



INDUSTRY STATISTICAL REPORT 2017/18 - 2020/21

Mining
in the Western Australian
Workers' Compensation
Scheme

September 2022







WorkCoverWA

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 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
2017/18 to 2020/21

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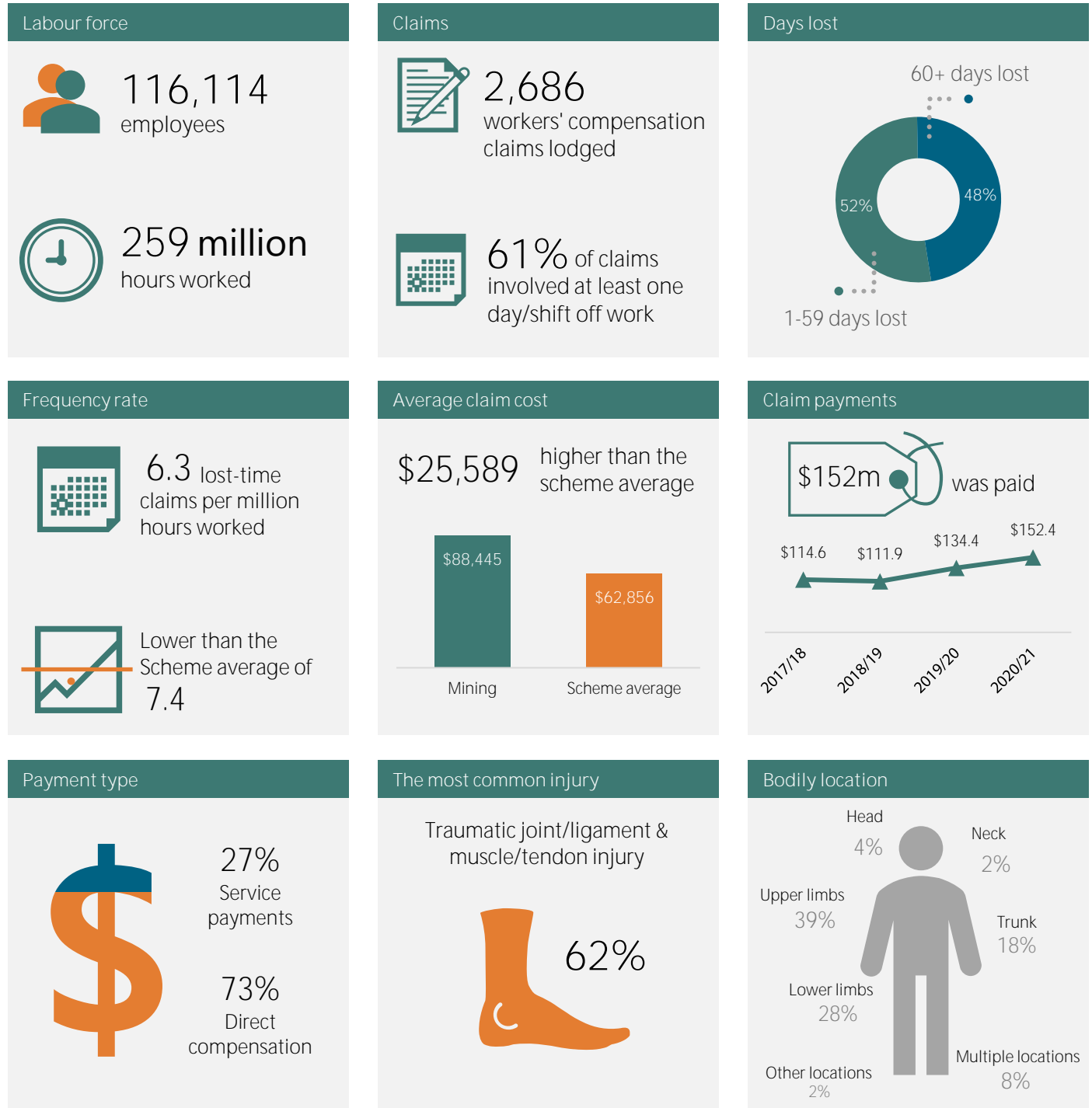
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Mining

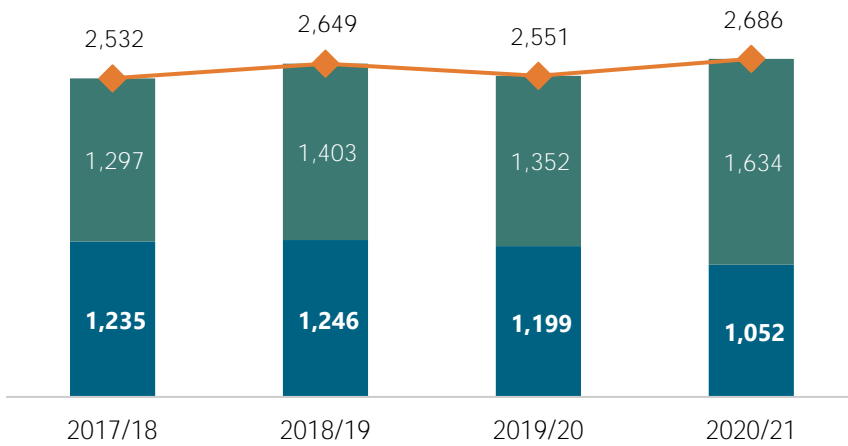
The Mining industry is classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006* provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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 2020/21



Claim numbers number of claims lodged by lost-time

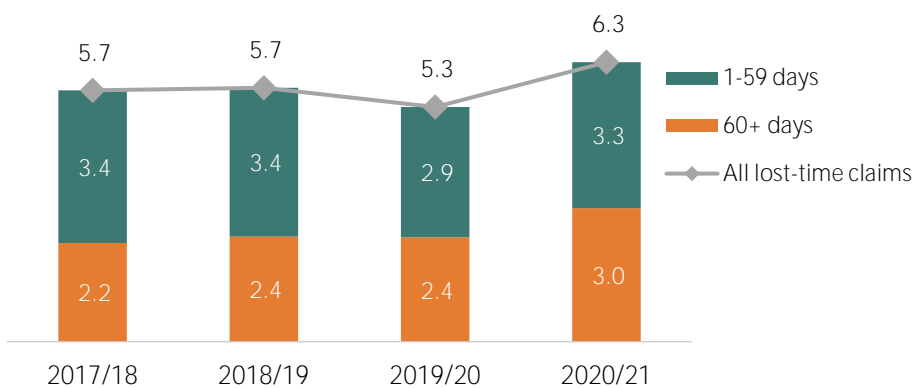


All claims
Total claims in the Mining industry increased by 6% from 2017/18 to 2020/21.

Lost-time claims
Lost-time claims in Mining averaged 1,422 claims between 2017/18 to 2020/21.

No lost-time claims
Claims with no time off work averaged 1,183 claims between 2017/18 to 2020/21.

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.

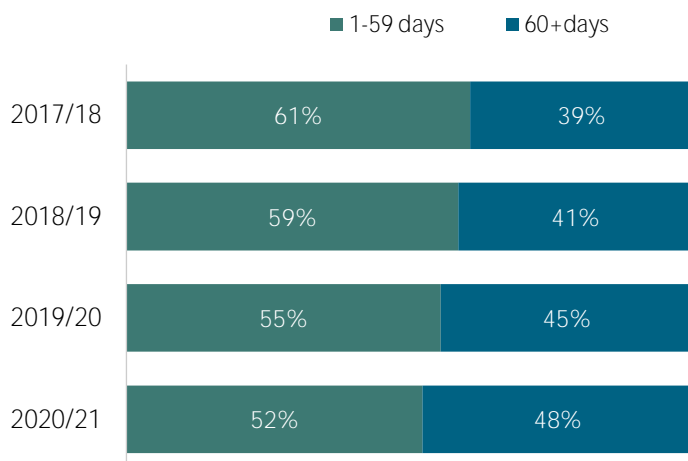
For claims lodged in 2020/21, the frequency rate for the Mining industry was 6.3 lost-time claims per million hours worked, lower than the scheme average of 7.4.

Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

DAYS LOST	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
0 days	1,235	1,246	1,199	1,052	▼
1 - 4 days	101	114	94	90	▼
5 - 19 days	322	332	270	328	■
20 - 59 days	364	376	386	436	▲
60 - 119 days	206	211	210	244	▲
120 - 179 days	96	104	121	152	▲
180+ days	208	266	271	384	▲
Total claims	2,532	2,649	2,551	2,686	▲

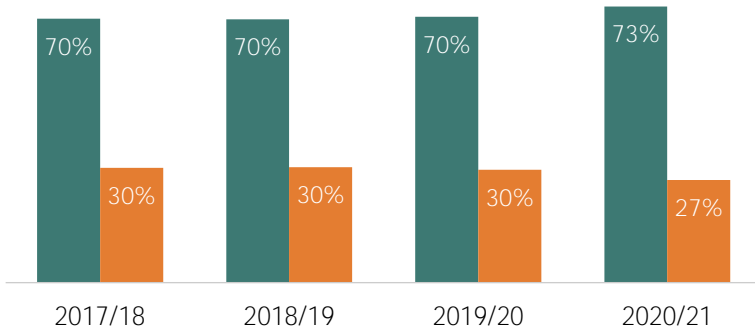
▲ Increasing ($\geq +5\%$) ■ Stable (within $\pm 5\%$) ▼ Decreasing ($\leq -5\%$)


Lost-time claims proportions by days lost



Mining accounts for 11% of total claims lodged in 2020/21 in the WA workers' compensation scheme.

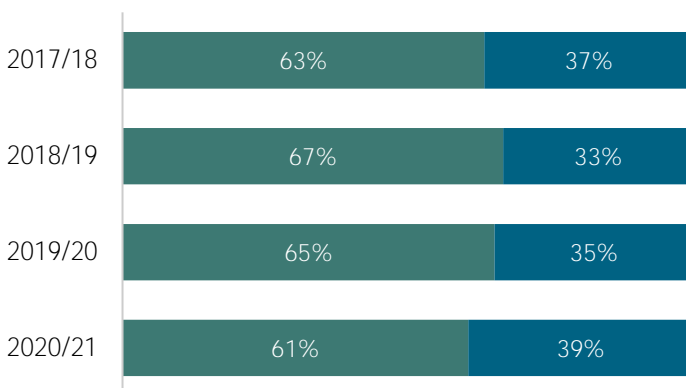
Total claim payments proportions by payment group





 **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.

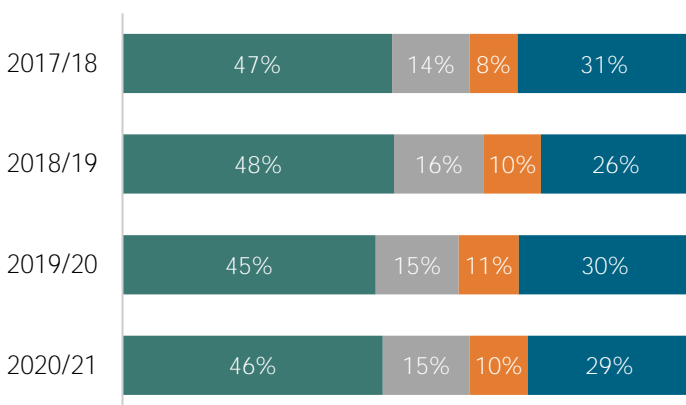
Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type



 **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)

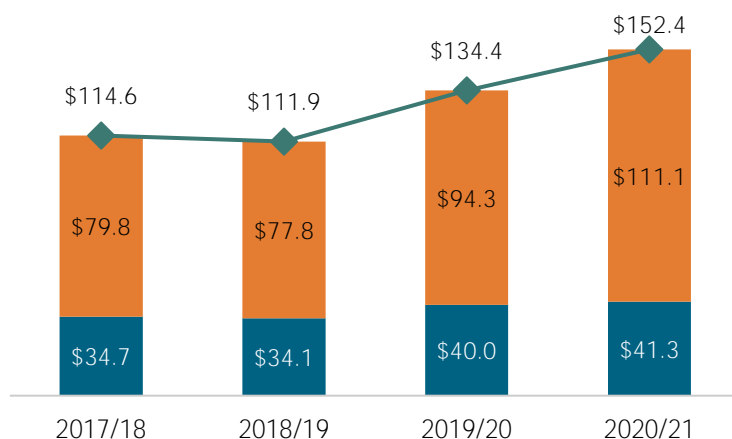
\$MILLION	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
DIRECT COMPENSATION					
Income payments	\$50.6	\$51.9	\$61.5	\$67.3	▲
Lump sums	\$29.2	\$25.9	\$32.8	\$43.8	▲
SERVICE PAYMENTS					
Medical & hospital	\$16.5	\$16.3	\$17.8	\$18.9	▲
Allied health*	\$4.7	\$5.4	\$5.9	\$6.3	▲
Workplace rehabilitation	\$2.9	\$3.4	\$4.2	\$4.2	▲
Legal & miscellaneous	\$10.6	\$9.0	\$12.1	\$11.9	▲
Total claim payments	\$114.6	\$111.9	\$134.4	\$152.4	▲

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

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

* Allied health includes 'other treatment services'.

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



Direct compensation payments increased from \$79.8 million in 2017/18 to \$111.1 million in 2020/21.



Service payments increased from \$34.7 million in 2017/18 and stands at \$41.3 million in 2020/21.



Payments for claims in the Mining industry in 2020/21 totalled **\$152.4 million**, accounting for **15%** of total scheme payments.

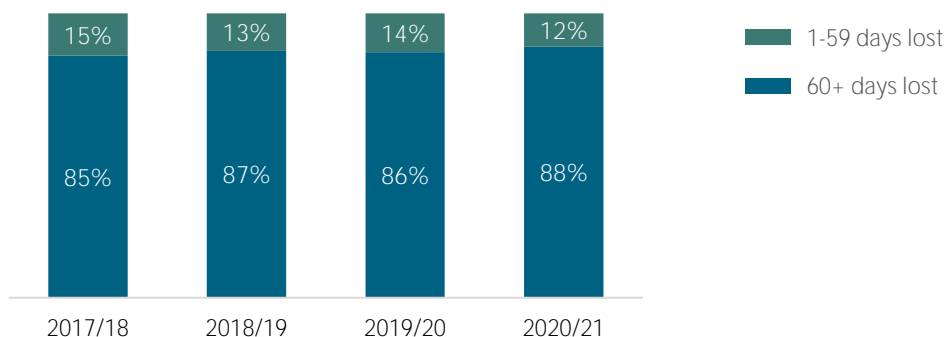
Claim costs* total claim costs by days lost

\$MILLION	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
1-59 days lost	\$18.1	\$15.8	\$16.2	\$17.0	▼
60+ days lost	\$103.5	\$103.3	\$101.9	\$127.5	▲
Total claims	\$121.6	\$119.1	\$118.1	\$144.5	▲

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

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

Claim costs* proportions of claim costs by days lost



Claim costs* average claim costs by days lost

\$MILLION	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
1-59 days lost	\$23,034	\$19,165	\$21,572	\$19,884	▼
60+ days lost	\$202,969	\$177,843	\$169,348	\$163,511	▼
Total claims	\$93,787	\$84,876	\$87,371	\$88,445	▼

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

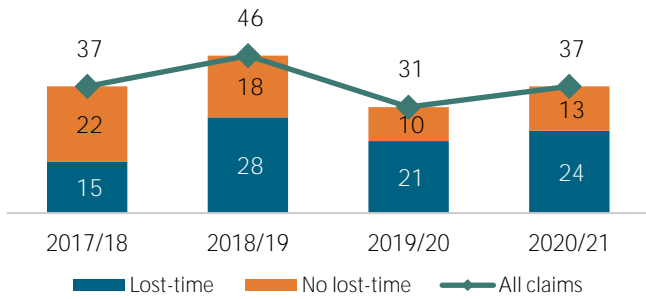


The average claim cost for Mining was \$88,445 in 2020/21, compared with the scheme average of \$62,856.

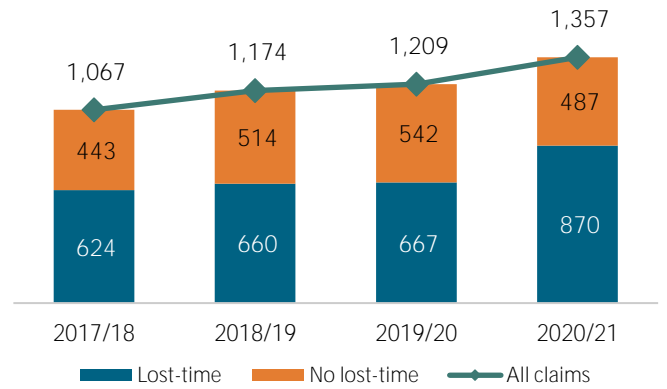
Mining

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

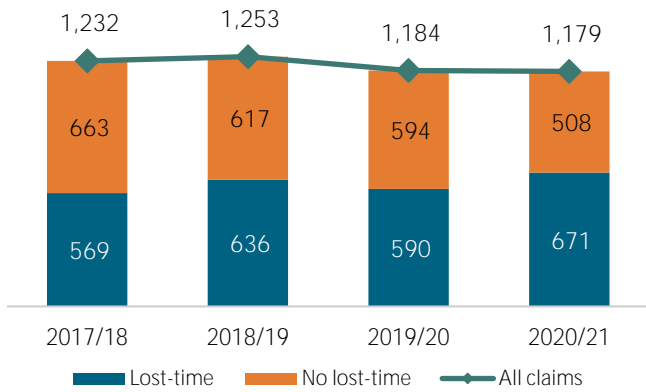
Coal mining



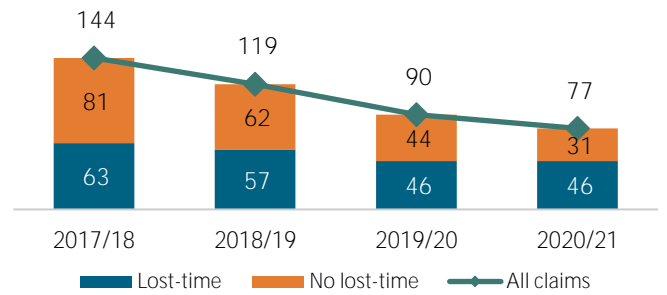
Exploration and other mining support services



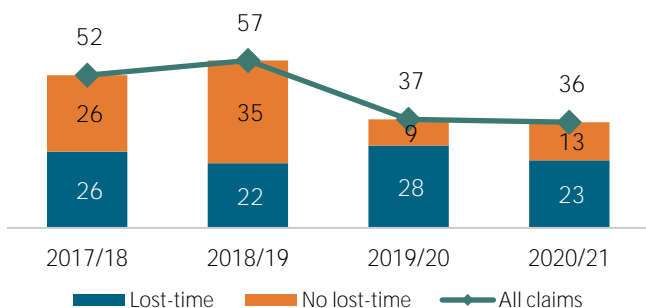
Metal ore mining



Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying



Oil and gas extraction



Lost-time claims and frequency rate by industry subdivision

SUBDIVISION	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Average* frequency rate
Coal mining	15	28	21	24	4.4
1-59 days lost	5	15	14	11	2.2
60+ days lost	10	13	7	13	2.1
Exploration and other mining support services	624	660	667	870	13.5
1-59 days lost	362	391	359	480	7.6
60+ days lost	262	269	308	390	5.9
Metal ore mining	569	636	590	671	4.2
1-59 days lost	362	360	336	316	2.3
60+ days lost	207	276	254	355	1.9
Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying	63	57	46	46	5.1
1-59 days lost	43	42	29	33	3.5
60+ days lost	20	15	17	13	1.6
Oil and gas extraction	26	22	28	23	0.8
1-59 days lost	15	14	12	14	0.4
60+ days lost	11	8	16	9	0.3
Total claims	1,297	1,403	1,352	1,634	5.8

* The average frequency rate is over four years (2017/18 to 2020/21).



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

Work status rate lost-time claims

Return to work rate	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
at 1 month	63%	73%	76%	76%	▲
at 3 months	74%	82%	85%	84%	▲
at 6 months	82%	87%	89%	89%	▲
at 12 months	88%	88%	90%	90%	■

▲ 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 2020/21, 90% of claimants in Mining returned to work at 12 months after the claim was lodged, similar to the overall scheme (89%).

Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
15-19 years	11	20	13	21	▲
20-24 years	84	106	94	112	▲
25-34 years	338	356	352	411	▲
35-44 years	298	344	323	368	▲
45-54 years	358	360	336	401	▲
55-59 years	108	128	147	189	▲
60-64 years	83	62	66	89	▲
65+ years	17	27	21	43	▲
Total claims	1,297	1,403	1,352	1,634	■

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

Frequency rate by age group

AGE GROUP	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
15-19 years	4.1	17.2	15.9	17.7	▲
20-24 years	5.7	10.2	7.8	6.5	▲
25-34 years	5.5	5.7	4.9	6.2	▲
35-44 years	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.5	▲
45-54 years	6.9	6.5	5.5	6.6	■
55-59 years	6.8	6.1	6.7	9.1	▲
60-64 years	11.9	6.3	6.7	10.5	▼
65+ years	4.8	4.9	6.9	17.7	▲
Total claims	5.7	5.7	5.3	6.3	▲

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

Lost-time claims by occupation

OCCUPATION	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
Machinery operators & drivers	572	651	658	773	▲
Technicians & trades workers	451	443	428	482	▲
Labourers	220	253	220	307	▲
Professionals	26	31	26	30	▲
Clerical & administrative workers	16	8	11	18	▲
Managers	5	12	7	15	▲
Community & personal service workers	6	<5	<5	9	▲
Sales workers	<5	<5	0	0	▼
Total claims	1,297	1,403	1,352	1,634	▲

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

Lost-time claims proportions by occupation 2020/21



Lost-time claims by nature of injury/disease

NATURE	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	756	817	791	1,012	▲
Fractures	165	176	179	211	▲
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	192	207	188	189	■
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	59	62	63	77	▲
Other injuries	33	32	18	33	■
Mental diseases	20	15	14	28	▲
Digestive system diseases	30	31	46	26	▼
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	11	13	14	25	▲
Burn	18	18	20	17	▼
Other diseases	13	32	19	16	■
Total claims	1,297	1,403	1,352	1,634	▲

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



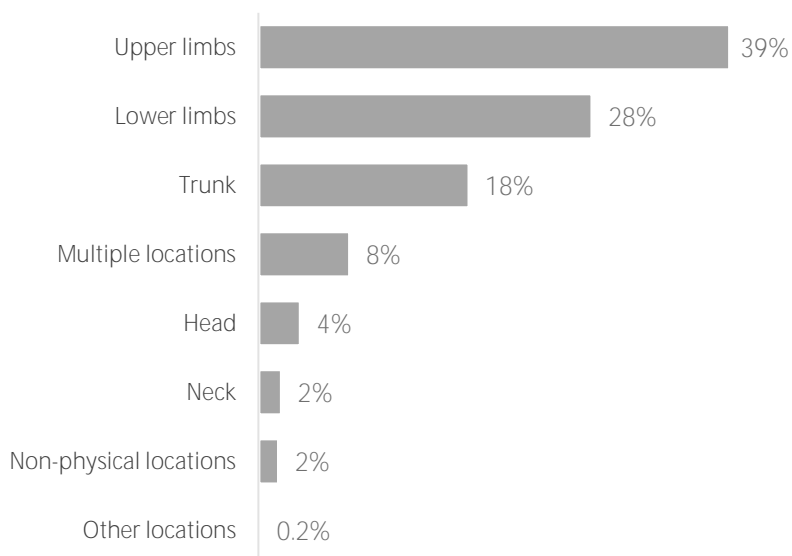
In 2020/21, Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continue to be the leading type of injury for claims lodged in the Mining industry (62%), and the overall scheme (55%).

Lost-time claims by bodily location of injury/disease

LOCATION	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
Upper limbs	501	541	535	644	▲
Lower limbs	368	400	354	456	▲
Trunk	234	256	269	288	▲
Multiple locations	88	99	93	125	▲
Head	41	43	46	58	▲
Neck	29	23	32	32	▲
Non-physical locations	20	15	14	28	▲
Other locations	16	26	9	<5	▼
Total claims	1,297	1,403	1,352	1,634	▲

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

Lost-time claims proportions by bodily location of injury/disease 2020/21



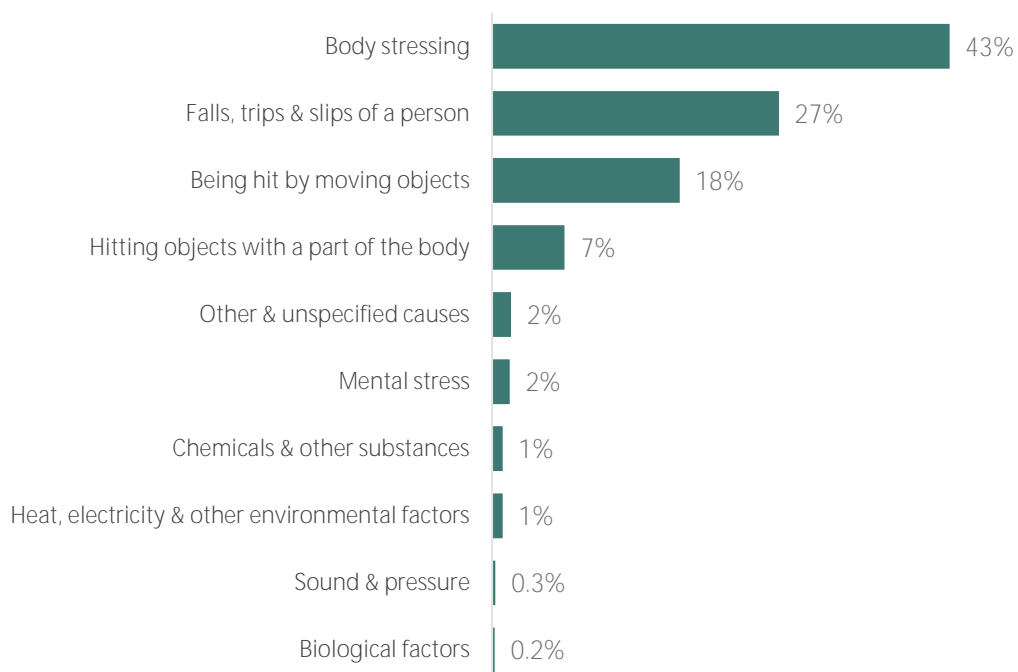
Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 67% of total claims lodged in 2020/21.

Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
Body stressing	523	562	581	700	▲
Falls, trips & slips of a person	323	359	361	439	▲
Being hit by moving objects	265	271	226	287	▲
Hitting objects with a part of the body	74	82	89	111	▲
Other & unspecified mechanisms of incident	47	50	35	29	▼
Mental stress	20	15	14	27	▲
Chemicals & other substances	19	25	26	16	▼
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	13	18	11	16	▲
Sound & pressure	10	<5	<5	5	▼
Biological factors	<5	20	8	<5	▲
Total claims	1,297	1,403	1,352	1,634	▲

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

Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2020/21

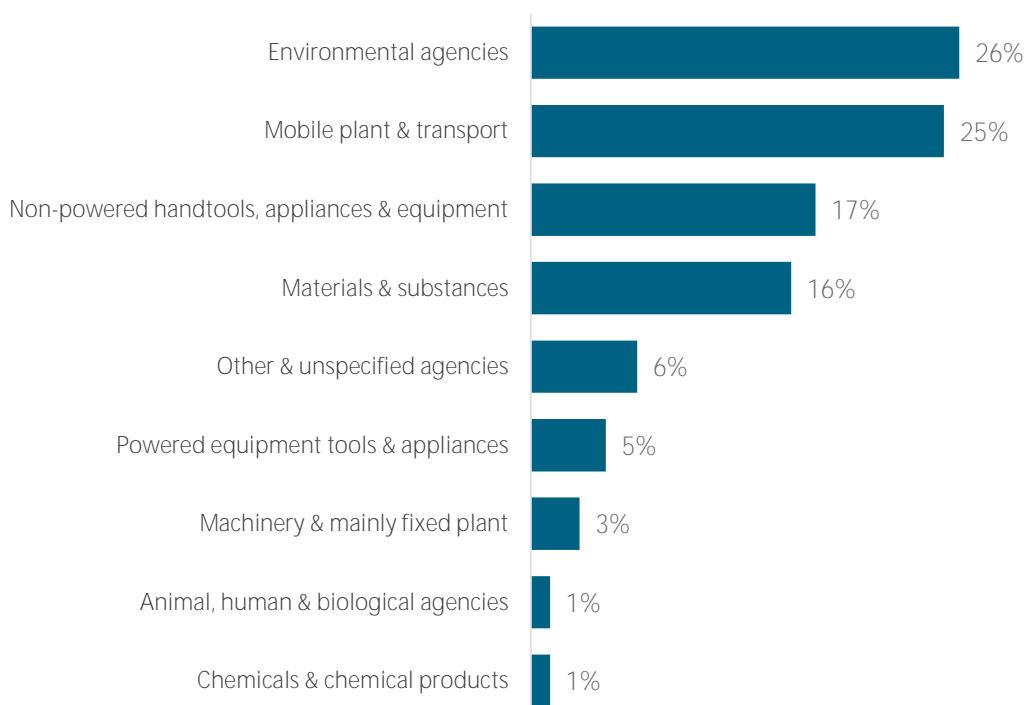


Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease

AGENCY	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	4-year trend
Environmental agencies	329	367	361	423	▲
Mobile plant & transport	265	287	306	408	▲
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	223	272	279	281	▲
Materials & substances	230	229	205	257	▲
Other & unspecified agencies	85	79	67	105	▲
Powered equipment tools & appliances	62	56	47	74	▲
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	65	52	44	48	▼
Animal, human & biological agencies	26	46	21	19	▼
Chemicals & chemical products	12	15	22	19	▲
Total claims	1,297	1,403	1,352	1,634	▲

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

Lost-time claims proportions by agency of injury/disease 2020/21



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	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.
- 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.**