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The number of claims in respect of non-fatal accidents at work in the first half of 2021 increased by 23, or 2.1 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in 2020. Six fatal accidents at work were reported in the first half of 2021.

Accidents at Work: January-June 2021

Administrative records show that 1,131 persons were involved in a non-fatal accident at work in the first six months of 2021.

The majority of these non-fatal accidents occurred in the construction sector (17.2 per cent). Another 188 or 16.6 per cent of the accidents occurred in the manufacturing sector followed by the transportation and storage sector (146 or 12.9 per cent). When compared to the same period in 2020, the number of accidents increased by 27 in the administrative and support service activities (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 (44.0 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 685 and 233 cases respectively (Table 5).

In the first half of 2021, 27.7 per cent of the accidents at work took place in enterprises with 50-249 employees (Table 7).

In 2020, 892 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 January and June 2021, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) reported six fatal accidents at work. There were three fatal accidents at work in the corresponding period of 2020.

Data for 2020 (whole year) is also being provided in this news release ■

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 (revised)						January-June 2020 (revised)						January-June 2021					
	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	11	1.2	1	0.5	12	1.1	11	1.2	-	-	11	1.0
Mining and quarrying	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0.3	-	-	3	0.3
Manufacturing	354	18.5	37	8.8	391	16.8	155	17.1	16	7.9	171	15.4	170	18.8	18	7.9	188	16.6
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	4	0.2	-	-	4	0.2	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2	8	0.9	-	-	8	0.7
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	78	4.1	2	0.5	80	3.4	37	4.1	1	0.5	38	3.4	29	3.2	-	-	29	2.6
Construction	402	21.1	4	1.0	406	17.4	181	20.0	4	2.0	185	16.7	190	21.0	4	1.8	194	17.2
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	221	11.6	36	8.6	257	11.0	114	12.6	19	9.4	133	12.0	107	11.8	23	10.1	130	11.5
Transportation and storage	243	12.7	41	9.8	284	12.2	137	15.1	15	7.4	152	13.7	123	13.6	23	10.1	146	12.9
Accommodation and food service activities	93	4.9	31	7.4	124	5.3	45	5.0	13	6.4	58	5.2	39	4.3	12	5.3	51	4.5
Information and communication	14	0.7	3	0.7	17	0.7	8	0.9	2	1.0	10	0.9	5	0.6	-	-	5	0.4
Financial and insurance activities	16	0.8	3	0.7	19	0.8	4	0.4	2	1.0	6	0.5	8	0.9	3	1.3	11	1.0
Real estate activities	17	0.9	-	-	17	0.7	12	1.3	-	-	12	1.1	7	0.8	-	-	7	0.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	39	2.0	4	1.0	43	1.8	22	2.4	3	1.5	25	2.3	17	1.9	2	0.9	19	1.7
Administrative and support service activities	192	10.1	37	8.8	229	9.8	84	9.3	16	7.9	100	9.0	102	11.3	25	11.0	127	11.2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	71	3.7	25	6.0	96	4.1	34	3.8	12	5.9	46	4.2	31	3.4	14	6.1	45	4.0
Education	18	0.9	26	6.2	44	1.9	7	0.8	17	8.4	24	2.2	8	0.9	18	7.9	26	2.3
Human health and social work activities	76	4.0	168	40.1	244	10.5	38	4.2	80	39.6	118	10.6	26	2.9	85	37.3	111	9.8
Arts, entertainment and recreation	8	0.4	1	0.2	9	0.4	4	0.4	1	0.5	5	0.5	5	0.6	-	-	5	0.4
Other service activities	14	0.7	-	0.0	14	0.6	7	0.8	-	-	7	0.6	6	0.7	1	0.4	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	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Not specified	19	1.0	-	-	19	0.8	3	0.3	-	-	3	0.3	7	0.8	-	-	7	0.6
Total	1,909	100.0	419	100.0	2,328	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0	903	100.0	228	100.0	1,131	100.0

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

Occupations (ISCO-08)	2020						January-June 2020						January-June 2021					
	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	4	0.4	-	-	4	0.4	1	0.1	3	1.3	4	0.4
Managers	20	1.0	7	1.7	27	1.2	10	1.1	4	2.0	14	1.3	11	1.2	2	0.9	13	1.1
Professionals	58	3.0	79	18.9	137	5.9	32	3.5	37	18.3	69	6.2	16	1.8	34	14.9	50	4.4
Technicians and associate professionals	206	10.8	30	7.2	236	10.1	97	10.7	17	8.4	114	10.3	85	9.4	16	7.0	101	8.9
Clerical support workers	81	4.2	46	11.0	127	5.5	49	5.4	19	9.4	68	6.1	48	5.3	12	5.3	60	5.3
Service and sales workers	120	6.3	156	37.2	276	11.9	62	6.8	75	37.1	137	12.4	66	7.3	96	42.1	162	14.3
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	28	1.5	-	-	28	1.2	15	1.7	-	-	15	1.4	22	2.4	-	-	22	1.9
Craft and related trades workers	546	28.6	6	1.4	552	23.7	255	28.1	3	1.5	258	23.3	251	27.8	7	3.1	258	22.8
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	294	15.4	24	5.7	318	13.7	149	16.4	13	6.4	162	14.6	144	15.9	17	7.5	161	14.2
Elementary occupations	549	28.8	70	16.7	619	26.6	233	25.7	34	16.8	267	24.1	259	28.7	41	18.0	300	26.5
Total	1,909	100.0	419	100.0	2,328	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0	903	100.0	228	100.0	1,131	100.0

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

Age-group	2020						January-June 2020						January-June 2021					
	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	62	6.8	15	7.4	77	6.9	56	6.2	25	11.0	81	7.2
25-34	475	24.9	103	24.6	578	24.8	219	24.2	46	22.8	265	23.9	214	23.7	69	30.3	283	25.0
35-44	515	27.0	92	22.0	607	26.1	239	26.4	43	21.3	282	25.5	263	29.1	50	21.9	313	27.7
45-54	432	22.6	96	22.9	528	22.7	208	23.0	46	22.8	254	22.9	219	24.3	44	19.3	263	23.3
55+	337	17.7	85	20.3	422	18.1	178	19.6	52	25.7	230	20.8	151	16.7	40	17.5	191	16.9
Total	1,909	100.0	419	100.0	2,328	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0	903	100.0	228	100.0	1,131	100.0

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

Part of body	2020						January-June 2020						January-June 2021					
	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	100	11.0	22	10.9	122	11.0	92	10.2	27	11.8	119	10.5
Neck, including spine and vertebra in the neck	53	2.8	19	4.5	72	3.1	30	3.3	10	5.0	40	3.6	15	1.7	11	4.8	26	2.3
Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	168	8.8	39	9.3	207	8.9	68	7.5	16	7.9	84	7.6	73	8.1	20	8.8	93	8.2
Torso and organs	86	4.5	22	5.3	108	4.6	42	4.6	13	6.4	55	5.0	48	5.3	11	4.8	59	5.2
Upper extremities	884	46.3	158	37.7	1,042	44.8	412	45.5	80	39.6	492	44.4	403	44.6	95	41.7	498	44.0
Lower extremities	500	26.2	128	30.5	628	27.0	245	27.0	57	28.2	302	27.3	249	27.6	57	25.0	306	27.1
Whole body and multiple sites	16	0.8	5	1.2	21	0.9	5	0.6	2	1.0	7	0.6	8	0.9	1	0.4	9	0.8
Other parts of body injured, not mentioned above	4	0.2	4	1.0	8	0.3	-	-	1	0.5	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not specified	17	0.9	3	0.7	20	0.9	4	0.4	1	0.5	5	0.5	15	1.7	6	2.6	21	1.9
Total	1,909	100.0	419	100.0	2,328	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0	903	100.0	228	100.0	1,131	100.0

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

Type of injury	2020						January-June 2020						January-June 2021					
	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	565	62.4	109	54.0	674	60.8	550	60.9	135	59.2	685	60.6
Bone fractures	233	12.2	42	10.0	275	11.8	106	11.7	20	9.9	126	11.4	122	13.5	25	11.0	147	13.0
Dislocations, sprains and strains	397	20.8	125	29.8	522	22.4	196	21.6	62	30.7	258	23.3	185	20.5	48	21.1	233	20.6
Traumatic amputations	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.1	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2
Concussions and internal injuries	27	1.4	8	1.9	35	1.5	8	0.9	2	1.0	10	0.9	12	1.3	4	1.8	16	1.4
Burns, scalds and frostbites	47	2.5	15	3.6	62	2.7	18	2.0	6	3.0	24	2.2	21	2.3	9	3.9	30	2.7
Poisonings and infections	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.1	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2
Drowning and asphyxiations	3	0.2	1	0.2	4	0.2	2	0.2	1	0.5	3	0.3	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2
Effects of sound and vibration	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	0.6	1	0.5	6	0.5	4	0.4	5	2.2	9	0.8
Multiple injuries	6	0.3	2	0.5	8	0.3	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2	2	0.2	2	0.9	4	0.4
Other specified injuries not included under other headings	5	0.3	1	0.2	6	0.3	1	0.1	1	0.5	2	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not specified	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Total	1,909	100.0	419	100.0	2,328	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0	903	100.0	228	100.0	1,131	100.0

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

District	2020						January-June 2020						January-June 2021					
	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	309	34.1	81	40.1	390	35.2	268	29.7	71	31.1	339	30.0
Northern Harbour	481	25.2	142	33.9	623	26.8	201	22.2	70	34.7	271	24.5	251	27.8	82	36.0	333	29.4
South Eastern	286	15.0	30	7.2	316	13.6	151	16.7	18	8.9	169	15.3	130	14.4	27	11.8	157	13.9
Western	177	9.3	29	6.9	206	8.8	93	10.3	10	5.0	103	9.3	109	12.1	16	7.0	125	11.1
Northern	289	15.1	39	9.3	328	14.1	134	14.8	20	9.9	154	13.9	126	14.0	30	13.2	156	13.8
Gozo and Comino	40	2.1	9	2.1	49	2.1	18	2.0	3	1.5	21	1.9	19	2.1	2	0.9	21	1.9
Total	1,909	100.0	419	100.0	2,328	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0	903	100.0	228	100.0	1,131	100.0

Refer to methodological note 4

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

Employment size	2020						January-June 2020						January-June 2021					
	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	58	6.4	2	1.0	60	5.4	50	5.5	-	-	50	4.4
1-9 employees	160	8.4	16	3.8	176	7.6	85	9.4	9	4.5	94	8.5	109	12.1	9	3.9	118	10.4
10-49 employees	435	22.8	97	23.2	532	22.9	185	20.4	54	26.7	239	21.6	191	21.2	17	7.5	208	18.4
50-249 employees	560	29.3	84	20.0	644	27.7	259	28.6	40	19.8	299	27.0	250	27.7	63	27.6	313	27.7
250-499 employees	213	11.2	53	12.6	266	11.4	108	11.9	29	14.4	137	12.4	126	14.0	33	14.5	159	14.1
500 employees or more	412	21.6	163	38.9	575	24.7	206	22.7	67	33.2	273	24.6	169	18.7	106	46.5	275	24.3
Not specified	29	1.5	1	0.2	30	1.3	5	0.6	1	0.5	6	0.5	8	0.9	-	-	8	0.7
Total	1,909	100.0	419	100.0	2,328	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0	903	100.0	228	100.0	1,131	100.0

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

Employment status	2020						January-June 2020						January-June 2021					
	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	70	7.7	2	1.0	72	6.5	72	8.0	-	-	72	6.4
Full-time employee	1,742	91.3	377	90.0	2,119	91.0	818	90.3	178	88.1	996	89.9	814	90.1	210	92.1	1,024	90.5
Part-time employee	34	1.8	37	8.8	71	3.0	18	2.0	22	10.9	40	3.6	17	1.9	18	7.9	35	3.1
Total	1,909	100.0	419	100.0	2,328	100.0	906	100.0	202	100.0	1,108	100.0	903	100.0	228	100.0	1,131	100.0

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

Economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	2020 (revised)		
	No. of employed persons ²	No. of non-fatal accidents	Standardised Incidence Rate (per 100,000 workers)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,843	29	11
Mining and quarrying	:	1	:
Manufacturing	28,900	391	150
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	:	4	:
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	3,074	80	31
Construction	15,400	406	156
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	34,152	257	98
Transportation and storage	14,016	284	109
Accommodation and food service activities	17,985	124	48
Information and communication	9,833	17	7
Financial and insurance activities	15,458	19	7
Real estate activities	3,194	17	7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	14,682	43	16
Administrative and support service activities	11,207	229	88
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	17,584	96	37
Education	22,570	44	17
Human health and social work activities	25,057	244	93
Arts, entertainment and recreation	13,774	9	3
Other service activities	7,070	14	5
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use	3,464	-	-
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	:	1	:
Not specified	-	19	-
Total	261,048	2,328	892

¹ Refer to methodological note 5.² Source: Labour Force Survey Annual 2020

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

⁴ 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, Xgħajra.

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 Għaxaq, 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 Għargħur, Mellieħa, Mġarr, 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.

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

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