

Occupational Health - UK - June 2015

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“Many businesses still view occupational health as an uncertain investment in improving business performance, but the case for investing in OH has never been greater. Absenteeism costs the UK economy up to £31 billion a year, with the average UK worker taking an estimated 4.5 days off sick annually according to LFS data.”
 – Lewis Cone, B2B Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- What are the key determinants driving the occupational health industry?
- Was the industry affected by the financial crisis and the slow recovery? If so, how has it developed and changed since?
- How have government schemes influenced market demand and supply?
- How has the provision of occupational health services changed over recent times?
- What are the key issues that the industry needs to address to expand its service?
- What does the future hold for occupational health services?

The UK has emerged from the financial crisis with one of the strongest growing economies in the developed world, allowing unemployment to fall to a six-year low of 5.7% by the end of 2014. The higher amount of people in work coincided with the launch of the Fit for Work service nationally back in May, which aims to reduce the burden of sickness absence from the workplace and spending on health-related benefit claims. The service will provide another means of increasing company awareness of available occupational health initiatives and schemes, alongside the growing emergence of studies that show it can reduce companies' financial costs. However, with SMEs accounting for a large majority of businesses in the UK, the four-week component of the FfW service could present an entry barrier as they are more likely to need greater support to withstand that length of absence. Employees will also play a role in the development of the market as they must make their employers aware of potential health issues that could be helped by specific OH services, rather than employer-perceived OH services considered most effective.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market

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Lack of clarity on the true value of the costs of workplace ill-health is still a large barrier to market development

The ageing working population will change the nature of ill-health in the workplace

Low supply of suitably qualified occupational health professionals amid lack of incentives to enter the profession

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In 2015, the value of the UK occupational health market is forecast to increase by 4.4% at 2014 prices before demonstrating marginally stronger growth until 2019

Mental ill-health and stress continues to occur in the workplace

Technological advancements will help improve the base of occupational health networks and enable the formation of treatment

benchmarks

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Which factors are driving industry growth?

What kind of impact has legislation had on the market?

What are the implications of growth in the market? Will these barriers reduce future development?

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British Occupational Hygiene Society

British Safety Council

Commercial Occupational Health Providers Association

Employee Assistance Professionals Association

Health and Safety Executive

Independent Safety Consultants Association

Institute of Occupational Medicine

Institution of Occupational Safety and Health

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

The Safety Assessment Federation

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