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**KEY FACT SHEET ON
INJURIES
WITHIN
THE RETAIL DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY
REPORTED TO
LOCAL AUTHORITIES
1991/92 TO 1996/97**

OPERATIONS UNIT
Room 512
Daniel House
Trinity Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HE

prepared by the Government Statistical Service



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KEY CHANGES UNDER RIDDOR 95

KEY CHANGES IN REPORTABILITY OF INJURIES TO WORKERS FROM RIDDOR 85 TO RIDDOR 95

The term 'accident' now includes physical violence to people at work.

The criteria for a reportable major injury has been simplified and expanded slightly under RIDDOR 95; more fractures, except to fingers and toes, and more amputations are now defined as a major injury. Also, any dislocation to the knee, hip, shoulder or spine is now a major injury.

Over-3-day injuries are still injuries resulting in an inability to do normal work for more than 3 days. However the revision of the criteria of a major injury, as above, may have led to an over-3-day injury under RIDDOR 85, being now classed as a major injury under RIDDOR 95.

The substantial increase in the number of major injuries and small increase in the number of over-3-day injuries to workers, is largely due to these changes.

Non-fatal injuries to workers reported to local authorities, 1995/96 and 1996/97

	Major Injuries	Over-3-Day injuries
Number of injuries in 1995/96	2 668	20 399
Number of injuries in 1996/97	5 577	21 313
Difference	+2 909	+924
(minus acts of violence)	(211)	(548)
change	+2 698	+366

KEY CHANGES IN REPORTABILITY OF INJURIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM RIDDOR 85 TO RIDDOR 95.

Under RIDDOR 85, an injury to a member of the public was reportable if it resulted in a fatality or one of a list specified major injuries. RIDDOR 95 specifies that fatalities are still reportable, but now include suicide or trespass on railways.

A reportable non-fatal injury to a member of the public now includes any injury caused by accidents arising out of or in connection with work which lead to a person being taken from the site of the accident to hospital.

These changes have led to a substantial increase in the number of non-fatal injuries to members of the public. The number of fatal injuries in the LA sector are relatively unaffected.

KEY FACTS ABOUT INJURIES WITHIN THE RETAIL DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY REPORTED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES, 1991/92 TO 1996/97

Introduction

This factsheet describes the features and trends in statistics on injuries in the retail distribution industry for the years 1991/92 to 1996/97. The factsheet provides statistics on workplace injuries in the retail industry as a whole, as well as the retail sale of:

- a) food, drink and tobacco;
- b) pharmaceuticals, books, footwear, clothing, household goods, DIY equipment and motor vehicles and their parts;
- c) goods in department stores, games stores, craft shops and by mail order .

This report is based on those injuries reported to local authorities by employers and others under RIDDOR¹.

In 1996/97 there were approximately 465,000 retail premises employing around 2.5 million people, an average of 5 employees per premise. Furthermore, a large number of members of the public visit premises in the retail distribution industry every year. Employees and others have a duty to protect the health and safety of these people whilst in or around their premises.

Local Authorities and HSE get to know about virtually all workplace fatalities. However, not all non-fatal injuries are reported by employers and self-employed people. The results of HSE's accident questions in the Labour Force Survey confirm the substantial level of under-reporting. Details of the LFS and RIDDOR sources of injury information are given at Annex 1.

Aggregate statistics on reported injuries cannot give detailed information on all the circumstances surrounding a workplace injury. This factsheet, therefore, also includes some case studies on particular fatal injuries, which provide more detailed information on the specific circumstances of the injury.

SECTION 1 - INJURIES IN THE RETAIL INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE

Injury Statistics

The injuries in this report cover the six year period from 1991/92 to 1996/97. In this period employers and others have reported 71,303 injuries occurring within the retail distribution industry, of which:

- 28 were fatal injuries;
- 14,439 (20%) were major injuries;
- 56,836 (80%) were over-3-day injuries.

Table 1: Reported injuries by the employment status of injured person, 1991/92 to 1996/97

Employment Status	Severity of Injury			
	Fatal	Major	Over-3-Day	Total
Employees	11	7 483	56 680	64 174
Self-employed people	2	115	156	273
Members of the Public	15	6 841	..	6 856
Total	28	14 439	56 836	71 303

.. Not Reportable

1. The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1985 and 1995.

FATAL INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES

In the six year period since 1991/92 employers have reported 11 fatalities to employees, representing 11% of all employee fatalities in the LA enforced sector since 1991/92.

Table 2: Fatal injuries to employees (including trainees) 1991/92 to 1996/97

1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
2	2	3	-	4	-	11

The number of fatal injuries to employees in the retail industry is relatively low and shows no trend in the past six years.

What were the circumstances of the fatality?

Of the 11 deaths reported:

- 5 resulted from a fall from a height.
- 4 involved being struck by a moving vehicle (2 involved a goods vehicle and 2 involved a fork lift truck).
- the other two fatalities resulted from being struck by a moving or flying object and striking a fixed object.

Table 3 in Annex 2 gives further details on the kinds of accident resulting in a fatal injury.

What was the Nature of the Injury?

The nature and site of injury was recorded in 7 of the 11 fatalities. Of these:

- 3 resulted from a fracture;
of which 2 were to the head and 1 was to the neck.
- 2 resulted from internal injuries,
of which 1 was to the head and the other was to the torso.
- 1 death resulted from lacerations to the body, and;
- 1 resulted from severe bruising to the head.

In which business activity did the Injury occur?

Of the eleven fatal injuries to employees, five occurred in the food, drink and tobacco retail industry.

Table 3: Fatal injuries to employees by business activity, 1991/92 to 1996/97

Business activity	Number
food retail (a)	5
specialised non-food retail (b)	3
department stores etc (c)	3
Total	11

(a) the retail sale of food, drink and tobacco

(b) the retail sale of pharmaceuticals, books, footwear, clothing, household goods, DIY equipment and motor vehicles and their parts

(c) the retail sale of goods in department stores, games stores, craft shops and by mail order

Of the five fatal injuries occurring in the food retail industry:

- 3 occurred in a loading bay;
- 1 in a warehouse, and;
- 1 in or around a lift.

FATAL INJURIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In the six year period since 1991/92, employers and others have reported 15 fatal injuries to members of the public. The number of fatal injuries to members of the public is relatively low and has shown no trend in the last six years.

Table 4 : Fatal Injuries to Members of the Public, 1991/92 to 1996/97

1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
4	2	6	-	1	2	15

What were the circumstances of the fatality?

Of the 15 reported fatalities to members of the public:

- 5 were due to a fall from a height
of which 3 were falls down stairs.
- a slip or trip accounted for 4 fatalities.
- 3 involved being struck by a moving vehicle.

Table 3 in Annex 2 gives more details on the kind of accident involved in fatal injuries

What was the nature of the injury and what part of the body was affected?

In two thirds of all fatal injuries, the nature and site of injury was recorded. Of these:

- 7 were due to a fracture of some type
of which 3 were to the leg or hip and 2 were to the head.
- 2 deaths resulted from asphyxiation.
- 1 resulted from multiple injuries.

In which business activity did the Injury occur?

Of the 15 fatalities to members of the public 6 occurred in the food retail industry and 5 occurred in department stores etc.

Table 5: Fatal injuries to Members of the Public by business activity, 1991/92 to 1996/97

Business Activity	Number
food retail (a)	6
specialised non-food retail (b)	4
department stores etc (c)	5
Total	15

(a) the retail sale of food, drink and tobacco

(b) the retail sale of pharmaceuticals, books, footwear, clothing, household goods, DIY equipment and motor vehicles and their parts

(c) the retail sale of goods in department stores, games stores, craft shops and by mail order

Of the 6 fatalities to members of the public occurring in food retail:

- 2 occurred in a car park.
- 2 in the sales area.
- 1 in an entrance/exit and 1 on the stairs.

Of the 5 fatal injuries occurring department stores:

- 3 occurred in the sales area.

CASE STUDIES

Below are some narrative accounts [some based on the investigating officer's report] of fatal injuries to employees.

Employees

"The deceased, an employee at a retail outlet, fell to his death whilst replacing roofing panels on a garage/workshop. The deceased person was replacing some wooden roofing panels on the roof of the garage/workshop, the roof has a shallow pitch of 10 degrees, when he fell to his death. There is little doubt that if the guidance in the booklet entitled "Safety in Roofwork" had been complied with this accident could have been prevented".

"The owner of a retail premise fell to his death whilst investigating an attempted break in. The roof was fragile and in poor condition. The accident occurred despite warnings that the roof was unsafe".

Members of the Public

"A member of the public was knocked over and killed when she was struck by a lorry reversing into the delivery area of a retail store; the delivery area and pedestrian access to the customer car park were not segregated. The accident occurred despite the lorry involved being fitted with an audible reversing alarm".

"A customer died after falling through an open trap-door in the floor of a retail shop. The trap-door was left open while staff moved stock from the store room to the sales area. The customer entered the premises and fell through the open trap-door onto the basement floor below. The person died of head injuries resulting from the accident".

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES

In the six year period to 1996/97 employers reported 7,483 major injuries and 56,680 over-3-day injuries (an accident resulting in an absence from normal work of 4 days or more) to employees. The 7,483 major injuries represent 41% of all major injuries reported over this period to local authorities, and the 56,680 over-3-day injuries represent 46% of all over-3-day injuries to employees reported over this period to local authorities.

Table 6: Non-fatal injuries to employees (including trainees) 1991/92 to 1996/97

	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Major	936	980	962	1 176	1 115	2 314	7 483
Over-3-Day	9 248	9 047	8 923	9 479	10 041	9 942	56 680

Numbers of non-fatal injuries are difficult to interpret without allowing for the associated levels of employment. Tables 7 and 8 display rates of major and over-3-day injury for the LA enforced sector for the past five years.

Table 7: Rates of major injury in the LA enforced sector, 1991/92 to 1996/97

	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Retail	39.5	41.6	40.1	48.5	46.1	90.3
Wholesale	43.5	47.7	39.7	41.9	40.1	59.1
Offices	11.5	10.9	11.7	11.0	9.7	23.6
Hotel & Catering	34.7	38.9	41.4	44.1	39.9	70.8
Consumer/leisure	42.3	43.8	44.0	48.3	48.7	102.6

Table 8: Rates of Over-3-Day injury in the LA enforced sector, 1991/92 to 196/97

	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Retail	393.3	379.9	367.0	387.9	408.0	383.7
Wholesale	374.5	270.3	260.0	289.9	282.6	199.7
Offices	51.7	56.2	57.1	61.0	53.8	74.7
Hotel & Catering	194.6	209.1	228.2	229.2	204.5	205.1
Consumer/leisure	229.9	243.5	226.9	236.8	213.0	294.9

The key points for trends in reported non-fatal injury are:

- The major injury rate for the retail industry in 1996/97 is nearly double that of any previous year, although most of this can be attributed to changes in reporting regulations.
- The highest rate of over-3-day injury is in the retail industry; the rate of injury in this industry has shown no overall trend in the six year period.
- The rate of reported major injury in the retail industry is about two fifths of that in the manufacturing industry and about one fifth of that in the construction industry (see Table 1 in Annex 2).
- The rate of over-3-day injury within the retail distribution industry is about a two fifths of that in the manufacturing industry and about a third of that in the construction industry (see Table 2 in Annex 2).
- The LFS shows that the rate of reportable non-fatal injury in the retail industry has fallen by over a third since 1989/90.

- This indicates an improvement in employer reporting of injuries from 20% in 1989/90 to 39%.

In which business activity did the injury occur?

53% of non-fatal injuries occurred in the food retail industry with a further 32% occurring in department stores etc. The high number of non-fatal injuries in these two areas of the retail industry will reflect the relatively high numbers of people employed in these industries.

Table 9: Non-fatal injuries to employees by business activity, 1991/92 to 1996/97

Business Activity	Major	%	Over-3-Day	%
food retail (a)	3 246	43	30 452	54
specialised non-food retail (b)	1 606	21	8 340	15
department stores (c)	2 611	35	17 782	31
repair of consumer goods (d)	20	~	106	~
Total	7 483	100	56 680	100

~ less than 0.5%

(a) the retail sale of food, drink and tobacco

(b) the retail sale of pharmaceuticals, books, footwear, clothing, household goods, DIY equipment and motor vehicles and their parts

(c) the retail sale of goods in department stores, games stores, craft shops and by mail order

(d) the repair of consumer goods, ie watches

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Employers and others reported 6,841 non-fatal injuries to members of the public in the six year period since 1991/92, this represents 34% of all non-fatal injuries to members of the public reported over this period to local authorities.

Table 10: Non-fatal injuries to members of the public, 1991/92 to 1996/97

1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
724	895	1 009	1 003	999	2 211	6 841

In the three years to 1995/96 there has been little change in the number of non-fatal injuries to members of the public. However in the year to 1996/97 the number of non-fatal injuries has more than doubled, most of this increase can be attributed to the changes in reporting regulations.

In which business activity did the injury occur?

Four fifths of non-fatal injuries occurred in either the food retail industry or department stores.

Table 11: Major injuries to members of the public by business activity, 1991/92 to 1996/97

Business Activity	No	%
food retail (a)	2 981	44
specialised non-food retail (b)	993	15
department stores (c)	2 867	42
Total	6 841	100

(a) the retail sale of food, drink and tobacco

(b) the retail sale of pharmaceuticals, books, footwear, clothing, household goods, DIY equipment and motor vehicles and their parts

(c) the retail sale of goods in department stores, games stores, craft shops and by mail order

SECTION 2 - RETAIL SALE OF FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES

In the six year period to 1996/97 there were 33,698 reported non-fatal injuries in the food retail industry, of which 3,246 were major injuries and 30,452 were over-3-day injuries.

Where did the injury happen and what were the circumstances of the injury?

Of the 3,246 major injuries:

- 31% (991) of injuries occurred in the sales area (538 involved a slip or trip, 119 involved a fall from a height, 114 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying a load, 88 resulted from being struck by a moving object and 53 involved the person walking into a fixed object).
- 342 (11%) injuries occurred in stock rooms (150 involved the person slipping or tripping, 42 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying a load and 41 involved a fall from a height).
- 322 (10%) injuries occurred in warehouses (101 involved a slip or trip, 50 involved being struck by a moving object, 47 involved being struck by a moving vehicle, 37 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying a load and 38 resulted from falling from a height).
- 9% (281) of injuries occurred in the loading bay (78 involved a slip or trip, 64 involved a moving vehicle and 42 involved the person falling from a height).

Of the 30,452 over-3-day injuries:

- 8,841 (29%) injuries occurred in the sales area (3,491 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, 1,941 resulted from a slip or trip and 1,437 resulted from the person being struck by a moving object).
- 5,124 (17%) injuries occurred in warehouses (2,023 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, 899 resulted from contact with a moving vehicle, 895 involved a slip or trip and 658 resulted from the person being struck by a moving object).
- 3,512 (12%) injuries occurred in stock rooms (1,199 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying a load, 655 resulted from a slip or trip, 511 resulted from the person being struck by a moving object and 493 resulted from contact with a moving vehicle).
- 2,944 (10%) injuries occurred in the area of the loading bay (989 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, 543 resulted from contact with a moving vehicle, 523 resulted from being struck by a moving object and 506 resulted from a slip or trip).
- 925 (3%) injuries occurred in a meat room (502 resulted from being struck by a moving object, mostly knives, 153 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, 115 involved a slip or trip and 88 resulted from contact with moving machinery mainly foodslicers and band saws).

What was the nature of the injury and what part of the body was affected?

The majority (84%) of major injuries involved a fracture of some type.

- Fracture accounted for 2,714 major injuries. Of these 1,143 were to the wrist, 706 were to the arm or shoulder, 384 were to the ankle and 252 were to the leg, thigh or hip.
- 90 (3%) were lacerations, of which 44 were to the finger and 15 to the hand.
- 67 (2%) were bruises, of which 9 were to the hand and 8 were to the leg, thigh or hip.
- 67 (2%) were sprains or strains, of which 39 were to the back and 10 to the arm, shoulder or collar bone.
- 67 (2%) were burns, of which 44 were to the eye.

A third of over-3-day injuries were sprains or strains.

- Sprains or strains accounted for 35% (10,537) of over-3-day injuries. Of these 5,236 were to the back, 1,116 were to the arm or shoulder, 1,106 were to the ankle and 844 were to the leg, thigh or hip.
- 23% (7,047) were bruises, of which 1,021 were to the foot, 949 were to the leg, thigh or hip, 676 were to the hand, 607 were to the arm or shoulder and 551 were to the back.
- 9% (2,626) were superficial injuries, of these 1,214 were to the finger, 362 were to the hand and 217 were to the eye.
- 8% (2,584) were fractures*, of these 682 were to the toe, 659 were to the finger, 474 were to the foot and 360 were to the hand.

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In the six year period to 1996/97 there were 2,981 reported major injuries to members of the public in the food retail industry.

Where did the injury happen and what were the circumstances of the injury?

- 1,680 (56%) occurred in the sales area (1,469 involved a slip or trip, 67 resulted from a fall from a height and 45 involved a moving vehicle).
- 513 (17%) occurred in the entrance/exit (379 involved a slip or trip and 92 involved being struck by a moving object).
- 387 (13%) occurred in car parks (333 involved a slip or trip and 27 involved being struck by a moving object).

What was the nature of the injury and what part of the body was affected?

- 94% (2,805) of injuries involved a fracture of some type (824 were to the wrist, 804 were to the leg, thigh or hip and 704 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone).

* under RIDDOR 95 only fractures to the fingers and toes are classified as over-3-day injuries.

SECTION 3 - RETAIL SALE OF PHARMACEUTICALS, BOOKS, FOOTWEAR, CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, DIY EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES AND THEIR PARTS

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES

In the six year period to 1996/97 there were 9,946 reported non-fatal injuries occurring in specialised non-food retail stores, of which 1,606 were major injuries and 8,340 were over-3-day injuries.

Where did the injury happen and what were the circumstances of the injury?

Of the 1,606 major injuries:

- 422 (26%) injuries occurred in the sales area, of these 183 were due to a slip or trip, 89 involved a fall from a height and 63 involved being struck by a moving object.
- 226 (14%) injuries occurred in a stock room, of these 87 involved a fall from a height and 67 involved a slip or trip.
- 204 (13%) injuries occurred in a warehouse, of these 59 involved a slip or trip and 52 involved a fall from a height.
- 163 (10%) injuries occurring in the owners loading bay, of these 49 involved a slip or trip and 37 involved a fall from a height.

Of the 8,340 over-3-day injuries:

- 2,145 (26%) injuries occurred in the sales area, of these 819 were due to handling, lifting or carrying a load, 449 resulted from being struck by a moving object and 411 involved a slip or trip.
- 1,534 (18%) injuries occurred in a warehouse, of these 722 were due to handling, lifting or carrying a load, 238 resulted from being struck by a moving object and 226 involved a slip or trip.
- 1,258 (15%) injuries occurred in a stock room, of these 453 were due to handling, lifting or carrying a load, 243 involved a fall from a height, 217 resulted from being struck by a moving object and 197 involved a slip or trip.

What was the nature of the injury and what part of the body was affected?

The majority (82%) of major injuries involved a fracture of some type.

- 1,324 (82%) injuries resulted from a fracture, of these 372 were to the wrist, 317 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone, 202 were to the ankle and 153 were to the leg, thigh or hip.

Two fifths of over-3-day injuries were sprains or strains.

- 39% (3,225) were sprains or strains, of these 1,650 were to the back, 442 were to the ankle, 282 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone and 276 were to the leg, thigh or hip.
- 21% (1,786) were bruises, of these 248 were to the foot, 239 were to the leg, thigh or hip, 221 were to the back, 171 were to the head and 151 were to the arm and shoulder.

- 12% (852) were fractures, of these 242 were to the toe, 212 were to the finger, 164 were to the foot and 104 were to the hand.

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In the six year period to 1996/97 there were 993 reported major injuries to members of the public in specialised non-food retail stores.

Where did the injury happen and what were the circumstances of the injury?

- 597 (60%) occurred in the sales area (394 involved a slip or trip and 70 resulted from a fall from a height).
- 149 (15%) occurred in the entrance/exit (108 involved a slip or trip, 20 involved being struck by a moving object and 13 involved a fall from a height).

What was the nature of the injury and what part of the body was affected?

- 71% (707) of injuries involved a fracture of some type (202 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone, 193 were to the leg, thigh or hip and 177 were to the wrist).

SECTION 4 - RETAIL SALE OF GOODS IN DEPARTMENT STORES, GAMES STORES, CRAFT SHOPS AND BY MAIL ORDER

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES

In the six year period to 1996/97 there were 20,393 reported non-fatal injuries occurring in department stores, of which 2,611 were major injuries and 17,782 were over-3-day injuries.

Where did the injury happen and what were the circumstances of the injury?

Of these 2,611 major injuries:

- 30% (792) of injuries occurred in the sales area (357 involved a slip or trip, 101 involved handling, lifting or carrying a load and 76 involved a fall from a height).
- 9% (234) of injuries occurred in the stock room (83 involved a slip or trip and 54 involved the person falling from a height).
- 7% (189) of injuries occurred in the loading bay (58 involved a slip or trip and 32 involved the person falling from a height).

Of those 17,782 over-3-day injuries:

- 4,822 (27%) injuries occurred in the sales area (1,953 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, 1,007 resulted from a slip or trip and 849 resulted from being struck by a moving object).
- 1,837 (10%) injuries occurred in a stock room (768 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, 343 resulted from being struck by a moving object and 257 resulted from a slip or trip).
- 1,617 (9%) injuries occurred in or around the loading bay (687 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, 291 resulted from being struck by a moving object and 220 resulted from a slip or trip).
- 1,093 (6%) injuries occurred in the mail order industry (532 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, 164 resulted from a slip or trip and 126 resulted from being struck by a moving object).

What was the nature of the injury and what part of the body was affected?

The majority (74%) of major injuries involved a fracture of some type.

- 1,924 (74%) were fractures, of these 606 were to the wrist, 415 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone and 225 were to the ankle.

Two fifths of over-3-day injuries were sprains or strains.

- 7,281 (41%) were sprains or strains, of these 3,575 were to the back, 834 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone, 738 were to the ankle and 559 were to the leg, thigh or hip.
- 4,274 (24%) were bruises, of these 602 were to the leg, thigh or hip, 509 were to the foot, 399 were to the arm or shoulder, 383 were to the head and 354 were to the back.

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In the six year period to 1996/97 there were 2,867 reported major injuries to members of the public in general department stores etc.

Where did the injury happen and what were the circumstances of the injury?

- 1,775 (62%) occurred in the sales area (1,182 involved a slip or trip, 108 resulted from a fall from a height and 97 involved contact with moving machinery).
- 345 (12%) occurred in the entrance/exit (231 involved a slip or trip and 21 involved a fall from a height).
- 199 (7%) occurred on the stairs (95 resulted from a fall from a height, 60 involved contact with moving machinery (all contacted with escalators) and 39 involved a slip or trip).

What was the nature of the injury and what part of the body was affected?

- 52% (1,490) of injuries involved a fracture of some type (406 were to the wrist, 369 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone, 379 were to the leg, thigh or hip and 143 were to the ankle).

Source of Injury Statistics.

The statistics in this fact sheet are based on injuries reported to local authorities under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, 1985 and 1995 (RIDDOR). The statistics refer to injuries occurring in the retail distribution industry, as defined by the Standard Industrial Classification 1992 groups 50.1, 50.3, 50.4, 50.5 (motor vehicles); 52.1 (non-specialised stores); 52.2 (food, drink and tobacco); 52.3 (pharmaceutical and medical goods); 52.4 (specialised stores); 52.5 (second-hand goods); 52.6 (stalls and markets) and 52.7 (repair of personal and household goods).

Reporting of Injuries and the LFS

Local Authorities and HSE get to know about virtually all fatalities at work. However, not all non-fatal injuries are reported by employers and self-employed people. As a result, HSE places a set of accident questions each year in the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The most recent results show that employers currently report about 40% of non-fatal injuries to employed people.

The reporting levels vary between employers in different industries and are lowest in many parts of the services industry. This means that reported injuries understate the true risk of injury in the services industry, including the retail distribution industry, compared with industry generally. The LFS shows that around 39% of non-fatal injuries to employees in the retail distribution industry are reported.

A fact sheet on the results of the LFS is available from the Operations Unit

Tables: on injuries in the retail distribution industry

- Table 1: Rates of major injury to employees, 1991/92 to 1996/97
- Table 2: Rates of over-3-day injury to employees, 1991/92 to 1996/97
- Table 3: Fatal Injuries to employees and members of the public by kind of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.
- Table 4: Major injuries to employees by kind of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.
- Table 5: Over-3-Day Injuries to employees by kind of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.
- Table 6: Major injuries to members of the public by kind of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.
- Table 7: Major injuries to employees by 'location of accident', 1991/92 to 1996/97.
- Table 8: Over-3-day injuries to employees by 'location of accident', 1991/92 to 1996/97.
- Table 9: Major injuries to members of the public by 'location of accident', 1991/92 to 1996/97.

Table 1: Rates* of major injury to employees, 1991/92 to 1996/97

	1991/92	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1995/96	1996/97
Retail	39.5	41.6	40.1	48.5	46.1	90.3
Wholesale	43.5	47.7	39.7	41.9	40.1	59.1
Offices	11.5	10.9	11.7	11.0	9.7	23.6
Hotel & Catering	34.7	38.9	41.4	44.1	39.9	70.8
Consumer/leisure	42.3	43.8	44.0	48.3	48.7	102.6
Manufacturing	139.4	136.2	138.6	138.9	130.5	206.4
Construction	261.0	230.4	214.4	221.2	224.0	394.8
All industry	81.6	80.3	79.3	80.4	77.1	125.8
Under RIDDOR 95 the definition of a major injury was widened						

Table 2: Rates* of over-3-day injury to employees, 1991/92 to 1996/97

	1991/92	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1995/96	1996/97
Retail	393.3	379.9	367.0	387.9	408.0	383.7
Wholesale	274.5	270.3	260.0	289.9	282.6	199.7
Offices	51.7	56.2	57.1	61.0	53.8	74.7
Hotel & Catering	194.6	209.1	228.2	229.2	204.5	205.1
Consumer/leisure	229.9	243.5	226.9	236.8	213.0	294.9
Manufacturing	1 264.5	1 219.0	1 162.1	1 193.7	1 067.4	1 002.5
Construction	1 515.7	1 277.6	1 127.4	1 139.4	1 030.3	1 106.0
All industry	707.6	669.0	640.2	657.2	607.4	571.9

* Incidence rates are the number of injuries per 100,000 employees and are based on injuries reported to both HSE and local authorities.

Table 3: Fatal injuries to employees and members of the public by kind of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.

Employees	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Struck by a moving object	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Struck by moving vehicle	1	1	-	-	2	-	4
Striking a fixed object	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Fall from a height	1	1	1	-	2	-	5
Total	2	2	3	-	4	-	11
Members of the Public							
Struck by a moving object	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Struck by moving vehicle	1	1	-	-	1	-	3
Slip or Trip	1	1	1	-	-	1	4
Fall from a height	1	-	3	-	-	1	5
Exposure to a fire	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Total	4	2	6	-	1	2	15

Table 4: Major injuries to employees by kind of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.

Kind of accident	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Contact with moving machinery or material being machined	16	16	16	19	23	43	133
Struck by moving inc. flying/falling object	70	78	79	130	123	398	878
Struck by moving vehicle	44	35	45	65	79	85	353
Strike against something fixed or stationary	55	45	55	65	68	186	474
Injured whilst handling, lifting or carrying	55	67	91	159	85	311	768
Slip, trip or fall on same level	476	492	483	549	524	796	3 320
Fall from a height	169	189	168	171	186	322	1 205
Drowning or asphyxiation	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	35	29	11	7	13	62	157
Exposure to fire	1	-	1	1	-	2	5
Exposure to an explosion	3	-	-	1	-	8	12
Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge	5	6	5	5	8	7	36
Injured by an animal	-	-	1	-	1	1	32
Acts of Violence	-	-	-	-	-	67	67
Other kind of accident	7	18	7	4	5	26	67
Total	936	980	962	1 176	1 115	2 314	7 483
Under RIDDOR 95 the definition of a major injury was widened							

Table 5: Over-3-Day Injuries to employees by kind of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.

Kind of accident	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Contact with moving machinery or material being machined	250	222	197	199	281	222	1 371
Struck by moving inc. flying/falling object	1 416	1 370	1 300	1 514	1 581	1 739	8 920
Struck by moving vehicle	809	772	650	758	794	435	4 218
Strike against something fixed or stationary	636	588	571	636	755	876	4 062
Injured whilst handling, lifting or carrying	2 995	3 101	3 272	3 385	3 680	3 527	19 960
Slip, trip or fall on same level	2 177	2 086	2 157	2 232	2 075	1 941	12 668
Fall from a height	626	595	536	494	555	585	3 391
Drowning or asphyxiation	4	3	1	1	2	1	12
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	182	151	153	169	220	261	1 136
Exposure to fire	3	2	5	2	7	1	20
Exposure to an explosion	10	9	5	5	11	10	50
Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge	41	40	30	41	32	35	219
Injured by an animal	10	9	9	7	16	10	61
Acts of Violence	-	-	-	-	-	188	188
Other kind of accident	89	99	37	36	32	111	404
Total	9 248	9 047	8 923	9 479	10 041	9 942	56 680

Table 6: Non-fatal injuries to members of the public by kind of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.

Kind of accident	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Contact with moving machinery or material being machined	24	27	22	21	31	104	229
Struck by moving inc. flying/falling object	28	44	46	34	38	321	511
Struck by moving vehicle	23	25	18	15	17	61	159
Strike against something fixed or stationary	8	14	11	11	24	216	284
Injured whilst handling, lifting or carrying	2	1	4	7	5	27	46
Slip, trip or fall on same level	556	692	817	810	782	1 235	4 892
Fall from a height	63	64	74	82	91	186	560
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	3	2	2	1	-	26	34
Exposure to an explosion	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge	-	-	1	-	-	6	7
Injured by an animal	-	1	-	-	-	4	5
Other kind of accident	17	25	14	22	10	24	112
Total	724	895	1 009	1 003	999	2 211	6 841
Under RIDDOR 95 a non-fatal injury to a member of the public was widened to include such things as "taken to hospital",							

Table 7: Major injuries to employees by location of accident, 1991/92 to 1995/96.

Location of accident	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Sales areas	253	284	302	348	330	698	2 215
Stock room	130	135	132	156	75	185	813
Warehouse	75	69	58	122	174	365	863
Loading bays (owners)	67	77	94	114	113	174	639
Stairs (not in offices)	70	61	50	66	61	132	440
Delivery off premises	31	29	31	31	42	55	219
Canteen / restaurant	26	32	31	31	34	71	225
Kitchen	35	33	18	27	16	39	168
Car parks	26	18	24	24	34	67	193
Cold room	25	20	15	43	22	48	173
Entrance or exit	16	27	20	23	33	61	180
Bakery	31	17	19	30	19	46	162
Corridor (not offices)	19	25	25	22	14	16	121
Other places	132	153	143	139	148	357	1 072
Total	936	980	962	1 176	1 115	2 314	7 483
Under RIDDOR 95 the definition of a major injury was widened							

Table 8: Over-3-day injuries to employees by location of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.

Location of accident	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Sales areas	2 463	2 511	2 505	2 504	2 717	3 158	15 858
Warehouse	1 181	1 363	1 118	1 468	2 336	2 095	9 561
Stock room	1 417	1 105	1 294	1 279	815	753	6 663
Loading bays (owners)	899	824	881	1 043	1 055	787	5 489
Stairs (not in offices)	399	365	254	336	325	329	2 008
Delivery off premises	276	319	303	302	292	250	1 742
Cold room	231	263	258	330	330	294	1 706
Kitchen	275	250	214	208	166	144	1 257
Mail order	264	172	284	229	156	69	1 174
Canteen / restaurant	200	212	187	247	257	289	1 392
Bakery	188	195	205	237	254	218	1 297
Meat room	257	221	207	148	90	41	964
Office	147	150	154	163	143	187	944
Prep room (food)	146	129	124	162	186	239	986
Entrance or exit	118	121	92	129	178	203	841
Corridor (not offices)	151	111	99	94	111	40	606
Car parks	102	110	103	103	133	157	708
Other places	534	626	641	497	497	689	3 484
Total	9 248	9 047	8 923	9 479	10 041	9 942	56 680

Table 9: Non-fatal injuries to members of the public by location of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.

Location of accident	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Sales area	413	526	613	584	515	1 411	4 062
Entrance or exit	116	157	165	152	158	259	1 007
Car parks	73	78	89	88	108	126	562
Stairs (not offices)	48	51	16	42	46	97	300
Canteen / restaurant	14	16	16	24	24	41	135
Pavement	0	0	42	35	14	26	117
Other places	60	67	68	78	134	251	658
Total	724	895	1 009	1 003	999	2 211	6 841
Under RIDDOR 95 a non-fatal injury to a member of the public was widened to include such things as "taken to hospital",							