

Occupational health

April 2023 to March 2024

25 July 2024

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, non-mainline networks and 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 2023 to 31 March 2024

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July 2025

There were **44 occupational health disease cases** reported in the latest year (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), which is the highest annual total since the year April 2020 to March 2021, which was heavily impacted by COVID-19 cases.

In the latest year there has been a **50% increase** in reported cases of **hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)** and reported cases of **carpal tunnel syndrome** have **doubled** compared with the previous year.

Table 1.1 There were 14 cases of carpal tunnel syndrome reported in the latest year.

Disease cases reported under RIDDOR, all networks, Great Britain, annual data, April 2019 to March 2024 (Table 5110).

Time period	Carpal tunnel syndrome	Hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)	Infectious diseases due to biological agents	Occupational asthma	Tendonitis or tenosynovitis in hand or forearm
Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	3	64	0	1	2
Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	1	15	62	0	1
Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	0	26	0	1	0
Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	7	18	0	0	0
Apr 2023 to Mar 2024	14	27	0	0	3

This table shows diseases where a case was reported in the given year. The complete dataset, with all reportable diseases, is available in Table 5110.

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.

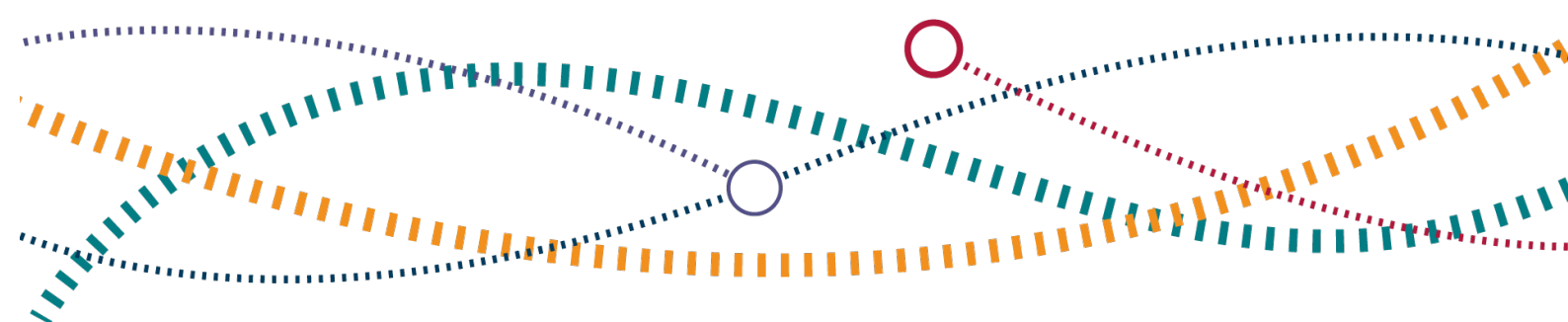
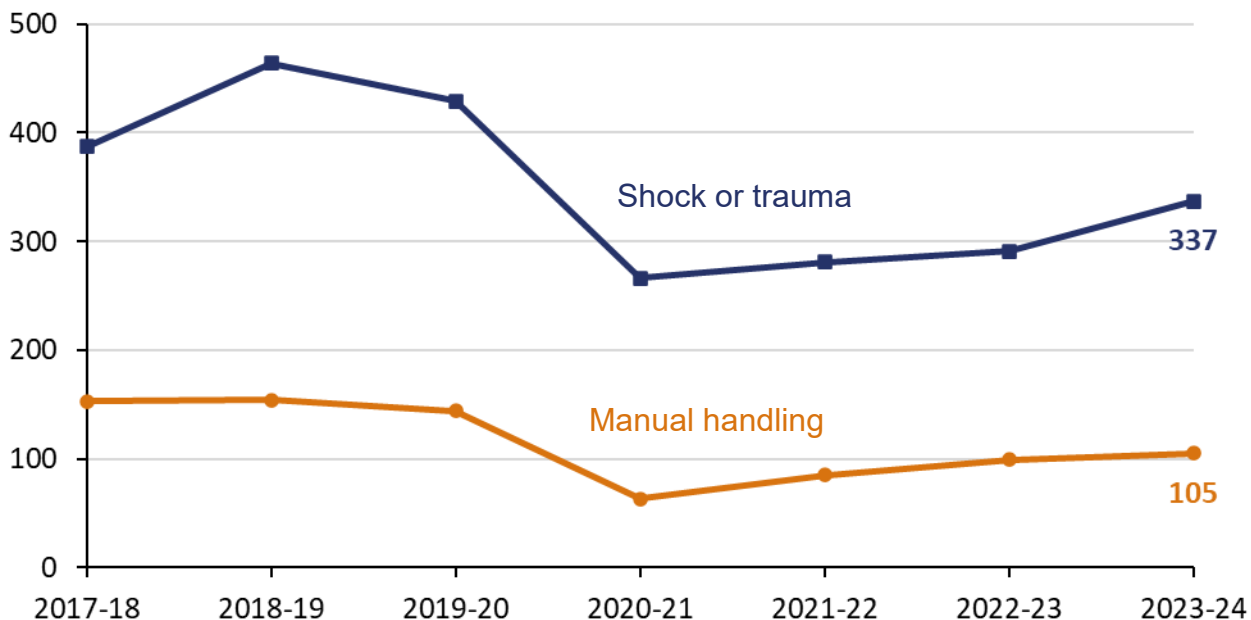


Figure 1.2 Shock or trauma incidents resulting in lost time have increased compared with the previous year

Manual handling and shock or trauma incidents resulting in lost time, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2019 to March 2024 (Table 5123).



There were **337 shock or trauma** lost time incidents in the latest year. This has **increased by 16%** compared with the previous year.

There were **105 manual handling** lost time incidents in the latest year. This has **increased by 6%** compared with the previous year.

Figure 1.3 Train operating companies and LUL accounted for the majority of lost time shock or trauma incidents reported

Shock or trauma incidents resulting in lost time by duty holder, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2023 to March 2024 (Table 5123).

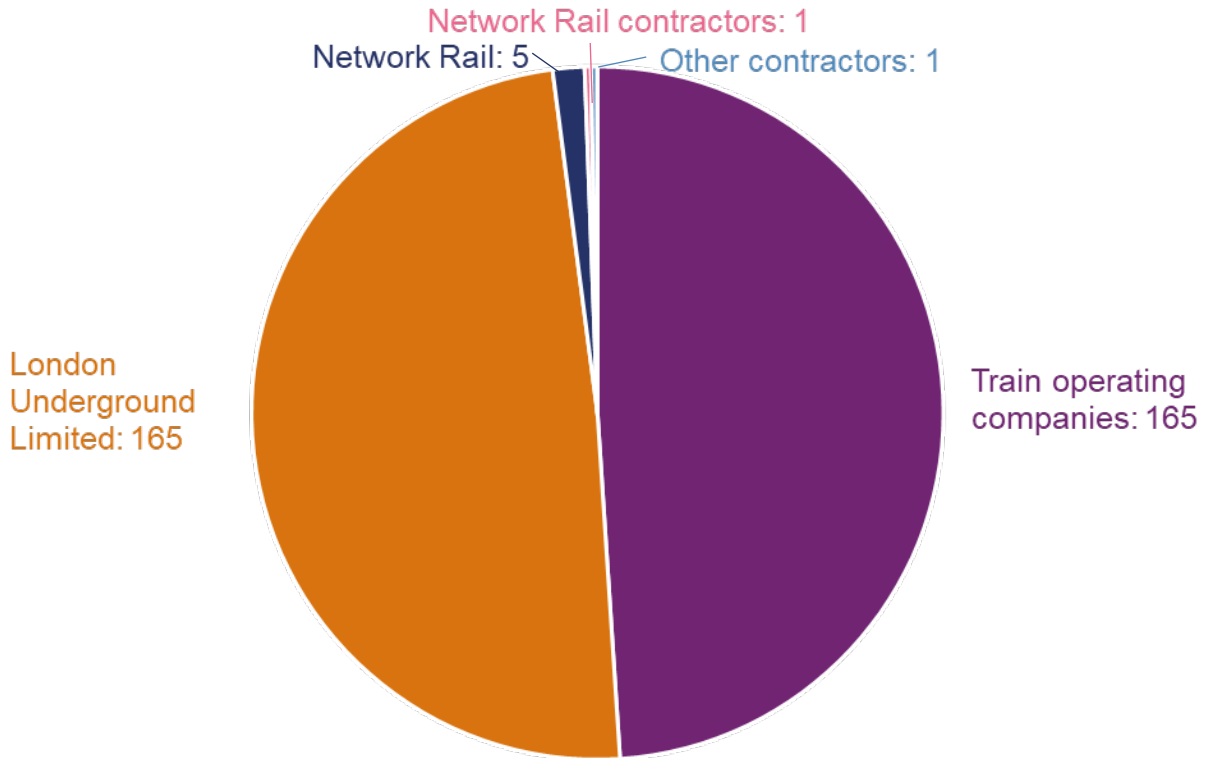


Figure 1.4 Train operating companies accounted for just over 40% of lost time manual handling incidents reported

Manual handling incidents resulting in lost time by duty holder, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2023 to March 2024 (Table 5123).

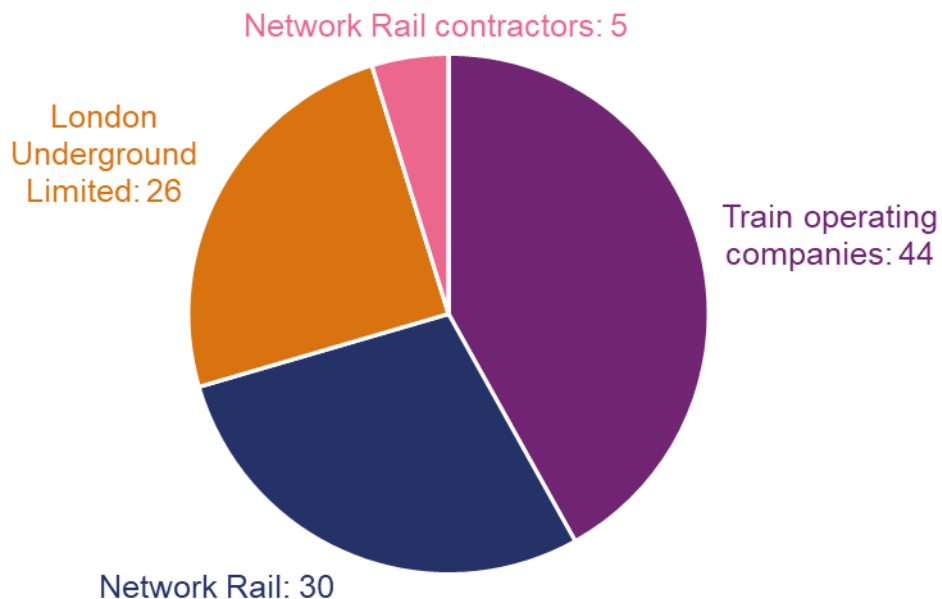
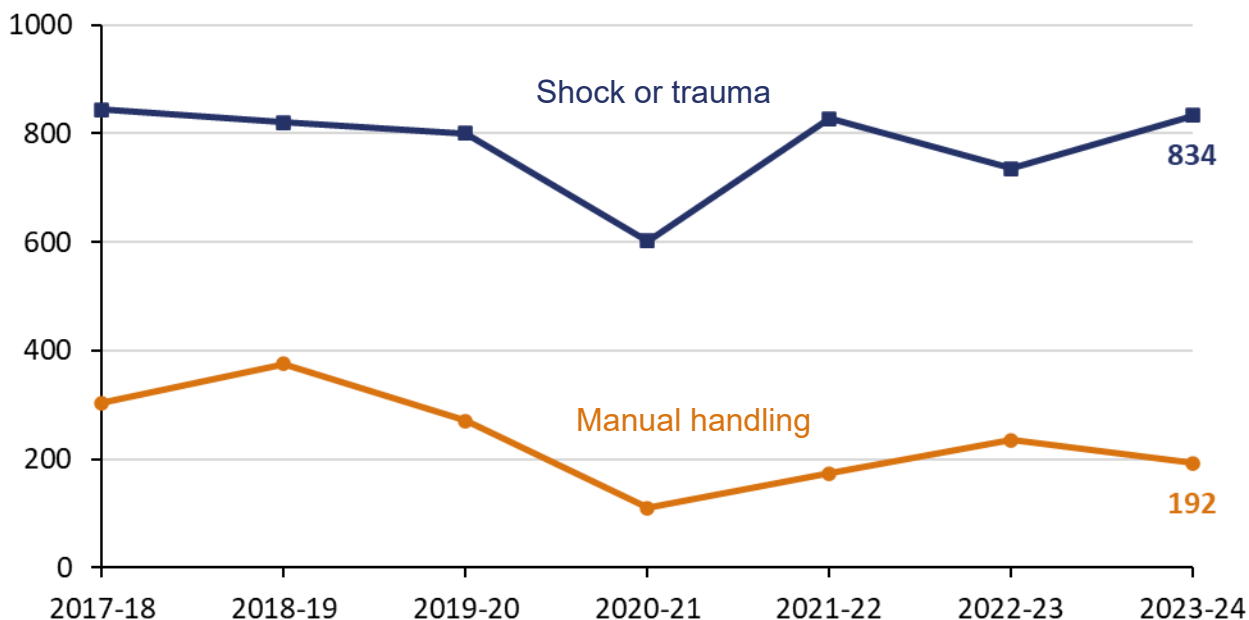


Figure 1.5 Shock or trauma incidents are at the highest level since April 2017 to March 2018

Manual handling and shock or trauma incidents resulting in no lost time, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2019 to March 2024 (Table 5133).



There were **834 shock or trauma** incidents (no lost time) in the latest year. This has **increased by 13%** compared with the previous year.

There were **192 manual handling** incidents (no lost time) in the latest year. This has **decreased by 18%** compared with the previous year.

Figure 1.6 Train operating companies accounted for just over 80% of the shock or trauma incidents reported that resulted in no lost time

Shock or trauma incidents resulting in no lost time by duty holder, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2023 to March 2024 (Table 5133).

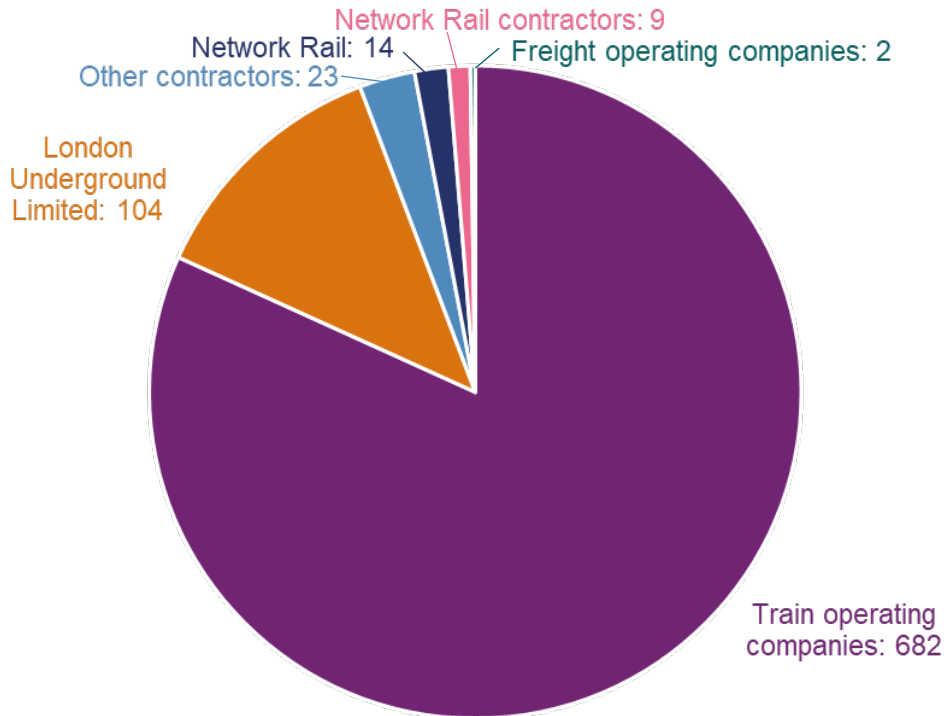
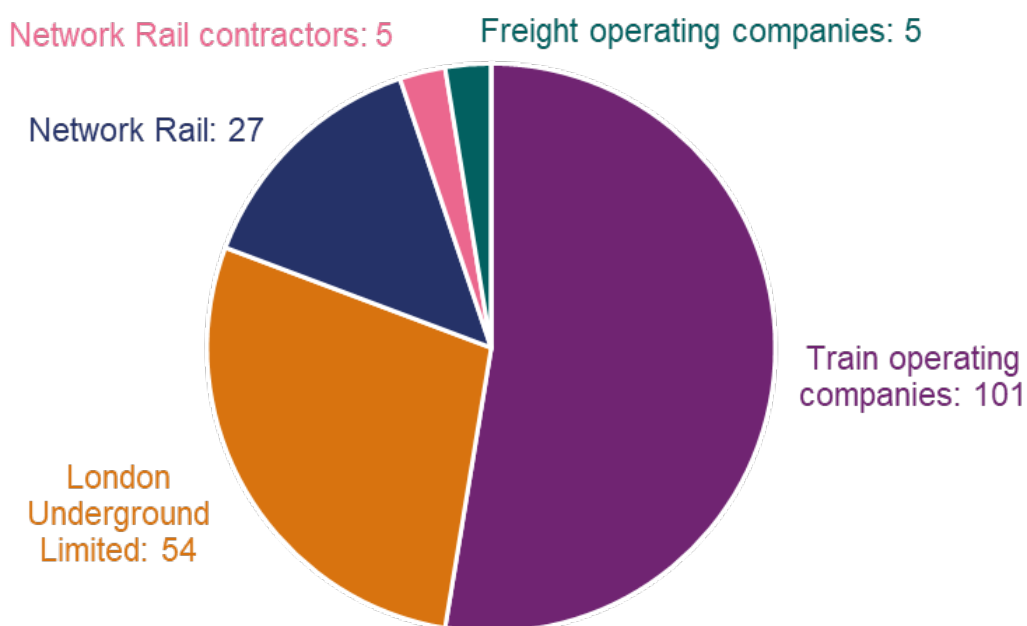


Figure 1.7 Train operating companies accounted for just over half of all manual handling incidents that resulted in no lost time

Manual handling incidents resulting in no lost time by duty holder, mainline and LUL, Great Britain, annual data, April 2023 to March 2024 (Table 5133).



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 is to improve spreadsheet accessibility. We can also provide data in csv format on request.

- Table 5110 – Occupational health disease cases
- Table 5123 – Occupational health manual handling and shock or trauma incidents (lost time) by duty holder
- Table 5133 – Occupational health manual handling and shock or trauma incidents (no lost time) by duty holder



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