

RSI Facts & Figures

Economic cost

- 1 in 50 (half a million) of all workers in the UK have reported an RSI condition *(Source: TUC)*
- 5.4 million working days were lost in sick leave due to RSI last year *(Source: TUC)*
- Every day, six people in the UK leave their jobs due to an RSI condition *(Source: TUC)*
- 3 out of 5 office workers in Sweden have symptoms of RSI *(Source: Buckle and Devereux, 1999)*
- 60% of Australian children using laptops in school experience discomfort *(Source: Straker, 1999)*
- 40% of Dutch university students have an RSI condition *(Source: Argos & Dutch RSI Association, Netherlands, 2002)*
- Dealing with the impact of RSI conditions accounts for between 0.5% and 2% of gross national income *(Source: Buckle and Devereux, 1999)*
- The cost to UK industry is likely to be between £5 billion and £20 billion annually *(Source: estimate based on Buckle and Devereux, 1999)*
- One large employer found that the average cost of retiring an employee on medical grounds was £40,000 *(Source: Employers' Forum on Disability)*

Benefits of intervention

- Research in the US has shown that for every dollar invested in an ergonomics intervention strategy (e.g. RSI prevention), in an office environment, there is a return of \$17.80. *(Source: Buckle 1999)*
- Organisations that employ strategies to improve work-place ergonomics have found that musculoskeletal-disorders (resulting in lost work time) were 3 times less likely to occur. *(Source: Schneider 1998)*
- Where employees thought that management showed understanding about balancing work and family responsibilities, encouraged skill development, involved them and treated them fairly, they were much more likely to be satisfied. *(Source: Mark Cully et al, 1999)*

Workplace concerns: percentage of employers concerned about upper limb disorders in the workplace

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| • London, 36% | • Midlands, 38% |
| • North West, 40% | • Northern, 34% |
| • South East, 35% | • Yorkshire and Humberside, 38% |
| • Scotland, 31% | • Wales, 38% |

(Source: TUC Safety Rep Survey 2003)