

11 June 2021

**Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)**  
**Ad hoc Module on accidents at work and other work-related health problems.**  
Year 2020

**A total of 3.7% of the workers<sup>1</sup> claimed to have had a work-related accident<sup>2</sup> in the last 12 months**

**A total of 18.2% of people aged 16 to 74 who were employed or who previously worked suffered some type of illness the past year. For one in three of these people, their condition was caused or aggravated by work**

### **Accidents**

A total of 3.7% of employed persons from 16 to 74 or persons who worked during the last year claimed having had a work-related accident during their working day or commutes to/from the workplace during the last 12 months.

By sex, 4.1% of men and 3.3% of women were affected.

By age, the greatest percentages of accidents during the working day or commutes to/from the workplace took place in the age group of 35 to 44 years of age for men and 55 and above for women.

The percentage of persons who had a work-related accident decreased to 2.4% when only considering accidents that involved injuries. By sex, 2.8% of the men had a work-related accident compared with 1.9% of women.

It is worth noting that 4.4% of said accidents involving injury during the working day were traffic accidents.

By economic sector, 57.7% of the accidents during the working day occurred in the *Services* sector, 16.8% in *Industry*, 8.9% occurred in *Construction* and 3.1% in *Agriculture*.

Comparing this distribution with the one of the employed persons by sector, it may be seen that the proportion of accidents is greater than the weight of the sector in *Industry* and in *Construction* and lower in the *Services* sector.

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<sup>1</sup>People aged 16 to 74, employed or who have worked in the last year

<sup>2</sup>During the working day or commutes to/from the workplace. It includes accidents that have caused an injury as well as those that have not.

**Persons aged 16 to 74 years <sup>(1)</sup>, according to whether they have had a work-related accident during their working day or commutes**

Percentage

Sex and age group	Does not know / No answer		
	Yes	No	
<b>Both sexes</b>	3.72	96.16	0.12
16-24	2.59	97.22	0.19
25-34	3.29	96.68	0.03
35-44	4.19	95.63	0.18
45-54	3.72	96.14	0.14
55 and over	3.91	96.00	0.09
<b>Men</b>	4.08	95.75	0.17
16-24	2.68	97.04	0.28
25-34	3.67	96.28	0.05
35-44	4.85	94.93	0.22
45-54	4.16	95.65	0.20
55 and over	3.79	96.08	0.13
<b>Women</b>	3.30	96.63	0.07
16-24	2.48	97.44	0.1
25-34	2.89	97.11	0.00
35-44	3.46	96.41	0.13
45-54	3.22	96.72	0.07
55 and over	4.05	95.90	0.05

<sup>(1)</sup> Employed or who worked in the last year

Taking into account the professional situation of the people who had an accident with an injury during the working day, 63.7% were private sector employees, 11.9% public sector employees and 10.9% self-employed.

When observing the distribution of employed persons by professional status, it may be deduced that the proportion of accidents suffered by wage earners of the private sector (73.7%) was greater than the weight it carries on the total of employed persons (66.7%), as opposed to what occurred in the rest of situations.

### Return to work

A total of 22.6% of those who suffered an accident with injury during the working day did not stop working, or returned to work on the same day of the accident. For their part, almost 16% stopped working as a result and returned between one and three months later.

On the contrary, 4.0% of the persons who had an accident involving injury during the working day did not expect to return to work or their medical leave lasted between six and 12 months.

By sex, 14.9% of men were still not working but expected to return to work after the accident, compared to 13.1% of women.

In addition, 22.3% of men and 23.2% of women did not stop working or returned to work on the same day of the accident.

**Persons aged 16 to 74 who are employed or who worked in the last year, and who have had an accident with injuries during their working day, according to the time they spent not working, by sex**

**Absolute values (thousands of persons) and percentages**

Time of absence	Both sexes		Men		Women	
	Absolute value	Percentage	Absolute value	Percentage	Absolute value	Percentage
<b>Total</b>	551.5	100.00	348.9	100.00	202.6	100.00
The person is still not working, but expects to work again	78.7	14.27	52.1	14.93	26.6	13.12
Less than one day, or none	124.7	22.61	77.7	22.26	47.0	23.21
At least one day, but less than 4 days	43.8	7.94	29.2	8.37	14.5	7.18
At least 4 days, but less than 2 weeks	80.7	14.63	52.2	14.95	28.5	14.07
At least 2 weeks, but less than one month	79.0	14.33	50.0	14.34	29.0	14.33
At least one month, but less than three months	88.0	15.96	53.7	15.38	34.3	16.95
At least three months, but less than six months	26.4	4.78	14.7	4.20	11.7	5.78
Between 6 months and 12 months or does not expect to work again	22.1	4.01	15.6	4.46	6.5	3.23
Does not know / Does not answer	8.2	1.49	3.9	1.11	4.3	2.13

The work-related accident during their working day or commutes must have taken place in the 12 months prior to the Sunday of the reference week

**Illnesses**

18.2% of employed persons or persons who previously worked (5,785,800) had an illness during the last 12 years.

By sex, 17.2% of men and 19.2% of women suffered from an illness.

**Persons aged 16 to 74 <sup>(1)</sup>, according to whether or not they have had an illness, by sex**

Percentage

	Yes	No	Does not know / Does not answer
<b>Both sexes</b>	18.18	81.65	0.17
<b>Men</b>	17.16	82.62	0.22
<b>Women</b>	19.23	80.65	0.12

<sup>(1)</sup> Currently employed or who previously worked

The percentages of persons who had an illness increased as the analysed age group increased as well. A total of 25.3% was thus reached for men aged 55 or over and 27.0% for women of the same age group.

Of the total of persons who suffered from an illness during the last year, 29.5% claimed having suffered from an illness caused or aggravated by work and 5,1% claimed having suffered from two or more of those illnesses.

In turn, 60.8% of the persons suffered from an illness that was not caused by work.

### Type of Illness

The two main types of work-related illnesses (caused or aggravated by work in the last 12 months) were bone, joint or muscle problems that mainly affect the back (26.4%), neck, shoulders, arms or hands (19.9%), and hips, legs or feet (14.7%).

They were followed by illnesses related to stress, depression or anxiety (14.6%).

### Persons aged 16 to 74 <sup>(1)</sup> who have had a work-related illness, by type of illness and sex

Percentage

Type of illness	Both sexes	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bone, joint or muscular problems mainly affecting the neck, shoulders, arms or hands	19.91	15.18	24.17
Bone, joint or muscular problems mainly affecting the legs, hips or feet	14.73	15.48	14.05
Bone, joint or muscular problems mainly affecting the back	26.35	28.67	24.26
Respiratory or lung problems	5.75	7.03	4.59
Skin problem	1.05	1.17	0.94
Hearing problem	0.55	0.93	0.21
Stress, depression or anxiety	14.57	13.35	15.68
Headache and/or eye fatigue	1.30	0.96	1.60
Heart disease or attack, or other circulatory system problems	4.41	5.83	3.13
Infectious disease (viral, bacterial or other type of infection)	3.37	2.91	3.78
Stomach, liver or kidney or digestive problems	2.21	2.78	1.70
Other type of health problem	5.32	5.47	5.19
Does not know / Does not answer	0.48	0.24	0.69

<sup>(1)</sup> Currently employed or who previously worked

39.2% of persons aged 16 or over experienced a “considerable” limitation of their everyday activities due to their work-related illness. The same percentage considered that occupational disease had limited said activities “to a certain extent”.

## Period of absence

Regarding the time of absence from work due to illness, 39.4% did not leave or returned on the same day, 17.0% were not working yet but hoped to rejoining, and 13.4% were absent between nine and 12 months.

In turn, 1.5% were absent from work between six and nine months.

## Persons aged 16 to 74 who are employed or who previously worked, according to the time they spent without working due to a work-related illness, by sex

Time of absence	Percentage		
	Both sexes	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>	100.00	100.00	100.00
The person is still not working, but expects to work again	17.00	16.33	17.60
Less than one day, or none	39.36	39.49	39.25
At least one day, but less than 4 days	3.52	3.92	3.15
At least 4 days, but less than 2 weeks	6.04	6.04	6.03
At least 2 weeks, but less than one month	4.97	4.60	5.31
At least one month, but less than three months	7.74	8.60	6.97
At least three months, but less than six months	3.21	2.41	3.93
At least six months, but less than nine months	1.51	0.85	2.11
Between 9 months and 12 months or does not expect to work again	13.43	14.81	12.18
Does not know / Does not answer	3.21	2.94	3.46

The illness or health problem must have taken place within the 12 months prior to the Sunday of the reference week

## Adverse factors for physical and mental health

In the case of risk factors for physical health, in 2020, almost 24% of the 19,202,400 employed persons stated that they had not been exposed to significant adverse factors.

The risk of "adopting painful or exhausting postures that are part of the job" was indicated as the factor with the greatest negative effect by 19.3% persons (18.1% of men and 20.8% of women).

On the other hand, "activities that involve a great deal of visual effort" were indicated as the factor with the greatest negative effect for 12.3% of those affected (11.4% in men and 13.5% in women).

Of total persons employed, 53.4% declared that they had not been exposed to factors adverse to their mental well-being.

In 24.4% of the cases, the most serious negative factor was having “time pressure or work overload” (24.3% in men and 24.5% in women).

For their part, 7.4% claimed to have suffered “difficulties dealing with clients, patients, students, etc.” (1,414,600 people). This percentage rises to 9.0% in the case of women.

A total of 7.1% of those employed who said they been exposed to factors that were adverse to their mental well-being stated that they had suffered “job insecurity” (1,365,100 people). This percentage increased to 7.4% for men and fell to 6.8% for women.

**Percentage of employed persons who are exposed to adverse effects on their mental well-being, according to the factor with the greatest negative effect, by sex and age group**

Sex and age group	Total	Time pressures or work overload	Violence or threat of violence	Harassment or intimidation	Poor communication or cooperation within the organisation	Difficult dealing with clients, patients, trainees, etc.
<b>Both sexes</b>	100.00	24.40	1.19	0.67	2.87	7.37
16-24	100.00	13.59	0.77	0.27	1.56	5.17
25-34	100.00	22.58	0.97	0.45	2.74	8.09
35-44	100.00	26.96	1.17	0.72	3.02	8.33
45-54	100.00	25.24	1.34	0.73	3.18	6.50
55 and over	100.00	23.48	1.32	0.82	2.57	7.17
<b>Men</b>	100.00	24.31	1.37	0.56	2.87	6.07
16-24	100.00	12.99	0.59	0.26	1.95	3.37
25-34	100.00	21.95	1.09	0.21	2.55	5.44
35-44	100.00	26.96	1.39	0.63	3.18	7.45
45-54	100.00	25.31	1.57	0.71	2.99	5.34
55 and over	100.00	23.69	1.46	0.65	2.72	6.56
<b>Women</b>	100.00	24.51	0.99	0.80	2.88	8.91
16-24	100.00	14.35	1.01	0.28	1.07	7.50
25-34	100.00	23.28	0.83	0.72	2.96	11.03
35-44	100.00	26.95	0.93	0.83	2.83	9.35
45-54	100.00	25.15	1.05	0.76	3.40	7.90
55 and over	100.00	23.21	1.15	1.03	2.38	7.93

Sex and age group	Job insecurity	Lack of autonomy or influence over the pace or procedures of work	Other major risk factor not mentioned before	No major risk factor for mental well-being	Does not know / Does not answer
<b>Both sexes</b>	7.11	1.05	1.32	53.35	0.67
16-24	9.15	1.07	0.66	66.11	1.65
25-34	7.71	1.13	1.10	54.35	0.88
35-44	7.58	0.83	1.40	49.44	0.56
45-54	6.91	1.12	1.40	52.96	0.63
55 and over	5.47	1.18	1.43	56.12	0.45
<b>Men</b>	7.39	1.08	1.33	54.30	0.72
16-24	8.06	1.15	0.65	69.61	1.37
25-34	8.48	1.18	1.19	56.97	0.94
35-44	7.80	0.87	1.43	49.65	0.66
45-54	7.31	1.15	1.32	53.63	0.66
55 and over	5.54	1.17	1.53	56.16	0.52
<b>Women</b>	6.77	1.01	1.30	52.22	0.62
16-24	10.56	0.97	0.66	61.59	2.02
25-34	6.85	1.08	1.00	51.44	0.81
35-44	7.31	0.79	1.37	49.19	0.44
45-54	6.42	1.07	1.49	52.16	0.60
55 and over	5.37	1.19	1.30	56.07	0.37

## Methodological note

The 2020 module of the Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS), compiled in collaboration with Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union), researches work-related accidents and health problems.

The variables in this module have been established according to the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1709 of 13 November 2018 and are intended to provide harmonized information on this issue at the European level. The Commission co-financed the costs of implementing this module.

This press release discusses the incidence of workplace accidents and the time elapsed prior to returning to work. Health problems, their potential relationship with work, and the time that has elapsed until reinstatement are analysed. And finally, the risk factors for physical and mental health at work, as perceived by the informant.

The module questions were posed to the EPA subsample, found in sixth interview that includes the additional subsample collected by the Galician Institute of Statistics in Galicia.

**Type of operation:** annual continuous statistics (each year is on a different subject).

**Population scope:** Employed persons and non-employed persons between the ages of 16 and 74 who have previous professional experience.

**Geographical scope:** the entire national territory.

**Reference period of the results:** year 2020

**Reference period of the information:** 12 months prior to the Sunday of the reference week and the current moment of the interview.

**Collection method:** computer-assisted personal or telephone interviews.

Both the [module's methodology](#) and the [EPA's standardized methodological report](#) , which is the module's base survey, may be consulted for more information.

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information, see the section on [Quality at INE and the Code of Good Practices](#) on the INE website.

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