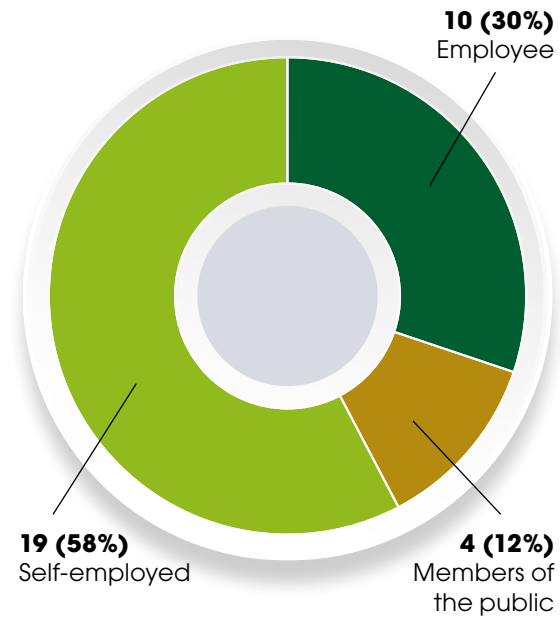
**3**

members of the public

Employment status in 2016/17



Employment status average over a 5-year period from 2012/13–2016/17(p)



The total of 27 worker deaths is the same as last year but two less than the 5-year average.

### Children

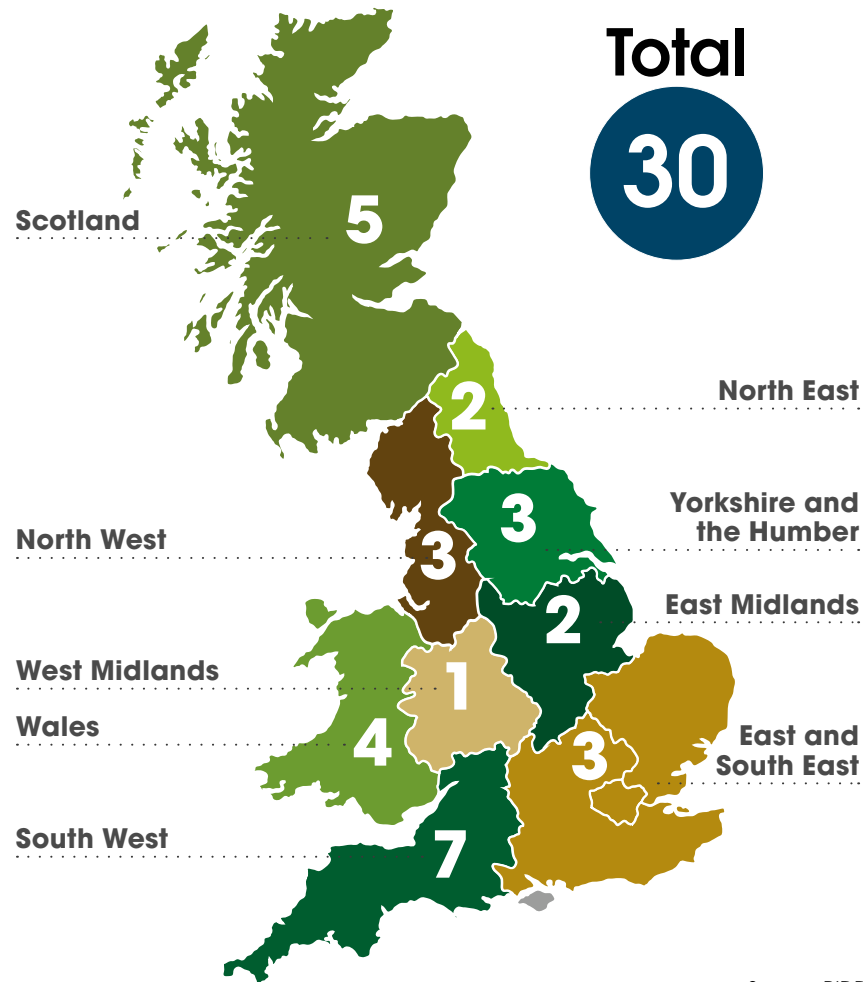
Of the three members of the public killed in 2016/17(p) one was a three year-old child. This was the first child death for three years, bringing the total to four child deaths over the last 5 years.

Further details can be found in the tables at [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm)



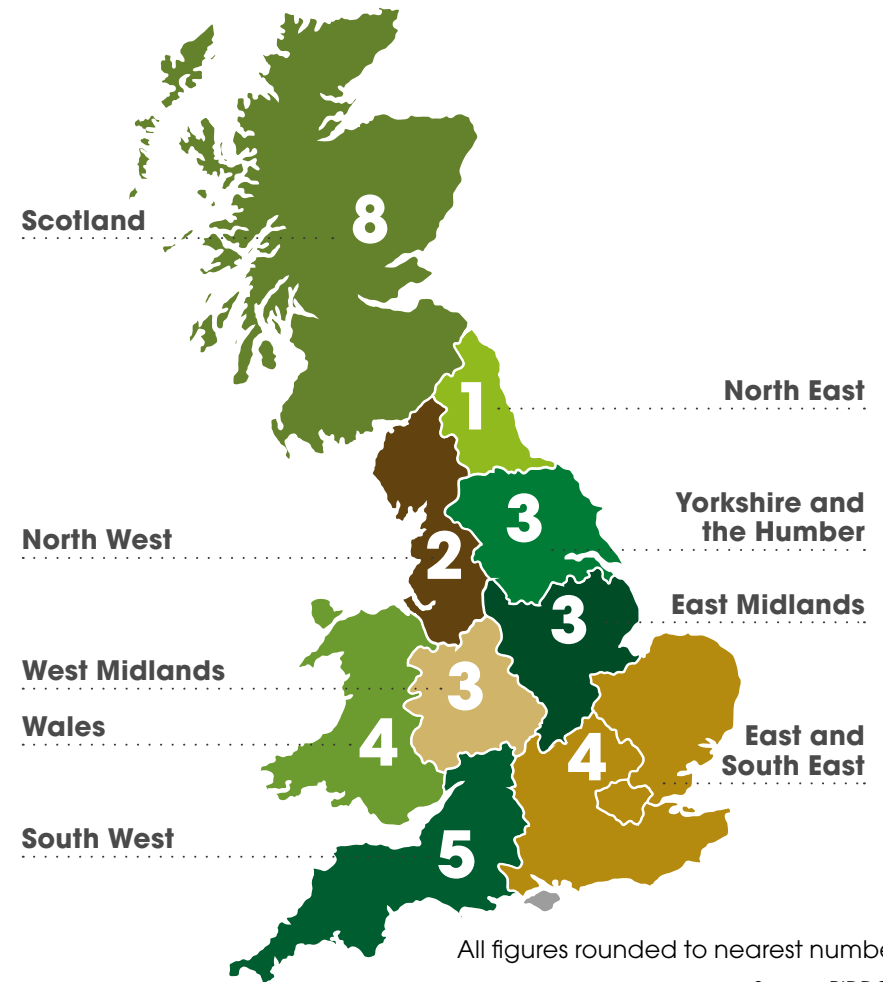
# Number of fatal injuries by geographical area

Total number in 2016/17(p)



Source: RIDDOR

Annual average from 2012/13–2016/17(p)



All figures rounded to nearest number

Source: RIDDOR

# Additional data sources, definitions and presentation of statistics in this report

1 This report summarises fatal workplace injuries in agriculture<sup>1</sup> in Great Britain in 2016/17 and makes comparison with the five-year average (2012/13 to 2016/17), the primary determinant of inclusion being RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). Work-related deaths excluded from these statistics are mainly of two types: fatal diseases, and fatal injuries involving workers travelling on a public highway (a 'road traffic accident').

2 The figures for 2016/17 are provisional, covering the 12 months from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, and will be finalised in July 2018 following any necessary adjustments. Based on previous years, the provisional 2016/17 fatality figure could increase or decrease slightly when finalised.

3 Statistics in this report are produced in line with the code of practice for official statistics. Fatal incident statistics are published for all industrial sectors annually (usually early July), at which time the provisional figures for the 12 months to the end of the previous March are published and the figures for the preceding year are finalised.

4 Statistical data in this report has been supplemented by factual detail gathered during HSE's investigative work.

5 HSE's Statistics Branch and staff in HSE's industry-specific sectors use data of this kind to work out patterns of incident causation, trends and incidence rates. This helps HSE prioritise and devise effective interventions with particular industry sectors and types of businesses.

6 The number of fatal injuries in the agriculture sector each year continues to be

a cause of concern for HSE, the Farm Safety Partnerships (FSP) in England, Scotland and Wales, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) and the industry itself.

7 HSE's agriculture strategy has been developed to address the hazards and risks in the industry, defined as traditional farming activities such as arable, dairy, livestock and mixed farming, growing fruit and vegetables, forestry, production horticulture, aquaculture, agricultural and animal husbandry services.

Summaries of the circumstances of the individual fatal injuries can be read on HSE's agriculture webpage [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm).

Detailed data and tables can be seen at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm).

**If you have any queries about this report, contact: The Health and Safety Executive's Agriculture Team ([agriculture@hse.gov.uk](mailto:agriculture@hse.gov.uk)).**

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<sup>1</sup> Agriculture SIC 2007 classification comprises farming; horticulture; crop and animal production; hunting and related service activities; forestry and logging; fish farming and aquaculture.

# Further advice

Current guidance on health and safety in agriculture is available at [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture)

This report is available at [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm)

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