



# Industry Statistical Report 2013/14 - 2016/17

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


June 2018







**WorkCoverWA**

Scheme and Corporate Services  
Business Intelligence Services  
2 Bedbrook Place  
Shenton Park WA 6008

 [workcover.wa.gov.au](http://workcover.wa.gov.au)

 [communications@workcover.wa.gov.au](mailto:communications@workcover.wa.gov.au)

 (08) 9388 5555

 @WorkCoverWA

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:  
Mining  
2013/14 to 2016/17

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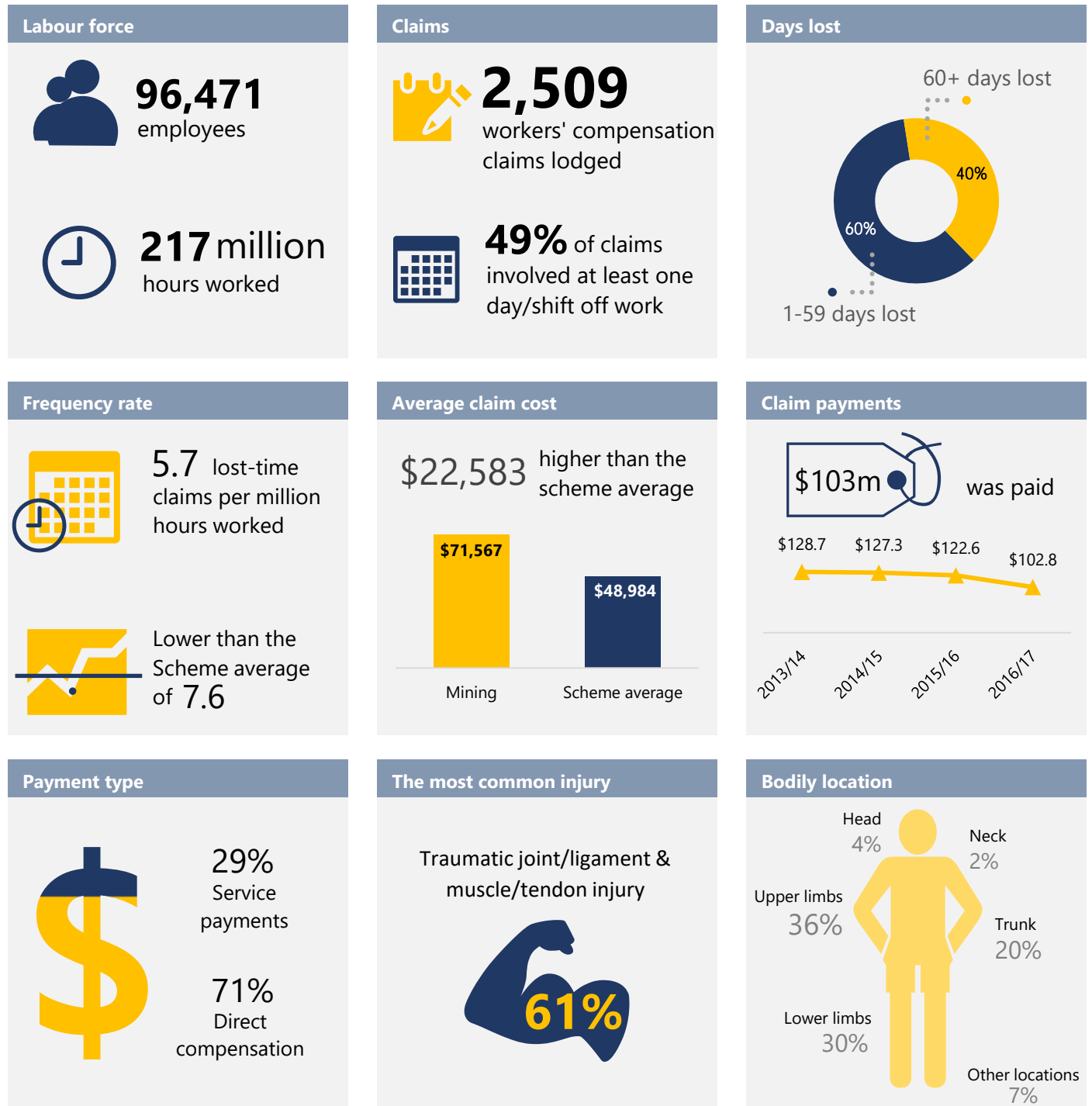
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## Mining

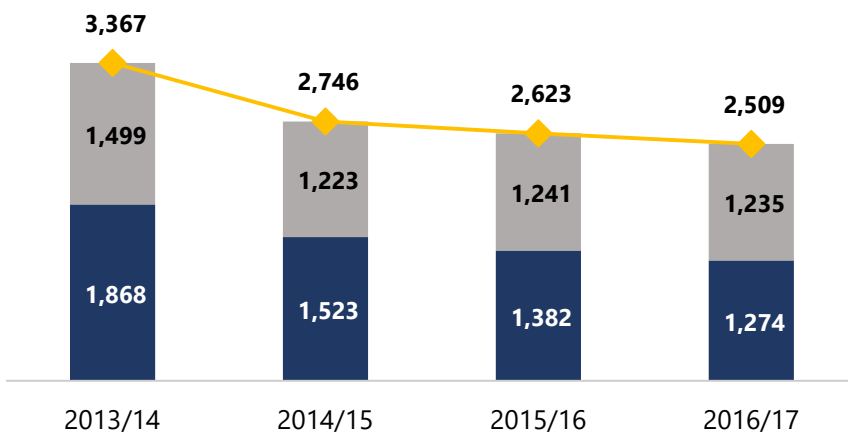
The Mining industry is classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006* provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

This industry includes coal mining, oil and gas extraction, metal ore mining, non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying, and exploration and other mining support services.

### Mining at a glance 2016/17



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

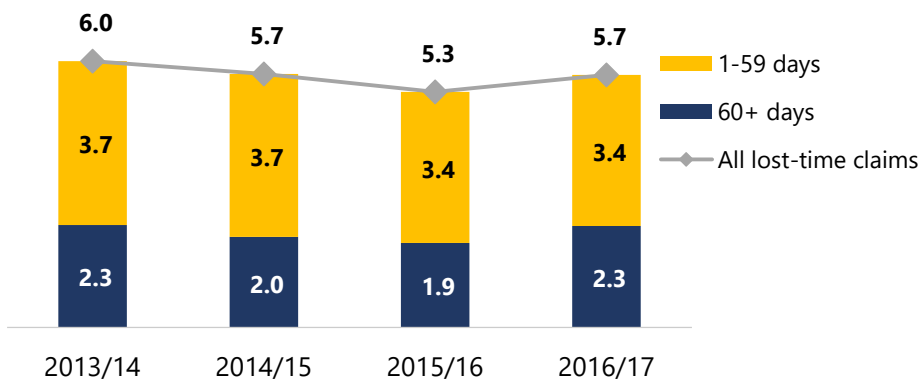


**All claims**  
Total claims in the Mining industry decreased by 25%.

**Lost-time claims**  
There has been a drop in the lost-time claims in Mining by 18%.

**No lost-time claims**  
Claims with no time off work averaged 1,512 claims per year 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.

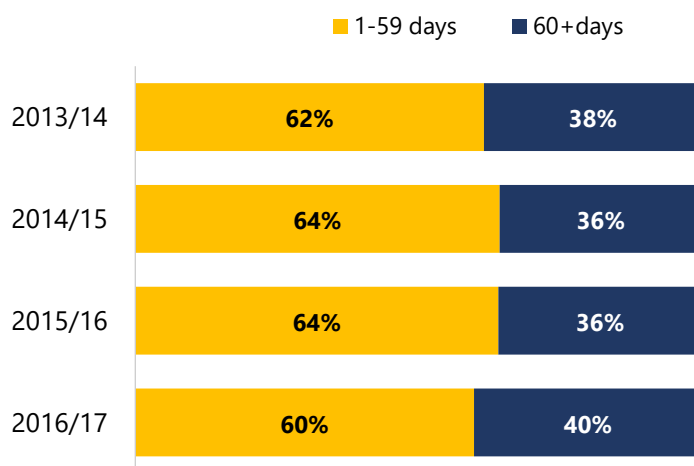
For claims lodged in 2016/17, the Mining industry's **frequency rate** remained stable at **5.7** lost-time claims per million hours worked, lower than the scheme average of 7.9.


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

DAYS LOST	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
0 days	1,868	1,523	1,382	1,274	▼
1 - 4 days	130	109	137	115	▼
5 - 19 days	396	331	339	287	▼
20 - 59 days	396	346	319	336	▼
60 - 119 days	212	164	171	186	▼
120 - 179 days	94	87	89	91	■
180+ days	271	186	186	220	▼
<b>All claims</b>	<b>3,367</b>	<b>2,746</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>2,509</b>	▼

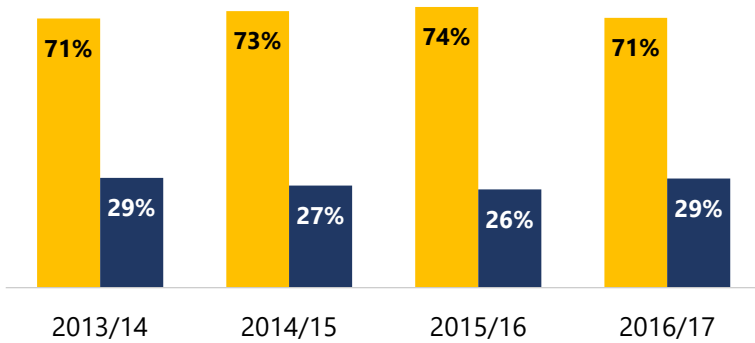
▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

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



 **Mining** accounts for **9%** of total claims lodged in 2016/17 in the workers' compensation scheme of WA.

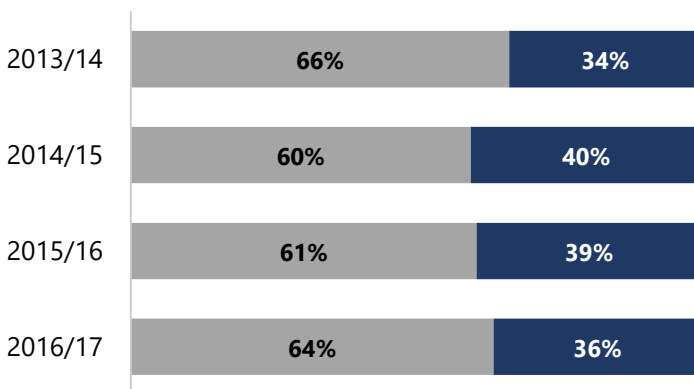
**Total claim payments proportions by payment group**



**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.

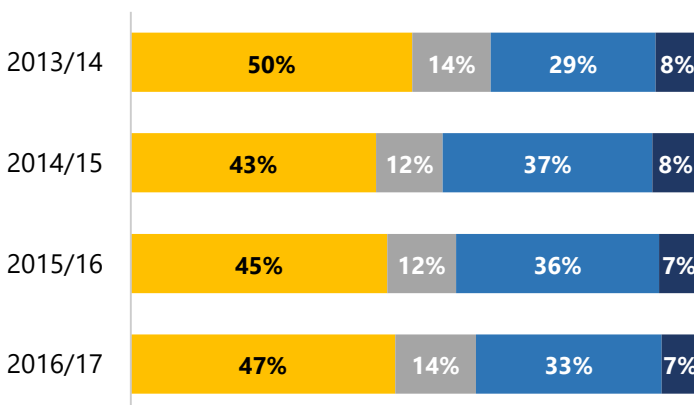
**Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type**



**Income payments** as a proportion of direct compensation payments ranged from 60% to 66% over four years.

**Lump sums** as a proportion of direct compensation payments, in turn, ranged from 34% to 40%.

**Service payments proportions by payment type**



**Medical & hospital**


**Allied health**

**Workplace rehabilitation**

**Legal & miscellaneous**

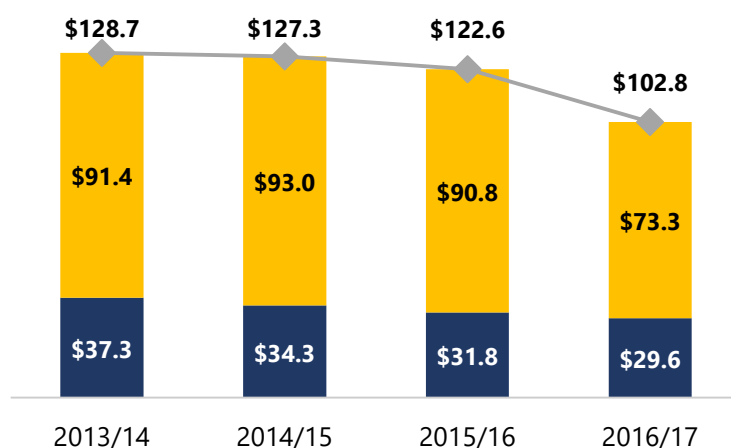
Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

\$MILLION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
<b>DIRECT COMPENSATION</b>					
Income payments	\$60.6	\$55.4	\$55.1	\$46.6	▼
Lump sums	\$30.8	\$37.6	\$35.8	\$26.7	▼
<b>SERVICE PAYMENTS</b>					
Medical & hospital	\$18.5	\$14.8	\$14.3	\$13.8	▼
Allied health	\$5.1	\$4.0	\$3.8	\$4.2	▼
Workplace rehabilitation	\$10.8	\$12.7	\$11.3	\$9.7	▼
Legal & miscellaneous	\$2.9	\$2.8	\$2.2	\$2.0	▼
<b>Total claim payments</b>	<b>\$128.7</b>	<b>\$127.3</b>	<b>\$122.6</b>	<b>\$102.8</b>	▼

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

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

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



 **Direct compensation** payments decreased from \$91.4 million in 2013/14 to \$73.3 million in 2016/17.

 **Service payments** decreased from \$37.3 million in 2013/14 and stands at \$29.6 million in 2016/17.



Payments for claims in the Mining industry in 2016/17 totalled **\$102.8 million**, accounting for **11%** of total scheme payments.



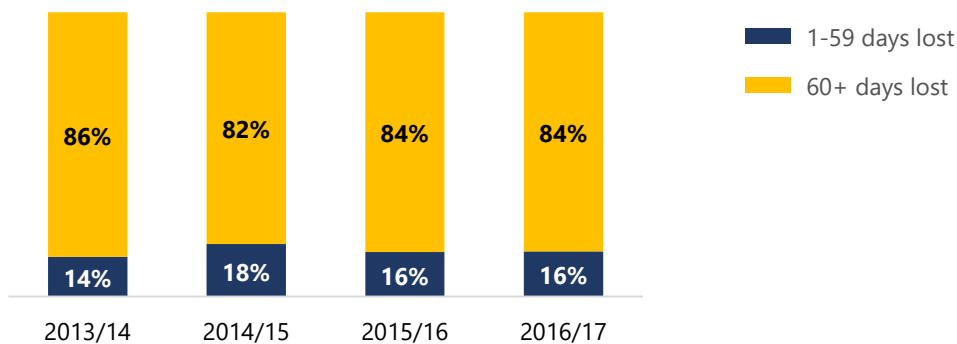
**Claim costs\* total claim costs by days lost**

\$MILLION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
1-59 days lost	\$16.9	\$16.0	\$13.9	\$14.0	▼
60+ days lost	\$104.0	\$70.5	\$75.0	\$74.4	▼
<b>Lost-time claims</b>	<b>\$120.9</b>	<b>\$86.5</b>	<b>\$89.0</b>	<b>\$88.4</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	\$18,331	\$20,348	\$17,511	\$18,991	■
60+ days lost	\$180,241	\$161,390	\$168,264	\$149,639	▼
<b>Lost-time claims</b>	<b>\$80,654</b>	<b>\$70,745</b>	<b>\$71,690</b>	<b>\$71,567</b>	▼

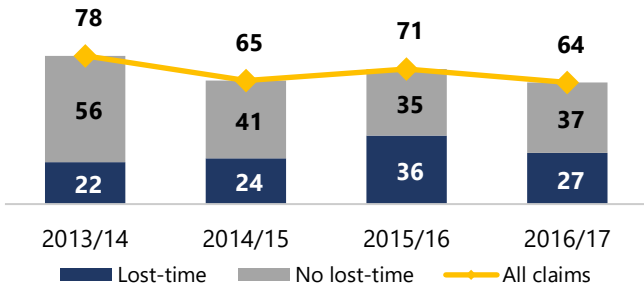
▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing



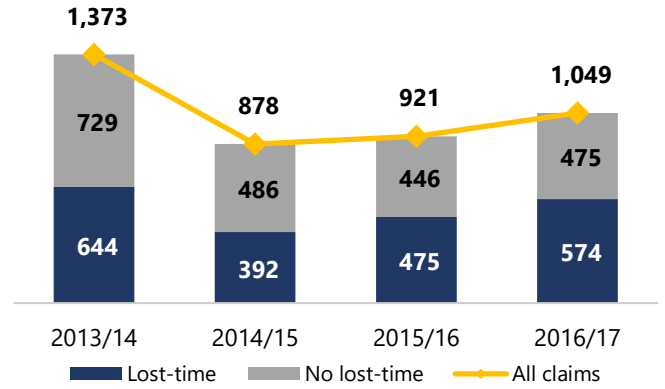
The average claim cost in Mining was \$71,567 in 2016/17, compared with the scheme average of \$48,984.

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

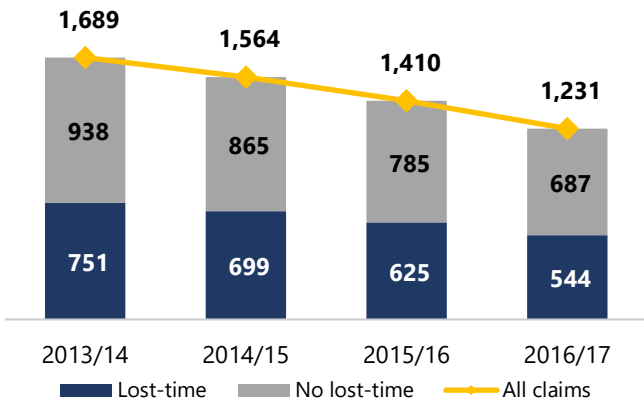
**Coal mining**



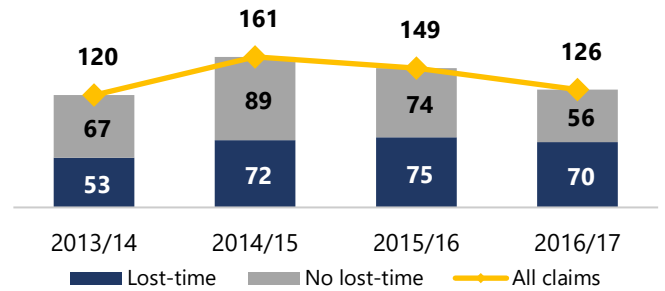
**Exploration and other mining support services**



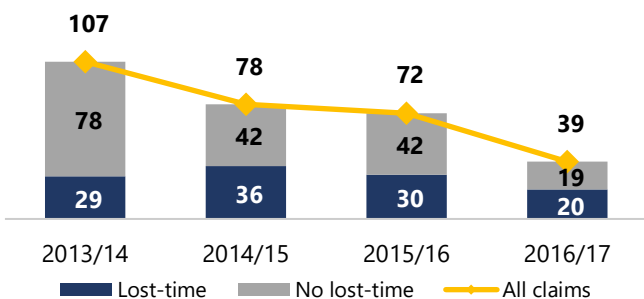
**Metal ore mining**



**Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying**



**Oil and gas extraction**



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

SUBDIVISION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Average frequency rate*
<b>Coal mining</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>56.1</b>
1-59 days lost	17	15	23	15	36.0
60+ days lost	5	9	13	12	20.1
<b>Exploration and other mining support services</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>8.5</b>
1-59 days lost	387	246	289	340	5.2
60+ days lost	257	146	186	234	3.4
<b>Metal ore mining</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>5.7</b>
1-59 days lost	468	450	410	328	3.6
60+ days lost	283	249	215	216	2.1
<b>Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>7.7</b>
1-59 days lost	32	58	52	48	5.4
60+ days lost	21	14	23	22	2.3
<b>Oil and gas extraction</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0.7</b>
1-59 days lost	18	17	21	7	0.4
60+ days lost	11	19	9	13	0.3
<b>Total Mining</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>5.7</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	85%	89%	89%	85%	■
Not working	14%	10%	10%	14%	■
Unknown	1%	1%	0%	1%	■

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing



Over four years, the proportion of claimants in the Mining industry successfully **returning to work** (either at full or partial hours) remained stable.



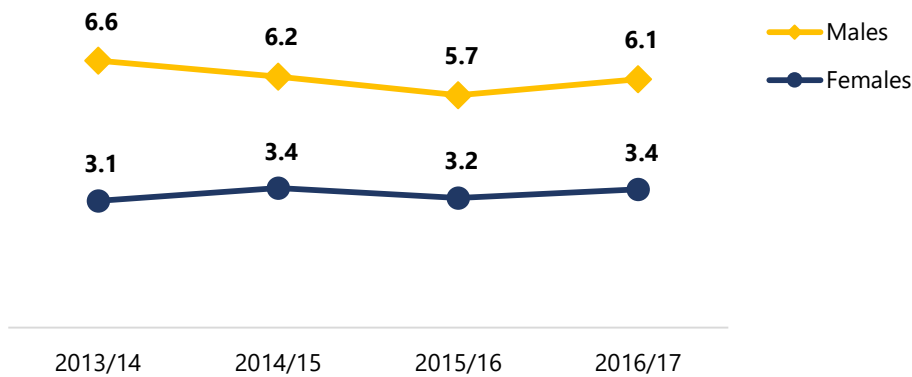
For 2016/17, the return to work rate for the Mining industry was **85%**, which is the same rate as the overall scheme.

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

GENDER	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
<b>MALES</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>1,128</b>	▼
1-59 days lost	855	715	735	672	▼
60+ days lost	523	390	392	456	▼
<b>FEMALES</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>107</b>	▼
1-59 days lost	67	71	60	66	■
60+ days lost	54	47	54	41	▼
<b>Lost-time claims</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>1,235</b>	▼

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Frequency rate by gender**



 **Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, 91% of claims were lodged by males in the Mining industry, compared to 67% overall scheme.**

**Lost-time claims by age group**

AGE GROUP	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
15-19 years	14	10	7	13	▼
20-24 years	111	85	66	79	▼
25-34 years	420	327	361	337	▼
35-44 years	395	318	317	298	▼
45-54 years	359	317	309	319	▼
55-59 years	128	101	111	114	▼
60-64 years	58	49	54	56	■
65+ years	14	16	16	19	▲

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Frequency rate by age group**

AGE GROUP	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
15-19 years	30.2	8.2	5.7	7.0	▼
20-24 years	4.9	6.4	4.1	7.7	▲
25-34 years	5.8	5.1	5.3	6.1	■
35-44 years	5.5	5.3	4.6	4.2	▼
45-54 years	6.5	6.4	5.9	6.4	■
55-59 years	8.5	6.3	7.4	6.3	▼
60-64 years	6.9	6.1	5.2	6.4	▼
65+ years	5.3	8.5	7.2	11.6	▲

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

**Lost-time claims by occupation**

OCCUPATION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Machinery operators & drivers	706	580	554	561	▼
Technicians & trades workers	474	373	402	405	▼
Labourers	230	198	222	199	▼
Professionals	48	40	32	28	▼
Clerical & administrative workers	27	16	17	21	▼
Managers	9	9	9	14	▲
Other	5	7	5	7	▲

▲ 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	985	768	753	750	▼
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	175	159	179	182	■
Fractures	169	135	152	141	▼
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	45	47	48	55	▲
Digestive system diseases	26	26	25	33	▲
Other injuries	38	26	35	25	▼
Burn	16	17	19	13	▼
Mental diseases	14	14	11	12	▼
Intracranial injuries	5	8	8	6	▲
Other diseases	26	23	11	18	▼

▲ 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 Mining industry, and the overall scheme.

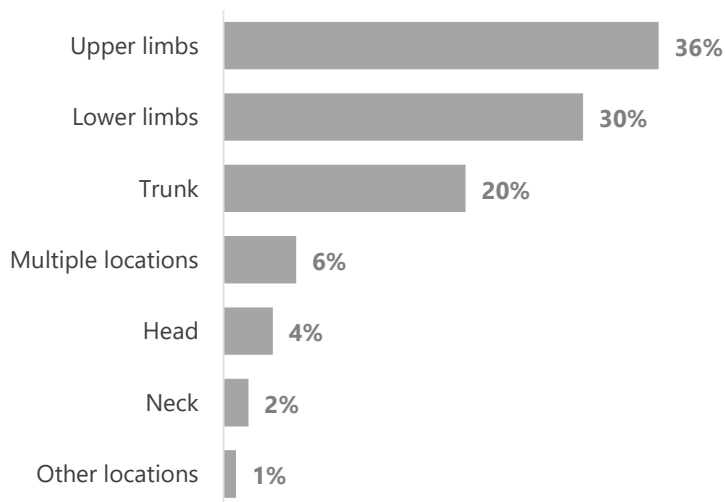



**Lost-time claims by bodily location of injury/disease**

LOCATION	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Upper limbs	504	430	477	449	▼
Lower limbs	445	356	347	371	▼
Trunk	334	250	244	250	▼
Multiple locations	92	72	62	75	▼
Head	46	59	53	51	▲
Neck	53	33	38	26	▼
Other locations	25	23	20	13	▼

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

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



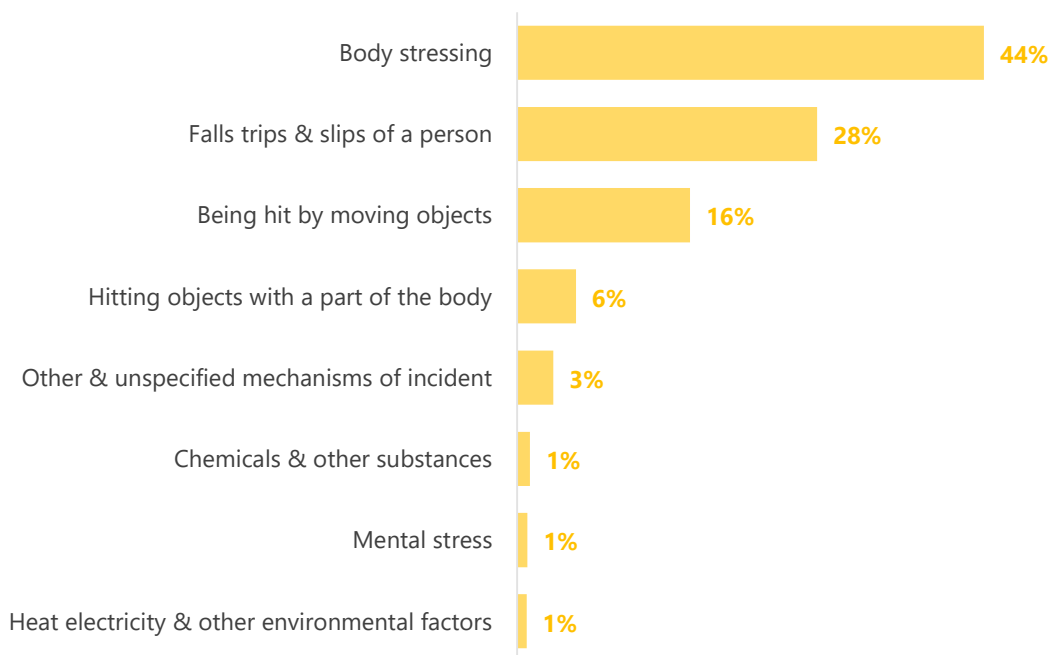
 **Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 66% of total claims lodged in 2016/17.**

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

MECHANISM	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Body stressing	692	522	507	540	▼
Falls trips & slips of a person	367	338	338	347	▼
Being hit by moving objects	231	183	209	200	▼
Hitting objects with a part of the body	81	69	89	68	▼
Other & unspecified mechanisms of incident	70	64	51	42	▼
Chemicals & other substances	32	22	23	15	▼
Mental stress	14	13	11	12	▼
Heat electricity & other environmental factors	12	12	13	11	▼

▲ Increasing   ■ Stable   ▼ Decreasing

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

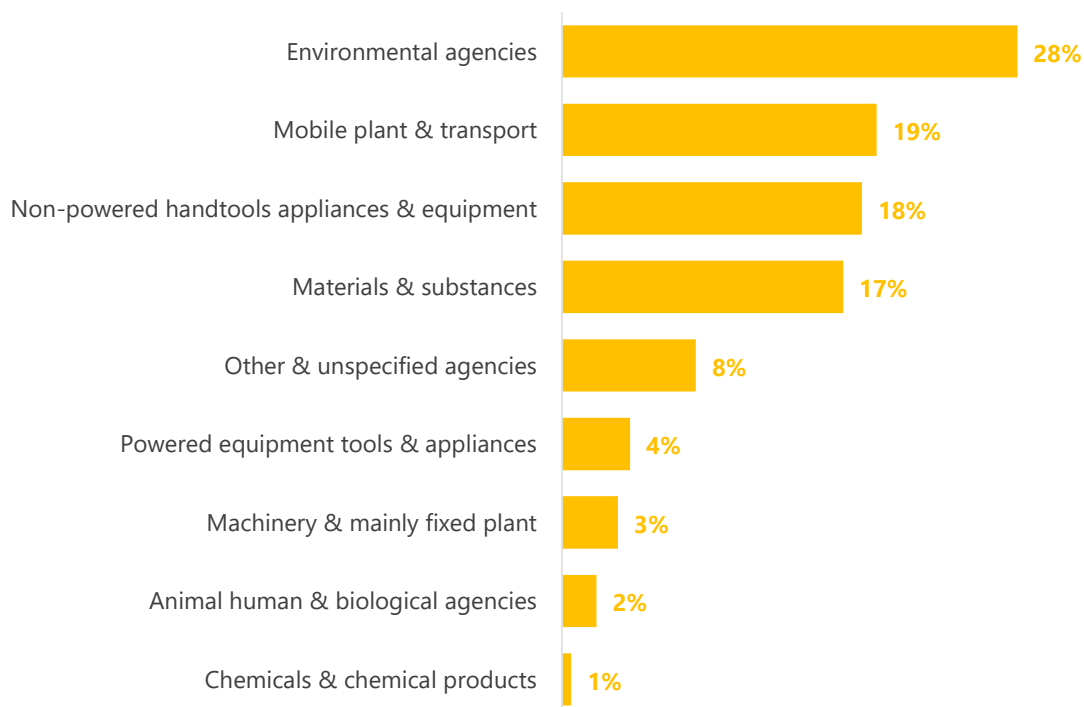


**Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease**

AGENCY	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Environmental agencies	346	309	335	340	■
Mobile plant & transport	275	241	206	235	▼
Non-powered handtools appliances & equipment	320	238	247	224	▼
Materials & substances	260	213	237	210	▼
Other & unspecified agencies	143	102	83	100	▼
Powered equipment tools & appliances	46	50	55	51	▲
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	56	43	46	42	▼
Animal human & biological agencies	40	16	17	26	▼
Chemicals & chemical products	13	11	15	7	▼

▲ 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

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## 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.