

# Accidents at work - statistics on causes and circumstances

Statistics Explained

Data extracted in November 2024.  
Planned update: November 2025.

## Highlights

" During 2022, 3 in 10 (29.9%) non-fatal accidents at work in the EU took place on industrial sites. "

" During 2022, more than a quarter (27.4%) of fatal accidents at work in the EU resulted from losing control of a machine, tool or transport/handling equipment. "

" During 2022, the most common types of non-fatal accidents at work in the EU resulted from physical or mental stress (22.4%) or impact with a stationary object (21.6%). "

This article presents a set of main statistical findings in relation to indicators concerning [non-fatal](#) and [fatal accidents](#) at work in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) ; the statistics presented have been collected as part of the [European statistics on accidents at work \(ESAW\)](#) administrative data collection exercise. The particular focus of this article is an analysis of these statistics according to the worker's location at the time of the accident, the type of working process and physical activity being undertaken at the time of the accident, and the cause of the accident. The data are presented for the total economy (all activities) and for 5 selected [NACE](#) sections: agriculture, forestry and fishing (NACE Section A), manufacturing (Section C), construction (Section F), distributive trades (Section G), and transportation and storage (Section H).

## Underestimation because of incomplete information

It should be noted that while all EU countries provided information for the total number of fatal and non-fatal accidents at work with a breakdown by economic activity (NACE), not all of them provided data according to all the categories of the variables on causes and circumstances presented in this article. The accidents for EU countries that did not provide data for a particular analysis are included within the *no information* heading and the countries for which this applies are indicated in the tables and figures included here. Thus, the total number of accidents is correct for individual EU countries as well as for the EU as a whole. However, for several of the analyses, notably by workstation (location), by working process and by specific physical activity, the proportion of accidents within the EU for which no information is available is relatively high. As such, when analysing the EU data, the number of accidents for the various categories that are specified (and the share of these categories in the total) should be regarded as a lower limit: these numbers (and shares) are likely to be under-estimated.

## When combining several classifications, fatal accidents at work can be rare events

The absolute number of fatal accidents at work can be relatively small when looking at detailed data. This is the case, for example, when focusing on particular economic activities for individual EU countries (especially for the smaller ones) and/or when crossed with the various other classifications used in this article. An example can be seen in the final figure of this article (Figure 8), where all of the fatal accidents at work that took place within Estonia's construction sector resulted from an impact with a stationary object. However, there were only 3 fatal accidents at work in the Estonian construction sector in 2022. As such, particularly high shares may reflect rare

events, rather than a more general concentration of accidents in a combination of the categories studied.

## Workstation accidents

### Non-fatal accidents

In 2022, more than half (54.4%) of the 2.97 million non-fatal accidents that took place at work in the EU occurred when a person was at their usual workstation or within the usual local unit of work (see Table 1). These accidents relate to fixed workstations in a workshop, shop, office and more generally, premises of the local unit of the employer. Just under a fifth (18.3%) of the total number of non-fatal accidents at work took place at an occasional or mobile workstation or during a journey made on behalf of an employer (these statistics exclude trips made to/from work). Examples of employees with mobile workstations include lorry drivers, construction workers or refuse collectors. Examples of employees with occasional workstations include people making occasional journeys on behalf of their employer, people making specific interventions for their employer outside their usual local unit (for example, on the premises of a client for a meeting, or to install or repair something). A relatively small share (1.8%) of all non-fatal accidents at work took place in other locations/workstations. Note that information on the location of accidents at work was not available for almost a quarter (25.5%) of all non-fatal accidents at work in the EU in 2022.

In 2022, the likelihood of a non-fatal accident at work taking place in the EU at a person's usual workstation was higher for people working in distributive trades (69.0% of all non-fatal accidents at work) and in manufacturing (68.4%). As might be expected given the nature of the work, for people working in construction (47.7% of all non-fatal accidents at work in construction) or in transportation and storage (38.9%), accidents at an occasional or mobile workstation or during a journey on behalf of their employer were considerably more likely than for the other activities shown in Table 1. The share of non-fatal accidents at work which took place in other workstations did not rise above 2.0% for most of the NACE sections presented, the only exception being agriculture, forestry and fishing (10.7%).

### Non-fatal and fatal accidents at work by workstation and economic activity, EU, 2022

| Economic activity<br>(NACE Rev. 2 Section) | Non-fatal accidents at work |  |   |                   |                | Fatal accidents at work |  |   |                   |                |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|---|-------------------|----------------|
|  | Total                       | Usual workstation or within the usual local unit of work | Occasional or mobile workstation or journey on behalf of employer | Other workstation | No information | Total                   | Usual workstation or within the usual local unit of work | Occasional or mobile workstation or journey on behalf of employer | Other workstation | No information |
| NUMBER                                     | (thousands)                 |  |   |                   |                | (number)                |  |   |                   |                |
| <b>Total (all activities)</b>              | 2 973.6                     | 1 617.1  | 544.3   | 53.9              | 758.3          | 3 286                   | 1 097  | 1 417   | 98                | 674            |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)      | 116.0                       | 32.6   | 5.2   | 12.4              | 65.6           | 389                     | 97   | 109   | 24                | 159            |
| Manufacturing (C)                          | 535.5                       | 366.2  | 41.9  | 5.0               | 122.4          | 500                     | 245  | 138   | 15                | 101            |
| Construction (F)                           | 363.7                       | 104.0  | 173.4   | 2.6               | 83.8           | 754                     | 165  | 408   | 13                | 169            |
| Distributive trades (G)                    | 347.2                       | 239.5  | 28.4  | 4.7               | 74.6           | 272                     | 128  | 97  | 5                 | 42             |
| Transportation and storage (H)             | 262.2                       | 102.0  | 94.3  | 4.1               | 61.7           | 514                     | 97   | 334   | 7                 | 76             |
| <b>SHARE</b>                               | <b>(%)</b>                  |  |   |                   |                | <b>(%)</b>              |  |   |                   |                |
| <b>Total (all activities)</b>              | 100.0                       | 54.4   | 18.3  | 1.8               | 25.5           | 100.0                   | 33.4   | 43.1  | 3.0               | 20.5           |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)      | 100.0                       | 28.1   | 4.5   | 10.7              | 56.6           | 100.0                   | 24.9   | 28.0  | 6.2               | 40.9           |
| Manufacturing (C)                          | 100.0                       | 68.4   | 7.8   | 0.9               | 22.9           | 100.0                   | 49.0   | 27.6  | 3.0               | 20.2           |
| Construction (F)                           | 100.0                       | 28.6   | 47.7  | 0.7               | 23.0           | 100.0                   | 21.9   | 54.1  | 1.7               | 22.4           |
| Distributive trades (G)                    | 100.0                       | 69.0   | 8.2   | 1.3               | 21.5           | 100.0                   | 47.1   | 35.7  | 1.8               | 15.4           |
| Transportation and storage (H)             | 100.0                       | 38.9   | 36.0  | 1.6               | 23.5           | 100.0                   | 18.9   | 65.0  | 1.4               | 14.8           |

Note: all accidents for Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Finland and Sweden are included in the heading for no information (as well as in the total).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw\_ph3\_01)

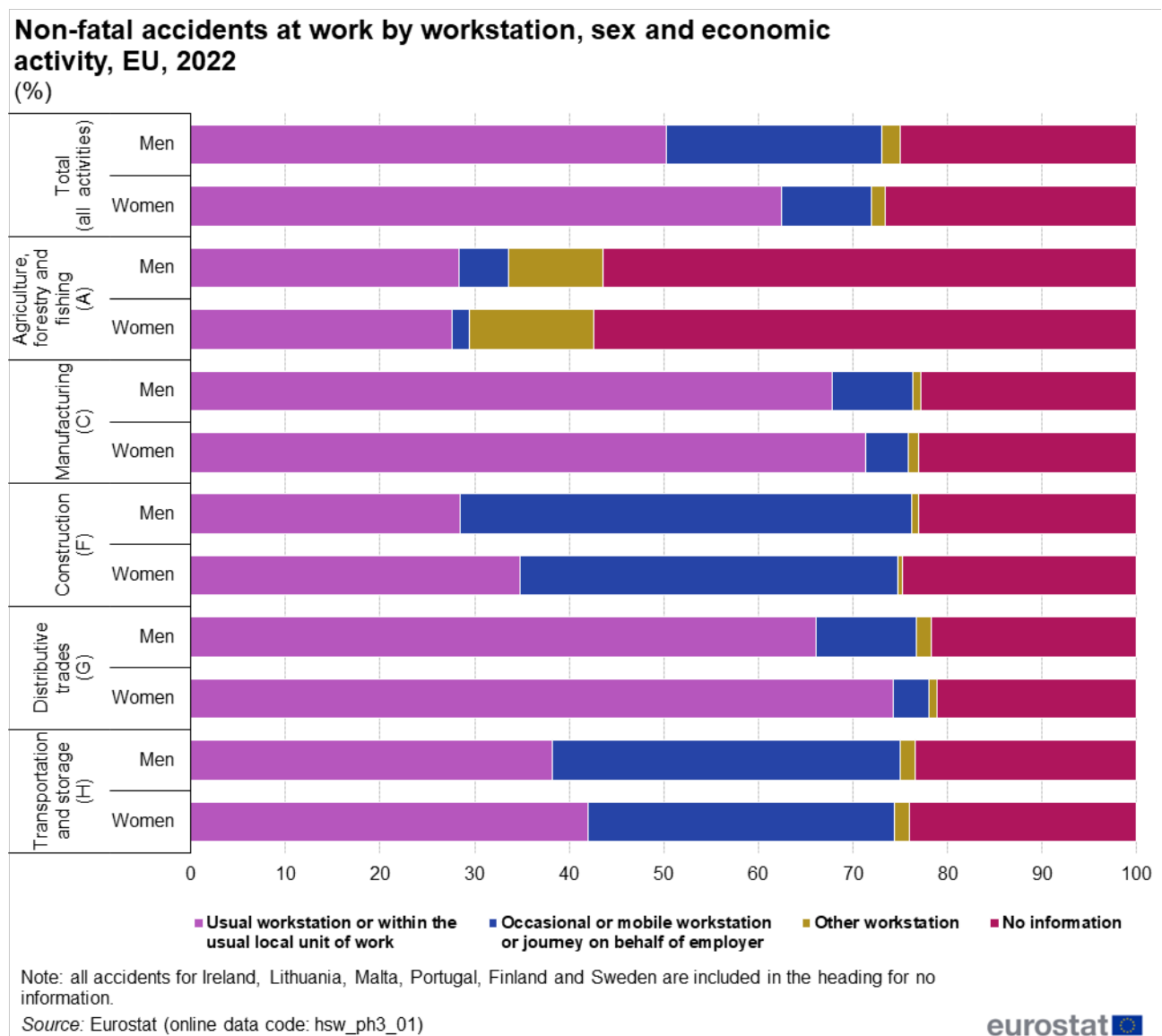
eurostat 

**Table 1: Non-fatal and fatal accidents at work by workstation and economic activity, EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_01)**

Figure 1 presents a similar analysis to that shown in Table 1 but with information presented by sex. In the EU, among people who had experienced a non-fatal accident at work in 2022 this was more likely to have occurred at

their usual workstation or within the usual local unit of work for women than it was for men. For all activities together, this location accounted for 62.5% of all non-fatal accidents at work among women whereas among men the share was 50.3%. A similar pattern was observed for construction (34.8% for women and 28.5% for men), distributive trades (74.3% for women and 66.1% for men), transportation and storage (42.0% for women and 38.3% for men) and manufacturing (71.3% for women and 67.8% for men). Within agriculture, forestry and fishing, a slightly larger proportion of non-fatal accidents at work occurred at their usual workstation or within the usual local unit of work among men (28.3%) rather than women (27.6%).

Some of these gender differences may be linked to structural differences in the occupations that are carried out by men and women within an economic activity. For example, in construction a higher proportion of men (47.8% in 2022) than women (40.0%) experienced a non-fatal accident at work in occasional or mobile workstations or during a journey made on behalf of an employer, suggesting that men in the EU were more likely to work on external construction sites or to drive vehicles and that women were more likely to work in administrative or supporting roles within the local unit of work.



**Figure 1: Non-fatal accidents at work by workstation, sex and economic activity, EU, 2022 (%)** Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_01)

### Fatal accidents

In 2022, there were 3 286 fatal accidents at work in the EU (see Table 1). Among the fatal accidents at work for

which the location of the accident was specified, the vast majority either took place in occasional or mobile workstations or during a journey made on behalf of an employer (43.1% of the total) or in the usual workstation or local work unit (33.4%). As with non-fatal accidents at work, a relatively small share (3.0%) of fatal accidents at work took place at other workstations. For slightly more than a fifth (20.5%) of fatal accidents at work, there was no information available for the location of the accident.

Across the EU, fatal accidents at work were, in 2022, more likely than average to occur in occasional or mobile workstations or during a journey made on behalf of an employer within transportation and storage (65.0%) and construction (54.1%). Fatal accidents at work within manufacturing and distributive trades were most common in the usual workstation or local work unit, 49.0% and 47.1%, respectively. Within agriculture, forestry and fishing, 6.2% of fatal accidents at work took place at other workstations, by far the highest share among the economic activities shown in Table 1.

## Working environment

### Non-fatal accidents

The analysis of accidents at work presented in Table 2 provides information concerning the type of working environment where accidents took place. In 2022, the highest share of non-fatal accidents at work in the EU occurred at industrial sites (29.9%), followed by tertiary sites (16.0%) such as offices. Close to a tenth of all non-fatal accidents at work were in 2 other working environments: construction sites, opencast quarries or mines (9.5%) and public areas (9.2%). As might be expected, non-fatal accidents at work for certain activities were concentrated in particular working environments, such as industrial sites for manufacturing (78.0% of the total for this activity), construction sites, opencast quarries or mines within construction (59.3%) and farming, fish farming or forest zones for agriculture, forestry and fishing (72.8%).

Non-fatal and fatal accidents at work by working environment and economic activity, EU, 2022

| Economic activity<br>(NACE Rev. 2 Section) | Non-fatal accidents at work |                 |  |  |             |                      |                                    |             |                         | Fatal accidents at work |                 |  |  |             |                      |                                    |             |                         |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
|  | Total                       | Industrial site | Tertiary (office, amusement area, miscellaneous) | Construction site, opencast quarry or mine | Public area | Health establishment | Farming, fish farming, forest zone | In the home | Other or no information | Total                   | Industrial site | Tertiary (office, amusement area, miscellaneous) | Construction site, opencast quarry or mine | Public area | Health establishment | Farming, fish farming, forest zone | In the home | Other or no information |
| NUMBER                                     | (thousands)                 |                 |  |  |             |                      |                                    |             |                         | (number)                |                 |  |  |             |                      |                                    |             |                         |
| <b>Total (all activities)</b>              | 2 973.6                     | 889.7           | 474.9  | 282.4                                      | 272.5       | 239.7                | 137.5                              | 78.2        | 598.9                   | 3 286                   | 632             | 239  | 577  | 824         | 23                   | 303                                | 86          | 602                     |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)      | 116.0                       | 10.3            | 1.3  | 0.8  | 2.1         | 0.1                  | 84.4                               | 0.7         | 16.3                    | 389                     | 22              | 2  | 2  | 24          | 0                    | 236                                | 0           | 103                     |
| Manufacturing (C)                          | 535.5                       | 417.6           | 17.9   | 23.6                                       | 13.5        | 0.8                  | 2.0                                | 3.2         | 56.9                    | 500                     | 254             | 17   | 47   | 83          | 0                    | 12                                 | 10          | 77                      |
| Construction (F)                           | 363.7                       | 52.4            | 6.9  | 215.6                                      | 21.2        | 0.8                  | 1.6                                | 12.1        | 53.1                    | 754                     | 61              | 22   | 408  | 116         | 0                    | 8                                  | 18          | 121                     |
| Distributive trades (G)                    | 347.2                       | 142.6           | 112.6  | 4.5  | 22.8        | 0.8                  | 2.0                                | 5.5         | 56.3                    | 272                     | 76              | 47   | 12   | 83          | 0                    | 9                                  | 8           | 37                      |
| Transportation and storage (H)             | 262.2                       | 95.7            | 10.1   | 4.1  | 87.9        | 0.4                  | 0.8                                | 6.9         | 56.3                    | 514                     | 91              | 10   | 19   | 307         | 0                    | 5                                  | 5           | 77                      |
| <b>SHARE</b>                               | <b>(%)</b>                  |                 |  |  |             |                      |                                    |             |                         | <b>(%)</b>              |                 |  |  |             |                      |                                    |             |                         |
| <b>Total (all activities)</b>              | 100.0                       | 29.9            | 16.0   | 9.5  | 9.2         | 8.1                  | 4.6                                | 2.6         | 20.1                    | 100.0                   | 19.2            | 7.3  | 17.6                                       | 25.1        | 0.7                  | 9.2                                | 2.6         | 18.3                    |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)      | 100.0                       | 8.9             | 1.1  | 0.7  | 1.8         | 0.1                  | 72.8                               | 0.6         | 14.1                    | 100.0                   | 5.7             | 0.5  | 0.5  | 6.2         | 0.0                  | 60.7                               | 0.0         | 26.5                    |
| Manufacturing (C)                          | 100.0                       | 78.0            | 3.3  | 4.4  | 2.5         | 0.2                  | 0.4                                | 0.6         | 10.6                    | 100.0                   | 50.8            | 3.4  | 9.4  | 16.6        | 0.0                  | 2.4                                | 2.0         | 15.4                    |
| Construction (F)                           | 100.0                       | 14.4            | 1.9  | 59.3                                       | 5.8         | 0.2                  | 0.5                                | 3.3         | 14.6                    | 100.0                   | 8.1             | 2.9  | 54.1                                       | 15.4        | 0.0                  | 1.1                                | 2.4         | 16.0                    |
| Distributive trades (G)                    | 100.0                       | 41.1            | 32.4   | 1.3  | 6.6         | 0.2                  | 0.6                                | 1.6         | 16.2                    | 100.0                   | 27.9            | 17.3   | 4.4  | 30.5        | 0.0                  | 3.3                                | 2.9         | 13.6                    |
| Transportation and storage (H)             | 100.0                       | 36.5            | 3.8  | 1.6  | 33.5        | 0.2                  | 0.3                                | 2.6         | 21.5                    | 100.0                   | 17.7            | 1.9  | 3.7  | 59.7        | 0.0                  | 1.0                                | 1.0         | 15.0                    |

Note: all accidents for Belgium and Sweden are included in the heading for other or no information (as well as in the total).

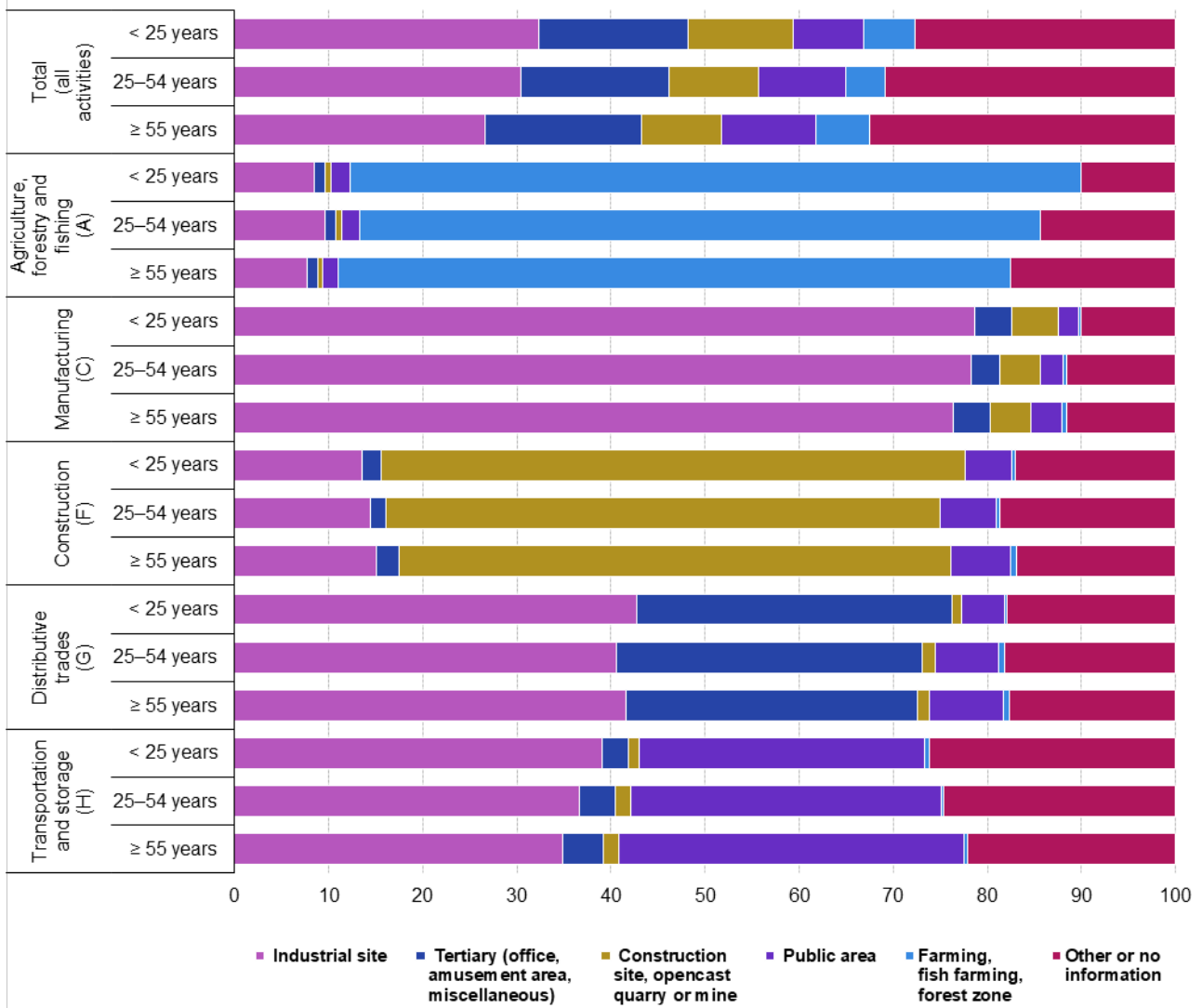
Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw\_ph3\_02)



**Table 2: Non-fatal and fatal accidents at work by working environment and economic activity, EU, 2022**  
Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_02)

Figure 2 provides a similar analysis for non-fatal accidents at work in the EU, with additional information by age. It shows that in 2022 a higher proportion of non-fatal accidents at work involving young people (defined here as those aged less than 25 years) were on industrial sites, or on construction sites, opencast quarries or mines. By contrast, among older people (defined here as those aged 55 years and over) non-fatal accidents at work were more likely (than for younger workers) to occur at tertiary sites, in public areas, or in farming, fish farming or forest zones. These figures are influenced, at least to some degree, by the relative size of each age group within the total workforce for different activities: for example, a relatively small number of older people work in the construction sector.

## Non-fatal accidents at work by working environment, age and economic activity, EU, 2022 (%)



Note: all accidents for Belgium and Sweden are included in the heading for no information.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw\_ph3\_02)

eurostat

**Figure 2: Non-fatal accidents at work by working environment, age and economic activity, EU, 2022 (%)**  
Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_02)

### Fatal accidents

Turning to fatal accidents at work in Table 2, the highest share in 2022 was in public areas (25.1%), followed by industrial sites (19.2%), construction sites, opencast quarries or mines (17.6%) and farming, fish farming and forest zones (9.2%). Looking at the selected NACE sections, the proportion of fatal accidents at work that took place in public areas was higher than the share of non-fatal accidents at work in public areas for each of the 5 activities shown in Table 2. A particularly high share of fatal accidents at work within transportation and storage took place in public areas (59.7%). By contrast, compared with non-fatal accidents at work, the share of fatal accidents at work was particularly low at tertiary sites (7.3% compared with 16.0% for non-fatal accidents at work) and at industrial sites (19.2% compared with 29.9%).

## Working process accidents

The information presented in Table 3 is related to the main type of work performed by the victims of accidents. In 2022, the most common working processes in which a non-fatal accident at work took place in the EU included production, manufacturing, processing or storing (11.7% of all non-fatal accidents at work) and the provision of services to enterprises and/or the general public, including intellectual activities (9.4%). Note that for more than two thirds (68.5%) of non-fatal accidents at work in the EU, information on the working process was not available or was from a minor category (these 2 categories are combined in Table 3).

As may be expected, certain working processes were more common as causes of non-fatal accidents at work in particular activities across the EU in 2022. For example,

- within agriculture, forestry and fishing, there was a relatively high proportion of non-fatal accidents at work that were linked to agricultural work, forestry, horticulture, fish farming or work with live animals (34.8% of non-fatal accidents at work in this sector)
- within manufacturing, 29.4% of non-fatal accidents at work occurred while involved in production, manufacturing, processing or storing
- within construction, 19.5% of non-fatal accidents at work were linked to excavation, construction, repair or demolition work
- within transportation and storage, 12.1% of non-fatal accidents at work were related to movement, sport or an artistic activity.

These 4 combinations of economic activities and working processes also recorded the highest numbers of fatal accidents at work in the EU, ranging from 102 deaths in manufacturing related to production, manufacturing, processing or storing up to 227 deaths in construction related to excavation, construction, repair and demolition.

**Non-fatal and fatal accidents at work by working process and economic activity, EU, 2022**

| Economic activity<br>(NACE Rev. 2 Section) | Non-fatal accidents at work |  |   |                                    |  |   |                         | Fatal accidents at work |  |   |                                    |  |   |                         |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
|  | Total                       | Production, manufacturing, processing, storing | Services to enterprise and/or general public; intellectual activity | Movement, sport, artistic activity | Excavation, construction, repair, demolition | Agricultural work, forestry, horticulture, fish farming, work with live animals | Other or no information | Total                   | Production, manufacturing, processing, storing | Services to enterprise and/or general public; intellectual activity | Movement, sport, artistic activity | Excavation, construction, repair, demolition | Agricultural work, forestry, horticulture, fish farming, work with live animals | Other or no information |
| <b>NUMBER</b>                              | <b>(thousands)</b>          |  |   |                                    |  |   |                         | <b>(number)</b>         |  |   |                                    |  |   |                         |
| <b>Total (all activities)</b>              | 2 973.6                     | 348.5  | 280.1   | 151.0                              | 92.1   | 64.2  | 2 037.8                 | 3 286                   | 247  | 72  | 445                                | 313  | 189   | 2 020                   |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)      | 116.0                       | 7.4  | 0.7   | 4.4                                | 1.4  | 40.3  | 61.8                    | 389                     | 14   | 2   | 28                                 | 1  | 153   | 191                     |
| Manufacturing (C)                          | 535.5                       | 157.5  | 4.0   | 15.8                               | 5.1  | 1.1   | 352.0                   | 500                     | 102  | 8   | 50                                 | 27   | 10  | 303                     |
| Construction (F)                           | 363.7                       | 27.3   | 1.4   | 9.9                                | 71.0   | 0.7   | 253.5                   | 754                     | 32   | 4   | 53                                 | 227  | 1   | 437                     |
| Distributive trades (G)                    | 347.2                       | 51.5   | 35.8  | 12.9                               | 1.6  | 1.1   | 244.2                   | 272                     | 31   | 11  | 48                                 | 6  | 4   | 172                     |
| Transportation and storage (H)             | 262.2                       | 33.2   | 10.9  | 31.7                               | 1.0  | 0.4   | 185.0                   | 514                     | 32   | 11  | 163                                | 8  | 1   | 299                     |
| <b>SHARE</b>                               | <b>(%)</b>                  |  |   |                                    |  |   |                         | <b>(%)</b>              |  |   |                                    |  |   |                         |
| <b>Total (all activities)</b>              | 100.0                       | 11.7   | 9.4   | 5.1                                | 3.1  | 2.2   | 68.5                    | 100.0                   | 7.5  | 2.2   | 13.5                               | 9.5  | 5.8   | 61.5                    |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)      | 100.0                       | 6.4  | 0.6   | 3.8                                | 1.2  | 34.8  | 53.3                    | 100.0                   | 3.6  | 0.5   | 7.2                                | 0.3  | 39.3  | 49.1                    |
| Manufacturing (C)                          | 100.0                       | 29.4   | 0.7   | 2.9                                | 1.0  | 0.2   | 65.7                    | 100.0                   | 20.4   | 1.6   | 10.0                               | 5.4  | 2.0   | 60.6                    |
| Construction (F)                           | 100.0                       | 7.5  | 0.4   | 2.7                                | 19.5   | 0.2   | 69.7                    | 100.0                   | 4.2  | 0.5   | 7.0                                | 30.1   | 0.1   | 58.0                    |
| Distributive trades (G)                    | 100.0                       | 14.8   | 10.3  | 3.7                                | 0.5  | 0.3   | 70.3                    | 100.0                   | 11.4   | 4.0   | 17.6                               | 2.2  | 1.5   | 63.2                    |
| Transportation and storage (H)             | 100.0                       | 12.7   | 4.1   | 12.1                               | 0.4  | 0.1   | 70.6                    | 100.0                   | 6.2  | 2.1   | 31.7                               | 1.6  | 0.2   | 58.2                    |

Note: all accidents for Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands and Sweden are included in the heading for other or no information (as well as in the total).

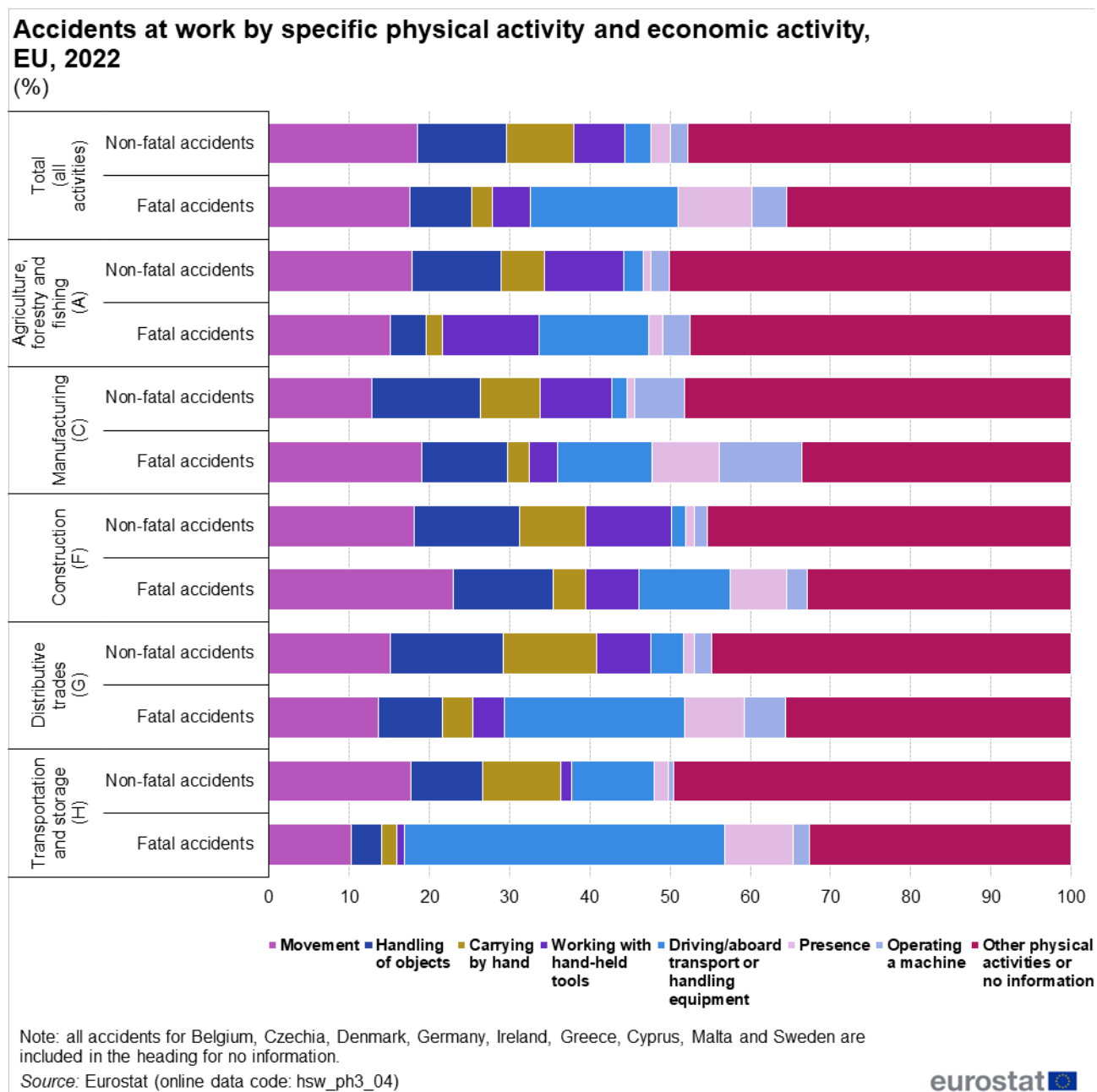
Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw\_ph3\_03)

**Table 3: Non-fatal and fatal accidents at work by working process and economic activity, EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_03)**

## Specific physical activity

Data relating to accidents at work by specific physical activity concern what the victim was doing at the exact time of an accident in contrast to the information by working process (as shown above) which describes the main task being performed over a more substantial period. Almost a fifth (18.5%) of the non-fatal accidents at work that took place in the EU in 2022 could be associated with the physical activity of movement (see Figure 3), while around a tenth were linked to the handling of objects (11.1%) as well as to carrying something by hand (8.3%).

The situation was somewhat different concerning fatal accidents at work in the EU, insofar as the largest share of all fatal accidents at work in 2022 took place while people were driving or aboard transport or handling equipment (18.4%), although the next highest share was associated with movement (17.5%).



**Figure 3: Accidents at work by specific physical activity and economic activity, EU, 2022 (%)** Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_04)

Considering that the highest share of fatal accidents at work in 2022 was linked to the specific physical activity of driving or being on board transport or handling equipment, Figure 4 shows more detailed information for this

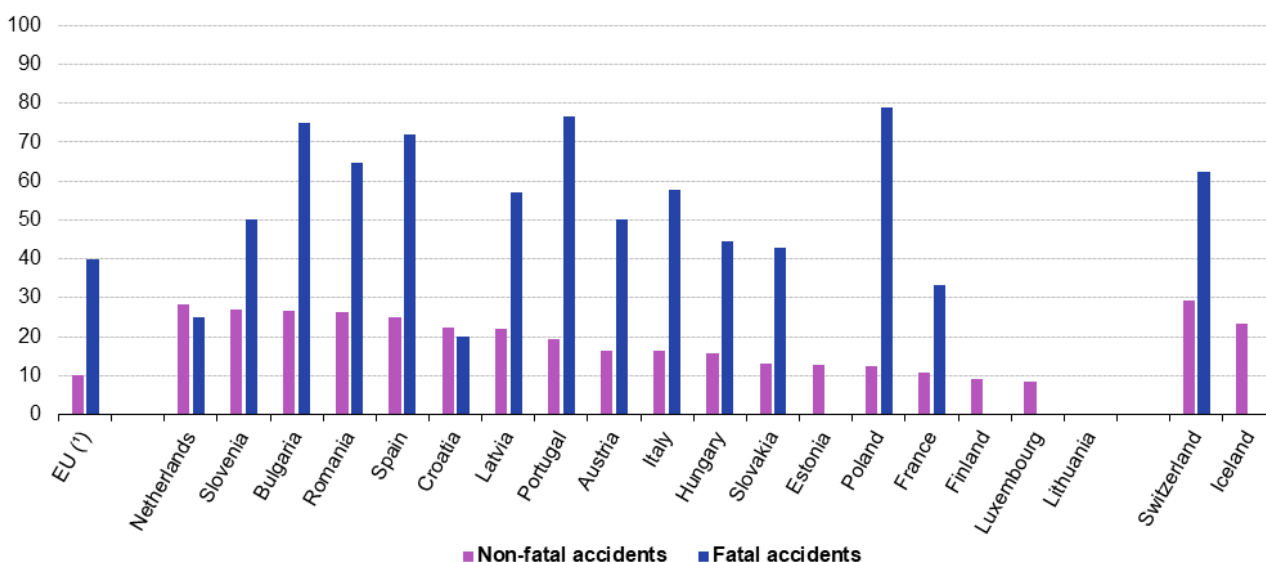


specific physical activity solely for the transportation and storage sector. Across the EU, 10.2% of all non-fatal accidents at work in the transportation and storage sector could be attributed to driving or being on board transport or handling equipment. More than a quarter of non-fatal accidents at work in the Dutch, Slovenian, Bulgarian and Romanian transportation and storage sectors in 2022 were linked to driving or being on board transport or handling equipment; shares of at least 1 in 5 were also recorded in Spain, Croatia and Latvia. By contrast, in Finland and Luxembourg fewer than 1 in 10 non-fatal accidents at work in the transportation and storage sector resulted from driving or being on board transport or handling equipment, while in Lithuania there were almost no non-fatal accidents at work in the transportation and storage sector from this activity.

Figure 4 also shows that there were 9 EU countries (among those for which data are available) where at least half of all fatal accidents at work within the transportation and storage sector in 2022 could be attributed to the specific physical activity of driving or being on board transport or handling equipment; among these, the share was three quarters or higher in Poland, Portugal and Bulgaria. Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Finland recorded no fatal accidents at work within the transportation and storage sector attributed to driving or being on board transport or handling equipment.

### Accidents at work within the transportation and storage sector – share from driving/being on board a means of transport or handling equipment, 2022

(%)



Note: ranked on non-fatal accidents. Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Sweden: not available.

(\*) Underestimate as data for driving/being on board are not available for Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Sweden but data for these EU countries are included in the total from which the share is calculated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw\_ph3\_04)

eurostat

**Figure 4: Accidents at work within the transportation and storage sector – share from driving/being on board a means of transport or handling equipment, 2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_04)**

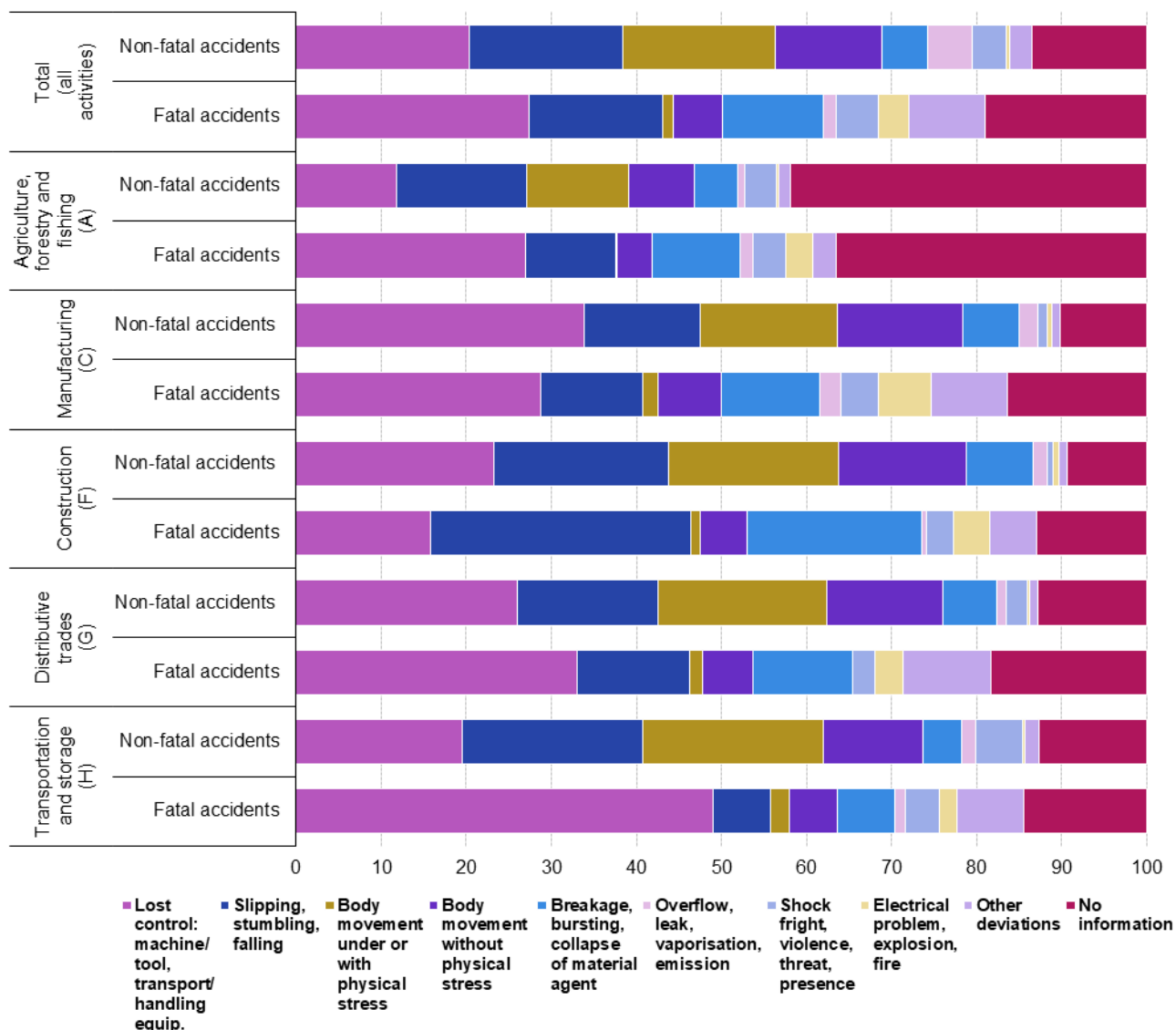
### Cause of accident

The cause of an accident is defined in terms of the last event differing from the norm that resulted in an accident. In 2022, the most common causes that triggered non-fatal accidents at work in the EU included losing control of machines, tools or transport and handling equipment (20.3% of the total), slipping, stumbling or falling (18.0%) and body movement under or with physical stress (also 18.0%). The share of non-fatal accidents at work in the EU in 2022 for which no information on the cause is available was relatively small (13.5%).

Losing control of machines, tools or transport and handling equipment was also the most common cause of fatal accidents at work, accounting for 27.4% of the total number of workplace deaths in the EU in 2022, while slipping,

stumbling or falling (15.6%), and breakage, bursting or collapse of material agents (11.9%) were the only other causes that accounted for double-digit shares of the total number of such accidents. The share of fatal accidents at work in the EU in 2022 for which no information on the cause is available was close to a fifth (19.1%).

### Accidents at work by cause and economic activity, EU, 2022 (%)



Note: all accidents for Czechia are included in the heading for no information; all accidents for the Netherlands are included in the heading slipping, stumbling, falling or no information.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw\_ph3\_06)

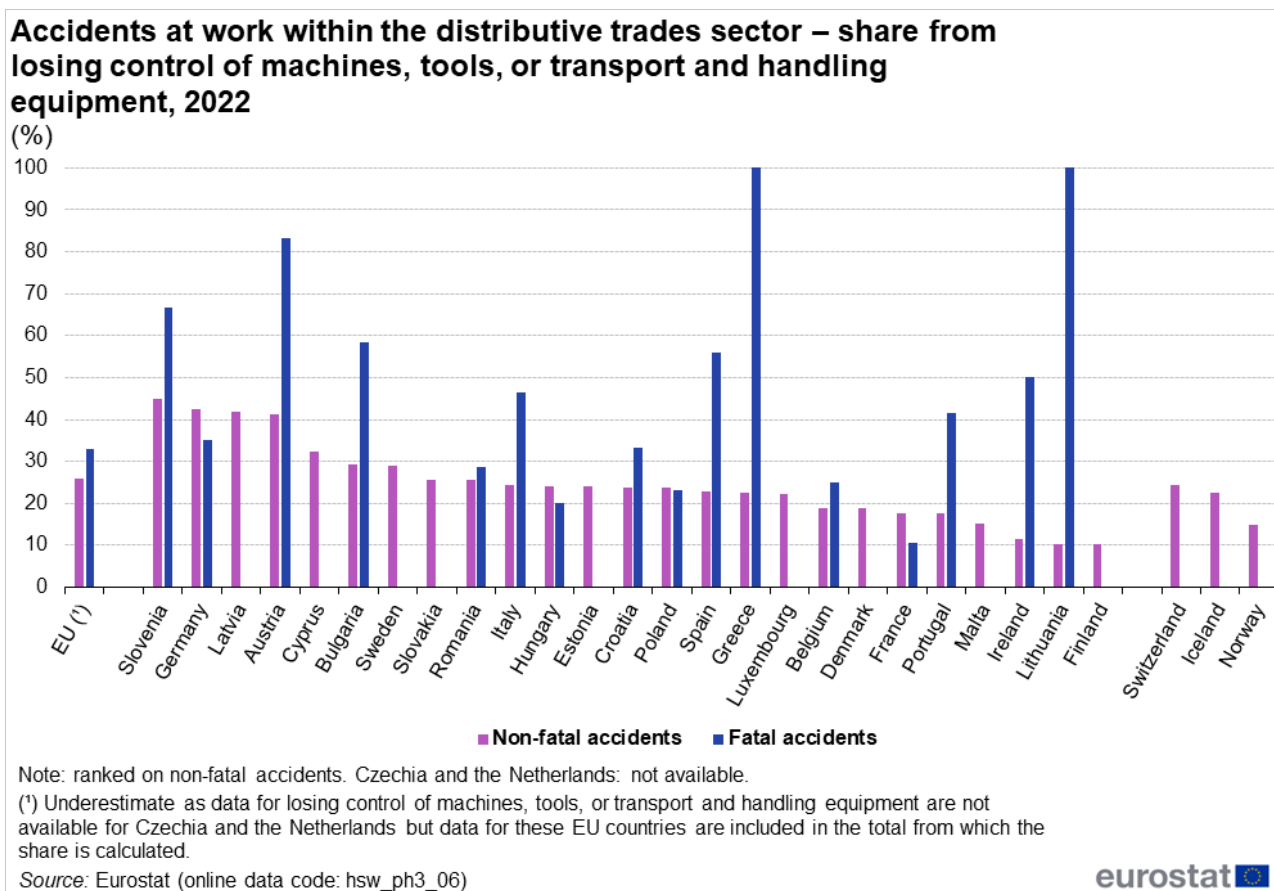


Figure 5: Accidents at work by cause and economic activity, EU, 2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_06)

Considering that the highest numbers of non-fatal and fatal accidents at work in 2022 were caused by losing control of machines, tools or transport and handling equipment, Figure 6 shows more detailed information for this cause of accidents within the distributive trades sector. Some 26.0% of all non-fatal accidents at work in the EU's distributive trades sector in 2022 could be attributed to losing control of machines, tools or transport and handling equipment; the share was somewhat higher for fatal accidents at work (33.1%).

An analysis of the 2022 data for EU countries reveals that more than two fifths of all non-fatal accidents at work in the distributive trades sectors of Slovenia, Germany, Latvia and Austria were caused by losing control of machines, tools or transport and handling equipment. A similar analysis reveals that all fatal accidents at work in the Greek and Lithuanian distributive trades sectors could be attributed to losing control of machines, tools or transport and

handling equipment, while the share was at least half in Austria, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Spain and Ireland. A total of 9 EU countries reported no fatal accidents at work in the distributive trades sector that could be attributed to losing control of machines, tools or transport and handling equipment.



**Figure 6: Accidents at work within the distributive trades sector – share from losing control of machines, tools, or transport and handling equipment, 2022 (%)** Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_06)

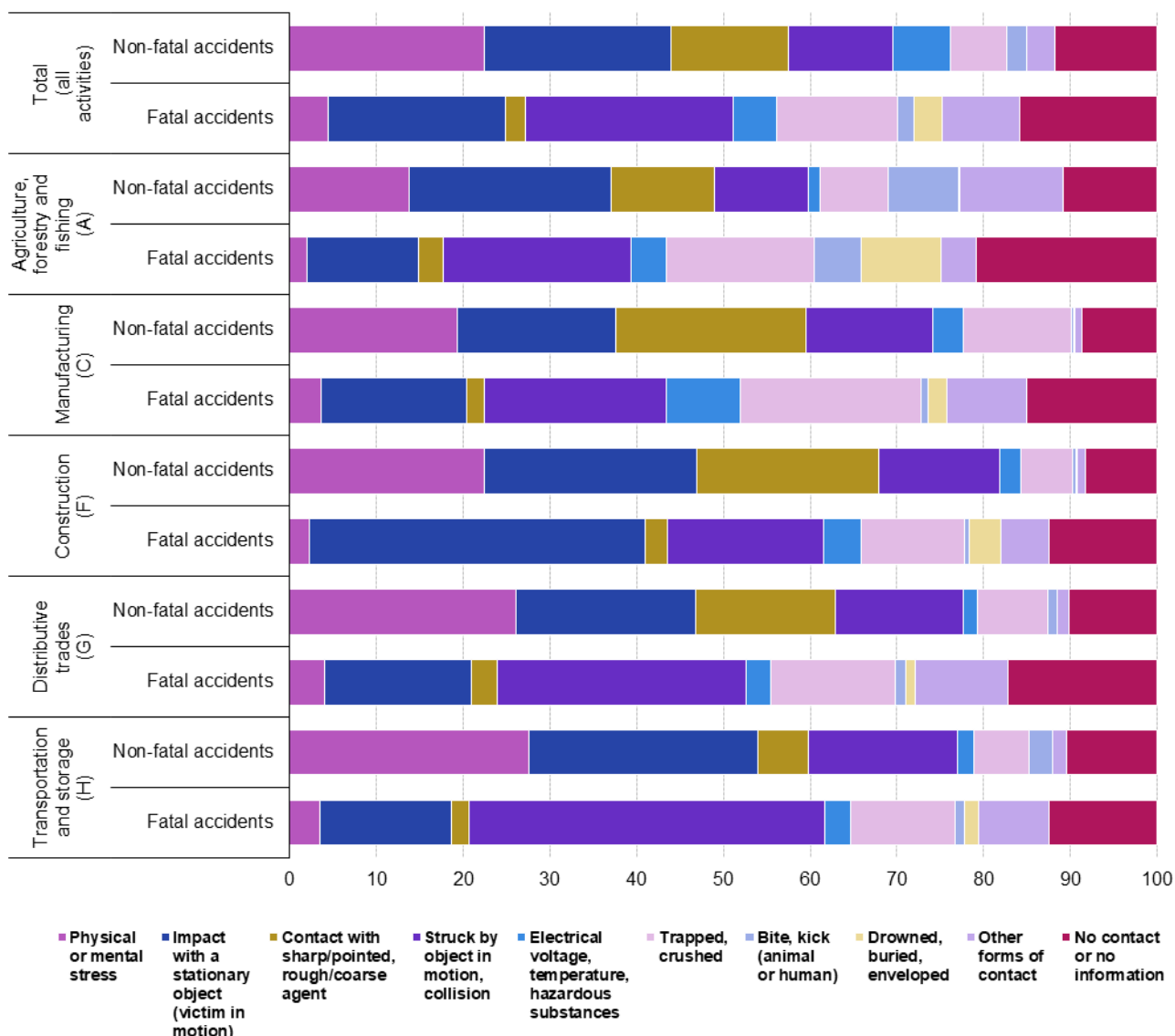
## Contact mode of injury

Data on accidents at work by contact mode of injury relate to how the victim of an accident was hurt by the material agent that caused their injury. If there are several modes of injury identified, then the mode causing the most serious injury should be recorded.

In 2022, the most common contact modes for non-fatal accidents at work across the EU included physical or mental stress (22.4% of all non-fatal accidents at work), impact with a stationary object (in other words, the victim was in motion; 21.6%), contact with a sharp/pointed or rough/coarse agent (13.5%), and being struck by an object in motion/a collision (12.0%). Note that there was no contact or no information on the contact mode for 11.8% of non-fatal accidents at work. A similar analysis for fatal accidents at work reveals that the most common contact mode of injury was being struck by an object in motion/a collision (24.0% of all fatal accidents at work in the EU), followed by impact with a stationary object (20.5%) and being trapped or crushed (13.9%). For 15.9% of fatal accidents at work, there was no contact or information on the contact mode isn't available.

Within the transportation and storage sector, being struck by an object in motion accounted for 41.1% of all fatal accidents at work in the EU in 2022, while 28.7% of fatal accidents at work within distributive trades were attributed to the same mode. By contrast, within the construction sector the most common mode of injury in a fatal accident at work was an impact with a stationary object (victim in motion), which accounted for approximately a quarter (24.4%) of all non-fatal accidents at work and more than a third (38.7%) of all fatal accidents at work in this sector.

## Accidents at work by contact mode of injury and economic activity, EU, 2022 (%)



Note: all accidents for Czechia are included in the heading for no information.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw\_ph3\_08)

eurostat

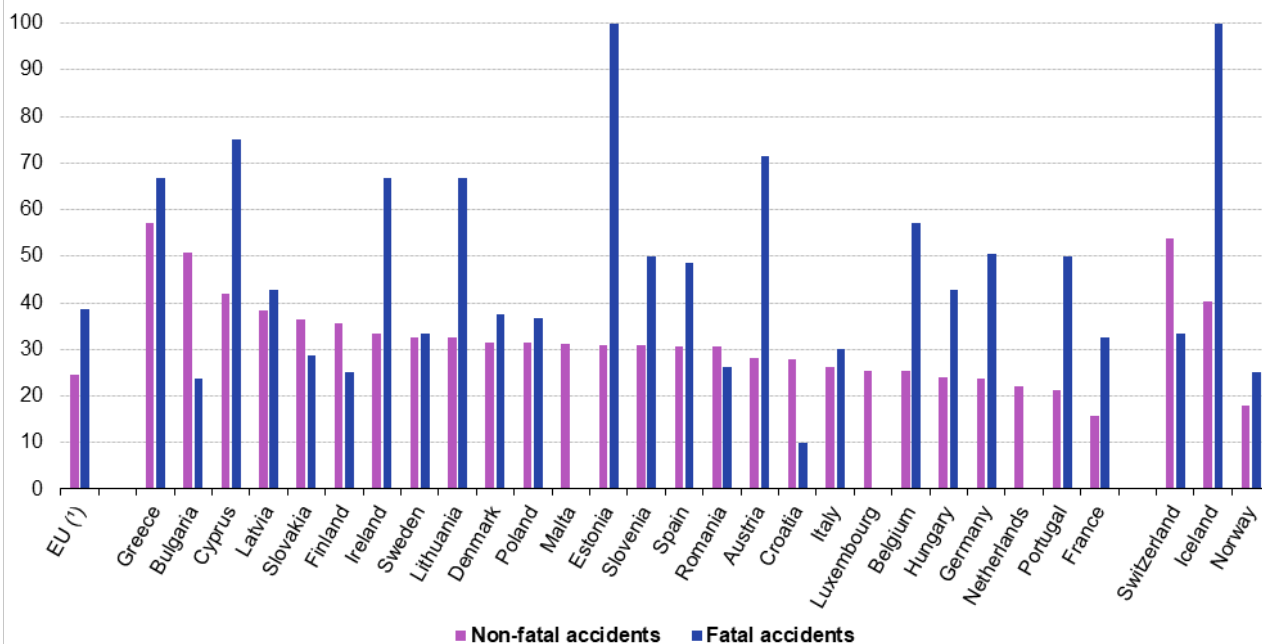
**Figure 7: Accidents at work by contact mode of injury and economic activity, EU, 2022 (%)** Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_08)

This information is developed further in Figure 8 which presents a more detailed analysis of accidents in the construction sector resulting from an impact with a stationary object. This contact mode of injury accounted for more than half of all non-fatal accidents at work in the construction sectors of Greece (57.2%) and Bulgaria (50.7%) in 2022, whereas the share was lowest in France (15.8%).

A similar analysis reveals that all (100.0%) fatal accidents at work in the Estonian construction sector could be attributed to an impact with a stationary object, as could at least two thirds of fatal accidents in the Cypriot, Austrian, Greek, Irish and Lithuanian construction sectors and at least half of all fatal accidents at work in the construction sectors of 4 other EU countries. No such fatal accidents at work were reported from this mode of contact in 2022 in the construction sectors of Luxembourg, Malta and the Netherlands. Note that for relatively small EU countries, the absolute number of fatal accidents at work in this sector may be very small.

## Accidents at work within the construction sector – share from impact with a stationary object (victim in motion), 2022

(%)



Note: ranked on non-fatal accidents. Czechia: not available.

(\*) Underestimate as data for impact with a stationary object (victim in motion) are not available for Czechia but data for this EU country are included in the total from which the share is calculated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw\_ph3\_08)

eurostat

**Figure 8: Accidents at work within the construction sector – share from impact with a stationary object (victim in motion), 2022 (%)** Source: Eurostat (hsw\_ph3\_08)

## Source data for tables and graphs

\* [Accidents at work by causes and circumstances: tables and figures](#)

## Data sources

In December 2008, the [European Parliament](#) and the [Council](#) adopted [Regulation \(EC\) No 1338/2008](#) on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work. The regulation is designed to ensure that health statistics provide adequate information for all EU countries to monitor Community actions in the field of public health and health and safety at work. In April 2011, a [European Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 349/2011](#) on statistics on accidents at work was adopted specifying in detail the variables, breakdowns and metadata that EU countries are required to deliver – this legislation is being implemented in a number of phases. Note also that a [Commission Decision No 2011/231/EU](#) from April 2011 granted derogations to certain EU countries with respect to the transmission of statistics on accidents at work.

European statistics on accidents at work (ESAW) is the main data source for EU statistics relating to health and safety at work issues. ESAW includes data on occupational accidents that result in at least 4 calendar days of absence from work, including fatal accidents. The phrase 'during the course of work' means while engaged in an occupational activity or during the time spent at work. This generally includes cases of traffic accidents (road or other means of transport) for journeys that are made during the course of work but excludes accidents that take place during a journey between home and the workplace.

There are 9 variables related to causes and circumstances of accidents at work within the ESAW data collection. According to the ESAW Regulation, countries are free to choose at least 3 out of these 9 variables on causes and circumstances and should report data for these (they may provide information on more than 3 variables if they

choose to do so). As such, while the total coverage of the EU is complete for each individual variable, the proportion of information that is not specified (included within the heading *no information* in tables and figures in this article) can vary greatly depending on how many and which EU countries have provided detailed information. The complete list of 9 variables covers: workstation, working environment, working process, specific physical activity, material agent associated with the specific physical activity, deviation, material agent associated with the deviation, contact – mode of injury, material agent associated with the contact – mode of injury.

An accident at work is defined in ESAW methodology as a discrete occurrence during the course of work which leads to physical or mental harm. Fatal accidents at work are those that lead to the death of the victim within 1 year of the accident taking place. Non-fatal accidents at work are defined as those that imply at least 4 full calendar days of absence from work (they are sometimes also called 'serious accidents at work'). Non-fatal accidents at work often involve considerable harm for the workers concerned and their families and they have the potential to force people, for example, to live with a permanent disability, to leave the labour market, or to change job. Indeed, they may result in a considerable number of working days being lost within the EU's economy.

The statistics presented for accidents at work refer to declarations made to either public (social security administrations) or private insurance schemes, or to other relevant national authorities (for example, those controlling labour or workplace inspections). Indicators on accidents at work may be presented as absolute values, as percentage distributions, as incidence rates in relation to every 100 000 employed people (the denominator being provided by the authorities that are responsible for ESAW data collection in EU countries or by the EU's [labour force survey \(LFS\)](#) ) or as standardised incidence rates.

For more information on ESAW data please refer to the main article on [accidents at work statistics](#) .

## Context

A safe, healthy working environment is a crucial factor in an individual's quality of life and is also a collective interest. Governments across the EU recognise the social and economic benefits of better health and safety at work. Reliable, comparable, up-to-date statistical information is vital for setting policy objectives and adopting suitable policy measures and preventing actions.

For more information on health and safety at work policy, please refer to the main article on [accidents at work statistics](#) .

## Explore further

### Other articles

- [Accidents at work statistics](#)
- [Accidents at work – statistics by economic activity](#)
- [Health in the European Union – facts and figures](#) – online publication
- [Health statistics introduced](#)

### Database

- [Health](#) , see

Health and safety at work (hsw)

Accidents at work (ESAW, 2008 onwards) (hsw\_acc\_work)

Causes and circumstances of accidents at work (ESAW Phase III) (hsw\_ph3)

Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and workstation (hsw\_ph3\_01)  
Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and working environment (hsw\_ph3\_02)  
Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and working process (hsw\_ph3\_03)  
Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and specific physical activity (hsw\_ph3\_04)  
Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and material agent of specific physical activity (hsw\_ph3\_05)  
Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and deviation (hsw\_ph3\_06)  
Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and material agent of deviation (hsw\_ph3\_07)  
Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and contact mode of injury (hsw\_ph3\_08)  
Accidents at work by sex, age, severity, NACE Rev. 2 activity and material agent of contact mode injury (hsw\_ph3\_09)

## Dedicated section

- [Health](#)

## Methodology

### ESMS metadata file

- [Accidents at work \(ESAW, 2008 onwards\)](#) (ESMS metadata file – hsw\_acc\_work\_esms)
- [2020. Accidents at work and other work-related health problems](#) (ESMS metadata file – lfso\_20\_esms)

### Publication

- [European statistics on accidents at work \(ESAW\) – Summary methodology – 2013 edition](#)

## External links

- [European Agency for Safety and Health at Work](#)
- [European Commission – Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion – Health and safety at work](#) , see  
– [EU strategic framework \(2021–27\)](#)
- [European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions \(EUROFOUND\) – Health and well-being at work](#)
- [International Labour Organization \(ILO\) – Safety and health at work](#)