

LABOUR STATISTICS

Accidents at Work: January - March 2004

This news release looks into the accidents at work that were reported to the Department of Social Security (DSS) as from January to March 2004. The administrative records of the DSS indicate that the claims for injury benefit - on which the statistics of accidents at work are currently based - have gone down in the first quarter of this year in comparison to the same quarter in 2003.

88.5 per cent of the reported occupational injuries in January - March 2004 affected men. As a consequence, 792 working men and 103 working women have suffered an injury in the course of their work in the first quarter of 2004.

Similarly to the same period last year, many of the occupational injuries are reported to have occurred in manufacturing and construction sectors. Actually, 314 accidents (35.1 per cent) happened in the manufacturing sector that includes also the shipyards. Moreover, 141 accidents (15.8 per cent) were reported to have occurred in the construction sector.

People employed in elementary occupations and craftsmen and related trades workers are more likely to be involved in accidents at work. Accordingly, over half of the accidents at work are usually reported by people in these occupations.

In accordance with the manual nature of the occupation of the workers concerned, many accidents at work affect the upper extremity of the body.

The most typical of the accidents at work reported to the DSS relate to wounds and superficial injuries and dislocations, sprains and strains.

Many of the claimants for the injury benefit in the early months of 2004 work in localities in the Southern Harbour and Northern Harbour districts

This news release also contains tables for statistics on occupational injuries that were reported to the DSS in 2003 (whole year).

Fatal Accidents

In regard to fatal accidents at work, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) reported that one man died in the first quarter of this year in the course of his work. This man was doing construction works.

The OHSA also reported that, in the course of 2003, twelve men died at work. Many of these fatalities occurred in construction

Table 1. Accidents at work by sex of victim

Sex	January - March 2003 (revised)		January - March 2004	
	Number	%	Number	%
Males	1,029	88.7	792	88.5
Females	131	11.3	103	11.5
Total	1,160	100.0	895	100.0

The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 2. Accidents at work by economic activity of enterprise

Economic Activity	January - March 2003 (Revised)						January - March 2004					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	7	0.7	-	-	7	0.6	10	1.3	-	-	10	1.1
Fishing	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	3	0.4	-	-	3	0.3
Mining and Quarrying	5	0.5	-	-	5	0.4	4	0.5	-	-	4	0.5
Manufacturing	414	40.2	48	36.6	462	39.8	288	36.4	26	25.3	314	35.1
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	32	3.1	1	0.7	33	2.9	31	3.9	-	-	31	3.5
Construction	89	8.7	3	2.3	92	7.9	141	17.8	-	-	141	15.8
Wholesale and Retail Trade	30	2.9	4	3.0	34	2.9	62	7.8	4	3.9	66	7.4
Hotels and Restaurants	40	3.9	14	10.7	54	4.7	45	5.7	17	16.5	62	6.9
Transport, storage and Communication	74	7.2	7	5.3	81	7.0	78	9.8	5	4.9	83	9.3
Financial Intermediation	8	0.8	4	3.1	12	1.0	2	0.2	2	1.9	4	0.4
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	22	2.1	3	2.3	25	2.2	33	4.2	4	3.9	37	4.1
Public Administration and Defense	56	5.4	9	6.9	65	5.6	44	5.5	6	5.8	50	5.6
Education	6	0.6	9	6.9	15	1.3	11	1.4	9	8.7	20	2.2
Health and Social Work	25	2.4	23	17.6	48	4.1	18	2.3	27	26.2	45	5.0
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	15	1.5	1	0.8	16	1.4	15	1.9	2	1.9	17	1.9
Extra-Territorial Organizations and Bodies	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	-	-	1	1.0	1	0.1
Economic Activity Unknown	204	19.8	5	3.8	209	18.0	7	0.9	-	-	7	0.8
Total	1,029	100.0	131	100.0	1,160	100.0	792	100.0	103	100.0	895	100.0

Table 3. Accidents at work by occupation of victim

Occupations	January - March 2003 (Revised)						January - March 2004					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Legislators, senior officials and managers	15	1.5	2	1.5	17	1.5	23	2.9	5	4.9	28	3.1
Professionals	62	6.0	28	21.4	90	7.7	19	2.4	21	20.4	40	4.5
Technicians and associate professionals	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	30	3.8	2	1.9	32	3.6
Clerks	12	1.2	13	9.9	25	2.1	22	2.8	9	8.7	31	3.5
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	41	4.0	5	3.8	46	4.0	49	6.2	11	10.7	60	6.7
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	7	0.7	-	-	7	0.6	7	0.9	-	-	7	0.8
Craft and related trades workers	276	26.8	-	-	276	23.8	217	27.4	-	-	217	24.2
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	29	2.8	-	-	29	2.5	74	9.3	12	11.7	86	9.6
Elementary occupations	586	56.9	83	63.4	669	57.7	351	44.3	43	41.7	394	44.0
Total	1,029	100.0	131	100.0	1,160	100.0	792	100.0	103	100.0	895	100.0

Table 4. Accidents at work by age group of victim

Age groups	January - March 2003 (Revised)						January - March 2004					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
15-24	165	16.0	51	38.9	216	18.6	141	17.8	28	27.2	169	18.9
25-34	283	27.5	30	22.9	313	27.0	214	27.0	31	30.1	245	27.4
35-44	239	23.2	24	18.3	263	22.7	185	23.4	16	15.5	201	22.4
45-54	232	22.6	19	14.5	251	21.6	156	19.7	19	18.5	175	19.6
55+	110	10.7	7	5.4	117	10.1	96	12.1	9	8.7	105	11.7
Total	1,029	100.0	131	100.0	1,160	100.0	792	100.0	103	100.0	895	100.0

Table 5. Accidents at work by part of body injured

Part of Body	January - March 2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Head	146	14.2	12	9.2	158	13.6
Trunk	140	13.6	11	8.4	151	13.0
Upper extreme	489	47.5	73	55.7	562	48.5
Lower extreme	214	20.8	25	19.1	239	20.6
General	40	3.9	10	7.6	50	4.3
Total	1,029	100.0	131	100.0	1,160	100.0

Table 6. Accidents at Work by Part of Body Injured

Part of Body	January - March 2004					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Part of body injured, not specified	6	0.8	2	2.0	8	0.9
Head	100	12.6	9	8.7	109	12.2
Neck, inclusive spine and vertebra in the neck	22	2.8	6	5.8	28	3.1
Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	62	7.8	7	6.8	69	7.7
Torso and organs	33	4.2	2	2.0	35	3.9
Upper extremities	385	48.6	57	55.3	442	49.4
Lower extremities	171	21.6	18	17.5	189	21.1
Whole body and multiple sites	12	1.5	2	1.9	14	1.6
Other parts of body injured, not mentioned above	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Total	792	100.0	103	100.0	895	100.0

Note: Both table 5 and 6 refer to the variable of the part of body injured in accidents. However, the classification of table 6 is different from that of table 5 due to ongoing adaptation to the European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) methodology of the Eurostat.

Table 7. Accidents at work by type of injury

Type of Injury	January - March 2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Wounds and Superficial Injuries	705	68.5	89	68.0	794	68.5
Bone fractures	79	7.7	13	9.9	92	7.9
Dislocations, Sprains, and Strains	187	18.2	21	16.0	208	17.9
Traumatic Amputations	6	0.6	-	-	6	0.5
Burns, Scalds and Frostbites	38	3.7	4	3.1	42	3.6
Drowning and Asphyxiations	-	-	2	1.5	2	0.2
Other specified injuries not included under other headings	14	1.3	2	1.5	16	1.4
Total	1,029	100.0	131	100	1,160	100.0

Table 8. Accidents at work by type of injury

Type of Injury	January - March 2004					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Type of injury unknown	35	4.4	9	8.7	44	4.9
Wounds and superficial injuries	330	41.7	39	37.9	369	41.2
Bone Fractures	101	12.8	5	4.8	106	11.9
Dislocations, Sprains and Strains	259	32.7	35	34.0	294	32.9
Traumatic Amputations	14	1.8	2	1.9	16	1.8
Concussion and Internal Injuries	15	1.9	4	3.9	19	2.1
Burns, Scalds and Frostbites	30	3.8	4	3.9	34	3.8
Poisonings and Infections	1	0.1	1	1.0	2	0.2
Drowning and Asphyxiation	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Effects of Temperature Extremes, Light and Radiation	3	0.4	1	1.0	4	0.4
Shocks	2	0.2	3	2.9	5	0.6
Other specified injuries not included under other headings	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Total	792	100.0	103	100.0	895	100.0

Note: Both table 7 and 8 refer to the variable type of injury in accidents. However, the classification of table 8 is different from that of table 7 due to ongoing adaptation to the European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) methodology of the Eurostat.

Table 9. Accidents at work by district of enterprise

District	January - March 2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
South Harbour	506	49.2	47	35.9	553	47.7
South Eastern	90	8.8	15	11.5	105	9.0
Northern Harbour	235	22.8	48	36.6	283	24.4
Western	65	6.3	11	8.4	76	6.5
Northern	112	10.9	7	5.3	119	10.3
Gozo and Comino	21	2.0	3	2.3	24	2.1
Total	1,029	100.0	131	100.0	1,160	100.0

Table 10. Accidents at work by district of enterprise

District	January - March 2004					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
South Harbour	320	40.4	43	41.7	363	40.5
South Eastern	101	12.8	15	14.6	116	13.0
Northern Harbour	198	25.0	31	30.1	229	25.6
Western	68	8.6	3	2.9	71	7.9
Northern	89	11.2	10	9.7	99	11.1
Gozo and Comino	16	2.0	1	1.0	17	1.9
Total	792	100.0	103	100.0	895	100.0

Table 11. Accidents at Work Reported in 2003 by Sex of Victim (Revised)

Sex	No	%
Male	4,208	88.7
Female	538	11.3
Total	4,746	100.0

Table 12. Accidents at work reported in 2003 by economic activity

Economic Activity	2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	39	0.9	2	0.4	41	0.9
Fishing	8	0.2	-	-	8	0.2
Mining and Quarrying	19	0.5	-	-	19	0.4
Manufacturing	1,574	37.4	152	28.3	1,726	36.4
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	160	3.8	1	0.2	161	3.4
Construction	562	13.4	9	1.7	571	12.0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	228	5.4	17	3.2	245	5.2
Hotels and Restaurants	257	6.1	90	16.7	347	7.3
Transport, storage and Communication	351	8.3	33	6.1	384	8.1
Financial Intermediation	21	0.5	12	2.2	33	0.7
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	146	3.5	26	4.8	172	3.6
Public Administration and Defense	190	4.5	21	3.9	211	4.4
Education	27	0.7	37	6.9	64	1.3
Health and Social Work	94	2.2	106	19.7	200	4.2
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	75	1.8	5	0.9	80	1.7
Extra-Territorial Organizations and Bodies	1	0.0	-	-	1	0.0
Economic Activity Unknown	456	10.8	27	5.0	483	10.2
Total	4,208	100.0	538	100.0	4,746	100.0

Table 13. Accidents at work reported by employment status of victim

Employment size	2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Self-employed	327	7.8	4	0.8	331	7.0
Full-time employee	3,843	91.3	508	94.4	4,351	91.7
Part-time employee	38	0.9	26	4.8	64	1.3
Total	4,208	100.0	538	100.0	4,746	100.0

Table 14. Accidents at work by occupation of victim

Occupations	2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Legislators, senior officials and managers	65	1.5	5	0.9	70	1.5
Professionals	184	4.4	95	17.7	279	5.9
Technicians and associate professionals	60	1.4	10	1.9	70	1.4
Clerks	77	1.8	37	6.9	114	2.4
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	237	5.6	38	7.1	275	5.8
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	37	0.9	-	-	37	0.8
Craft and related trades workers	1,067	25.4	6	1.1	1,073	22.6
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	211	5.0	46	8.5	257	5.4
Elementary occupations	2,270	54.0	301	55.9	2,571	54.2
Total	4,208	100.0	538	100.0	4,746	100.0

Table 15. Accidents at work by age group of victim

Age groups	2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
15-24	808	19.2	188	34.9	996	21.0
25-34	1,141	27.1	139	25.9	1,280	27.0
35-44	977	23.2	90	16.7	1,067	22.5
45-54	902	21.5	92	17.1	994	20.9
55+	380	9.0	29	5.4	409	8.6
Total	4,208	100.0	538	100.0	4,746	100.0

Table 16. Accidents at work by part of body injured

Part of Body	2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Part of body injured, not specified	11	0.3	2	0.4	13	0.3
Head	539	12.8	59	11.0	598	12.6
Neck, inclusive spine and vertebra in the neck	57	1.3	14	2.6	71	1.5
Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	134	3.2	17	3.2	151	3.2
Torso and organs	379	9.0	31	5.7	410	8.6
Upper extremities	1,951	46.4	269	50.0	2,220	46.8
Lower extremities	1,002	23.8	131	24.3	1,133	23.8
Whole body and multiple sites	126	3.0	15	2.8	141	3.0
Other parts of body injured, not mentioned above	9	0.2	-	-	9	0.2
Total	4,208	100.0	538	100.0	4,746	100.0

Table 17. Accidents at work by type of injury

Type of Injury	2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Type of injury unknown	42	1.0	8	1.5	50	1.1
Wounds and superficial injuries	2,619	62.3	305	56.7	2,924	61.6
Bone Fractures	364	8.7	46	8.5	410	8.6
Dislocations, Sprains and Strains	889	21.1	132	24.5	1,021	21.5
Traumatic Amputations	35	0.8	1	0.2	36	0.8
Concussion and Internal Injuries	22	0.5	6	1.1	28	0.6
Burns, Scalds and Frostbites	177	4.2	32	5.9	209	4.4
Poisonings and Infections	5	0.1	-	-	5	0.1
Drowning and Asphyxiation	14	0.3	3	0.6	17	0.4
Effects of Sound and Vibration	1	0.0	-	-	1	0.0
Effects of Temperature Extremes, Light and Radiation	4	0.1	-	-	4	0.1
Shocks	13	0.3	2	0.4	15	0.3
Other specified injuries not included under other headings	23	0.6	3	0.6	26	0.5
Total	4,208	100.0	538	100.0	4,746	100.0

Table 18. Accidents at work by district of enterprise

District	2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
South Harbour	1,915	45.5	209	38.8	2,124	44.7
South Eastern	379	9.0	52	9.7	431	9.1
Northern Harbour	1,092	26.0	185	34.4	1,277	26.9
Western	279	6.6	43	8.0	322	6.8
Northern	466	11.1	42	7.8	508	10.7
Gozo and Comino	77	1.8	7	1.3	84	1.8
Total	4,208	100.0	538	100.0	4,746	100.0

Table 19. Accidents at work reported by size of enterprise

Employment size	2003 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Self-employed without employees	102	2.4	-	-	102	2.2
1-9 employees	202	4.8	7	1.3	209	4.4
10-49 employees	301	7.2	22	4.1	323	6.8
50-249 employees	385	9.2	85	15.8	470	9.9
250-499 employees	216	5.1	47	8.7	263	5.5
500 employees or more	657	15.6	95	17.7	752	15.8
Unknown size	2,345	55.7	282	52.4	2,627	55.4
Total	4,208	100.0	538	100.0	4,746	100.0