

September 2024

Key Work Health and Safety Statistics Australia

2024

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Your Stories.**

Key Work Health and Safety Statistics Australia

2024



In Australia, the safety of work has improved significantly over time.

Australia's current work-related injury rate of 3.5% – that is, the proportion of people who experienced a work-related injury or illness in the previous 12 months – is roughly one-third the global rate of 12.1%.¹

However, there are still too many injuries and illnesses arising from work.

Over the past 10 years, there have been more than 1,880 traumatic injury fatalities in Australian workplaces, and over 1,165,100 workers have made a serious workers' compensation claim involving more than one week of working time lost.

All workers have the right to a healthy and safe working environment, yet work-related injuries and illnesses can occur in any industry or occupation, and the impacts are felt by us all – workers, their families and the community.

Findings from Safe Work Australia's research, [Safer, healthier, wealthier](#), show that, in the absence of work-related injuries and illnesses, on average each year Australia's economy would be \$28.6 billion larger, 185,500 additional full-time equivalent jobs would be created, and workers across all occupations and skill levels would benefit from an average wage rise of 1.3%.

The benefits of reduced worker injuries, illnesses and fatalities are clear, however the challenges to overcome are significant. According to the latest *Key Work Health and Safety Statistics 2024*:

- 76% of work-related traumatic injury fatalities and 61% of serious workers' compensation claims occurred in just 6 industries:
 - Agriculture, forestry and fishing
 - Public administration and safety
 - Transport, postal and warehousing
 - Manufacturing
 - Health care and social assistance, and
 - Construction.
- Vehicle incidents continue to account for the largest proportion of worker fatalities (42%; 84 fatalities). This is followed by Falls from a height (15%; 29 fatalities), which have increased significantly since the previous year (from 17 fatalities; increasing 71%).
- 80% of all serious claims involve Body stressing, Falls, slips and trips, Being hit by moving objects, or Mental stress.
- Claims for Mental health conditions continued to increase in 2022-2023p, and now account for 11% of all serious claims. The median time lost from work in these cases is more than 5 times that recorded across all injuries/diseases.

This report provides a snapshot of the latest WHS data, so we can work together towards safer and healthier work for all.



Work-related injury fatalities

Safe Work Australia compiles the Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities dataset, which provides national statistics on all workers and bystanders fatally injured at work.

The statistics represent people who die from an injury sustained in the course of a work activity (worker fatalities) in Australian territories or territorial seas.

This dataset draws on a range of information sources, including:

- reporting of fatalities in the media or on relevant authority websites such as police, road authorities and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau
- notifications to Safe Work Australia from jurisdictional authorities, and
- the National Coronial Information System which contains coroners', police and other investigative reports.

Work-related fatalities resulting from diseases, natural causes and suicides are excluded. Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [About our datasets](#) page of the interactive data website.

More data is available through our [work-related fatalities interactive data dashboard](#).

200

worker fatalities

1.4

deaths per 100,000 workers



19%

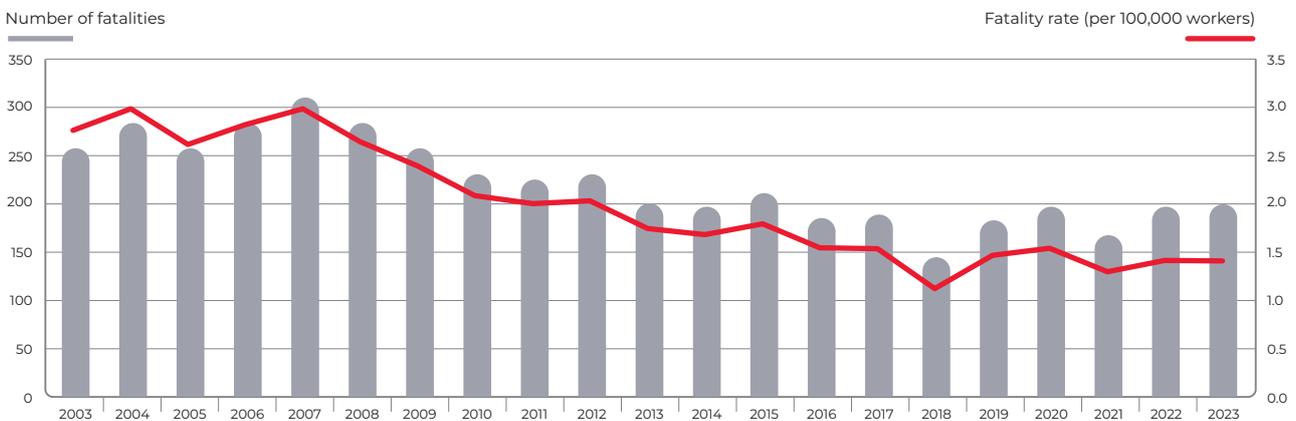
decrease in fatality rate since 2013

In 2023, there were 200 workers who died from traumatic injuries while working.

While the number of fatalities was 5% higher than the 5-year average of 191 workers per year (between 2019 to 2023), the fatality rate was consistent with the 5-year average (1.4 fatalities per 100,000 workers).

Since 2013, the fatality rate has decreased 19% (from 1.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers) however this has remained relatively steady in recent years.

Trends in worker fatalities, 2003 to 2023



Note: Historical data are updated as additional information from finalised coroners' reports and workers' compensation claims becomes available.
¹The 'fatality rate' is defined as the number of traumatic injury fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Work-related fatalities – Demographics

Worker fatalities by sex, 2023*



male

189

Worker fatalities (count)

95%

Worker fatalities (%)

2.6

Fatality rate (per 100,000 workers)



female

10

5%

0.1

The vast majority of workers killed from work-related activities are men (95%; 189 fatalities in 2023).

Men also have a significantly higher fatality rate than women (2.6 fatalities per 100,000 workers).

* data excludes 1 worker fatality where sex was unknown.

Worker fatalities by age group, 2023*

Age group	Fatalities	Fatality rate (per 100,000 workers)
Under 25	27	1.2
25-34	29	0.9
35-44	35	1.1
45-54	38	1.4
55-64	40	1.9
65 and over	27	3.9

In 2023, workers aged 45 and over accounted for over half (54%) of all worker fatalities recorded.

Workers aged 65 and over had the highest fatality rate at 3.9 fatalities per 100,000 workers (nearly 3 times the overall worker fatality rate of 1.4 fatalities per 100,000 workers).

Workers aged 25-34 had the lowest fatality rate (0.9 fatalities per 100,000 workers), followed by workers aged 35-44 (1.1 fatalities per 100,000 workers).

* data excludes 4 worker fatalities where age is unknown.

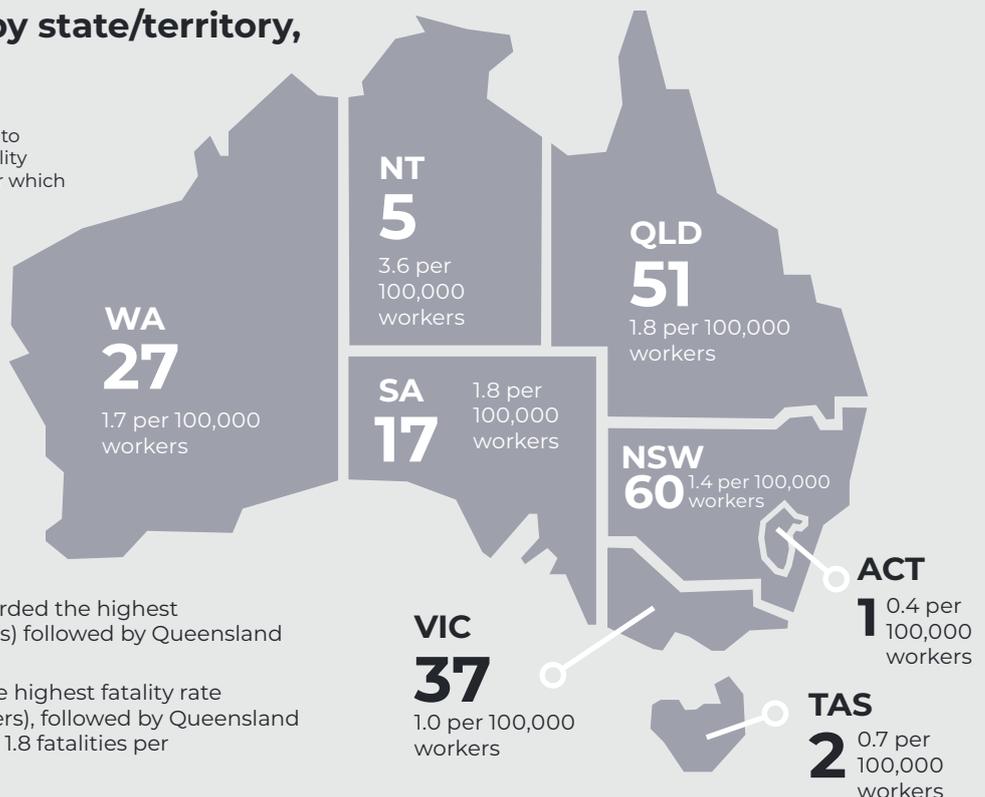
Worker fatalities by state/territory, 2023*

* fatalities are presented according to the state or territory where the fatality occurred, not the jurisdiction under which the fatality fell.

Australian total:

200

1.4 per 100,000 workers

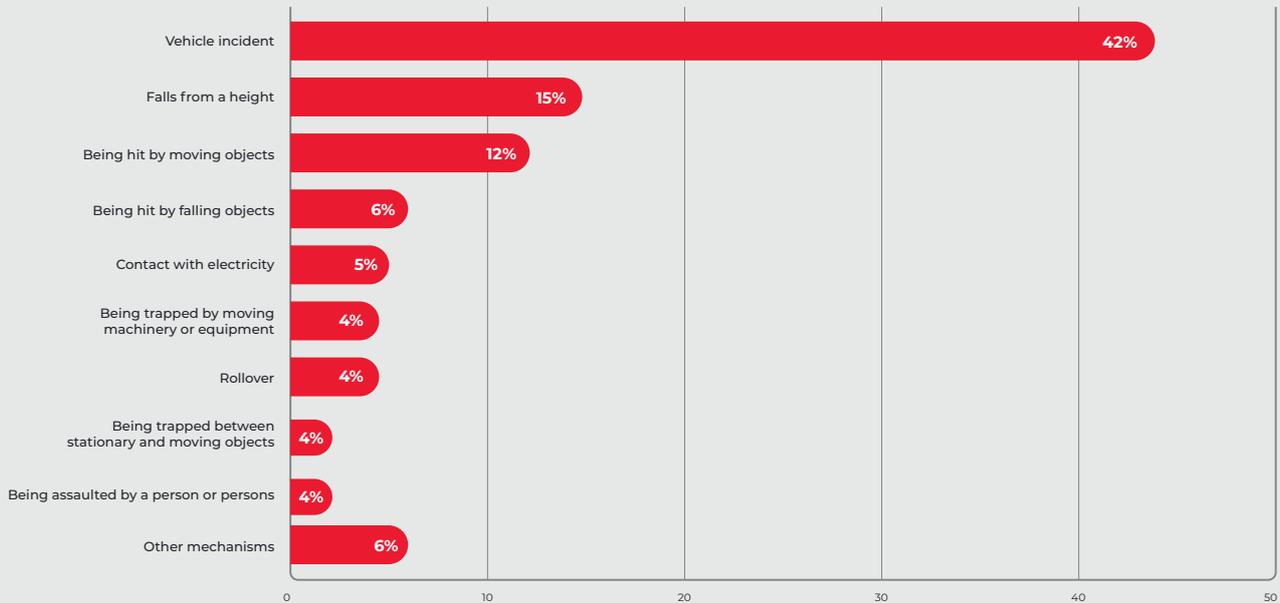


In 2023, New South Wales recorded the highest number of fatalities (60 workers) followed by Queensland (51 workers).

Northern Territory recorded the highest fatality rate (3.6 fatalities per 100,000 workers), followed by Queensland and South Australia (each with 1.8 fatalities per 100,000 workers).

Work-related fatalities – Mechanism

Worker fatalities by most common mechanism of incident, 2023



The mechanism of incident refers to the overall action, exposure or event that describes the circumstances that resulted in a worker fatality.

Vehicle incidents (84 workers; 42%) and Being hit by moving objects (24 workers; 12%) accounted for more than half (54%) of all worker fatalities in 2023.

Vehicle incident includes incidents where an occupant of a vehicle is killed following a collision with another vehicle or a stationary object. Vehicles include not only road vehicles such as cars and trucks, but also machines such as aircraft, boats, loaders, tractors and quad bikes.

Being hit by moving objects includes fatalities involving workers on foot being hit by vehicles, as well as being hit by other moving equipment or objects.

Data spotlight: Falls from a height

The number of deaths due to Falls from a height increased in 2023 and was the second highest contributor of worker fatalities overall.

29 worker fatalities (15%) were attributable to the mechanism of incident Falls from a height in 2023.

This is 32% higher than the 5-year average of 22 worker fatalities per year (2019 to 2023).

45% (13) of Falls from a height worker deaths in 2023 occurred within the Construction industry.

This was followed by worker deaths in the Arts and recreation services, Mining, and Transport, postal and warehousing industries, with 10% (3) worker fatalities occurring in each of those industries in 2023.

Nearly 80% of workers who died due to Falls from a height were Labourers (41%, 12), Technician and trades workers (21%, 6) or Machinery operator and drivers (17%, 5) in 2023.

Worker fatalities – Occupation



Machinery operators and drivers

8.3

fatalities per 100,000 workers.



Labourers

4.4

fatalities per 100,000 workers.



Technicians and trades workers

1.4

fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Worker fatalities by occupation, 2023

Occupation	Fatalities (count)	Fatalities (rate)
Machinery operators and drivers	73	8.3
Labourers	53	4.4
Technicians and trades workers	27	1.4
Community and personal service workers	16	1.0
Managers	15	0.8
Professionals	12	0.3
Sales workers	2	0.2
Clerical and administrative workers	2	0.1

In 2023, Machinery operators and drivers accounted for the highest proportion of worker fatalities (37%) and also recorded the highest fatality rate at 8.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers, which was almost 6 times the overall fatality rate (1.4 fatalities per 100,000 workers).



Our Data. Your Stories.

Stay informed – use Our Data. Your Stories. – to find and explore WHS data relevant to your industry and workplace. Your research might help prevent serious injuries at work.

data.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

Worker fatalities – Industry



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

9.2

fatalities per 100,000 workers.



Transport, postal and warehousing

7.0

fatalities per 100,000 workers.



Construction

3.4

fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Worker fatalities by industry, 2023

Industry	Fatalities (count)	Fatalities (rate)
Transport, postal and warehousing	51	7.0
Construction	45	3.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	27	9.2
Public administration and safety	16	1.7
Manufacturing	12	1.3
Other services	8	1.5
Arts and recreation services	6	2.3
Mining	6	2.1
Accommodation and food services	5	0.5
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	4	2.5
Wholesale trade	4	1.1
Administrative and support services	4	1.0
Education and training	4	0.3
Retail trade	4	0.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	2	0.2
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1	0.5
Health care and social assistance	1	<0.1
Financial and insurance services	0	0.0
Information media and telecommunications	0	0.0

In 2023, 62% of worker fatalities occurred in 3 industries. Transport, postal and warehousing fatalities accounted for 26% (51 fatalities), followed by fatalities in the Construction industry (23%; 45 fatalities) and Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (14%; 27 fatalities). There were also some differences from the long-term average:

- the number of fatalities in the Construction industry in 2023 (45) was 36% higher than the 5-year average for this industry (33), and
- the number of fatalities in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry in 2023 (27) was 25% lower than the 5-year average (36).



Work-related injury and illness

Safe Work Australia compiles national workers' compensation statistics using data obtained from workers' compensation authorities in each state, territory and the Commonwealth government.

These data are collated into the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS), which is Safe Work Australia's primary source of information on work-related injuries and diseases. See the [NDS about data page](#) for more information.

The following insights provide a snapshot of key findings from the latest data on work-related injuries and illnesses.

More data is available through our [interactive data dashboard](#).

139,000

serious claimsⁱⁱ
(count)

10.7

incidence rateⁱⁱⁱ
(serious claims per
1,000 workers)

6.6

frequency rate^{iv}
(serious claims per
1,000,000 hours worked)

7.2 weeks

median time lost^v

\$14,400

median compensation paid^{vi}

Compared with 10 years ago (2012-13), the number of serious claims has increased by 23,700 (or 20.5%).

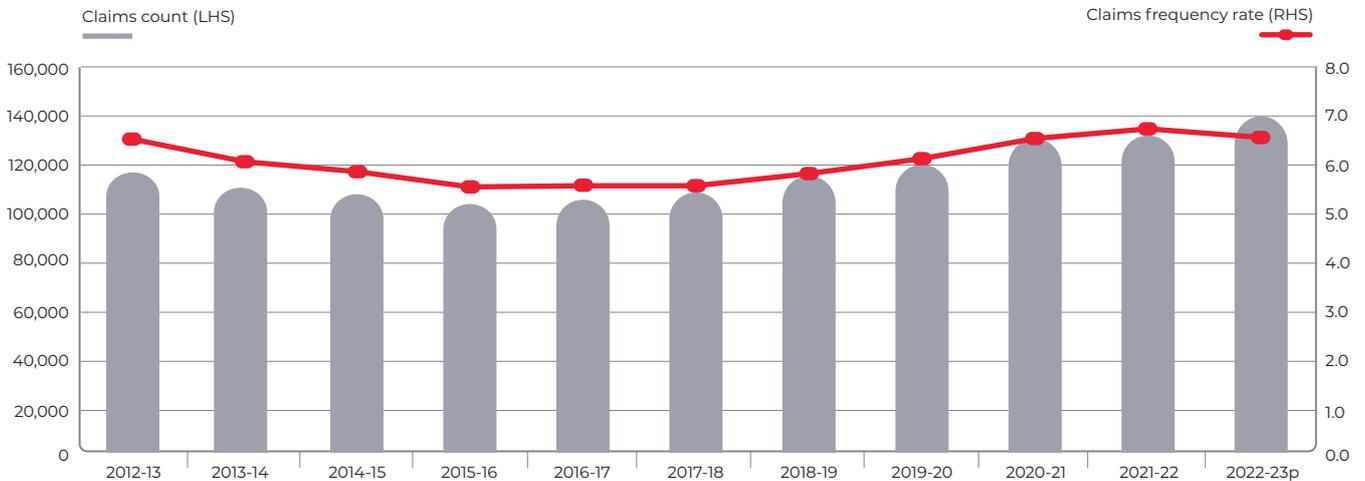
However, when accounting for changes in hours worked, over this period the serious claims frequency rate has increased only marginally, up by 0.05 claims per million hours worked (or 0.8%).

There has been considerable variability in the serious claims frequency rate over the past 10 years.

Between 2012-13 and 2015-16, sustained decreases were observed and the serious claims frequency rate fell 15.5%, however since that time this figure has been trending upwards.

More needs to be done to reduce the number of serious claims for work-related injuries and illness in Australia.

Serious claims count and frequency rate, 2012-13 to 2022-23p



In September 2023, Safe Work Australia implemented improvements to the estimates of the working population used to calculate injury rates from the National Dataset for Workers' Compensation Statistics (NDS).²

Safe Work Australia advises caution when interpreting time series changes for rates calculated from the NDS spanning the period before and after this change.



Significant time lost claims

Median time lost from work-related injuries and illnesses has been increasing over the past 10 years. One contributing factor to this trend is that the number of claims with no time lost has decreased and, at the same time, the number of claims involving a significant period of time lost (at least 13 weeks) has increased.

The significance of this trend is highlighted by the latest (non-preliminary) results. 2021-22 data show claims involving 13 weeks or more time lost from work accounted for approximately one in 5 (21.3%, or 48,600 claims) of all accepted claims, but three-quarters (75.6% or \$4.4 billion) of total compensation payments.

2012-13

37.1%

Claims with no time lost (%)

2021-22

28.8%

13.4%

Claims with 13 weeks or more time lost (%)

21.3%

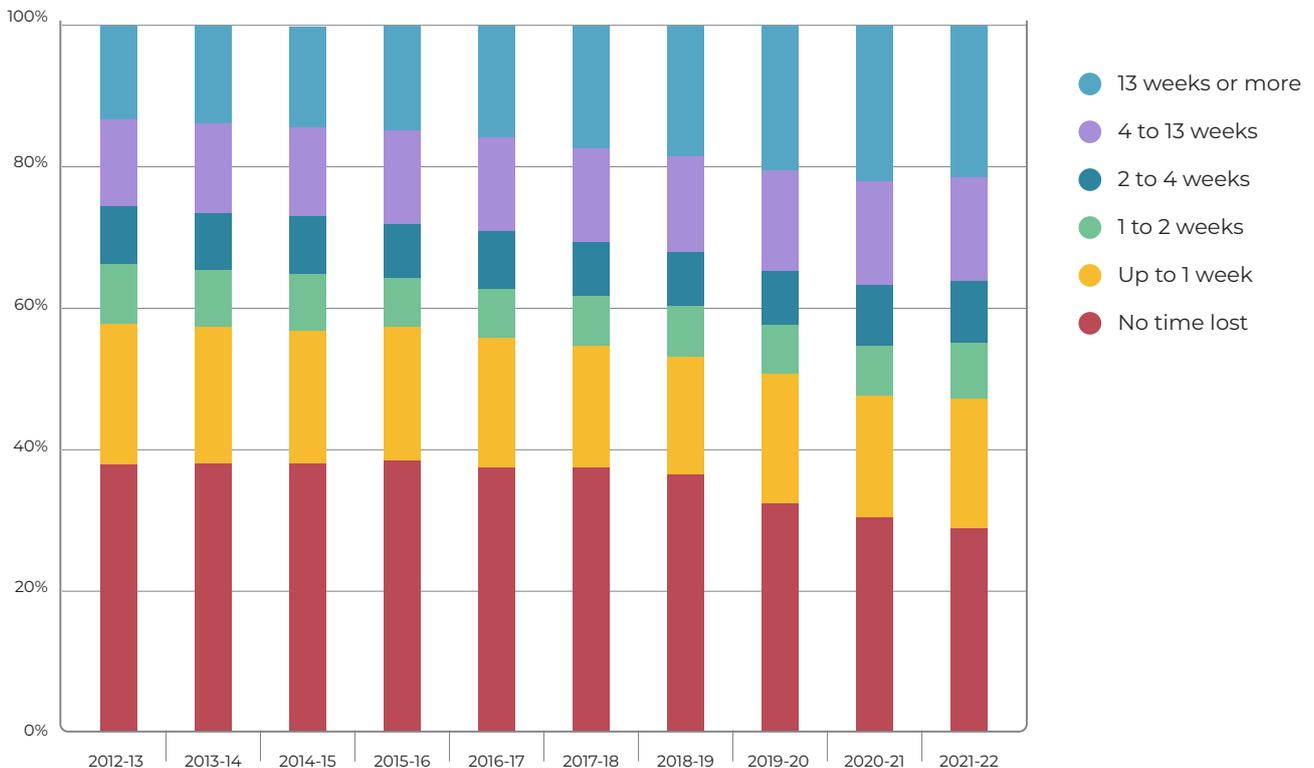


Safe Work Australia funds the Australian Bureau of Statistics to conduct the Work-related injuries survey every 4 years.

The latest data, for 2021-22, highlight that 3.5% of people who worked in the previous 12 months experienced a work-related injury or illness.

Only one-third (34.9%) of these workers made a workers' compensation claim.

All accepted claims (%) by total time lost groups, 2012-13 to 2021-22



Work-related injury and illness – Demographics (sex)

Serious claims by sex, 2022-23p



81,400 Claims (count) **56,900**

58.9% Claims (%) **41.1%**

12.4 Incidence rate **8.8**

6.9 Frequency rate **6.1**

7.0 Median time lost (weeks) **7.6**

\$15,600 Median compensation paid (\$) **\$12,700**

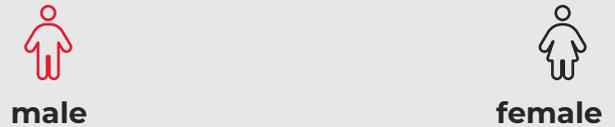
The majority of serious claims were made by men in 2022-23p, 81,400 or 58.9%. However, reflecting the trend of increasing female workforce participation, the share of serious claims accounted for by women (56,900 claims or 41.1%) has increased by 4.7 percentage points over the 10 years to 2022-23p.

Once hours of work are accounted for, the serious claims frequency rate is 12.4% higher for men (6.9) compared to women (6.1).

Further:

- Serious claims for women have a higher median time lost (7.6 weeks) than serious claims for men (7.0 weeks).
- By contrast, serious claims made by men have a higher median compensation paid, \$2,800 (or 22.3%) greater for men (\$15,600) compared to women (\$12,700).

Serious claims (%) by sex and most common nature (major group), 2022-23p



Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury

35% **36%**

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases

14% **15%**

Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage

18% **10%**

Mental health conditions

7% **15%**

Fractures

11% **9%**

The nature of work-related injury and illness differs noticeably between men and women. Women have a much higher share of work-related injury or illness accounted for by Mental health conditions (15.0%, compared to 7.4% for men), whilst men have a higher share of work-related injury or illness accounted for by Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage (18.3%, compared to 9.7% for women).

These differences are at least in part due to the different types of work that men and women undertake across the Australian labour market.

Work-related injury and illness – Demographics (age)

Serious claims by age, 2022-23p

Age group	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Under 25	18,000	13.0%	8.1	6.5	3.9	\$6,300
25-34	29,600	21.3%	9.5	5.6	5.6	\$11,000
35-44	28,100	20.2%	9.6	5.6	7.5	\$15,900
45-54	31,600	22.8%	12.6	7.1	9.3	\$19,600
55-64	26,100	18.8%	14.6	8.9	10.6	\$21,200
65 and over	5,600	4.0%	11.6	8.9	11.6	\$22,400



Age group with highest claim rate

55+

8.9 serious claims per million hours worked



Age group with lowest claim rate

25-44

5.6 serious claims per million hours worked

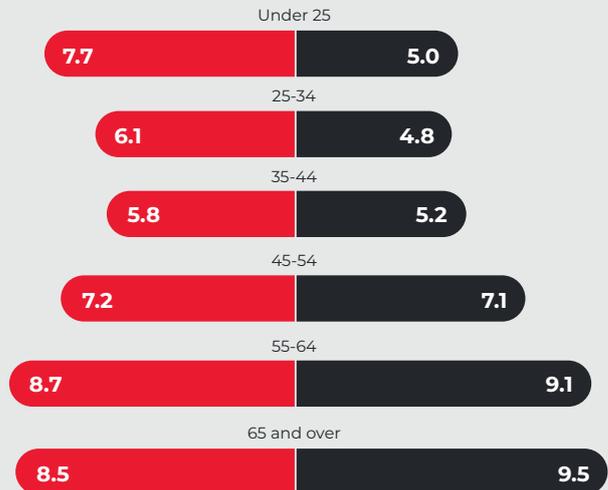
Serious claims (frequency rate) by sex and age group, 2022-23p



male



female



The frequency rate, median time lost, and median compensation costs of serious claims generally increase with age.

Taking into account the hours worked by different groups of workers, the serious claims frequency rate was highest for those aged 55-64 years old and 65 years and over in 2022-23p (8.9 serious claims per million hours worked). The lowest serious claims frequency rate was among workers aged 25-34 years old and 35-44 years old (5.6 serious claims per million hours worked).

In line with Australia's aging workforce, the proportion of serious claims accounted for by the 65 years and over cohort of workers is increasing over time. Over the 10-years to 2022-23p, this proportion has almost doubled (up 1.9 percentage pts) to 4.0% of serious claims in 2022-23p.

Moreover, the serious claims frequency rate is higher for men for age cohorts up to the 45-54 years old bracket, however, for workers aged 55 years and over, this trend reverses, with the serious claims frequency rate for women greater than that for men.

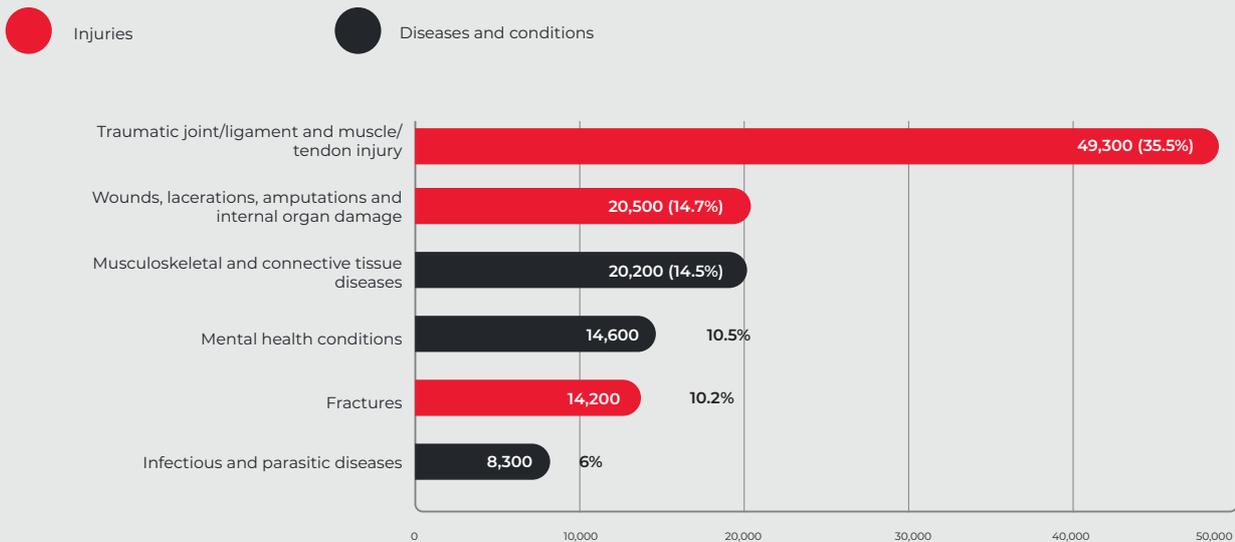
Work-related injury and illness – Nature of injury or disease

Serious claims by nature classification, 2022-23p



Over time, the nature of serious workers' compensation claims is changing, with the share of Diseases and conditions serious claims growing from one in 4 serious claims (25.8% in 2012-13) to more than one in 3 serious claims (34.5% in 2022-23p).

Serious claims by most common nature major groups, 2022-23p



The nature of injury or disease groups with the largest increases in serious claims over the 10 years to 2022-23p were Infectious and parasitic diseases (up by 8,000, driven largely by the onset of COVID-19 from 2020-21 onwards) and Mental health conditions (up by 7,200).



Two-thirds (or 64.8%) of all serious claims were concentrated in just 3 nature of injury or disease groups:

Traumatic joint / ligament and muscle / tendon injury

49,300

serious claims (35.5% of total)

Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage

20,500

serious claims (14.7%)

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases

20,200

serious claims (14.5%)

Serious claims by nature major groups, 2022-23p

Nature (classification)	Nature (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Injuries	Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury	49,300	35.5%	7.2	\$14,355
	Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage	20,500	14.7%	3.8	\$9,565
	Fractures	14,200	10.2%	10.0	\$19,199
	Other injuries	3,500	2.5%	4.6	\$9,067
	Burns	1,900	1.4%	2.5	\$3,664
	Intracranial injuries	1,300	1.0%	4.7	\$8,812
	Injury to nerves and spinal cord	180	0.1%	11.2	\$28,595
Diseases and conditions	Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases	20,200	14.5%	14.2	\$23,457
	Mental health conditions	14,600	10.5%	37.0	\$65,402
	Infectious and parasitic diseases	8,300	6.0%	1.3	\$1,906
	Digestive system diseases	2,000	1.4%	7.4	\$18,062
	Nervous system and sense organ diseases	1,300	0.9%	14.6	\$27,885
	Other claims	700	0.5%	4.8	\$9,948
	Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases	420	0.3%	3.8	\$7,311
	Respiratory system diseases	230	0.2%	7.1	\$17,645
	Circulatory system diseases	110	0.1%	16.8	\$31,358
	Other diseases	100	0.1%	10.8	\$20,844
	Neoplasms (cancer)	80	0.1%	11.8	\$47,801



Work-related injury and illness – Mental health snapshot

Mental health conditions accounted for 10.5% or 14,600 serious claims in 2022-23p. This is a 19.2% increase on 2021-22, and a 97.3% increase compared with 10 years ago.

Mental health conditions accounted for

1 in 10

serious workers' compensation claims in 2022-23p.

14,600

serious claims (count)

10.5%

serious claims (%)

37.0

median time lost (weeks)

\$65,400

median compensation paid (\$)

Over the 10 years to 2022-23p, the proportion of claims for Mental health conditions has increased from 6.4% in 2012-13 to 10.5% in 2022-23p.

Over this period the number of serious claims for Mental health conditions has increased by 7,200 (97.3%).

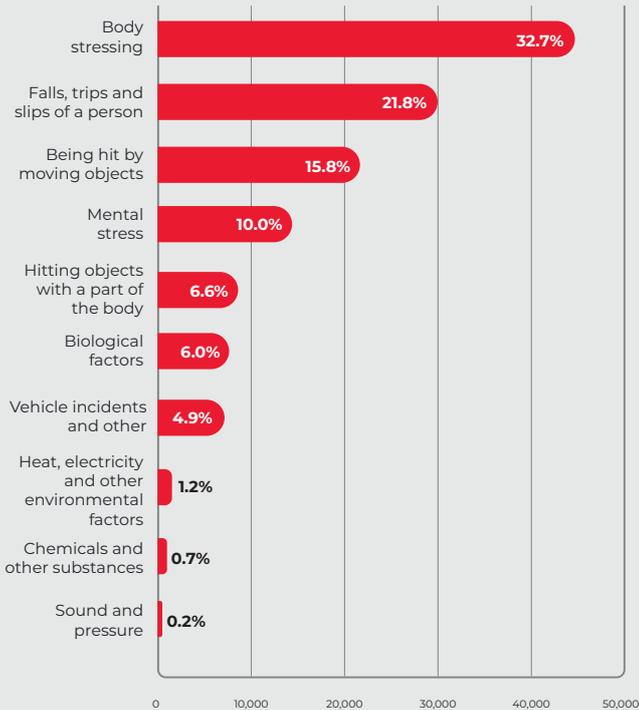
- This represents the second largest growth in the number of serious claims for a nature of injury/illness major group observed over the period (just behind the growth of 8,000 Infectious diseases serious claims, driven by COVID-19).

Mental health conditions are one of the costliest forms of workplace injury. They lead to significantly more time off work and higher compensation paid when compared to physical injuries and diseases.

- The median time lost from Mental health condition serious claims in 2021-22 (37.0 working weeks) was more than 5 times the median time lost across all serious claims (7.2).
- The median compensation paid for Mental health condition serious claims in 2021-22 (\$65,400) was more than 4 times the median compensation paid across all serious claims (\$14,400).

Work-related injury and illness – Mechanism of incident^{ix}

Serious claims by mechanism major groups, 2022-23p



More than three-quarters (80.3%) of serious claims were concentrated in 4 of the 10 mechanism of incident major groups.

Body stressing
45,500
 serious claims (32.7% of total)

Falls, slips and trips of a person
30,300
 serious claims (21.8%)

Being hit by moving objects
22,000
 serious claims (15.8%)

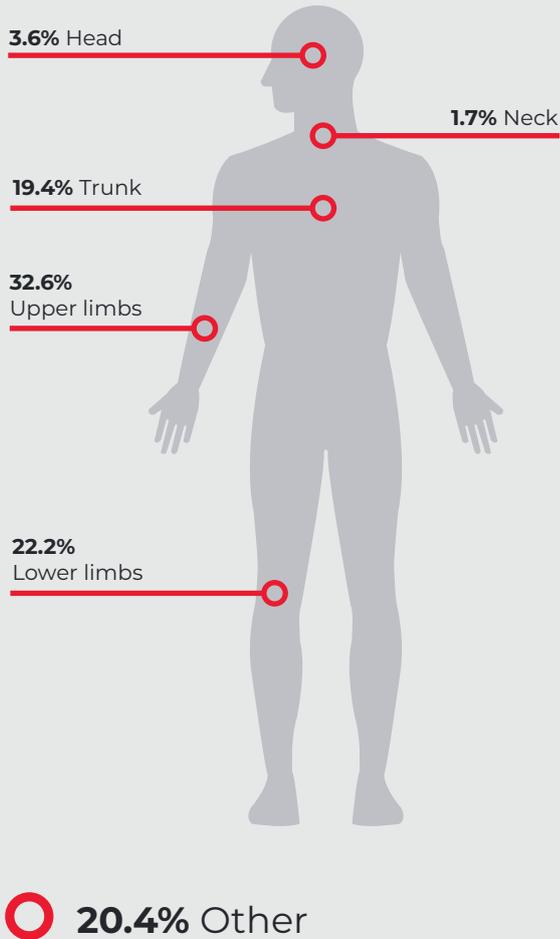
Mental stress
13,900
 serious claims (10.0%)

Serious claims by mechanism major groups, 2022-23p^{viii}

Mechanism (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Body stressing	45,000	32.7%	9.2	\$17,800
Falls, trips and slips of a person	30,300	21.8%	8.8	\$16,600
Being hit by moving objects	22,000	15.8%	5.6	\$12,000
Mental stress	13,900	10.0%	38.1	\$67,400
Hitting objects with a part of the body	9,100	6.6%	3.8	\$9,600
Biological factors	8,400	6.0%	1.3	\$1,900
Vehicle incidents and other	6,800	4.9%	8.0	\$17,900
Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	1,700	1.2%	2.5	\$3,800
Chemicals and other substances	1,000	0.7%	4.0	\$7,300
Sounds and pressure	200	0.2%	9.5	\$17,000

Work-related injury and illness – Bodily location of injury or disease^x

Serious claims by bodily location major groups, 2022-23p

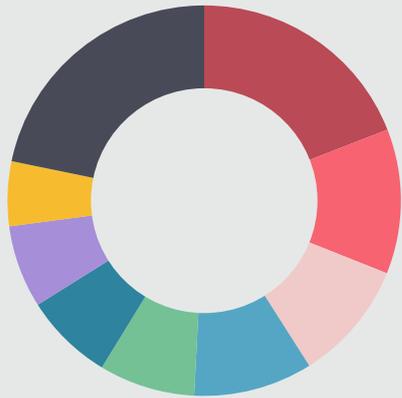


Serious claims by bodily location major groups, 2022-23p

Bodily location (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Head	5,000	3.6%	3.4	\$6,900
Neck	2,400	1.7%	10.0	\$18,700
Trunk	27,000	19.4%	7.0	\$12,900
Upper limbs	45,300	32.6%	7.4	\$16,200
Lower limbs	30,900	22.2%	7.8	\$14,800
Other	4,500	20.4%		

Work-related injury and illness – Industry

Serious claims by most common industry divisions, 2022-23p

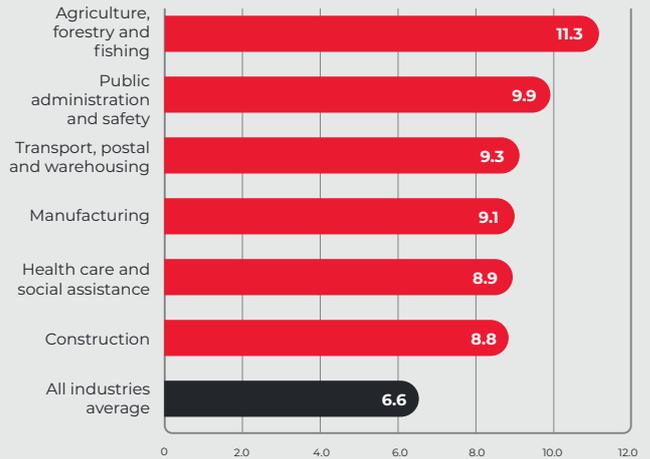


- 19.1% Health care and social assistance
- 12.0% Construction
- 10.0% Manufacturing
- 9.8% Public administration and safety
- 21.8% All other industries
- 7.9% Education and training
- 7.3% Transport, postal and warehousing
- 6.8% Retail trade
- 5.4% Accommodation and food services

Work-related injuries and illnesses are concentrated in certain parts of the labour market.

In 2022-23p, the 4 industry divisions^{xi} with the largest number of serious claims accounted for half (81,500 or 50.8%) of all serious claims, despite representing 36.0% of jobs.

Largest serious claims frequency rate by industry divisions, 2022-23p



Accounting for hours worked, the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry recorded the highest serious claims frequency rate in 2022-23p, 11.3 claims per million hours worked. This represents a frequency rate of serious claims almost double the average observed across all industries (6.6).

Other industries with notably high claim frequency rates include Public administration and safety (9.9), Transport, postal and warehousing (9.3), Manufacturing (9.1), Health care and social assistance (8.9), and Construction (8.8). Together, these industries accounted for 60.9% of serious claims in 2022-23p.



Health care and social assistance

26,500

serious claims (19.1% of the total)



Construction

16,600

serious claims (12.0%)



Manufacturing

13,800

serious claims (10.0%)



Public administration and safety

13,600

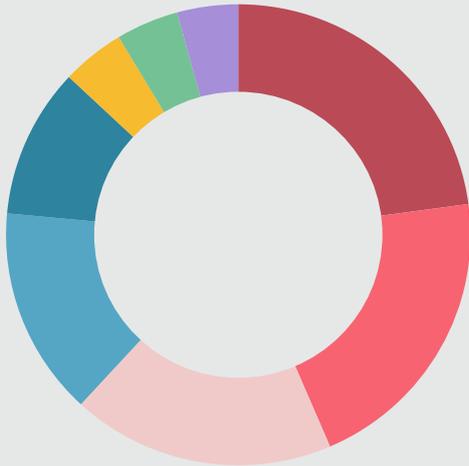
serious claims (9.8%)

Serious claims by industry division, 2022-23p

Industry division	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Health care and social assistance	26,500	19.1%	12.7	8.9	7.2	\$11,700
Construction	16,600	12.0%	17.2	8.8	8.5	\$18,500
Manufacturing	13,800	10.0%	16.7	9.1	7.0	\$15,800
Public administration and safety	13,600	9.8%	16.7	9.9	7.4	\$18,000
Education and training	11,000	7.9%	9.2	6.1	5.2	\$12,700
Transport, postal and warehousing	10,200	7.3%	17.1	9.3	8.8	\$18,400
Retail trade	9,500	6.8%	7.0	5.2	6.5	\$10,500
Accommodation and food services	7,400	5.4%	7.8	6.2	4.4	\$6,600
Administrative and support services	5,600	4.0%	8.7	5.2	8.0	\$12,500
Wholesale trade	5,000	3.6%	14.4	7.9	7.2	\$15,300
Other services	3,900	2.8%	9.1	5.4	7.6	\$16,200
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,800	2.7%	20.9	11.3	7.0	\$13,400
Mining	3,100	2.2%	15.2	7.1	10.8	\$34,300
Arts and recreation services	2,600	1.9%	11.1	8.6	6.0	\$9,200
Professional, scientific and technical services	2,400	1.7%	2.0	1.1	7.7	\$17,700
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1,400	1.0%	10.7	5.7	8.2	\$20,400
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1,300	0.9%	6.5	3.6	8.3	\$16,900
Information media and telecommunications	600	0.4%	3.3	1.9	4.6	\$13,100
Financial and insurance services	570	0.4%	1.1	0.6	15.2	\$32,400

Work-related injury and illness – Occupation

Serious claims by occupation major group, 2022-23p



- 22.9% Labourers
- 10.5% Professionals
- 20.7% Community and personal service workers
- 4.4% Sales workers
- 18.3% Technicians and trades workers
- 4.4% Clerical and administrative workers
- 14.6% Machinery operators and drivers
- 4.2% Managers

Some jobs involve higher levels of exposure to hazards and potential harm. In 2022-23p, 61.8% of serious claims were accounted for by just 3 of the 8 occupation major groups^{xii}:

- the largest proportion of serious claims was recorded for Labourers (22.9%), followed by
- Community and personal service workers (20.7%), and
- Technicians and trades workers (18.3%).

Labourers accounted for 22.9% of serious claims in 2022-23p even though this occupation only accounts for 8.4% of jobs. Other occupation groups with a high share of serious claims include:

- Machinery operators and drivers, accounting for 14.6% of serious claims and 6.0% of jobs
- Community and personal service workers, accounting for 20.7% of claims and 11.8% of jobs
- Technicians and trades workers, accounting for 18.3% of serious claims and 12.2% of jobs.



Labourers
22.9%
serious claims



Community and personal service workers
20.7%
serious claims



Technicians and trades workers
18.3%
serious claims



Machinery operators and drivers
14.6%
serious claims

References and endnotes

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Work-related injuries survey, 2021-22; International Labour Organisation estimates of work-related injuries and employment (2019).

² Safe Work Australia, Review of data used to calculate injury rates, 2023.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia Detailed, June 2024.

ⁱ Data for 2022-23 are preliminary (denoted by 'p') and subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

ⁱⁱ Data in this report refers to serious claims unless otherwise indicated. Serious claims resulted in one working week or more time off work.

ⁱⁱⁱ The claim 'Incidence rate' is defined as the number of claims per thousand workers, using estimates of the working population covered under a workers' compensation scheme.

^{iv} The claim 'Frequency rate' is defined as the number of claims per million hours worked, using estimates of the working population covered under a workers' compensation scheme.

There are significant differences in the number of hours worked by different groups of employees, and employees at different points in time. The claims frequency rate accounts for these differences and allows for more accurate comparisons between different groups of workers and over time.

^v Median time lost is not reported for the preliminary data year because some claims remain open. Data for the most recent non-preliminary reporting period (2021-22) is used for reporting purposes in such instances.

^{vi} The median compensation paid excludes claims where there was zero compensation paid.

Median compensation paid is not reported for the preliminary data reference period because some claims remain open and may affect this calculation. Data for the most recent non-preliminary reporting period (2021-22) is used for reporting purposes in such instances.

^{vii} Nature refers to the most serious injury or disease sustained or suffered by the worker.

See the [Type of Occurrence Classifications System \(TOOCS\)](#) about data page for further information on the Nature coding structure.

^{viii} Claims counts in detailed tables may not sum to overall reported total as some records have 'other' or missing values for descriptive variables.

^{ix} Mechanism identifies the overall action, exposure or event that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the most serious injury or disease.

^x Bodily location refers to the part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease.

^{xi} Industry refers to the range of economic activities undertaken by a business to produce goods and services, and is categorised using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\)](#).

^{xii} Occupation refers to the type of job undertaken by a worker in the labour market and is categorised using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) [Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations \(ANZSCO\)](#).