



Public Health
England

Health and Work

Spotlight on musculoskeletal conditions (MSK)



1 in 8

of the working age population
reported having an MSK



The **prevalence of MSK**
in the workforce is **likely to increase**

6.5m
in 2008

7m
in 2030

Employment rate
for people who report MSK as
their main health condition is

59.7%

In 2013, **more days** of sickness absence were attributed to
back, neck and muscle pain than any other cause.

In 2013,

30.6m
days of sickness absence
could be attributed to **MSK**

23%
of all working days lost

33%
of English **long-term**
sickness absence
is attributed to **MSK**

In 2015,

13%
of **Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)**
recipients reported MSK as their **main condition**

In 2010, ESA claimants with MSK were
more likely than those
with other conditions,
to attribute their health
conditions to work –
36%
related it to work



An estimated
9.5m
working days were lost
due to work related MSK,
an average of **17 days** lost for each case.
This represents **40%** of all days lost due to
work related ill-health in 2014/15.
Agriculture; construction; health and
social care; and transportation
and storage industries all show
elevated rates of MSK.

