

At 873, the non-fatal claims of accidents at work decreased by 16.9 per cent in the third quarter this year when compared to the corresponding period last year. There was one fatal accident at work during the period under review.

## Accidents at work: Q3/2009

### Non-Fatal Accidents

This news release looks into the claims of accidents at work that were reported to the Department of Social Security (DSS) between July and September 2009. The data given herein include all cases for which an injury benefit claim has been submitted to the DSS, irrespective of the number of working days lost. These administrative records indicate that 873 persons had an accident in the course of their work in the period under review. Accordingly, the number of accidents in the third quarter this year decreased by 178 (-16.9 per cent) over the comparative period in 2008.

Many of these accidents at work occurred in the economic sectors of manufacturing (25.8 per cent); construction (15.2 per cent); and transport, storage and communication (14.0 per cent).

The occupational categories mostly affected were the elementary and trades occupations. The statistics indicate that 397 cases (45.5 per cent) involved people in elementary occupations, while 179 cases (20.5 per cent) affected people in craft/trades work.

In the period under review, 46.5 per cent of accidents at work occurred to persons who were under 35 years of age. As a result, the data indicate that 406 of these accidents occurred to this age cohort.

People at work are mostly affected by injuries in the upper extremities of their body. In fact, 42.2 per cent of accidents at work concerned the upper extremities, including hands and fingers. Wounds and superficial injuries are the most common types of injuries and featured 422 (48.3 per cent) times.

### Fatal Accidents

The Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) reported that between July and September 2009 there was one fatality at work. In the corresponding period of 2008, there was also one fatality at work ■

**Table 1. Accidents at work by sex of victims**

Sex	July-September 2008 (Revised)		July-September 2009	
	No	%	No	%
Males	915	87.1	751	86.0
Females	136	12.9	122	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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**Table 2. Accidents at work by economic activity of enterprise**

Economic activity	July-September 2008						July-September 2009					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	24	2.6	-	-	24	2.3	18	2.4	-	-	18	2.1
Fishing	4	0.4	-	-	4	0.4	6	0.8	-	-	6	0.7
Mining and quarrying	8	0.9	-	-	8	0.8	6	0.8	-	-	6	0.7
Manufacturing	270	29.5	28	20.6	298	28.3	210	28.0	15	12.3	225	25.8
Electricity, gas and water supply	28	3.1	-	-	28	2.7	25	3.3	-	-	25	2.9
Construction	166	18.1	-	-	166	15.8	133	17.7	-	-	133	15.2
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	85	9.3	12	8.8	97	9.2	74	9.8	17	13.9	91	10.4
Hotels and restaurants	69	7.5	27	19.8	96	9.1	49	6.5	23	18.9	72	8.2
Transport, storage and communication	128	14.0	9	6.6	137	13.0	105	14.0	17	13.9	122	14.0
Financial intermediation	2	0.2	2	1.5	4	0.4	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Real estate, renting and business activities	49	5.4	16	11.8	65	6.2	47	6.3	9	7.4	56	6.4
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	43	4.7	3	2.2	46	4.4	35	4.7	6	4.9	41	4.7
Education	5	0.6	4	2.9	9	0.8	3	0.4	3	2.5	6	0.7
Health and social work	15	1.6	28	20.6	43	4.1	9	1.2	26	21.3	35	4.0
Other community, social and personal service activities	11	1.2	5	3.7	16	1.5	13	1.7	2	1.6	15	1.7
Private households with employed persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.8	1	0.1
Extra-territorial organisations and bodies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	8	0.9	2	1.5	10	1.0	17	2.3	3	2.5	20	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3. Accidents at work by occupation of victim**

Occupations	July-September 2008						July-September 2009					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Armed forces	6	0.7	1	0.7	7	0.7	5	0.7	-	-	5	0.6
Legislators, senior officials and managers	4	0.5	2	1.5	6	0.6	10	1.3	-	-	10	1.1
Professionals	22	2.4	23	16.9	45	4.3	11	1.5	18	14.8	29	3.3
Technicians and associate professionals	35	3.8	2	1.5	37	3.5	31	4.1	2	1.6	33	3.8
Clerks	28	3.1	10	7.4	38	3.6	25	3.3	13	10.7	38	4.4
Service workers and market and sales workers	77	8.4	17	12.5	94	9.0	57	7.6	28	22.9	85	9.7
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	12	1.3	-	-	12	1.1	12	1.6	-	-	12	1.4
Craft and related trades workers	176	19.2	1	0.7	177	16.8	179	23.8	-	-	179	20.5
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	78	8.5	10	7.4	88	8.4	77	10.3	8	6.6	85	9.7
Elementary occupations	477	52.1	70	51.4	547	52.0	344	45.8	53	43.4	397	45.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 4. Accidents at work by age group of victim**

Age group	July-September 2008						July-September 2009					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
15-24	160	17.5	43	31.6	203	19.3	118	15.7	38	31.1	156	17.9
25-34	252	27.5	40	29.4	292	27.8	219	29.2	31	25.4	250	28.6
35-44	183	20.0	17	12.5	200	19.0	161	21.4	19	15.6	180	20.6
45-54	226	24.7	26	19.1	252	24.0	176	23.4	25	20.5	201	23.0
55+	94	10.3	10	7.4	104	9.9	77	10.3	9	7.4	86	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 5. Part of body injured in accidents at work

Part of body	July-September 2008						July-September 2009					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Part of body injured, not specified	7	0.8	3	2.2	10	1.0	4	0.5	1	0.8	5	0.6
Head	77	8.4	10	7.4	87	8.3	60	8.0	5	4.1	65	7.4
Neck, inclusive of spine and vertebra in the neck	28	3.1	2	1.5	30	2.9	17	2.3	2	1.7	19	2.2
Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	67	7.3	7	5.1	74	7.0	52	6.9	5	4.1	57	6.5
Torso and organs	20	2.2	5	3.7	25	2.4	24	3.2	0	0.0	24	2.8
Upper extremities	383	41.8	61	44.9	444	42.2	318	42.4	50	41.0	368	42.2
Lower extremities	236	25.8	26	19.1	262	24.9	193	25.7	37	30.3	230	26.3
Wholebody and multiple sites	96	10.5	21	15.4	117	11.1	82	10.9	22	18.0	104	11.9
Other parts of body injured, not mentioned above	1	0.1	1	0.7	2	0.2	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 6. Accidents at work by type of injury

Type of injury	July-September 2008						July-September 2009					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Type of injury unknown	52	5.7	11	8.1	63	6.0	39	5.2	5	4.1	44	5.0
Wounds and superficial injuries	391	42.8	49	36.0	440	41.8	367	48.9	55	45.1	422	48.3
Bone fractures	88	9.6	12	8.8	100	9.5	69	9.2	12	9.8	81	9.3
Dislocations, sprains, and strains	262	28.6	49	36.0	311	29.6	201	26.8	37	30.3	238	27.3
Traumatic amputations	3	0.3	-	-	3	0.3	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1
Concussions and internal injuries	8	0.9	2	1.5	10	0.9	9	1.2	2	1.7	11	1.3
Burns, scalds and frostbite	57	6.2	9	6.6	66	6.3	27	3.6	7	5.7	34	3.9
Poisonings and infections	7	0.8	1	0.8	8	0.8	2	0.3	-	-	2	0.2
Drowning and asphyxiations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Effects of sound and vibration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Effects of temperature extremes, light and radiation	2	0.2	-	-	2	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shock	3	0.3	-	-	3	0.3	5	0.6	1	0.8	6	0.7
Multiple injuries	42	4.6	3	2.2	45	4.3	31	4.1	3	2.5	34	3.9
Other specified injuries not included under other headings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7. Accidents at work by district of enterprise**

District	July-September 2008						July-September 2009					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Southern Harbour	348	38.0	42	30.9	390	37.1	261	34.8	46	37.7	307	35.2
Southern Eastern	125	13.7	5	3.7	130	12.4	112	14.9	11	9.0	123	14.1
Northern Harbour	231	25.2	62	45.6	293	27.9	212	28.2	45	36.9	257	29.4
Western	71	7.8	10	7.3	81	7.7	56	7.5	9	7.4	65	7.4
Northern	114	12.5	14	10.3	128	12.2	94	12.5	11	9.0	105	12.0
Gozo and Comino	26	2.8	3	2.2	29	2.8	16	2.1	-	-	16	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8. Size of enterprise where the accidents occurred**

Employment size	July-September 2008						July-September 2009					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Self-employed without employees	56	6.1	-	-	56	5.3	41	5.5	1	0.8	42	4.8
1-9 employees	98	10.7	5	3.7	103	9.8	66	8.8	9	7.4	75	8.6
10-49 employees	184	20.1	18	13.2	202	19.2	172	22.9	11	9.0	183	21.0
50-249 employees	173	18.9	40	29.4	213	20.3	161	21.4	36	29.5	197	22.6
250-499 employees	104	11.4	32	23.5	136	12.9	120	16.0	16	13.1	136	15.6
500 employees or more	293	32.0	39	28.7	332	31.6	179	23.8	45	36.9	224	25.6
Unknown size	7	0.8	2	1.5	9	0.9	12	1.6	4	3.3	16	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 9. Employment status of the victims**

Employment status	July-September 2008						July-September 2009					
	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Self-employed	78	8.5	-	-	78	7.4	59	7.9	1	0.8	60	6.9
Full-time employees	808	88.3	112	82.4	920	87.5	676	90.0	101	82.8	777	89.0
Part-time employees	29	3.2	24	17.6	53	5.1	16	2.1	20	16.4	36	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Methodological Notes**

1. The source of the data on non-fatal accidents at work is the Department of Social Security.
2. The source of the data on fatal accidents at work is the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSa).
3. Revisions to the previous year's data are carried out annually in the first and subsequent quarters of the following year.
4. The data in this release include all cases for which an injury benefit claim form has been submitted to the Department of Social Security, irrespective of the number of days lost.