

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY DIVISION (OPSTD) AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECTOR

FATAL INJURIES

IN FARMING, FORESTRY HORTICULTURE AND ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES

2008/2009

If you have any queries about this report, contact:
The Health & Safety Executive's Agriculture & Food Sector

Introduction

Part 1 of this report is a summary of the fatalities occurring in the agricultural sector (comprising of agriculture, horticulture, forestry and associated industries) in Great Britain (GB) during the year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 which were investigated by Inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). **Data in part 1 of this report is provisional.**

Part 2 summarises fatal injuries notified to HSE within the agricultural sector for the ten year period 1998/1999 to 2007/2008. It indicates key points in fatalities involving employees, the self-employed and members of the public during this period.

Part 3 is a summary of the non-fatal injuries in the agricultural sector for the ten year period 1998/1999 to 2007/2008. This section includes points of interest in the nonfatal injuries in the agricultural sector reported during 2007/2008 under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995.

Part 4 shows the total estimated number of injuries occurring within the agricultural sector during 2008/2009, and their costs.

Part 5 includes case studies that cover some of the key causes of fatal and major injuries in the agriculture sector. Each case study includes a summary of the incident, the cause and the action HSE took following the investigation as well as the lessons to be learned from the incident.

These case studies have been included to help show how things can easily go wrong and to give advice on how the problems can be avoided. HSE produces a wide range of leaflets and DVDs for the agriculture sector which give detailed advice about standards laid down in law, good practice and simple, cheap and practical ways to reduce health and safety risks.

Further advice: Most leaflets are available free from HSE Books or can be downloaded free from the Internet.

HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA. Tel: 01787 881165 Fax 01787 313995 Website: www.hsebooks.co.uk

HSE agriculture home page: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture>

HSE DVDs can be purchased from HSE books.

For general enquiries about health and safety in the agricultural sector, call the HSE Infoline: 08701 545500

Explanatory note on the presentation of statistics in Part 1 of this report

1. HSE's official statistics are published by HSE's Statistics Branch from the Chief Scientific Adviser's Group and are subject to detailed review and scrutiny in line with National Statistics protocols and quality standards. Fatal incident statistics are published for all industrial sectors annually in (usually) July when provisional figures for the 12 months to the previous March and final figures for the preceding year are made public.

2. The figures published in part one of this report are provisional because detailed questions and checks need to be made to check whether the fatality is legally reportable under RIDDOR and that it is properly classified to the appropriate industry. Such checks are important. Wider lessons cannot be fully learned from individual tragedies and HSE's interventions and messages cannot be targeted in the right way unless they are based on reliable information about the industrial sector in which the incidents occur and the frequency with which they happen (incidence rates). Statistics Branch and HSE's industry sectors use data of this kind to work out patterns of incident causation, trends and incidence rates. This helps HSE prioritise its work and to best intervene with particular industrial sectors and types of businesses. The fatality numbers are not finalised until 16 months from the year end because people injured at work who die from their injury within 12 months are, by international statistical convention, counted as work fatalities in the year of the injury.

3. In Agriculture both the absolute number and the incidence rates for fatalities are amongst the highest of all major industrial sectors and continue to be a cause of concern for HSE, it's Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) and the industry itself. For this reason AIAC is kept informed as to indicative statistics and incident trends - so that as the year unfolds any emerging patterns of causation or seasonal trends can be readily made known to the industry to try to prevent further incidents happening. The situation is ever changing and there is a balance between speed and certainty.

4. For these reasons the collective headline statistics recorded in this report are only based on investigations carried out by inspectors from HSE i.e in 2008/09 a total of 30 deaths (26 workers and 4 members of the public) and not 31 as recorded in HSE's official (provisional statistics).

5. We hope this approach will not lead to any confusion or suggestion of discrepancies between the two HSE reports; HSE is keen to be transparent about its methodology; to provide up to date information and to maximise the immediate use to which this statistical information can be put - with the overall goal of promptly learning lessons and hopefully to prevent further tragedies occurring.

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**PART ONE: FATAL INJURIES IN FARMING,
FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009**

PART ONE: FATAL INJURIES IN FARMING, FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 MARCH 2009

1. GENERAL

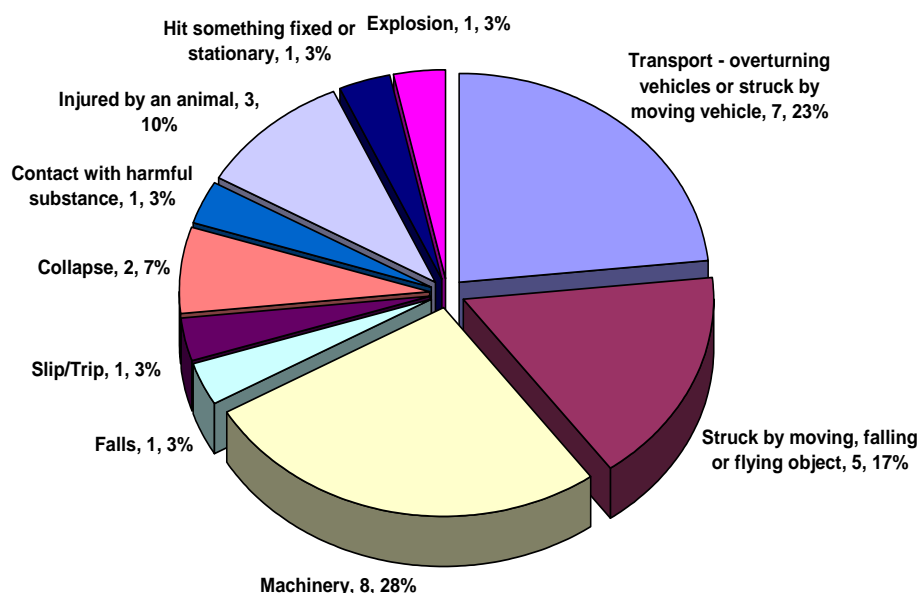
1.1 The total number of reported fatal injuries in the agriculture sector was 30, including four members of the public.

1.2 The total excludes reported deaths resulting from reportable diseases.

TABLE 1.1: Six year comparison

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09(p)
Employed	6	16	11	14	22	10
Self Employed	38 ¹	26	23	22	24	16
Non-employed	7	3	8	7	2	4
Total Adults	49	45	39	39	48	30
Total Children (<16)	2	0	3	4	0	0
Total (SIC92, A & B)	51	45	42	43	48	30

FIGURE 1.1: Fatal injuries by cause, 2008/2009



¹ Includes the 21 Cockle pickers drowned by incoming tides at Morecambe bay, Lancashire

2. KEY POINTS

2.1 The total number of reported deaths (30) is 18 less than the previous years (2007/08) figure of (48).

2.2 The total of 26 deaths amongst workers (employees and the self-employed) is a decrease of 20 from the previous years figure of (46).

2.3 10 employees were killed; 12 less than the previous year figure of (22) and four less than the average of the previous five years (14).

2.4 16 self-employed people died last year; eight less than the previous year (24) and 11 less than the average of the previous five years (27).

2.5 Of these 26 deaths, 19 were workers aged 40 years or over – 14 were self-employed. Half of them were aged 55 years or over (8 were self-employed). Three of the self-employed were above the normal retirement age of sixty-five, and two employees were under 25 years of age.

2.6 202 workers have been killed over the previous five years. Of these 69 were employees and 133 self-employed.

2.7 Four members of the public were killed in 2008/09, two less than in 2007/08. The average number killed over the previous five years was five. There was no child fatality in 2008/09.

2.8 In 2008/09 machinery related injuries caused more deaths than any other category. Eight people had made contact with moving machinery. Two were entangled on Power Take Off (PTO) shafts and a further two on running balers. One was found trapped inside the baler and the other victim was hit on the head by the machines arm.

2.9 One employee came into contact with a winch. Another contractor died when his neck was struck by his chainsaw during a tree work operation. A further victim was found trapped between the collector reel and intake auger of a self-propelled combine harvester and another inside the mixing chambers of a feed mixer trailer.

2.10 Seven people were killed after being struck, run over, trapped or caught in between moving vehicles. In some cases the victims died when the vehicle overturned, crushing and trapping them inside or causing them to fall out of the moving vehicle.

2.11 Two incidents involved telescopic material handlers and a further two involved All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's). One was pinned against a wall by a telehandler, a 17 year old youth died when he came into contact with a wire placed across a farm track in woodland as rode his trail motorcycle. A farmer was run over by a reversing tractor and slurry tanker and another was crushed underneath his jeep as he tried to escape from the overturning vehicle. The remaining transport related fatality occurred when an employee was run over by a skid steer loader.

2.12 Five deaths occurred as a result of being struck by a falling, flying or moving object. Two were crushed and trapped underneath falling bales of straw. One was crushed by a pallet of bottles falling from a vehicle tail-lift, another under the arm of a telehandler and a member of public was killed by a falling tree as he travelled in his van along a public roadway.

2.13 Farm animals caused three more deaths. Two members of the public were trampled to death by cattle and the other was a self employed farmer who died when a cow fell onto his leg.

2.14 Two victims were trapped by something collapsing or overturning. One was trapped underneath a concrete panel and the other underneath a digger.

2.15 In relation to the remaining fatalities: one employee died when he hit his head in a milking parlour; another when he tripped over a metal panel onto the spikes of a hay making machine and an arborist was killed when he fell from a tree. One farmer died due to the lack of oxygen inside a grain silo and the remaining victim died when an explosion took place as he attempted to pour off high pressure oxygen from a large cylinder to a smaller one using a modified hydraulic hose connected to the two cylinders.

FIGURE 1.2: Fatal injuries by cause - percentage in 2008/2009 vs 10 years (1998/1999 to 2007/2008)

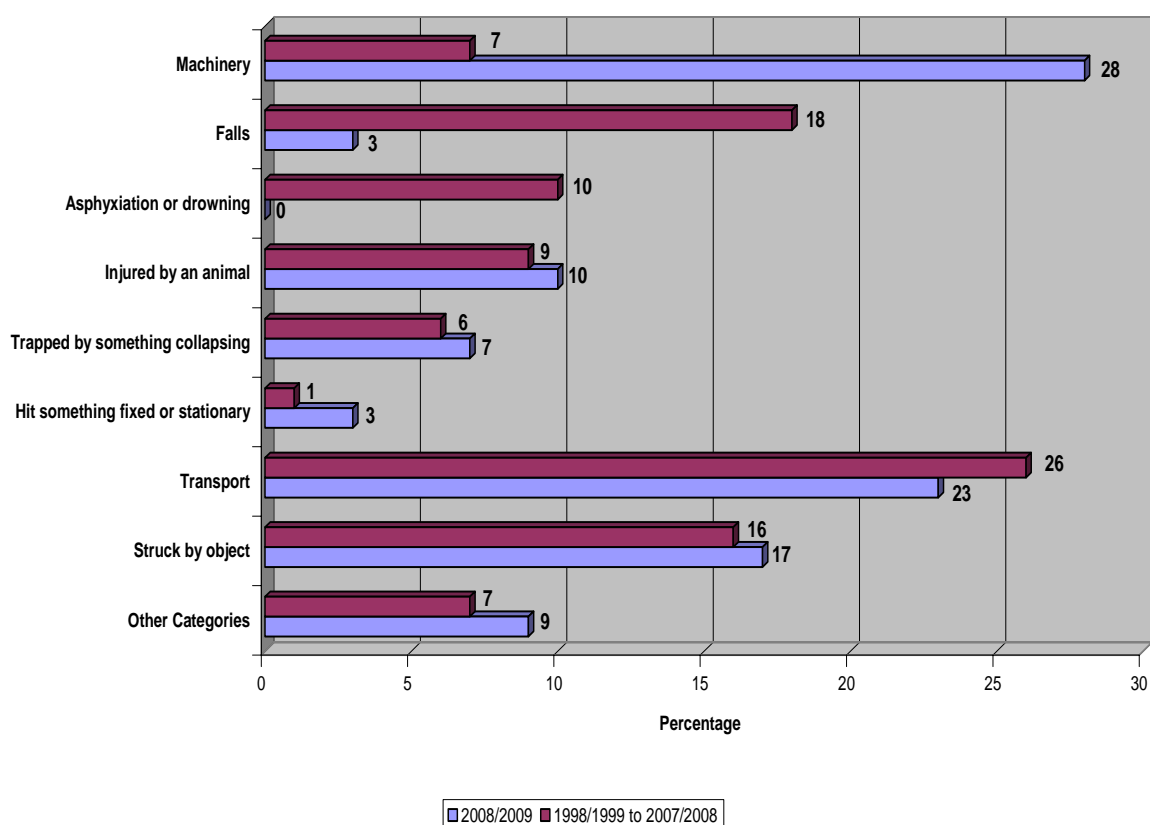


TABLE 1.2: Fatal injuries by main activity 2008/2009

Main activity	Number
Mixed farming	14
Growing of cereals & other crop	
Cattle (dairy & beef) farming	5
Animal husbandry (including sheep farming and farming of other animals)	3
Agricultural contractors	2
Hunting, gamekeeping etc	2
Fish farming	1
Tree Work	3
Total	30

Table 1.3: Type of fatal injuries, 2008/09

<u>Transport – overturning vehicles or struck by moving vehicle</u>		<u>Struck by moving, falling or flying object</u>	
• Tractor & Slurry Tanker	1	• Tree	1
• Skid Steer Loader	1	• Telehandler arm	1
• Jeep	1	• Pallet of bottles	1
• All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)	2	• Bales of straw	2
• Telehandler	2		
<u>Injured by an animal</u>		<u>Falls from height</u>	
• Cattle	3	• Tree	1
<u>Slipped, tripped or fell on the same level</u>		<u>Exposure or contact with a harmful substance</u>	
• Metal panel	1	• Grain Silo	1
<u>Hit something fixed or stationary</u>		<u>Exposed to an explosion</u>	
• Floor in milking parlour	1	• Hydraulic hose & two cylinders (under high pressure oxygen)	1
<u>Machinery</u>		<u>Trapped by something collapsing or overturning</u>	
• Baler	2	• Digger	1
• Power Take Off (PTO) shaft	2	• Concrete panel	1
• Winch	1		
• Chainsaw	1		
• Combine Harvester	1		
• Feed mixer	1		
		Total	30

3. EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND LOCATION

FIGURE 1.3: Fatal injuries by employment status 1996/97 to 2008/09

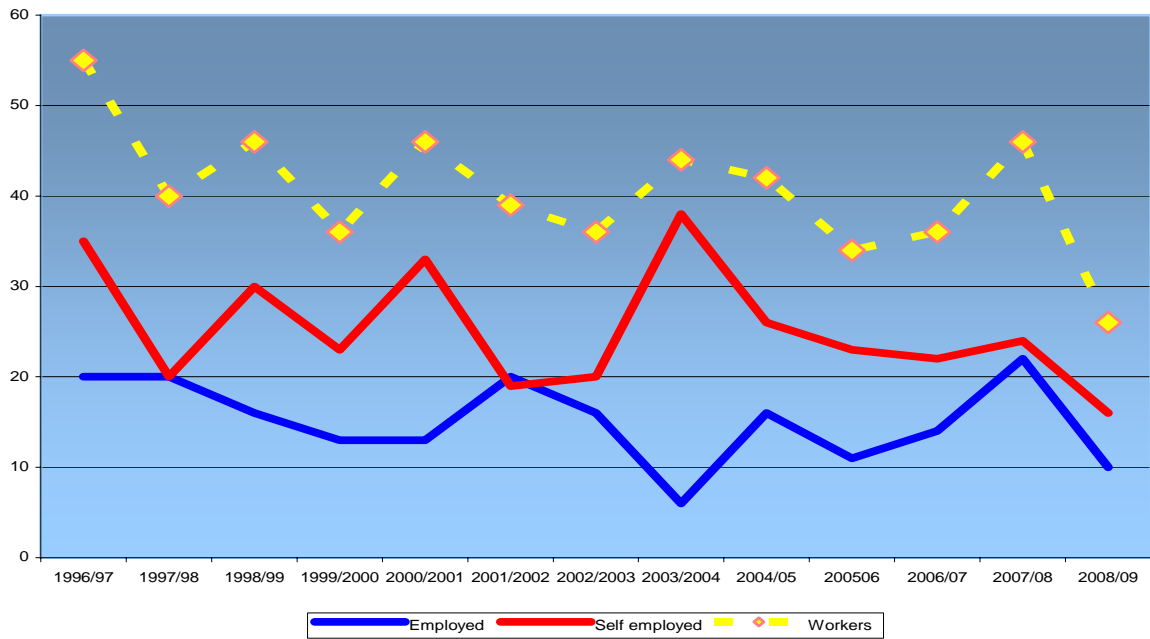


FIGURE 1.4: Fatal injuries by employment status (incidence rates) 1986/87 to 2008/09

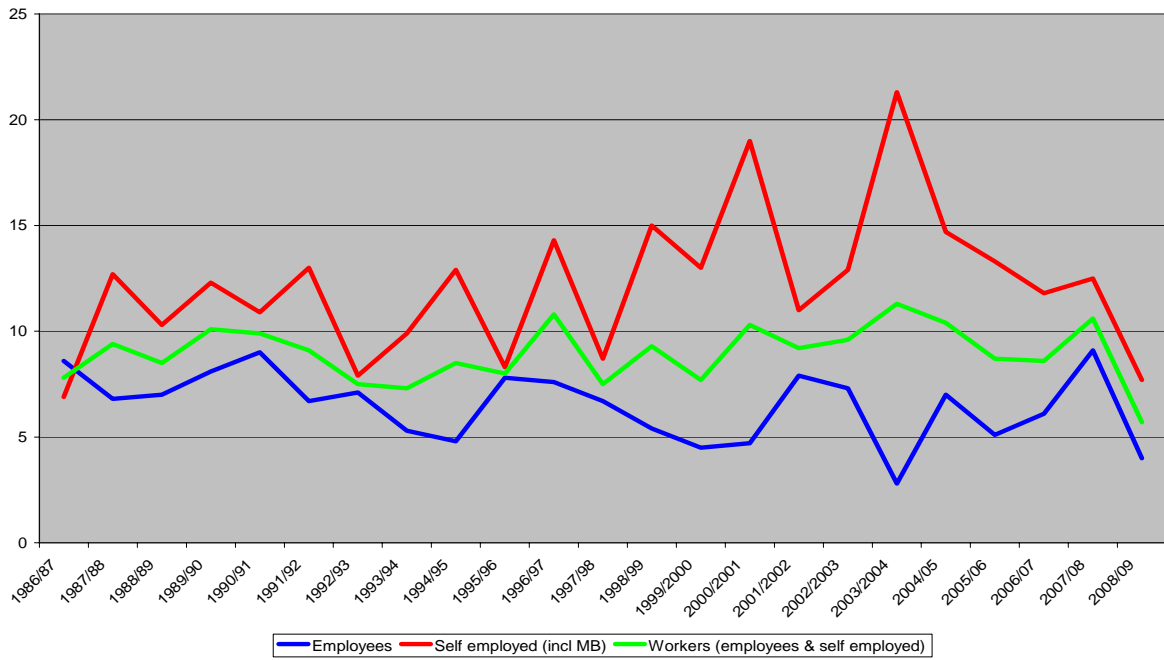
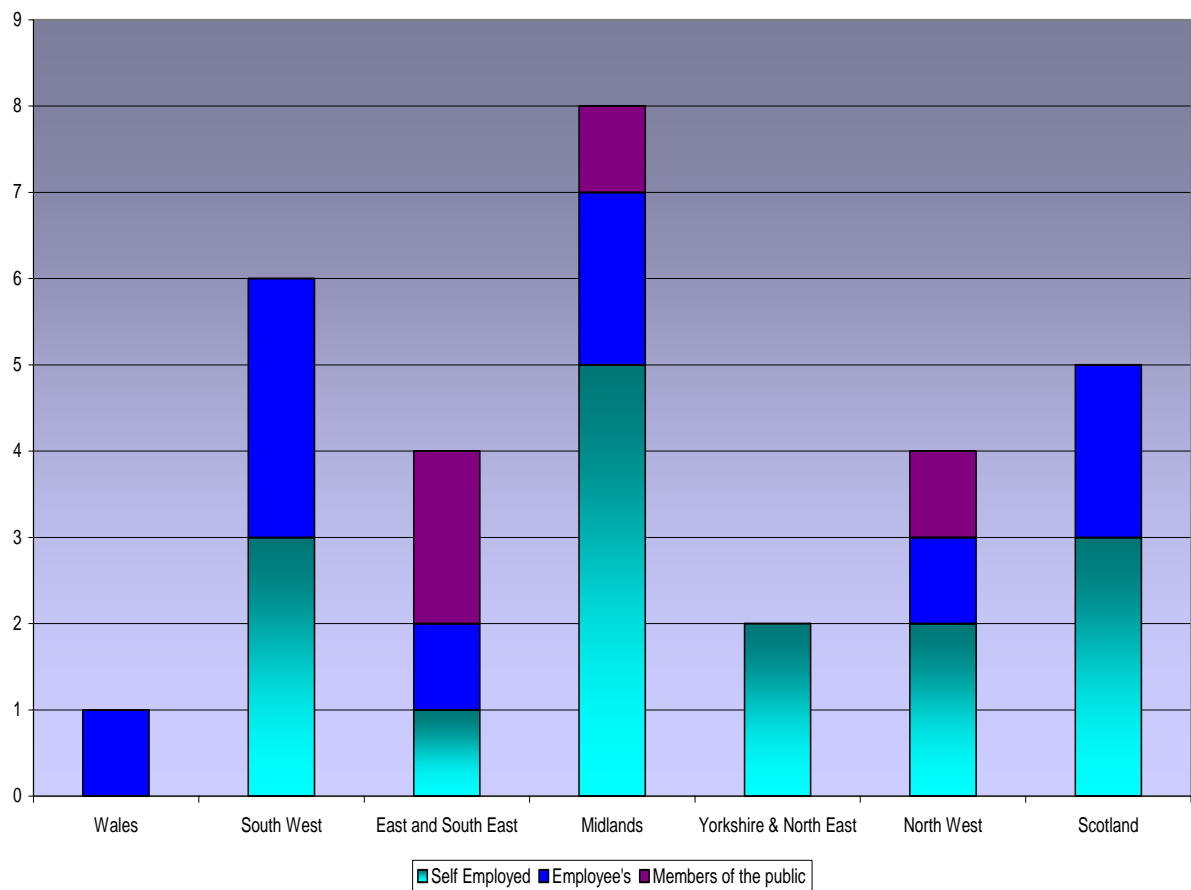


TABLE 1.4: Fatalities by country 2008/2009

	Employed	Self Employed	Non-employed	Total
England	7	13	4	24
Scotland	2	3	0	5
Wales	1	0	0	1
Total	10	16	4	30

FIGURE 1.5: Fatal injuries by status and location



4. FATALITIES BY HSE DIVISION

TABLE 1.5: Number of fatal injuries - by HSE Division, 2008/09

HSE Division	Counties and Unitary Authorities (UAs)	Number
<u>Wales & South West</u>		<u>7</u>
Wales	All Wales UAs	1
South West	Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire *	6
<u>East and South East</u>		<u>4</u>
South East	East Sussex, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, West Sussex. *	2
East Anglia	Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk	1
London	London	1
<u>Midlands</u>		<u>8</u>
East Midlands	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire *	2
North Midlands	Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire *	3
Marches	Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire *	3
<u>Yorkshire & North East</u>		<u>2</u>
West & North Yorkshire	North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire *	2
<u>North West</u>		<u>4</u>
Merseyside	Cheshire, Merseyside	1
North West	Cumbria, Lancashire	3
<u>Scotland</u>		<u>5</u>
Scotland East & West		5
	TOTAL	<u>30</u>

* = and associated UAs

5. SUMMARY OF FATALITIES BY HSE DIVISION FROM 1 APRIL 2008 TO 31 MARCH 2009

WALES & SOUTH WEST DIVISION

Wales

A 39 year old employee was run over by a skid steer loader. She was assisting in feeding the cattle in the barn and opened the door for the loader to take in the feed when the loader reversed and knocked her over.

South West

A 63 year old self employed farmer was found crushed under the hydraulic arm of a telehandler. He got off the telehandler to remove plastic wraps from bales of silage. It is believed that the engine of the telehandler was left running and that a bundle of plastic bail wrap in the machine cab fell from behind the driver's seat onto the controls lowering the bail handler to the ground and crushing the farmer underneath.

A 66 year old employee was crushed by pallet of bottles falling from a vehicle tail-lift. He was helping an agency driver to unload a pallet of empty bottles from a lorry when the load fell on top of him. He received fatal crush injuries to his head.

A 62 year old self employed farmer died when he fell onto the spikes of a hay making machine. He is thought to have tripped on a metal panel on the barn floor & fallen onto the upstanding spike of a hay making machine, which penetrated his skull.

A 76 year old self employed farmer was run over by a telehandler. He was walking behind the telehandler and fell on his hand and knees in the path of the reversing vehicle.

A 43 year old employee hit his head in the milking parlour. He later fell asleep on his sofa and was discovered dead the following morning.

A 31 year old employee died when he came into contact with a winch. He was unloading crabs from a vessel using a winch when his hand became trapped in a loop of rope on the barrel winch. His glove prevented his hand from being withdrawn from the winch as it turned wrapping the landing rope around his body.

EAST & SOUTH EAST DIVISION

A 50 year old employee was struck by a hydraulic hose connected to two cylinders that were part of a welding kit. He was trying to pour off high pressure oxygen from a large cylinder to a small cylinder using a modified hydraulic hose connected to the two cylinders. When he opened the valve on the small cylinder, an ignition and explosion took place. As a result, part of the hose struck the employee's head causing the fatal injury.

A 52 year old member of public was trampled to death by a herd of cows. There were no witnesses and the victim was discovered lying on the ground with injuries consistent with being struck by an animal hoof or hooves.

A 44 year old self employed arborist died when he fell from a tree. He was thinning branches off an ash tree using a chainsaw and ladder and was not connected to a climbing rope. He fell to the ground below and died from multiple injuries.

LONDON

A 67 year old member of the public was crushed by a falling tree. He was travelling in his van when the tree fell onto the roadway.

MIDLANDS DIVISION

East Midlands

A 65 year old employee was crushed underneath a wrapped bale. He was unwrapping plastic wrapped bales using a knife. No one witnessed the incident. The farmer discovered his employee on floor crushed under a bale in front of a stack of bales.

A 63 year old self employed farmer was found entangled on a power take off (PTO) shaft that connected a tractor to a milling machine preparing animal feed and that had no input connection guard. No one saw what happened. It would appear that his clothing was entangled in the PTO causing his arm, shoulder and neck to be caught up in and wrapped around the shaft.

North Midlands

A 35 year old self employed contractor was found trapped underneath a digger. He was loading a mini digger onto a trailer when the digger slipped off the side of the trailer. He was either ejected from, or tried to jump from, the vehicle cab and was crushed by the vehicle as it overturned.

A 78 year old member of the public was trampled to death by cattle whilst walking his dog in a field.

A 37 year old employee was entangled on an unguarded power take off (PTO) shaft that connected a tractor to a slurry tanker. His clothing had been caught in the shaft and he was discovered lying next to the PTO shaft with his arm severed.

Marches

A 61 year old year old self employed contractor and farmer was found trapped inside a baler. He had been contracted to bale cut grass into round bale silage. There were no eye witnesses. Grass tends to build up on the panels and wheels of the baler. It is likely the farmer got out of the tractor, leaving the engine running and therefore the baler running, in order to clear away the build up of grass from the front end of the baler. It is believed he was clearing the grass with his foot when the pick up caught his trouser leg and dragged him into the machine.

A 50 year old self employed farmer was found on the ground next to a running baler machine with head injuries. No one witnessed what happened. It appears likely that the farmer was rethreading the needles of the baler with twine and he was hit on the head by a rapidly moving needle arm.

A 54 year self employed farmer was found trapped between the collector reel and intake auger of a self-propelled combine harvester. He was found by a casual employee who was helping with the harvest. The machine was still running. No one

saw what happened. It is believed that he slipped, tripped or fell into the moving collector reel and auger, either from a position on the ground or from the driving seat above.

YORKSHIRE & NORTH EAST DIVISION

West & North Yorkshire

A 48 year old self employed farmer died due to the lack of oxygen inside a grain silo. He had entered the grain silo on the farm and collapsed whilst attempting to clear grain that had bridged.

A 21 year old self employed contractor died when his neck was struck by his chainsaw. He was carrying out tree work from a rope and harness using a top handled chainsaw. There were no witnesses. The chainsaw struck his neck lacerating the main artery.

NORTH WEST DIVISION

Merseyside

A 17 year old member of the public died when he came into contact with a wire placed across a farm track in woodland. He was riding his trail motorcycle along a farm track when he collided with a wire strung between two trees.

North West

A 75 year old self employed farmer was run over by a reversing tractor and slurry tanker. He was found lying on the ground behind the tankers and died shortly afterwards.

A 22 year old employee was found trapped inside the mixing chambers of a feed mixer trailer. A tractor and trailer were being used to mix a batch of animal feed. After feed materials were put into the mixer, unusual noises were heard coming from the mixer chamber. The farm labourer investigated the noise and ended up inside the mixer chamber. He was fatally injured by the moving mixer blades.

A 53 year old self employed farmer was found trapped between a bale and a loader. He was unloading a trailer of large straw bales.

SCOTLAND

A 62 year old self employed farmer was crushed underneath his jeep. He was travelling to/from a rented field in which he grazed cattle. The vehicle overturned as he descended a sloping farm track. He died as he tried to escape from the overturning vehicle and was discovered nearby.

A 42 year old self employed farmer died after a cow fell onto his leg. No one saw what happened. It would appear that the farmer was doing a job that he had done many times before with an animal known to have a placid nature. The farmer sustained a fractured ankle but died in hospital from complications.

A 49 year employee was crushed underneath a concrete panel. He was working with one of the farm business partners positioning a concrete panel that was intended to form part of the end wall of a barn when the panel fell onto him crushing him underneath.

A 65 year old self employed farmer was pinned against a wall by a telehandler bucket. He was working alone in the barn using a telehandler fitted with a bucket to remove animal feed stored against a wall. It would appear that the bucket could not pick up any more of the feed so he got out of the vehicle to clear the last of it with a shovel. The handbrake was not applied and his dog was left inside the cab. He was standing between the bucket blade and the wall when the vehicle moved forward trapping him at the waist and crushing him against the wall.

A 20 year old gamekeeper was crushed underneath an ATV. He had been travelling along a farm hardcore/gravel rural track, which had a steep incline at its edge, when the ATV left the track. The employee appeared to have been fatally injured as he tried to escape the overturning ATV and was found nearby.

6. ANALYSIS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, MONTH AND AGE

FIGURE 1.6: Fatal injuries by employment status, 2008/2009

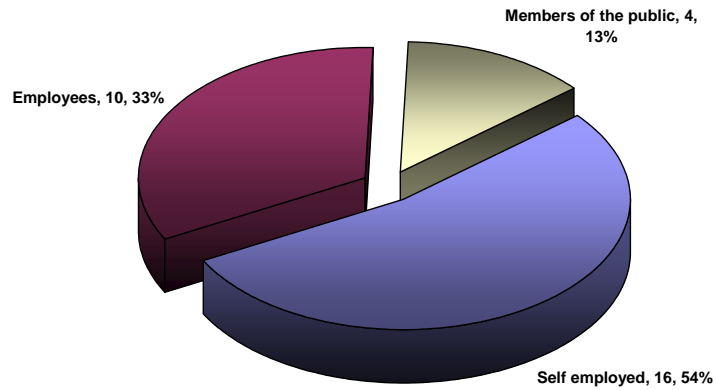


FIGURE 1.7: Fatal injuries by month of the year – 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

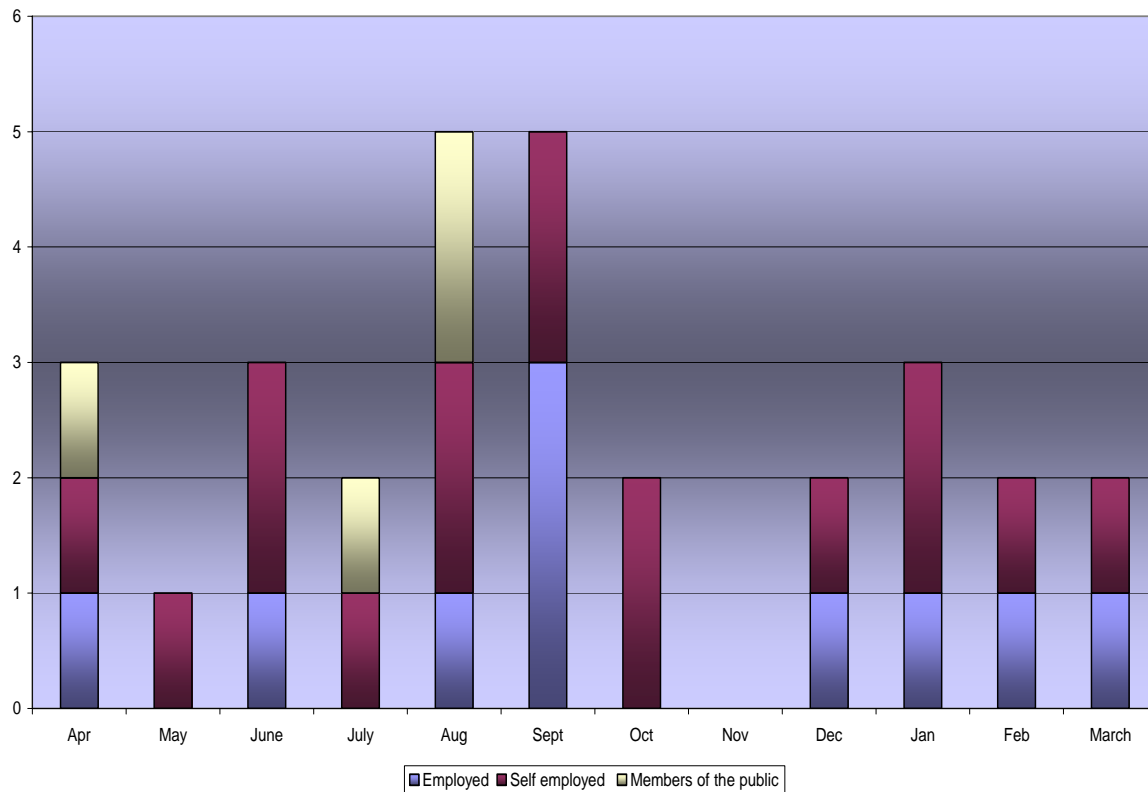
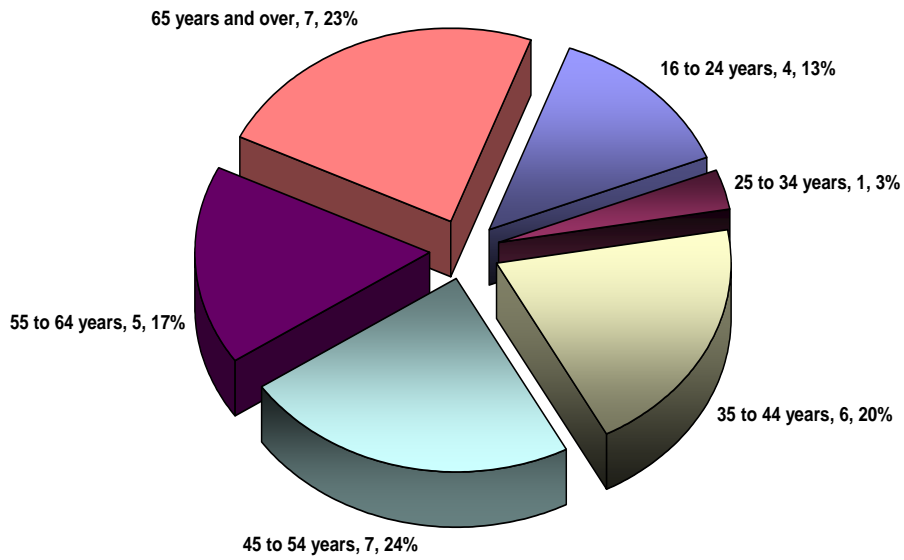


FIGURE 1.8: Fatal injuries by age, 2008/2009



Under 16	0
16 to 24	4
25 to 34	1
35 to 44	6
45 to 54	7
55 to 64	5
65 and over	7

FIGURE 1.9 (a): Age of Deceased. Percentage of the total for employees - 2008/2009 against 10 year period (1998/1999 to 2007/2008)

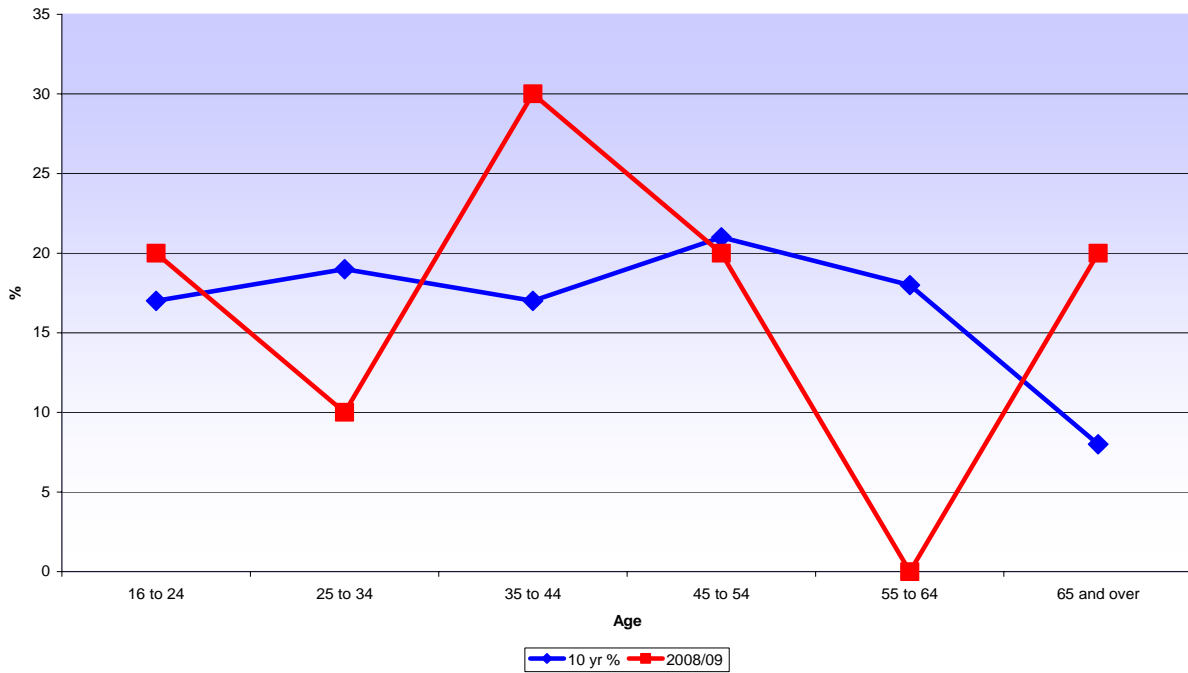
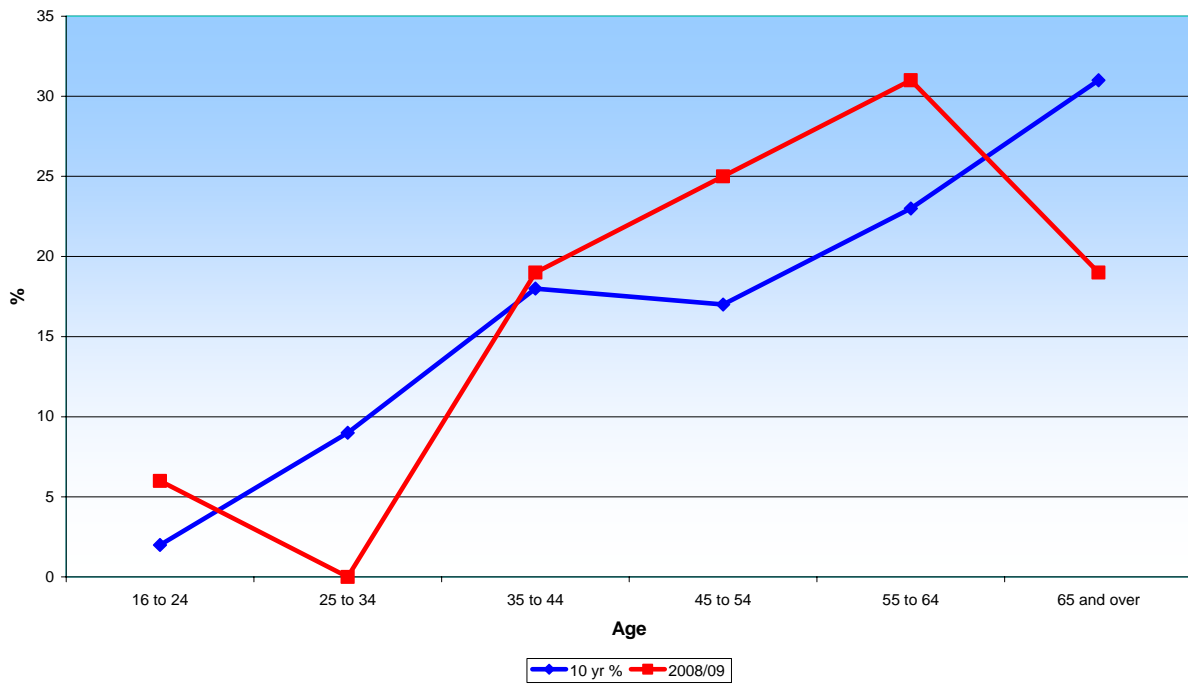


FIGURE 1.9 (b): Age of Deceased. Percentage of the total for self employed - 2008/2009 against 10 year period (1998/1999 to 2007/2008)



PART TWO

FATAL INJURIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR 1998/1999 TO 2007/2008

FATAL INJURIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

1998/1999 TO 2007/2008

Over a ten year period 461 fatalities within the agricultural industry (including the forestry sector) have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive. Of these, 147 were to employees, 258 were to self-employed people and 56 were to members of the public who were injured as a result of someone else's work activity.

Over the same period 23 children (under 16 years of age) have been killed. One of them was classed as an employee (included in tables 2.1 to 2.9) and 22 as members of the public (included in table 2.10). This means that:

- o Over the past ten years on average nearly one person a week had been killed as a direct result of an agricultural work activity; and
- o More than 40% of the reported fatalities to members of the public had been children.

This section of the report provides a detailed breakdown and summary of the causes. However, changes in the industrial classification used as the source of data from 1995/96 mean that data for this and later years are not directly comparable with that for 1994/95 and earlier. Similarly, some definitions in RIDDOR changed from April 1996 and subsequent years' data may not be directly comparable. Further details are given in the Appendix to this part.

Fatal injuries to employees and self employed people

The 22 fatalities to employees in 2007/08 was an increase of eight from the previous year's figure of (14). A total of 147 employees have been killed over the past ten years – an average of 15 deaths per year.

The employee fatal injury incidence rate of 9.1 employees in 2007/08 is higher than the average (5.7) recorded for the agriculture industry over the previous ten-years.

The 24 fatal injuries to the self-employed in 2007/08 are two higher than the previous year's figure of 22. A total of 258 self-employees have been killed over the past ten years – an average of 26 deaths per year.

The 2007/08 self-employed fatal injury incidence rate of 12.5 per 100,000 workers is lower than the average (14.1) over the last ten years. However, when compared against the employee rate per 100,000 workers, the self-employed fatal incidence rate has been consistently higher than that of employees. This indicates that proportionally more self-employed people than employees are being killed in the agricultural industry.

The combined total of 46 workers killed in agriculture during 2007/08 is 10 higher than the previous year figure of 36. Over the ten-year period, 405 workers were killed; of whom 147 (36%) were employees and 258 (64%) were self-employed.

The fatal injury statistics for employees and self-employed combined gives a fatal accident incidence rate of 10.6 per 100,000 for 2007/08 against the average incidence rate of 9.2 for the previous ten-years.

Kind of injury

The three main causes of fatal injuries to workers in the agricultural sector over the past ten years were:

- Transport - being struck by a moving vehicle (26% of all fatalities)
- Falls from a height (18% of all fatalities); and
- Struck by moving or falling objects (16%)

Other common causes were:

- asphyxiation or drowning (10%)
- injury by an animal and (9%)
- contact with machinery or the material being machined (7%)
- trapped by something collapsing or overturning (6%)
- contact with electricity or an electrical discharge (4%)

Cause of injury

Transport continues to be the single largest cause of fatal injuries in agriculture. Transport related incidents resulted in 113 deaths over the ten year period. Being struck by a tractor was the most common cause of fatal injuries to workers (including the self-employed) resulting in 48 deaths. Of these 31 were to the self employed and 17 involved employees. Vehicles overturning or falling from support caused a further 11 deaths. All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) including terrain lift trucks another (16) deaths.

Being struck by moving vehicles and vehicles overturning, accounted for 102 (26%) of the combined total fatalities.

Falls from heights was the second largest category, accounting for 69 deaths (18%). The two most common causes were: falling through a fragile roof (22 deaths) and falling from gangways, roof edges or other means of access including from structures and buildings (10 deaths). Ladders caused a further seven deaths.

Being struck by a moving, falling or flying object caused 65 deaths; 25 of which were caused by falling branches / trees and ten from objects falling from shelves or stacking's.

Asphyxiation or drowning caused 42 deaths; 34 in water, of which 21 involved cockle pickers who died in Morecambe Bay.

For employees, the most common cause of death was being struck by a tractor - accounting for 17 deaths. The next two highest categories were struck by a tree or tree branch and All Terrain Vehicles (nine each). Asphyxiation or drowning in water caused eight deaths and contact with electricity Overhead Power Line's (OHPL's) and injuries caused by bulls and cattle lead to a further seven deaths.

Amongst the self employed, the most common cause of death was again transport; being struck by a moving tractor (31) including a further six when the vehicle overturned or fell from support. Seven deaths involved ATV's.

Livestock (bulls or other cattle) was the second most common cause of death resulting in 24 deaths. Falls through fragile roofs caused 18 deaths and being struck by a tree or tree branch involved a further 16 deaths. A more detailed analysis of the cause of accident is given in Table 2.3.

Occupation

Farmers and farm managers accounted for 57% of the self- employed fatalities and farm workers and farm labourers 52% of the employee fatalities.

The highest category of fatalities to a specific occupation group was to arborists / forestry workers who accounted for 29 deaths (7%); 21 of whom were self-employed.

Tractor and other drivers accounted for 15 deaths (4%), more than half of them were employees.

Table 2.5 provides a more detailed breakdown of the occupation categories.

Work activity

Fatalities within the agricultural sector resulted from a wide range of work activities.

A total of 102 deaths (25%) occurred during agricultural operations, which includes cultivation, harvesting, and crop processing.

Another 77 fatalities (19%) occurred during livestock operations – animal housing / handling, feeding and all other animal related operations.

A further 58 deaths (14%) occurred during maintenance work to machinery, buildings and land including general maintenance.

Finally 39 fatalities (10%) occurred during tree work operations in both forestry and arboriculture including maintenance of trees and woodland.

Table 2.6 shows details of the work in progress at the time of the fatal accident.

Age

Deaths to workers aged 65 years and over remain high whilst deaths to those aged 24 or below remain less in comparison. Of the 46 workers killed in 2007/08, 35 (76%) were over 35 years of age compared with eleven who were under 35 years of age.

For self-employed 79 of them had been over 65 years of age - 30% of the total of all fatalities to the self employed. Over half of the self-employed (138) deaths were to the self-employed aged 55 years and over.

For employees, those aged between 45 to 54 years and 25-34 had the largest proportion of fatal injuries. The lowest was under 24 and 65 and over.

Table 2.7a shows the total number of fatal injuries over the past ten years by age.

Table 2.7b shows the combined total for workers (both self- employed and employed) over the ten-year period.

Month, day and time

The highest number of deaths to the self employed and employed occurred during August and September (48) and October and February (40).

The comparatively larger numbers during late summer / early autumn reflect the level of seasonal work activity in the arable sector associated with harvesting and autumn

cultivation. The lowest number of fatal accidents over the ten years occurred in December (25).

In contrast to the traditional pattern in other industries, which shows a gradual decrease in injuries to employees through the working week, there is still no clearly discernible pattern in the distribution of fatal accidents in agriculture.

Fatalities to employees are fairly evenly distributed throughout the working week except for Monday and 12% occurred at weekends.

Of the self-employed, 50 were killed at weekends over the last ten years – 74% of the weekend deaths involved the self-employed.

Table 2.9 shows the time of day when the fatal accidents occurred. The number of deaths increases during the morning, reduces over lunchtime and steadily rises again during the afternoon.

Tables 2.8 and 2.9 provide a more detailed breakdown of the month, day and time categories.

Fatal injuries to members of the public, 1998/99 to 2007/08

Over a ten-year period, 56 members of the public, including 22 children aged under 16 years have died as a result of an agricultural work activity.

Being struck by a moving vehicle was the main cause of death to both children and adults accounting for 29% of the total of which 69% involved children.

During this period 11 children had died as a result of being struck by a moving vehicle (50% of all child fatalities). Other significant causes include: asphyxiation or drowning (three deaths or 14%) and fall from a height two deaths.

Of the 22 child deaths, those aged between one and five were most at risk. Twelve children (54%) fell into this age group. Four were aged between six and ten; the remainder were between 11 and 15 years of age.

The main cause of fatal injuries to adult members of the public was injury by an animal (11). Being struck by a flying or falling object – seven deaths and struck by a moving vehicle and falls from a height a further 5 deaths (each).

A total of 16 fatalities (28%) had involved people aged 65 years or over.

The majority of accidents to members of public occurred over the weekend (15) - 27% of the total and ten were on a Tuesday. Fewer fatalities occurred on a Thursday. Conversely more occurred on Monday and Wednesday. Nearly half of the deaths to children occurred from Monday to Wednesday and 36% over the weekend.

More adults and children had died in July than any other month in the year. August to October was the most common months for child fatalities, again reflecting the work in progress at this time of year and increased access to farms during the summer and school/nursery closures.

Of the 34 deaths to adult members of the public the most common month was July – nine deaths (26%) followed by June, August and September.

Table 2.10 provides a more detailed breakdown of fatalities to members of the public.

TABLE 2.1: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed people in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/2008

		1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Employees	No.	16	13	13	20	16	6	16	11	14	22
	Rate*	5.4	4.5	4.7	7.9	7.3	2.8	7.0	5.1	6.1	9.1
Self employed	No.	30	23	33	19	20	38	26	23	22	24
	Rate*	15.0	13.0	19.0	11.0	12.9	21.3	14.7	13.3	11.8	12.5
Employees & Self employed	Rate*	9.3	7.7	10.3	9.2	9.6	11.3	10.4	8.7	8.6	10.6

* Rate per 100,000 workers

TABLE 2.2: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

KIND OF INCIDENT	Employees	Self employed	Total Numbers	Percentage
Transport - Struck by moving vehicle	41	61	102	26%
Fall from a height	22	47	69	18%
Struck by moving, including flying or falling object	22	43	65	16%
Asphyxiation or drowning	12	30	42	10%
Injury by an animal	10	26	36	9%
Contact with machinery or material being machined	8	22	30	7%
Trapped by something collapsing or overturning	10	15	25	6%
Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge	12	6	18	4%
Struck against something fixed or stationary	3	1	4	1%
Other categories including: slip, trip or fall on same level; exposure or contact with a harmful substance and fire.	7	7	14	3%
TOTAL	147	258	405	100%

TABLE 2.3: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

MORE DETAILED BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF INCIDENT	Employees	Self employed	Total
<u>Struck by moving vehicle</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>102</u>
- Tractor	17	31	48
- Trailer, plant or equipment associated with vehicle	2	4	6
- All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) includes terrain lift truck	9	7	16
- Fork lift truck/Telescopic Handler / Loader	9	5	14
- From transport of any kind	4	14	18

TABLE 2.3 continued

	Employees	Self employed	Total
<u>Fall from a height</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>69</u>
- Moveable ladder	1	6	7
- Fragile roof	4	18	22
- From gangways, roof edge or other means of access including structures and buildings	3	7	10
- From scaffolds and fixed ladders	0	1	1
- From vehicle	1	2	3
- From stacked material	2	2	4
- From any manlift equipment	2	3	5
- Other	9	8	17
<u>Struck by moving, falling or flying object</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>65</u>
- Material being lifted	4	0	4
- From shelf, table or stacking	5	5	10
- From weapons	2	2	4
- From part of a building	0	4	4
- Tree/tree branch	9	16	25
- Other	2	16	18
<u>Asphyxiation/drowning</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>42</u>
- Water	8	26	34
- Grain	0	2	2
- Oxygen deficiency	0	1	1
- Other	4	1	5
<u>Injury from an animal</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>36</u>
- Bulls and other cattle	7	24	31
- Horses	2	0	2
- Other	1	2	3
<u>Contact with machinery</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>30</u>
- Combine harvesters	1	3	4
- Other attached powered machinery	1	10	11
- Other (including bale handlers, bale choppers, hay turners, balers, chainsaws etc)	6	9	15
<u>Trapped by something collapsing or overturning</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>25</u>
- Vehicles overturning / falling from supports	5	6	11
- Stacked material	1	1	2
- Plant including lifting machinery and equipment	1	3	4
- Building or structures	2	1	3
- Other	1	4	5

TABLE 2.3 continued

	Employees	Self employed	Total
<u>Contact with electricity</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>
- Hand tools	1	0	1
- Overhead power lines	7	3	10
- Plant	1	1	2
- Other	3	2	5
<u>Struck against something fixed or stationary</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Exposure to or contact with harmful or hot substance</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
- Entry into confined space	0	1	1
- Other	1	2	3
<u>Slip, trip or fall on same level</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Fire</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Other kinds of incident</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	147	258	405

TABLE 2.4: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

SITE OF INJURY	Employees	Self employed	Total
Head	30	61	91
Neck	5	5	10
Back	0	2	2
Trunk	15	30	45
Torso (multiple site)	3	17	20
Upper limb	0	1	1
Lower limb	8	2	10
Several of the above	17	43	60
General locations (inc drowning, asphyxn &	46	63	109
Other / unspecified locations	23	34	57
TOTAL	147	258	405
NATURE OF INJURY	Employees	Self employed	Total
Fractures	20	28	48
Concussion and internal injuries	14	38	52
Crushing's and contusions	7	23	30
Asphyxiation, poisoning and gassing	12	13	25
Injury caused by electricity	11	6	17
Multiple injury types	19	48	67
Other known	27	62	89
Unknown	37	40	77
TOTAL	147	258	405

TABLE 2.5: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

OCCUPATION	Employees	Self employed	Total
Farmer / Farm Manager / Managerial	17	147	164
Farm worker / Labourer	76	33	109
Forestry worker / Arborist	8	21	29
Tractor driver	4	1	5
Other driver	7	3	10
Groundsman	4	3	7
Fishing & other Ag related	2	25	27
Other	29	25	54
TOTAL	147	258	405

TABLE 2.6: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

WORK ACTIVITY	Employees	Self employed	Total
Agriculture operations – all operations involving agriculture e.g. cultivation, harvesting, crop spraying, all crop processing	37	65	102
Livestock operations - animal housing/ handling, feeding & all other animal related operations	26	51	77
Fish Farming including shellfish harvesting	4	23	27
Maintenance (machinery)	13	10	23
Maintenance (buildings)	4	16	20
Maintenance (land)	5	7	12
Maintenance (general)	0	3	3
Landscape gardening	4	4	8
Forestry operations	4	3	7
Tree felling & extraction	2	5	7
Maintenance of trees and woodland	4	11	15
Arboriculture: tree surgery, care of trees etc	2	8	10
Walking / running on or outside premises including entering and leaving buildings	9	10	19
Travelling / delivering in vehicle including driving on public highway and offsite	7	5	12
Loading/unloading	2	5	7
General handling	5	1	6
Other	19	31	50
TOTAL	147	258	405

TABLE 2.7a: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

AGE	Employees	Self employed	Total
Under 16	1	0	1
16-19	9	3	12
20-24	16	3	19
25-34	28	23	51
35-44	24	44	68
45-54	29	42	71
55-64	26	59	85
65 and over	12	79	91
Age not known	2	5	7
TOTAL	147	258	405

TABLE 2.7b: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

	Total Workers (Employed & Self Employed) by year										
	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Total
Under 16	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
16-19	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	2	2	12
20-24	2	0	2	2	3	1	4	2	1	2	19
25-34	6	1	4	7	7	9	6	0	4	7	51
35-44	6	5	12	6	3	14	2	8	7	5	68
45-54	11	6	10	5	5	5	8	8	6	7	71
55-64	11	12	8	6	8	8	11	9	6	6	85
65 and over	9	11	10	10	7	3	10	6	8	17	91
Age not	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	7
TOTAL	46	36	46	39	36	44	42	34	36	46	405

TABLE 2.8: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

DAY OF THE WEEK	Employees	Self employed	Total
Monday	21	30	51
Tuesday	34	35	69
Wednesday	27	45	72
Thursday	22	60	82
Friday	25	38	63
Saturday	11	30	41
Sunday	7	20	27
TOTAL	147	258	405

MONTH	Employees	Self employed	Total
April	12	14	26
May	13	17	30
June	16	10	26
July	16	21	37
August	18	30	48
September	14	34	48
October	17	23	40
November	8	23	31
December	7	18	25
January	9	19	28
February	7	33	40
March	10	16	26
TOTAL	147	258	405

TABLE 2.9: Fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

TIME OF DAY	Employees	Self employed	Total
Before 08:00	4	5	9
08:00 - 08:59	5	5	10
09:00 - 09:59	15	11	26
10:00 - 10:59	18	26	44
11:00 - 11:59	18	23	41
12:00 - 12:59	13	13	26
13:00 - 13:59	18	12	30
14:00 - 14:59	9	24	33
15:00 - 15:59	13	14	27
16:00 - 16:59	4	24	28
17:00 - 17:59	7	19	26
After 18:00	14	38	52
Time not known	9	44	53
Total where time is known	138	214	352
TOTAL	147	258	405

TABLE 2.10: Summary of fatal injuries to members of the public in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

YEAR OF FATAL INJURY	Members of the public	... of which were children
1998/1999	9	3
1999/2000	8	4
2000/2001	7	4
2001/2002	2	1
2002/2003	3	1
2003/2004	7	2
2004/2005	3	0
2005/2006	8	3
2006/2007	7	4
2007/2008	2	0
TOTAL	56	22

KIND OF INCIDENT	Members of the public	... of which were children
Transport: struck by moving vehicle	16	11
Asphyxiation or drowning	6	3
Struck by moving, flying or falling object	8	1
Injury by an animal	11	0
Fall from a height	7	2
Contact with electricity	2	1
Contact with machinery	2	1
Trapped by something collapsing/overturning	2	1
Fire	1	1
Exposure or contact with harmful or hot substance	1	1
TOTAL	56	22

SITE OF INJURY	Members of the public	... of which were children
Head injuries	13	8
Neck	2	0
Trunk	3	0
Upper limb	1	0
Lower limb	2	0
Several locations	9	4
General locations	14	7
Other/unspecified locations	12	3
TOTAL	56	22

TABLE 2.10 continued

NATURE OF INJURY	Members of the public	... of which were children
Fractures	11	3
Concussion and internal injuries	4	1
Asphyxiation, poisoning and gassing	6	4
Injury caused by electricity	2	1
Burns	1	1
Multiple injury types	11	6
Other known	10	4
Unknown	11	2
TOTAL	56	22

WORK ACTIVITY	Members of the public	... of which were children
Agriculture operations including cultivation, harvesting, crop processing etc	13	6
Livestock operations - animal housing / handling, feeding & all other animal related operations	3	2
Maintenance (machinery)	8	0
Maintenance (land)	1	0
Maintenance of trees, woodland & parks	2	0
Walking / running on or outside premises including entering and leaving buildings	8	9
Traveling / delivering in vehicle including driving on public highway and offsite	6	0
Loading / unloading including handling	1	0
Other activity including leisure	14	5
TOTAL	56	22

TABLE 2.10 continued**AGE OF INJURED PERSON****Members of the public**

1 - 5	12
6 - 10	4
11 - 15	6
16 - 19	3
20 - 64	15
Over 65	16

TOTAL **56**

DAY OF THE WEEK**Members of the public****... of which were
children**

Monday	9	3
Tuesday	10	3
Wednesday	9	3
Thursday	6	2
Friday	7	3
Saturday	8	3
Sunday	7	5

TOTAL **56** **22**

MONTH**Members of the public****... of which were
children**

April	2	0
May	3	2
June	7	2
July	14	5
August	8	3
September	8	3
October	4	3
November	0	0
December	2	1
January	5	2
February	1	0
March	2	1

TOTAL **56** **22**

PART THREE

NON-FATAL INJURIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR 1998/1999 TO 2007/08

NON-FATAL INJURIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

1998/1999 TO 2007/08

The figures for the number of non-fatal injuries in the agricultural sector notified to enforcing authorities under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) should be treated with caution.

The 2006/07 Labour Force Survey (LFS) indicates that around half of non-fatal injuries reportable under RIDDOR, are actually notified to HSE and local authorities. This relates to both employees and self-employed persons. The number of injuries in the agriculture sector, identified in the LFS is rather small, but indicates a smaller proportion of injuries reported, at around 30%, although this figure is subject to yearly fluctuation. The self-employed across all industries report less than 10% of injuries that should be notified under RIDDOR.

For detailed statistics click on HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/agriculture/index.htm>. These pages use rates based on RIDDOR numbers, together with estimates from the LFS that illustrate the severe effect of RIDDOR under-reporting in agriculture.

Non-fatal injuries in 2007/08

Table 3.1 shows that the number of reports of non-fatal injuries to employees in 2007/08 had increased from 1197 in the previous year (2006/07) to 1584.

At 88 the number of reported injuries to self-employed people had also increased by (35%) from last year's figure of 65.

- As in previous years, the biggest single cause of reported injuries was handling, lifting or carrying. This category accounted for 439 accidents (26%) of the total number reported.
- The second largest category was slips, trips or falls – accounting for 339 (20%) of the accidents.
- Being struck by a moving, flying or falling object accounted for 244 (15%) of the accidents.
- Injuries caused by animals 157 (9%) and contact with machinery or material being machined caused a further 130 accidents (8%).
- Falls caused 139 and a further 65 workers were injured as a result of being struck against a fixed or stationary object.

Table 3.2 shows the main causes of the reported non-fatal injuries in 2007/08.

Of the specific categories:

- Maintenance activities involving maintenance of machinery, buildings, land, etc. had caused 402 (24%) injuries.

- Livestock operations - the housing and handling of animals, and the servicing of bulls were underway during 300 (18%) of incidents.
- Agriculture operations including cultivation, harvesting, crop spraying, crop processing etc. were involved in 200 accidents (12%).
- Tree work; arboriculture and forestry was being carried out during 149 cases of injury (9%).
- Loading and unloading and handling together was the activity in 93 (6%) of reported injuries.

Table 3.3 gives details of the activity in progress at the time of the accident.

In 2007/08 there were 102 reported major injuries to members of the public, an increase of 85% from the previous year figure of 55 (see the Appendix to this part).

- The number of children suffering a major injury in 2007/08 was 32, an increase of 146% from last year's figure of (13).
- Falls were the most common cause of reported injuries to the public (33%).
- Other cases involved injuries caused by animals a further (23%) and slips, trips or falls on same level (17%).

Other common causes of injury to members of the public were;

- Handling, lifting or carrying or being struck by a moving, flying or falling object.

Table 3.4 shows the number of reported major injuries to members of the public in the agricultural sector.

Appendix

These figures are based on reports made under RIDDOR to the Health and Safety Executive and include a small number made to local authorities. Reportable non-fatal injuries are major injuries (chiefly amputations, fractures and other injuries resulting hospitalisation for more than 24 hours) and other injuries i.e. injuries which result in a person being unable to do their normal job for more than three days. From 1996/97, the revised qualifying criteria for major injuries includes minor fractures, amputations and dislocations. Injuries arising from acts of violence at work are also now reportable.

The requirements for reporting injuries to members of the public changed with the implementation of RIDDOR 1995; with effect from April 1996. From this date only those injuries involving the public which result in death or the person being taken from the site of the injury to a hospital are reportable under RIDDOR.

The agricultural sector was defined as Standard Industrial Classification 1980 Division (0) including horticulture, forestry and fish farming. However, figures for 1995/96 and later are based on Standard Industrial Classification 1992 Sections A and B which also includes hunting. As a result the figures from 1995/96 are not directly comparable with those for previous years.

TABLE 3.1: Non-fatal injuries to employees and self employed people in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

		98/99	99/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Employees	No.	1939	2034	1927	2097	1811	1398	1341	1264	1197	1584
Self employed	No.	113	115	86	131	89	106	98	87	65	88
Employees and Self employed	No.	2052	2149	2013	2228	1900	1504	1439	1351	1262	1672

TABLE 3.2: Non-fatal injuries to employees and self employed in agriculture, 2007/08

KIND OF INCIDENT	Employees	Self employed	Total Numbers
Handling, lifting or carrying	428	11	439
Slip, trip or fall on same level	328	11	339
Struck by moving, including flying or falling, object	225	19	244
Injury by an animal	148	9	157
Contact with machinery or material being machined	121	9	130
Fall from a height	39	7	46
Low fall	87	6	93
Struck against something fixed or stationary	64	1	65
Struck by moving vehicle	35	7	42
Exposure to or contact with harmful or hot substance	37	0	37
Trapped by something collapsing or overturning	10	3	13
Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge	6	0	6
Fire	5	0	5
Physical assault	3	0	3
Explosion	1	0	1
Other	47	5	52
TOTAL	1584	88	1672

TABLE 3.3: Non-fatal injuries to employees and self employed people in agriculture, 2007/08

WORK ACTIVITY	Employees	Self employed	Total
Maintenance of land including recreational parks and gardens	399	3	402
Livestock operations - animal housing/ handling, feeding & all other animal related operations	275	25	300
Agriculture operations including cultivation, harvesting, crop spraying, crop processing etc	184	16	200
Arboriculture - tree surgery, care of trees	97	10	107
Loading/unloading from vehicles	88	5	93
Walking / running on or outside premises including entering and leaving buildings	75	2	77
Maintenance of machinery & equipment including vehicles	71	3	74
Storing including stacking items	51	1	52
Forestry – management and harvesting of trees	36	6	42
Building work including maintenance and cleaning of buildings and structural erections	32	5	37
Fish farming	32	0	32
Packing	8	0	8
Production and sale of goods associated with industry	44	0	44
Travelling in vehicle including driving on public highway	8	1	9
Travelling in vehicle on site	12	2	14
Support processes to driving/travelling in vehicles	10	0	10
Climbing/descending up/from equipment eg vehicles stairs, machines	68	2	70
Sporting activities including riding / racing etc	10	0	10
General handling	46	3	49
General labouring	9	2	11
Other	29	2	31
TOTAL	1584	88	1672

TABLE 3.4: Major injuries to members of the public in agriculture, 1998/99 to 2007/08

YEAR OF INJURY	Members of the public	... of which were children
1998/99	192	47
1999/2000	185	58
2000/2001	141	59
2001/2002	130	33
2002/2003	85	15
2003/04	35	7
2004/05	39	6
2005/06	54	14
2006/07	55	13
2007/08	102	32

KIND OF INCIDENT (2007/08)	Members of the public	... of which were children
Low fall	26	13
Other falls	8	1
Injury by an animal	23	6
Slip, trip or fall on same level	17	4
Handling, lifting or carrying	7	3
Struck by moving, including flying or falling,	6	1
Struck against something fixed or stationary	4	1
Struck by moving vehicle	1	0
Contact with machinery	3	0
Contact with harmful substance	1	0
Other	6	3
TOTAL	102	32

WORK ACTIVITY (2007/08)	Members of the public	... of which were children
Sporting activities including adventure and entertainment	57	24
Walking / running on or outside premises including entering and leaving buildings	11	3
Livestock operations	10	0
Agricultural operations	7	1
Forestry & Arboriculture	3	0
Maintenance & recreation of parks & gardens	5	0
Other	9	4
TOTAL	102	32

