



 **WorkCoverWA**

INDUSTRY STATISTICAL REPORT

2022/23

Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing
in the Western Australian
Workers' Compensation Scheme

October 2023



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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:
Agriculture, forestry and fishing
2019/20 to 2022/23p

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About This Report



Purpose of the report

WorkCover WA annually publishes eight industry-specific reports covering the following high-risk industry divisions:

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Arts and recreation services
- Construction
- Education and training
- Health care and social assistance
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Transport, postal and warehousing.

These reports provide insight into claims activity within **the Western Australian workers'** compensation scheme over a four-year period.

Changes to the report

WorkCover WA is committed to providing relevant and timely information to stakeholders. In doing so, the 2023 report has been changed to include data up to the most recently completed financial year (i.e. 2022/23p, where the 'p' signifies '**provisional** data' - data that is subject to change over time as further information about the claims are received).

These changes are less likely to affect claim numbers but will have more impact on claim payments.

Things to note

As data for the most recent financial year is subject to develop over time due to the evolving nature of claims, care should be exercised when referencing and comparing against previous years.

Information in the report should also be read with consideration of the statements set out in the disclaimer page provided.

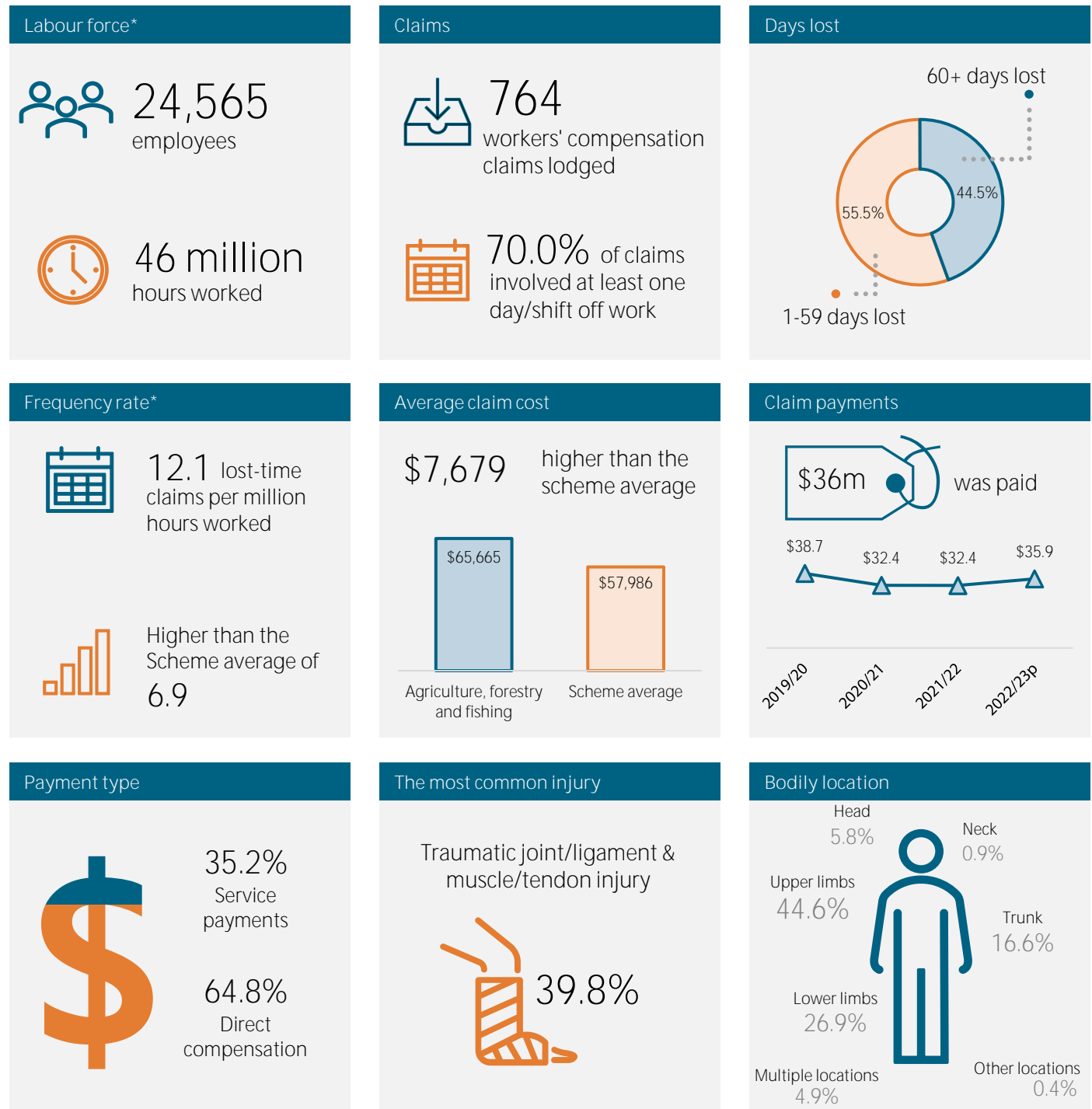
Frequency rates are based on the latest available data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which lags by one year from this report's timeframe.

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

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

The Agriculture, forestry and fishing division includes units mainly engaged in growing crops, raising animals, growing and harvesting timber, and harvesting fish and other animals from farms or their natural habitats.

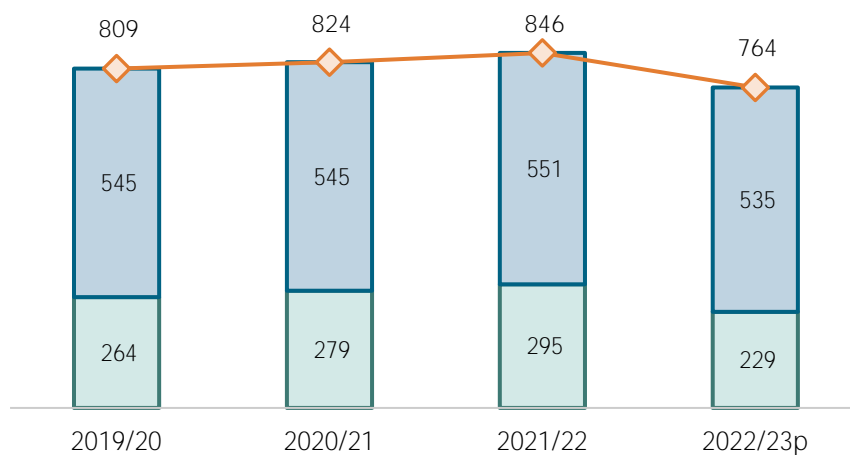
Agriculture, forestry & fishing at a glance 2022/23p



* Based on 2021/22, as 2022/23 was not available at the time of report

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

Claim numbers number of claims lodged by lost-time



■ All claims

Total claims in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry decreased (-5.6%) over four years.

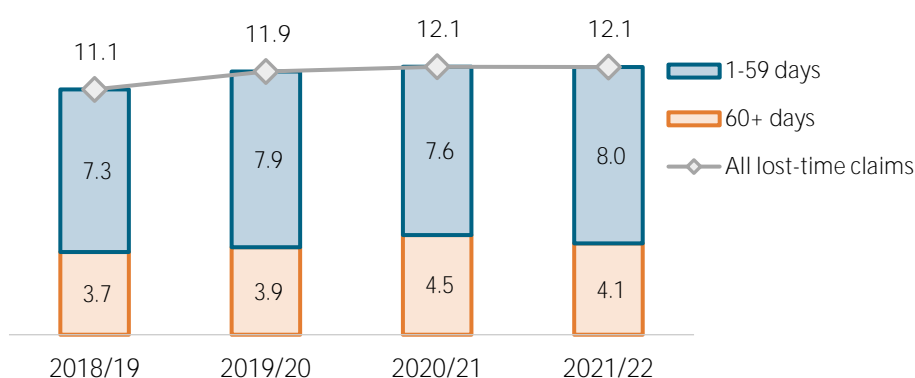
■ Lost-time claims

Lost-time claims averaged 544 claims per year between 2019/20 and 2022/23p.

■ No lost-time claims

Claims with no time off work averaged 267 claims per year over four years.

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.

* The 2022/23 frequency rates were not available at the time of the report.

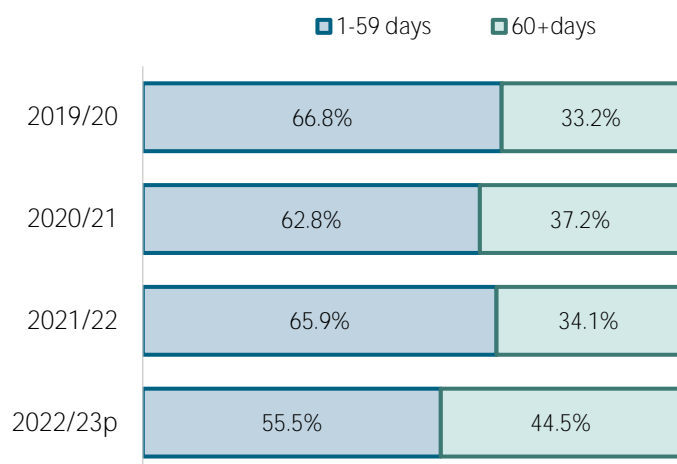


The frequency rate in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry was 12.1 lost-time claims per million hours worked. This is higher than the scheme average of 6.9.

Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

DAYS LOST	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
0 days	264	279	295	229
1 - 4 days	71	60	69	61
5 - 19 days	150	136	165	122
20 - 59 days	143	146	129	114
60 - 119 days	61	72	74	107
120 - 179 days	28	44	30	49
180+ days	92	87	84	82
Total claims	809	824	846	764

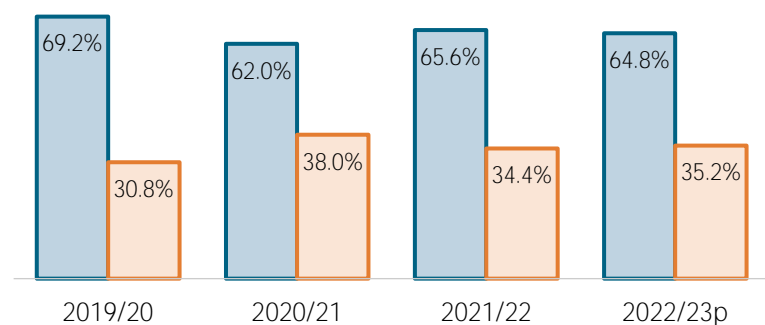
Lost-time claims proportions by days lost



Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 2.9% of total claims lodged in 2022/23p in the WA workers' compensation scheme.

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

Total claim payments proportions by payment group

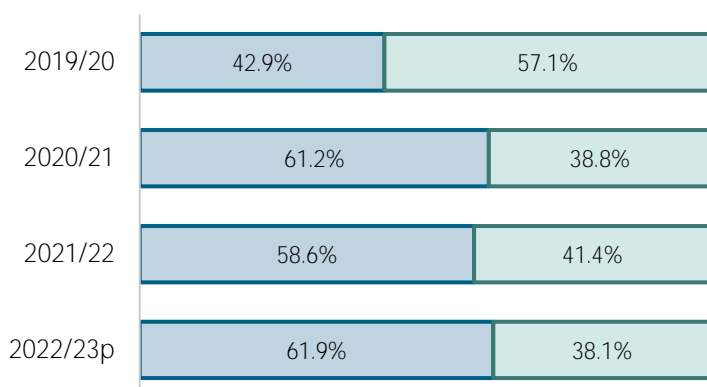
**Direct compensation**

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

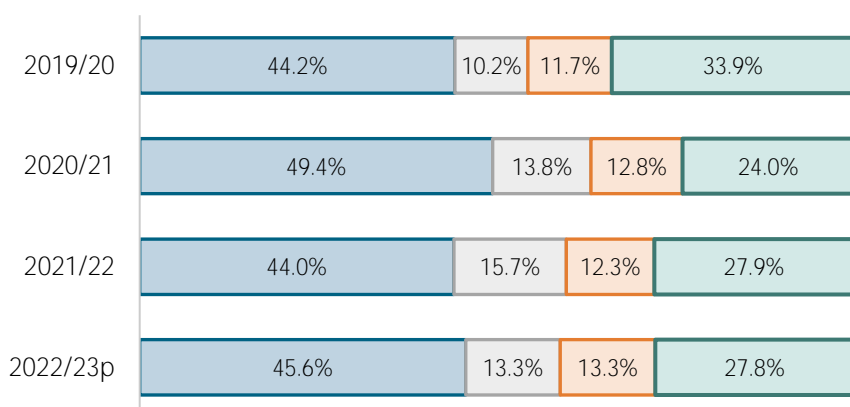
**Income payments**

as a proportion of direct compensation payments ranged from 42.9% to 61.9% over four years.

**Lump sums**

as a proportion of direct compensation payments, in turn, ranged from 38.1% to 57.1% between 2019/20 and 2022/23p.

Service payments proportions by payment type

**Medical & hospital****Allied health****Workplace rehabilitation****Legal & miscellaneous**

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

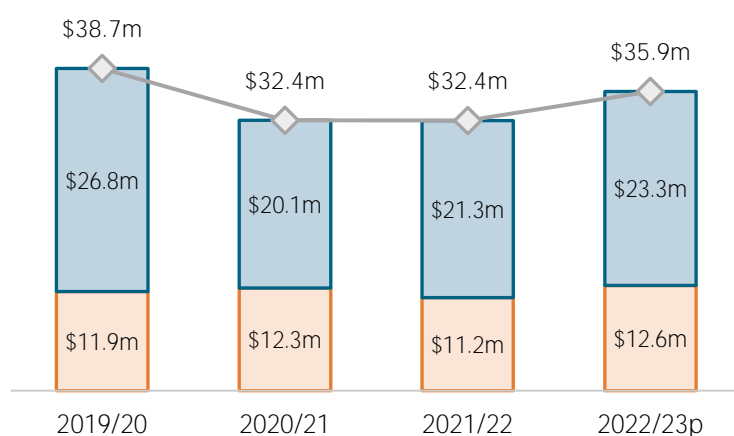
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
DIRECT COMPENSATION				
Income payments	\$11.5m	\$12.3m	\$12.5m	\$14.4m
Lump sums	\$15.3m	\$7.8m	\$8.8m	\$8.9m
SERVICE PAYMENTS				
Medical & hospital	\$5.3m	\$6.1m	\$4.9m	\$5.8m
Allied health*	\$1.2m	\$1.7m	\$1.8m	\$1.7m
Workplace rehabilitation	\$1.4m	\$1.6m	\$1.4m	\$1.7m
Legal & miscellaneous	\$4.0m	\$3.0m	\$3.1m	\$3.5m
Total claim payments	\$38.7m	\$32.4m	\$32.4m	\$35.9m



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

* Allied health includes 'other treatment services'.

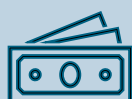
Total claim payments (\$million adjusted) by payment group



Direct compensation payments decreased from \$26.8 million to \$23.3 million over four years.



Service payments increased from \$11.9 million in 2019/20 and stands at \$12.6 million in 2022/23p.



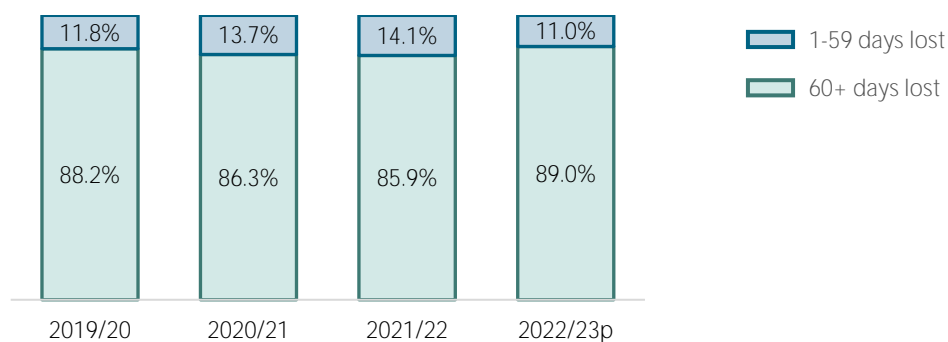
Payments for claims in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry in 2022/23p totalled \$35.9 million, accounting for 3.0% of total scheme payments.

Claim costs* total claim costs by days lost

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
1-59 days lost	\$4.1m	\$4.8m	\$4.5m	\$3.9m
60+ days lost	\$30.5m	\$30.3m	\$27.1m	\$31.3m
Total claims	\$34.6m	\$35.1m	\$31.5m	\$35.1m

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

Claim costs* proportions of claim costs by days lost



Claim costs* average claim costs by days lost

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
1-59 days lost	\$11,210	\$14,117	\$12,275	\$12,992
60+ days lost	\$168,683	\$149,255	\$144,114	\$131,395
Total claims	\$63,508	\$64,453	\$57,258	\$65,665

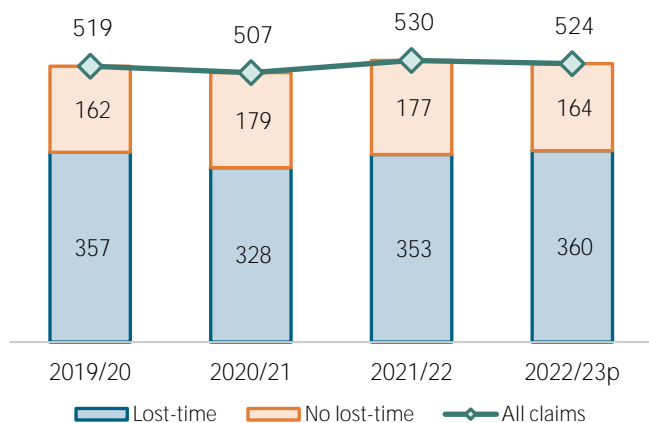


The average claim cost for Agriculture, forestry and fishing was \$65,665 in 2022/23p, compared with the scheme average of \$57,986.

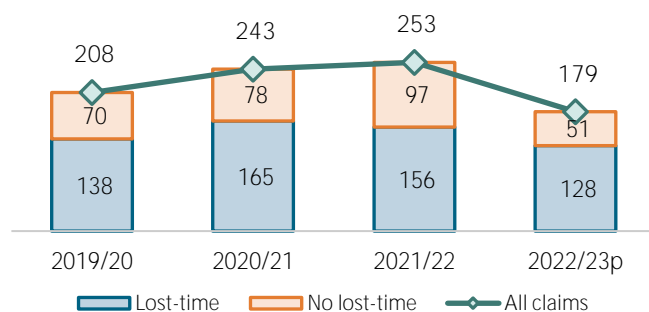
Agriculture, forestry & fishing

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

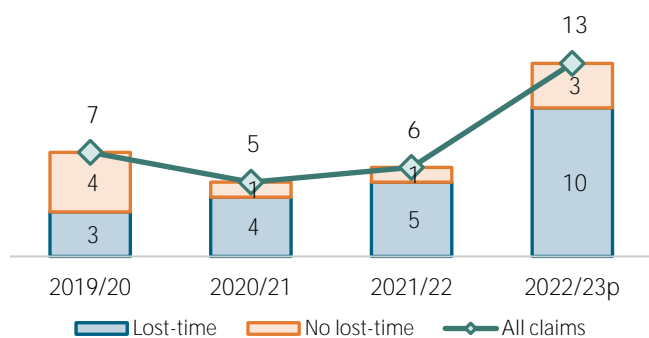
Agriculture



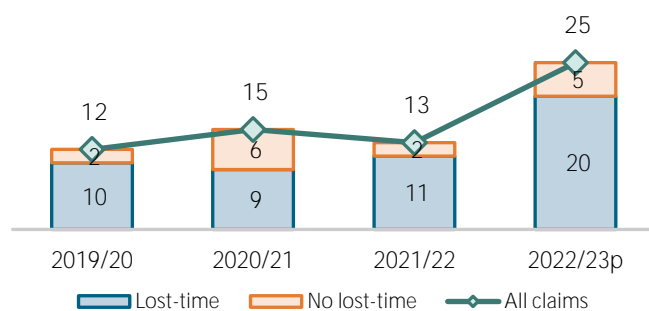
Agriculture, forestry & fishing support services



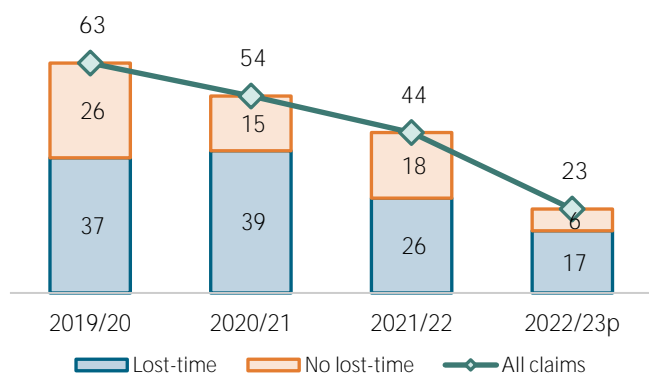
Aquaculture



Fishing, hunting & trapping



Forestry & logging



Lost-time claims and frequency rate* by industry subdivision

SUBDIVISION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p	Average* frequency rate
Agriculture	357	328	353	360	9.4
1-59 days lost	241	193	225	193	5.9
60+ days lost	116	135	128	167	3.5
Agriculture, forestry & fishing support services	138	165	156	128	26.8
1-59 days lost	98	115	108	78	18.7
60+ days lost	40	50	48	50	8.1
Aquaculture	3	4	5	10	8.9
1-59 days lost	2	3	2	8	6.8
60+ days lost	1	1	3	2	2.0
Fishing, hunting & trapping	10	9	11	20	7.4
1-59 days lost	5	6	6	9	4.7
60+ days lost	5	3	5	11	2.7
Forestry & logging	37	39	26	17	17.6
1-59 days lost	18	25	22	9	12.1
60+ days lost	19	14	4	8	5.5
Total claims	545	545	551	535	11.8

* The average frequency rate is over four years (2018/19 to 2021/22). The 2022/23 frequency rate was not available at the time of the report.



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	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
at 1 month	62.3%	61.3%	67.4%	60.7%
at 3 months	78.9%	78.4%	79.5%	74.5%
at 6 months	86.9%	85.1%	85.5%	81.2%
at 12 months	88.2%	88.4%	87.9%	n/a



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.



In 2021/22, 87.9% of claimants in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry returned to work at some capacity 12 months from claim lodgement. This is similar to the total scheme (87.3%).

Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
15-19 years	33	42	28	37
20-24 years	93	77	89	74
25-34 years	143	129	164	138
35-44 years	80	86	87	91
45-54 years	103	110	86	107
55-59 years	42	52	46	33
60-64 years	33	26	33	35
65+ years	18	23	18	20
Total claims	545	545	551	535

Frequency rate* by age group

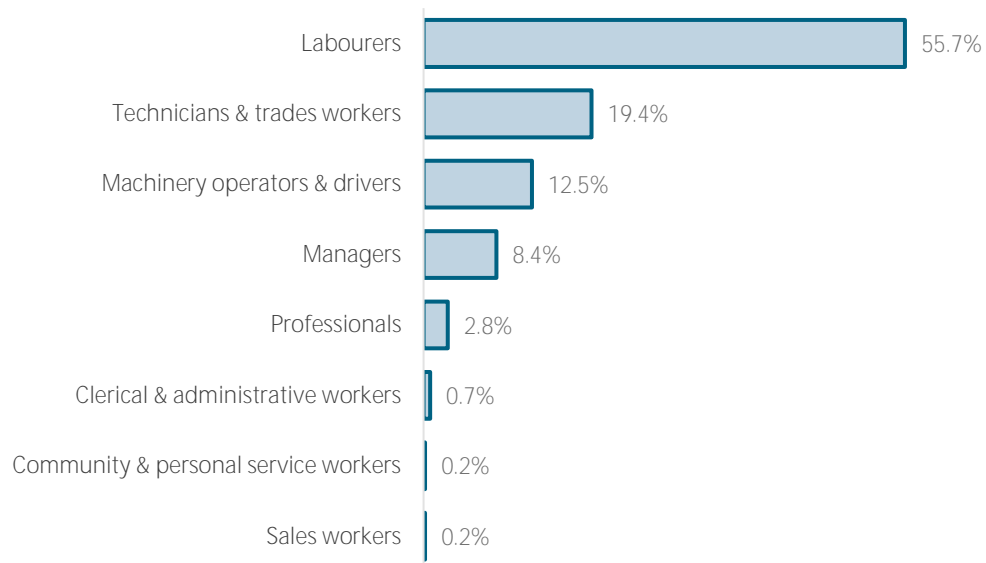
AGE GROUP	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
15-19 years	10.2	13.7	35.1	n/a
20-24 years	24.3	15.1	16.6	n/a
25-34 years	18.3	15.0	18.1	n/a
35-44 years	7.6	10.4	10.5	n/a
45-54 years	10.3	12.8	6.5	n/a
55-59 years	11.1	8.9	17.5	n/a
60-64 years	10.6	10.8	16.3	n/a
65+ years	5.0	7.3	4.2	n/a
Total claims	11.9	12.1	12.1	n/a

* The 2022/23 frequency rates were not available at the time of the report.

Lost-time claims by occupation

OCCUPATION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Labourers	329	321	272	298
Technicians & trades workers	96	100	110	104
Machinery operators & drivers	59	51	81	67
Managers	43	33	33	45
Professionals	13	33	42	15
Clerical & administrative workers	1	5	8	4
Community & personal service workers	2	0	3	1
Sales workers	2	2	2	1
Total claims	545	545	551	535

Lost-time claims proportions by occupation 2022/23p



Lost-time claims by nature of injury/disease

NATURE	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	239	248	236	213
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	127	133	124	137
Fractures	99	105	122	113
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	16	19	33	24
Other injuries	18	11	10	18
Intracranial injuries	8	8	3	8
Digestive system diseases	7	2	5	6
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	4	3	3	6
Burn	18	4	7	5
Neoplasms (cancer)	1	0	2	2
Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases	4	7	2	1
Other diseases	0	0	0	1
Mental diseases	1	3	3	1
Injury to nerves & spinal cord	1	1	0	0
Infectious & parasitic diseases	2	0	1	0
Respiratory system diseases	0	1	0	0
Total claims	545	545	551	535

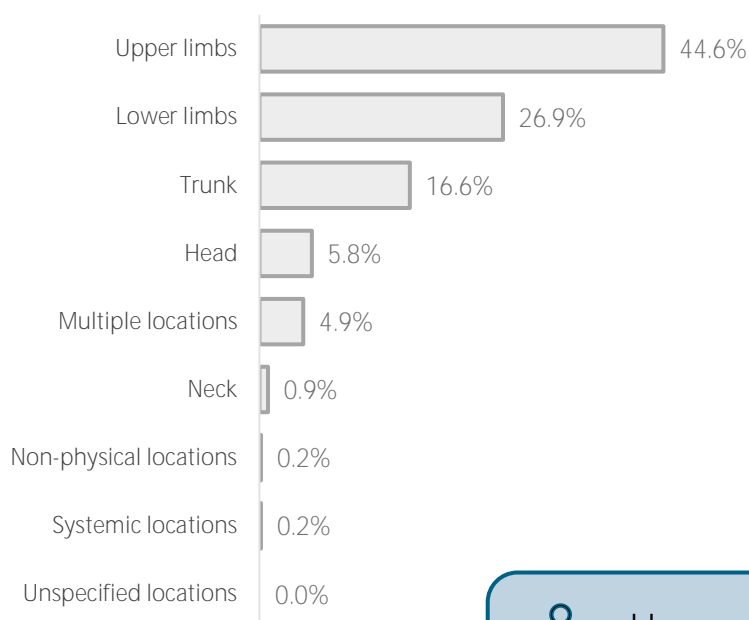


Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continued to be the **leading** type of injury for claims lodged in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (39.8%), and the overall scheme (49.5%) in 2022/23p.

Lost-time claims by bodily location of injury/disease

LOCATION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Upper limbs	208	233	235	239
Lower limbs	146	158	148	144
Trunk	104	86	105	89
Head	53	26	24	31
Multiple locations	30	35	30	26
Neck	1	3	4	5
Non-physical locations	1	3	3	1
Systemic locations	2	1	1	1
Unspecified locations	0	0	1	0
Total claims	545	545	551	536

Lost-time claims proportions by bodily location of injury/disease 2022/23p

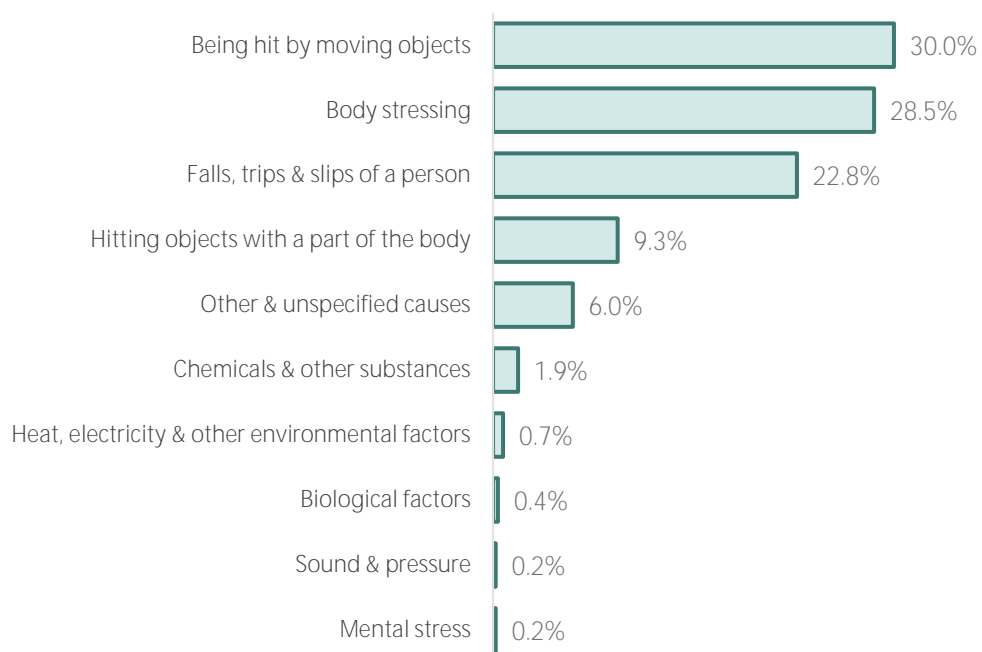


Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 71.5% of total claims lodged in 2022/23p.

Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Being hit by moving objects	185	171	162	161
Body stressing	137	142	164	153
Falls, trips & slips of a person	114	137	128	122
Hitting objects with a part of the body	43	45	53	50
Other & unspecified causes	35	33	25	32
Chemicals & other substances	9	3	7	10
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	13	5	6	4
Biological factors	6	5	1	2
Sound & pressure	2	1	2	1
Mental stress	1	3	3	1
Total claims	545	545	551	536

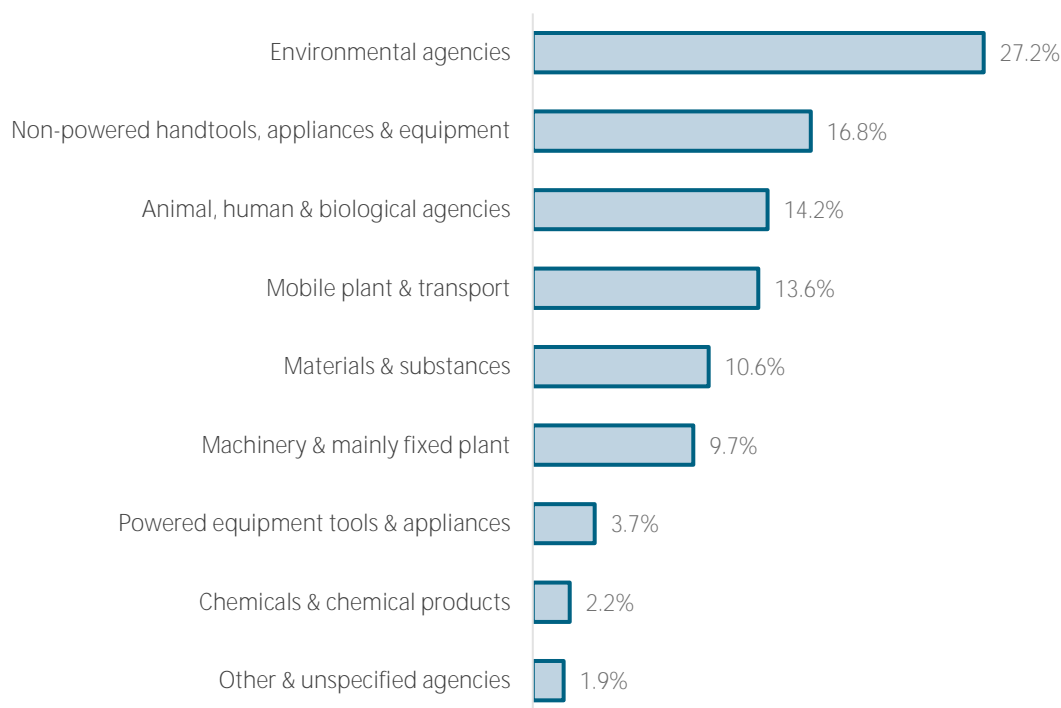
Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2022/23p



Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease

AGENCY	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Environmental agencies	139	164	153	146
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	98	83	86	90
Animal, human & biological agencies	93	88	72	76
Mobile plant & transport	82	82	86	73
Materials & substances	50	59	64	57
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	41	41	41	52
Powered equipment tools & appliances	19	16	29	20
Chemicals & chemical products	13	0	7	12
Other & unspecified agencies	10	12	13	10
Total claims	545	545	551	536

Lost-time claims proportions by agency of injury/disease 2022/23p



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	<p>Service payments include:</p> <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	<p>As defined in Section 5 of the <i>Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981</i>, a worker is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) any person to whose service any industrial award or industrial agreement applies; andb) 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.
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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.**