

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)