

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

EUROPEAN RISK OBSERVATORY REPORT

EN

ISSN: 1830-5946

Annex to Report:
Lifting postures – Facts and figures

National Report: Luxembourg

TE-RO-09-009-EN-C



European Agency
for Safety and Health
at Work

Authors: Véronique De Broeck, Marthe Verjans - Institut pour la Prevention et le bien-être au travail/Instituut voor Preventie en Welzijn op het Werk, (PREVENT), Luxembourg

Edited and updated by Xabier Irastorza and Elke Schneider – European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)

This document is an annex to the Agency's Report "Work-related musculoskeletal disorders – Facts and figures" - Luxembourg

You can find the full report –in English only- on the Agency's website:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/TERO09009ENview>

Cataloguing data can be found on the cover of this publication.

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2010

ISBN -13: 978-92-9191-261-2

DOI: 10.2802/10952

© European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, 2010.

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Table of contents

List of figures and tables.....	1
Summary	3
Source description	4
General prevalence	5
By age.....	6
By gender	7
By sector.....	8
By occupation	10
Employment status	11

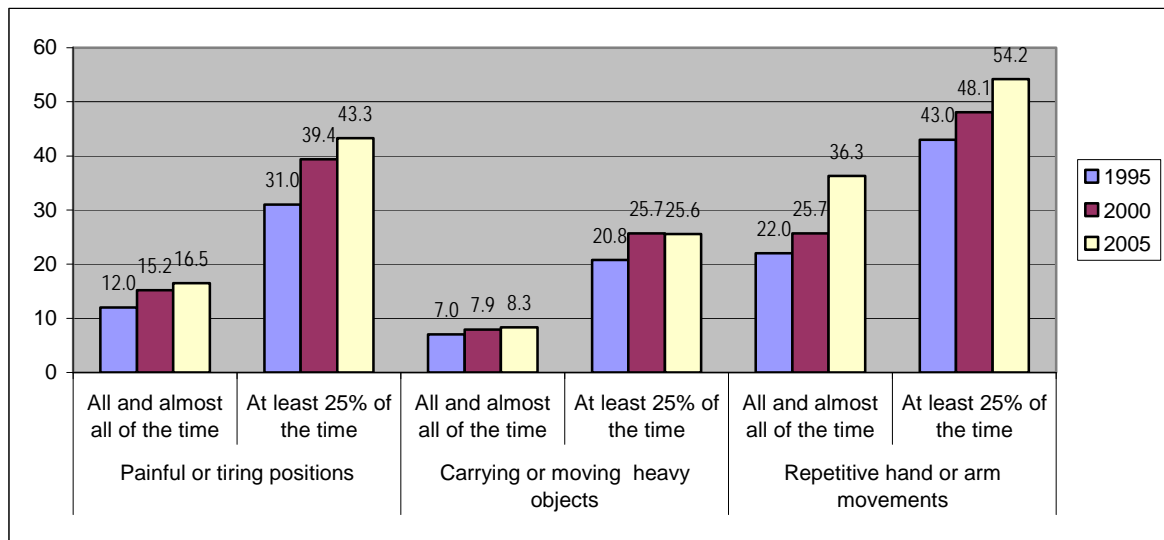
List of figures and tables

Figure 1: Exposure to painful/ tiring positions, carrying/ moving heavy loads and repetitive hand/arm movement (in %), 1995, 2000, 2005.....	3
Figure 2: Exposure to painful/ tiring positions, carrying/ moving heavy loads and repetitive hand/arm movements (in %), 1995, 2000, 2005.....	5
Figure 3: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions, by age, 2000 and 2005....	6
Figure 4: Percentage share of workers exposed to carrying/ moving heavy loads, by age, 2000 and 2005.....	7
Figure 5: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions, by gender, 2000 and 2005.....	7
Figure 6: Percentage share of workers exposed to carrying/ moving heavy loads, by age, 2000 and 2005.....	8
Figure 7: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions at least 25% of the time, by sector, 2000 and 2005.....	9
Figure 8: Percentage share of workers exposed to carrying/ moving heavy loads at least 25% of the working time, by sector, 2000 and 2005.	9
Figure 9: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions at least 25% of the time, by occupation, 2000 and 2005.	10
Figure 10: Percentage share of workers exposed to carrying/ moving heavy loads at least 25% of the working time, by occupation, 2000 and 2005.....	11

Summary

Exposure to painful or tiring positions in the workplace, carrying or moving heavy loads and repetitive hand or arm movements are quite common among the workforce in Luxembourg. In 2005, more than four out of ten workers in the country (43.3%) were exposed to painful or tiring positions and one out of four workers (25.6%) was exposed to carrying or moving heavy loads at least 25% of the working time. Meanwhile, more than one in two workers (54.2%) were exposed to repetitive hand or arm movements at least 25% of their working time. Exposure rates have increased since 1995.

Figure 1: Exposure to painful/ tiring positions, carrying/ moving heavy loads and repetitive hand/arm movement (in %), 1995, 2000, 2005



European Survey on Working Conditions, 1995-2000-2005

Exposure to painful or tiring positions seems to increase with age and, analysing its evolution in time, it has generally gone up for the different age categories. As far as carrying or moving heavy objects is concerned, younger workers report the highest exposure in 2005. It is worth stressing that, as opposed to previous years, older workers do not report the lowest exposure rates as they have witnessed an increase between 2000 and 2005.

Exposure to painful or tiring positions is higher for women than for men in 2005, while carrying or moving heavy objects is more common among male workers.

Sectors most at risk for painful or tiring positions are agriculture, construction and transport and communications. Financial intermediation seems to be the least exposed. The sectors most at risk for carrying or moving heavy loads are agriculture, hotels and restaurants and construction, while financial intermediation appears to be the least exposed.

An occupational breakdown shows that elementary occupations, craft and related trade workers, skilled agricultural and fishery workers, plant and machine operators and service workers are the most exposed to these physical risk factors for the development of MSDs. Clerks, professionals and legislators seem to be the least exposed to these work place hazards.

Continuous exposure to painful or tiring positions and carrying or moving heavy objects in general are more common among employees than among self-employed workers.

Source description**Statistical sources**

Title	European Survey on Working Conditions
Acronym	ESWC
Institution	European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions (Dublin)
Country	EU
Periodicity	Every five years 1990-1995-2000-2005
Type	Employee Survey
URL	http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/working/surveys/index.htm
Demographic group	Employees, self-employed without personnel and self-employed with less than 10 employees
Objectives	<p>Monitoring of trends in working conditions for employees and the self-employed throughout the European Union.</p> <p>This Survey provides an opportunity to monitor working conditions in the EU and to analyze specific themes in depth, such as: sector differences, working conditions and gender, age, or employment contracts, work organization, working hours, etc.</p>
Description	Face-to face interviews in all EU countries, with approx. 1,000 people in each country are selected (random walk), structured questionnaire
Content	This survey describes a broad range of questions in the field of working conditions.
Question	<p>Q11</p> <p>a) Does your work involve painful or tiring positions?</p> <p>c) Does your work involve carrying or moving heavy loads?</p> <p>e) Does your work involve repetitive hand or arm movements?</p>

General prevalence

Four out of ten workers in Luxembourg exposed to painful or tiring positions, one out of four workers exposed to carrying or moving heavy loads and one in two workers exposed to repetitive hand or arm movements at least 25% of the working time in 2005. Exposure rates have increased since 1995

According to the Fourth European Survey on Working Conditions (ESWC), about 16.5% of workers in Luxembourg reported being exposed to painful or tiring positions all or almost all of their working time in 2005 (43.3% at least 25% of their working time). As opposed to this, 55.8% of surveyed workers reported never or almost never being exposed to painful or tiring positions during the working time.

Since 1995, the proportion of those continuously affected (all or almost all of the time) and those affected at least 25% of the working time has increased.

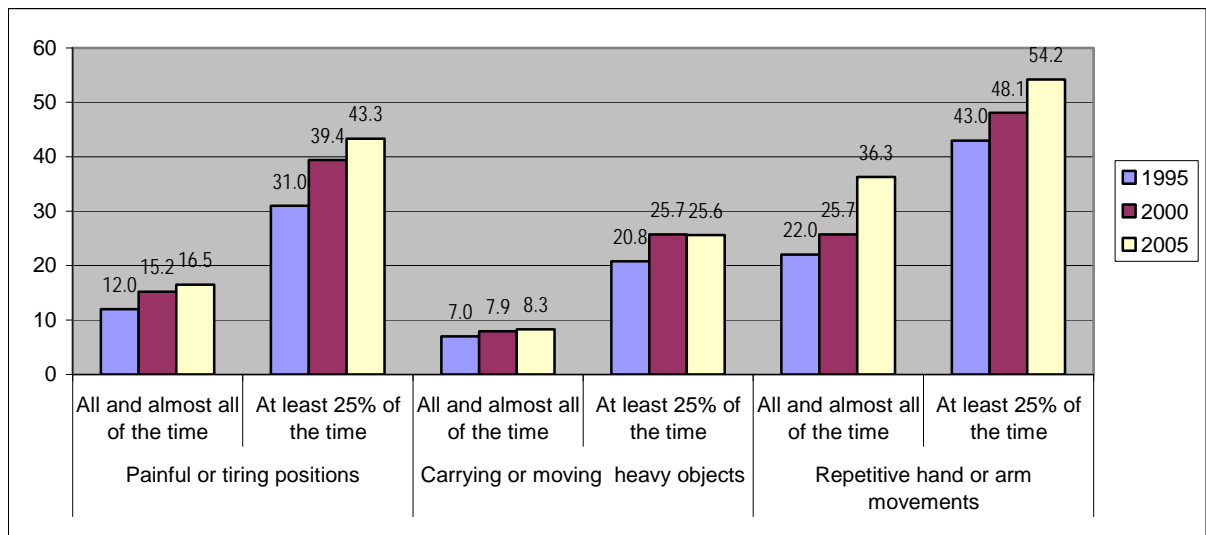
The ESWC also shows that in 2005 about 8.3% of workers reported being exposed to carrying or moving heavy loads in the workplace all and almost all of the time (about 25.6% at least 25% of their working time). At the same time, 74.2% of them reported never or almost never being exposed to carrying or moving heavy loads during their working time.

Since 1995, the proportions of workers continuously affected and those exposed to carrying or moving heavy loads at least 25% of the working time have experienced an increase.

Finally, 36.3% of surveyed workers reported continuous exposure (all and almost all of the time) to repetitive hand or arm movements (54.2% at least 25% of their working time). As opposed to this, 45.8% of them reported never or almost never being exposed to repetitive hand or arm movements.

From a time perspective, both rates of exposure to repetitive hand or arm movements (continuous and at least 25% of the time) have increased.

Figure 2: Exposure to painful/ tiring positions, carrying/ moving heavy loads and repetitive hand/arm movements (in %), 1995, 2000, 2005



European Survey on Working Conditions, 1995-2000-2005

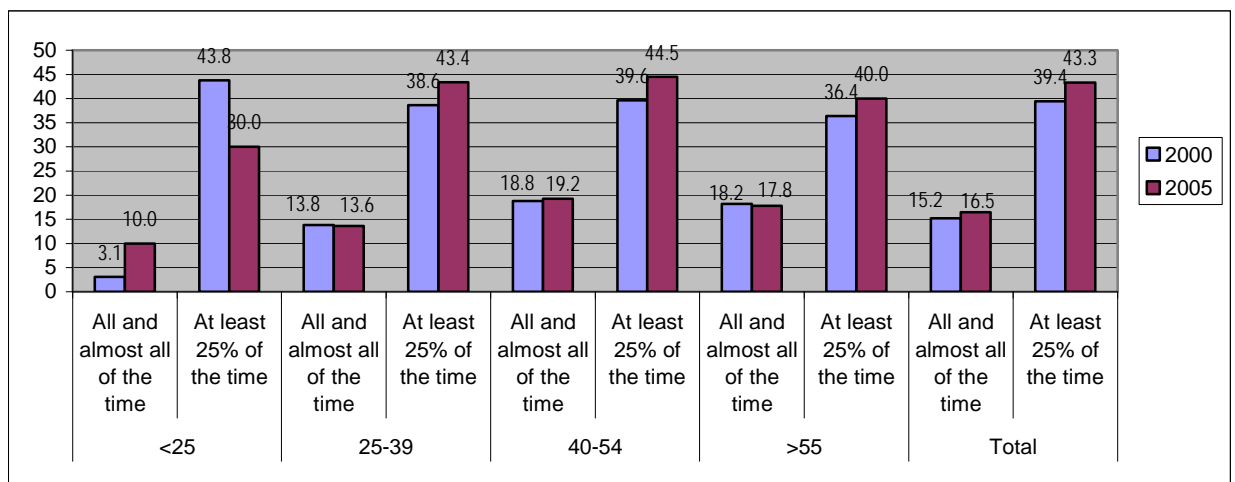
By age

Exposure to painful or tiring positions increases with age but goes down slightly for the oldest workers. Exposure rates are generally increasing. Exposure to carrying or moving heavy loads, instead, decreases with age and rises slightly for workers aged +55 years. Exposure rates are generally increasing too.

The ESWC reveals that exposure at some stage (at least a quarter of the time) to painful or tiring positions in the workplace seems to increase with age in 2005: 30% among workers under 25 years, 43.4% among workers aged 25-39, 44.5% among workers aged 40-54 years and a slight reduction at 40% among workers aged over 55. A similar pattern is found for continuous exposure (all and almost all of the time).

Except for the exposure at some stage among young workers, exposure rates to painful or tiring positions have generally increased since in recent times.

Figure 3: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions, by age, 2000 and 2005

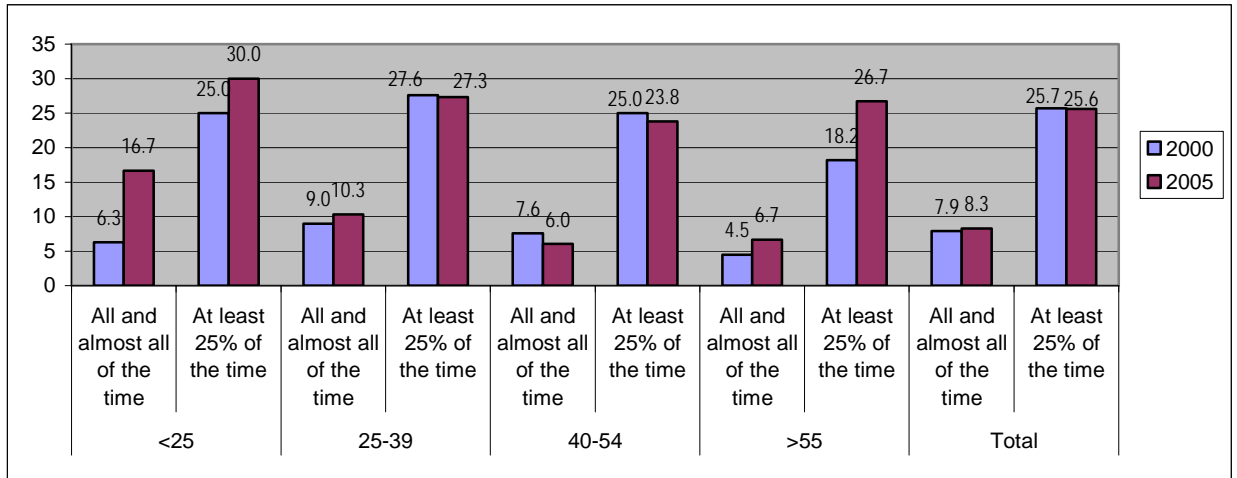


European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005

Exposure at some stage (at least a quarter of the time) to carrying or moving heavy loads in the workplace seems to be more common among younger workers: 30% among those aged under 25, compared to 27.3% for those aged 25-39, 23% for the 40-54 age group and 26.7% for those aged over 55. Continuous exposure too is more frequent among workers under 25 years of age (16.7%) and it gradually decreases with age down to 6% among those aged 40-54.

Exposure rates to carrying or moving heavy loads in the workplace have generally increased in recent times for most age groups.

Figure 4: Percentage share of workers exposed to carrying/ moving heavy loads, by age, 2000 and 2005



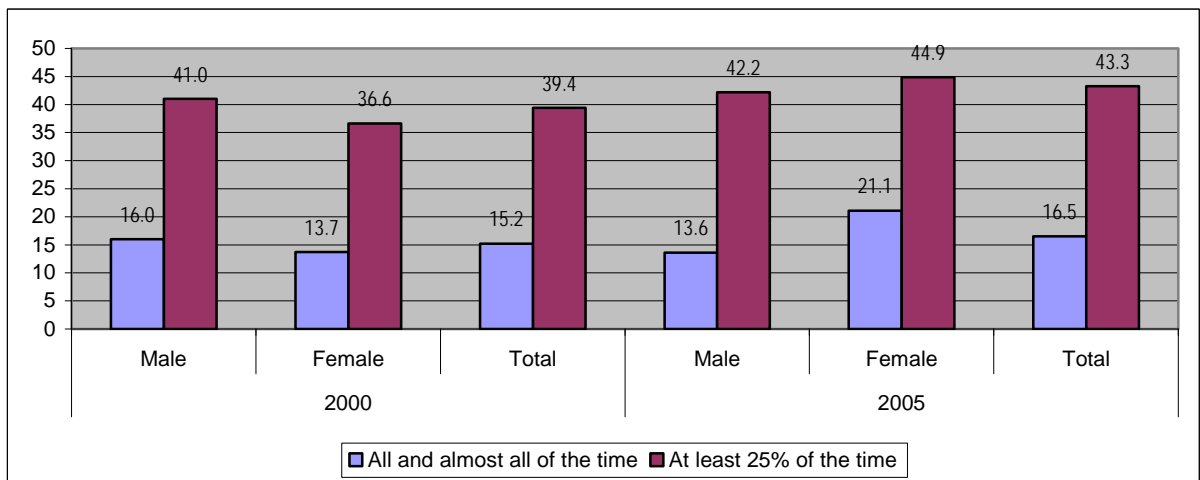
European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005

By gender

Female workers more exposed to painful or tiring positions while men are more exposed to carrying or moving heavy objects. Both exposure rates are increasing among male and female workers.

According to the ESWC, female workers reported being more exposed to painful or tiring positions in the workplace in 2005: about 21.1% of women reported being exposed all or almost all of the working time and about 44.9% reported being exposed at least a quarter of the working time, compared to 13.6% and 42.2%, respectively, among male workers. These higher exposure rates among women in 2005 represent a change with respect to 2000, when male workers reported higher shares than their female counterparts. For both male and female workers exposure rates have increased in recent times.

Figure 5: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions, by gender, 2000 and 2005

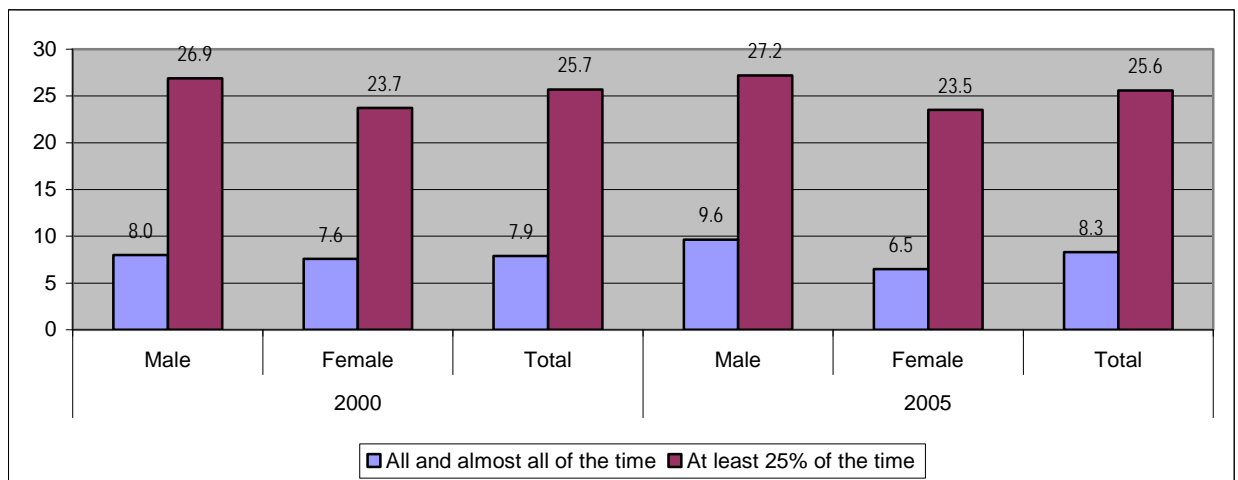


European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005

As opposed to painful or tiring positions, the ESWC shows that male workers reported being more exposed to carrying or moving heavy loads in the workplace in 2005: about 9.6% reported continuously being exposed and about 27.2% reported being exposed at least a quarter of the working time, compared to 6.5% and 23.5%, respectively, among female workers.

For both male and female workers exposure rates have increased since 1990.

Figure 6: Percentage share of workers exposed to carrying/ moving heavy loads, by age, 2000 and 2005



European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005

By sector

Sector groups (sections in NACE Rev 1.1) used in figures:

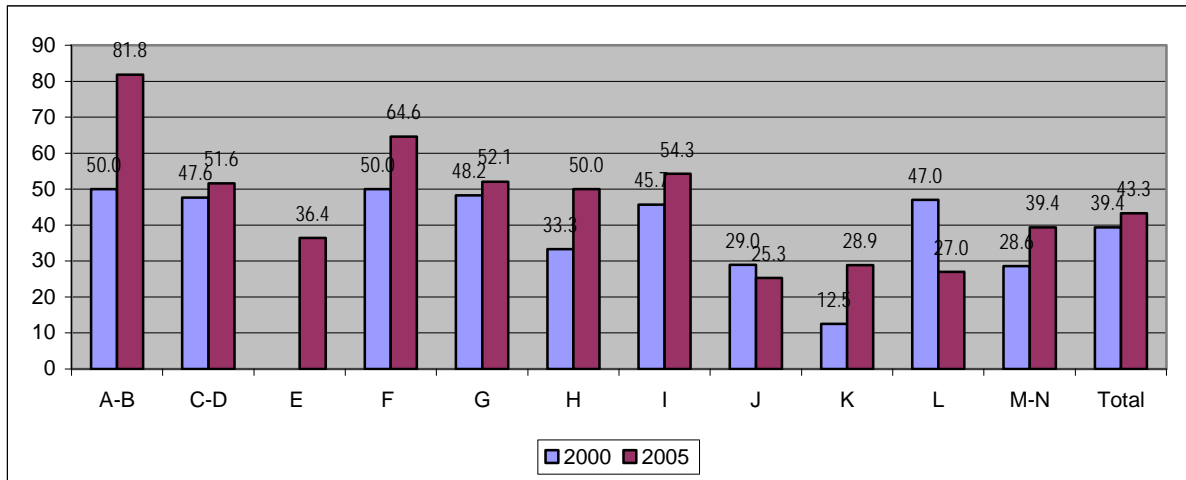
- A: Agriculture, hunting, forestry
- B: Fishing
- C: Mining
- D: Manufacturing
- E: Electricity, gas and water
- F: Construction
- G: Whole sale and retail, repairs
- H: Hotels and restaurants
- I: Transport and communication
- J: Financial intermediation
- K: Real estate, business activity
- L: Public administration and defence
- M: Education
- N: Health and social work
- O: Other community, social and personal service activities
- P: Activities of households
- Q: Extra-territorial organizations and bodies

Agriculture, construction and transport and communication, most exposed to painful or tiring working positions. Financial intermediation least exposed. Agriculture, hotels and restaurants and construction most exposed to carrying or moving heavy objects. Financial intermediation least exposed

A sector breakdown of the ESWC results for Luxembourg shows that exposure to painful or tiring positions is most pronounced in agriculture (81.8% at least 25% of the time) and construction (64.6%), followed by transport and communication (54.3%). Wholesale and retail (52.1%) is next, followed closely by manufacturing and mining (51.6%) and hotels and restaurants (50%).

Financial intermediation seems to be the least exposed: 25.3% of workers at least 25% of the time.

Figure 7: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions at least 25% of the time, by sector, 2000 and 2005

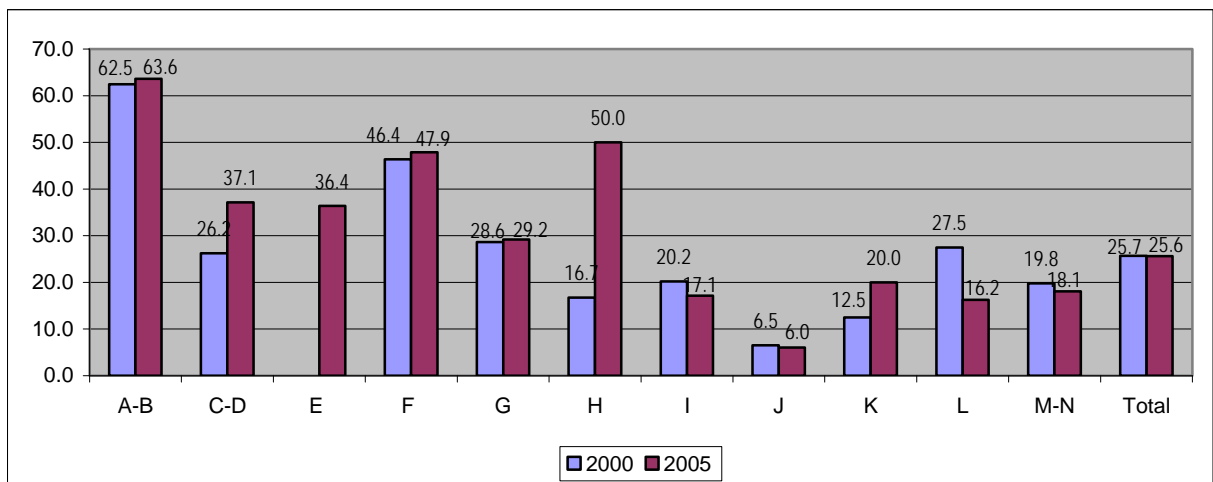


European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005

As far as carrying or moving heavy objects is concerned, the highest exposure rates are found in agriculture (63.6% at least 25% of the time), followed by hotels and restaurants (50%) and construction (47.9%).

Again workers in financial intermediation appear to be the least exposed: 6% at least 25% of the time.

Figure 8: Percentage share of workers exposed to carrying/ moving heavy loads at least 25% of the working time, by sector, 2000 and 2005



European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005

By occupation

ISCO Groups of occupation used in tables and figures:

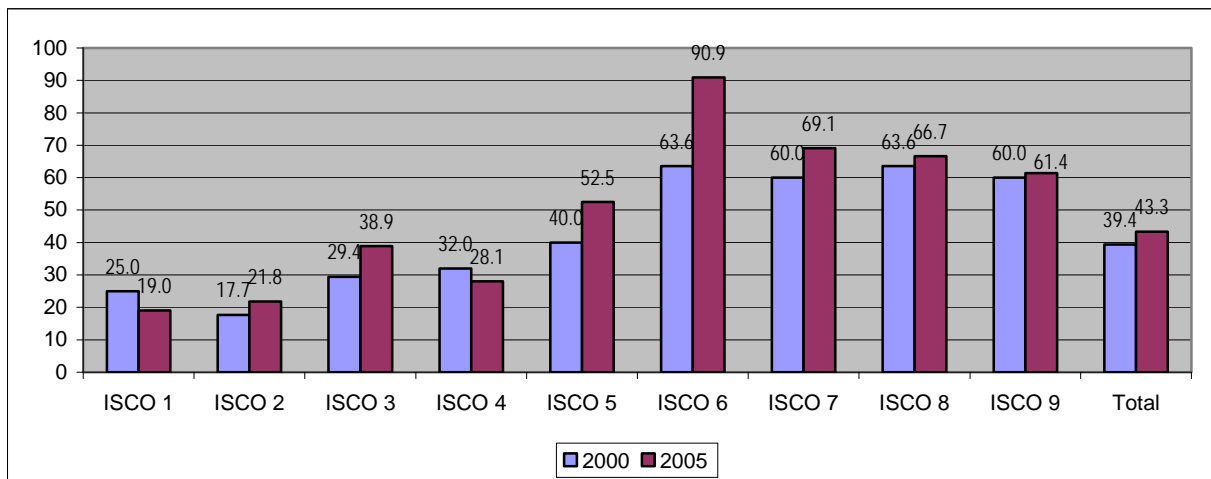
- ISCO 1: Legislators, senior officials and managers
- ISCO 2: Professionals
- ISCO 3: Technicians and associate professionals
- ISCO 4: Clerks
- ISCO 5: Service workers and shop and market sales workers
- ISCO 6: Skilled agricultural and fishery workers
- ISCO 7: Craft and related trades workers
- ISCO 8: Plant and machine operators and assemblers
- ISCO 9: Elementary occupations
- ISCO 10: Armed force

Skilled agricultural and fishery workers, craft and related trade workers, elementary occupations and plant and machine operators most exposed. Clerks, professionals and legislators least exposed.

An occupational breakdown of the ESWC 2005 results shows that exposure to painful or tiring positions is most pronounced among skilled agricultural and fishery workers (90.9% at least 25% of the time), followed by craft and related trade workers (69.1%), plant and machine operators (66.7%) and elementary occupations (61.4%).

Legislators (19% at least 25% of the time) and professionals (21.8%) seem to be the least exposed occupational groups.

Figure 9: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions at least 25% of the time, by occupation, 2000 and 2005

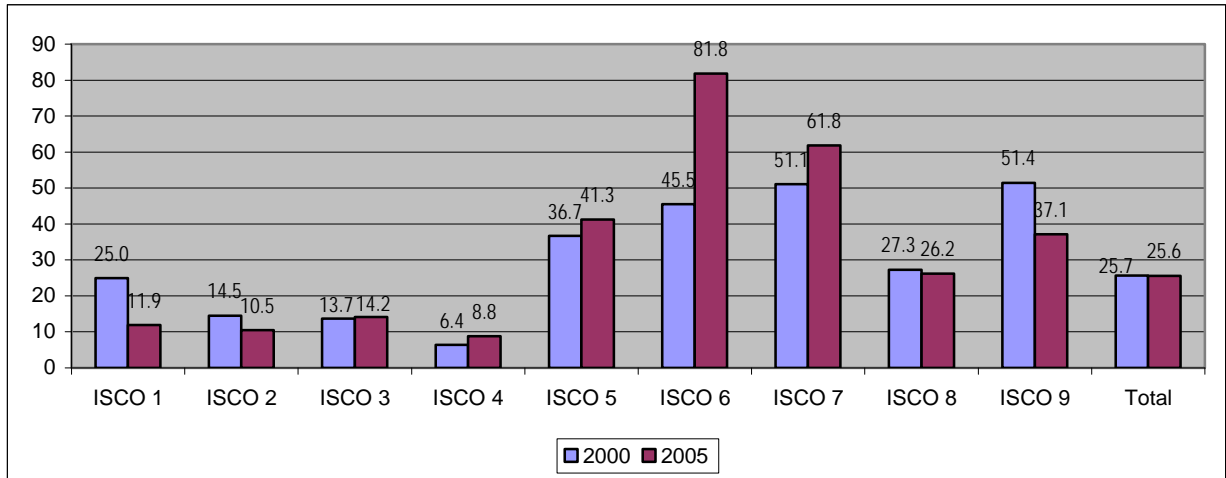


European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005

Concerning carrying or moving heavy loads, the ESWC 2005 reveals that the highest exposure corresponds to skilled agricultural and fishery workers (81.8% at least 25% of the time), followed by craft and related trade workers (61.8%) and service workers (41.3%).

Clerks (8.8% at least 25% of the time) and professionals (10.5%) report the lowest exposure rates.

Figure 10: Percentage share of workers exposed to carrying/ moving heavy loads at least 25% of the working time, by occupation, 2000 and 2005



European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005

By employment status

Employed workers seem to be more exposed both to painful or tiring working positions and to moving or carrying heavy objects

According to the ESWC 2005 results, employed workers report greater exposure to painful or tiring positions: about 44.1% of them report being exposed at least 25% of the time compared to 37.3% among the self-employed.

Meanwhile, exposure to carrying or moving heavy loads was practically the same for both groups in 2005: 25.6% of employed workers reported carrying or moving heavy loads at least 25% of the working time while the share among the self-employed was 25.4%.

Figure 11: Percentage share of workers exposed to painful/ tiring positions and carrying/moving heavy loads, at least 25% of the time, by employment status, 2000 and 2005



European Survey on Working Conditions, 2000-2005