

Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2019/20



Key points 2019/20(p)

21 people killed

Number of deaths:

Twenty-one (21) people were killed in agriculture:

- 18 less than last year and 9 less than 5-year average (30)
- Lowest number of deaths recorded in last 5 years

Age:

- Half of the workers killed were aged 55 years or older
- The youngest person killed was a 4-year old child

Main cause:

While the number of deaths by each cause varies each year, the 5 most common remain as:

- Struck by moving vehicles
- Fall from height
- Struck by an object
- Killed by animals
- Contact with machinery



7

Killed when struck by moving vehicle

Incidents involved tractors, a combine harvester, telescopic handlers, an all-terrain utility vehicle, and a boat



4

Killed by fall from height

Incidents included falls from a fragile roof, a telescopic handler, and a fork lift truck (FLT)



4

Killed when struck by an object

Incidents included a bale, trees and a tree branch



2

Killed when injured by an animal

Incidents involved a cow and a bull



2

Killed by contact with machinery

Incidents involved a rotavator and a seed drill



2

Killed when trapped by something collapsing

Incidents involved a mower unit and a steel structure

This information is also available as a poster at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm

Source: RIDDOR

Main causes of death 2019/20(p) compared to the 5-year annual average (2015/16–2019/20(p))

Main causes of death (2019/20(p))



The main causes of deaths are broadly the same in comparison with the 5-year annual average. This pattern hasn't changed significantly over several years.

During 2019/20(p) the highest number of deaths were vehicle related. This is broadly consistent with the 5-year annual average where struck by a vehicle; killed by an animal; and falls are the most common causes of a fatal injury.

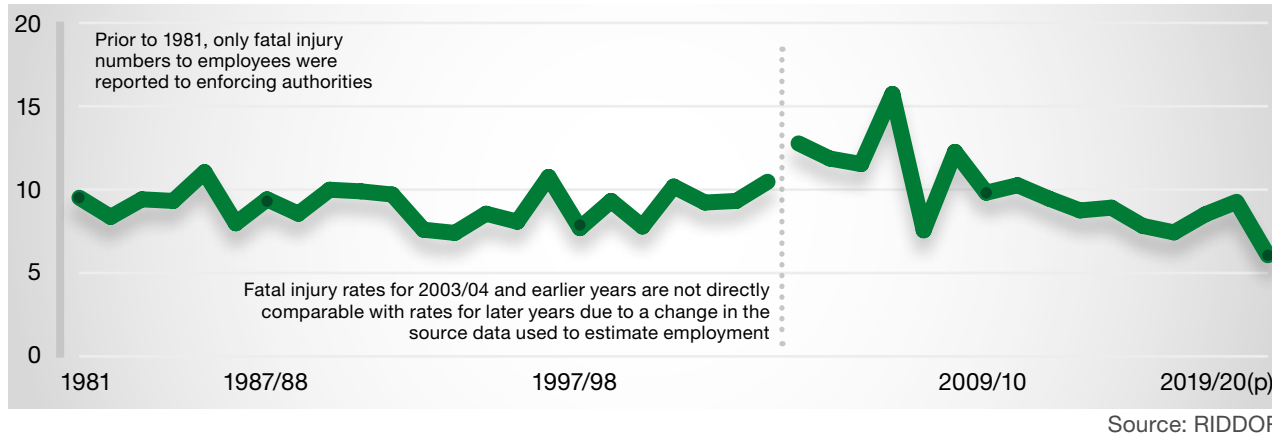
Main cause of death: 5-year average (2015/16 - 2019/20 (p))



Source: RIDDOR

Worker fatalities over time

Rate of fatal injuries to workers (per 100,000), 1981–2019/20(p)



5.96

Worker fatal injury rate (per 100,000) 2019/20(p)

7.73

Worker fatal injury rate (per 100,000) annual average over 5 years (2015/16- 2019/20(p))

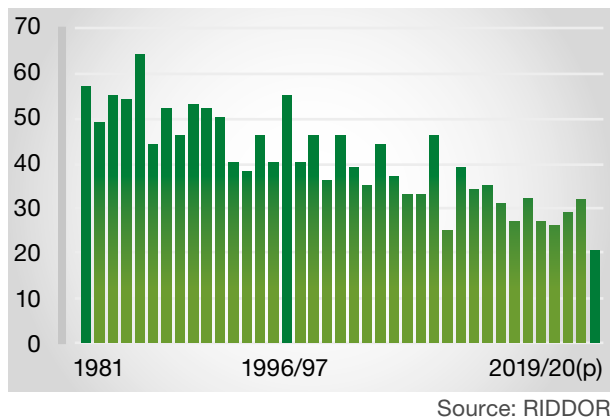
Longer term trends

The **rate** of fatal injury (per 100,000) to workers, while broadly flat up to 2003/04, shows a generally downward trend since the early 2000s

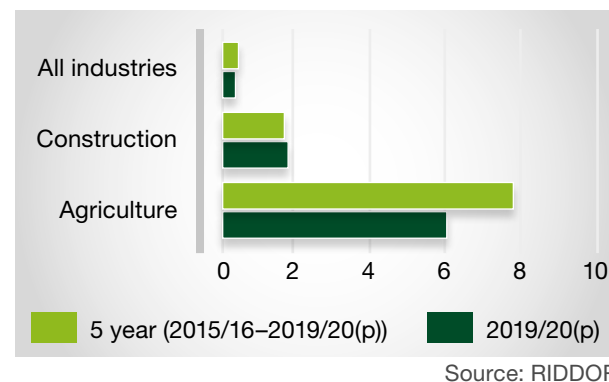
The number of fatal injuries to workers in the agricultural sector has fallen by around a half since the early 1980s

Agriculture has the worst rate of worker fatal injury (per 100,000) in the main industrial sectors: **18 times higher** than the all industry rate

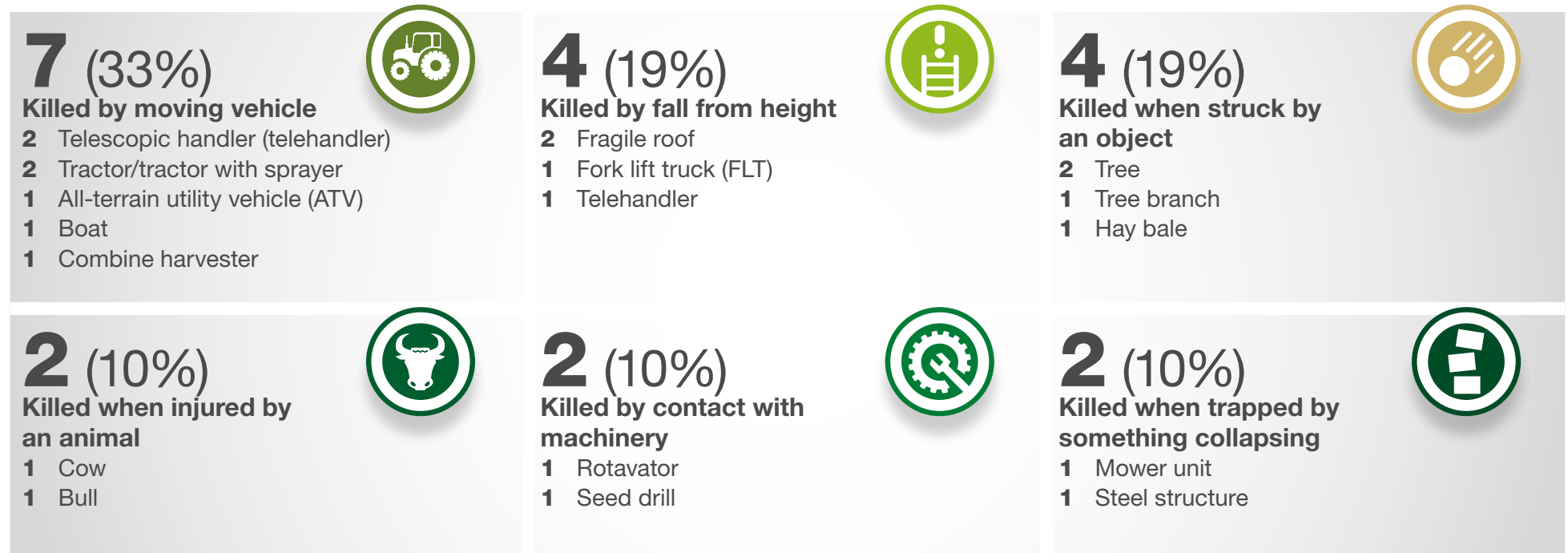
Number of fatal injuries to workers over a 39-year period (1981–2019/20(p))



Rate of fatal injuries to workers (per 100,000) in agriculture and construction compared to all industry group (2019/20(p)) and average (2015/16–2019/20(p))



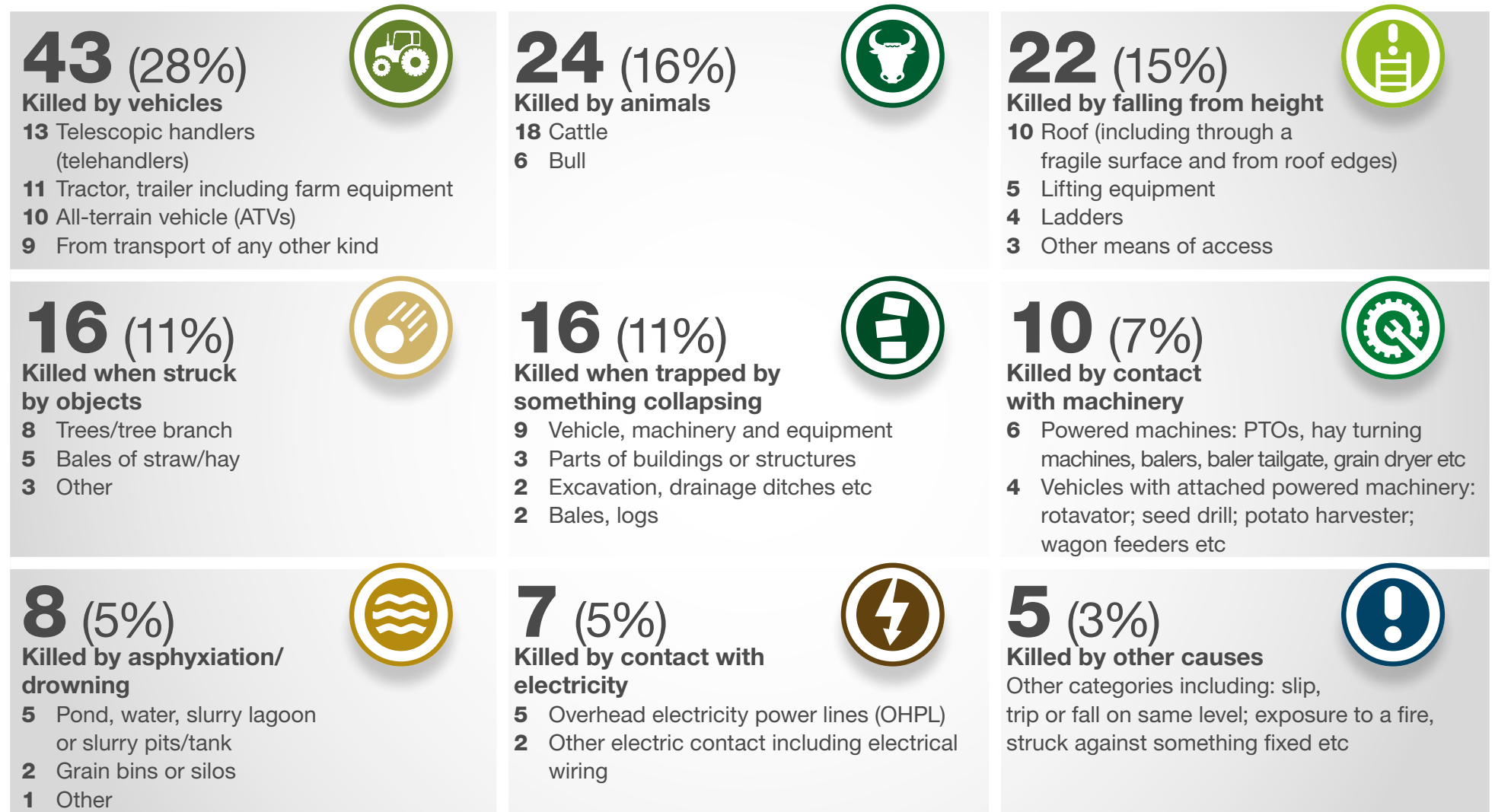
Detailed cause of fatal injury during 2019/20(p)



Source: RIDDOR and operational intelligence
Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding

21 Total number of people killed

Detailed cause of fatal injury over 5 years (2015/16 – 2019/20(p))



Source: RIDDOR and operational intelligence
Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding

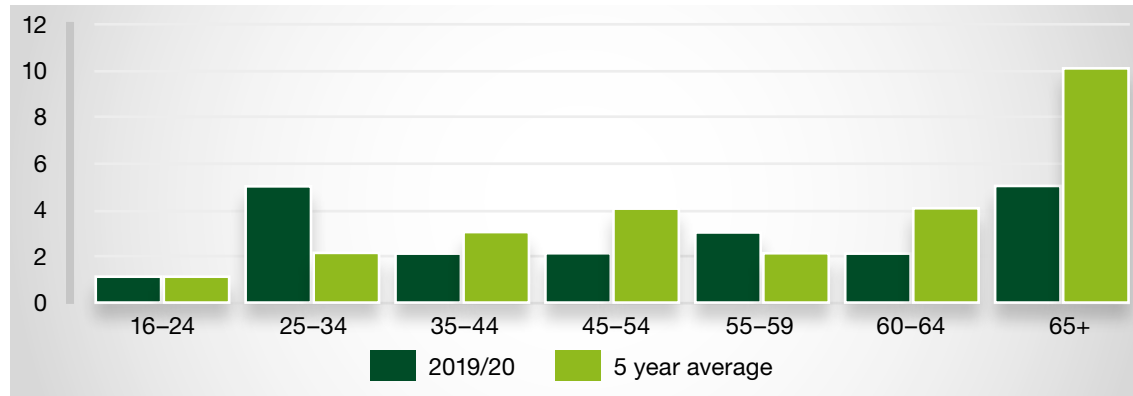
Age of workers killed in agriculture

In 2019/20(p):

50%

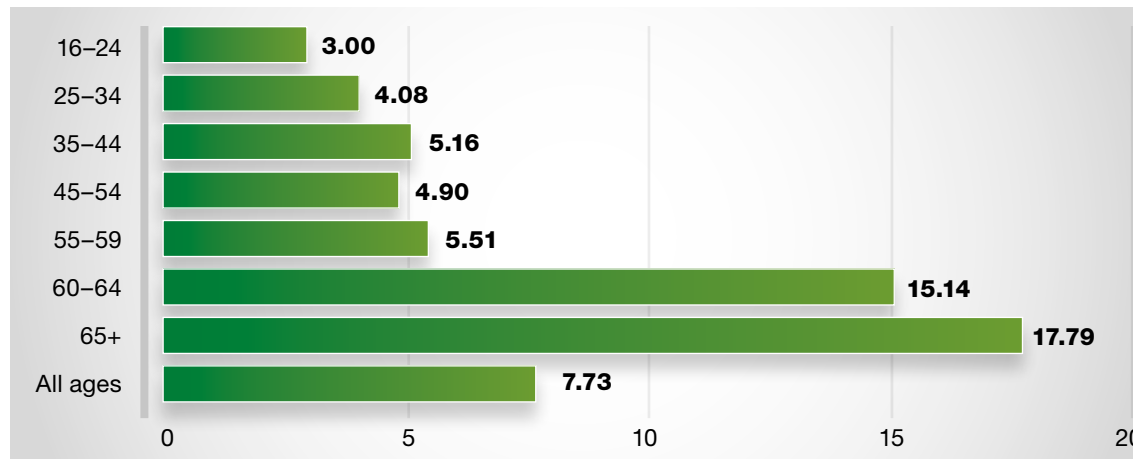
of fatal injuries occurred to workers over 55

Age of workers killed in agriculture during 2019/20 (p) compared against 5-year average



Source: RIDDOR

Five year average rate of fatal injuries (per 100,000 workers) by age group



Source: RIDDOR

Workers aged 55 and older accounted for half of all fatal injuries (10 out of 20 worker deaths)

The 5-year average shows that the number of workers killed aged 65 and over is more than double that of any other age group

When comparing older and younger age groups the fatal injury rate is:

- nearly 6 times higher for the 65s and over compared to the 16-24 age group
- more than 4 times higher for older workers aged 60 and over than younger workers under 34

Employment status

Worker deaths in 2019/20(p)

13

Self-employed

7

Employed

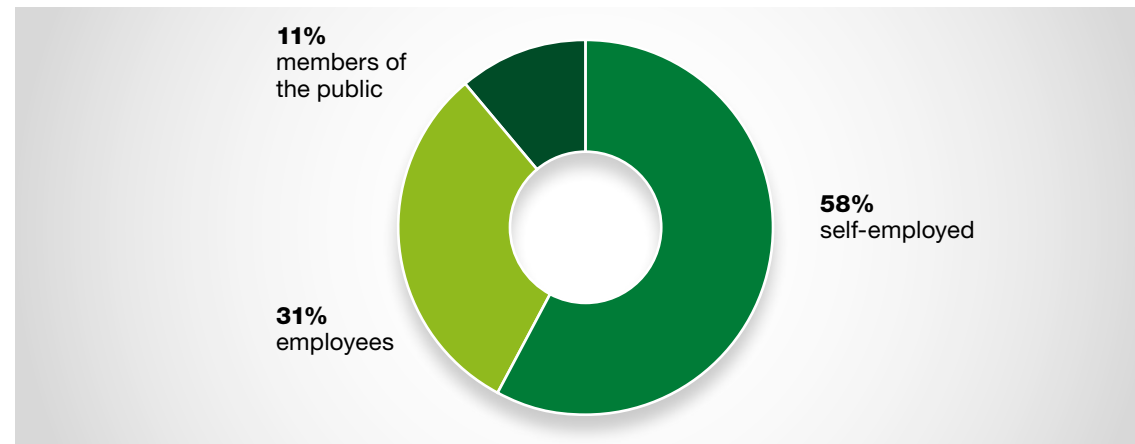
20

Total number of workers killed

Members of the public deaths in 2019/20(p)

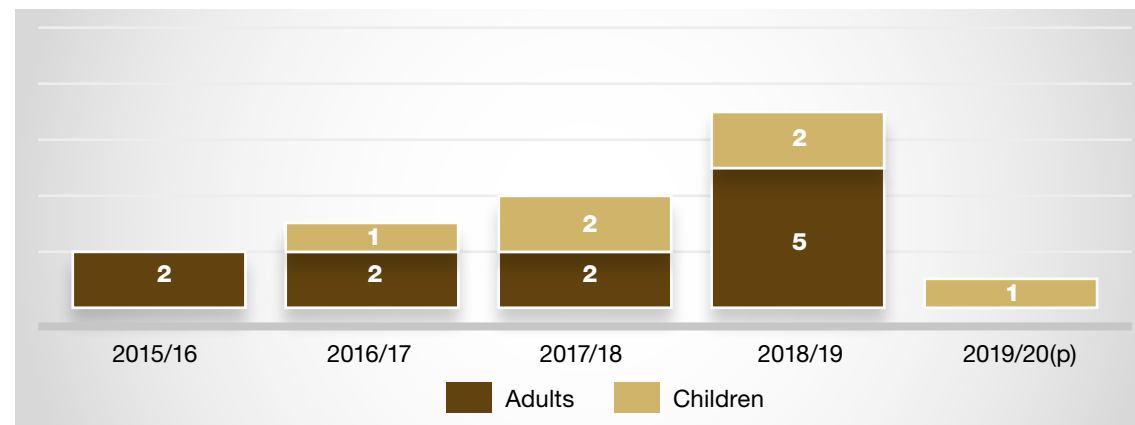
1 child

Employment status over 5 years (2015/16 – 2019/20(p))



Source: RIDDOR

Members of the public killed in the last 5 years (2015/16 – 2019/20(p))



Source: RIDDOR

Worker deaths

During 2019/20(p) 13 self-employed workers were killed. This is the lowest number of deaths recorded over the last 5 years. The average over this period was 17

In 2019/20(p) and over a 5-year period (2015/16 -2019/20(p)) almost twice as many self-employed people have been killed as employed workers

Members of the public 2019/20(p)

One member of the public (a child) was killed in 2019/20(p)

Over the 5-year period, 17 members of public have been killed: about a third of which were children

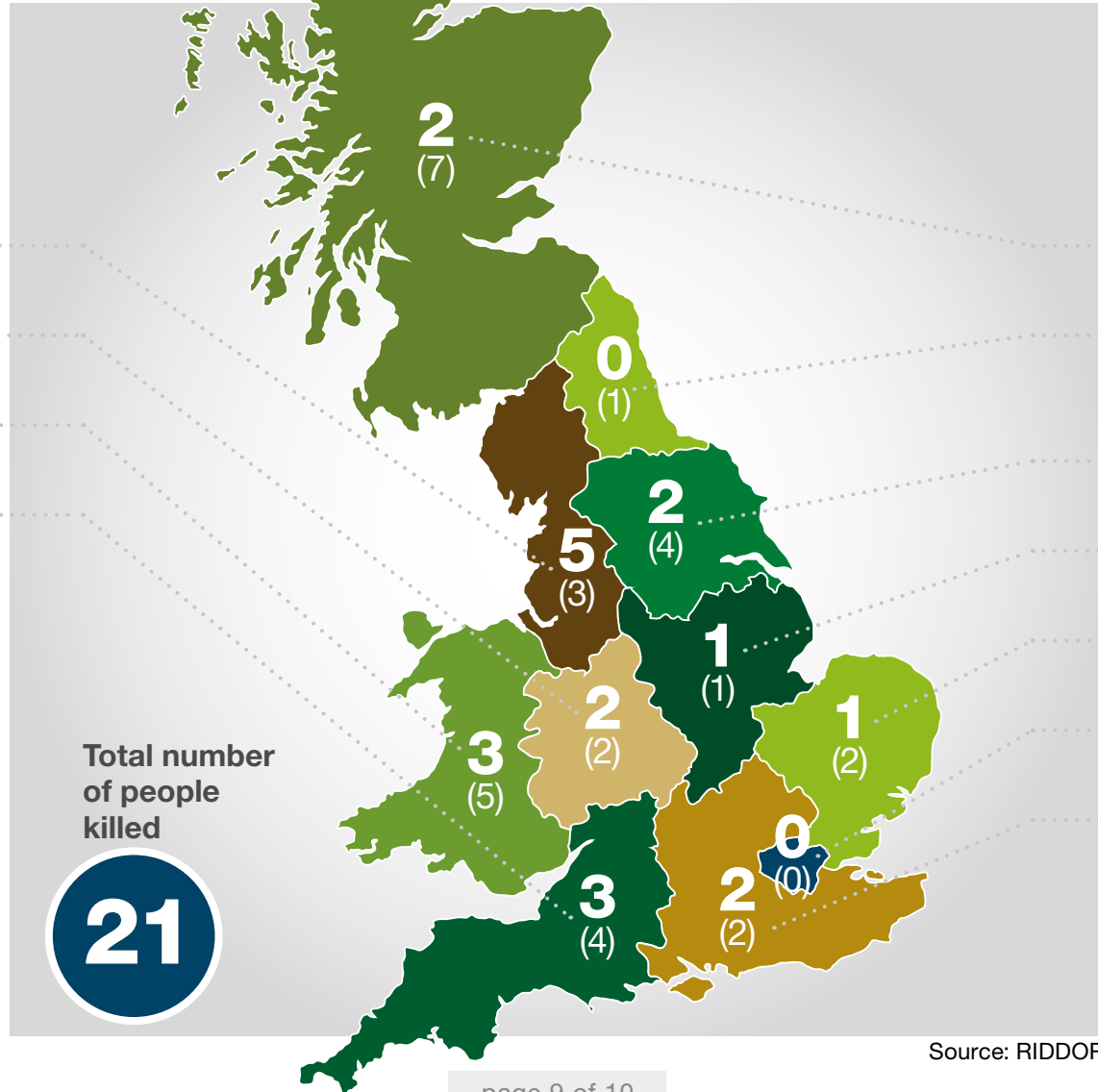
Six children were killed on farms in the last 5 years

Number of fatalities by geographical area

Total number in 2019/20(p)
and 5-year average
(2015/16–2019/20(p))
in brackets

North West
West Midlands
Wales
South West

Scotland
North East
Yorkshire and
the Humber
East Midlands
East
London
South East



Total number
of people
killed
21

Average figures rounded
to nearest number

Source: RIDDOR

Additional data sources, definitions and presentation of statistics in this report

1 This report summarises fatal workplace injuries in agriculture¹ in Great Britain in 2019/20(p) and makes comparison with the 5-year average (2015/16 to 2019/20(p)), the primary determinant of inclusion being RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). Work-related deaths excluded from these statistics are mainly of two types: fatal diseases, and fatal injuries involving workers travelling on a public highway (a 'road traffic accident').

2 The figures for 2019/20 are provisional, covering the 12 months from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, and will be finalised in July 2021 following any necessary adjustments. Based on previous years, the provisional 2019/20 fatality figure could increase or decrease slightly when finalised.

3 Statistics in this report are compiled in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics (produced by the UK Statistics Authority). Fatal incident statistics are published for all industrial sectors annually (usually early July), at which time the provisional figures for the 12 months to the end of the previous March are published and the figures for the preceding year are finalised.

4 Statistical data in this report has been supplemented by factual detail gathered during HSE's investigative work. This is referred to as 'operational intelligence'. The percentage totals in some sections of the report may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

5 HSE's industry-specific sectors use data of this kind to work out patterns of incident causation, trends and incidence rates. This helps HSE prioritise and devise effective interventions with particular industry sectors and types of businesses.

6 The number of fatalities tend to fluctuate year-on-year due to random variation, and therefore caution should be applied when making comparisons and/or considering longer-term trends.

7 The number of fatal injuries in the agriculture sector each year continues to be a cause of concern for HSE, the Farm Safety Partnerships (FSP) in England, Scotland and Wales, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) and the industry itself.

8 HSE's agriculture strategy has been developed to address the hazards and risks in the industry, defined as traditional farming activities such as arable, dairy,

livestock and mixed farming, growing fruit and vegetables, forestry, production horticulture, aquaculture, agricultural and animal husbandry services.

Summaries of the circumstances of the individual fatal injuries can be read on HSE's agriculture webpage at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm

Detailed data and tables can be seen at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatal.htm

If you have any queries about this report, contact: The Health and Safety Executive's Agriculture Team (agriculture@hse.gov.uk).

Further advice

Current guidance on health and safety in agriculture is available at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture

This report is available at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm

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¹ Agriculture SIC 2007 classification comprises farming; horticulture; crop and animal production; hunting and related service activities; forestry and logging; fish farming and aquaculture.