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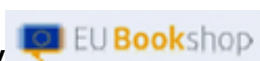
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## Factsheet 10 - Work-related low back disorders



Work-related low back disorders, covering both low back pain and low back injuries, are a significant and increasing problem in Europe. This fact sheet highlights the key findings of an Agency report on the prevalence, origins, work-related risk factors and effective prevention strategies for low back disorders. The report is limited to low back disorders although some of the findings may be applicable to other types of work-related back problems.

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**Karen Oude Hengel, Linda**

**Drupsteen, TNO, the Netherlands**

Prolonging working careers is a major challenge for industries where physical work demands are high, such as in the

construction industry. Compared with other industries, those with high physical work demands show higher ageing and higher shrinking rates of the working population . The early retirement age among construction workers can mainly be explained by the fact that these workers run an increased risk for a lower work ability as well as a lower health status. Insights into [health problems](#) at the worksite, and effective measures regarding these problems, are helpful for prolonging the working careers of construction workers.

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