



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

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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 WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY REPORTED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES, 1991/92 TO 1996/97

Introduction

This report describes the features and trends in statistics on injuries in the wholesale distribution industry for the years 1991/92 to 1996/97. The wholesale industry is made up of businesses selling new or used goods to retailers, to industry or to agents acting for distributors. This report relates to those injuries reported to local authorities by employers and others under RIDDOR¹.

In 1996/97 there were approximately 69,000 wholesale premises employing around 943,000 people, an average of 14 employees per premise.

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. 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 accident. This factsheet, therefore, also includes some case studies on particular fatal injuries, which provide more detailed information on the specific circumstances of the accident.

SECTION 1 - INJURIES IN THE WHOLESALE 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 9,592 injuries occurring within the wholesale distribution industry, of which:

- 23 were fatal injuries;
- 1,477 (15%) were major injuries;
- 8,092 (84%) were over-3-day injuries.

Employment Status	Severity of Injury						
	Fatal	Total					
Employees	21	1 316	8 040	9 377			
Self-employed people	1	25	52	78			
Members of the Public	1	136		137			
Total	23	1 477	8 092	9 592			

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

.. Not Reportable

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

FATAL INJURIES

In the six year period since 1991/92 employers have reported 21 fatalities to employees, representing 21% of all employee fatalities in the LA enforced sector since 1991/92.

1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
6	2	5	5	2	1	21

The number of fatal injuries to employees in the wholesale industry is relatively low and shows no trend.

What were the circumstances of the fatality?

Of the 21 deaths reported:

- 8 involved being struck by a moving vehicle (4 involved a goods vehicle and 3 involved a fork lift truck);
- 6 resulted from a fall from a height;
- 4 resulted from being struck by a moving or flying 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 of the injury was recorded in 7 of the 21 fatalities. Of these:

- 3 resulted from crushing injuries, of which 2 were to the torso;
- 2 resulted from gassing or poisoning;
- 1 resulted from a fracture to the head;
- 1 death resulted from multiple injuries to the body.

Where did the injury occur?

Half of all fatal injuries in the wholesale industry occurred in warehouses.

Table 5. Fatar injuries to employees by location of accident, 1991/92 to 1990/97			
Location of accident	Number		
warehouse	10		
loading bay (owner)	7		
office	1		
delivery off premise	1		
other locations	2		
Total	21		

 Table 3: Fatal injuries to employees by location of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97

Of the 10 fatalities occurring in a warehouse:

- 5 were due to a fall from a height, and;
- 4 were due to being struck by either a moving object or a vehicle.

Of the 7 fatal injuries occurring in or around the loading bay area:

• just over half were due to being struck by a goods vehicle.

CASE STUDIES

"A warehouse worker in a steel stockholders was killed whilst slinging and moving hollows section in the warehouse area. He fell approximately 4 feet to his left, striking the side of his head on a steel rod protruding from the end of a bundle of rectangular hollow sections. There were no witnesses to the fall, but immediately before the accident he had been operating a crane pendant while standing on a bundle of flat steel rods. He was wearing a safety helmet at the time of his death."

"A warehouse worker fell to his death from a platform stepladder. The deceased was an experienced worker, but had been warned only the week before, following an incident involving climbing racking and throwing stock to the floor, that he was not following company rules. He was asked to find an item of brassware in the warehouse, and asked for the use of the fork lift truck, as the stock was stored on racking approximately 3 metres from the floor. However, in the event no truck was used. There were no witnesses to the accident, but the deceased was found on the floor, next to a 4 metre aluminium stepladder."

"A warehouse manager was killed while unloading packs of aluminium extrusions weighing 400 kg each. He was using a fork lift truck in the unloading process when some of them became stuck. He attempted to free the load on his own, by standing on the forks of the truck. Two of the packs fell from the lorry, crushing him against the mast of the truck."

NON-FATAL INJURIES

In the six year period to 1996/97 employers reported 1,316 major injuries and 8,040 over-3-day injuries (an accident resulting in an absence from normal work of 4 days or more) to employees. These 1,316 major injuries represent 7% of all major injuries to employees reported over this period to local authorities, and the 8,040 over-3-day injuries represent 7% of all over-3-day injuries to employees reported over this period to local authorities.

	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Major	208	222	182	217	201	286	1 316
Over-3-Day	1 439	1 348	1 252	1 433	1 572	996	8 040

 Table 4: Non-fatal injuries to employees (including trainees) 1991/92 to 1996/97

Numbers of non-fatal injuries are difficult to interpret without allowing for the associated levels of employment. Tables 5 and 6 display rates of non-fatal injury for the LA enforced sector for the past five years.

Table 5: 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	414	44.1	39.9	70.8	
Consumer/leisure	42.3	43.8	44.0	48.3	48.7	102.6	

 Table 6: Rates of over-3-day injury in the LA enforced sector, 1991/92 to 1996/97

	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 rate of reported major injury in the wholesale industry has shown no overall trend in the years to 1995/96; although the rate in 1996/97 is higher, most of this increase can be attributed to the changes in reporting regulations.
- The rate of reported over-3-day injury in the wholesale industry is less than in any previous year, and has shown no overall trend since 1992/93.
- The rate of major injury within the wholesale distribution industry is about a quarter of that in the manufacturing industry and an eighth of that in the construction industry (see Table 1 in Annex 2).
- The rate of over-3-day injury within the wholesale distribution industry is about a fifth of that in the manufacturing and construction industries (see Table 2 in Annex 2).
- The LFS shows that the rate of non-fatal injury in the wholesale industry has fallen by 25% since 1989/90.

• This indicates an improvement in employer reporting of injuries from 12% in 1989/90 to 16%.

Where did the injury occur?

Table 7 shows the number of major and over-3-day injuries to employees by the location of the accident.

Location of accident	Major	%	Over-3-Day	%
	Iviajui	/0	Over-5-Day	/0
Warehouse	371	28	2 708	34
Loading bay (owner)	310	24	1 764	22
Delivery off premise	149	11	1 229	15
Sales area	93	7	467	6
Stock room	58	4	367	5
Office	39	3	218	3
Loading bay (customer)	32	2	211	3
Other locations	264	20	1 076	13
Total	1 316	100	8 040	100

Table 7: Non-fatal injuries to employees by the location of the accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97

A third of non-fatal injuries occurred in warehouses with a further 22% occurring in the owner's loading bay. The main features are:

major injuries:

- 371 (28%) injuries occurred in the warehouse;
- 310 (24%) injuries occurred in the owner's loading bay, and
- 149 (11%) occurred whilst on delivery off the premises.

over-3-day injuries:

- 2,708 (34%) injuries occurred in the warehouse;
- 1,764 (22%) injuries occurred in the owner's loading bay, and
- 1,229 (15%) occurred whilst on delivery off the premises.

What were the circumstances of the injury?

A slip or trip or fall from a height accounted for 57% of all major injuries to employees in the wholesale distribution industry over the six year period.

- 415 (32%) injuries resulted from a slip or trip (130 involved lost footing, 126 resulted from falling over an obstruction, 84 resulted from slipping on a slippery surface and 52 resulted from slipping on an uneven surface).
- 332 (25%) injuries resulted from falling from a height (92 involved the person falling of a goods vehicle, 66 resulted from falling from some type of ladder and 42 involved falling down stairs).
- Being struck by a moving or flying object resulted in 161 (12%) injuries (48 involved being struck by an object falling from a vehicle and 40 involved being struck by an object falling from a table, shelf or stack).
- Handling, lifting or carrying an object resulted in 148 (11%) injuries (60 involved handling, lifting or carrying a heavy object and 53 involved handling, lifting or carrying a awkward object).
- 119 (9%) injuries involved the person being struck by a moving vehicle (74 involved a fork lift truck and 16 involved a hand cart or cage).

Just under 40% of all over-3-day injuries involved the person handling, lifting or carrying a load. Slips and trips accounted for a further 18% of all over-3-day injuries.

- 3,095 (38%) injuries resulted from the person handling, lifting or carrying a load (1,511 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying a heavy object and 1,135 resulted from handling, lifting or carrying a awkward object).
- 1,452 (18%) injuries resulted from a slip or trip (488 resulted from lost footing, 354 involved falling over an obstruction and 323 involved slipping on a slippery surface).
- Being struck by a moving or flying object resulted in 1,125 (14%) injuries (319 resulted from being struck by a object falling from a shelf, table or stack, 211 resulted from being struck by an object falling from a vehicle and 141 involved a door or ramp).
- 766 (10%) injuries resulted from a fall from a height (237 resulted from a fall from a goods vehicle, 130 involved a fall off some type of ladder and 102 resulted from a fall down stairs).
- 757 (9%) injuries were as a result of being struck by a moving vehicle (381 involved a fork lift truck and 236 involved a hand cart or cage).

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

The majority (83%) of major injuries to employees involved a fracture:

- Fractures accounted for 1,086 major injuries to employees (288 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone, 237 were to the wrist, 201 were to the ankle and 144 were to the leg, hip or thigh).
- 51 were amputations of the finger.
- 44 were lacerations (21 were to the finger).

Two fifths of over-3-day injuries involved a sprain or strain.

- Sprains and strains accounted for 3,208 (40%) of all over-3-day injuries (1,647 were to the back or spine, 365 were to the ankle, 304 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone, 301 were to the leg, hip or thigh and 142 were to the torso).
- 1,739 (22%) over-3-day injuries involved bruising of some kind (294 were to the foot, 249 were to the leg, hip or thigh, 144 were to the back or spine, 141 were to the arm, shoulder or collar bone, 125 were to finger and 112 were to the torso).
- 852 (11%) injuries involved a fracture of some kind* (220 were to the finger, 211 were to the toe and 185 were to the foot).
- 552 (7%) injuries were lacerations (226 were to the finger, 101 were to the hand, 68 were to the head and 48 were to the leg, hip or thigh).
- 478 (6%) injuries to employees involved a superficial injury (129 were to the finger 69 were to the hand, 61 were to the eye, 43 were to the leg, hip or thigh, 34 were to the head and 32 were to the foot).

^{*} under RIDDOR 95 only fractures to the finger or toes are classified as a over-3-day injury

SECTION 2 - INJURIES IN WAREHOUSES

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES

In the six year period to 1996/97 there were 3,079 injuries occurring in a warehouse, of which 371 were major injuries and 2,708 were over-3-day injuries.

What were the circumstances of the injury?

Of the 371 major injuries:

- 88 (24%) resulted from a slip or trip.
- 87 (23%) resulted from a fall from a height.
- 54 (15%) resulted from being struck by a moving object.
- 51 (14%) resulted from being struck by a vehicle, and;
- 44 (12%) resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object.

Of the 2,708 over-3-day injuries:

- 1,068 (39%) resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object.
- 416 (15%) resulted from the person being struck by a moving object.
- 380 (14%) resulted from a slip or trip.
- 372 (14%) involved being struck by a moving vehicle.

SECTION 3 - INJURIES IN THE OWNER'S LOADING BAY

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES

In the six year period to 1996/97 there were 2,074 injuries occurring in the owner's loading bay, of which 310 were major injuries and 1,764 were over-3-day injuries.

What were the circumstances of the injury?

Of the 310 major injuries:

- 99 (32%) resulted from a fall from a height.
- 78 (25%) resulted from a slip or trip.
- 40 (13%) resulted from being struck by a moving object.
- 38 (12%) resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object, and;
- 36 (12%) resulted from being struck by a vehicle.

Of the 1,764 over-3-day injuries:

- 694 (39%) resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object.
- 305 (17%) resulted from a slip or trip.
- 254 (14%) resulted from the person being struck by a moving object, and;
- 189 (11%) resulted from being struck by a moving vehicle.

SECTION 4 - INJURIES OCCURRING WHILST ON DELIVERY

NON-FATAL INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES

In the five year period to 1995/96 there were 1,378 injuries occurring whilst on delivery off premise, of which 149 were major injuries and 1,229 were over-3-day injuries.

What were the circumstances of the injury?

Of the 149 major injuries:

- 56 (38%) resulted from a slip or trip.
- 42 (28%) resulted from a fall from a height.
- 19 (13%) resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object.
- 16 (11%) resulted from being struck by a moving object.

Of the 1,229 over-3-day injuries:

- 528 (43%) resulted from handling, lifting or carrying an object.
- 281 (23%) resulted from a slip or trip.
- 157 (13%) resulted from a fall from a height.
- 117 (9%) resulted from being struck by a moving object.

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 & 1995 (RIDDOR). The statistics refer to injuries occurring in the wholesale distribution industry, as defined by the Standard Industrial Classification 1992 division 51 - Wholesale trade and commission trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.

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 42% 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 wholesale distribution industry, compared with industry generally. The LFS shows that around 16% of non-fatal injuries to employees in the wholesale distribution industry are reported.

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

Annex 2

Tables: on injuries in the wholesale 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 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 employees by location of accident, 1991/92 to 1996/97.
Table 7:	Over-3-day injuries to employees by location of accident, 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	Under RIDDOR 95 the definition of a major injury was widened								

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

	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.

Employees	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Struck by a moving object	2	1	-	1	-	-	4
Struck by moving vehicle	2	-	2	1	2	1	8
Striking a fixed object	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Handling, lifting or carrying a load	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Fall from a height	2	-	2	2	-	-	6
Contact with a harmful substance	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	6	2	5	5	2	1	21

Table 3: Fatal 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	13	9	5	4	9	6	46
Struck by moving inc. flying/falling object	20	24	20	25	20	52	161
Struck by moving vehicle	20	27	16	20	14	22	119
Strike against something fixed or stationary	4	8	8	6	8	15	49
Injured whilst handling, lifting or carrying	17	25	17	28	23	38	148
Slip, trip or fall on same level	60	54	58	88	76	79	415
Fall from a height	61	66	52	44	46	63	332
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	6	1	4	-	2	2	15
Exposure to fire	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Exposure to an explosion	1	1	-	-	2	-	4
Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge	1	-	-	1	-	1	3
Injured by an animal	1	-	1	-	-	1	3
Acts of Violence	_	-	-	-	-	4	4
Other kind of accident	4	7	-	1	1	3	16
Total	208	222	182	217	201	286	1 316
Under RIDDOR 95 the definition of a major inj	ury was wi	dened	•	•	•	•	

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.

Kind of accident	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Contact with moving machinery or material being machined	61	38	27	40	52	38	256
Struck by moving inc. flying/falling object	203	172	160	203	217	170	1 125
Struck by moving vehicle	170	135	91	119	188	54	757
Strike against something fixed or stationary	74	74	65	58	101	67	439
Injured whilst handling, lifting or carrying	480	510	517	610	598	380	3 095
Slip, trip or fall on same level	263	233	246	272	255	183	1 452
Fall from a height	166	149	118	117	132	84	766
Drowning or asphyxiation	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Exposure to or contact with harmful substance	8	10	10	5	13	6	52
Exposure to fire	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Exposure to an explosion	-	1	1	1	1	-	4
Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge	2	1	2	2	6	3	16
Injured by an animal	1	4	4	-	1	2	12
Acts of Violence	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Other kind of accident	11	19	9	6	8	6	59
Total	1 439	1 348	1 252	1 433	1 572	996	8 040

Table 6: Major 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	
Warehouse	66	71	48	45	50	91	371	
Loading bays (owners)	47	63	42	60	45	53	310	
Delivery off premises	30	23	22	25	24	25	149	
Sales areas	14	10	20	13	12	24	93	
Stock room	1	2	12	14	12	17	58	
Workshop	15	7	6	9	5	3	45	
Office	11	4	5	9	6	4	39	
Loading bay (customer)	5	5	2	6	9	5	32	
Stairs (not in offices)	3	5	2	5	6	8	29	
Car parks	1	5	4	5	6	10	31	
Other places	15	27	19	26	26	46	159	
Total	208	222	182	217	201	286	1 316	
Jnder RIDDOR 95 the definition of a major injury was widened								

Table 7: Over-3-day injuries to	employees by location o	f accident. 1	1991/92 to 1996/97
Table 7. Over-5-day injunes to	cmployees by location o	acciucity i	

Location of accident	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	Total
Warehouse	524	488	344	435	565	352	2 708
Loading bays (owners)	326	292	292	335	335	184	1 764
Delivery off premises	246	221	188	237	231	106	1 229
Sales areas	76	69	77	95	75	75	467
Stock room	23	25	119	91	61	48	367
Loading bay (customer)	33	33	26	47	51	21	211
Offices	46	34	33	28	41	36	218
Workshop	28	24	30	37	31	13	163
Other places	137	162	143	128	182	161	913
Total	1 439	1 348	1 252	1 433	1 572	996	8 040