

October 2025

# Key Work Health and Safety Statistics Australia

2025

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## All workers have the right to a healthy and safe working environment<sup>1</sup>.

However, work-related injuries and illnesses can occur in any industry or occupation, and the impacts are felt by workers, their families and the community.

Australia's current work-related injury rate of 3.5% is roughly one-third of the global rate of 12.1%<sup>2</sup> (that is, the proportion of people who experienced a work-related injury or illness in the previous 12 months).

Tragically, 188 workers lost their lives due to traumatic injuries in 2024, and there were 146,700 serious workers' compensation claims involving at least one week of working time lost in 2023-24<sup>3</sup>. That's more than 400 serious claims a day across Australia.

Achieving the ambitious vision of the *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2023-2033*<sup>4</sup>, of safe and healthy work for all, will require sustained effort.

The challenges to overcome are significant with harm occurring in a concentration of certain industries.

The data in this report show that:

- 80% 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 fatal injuries (42% or 79 fatalities), followed by Falls from a height (13% or 24 fatalities).
- 84% 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 2023-24p, and now account for 12% of all serious claims. The median time lost from work in these claims is almost 5 times that recorded across all other injuries and diseases.



View the online version of this report:  
[Key Work Health and Safety Statistics Australia 2025](#)

This report provides a snapshot of the latest work health and safety (WHS) data, to support working towards safer and healthier work for all. Further insights and data can be explored through the [interactive data dashboards](#) available on the data website.



## 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](#).

# 188

worker fatalities

# 1.3

deaths per 100,000 workers



# 24%

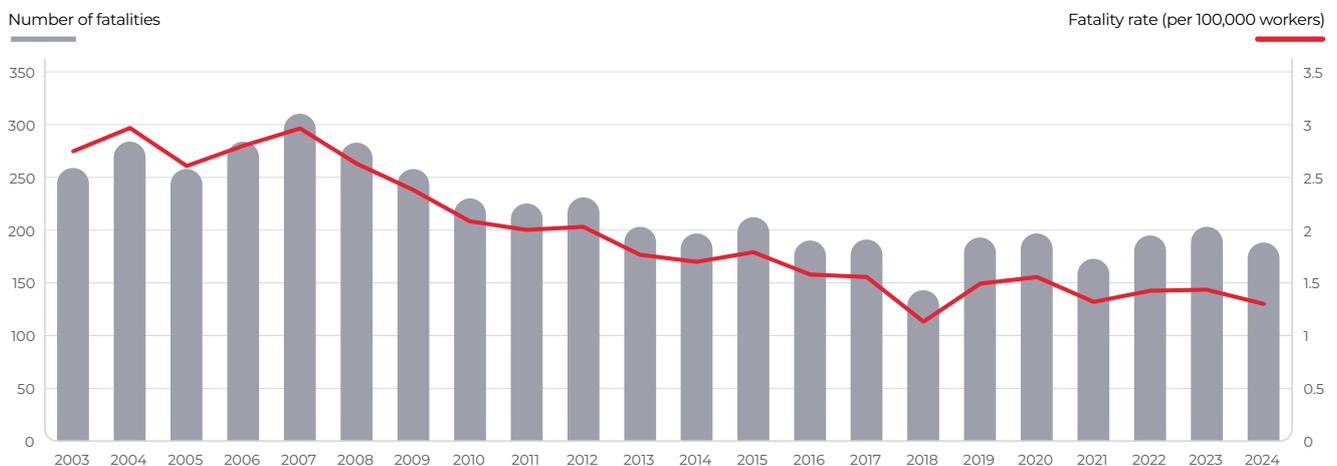
decrease in fatality rate since 2014

In 2024, there were 188 workers who died from traumatic injuries while working. The frequency rate of worker fatalities was 1.3 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Both of these figures are slightly lower than the 5-year averages (191 deaths per year, and 1.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, from 2020 to 2024).

Since 2014, the fatality rate has decreased 24% (from 1.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers), however this has remained relatively steady in recent years.

### Trends in worker fatalities, 2003 to 2024



Historical data on work-related fatalities are updated as additional information from finalised coroners' reports, WHS investigations and workers' compensation claims becomes available.

The 'fatality rate' is defined as the number of traumatic injury fatalities per 100,000 workers.

## Work-related fatalities – Demographics

### Worker fatalities by sex, 2024



male

**180**

Worker fatalities (count)

**96%**

Worker fatalities (%)

**2.4**

Fatality rate (per 100,000 workers)



female

**8**

**4%**

**0.1**

The vast majority of workers killed from work-related activities are men (96% or 180 fatalities in 2024). Men also have a significantly higher fatality rate than women (2.4 fatalities per 100,000 workers compared with 0.1).

### Worker fatalities by age group, 2024

Age group	Fatalities	Fatality rate (per 100,000 workers)
Under 25	12	0.5
25-34	55	1.6
35-44	24	0.7
45-54	24	0.9
55-64	40	1.9
65 and over	33	4.3

In 2024, workers aged 45 and over accounted for over half (52%) of all worker fatalities recorded.

Workers aged 65 and over had the highest fatality rate at 4.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers (over 3 times the overall worker fatality rate of 1.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers).

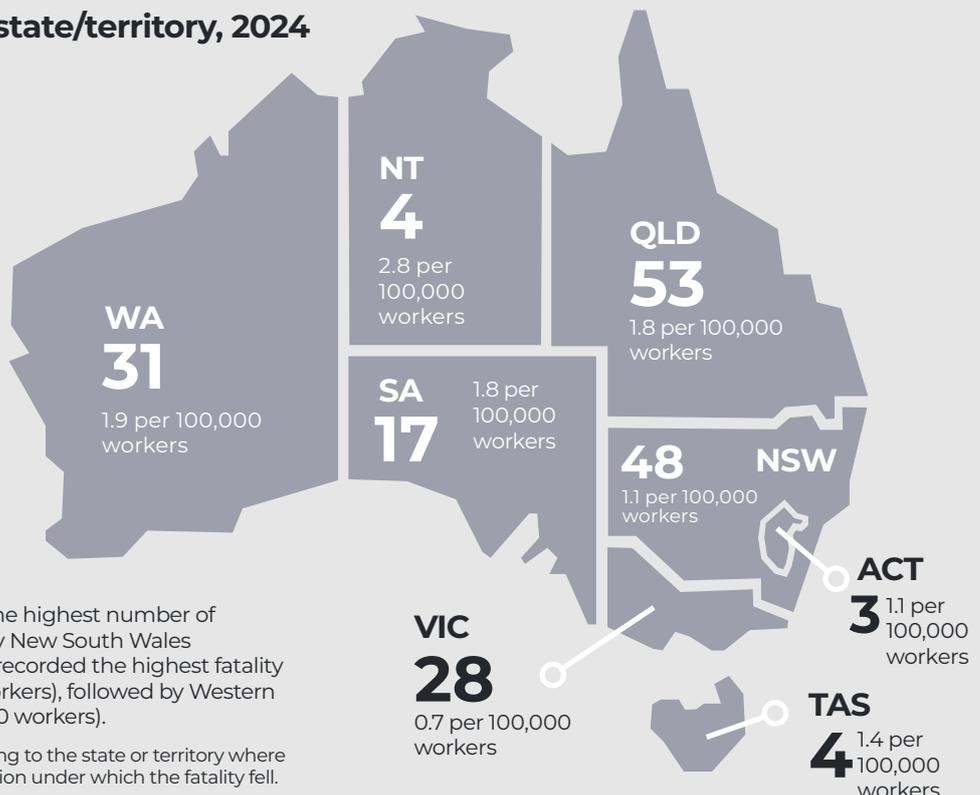
By contrast, workers aged under 25 had the lowest fatality rate (0.5 fatalities per 100,000 workers), followed by workers aged 35-44 (0.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers).

### Worker fatalities by state/territory, 2024

Australian total:

**188**

1.3 per 100,000 workers

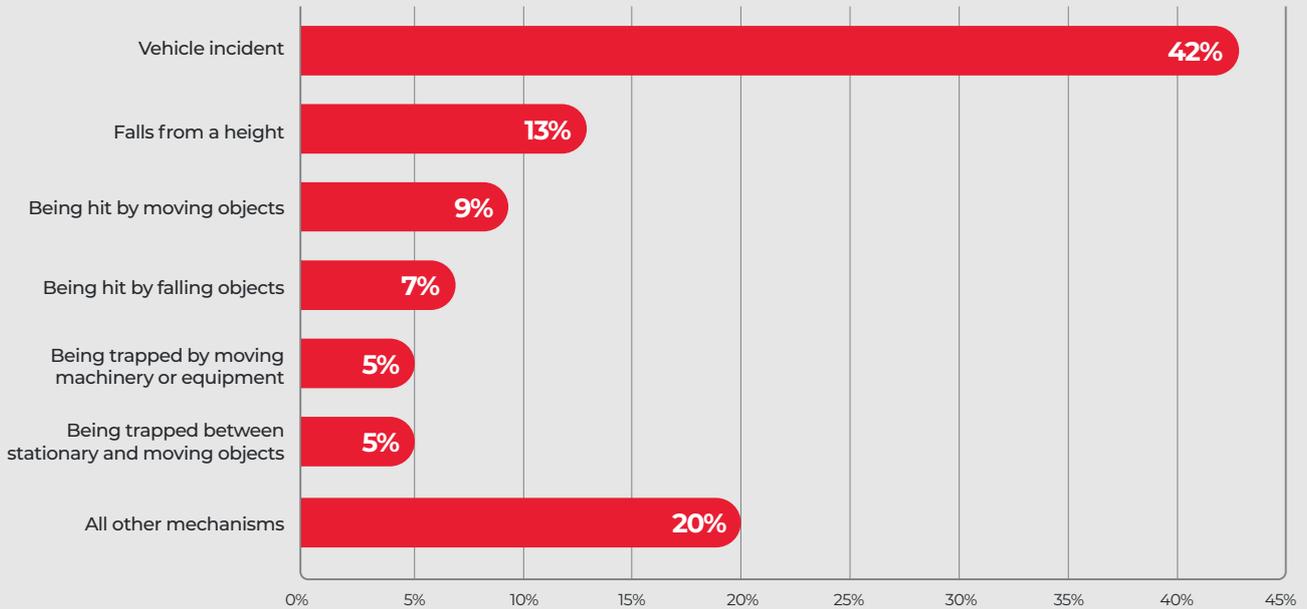


In 2024, Queensland recorded the highest number of fatalities (53 workers) followed by New South Wales (48 workers). Northern Territory recorded the highest fatality rate (2.8 fatalities per 100,000 workers), followed by Western Australia (1.9 fatalities per 100,000 workers).

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

# Work-related fatalities – Mechanism

Worker fatalities by most common mechanism of incident, 2024



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

Vehicle incidents (79 workers; 42%), Falls from a height (24 workers; 13%) and Being hit by moving objects (17 workers; 9%) accounted for almost two-thirds (64%) of all worker fatalities in 2024.

Vehicle incidents include incidents where an occupant of a vehicle is killed following a collision with another vehicle or a stationary object. Vehicles include road vehicles such as cars and trucks and 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: Vehicles continue to be a significant cause of worker fatalities

**At least one vehicle was directly involved in the incident in 66% (124) of worker fatalities in 2024.**

This has slightly decreased since 2023, where 68% (139) of worker fatalities involved at least one vehicle.

Of the fatalities involving a vehicle, 50% (62) involved at least one truck in 2024.

There are significantly more worker fatalities resulting from single vehicle incidents than multiple vehicle incidents, with 72% (89) of vehicle-involved worker fatalities stemming from single vehicle incidents.

The age group with the highest proportion of fatalities involving at least one vehicle in 2024 was Under 25 with 83%, while the age group with the lowest proportion was 25-34 with 56%.

## Work-related fatalities – Occupation



Machinery operators and drivers

# 6.7

fatalities per 100,000 workers.



Labourers

# 4.0

fatalities per 100,000 workers.



Managers

# 1.5

fatalities per 100,000 workers.

### Worker fatalities by occupation, 2024

Occupation	Fatalities (count)	Fatalities (rate)
Machinery operators and drivers	61	6.7
Labourers	50	4.0
Managers	28	1.5
Technicians and trades workers	28	1.4
Professionals	10	0.3
Community and personal service workers	6	0.3
Clerical and administrative workers	5	0.3

In 2024, Machinery operators and drivers accounted for the highest proportion of worker fatalities (32%) and also recorded the highest fatality rate at 6.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers, which was over 5 times the overall fatality rate (1.3 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](https://data.safeworkaustralia.gov.au)

## Work-related fatalities – Industry



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

**13.7**

fatalities per 100,000 workers.



Transport, postal and warehousing

**7.4**

fatalities per 100,000 workers.



Mining

**3.4**

fatalities per 100,000 workers.

### Worker fatalities by industry, 2024

Industry	Fatalities (count)	Fatalities (rate)
Transport, postal and warehousing	54	7.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	44	13.7
Construction	37	2.8
Mining	10	3.4
Public administration and safety	8	0.8
Manufacturing	7	0.8
Administrative and support services	6	1.4
Other services	5	0.9
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	5	2.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	4	0.3
Wholesale trade	3	0.8
Arts and recreation services	3	1.1
Education and training	2	0.2

In 2024, the industries with the highest number of fatalities were Transport, postal and warehousing (54 fatalities or 29%), Agriculture, forestry and fishing (44 fatalities or 23%) and Construction (37 fatalities or 20%).

The industries with the highest fatality rates were Agriculture, forestry and fishing (13.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers), Transport, postal and warehousing (7.4) and Mining (3.4).

There were also some differences from the long-term average:

- the number of fatalities in the Mining industry in 2024 (10) was 39% higher than the 5-year average for this industry (7.2), and
- the number of fatalities in the Manufacturing industry in 2024 (7) was 44% lower than the 5-year average (12.6).



## 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 data catalogue page](#) for more information.

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

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

**146,700**

serious claims<sup>5</sup> (count)

**10.9**

incidence rate<sup>6</sup> (serious claims per 1,000 workers)

**6.8**

frequency rate<sup>7</sup> (serious claims per million hours worked)

**7.4 weeks**

median time lost<sup>8</sup>

**\$16,300**

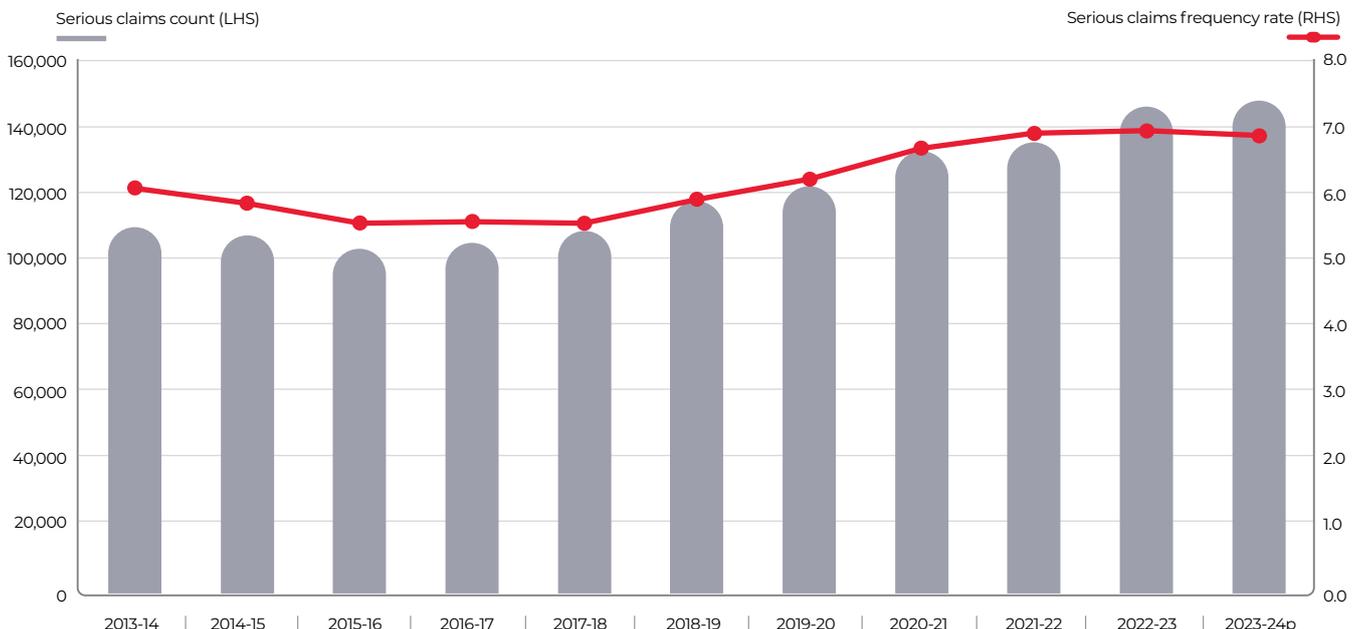
median compensation paid<sup>9</sup>

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

Compared with 10 years ago (2013-14), the number of serious claims has increased by 37,600 (or 34.5%).

However, the serious claims frequency rate, which accounts for changes in the number of hours worked over time, shows a more subdued increase, of 0.8 claims per million hours worked (or 12.6%).

### Serious claims count and frequency rate, 2013-14 to 2023-24p





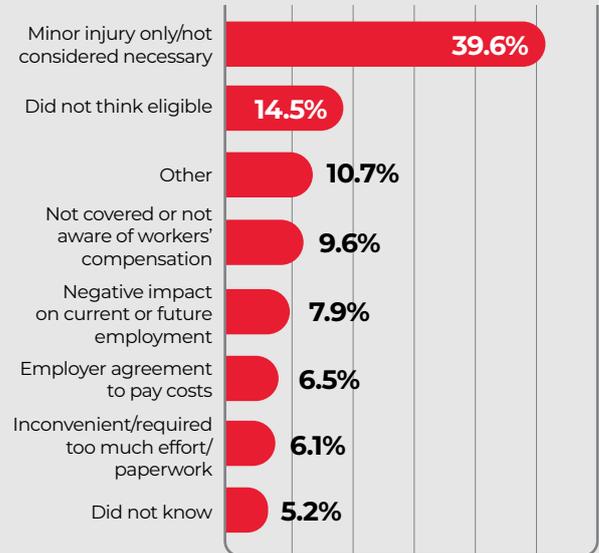
## Data spotlight: ABS Work-related injuries survey

Safe Work Australia funds the Australian Bureau of Statistics to conduct the Work-related injuries survey every 4 years. The latest data was published in February 2023, covering the 2021-22 reference period. The data highlight that 3.5% of people who worked in the previous 12 months experienced a work-related injury or illness.

Only 3 in 10 (30.5%) of these workers received workers' compensation.

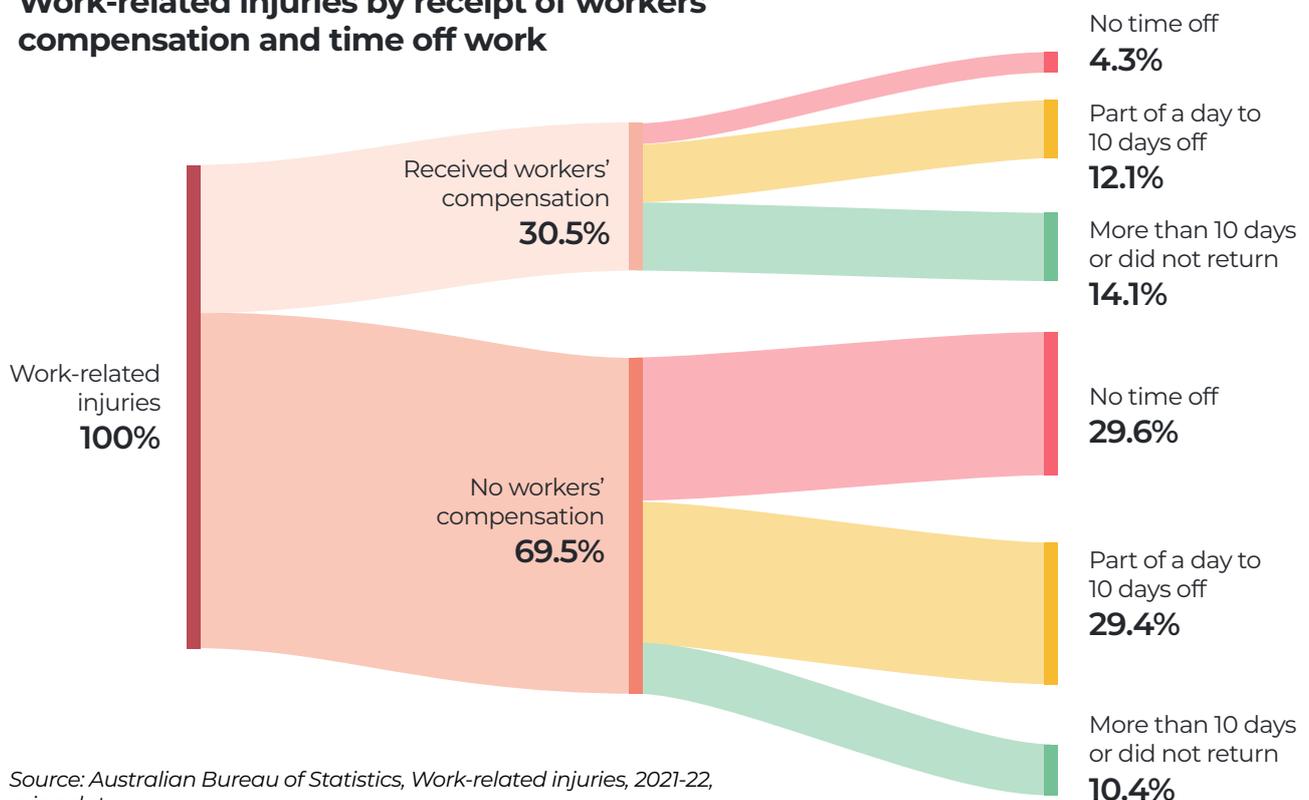
There are many reasons a work-related injury may not result in a claim for workers' compensation, including scheme coverage and eligibility. However, the most common reason is that claims are often not considered necessary for minor injuries.

### Main reason did not apply for workers' compensation, 2021-22



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Work-related injuries, 2021-22, microdata

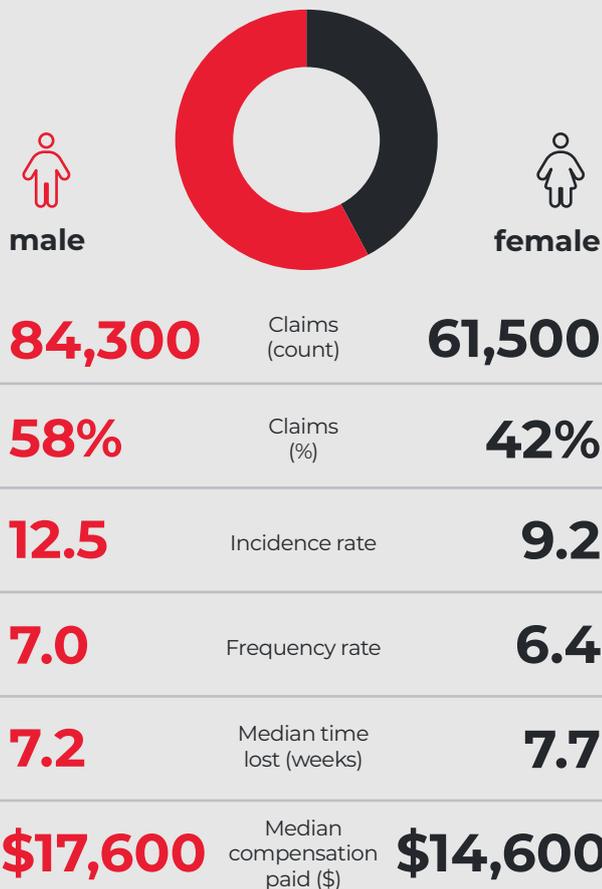
### Work-related injuries by receipt of workers' compensation and time off work



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Work-related injuries, 2021-22, microdata

## Work-related injury and illness – Demographics (sex)

### Serious claims by sex, 2023-24p



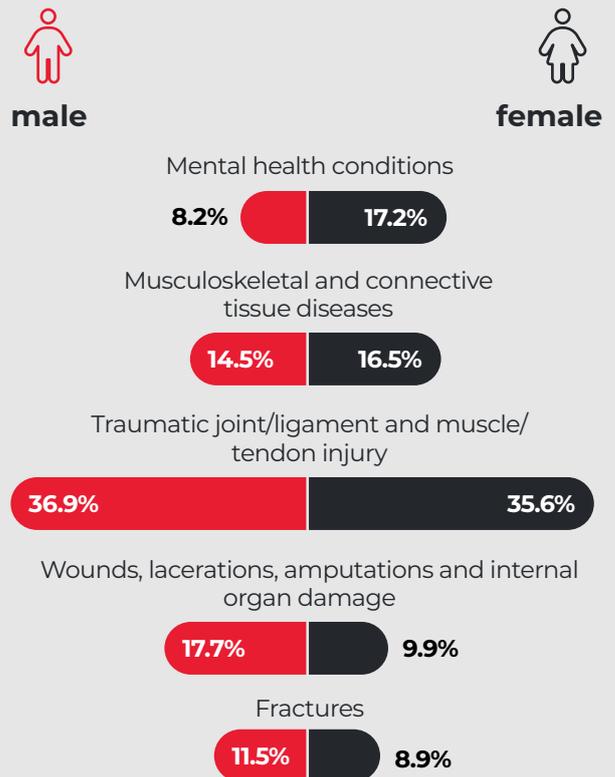
The majority of serious claims are made by men (58% in 2023-24p). However, the share of serious claims accounted for by women has increased by 5.9 percentage points over the 10 years to 2023-24p, reflecting the trend of increasing female workforce participation.

Accounting for hours of work, the serious claims frequency rate is 9.1% higher for men (7.0 claims per million hours worked) compared to women (6.4).

There are notable differences in the types of work-related injuries and illnesses experienced by men and women.

- Serious claims for women have a higher median time lost (7.7 working weeks) than serious claims for men (7.2 weeks).
- By contrast, the median compensation paid for serious claims made by men (\$17,600) is 20.4% higher than that for women (\$14,600).

### Serious claims (%) by sex and most common nature (major group), 2023-24p



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 (17.2%, compared to 8.2% for men), whilst men have a higher share of work-related injury or illness accounted for by Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage (17.7%, compared to 9.9% for women). These differences are influenced by the types of work that men and women undertake.

# Work-related injury and illness – Demographics (age)

## Serious claims headline results by age group, 2023-24p

Age group	Serious claims (count)	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Under 25	17,600	7.8	6.4	4.0	\$7,500
25-34	31,800	9.8	5.8	5.6	\$12,300
35-44	30,100	9.9	5.8	8.0	\$18,400
45-54	32,000	12.7	7.2	9.6	\$22,200
55-64	28,000	15.5	9.5	10.3	\$22,900
65 and over	7,000	12.8	10.0	10.2	\$21,600



Highest serious claim frequency rate

**55-64 and 65+**

9.5 and 10.0 serious claims per million hours worked respectively



Lowest serious claim frequency rate

**25-44**

5.8 serious claims per million hours worked

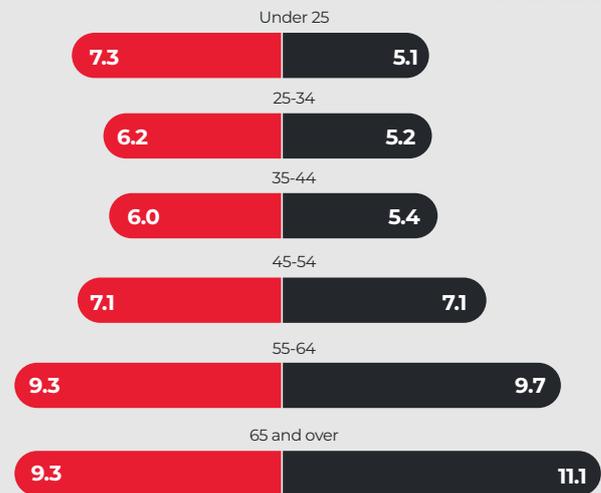
## Serious claims (frequency rate) by sex and age group, 2023-24p



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 claim frequency rate was highest for those aged 55-64, and 65 years and over, in 2023-24p (9.5 and 10.0 claims per million hours worked respectively). The lowest serious claims frequency rate was among workers aged 25-34 years old and 35-44 years old (with 5.8 serious claims per million hours worked recorded for both these age groups).

The importance of these findings is reinforced by the fact that, in line with Australia's ageing workforce, the proportion of claims accounted for by older cohorts is increasing over time. Over the 10 years to 2023-24p, the proportion of claims accounted for by the 55-64 and 65 years and over cohorts have increased by 1.4 percentage points and 2.5 percentage points respectively.

The ABS Work-related injuries survey data show that the overall incidence of work-related injuries and illnesses declines after peaking for the 50-54 years old worker group, suggesting that older workers, whilst less likely to get injured or become ill at work overall, are more seriously injured if an incident does occur.



## Data spotlight: Significant time lost claims

The median time lost from work-related injuries and illnesses has increased by 35.1% over the 10 years to 2022-23.

One contributing factor to this trend is that the proportion of claims with no time lost has decreased over the period and, at the same time, the proportion of claims involving a significant period of time lost (at least 13 weeks) has increased.

**2012-13**

**36.6%**  
(95,900)

Claims with no time lost (%)

**2022-23**

**28.2%**  
(71,200)

**13.3%**  
(34,800)

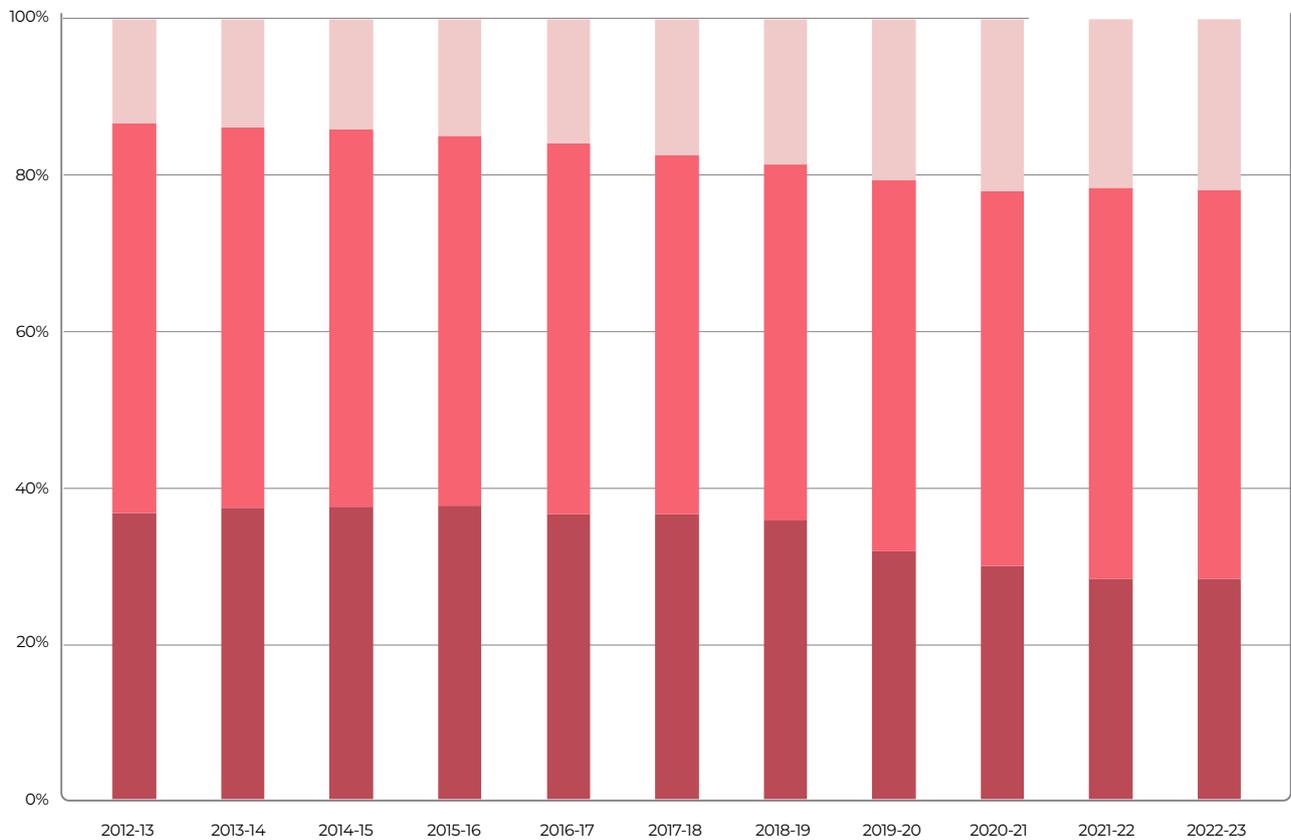
Claims with 13 weeks or more time lost (%)

**21.9%**  
(55,400)

The 2022-23 data show claims involving more than 13 weeks time lost from work accounted for 21.9% (or 55,400) of total claims<sup>1</sup>, but 74.8% (or \$5.4 billion) of total compensation payments.

### Total claims (%) by Time lost groupings 2012-13 to 2022-23

More than 13 weeks    Up to 13 weeks    No time lost



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

Serious claims by nature classification, 2023-24p

49,100  
**33.5%**

Diseases and conditions

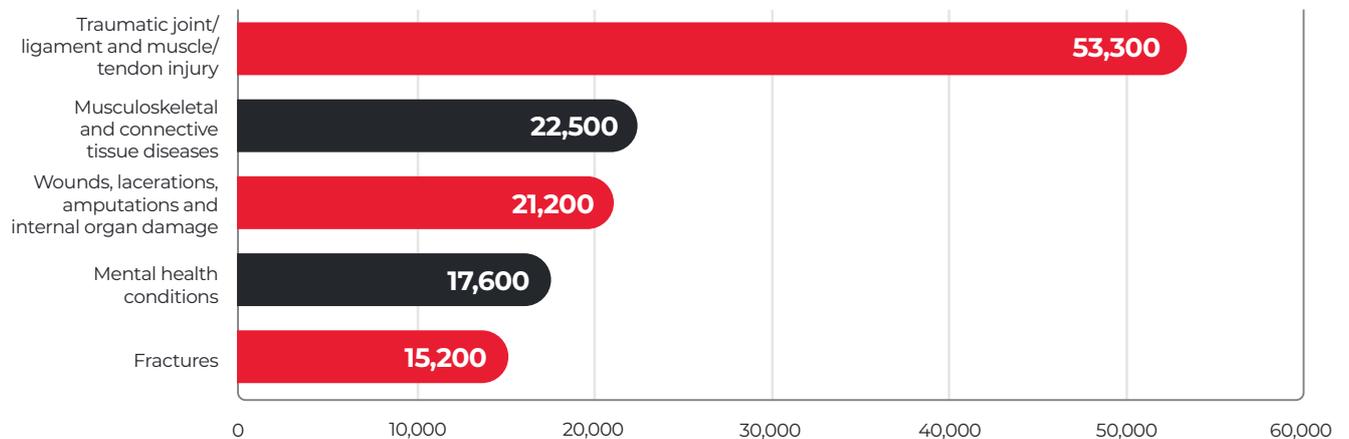


97,600  
**66.5%**

Injuries

Serious claims by most common Nature of injury or disease (major groups), 2023-24p

● Injuries ● Diseases and conditions



More than two-thirds of serious workers' compensation claims are for Injuries (97,600), with Diseases and conditions comprising the remaining 33.5% (49,100).

Diseases and conditions are accounting for an increasing proportion of serious claims over time, with their share growing from approximately 1 in 4 serious claims (26.1%) in 2013-14, to 1 in 3 serious claims (33.5%) in 2023-24p.

The 5 most common Nature of injury or disease (major groups) accounted for 88.5% of all serious claims in 2023-24p (or 129,800), and two-thirds (or 66.1%) of all serious claims were concentrated in just 3 of these groups:

- The largest number of serious claims were for Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injuries, with 53,300 serious claims (36.4%), followed by,
- Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases (22,500 serious claims, or 15.3%), and,
- Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage (21,200 serious claims, or 14.4%).



Over the year to 2023-24p, the largest change in serious claims was observed for the Infectious and parasitic diseases Nature of injury major group, which declined by 4,900 (57.0%).

- The key contributing factor to this reduction is the decline in serious claims related to COVID-19.
- Despite falling over the year to 2023-24p, the level of serious claims for Infectious and parasitic diseases remains substantially higher compared to 10 years ago (up by 3,500).
- More information about the impact of COVID-19 serious claims on the NDS time series can be found in the technical note, available in the Resources on the [NDS About our datasets page](#).

Traumatic joint / ligament and muscle / tendon injury

**53,300**

serious claims (36.4% of total)

Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage

**21,200**

serious claims (14.4%)

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases

**22,500**

serious claims (15.3%)

### Serious claims headline results by Nature (major group), 2023-24p

Nature (classification)	Nature (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Injuries	Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury	53,300	36.4%	7.4	\$15,900
	Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage	21,200	14.4%	3.6	\$10,200
	Fractures	15,200	10.4%	10.0	\$20,900
	Other injuries	3,800	2.6%	5.0	\$11,000
	Burn	2,100	1.4%	2.5	\$3,900
	Intracranial injuries	1,700	1.2%	4.4	\$9,600
	Injury to nerves and spinal cord	230	0.2%	15.3	\$43,500
Diseases and conditions	Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases	22,500	15.3%	12.9	\$24,300
	Mental health conditions	17,600	12.0%	35.7	\$67,400
	Infectious and parasitic diseases	3,700	2.5%	1.2	\$1,900
	Digestive system diseases	2,000	1.4%	7.2	\$18,700
	Nervous system and sense organ diseases	1,400	1.0%	13.7	\$27,700
	Other claims	710	0.5%	4.6	\$11,500
	Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases	480	0.3%	4.5	\$9,300
	Respiratory system diseases	290	0.2%	8.6	\$23,600
	Other diseases	110	0.1%	17.6	\$35,500
	Neoplasms (cancer)	110	0.1%	13.2	\$50,900
	Circulatory system diseases	100	0.1%	13.2	\$30,800



## Data spotlight: Mental health conditions claims

Mental health conditions accounted for 12.0% of serious claims in 2023-24p, or 17,600 serious claims. This represents an increase of 2,300 serious claims (or 14.7%) over the year.

Over the 10 years to 2023-24p, serious claims for Mental health conditions experienced the largest change of any Nature of injury major group, up by 10,900 (or 161.1%).

**17,600**

serious claims (count)

**12.0%**

serious claims (%)

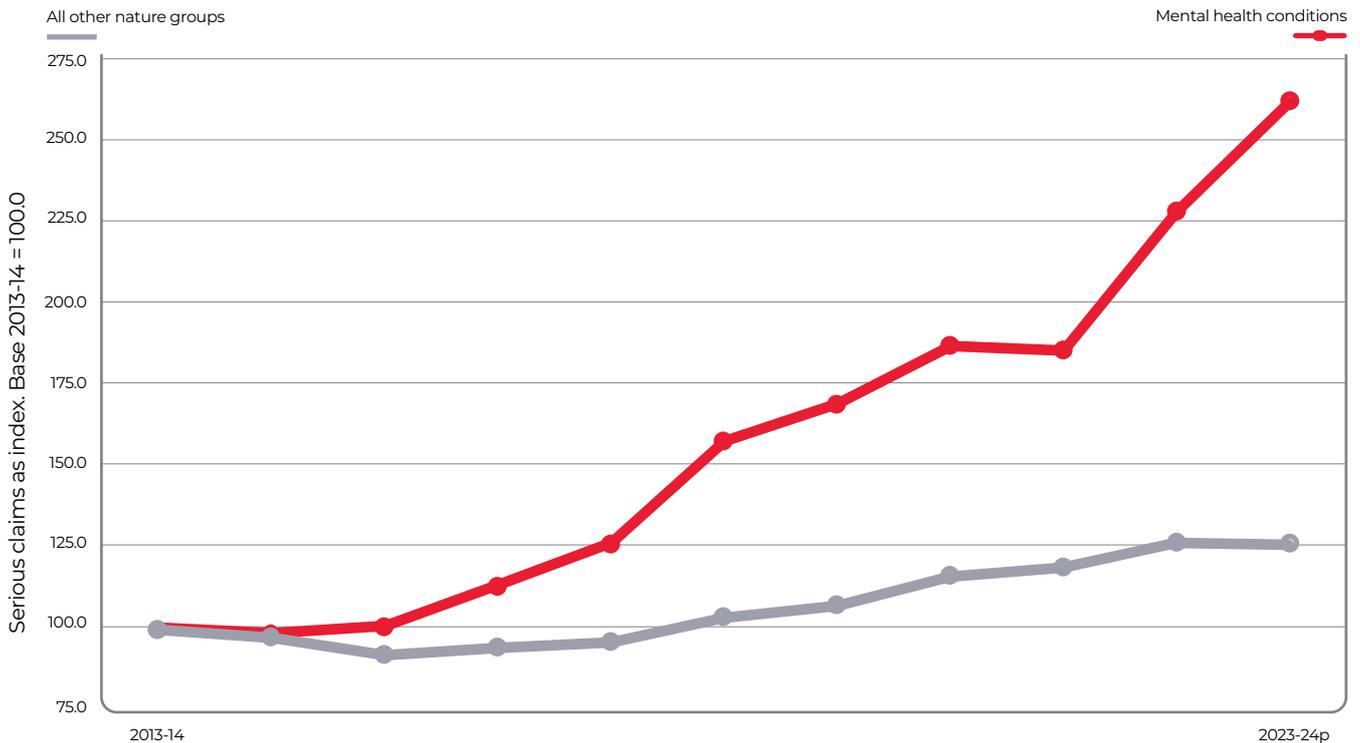
**\$67,400**

median compensation paid (\$)

**35.7 weeks**

median time lost

Index of serious claims, by Nature groupings, 2013-14 to 2023-24p

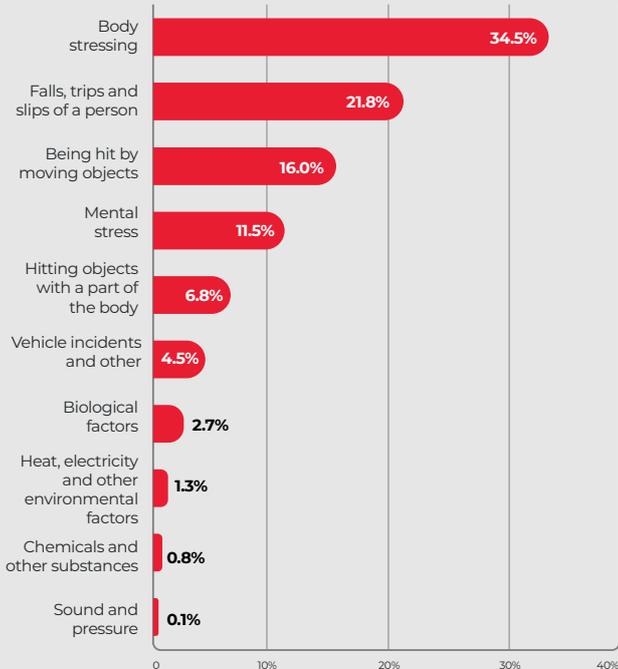


Mental health conditions are also one of the costliest forms of workplace injury. They lead to significantly more time off work and higher compensation paid when compared to other injuries and diseases.

- The median time lost from Mental health condition serious claims in 2022-23 (35.7 working weeks) was almost 5 times the median time lost across all serious claims (7.4).
- The median compensation paid for Mental health condition serious claims in 2022-23 (\$67,400) was more than 4 times the median compensation paid across all serious claims (\$16,300).

# Work-related injury and illness – Mechanism of incident

## Serious claims by mechanism major groups, 2023-24p



More than four-fifths (83.8%) of serious claims are concentrated in 4 of the 10 Mechanism of incident classification major groups.

The largest count was attributed to Body stressing, 50,600, or 34.5% of serious claims.

- Body stressing is the most common mechanism across every major occupation group.
- Falls, trips and slips of a person accounted for 32,000 serious claims (or 21.8%).
  - Of these 32,000 serious claims, Falls on the same level accounted for 68.3%, Falls from a height accounted for 24.4%, while Stepping, kneeling or sitting on objects accounted for 7.3%.
- Being hit by moving objects accounted for 23,400 serious claims (or 16.0%).
  - Being hit by Other people accounts for nearly a quarter (23.8%) of these serious claims.
- Mental stress was the cause of 16,800 serious claims (or 11.5%).
  - The most common types of Mental stress serious claims were Harassment / workplace bullying (33.2%), Work pressure (24.2%) and Exposure to violence and harassment (15.7%).

Body stressing  
**50,600**  
serious claims (34.5%)

Falls, slips and trips of a person  
**32,000**  
serious claims (21.8%)

Being hit by moving objects  
**23,400**  
serious claims (16.0%)

Mental stress  
**16,800**  
serious claims (11.5%)

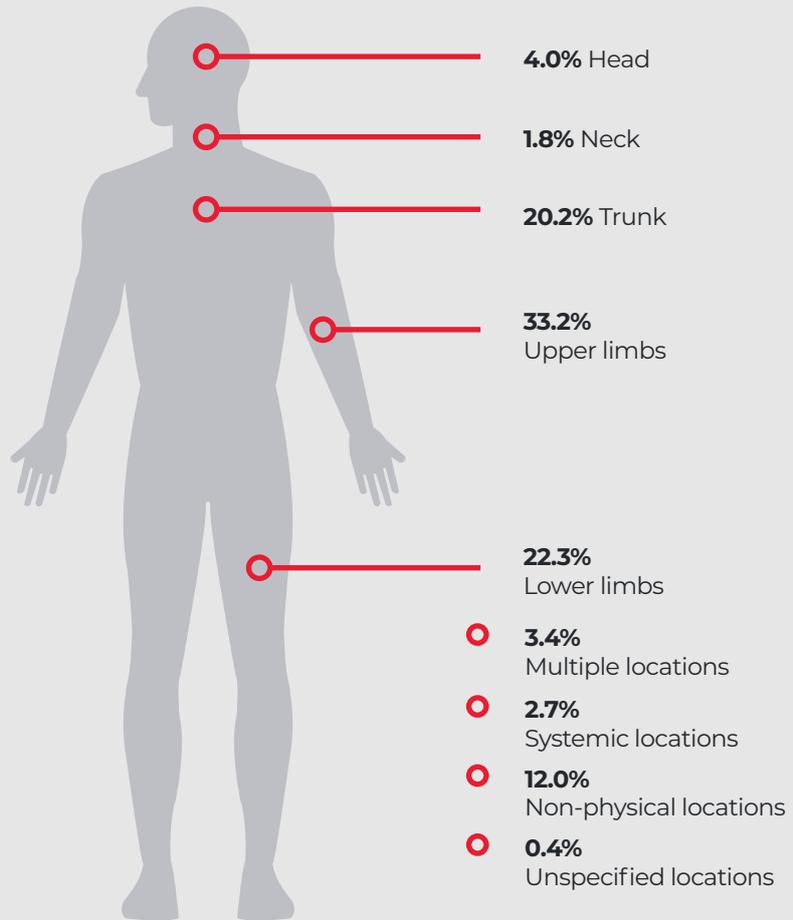
## Serious claims headline results by Mechanism (major group), 2023-24p

Mechanism (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Body stressing	50,600	34.5%	9.2	\$19,400
Falls, trips and slips of a person	32,000	21.8%	8.6	\$17,800
Being hit by moving objects	23,400	16.0%	5.2	\$12,700
Mental stress	16,800	11.5%	36.8	\$69,900
Hitting objects with a part of the body	9,900	6.8%	3.6	\$9,800
Vehicle incidents and other	6,700	4.5%	8.0	\$18,800
Biological factors	3,900	2.7%	1.2	\$1,900
Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	1,900	1.3%	2.4	\$3,800
Chemicals and other substances	1,200	0.8%	3.4	\$7,000
Sound and pressure	200	0.1%	11.0	\$21,400

# Work-related injury and illness – Bodily Location of Injury or Disease

## Serious claims by bodily location major groups, 2023-24p<sup>12</sup>

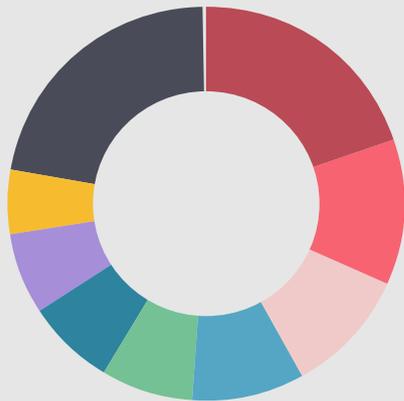
More than half (55.5%) of serious claims recorded in 2023-24p involved work-related injuries or illnesses affecting the Upper limbs (48,700 serious claims, or 33.2%) and the Lower limbs (32,700 serious claims, or 22.3%).



Bodily location (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Head	5,800	4.0%	3.0	\$7,800
Neck	2,700	1.8%	9.2	\$20,800
Trunk	29,700	20.2%	7.0	\$14,300
Upper limbs	48,700	33.2%	7.3	\$17,300
Lower limbs	32,700	22.3%	7.6	\$16,000
Multiple locations	4,900	3.4%	9.5	\$22,500
Systemic locations	4,000	2.7%	1.2	\$2,000
Non-physical locations	17,600	12.0%	35.8	\$67,400
Unspecified locations	630	0.4%	5.8	\$12,400

# Work-related injury and illness – Industry

**Serious claims by most common industry divisions, 2023-24p**

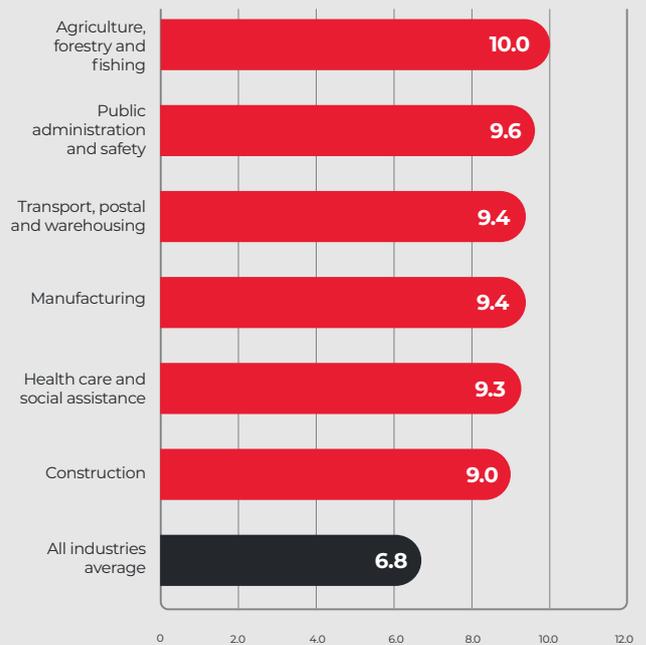


- 19.9% Health care and social assistance
- 12.0% Construction
- 10.1% Manufacturing
- 9.2% Public administration and safety
- 7.6% Education and training
- 7.1% Transport, postal and warehousing
- 6.8% Retail trade
- 5.4% Accommodation and food services
- 22.0% All other industries

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

In 2023-24p, the 4 industry divisions<sup>13</sup> with the largest number of serious claims accounted for half (75,100 or 51.2%) of all serious claims, despite representing 36.3% of filled jobs covered by a workers' compensation scheme.

**Largest serious claims frequency rates by Industry (division), 2023-24p**



Accounting for hours worked, the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry recorded the highest serious claims frequency rate in 2023-24p, 10.0 claims per million hours worked. This represents a frequency rate of serious claims 46.9% higher than the average observed across all industries (6.8).



Health care and social assistance

**29,100**

serious claims (19.9%)



Construction

**17,600**

serious claims (12.0%)



Manufacturing

**14,800**

serious claims (10.1%)



Public administration and safety

**13,600**

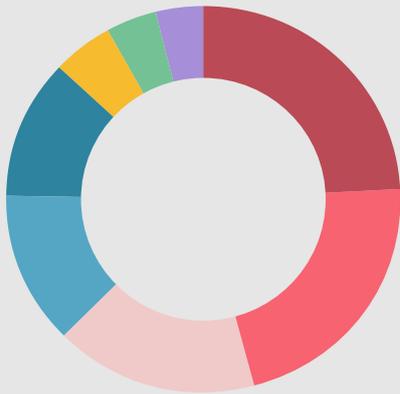
serious claims (9.2%)

### Serious claims headline results by Industry (division), 2023-24p

Industry division	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,800	2.6%	18.8	10.0	6.4	\$14,300
Mining	3,300	2.3%	14.9	6.7	11.1	\$36,400
Manufacturing	14,800	10.1%	17.1	9.4	7.1	\$17,500
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1,500	1.0%	11.1	6.0	7.5	\$19,900
Construction	17,600	12.0%	17.7	9.3	8.4	\$20,000
Wholesale trade	5,300	3.6%	13.7	7.6	8.2	\$18,400
Retail trade	10,000	6.8%	7.4	5.5	7.8	\$14,600
Accommodation and food services	7,900	5.4%	8.3	7.0	5.3	\$9,500
Transport, postal and warehousing	10,400	7.1%	16.2	9.0	8.8	\$20,700
Information media and telecommunications	550	0.4%	3.1	1.8	9.7	\$25,500
Financial and insurance services	750	0.5%	1.5	0.8	16.5	\$40,900
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1,400	1.0%	7.2	4.0	9.2	\$21,000
Professional, scientific and technical services	2,600	1.7%	2.2	1.2	8.6	\$23,400
Administrative and support services	5,900	4.1%	8.4	5.0	7.8	\$13,600
Public administration and safety	13,600	9.2%	16.3	9.6	7.4	\$20,400
Education and training	11,100	7.6%	9.1	6.2	5.2	\$14,000
Health care and social assistance	29,100	19.9%	13.3	9.4	7.0	\$12,100
Arts and recreation services	2,700	1.9%	10.1	7.9	7.2	\$12,700
Other services	4,300	2.9%	10.4	6.3	8.1	\$18,200

# Work-related injury and illness – Occupation

**Serious claims by occupation major group, 2023-24p**



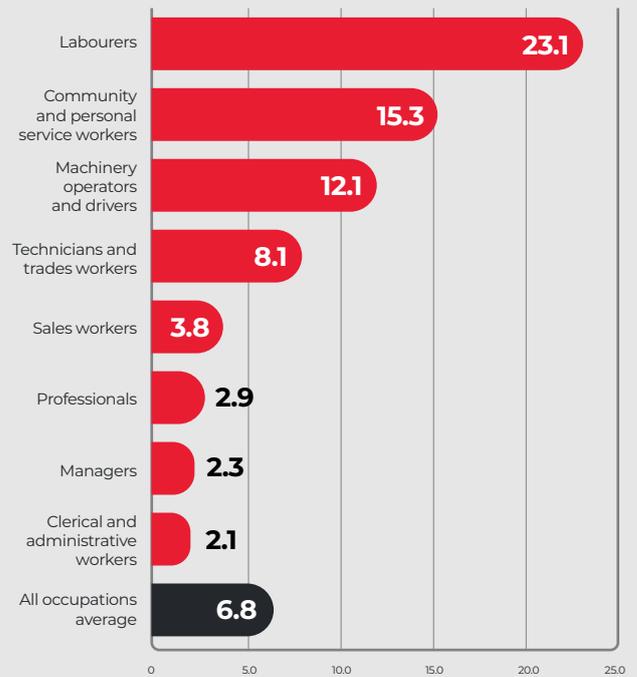
- **24.2%** Labourers
- **21.9%** Community and personal service workers
- **16.7%** Technicians and trades workers
- **12.6%** Machinery operators and drivers
- **11.8%** Professionals
- **5.1%** Managers
- **4.1%** Clerical and administrative workers
- **3.7%** Sales workers

Some jobs involve higher levels of exposure to hazards and potential harm. In 2023-24p, 62.8% of serious claims (or 91,500) were concentrated in just 3 of the 8 Occupation major groups<sup>14</sup>.

Notably, while these occupational groups recorded 62.8% of serious claims in 2023-24p, they represent only 32.4% of jobs covered by a workers' compensation scheme.

More information about the hazards workers are exposed to in different jobs can be found in the [Beta Occupational Hazards Dataset](#).

**Serious claims (frequency rate) by Occupation (major group), 2023-24p**



Accounting for hours worked, the 2023-24p data show the highest frequency of serious claims was observed for Labourers, followed by Community and personal service workers, Machinery operators and drivers, and Technicians and trades workers.



Labourers

**24.2%**  
serious claims



Community and personal service workers

**21.9%**  
serious claims



Technicians and trades workers

**16.7%**  
serious claims

### Serious claims headline results by Occupation (major group), 2023-24p

Occupation (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Labourers	35,300	24.2%	32.0	23.1	6.8	\$14,400
Community and personal service workers	31,900	21.9%	19.5	15.3	6.6	\$12,500
Technicians and trades workers	24,300	16.7%	14.9	8.1	7.2	\$17,500
Machinery operators and drivers	18,300	12.6%	22.5	12.1	9.4	\$21,900
Professionals	17,200	11.8%	4.7	2.9	6.5	\$16,200
Managers	7,400	5.1%	4.5	2.3	11.0	\$29,400
Clerical and administrative workers	5,900	4.1%	3.2	2.1	10.0	\$24,200
Sales workers	5,400	3.7%	4.7	3.8	9.7	\$14,800

## References and endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> International Labour Organization (2022), ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, available at <https://www.ilo.org/resource/conference-paper/ilo-1998-declaration-fundamental-principles-and-rights-work-and-its-follow>
- <sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Work-related injuries survey, 2021-22; International Labour Organisation estimates of work-related injuries and employment (2019).
- <sup>3</sup> Data for 2023-24 are preliminary (denoted by 'p') and subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.
- <sup>4</sup> Safe Work Australia, Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2023-2033, available at <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/australian-work-health-and-safety-strategy-2023-2033>
- <sup>5</sup> All workers' compensation claims data in this report refers to serious claims, that is, claims that involve one working week of time off work or more, unless otherwise indicated.
- <sup>6</sup> The serious claim 'incidence rate' is defined as the number of serious claims per thousand filled jobs covered under workers' compensation schemes.
- <sup>7</sup> The serious claim 'Frequency rate' is defined as the number of serious claims per million hours worked in filled jobs covered under workers' compensation schemes. There are significant differences in the number of hours worked by different groups of employees, and employees at different points in time. The serious claims frequency rate accounts for these differences and allows more accurate comparisons to be made.
- <sup>8</sup> Median time lost is not reported for the preliminary data reference period because some claims remain open. Data for the most recent non-preliminary reporting period (2022-23) is used for reporting purposes in such instances.
- <sup>9</sup> 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. Data for the most recent non-preliminary reporting period (2022-23) is used for reporting purposes in such instances.
- <sup>10</sup> 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.
- <sup>11</sup> Total claims are defined as all accepted workers' compensation claims across Australian jurisdictions.
- <sup>12</sup> Bodily location refers to the part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease. See the [Type of Occurrence Classifications System \(TOOCS\) about data page](#) for further information on the Mechanism coding structure.
- <sup>13</sup> 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 \(ANZSIC\)](#).
- <sup>14</sup> 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 \(ANZSCO\)](#).