



LONG DURATION CLAIMS REPORT




2013/14 - 2016/17
Long duration claims
in the WA workers'
compensation scheme


August 2018



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

 workcover.wa.gov.au

 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.

Long Duration Claims - 2013/14 to 2016/17
Published August 2018

Data was extracted on 26 July 2018

© WorkCover WA, Government of Western Australia

There is no objection to this publication being copied in whole or part, provided there is due acknowledgment of any material quoted from the publication.

Table of Contents

Section 1 - Key indicators	4
Overview	4
Claim numbers	5
Claim proportions	5
Frequency rates	6
Incidence rates	6
Average claim costs	7
Proportion of claim costs	7
Total claim payments	8
Section 2 - Claimant characteristics	9
Gender	9
Age group	12
Occupation	15
Industry	17
Size of employer	22
Section 3 - Injury/disease attributes	24
Nature of injury/disease	24
Mechanism of incident	26
Bodily location of injury/disease	28
Agency of injury/disease	30
Section 4 - Glossary	32
Section 5 - Disclaimer	35



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 1 | OVERVIEW



LOST-TIME CLAIMS

LONG DURATION



Claims lodged

15,335

The number of **lost-time claims** **13%** over four years

5,020

The number of **long duration claims** **1%** over four years

During 2016/17, over 15,000 lost-time claims were lodged, of which 5,020 (33%) were for long duration claims. While the number of lost-time claims decreased, the number of long duration claims remained stable.

Frequency rates

7.6

The frequency rate of **lost-time claims** **7%** over four years

2.5

The frequency rate of **long duration claims** **8%** over four years

For claims lodged in 2016/17, the frequency rate for lost-time claims was 7.6 lost-time claims per million hours worked, compared to long duration claims at 2.5 claims per million hours worked.

Total claim costs

\$755 million

The total claim costs of **lost-time claims** **7%** over four years

\$642 million

The total claim costs of **long duration claims** **5%** over four years

In 2016/17, the total claim costs of long duration claims accounted for 85% of total lost-time claims costs.

Top industry



Manufacturing



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, Manufacturing was the industry with the highest frequency rate for all lost-time claims, compared to Agriculture, forestry and fishing for long duration claims.

Top claimant attributes



Males aged in older age group (55+ Years)



Males aged in older age group (55+ Years)

In 2016/17, workers who were males aged in the older age group 55+ years, had the highest incidence rate for both long duration claims and total lost-time claims.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 1 | KEY INDICATORS

Long duration claims claim numbers

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
1-59 days	12,702	12,055	11,578	10,315	▼
60+ days	4,950	4,737	4,948	5,020	■
All lost-time claims	17,652	16,792	16,526	15,335	▼

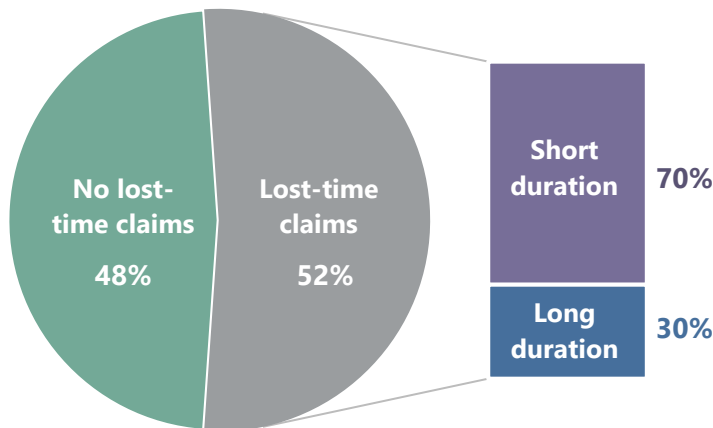
▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

From 2013/14 to 2016/17, the number of lost-time claims shows a decreasing trend.

Claims with 60+ days lost remained stable over the period. These claims are referred to as **long duration claims**.

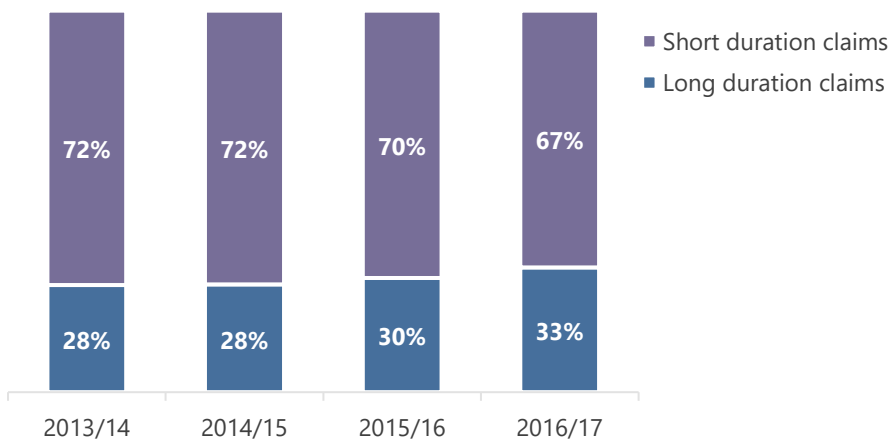
Long duration claims proportion of claims

2013/14 to 2016/17



Over four years, long duration claims make up **almost a third** of all lost-time claims.

Long duration claims comparison to short duration claims



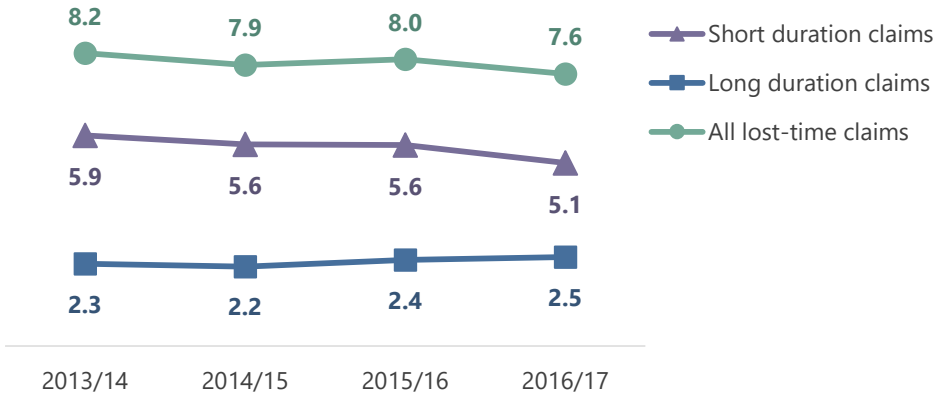
In comparison to **short duration claims** (claims with less than 60 days lost), the proportion of **long duration claims** increased from 28% to 33% over four years.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 1 | KEY INDICATORS

Long duration claims frequency rates

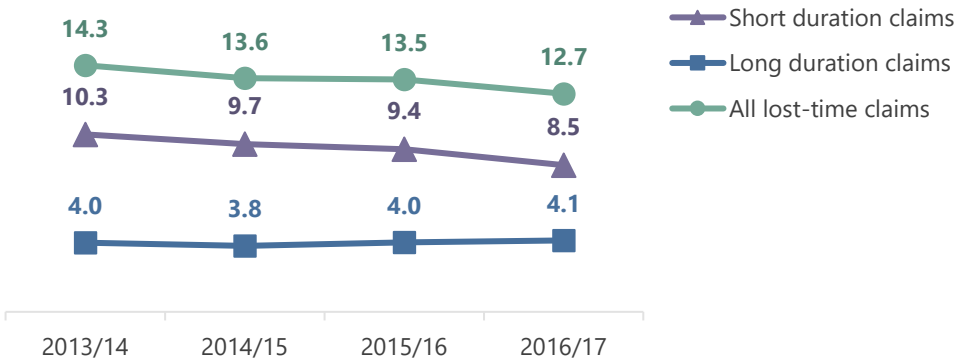


Frequency rate measures the number of lost-time claims per million hours worked.

The overall frequency rate for **lost-time claims** and **short duration claims** show a decreasing trend between 2013/14 and 2016/17.

However, the frequency rate for **long duration claims** increased (8%) to **2.5 claims** per million hours worked during the same period.

Long duration claims incidence rates



Incidence rate is the number of lost-time claims per 1,000 employees in WA.

Similar to the frequency rate, the incidence rate for **long duration claims** increased to **4.1 claims** per thousand employees.



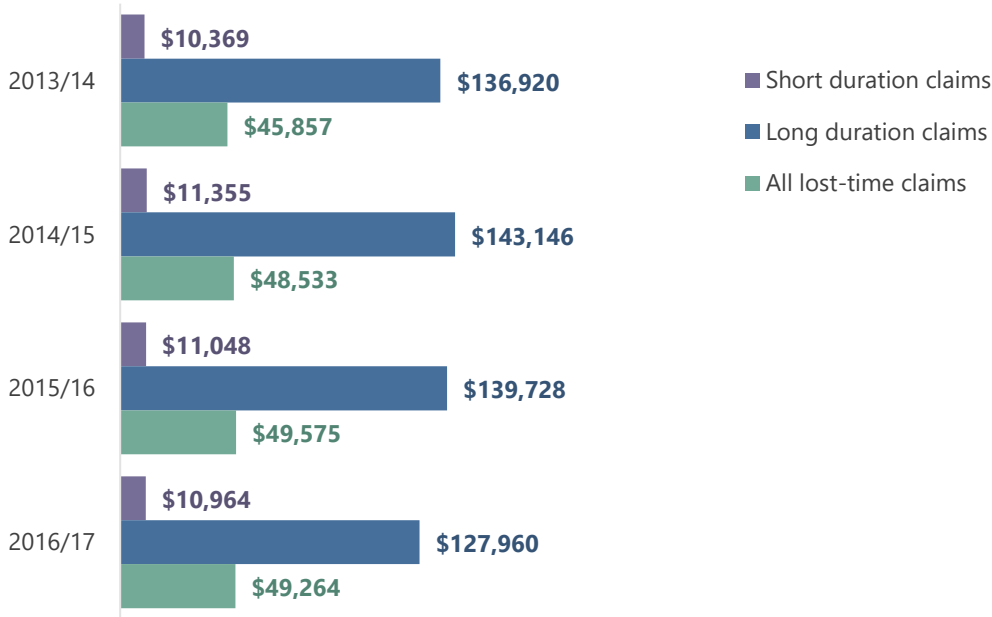
In 2016/17, a long duration claim was lodged for every 241 WA employees.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 1 | KEY INDICATORS

Long duration claims average claim costs

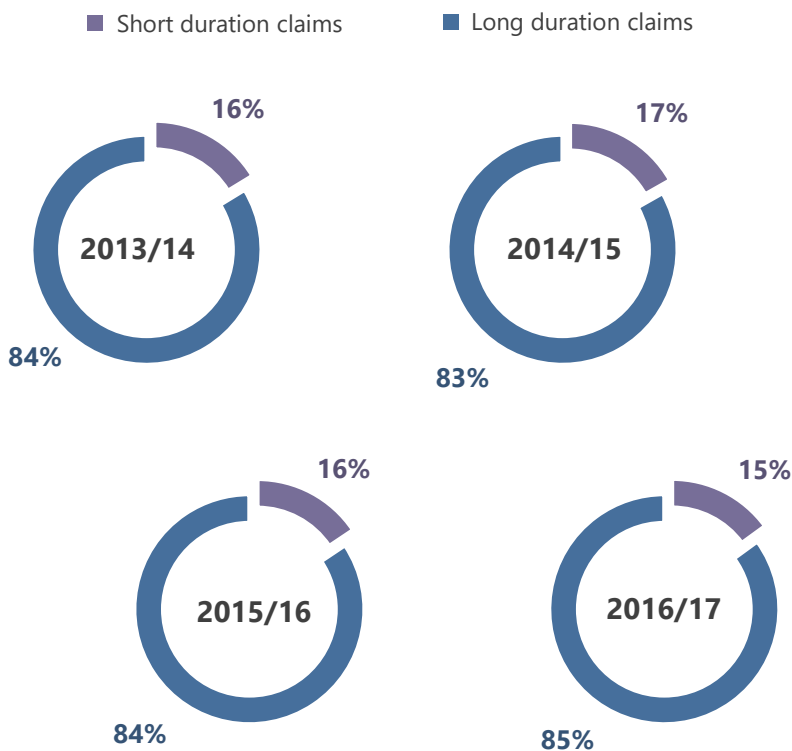


On average, **long duration claims cost** almost three times as much as overall lost-time claims.

From 2013/14 to 2016/17, the average cost for **long duration claims** show a decreasing trend. In 2016/17, the average cost for long duration claims was **\$127,960**.

However, the 2016/17 figure is preliminary due to the higher proportion of unfinalised claims.

Long duration claims proportion of claim costs



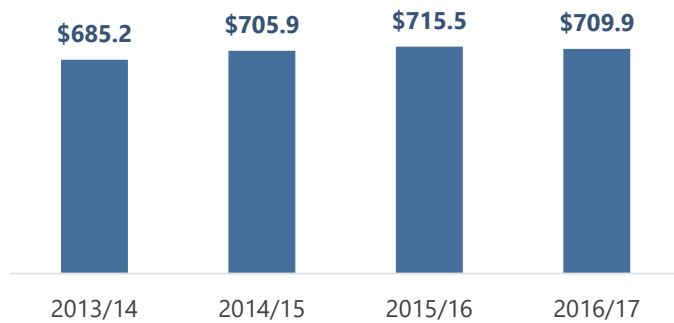
For 2016/17, **long duration claims** accounted for **85%** of total lost-time claim costs, and the remaining **15%** were associated with **short duration claims**. The long-duration claims proportion slightly increased over the four-year period.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

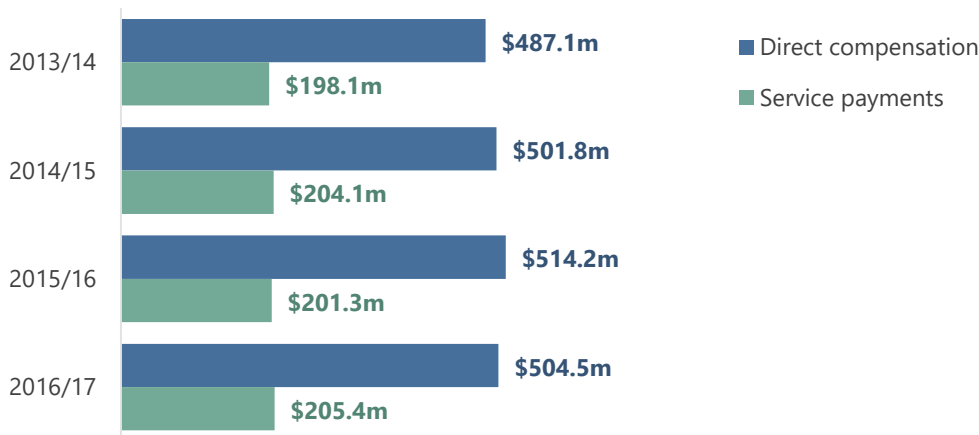
SECTION 1 | KEY INDICATORS

Long duration claims adjusted payments (\$million)



After adjusting for inflation, **\$709.9 million** was paid for long duration claims in 2016/17.

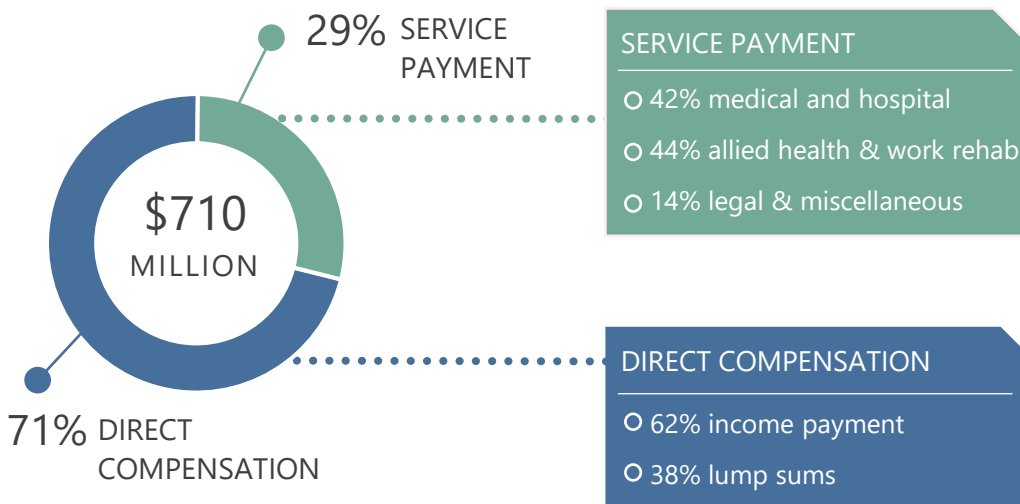
Long duration claims payment types (\$million)



Direct compensation consists of income replacement payments and lump sums.

These payments consistently make up the larger proportion of claim payments.

Long duration claim payments 2013/14 to 2016/17



Over four years, **direct compensation** accounted for just over **70%** of long duration claim payments.

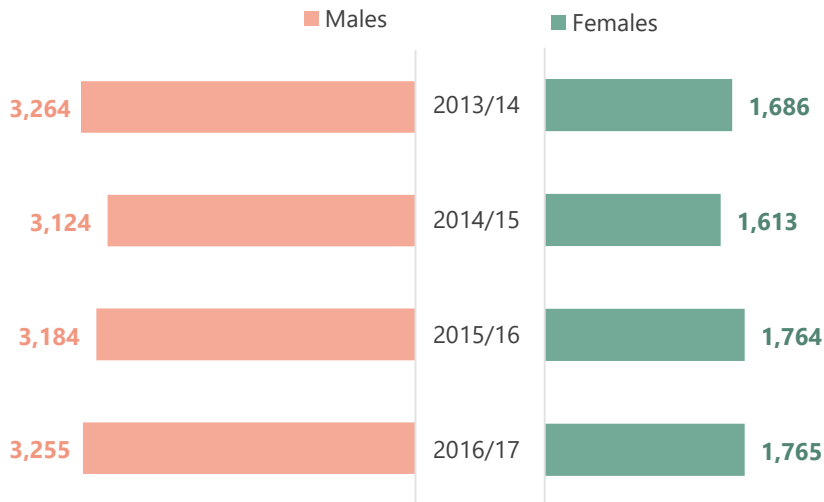
Service payments include medical & hospital, allied health, workplace rehabilitation, legal & other services.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

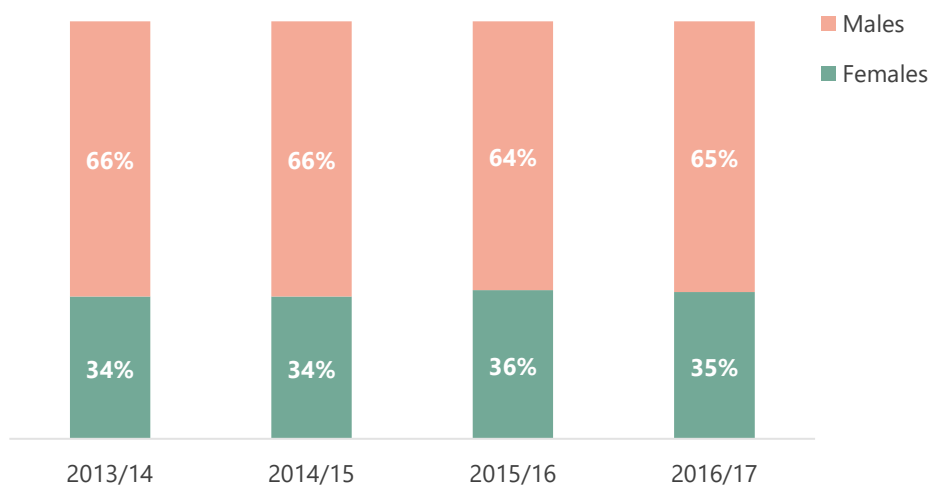
Long duration claims by gender



Over four years, males continued to lodge more long duration claims compared to females.

Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, long duration claims lodged by **males** remained stable, and **females** increased by **5%**.

Long duration claims proportions by gender



The ratio of long duration claims lodged by males and females remained stable.

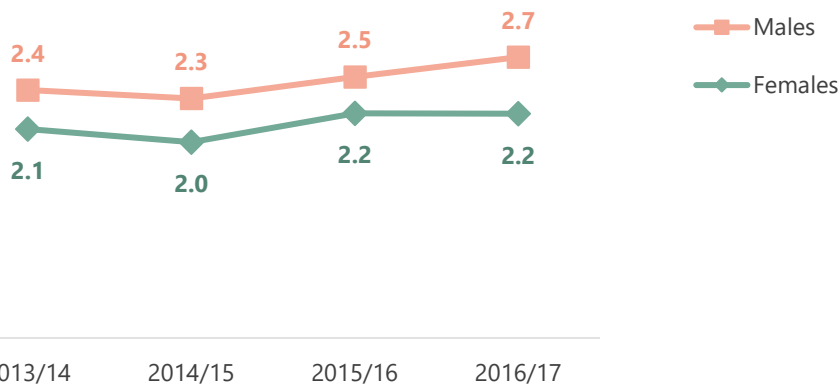
In 2016/17, **65%** of long duration claims were lodged by **males**, and the remaining **35%** were for **females**.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims frequency rate by gender

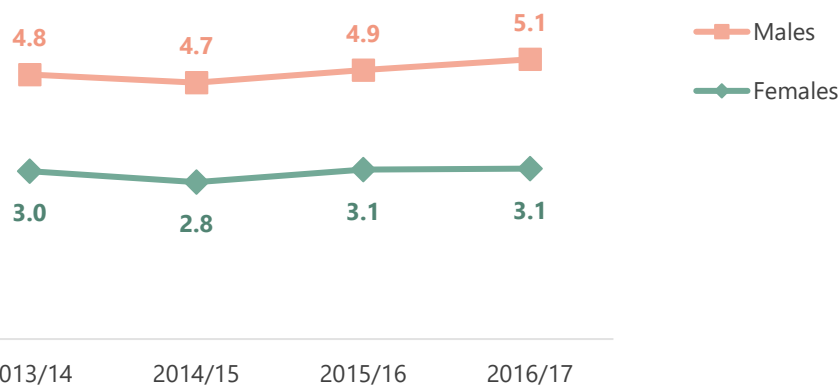


Frequency rates for both males and females increased over four years.

In 2016/17, for every million hours worked, **males** lodged **2.7 long duration claims**.

In contrast, for every million hours worked, **2.2 long duration claims** were lodged by **females** in the same year.

Long duration claims incidence rate by gender



Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, the **incidence rate** for both males and females increased.

In 2016/17, **5.1 claims** were lodged per thousand **male** employees, whereas **3.1 claims** were lodged per thousand **female** employees.



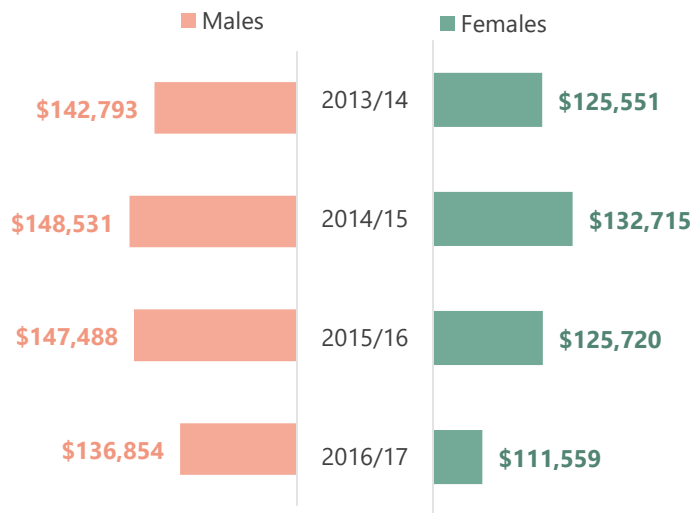
The **incidence rate** of long duration claims for males is **5.1**, higher than the rate for females.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average costs by gender



Males consistently incurred higher average claim costs for long duration claims, compared to **females**.

For 2016/17, the average long duration claim cost for **males** was **\$136,854** and **\$111,559** for **females**.

Figures for 2016/17 are considered preliminary, as there is a high proportion of unfinalised claims.



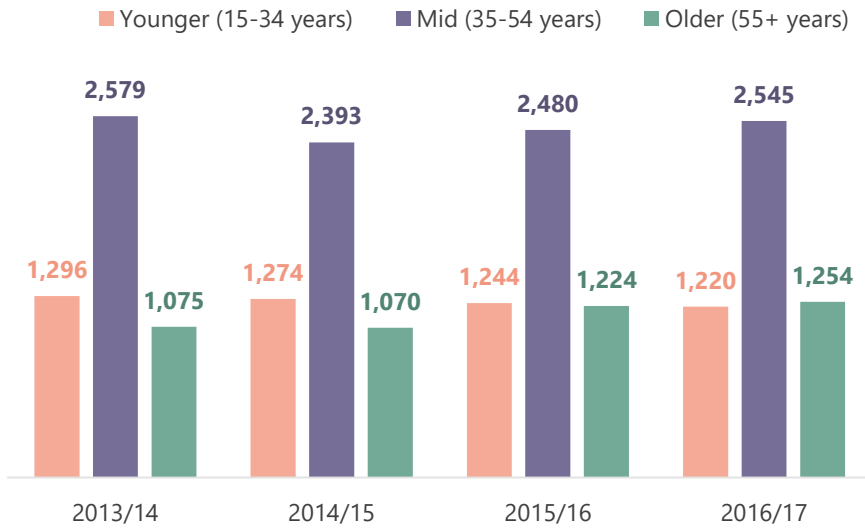
Over four years, the average long duration claim cost for males was **\$20,000** higher than females.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

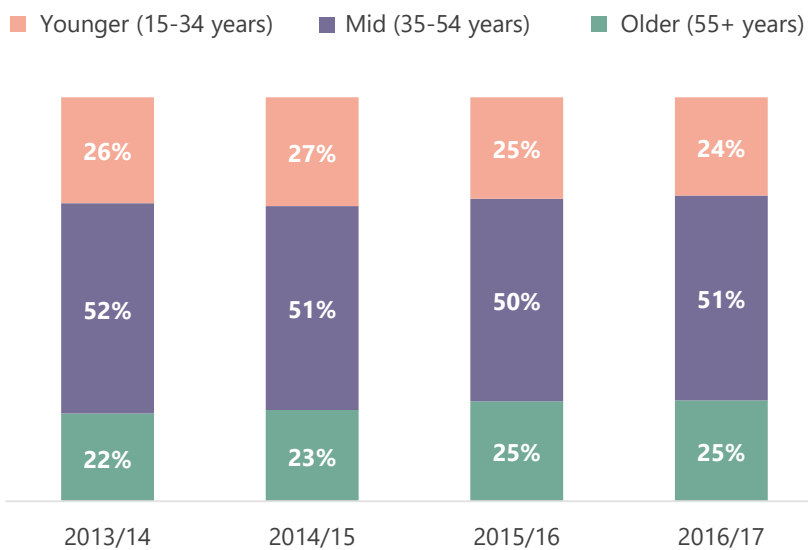
Long duration claims by age group



The **mid age group** (35-54 years) lodged the **most long duration claims** across four years.

The **older age group** (55+ years) had the **largest increase** (17%) in the number of long duration claims.

Long duration claims proportion by age group



Over four years, **a quarter** of long duration claims were lodged by the **younger age group** (15-34 years).

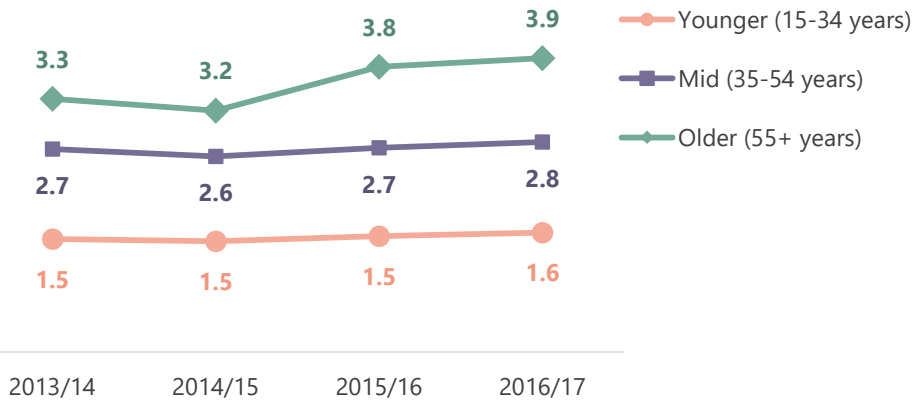
The **older age group** show an **increasing trend** in the proportion of long duration claims, increasing from 22% to 25% over four years.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

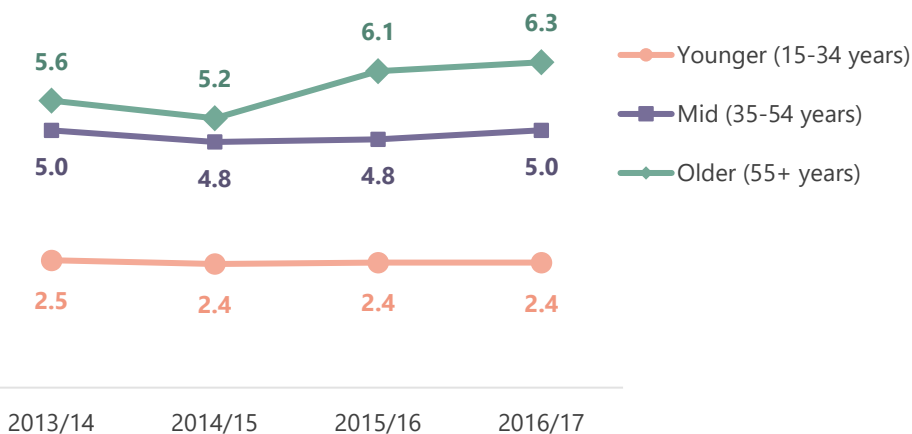
Long duration claims frequency rates by age group



The **older age group** had the highest and the largest increase in its frequency rate. In 2016/17, **3.9 long duration claims** per million hours worked were lodged by the older age group.

The **younger age group** consistently had the lowest frequency rate. In 2016/17, the younger age group lodged **1.6 long duration claims** per million hours worked.

Long duration claims incidence rates by age group



The **older age group** continues to have the highest incidence rate across all age groups, where **6.3 long duration claims** per 1,000 employees were lodged in 2016/17.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average costs by age group

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Younger (15-34 years)	\$120,066	\$121,944	\$123,288	\$114,329	■
Mid (35-54 years)	\$146,308	\$151,967	\$146,590	\$133,887	▼
Older (55+ years)	\$134,718	\$148,659	\$142,531	\$129,101	■
All long duration claims	\$138,469	\$162,538	\$139,839	\$131,279	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

The **mid age group** consistently had the **highest average long duration claim costs** across all age groups.

The overall average claim costs for all age groups show a decreasing trend. However figures for the latest year are preliminary due to the higher proportion of unfinalised claims.



In 2016/17 the mid age group had the highest average long duration claim costs at **\$133,887**.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims by occupation

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Technicians & trades workers	1,144	1,051	1,081	1,122	■
Labourers	1,088	1,117	1,187	1,077	■
Machinery operators & drivers	1,030	959	941	969	▼
Community & personal service workers	729	700	747	877	▲
Professionals	379	388	403	404	▲
Sales workers	252	210	262	211	▼
Clerical & administrative workers	184	175	167	198	▲
Managers	144	137	159	161	▲

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Long duration proportion of claims by occupation

2013/14 to 2016/17



Occupations with the highest number of long duration claims were **Labourers, Technicians and trades workers** and **Machinery operators & drivers**.

These occupations account for **almost two-thirds** of all long duration claims lodged between 2013/14 and 2016/17.

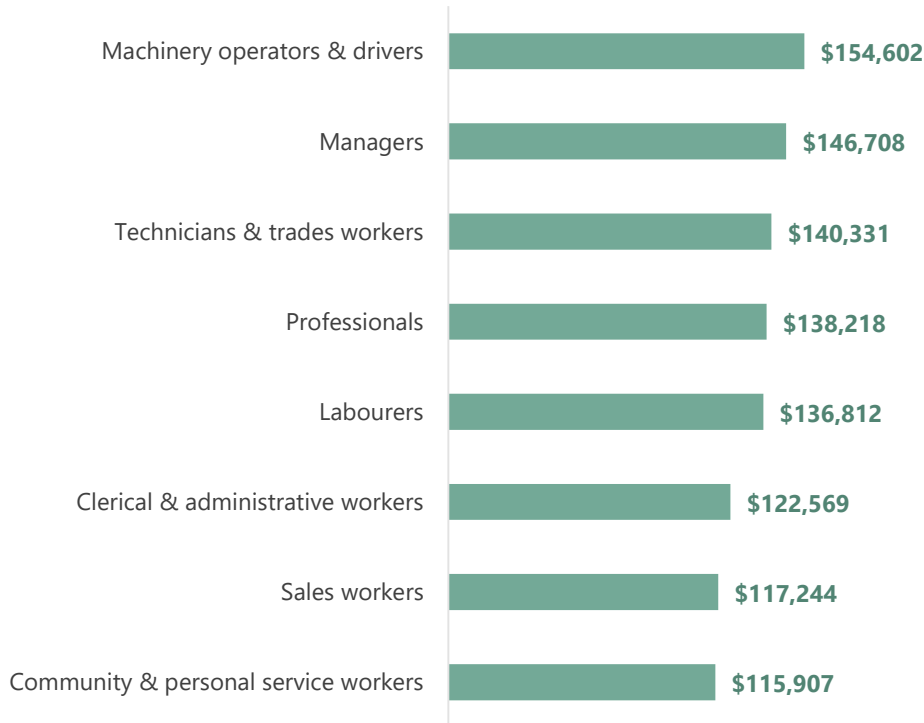


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average costs by occupation

2013/14 to 2016/17



Across four years, **Machinery operators and drivers** had the highest average long duration claim cost of \$154,602.

Over the same period, **Community & personal service workers** had the lowest average long duration claim cost of \$115,907.



The average long duration claim costs for **manual labour** occupations were consistently **higher** than other occupation groups.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims by industry

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Construction	817	833	885	773	▼
Health care & social assistance	741	750	781	804	▲
Mining	577	435	446	490	▼
Manufacturing	523	482	463	435	▼
Transport, postal & warehousing	365	355	340	387	▲
Retail trade	324	315	368	339	■
Education & training	273	254	262	349	▲
Public administration & safety	214	222	241	247	▲
Accommodation & food services	189	188	216	206	▲
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	159	170	181	199	▲
Wholesale trade	177	168	182	173	■
Other services	141	137	138	153	▲
Administrative & support services	107	116	114	128	▲
Arts & recreation services	91	88	98	99	▲
Professional, scientific & technical services	104	82	87	85	▼
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	70	66	72	85	▲
Rental, hiring & real estate services	53	39	41	44	▼
Information media & telecommunications	15	17	15	14	▼
Financial & insurance services	10	20	17	9	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

The **Construction** industry consistently had the **highest** number of long duration claims across four years.

Health care and social assistance had the **second highest** number of long duration claims over the same period.

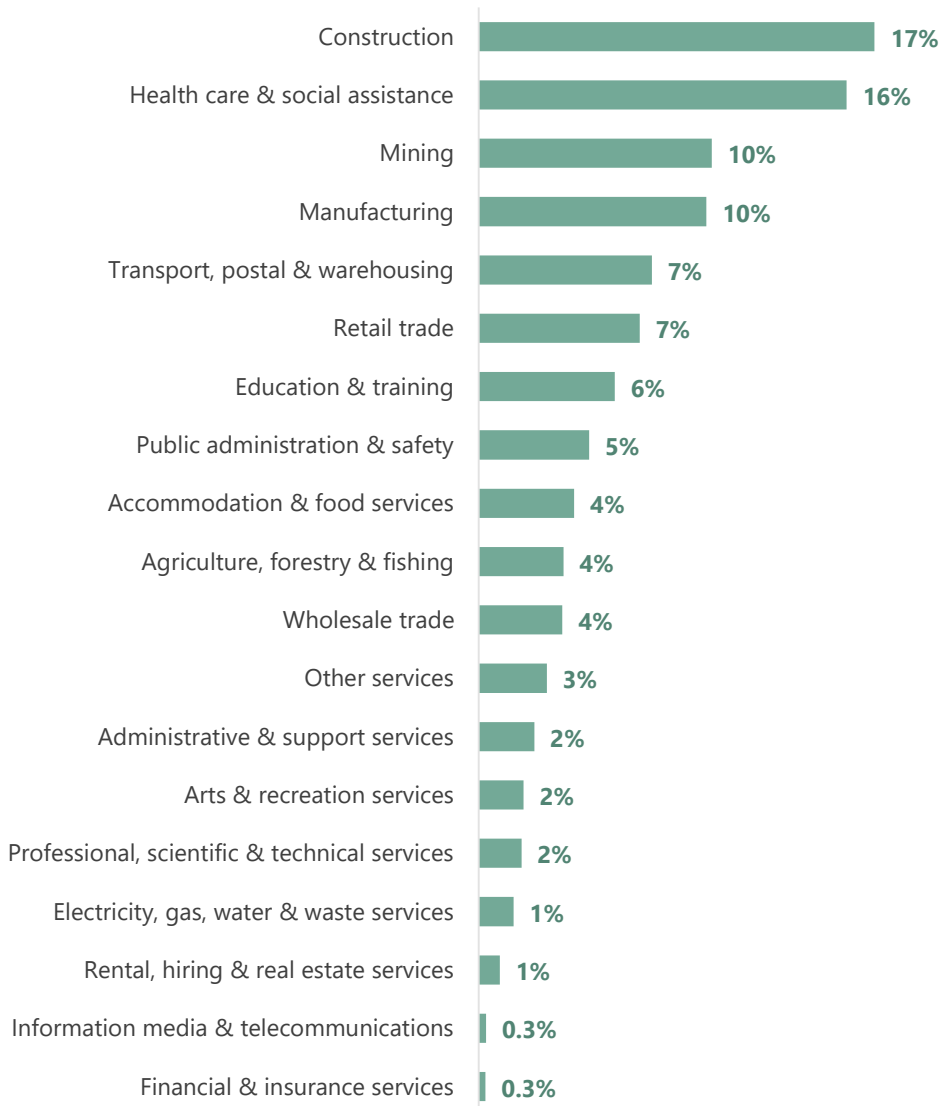


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims proportions by industry

2013/14 to 2016/17



Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, **Construction** continued to have the **highest** proportion of long duration claims (17%), followed by **Health care and social assistance** (16%).

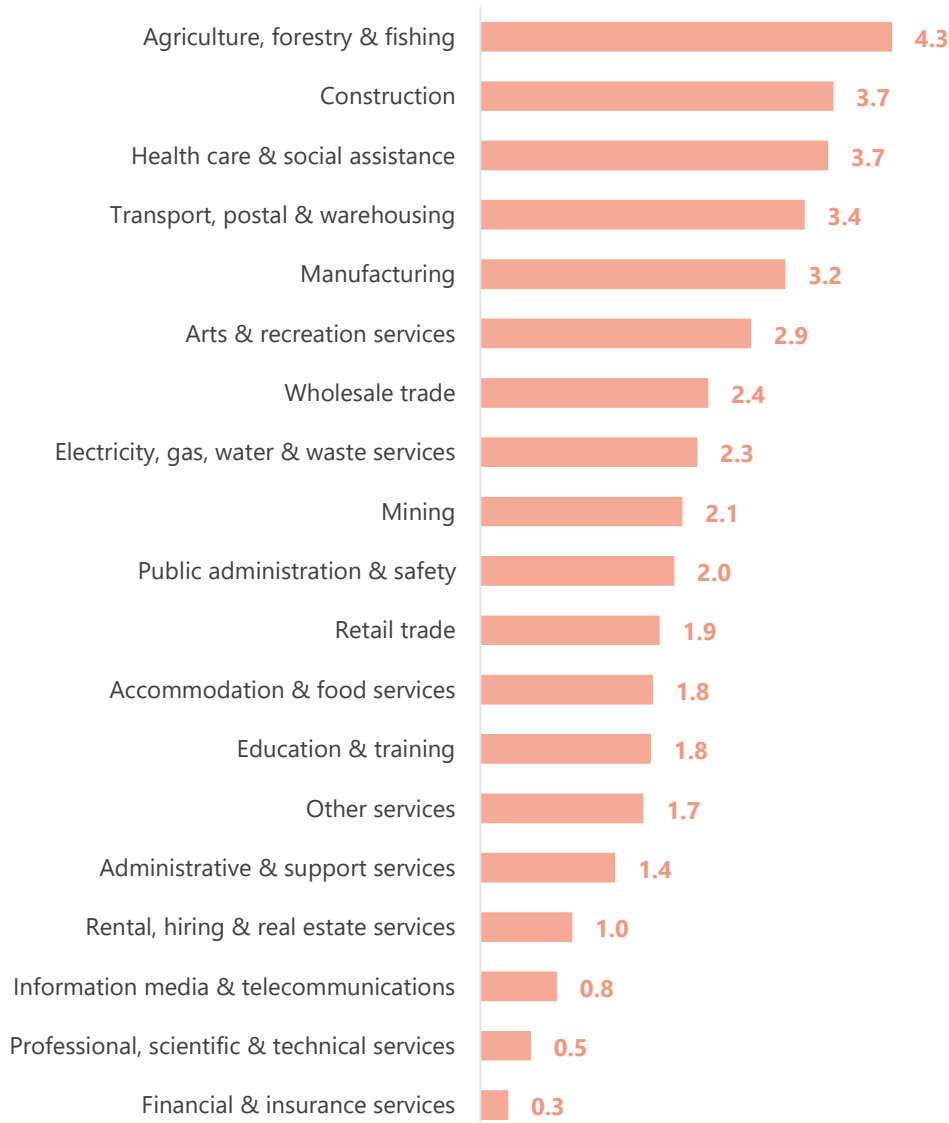


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims frequency rates by industry

2013/14 to 2016/17



Over four years, the **Agriculture, forestry and fishing** industry had the highest frequency rate of **4.3 long duration** claims per million hours worked, followed by the **Construction** industry with **3.7 long duration** claims per million hours worked.

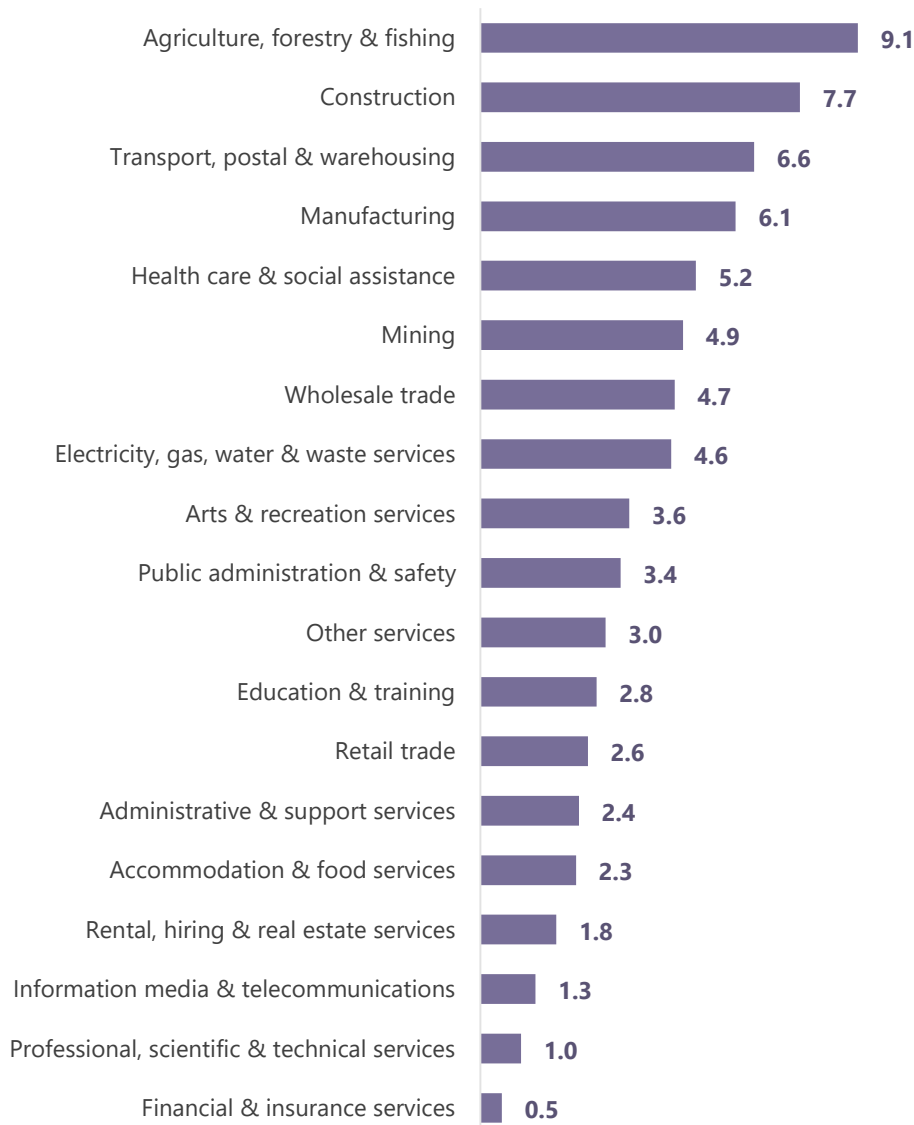


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims incidence rates by industry

2013/14 to 2016/17



Agriculture, forestry and fishing had the highest incidence rate for long duration claims (**9.1 claims** per thousand employees), followed by **Construction** (**7.7 claims** per thousand employees).



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average costs by industry

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Mining	\$179,824	\$161,917	\$166,684	\$151,913	▼
Construction	\$137,786	\$170,936	\$166,613	\$143,756	■
Transport, postal & warehousing	\$139,498	\$140,051	\$154,308	\$146,966	▲
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	\$151,148	\$133,082	\$161,411	\$130,047	▼
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	\$119,439	\$194,849	\$131,444	\$127,233	▲
Manufacturing	\$153,252	\$150,516	\$124,425	\$135,449	▼
Professional, scientific & technical services	\$138,552	\$138,342	\$159,555	\$126,527	▼
Wholesale trade	\$141,775	\$155,592	\$134,836	\$129,052	▼
Rental, hiring & real estate services	\$118,681	\$138,565	\$187,056	\$114,032	■
Public administration & safety	\$129,678	\$139,730	\$130,787	\$127,270	■
Information media & telecommunications	\$144,579	\$109,922	\$141,261	\$119,371	▼
Other services	\$120,470	\$114,930	\$127,920	\$139,107	▲
Health care & social assistance	\$125,901	\$121,844	\$125,069	\$111,904	▼
Accommodation & food services	\$130,110	\$120,989	\$123,391	\$104,422	▼
Education & training	\$113,567	\$115,110	\$129,507	\$110,317	■
Administrative & support services	\$105,159	\$123,370	\$119,555	\$116,290	▲
Retail trade	\$117,406	\$126,315	\$110,922	\$102,028	▼
Arts & recreation services	\$97,321	\$111,356	\$122,228	\$115,277	▲
Financial & insurance services	\$105,101	\$114,720	\$112,667	\$109,180	■

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

In 2016/17, Mining had the highest average long duration claim cost.

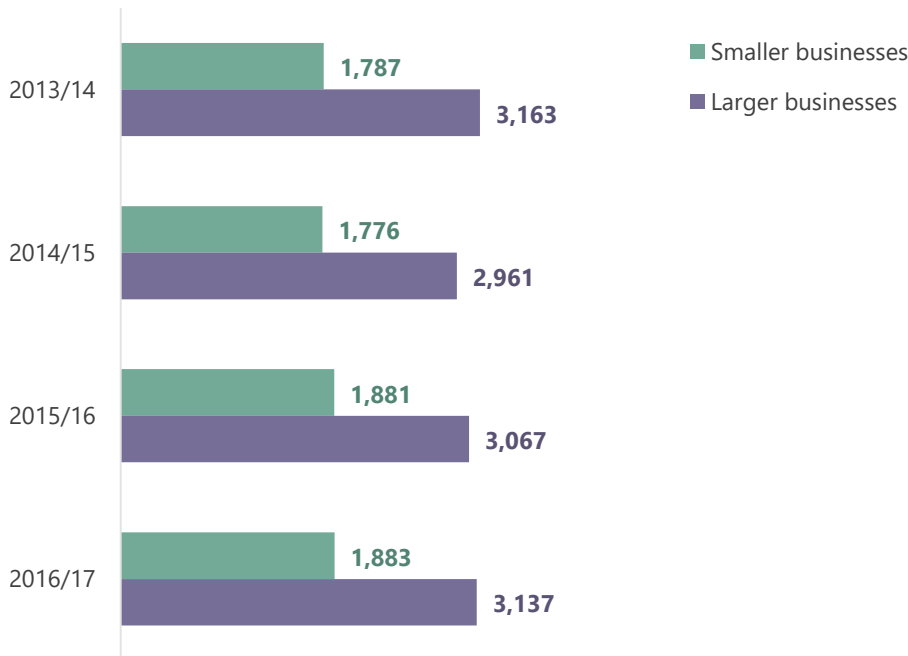
In contrast, Financial & insurance services had the lowest average long duration claim cost in 2016/17.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

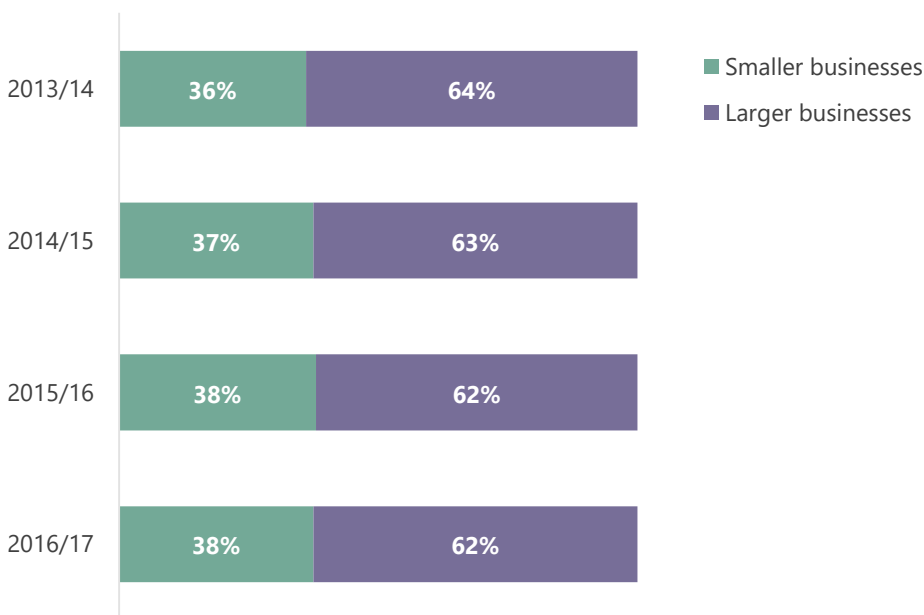
Long duration claims by size of employer



Larger businesses (50+ employees) consistently had more long duration claims lodged from 2013/14 to 2016/17.

However, **smaller businesses** (less than 50 employees) had an increase in the number of long duration claims over the same period.

Long duration claims proportion of claims by size of employer



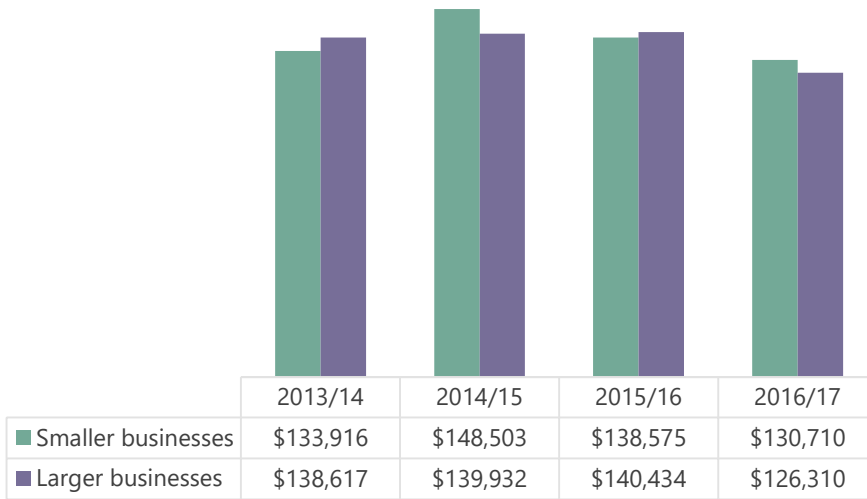
Although larger businesses have more long duration claims, the proportion of long duration claims for **larger businesses** shows a **decreasing trend** from 2013/14 to 2016/17.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average cost by size of employer



The average cost of long duration claims decreased over the four-year period.

Long duration claims lodged by workers in **smaller businesses** had the higher average claim cost in 2016/17, however the average long duration claim cost between smaller and larger business from 2013/14 to 2016/17 is similar.

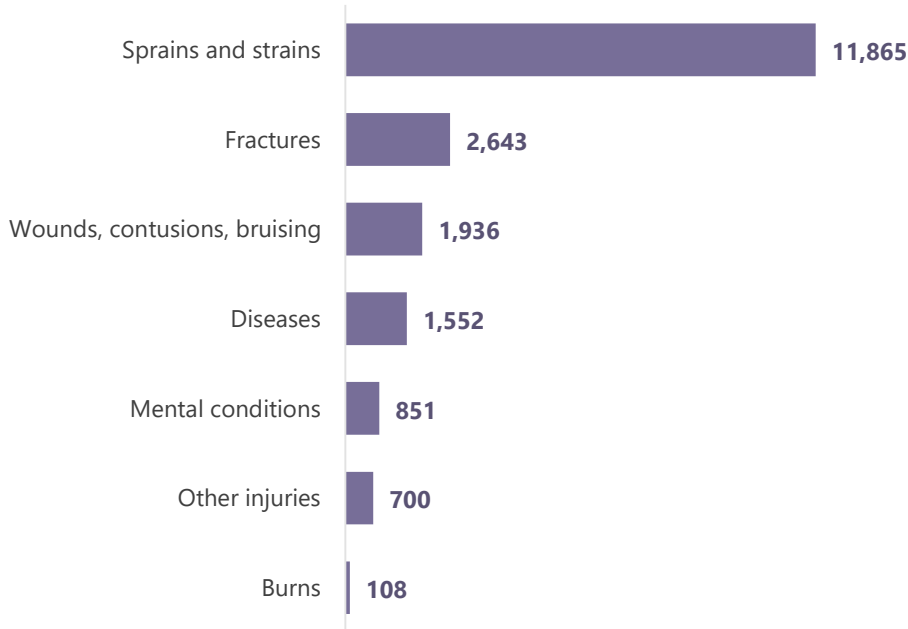


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims by nature of injury/disease

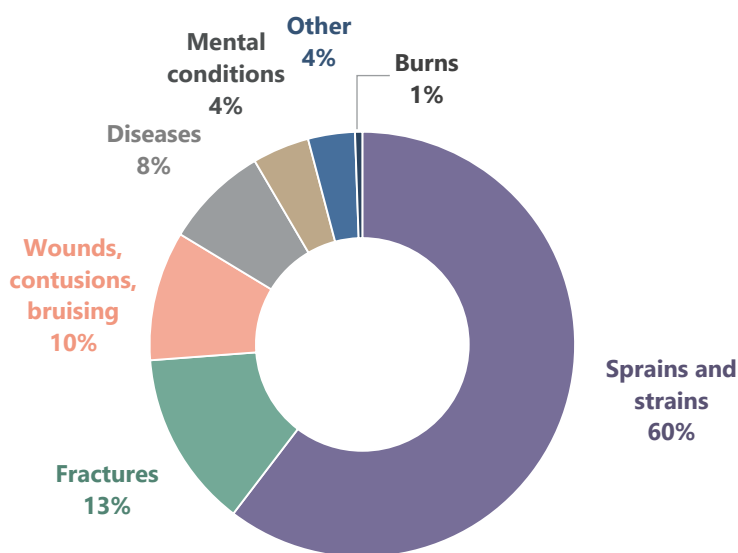
2013/14 to 2016/17



Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, the most common injury/disease type for long duration claims was **sprains and strains**, followed by **fractures**.

Long duration claims proportions by nature of injury/disease

2013/14 to 2016/17



The majority of long duration claims (60%) were associated with **sprains and strains** - traumatic joint/ligament or muscle/tendon injuries.

Sprains and strains and **fractures** accounted for the majority (73%) of long duration claims between 2013/14 and 2016/17.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims average costs by nature of injury/disease

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Burns	\$178,343	\$521,624	\$136,153	\$98,159	▼
Diseases	\$139,315	\$142,596	\$133,808	\$126,108	▼
Fractures	\$122,454	\$168,765	\$134,886	\$135,158	▲
Mental conditions	\$154,702	\$157,581	\$148,305	\$141,845	▼
Other injuries	\$137,126	\$137,512	\$144,143	\$138,016	■
Sprains and strains	\$137,673	\$136,547	\$139,885	\$126,813	▼
Wounds, contusions, bruising	\$139,262	\$126,573	\$144,878	\$118,595	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

The average cost of long duration claims associated with **burns** had the **largest decrease** over the same period.

However, data for 2016/17 is preliminary due to the higher proportion of unfinalised claims.



For the most common type of injury (sprains and strains), the average long duration claim cost decreased by **10.3%** between 2015/16 and 2016/17.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

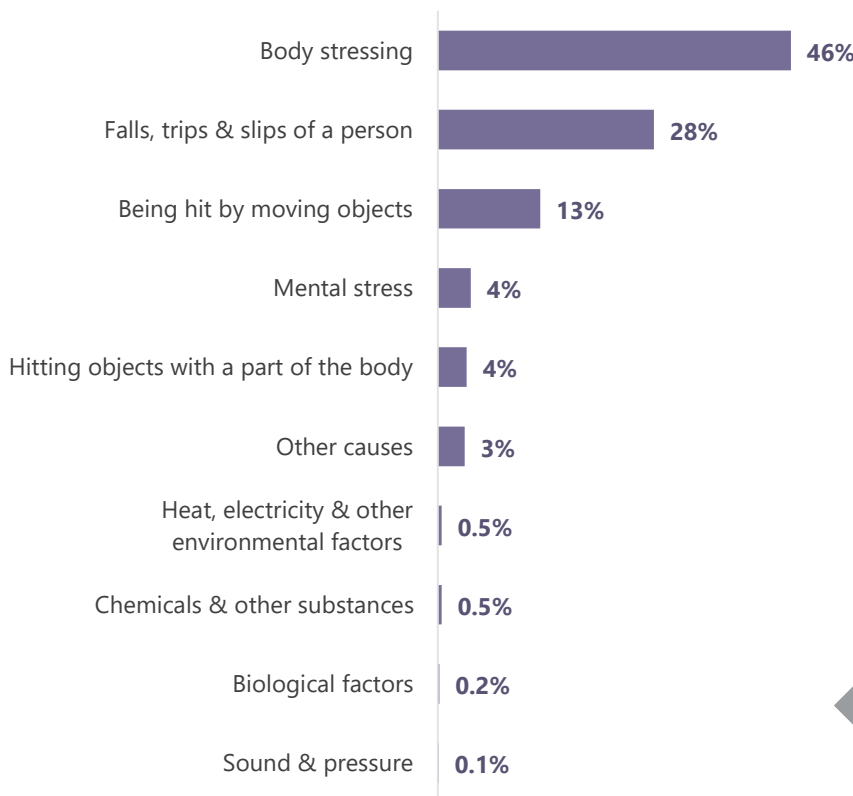
SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims by mechanism of incident

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Body stressing	2,370	2,178	2,228	2,232	▲
Falls, trips & slips of a person	1,353	1,349	1,398	1,416	▲
Being hit by moving objects	618	621	659	717	▲
Mental stress	200	196	223	223	▲
Hitting objects with a part of the body	157	167	212	197	▲
Other causes	185	160	178	159	▲
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	23	23	24	28	▲
Chemicals & other substances	27	26	18	26	▼
Biological factors	10	11	6	13	▲
Sound & pressure	7	6	2	9	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Long duration claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2013/14 to 2016/17



Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, claims resulting from **body stressing** accounted for **almost half** of long duration claims.

Body stressing are injuries resulting from stress placed on muscles, tendons, ligaments and bones.





LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims average costs by mechanism of incident

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Being hit by moving objects	\$143,109	\$144,265	\$153,029	\$130,102	▼
Biological factors	\$170,527	\$143,741	\$108,193	\$110,587	▼
Body stressing	\$136,561	\$133,481	\$135,517	\$124,141	▼
Chemicals & other substances	\$145,536	\$255,126	\$122,401	\$122,571	▼
Falls, trips & slips of a person	\$129,796	\$139,543	\$139,612	\$129,913	■
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	\$190,776	\$407,581	\$168,155	\$111,369	▼
Hitting objects with a part of the body	\$139,086	\$110,049	\$121,686	\$120,247	▼
Mental stress	\$155,880	\$157,173	\$148,536	\$142,304	▼
Other causes	\$141,525	\$251,898	\$153,406	\$148,443	■
Sound & pressure	\$118,708	\$408,577	\$150,232	\$141,134	▲

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

For long duration claims lodged in 2016/17, injuries resulting from **biological factors** had the lowest average claim cost at **\$110,587**.

Biological factors relates to disorders which result from contact with, or exposure to, germs, bacteria, and other micro-organisms.



Body stressing is the leading cause of long duration claims.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

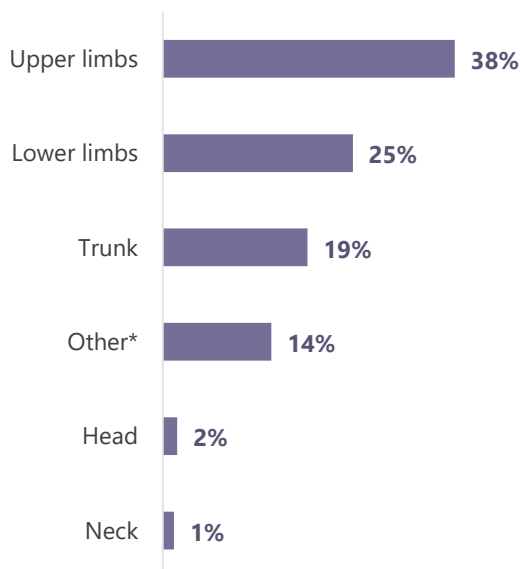
SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims by bodily location of injury/disease

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Upper limbs	1,815	1,803	1,916	2,011	▲
Lower limbs	1,238	1,210	1,206	1,256	■
Trunk	1,027	878	973	858	▼
Other*	713	680	678	733	■
Head	84	94	111	84	■
Neck	73	72	64	78	▲

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Long duration claims proportions by bodily location 2013/14 to 2016/17



From 2013/14 to 2016/17, injuries predominantly occurred to the **upper** and **lower limbs**.

***Other** bodily locations includes multiple locations, psychological system, systemic locations, and unspecified locations. These accounted for **14%** of long duration claims from 2013/14 to 2016/17.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims average costs by bodily location of injury/disease

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Neck	\$178,946	\$321,044	\$210,217	\$169,116	▼
Head	\$141,914	\$157,454	\$201,058	\$190,013	▲
Other*	\$160,235	\$180,586	\$164,948	\$148,241	▼
Trunk	\$148,156	\$158,037	\$155,428	\$142,715	■
Lower limbs	\$121,509	\$125,545	\$126,054	\$118,248	■
Upper limbs	\$129,993	\$125,735	\$125,529	\$116,151	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

From 2013/14 to 2016/17, long duration claims with injuries sustained to the **neck** had the **highest average claim cost**.

However, **neck** injuries were the **least common** body part (1%) associated with long duration claims.



Work-related injuries sustained to the **limbs** accounted for **two-thirds** of long duration claims.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

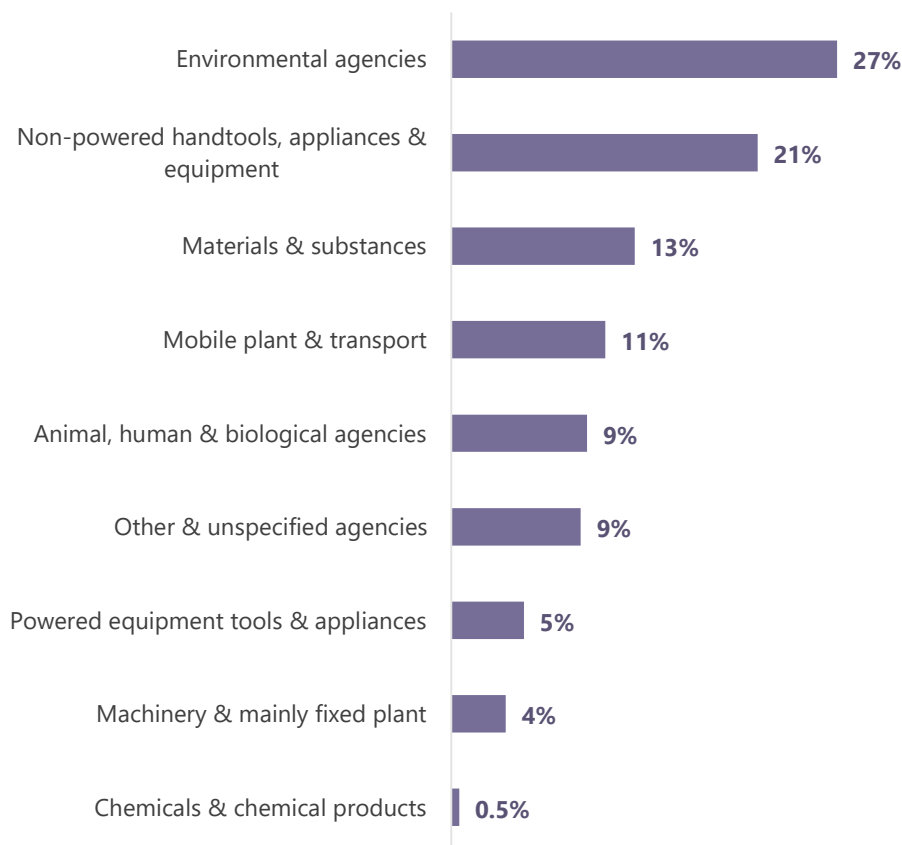
SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims by agency of injury/disease

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Environmental agencies	1,309	1,287	1,359	1,354	■
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	1,046	1,002	1,085	1,082	■
Materials & substances	682	612	673	556	▼
Mobile plant & transport	562	485	479	590	■
Animal, human & biological agencies	419	458	447	542	▲
Other & unspecified agencies	475	431	444	429	▼
Powered equipment tools & appliances	258	244	251	243	▼
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	175	188	189	193	▲
Chemicals & chemical products	24	30	21	31	▲

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Long duration claims proportions by agency of injury/disease 2013/14 to 2016/17



Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, the most common factor associated with long duration claims was **environmental agencies** (27%), followed by **non-powered handtools, appliances and equipment** (21%).



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims average costs by agency of injury/disease

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Trend
Animal, human & biological agencies	\$127,446	\$121,858	\$132,556	\$118,005	▼
Chemicals & chemical products	\$139,073	\$234,145	\$145,498	\$122,273	▼
Environmental agencies	\$127,578	\$136,630	\$138,012	\$125,529	▼
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	\$179,429	\$148,059	\$136,972	\$149,374	▼
Materials & substances	\$143,296	\$150,397	\$137,127	\$128,871	▼
Mobile plant & transport	\$155,434	\$193,489	\$158,269	\$150,076	▼
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	\$132,204	\$134,084	\$138,348	\$126,740	▼
Other & unspecified agencies	\$138,209	\$137,705	\$147,376	\$124,462	▼
Powered equipment tools & appliances	\$130,237	\$131,062	\$127,401	\$103,260	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Over the four year period, the **highest** average long duration claim cost was attributed to injuries associated with **mobile plant and transport**.



Average long duration claim costs attributed to powered equipment tools & appliances, decreased by **21%** over the last four years.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 4 | GLOSSARY

TERM

DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM

Act

The *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

Age

Chronological age (in years) of the worker at the date of injury or disease.

Agency of injury or disease

The object, substance or circumstance that was principally involved in or most closely associated with the point at which things started to go wrong and which ultimately led to the most serious injury or disease. A comprehensive list of this classification is available from Safe Work Australia *Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

Bodily location

The part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease. A comprehensive list of this classification is available from Safe Work Australia *Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

Claim count

The total number of claims (disallowed claims and journey claims between home and work are excluded) notified by insurers and exempt employers.

Claimant

A person who lodges a claim in the WA workers' compensation scheme.

Claim costs

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.

Claims data

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:

- ▲ lost-time journey claims between home and work
- ▲ asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma and pneumoconiosis
- ▲ duplicated or disallowed (by an insurer).

Claim numbers are subject to revision as claims experience matures.



TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
Claim payments	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.
Direct compensation	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">▲ redemption payments made under Schedule 1▲ specific injury payments made under Schedule 2▲ fatal payments including funeral expenses▲ common law and other Acts payments.
Frequency rate	The number of lost-time claims per million hours worked and indicates the prevalence of workers' compensation claims. The number of hours worked by employed persons in Western Australia is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au).
Incidence rate	The number of lost time claims per thousand employees (part-time, full-time, casual, and seasonal) in Western Australia. Employee numbers are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force data (catalogue no. 6202.0).
Industry	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 (abs.gov.au).
Lodgement year	The financial year in which the claim was lodged with the insurer.
Long duration claims	Workers' compensation claims for which the injury or disease results in an absence from work of at least 60 days or shifts.
Lost-time claims	Lost-time claims are claims for which the injury or disease results in an absence from work of at least one day or shift.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 4 | GLOSSARY

TERM

DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM

Mechanism of injury or disease

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 Safe Work Australia's *Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

Nature of injury or disease

The most serious injury or disease suffered by the worker. The full list of this classification is available from Safe Work Australia's *Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

Occupation

Based on the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations* (ANZSCO) published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It is a skill-based classification which encompasses all occupations in the Australian workforce (abs.gov.au).

Service payments

Service payments include:

1. medical and hospital payments:

- medical practitioner and specialist payments (consultation and treatment expenses rendered by general practitioners and medical specialists)
- hospital expenses (hospital accommodation and hospital treatment)

2. allied health payments:

- 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)

3. workplace rehabilitation payments:

- 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)

4. legal and miscellaneous:

- 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)
- miscellaneous (includes general items that do not fit in any other category, for example travelling, meals and lodgings, under clause 19 of Schedule 1).



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 5 | DISCLAIMER

- 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.