

LATVIA

ANNUAL REPORT

2012

RĪGA



Introduction

The Labour Inspection is the direct management authority, which is subordinated to the Minister of Welfare. The Law on the State Labour Inspection has come into force on 10 July 2008. This law has defined the legal status, function and tasks of the Labour Inspection. Employers, businessmen, their authorized persons and enterprises, construction objects, including the construction objects belonging to a private individual during the time of construction works, as well as working areas and work equipment - all this is subject to the supervision and control of the Labour Inspection.

The main aim of the activities of the Labour Inspection is to develop a legally organized, safe and health-friendly working environment at the enterprises, to reduce unregistered employment, the violations of normative acts in the sphere of labour law and labour protection (OSH), as well as the number of accidents at work.

The main function of the Labour Inspection is to maintain the effective implementation, supervision and control of the state policy in the area of labour relations and OSH.

The main directions of the Labour Inspection activity include improvement of the legal labour relations, supervision, and control of OSH area, as well as improvement of availability and quality of the services provided by the Labour Inspection and inclusion in the circulation of electronic information of the Public Office. Activity directions of the Labour Inspection are set on the basis of the main policy planning documents in the sphere of labour law and OSH drawn up and approved at the national level – “Activity Plan for Decrease of Unregistered Employment for 2010 -2013” and “Basic Development Guidelines of the OSH Area for 2008 – 2013” (Basic Guidelines).

The following activities were implemented in the framework of the prior activity directions:

- implementation of policies aimed at the reduction of unregistered employment;
- reduction of fatal accidents at work and such occupational accidents as resulting in inflicting serious health injuries.

Within the framework of the priority areas of activities, the following measures were taken:

1. companies, which economic activities are exposed to the increased unregistered employment risk, were inspected for the purpose of detecting unregistered employment;
2. thematic inspections in the sphere of labor protection were organized in:
 - 2.1. wood manufacturing, furniture production and forestry industry;
 - 2.2. construction industry;
 - 2.3. agriculture industry;
 - 2.4. assessment of the quality of services of competent institutions and competent specialists in the sphere of OSH;
3. the inspection campaign of the Senior Labor Inspectors Committee (SLIC) Psychosocial Risks at Work was organized in the health and social care industry;
4. the European informative campaign Working Together for Risk Prevention was organized.

1. The implementation of priorities of the Labour Inspection in 2012

1.1 With the Labour Inspection pursuing the unregistered employment reduction policies, it was determined in accordance with the Labour Inspection working plan to carry out inspections of 3000 companies, which economic activities are exposed to the increased unregistered employment risk. At least 25% of inspections were effective, i.e. 25% inspections resulted in detecting unregistered employees. The Labour Inspection carried out 3 034 inspections aimed at the reduction of unregistered employment, of which 33.8% inspections were successful, with 3 002 unregistered employees detected in the course of them (see *Figure 1*). After the Labour Inspection’s inspection, written employment contracts were signed with 481 persons and they were registered in the State Revenue Service as employees (596 – in 2011).



Figure 1: Dynamics of the number visited enterprises in relation to the reduction of unregistered employment (2008 – 2012)

Information regarding the unregistered employment or other violations of requirements of the Labour Law or OSH regulatory enactments may be submitted to the Labour Inspection electronically (nelegals@vdi.gov.lv and www.vdi.gov.lv), leaving an anonymous message according to the special on-line form, or calling the anonymous trust line number. In 2012 the Labour Inspection received 550 messages regarding possible cases of unregistered employment by means of the anonymous line and electronically (458 - in 2011, 123 – in 2009).

In respect of the employment without written employment contracts, pursuant to norms of the Latvian Administrative Violations Code, officers of the Labour Inspection imposed 867 fines in the amount of LVL 1 091 201 in 2012 (see *Figure 2*).

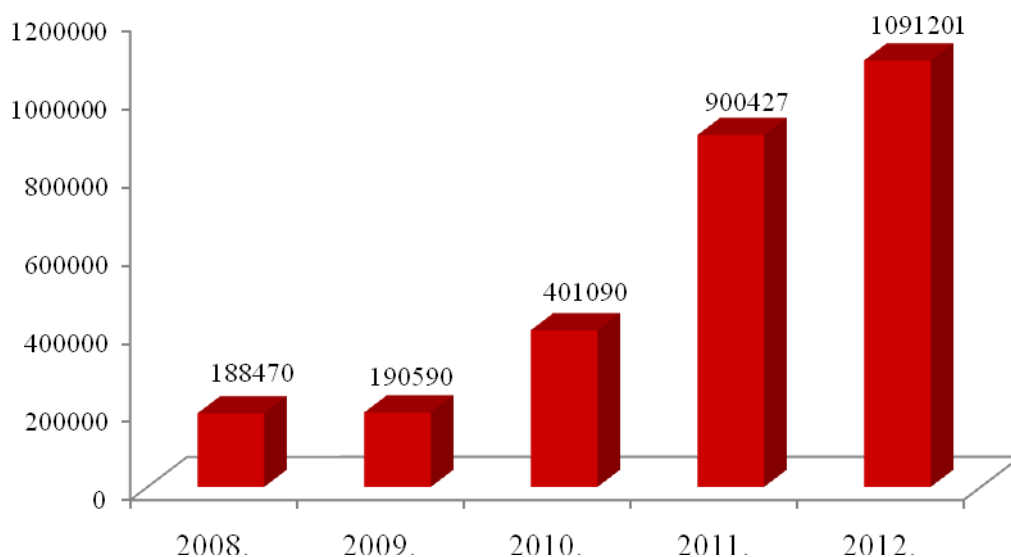


Figure 2: Dynamics of applied fines (LVL) for unregistered employment (2008 - 2012)

According to the Labour Inspection working plan, it was planned to re-inspect at least 5% of the high unregistered employment risk industry companies. In 2012, 8.3% of such companies were re-inspected, i.e. 252 inspections were conducted repeatedly.

In 2012 the largest number of unregistered employees was detected in the sphere of construction (24.1% of the total number of unregistered employees detected by the Labour Inspection), in the sphere of service providers (hairdressing salons, funeral services, dry-cleaners, shoemakers, etc. -15,2%), transport and storage industry (10.9%).

In 2012, as compared with 2011, the number of unregistered employed unemployed persons, who work without registration and at the same time receive unemployment benefits or other state benefits or allowances, decreased by 28.7%.

The Labour Inspection publishes on its website www.vdi.gov.lv information about the companies, in which unregistered employees were detected. Job seekers can also view the companies, who failed to register their employees by now. Information referred to the above may be also acquired and used by the institutions, which, in accordance with requirements of the Public Procurements Law, organize procurement procedures. The Labour Inspection provides reports regarding merchants, who have registered for the competition. A report informs whether any major violations of the Labour Law were detected in the relevant merchant's activities. If they were, the merchant is prohibited from acquiring state or local government orders.

1.2. All activities of the Labour Inspection in the sphere of OHS are, either directly or indirectly, concern the decrease in the amount of fatal accidents and in the amount of such accidents at work, in the result of which the injured person would have severe health disorders.

In 2012 six thematic inspections were organized, with the total number of inspections of companies being more than 900, for the purpose of:

- ✓ preventive inspecting working conditions of companies;
- ✓ assessing measures actually taken by employers in creating safe working environment;
- ✓ updating the focus of employers on the matters of OSH;
- ✓ reducing occupational disease and accident risks;
- ✓ inspecting companies, which the Labour Inspection has not inspected so far;

- ✓ ascertaining which measures are taken by the employer in getting information regarding the occupational disease approval for employees;
- ✓ drawing special attention to the psychosocial risks at work;
- ✓ assessing the quality of work of the OSH service providers.

Three thematic inspections were organized in the companies, which economic activity is related to the increased accident risk – in the wood manufacturing, furniture production and forestry industry, construction and agriculture.

The Labour Inspection organized for the first time throughout the year a thematic inspection aimed at the assessment of the quality of OSH services provided by competent institutions and competent specialists and the liquidation of activities of such OSH specialists and companies as having no rights to provide services referred to the above in accordance with requirements of regulatory enactments.

During the OSH day informative and educational thematic inspection, there were inspected the companies, for which the occupational disease patients approved in previous years work.

The Labour Inspection also implemented the inspection campaign of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) Psychosocial Risks at Work in the health and social care industry, with the total number of inspected companies being 68.

The year of 2012 was the first year of the European Agency for Health and Safety at work (Agency) informative campaign Working Together for Risk Prevention. The informative campaign particularly emphasized the joint and efficient cooperation of both parties in the implementation of preventive measures in the working environment. During the second half of the year there was organized the 8th Good Practice Award Competition in the sphere of OSH Golden Helmet. Seven companies took part in, who demonstrated good practice examples.

In 2012 there was implemented a unique Latvian idea as a separate part of the campaign – to organize the OSH film hours. The Labour Inspection invited companies, who did various movies on the OSH issues or adapted them to Latvian-speakers, to share their experience and to watch films publicly in cinemas. In 2012 three OSH film hours were organized, with the total of 150 persons participating in them.

In 2012 the cooperation agreement was signed with the Agency regarding the OIRA project, within which framework there was started work on the development of the module for the assessment of the working environment risk in offices.

2. Laws and decisions, which relate to the activities of the Labour Inspection.

2.1. Laws regulating the Labour Inspection's activity that has become effective in 2012

No changes in the Labour Inspection Law.

2.2. The laws, rules, regulations, which have come into force in 2012, and the implementation of which is supervised by the Labour Inspection:

- On 1 July 2012 amendments to the Latvian Administrative Violations Code came into force and in accordance with such amendments the administrative violations record-keeping was equated to criminal proceedings and not to administrative proceedings as before. It was also prohibited to extend, if necessary, the period time for the examination of an appeal against inspector's decision (appeal shall be currently examined within 30 days), and it was prohibited to acquire new evidence at the phase of an appeal.
- Amendments to the Labour Law (came into force on 21 June 2012), second part of Section 32 of the Labour Law was supplemented by (2¹) – "It is prohibited to state in job advertisements certain foreign language skills, except where it is reasonably needed for the performance of duties."
- Amendments to the Cabinet Regulation No. 99 of 8 February 2005 Regulation on the Types of Commercial Activity in which an Employer shall Involve Competent Authority.

Changes apply to the companies in hazardous industries with 6 - 10 employees. Until now, such companies were obliged to involve a competent institution or employ a specialist with higher education in OSH. From now, all duties of the OSH specialist at such companies may be performed not only by specialists with higher education in OSH, but also specialists completed the basic level training course (160 hours) in the sphere of OSH, if they have higher education in the sphere of natural science, engineering science, health protection or legal science and at least a five-year work experience in the relevant profession or OSH.

- On 18 December 2012 the Cabinet of Ministers approved the amendments to the Cabinet Regulation No. 66 of 4 February 2003 OSH Requirements for Protection of Employees from Risk Caused by Noise of the Working Environment. This Regulation provides the reduction of the frequency of noise measurements of the working environment. Noise measurements shall be carried out not on the basis of the previous measurement results, but at least one time every three years, if it is established that the noise level has increased and can cause risks to the safety or health of employees.

3. The personnel of the Labour Inspection

3.1. In 2012 there were 160 official positions in the Labour Inspection (112 positions of inspectors) which is by 1.3% more than on 1 January 2011.

3.2. Total number of inspectors in 2012 – 112, including:

- chief inspectors – 12;
- senior inspectors – 52;
- inspectors – 48.

3.3. Number of women inspectors in 2012 – 75 (67% of total number of inspectors), of whom:

- chief inspectors – 10 (83% of total number of chief inspectors);
- senior inspectors – 35 (67% of total number of senior inspectors);
- inspectors – 30 (63% of total number of inspectors).

3.4. The data on the geographical location of the structural subdivisions of the Labour Inspection (see *Figure 3*).

During the reporting period changes and improvement of the structure of the Labour Inspection were continued. From 1 April 2012, structural changes were made in the Riga Regional State Labour Inspection (RSLI), 4 sectors formed on the basis of 3 sectors, from 1 November the Consultancy Centre was formed and started operations, which gradually releases all RSLIs from the provision of telephone consultations and Riga RSLI - also from face to face consultations.

Headquarters of the Labour Inspection and five regional Labour Inspections constitute the structure of the Labour Inspection.

There are **5 RSLI**, which operate within the country:

- **Kurzeme RSLI - 16 inspectors** (the center - in Liepaja, a sector in Ventspils, consultation places - in Saldus, Kuldīga and Talsi);
- **Latgale RSLI - 15 inspectors** (the center - in Daugavpils, a sector in Rezekne, consultation places - in Jēkabpils, Preiļi, Krāslava and Balvi);
- **Riga RSLI - 51 inspectors** (the center - in Riga, 4 sectors - Sector for Reduction of Illegal Employment, Central Sector, Pardaugava Sector and Riga District Sector);
- **Vidzeme RSLI - 13 inspectors** (the center - in Valmiera, a sector in Gulbene, consultation places in Cēsis and Alūksne);
- **Zemgale RSLI - 17 inspectors** (the center - in Jelgava, a sector in Ogre, consultation places - in Tukums, Dobeles, Bauska and Aizkraukle).

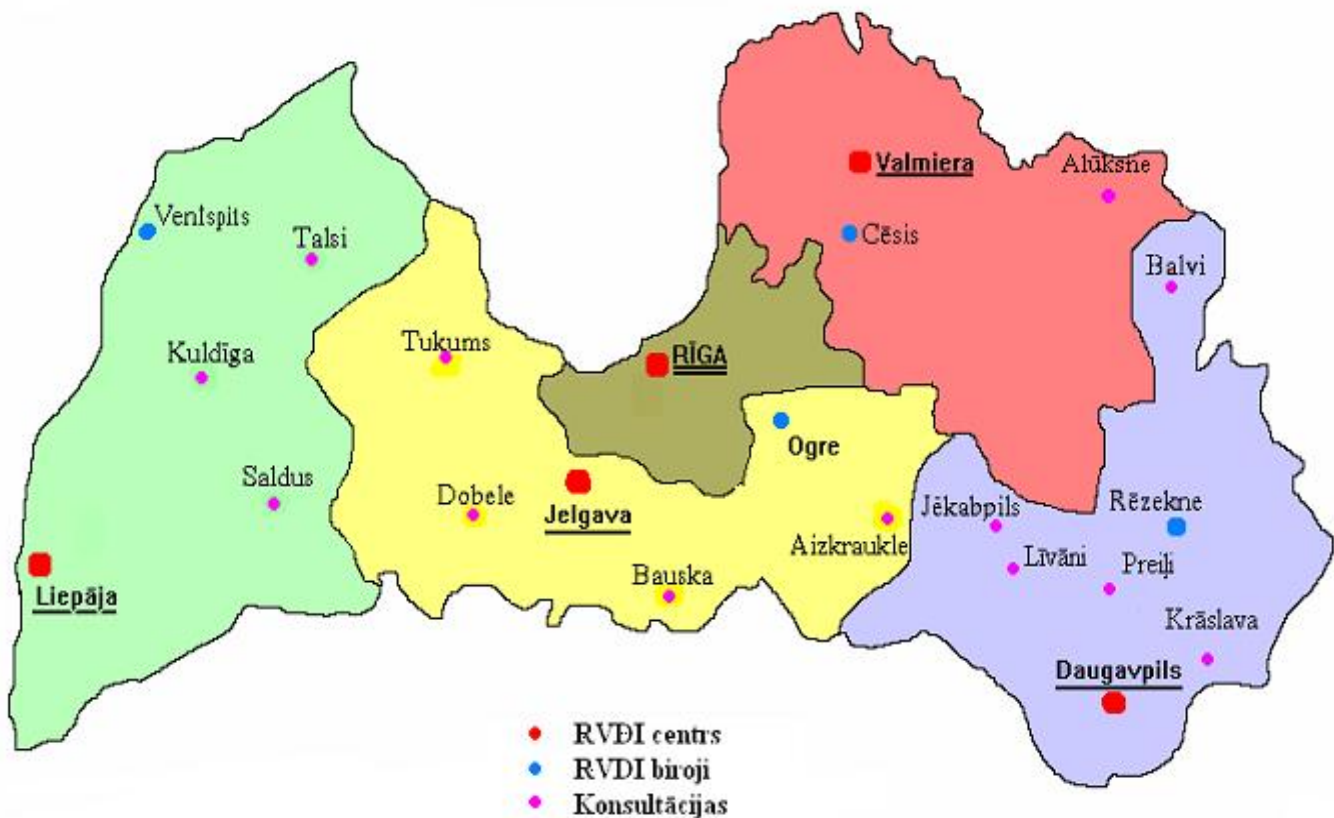


Figure 3: Geographical location of the structural divisions of the Labour Inspection

4. Data on companies under the control of Labour Inspection and number of employees working in these companies

Number of companies under the control of the Labour Inspection – **104 033** (data of the Central Statistical Bureau for the 2011).

Number of employees in the companies under the Labour Inspection's supervision – **784 500**, of whom:
 women – **410 000** (both data of the Central Statistical Bureau for the 2012).

5. Statistics of inspection visits

Number of companies inspected by the Labour Inspection in 2012 – **7 489**, of which more than once a year – **1 250**;

The Labour Inspection carried out **9 848** inspections in companies in 2012.

6. The statistical data on the established violations and imposed sanctions

After detecting major violations of requirements of employment legal relations and/or OSH regulatory enactments, officers of the Labour Inspection issue an order or apply administrative penalty. The number of violations, for remedying which an order is issued, shall be generalized and analyzed separately. In its turn, applied administrative penalties are summarized, taking in consideration the most serious violation due to which penalty was applied.

6.1. In 2012, inspectors of the Labour Inspection issued to employers **3 438 orders** (in 2011 - 21 603) regarding violations related to labour legal relations and/or OSH regulatory enactments, in which the total **14 653 violations** (in 2011 - 21 603) were stated, of which in the sphere of labour legal relations – 3 382 (in 2011 – 4 111), in the sphere of OSH – 11 371 (in 2011 – 17492).

6.2. Violations detected by the Labour Inspection **in the sphere of labour legal relations make up 22.4%** of all violations detected during the reporting period (in 2011 – 19.00%). In its turn, the number of violations detected in the sphere of the Labour Law, has decreased by 20.1%, compared with 2011.

In 2012 like in 2011, employers most often failed to observe norms of the Labour Law, which refer to employment contracts, i.e. incomplete employment contracts or employment without employment contracts, and requirements related to the remuneration (see *Figure 4*). Violations detected are mainly related to the failure to include in contracts all the information set out in the Labour Law, e.g., remuneration and working hours, etc. stated inaccurately.

A substantial portion of violations includes the failure to pay remuneration or its partial payment; inaccurate calculations of the compensation for holiday and its partial payment; salary payments not complying with what is stated in employment contracts; unregistered overtime and night work and additional payments not made accordingly; inaccurate registration and organization of working hours (in particular, where aggregated working hours are determined), etc.

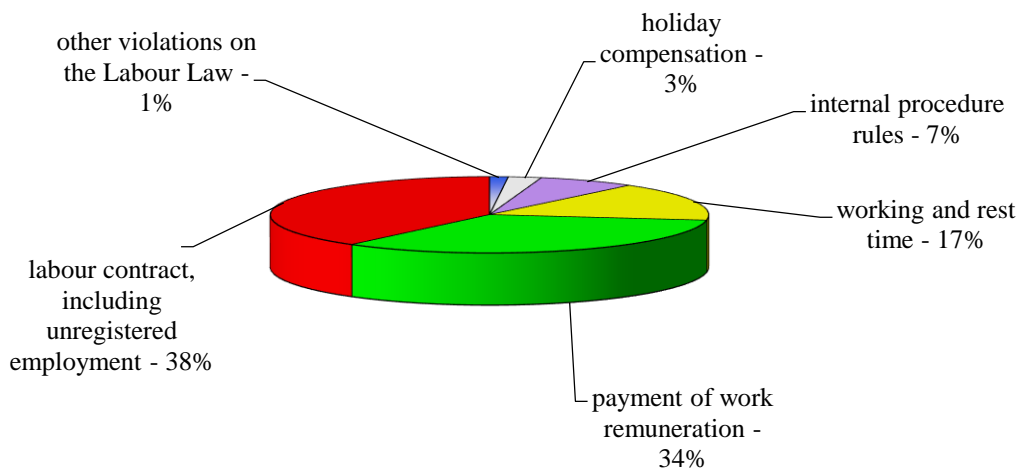


Figure 4: Distribution of violations of labour legal relations in the issued orders in 2012

Violations of regulatory enactments pertaining to the OSH make up 77.6% of all violations detected by officers of the Labour Inspection in 2012. Their number has decreased by 35% compared with 2011. The reason is that after detecting violations, in 2012 the Labour Inspection no longer issued orders, and instead of those it applied administrative penalties, and warned about the suspension of the structural unit / equipment or suspended them.

In the sphere of OSH, regulatory enactments, which requirements were most often violated, did not change in 2012 like in 2011 (see *Figure 5*).

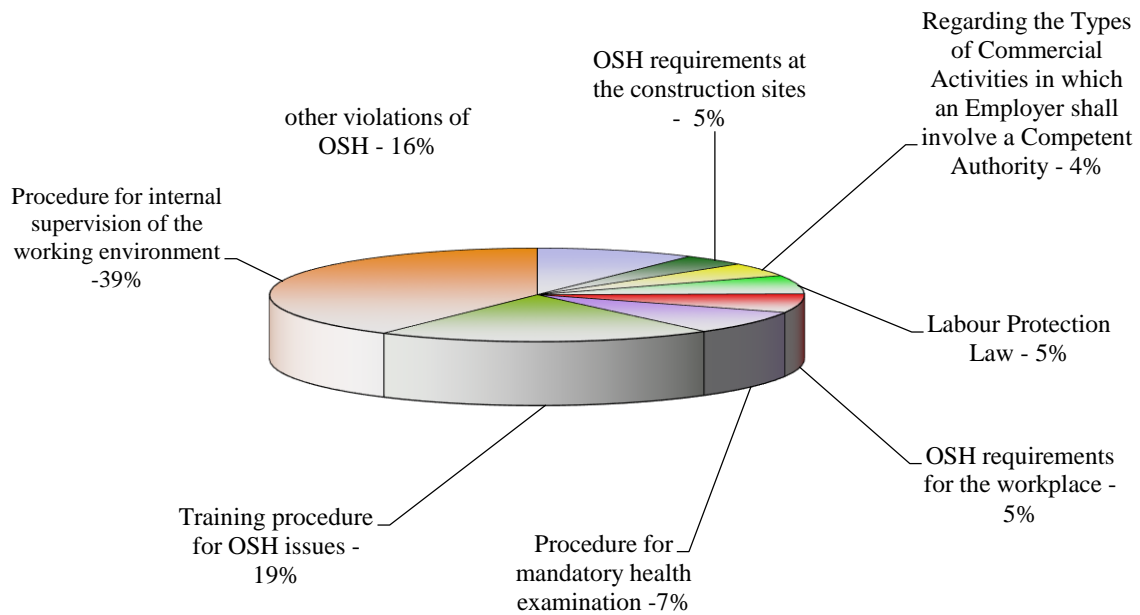


Figure 5: Distribution of violations of OSH in the issued orders in 2012

6.3. The applied penalties and their type

2 315 (in 2011 - 2 118) **administrative penalties** were imposed for violations of the legal labour relations and OSH in 2012:

- **545 warnings** (in 2011 – 553);
- **1770** (in 2011 - 1 565) **finances** – in total for **LVL 1 449 397**, including:
 - **1 474** – for violations of requirements on labour legal relations legal acts – LVL 1 332 490;
 - **296** – for violations of requirements on OSH legal acts – LVL 116 907.

Observing the principle of proportionality of administrative offence, its consequences and the amount of penalty applied, in 2012 officers of the Labour Inspection imposed 2 315 administrative penalties on employers for violations of regulatory enactments in the sphere of employment legal relations and OSH, which is by 9.3% more than in 2011. In 2012 like in two previous years, the percentage of warnings against the number of administrative penalties applied has decreased, making up 23.5% (in 2011- 26.1%) (see *Figure 6*).

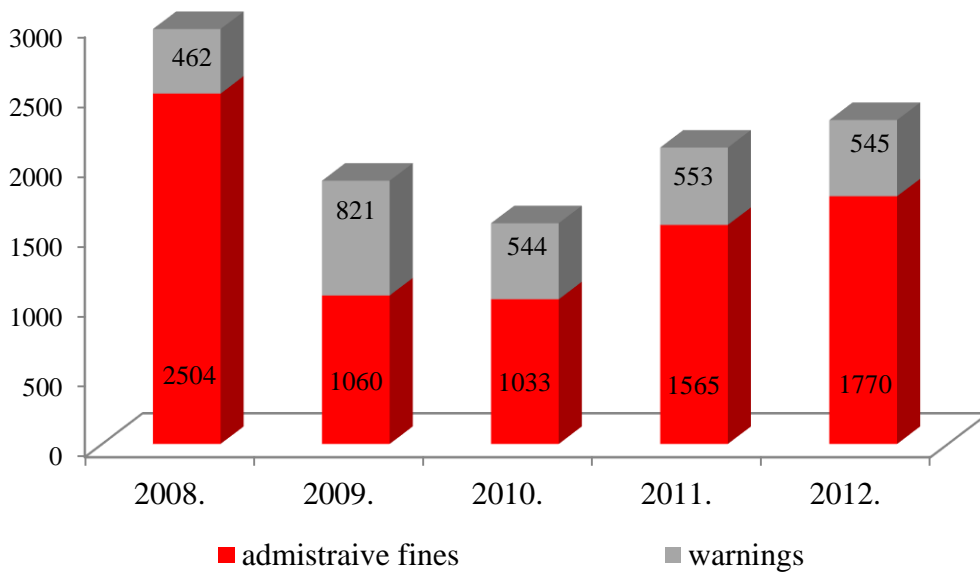


Figure 6: Structure and number of the imposed administrative fines (2008 – 2012)

During the period under review, 77.4% of the total amount of administrative penalties is imposed for violations in the sphere of labour law.

22.6% of all administrative penalties for the reporting period were applied for violations in the sphere of OSH. Compared with 2011, the number of penalties in the sphere of OSH has increased by 34.1%, however their percentage against the number of penalties applied for violations of the Labour Law has increased by 4.1%.

7. The statistical data on accidents at work

According to information, which is at the disposal of the Labour Inspection, in 2012, 1510 employees throughout the country have become victims in the accidents at work, of which 34 have deceased and 213 have suffered heavy injuries. When compared to 2011, in 2012, the total amount of the victims of accidents at work has increased by 8.1%, the amount of seriously injured has increased by 8.7%, and the amount of deceased persons has not changed (see Figure 7).

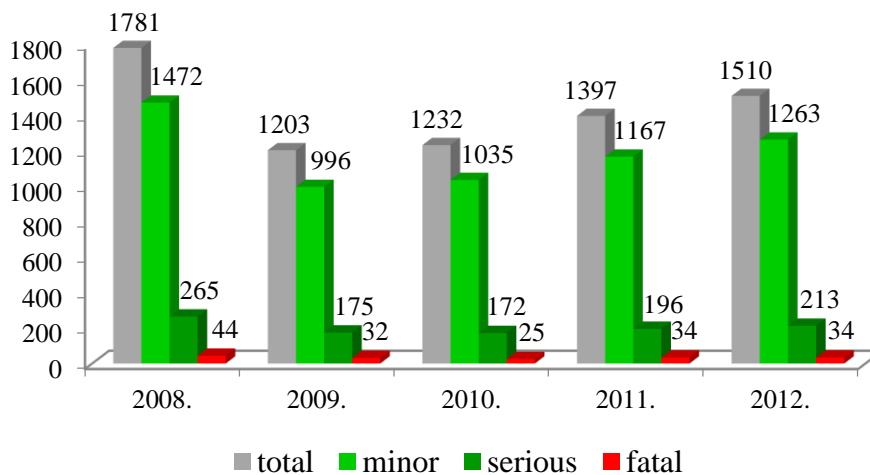


Figure 7. The dynamics of the accidents at work (2008 - 2012)

The increase of the number of accidents at work can explain by the growth of economic activities and better registration of accidents at work. Accidents at work are one of the indicators of the unsafe working environment, thus, the increased number of accidents at work in the country could also explain that both employers and employees still have a superficial and light-minded attitude towards the observance of requirements of OSH and they save funds by failing to ensure the safe working environment.

In 2012 the total number of victims of accidents at work has substantially increased per 100000 employees. In its turn, the number of fatal accidents at work has decreased per 100 000 employees compared with 2011, because the number of employees has increased in general (see *Figure 8*).

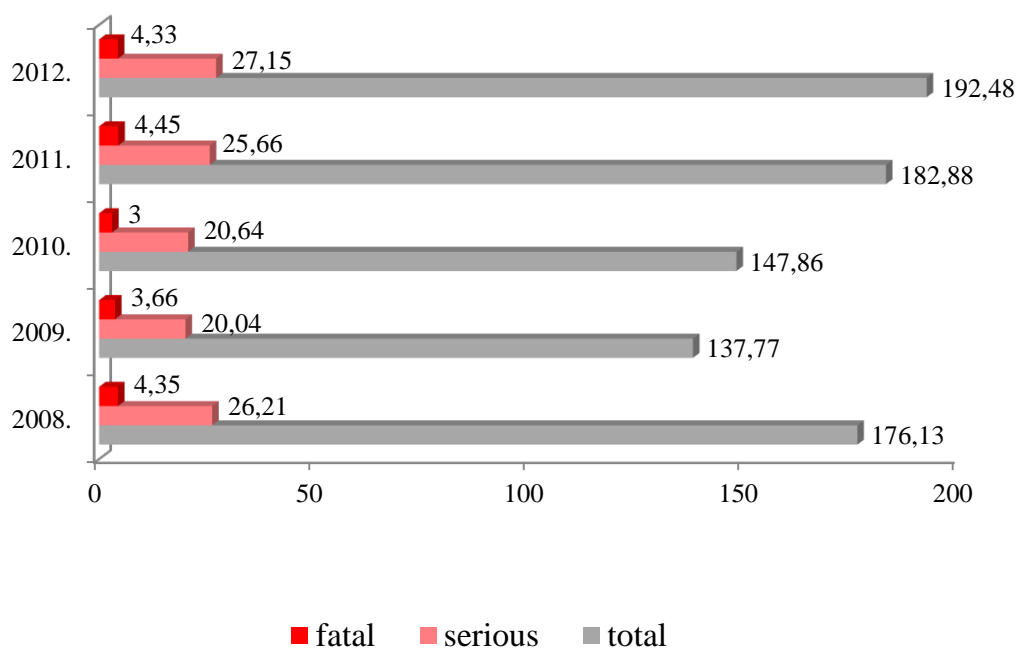


Figure 8. The accidents rates per 100 000 employees (2008 – 2012)

Analyzing the number of accidents at work according to industry it should be concluded that in 2012 the largest number of accidents at work took place in the manufacturing industry (27.3%). In its turn, the largest number of accidents in the manufacturing industry was detected in manufacture of wood – 34.1%. The total number of accidents in manufacture of wood in 2012 has decreased by 9.6% compared with 2011. The second largest number of accidents at work was registered in the transport and storage industry (14.9%). In the wholesale and retail trade industry, 12.6% of the total number of accidents at work was registered in 2012, in its turn, in construction – 11.2%. Compared with 2011, the number of accidents at work in wholesale and retail trade has increased by 29.2%, and in construction – by 22.4% (see *Table 1*).

In 2012 the largest number of fatal accidents at work took place in construction (29.4%, the total of 10 accidents), transport and storage industry (20.6%), manufacturing industry (17.6%) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (14.7%). Compared with 2011, the number of fatal accidents at work did not change. Fatal accidents at work are normally caused by several reasons and not by one factor. Analyzing fatal accidents at work reports in construction it should be stated that one of the reasons for accidents is trench borders not strengthened by protective shields, failure to provide or use personal protective equipment (anti-fall systems) and lacking control. The number of fatal accidents in the transport and storage industry has doubled. Fatal accidents in that industry mainly resulted from the road traffic accidents. It should be noted that the number of accidents in the manufacturing industry

has decreased by 5.9%. It should be particularly emphasized that the number of fatal accidents in manufacture of wood has decreased by 50%. Analyzing the results we have acquired, it can be presumed that one of the reasons, irrespective of the recovery of business, why the number of serious and fatal accidents in some industries, e.g., manufacture of wood, is decreasing or remains unchanged, could be annual thematic inspections performed by the Labour Inspection in the industry-specific companies.

More than a half of accidents at work are suffered by employees with small employment period (to 1 year – 35.6%, from 1 to 3 years – 28.1%). It should be particularly noted that 42.7% of serious and 53% of fatal accidents are suffered by employees with the employment period in the relevant job to one year. The number of fatal accidents suffered by employees, who do the relevant job for one year or less, compared with 2011, has increased by 80%. In its turn, the number of serious accidents has increased mostly in the group of employees with the employment period from 4 to 10 years (by 48.4%).

In 2012 the largest number of accidents took place, with employees falling down, including tumbling, tripping over – 32.8% accidents. 9.2% of accidents at work resulted from being struck by falling objects, 8.6% - touching sharp objects - knives, blades.

Table 1

Breakdown of accidents at work by sectors (according to NACE Classification)

	Sector	Including					
		Total		Serious		Total	
		2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
A	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING	59	60	12	12	4	5
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	8	8	2	3	1	1
C	MANUFACTURING	381	413	63	62	7	6
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	29	43	3	6	2	2
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	20	18	5	2	2	0
F	CONSTRUCTION	138	169	30	39	10	10
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	147	190	16	16	1	0
H	TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	199	226	27	30	3	7
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	36	23	0	0	0	0
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	11	9	1	1	0	0
K	FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES	7	7	1	2	0	0
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	17	26	1	5	0	1
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	5	4	0	0	0	1
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	36	32	3	7	0	0
O	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENCE; COMPULSORY SOCIAL INSURANCE	113	77	11	7	2	0
P	EDUCATION	54	68	5	10	0	0
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	102	118	7	9	0	0
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	11	6	4	0	0	0
S	OTHER SERVICES	24	13	5	2	2	1
	Total	1397	1510	196	213	34	34

In 2012, accidents at work were mostly due to unsure human action (69.6%). Unsure human action was the reason for fatal accidents in 33.9% of cases. It should be particularly emphasized that 19 (8.2%) serious accidents and 8 (23.5%) fatal accidents were suffered by employees in the state of alcoholic intoxication. Compared with 2011, the percentage of cases referred to above has increased by 50%. 9.3% of accidents at work took place due to the work organized improperly and related shortcomings. 73% of serious and 59% of fatal accidents were caused by insufficient control and dissatisfactory instructing and training of employees. Unsafe conditions at the workplace (lack of safety facilities, damaged equipment, tools, unsatisfactory order at the workplace, etc.) as a reason for accidents were detected in 6.6% of accidents, of which – 10.8% are serious accidents and 10.7% are fatal accidents (see *Table 2*).

Table 2

Breakdown of accidents by accident causes

	Causes of accidents at work	Total		Including			
		Total		Serious		Fatal	
		2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
1	Unsatisfactory conditions at workplace	127	119	43	35	7	6
2	Unsure human action (action/person)	1056	1248	139	189	26	19
3	Work organization and related shortcomings	186	167	80	67	23	23
4	Violation of road traffic rules	90	77	10	13	1	1
5	Violence (attacks)	91	79	3	3	1	2
6	Others	124	95	14	16	3	5
	Total	1674	1785	289	323	61	56

Having analyzed occupations of the victims of accidents at work in 2012 (see *Table 3*) can be concluded, that the majority of the victims are people, who are qualified workers and craftspeople (people employed in metalworking, mechanical engineering, as well as in the spheres related thereto), workers employed in ordinary professions (people employed in construction, production and transportation), and operators of equipment and machinery and product assemblers (drivers of self-propelled machines and equipment, operators of elevator machines and equipment).

Table 3

Breakdown of accident victims by occupations classification

	Occupation	Total		Including			
		Total		Serious		Fatal	
		2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
01	MANAGERS	39	39	7	9	0	2
02	SENIOR SPECIALISTS	97	117	13	7	0	1
03	SPECIALISTS	140	139	17	18	1	2
04	OFFICE WORKERS	76	85	5	5	1	1
05	SERVICE AND TRADE EMPLOYEES	176	183	10	16	1	1
06	QUALIFIED AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY WORKERS	25	24	4	4	3	4
07	QUALIFIED WORKERS AND CRAFTSMEN	303	372	54	64	13	8
08	EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE OPERATORS AND ARTICLE ASSEMBLERS	242	272	39	46	8	9
09	ORDINARY PROFESSIONS	299	279	47	44	7	6
	Total	1397	1510	196	213	34	34

8. Statistical data on occupational diseases

The Labour Inspection participates in the investigation of cases of occupational diseases, preparing workplace hygienic descriptions (WHD) at the enterprises with business activities on the basis of requests from the Occupational Disease Medical Commission of the Occupational and Radiological Medicine Centre of Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital and from occupational physicians.

In 2012, the Labour Inspection officials have prepared 647 workplaces hygienic descriptions (see *Figure 9*).

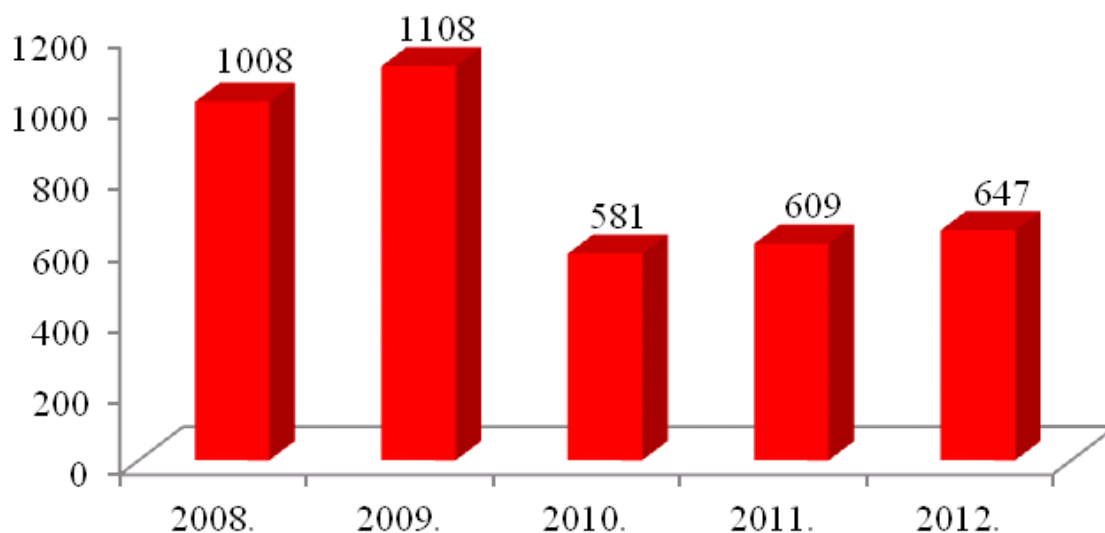


Figure 9: Prepared of workplaces hygienic descriptions (2008 – 2012)

When compared to 2011, in 2012, the amount of first-time confirmed victims of occupational diseases per 100 000 employees has decreased - by 3.4% (see *Figure 10*).

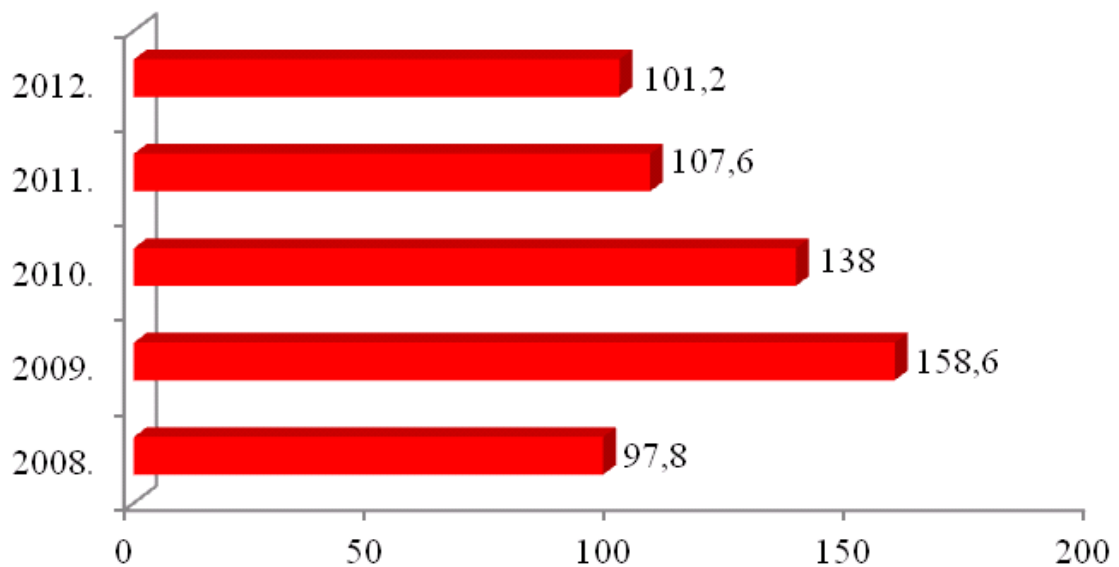


Figure 10: The first-time confirmed occupational diseases patients per 100 000 workers (2008 - 2012)

Occupational diseases established most often in respect of the first-time approved occupational disease patients remained unchanged for the period of five years. Most often diseases are nervous system diseases – 50.3%, diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue – 21.2% and injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (e.g., vibration disease, etc.) – 18.7%. The percentage of approved nervous system diseases in 2012, compared with 2011, has increased by 15.6%, in its turn, diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue – by 14.9%. While the percentage of approved occupational diseases caused by injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes has decreased by 33.7% (see Table 4).

Most often occupational diseases are caused by bio-mechanic factors (e.g., awkward work postures, carrying heavy objects, physical overload) – 75.2% and physical factors (e.g., noise, vibration, etc.) – 19.9%. Compared with 2011, in 2012 the prevalence of such approved occupational diseases as being caused by bio-mechanic factors has increased considerably – by 57.5%.

Table 4

Groups of occupational diseases according to the 10th International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)

Code	Group of occupational diseases	2011	2012
A00-B99	Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	5	3
C00-D48	Neoplasms (malignant and pre-cancer diseases)	7	1
F00-F99	Mental and behavioural disorders	2	2
G00-G99	Diseases of the nervous system	346	400
H00-H59	Diseases of the eye and adnexa	1	0
H60-H95	Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	24	31
I00-I99	Diseases of the circulatory system	3	9
J00-J99	Diseases of the respiratory system	55	26
L00-L99	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	3	4
M00-M99	Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	147	169

Code	Group of occupational diseases	2011	2012
R00-R99	Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	4	0
S00-T98	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	225	149
	Total	822	794

Industries, in which first-time occupational disease patients are mostly approved, remain unchanged for five years consecutively (see *Table 5*). The largest number of the first-time approved occupational disease patients is in the manufacturing industry – 24.4% (194 occupational disease patients), in transport and storage industry – 18.1% (144) and in human health and social work activities – 14.6% (116).

The number of the first-time approved occupational disease patients has considerably increased in such industries as electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (by 53.8%); in the wholesale and retail trade (by 30.1%), in the public administration and defense (by 32.2%).

Table 5

**Breakdown of occupational patients by sectors
(NACE classification)**

	Sector	2011	2012
A	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING	40	35
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	7	1
C	MANUFACTURING	196	194
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	13	20
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	9	2
F	CONSTRUCTION	62	50
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	63	82
H	TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	180	144
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	25	28
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	3	3
K	FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES	2	4
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	20	22
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	3	3
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	0	3
O	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENCE; COMPULSORY SOCIAL INSURANCE	31	41
P	EDUCATION	36	32
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	116	116
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	5	4
S	OTHER SERVICES	11	10
	Total	822	794

*Table 6***Breakdown of occupational patients by occupations classification**

	Occupation	2011	2012
01	MANAGERS	14	22
02	SENIOR SPECIALISTS	65	69
03	SPECIALISTS	79	63
04	OFFICE WORKERS	25	25
05	SERVICE AND TRADE EMPLOYEES	96	115
06	QUALIFIED AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY WORKERS	7	15
07	QUALIFIED WORKERS AND CRAFTSMEN	166	159
08	EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE OPERATORS AND ARTICLE ASSEMBLERS	255	205
09	ORDINARY PROFESSIONS	112	117
10	NACIONAL ARMED FORCES OCCUPATIONS	0	1
1	LAWMAKERS, STATE OFFICIALS, PUBLIC SERVANTS IN MANAGERS POSITION AND MANAGERS	0	0
2	SENIOR SPECIALISTS	0	0
3	SPECIALISTS	0	1
4	OFFICE WORKERS	1	0
5	SERVICE AND TRADE EMPLOYEES	1	0
6	QUALIFIED AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY WORKERS	0	0
7	QUALIFIED WORKERS AND CRAFTSMEN	1	0
8	EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE OPERATORS AND ARTICLE ASSEMBLERS	0	1
9	ORDINARY PROFESSIONS	0	1
	Total	822	794

Director

Renārs Lūsis