

## 2019/20 Health and Safety at Work Statistics

This past year saw a sharp rise in the number of reported ill health per 100,000 workers: new and long standing. This includes a sharp rise in work related stress, depression, or anxiety cases along with a decline in musculoskeletal disorders which follows the steady decline over the past 2 decades. There has also been a rise of occupational asthma. Work related injury per 100,000 has also seen an increase compared to last year despite a long trend of decreasing over the past 2 decades. The cost to the British economy this ill health is slightly higher than last year but is over all following a downward trend over the past 2 decades.

The construction industry has seen the second highest rate of workplace injury behind agriculture, forestry, and fishing. Construction is also slightly above the 'all industry' rate for work related ill health.

Health and safety at work  
Summary statistics for Great Britain 2020

### Key facts



**1.6 million**

Work-related ill health cases (new or long-standing) in 2019/20

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey, people who worked in the last 12 months



**0.8 million**

Work-related stress, depression or anxiety cases (new or long-standing) in 2019/20

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey, people who worked in the last 12 months



**0.5 million**

Work-related musculoskeletal disorder cases (new or long-standing) in 2019/20

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey, people who worked in the last 12 months



**10.6 billion**

Annual costs of new cases of work-related ill health in 2018/19, excluding long-latency illness such as cancer

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model



**0.7 million**

Workers sustaining a non-fatal injury in 2019/20

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey



**65,427**

Non-fatal injuries to employees reported by employers in 2019/20

Source: RIDDOR



**111**

Fatal injuries to workers in 2019/20

Source: RIDDOR



**5.6 billion**

Annual costs of workplace injury in 2018/19

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model



**38.8 million**

Working days lost due to work-related ill health and non-fatal workplace injuries in 2019/20

Source: Estimates based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey



**12,000**

Lung disease deaths each year estimated to be linked to past exposures at work

Source: Counts from mesothelioma and other death certificates and estimates from epidemiological information



**2,446**

Mesothelioma deaths in 2018 with a similar number of lung cancer deaths linked to past exposures to asbestos

Source: Mesothelioma death certificates



**16.2 billion**

Annual costs of work-related injury and new cases of ill health in 2018/19, excluding long-latency illness such as cancer

Source: Estimates based on HSE Costs to Britain Model

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## HSE Shares Good and Bad Practices on Dust

This short story quickly shows some bad practices the HSE has found in their investigation into some bad practices on dust exposure. Dust is still overlooked as a health concern especially by smaller contractors and self-employed laborers as the effects are long term and take lengthy periods to fully show symptoms by which point irreversible damage could be caused.

<https://www.constructionmanagemagazine.com/photos-hse-shares-good-and-bad-practice-on-dust/>

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## Asbestos Converted into A Building Material in Worlds First

A Wolverhampton based recycling centre known as 'Thermal Recycling' has developed what may be a world first in their process that takes cement roof sheets that contain chrysotile into a useable product. The process. The Process follows the Environmental Agencies protocols to ensure minimal pollution for the process. The end product was tested hundreds of times at the HSE's commercial laboratory in Buxton which is recognised as the 'gold standard' for asbestos testing so the end product is definitely safe for use.

The substance at the end of the process contains Calcium, Aluminium, and magnesium ( in the form of silicates, carbonates, sulphates, and oxides) and has been dubbed Calmag. The National Federation of Roofing Contractors along with Thermal Recycling have identified roads and roofing as potential uses for this product but more testing will be required to determine the full extents of the product's potential uses.



[https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/93231?utm\\_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2832-s-en-251120](https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/93231?utm_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2832-s-en-251120)

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## Building Safety proposals 'lack requisite detail', says British Safety Council

The new safety proposals put forward by the UK government have been criticised as broadly addressing the main issue but lacking the detail to actually act as intended.

The British Safety Council supports greater independent oversight on key professions in the construction and building management sectors to ensure the success of the newly created roles of accountable person and building safety manager.

[https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/93693?utm\\_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2898-s-en-041220](https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/93693?utm_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2898-s-en-041220)

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## Lighter, more breathable Exoskeleton Launched

Musculoskeletal injuries and disorders are still one of the most common ailments in construction. Exoskeletons have been one solution to this issue but have tended to be bulky, costly, and inefficient.

Italian manufacturer Comau has launched a new version of its exoskeleton which makes it lighter, more breathable, and more efficient. The exoskeleton does not have any batteries or motors and can increase overhead task accuracy by 27% and speed by 10%.



[https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/93705?utm\\_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2898-s-en-041220](https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/93705?utm_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2898-s-en-041220)

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## Cement-Lite Concrete used for Heat Proof Laboratory

It's widely known amongst construction professionals that a major contribution to carbon emissions is the production of cement and has led to numerous studies into how to combat the amount of emissions so as to meet overall UK carbon emissions of which the built environment contributes roughly 40-45%. One of the methods is using granulated blast furnace slag as a replacement for a portion of the cement in concrete production.

This new advanced imaging centre being constructed by MACE is using a unique concrete mix that used 75% granulated blast furnace slag. This led to an overall 48% reduction in carbon emissions for the production of the concrete and saved 1,373 tonnes of carbon from being emitted into the atmosphere.



<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/cement-free-concrete-used-for-heat-proof-laboratory>

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## Interactive tool to help construction navigate value-based decisions

The construction innovation hub has launched a new interactive tool to help clients navigate value-based decision-making as it takes a step closer to releasing a value toolkit. The final version of the toolkit is expected to be released in September 2021 and will include the features:

- The **Value Definition module** will facilitate a clear and consistent articulation of the value drivers which will underpin client decision-making;
- The **Client & Market Approach module** will enable optimisation of delivery models and commercial strategies to maximise value and outcomes; and,
- The **Evaluation & Measurement module** will help clients to develop a robust approach for evaluating options and measuring performance to support informed decision-making.
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[https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/93961?utm\\_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2918-s-en-091220](https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/93961?utm_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2918-s-en-091220)

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## The Othalo System – The future of housing

The Norwegian start-up company Othalo has created a new patented design for a building system that can upcycle plastic waste into cheap and affordable homes for the most unfortunate people on the planet. The company's target is to provide housing, refugee shelters, hospitals and many more whilst also removing some of the plastic from landfills and oceans.

The essence of the system is that it takes thrown away plastics, shreds them and combines them with building materials to create their patented product. A small home could take up to 8 tonnes of plastic out of the landfills per unit and with a billion people on the planet living in slums this technology has the potential to make a difference.



<https://youtu.be/uu0inpxmCzw>

<https://youtu.be/d1QzeL2SRbM>

<https://www.othalo.com/>

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## 3D Printed Polymer makes concrete up to 4 times stronger

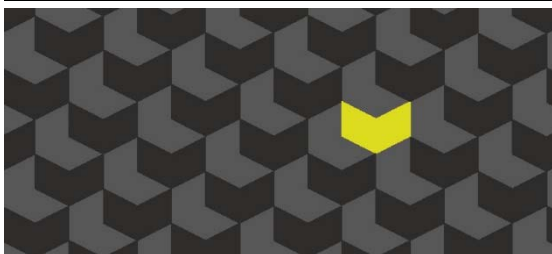
The University of California, Berkeley have created a 3D printed polymer that makes the concrete perform 4 times better in compression and bending tests when compared to ordinary concrete. The researchers have been amazed by the results that they have been able to turn such a brittle material into something significantly more ductile.

In future experiments the team will experiment with different shapes of lattice and types of concrete make up to get the absolute best results from the method.



[https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/94317?utm\\_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2942-s-en-151220](https://news.ukconstructionweek.com/en/article/94317?utm_source=Mailjet-ukconstructionweek&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ukconstructionweek-2942-s-en-151220)

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