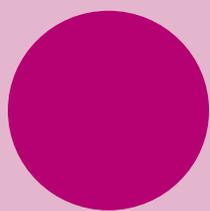


# EUROGIP



## Statistical Review of Occupational Injuries

### GERMANY

2006 data

Set of statistical data relating to **accidents at work**  
and **occupational diseases** in the European Union Member  
States

June 2008  
Ref. Eurogip-31/E



# 1. Main characteristics of the German occupational injury insurance system

A restructuring, mainly organisational, is currently ongoing. On July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, the Federation of Institutions for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention of the industry, trade and services sector - HVBG (*Hauptverband der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften*) and the Central Federation of Public Sector Accident Insurers - BUK (*Bundesverband der Unfallkassen*) merged to build together the German statutory accident insurance - DGUV (*Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung*). DGUV now insures 70 million persons and 3.7 million companies against occupational injuries. The restructuring also plans to merge *Berufsgenossenschaften* (BGs) by 2012, whose number will be of 9 BGs for industry, trade and services and 17 funds for the public sector (instead of 23 BGs and 27 funds respectively today).

This document publishes 2006 data; consequently it does not take into account this restructuring. Published data cover only the BGs managed by the HVBG, roughly 30 million equivalent full workers and 3 million companies.

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- Companies of the industry, trade and services must affiliate themselves to a BG according to their activity.
- BGs are public law professional associations with an equal representation board. The BGs accomplish tasks falling to them under their own responsibility. If they are independent for their management, they are financially interdependent. Prevention of occupational risks is one of the BGs' major tasks.
- Consequences of accidents at work, commuting accidents and occupational diseases are insured by the BGs.
- The funding is the sole responsibility of the employer within the framework of a contributory system.
- BGs are gathered into 14 activity branches of the industry, trade and services sectors which will be found in the statistical tables.
- Accidents at work are coded at the BG level, then data are transferred and gathered at the HVBG level (now DGUV) to be sent to the Ministry of Labour<sup>[1]</sup>. A consistency and quality checks are undertaken at various points of the process.
- About notification and recognition of occupational diseases a mixed system (list and complementary system) is implemented. The German list is made up of 68 occupational diseases (in 2006). More information on the list are available on [http://www.hvbg.de/d/pages/stAccidents at work/bk/bklist/bklist.html](http://www.hvbg.de/d/pages/stAccidents%20at%20work/bk/bklist/bklist.html)

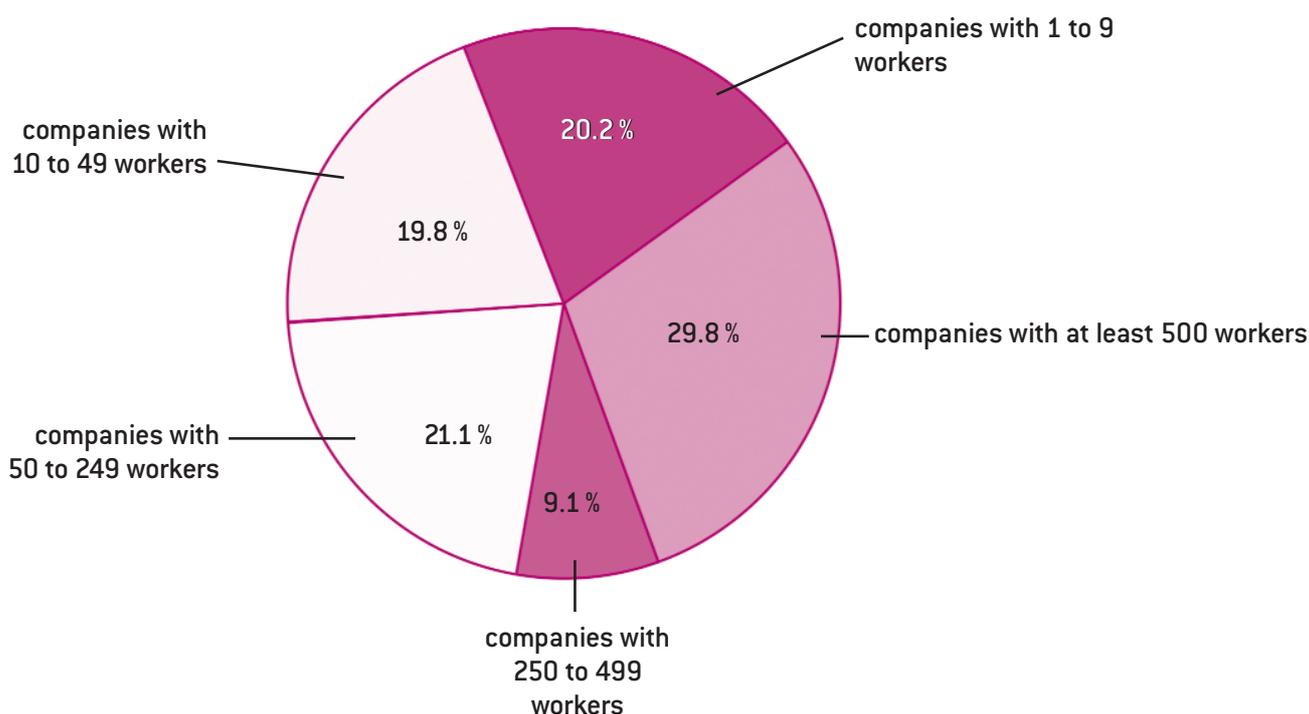
Please visit DGUV website <http://www.dguv.de/inhalt/index.html#> for additional information on accidents at work.

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[1] Considering European harmonized statistics the Ministry of Labour is the Eurostat's correspondent for Germany who is coding according to the ESAW (European Statistics on Accidents at Work) methodology a 10 % sample of accidents at work with more than three days away from work and all fatal accidents.



## Distribution of workers (full-time workers) by company size in 2006



## Number of full-time workers per activity branch and company size (2006)

Branch of activity	Number of companies per size with full-time workers <sup>(2)</sup>					Total number of companies <sup>(3)</sup>	Staff by branch x 1,000
	< 10 workers	10 to 49	50 to 249	250 to 499	>500 workers		
Mining	80	49	52	19	35	235	73.8
Pit and quarry	11,300	2,681	1,003	125	64	15,173	278.0
Gas, district, heating and water	4,900	904	510	66	47	6,427	159.0
Metal	97,765	29,711	7,823	1,048	720	137,067	3,503.3
Light and electrical engineering	72,224	20,775	4,415	612	583	98,609	2,166.9
Chemicals	7,062	3,589	2,132	362	306	13,451	882.4
Timber	44,801	6,136	1,112	112	59	52,220	424.0
Paper and printing	45,974	4,796	1,675	264	158	52,867	600.7
Textiles and leather	55,113	3,601	1,261	139	50	60,165	390.1
Food and catering	349,715	28,288	3,525	243	87	392,704	1,903.1
Construction	295,526	27,481	3,693	294	151	327,145	1,832.6
Commerce and administration	973,294	103,967	21,213	2,925	2,364	1,108,404	12,899.7
Transport	176,462	16,975	3,183	276	168	197,845	1,501.1
Health services	453,033	32,327	6,519	910	716	540,810	3,588.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,587,249</b>	<b>281,280</b>	<b>58,116</b>	<b>7,395</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>3,003,122</b>	<b>30,202.9</b>

(2) One full-time worker is equivalent to the number of hours actually worked (1,570 in 2005 and 1,580 in 2006) on average by a full-time employee in industry and is therefore a reflection of the period of exposure to the risk of industrial accidents.

(3) In some cases the size of companies is not available. So summing up does not always coincide with the column.

## 4. Accidents at work and commuting accidents

Data for Germany cover accidents with at least three days away from work. The employer is not legally bound to notify accidents at work with less than three days away from work. This information is not available in the technological statistics.

### Number of notified accidents

Year	Accidents at work	Commuting accidents	Total
2004	841,447	151,330	<b>992,777</b>
2005	801,834	151,641	<b>953,475</b>
2006	833,502	158,769	<b>992,271</b>

### Total number of fatal notified accidents

Year	Fatal accidents at work	Fatal commuting accidents	Total
2004	645	497	<b>1,142</b>
2005	589	495	<b>1,084</b>
2006	642	475	<b>1,117</b>

### Accident rates for notified accidents at work and for fatal accidents (excluding commuting accident)

Incidence rate is the ratio of the number of accidents at work to 1,000 full-time workers.

Frequency rate is the ratio of the number of accidents at work to 1 million of working hours.

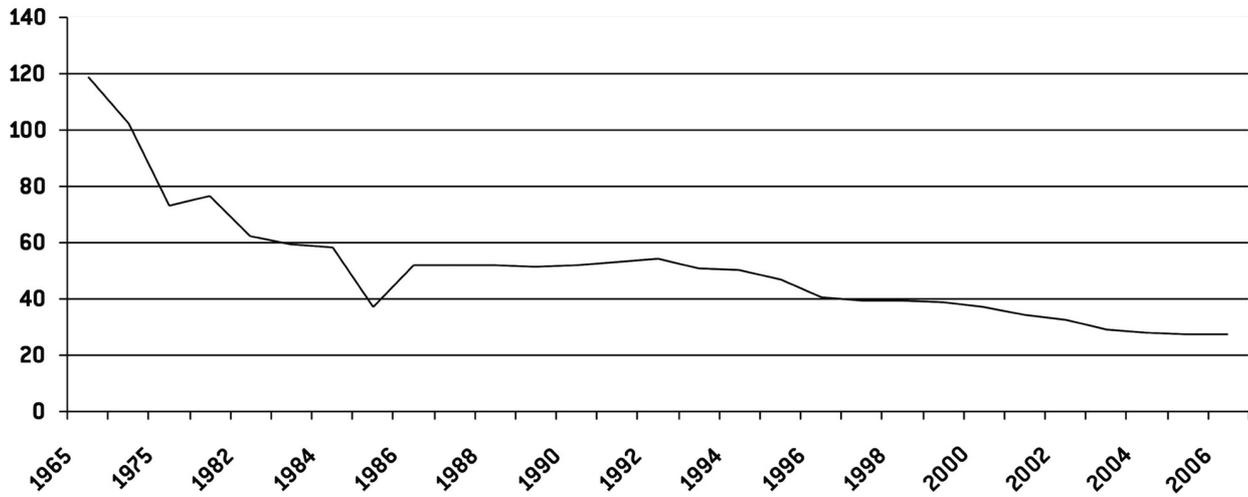
Year	Incidence rate acc.	Frequency rate acc.	Incidence rate fatal acc.	Frequency rate fatal acc.
2004	27.85	17.63	0.021	0.014
2005	27.23	17.34	0.020	0.013
2006	27.60	17.47	0.021	0.013

### Notified accidents at work by branch of activity (with more than 3 days away from work - fatal accidents included) in 2006

Branch of activity	Accidents at work	Commuting accidents	Total per branch
Mining	1,416	318	1,734
Pit and quarry	11,726	1,205	12,931
Gas, district, heating and water	3,935	887	4,822
Metal	149,606	19,951	169,557
Light and electrical engineering	34,111	8,855	42,966
Chemicals	12,557	4,626	17,183
Timber	27,673	2,120	29,793
Paper and printing	14,705	2,736	17,441
Textiles and leather	8,814	1,980	10,794
Food and catering	92,103	14,093	106,196
Construction	128,882	10,633	139,515
Commerce and administration	240,045	60,918	300,963
Transports	62,096	6,310	68,406
Health services	45,833	24,137	69,970
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>833,502</b>	<b>158,769</b>	<b>992,271</b>

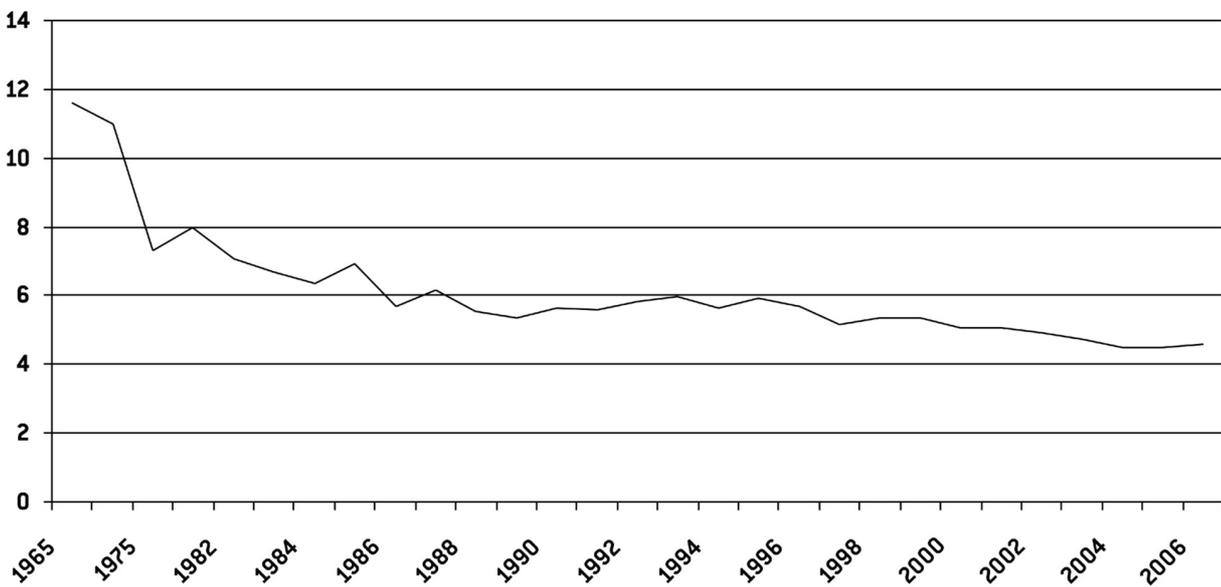
## Accident rates' long-term trends

### Accidents at work: incidence rate (per 1,000 workers)



[See page 4 for the last three years data]

### Commuting accidents: incidence rate (per 1,000 workers)



## The five branches of activity registering the highest number of accidents

### Concerning accidents at work

#### In absolute value and percentage compared to total

Branch of activity	Reportable accident in absolute value	% compared to total
Commerce and administration	240,045	28.80
Metal	149,606	17.95
Construction	128,882	15.46
Food and catering	92,103	11.05
Transport	62,096	7.45
Others	160,770	19.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>833,502</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Incidence rate (per 1,000 workers)

Branch of activity	Incidence rate
Construction	70.33
Timber	65.27
Food and catering	48.40
Metal	42.70
Pit and carry	42.17
<b>National incidence rate</b>	<b>27.60</b>

#### Fatal accidents at work in absolute value and percentage

Branch of activity	Fatal accidents	% compared to total
Transport	167	26.01
Construction	141	21.96
Commerce and administration	126	19.63
Metal	68	10.59
Light and electrical engineering	37	5.76
Others	103	16.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>100</b>

## Concerning commuting accidents

### In absolute value and percentage compared to total

Branch of activity	Reported commuting accidents	% compared to total
Commerce and administration	60,918	38.37
Health services	24,137	15.20
Metal	19,951	12.57
Food and catering	14,903	9.39
Construction	10,633	6.70
Others	28,227	17.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>158,769</b>	<b>100</b>

### Incidence rate (per 1,000 workers)

Branch of activity	Incidence rate
Metal	5.30
Chemicals	5.26
Commerce and administration	4.87
Textiles and leather	4.84
Health services	4.46
Timber	4.46
<b>National incidence rate</b>	<b>4.59</b>

### Fatal commuting accidents in absolute value and percentage

Branch of activity	Fatal accidents	% compared to total
Commerce and administration	140	29.47
Metal	68	14.32
Construction	45	9.47
Food and catering	44	9.26
Health services	42	8.84
Others	136	28.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100</b>

## 5. Occupational diseases

Reference year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Change from 2005/2006 absolute	Change from 2005/2006 in %
Number of notified cases <sup>(3)</sup>	77,310	74,470	72,562	71,172	66,784	62,472	56,900	55,869	53,576	53,955	+ 379	+ 0.7
Number of decided cases <sup>(4)</sup>	81,578	77,326	70,871	69,586	67,649	66,235	64,401	62,069	60,065	57,153	-2,912	- 4.8
Occupational causation not confirmed	53,760	50,826	45,860	45,769	43,716	41,703	40,879	38,484	36,405	35,299	-1,106	- 3.0
Occupational causation confirmed:	<b>27,818</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>25,011</b>	<b>23,817</b>	<b>23,933</b>	<b>24,532</b>	<b>23,522</b>	<b>23,585</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>21,854</b>	<b>-1,806</b>	<b>- 7.6</b>
- of which recognized cases of occupational diseases:	21,187	18,614	17,046	16,414	16,888	16,669	15,758	15,832	14,920	13,365	-1,555	- 10.4
of which new pensions <sup>(5)</sup>	6,983	5,691	5,309	4,901	5,189	5,138	4,799	4,748	5,206	4,549	- 657	- 12.6
- cases with absence of one additionally required insurance criteria <sup>(6)</sup>	6,631	7,886	7,965	7,403	7,045	7,863	7,764	7,753	8,740	8,489	- 251	- 2.9

(3) The number of notified cases includes all notifications made by doctors and employers who must notify these cases to the BGs. Other social bodies provide information to BGs as well as insured persons.

(5) Combination of occupational causations confirmed and not confirmed.

(3) New pensions granted during the reference year: in Germany a pension is granted (accidents at work and recognized occupational diseases) only if the victim's capacity to earn his/her living is reduced (permanent incapacity rate) by 20 % or more.

(6) Number of cases whose occupational causation is confirmed but with an administrative requirement not met. It applies to some occupational diseases of the list (severe or recurrent skin conditions for instance) that to be recognized (and compensated) need to be so acute that the victim must avoid any activity that will or would generate the development, the worsening or the recurrence of the disease. The full recognition as an occupational disease may be granted afterwards when the missing administrative requirement is met.

### Diseases giving rise to the greatest number of claims for recognition

Diseases	Notifications	% compared to total
Severe or recurrent skin conditions	15,470	28.67
Noise-induced hearing loss	8,411	15.59
Discogenic conditions of the lumbar spine caused by the lifting or carrying of heavy loads over many years or by performance of work for many years in an extreme bent posture	5,154	9.55
Asbestosis or pleural plaques	3,557	6.59
Lung or larynx cancer	3,110	5.76
Others	18,253	33.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,955</b>	<b>100</b>

### Diseases most frequently recognized as occupational diseases

Diseases	Recognized cases	% compared to total
Noise-induced hearing loss	4,967	37.16
Asbestosis and pleural plaques	1,969	14.73
Mesothelioma	903	6.76
Silicosis	828	6.20
Lung or larynx cancer	816	6.11
Others	3,882	29.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,365</b>	<b>100</b>

### Occupational diseases giving rise to the greatest number of new pensions during the year

Diseases	Pensions	% compared to total
Mesothelioma	851	18.71
Lung or larynx cancer	752	16.53
Noise-induced hearing loss	384	8.44
Asbestosis and pleural plaques	375	8.24
Dispositions <sup>(?)</sup> & 9 SGB VII	327	7.19
Others	1,860	40.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,549</b>	<b>100</b>

(?) Dispositions allowing occupational diseases not in the list to be recognized.

### Branches of activity recording the greatest number of claim for recognition

Branch of activity	Claims	% compared to total
Metal	11,113	20.60
Health services	8,934	16.56
Construction	8,538	15.82
Commerce and administration	5,095	9.44
Food an catering	4,394	8.14
Others	15,881	29.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,955</b>	<b>100</b>

### Branches of activity recording the greatest number of recognized cases

Branche of activity	Recognized cases	% compared to total
Metal	3,782	28.30
Construction	2,330	17.43
Mining	1,976	14.78
Light and electrical engineering	930	6.96
Health services	884	6.61
Others	3,463	25.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,365</b>	<b>100</b>

### Branches of activity recording the greatest number of new pensions during the year

Branche of activity	Pensions	% compared to total
Metal	1,129	24.82
Mining	1,091	23.98
Construction	598	13.15
Light and electrical engineeringe	365	8.02
Chemicals	322	7.08
Others	1,044	22.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,549</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6. Financial data

Financial data cover the costs of accidents at work, commuting accidents and occupational diseases.

### Expenditures of the occupational injuries branch (in million of Euro)

Type of action	2003	2004	2005	2006
Prevention (see table below)	728	734	733	736
Compensation (kind and cash)	7,610	7,561	7,473	7,459
<i>part of which medical treatment+ rehabilitation(see table below)</i>	2,585	2,552	2,507	2,546
<i>part of which pensions, compensation, lump sum</i>	5,025	5,009	4,966	4,913
Administration and procedure	1,122	1,086	1,087	1,051

### Cost of BGs prevention activity (in million of Euro)

Detailed prevention expenditures	2003	2004	2005	2006
Prevention regulations, publications, etc.	3.675	3.714	2.998	2.706
Advice to companies, inspections	399.446	403.585	405.974	411.263
Health and safety services, operation security, first aid	82.897	81.913	78.766	75.649
Training	120.858	122.251	125.050	126.784
<b>Total</b>	<b>728.146</b>	<b>734.254</b>	<b>732.875</b>	<b>735.928</b>

This table does not include the cost of the implementation of prevention measures by the BGs' member companies.

### Cost of medical treatment and rehabilitation (in million of Euro)

Detailed expenditures	2003	2004	2005	2006
Out-patient treatment and dentures	686.175	707.531	729.126	761.580
In-patient treatment and home-nursing care	658.601	669.308	671.124	710.657
Injury allowance and special benefits	504.584	465.111	443.840	442.438
Other medical treatment expenditure	461.011	454.102	446.883	454.533
Expenditure for occupational rehabilitation	274.455	256.237	216.149	177.130
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,584.828</b>	<b>2,552.291</b>	<b>2,507.123</b>	<b>2,546.338</b>

BGs' responsibilities encompass all rehabilitation services rendered necessary by occupational and commuting accidents as well as occupational diseases. BGs control and co-ordinate these services. This entails the provision of medical treatment, including medical, occupational and social rehabilitation benefits, nursing services and cash benefits.

## Number of pensions (stock of pensioners)

Pensions paid to	2003	2004	2005	2006
Insured persons	722,717	714,958	706,093	698,479
Widows/widowers	108,062	106,987	105,768	105,180
Orphans	17,288	16,839	16,469	15,963
Other claimants	88	83	76	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>848,155</b>	<b>838,867</b>	<b>828,406</b>	<b>819,683</b>

Out of the 698,479 pensions paid to insured persons, 594,205 are accidents pensions and 104,274 occupational diseases pensions. These pensions are paid when the incapacity rate is at least of 20 % (loss of capacity to earn a living). In case of death the pension is paid to eligible parties.

## 7. Eurostat data

Structural indicators are available only for accidents at work. 2006 data are not yet available.

### Index<sup>(8)</sup> of the number of serious accidents at work per 100,000 person in employment (1998 = 100)

Serious accidents	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
EU (25 countries)	-	-	-	-	100	100	99	95	88	83	79	77
EU (15 countries)	111	104	103	100	100	100	98	94	86	81	78	76
Euro area (12 countries)	-	105	103	101	100	99	97	92	84	79	76	74
Germany	113	106	103	101	100	99	96	88	82	74	73	65

### Index<sup>(8)</sup> of the number of fatal accidents at work per 100,000 person in employment (1998 = 100)

Fatal road traffic accidents and other transport accidents in the course of work are excluded.

Fatal accidents	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
EU-25	-	-	-	-	100	88	87	85	81	80	76	72
EU-15	122	116	113	106	100	91	88	85	80	78	75	74
Euro area (12)	123	113	110	102	100	88	86	83	78	78	73	72
Germany	168	136	159	123	100	109	95	89	112	105	100	82

(8) The index shows the evolution of the incidence rate of fatal accidents at work in comparison to 1998 (= 100). The incidence rate = (number of accidents with more than three days away from work or number of fatal accidents at work that occurred during the year/ number of persons in employment in the reference population) x 100,000. An accident at work is a discrete occurrence in the course of work that leads to physical or mental harm. This includes accidents in the course of work outside the premises of one's business, even if caused by a third party, and cases of acute poisoning. It excludes accidents on the way to or from work, occurrences having only a medical origin, and occupational diseases.

Euro area (12 countries) : Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain

EU-15 : Euro area + Denmark, Sweden, United-Kingdom

EU-25 : EU-15 + Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Cyprus (without the northern part of the island) and Malta.

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