

21 August 2020 | 1100 hrs | 136/2020

The number of claims in respect of non-fatal accidents at work in the first half of 2020 decreased by 471, or 29.8 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Three fatal accidents at work were reported in the first half of 2020.

Accidents at Work: January-June 2020

Administrative records show that 1,108 persons were involved in a non-fatal accident at work in the first six months of 2020.

The majority of these non-fatal accidents occurred in the construction sector (16.7 per cent). Another 171 or 15.4 per cent of the accidents occurred in the manufacturing sector followed by the transportation and storage sector (153 or 13.8 per cent). When compared to the same period in 2019, the number of accidents decreased by 84 in the manufacturing sector and increased by 10 in real estate activities (Table 1).

The largest share of accidents at work during the reference period involved persons working in elementary occupations followed by workers in the craft and related trades (Table 2).

Almost half (44.4 per cent) of the injuries at work affected the upper extremities of the body, such as the fingers and hands (Table 4). Wounds and superficial injuries, and dislocations, sprains and strains were the most common types of injuries, amounting to 674 and 258 cases respectively (Table 5).

In the first half of 2020, 27.0 per cent of the accidents at work took place in enterprises with 50-249 employees (Table 7).

In 2019, 1,287 non-fatal accidents per 100,000 employed persons were reported. The highest standardised incidence rate of non-fatal accidents at work was recorded in manufacturing followed by construction and transportation and storage (Table 9).

Fatal accidents

Between January and June 2020, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) reported three fatal accidents at work, at par with the corresponding period of 2019. The total number of fatal accidents in 2019 amounted to three ■

Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Table 1. Non-fatal accidents at work by economic activity of enterprise

Economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	2019 (revised)						January-June 2019 (revised)						January-June 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	42	1.7	1	0.1	43	1.3	22	1.8	1	0.3	23	1.5	11	1.2	1	0.5	12	1.1
Mining and quarrying	7	0.3	-	-	7	0.2	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	480	19.0	51	7.0	531	16.3	233	19.1	22	6.1	255	16.1	155	17.1	16	7.9	171	15.4
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	6	0.2	-	-	6	0.2	3	0.2	-	-	3	0.2	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	100	3.9	3	0.4	103	3.2	42	3.4	2	0.6	44	2.8	37	4.1	1	0.5	38	3.4
Construction	442	17.5	3	0.4	445	13.7	222	18.2	1	0.3	223	14.1	181	20.0	4	2.0	185	16.7
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	273	10.8	54	7.4	327	10.0	133	10.9	22	6.1	155	9.8	114	12.6	19	9.4	133	12.0
Transportation and storage	361	14.3	54	7.4	415	12.7	185	15.2	26	7.2	211	13.4	138	15.2	15	7.4	153	13.8
Accommodation and food service activities	182	7.2	83	11.4	265	8.1	95	7.8	36	10.0	131	8.3	45	5.0	13	6.4	58	5.2
Information and communication	22	0.9	2	0.3	24	0.7	9	0.7	1	0.3	10	0.6	8	0.9	2	1.0	10	0.9
Financial and insurance activities	19	0.8	9	1.2	28	0.9	11	0.9	3	0.8	14	0.9	4	0.4	2	1.0	6	0.5
Real estate activities	6	0.2	4	0.6	10	0.3	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.1	12	1.3	-	-	12	1.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	37	1.5	9	1.2	46	1.4	12	1.0	4	1.1	16	1.0	22	2.4	3	1.5	25	2.3
Administrative and support service activities	280	11.1	73	10.1	353	10.8	111	9.1	41	11.4	152	9.6	84	9.3	16	7.9	100	9.0
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	108	4.3	21	2.9	129	4.0	58	4.8	12	3.3	70	4.4	33	3.6	12	5.9	45	4.1
Education	28	1.1	54	7.4	82	2.5	13	1.1	29	8.1	42	2.7	7	0.8	17	8.4	24	2.2
Human health and social work activities	84	3.3	287	39.5	371	11.4	46	3.8	150	41.8	196	12.4	38	4.2	80	39.6	118	10.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	14	0.6	4	0.6	18	0.6	8	0.7	4	1.1	12	0.8	4	0.4	1	0.5	5	0.5
Other service activities	21	0.8	12	1.7	33	1.0	7	0.6	5	1.4	12	0.8	7	0.8	-	-	7	0.6
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	-	-	1	0.1	1	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Not specified	20	0.8	1	0.1	21	0.6	7	0.6	-	-	7	0.4	3	0.3	-	-	3	0.3
Total	2,532	100.0	726	100.0	3,258	100.0	1,220	100.0	359	100.0	1,579	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0

Table 2. Non-fatal accidents at work by occupation of victim

Occupations (ISCO-08)	2019 (revised)						January-June 2019 (revised)						January-June 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed forces	23	0.9	2	0.3	25	0.8	11	0.9	1	0.3	12	0.8	4	0.4	-	-	4	0.4
Managers	21	0.8	6	0.8	27	0.8	11	0.9	1	0.3	12	0.8	10	1.1	4	2.0	14	1.3
Professionals	69	2.7	101	13.9	170	5.2	31	2.5	56	15.6	87	5.5	32	3.5	37	18.3	69	6.2
Technicians and associate professionals	302	11.9	51	7.0	353	10.8	155	12.7	28	7.8	183	11.6	97	10.7	17	8.4	114	10.3
Clerical support workers	124	4.9	66	9.1	190	5.8	72	5.9	33	9.2	105	6.6	49	5.4	19	9.4	68	6.1
Service and sales workers	198	7.8	316	43.5	514	15.8	91	7.5	150	41.8	241	15.3	62	6.8	75	37.1	137	12.4
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	37	1.5	1	0.1	38	1.2	19	1.6	1	0.3	20	1.3	15	1.7	-	-	15	1.4
Craft and related trades workers	680	26.9	9	1.2	689	21.1	316	25.9	3	0.8	319	20.2	255	28.1	3	1.5	258	23.3
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	343	13.5	31	4.3	374	11.5	163	13.4	16	4.5	179	11.3	149	16.4	13	6.4	162	14.6
Elementary occupations	735	29.0	143	19.7	878	26.9	351	28.8	70	19.5	421	26.7	233	25.7	34	16.8	267	24.1
Total	2,532	100.0	726	100.0	3,258	100.0	1,220	100.0	359	100.0	1,579	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0

Table 3. Non-fatal accidents at work by age group of victim

Age-group	2019 (revised)						January-June 2019 (revised)						January-June 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
15-24	221	8.7	96	13.2	317	9.7	109	8.9	36	10.0	145	9.2	62	6.8	15	7.4	77	6.9
25-34	622	24.6	204	28.1	826	25.4	300	24.6	104	29.0	404	25.6	219	24.2	46	22.8	265	23.9
35-44	713	28.2	143	19.7	856	26.3	333	27.3	67	18.7	400	25.3	239	26.4	43	21.3	282	25.5
45-54	546	21.6	156	21.5	702	21.5	259	21.2	86	24.0	345	21.8	208	23.0	46	22.8	254	22.9
55+	430	17.0	127	17.5	557	17.1	219	18.0	66	18.4	285	18.0	178	19.6	52	25.7	230	20.8
Total	2,532	100.0	726	100.0	3,258	100.0	1,220	100.0	359	100.0	1,579	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0

Table 4. Part of body injured in non-fatal accidents at work

Part of body	2019 (revised)						January-June 2019 (revised)						January-June 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Head	294	11.6	78	10.7	372	11.4	155	12.7	25	7.0	180	11.4	100	11.0	22	10.9	122	11.0
Neck, including spine and vertebra in the neck	81	3.2	29	4.0	110	3.4	40	3.3	14	3.9	54	3.4	30	3.3	10	5.0	40	3.6
Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	200	7.9	67	9.2	267	8.2	103	8.4	32	8.9	135	8.5	68	7.5	16	7.9	84	7.6
Torso and organs	114	4.5	43	5.9	157	4.8	45	3.7	26	7.2	71	4.5	42	4.6	13	6.4	55	5.0
Upper extremities	1,167	46.1	306	42.1	1,473	45.2	578	47.4	153	42.6	731	46.3	412	45.5	80	39.6	492	44.4
Lower extremities	643	25.4	187	25.8	830	25.5	284	23.3	98	27.3	382	24.2	245	27.0	57	28.2	302	27.3
Whole body and multiple sites	5	0.2	4	0.6	9	0.3	2	0.2	4	1.1	6	0.4	5	0.6	2	1.0	7	0.6
Other parts of body injured, not mentioned above	7	0.3	3	0.4	10	0.3	2	0.2	3	0.8	5	0.3	-	-	1	0.5	1	0.1
Not specified	21	0.8	9	1.2	30	0.9	11	0.9	4	1.1	15	0.9	4	0.4	1	0.5	5	0.5
Total	2,532	100.0	726	100.0	3,258	100.0	1,220	100.0	359	100.0	1,579	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0

Table 5. Non-fatal accidents at work by type of injury

Type of injury	2019 (revised)						January-June 2019 (revised)						January-June 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Wounds and superficial injuries	1,458	57.6	372	51.2	1,830	56.2	697	57.1	196	54.6	893	56.6	565	62.4	109	54.0	674	60.8
Bone fractures	299	11.8	86	11.8	385	11.8	164	13.4	44	12.3	208	13.2	106	11.7	20	9.9	126	11.4
Dislocations, sprains and strains	565	22.3	167	23.0	732	22.5	256	21.0	78	21.7	334	21.2	196	21.6	62	30.7	258	23.3
Traumatic amputations	10	0.4	-	-	10	0.3	3	0.2	-	-	3	0.2	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Concussions and internal injuries	23	0.9	18	2.5	41	1.3	10	0.8	5	1.4	15	0.9	8	0.9	2	1.0	10	0.9
Burns, scalds and frostbites	66	2.6	27	3.7	93	2.9	32	2.6	10	2.8	42	2.7	18	2.0	6	3.0	24	2.2
Poisonings and infections	17	0.7	4	0.6	21	0.6	3	0.2	-	-	3	0.2	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Drowning and asphyxiations	3	0.1	3	0.4	6	0.2	-	-	2	0.6	2	0.1	2	0.2	1	0.5	3	0.3
Effects of sound and vibration	5	0.2	12	1.7	17	0.5	1	0.1	6	1.7	7	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Effects of temperature extremes, light and radiation	3	0.1	1	0.1	4	0.1	2	0.2	1	0.3	3	0.2	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Shock	11	0.4	10	1.4	21	0.6	6	0.5	2	0.6	8	0.5	5	0.6	1	0.5	6	0.5
Multiple injuries	11	0.4	3	0.4	14	0.4	4	0.3	1	0.3	5	0.3	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2
Other specified injuries not included under other headings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.1	1	0.5	2	0.2
Not specified	61	2.4	23	3.2	84	2.6	42	3.4	14	3.9	56	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,532	100.0	726	100.0	3,258	100.0	1,220	100.0	359	100.0	1,579	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0

Table 6. Non-fatal accidents at work by district of enterprise

District ¹	2019 (revised)						January-June 2019 (revised)						January-June 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Southern Harbour	883	34.9	259	35.7	1,142	35.1	423	34.7	124	34.5	547	34.6	309	34.1	81	40.1	390	35.2
Northern Harbour	682	26.9	254	35.0	936	28.7	342	28.0	129	35.9	471	29.8	201	22.2	70	34.7	271	24.5
South Eastern	353	13.9	64	8.8	417	12.8	183	15.0	34	9.5	217	13.7	151	16.7	18	8.9	169	15.3
Western	198	7.8	47	6.5	245	7.5	76	6.2	23	6.4	99	6.3	93	10.3	10	5.0	103	9.3
Northern	364	14.4	87	12.0	451	13.8	174	14.3	40	11.1	214	13.6	134	14.8	20	9.9	154	13.9
Gozo and Comino	52	2.1	15	2.1	67	2.1	22	1.8	9	2.5	31	2.0	18	2.0	3	1.5	21	1.9
Total	2,532	100.0	726	100.0	3,258	100.0	1,220	100.0	359	100.0	1,579	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0

¹ Refer to Methodological Note 4

Table 7. Size of enterprise where non-fatal accidents occurred

Employment size	2019 (revised)						January-June 2019 (revised)						January-June 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Self-employed without employees	137	5.4	7	1.0	144	4.4	71	5.8	2	0.6	73	4.6	58	6.4	2	1.0	60	5.4
1-9 employees	225	8.9	36	5.0	261	8.0	113	9.3	19	5.3	132	8.4	85	9.4	9	4.5	94	8.5
10-49 employees	440	17.4	89	12.3	529	16.2	204	16.7	22	6.1	226	14.3	185	20.4	54	26.7	239	21.6
50-249 employees	635	25.1	164	22.6	799	24.5	330	27.0	66	18.4	396	25.1	259	28.6	40	19.8	299	27.0
250-499 employees	302	11.9	90	12.4	392	12.0	125	10.2	28	7.8	153	9.7	108	11.9	29	14.4	137	12.4
500 employees or more	771	30.5	337	46.4	1,108	34.0	372	30.5	220	61.3	592	37.5	206	22.7	67	33.2	273	24.6
Not specified	22	0.9	3	0.4	25	0.8	5	0.4	2	0.6	7	0.4	5	0.6	1	0.5	6	0.5
Total	2,532	100.0	726	100.0	3,258	100.0	1,220	100.0	359	100.0	1,579	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0

Table 8. Employment status of victim involved in non-fatal accidents

Employment status	2019 (revised)						January-June 2019 (revised)						January-June 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Self-employed	188	7.4	8	1.1	196	6.0	91	7.5	2	0.6	93	5.9	70	7.7	2	1.0	72	6.5
Full-time employee	2,263	89.4	637	87.7	2,900	89.0	1,091	89.4	321	89.4	1,412	89.4	818	90.3	178	88.1	996	89.9
Part-time employee	81	3.2	81	11.2	162	5.0	38	3.1	36	10.0	74	4.7	18	2.0	22	10.9	40	3.6
Total	2,532	100.0	726	100.0	3,258	100.0	1,220	100.0	359	100.0	1,579	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0

Table 9. Standardised non-fatal accidents at work by economic activity of enterprise¹

Economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	2019 (Revised)		
	No. of employed persons ²	No. of non-fatal accidents	Standardised Incidence Rate (per 100,000 workers)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,568	43	17
Mining and quarrying	:	7	:
Manufacturing	28,084	531	210
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	:	6	:
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2,816	103	41
Construction	16,681	445	176
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	36,598	327	129
Transportation and storage	13,047	415	164
Accommodation and food service activities	19,069	265	105
Information and communication	9,911	24	9
Financial and insurance activities	11,912	28	11
Real estate activities	2,623	10	4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	13,304	46	18
Administrative and support service activities	11,470	353	139
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	16,550	129	51
Education	23,145	82	32
Human health and social work activities	24,182	371	147
Arts, entertainment and recreation	13,111	18	7
Other service activities	5,629	33	13
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use	1,885 ^u	-	-
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	:	1	:
Not specified	-	21	-
Total	253,067	3,258	1,287

¹ Refer to methodological note 5.

² Source: Labour Force Survey Annual 2019

⋮ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Methodological Notes

1. Data on non-fatal accidents at work is provided by the Department of Social Security, while that on fatal accidents at work is given by the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA).
2. The data in this release include all cases for which an injury benefit claim form has been submitted to the Department of Social Security, irrespective of the number of days lost.
3. Revisions to the previous year's data are carried out annually upon publication of the first semester of the following year.
4. District classification:

For aggregation purposes, all localities were grouped into six districts as follows:

A. Southern Harbour

Valletta, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Cospicua, Haż-Żabbar, Fgura, Floriana, Kalkara, Hał Luqa, Marsa, Paola, Santa Luċija, Tarxien, Xghajra.

B. Northern Harbour

Hał Qormi, Birkirkara, Gżira, Hamrun, Msida, Pembroke, Tal-Pieta', St Julian's, San Ġwann, Santa Venera, Tas-Sliema, Swieqi, Ta' Xbiex.

C. South Eastern

Żejtun, Birżebbuġa, Gudja, Hał Ġhaxaq, Hał Kirkop, Marsaskala, Marsaxlokk, Mqabba, Qrendi, Hał Safi, Żurrieq.

D. Western

Mdina, Haż-Żebbuġ, Siġġiewi, H'Attard, Hał Balzan, Hał-Dingli, Iklin, Hał Lija, Rabat, Mtarfa.

E. Northern

Hał Ġhargħur, Mellieħa, Mjarr, Mosta, Naxxar, St Paul's Bay.

F. Gozo and Comino

Victoria, Fontana, Ġhajnsielem, Ġħarb, Ġħasri, Ta' Kerċem, Munxar, Nadur, Qala, San Lawrenz, Ta' Sannat, Xaġhra, Xewkija, Żebbuġ.

5. Definitions:
 - An accident at work is defined as a discrete occurrence during the course of work which leads to physical or mental harm.
 - Fatal accidents at work are accidents that lead to death of the victim within 1 year.
 - The standardised incidence rate is defined as the weighted sum of the number of accidents at work per 100,000 persons in employment.
6. Percentage totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Classification: <https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE Rev. 2>
<https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO 2008>
8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
9. A detailed news release calendar is available at:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx