

18 June 2014

**Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)  
Ad hoc Module on accidents at work and other work-related health  
problems. Year 2013**

**3.5% of the workers<sup>1</sup> claimed having a work-related accident<sup>2</sup> in the last 12 months**

**18.7% of employed persons or persons who had previously worked, suffered from an illness during the last year and one out of four cases considered it was caused or aggravated by work**

The 2013 module of the Economically Active Population Survey, compiled in collaboration with Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union), researches work-related accidents and health problems.

### **Accidents**

The results of the module show that 3.5% of employed persons or persons who worked during the last year claimed having had a work-related accident during their working day or commutes to/from the workplace during the last 12 months.

By sex, 3.9% of men and 3.0% of women aged 16 or over had a work-related accident during their working day or commutes to/from their workplace.

By age, the greatest percentages of accidents during the working day or commutes to/from the workplace took place in the age group of 25-34 years of age for men and 45-54 years of age for women.

The percentage of employed persons or persons who worked during the last year and had a work-related accident decreased (going from 3.5% to 2.8%) when only considering accidents that involved injuries. By sex, 3.1% of the men had a work-related accident compared with 2.4% of women.

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<sup>1</sup> Persons 16 years of age or over who are employed or have worked during the last year.

<sup>2</sup> During the working day or commutes to/from the workplace. It includes accidents that have caused an injury as well as those that have not.

It is worth noting that 6.5% of the accidents involving injury during the working day were traffic accidents.

By economic sector, 65.0% of the accidents during the working day occurred in the *Services* sector, 17.6% in *Industry*, 9.3% occurred in *Construction* and 5.8% in *Agriculture*.

Comparing this distribution with the one of the employed persons by sector, it may be seen that the proportion of accidents is greater than the weight of the sector in *Agriculture*, *Industry* and *Construction* and lower in the *Services* sector.

**Persons 16 years of age or over <sup>(1)</sup> according to whether or not they have had an accident during the working day or commutes.**

Percentage

<b>Sex and age</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Does not know</b>
<b>Both sexes</b>	3.48	96.37	0.15
16-24	2.88	97.03	0.10
25-34	3.56	96.28	0.15
35-44	3.50	96.40	0.10
45-54	3.71	96.08	0.21
55 and over	3.20	96.64	0.16
<b>Men</b>	3.91	95.92	0.17
16-24	3.32	96.49	0.19
25-34	4.17	95.72	0.11
35-44	3.97	95.95	0.08
45-54	4.10	95.61	0.28
55 and over	3.30	96.45	0.25
<b>Women</b>	2.99	96.89	0.12
16-24	2.40	97.60	-
25-34	2.92	96.88	0.20
35-44	2.94	96.94	0.12
45-54	3.23	96.65	0.12
55 and over	3.06	96.90	0.04

<sup>(1)</sup> Employed persons or persons who have worked in the last year

Regarding the professional status of the persons who had an accident involving injury during the working day, 71.3% were wage earners of the private sector, 11.8% were self-employed workers and 14.6% were wage earners of the public sector.

When observing the distribution of employed persons by professional status, it may be deduced that the proportion of accidents suffered by wage earners of the private sector (73.0%) was greater than the weight it carries on the total of employed persons (65.0%), as opposed to what occurred in the rest of situations.

Comunitat Valenciana presented the greatest percentage of workers who had an accident during the working day or commutes (4.7%), whereas Cataluña registered the lowest percentage (2.7%).

If we consider the percentage of workers who had accidents involving injuries during the working day or commutes, the greatest corresponded to Principado de Asturias (4.1%) and the lowest to La Rioja (2.0%).

## Return to work

18.5% of the persons who had an accident involving injury during the working day stopped working for this reason and returned to work between four and 13 days after the accident, whereas 18.4% returned between one and three months later.

18.2% did not stop working or returned to work the same day of the accident.

On the contrary, 3.3% of the persons who had an accident involving injury during the working day did not expect to return to work or their medical leave lasted between six and 12 months.

By sex, 21.2% of men returned to work between one and three months after the accident. In turn, 22.6% of women did not stop working or returned to work the same day of the accident.

### Persons who are employed, or who worked in the last year, and who have had an accident with injuries during the working day, according to the time they spent without working, by sex

Absolute values in thousands

Period of absence	Total		Men		Women	
	Abs. Val	Percentage	Abs. Val	Percentage	Abs. Val	Percentage
<b>Total</b>	480.7	100.00	308.7	100.00	172.0	100.00
The person is still not working, but expects to work again	41.2	8.57	25.9	8.40	15.3	8.88
Less than one day, or none	87.4	18.18	48.5	15.70	38.9	22.63
At least one day, but less than 4 days	46.4	9.65	29.6	9.57	16.9	9.80
At least 4 days, but less than 2 weeks	88.8	18.47	55.4	17.93	33.4	19.43
At least 2 weeks, but less than one month	74.0	15.39	46.1	14.9	27.9	16.2
At least one month, but less than three months	88.6	18.44	65.5	21.20	23.2	13.48
At least three months, but less than six months	20.6	4.29	15.9	5.16	4.7	2.74
Between 6 months and 12 months or does not expect to work again	16.0	3.32	10.1	3.28	5.8	3.40
Does not know	17.7	3.68	11.8	3.82	5.9	3.42

The accident during the working day must have occurred in the 12 months prior to the Sunday of the reference week

## Illnesses

18.7% of employed persons or persons who previously worked aged 16 and over had an illness during the last 12 years.

By sex, 17.5% of men and 20.0% of women suffered from an illness.

**Persons 16 years of age and over <sup>(1)</sup>, whether or not they have had an illness.**

Percentage

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Does not know</b>
<b>Both sexes</b>	18.72	81.12	0.16
<b>Men</b>	17.49	82.34	0.17
<b>Women</b>	20.01	79.84	0.15

<sup>(1)</sup> Persons who are currently employed or who worked previously.

By age, the percentages of persons who had an illness increased as the analyzed age group increased as well. This way, 29.0% was reached for men aged 55 or over and 33.4% for women of the same age group.

Of the total of persons who suffered from an illness during the last year (6,377,400 workers or persons with professional experience), 21.9% claimed having suffered from an illness caused or aggravated by work and 3,7% claimed having suffered from two or more of those illnesses.

In turn, 69.4% of the persons suffered from an illness that was not caused by work.

**Type of illness**

The two main types of work-related illnesses (caused or aggravated by work in the last 12 months) were bone, joint or muscle problems that mainly affect the back (28.3%), neck, shoulders, arms or hands (18.5%), and hips, legs or feet (16.2%).

They were followed by illnesses related to stress, depression or anxiety (12.8%).

**Persons who are 16 years of age and over <sup>(1)</sup>, that have had a work-related illness, by type of illness and sex.**

Percentage

<b>Type of illness</b>	<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
<b>Total</b>	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bone, joint or muscular problems mainly affecting the back	28.29	27.63	28.96
Bone, joint or muscular problems mainly affecting the neck, shoulders, arms or hands	18.48	13.13	23.95
Bone, joint or muscular problems mainly affecting the legs, hips or feet	16.15	16.98	15.31
Stress, depression or anxiety	12.84	11.84	13.86
Other type of health problem	6.62	8.01	5.20
Heart disease or attack, or other circulatory system problems	5.40	7.87	2.88
Respiratory or lung problems	5.27	7.53	2.96
Stomach, liver or kidney or digestive problems	2.52	2.94	2.08
Headache and/or eye fatigue	1.39	0.97	1.82
Infectious disease (viral, bacterial or other type of infection)	0.93	0.73	1.14
Skin problem	0.84	0.85	0.84
Hearing problem	0.77	1.28	0.26
Does not know	0.49	0.24	0.75

<sup>(1)</sup> Persons who are currently employed or who worked previously.

39.3% of persons aged 16 or over experienced a “considerable” limitation of their everyday activities due to their work-related illness.

### Period of absence

Regarding the period of absence from work due to the illness, 40.3% were absent for less than a day or none, 19.6% were absent between 9 and 12 months or did not expect to return to work and 8.9% were still not working but expected to return to work.

In turn, 2.6% were absent from work between three and six months and 1.5% between six and nine months.

#### Employed persons with professional experience, according to the time they spent without working due to a work-related illness, by sex

Period of absence	Percentage		
	Both sexes	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>	100.00	100.00	100.00
The person is still not working, but expects to work again	8.87	8.29	9.47
Less than one day, or none	40.34	38.45	42.28
At least one day, but less than 4 days	4.14	4.48	3.80
At least 4 days, but less than 2 weeks	4.45	5.12	3.78
At least 2 weeks, but less than one month	5.10	4.51	5.70
At least one month, but less than three months	6.54	6.38	6.70
At least three months, but less than six months	2.64	2.39	2.90
At least 6 months, but less than nine months	1.48	1.42	1.55
Between 9 months and 12 months or does not expect to work again	19.55	21.82	17.23
Does not know	6.88	7.15	6.60

The illness or health problem shall have occurred during the 12 months prior to the Sunday of the reference week

### Adverse factors for physical and mental health

In the case of the risk factors for physical health, a total of 10,181,200 employed persons claimed having been exposed to an adverse factor.

The risk of "adopting difficult postures or movements that are part of work" is regarded as the factor with the greatest negative effect by 24.9% of persons (in the case of men the percentage is 19.2% and among women is 33.5%).

In turn, the "risk of accidents" is indicated by 22.6% of the affected persons (29.6% of men and 12.2% of women).

In 2013, a total number of 4,526,800 employed persons claimed having been exposed to adverse factors for their mental well-being.

In 84.8% of the cases, the most serious negative factor was having “time pressure or work overload” (85.2% of men and 84.3% of women).

In turn, 10.1% assured stated having suffered from “violence or threats of violence” (458,900 persons). This percentage rises to 10.6% in the case of men.

5.1% of employed persons who claimed having suffered adverse factors for their mental well-being, stated they had suffered from “harassment or intimidation” (229,700 persons). In the case of women, the percentage reached 6.1%.

**Percentage of employed persons 16 years of age or over who are exposed to adverse effects on their mental well-being, according to the factor with the greatest negative effect, by sex and age group**

<b>Sex and age</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Time pressure or work overload</b>	<b>Violence or threat of violence</b>	<b>Harassment or intimidation</b>
<b>Both sexes</b>	100.00	84.79	10.14	5.07
16-24	100.00	84.47	9.60	5.93
25-34	100.00	84.59	10.73	4.68
35-44	100.00	86.21	9.09	4.70
45-54	100.00	83.96	10.79	5.25
55 and over	100.00	82.92	10.75	6.33
<b>Men</b>	100.00	85.22	10.55	4.24
16-24	100.00	82.70	12.74	4.56
25-34	100.00	83.23	13.21	3.56
35-44	100.00	87.19	8.64	4.18
45-54	100.00	84.35	10.86	4.78
55 and over	100.00	85.10	10.67	4.23
<b>Women</b>	100.00	84.24	9.61	6.14
16-24	100.00	86.08	6.75	7.17
25-34	100.00	86.07	8.02	5.91
35-44	100.00	84.92	9.69	5.39
45-54	100.00	83.40	10.70	5.90
55 and over	100.00	79.94	10.87	9.19