

16 February 2021 | 1100 hrs | 027/2021

**Errata Corrigé: An error was detected in the last paragraph where the period should read 'July and December' instead of 'July and September'. Online documents were amended on 17 February at 13:00hrs.**

The number of claims in respect of non-fatal accidents at work in the second half of 2020 decreased by 459, or 27.3 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Four fatal accidents at work were reported in the second half of 2020.

## Accidents at Work: July-December 2020

Administrative records show that 1,220 persons were involved in a non-fatal accident at work in the last six months of 2020.

The majority of these non-fatal accidents occurred in the construction sector (18.1 per cent). Another 220 or 18.0 per cent of the accidents occurred in the manufacturing sector followed by the transportation and storage sector (132 or 10.8 per cent) (Table 1).

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

Almost half (45.1 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 720 and 264 cases respectively (Table 5).

In the second half of 2020, 28.3 per cent of the accidents at work took place in enterprises with 50-249 employees (Table 7).

In 2020, 889 non-fatal accidents per 100,000 employed persons were reported. The highest standardised incidence rate of non-fatal accidents at work was recorded in construction followed by manufacturing and transportation and storage (Table 9).

### Fatal accidents

Between July and December 2020, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) reported four fatal accidents at work. There were no fatal accidents at work in the corresponding period of 2019. ■

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)	2020						July-December 2019 (revised)						July-December 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	28	1.5	1	0.2	29	1.2	20	1.5	-	-	20	1.2	17	1.7	-	-	17	1.4
Mining and quarrying	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.0	6	0.5	-	-	6	0.4	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Manufacturing	354	18.5	37	8.8	391	16.8	247	18.8	29	7.9	276	16.4	199	19.8	21	9.7	220	18.0
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	4	0.2	-	-	4	0.2	3	0.2	-	-	3	0.2	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	78	4.1	2	0.5	80	3.4	58	4.4	1	0.3	59	3.5	41	4.1	1	0.5	42	3.4
Construction	402	21.1	4	1.0	406	17.4	220	16.8	2	0.5	222	13.2	221	22.0	-	-	221	18.1
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	221	11.6	36	8.6	257	11.0	140	10.7	32	8.7	172	10.2	107	10.7	17	7.8	124	10.2
Transportation and storage	244	12.8	41	9.8	285	12.2	176	13.4	28	7.6	204	12.2	106	10.6	26	12.0	132	10.8
Accommodation and food service activities	93	4.9	31	7.4	124	5.3	87	6.6	47	12.8	134	8.0	48	4.8	18	8.3	66	5.4
Information and communication	14	0.7	3	0.7	17	0.7	13	1.0	1	0.3	14	0.8	6	0.6	1	0.5	7	0.6
Financial and insurance activities	16	0.8	3	0.7	19	0.8	8	0.6	6	1.6	14	0.8	12	1.2	1	0.5	13	1.1
Real estate activities	17	0.9	-	-	17	0.7	4	0.3	4	1.1	8	0.5	5	0.5	-	-	5	0.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	39	2.0	4	1.0	43	1.8	25	1.9	5	1.4	30	1.8	17	1.7	1	0.5	18	1.5
Administrative and support service activities	192	10.1	37	8.8	229	9.8	169	12.9	32	8.7	201	12.0	108	10.8	21	9.7	129	10.6
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	70	3.7	25	6.0	95	4.1	50	3.8	9	2.5	59	3.5	37	3.7	13	6.0	50	4.1
Education	18	0.9	26	6.2	44	1.9	15	1.1	25	6.8	40	2.4	11	1.1	9	4.1	20	1.6
Human health and social work activities	76	4.0	168	40.1	244	10.5	38	2.9	137	37.3	175	10.4	38	3.8	88	40.6	126	10.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	8	0.4	1	0.2	9	0.4	6	0.5	-	-	6	0.4	4	0.4	-	-	4	0.3
Other service activities	14	0.7	-	-	14	0.6	14	1.1	7	1.9	21	1.3	7	0.7	-	-	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	0.3	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not specified	19	1.0	-	-	19	0.8	13	1.0	1	0.3	14	0.8	16	1.6	-	-	16	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Occupations (ISCO-08)	2020						July-December 2019 (revised)						July-December 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed forces	7	0.4	1	0.2	8	0.3	12	0.9	1	0.3	13	0.8	3	0.3	1	0.5	4	0.3
Managers	20	1.0	7	1.7	27	1.2	10	0.8	5	1.4	15	0.9	10	1.0	3	1.4	13	1.1
Professionals	58	3.0	79	18.9	137	5.9	38	2.9	45	12.3	83	4.9	26	2.6	42	19.4	68	5.6
Technicians and associate professionals	206	10.8	30	7.2	236	10.1	147	11.2	23	6.3	170	10.1	109	10.9	13	6.0	122	10.0
Clerical support workers	81	4.2	46	11.0	127	5.5	52	4.0	33	9.0	85	5.1	32	3.2	27	12.4	59	4.8
Service and sales workers	120	6.3	156	37.2	276	11.9	107	8.2	166	45.2	273	16.3	58	5.8	81	37.3	139	11.4
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	28	1.5	-	-	28	1.2	18	1.4	-	-	18	1.1	13	1.3	-	-	13	1.1
Craft and related trades workers	546	28.6	6	1.4	552	23.7	364	27.7	6	1.6	370	22.0	291	29.0	3	1.4	294	24.1
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	294	15.4	24	5.7	318	13.7	180	13.7	15	4.1	195	11.6	145	14.5	11	5.1	156	12.8
Elementary occupations	549	28.8	70	16.7	619	26.6	384	29.3	73	19.9	457	27.2	316	31.5	36	16.6	352	28.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Age-group	2020						July-December 2019 (revised)						July-December 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
15-24	150	7.9	43	10.3	193	8.3	112	8.5	60	16.3	172	10.2	88	8.8	28	12.9	116	9.5
25-34	475	24.9	103	24.6	578	24.8	322	24.5	100	27.2	422	25.1	256	25.5	57	26.3	313	25.7
35-44	515	27.0	92	22.0	607	26.1	380	29.0	76	20.7	456	27.2	276	27.5	49	22.6	325	26.6
45-54	432	22.6	96	22.9	528	22.7	287	21.9	70	19.1	357	21.3	224	22.3	50	23.0	274	22.5
55+	337	17.7	85	20.3	422	18.1	211	16.1	61	16.6	272	16.2	159	15.9	33	15.2	192	15.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Part of body	2020						July-December 2019 (revised)						July-December 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Head	181	9.5	41	9.8	222	9.5	139	10.6	53	14.4	192	11.4	81	8.1	19	8.8	100	8.2
Neck, including spine and vertebra in the neck	53	2.8	19	4.5	72	3.1	41	3.1	15	4.1	56	3.3	23	2.3	9	4.1	32	2.6
Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	168	8.8	39	9.3	207	8.9	97	7.4	35	9.5	132	7.9	100	10.0	23	10.6	123	10.1
Torso and organs	86	4.5	22	5.3	108	4.6	69	5.3	17	4.6	86	5.1	44	4.4	9	4.1	53	4.3
Upper extremities	884	46.3	158	37.7	1,042	44.8	589	44.9	153	41.7	742	44.2	472	47.1	78	35.9	550	45.1
Lower extremities	500	26.2	128	30.5	628	27.0	359	27.4	89	24.3	448	26.7	255	25.4	71	32.7	326	26.7
Whole body and multiple sites	16	0.8	5	1.2	21	0.9	3	0.2	-	-	3	0.2	11	1.1	3	1.4	14	1.1
Other parts of body injured, not mentioned above	4	0.2	4	1.0	8	0.3	5	0.4	-	-	5	0.3	4	0.4	3	1.4	7	0.6
Not specified	17	0.9	3	0.7	20	0.9	10	0.8	5	1.4	15	0.9	13	1.3	2	0.9	15	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Type of injury	2020						July-December 2019 (revised)						July-December 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Wounds and superficial injuries	1,173	61.4	221	52.7	1,394	59.9	761	58.0	176	48.0	937	55.8	608	60.6	112	51.6	720	59.0
Bone fractures	233	12.2	42	10.0	275	11.8	135	10.3	42	11.4	177	10.5	127	12.7	22	10.1	149	12.2
Dislocations, sprains and strains	397	20.8	125	29.8	522	22.4	309	23.6	89	24.3	398	23.7	201	20.0	63	29.0	264	21.6
Traumatic amputations	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.1	7	0.5	-	-	7	0.4	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Concussions and internal injuries	27	1.4	8	1.9	35	1.5	13	1.0	13	3.5	26	1.5	19	1.9	6	2.8	25	2.0
Burns, scalds and frostbites	47	2.5	15	3.6	62	2.7	34	2.6	17	4.6	51	3.0	29	2.9	9	4.1	38	3.1
Poisonings and infections	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.1	14	1.1	4	1.1	18	1.1	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Drowning and asphyxiations	3	0.2	1	0.2	4	0.2	3	0.2	1	0.3	4	0.2	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Effects of sound and vibration	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.0	4	0.3	6	1.6	10	0.6	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Effects of temperature extremes, light and radiation	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.0	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shock	10	0.5	4	1.0	14	0.6	5	0.4	8	2.2	13	0.8	5	0.5	3	1.4	8	0.7
Multiple injuries	6	0.3	2	0.5	8	0.3	7	0.5	2	0.5	9	0.5	4	0.4	2	0.9	6	0.5
Other specified injuries not included under other headings	5	0.3	1	0.2	6	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	0.4	-	-	4	0.3
Not specified	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.1	19	1.4	9	2.5	28	1.7	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

District	2020						July-December 2019 (revised)						July-December 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Southern Harbour	636	33.3	170	40.6	806	34.6	460	35.1	135	36.8	595	35.4	327	32.6	89	41.0	416	34.1
Northern Harbour	481	25.2	142	33.9	623	26.8	340	25.9	125	34.1	465	27.7	280	27.9	72	33.2	352	28.9
South Eastern	286	15.0	30	7.2	316	13.6	170	13.0	30	8.2	200	11.9	135	13.5	12	5.5	147	12.0
Western	177	9.3	29	6.9	206	8.8	122	9.3	24	6.5	146	8.7	84	8.4	19	8.8	103	8.4
Northern	289	15.1	39	9.3	328	14.1	190	14.5	47	12.8	237	14.1	155	15.5	19	8.8	174	14.3
Gozo and Comino	40	2.1	9	2.1	49	2.1	30	2.3	6	1.6	36	2.1	22	2.2	6	2.8	28	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Refer to Methodological Note 4

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

Employment size	2020						July-December 2019 (revised)						July-December 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Self-employed without employees	100	5.2	5	1.2	105	4.5	66	5.0	5	1.4	71	4.2	42	4.2	3	1.4	45	3.7
1-9 employees	160	8.4	16	3.8	176	7.6	112	8.5	17	4.6	129	7.7	75	7.5	7	3.2	82	6.7
10-49 employees	435	22.8	97	23.2	532	22.9	236	18.0	67	18.3	303	18.0	250	24.9	43	19.8	293	24.0
50-249 employees	560	29.3	84	20.0	644	27.7	305	23.2	98	26.7	403	24.0	301	30.0	44	20.3	345	28.3
250-499 employees	213	11.2	53	12.6	266	11.4	177	13.5	62	16.9	239	14.2	105	10.5	24	11.1	129	10.6
500 employees or more	412	21.6	163	38.9	575	24.7	399	30.4	117	31.9	516	30.7	206	20.5	96	44.2	302	24.8
Not specified	29	1.5	1	0.2	30	1.3	17	1.3	1	0.3	18	1.1	24	2.4	-	-	24	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Employment status	2020						July-December 2019 (revised)						July-December 2020					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Self-employed	133	7.0	5	1.2	138	5.9	97	7.4	6	1.6	103	6.1	63	6.3	3	1.4	66	5.4
Full-time employee	1,742	91.3	377	90.0	2,119	91.0	1,172	89.3	316	86.1	1,488	88.6	924	92.1	199	91.7	1,123	92.0
Part-time employee	34	1.8	37	8.8	71	3.0	43	3.3	45	12.3	88	5.2	16	1.6	15	6.9	31	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 9. Standardised non-fatal accidents at work by economic activity of enterprise<sup>1</sup>**

Economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	2020		
	No. of employed persons <sup>2</sup>	No. of non-fatal accidents	Standardised Incidence Rate (per 100,000 workers)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,547	29	11
Mining and quarrying	:	1	:
Manufacturing	29,087	391	149
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	:	4	:
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2,569	80	31
Construction	15,195	406	155
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	35,012	257	98
Transportation and storage	15,511	285	109
Accommodation and food service activities	18,947	124	47
Information and communication	9,794	17	6
Financial and insurance activities	15,662	19	7
Real estate activities	3,158	17	6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	15,449	43	16
Administrative and support service activities	10,960	229	87
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	15,773	95	36
Education	22,745	44	17
Human health and social work activities	23,647	244	93
Arts, entertainment and recreation	14,608	9	3
Other service activities	6,803	14	5
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use	3542 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	:	1	:
Not specified	-	19	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>261,839</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>889</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 5.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Labour Force Survey Q1-Q3 2020

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<sup>u</sup> 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, Haż Luqa, Marsa, Paola, Santa Luċija, Tarxien, Xgħajra.

### **B. Northern Harbour**

Haż 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, Haż Għaxaq, Haż Kirkop, Marsaskala, Marsaxlokk, Mqabba, Qrendi, Haż Safi, Żurrieq.

### **D. Western**

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

### **E. Northern**

Haż Għargħur, Mellieħa, Mgarr, Mosta, Naxxar, St Paul's Bay.

### **F. Gozo and Comino**

Victoria, Fontana, Għajnsielem, Għarb, Għasri, Ta' Kerċem, Munxar, Nadur, Qala, San Lawrenz, Ta' Sannat, Xagħra, 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. Key:
  - : Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.
  - <sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.
7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
  - Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
  - Classification: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%202020>  
<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO%202008>
8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
9. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)