Netherlands Labour Authority
Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment

Work-Related Accidents Monitor 2024

Summary and conclusions

The Netherlands Labour Authority wants employers to prevent work-related accidents. Based on information gathered by inspectors during accident investigations, the Netherlands Labour Authority produces information products about accident characteristics. These products are made available to employers, industries and sectors so that they can learn from them and are also used for interventions to improve workplace safety. The annual Work-Related Accidents Monitor is one such product.

Comparability of figures

Figures on the number of accidents in this monitor do not correspond to the figures contained in the Netherlands Labour Authority's annual report. The annual report lists the number of reported accidents (including fatal accidents) that occurred in a given year, for example 2024.

The monitor reports information about accident investigations completed in a given year, for example 2024. These may therefore also include investigations of accidents that occurred in December 2023 and earlier months, or sometimes even in previous years if more time was needed to investigate that accident. In 2024, 68% of completed accident investigations related to an accident that also occurred in 2024.

The monitor is based on information from the accident investigations and thus provides a deeper insight than the figures presented in the annual report.

From 2024 onwards, a change will be implemented in the monitor. From now on, the monitor will only report on the basis of information from inspectors about reportable accidents. This decision was made because systematically less in-depth information is available about non-reportable accidents. This is because investigations are discontinued if, after the start of an investigation, it appears that the accident did not need to be reported, for example because the victim is not an employee. For analysis purposes, it is desirable that the information available for each investigation contains as many of the same information elements as possible. Table 3.1 shows the distribution of reportable and non-reportable accidents for the years since 2020. In order to avoid an abrupt break and incomparability, the analyses of reportable accidents for the years 2020-2023 have been redone, allowing for a comparison of the figures for the different years.

Reportable work-related accidents are work-related accidents resulting in death, hospitalisation or permanent injury. In addition to general information, this monitor pays special attention to accidents involving temporary agency workers. It also highlights four less common types of accidents.

Number of accident investigations

In 2024, the Netherlands Labour Authority completed 2,702 accident investigations, 1,990 of which involved reportable accidents. These involved 2,001 victims, 58 of whom died. This number of fatalities differs from the 52 reported in the 2024 annual report, because in the annual report the counting is done based on the date of the accident, while the monitor is based on the date of conclusion of the investigation.

The total number of victims amounts to 22 victims per 100,000 jobs. Taking into account underreporting of 50 to 70%, this figure is actually two to three times higher. In 36% of cases, there was permanent injury, and in 3% of cases, there was a fatal outcome. Relatively speaking, most accidents occurred in the Water Companies and Waste Management, Construction, and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sectors. This pattern is consistent with previous years. "Falls" are once again the most common type of accident. Commonly involved work equipment includes forklift trucks/pallet trucks and various types of ladders. Men and employees aged 55 and over are relatively more likely to be victims, even after correction for the sector.

Less common types of accidents

Previous monitors have identified the most common types of work-related accidents. To complement this picture, this year we highlight four less common types of accidents: “Contact with fire, explosion or electricity” (184 cases), “Physical contact with people or animals” (193 cases), “Extreme physical strain” (45 cases) and “Buried, drowning or decompression” (28 cases). Together, these account for 450 reportable work-related accidents, approximately 6% of the total in 2020-2024.

Accidents involving temporary agency workers

In 18% of the investigations into reportable work-related accidents completed in 2024, the victim was a temporary agency worker, while their share of the total number of workers is estimated at 4%. Among temporary agency workers, the most common type of accident is “Contact with work equipment or an object”, while permanent employees are more often the victims of accidents involving falls. For some sectors, reportable work-related accidents involving temporary agency workers are reported relatively often. In the Industry sector, for example, 24% of reportable work-related accidents involved a temporary agency worker, while temporary agency workers make up 8% of the working population in this sector.

Dit is een uitgave van:

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