



PRESS RELEASE

ACCIDENTS AT WORK AND OTHER WORK-RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS LABOUR FORCE SURVEY – AD HOC MODULE 2020

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces the results of an ad hoc survey on accidents at work and other work-related health problems. The survey was conducted along with the Labour Force Survey of the 2nd quarter of 2020.

The purpose of the survey was to collect data on work-related accidents and health problems. Also, data were collected on the existence of factors in the workplace that negatively affect the physical or mental health of employees.

In particular, the basic objectives of the survey were to:

- estimate the number of cases and days lost because of accidents at work during the last 12 months
- estimate the number of persons suffering from work-related health problems and days lost because of them
- analyze the differences in the occurrence of accidents at work and health problems in relation to factors associated with the worker's characteristics (sex, age, occupation, etc.), as well as factors associated with the employer's characteristics (economic activity, size of the company, etc.)
- assess the occurrence of factors at work that can adversely affect the physical or mental health of the workers

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A. Accidents at work

According to the survey results, it is estimated that 1.9% of the respondents reported that they had at least one accident resulting in injury during the last 12 months, at their workplace. The work accident rate appears to be higher in males than in females (2.6% and 1.1% respectively) while it increases in the ages from 45 years and over (2.3%). Also, 8.4% of accidents are road accidents, which are also more frequent among men than women (8.7% and 7.6%, respectively) and occur mainly in the age group 15-34 (11.1%). The percentages are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of working days lost due to accident at work during the last 12 months, by sex

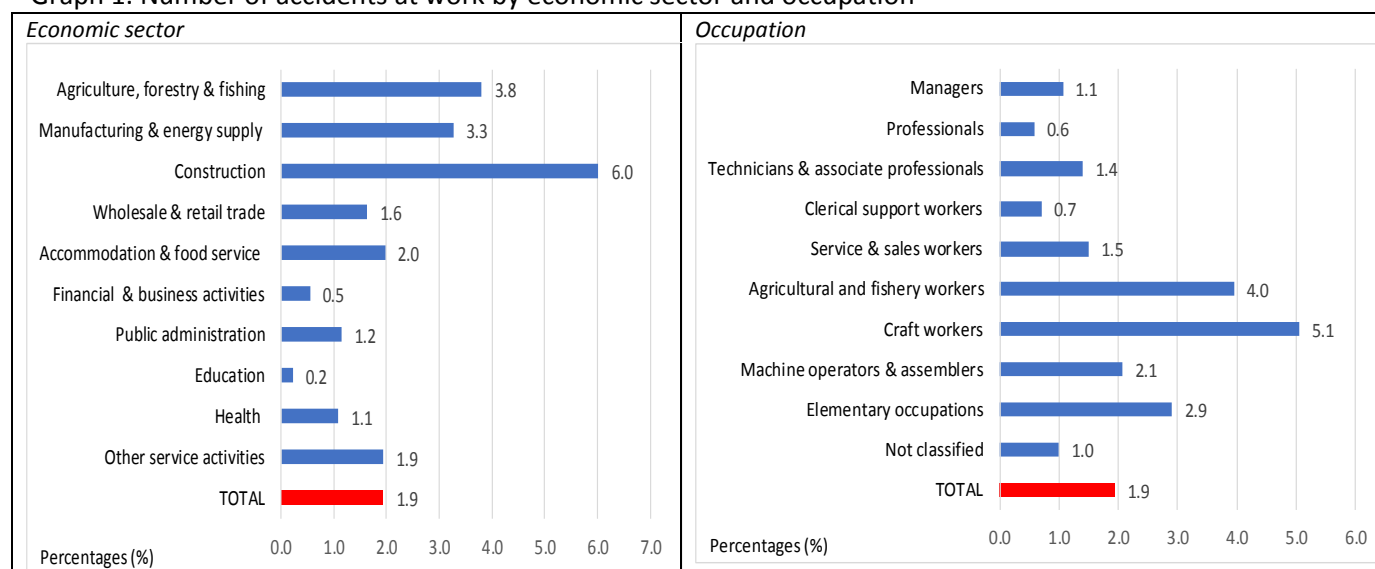
| Percentages (%) | TOTAL | Sex | | AGE | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | Males | Females | 15-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+ |
| Had at least one accident* | 1.9 | 2.6 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Road traffic accident** | 8.4 | 8.7 | 7.6 | 11.1 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 8.1 |
| Other** | 91.6 | 91.3 | 92.4 | 88.9 | 92.3 | 92.0 | 91.9 |
| Had no accident | 89.2 | 89.1 | 89.3 | 89.5 | 89.9 | 89.4 | 87.4 |
| No answer | 8.8 | 8.3 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 10.3 |

*Refers to persons who are employed or have worked in the last 12 months

** The percentages for the type of accident (traffic or other) refer to persons who have had an accident

The economic sectors with the highest rate of accidents at work concern primary and secondary production. The highest percentage is found in construction (6.0%) followed by agriculture, forestry, and fishing (3.8%), and manufacturing and energy supply (3.3%). The sectors with the lowest accident rates are education (0.2%) and financial and business activities (0.5%). The occupation with the highest rate of accidents at work are craft workers (5.1%) followed by agricultural and fishery workers (4.0%). The accident rate is lowest among professionals (0.6%) and clerks (0.7%). The percentages are presented in Graph 1.

Graph 1. Number of accidents at work by economic sector and occupation



About half of the persons involved in an accident (47.5%) returned to work the same day. In the remaining cases, the majority (34.8%) involve loss of working days from one day to three days, while about 10.9% include cases of accidents, which resulted in loss of working days from 4 days up to two weeks. The duration of absence is shorter for women, since 59.5% returned to work the same day (the corresponding percentage for men is 43.6%), as well as for those aged 15-34 years (65.7%) (Table 2).

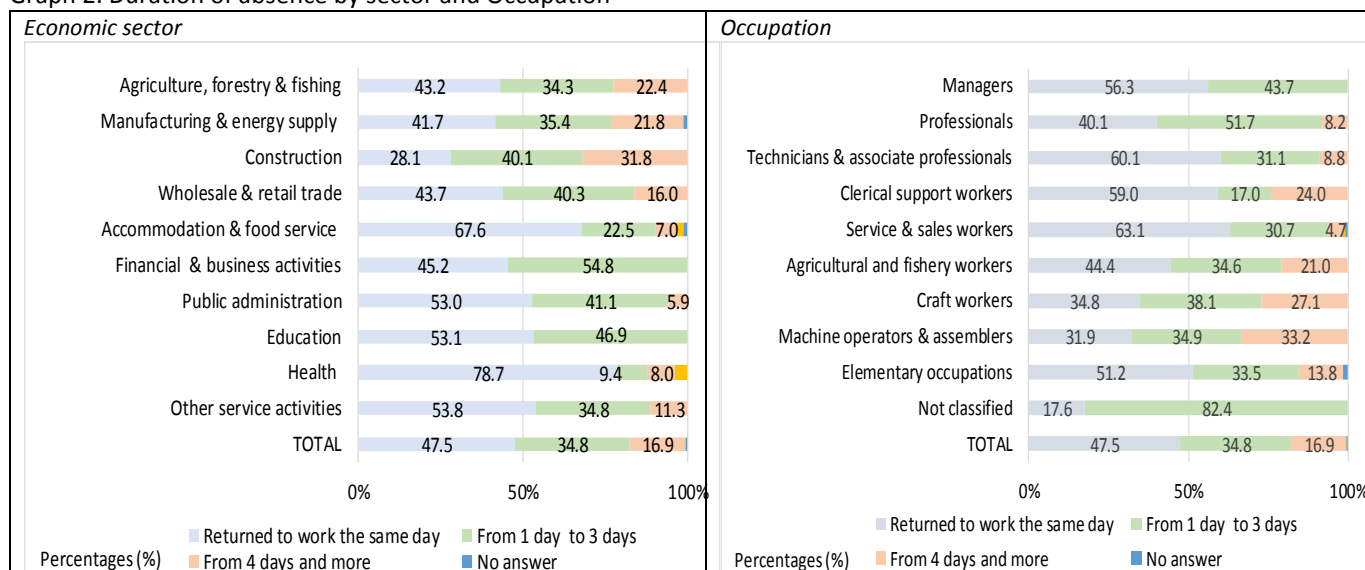
Table 2. Duration of working days lost by gender

| Percentages (%) | TOTAL | Sex | | AGE | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | Males | Females | 15-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+ |
| Returned to work the same day | 47.5 | 43.6 | 59.5 | 65.7 | 50.7 | 39.8 | 41.4 |
| From 1 day to 3 days | 34.8 | 38.2 | 24.3 | 24.9 | 30.6 | 37.6 | 43.4 |
| From 4 days to 2 weeks | 10.9 | 11.7 | 8.7 | 7.0 | 8.5 | 16.0 | 9.4 |
| From 2 weeks to 3 months | 3.8 | 4.1 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 4.5 | 4.6 |
| At least 3 months or still off work | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 6.2 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Expect never to work again | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| No answer | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.0 |

The percentages refer to persons who had a work-related accident during the last 12 months

The lowest percent in days lost at work occurs in the health sector and in accommodation and food service industry (78.7% and 67.6%, respectively, returned to work the same day). On the contrary, construction is the sector with the highest percentage of loss of working days, where 71.9% were absent for at least one day. The occupations with the lowest rates of loss of working days are service and sales workers, technicians and associated professionals and clerical support workers (63.1%, 60.1% and 59.0%, respectively, returned to work the same day). In contrast, machine operators and assemblers as well as craft workers are the occupations in which the highest rates of loss of working days are observed (the percentages of absence for at least one day are 68.1% and 65.2%, respectively). The percentages are presented in Graph 2.

Graph 2. Duration of absence by sector and Occupation



B. Work related health problems during the last 12 months

2.9% of respondents reported that they suffered from at least one work-related health problem during the last 12 months. The most common problems are related to bones, joints, or muscles, mainly affecting the upper and lower limbs or the back (20.3%, 10.3% and 34.4% respectively). Problems concerning the heart or the circulatory system in general are the second most common type of problem (6.7%), followed by stress, depression or anxiety and breathing or lung problems (6.3% and 4.3%, respectively). The remaining types of problems lie in

lower levels ranging from 4.2% (infectious disease) to 0.4% (hearing), whereas 4.8% of persons report other types of problems.

Also, the incidence of a work-related health problem is about the same between men and women, with back problems being the most important problem for both sexes (38.7% for men and 29.4% for women). Reports of problems differ between the sexes. So, women are more likely to report problems on neck, shoulders, arms or hands (27.6% vs 14.0% for men) while men report more often circulatory problems (10.4% vs 2.5% for women). Finally, the percentage of people who suffered health problems increases at older ages while the type of problem varies depending on age: infectious diseases (22.0%) as well as stress, depression or anxiety (12.7%) are more often reported by persons 15-34 years old while bone, joint or muscle problems which mainly affect neck, shoulders, arms or hands (18.1%, 11.0% και 37.8% respectively), as well as heart problems (10.4%) are more often reported by persons over 55 years old. The percentages are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Occurrence of work-related health problems during the last 12 months by type, gender, and age

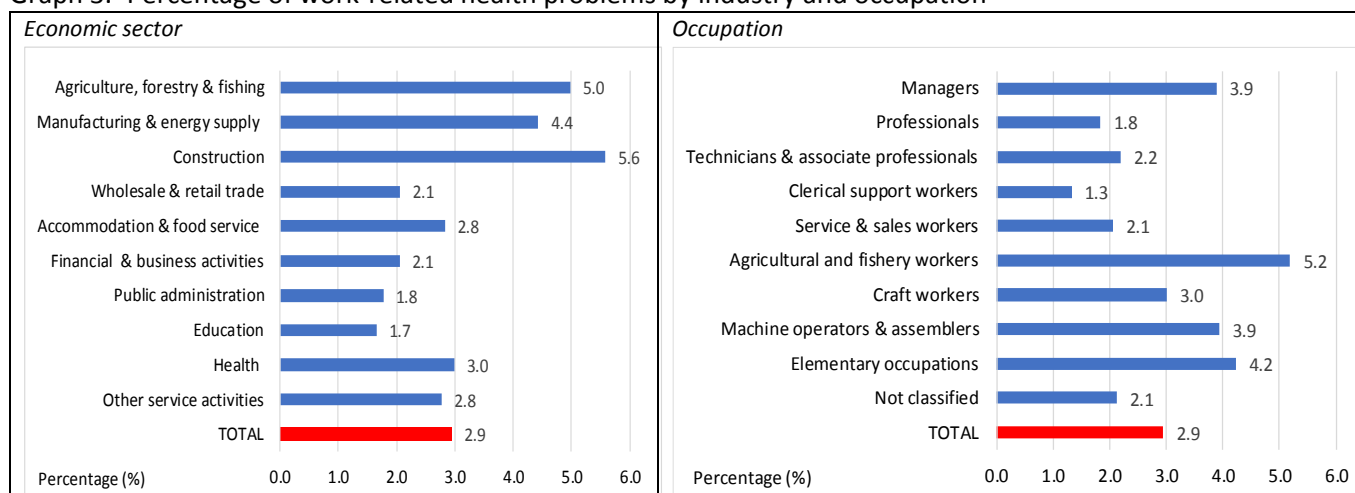
| Percentages (%) | | TOTAL | Sex | | AGE | | | |
|--|---|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | | Males | Females | 15-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+ |
| Suffered work related health problem(s)* | | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 3.3 | 4.4 |
| Health problem** | Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects neck, shoulders, arms or hands | 20.3 | 14.0 | 27.6 | 10.3 | 29.4 | 23.0 | 18.1 |
| | Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects hips, knees, legs or feet | 10.3 | 9.7 | 11.0 | 4.4 | 10.1 | 10.8 | 11.0 |
| | Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects back | 34.4 | 38.7 | 29.4 | 32.5 | 25.2 | 33.0 | 37.8 |
| | Breathing or lung problem | 4.3 | 5.7 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 6.1 |
| | Skin problem | 1.0 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 3.6 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| | Hearing problem | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| | Stress, depression or anxiety | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 12.7 | 4.8 | 9.4 | 4.1 |
| | Headache and/or eyestrain | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.6 | 5.7 | 2.5 |
| | Heart disease or attack, or other problems in the circulatory system | 6.7 | 10.4 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 10.4 |
| | Infectious disease (virus, bacteria or other type of infection) | 4.2 | 1.6 | 7.2 | 22.0 | 9.0 | 3.6 | 0.5 |
| | Stomach, liver, kidney or digestive problem | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 3.2 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| | Other types of health problem | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 5.0 |
| | No health problem* | | 84.0 | 85.4 | 82.3 | 88.5 | 89.5 | 87.8 |
| No answer* | | 13.1 | 11.7 | 14.7 | 10.2 | 8.7 | 8.9 | 20.3 |

* Occurrence of health problems refers to persons aged 15-74 who are employed or have worked in the past

** Percentages for health problems refer to persons who suffered work-related health problems

The sectors with the highest incidence of health problems concern primary and secondary production. The highest percentage is observed in construction industry (5.6%), followed by agricultural forestry and fishing (5.0%) and industry and energy (4.4%). In contrast, the lowest incidence of health problems occurs in education and public administration (1.7% and 1.8%, respectively). The occupations most affected by work-related health problems are agricultural and fishery workers as well as elementary workers (5.2% and 4.2% respectively). Conversely, the lowest percentage of health problems occurs in office workers and professionals (1.3 and 1.8% respectively). The percentages are presented in Graph 3.

Graph 3. Percentage of work-related health problems by industry and occupation



C. Work related risk factors for physical health and or mental well-being

Tiring or painful positions are mentioned as the most dangerous factor for the physical health of employed persons (22,2%) followed by intense visual concentration (9.4%). Men are more exposed to handling of heavy loads (7.9% vs 2.9% for women) as well as chemicals, dust, fumes, smoke, or gas (5,7% vs 3.3% for women) and the dangers of using machines or hand tools (6,3% vs 1.8% for women), while women are more exposed to repetitive hand movements (8.1% vs 4.9% for men) and intense visual concentration (11.2% vs. 8.1% for men). It is also noted that, in total, 65.3% of the respondents report that they are exposed to at least one of the following physical health risk factors, more men (68.5%) than women (60.9%). Finally, there are no significant differences observed as regards the age groups (Table 4 and Graph 4).

Table 4. Exposure to physical health risk factors

| Percentage (%) | TOTAL | Sex | | AGE | | | | |
|--|--|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| | | Males | Females | 15-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+ | |
| Exposed to physical health risk factors | 65.3 | 68.5 | 60.9 | 64.5 | 65.1 | 64.8 | 67.1 | |
| Most risky factor for the physical health | Tiring or painful positions | 22.2 | 20.2 | 24.9 | 21.5 | 21.1 | 21.2 | 26.4 |
| | Repetitive hand or arm movements | 6.3 | 4.9 | 8.1 | 7.1 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 5.5 |
| | Handling of heavy loads | 5.8 | 7.9 | 2.9 | 5.1 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 6.4 |
| | Noise | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| | Strong vibration | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| | Chemicals, dust, fumes, smoke or gases | 4.7 | 5.7 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 5.1 |
| | Activities involving strong visual concentration | 9.4 | 8.1 | 11.2 | 8.8 | 10.3 | 10.0 | 7.9 |
| | Slips, trips and falls | 3.0 | 3.7 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 3.6 |
| | Use of machines or hand tools (excluding vehicles) | 4.4 | 6.3 | 1.8 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 4.3 |
| | Use of vehicles (in the course of work, excluding on the way to and from work) | 3.3 | 5.2 | 0.7 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.2 |
| | Another significant risk factor for physical health | 5.2 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 3.9 |
| No significant risk factor for physical health | 26.2 | 23.5 | 30.0 | 26.8 | 27.1 | 27.1 | 22.6 | |
| No answer | 8.5 | 8.1 | 9.2 | 8.7 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 10.4 | |

The percentages refer to employed persons

About 63.0% of employed persons report that they are exposed to factors that affect mental well-being, while the most dangerous factor is most often job insecurity and severe time pressure or work overload (20.9% and 19.3% of the total, respectively). In contrast, violence, or threat of violence as well as harassment or bullying are reported with a significantly lower frequency (1.5% and 0.3%, respectively). The results vary slightly by sex whereas the biggest difference is observed in dealing with difficult clients, patients, students, etc. (12.6% for men and 16.0% for women). In terms of age, the overall exposure to factors affecting mental health is increased at younger ages where job insecurity stands out (Table 5).

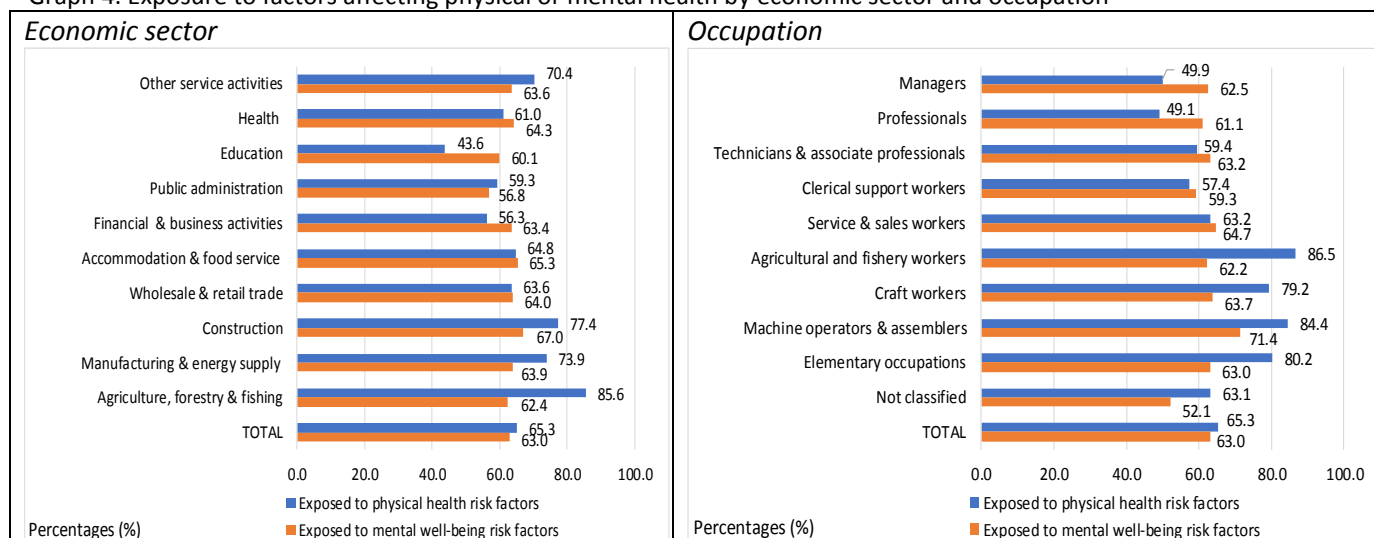
Table 5. Exposure to mental well-being risk factors

| Percentage (%) | | TOTAL | Sex | | AGE | | | |
|--|---|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | | Males | Females | 15-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55+ |
| Exposed to mental well-being risk factors | | 63.0 | 63.3 | 62.5 | 65.1 | 63.9 | 63.4 | 58.2 |
| Most risky factor for mental well-being | Severe time pressure or overload of work | 19.3 | 19.9 | 18.4 | 17.8 | 21.0 | 20.0 | 17.4 |
| | Violence or threat of violence | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 0.9 |
| | Harassment or bullying | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| | Poor communication or cooperation within the organisation | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.9 |
| | Dealing with difficult customers, patients, pupils, etc. | 14.0 | 12.6 | 16.0 | 13.2 | 13.6 | 14.5 | 14.9 |
| | Job insecurity | 20.9 | 21.4 | 20.3 | 26.4 | 21.3 | 18.9 | 16.8 |
| | Lack of autonomy, or lack of influence over the work pace or work processes | 2.0 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| | Another significant risk factor for mental well-being | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 3.3 | 4.0 |
| No significant risk factor for mental well-being | | 28.5 | 28.7 | 28.3 | 26.2 | 28.4 | 28.6 | 31.5 |
| No answer | | 8.5 | 8.1 | 9.2 | 8.7 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 10.4 |

The percentages refer to employed persons

The economic sectors with the highest exposure to risk factors for physical health are agriculture, forestry, and fishing (85.6%), construction (77.4%), and manufacturing and energy supply (73.9%). The sectors with the highest exposure to mental well-being risk factors are construction (67.0%), accommodation and food service (65.3%), and health (64.3%). The occupations with the highest exposure to physical health risk factors are agricultural and fishery workers (86.5%) and machine operators and assemblers (84.4%). The latter also report the highest percentages of risk to their mental health (71.4%) followed by service and sales workers (64.7%). The percentages are presented in Graph 4.

Graph 4. Exposure to factors affecting physical or mental health by economic sector and occupation



EXPLANATORY NOTES

| | |
|---|---|
| Survey on accidents at work and other work-related health problems | The ad-hoc survey on “Accidents at work and other work-related health problems” was conducted in the 2 nd quarter of 2020 along with Labour Force Survey. Its main objective was to investigate the incidence of accidents that occur at work and illnesses caused or exacerbated thereof. Information on the presence of factors in the workplace that negatively affect the physical or mental health workers was also collected. |
| Legislation | The specifications of the survey, i.e. timing, main objectives and characteristics to be surveyed, were laid down in Commission Regulation No 2018/1709. |
| Reference Period | The reference period for the key variables of the survey is the last 12 months before the reference week. |
| Coverage | <p>Target population of the Quarterly LFS comprises all persons that are living in private households. The ad hoc module on “Accidents at work and work-related health problems” was addressed to subsets of that population, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Accidents at work</u>: Persons aged 15 and over that were working (or had a job from which they were temporarily absent) during the reference week, or they have worked during the last 12 months• <u>Work-related health problems</u>: Persons aged 15 – 74 years old that were working during the reference week or have worked in the past.• <u>Physical or Mental risk factors</u>: Persons aged 15 and over that were working during the reference week |
| Definitions | <p>Accident at work: a discrete and unforeseen event or occurrence which leads to physical harm to the respondent and that occurred whilst engaged in an occupational activity or during the time spent at work.</p> <p>Work related health problems: include all health problems which are considered by the person to have been caused or aggravated by work (past or current).</p> <p>Exposure to physical health risk factors: it can mean executing body movements or sensory functions, coming into contact with materials or environmental factors or being aware and threatened by the risk of accidents, but always at a frequency and intensity that this is perceived as a risk or has led to physical health problems.</p> <p>Exposure to mental well-being risk factors: the subjective perception of the respondent of being exposed to risk factors at work that might have an impact on his/her mental well-being (including mental health).</p> <p>At work: the usual environment where a person carries out his/her work activities. In most of the cases it is the local unit or establishment, but for certain workers that work outside the local unit (e.g., builders, firemen, etc.) it is the general environment where the work is usually carried out.</p> |
| Methodology | The estimates of the ad-hoc survey estimates (accidents, health problems etc.) are produced by means of a suitable unbiased estimator which takes into account: a) the probability of selection of every sampled household, b) the response rate in every primary sampling unit, c) the estimated population, allocated by NUTS 2 areas, gender and age group). The population distribution takes into account the estimates of the 2011 census. |
| References | More information (tables, methodology) about the Ad-hoc module can be found at ELSTAT website (www.statistics.gr). |