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LABOUR STATISTICS

Accidents at Work: October - December 2003

This news release looks into the accidents at work that were reported to the Department of Social Security in the period between October and December 2003 for the purpose of obtaining the injury benefit. An account of the fatal accidents at work that occurred in the same period is also given.

The data for October - December 2003 indicate a decrease of 15 per cent in the non-fatal accidents at work in comparison to the same quarter a year ago. Accordingly, there were 979 accidents at work in Autumn 2003. Of these, 86.6 per cent involved men, while the remaining 13.4 per cent involved women.

Half of the non-fatal accidents at work which happened in the period under review occurred in manufacturing and construction sectors. As a result, 34 per cent of the accidents concerned workers employed in manufacturing which includes the shipyards. Accidents in the construction sector accounted for 15.9 per cent of all reported accidents in Autumn 2003.

To a large extent, the accidents at work reported to the Department of Social Security have to do with manual workers. Accordingly, 45.5 per cent of the accidents concerned workers in elementary occupations.

Fatal Accidents at Work

The Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) reported 2 cases of fatal accidents at work in the period between October - December 2003. These fatal accidents involved 2 men working in construction.

Table 1. Accidents at work by sex of victim

Sex	October - December 2002 (Revised)		October - December 2003	
	Number	%	Number	%
Males	1,022	88.7	848	86.6
Females	130	11.3	131	13.4
Total	1,152	100.0	979	100.0

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Table 2. Accidents at work by economic activity of enterprise

Economic Activity	October - December 2002 (Revised)						October - December 2003					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	9	0.9	3	2.3	12	1.0	11	1.3	-	-	11	1.1
Fishing	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Mining and Quarrying	6	0.6	-	-	6	0.5	9	1.1	-	-	9	0.9
Manufacturing	347	34.0	44	33.8	391	33.9	298	35.1	35	26.7	333	34.0
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	41	4.0	1	0.8	42	3.6	37	4.4	-	-	37	3.8
Construction	111	10.9	-	-	111	9.6	155	18.3	1	0.8	156	15.9
Wholesale and Retail Trade	49	4.8	4	3.1	53	4.6	68	8.0	2	1.5	70	7.2
Hotels and Restaurants	49	4.8	7	5.4	56	4.9	53	6.3	21	16.0	74	7.6
Transport, storage and Communication	70	6.8	8	6.2	78	6.8	80	9.4	9	6.9	89	9.1
Financial Intermediation	3	0.3	-	-	3	0.3	1	0.1	1	0.8	2	0.2
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	17	1.7	3	2.3	20	1.7	44	5.2	10	7.6	54	5.5
Public Administration and Defense	20	2.0	2	1.5	22	1.9	56	6.6	26	19.8	82	8.4
Education	27	2.6	22	16.9	49	4.3	9	1.1	15	11.5	24	2.5
Health and Social Work	1	0.1	1	0.8	2	0.2	4	0.5	6	4.6	10	1.0
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	12	1.2	1	0.8	13	1.1	14	1.7	1	0.8	15	1.5
Economic Activity Unknown	259	25.3	34	26.2	293	25.4	8	0.9	4	3.1	12	1.2
Total	1,022	100.0	130	100.0	1,152	100.0	848	100.0	131	100.0	979	100.0

Table 3. Accidents at work by occupation of victim

Occupations	October - December 2002 (Revised)						October - December 2003					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Legislators, senior officials and managers	8	0.8	-	-	8	0.7	9	1.1	1	0.8	10	1.0
Professionals	9	0.9	7	5.4	16	1.4	21	2.5	20	15.3	41	4.2
Technicians and associate professionals	29	2.8	15	11.5	44	3.8	31	3.7	9	6.9	40	4.1
Clerks	22	2.2	9	6.9	31	2.7	30	3.5	9	6.9	39	4.0
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	45	4.4	7	5.4	52	4.5	46	5.4	13	9.9	59	6.0
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	8	0.8	-	-	8	0.7	10	1.2	0	0.0	10	1.0
Craft and related trades workers	223	21.8	1	0.8	224	19.4	224	26.4	1	0.8	225	23.0
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	43	4.2	2	1.5	45	3.9	85	10.0	25	19.1	110	11.2
Elementary occupations	635	62.1	89	68.5	724	62.8	392	46.2	53	40.5	445	45.5
Total	1,022	100.0	130	100.0	1,152	100.0	848	100.0	131	100.0	979	100.0

Table 4. Accidents at work by age group of victim

Age groups	October - December 2002 (Revised)						October - December 2003					
	Males		Females		Total		Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
15-24	207	20.3	51	39.2	258	22.4	172	20.3	44	33.6	216	22.1
25-34	276	27.0	35	26.9	311	27.0	243	28.7	39	29.8	282	28.8
35-44	231	22.6	23	17.7	254	22.0	195	23.0	22	16.8	217	22.2
45-54	233	22.8	16	12.3	249	21.6	175	20.6	21	16.0	196	20.0
55+	75	7.3	5	3.8	80	6.9	63	7.4	5	3.8	68	6.9
Total	1,022	100.0	130	100.0	1,152	100.0	848	100.0	131	100.0	979	100.0

Table 5. Accidents at Work by Part of Body Injured

Part of Body	October - December 2002 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Head	145	14.2	9	6.9	154	13.4
Trunk	144	14.1	14	10.8	158	13.7
Upper extreme	488	47.7	68	52.3	556	48.3
Lower extreme	220	21.5	33	25.4	253	22.0
General	25	2.4	6	4.6	31	2.7
Total	1,022	100.0	130	100.0	1,152	100.0

Table 6. Accidents at Work by Part of Body Injured

Part of Body	October - December 2003					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Part of Body Injured, not specified	3	0.4	2	1.5	5	0.5
Head	101	11.9	18	13.7	119	12.2
Neck, inclusive spine and vertebra in the neck	22	2.6	6	4.6	28	2.9
Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	72	8.5	8	6.1	80	8.2
Torso and Organs	30	3.5	5	3.8	35	3.6
Upper Extremities	368	43.4	61	46.6	429	43.8
Lower Extremities	231	27.2	31	23.7	262	26.8
Whole Body and Multiple Sites	18	2.1	-	-	18	1.8
Other Parts of Body Injured, not mentioned above	3	0.4	-	-	3	0.3
Total	848	100.0	131	100.0	979	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	October - December 2003					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Type of Injury Unknown	25	2.9	5	3.8	30	3.1
Wounds and Superficial Injuries	417	49.2	65	49.6	482	49.2
Bone Fractures	95	11.2	12	9.2	107	10.9
Dislocations, Sprains and Strains	247	29.1	41	31.3	288	29.4
Traumatic Amputations	11	1.3	1	0.8	12	1.2
Concussion and Internal Injuries	12	1.4	2	1.5	14	1.4
Burns, Scalds and Frostbites	31	3.7	4	3.1	35	3.6
Poisonings and Infections	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Drowning and Asphyxiation	2	0.2	1	0.8	3	0.3
Effects of Temperature Extremes, Light and Radiation	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Shocks	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2
Other specified injuries not included under other headings	4	0.5	-	-	4	0.4
Total	848	100.0	131	100.0	979	100.0

Table 8. Claimants for injury benefit by district of residence

District	October - December 2002 (Revised)					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
South Harbour	269	26.3	35	26.9	304	26.4
South Eastern	208	20.4	26	20.0	234	20.3
Northern Harbour	266	26.0	33	25.4	299	26.0
Western	148	14.5	14	10.8	162	14.1
Northern	105	10.3	12	9.2	117	10.2
Gozo and Comino	26	2.5	10	7.7	36	3.1
Total	1,022	100.0	130	100.0	1,152	100.0

Table 9. Accidents at work by district of enterprise

District	October - December 2003					
	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
South Harbour	349	41.2	59	45.0	408	41.7
South Eastern	78	9.2	16	12.2	94	9.6
Northern Harbour	234	27.6	34	26.0	268	27.4
Western	62	7.3	13	9.9	75	7.7
Northern	110	13.0	8	6.1	118	12.1
Gozo and Comino	15	1.8	1	0.8	16	1.6
Total	848	100.0	131	100.0	979	100.0

Table 10. Accidents at work by employment size of enterprise

Employment size	October - December 2003					
	No	%	No	%	No	%
0 employees	44	5.2	-	-	44	4.5
1-9 employees	101	11.9	3	2.3	104	10.6
10-49 employees	142	16.7	12	9.2	154	15.7
50-249	183	21.6	32	24.4	215	22.0
250-499	89	10.5	28	21.4	117	12.0
500 employees or more	282	33.3	56	42.7	338	34.5
Unknown size	7	0.8	-	-	7	0.7
Total	848	100.0	131	100.0	979	100.0

Table 11. Accidents at work by employment status of victim

Employment status	October - December 2003					
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Self-employed	70	8.3	-	-	70	7.2
Full-time employee	759	89.5	116	88.5	875	89.4
Part-time employee	19	2.2	15	11.5	34	3.5
Total	848	100.0	131	100.0	979	100.0