



Water and air transport

Fact sheet

Background

Eurofound's European Working Conditions Surveys (EWCS) have been carried out every five years since 1991. Each wave of the survey provides an overview of the state of working conditions throughout Europe and indicates the nature and extent of changes affecting the workforce and the quality of work. The fieldwork for Eurofound's most recent edition of the EWCS was carried out in 2005 in 31 countries, including the 27 EU Member States, plus candidate countries Croatia and Turkey, as well as EFTA countries Norway and Switzerland. In 2005, the sample size was set at 1000 per country (600 for Cyprus, Estonia, Luxemburg, Malta and Slovenia).

Following the 2005 survey, Eurofound asked TNO Work & Employment to perform a secondary statistical analysis of the data from the fourth EWCS 2005 on sector profiles with regard to working conditions in the 27 Member States. For the analysis, NACE Revision 1.1¹ was applied. The findings are set out in 26 fact sheets, each covering one of the 26 sectors in the NACE classification. Each fact sheet presents:

- a profile of the sector's socio-demographic characteristics based on data at NACE at 1 and 2 digit level;
- a profile of working conditions in the sector based on data at NACE at 1 and 2 digit level.

This fact sheet presents a snapshot of working conditions in the water and air transport and supporting and auxiliary transport activities sector (Nace Rev 1.1, I 61-63).

Sector profile

The sector is characterised by a higher than average proportion of male workers (71.0% compared to the cross-sector average of 55.5%) and a lower than average proportion of self-employed: only 7.3% of the workers are self-employed, compared to an average of 16.7% across all sectors.

With regard to company size, 29.5% of workers in this sector work in large enterprises with 250 or more employees and only 2.2% in one-person companies.

In terms of income, 36.9% of workers in this sector fall into the high income band compared to an average of 26.7% for all sectors. Only 8.8% of workers are in the lowest income group against a cross-sector average of 25.1%.

Differences by job tenure, type of employment, and company size between this sector and the average for all sectors are not statistically significant and therefore do not merit further analysis here.

¹ This is a revision of the 'General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities', known by the acronym NACE and originally published by Eurostat in 1970. The NACE code was subsequently revised (REV. 1.1) in the 1990s.

Gender		
	Men	Women
Water and air transport and supporting activities	71.0%▲▲▲	29.0%▼▼▼
All sectors	55.5%	44.5%

Age					
	Average age	Age group			
		≤ 24 years	25-39 years	40-54 years	≥ 55 years
Water and air transport and supporting activities	38.0	14.1%	39.6%	39.7%	6.6%
All sectors	40.0	11.8%	36.8%	38.6%	12.7%

Years in company or organisation				
	≥ 2 years	3-5 years	6-15 years	≤16 years
Water and air transport and supporting activities	32.7%	23.8%	27.5%	16.0%
All sectors	27.1%	20.9%	29.6%	22.4%

Type of employment		
	Self-employed	Employee
Water and air transport and supporting activities	7.3%▼▼▼	92.7%▲▲▲
All sectors	16.7%	83.3%

Employment contract		
	Permanent contract	Non-permanent contract
Water and air transport and supporting activities	77.7%	22.3%
All sectors	76.6%	23.4%

Company size					
	One-person company	Micro enterprise (2-9 employees)	Small enterprise (10-49 employees)	Medium enterprise (50-249 employees)	Large enterprise (250+ employees)
Water and air transport and supporting activities	2.2%▼▼▼	24.1%	21.4%	22.8%	29.5%▲▲▲
All sectors	10.4%	27.5%	27.7%	19.4%	15.0%

Education level							
	No education	Primary education (ISCED 1)	Lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	Post-secondary including pre-vocational or vocational education	Tertiary education - first level (ISCED 5)	Tertiary education - advanced level (ISCED 6)
Water and air transport and supporting activities	0.02%	4.3%	10.1%	50.2%	50.2%	50.2%	4.1%
All sectors	0.9%	5.3%	16.5%	44.5%	7.3%	23.5%	2.0%

Income level				
	Income bands			
	Lowest	Low	High	Highest
Water and air transport and supporting activities	8.8%▼▼▼	24.2%	36.9%▲▲▲	30.1%
All sectors	25.1%	23.9%	26.7%	24.3%

How to read the table

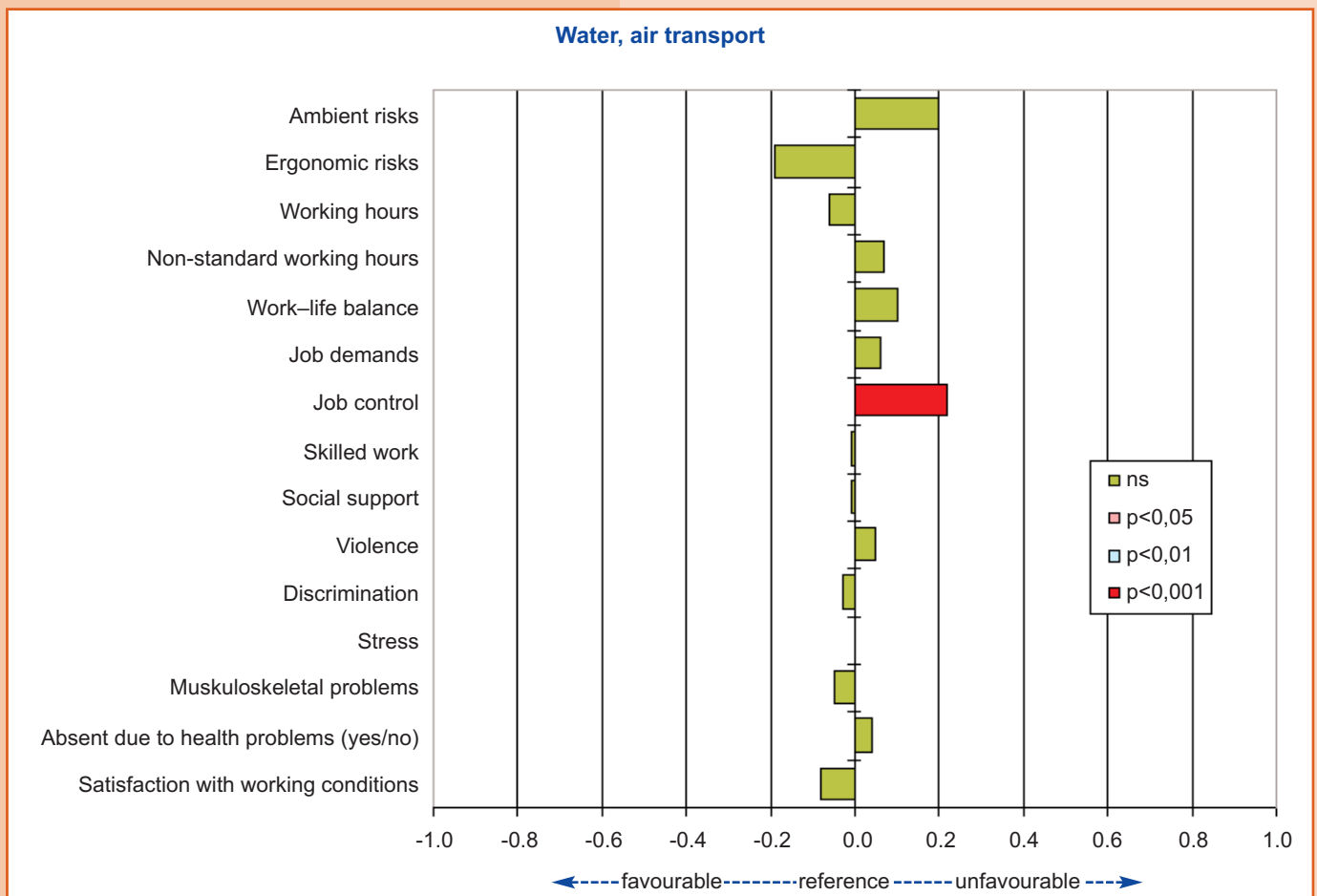
The comparison is between the subgroup/sector and the average for all sectors based on the 2005 European Working Conditions Survey sample for the EU27. ▲ (p<0.05), ▲▲ (p<0.01), and ▲▲▲ (p<0.001) indicate differences between the sector profiled and the sample average at different levels of statistical significance. Each mean is tested with parametric tests of difference (t-test) to determine whether such differences are statistically significant. The more triangles, the higher the statistical significance of the figure (i.e. it is more likely to reflect a real difference in the population).

Where estimates are not accompanied by triangles, this indicates that observed differences are not statistically significant.

Working conditions and outcomes

The figure below shows specific dimensions of working conditions with favourable and unfavourable scores in the water and air and supporting and auxiliary transport sector, taking as a point of reference mean exposure (0.0 score in the chart below).

Looking at the statistically significant differences only, employees in this sector have a relatively unfavourable score on level of job control (the ability to choose or change the order of tasks, methods of work and speed or rate of work).



How to read the figure

For the profiling of the sector, eleven aspects of working conditions (mainly composite indexes based on several variables) and four outcomes (stress, musculoskeletal disorders, absence due to health problems and job satisfaction) were taken into account.

In the chart above, $p < 0.001$ represents the highest level of statistical significance, while $p < 0.01$ and $p < 0.05$ indicate comparatively lower levels of statistical significance; 'ns' stands for no statistically significant difference. Statistical differences from the average can be either favourable (scores on the left side of the chart) or unfavourable (scores on the right side of the chart) on a specific set of working conditions.

Score values greater than ± 0.2 indicate a small deviation from mean exposure (0.0) while score values ranging from ± 0.2 to ± 0.5 and greater than ± 0.5 indicate respectively substantial and very substantial deviation from mean exposure.

For example, the chart above shows that values indicating job control are highly statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) and greater than $+ 0.2$ in the relative scale meaning that workers in the water and air transport and supporting and auxiliary transport activities sector report a comparatively lower level of job control than the average.

Key findings

- In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, the water and air transport and supporting and auxiliary transport activities sector is characterised by a higher than average proportion of male workers and a predominance of large companies.
- Self-employment is not common in this sector compared to the average. In terms of income level, workers in this sector tend to fall into the high income band.
- With regard to working conditions and outcomes, this sector scores unfavourably only on level of job control. Scores on other dimensions are not statistically significant.

Methodology

The European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS) is carried out every five years by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), a tripartite European agency based in Dublin. The questionnaire is developed by the Eurofound team in close cooperation with an expert questionnaire development group. This group comprises representatives of the European social partners, other EU bodies (European Commission, Eurostat, European Agency for Safety and Health at work), international organisations (OECD, ILO), national statistical institutes, as well as leading European experts in the field. The sample of the EWCS is representative of persons in employment (according to the Eurostat definition this comprises both employees and the self-employed aged 15 years and over) resident in the countries covered for the respective periods. In each country, the EWCS sample followed a multi-stage, stratified and clustered design with a random walk procedure for the selection of the respondents at the last stage. All interviews were conducted face-to-face in the respondent's own household.

Further Eurofound research on the sector

Representativeness of the European social partner organisations: Sea and coastal water transport

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies/tn0707017S/index.htm>

Industrial relations in the airline sector

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2005/08/study/index.htm>

Further information

The Fourth *European Working Conditions Survey* report and secondary analysis of survey data are available on the *European Working Conditions Observatory* website:
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveys/ewcs2005/>

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