

Am I missing something?

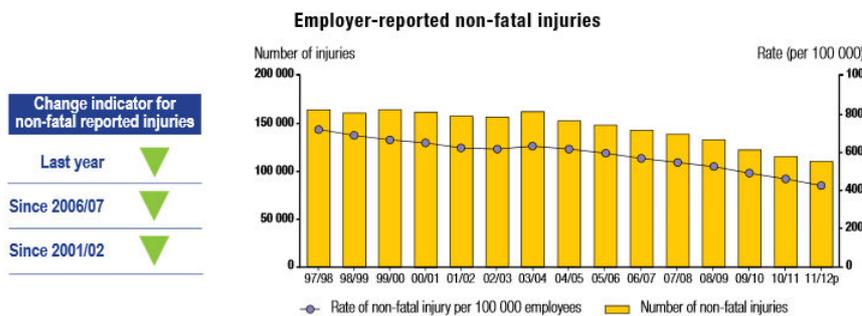
In the London Evening Standard, an article states that the UK's safety record appears to be getting worse amid a "hostile" political climate to health and safety issues, according to the TUC.

The union organisation said fewer visits were being made to workplaces by health and safety inspectors to make sure staff were not being put at risk. Local authority safety inspection teams are also working with "substantially reduced" funding, despite an increased in workplace deaths, said the TUC.

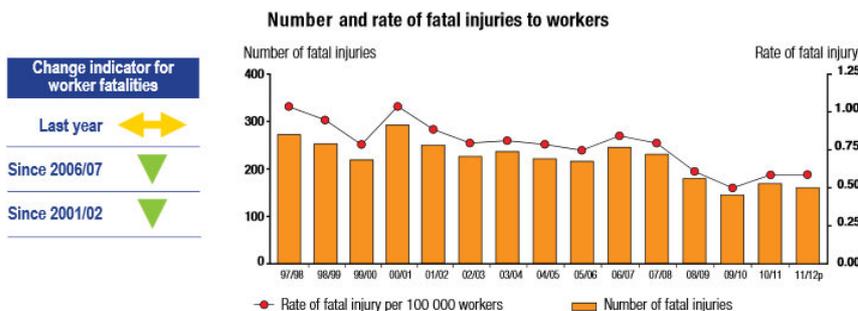
A report (not referenced in the article) said the upward trend in workplace fatalities will be not be reversed unless there is an increase in the enforcement of health and safety law in all workplaces.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said: "The Government seems determined to water down health and safety laws despite recent increases in workplace fatalities. It seems incredible that ministers seem unconcerned by the cut in the number of workplace inspections at a time when more people are dying and getting injured at work."

Yet if we look at the HSE's published statistics, then we see the following:



Year	Number of major injuries to employees	Rate of major injury (per 100 000 employees)	Number of over-3-day injuries to employees	Rate of over-3-day injury (per 100 000 employees)
2007/08	28 199	111.1	110 054	433.8
2008/09	27 894	109.4	105 261	412.7
2009/10	26 268	104.9	96 427	385.1
2010/11	24 944	99.9	91 742	367.5
2011/12p	22 433	89.9	88 731	355.5



Year	Employees		Self-employed		Workers	
	Number	Rate (a)	Number	Rate (b)	Number	Rate (c)
2007/08	178	0.7	55	1.4	233	0.8
2008/09	127	0.5	52	1.3	179	0.6
2009/10	104	0.4	43	1.0	147	0.5
2010/11	122	0.5	53	1.3	175	0.6
2011/12p	118	0.5	55	1.3	173	0.6

(a) per 100 000 employees (b) per 100 000 self-employed (c) per 100 000 workers

So, the non-fatal injury figures show a continuing downwards trend, whilst fatalities show a downwards trend which seems to have flattened. OK, we'd like both to reduce at a faster rate, and self-employed statistics are depressing, but unless there has been a sharp upward trend in the past few months, then the article is certainly not aligned with HSE published data. See article: buff.ly/ZkKV5S

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