

Occupational health

April 2021 to March 2022

21 July 2022

Background:

This annual factsheet contains information on **occupational health** data in Great Britain.

It includes information on cases of **occupational disease** reported to the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). This data covers mainline and non-mainline networks (not London Underground Limited (LUL)).

It also includes data on incidents of **manual handling** and **shock or trauma**. This data covers mainline and LUL only.

Source: Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB), LUL and ORR.

Latest year: 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Author:
O Lowe

Responsible Statistician:
P Moran

Public Enquiries:
rail_stats@orr.gov.uk

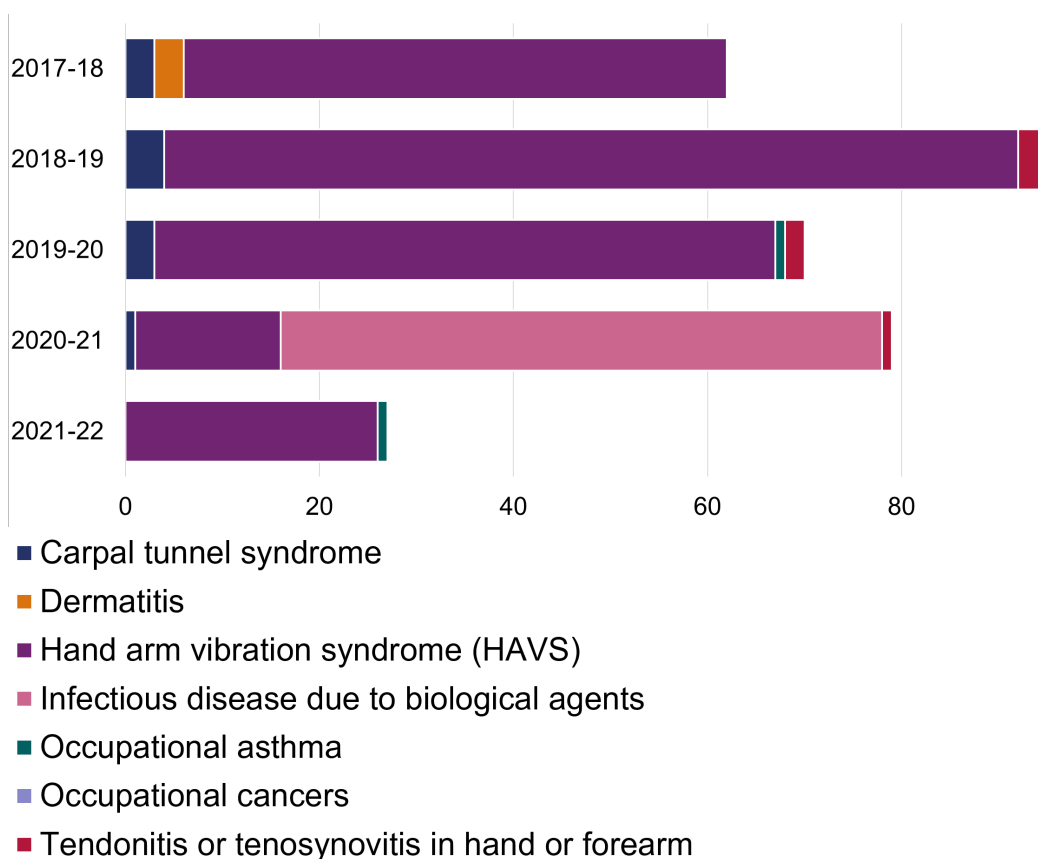
Media Enquiries:
Tel: 020 7282 2094

Next publication:
July 2023

There were **27 occupational health disease cases** reported in the latest year (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022), which is the lowest annual total since the start of the time series in April 2010.

Figure 1.1: Hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) represents the vast majority of occupational health disease cases in the latest year

Disease cases reported under RIDDOR, mainline and non-mainline networks (not LUL), Great Britain, annual data, April 2017 to March 2022 (Table 5110)

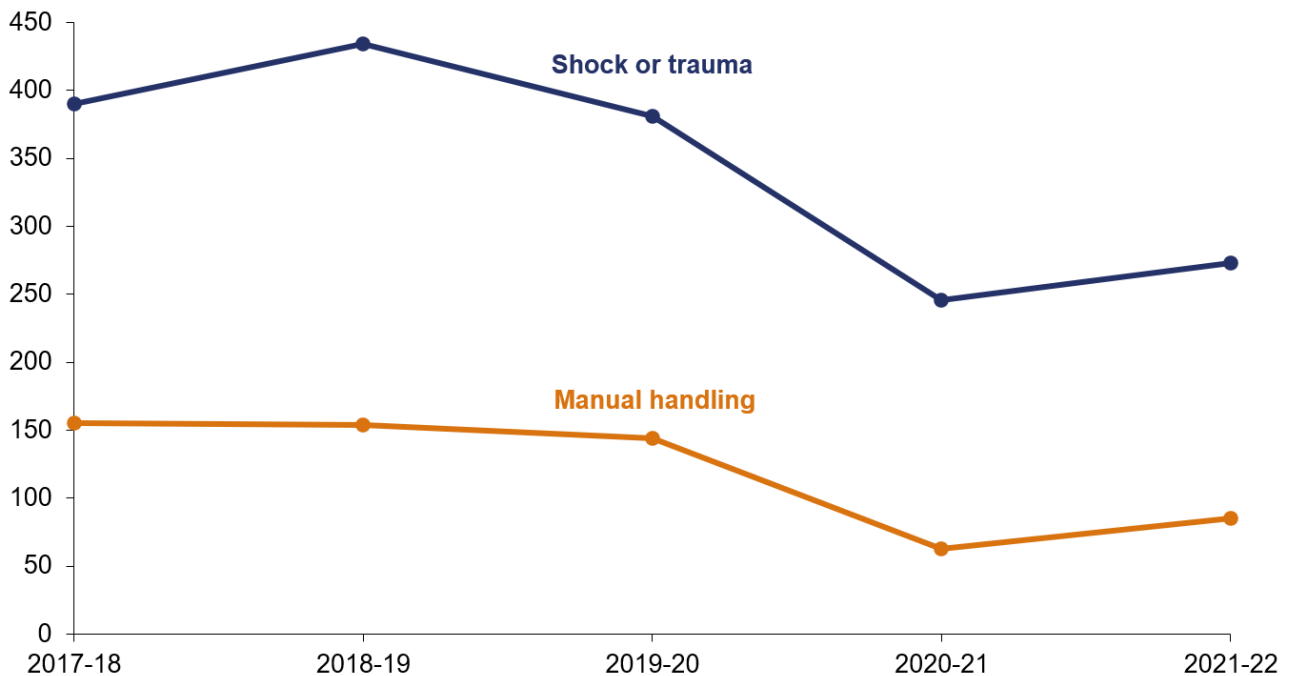


In the latest year there has been a **73.3% increase** in reported cases of **HAVS** compared with the previous year. However, this was 59.4% lower than two years ago (April 2019 to March 2020).

All data tables and an interactive dashboard associated with this factsheet are published on the [occupational health page](#) of the data portal. Key definitions are at the end of this factsheet.

Figure 1.2: Manual handling and shock or trauma incidents reported in the latest year were both lower than pre-pandemic levels

Manual handling and shock or trauma incidents resulting in lost time, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2017 to March 2022 (Table 5123)



Manual handling incidents resulting in lost time **increased by 34.9%** compared with the previous year. There were 85 incidents in the latest year.

Shock or trauma incidents resulting in lost time **increased by 11.0%** compared with the previous year. There were 273 incidents in the latest year.

Figure 1.3: Train operators and LUL accounted for the majority of shock or trauma incidents reported

Shock or trauma incidents resulting in lost time by dutyholder, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2021 to March 2022 (Table 5123)

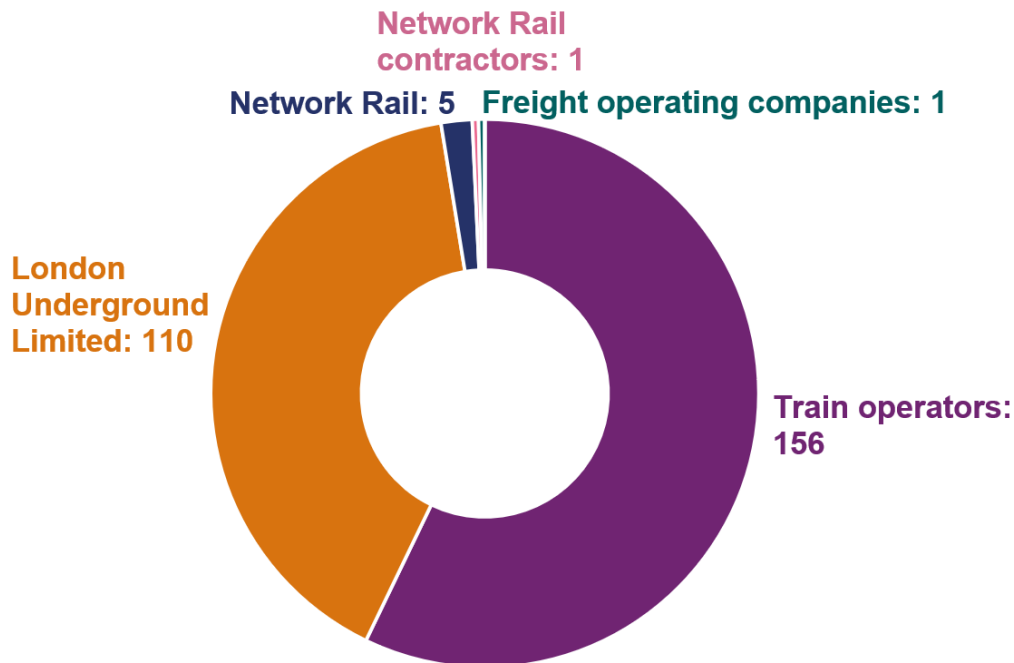
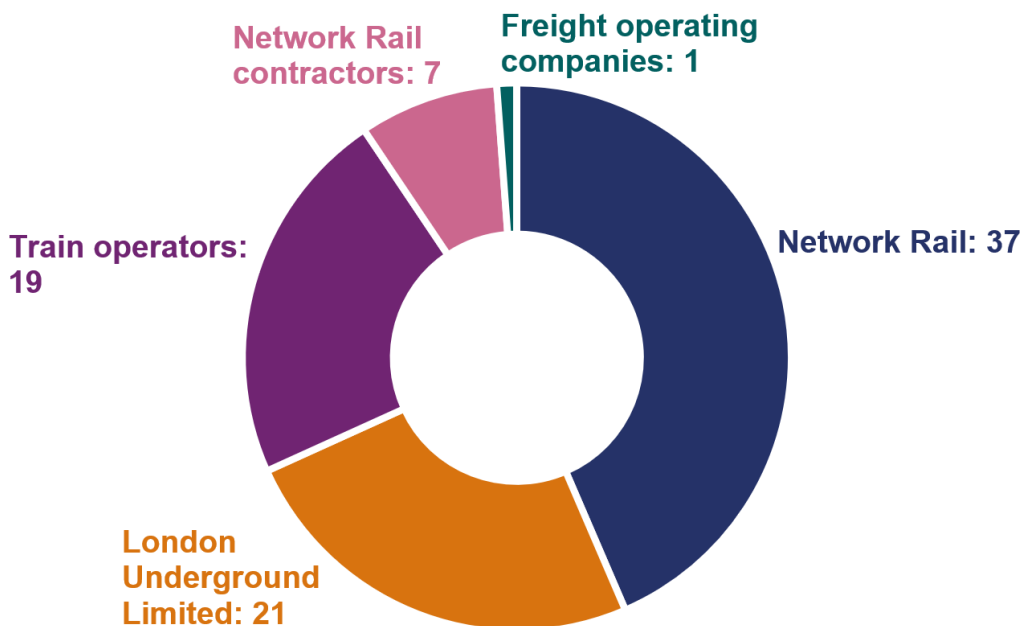


Figure 1.4: Network Rail and LUL accounted for just over two thirds of manual handling incidents reported

Manual handling incidents resulting in lost time by dutyholder, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2021 to March 2022 (Table 5123)



Definitions

- **Carpal Tunnel Syndrome:** work involves regular use of percussive (repeated impact) or vibrating tools.
- **Cramp in the hand or forearm due to repetitive movements:** work involves prolonged periods of repetitive movement of the fingers, hand or arm.
- **Dermatitis:** work involves significant or regular exposure to a known skin sensitiser or irritant.
- **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.
- **Infectious disease due to biological agents:** any disease attributed to an occupational exposure to a biological agent. Includes COVID-19 cases.
- **Occupational asthma:** work involves significant or regular exposure to a known respiratory sensitiser.
- **Occupational cancers:** any cancer attributed to an occupational exposure to a known human carcinogen or mutagen (including ionising radiation).
- **Tendonitis or tenosynovitis in the hand or forearm:** work is physically demanding and involves frequent, repetitive movements.
- **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 or 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.
- **Other contractors:** Contractors working for duty holders other than Network Rail

There is further [guidance on RIDDOR](#) and information on all the [different disease cases reportable under RIDDOR](#).

There is also further information available from ORR on [occupational health within the rail industry](#).

Data tables

All data tables can be accessed on the [occupational health page](#) of the data portal free of charge in OpenDocument Spreadsheet (.ods) format. The format of these tables has been changed for this release to improve spreadsheet accessibility. We can also provide data in csv format on request.

- Table 5110 – Occupational Health disease cases
 - annual data from April 2010
 - covers mainline and non-mainline networks (not London Underground)
- Table 5123 – Occupational Health manual handling and shock or trauma incidents (lost time) by duty holder
 - quarterly data from April 2012
 - covers mainline and London Underground (no other non-mainline networks)
- Table 5133 – Occupational Health manual handling and shock or trauma incidents (no lost time) by duty holder
 - quarterly data from April 2012
 - covers mainline and London Underground (no other non-mainline networks)

Note: we are working with LUL to supply us with data on disease cases to include in next year's publication.



© Crown copyright 2022

This publication is licensed under the terms of the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#) except where otherwise stated.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available on the [ORR data portal](#)

Any media enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at orr.gov.uk/contact-us.

