

## Health Fact Sheets

# Injuries at work, 2013



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- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0<sup>s</sup> value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- <sup>P</sup> preliminary
- <sup>r</sup> revised
- X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- <sup>E</sup> use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- \* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

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# Injuries at work, 2013

Personal injuries cost Canadian society an estimated \$19.8 billion annually in health care costs and costs related to reduced productivity from hospitalization, disability and premature death.<sup>1</sup>



## Note to readers

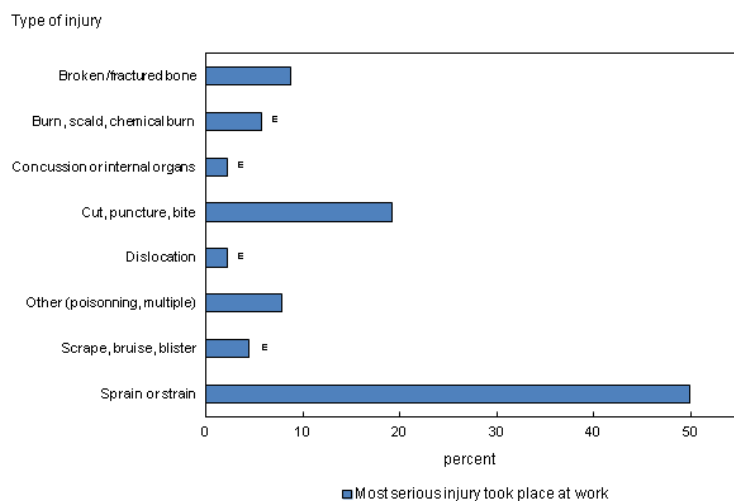
*Injuries included in this analysis are based on the question that asks respondents if they had sustained an injury in the past 12 months. To be included, the injury must have been serious enough to limit their normal activities the day after it had occurred. For example, a broken bone, a bad cut, a burn or a sprain. Repetitive strain injuries and food poisoning are excluded.*

*Analysis on injuries at work is based on respondents who indicated that their most serious injury had taken place at a job or business. The estimate of the number of injuries at work is based on 'the most serious injury'. It **does not** estimate the total number of workplace injuries in Canada.*

In 2013, 16.0% of Canadians aged 15 to 74, roughly 4.2 million people, sustained injuries in the past 12 months that limited their normal activities. For 14.5% of those injured, their **most serious** injury took place while working at a job or business.

The majority of those whose most serious injury took place at work were males (71.2%). Among both sexes, the three most common types of injuries sustained at work in 2013 were sprains or strains (49.9%), cuts, punctures, or bites (19.2%), and broken or fractured bones (8.7%; Chart 1).

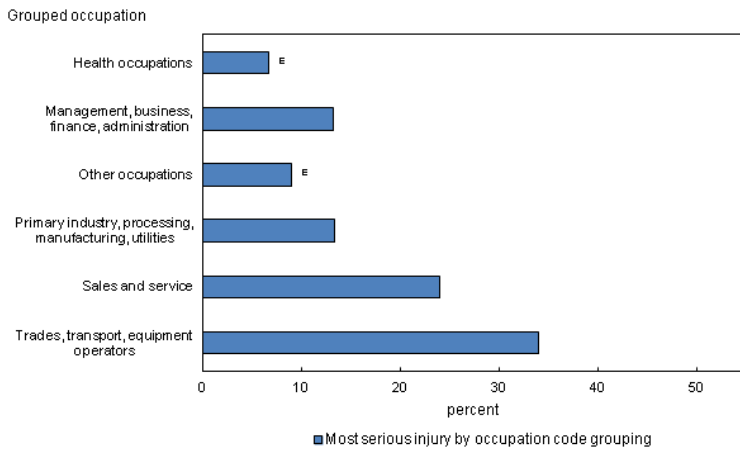
**Chart 1**  
**Percentage whose most serious injury of past year took place at work, household population aged 15 to 74, by type of injury, 2013**



<sup>E</sup> use with caution (these data have a coefficient of variation from 16.6% to 33.3%)  
 Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2013.

For those whose most serious injury was at work, the majority worked in trades, transport, equipment operation and related occupations (34.0%) followed by sales and service (24.0%; Chart 2).<sup>2</sup>

**Chart 2**  
**Percentage whose most serious injury of past year took place at work, household population aged 15 to 74, by grouped occupation types, 2013**



<sup>E</sup> use with caution (these data have a coefficient of variation from 16.6% to 33.3%)

**Note:** Occupation types were grouped in order to have more data available for release. Please see Note 2 for more information.

**Source:** Canadian Community Health Survey, 2013.

Activity limiting injuries often require medical attention, as soon as possible if the injury is severe. About half of the people (56.7%) whose most serious injury took place at work in 2013 received some medical attention within 48 hours. This was slightly higher than the 50.0% of people whose injury took place somewhere other than work.

Depending on the severity of the injury, follow-up care may also be required. Around ninety thousand (14.8%) of those injured at work in 2013 received follow-up care for their injury for an average of 4.9 months after it occurred.

### Injuries at work across Canada

The proportion of Canadians whose most serious injury took place at work was 14.5% (of those reporting an injury). The following provinces had a proportion that was **lower** than the national average:

- New Brunswick<sup>3</sup> (7.8%)
- Ontario (11.4%)

The following provinces had a proportion that was **higher** than the national average:

- Saskatchewan (23.6%)
- Alberta (19.7%)

Residents of other provinces and territories<sup>3</sup> reported rates that were about the same as the national average.

## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> [The Economic Burden of Injury in Canada](#) from [www.parachutecanada.org](http://www.parachutecanada.org) (accessed January 26, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Occupation types were grouped in order to have more data available for release. Ungrouped, several of the estimates by occupation type would have to be suppressed due to low data quality. The groupings used were based on the National Occupational Classification Statistics (NOC-S) 2006 at the 1-digit level:

- Management, business, finance, administration: occupations with the NOC-S (National Occupational Classification Statistics) first digit A or B.
- Primary industry, processing, manufacturing, utilities: occupations with the NOC-S (National Occupational Classification Statistics) first digit of I or J.
- Other occupations: NOC-S (National Occupational Classification Statistics) first digit C, E, or F.

The other occupation types did not need to be grouped:

- Health occupations: NOC-S (National Occupational Classification Statistics) first digit of D.
- Sales and service: NOC-S (National Occupational Classification Statistics) first digit of G.
- Trades, transport, equipment operators: NOC-S (National Occupational Classification Statistics) first digit of H.

<sup>3</sup> Note that the rates for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Yukon had coefficients of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%; interpret with caution. The rates for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut had coefficients of variation above 33.3%; this data is too unreliable to publish.

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## Data

Additional data from the Canadian Community Health Survey are available from CANSIM table [105-0501](#).