

Accidents at work and work-related health problems, 2007

SUMMARY

The ad hoc module on accidents at work and work-related health problems was the Hungarian quarterly Labour Force Survey in Q2/2007. The main aim of the module was achieved i.e. to collect harmonized statistical data on those work-related health problems which are not covered by the administrative data collection and to be able to analyze the health and safety at work data according to Labour Market related variables available in the LFS.

43 thousand persons – 1% of the employed persons – had accidental injury during the past 12 months at work or in the course of work. 8 thousand persons had more than one accidental injury, thus the number of accidents was 54 thousand in the examined period.

77% of the injured persons were men, and the proportion of men who had more than one injuries exceeded 84%, since the rate of persons working in dangerous place of employment – in branch of industry or in construction – is higher among men. Out of 1000 employed men 15 had injury during work, while out of 1000 employed women only 6.

Accidental injuries at work occurred most recently among craft and related workers (2.4%). The second group was skilled agricultural and forestry workers (2.1%). The third group which is subject of accidental injuries in work on a large scale was plants and machine operators and assemblers, 1.7% of them had accidental injury. The occurrence of accidental injuries in work was the lowest among the non-manual workers, the rate was 0.3%.

9% of accidental injuries in work were road traffic accidents, which included all accidents in public roads, public or private car parks, provided the accident happened at work or in the course of work. The victim might be either on board of the means of transport (driver or passenger) or a pedestrian. Accidents occurred in the course of travelling between home (usual place of meals also) and the workplace (commuting accidents) were excluded.

94% of the respondents (40 thousand persons) worked again after the accidental injuries at the time of the interview. One sixth of them had no time off work or was able to start to work at the same day as the accident had happened. 12% of them started to work the day after the accident. The time when the persons were able to start to work again was more than one month in case of 15% of the injured persons.

In the survey 363 thousand persons had illness(es), disability(ies) or other physical or mental health problem(s), apart from accidental injuries during the past 12 months which was (were), caused or made worse by work. Three fourth of respondents marked more than one complaint, even three or more complaints during the past 12 months were not rare.

61% of respondents (222 thousand persons) considered bone, joint or muscle problem the most serious complaint caused or made worse by work. The second most frequent complaint was the heart disease or attack, or other problems in the circulatory system (12%), this was followed by stress, depression or anxiety (6%), headache and/or eyestrain (6%) and breathing or lung problem (5%).

The type of the most serious complaint caused or made worse by work is different among non-manual workers and manual workers. 68% of manual workers marked bone, joint or muscle problem as the most serious. In particular skilled agricultural and forestry workers and service workers suffered from this type of complaints. Women were exposed to this complaint in a larger extent in these occupations than in others. 12% of manual worker men and 10% of women marked heart disease or attack, or other problems in the circulatory system as the most serious complaint. Stress, depression or anxiety, headache and/or eyestrain and heart disease or attack, or other problems in the circulatory system show higher occurrence among non manual workers than among manual workers.

Having illnesses, disabilities or other health problems caused or made worse by work depends notably on the age of the workers. 3% out of employed aged 25–39, and 6% out of employed aged 40–59 reported complaints caused or made worse by work during the 12 months.

Half of the persons (182 thousand) having illnesses, disabilities or other health problems caused or made worse by work worked in the last 12 months, and out of them 81 thousand persons had days off work because of the complaint. The term of absence because of the most serious complaint (counted in calendar days) didn't reach 2 weeks in case of 46% of them, and exceeded one month in case of one fourth of them.

In Western-Transdanubia 58 employed persons out of 1000 mentioned that he/she had health problems caused or made worse by work in the last 12 months. This number is 57 in Southern-Transdanubia, and 32 in Northern Great Plain, which showed the lowest occurrence among regions. 28% of the employed persons (1.1 million) felt that he/she was exposed at his/her work place to a significant degree to selected factors (chemicals, dusts, smoke, gases, vibration and noise injury, difficult work postures, work movements or the handling of heavy loads, the risk of accidents,) that can adversely affect his/her physical health.

The workers are exposed at their workplace to a less significant degree to factors that can adversely affect their mental, psychological well-being. 558 thousand persons, 14% of the employed reported these types of affects. 89% of them marked time pressure or overload of work as the primary affect.

7% of the employed, 283 thousand persons reported that he/she was exposed at work to factors that can adversely affect physical health and also mental well-being. The occurrence of the two types of negative affects at the same time was the highest in case of the plant and machine operators and assemblers (15%).

Informations (links)

[Methodology of supplementary survey
and questionnaire
Tables](#)

Availability:

erika.csaba@ksh.hu

Phone: +36-1-345-6010

judit.fozo@ksh.hu

Phone: +36-1-345-6414

[Information service](#)

Telefon: +36-1-345-6789

www.ksh.hu