



# Industry Statistical Report 2013/14 - 2016/17

**Construction in the Western Australian  
Workers' Compensation Scheme**


June 2018







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WorkCover WA is the government agency responsible for overseeing the WA workers' compensation and injury management system. WorkCover WA undertakes a range of educational, advisory, enforcement and performance monitoring activities to ensure the WA workers' compensation scheme is fair, accessible and cost-effective for all participants.

Industry Statistical Report:  
Construction  
2013/14 to 2016/17

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# Table of Contents

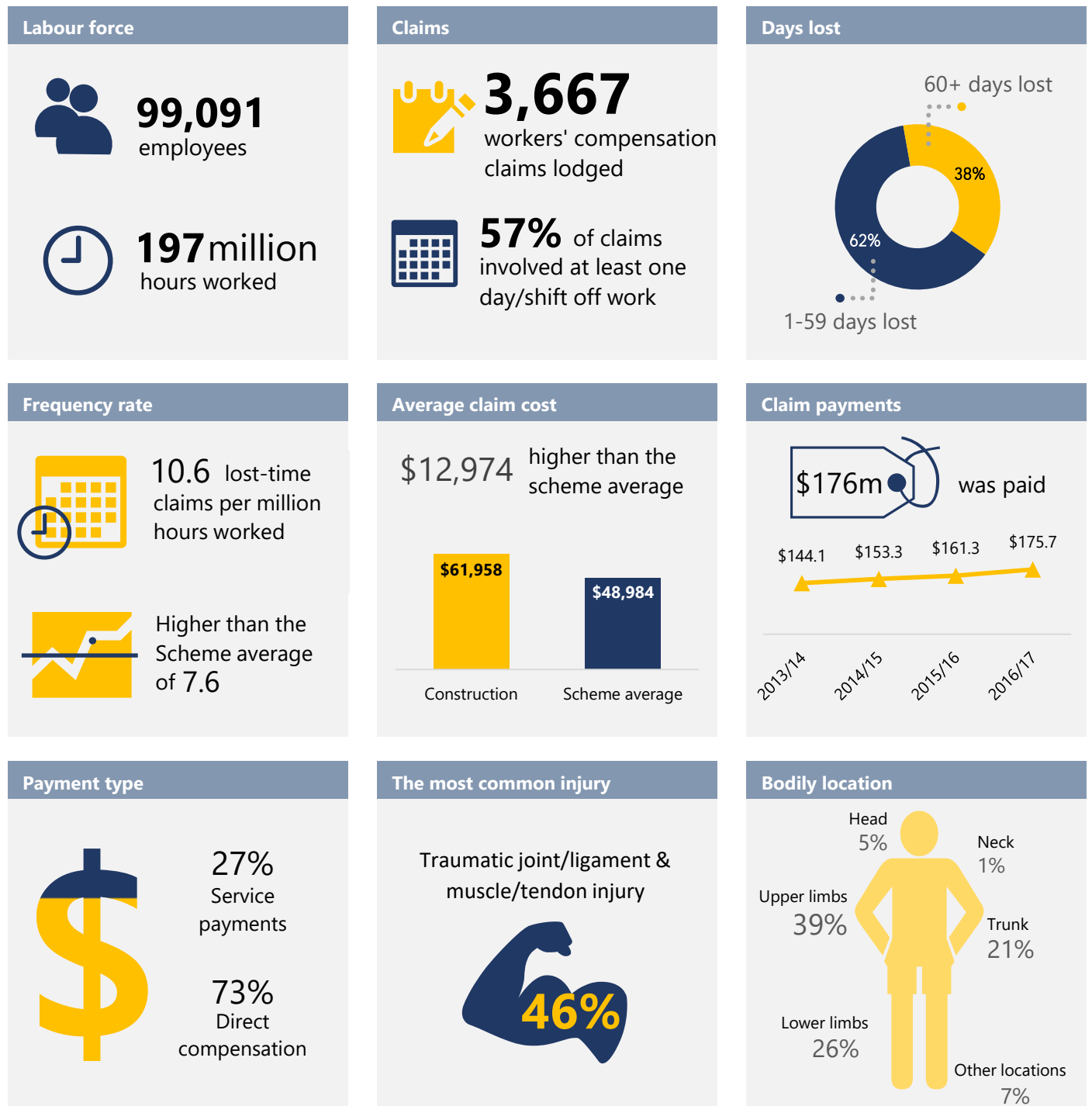
<b>Construction at a glance</b> .....	4
<b>Claim numbers</b>	
Claims by lost-time .....	5
Frequency rate .....	5
Claims by days lost group .....	6
<b>Claim payments</b>	
Direct compensation payments .....	7
Service payments .....	7
<b>Claim costs</b>	
Total claim costs .....	9
Proportion by days lost .....	9
Average claim costs .....	9
<b>Claims by industry subdivision</b>	
Claim numbers by lost-time .....	10
Lost-time claims and frequency rate .....	11
<b>Return to work status</b> .....	12
<b>Claimant characteristics</b>	
Gender .....	13
Age group .....	14
Occupation .....	15
<b>Injury/disease attributes</b>	
Nature of injury/disease .....	16
Bodily location of injury/disease .....	17
Mechanism of incident .....	18
Agency of injury/disease .....	19
<b>Glossary</b> .....	20
<b>Disclaimer</b> .....	24

## Construction

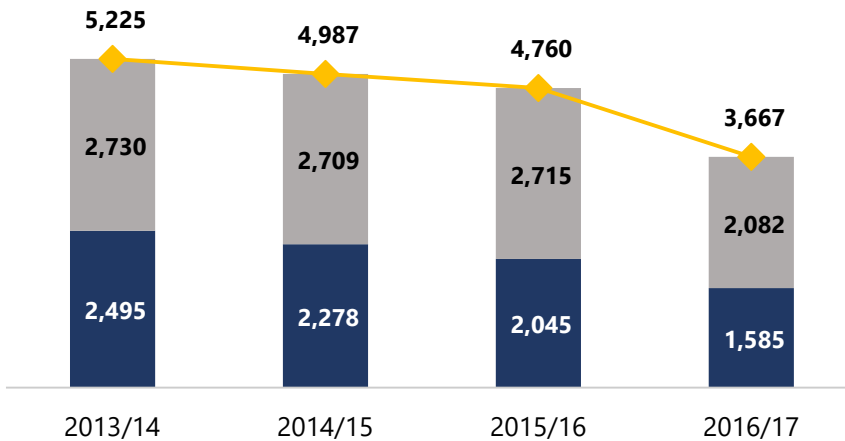
The Construction industry is classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006* provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

This industry includes building construction, heavy and civil engineering construction, and construction services (land development and site preparation, building structure, building installation, building completion, and other construction services).

### Construction at a glance 2016/17



**Claim numbers** number of claims lodged by lost-time



■ **All claims**

Total claims in the Construction industry decreased by 30% from 2013/14 to 2016/17.

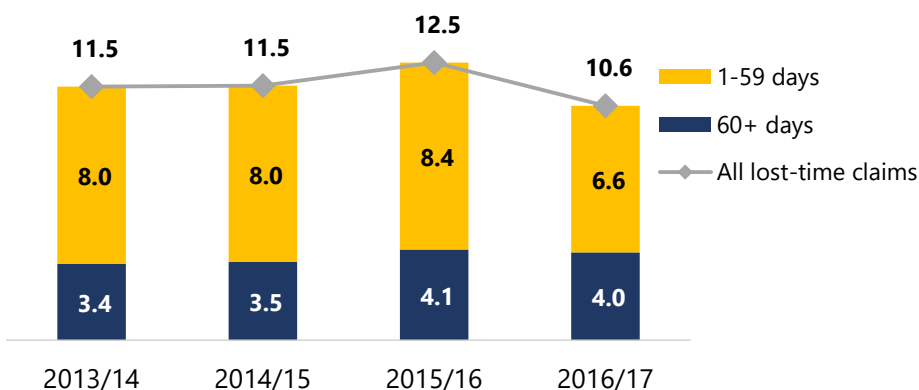
■ **Lost-time claims**

The number of lost-time claims in Construction decreased to 2,082 for 2016/17.

■ **No lost-time claims**

Claims with no time off work averaged 2,101 claims between 2013/14 to 2016/17.

**Frequency rate** lost-time claims per million hours worked



**Frequency rate** indicates

the prevalence of workers' compensation lost-time claims by measuring the number of claims per million hours worked. The number of hours worked by employed persons is supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



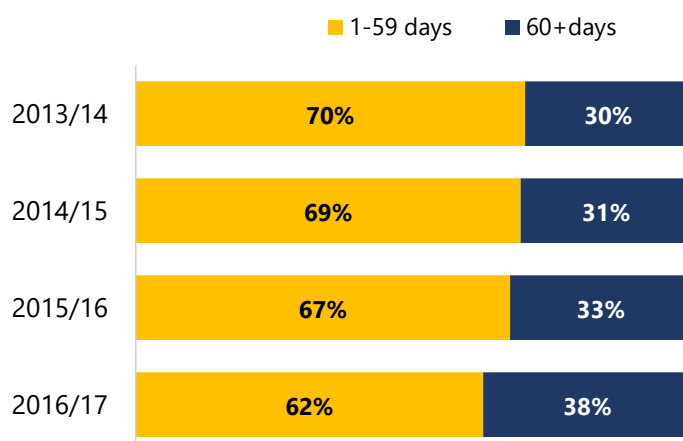
For claims lodged in 2016/17, the Construction industry's frequency rate was 10.6 lost-time claims per million hours worked, compared to the scheme average of 7.6.

**Claim numbers** number of claims lodged by days lost

DAYS LOST	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
0 days	2,495	2,278	2,045	1,585	▼
1 - 4 days	565	535	468	327	▼
5 - 19 days	787	761	759	525	▼
20 - 59 days	559	579	601	449	▼
60 - 119 days	309	299	290	248	▼
120 - 179 days	128	137	137	122	■
180+ days	382	398	460	411	▲
<b>All claims</b>	<b>5,225</b>	<b>4,987</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>3,667</b>	▼

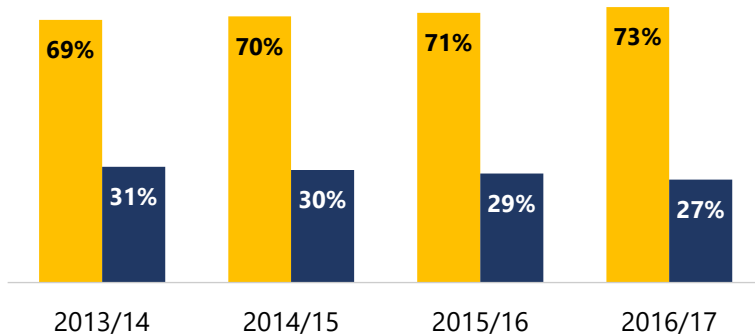
▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Lost-time claims** proportions by days lost group



**Construction** accounts for **13%** of total claims lodged in 2016/17 in the workers' compensation scheme of WA.

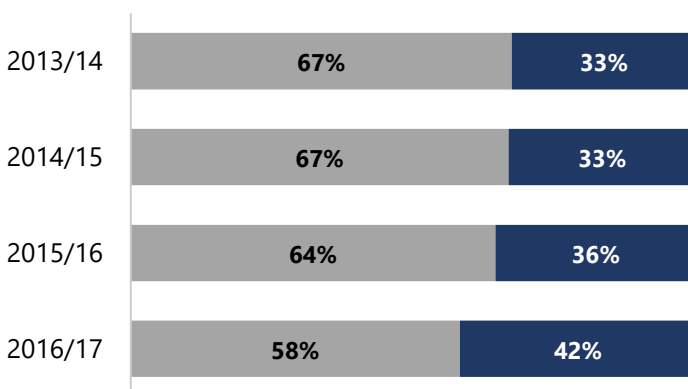
**Total claim payments proportions by payment group**



**Direct compensation** payments made directly to the worker (either by income replacement or lump sums).

**Service payments** includes medical & hospital, allied health, workplace rehabilitation and legal & miscellaneous payments.

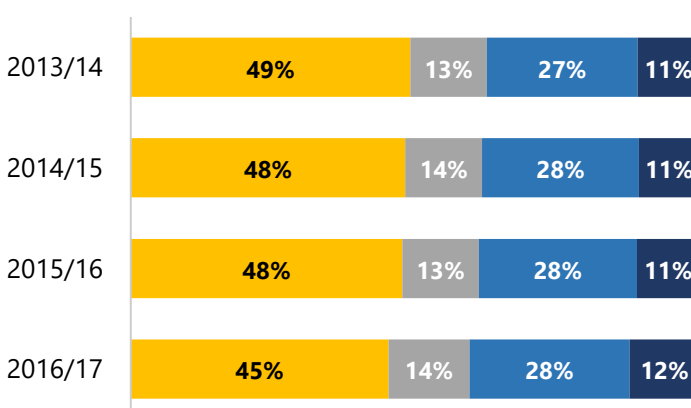
**Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type**



**Income payments** accounted for almost two-thirds of direct compensation payments to workers over four years.

**Lump sums** accounted for 33% to 42% of direct compensation payments to workers over the last four years.

**Service payments proportions by payment type**



**Medical & hospital**

**Allied health**

**Workplace rehabilitation**

**Legal & miscellaneous**

Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

\$MILLION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
<b>DIRECT COMPENSATION</b>					
Income payments	\$67.4	\$72.0	\$74.1	\$74.5	▲
Lump sums	\$32.6	\$35.8	\$40.8	\$53.4	▲
<b>SERVICE PAYMENTS</b>					
Medical & hospital	\$21.7	\$22.0	\$22.2	\$21.7	■
Allied health	\$5.9	\$6.2	\$6.2	\$6.8	▲
Workplace rehabilitation	\$11.7	\$12.6	\$12.9	\$13.5	▲
Legal & miscellaneous	\$4.8	\$4.8	\$5.1	\$5.9	▲
<b>Total claim payments</b>	<b>\$144.1</b>	<b>\$153.3</b>	<b>\$161.3</b>	<b>\$175.7</b>	▲

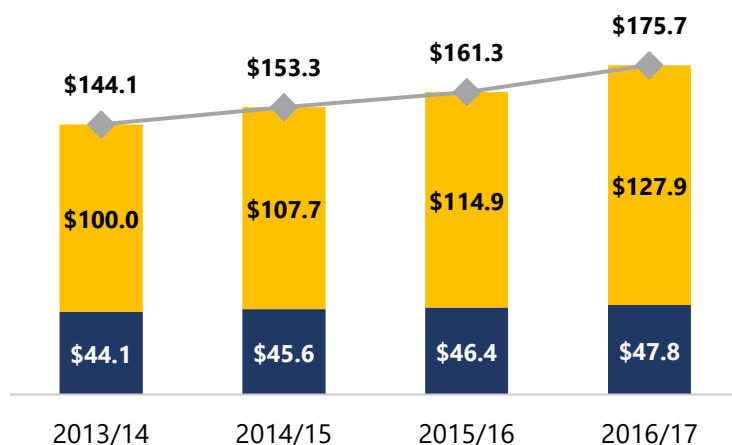


Total claim payments are adjusted to allow meaningful comparisons over time.

Due to large lump sum payments being made in 2016/17, the total claim payments increased by 9% from 2015/16.

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

Total claim payments (\$million adjusted) by payment group



**Direct compensation**

payments increased from \$100 million in 2013/14 to \$127.9 million in 2016/17.



**Service payments**

increased by \$3.7 million over the four year period.



Payments for claims in the Construction industry in 2016/17 totalled **\$175.7 million**, accounting for **19%** of total scheme payments.



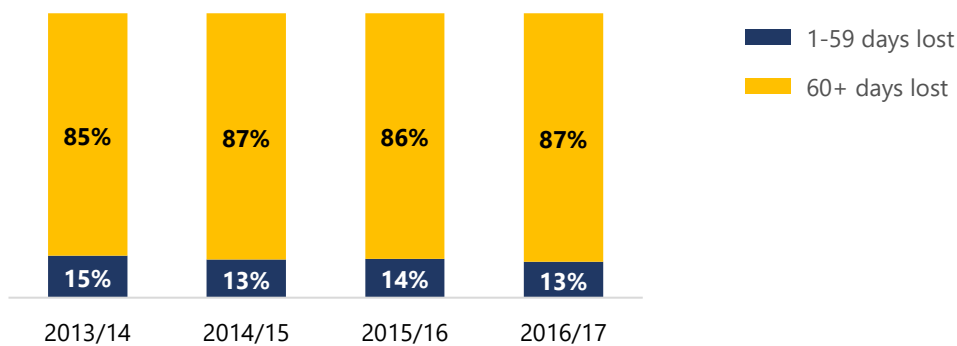
**Claim costs\* total claim costs by days lost**

\$MILLION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
1-59 days lost	\$19.8	\$22.0	\$23.5	\$16.4	▼
60+ days lost	\$114.1	\$142.3	\$148.3	\$112.6	■
<b>Lost-time claims</b>	<b>\$133.8</b>	<b>\$164.3</b>	<b>\$171.8</b>	<b>\$129.0</b>	■

\* Data is subject to revision as claims experience mature, especially the most recent year.

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Claim costs\* proportions of claim costs by days lost**



**Claim costs\* average claim costs by days lost**

\$MILLION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
1-59 days lost	\$10,342	\$11,740	\$12,856	\$12,574	▲
60+ days lost	\$139,280	\$170,638	\$167,207	\$144,223	■
<b>Lost-time claims</b>	<b>\$49,024</b>	<b>\$60,659</b>	<b>\$63,283</b>	<b>\$61,958</b>	▲

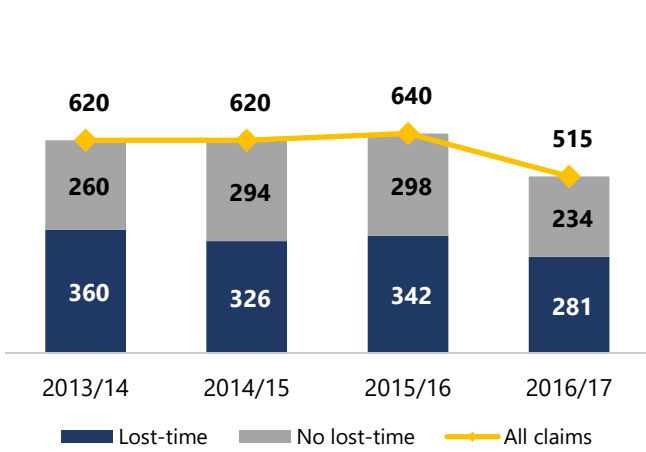
▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing



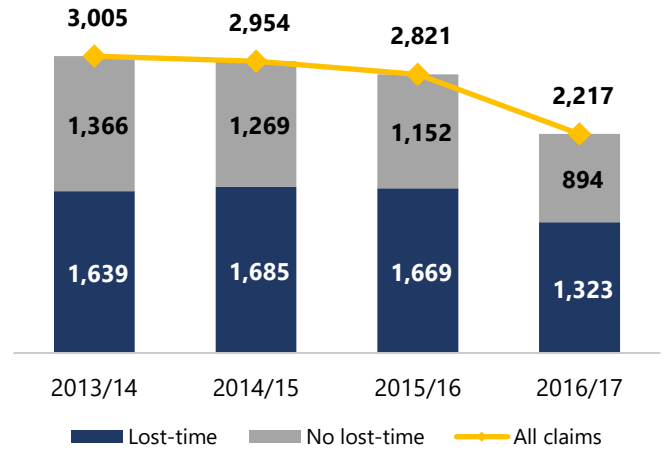
The average claim cost in **Construction** was **\$61,958** in 2016/17, compared with the scheme average of \$48,984.

**Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision**

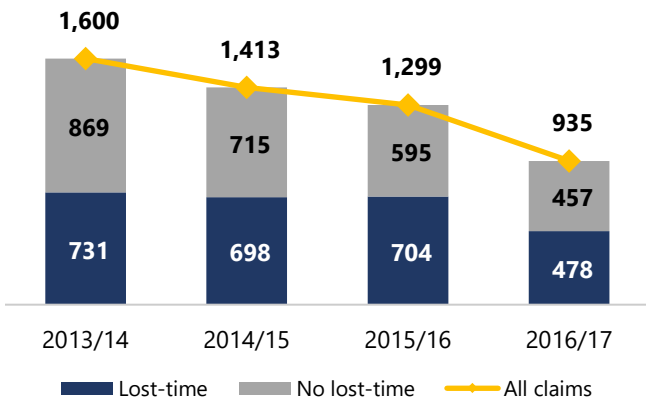
**Building construction**



**Construction services**



**Heavy and civil engineering construction**



## Lost-time claims and frequency rate by industry subdivision

SUBDIVISION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Average frequency rate*
<b>Building construction</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>5.3</b>
1-59 days lost	249	227	225	184	3.6
60+ days lost	111	99	117	97	1.7
<b>Construction services</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>11.7</b>
1-59 days lost	1,183	1,202	1,149	811	8.1
60+ days lost	456	483	520	512	3.7
<b>Heavy and civil engineering construction</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>25.4</b>
1-59 days lost	479	446	454	306	16.4
60+ days lost	252	252	250	172	9.0
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>11.5</b>

\* Frequency rate is the average over four years (2013/14 to 2016/17).

## Return to work status lost-time claims

PROPORTION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Returned to work	80%	85%	85%	83%	▲
Not working	18%	12%	13%	15%	▼
Unknown	2%	3%	2%	2%	■

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing



Over four years, the proportion of claimants in the Construction industry successfully **returning to work** (either at full or partial hours) improved at a similar rate to the overall scheme.



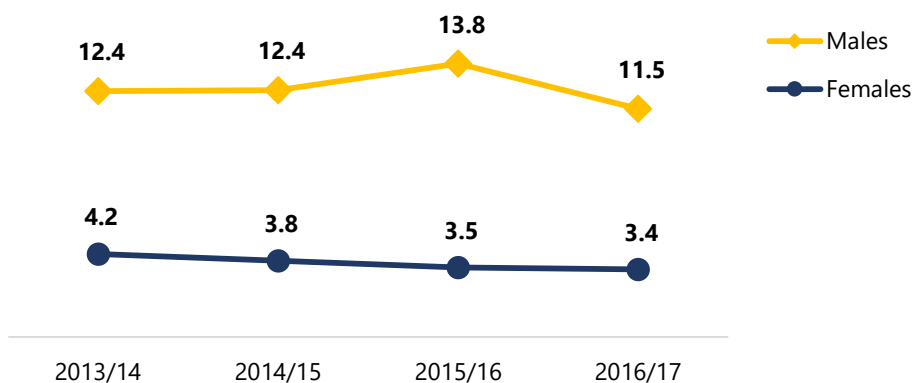
For 2016/17, the return to work rate for the Construction industry was **83%**, whereas the overall scheme's return to work rate was 85%.

Lost-time claims gender by days lost group

GENDER	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
<b>MALES</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>2,007</b>	▼
1-59 days lost	1,840	1,800	1,776	1,259	▼
60+ days lost	778	809	848	748	■
<b>FEMALES</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>75</b>	▼
1-59 days lost	71	75	52	42	▼
60+ days lost	41	25	39	33	▼
<b>Lost-time claims</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>2,082</b>	▼

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

Frequency rate by gender



Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, **96%** of claims were lodged by **males** in the Construction industry, compared to **67%** of claims in the overall scheme.

**Lost-time claims by age group**

AGE GROUP	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
15-19 years	220	210	179	126	▼
20-24 years	379	397	376	297	▼
25-34 years	773	759	781	563	▼
35-44 years	531	528	591	429	▼
45-54 years	503	487	466	405	▼
55-59 years	193	176	170	128	▼
60-64 years	105	117	103	105	■
65+ years	26	35	49	29	▲

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Frequency rate by age group**

AGE GROUP	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
15-19 years	14.6	16.2	16.7	19.6	▲
20-24 years	9.6	11.9	13.1	13.8	▲
25-34 years	11.3	11.2	11.1	9.1	▼
35-44 years	11.4	11.5	12.6	8.9	▼
45-54 years	11.4	10.8	13.9	11.8	■
55-59 years	14.3	12.1	12.9	9.1	▼
60-64 years	12.6	11.3	10.3	14.5	▲
65+ years	8.5	6.4	16.1	10.5	▲

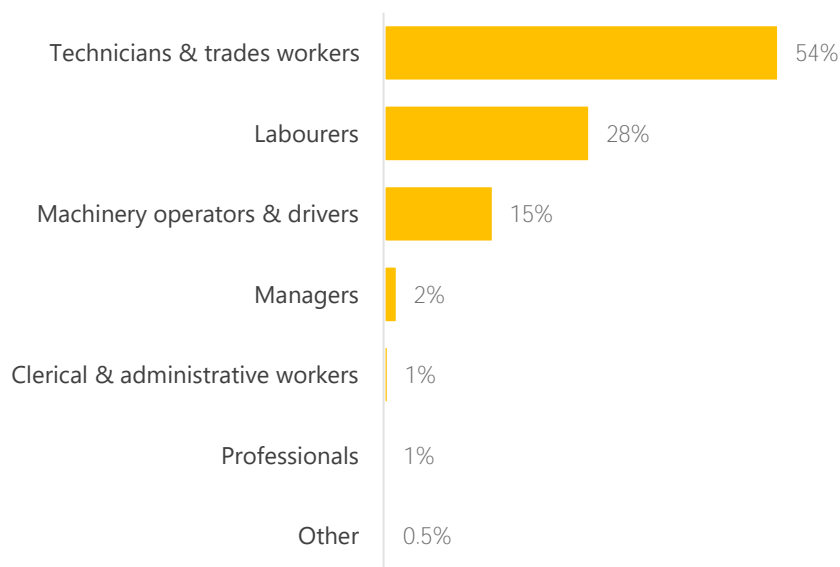
▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Lost-time claims by occupation**

OCCUPATION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Technicians & trades workers	1,412	1,395	1,391	1,114	▼
Labourers	786	793	830	582	▼
Machinery operators & drivers	439	430	404	310	▼
Managers	26	34	34	40	▲
Clerical & administrative workers	37	27	19	15	▼
Professionals	24	21	24	11	▼
Other	6	9	13	10	▲

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Lost-time claims proportions by occupation 2016/17**



**Lost-time claims by nature of injury/disease**

NATURE	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	1,381	1,356	1,333	963	▼
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	683	658	682	527	▼
Fractures	331	371	357	303	▼
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	89	78	103	90	■
Other injuries	90	91	89	66	▼
Digestive system diseases	55	48	48	49	▼
Burn	38	38	39	42	▲
Mental diseases	13	15	17	13	■
Intracranial injuries	19	21	20	12	▼
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	12	14	12	9	▼
Other diseases	19	19	15	8	▼

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing



**Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury)** continues to be the **leading** type of injury for claims lodged in the **Construction industry and the overall scheme.**

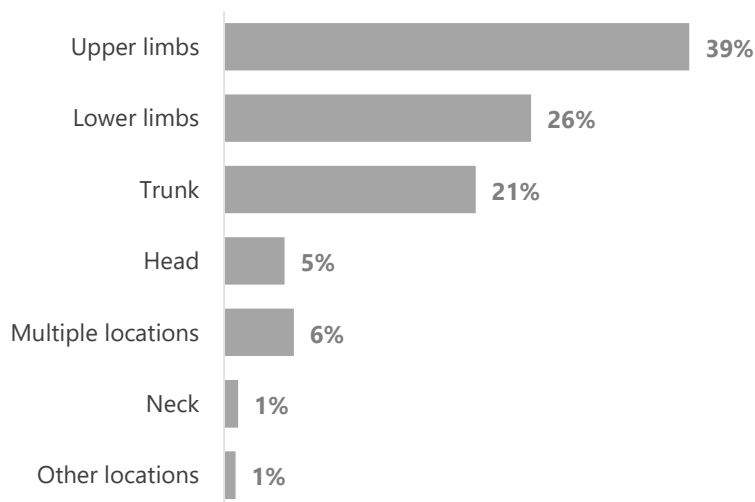


**Lost-time claims by bodily location of injury/disease**

LOCATION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Upper limbs	987	1,121	1,111	821	▼
Lower limbs	758	684	713	542	▼
Trunk	605	541	548	444	▼
Head	168	166	157	107	▼
Multiple locations	151	134	119	123	▼
Neck	33	30	29	25	▼
Other locations	28	33	38	20	▼

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Lost-time claims proportions by bodily location of injury/disease 2016/17**



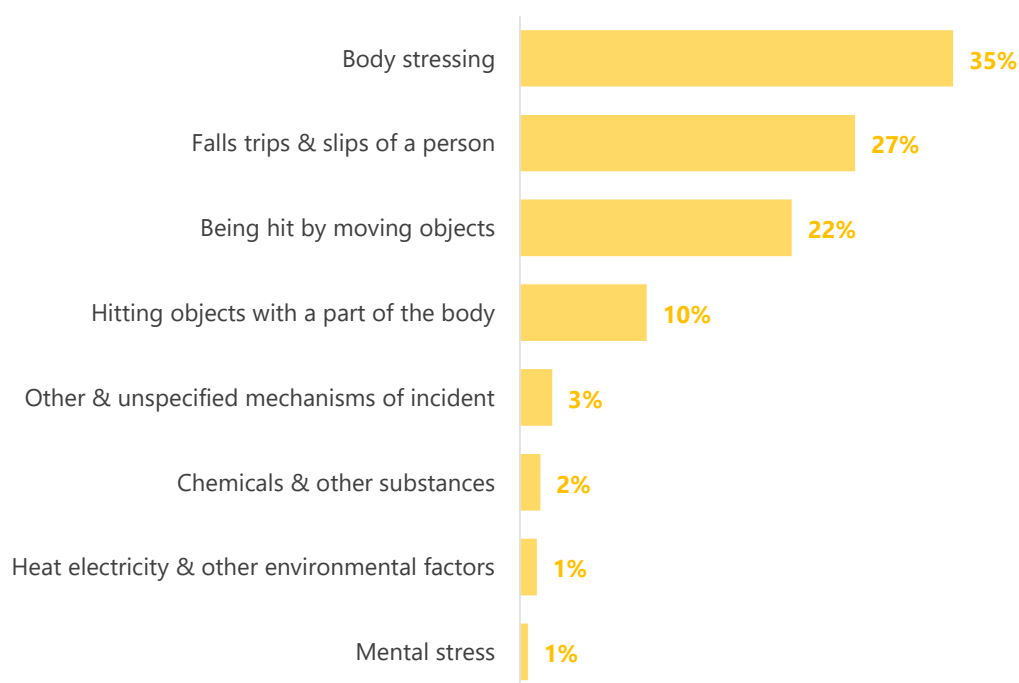
**Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 65% of total claims lodged in 2016/17.**

**Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident**

MECHANISM	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Body stressing	943	957	953	725	▼
Falls trips & slips of a person	770	681	706	561	▼
Being hit by moving objects	605	631	618	455	▼
Hitting objects with a part of the body	226	278	289	212	▼
Other & unspecified mechanisms of incident	102	72	61	54	▼
Chemicals & other substances	41	38	40	34	▼
Heat electricity & other environmental factors	30	37	31	28	▼
Mental stress	13	15	17	13	■

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2016/17**

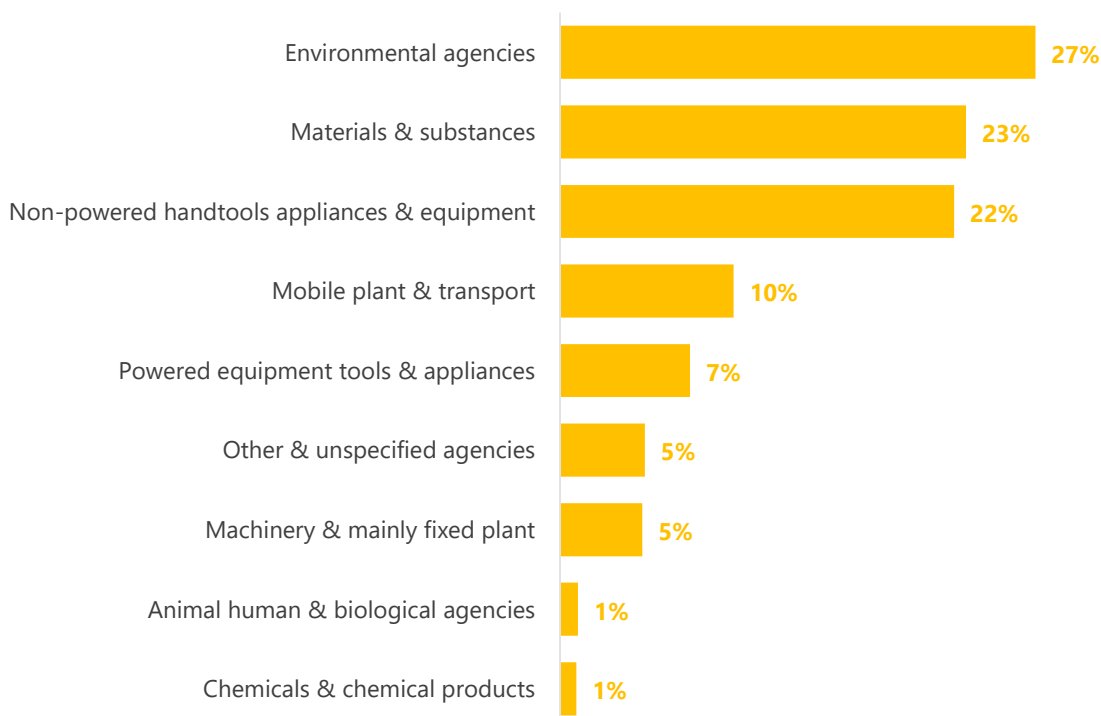


**Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease**

AGENCY	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Environmental agencies	723	656	681	556	▼
Materials & substances	631	618	676	475	▼
Non-powered handtools appliances & equipment	577	641	591	461	▼
Mobile plant & transport	280	245	222	203	▼
Powered equipment tools & appliances	187	175	178	152	▼
Other & unspecified agencies	142	166	152	99	▼
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	125	134	154	96	▼
Animal human & biological agencies	40	50	31	21	▼
Chemicals & chemical products	25	24	30	19	▼

▲ Increasing    ■ Stable    ▼ Decreasing

**Lost-time claims proportions by agency of injury/disease 2016/17**



# Glossary

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM</b>
<b>Act</b>	The <i>Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981</i> .
<b>Age</b>	Chronological age (in years) of the worker at the date of injury or disease.
<b>Agency of injury or disease</b>	The object, substance or circumstance that was principally involved in or most closely associated with the circumstances which ultimately led to the most serious injury or disease. A comprehensive list of this classification is available from <i>Safe Work Australia Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition</i> ( <a href="http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au">safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> ).
<b>Bodily location</b>	The part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease. A comprehensive list of this classification is available from <i>Safe Work Australia Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition</i> ( <a href="http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au">safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> ).
<b>Claimant</b>	A person who lodges a claim in the WA workers' compensation scheme.
<b>Claim costs</b>	An estimate of costs for unfinalised claims, and total cost of finalised claims attributed to the year in which a claim was lodged. Claim costs are subject to revision as claims experience matures; this is especially true for more recent years. Claim costs are not adjusted for inflation.
<b>Claims data</b>	<p>Information pertaining to workers' compensation claims is reported to WorkCover WA by approved insurers and self-insurers. Information is collated based on the financial year in which a claim was lodged with the insurer. For the purposes of this report, certain types of claims were excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ lost-time journey claims between home and work</li><li>▲ asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma and pneumoconiosis</li><li>▲ duplicated or disallowed (by an insurer).</li></ul> <p>Claim numbers are subject to revision as claims experience matures.</p>

# Glossary

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM</b>
<b>Claim payments</b>	Categories are based on WorkCover WA's Guidelines for Completing Form WC 101. Claim payments are in contrast with claim costs as they do not reflect liabilities incurred but not yet paid. Claim payment information is collated based on the financial year during which payment was made, regardless of when the claim was lodged with the insurer. In this report, claim payments are reported both in adjusted and unadjusted formats. In relation to the former, payments are adjusted for inflation to allow for meaningful comparisons over time.
<b>Days lost</b>	The number of hours off work divided by the number of hours usually worked each day. If the claim is finalised, actual hours off work are used, otherwise if the claim is not finalised, estimated hours off work are used.
<b>Direct compensation</b>	Payments made directly to the worker either by income replacement (payments made for absences from work) or lump sums such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ redemption payments made under Schedule 1</li><li>▲ specific injury payments made under Schedule 2</li><li>▲ fatal payments including funeral expenses</li><li>▲ common law and other Acts payments.</li></ul>
<b>Frequency rate</b>	The number of lost-time claims per million hours worked and indicates the prevalence of workers' compensation claims. It is based on the number of hours worked by employed persons in Western Australia as supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
<b>Industry</b>	Based on the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006</i> published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The ANZSIC system groups together businesses that carry out similar economic activities and structured into a hierarchy of units reflecting different levels of description ( <a href="http://abs.gov.au">abs.gov.au</a> ).
<b>Long duration claims</b>	Workers' compensation claims for which the injury or disease results in an absence from work of at least 60 days or shifts.
<b>Lost-time claims</b>	Lost-time claims are claims for which the injury or disease results in an absence from work of at least one day or shift.

# Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
<b>Mechanism of incident</b>	The action, exposure or event that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the most serious injury or disease. The full list of this classification is available from <i>Safe Work Australia's Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition</i> ( <a href="http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au">safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> ).
<b>Nature of injury or disease</b>	The most serious injury or disease suffered by the worker. The full list of this classification is available from <i>Safe Work Australia's Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition</i> ( <a href="http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au">safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> ).
<b>Occupation</b>	Based on the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)</i> published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It is a skill-based classification which encompasses all occupations in the Australian workforce ( <a href="http://abs.gov.au">abs.gov.au</a> ).
<b>Service payments</b>	Service payments include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. medical and hospital payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ medical practitioner and specialist payments (consultation and treatment expenses rendered by general practitioners and medical specialists)</li><li>▲ hospital expenses (hospital accommodation and hospital treatment)</li></ul></li><li>2. allied health payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ other treatment and appliance payments (comprises payments made under clauses 17(1)(3), (4), (5) and (6) of Schedule 1 of the Act, other than medical and hospital expenses)</li></ul></li><li>3. workplace rehabilitation payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ workplace rehabilitation payments (comprises payments made under clause 17 (1a) of Schedule 1 of the Act in respect of counselling, occupational training, work assessment, aids and appliances)</li></ul></li><li>4. legal and miscellaneous:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ legal expenses (comprises the cost of legal advice and representation incurred by approved insurers or exempt employers, witness fees and the costs of these services incurred by the worker where the approved insurer or exempt employer is ordered to meet the costs)</li><li>▲ miscellaneous (includes general items that do not fit in any other category, for example travelling, meals and lodgings, under clause 19 of Schedule 1).</li></ul></li></ol>

# Glossary



## TERM

## DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM

### Worker

As defined in Section 5 of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*, a worker is defined as:

- a) any person to whose service any industrial award or industrial agreement applies; and
- b) any person engaged by another person to work for the purpose of the other person's trade or business under a contract with him for service, the remuneration by whatever means of the person so working being in substance for his personal manual labour or services.

- 1 Due to the dynamic nature of workers' compensation claims, the interpretation of data contained within this report (the data) must be undertaken with some caution. Data users are cautioned to consider carefully the provisional nature of the data before using it for decisions that concern personal or public safety or the conduct of business that involves substantial monetary or operational consequences.
- 2 The accuracy or reliability of the data is not guaranteed or warranted in any way. WorkCover WA has made a reasonable effort to ensure that the data is up-to-date, accurate, complete, and comprehensive at the time of disclosure. This data reflects data reported to this agency by insurers for the reporting periods indicated. Data users are responsible for ensuring by independent verification its accuracy, currency or completeness.
- 3 Neither WorkCover WA, or its agencies or representatives are responsible for data that is misinterpreted or altered in any way. Derived conclusions and analysis generated from this data are not to be considered attributable to WorkCover WA.
- 4 This data is provided as is and in no event shall WorkCover WA, its agencies or representatives be liable for any damages, including, without limitation, damages resulting from lost data or lost profits or revenue, the costs of recovering such data, the costs of substitute data, claims by third parties or for other similar costs, or any special, incidental, punitive or consequential damages, arising out of the use of the data.
- 5 Information concerning the accuracy and appropriate uses of the data or concerning other workers' compensation data may be obtained by contacting WorkCover WA.