

Construction still most dangerous industry

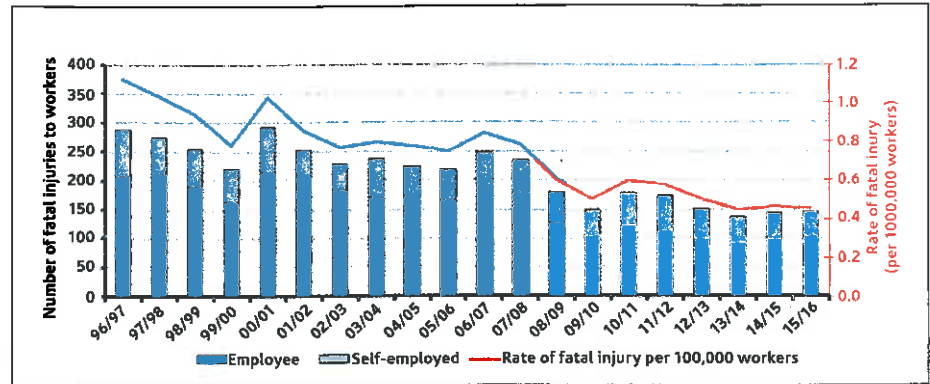
- Decline in fatal injuries starts to plateau, HSE figures reveal

Provisional figures have revealed 43 construction workers were killed at work in the UK during 2015–2016. Though the number was the same as the average for the previous five years, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said it was 23% up on the 35 construction fatalities in 2014–15.

More workers are killed in construction compared to any other industry in the UK. In agriculture there were 27 deaths last year (compared to the five-year average of 32); and in manufacturing there were also 27 deaths (compared to five-year average 22).

The long-term trend has seen the rate of fatalities more than halve over the last 20 years. However, figures indicate that a total of 144 people were killed while at work in 2015–2016 – up from 142 in 2014–5.

The executive has also released the



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latest available figures on deaths from asbestos-related cancer. Mesothelioma, one of the few work-related diseases where deaths can be counted directly, contracted through past exposure to asbestos, killed 2,515 in Great Britain in 2014 compared to 2,556 in 2013.

The provisional annual data for work-related fatal accidents in Great Britain's workplaces does not include three people who died in the collapse of Didcot Power Station in February, whose bodies are yet to be recovered.

Other statistics revealed:

- 1.2 million working people suffering from a work-related illness
- 2,515 mesothelioma deaths due to past asbestos exposures (2014)

- 76,000 other injuries to employees reported under RIDDOR
- 611,000 injuries occurred at work according to the Labour Force Survey
- 27.3 million working days lost due to work-related illness and workplace injury
- £14.3 billion estimated cost of injuries and ill health from current working conditions (2013–14).

“Behind every statistic lies a real story of loss,” said Martin Temple, HSE chair. “One death at work or life needlessly shortened.

“Britain has one of the best health and safety systems in the world but we should always be looking to improve and to prevent incidents that cost lives.”