



Home Office



Fire statistics monitor: April to September 2016

Statistical Bulletin 07/17

18 May 2017

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1 Key facts

The most recent statistics for fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England cover April to September 2016 and show:

- There were **288,000 incidents attended** by FRSs in April to September 2016. This was six per cent more than the same six months in 2015 (271,000). This increase was mainly driven by a 23 per cent increase in attendance at non-fire incidents.
- There were **85,000 non-fire incidents** attended by FRSs in April to September 2016. This was 23 per cent more than in the corresponding period in 2015 (69,000).
- The **87,000 fires** attended by FRSs between April and September 2016 were seven per cent less than for the corresponding period in 2015 (94,000).
- The **38,000 primary fires** (fires affecting people or property) between April and September 2016 was one per cent more than the corresponding period in 2015.
- There were **88 fire-related fatalities** between April and September 2016. This compared with 141 between April and September 2015.
- There were **1,570 non-fatal casualties** in fires requiring hospital treatment between April and September 2016, a seven per cent decrease compared with the corresponding period in 2015 (1,693).

2 Introduction

This Fire statistics monitor focuses on trends in fires, fire-related fatalities and casualties, false alarms and non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs), in England, for the first two quarters of the financial year 2016/17 (April to September).

Each time a FRS attends an incident in England, details of that incident are uploaded to the Home Office's Incident Recording System (IRS) by the FRS. The IRS is used as the source for all the statistics in this publication. More information on the IRS can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities

The IRS is a continually updated database, with FRSs adding incidents on a daily basis. The figures in this release refer to records of incidents that occurred up to 30 September 2016 that had reached the IRS by 4 January 2017 when the database was "frozen" for the purpose of analysis.

Because of the dataset being "frozen" on 4 January 2017 the statistics published may not match those held locally by FRSs and revisions may occur in the future. This can be particularly apparent for statistics with small numbers, such as fire-related fatalities.

This publication is accompanied by reference data tables. All fire statistics tables can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables

The following tables have been updated as part of this publication:

Incidents attended: 0102

Fatalities and casualties: 0502

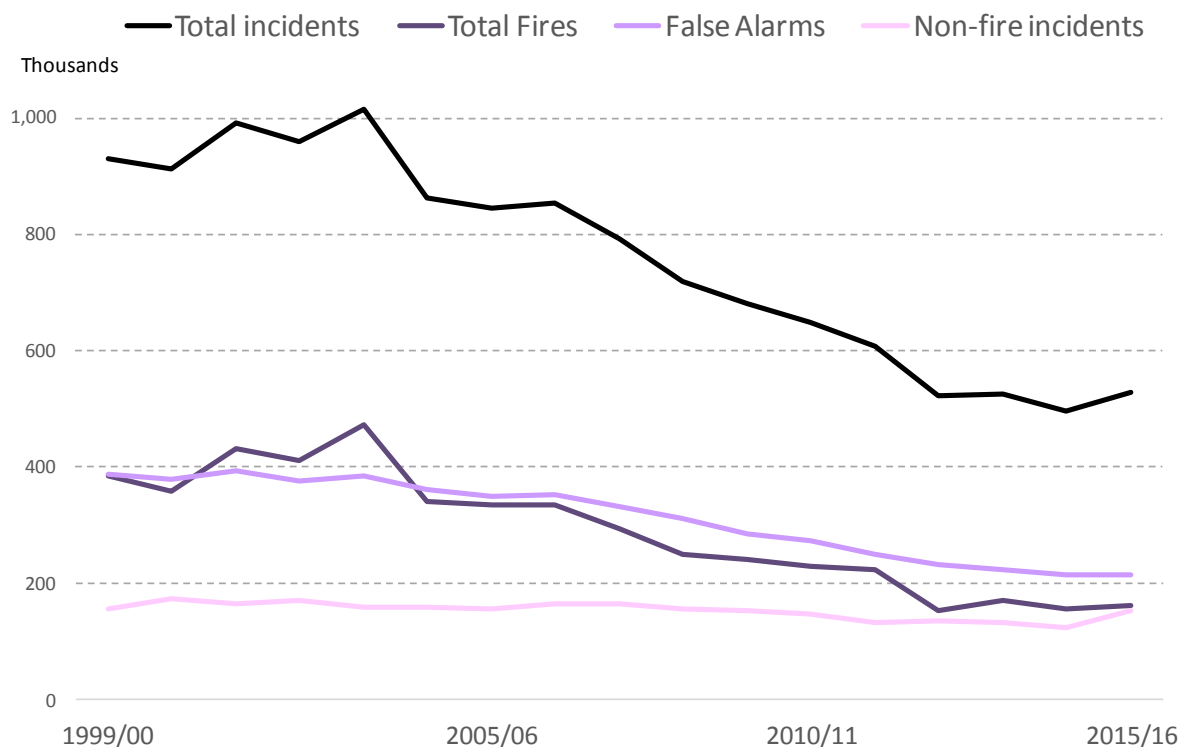
Deliberate fires: 0401, 0402

3 All incidents attended

Annual long term trends

The number of incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England peaked in 2003/04, at over one million incidents. For a decade, there was a general decline in all three categories of incidents (fires, false alarms and non-fire incidents) attended and by 2014/15 there were under half a million incidents attended. The figure then increased by seven per cent to 529,000 in 2015/16.

Figure 3.1 Total incidents attended and type of incident, England; 1999/00 to 2015/16 (annual data)



Source: Table FIRE0102

Recent quarterly statistics

The most recent results show that the upturn in total fires in 2015/16 has not continued in the first two quarters of 2016/17, however the increase in non-fire incidents continued. On a quarter-by-quarter basis the number of incidents can fluctuate due to a number of reasons, including the weather, local policy changes and regulatory changes. For example, in recent quarters the number of non-fire incidents has been heavily influenced by FRSs attending more medical incidents. It should be noted that quarters one and two often have the highest total number of incidents in the year, driven by higher levels of outdoor fires.

All incidents

- There were 288,000 incidents attended by FRSs in April to September 2016. This was six per cent more than the same six months in 2015 (271,000). This increase was mainly due to a 23 per cent increase in attendance at non-fire incidents.
- The number of incidents attended by FRSs in July to September 2016, 152,000, was the highest quarterly figure recorded since the 2011/12 Q2 figure of 162,000. This quarter often has the highest quarterly figure across a year.

Fires

- The number of fires attended by FRSs between April and September 2016 (87,000) was seven per cent less than corresponding period in 2015 (94,000).
- The number of primary fires (fires affecting people or property) between April and September 2016 (38,000) was one per cent more than the corresponding period in 2015 (38,000).

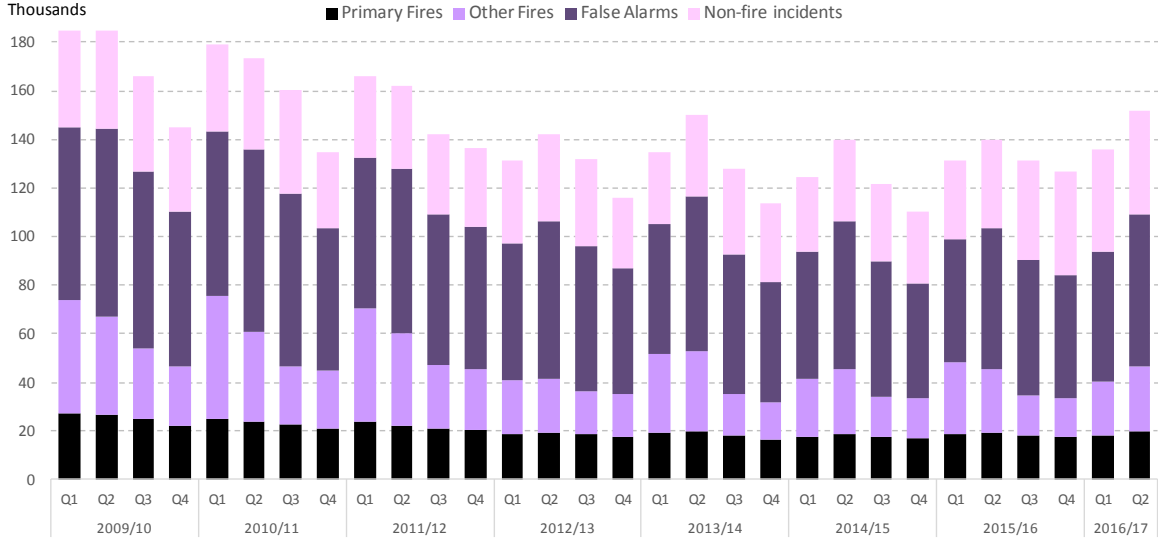
Non-fire incidents

- There were 85,000 non-fire incidents attended by FRSs in April to September 2016. This was 23 per cent more than in the corresponding period in 2015 (69,000).
- Four of the five highest quarterly figures for non-fire incidents since 2009/10 (when quarterly detail became available) occurred in the latest four quarters. This reflects the recent increases in the number of medical co-responding incidents attended by FRSs.

Fire false alarms

- The number of fire false alarms between April and September 2016 (116,000) increased by seven per cent compared with the corresponding period in 2015 (109,000).
- The increase in fire false alarms in April to September 2016 compared with the same six months in 2015 was almost entirely due to an increase in fire false alarms 'due to apparatus'. Over this time the number of fire false alarms increased by ten per cent, while 'good intent' fire false alarms and 'malicious' fire false alarm were both virtually unchanged.

Figure 3.2 Total incidents attended by type of incident, England; 2009/10 to 2016/17 (quarterly data)



Source: Table FIRE0102

4 Fire-related fatalities and casualties

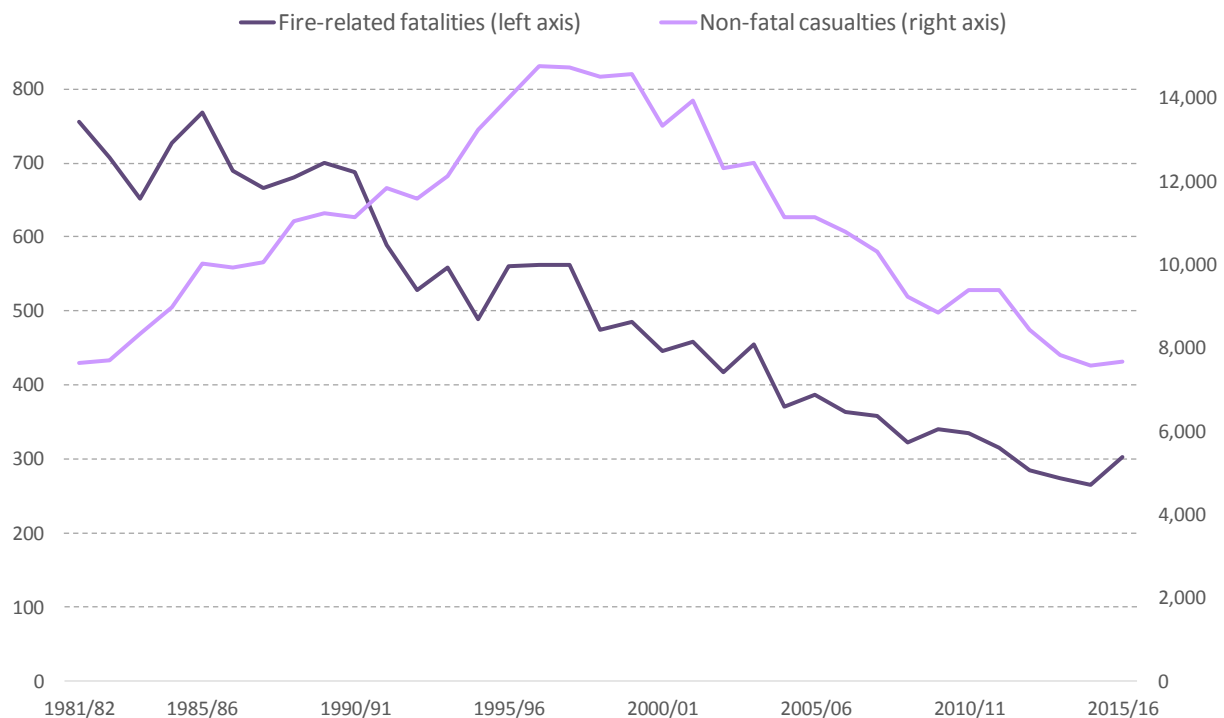
The Incident Recording System (IRS) is a continually updated database, with fire and rescue services (FRSs) adding incidents on a daily basis. The figures in this release refer to records of incidents that occurred up to September 2016 that had reached the IRS by 4th January 2017 when the database was “frozen” for the purpose of analysis.

Annual long term trends

The number of fire-related fatalities¹ in England has been on a downward trend since 1981/82 when comparable figures first became available. In 1981/82 there were 755 fire-related fatalities, by 2014/15 this figure had decreased to 264 – a decrease of 65 per cent over 33 years. In 2015/16 this figure showed a 15 per cent increase to 303.

The number of non-fatal casualties² in fires (whether fire-related or not) in England has been on a downward trend since the mid-1990s. In 1996/97, there were 14,783 non-fatal casualties, by 2014/15 this figure had decreased to 7,590 – a fall of almost a half in 19 years. In 2015/16 this figure increased to 7,661.

Figure 4.1 Total fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, England; 1981/82 to 2015/16 (annual data)



Source: Table FIRE0502

¹ Excludes fatalities marked as not fire-related but includes fatalities where the nature (fire-related or not) is recorded as not-known. Fire related deaths are those that would not have otherwise occurred had there not been a fire.

² For more detailed technical definitions of fire-related non-fatal casualties, see the [Fire Statistics Definitions document](#). A further breakdown of the different types of non-fatal casualties are available in the published data tables.

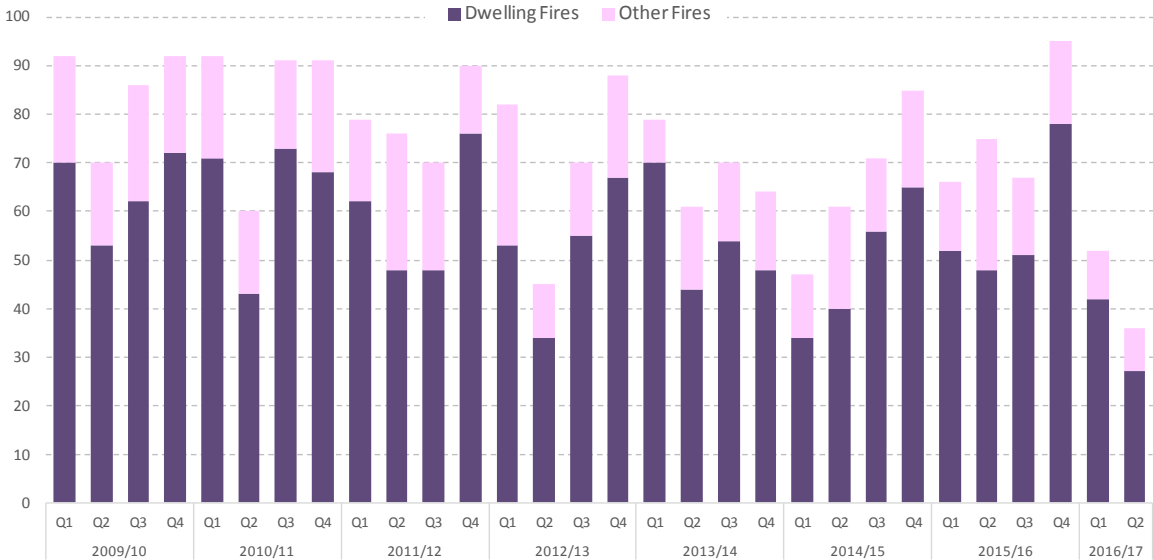
Recent quarterly statistics

The most recent results show that the upturn in fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties in 2015/16 has not continued in the first two quarters of 2016/17. Overall there were 88 fire-related fatalities in April to September 2016, compared with 141 in the corresponding period in 2015. On a quarter-by-quarter basis the number of fire-related fatalities and casualties in fires can fluctuate because the numbers are relatively small (especially for fire-related fatalities).

Fire-related fatalities

- There were 88 fire-related fatalities between April and September 2016. This compared with 141 between April and September 2015.
- There were 36 fire-related fatalities in July to September 2016, the lowest quarterly figure recorded since 2009/10 (when quarterly data became available). Note that quarterly figures can fluctuate because the numbers are relatively small.

Figure 4.2 Total fire-related fatalities by location group, England; 2009/10 to 2016/17 (quarterly data)



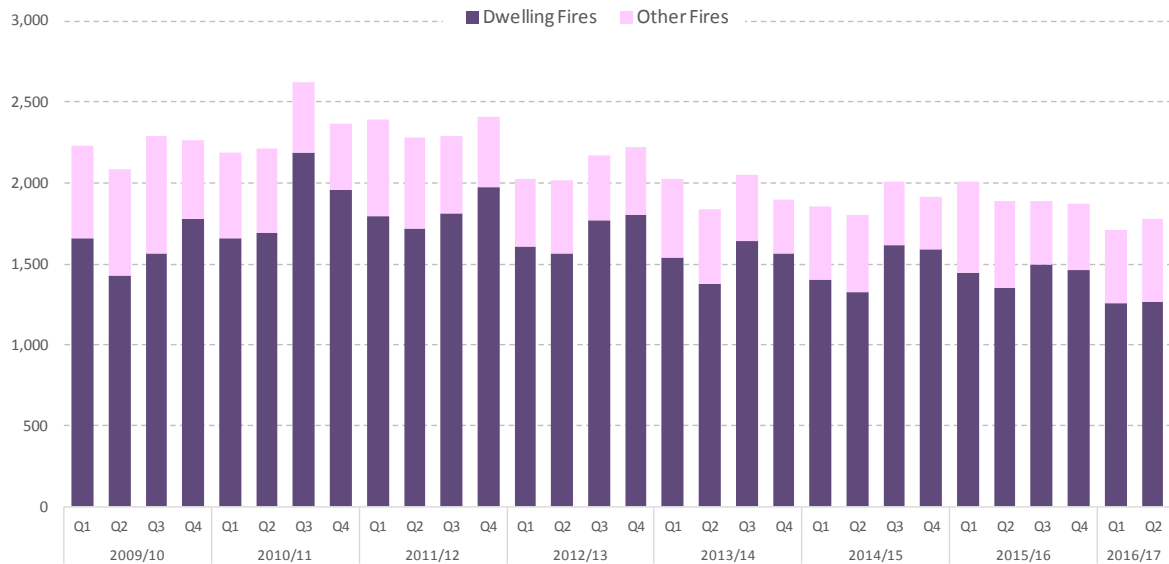
Source: Table FIRE0502

Non-fatal casualties

- There were 3,496 non-fatal casualties in fires (whether fire-related or not) between April and September 2016, a ten per cent decrease compared with the corresponding period in 2015 (3,898).
- There were 1,570 non-fatal casualties in fires requiring hospital treatment between April and September 2016, a seven per cent decrease compared with the corresponding period in 2015 (1,693).

- There were 1,714 and 1,782 non-fatal casualties in fires in April to June 2016 and July to September 2016 respectively, the two lowest quarterly figures recorded since 2009/10 (when quarterly data became available).

Figure 4.3 Total non-fatal casualties by location group, England; 2009/10 to 2016/17 (quarterly data)



Source: Table FIRE0502

5 Further information

This release contains statistics about incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England. The statistics are sourced from the Home Office's online Incident Recording System (IRS), which allows fire and rescue services to complete an online incident form for every incident attended, be it a fire, a false alarm or a special service (i.e. other) incident. The online IRS was introduced in April 2009, previously paper forms were submitted by FRSs and an element of sampling was involved in the data compilation process.

Fire statistics monitor and other Home Office statistical releases are available from the [Statistics at Home Office](#) pages on the GOV.UK website. The dates of forthcoming fire and other Home Office publications are pre-announced and can be found via the [Statistical: Release calendar](#). For further information about the statistics in this publication, email firestatistics@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Data tables linked to this release and all other fire statistics releases can be found on the Home Office's 'Fire statistics data tables' page. The sections above state the most relevant tables for each section. The tables can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>

Guidance for using these statistics and other fire statistics outputs can be found on the fire statistics collection page, found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics>

The information published in this release is kept under review, taking into account the needs of users, burdens on suppliers and producers, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Feedback on the changes detailed below, and proposals for future changes, are welcome. If you have any comments, suggestions or enquiries, please contact the team via email using firestatistics@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or via the user feedback form on the [fire statistics collection page](#).

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Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Chief Statistician's Unit under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics>

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