



Occupational Health Factsheet 2018-19

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Next publication date: TBC

Background

This factsheet contains information on cases of occupational disease reported to ORR under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) between 2010-11 and 2018-19.

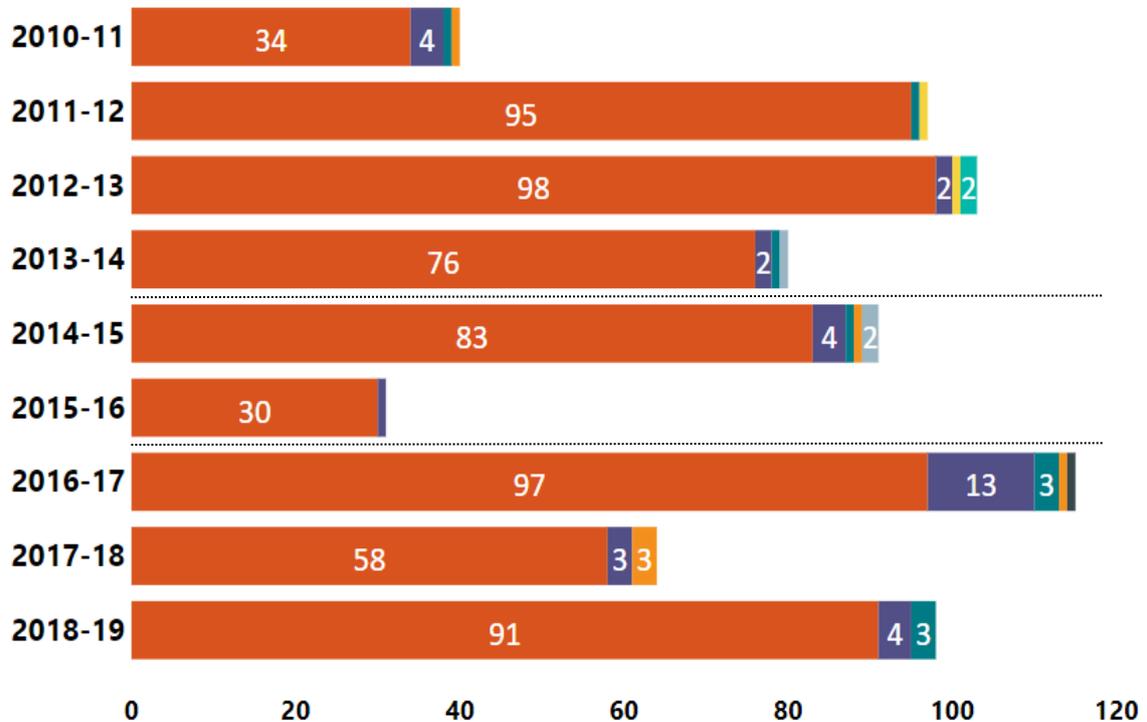
For guidance on RIDDOR click ([here](#))

This factsheet also includes industry data on incidents of manual handling and shock/trauma between 2005-06 and 2018-19.

For more details on Occupational Health within the rail industry click ([here](#))

The data is published annually on ORR's [data portal](#).

Disease cases reported to ORR under RIDDOR from across Britain's railways between 2010-11 and 2018-19 ([Table 5.12](#)):



Source: Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) and ORR

Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, there is a series break due to changes in the reporting requirements under RIDDOR

Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, there is a series break due to the new Safety Management Intelligence System (SMIS) being re-launched in March 2017. This resulted in categories not mapping directly to those within the original SMIS.

- Hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Tendonitis or tenosynovitis in hand or forearm
- Dermatitis
- Occupational asthma
- Infectious disease due to biological agents
- Cramp in the hand or forearm due to repetitive movements
- Occupational cancers



There has been a **56.9%** increase in reported cases of HAVS between 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Definitions

Hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS): work involves regular use of percussive or vibrating tools, or the holding of materials which are subject to percussive processes, or processes causing vibration.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome: work involves regular use of percussive (repeated impact) or vibrating tools.

Tendonitis or tenosynovitis in the hand or forearm: work is physically demanding and involves frequent, repetitive movements.

Dermatitis: work involves significant or regular exposure to a known skin sensitizer or irritant.

For more information on all the different disease cases reported to ORR under RIDDOR click ([here](#))

To recognise the increasing role that administrative data plays in the production of official statistics, the Office for Statistics Regulation has introduced a Standard to clarify their expectations for what producers of official statistics should do to assure themselves of the quality of the data they use to compile statistics.

Following the switchover in reporting systems for the mainline railway, ORR and RSSB have recently completed their first Quality Assurance of Administrative Data (QAAD) assessment on RSSB's Safety Management Intelligence System (SMIS). The outcome of this assessment will be published in due course.

For more information on QAAD, please click ([here](#))

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Definitions

Manual handling:

Physical injuries from moving of items either by lifting, lowering, carrying, pushing or pulling. They are part of a wider group of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), which covers any injury, damage or disorder of the joints or other tissues in the upper/lower limbs or the back.

Shock/trauma:

Shock or traumatic stress affecting any person who has been involved in, or has been a witness to, an event, and not suffered any physical injury.

Shock/trauma cases are **not** RIDDOR reportable.

TOCs:

Passenger train operating companies

FOCs:

Freight operating companies

LUL:

London Underground Ltd

NR Contractors:

Network Rail Contractors

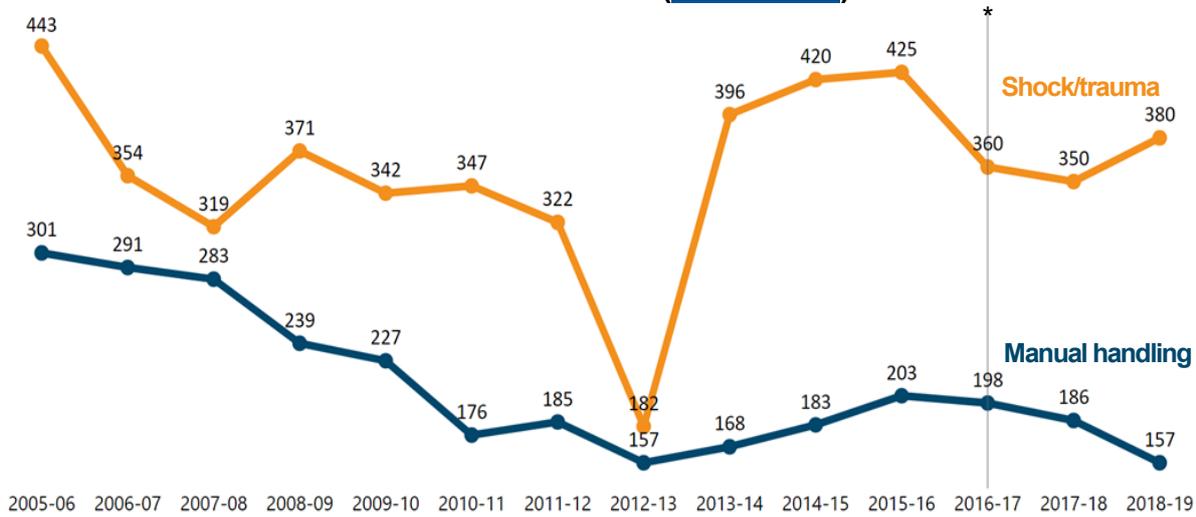
Contractors (Other):

Contractors working for duty holders other than NR

RSSB's Safety Management Intelligence System (SMIS) records safety related incidents that occur on the mainline rail network.

LUL's Information Exchange (IE2) database as well as the ORR's online web form perform similar functions for London Underground and non-mainline operators respectively.

Trends in manual handling and shock/trauma incidents resulting in lost time between 2005-06 and 2018-19 (Table 5.13):



Source: RSSB and LUL

*Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, there is a series break due to a change in the system used on the mainline to report manual handling and shock/trauma incidents. For more information, please see notes on Table 5.12

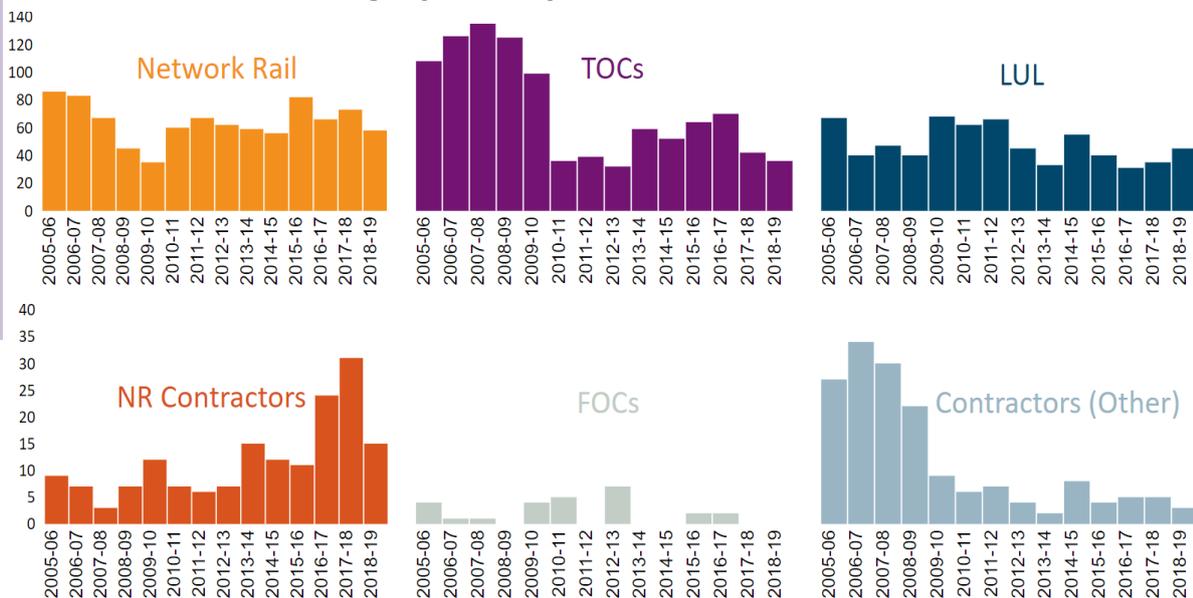


Manual handling incidents resulting in lost time fell by **15.6%** in 2018-19.



Shock/trauma incidents resulting in lost time increased by **8.6%** compared to 2017-18.

Manual handling incidents resulting in lost time between 2005-06 and 2018-19 for each category of dutyholder:



Source: RSSB and LUL



Reports for NR contractors halved in 2018-19 compared to the previous year.



LUL incidents increased for the second year in a row and are at their highest since 2014-15.

Other sources:

For information on manual handling and shock/trauma incidents resulting in no lost time for all operators, see [Table 5.14](#)

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