

PRESS RELEASE

No. 293 of December 5, 2013

Health and Safety at Work

Ad hoc module attached to the Households Labour Force Survey (AMIGO) in the second quarter of 2013 – for people aged 15 years and older with work experience

*For the accurate interpretation of results, kindly see
the methodological note on page 4 of the press release*

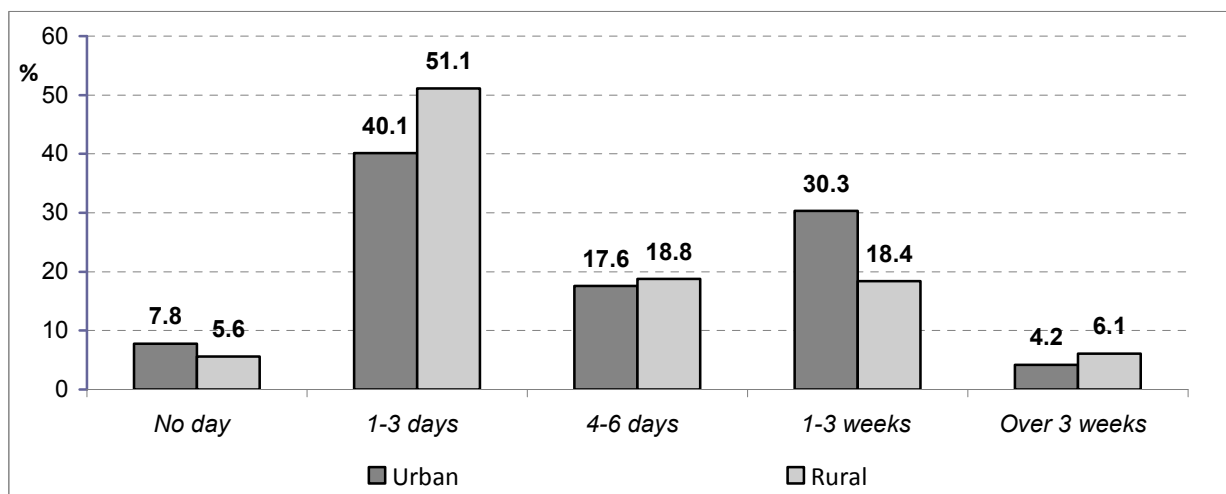
In the second quarter of 2013, of the population aged 15 years and over, 14699 thousand persons¹ were the subject of the additional survey “**Health and Safety at Work**”.

Accidents at work

Of the 14699 thousand persons aged 15 years and over that were subject to the survey, 9970 thousand had been working for the last 12 months². Of those, **130 thousand persons (1.3%) had at least one accident at work during the reference period**.

Of the 130 thousand persons injured at work, 62 thousand (47.6%) were working, at the time of accident, in agricultural activities. 43 thousand persons (32.7%) were working in industry and construction, while in the services sector were working 24 thousand (18.6%). The information on the job characteristics where the accident took place is not available for a small number of individuals.

Fig. 1 - Persons injured at work in the last 12 months, by the period of absence from work due to the most recent accident



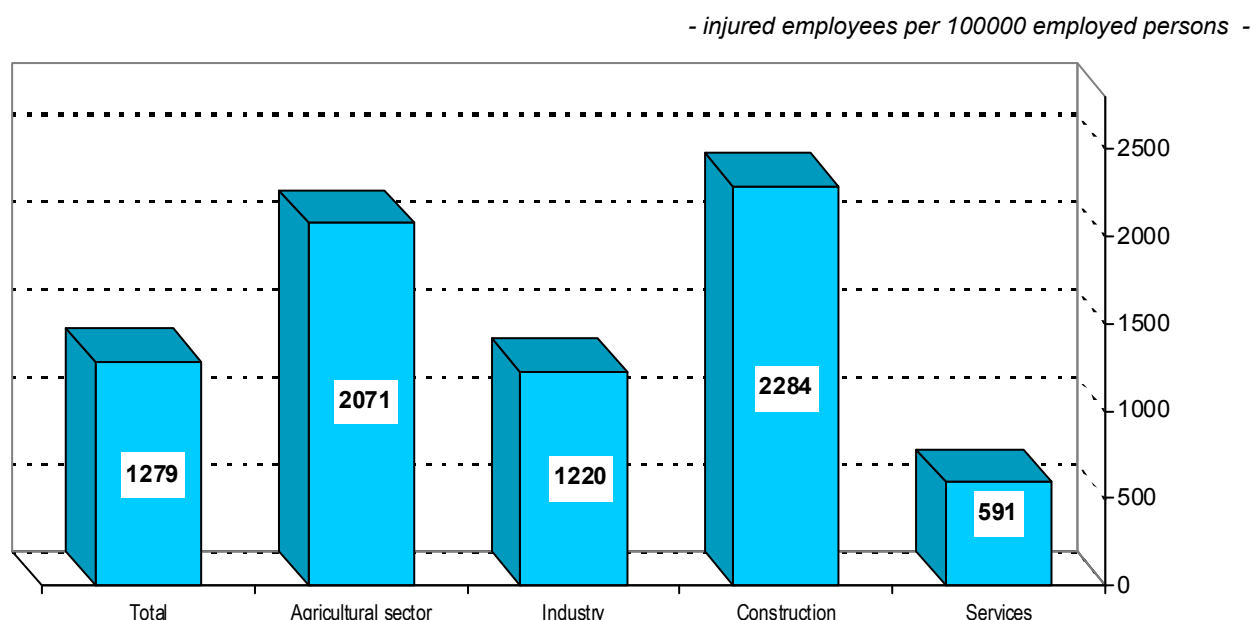
¹ According to the results of the Households Labour Force Survey, the population aged 15 years and over, in Quarter II 2013, was of 18116 thousand persons, 85.0% of the total population in the country. **Of those, 14699 thousand persons were subject to the additional survey, the persons gone abroad for a year or more and those who had never worked being excluded.**

² Of those, 9335 thousand were still employed at the moment of the survey, the remaining 635 thousand persons being inactive or unemployed, who had ceased their occupational activity during the last 12 months.

Of the total number of injured persons, **63 thousand** (48.4%) suffered minor injuries, being **incapacitated for 1 to 3 days³**. **The absence from work was more than 3 days for 59 thousand persons (45.3%)**. A percentage of **6.2% (8 thousand persons)** of the injured did not miss their work at all, resuming work on the same day, and an insignificant number of persons were still in the period of temporary disability caused by accident during the reference period.

In the second quarter of 2013, **the incidence of accidents at work⁴ was of 1279 per 100000 employed persons**.

Fig. 2 – The incidence of accidents at work among employed persons, by sectors of the national economy



Disorders caused / aggravated by the professional activity

A number of 354 thousand persons, 2.4% of the 14699 thousand persons aged 15 years and over that were subject of the survey, **suffered, during the last 12 months, of at least one disorder caused or aggravated by current or previous work⁵**. Of those 52.1% were women and 56.3% were living in rural areas.

The disorders most commonly reported by the people with health problems caused or aggravated by work are heart diseases, heart attack or other cardiovascular system problems (23.9%), diseases of bones, joints or muscles affecting mainly the back (20.3%) or hips, knees, legs or soles (16.7%).

Respiratory or lung disorders affect 12.1% of the persons with health problems. A relatively high weight is held by disorders of bones, joints or muscles that affect the neck, shoulders, arms or hands (8.7%). The remaining disorders have lower weights than 10.0% each.

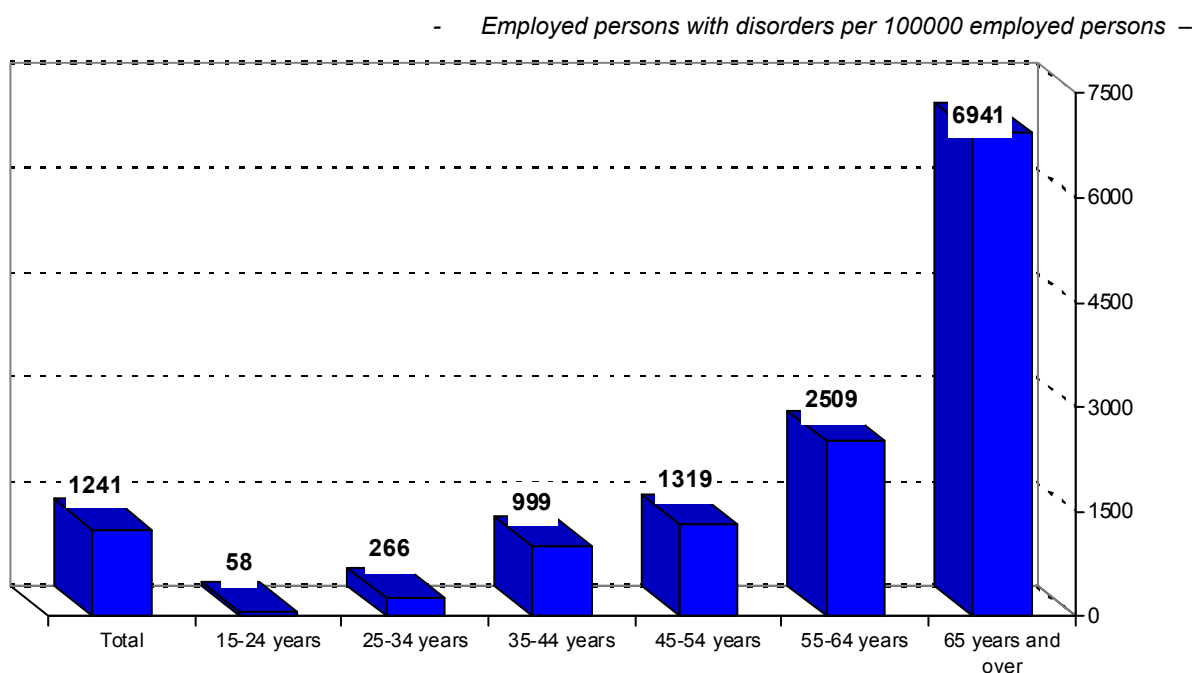
In the second quarter of 2013, **the prevalence rate of the disorders caused / aggravated by work** (number of employed persons who during the last 12 months suffered at least one disorder caused /aggravated by current work per 100000 employed persons) was of 1241 per 100000 employed persons.

³Calendar days, as stated by the respondent, not necessarily medically certified.

⁴ The number of employed persons who during the last 12 months suffered at least one accident at the current work per 100000 employed persons.

⁵As stated by the interviewed persons and not necessarily medically certified

Fig. 3 – The prevalence rate of disorders among employed persons, by age groups



Factors that can affect the physical or mental health

A number of 4426 thousand persons, 47.4% of the employed population, considered that they are exposed to at least one risk factor for their physical or mental health at their current work. Of those:

- **3070 thousand persons (69.4%)** said they were **only** exposed to **factors affecting their physical health** (chemicals, dust, smoke, vapours, gas; noise or vibrations; awkward postures during work, working on the move, handling of loads; sustained visual concentration, potential risk of injury);
- Almost a quarter (**24.8%**) are exposed, according to own statements, to **factors that could harm both their mental and physical health** (1101 thousand persons);
- **255 thousand persons (5.8%)** are exposed **only to factors that could harm their mental health** (harassment and psychic violence; physical violence or threat of physical violence; pressure or overwork).

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

1. Data source is the survey “**Health and Safety at Work**” performed in the second quarter of 2013 as ad-hoc module attached to the statistical survey on household labour - AMIGO. The main objective of the additional survey is to provide information on health problems caused or aggravated by the working conditions, risk factors arising in the economic activity, cases of occupational diseases, accidents at work, number of days of incapacity for work as a result of their occurrence, the impact of these events on daily activity in relation to the labour market.

The target population of the survey was the people aged 15 years and over who work or used to work once, no matter when.

The information collected was related to:

- accidents at work: number of accidents, type of accident and the date of the most recent injury, the workplace at time of accident, period of absence from work/number of days not worked after the accident took place;
- health problems related to occupational activity;
- risk factors affecting the person at current workplace that can affect his/her mental and physical health.

2. **Employed population** consists of all the persons aged 15 years and over who performed an economic activity producing goods or services **of at least one hour** during the reference period (one week), in order to obtain income as wages, in-kind payment or other benefits. Workers on own-account and unpaid family workers who work in agriculture are considered employed persons only if they are the owners of the agricultural production (not necessarily of the land, too) obtained and meet one of the following conditions:

- a) the agricultural production is destined, even at least in part, for sale or barter;
- b) the agricultural production is exclusively destined to own consumption if it represents a substantial part⁶ of the total household consumption.

3. **Unemployed**, as defined by the International Labour Office (ILO), are the persons aged 15 to 74 years who simultaneously meet the following three conditions: (i) have no job; (ii) are available to start work within the next two weeks; (iii) have been actively looking for a job, any time in the last four weeks.

4. In the context of the ad-hoc mode performed in the second quarter of 2013, the definition „**accident at work**”, exceeds the national legislation in the field. Thus, the category of accidents at work includes, besides cases of work injuries recognized as such under national law, those accidents that caused minor, superficial injuries (bruises, abrasions, superficial burns etc.) even if they did not require treatment or medical care, they did not caused incapacity and the respondent did not receive sick leave (resuming his/her usual activity right from the day of the accident). The following have been excluded from the category of accidents at work: accidents occurring on the way from home to work and from work home, as well as accidents that are not work related (household accidents or those occurring during one's free time, those caused by natural disasters).

5. **The incidence of accidents at work among employed persons**, in the sense of this ad hoc module, represents the number of the employed persons who, in the last 12 months, were harmed by at least one accident at the current work per 100000 employed persons.

6. In the context of the ad-hoc module performed in the second quarter of 2013, the coverage of “**the health problems caused or aggravated by work**” is much larger than of “the occupational diseases” as defined by the law in force. Consequently, “health problems caused or aggravated at work” are considered any health problem that the respondent believes acquired or was aggravated due to his/her work (at present or in the past). It is not necessary that the respective health problem be recognised / recorded as occupational disease.

The following have been excluded from the category „Health problems related to professional activity”: injuries, bruises and poisonings caused by accidents at work and the disorders / diseases resulted from them.

7. **The prevalence rate of the disorders caused / aggravated by work among employed persons** is defined (according to the survey methodology) as the number of employed persons who, during the last 12 months, have been suffered at least one disorder caused/aggravated by the current work per 100000 employed persons.

8. In the context of the present ad-hoc module, the risk factors, to which a person can be exposed at work, can be classified, with corresponding details, in the following categories:

- that harms **the mental health**: *harassment or psychic violence; physical violence or threat with physical violence; pressure (short-term deadlines) or overwork (multiple tasks / simultaneous activities).*
- that harms **the physical health**: *chemical dust, smoke, vapours, gas; noise or vibrations; awkward postures during work, working on the move, handling of loads; activities that requires sustained visual concentration; potential risk of injury.*

For additional information, kindly see the statistical publication “Health and Safety at Work”, date of issue December 12, 2013.

⁶ At least 50% of the total household consumption.