



Industry Statistical Report 2015/16 - 2018/19

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


June 2020







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WorkCover WA is the government agency responsible for overseeing the WA workers' compensation and injury management scheme. 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
2015/16 to 2018/19

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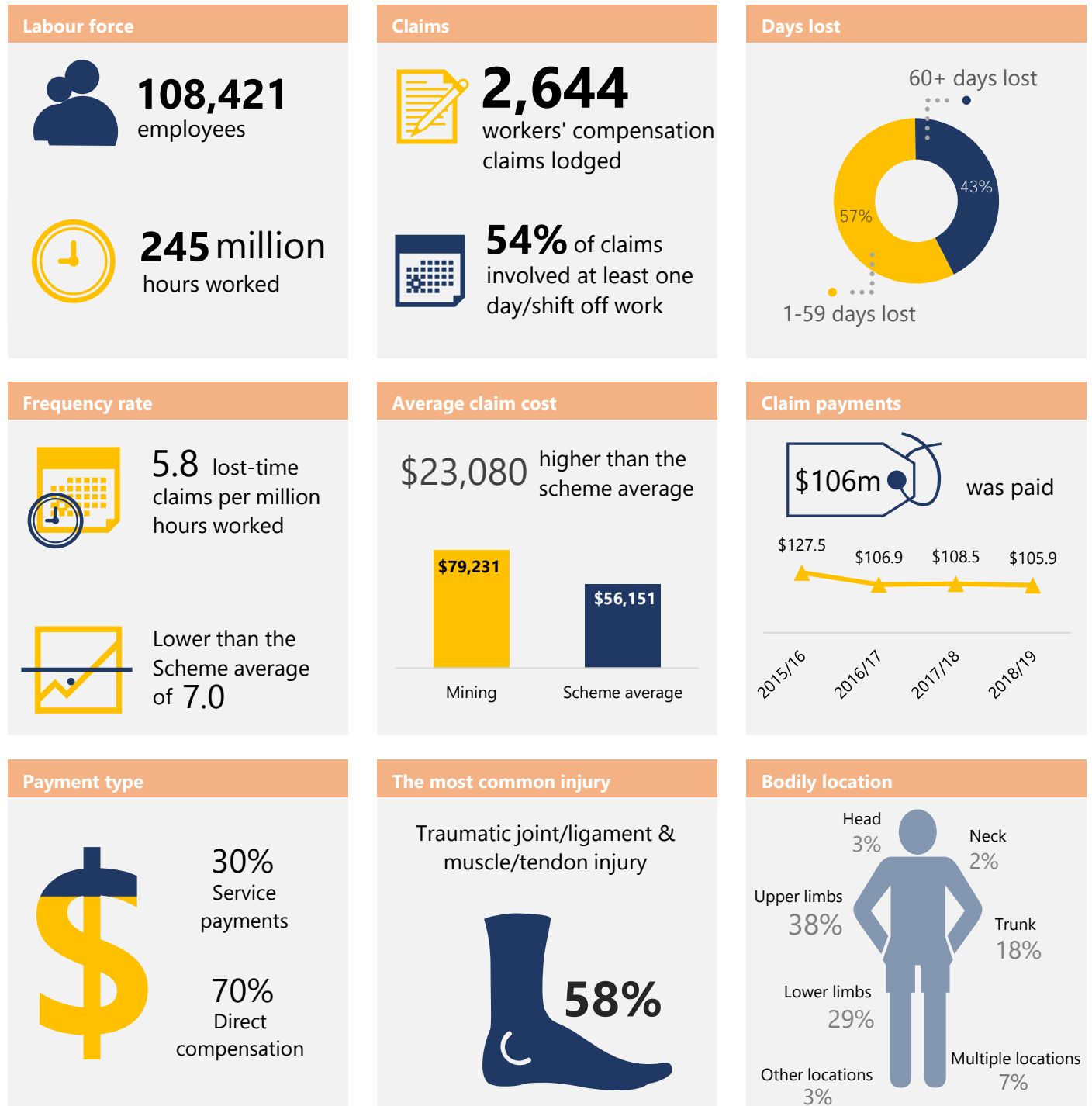
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Mining

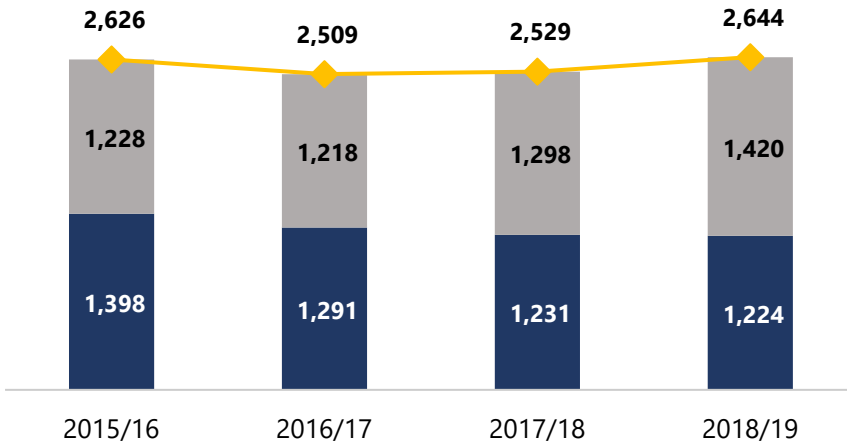
The Mining industry is classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006* provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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 2018/19



Claim numbers number of claims lodged by lost-time



■ **All claims**

Total claims in the Mining industry remained stable from 2015/16 to 2018/19.

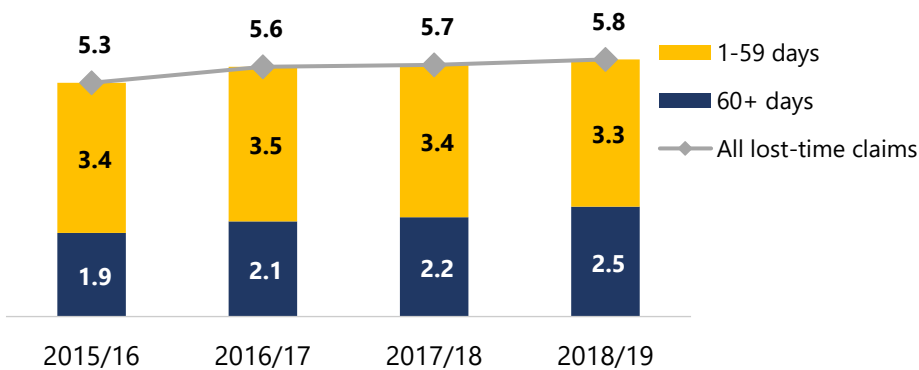
■ **Lost-time claims**

Lost-time claims in Mining averaged 1,291 claims between 2015/16 to 2018/19.


■ **No lost-time claims**

Claims with no time off work averaged 1,286 claims between 2015/16 to 2018/19.

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.



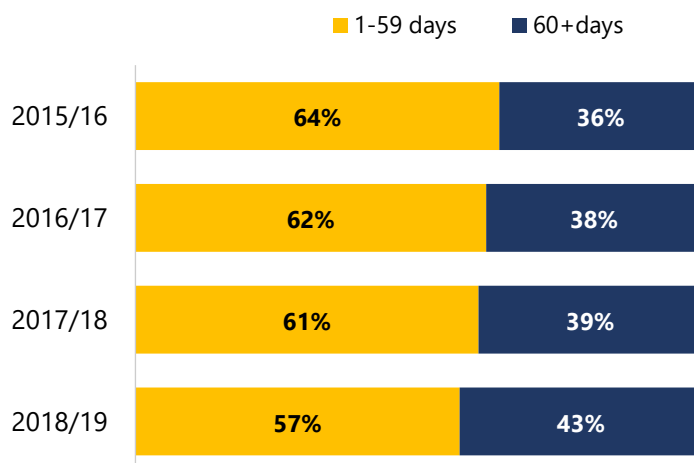
For claims lodged in 2018/19, the Mining industry's frequency rate increased to 5.8 lost-time claims per million hours worked, lower than the scheme average of 7.0.


Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

DAYS LOST	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
0 days	1,398	1,291	1,231	1,224	▼
1 - 4 days	131	121	101	107	▼
5 - 19 days	341	283	325	331	■
20 - 59 days	317	350	360	375	▲
60 - 119 days	169	185	203	210	▲
120 - 179 days	87	80	96	108	▲
180+ days	183	199	213	289	▲
All claims	2,626	2,509	2,529	2,644	■

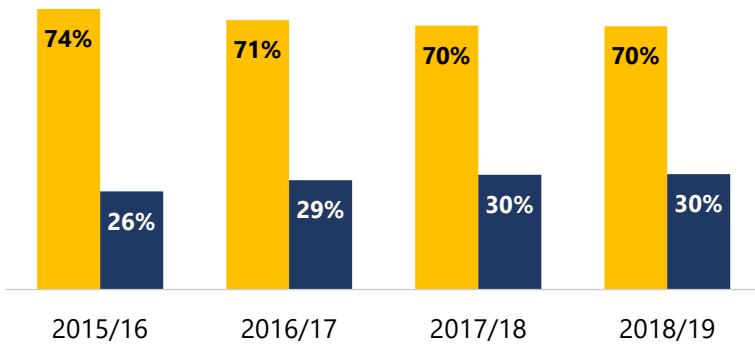
▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)

Lost-time claims proportions by days lost



 Mining accounts for **10%** of total claims lodged in 2018/19 in the WA workers' compensation scheme.

Total claim payments proportions by payment group



Direct compensation

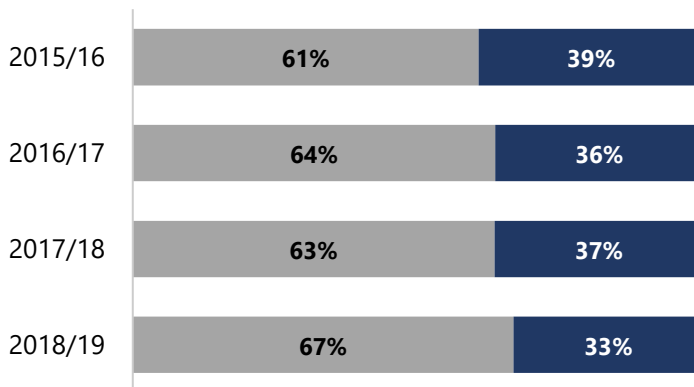
payments made directly to the worker (either by income replacement or lump sums).



Service payments

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

Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type



Income payments

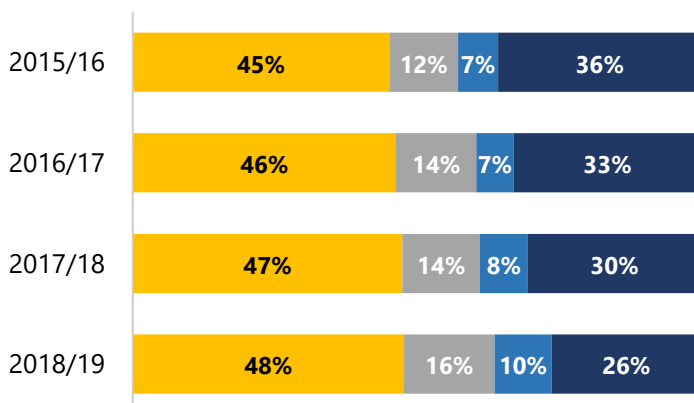
as a proportion of direct compensation payments ranged from 61% to 67% over four years.



Lump sums

as a proportion of direct compensation payments, in turn, ranged from 33% to 39%.

Service payments proportions by payment type



Medical & hospital



Allied health



Workplace rehabilitation



Legal & miscellaneous

Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

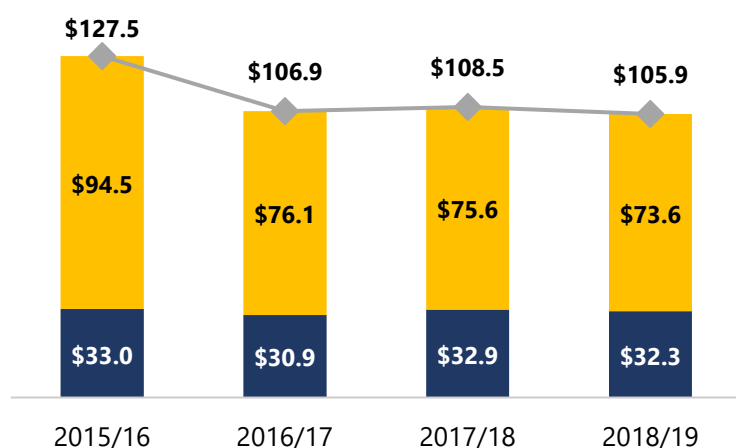
\$MILLION	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
DIRECT COMPENSATION					
Income payments	\$57.3	\$48.3	\$47.9	\$49.1	▼
Lump sums	\$37.2	\$27.8	\$27.7	\$24.5	▼
SERVICE PAYMENTS					
Medical & hospital	\$14.9	\$14.3	\$15.6	\$15.4	■
Allied health	\$4.0	\$4.4	\$4.5	\$5.1	▲
Workplace rehabilitation	\$2.3	\$2.0	\$2.8	\$3.2	▲
Legal & miscellaneous	\$11.8	\$10.2	\$10.0	\$8.5	▼
Total claim payments	\$127.5	\$106.9	\$108.5	\$105.9	▼



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

▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)

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



Direct compensation payments decreased from \$94.5 million in 2015/16 to \$73.6 million in 2018/19.



Service payments decreased from \$33.0 million in 2015/16 and stands at \$32.3 million in 2018/19.



Payments for claims in the Mining industry in 2018/19 totalled **\$105.9 million**, accounting for **12%** of total scheme payments.

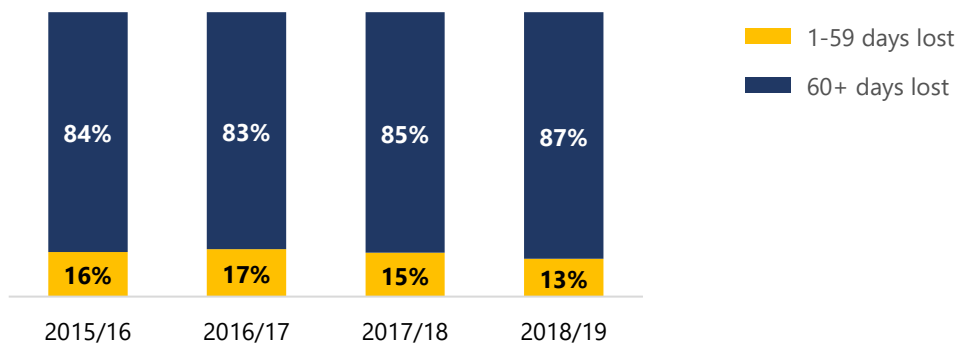
Claim costs* total claim costs by days lost

\$MILLION	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
1-59 days lost	\$14.3	\$15.1	\$17.4	\$15.0	■
60+ days lost	\$76.9	\$75.6	\$95.1	\$97.5	▲
Lost-time claims	\$91.3	\$90.7	\$112.5	\$112.5	▲

* Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly the most recent year.

▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)

Claim costs* proportions of claim costs by days lost



Claim costs* average claim costs by days lost

\$MILLION	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
1-59 days lost	\$18,166	\$20,068	\$22,152	\$18,442	■
60+ days lost	\$175,270	\$162,949	\$185,645	\$160,650	▼
Lost-time claims	\$74,329	\$74,499	\$86,643	\$79,231	▲

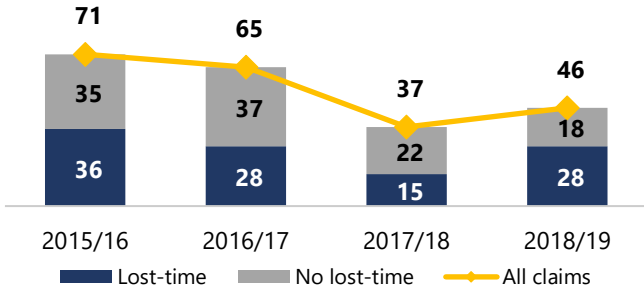
▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)



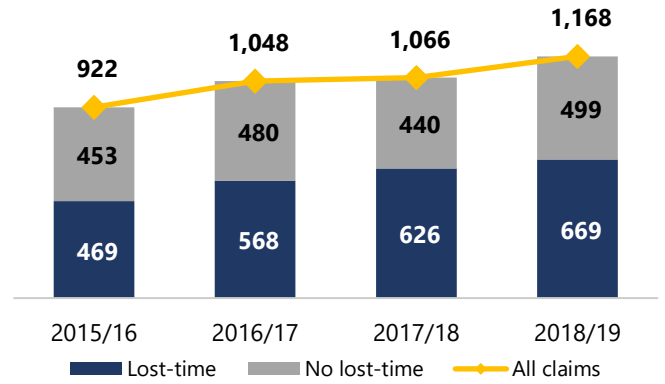
The average claim cost for Mining was \$79,231 in 2018/19, compared with the scheme average of \$56,151.

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

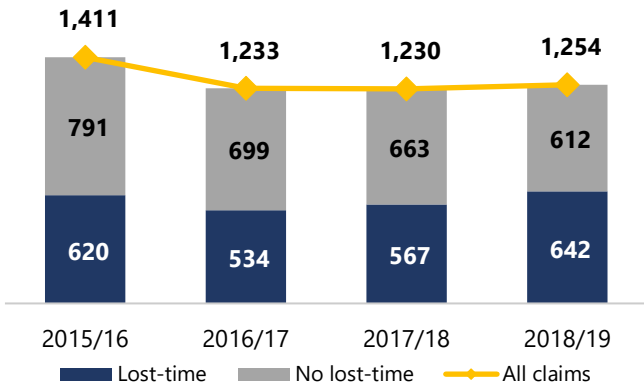
Coal mining



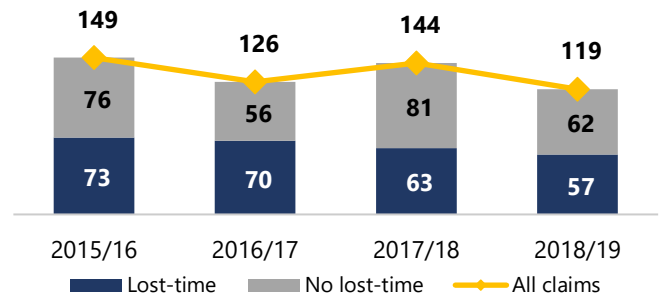
Exploration and other mining support services



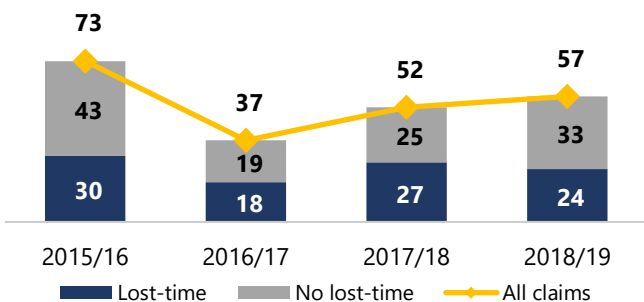
Metal ore mining



Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying



Oil and gas extraction



Lost-time claims and frequency rate by industry subdivision

SUBDIVISION	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Average* frequency rate
Coal mining	36	28	15	28	9.8
1-59 days lost	23	15	5	15	5.3
60+ days lost	13	13	10	13	4.5
Exploration and other mining support services	469	568	626	669	10.1
1-59 days lost	287	344	363	388	6.0
60+ days lost	182	224	263	281	4.1
Metal ore mining	620	534	567	642	4.8
1-59 days lost	408	336	360	355	3.0
60+ days lost	212	198	207	287	1.8
Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying	73	70	63	57	6.1
1-59 days lost	50	50	42	40	4.2
60+ days lost	23	20	21	17	1.9
Oil and gas extraction	30	18	27	24	0.7
1-59 days lost	21	9	16	15	0.4
60+ days lost	9	9	11	9	0.3
Total Mining	1,228	1,218	1,298	1,420	5.6

* The average frequency rate is over four years (2015/16 to 2018/19).



Frequency rate indicates the prevalence of workers' compensation claims by measuring the number of lost-time claims per million hours worked.

Return to work status lost-time claims

Return to work rate	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
at 1 month	65%	63%	63%	73%	▲
at 3 months	77%	74%	74%	81%	▲
at 6 months	84%	81%	82%	86%	■
at 12 months	87%	85%	88%	88%	■

▲ Increasing ($\geq +5\%$) ■ Stable (within $\pm 5\%$) ▼ Decreasing ($\leq -5\%$)



The return to work rate measures the proportion of claimants who **returned to work at any capacity** at key intervals from the date of claim lodgement.



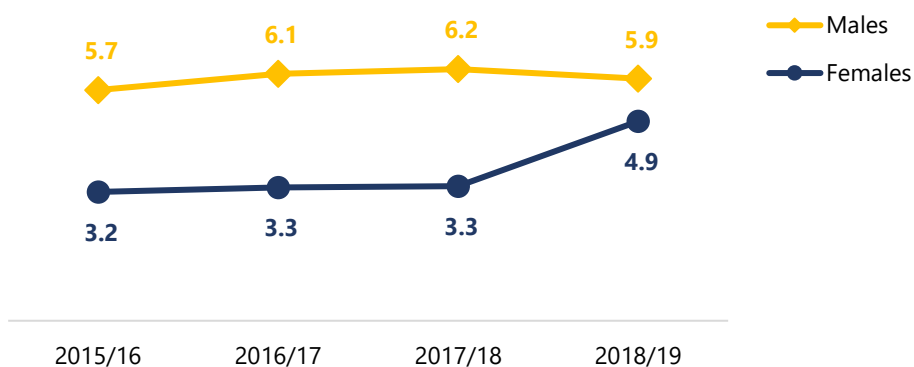
For 2018/19, **88%** of claimants in Mining **returned to work at 12 months** after the claim was lodged, higher than the overall scheme (87%).

Lost-time claims gender by days lost

GENDER	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
MALES	1,115	1,112	1,169	1,266	▲
1-59 days lost	729	688	718	736	■
60+ days lost	386	424	451	530	▲
FEMALES	113	106	129	154	▲
1-59 days lost	60	66	68	77	▲
60+ days lost	53	40	61	77	▲
Lost-time claims	1,228	1,218	1,298	1,420	▲

▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)

Frequency rate by gender



 Between 2015/16 and 2018/19, **90%** of claims in the Mining industry were lodged by males, compared to 65% for the overall scheme.

Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
15-19 years	7	13	11	20	▲
20-24 years	63	77	85	107	▲
25-34 years	358	332	337	360	■
35-44 years	316	294	300	349	▲
45-54 years	305	318	357	366	▲
55-59 years	109	110	108	126	▲
60-64 years	54	55	83	63	▲
65+ years	16	19	17	29	▲
Lost-time claims	1,228	1,218	1,298	1,420	▲

▲ Increasing ($\geq +5\%$) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing ($\leq -5\%$)

Frequency rate by age group

AGE GROUP	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
15-19 years	5.7	7.6	4.1	17.3	▲
20-24 years	3.9	7.4	5.7	10.3	▲
25-34 years	5.3	6.0	5.4	5.7	▲
35-44 years	4.6	4.2	4.3	4.4	■
45-54 years	5.8	6.5	6.9	6.6	▲
55-59 years	7.3	6.0	6.8	6.0	▼
60-64 years	5.2	6.0	11.9	6.4	▲
65+ years	7.2	11.7	4.8	5.2	▼
Lost-time claims	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.8	▲

▲ Increasing ($\geq +5\%$) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing ($\leq -5\%$)

Lost-time claims by occupation

OCCUPATION	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
Machinery operators & drivers	551	556	571	654	▲
Technicians & trades workers	396	398	452	444	▲
Labourers	219	196	220	260	▲
Professionals	31	27	27	34	▲
Managers	9	13	5	13	▲
Clerical & administrative workers	17	21	16	9	▼
Community & personal service workers	5	7	6	5	■
Sales workers	0	0	<5	<5	■
Lost-time claims	1,228	1,218	1,298	1,420	▲

▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)

Lost-time claims proportions by occupation 2018/19



Lost-time claims by nature of injury/disease

NATURE	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	752	744	756	825	▲
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	175	181	192	209	▲
Fractures	149	136	166	180	▲
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	48	53	59	65	▲
Other injuries	31	24	33	32	■
Digestive system diseases	25	33	30	31	▲
Burn	19	13	18	18	▼
Mental diseases	11	11	20	16	▲
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	<5	10	11	14	▲
Other diseases	14	13	13	30	▲
Lost-time claims	1,228	1,218	1,298	1,420	▲

▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)



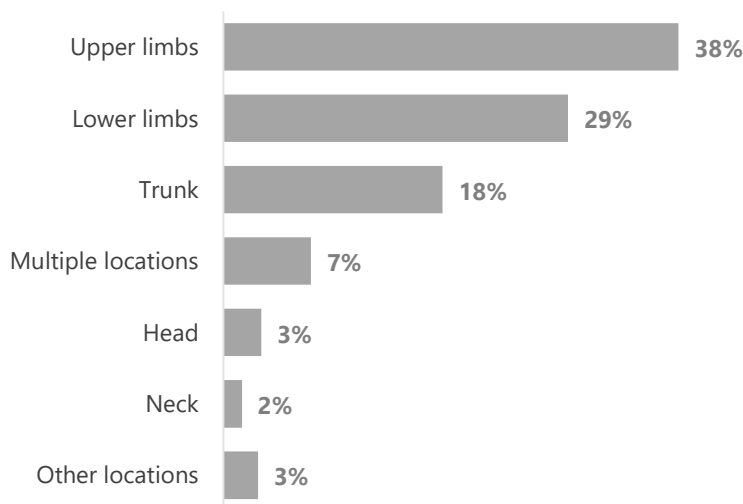
Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continues to be the **leading** type of injury for claims lodged in the Mining industry (58%), and the overall scheme (51%).


Lost-time claims by bodily location of injury/disease

LOCATION	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
Upper limbs	472	441	502	540	▲
Lower limbs	345	370	368	409	▲
Trunk	242	247	233	260	▲
Multiple locations	64	77	88	104	▲
Head	48	47	42	45	▼
Neck	38	24	29	22	▼
Other locations	19	12	36	40	▲
Lost-time claims	1,228	1,218	1,298	1,420	▲

▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)

Lost-time claims proportions by bodily location of injury/disease 2018/19



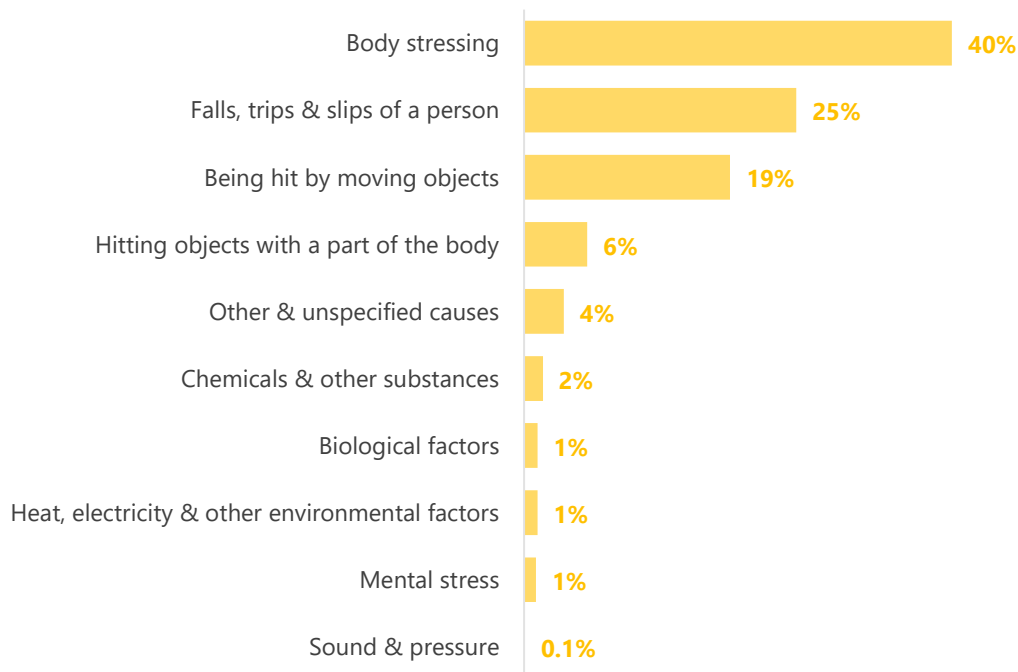
 **Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 67% of total claims lodged in 2018/19.**

Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
Body stressing	506	535	523	569	▲
Falls, trips & slips of a person	336	343	323	362	▲
Being hit by moving objects	203	197	266	274	▲
Hitting objects with a part of the body	88	69	74	84	■
Other & unspecified causes	45	29	47	53	▲
Chemicals & other substances	22	15	19	25	▲
Biological factors	<5	8	<5	18	▲
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	13	10	13	18	▲
Mental stress	11	11	20	16	▲
Sound & pressure	<5	<5	10	<5	▼
Lost-time claims	1,228	1,218	1,298	1,420	▲

▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)

Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2018/19

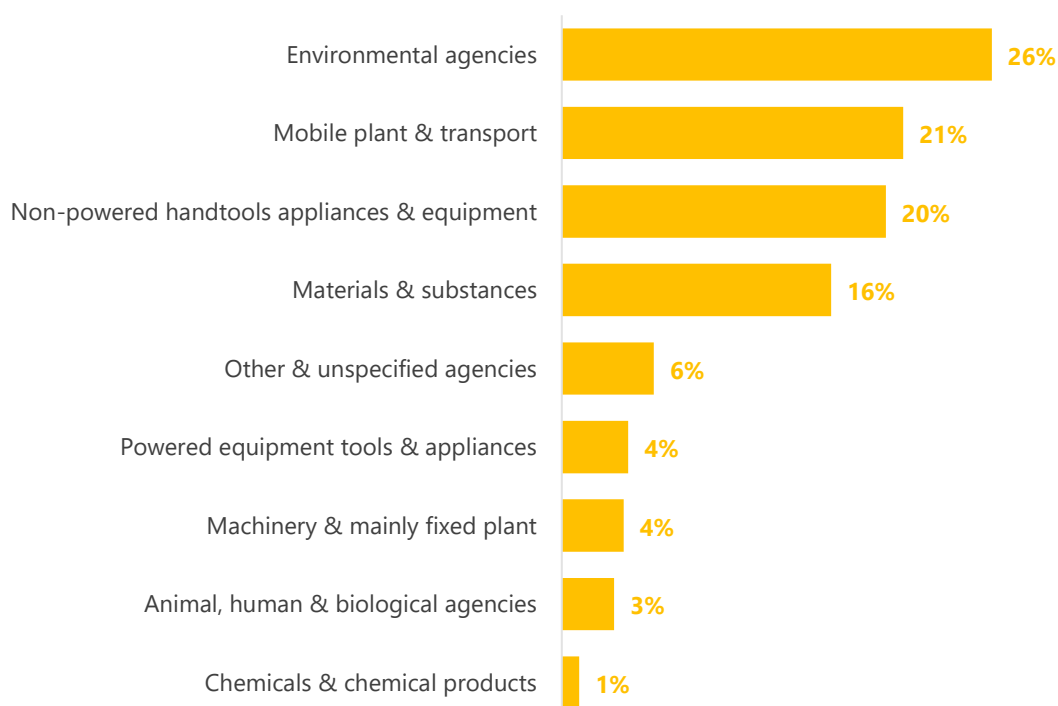


Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease

AGENCY	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	4-year trend
Environmental agencies	333	335	330	369	▲
Mobile plant & transport	204	230	264	293	▲
Non-powered handtools appliances & equipment	246	222	223	278	▲
Materials & substances	229	207	232	231	■
Other & unspecified agencies	83	99	85	79	■
Powered equipment tools & appliances	54	51	61	57	▲
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	47	41	65	53	▲
Animal, human & biological agencies	17	26	26	45	▲
Chemicals & chemical products	15	7	12	15	■
Lost-time claims	1,228	1,218	1,298	1,420	▲

▲ Increasing (≥+5%) ■ Stable (within +/-5%) ▼ Decreasing (≤-5%)

Lost-time claims proportions by agency of injury/disease 2018/19



Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
Act	The <i>Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981</i> .
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 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> (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 <i>Safe Work Australia Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition</i> (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).
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. Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly the most recent year. Claim costs are not adjusted for inflation.
Claims data	<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">▲ lost-time journey claims between home and work▲ asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma and pneumoconiosis, caused by asbestos exposure▲ duplicated or disallowed (by an insurer). <p>Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly the most recent year.</p>

Glossary

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.
Days lost	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.
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. It is based on the number of hours worked by employed persons in Western Australia as supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
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).
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.

Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
Mechanism of incident	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> (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 <i>Safe Work Australia's Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition</i> (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).
Occupation	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 (abs.gov.au).
Service payments	Service payments include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. medical and hospital payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ 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).

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 and self-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.
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- 5 Information concerning the accuracy and appropriate uses of the data or concerning other workers' compensation data may be obtained by contacting WorkCover WA.