



WorkCoverWA

# INDUSTRY STATISTICAL REPORT

## 2022/23

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Manufacturing  
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:  
Manufacturing  
2019/20 to 2022/23p

Published: October 2023

Data was extracted on 4 October 2023

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# Table of Contents

About this report .....	4
Manufacturing at a glance .....	5
Claim numbers	
Claims by lost-time .....	6
Frequency rate .....	6
Claims by days lost .....	7
Claim payments	
Direct compensation payments .....	8
Service payments .....	8
Claim costs	
Total claim costs .....	10
Proportion by days lost .....	10
Average claim costs .....	10
Claims by industry subdivision	
Claim numbers by lost-time .....	11
Lost-time claims and frequency rate .....	14
Return to work status .....	16
Claimant characteristics	
Age group .....	17
Occupation .....	18
Injury/disease attributes	
Nature of injury/disease .....	19
Bodily location of injury/disease .....	20
Mechanism of incident .....	21
Agency of injury/disease .....	22
Glossary .....	23
Disclaimer .....	27

# About This Report



## Purpose of the report

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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

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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

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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.

## Manufacturing


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

This industry includes food product manufacturing, beverage and tobacco product manufacturing, machinery and equipment, and wood product manufacturing.


### Manufacturing at a glance 2022/23p


#### Labour force\*

 **76,260**  
employees

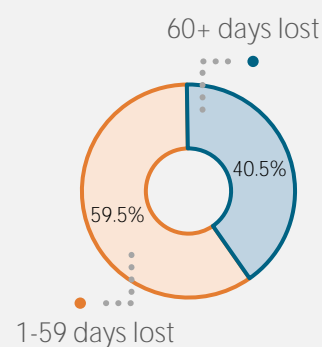
 **143 million**  
hours worked

#### Claims

 **2,937**  
workers' compensation  
claims lodged


 **56.6** of claims  
involved at least one  
day/shift off work

#### Days lost



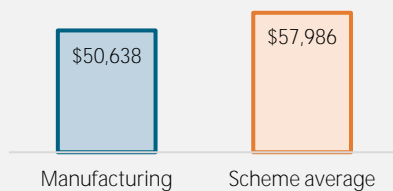
#### Frequency rate\*

 **11.6** lost-time  
claims per million  
hours worked

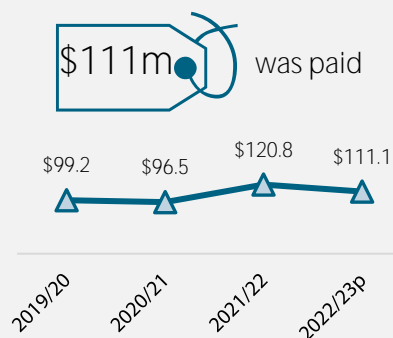
 Higher than the  
scheme average of  
**6.9**

#### Average claim cost


**\$7,348** lower than the  
scheme average



#### Claim payments



#### Payment type

 **33.1%**  
Service  
payments

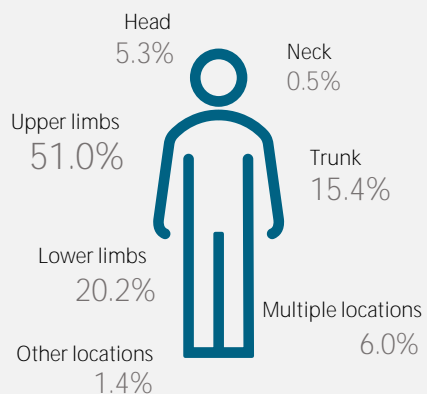
**66.9%**  
Direct  
compensation

#### The most common injury

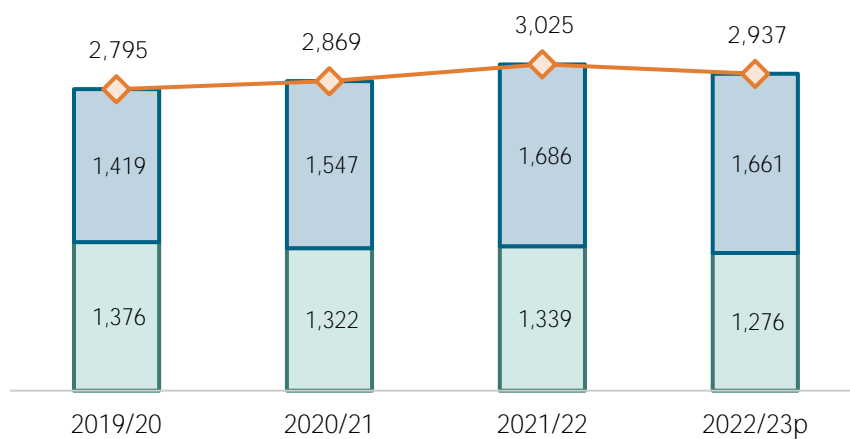
Traumatic joint/ligament &  
muscle/tendon injury

 **41.8%**

#### Bodily location



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

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

## ■ All claims

Total claims in the Manufacturing industry show a steady to increasing trend over the last four years.

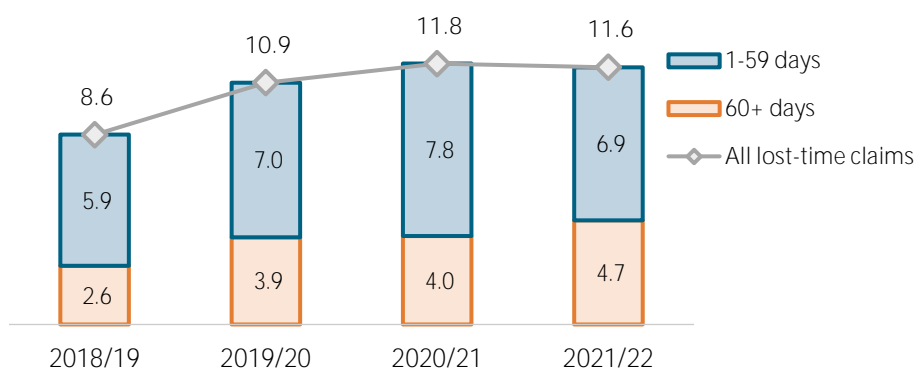
## ■ Lost-time claims

Lost-time claims averaged 1,578 claims between 2019/20 to 2022/23p.

## ■ No lost-time claims

Claims with no time off work averaged 1,328 claims over the 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.

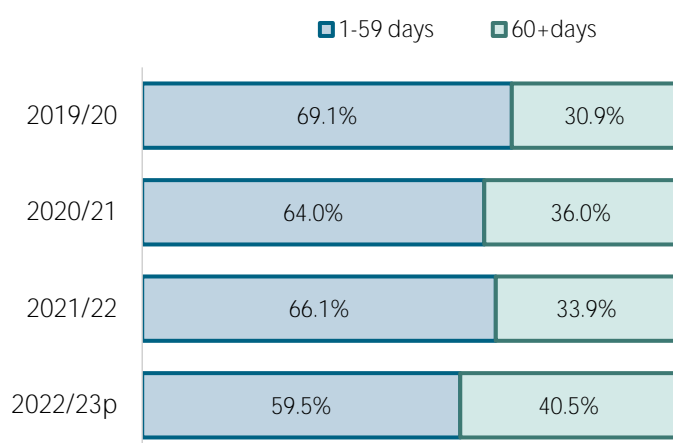


For claims lodged in 2021/22, the frequency rate for Manufacturing was 11.6 lost-time claims per million hours worked, which is higher than the scheme average of 6.9.

## Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

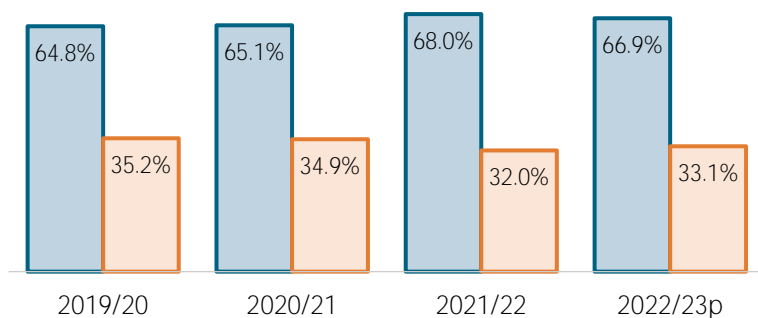
DAYS LOST	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
0 days	1,376	1,322	1,339	1,276
1 - 4 days	253	248	267	219
5 - 19 days	390	415	468	376
20 - 59 days	338	327	380	393
60 - 119 days	177	204	183	293
120 - 179 days	73	75	91	122
180+ days	188	278	297	258
Total claims	2,795	2,869	3,025	2,937

## Lost-time claims proportions by days lost



Manufacturing accounts for 11.8% of total claims lodged in 2022/23p in the WA workers' compensation scheme.

## Total claim payments proportions by payment group

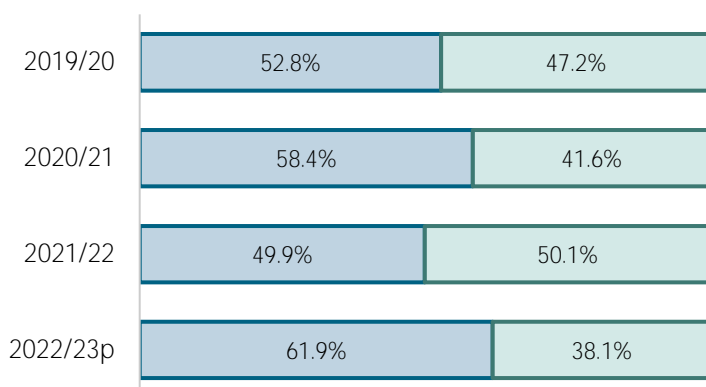


**Direct compensation**  
payments made directly to the worker (either by income replacement or lump sums).



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

## Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type

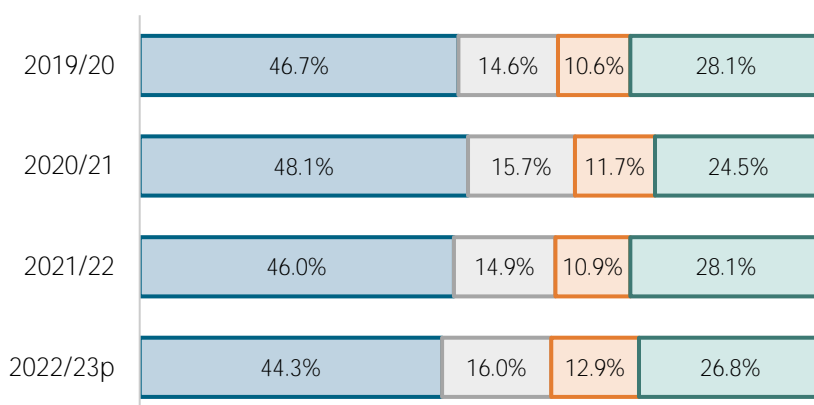


**Income payments**  
as a proportion of direct compensation payments has ranged from 49.9% to 61.9% over four years.



**Lump sums**  
as a proportion of direct compensation payments, in turn, ranged from 38.1% to 50.1% over the same period.

## Service payments proportions by payment type



**Medical & hospital**



**Allied health**



**Workplace rehabilitation**



**Legal & miscellaneous**



## Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

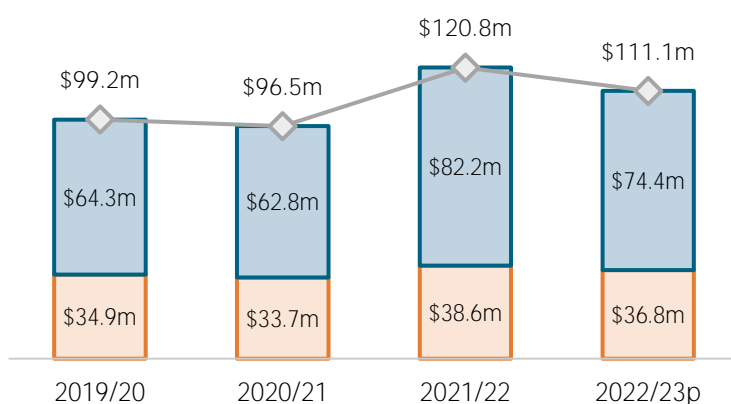
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
<b>DIRECT COMPENSATION</b>				
Income payments	\$34.0m	\$36.7m	\$41.0m	\$46.0m
Lump sums	\$30.3m	\$26.1m	\$41.1m	\$28.4m
<b>SERVICE PAYMENTS</b>				
Medical & hospital	\$16.3m	\$16.2m	\$17.8m	\$16.3m
Allied health*	\$5.1m	\$5.3m	\$5.8m	\$5.9m
Workplace rehabilitation	\$3.7m	\$4.0m	\$4.2m	\$4.7m
Legal & miscellaneous	\$9.8m	\$8.2m	\$10.9m	\$9.9m
<b>Total claim payments</b>	<b>\$99.2m</b>	<b>\$96.5m</b>	<b>\$120.8m</b>	<b>\$111.1m</b>



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

\* Allied health includes 'other treatment services'.

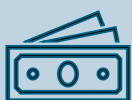
## Total claim payments (\$million adjusted) by payment group



Direct compensation payments increased from \$64.3 million in 2019/20 to \$74.4 million in 2022/23p.



Service payments increased from \$34.9 million in 2019/20 to \$36.8 million in 2022/23p.



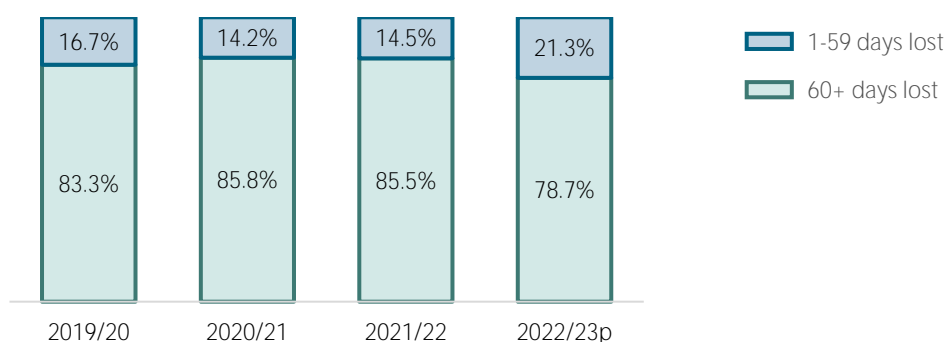
Payments for claims in the Manufacturing industry in 2022/23p totalled \$111.1 million, accounting for 9% of total scheme payments.

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

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
1-59 days lost	\$13.3m	\$13.0m	\$14.4m	\$17.9m
60+ days lost	\$66.1m	\$78.7m	\$84.8m	\$66.2m
Total claims	\$79.4m	\$91.7m	\$99.2m	\$84.1m

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

## Claim costs\* proportion of claim costs by days lost



## Claim costs\* average claim costs by days lost

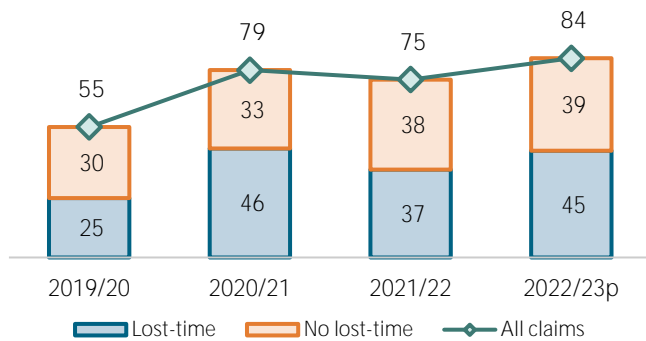
\$MILLION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
1-59 days lost	\$13,511	\$13,180	\$12,888	\$18,114
60+ days lost	\$150,986	\$141,203	\$148,483	\$98,384
Total claims	\$55,945	\$59,275	\$58,810	\$50,638



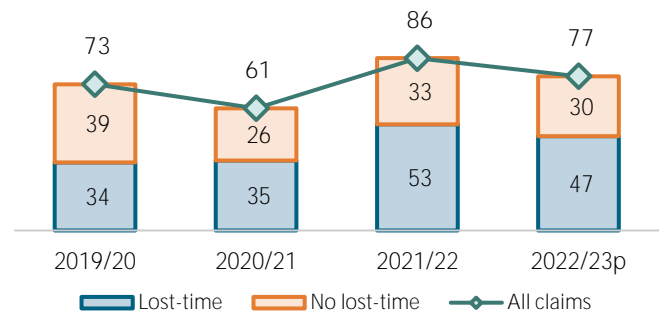
The average claim cost for Manufacturing was \$50,638 in 2022/23p, compared to the scheme average of \$57,986.

## Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

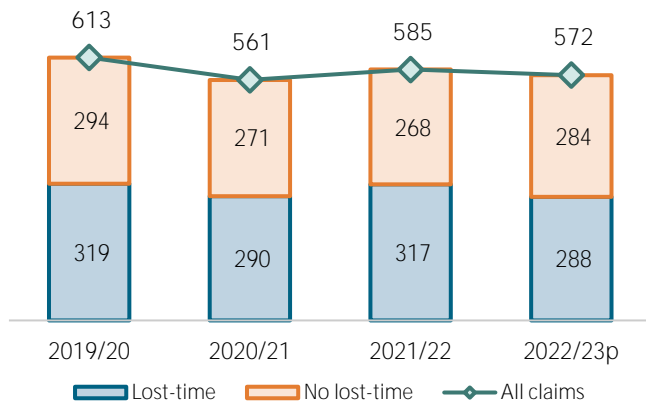
## Basic chemical &amp; chemical product manufacturing



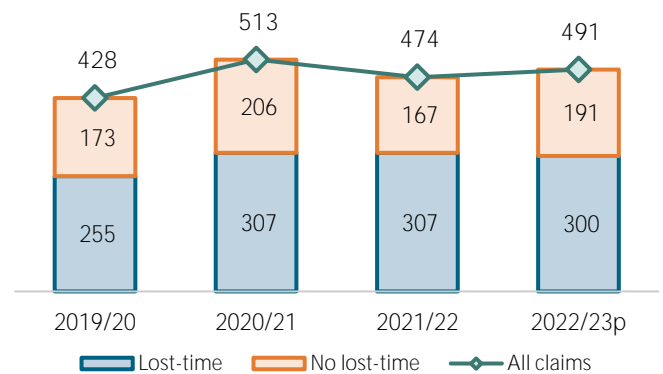
## Beverage &amp; tobacco product manufacturing



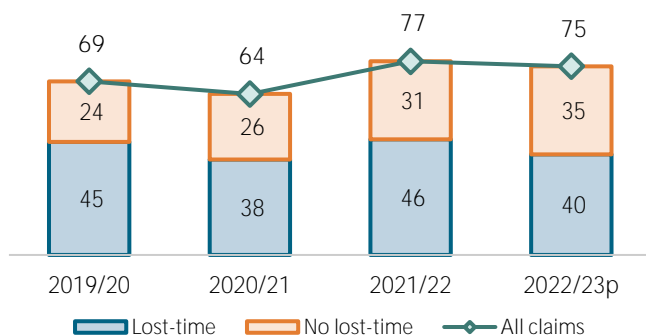
## Fabricated metal product manufacturing



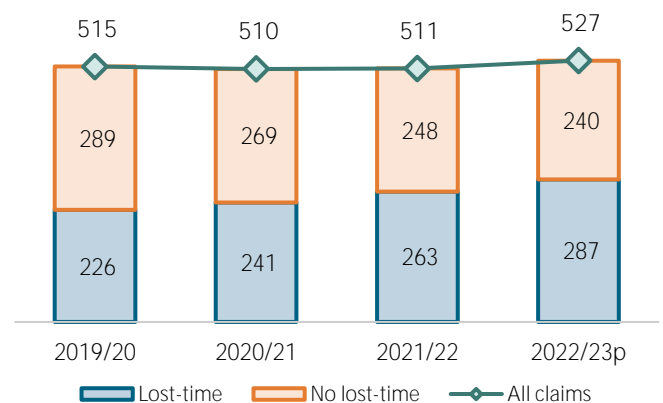
## Food product manufacturing



## Furniture &amp; other manufacturing

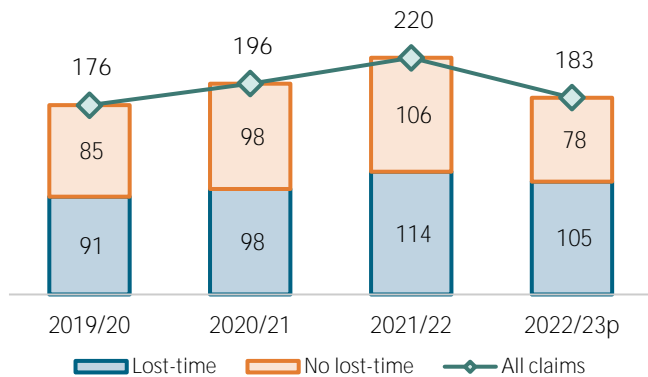


## Machinery &amp; equipment manufacturing

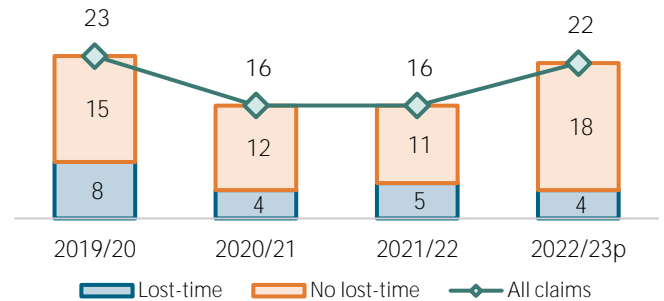


## Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

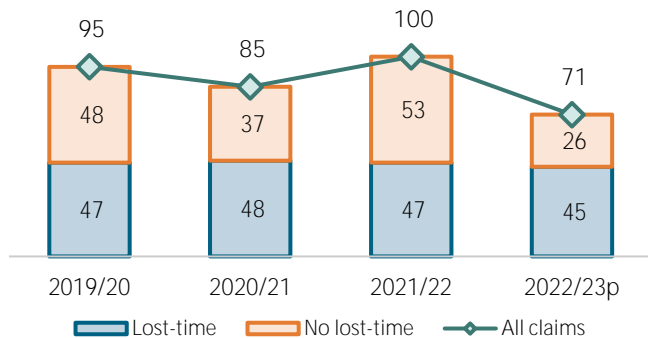
## Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing



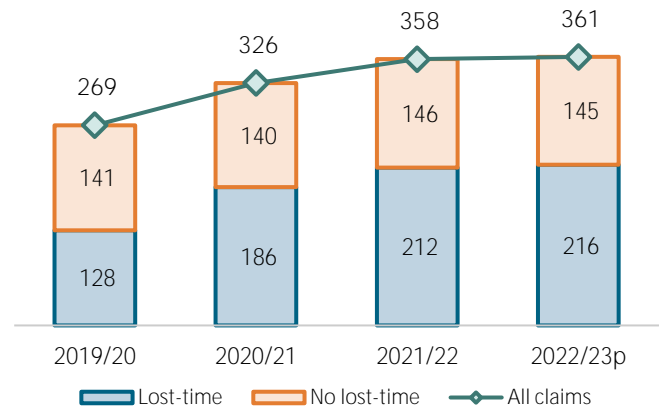
## Petroleum &amp; coal product manufacturing



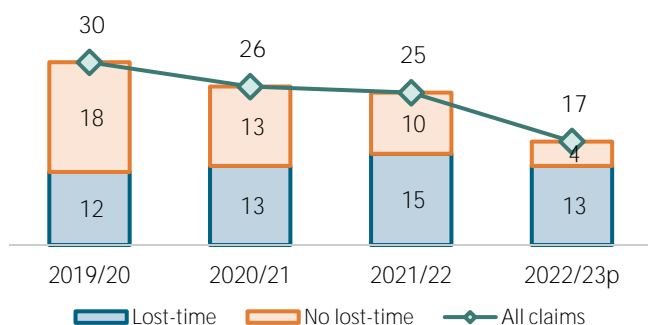
## Polymer product &amp; rubber product manufacturing



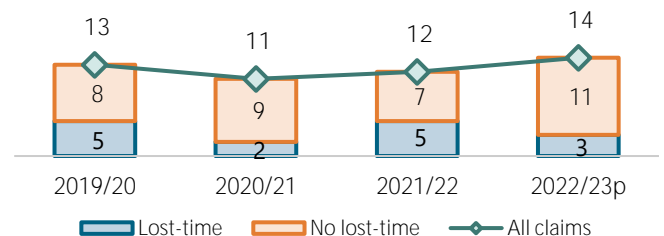
## Primary metal &amp; metal product manufacturing



## Printing (incl the reproduction of recorded media)

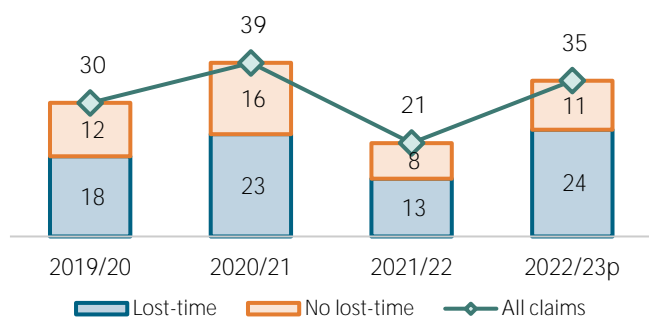


## Pulp, paper &amp; converted paper product manufacturing

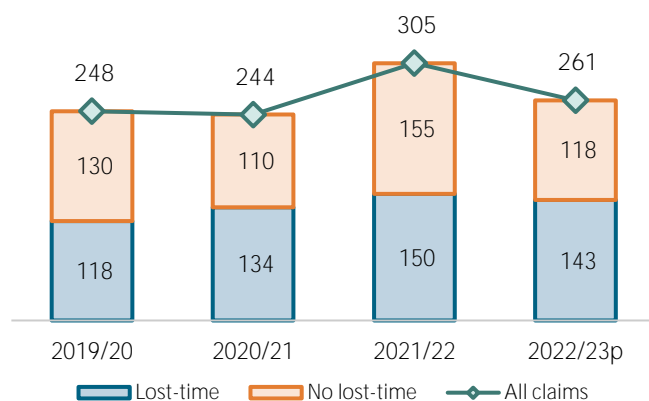


## Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

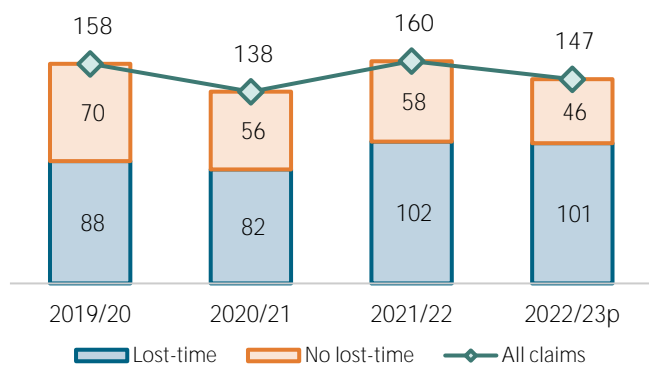
## Textile, leather, clothing &amp; footwear manufacturing



## Transport equipment manufacturing



## Wood product manufacturing



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

SUBDIVISION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p	Average* frequency rate
Basic chemical & chemical product manufacturing	25	46	37	45	3.3
1-59 days lost	14	22	19	25	1.7
60+ days lost	11	24	18	20	1.5
Beverage & tobacco product manufacturing	34	35	53	47	9.1
1-59 days lost	21	21	37	24	6.2
60+ days lost	13	14	16	23	2.9
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	319	290	317	288	20.8
1-59 days lost	233	202	221	168	14.9
60+ days lost	86	88	96	120	5.9
Food product manufacturing	255	307	307	300	10.7
1-59 days lost	177	192	204	169	7.1
60+ days lost	78	115	103	131	3.6
Furniture & other manufacturing	45	38	46	40	4.0
1-59 days lost	28	28	23	28	2.5
60+ days lost	17	10	23	12	1.4
Machinery & equipment manufacturing	226	241	263	287	10.6
1-59 days lost	161	165	181	177	7.4
60+ days lost	65	76	82	110	3.3
Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing	91	98	114	105	15.8
1-59 days lost	66	58	67	63	10.5
60+ days lost	25	40	47	42	5.3
Petroleum & coal product manufacturing	8	4	5	4	3.9
1-59 days lost	3	3	3	1	2.4
60+ days lost	5	1	2	3	1.5

\* 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.

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

SUBDIVISION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p	Average* frequency rate
Polymer product & rubber product manufacturing	47	48	47	45	8.0
1-59 days lost	31	26	27	23	4.7
60+ days lost	16	22	20	22	3.3
Primary metal & metal product manufacturing	128	186	212	216	8.5
1-59 days lost	89	126	142	141	6.0
60+ days lost	39	60	70	75	2.5
Printing (incl the reproduction of recorded media)	12	13	15	13	3.8
1-59 days lost	7	4	10	7	2.1
60+ days lost	5	9	5	6	1.7
Pulp, paper & converted paper product manufacturing	5	2	5	3	3.2
1-59 days lost	1	0	2	0	1.1
60+ days lost	4	2	3	3	2.1
Textile, leather, clothing & footwear manufacturing	18	23	13	24	6.8
1-59 days lost	11	12	6	13	3.7
60+ days lost	7	11	7	11	3.2
Transport equipment manufacturing	118	134	150	143	10.8
1-59 days lost	76	83	99	81	7.2
60+ days lost	42	51	51	62	3.7
Wood product manufacturing	88	82	102	101	27.9
1-59 days lost	63	48	74	68	19.2
60+ days lost	25	34	28	33	8.7
Total claims	1,419	1,547	1,686	1,661	10.5

\* 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.

## Work status rate lost-time claims

Return to work rate	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
at 1 month	69.5%	69.9%	70.6%	68.1%
at 3 months	80.6%	81.0%	80.0%	78.9%
at 6 months	85.6%	86.9%	84.8%	82.0%
at 12 months	87.4%	88.7%	87.5%	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.



For 2021/22, 87.5% of claimants in Manufacturing returned to work at 12 months after the claim was lodged, on par with the overall scheme (87.3%).



## Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
15-19 years	48	71	89	86
20-24 years	153	164	172	159
25-34 years	329	362	349	372
35-44 years	315	329	395	379
45-54 years	322	343	380	328
55-59 years	128	143	156	174
60-64 years	89	100	110	123
65+ years	35	35	35	40
Total claims	1,419	1,547	1,686	1,661

## Frequency rate\* by age group

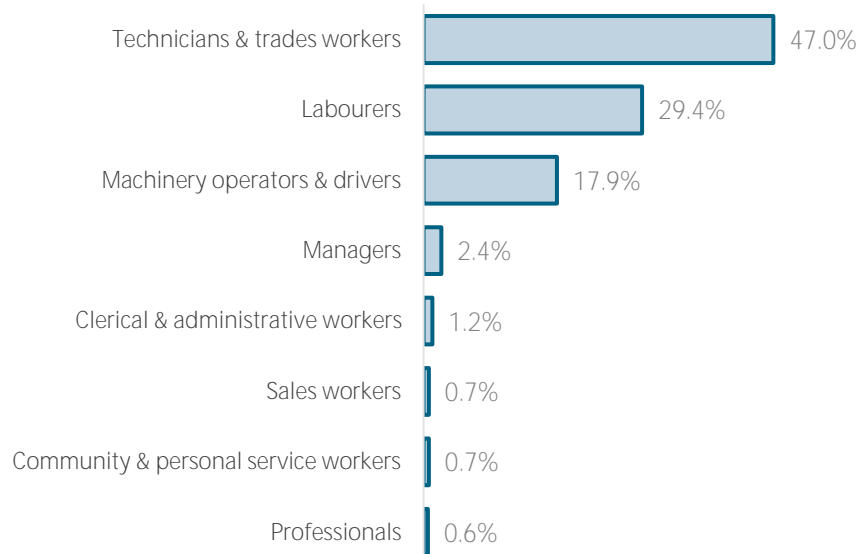
AGE GROUP	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
15-19 years	11.0	20.1	20.8	n/a
20-24 years	12.1	11.0	17.2	n/a
25-34 years	12.3	12.7	11.0	n/a
35-44 years	8.5	9.1	10.1	n/a
45-54 years	8.9	9.7	13.2	n/a
55-59 years	9.6	11.3	8.9	n/a
60-64 years	15.2	12.9	16.3	n/a
65+ years	6.4	8.2	7.7	n/a
Total claims	10.0	10.8	11.8	n/a

\* The 2022/23 frequency rate was not available at the time of the report.

## Lost-time claims by occupation

OCCUPATION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Technicians & trades workers	703	680	822	781
Labourers	404	471	502	488
Machinery operators & drivers	262	323	279	298
Managers	14	23	36	40
Clerical & administrative workers	13	19	10	20
Sales workers	7	11	11	12
Community & personal service workers	5	6	12	12
Professionals	11	14	14	10
Total claims	1,419	1,547	1,686	1,661

## 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	612	691	680	695
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	405	401	475	418
Fractures	201	229	268	242
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	52	65	75	114
Burn	40	57	77	70
Other injuries	42	38	39	32
Digestive system diseases	26	24	24	24
Mental diseases	5	5	15	23
Intracranial injuries	11	7	11	14
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	19	23	14	13
Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases	4	5	2	9
Respiratory system diseases	1	2	4	4
Circulatory system diseases	1	0	0	2
Other diseases	0	0	2	1
Total claims	1,419	1,547	1,686	1,661

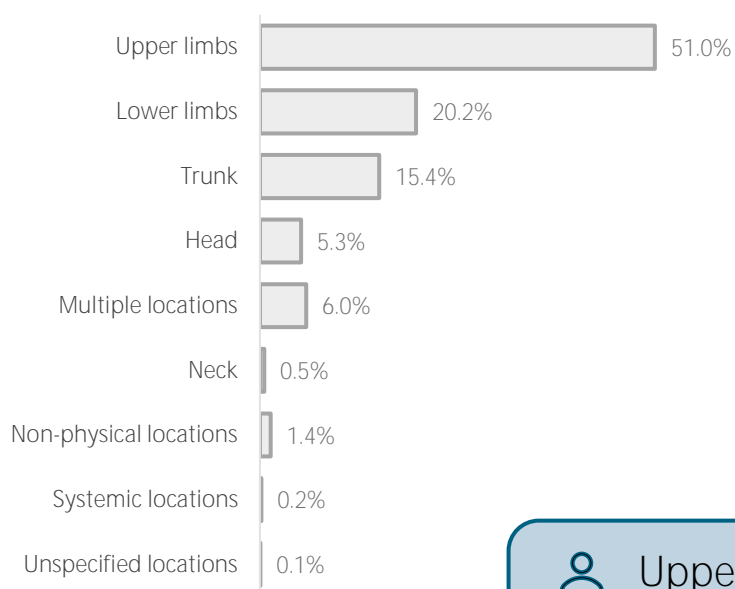


Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continue to be the leading type of injury for claims lodged in the Manufacturing industry (41.8%), and the overall scheme (49.5%) in 2022/23p.

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

LOCATION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Upper limbs	756	797	798	847
Lower limbs	262	306	389	335
Trunk	215	239	263	256
Head	92	96	106	88
Multiple locations	66	88	95	99
Neck	17	13	13	9
Non-physical location	5	5	15	23
Systemic locations	5	3	6	3
Unspecified locations	1	0	1	1
Total claims	1,419	1,547	1,686	1,661

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

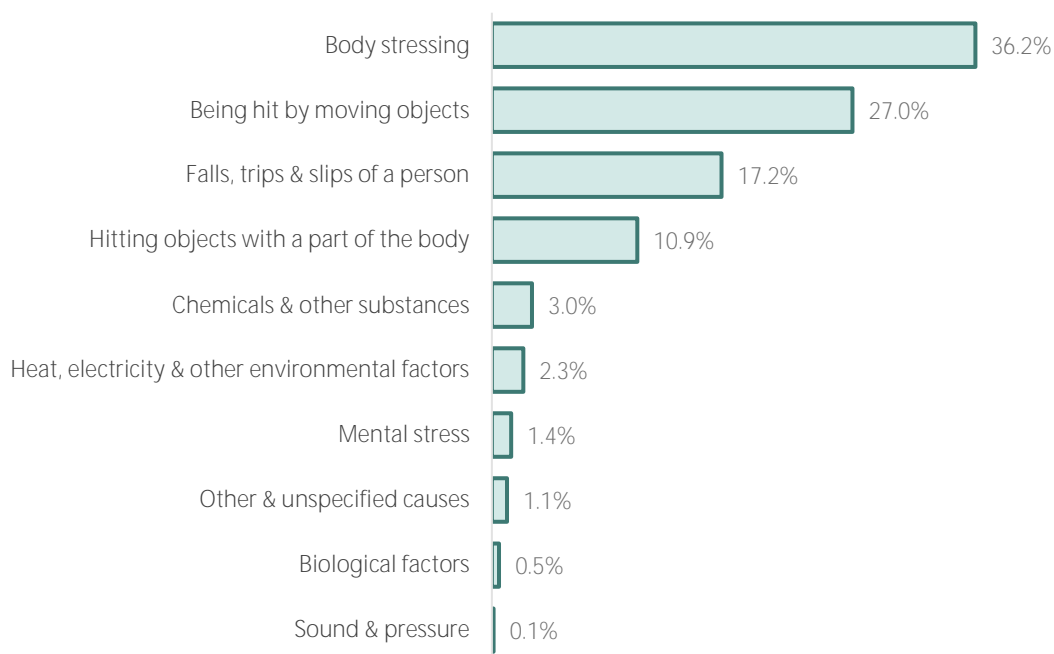


Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 71.2% of total claims lodged in 2022/23p.

## Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Body stressing	471	560	537	602
Being hit by moving objects	445	446	499	449
Falls, trips & slips of a person	260	264	332	286
Hitting objects with a part of the body	163	182	187	181
Chemicals & other substances	31	40	46	50
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	24	31	46	39
Mental stress	5	5	15	24
Other & unspecified causes	14	17	20	19
Biological factors	5	2	4	9
Sound & pressure	1	0	0	2
Total claims	1,419	1,547	1,686	1,661

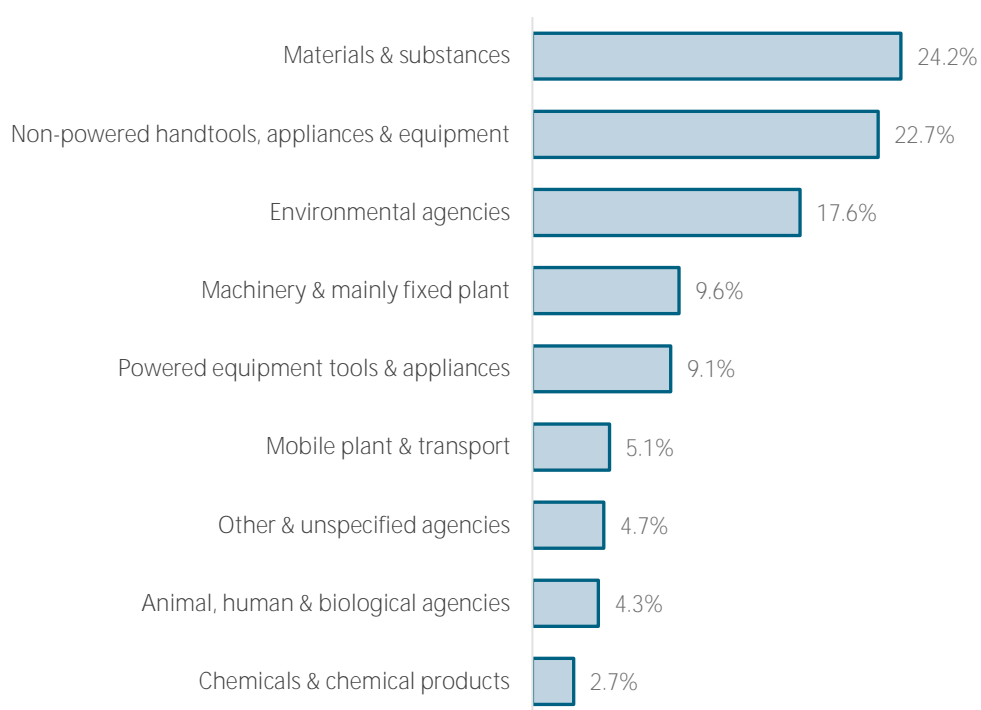
## Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2022/23p



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

AGENCY	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Materials & substances	359	397	403	402
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	374	410	380	377
Environmental agencies	239	243	307	292
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	134	138	180	160
Powered equipment tools & appliances	144	123	155	151
Mobile plant & transport	59	98	107	84
Other & unspecified agencies	33	43	56	78
Animal, human & biological agencies	43	51	52	72
Chemicals & chemical products	34	44	46	45
Total claims	1,419	1,547	1,686	1,661

## 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> ( <a href="http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au">safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> ).
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> ( <a href="http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au">safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> ).
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><b>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:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ lost-time journey claims between home and work</li> <li>▲ asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma and pneumoconiosis, caused by asbestos exposure</li> <li>▲ duplicated or disallowed (by an insurer).</li> </ul> <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	<b>Categories are based on WorkCover WA's Guidelines for Completing Form WC 101.</b> 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"><li>▲ redemption payments made under Schedule 1</li><li>▲ specific injury payments made under Schedule 2</li><li>▲ fatal payments including funeral expenses</li><li>▲ common law and other Acts payments.</li></ul>
Frequency rate	The number of lost-time claims per million hours worked and indicates the <b>prevalence of workers' compensation claims. It is based on the number of hours worked by employed persons in Western Australia as supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.</b>
Industry	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> ( <a href="https://safeworkaustralia.gov.au">safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> ).
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> ( <a href="https://safeworkaustralia.gov.au">safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a> ).
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 ( <a href="https://abs.gov.au">abs.gov.au</a> ).
Service payments	<p>Service payments include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. medical and hospital payments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ medical practitioner and specialist payments (consultation and treatment expenses rendered by general practitioners and medical specialists)</li> <li>▲ hospital expenses (hospital accommodation and hospital treatment)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. allied health payments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ other treatment and appliance payments (comprises payments made under clauses 17(1)(3), (4), (5) and (6) of Schedule 1 of the Act, other than medical and hospital expenses)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. workplace rehabilitation payments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ workplace rehabilitation payments (comprises payments made under clause 17 (1a) of Schedule 1 of the Act in respect of counselling, occupational training, work assessment, aids and appliances)</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. legal and miscellaneous: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ legal expenses (comprises the cost of legal advice and representation incurred by approved insurers or exempt employers, witness fees and the costs of these services incurred by the worker where the approved insurer or exempt employer is ordered to meet the costs)</li> <li>▲ miscellaneous (includes general items that do not fit in any other category, for example travelling, meals and lodgings, under clause 19 of Schedule 1).</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

# Glossary

## 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.**