



Key Work Health and Safety Statistics Australia 2026

October 2026

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2026



All workers have the right to a healthy and safe working environment¹.

Work-related injuries and illnesses continue to affect workers across all industries and occupations, with impacts extending beyond the workplace to families, communities and the broader economy.

Tragically, 222 workers lost their lives due to traumatic workplace injuries in 2025. The fatalities recorded in 2025 represent the highest annual number since 2012 and is above the 5-year average of 197 fatalities.

In addition, there were 147,200 serious workers' compensation claims involving one week or more of working time lost in 2024-25². That's more than 400 serious claims a day across Australia.

This report provides a snapshot of the latest work health and safety (WHS) data in Australia and highlights key trends across worker fatalities, injuries and illnesses.

The data in this report show that:

- 74% of work-related traumatic injury fatalities and 61% of serious workers' compensation claims occurred in just 6 industries:
 - o Agriculture, forestry and fishing
 - o Public administration and safety
 - o Transport, postal and warehousing
 - o Manufacturing
 - o Health care and social assistance, and
 - o Construction.
- Vehicle incidents remained the leading cause of injury fatalities, accounting for 41% (92 fatalities), followed by Falls from a height (13% or 28 fatalities) and Being hit by falling objects (9% or 21 fatalities).
- 85% of all serious claims arose from 4 mechanisms of injury:
 - o Body stressing
 - o Falls, slips and trips
 - o Being hit by moving objects, and
 - o Mental stress.

Beyond the immediate impacts, work-related injuries and illnesses can have lasting consequences for workers' health, wellbeing and ability to participate in work.

Together, these findings highlight the continuing human and economic cost of work-related fatalities, injury and illness, and reinforce the importance of safe and healthy work for all.

Further insights and data can be explored through the interactive data dashboards available on the Safe Work Australia data website.



Read the report online:
[Key Work Health and Safety Statistics Australia 2026](#)



Work-related injury fatalities

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

The statistics represent people who died from injuries 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:

- reports 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 disease, natural causes and suicides are excluded.

Annual fatality counts can vary widely and should be interpreted with caution.

Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [Work-related fatalities data](#) page of the Safe Work Australia data website.

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

222

worker fatalities

1.5

fatalities per
100,000 workers



15%

decrease in fatality
rate since 2015



The fatality rate was higher than the 5-year average of 1.4 fatalities per 100,000 workers recorded between 2021 and 2025.

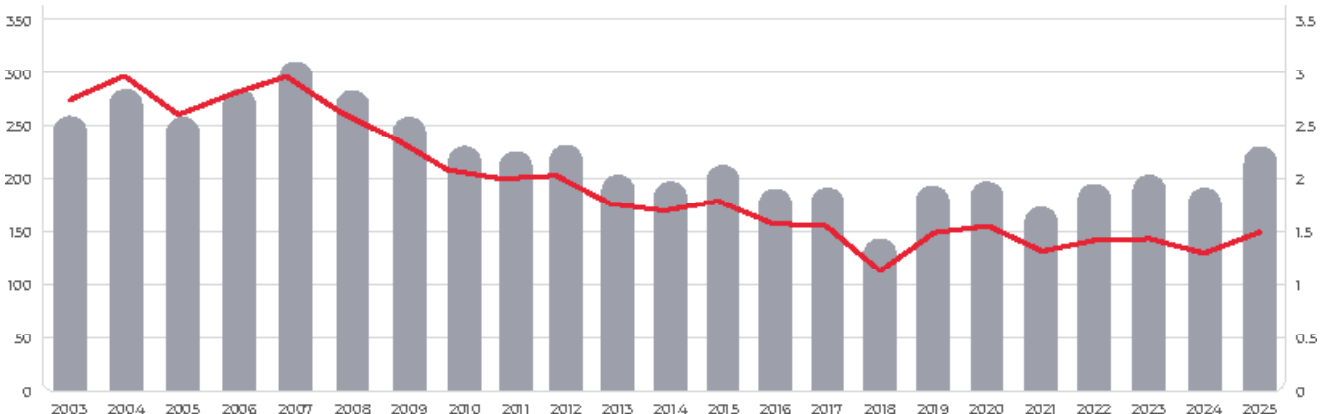
In 2025, 222 workers died from traumatic injuries sustained while working. The fatality rate was 1.5 fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Over the longer term, the fatality rate has decreased by 15%, falling from 1.8 fatalities per 100,000 workers in 2015 to 1.5 in 2025. However, the rate has remained relatively steady in recent years.

Trends in worker fatalities, 2003 to 2025

Number of fatalities

Fatality rate (per 100,000 workers)



Notes:

- Historical data 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.



Demographics

Worker fatalities by sex, 2025



male

206

Worker fatalities
(count)

93%

Worker
fatalities
(%)

2.7

Fatality rate
(per 100,000 workers)

female



15

7%

0.2

Note: There was one worker fatality in 2025 where sex was unknown.

The vast majority of worker fatalities occurred among men, who accounted for 93% (206 fatalities) of all work-related traumatic injury deaths in 2025.

Men also have a significantly higher fatality rate than women, at 2.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers compared with 0.2 per 100,000 workers for women.

Worker fatalities by age group, 2025

Age group	Fatalities	Fatality rate
		(per 100,000 workers)
Under 25	16	0.7
25-34	33	1.0
35-44	35	1.0
45-54	39	1.4
55-64	56	2.7
65 and over	42	5.5

Note: There was one worker fatality in 2025 where age was unknown.

Workers aged 45 and over accounted for close to two-thirds (62%) of all worker fatalities recorded in 2025.

Workers aged 65 and over had the highest fatality rate, at 5.5 fatalities per 100,000 workers, more than 3 times the overall worker fatality rate.

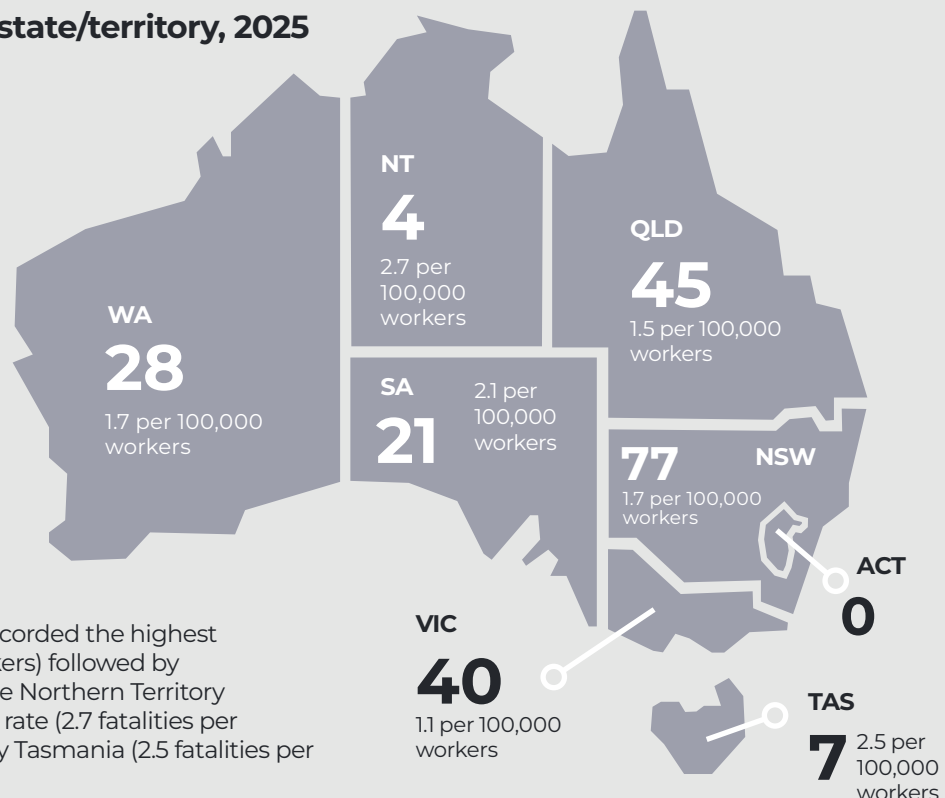
By contrast, workers aged under 25 had the lowest fatality rate at 0.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Worker fatalities by state/territory, 2025

Australian total:

222

1.5 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.

In 2025, New South Wales recorded the highest number of fatalities (77 workers) followed by Queensland (45 workers). The Northern Territory recorded the highest fatality rate (2.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers), followed by Tasmania (2.5 fatalities per 100,000 workers).



Data spotlight: Worker fatalities by remoteness

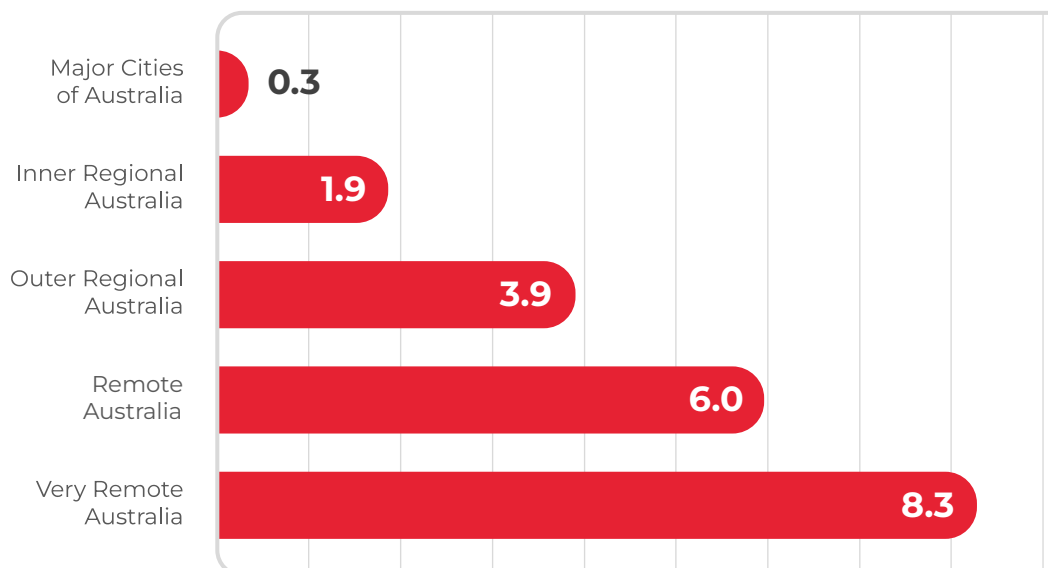
Safe Work Australia has analysed work-related traumatic injury fatality data and coronial data from the National Coronial Information System to better understand how fatalities vary across Australia's remoteness areas, as categorised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics³.

The analysis found a clear and consistent increase in fatality rates with each successive level of remoteness.

Workers in Very Remote Australia were around 8 times more likely to die from a work-related traumatic injury than the average across Australia overall.

Relative proxy fatality rates have a range of 0.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers in Major Cities to 8.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers in Very Remote Australia, demonstrating a strong relationship between remoteness and work-related fatality risk.

Relative proxy fatality rate by remoteness area (location of incident), 3-year average, 2019–2021



Source: Safe Work Australia Traumatic Injury Fatalities (TIF) data (2019–2021), National Coronial Information System (NCIS) data (2019–2021) and Australian Bureau of Statistics Census Worker counts (2021). Proxy fatality rates by remoteness were calculated to support relative comparisons only, noting differences in scope and coverage between datasets.

There are many factors that may contribute to higher worker fatality rates in remote and very remote areas, including differences in industry composition, occupations and working environments.

Serious incidents may also be more likely to result in death where workers are located further from specialised medical services and emergency response assistance⁴.

The analysis also highlights a higher proportion of fatalities in Remote and Very Remote Australia occur in Agriculture, forestry and fishing and Mining, while Construction and Manufacturing account for a higher share of fatalities in Major Cities.

In contrast, fatalities in Transport, postal and warehousing occur at high levels across all remoteness areas, reflecting the industry's widespread presence throughout Australia.

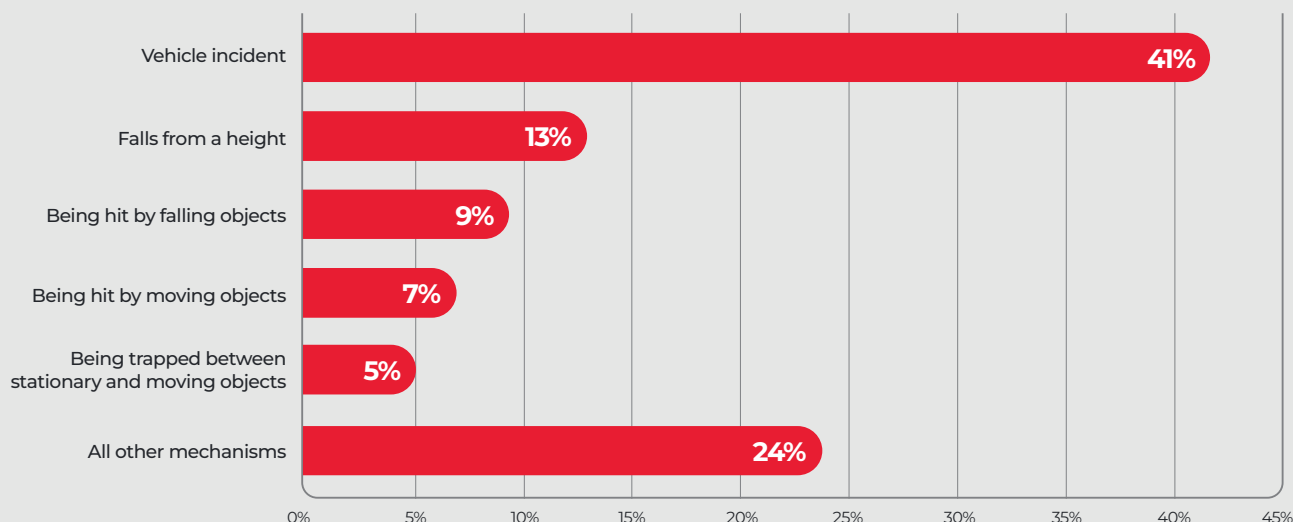


Mechanism of incident

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

Vehicle incidents (92 workers; 41%), Falls from a height (28 workers; 13%) and Being hit by falling objects (21 workers; 9%) accounted for almost two-thirds (64%) of all worker fatalities in 2025.

Worker fatalities by most common mechanism of incident, 2025



Notes:

- 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, moving equipment or other moving objects.
- Percentages in this chart do not add to 100% due to rounding.



Data spotlight: Falls from a height, falling objects and the construction industry

While **Vehicle incidents** continue to be the leading cause of worker fatalities in 2025 (accounting for 41% of fatalities), there have been notable changes in other fatality mechanisms.

Historically, **Being hit by moving objects** (such as cars and other vehicles) was the second most common mechanism of worker fatalities. However, **Falls from a height** has occupied that position for 3 consecutive years, accounting for 13% (28 fatalities) of worker fatalities in 2025, following 13% (24 fatalities) in 2024 and 15% (30 fatalities) in 2023.

In 2025, **Being hit by falling objects** was the third most common mechanism of worker fatalities, accounting for 9% (21 fatalities), compared with 7% (13 fatalities) in 2024 and 6% (12 fatalities) in 2023.

Both mechanisms are commonly associated with work undertaken in the **Construction industry**.

The **Construction industry** recorded 41 worker fatalities in 2025, accounting for almost one in 5 worker fatalities nationally. This compares with 35 fatalities (18%) in 2024 and 46 fatalities (23%) in 2023.

Construction activity has remained at high levels in recent years while labour shortages have continued across many construction trades⁵. These conditions have coincided with an increase in fatalities associated with falls from height and falling objects, highlighting the continuing importance of managing high-risk construction work. More information about [working at heights](#) is available on our website.



Worker fatalities by occupation, 2025

Occupation	Fatalities (count)	Fatalities (rate)
Machinery operators and drivers	77	8.7
Labourers	48	3.9
Technicians and trades workers	35	1.8
Managers	30	1.6
Professionals	19	0.5
Community and personal service workers	7	0.4
Clerical and administrative workers	4	0.2
Sales workers	1	0.1

Note: There was one worker fatality in 2025 where occupation was unknown.

In 2025, Machinery operators and drivers accounted for the largest proportion of worker fatalities (35%) and recorded the highest fatality rate at 8.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers. This was almost 6 times the overall fatality rate of 1.5 fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Worker fatalities by industry, 2025

Industry	Fatalities (count)	Fatalities (rate)
Transport, postal and warehousing	61	8.3
Construction	41	3.0
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	38	13.0
Manufacturing	15	1.7
Administrative and support services	10	2.3
Public administration and safety	8	0.8
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	7	3.3
Mining	7	2.3
Other services	7	1.3
Arts and recreation services	6	2.3
Accommodation and food services	5	0.5
Rental, hiring and real estate services	3	1.3
Wholesale trade	3	0.9
Retail trade	3	0.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	3	0.2
Information media and telecommunications	2	1.1
Education and training	2	0.2
Health care and social assistance	1	<0.1

In 2025, almost two-thirds (63%) of worker fatalities occurred in 3 industries:

- Transport, postal and warehousing (27%; 61 fatalities)
- Construction (18%; 41 fatalities), and
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing (17%; 38 fatalities).

Several industries also recorded fatality counts above their recent averages. The number of fatalities in the Administrative and support services industry in 2025 (10 fatalities) was 72% higher than the 5-year average for this industry (5.8 fatalities), and the number of fatalities in the Electricity, gas, water and waste services industry in 2025 (7 fatalities) was 35% higher than the 5-year average for this industry (5.2 fatalities).



Work-related injury and illness

Safe Work Australia compiles national workers' compensation statistics using data provided by workers' compensation authorities in each state and territory, and by 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](#) on the Safe Work Australia data website for more information.

The following insights provide a snapshot of key findings from the latest data on work-related injuries and illnesses in Australia. More detailed results are available through our [interactive data dashboard](#).

147,200

serious claims (count)⁶

10.7

incidence rate⁷
(serious claims
per 1,000 jobs)

6.7

frequency rate⁸
(serious claims per million
hours worked)

8.2 weeks

median time lost⁹

\$19,000

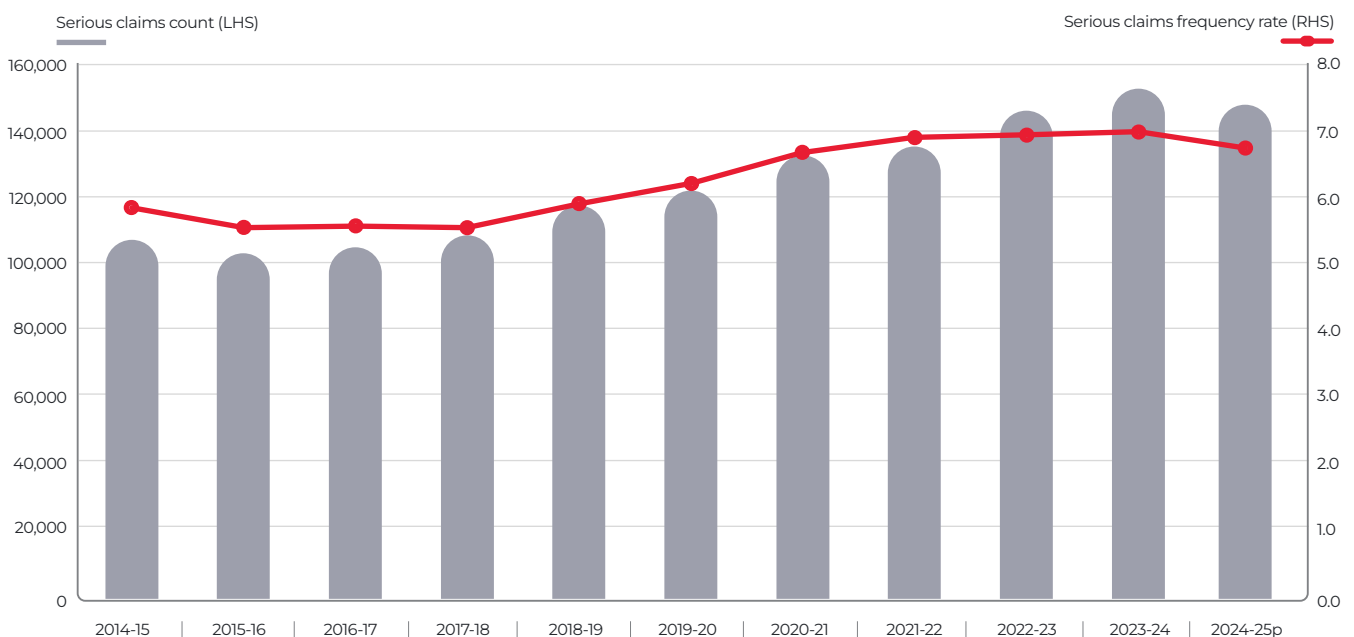
median compensation paid¹⁰

The latest data highlight the ongoing impact of work-related injuries and illnesses across Australian workers.

In 2024-25p, there were approximately 147,200 serious workers' compensation claims. Compared with 10 years ago (2014-15), the number of serious claims has increased by 40,600 (38.1%).

However, the serious claims frequency rate, which accounts for changes in the number of hours worked over time, shows a more subdued increase of 0.9 claims per million hours worked (14.9%).

Serious claims count and frequency rate, 2014-15 to 2024-25p





Data spotlight: Insights from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey

The NDS data provides a valuable range of insights into the characteristics of workers' compensation claims, including time lost and compensation payments. However, this data does not capture the broader impacts that work-related injuries and illnesses can have on workers and their families, and the long-term complexities of their recovery.

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey¹¹ is a nationally representative household-based panel study that collects information on economic and personal wellbeing, labour market participation and family circumstances. Conducted since 2001¹², its longitudinal design provides a unique opportunity to examine injured worker experiences and the longer-term effects of work-related injuries or illnesses¹³.

Analysis of HILDA data shows that work-related injuries resulting in one month or more away from work can have detrimental impacts on both the general and mental health of workers that extend far beyond the injury itself.

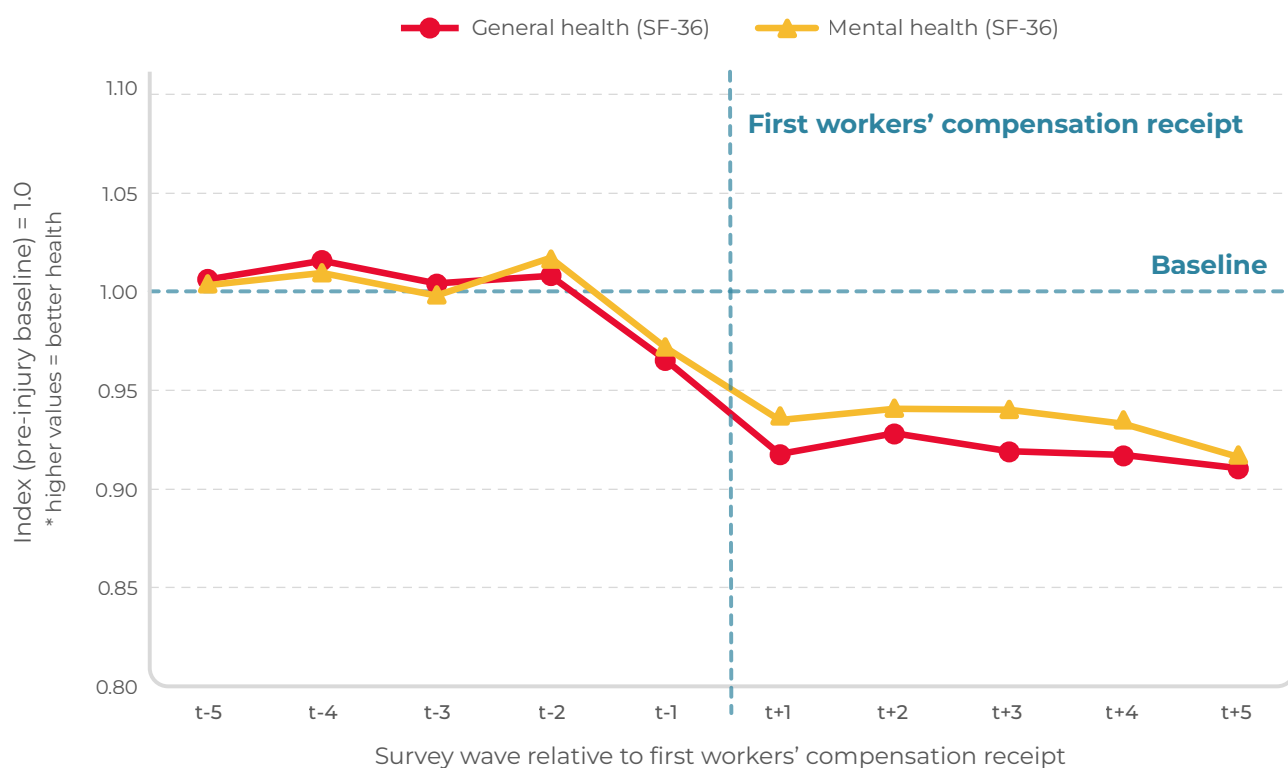
Following a work-related injury¹⁴ resulting in one month or more off work, workers experience declines in both general and mental health¹⁵. On average, general health declines by approximately 8%, while mental health declines by approximately 7%.

These impacts persist well beyond the initial injury. Five years post injury, both general and mental health remain persistently below the pre-injury baseline, indicating that the effects of serious work-related injuries can be long lasting and reinforcing the importance of prevention to reduce the incidence of work-related injuries and illnesses.

Worker health before and after first workers' compensation receipt

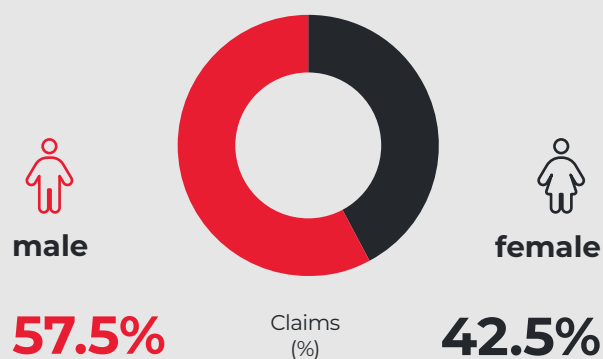
Age-standardised indices relative to pre-injury average (t-5 to t-1)

The first workers' compensation receipt occurs at t=0



Demographics (sex)

Serious claims by sex, 2024-25p



Sex	Claims (count)
male	84,100
female	62,100

Sex	Incidence rate
male	12.2
female	9.1

Sex	Frequency rate
male	6.9
female	6.4

Sex	Median time lost (weeks)
male	8.0
female	9.0

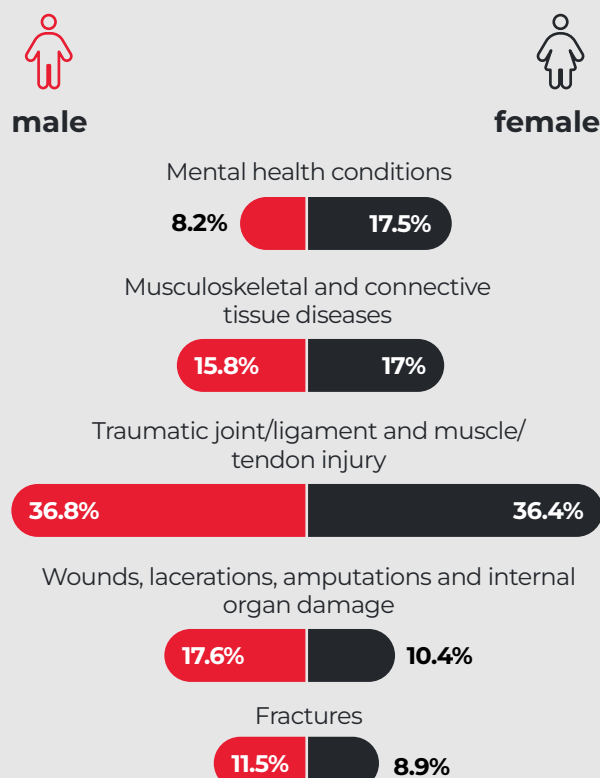
Sex	Median compensation paid (\$)
male	\$19,900
female	\$17,800

The majority of serious claims were made by men (57.5% in 2024-25p). However, the share of serious claims accounted for by women has increased by 6.2 percentage points over the 10 years to 2024-25p, reflecting continued growth in female workforce participation.

When hours worked are taken into account, the serious claims frequency rate for men (6.9 claims per million hours worked) is 7.8% higher than the rate for women (6.4).

Women have a higher median time lost per serious claim (9.0 working weeks) than men (8.0 working weeks). In contrast, the median compensation paid for serious claims made by men (\$19,900) is 11.3% higher than that for women (\$17,800).

Serious claims (%) by sex and most common nature (major group), 2024-25p



The Nature¹⁶ of work-related injury and illness differs significantly between men and women.

Mental health conditions accounted for a substantially higher proportion of serious claims among women (17.5%) than men (8.2%).

By comparison, wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage represented a larger share of serious claims among men (17.6%) than women (10.4%).

These differences are influenced by the occupations, industries and workplace hazards more commonly experienced by men and women.



Demographics (age)

The 2024-25p NDS data show that the serious claims frequency rate, median time lost and median compensation paid generally increase with age.

Taking into account the hours worked, the serious claim frequency rate was highest for workers aged 65 years and over (9.5 serious claims per million hours worked), followed by workers aged 55 to 64 years (9.2).

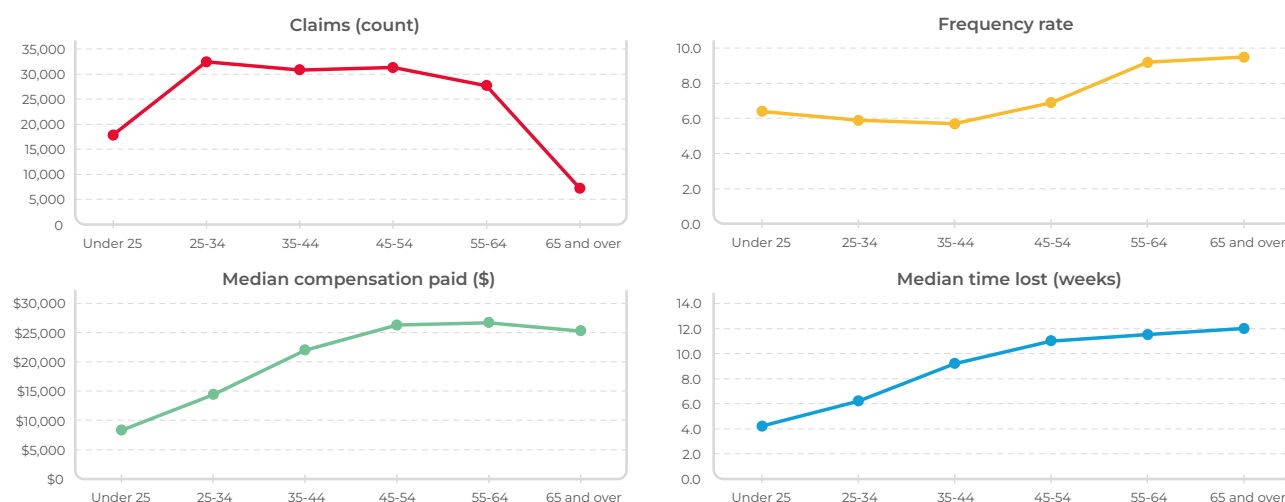
The lowest serious claims frequency rate was among workers aged 35 to 44 years (5.7 serious claims per million hours worked).

Overall, serious claims were 1.5 times more frequent for older workers (55 years and over) compared to the average observed across all other age cohorts.

These findings are particularly important in the context of Australia's ageing workforce.

Over the 10 years to 2024-25p, the proportion of serious claims involving workers aged 55 to 64 years increased by 0.9 percentage points, while those aged 65 years and over increased by 2.4 percentage points.

Serious claims headline measures by age group, 2024-25p



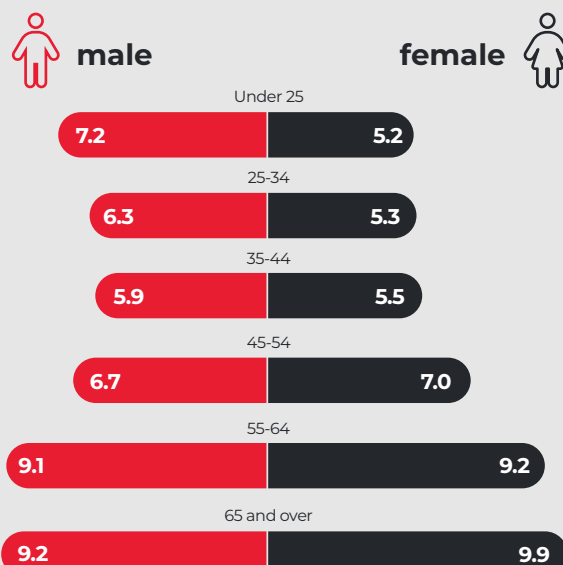
Serious claims headline results by age group, 2024-25p

Age group	Serious claims (count)	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Under 25	17,800	7.6	6.4	4.2	\$8,300
25-34	32,400	9.8	5.9	6.2	\$14,400
35-44	30,800	9.9	5.7	9.2	\$22,000
45-54	31,300	12.2	6.9	11.0	\$26,300
55-64	27,700	15.1	9.2	11.5	\$26,700
65+	7,200	12.6	9.5	12.0	\$25,300

The relationship between age and serious claims also differs by sex.

For workers aged up to 44 years, men recorded higher serious claim frequency rates than women. However, among workers aged 45 years and over, women recorded higher serious claim frequency rates.

Serious claims (frequency rate) by sex and age group, 2024-25p





Data spotlight: Return to work insights from workers' compensation data

Timely return to work is an important part of recovery following a work-related injury or illness. Research¹⁷ shows that longer periods away from work can adversely affect physical and mental health, increase social and economic costs, and have a detrimental effect on future employment.

The 2025 National Return to Work Survey (NRTWS) found that 88.9% of injured workers returned to work at some point following their work-related injury or illness.

New analysis of workers' compensation claims provides additional insights into return to work outcomes by exploring how soon after an injury or illness workers return to work in some capacity.

The workers' compensation-based return to work rate measures the proportion of claimants who return to work within specified time periods following a work-related injury over the prior year¹⁸.

As at the 30 June 2024 reporting reference point:



44.2%

returned within
4 weeks



66.9%

returned within
13 weeks



78.3%

returned within
26 weeks



87.0%

returned within
52 weeks

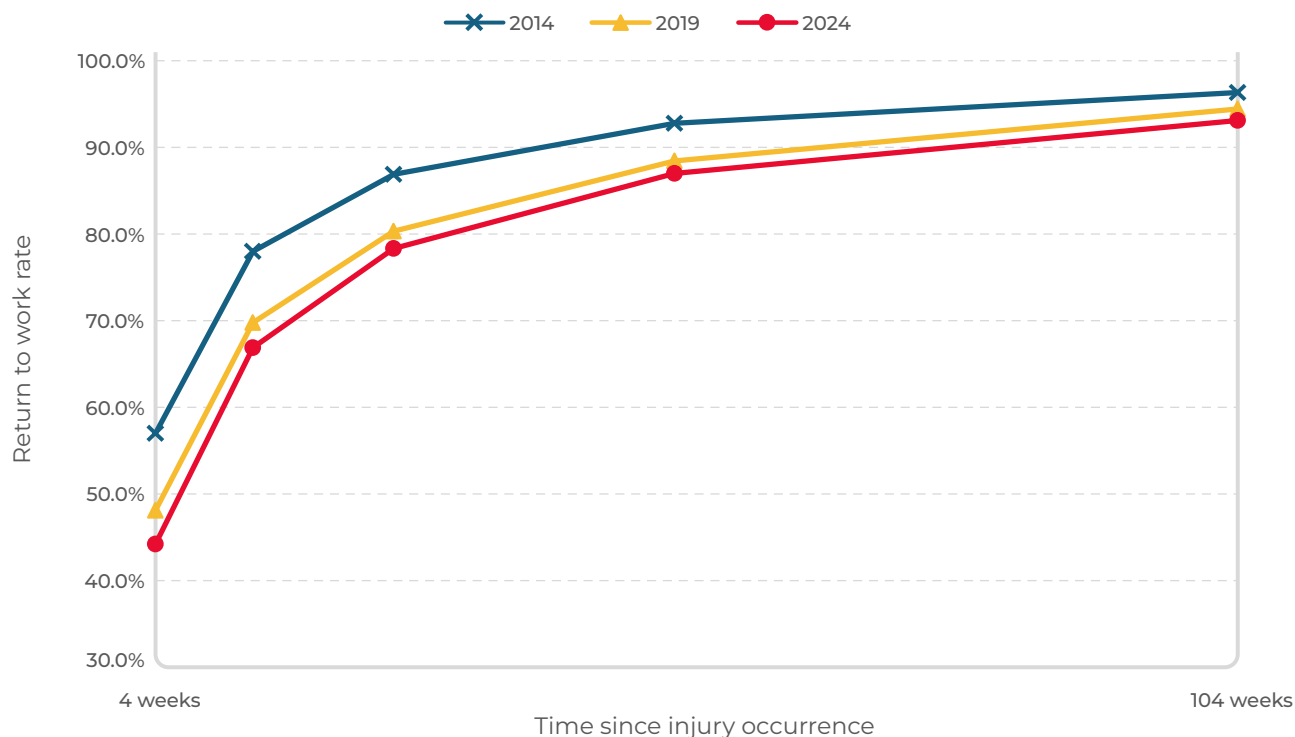


93.1%

returned within
104 weeks

Workers' compensation-based return to work rates by benchmark periods, time series comparison

Reporting reference points: 30 June 2024, 2019 and 2014



The workers' compensation-based return to work rates also indicate that return to work outcomes have been trending downwards over time. This finding is consistent with NRTWS results, which show an overall decline in return to work rates since 2014.

The proportion of claimants indicating a return to work within 52 weeks fell from 92.8% in 2014 to 87.0% in 2024.

More insights from the National Return to Work Survey can be found in the [National Return to Work Survey Data](#) on the Safe Work Australia data website.



Nature of injury or disease

In 2024-25p, Injuries accounted for two-thirds of serious workers' compensation claims (66.6% or 98,000), with Diseases and conditions comprising the remaining third (33.4% or 49,100).

Diseases and conditions account for an increasing proportion of serious claims, with their share growing from approximately one in 4 serious claims (26.1%) in 2014-15, to one in 3 serious claims (33.4%) in 2024-25p.

Serious claims were highly concentrated among a small number of injury and disease types. In 2024-25p, the 5 most common Nature of injury or disease (major groups) accounted for 90.0% of all serious claims (132,500), and two-thirds (67.5%) were concentrated in just 3 of these groups.

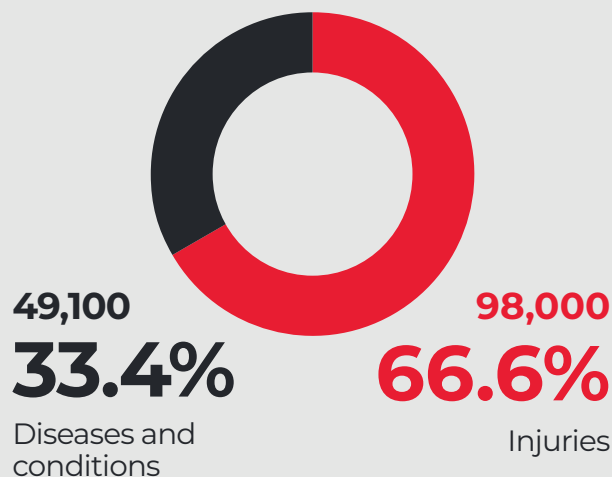
The largest year-on-year decline in serious claims in 2024-25p was observed for the Infectious and parasitic diseases Nature of injury major group, which declined by 47.2% (1,800 claims).

This decrease was largely driven by the decline in serious claims related to COVID-19.

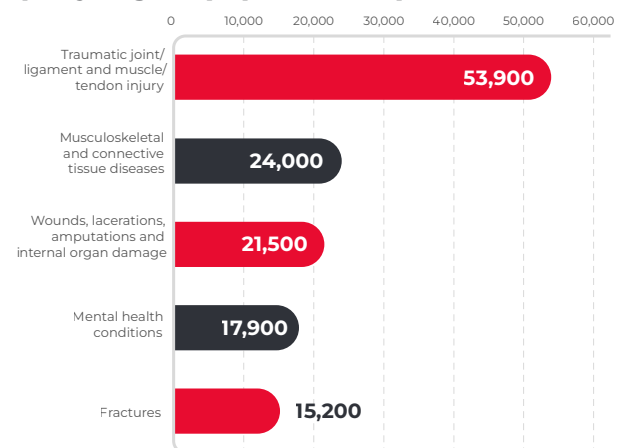
Despite this fall, serious claims for Infectious and parasitic diseases remain substantially above pre-pandemic levels, increasing by 1,700 claims compared with 2014-15.

More information about the impact of COVID-19 on the NDS time series can be found in the [technical note](#), available in the Resources on the [NDS data catalogue page](#) on the Safe Work Australia data website.

Serious claims by Nature classification, 2024-25p



Serious claims by most common Nature of injury or disease (major groups), 2024-25p



Serious claims headline results by Nature (major group), 2024-25p

Nature (classification)	Nature (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Injuries	Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury	53,900	36.6%	7.6	\$17,200
	Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage	21,500	14.6%	3.4	\$10,200
	Fractures	15,200	10.4%	10.0	\$22,000
	Other injuries	3,400	2.3%	5.0	\$11,000
	Burn	2,000	1.4%	2.6	\$4,400
	Intracranial injuries	1,800	1.3%	5.2	\$10,400
	Injury to nerves and spinal cord	210	0.1%	13.4	\$36,100
	Other injuries	210	0.1%	13.4	\$36,100
Diseases and conditions	Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases	24,000	16.3%	12.8	\$26,200
	Mental health conditions	17,900	12.2%	34.8	\$68,600
	Digestive system diseases	2,000	1.4%	7.5	\$20,700
	Infectious and parasitic diseases	2,000	1.4%	1.1	\$1,800
	Nervous system and sense organ diseases	1,500	1.0%	15.2	\$30,800
	Other claims	600	0.4%	4.0	\$10,200
	Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases	500	0.3%	3.2	\$8,300
	Respiratory system diseases	340	0.2%	8.1	\$24,500
	Circulatory system diseases	140	0.1%	15.9	\$35,300
	Neoplasms (cancer)	110	0.1%	5.1	\$21,100
	Other diseases	100	0.1%	10.1	\$22,500



Data spotlight: Mental health condition claims

Mental health conditions accounted for 12.2% (17,900) of all serious claims in 2024-25p. While the number of serious Mental health condition claims fell slightly over the year, decreasing by 580 claims (3.2%), they recorded the largest change of any Nature of injury major group over the decade to 2024-25p. Since 2014-15, serious claims for Mental health conditions have increased by 11,300 (169.4%), highlighting the growing impact of psychosocial hazards in Australian workplaces.

17,900

serious claims
(count)

12.2%

serious claims (%)

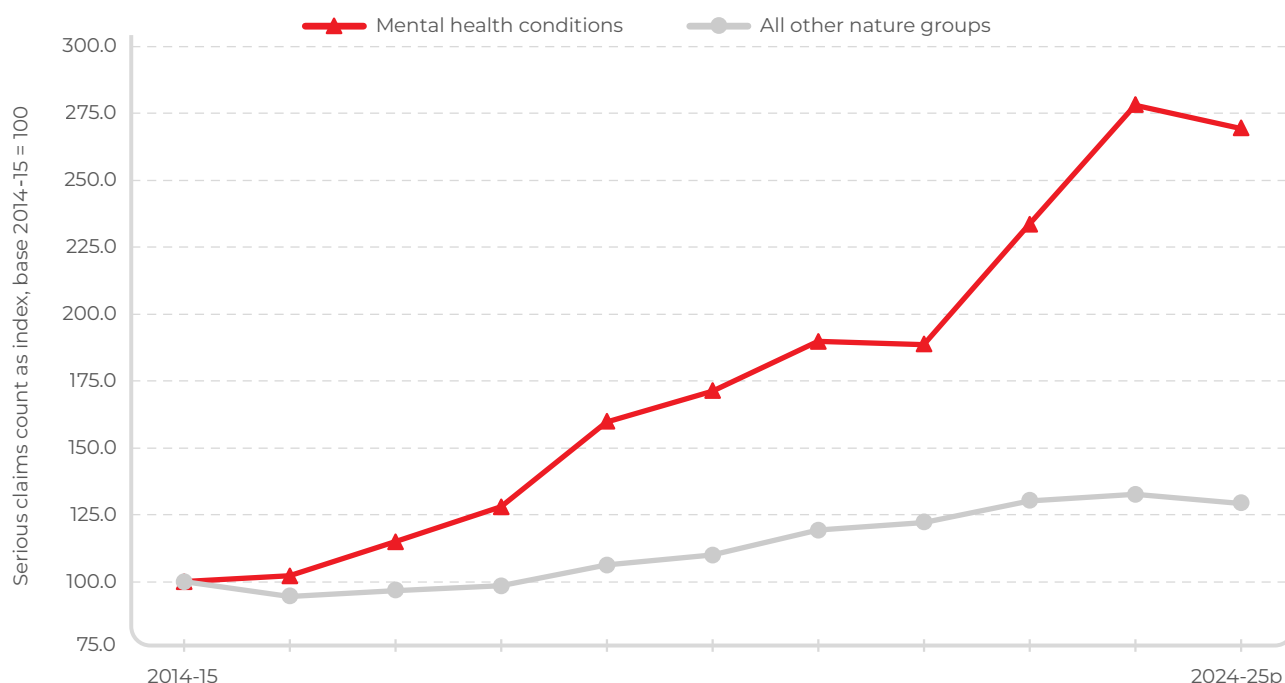
\$68,600

median
compensation
paid (\$)

**34.8
weeks**

median time lost

Index of serious claims by Nature groupings, 2014-15 to 2024-25p



Mental health conditions are also one of the costliest forms of workplace injury, resulting in significantly longer periods away from work and higher compensation payments when compared to other types of claims.

The median time lost from Mental health condition claims in 2023-24 (34.8 working weeks) was almost 5 times longer than the median time lost across all other serious claims (7.0 weeks).

The median compensation paid for a Mental health condition serious claim in 2023-24 was \$68,600, more than 4 times the median compensation paid across all other serious claims (\$16,100).



Mechanism of incident

A small number of incident mechanisms account for the majority of serious workers' compensation claims.

In 2024-25p, 85.1% of serious claims were concentrated in 4 of the 10 Mechanism of incident major groups¹⁹.

Body stressing was the leading mechanism, accounting for 51,800 (35.2%) of all serious claims. It was also the leading Mechanism for serious claims for workers' compensation across all 8 occupational major groups.

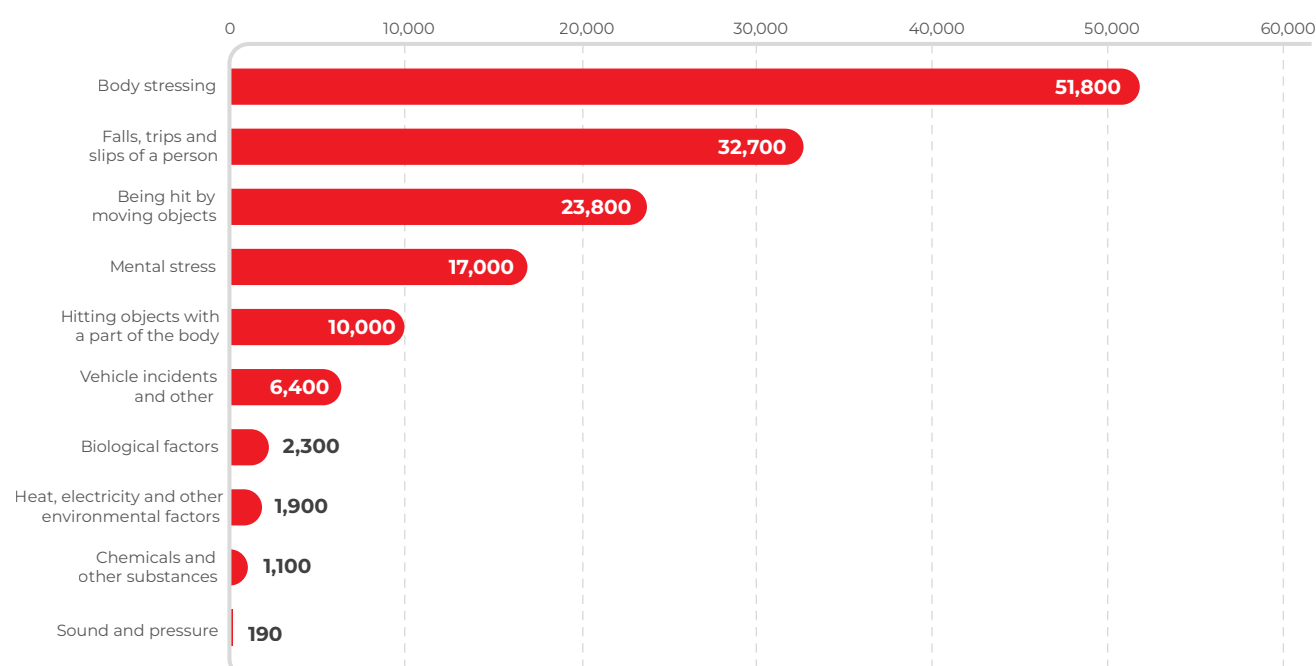
Mental stress was the cause of 17,000 serious claims (11.5%) in 2024-25p.

The most common types of Mental stress claims were:

- Work-related harassment and/or workplace bullying (5,400 claims; 31.6%)
- Work pressure (4,500 claims; 26.5%), and
- Exposure to violence and harassment (3,000 claims, 17.7%).

Together, these 3 mechanisms accounted for more than three-quarters of all Mental stress claims.

Serious claims by Mechanism major groups, 2024-25p



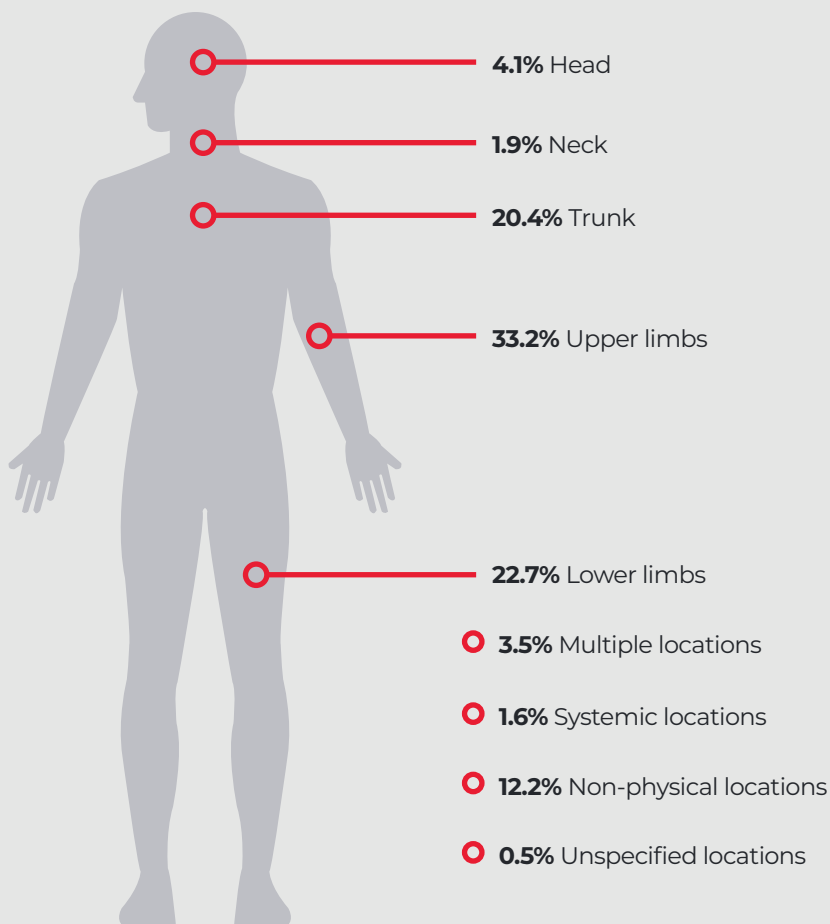
Serious claims headline results by Mechanism (major group), 2024-25p

Mechanism (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Body stressing	51,800	35.2%	9.5	\$21,200
Falls, trips and slips of a person	32,700	22.2%	8.8	\$19,100
Being hit by moving objects	23,800	16.2%	5.3	\$13,500
Mental stress	17,000	11.5%	35.0	\$69,400
Hitting objects with a part of the body	10,000	6.8%	3.6	\$10,200
Vehicle incidents and other	6,400	4.3%	8.1	\$19,300
Biological factors	2,300	1.6%	1.2	\$1,900
Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	1,900	1.3%	2.5	\$4,400
Chemicals and other substances	1,100	0.8%	3.2	\$7,300
Sound and pressure	190	0.1%	8.0	\$17,900

Bodily location of injury or disease

Serious claims by bodily location major groups, 2024-25p²⁰

Injuries affecting workers' limbs accounted for more than half of all serious claims in 2024-25p, including the upper limbs (48,900 claims; 33.2%) and lower limbs (33,400 claims; 22.7%).



Bodily location (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Head	6,100	4.1%	3.0	\$7,800
Neck	2,800	1.9%	10.0	\$24,300
Trunk	30,000	20.4%	7.2	\$15,600
Upper limbs	48,900	33.2%	7.6	\$18,300
Lower limbs	33,400	22.7%	7.8	\$17,200
Multiple locations	5,100	3.5%	9.7	\$23,200
Systemic locations	2,300	1.6%	1.2	\$1,900
Non-physical locations	17,900	12.2%	34.8	\$68,600
Unspecified locations	670	0.5%	4.6	\$10,100



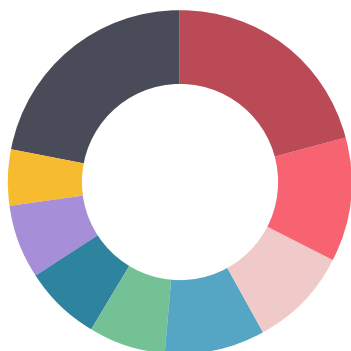
Industry

Serious claims were concentrated in a relatively small number of industries.

In 2024-25p, the 4 Industry²¹ divisions with the largest number of serious claims accounted for 51.4% of all serious claims (75,600), despite representing only 36.4% of filled jobs covered by a workers' compensation scheme.

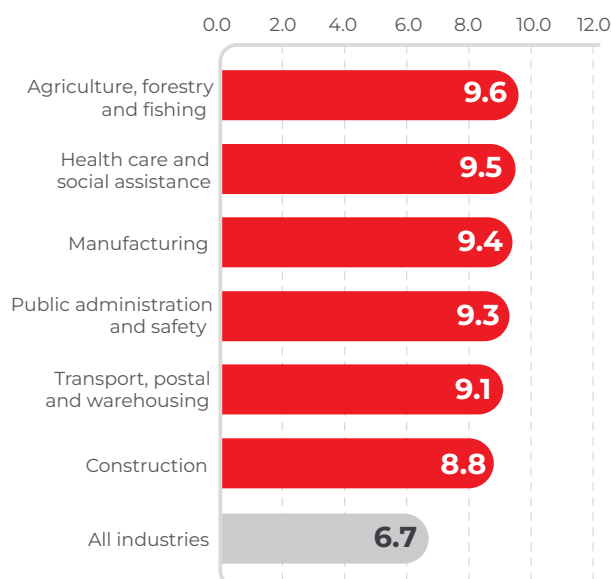
Accounting for hours worked, the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry recorded the highest serious claims frequency rate at 9.6 claims per million hours worked in 2024-25p. This represents a frequency rate of serious claims 43.3% higher than the average rate across all industries (6.7).

Serious claims by most common Industry divisions, 2024-25p



20.8% Health care and social assistance	7.4% Education and training
11.7% Construction	7.2% Transport, postal and warehousing
9.6% Manufacturing	7.0% Retail trade
9.2% Public administration and safety	5.2% Accommodation and food services
21.8% All other industries	

Largest serious claims frequency rates by Industry divisions, 2024-25p



Serious claims headline results by Industry (division), 2024-25p

Industry division	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,700	2.5%	18.4	9.6	7.0	\$15,700
Mining	3,200	2.2%	14.0	6.2	11.5	\$38,500
Manufacturing	14,200	9.6%	17.2	9.4	7.2	\$18,700
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1,500	1.0%	10.6	5.7	8.6	\$23,100
Construction	17,200	11.7%	16.9	8.8	8.8	\$21,500
Wholesale trade	5,300	3.6%	15.3	8.4	8.2	\$20,200
Retail trade	10,200	7.0%	7.5	5.6	8.2	\$16,100
Accommodation and food services	7,700	5.2%	7.8	6.6	5.3	\$10,000
Transport, postal and warehousing	10,600	7.2%	16.4	9.1	10.2	\$25,600
Information media and telecommunications	670	0.5%	3.8	2.2	10.8	\$31,100
Financial and insurance services	780	0.5%	1.5	0.9	19.8	\$46,700
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1,500	1.0%	6.5	3.6	10.0	\$23,800
Professional, scientific and technical services	2,700	1.8%	2.3	1.3	10.4	\$28,000
Administrative and support services	5,800	4.0%	7.9	4.7	7.8	\$14,300
Public administration and safety	13,600	9.2%	15.5	9.3	11.0	\$29,800
Education and training	10,900	7.4%	8.4	5.6	8.0	\$21,000
Health care and social assistance	30,700	20.8%	13.4	9.5	7.5	\$13,800
Arts and recreation services	2,800	1.9%	10.6	8.4	7.3	\$14,400
Other services	4,100	2.8%	9.5	5.7	8.8	\$20,800



Occupation

Some jobs involve higher levels of exposure to hazards and potential harm. In 2024-25p, 62.1% of serious claims (or 90,700) were concentrated in just 3 of the 8 Occupation²² major groups.

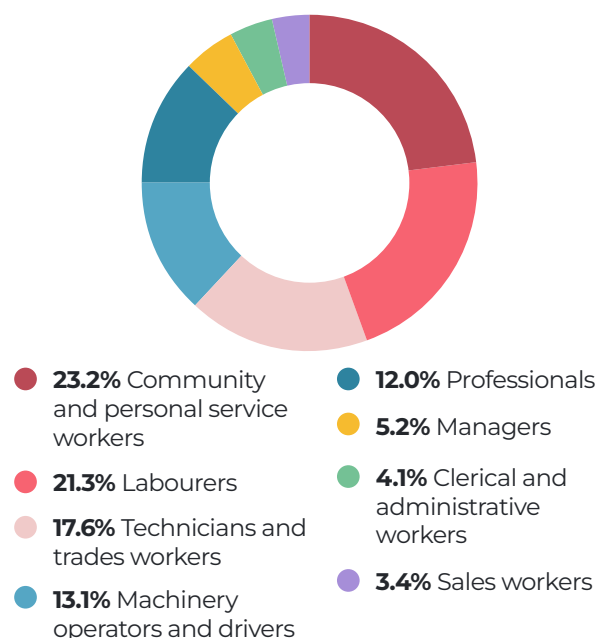
Notably, while these occupational groups recorded 62.1% of serious claims in 2024-25p, they represent only 32.5% of jobs covered by a workers' compensation scheme.

Information about the hazards workers are exposed to in different jobs, including the prevalence of exposure to different agents, where exposure is concentrated, and which work and workers are most likely to be exposed, can be found in the [2026 Australian Worker Exposure Survey analysis report](#).

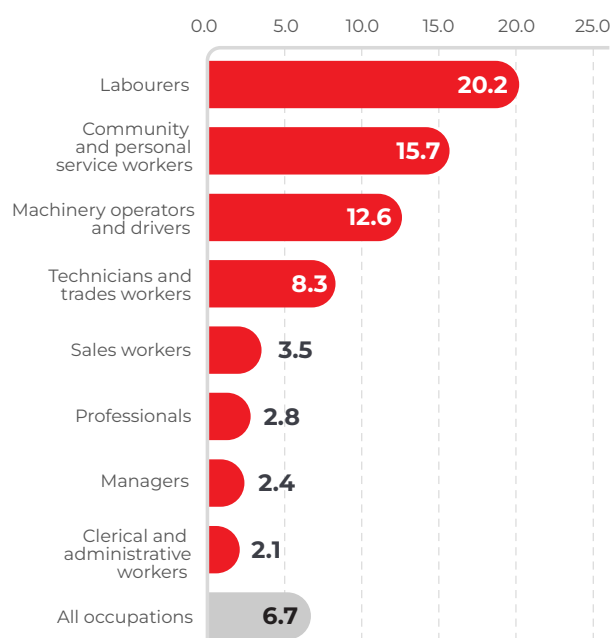
The [Beta Occupational Hazards Dataset](#) also contains summary information about different workplace hazards typically encountered in jobs across the labour market.

Accounting for hours worked, the 2024-25p 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. The 2026 Australian Worker Exposure Survey found that Technicians and trades workers, Machinery operators and drivers and Labourers had the highest proportion of workers with multiple hazard exposure.

Serious claims by Occupation major group, 2024-25p



Serious claims (frequency rate) by Occupation major group, 2024-25p



Serious claims headline results by Occupation (major group), 2024-25p

Occupation (major group)	Claims (count)	Claims (%)	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Median time lost (weeks)	Median compensation paid (\$)
Managers	7,600	5.2%	4.5	2.4	12.8	\$34,800
Professionals	17,500	12.0%	4.7	2.8	9.1	\$22,600
Technicians and trades workers	25,800	17.6%	15.5	8.3	7.3	\$18,500
Community and personal service workers	33,800	23.2%	19.9	15.7	8.4	\$16,600
Clerical and administrative workers	6,000	4.1%	3.3	2.1	12.9	\$30,600
Sales workers	5,000	3.4%	4.3	3.5	9.3	\$15,800
Machinery operators and drivers	19,200	13.1%	23.7	12.6	10.2	\$24,500
Labourers	31,100	21.3%	28.0	20.2	6.5	\$14,500

References and endnotes

- ¹ 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>
- ² NDS data for 2024-25 are preliminary (denoted by 'p') and subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.
- ³ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs/latest-release>
- ⁴ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/rural-remote-australians/rural-and-remote-health>
- ⁵ <https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/data/occupation-shortage/occupation-shortage-list>
- ⁶ Claims (count) – unless otherwise stated, all workers' compensation data presented in this report are for 'serious claims'. Serious claims are defined as accepted workers' compensation claims that involve one or more weeks away from work, excluding fatalities and specific Duty statuses.
- ⁷ Incidence rate – claims per 1,000 jobs. The 'incidence rate' is defined as the number of claims per thousand filled jobs covered under workers' compensation schemes.
- ⁸ Frequency rate – claims per million hours worked. The 'Frequency rate' is defined as the number of 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.
- ⁹ Median time lost (weeks) – median time lost is not reported for the preliminary data reference period because a high proportion of claims remain open. Data for the most recent non-preliminary reporting period (2023-24) is used for reporting purposes in such instances.
- ¹⁰ Median compensation paid (\$) – 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 a high proportion of claims remain open. Data for the most recent non-preliminary reporting period (2023-24) is used for reporting purposes in such instances.
- ¹¹ This paper uses unit record data from Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey conducted by the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS). The findings and views reported in this paper, however, are those of the author(s) and should not be attributed to the Australian Government, DSS, or any of DSS' contractors or partners. DOI: 10.26193/6M1BMR.
- ¹² Data are collected in discrete annual 'waves', with each wave corresponding to one year of survey collection.
- ¹³ HILDA data captures whether the respondent spent any time on workers' compensation during the previous 12 months. This variable is collected from wave 5 onwards.
- ¹⁴ It is assumed that a workplace injury occurs prior to receipt of workers' compensation between times t-2 and t-0. This assumption is necessary as there can be a delay between a work-related injury occurrence and the lodgement, processing and acceptance of a workers' compensation claim.
- ¹⁵ SF-36 General Health and Mental Health scores are derived from respondents' self-assessments of their health and wellbeing using the Short Form-36 (SF-36) health questionnaire. Scores reflect individuals' perceptions of their own health status and should not be interpreted as clinical diagnoses or independently verified measures of physical or mental health.
- ¹⁶ Nature refers to the most serious injury or disease sustained or suffered by the worker. See the [Type of Occurrence Classifications System \(TOOCS\)](#) dataset page on the Safe Work Australia data website for further information on the Nature coding structure.
- ¹⁷ https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/policy-and-adv/foemo/hbgw/helping-people-return-to-work-using-evidence-for-better-outcomes.pdf?sfvrsn=57ae3e1a_10 "Helping people return to work: Using evidence for better outcomes - A Position Statement, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians and The Australian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, 2010, p 14.
- ¹⁸ The workers' compensation-based return to work rate is calculated for a given reference point using a 12-month injury window, which is lagged by the corresponding return to work benchmark period. This allows claims that occurred within the window sufficient time to develop before reporting.

The scope of the analysis is Total claims that occurred within the injury window which involved 3 hours or more time lost and did not result in fatality. This restriction narrows focus appropriately to claims that both involved a work separation and where return to work was possible.

Note: this measure is based on total compensated time lost only and should be used with caution.
- ¹⁹ Mechanism is the overall action, exposure or event that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the most serious injury or disease. See the [Type of Occurrence Classifications System \(TOOCS\)](#) dataset page on the Safe Work Australia data website for further information on the Mechanism coding structure.
- ²⁰ 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) dataset page on the Safe Work Australia data website for further information on the Bodily location coding structure.
- ²¹ 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 \(ANZSIC\)](#).
- ²² 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 \(ANZSCO\)](#).