



# Occupational Health Factsheet 2019-20

Publication date: 14 July 2020

Next publication date: July 2021

## Background

This factsheet contains information on cases of occupational disease reported to ORR under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) between 2010-11 and 2019-20. [Guidance on RIDDOR](#) is available.

This factsheet also includes industry data on incidents of manual handling and shock/trauma between 2012-13 and 2019-20. There is further information on [Occupational Health within the rail industry](#).

The data is published annually on ORR's [data portal](#).

## Definitions

**Hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS):** work involves regular use of percussive or vibrating tools, or the holding of materials which are subject to percussive processes, or processes causing vibration.

**Carpal Tunnel Syndrome:** work involves regular use of percussive (repeated impact) or vibrating tools.

**Tendonitis or tenosynovitis in the hand or forearm:** work is physically demanding and involves frequent, repetitive movements.

**Dermatitis:** work involves significant or regular exposure to a known skin sensitizer or irritant.

There is more information on all the [different disease cases reported to ORR under RIDDOR](#).

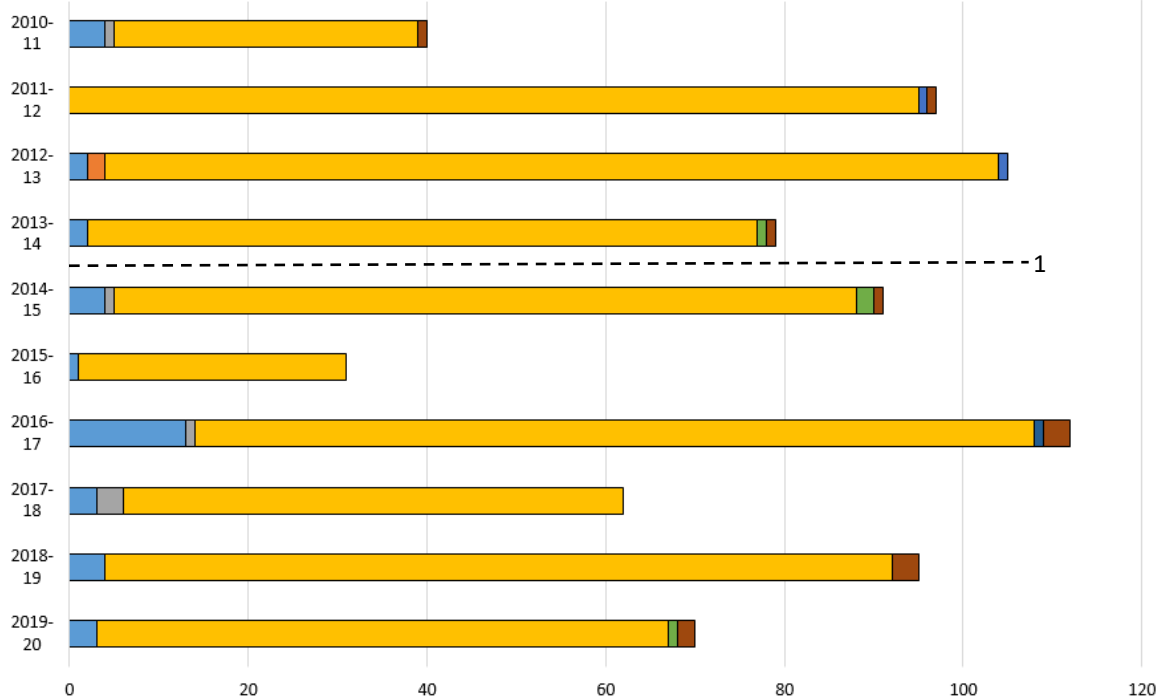
**Responsible Statistician:** Peter Moran

**Author:** Oliver Lowe

**Public Enquiries:** Email: [rail.stats@orr.gov.uk](mailto:rail.stats@orr.gov.uk) **Media Enquiries:** Tel: 0207 282 2094

**Website:** <https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/health-and-safety/occupational-health/>

## Disease cases reported to ORR under RIDDOR from across Britain's railways between 2010-11 and 2019-20 (Table 5110):



Source: Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) and ORR

1 Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, there is a series break due to changes in the reporting requirements

- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Cramp in the hand or forearm due to repetitive movements
- Dermatitis
- Hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)
- Infectious disease due to biological agents
- Occupational asthma
- Occupational cancers
- Tendonitis or tenosynovitis in hand or forearm



There has been a **27.3%** decrease in reported cases of HAVS between 2018-19 and 2019-20.



# Occupational Health Factsheet 2019-20

## Definitions

### Manual handling:

Physical injuries from moving of items either by lifting, lowering, carrying, pushing or pulling. They are part of a wider group of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), which covers any injury, damage or disorder of the joints or other tissues in the upper/lower limbs or the back.

### Shock/trauma:

Shock or traumatic stress affecting any person who has been involved in, or has been a witness to, an event, and not suffered any physical injury. Shock/trauma cases are **not** RIDDOR reportable.

### TOCs:

Passenger train operating companies

### LUL:

London Underground Ltd

### NR contractors:

Network Rail contractors

### FOCs:

Freight operating companies

### Other contractors:

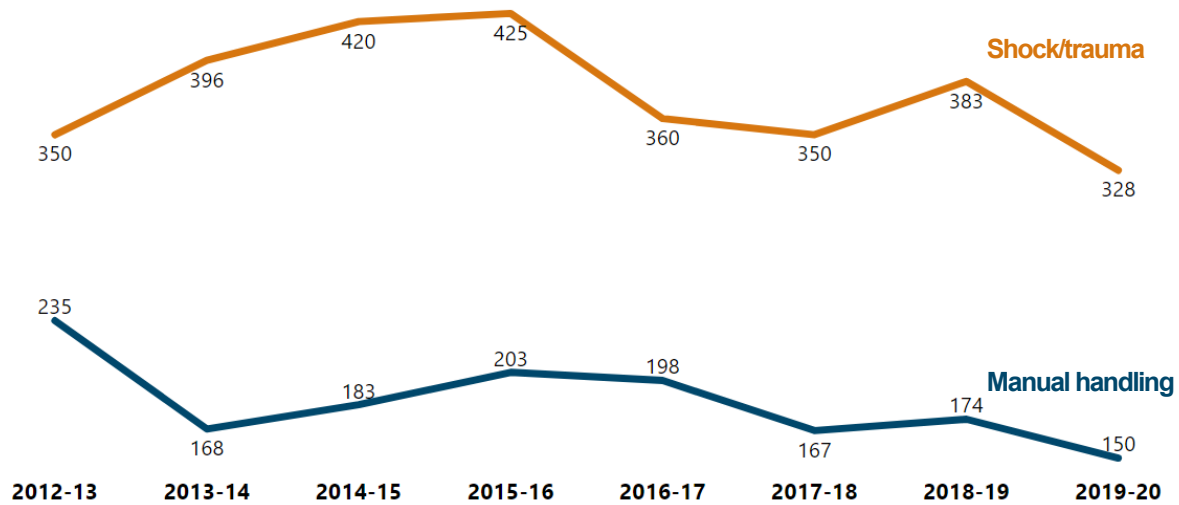
Contractors working for duty holders other than Network Rail

### RSSB's Safety

Management Intelligence System (SMIS) records safety related incidents that occur on the mainline rail network.

LUL's Information Exchange (IE2) database as well as the ORR's online web form perform similar functions for London Underground and non-mainline operators respectively.

## Trends in manual handling and shock/trauma incidents resulting in lost time between 2012-13 and 2019-20 (Table 5123):



Source: RSSB\* and LUL

\*The system for reporting manual handling and shock/trauma incidents was changed in 2017.

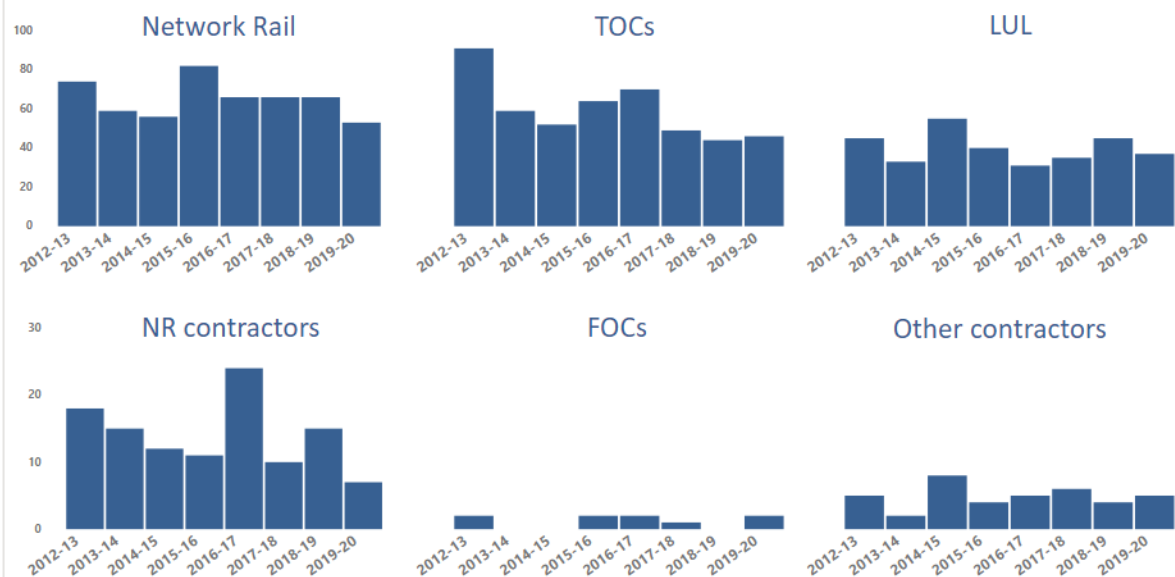


Manual handling incidents resulting in lost time decreased by **13.8%** in 2019-20, reaching the lowest number of incidents over the time series.



Shock/trauma incidents resulting in lost time decreased by **14.4%** compared to 2018-19, which represents a record low in the time series. LUL accounts for over half of the incidents reported in 2019-20 (179).

## Manual handling incidents resulting in lost time between 2012-13 and 2019-20 for each category of dutyholder:



Source: RSSB and LUL



Network Rail accounts for over a third of all lost time manual handling reports, despite a decrease to 53 incidents in 2019-20.

**Other sources:** For information on manual handling and shock/trauma incidents resulting in no lost time for all operators, see **Table 5133**

**Responsible Statistician:** Peter Moran

**Author:** Oliver Lowe

**Public Enquiries:** Email: [rail.stats@orr.gov.uk](mailto:rail.stats@orr.gov.uk) **Media Enquiries:** Tel: 0207 282 2094

**Website:** <https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/health-and-safety/occupational-health/>