



WorkCoverWA

# INDUSTRY STATISTICAL REPORT

## 2022/23

---

Mining  
in the Western Australian  
Workers' Compensation Scheme

October 2023



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

 [workcover.wa.gov.au](http://workcover.wa.gov.au)

 [communications@workcover.wa.gov.au](mailto:communications@workcover.wa.gov.au)

 Advice and Assistance: 1300 794 744

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  
2019/20 to 2022/23p

Published: October 2023

Data was extracted on 4 October 2023

© WorkCover WA, Government of Western Australia

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

# Table of Contents

About this report .....	4
Mining 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 .....	12
Return to work status .....	13
Claimant characteristics	
Age group .....	14
Occupation .....	15
Injury/disease attributes	
Nature of injury/disease .....	16
Bodily location of injury/disease .....	17
Mechanism of incident .....	18
Agency of injury/disease .....	19
Glossary .....	20
Disclaimer .....	24

# 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.

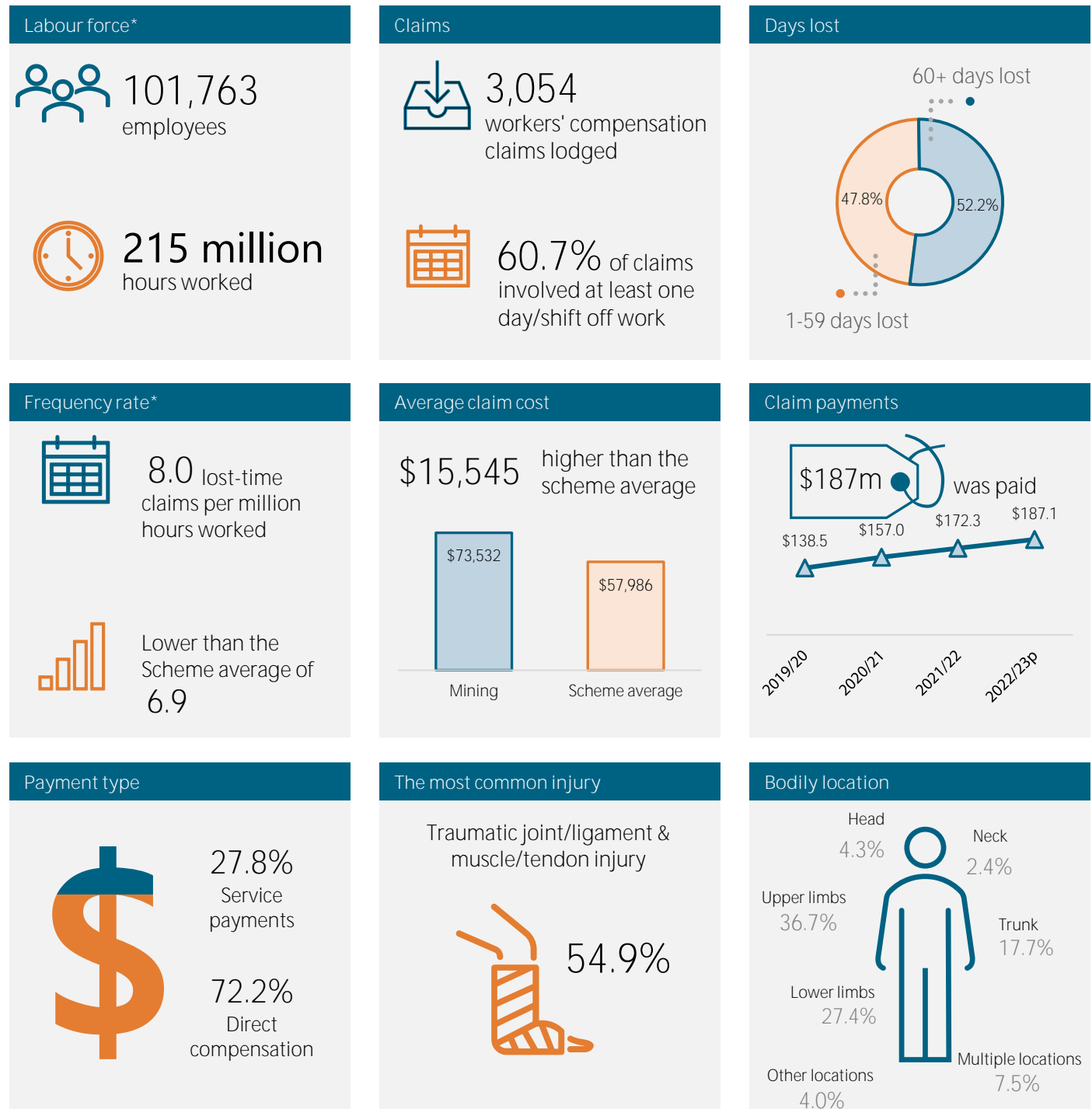
Frequency rates are based on the latest available data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which lags by one year from this report's timeframe.

## Mining

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

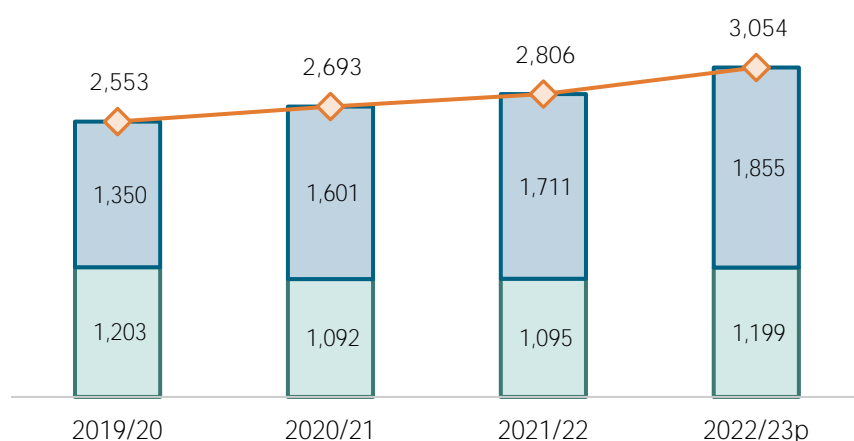
This industry includes coal mining, oil and gas extraction, metal ore mining, non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying, and exploration and other mining support services.

### Mining at a glance 2022/23p



\* 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 Mining industry increased by 19.6% from 2019/20 to 2022/23p.

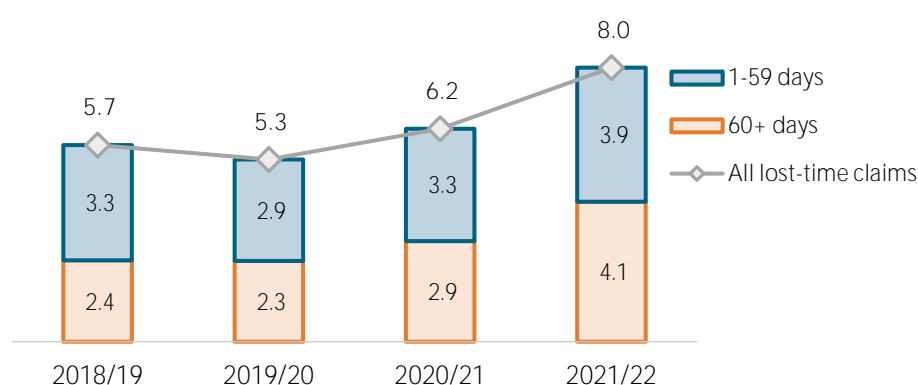
## ■ Lost-time claims

Lost-time claims in Mining averaged 1,629 claims between 2019/20 to 2022/23p.

## ■ No lost-time claims

Claims with no time off work averaged 1,147 claims over the same period.

## 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.

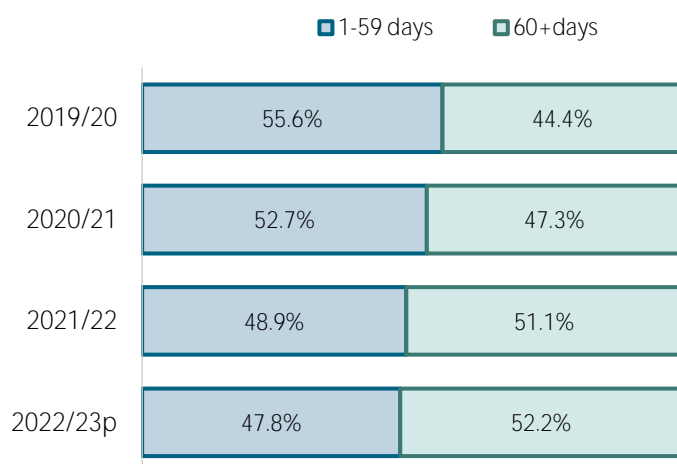


For claims lodged in 2021/22, the frequency rate for the Mining industry was 8.0 lost-time claims per million hours worked, lower than the scheme average of 6.9.

## Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

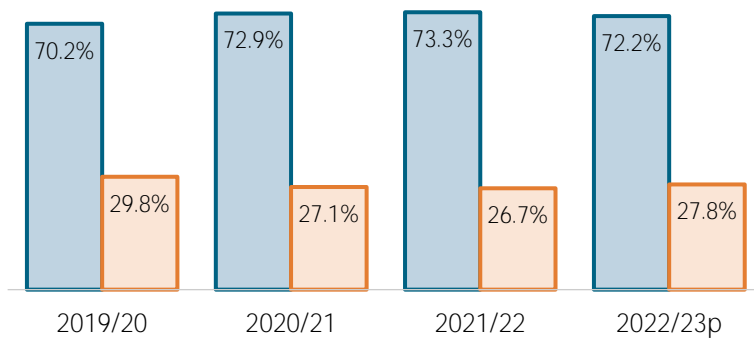
DAYS LOST	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
0 days	1,203	1,092	1,095	1,199
1 - 4 days	94	85	66	87
5 - 19 days	271	322	339	292
20 - 59 days	386	437	432	508
60 - 119 days	211	238	263	430
120 - 179 days	118	147	164	220
180+ days	270	372	447	318
Total claims	2,553	2,693	2,806	3,054

## Lost-time claims proportions by days lost



Mining accounts for 12.3% of total claims lodged in 2022/23p in the WA workers' compensation scheme.

## Total claim payments proportions by payment group

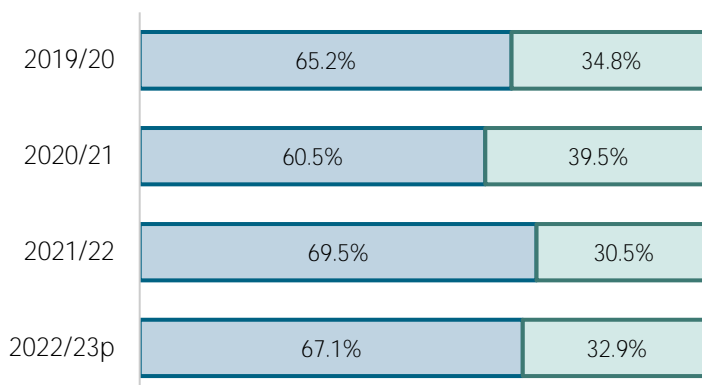
**Direct compensation**

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

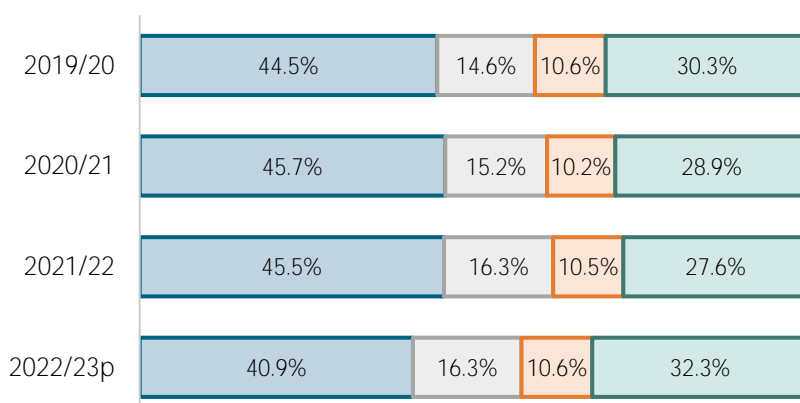
**Income payments**

as a proportion of direct compensation payments ranged from 60.5% to 69.5% over four years.

**Lump sums**

as a proportion of direct compensation payments, in turn, ranged from 30.5% to 39.5%.

## Service payments proportions by payment type

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



## Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

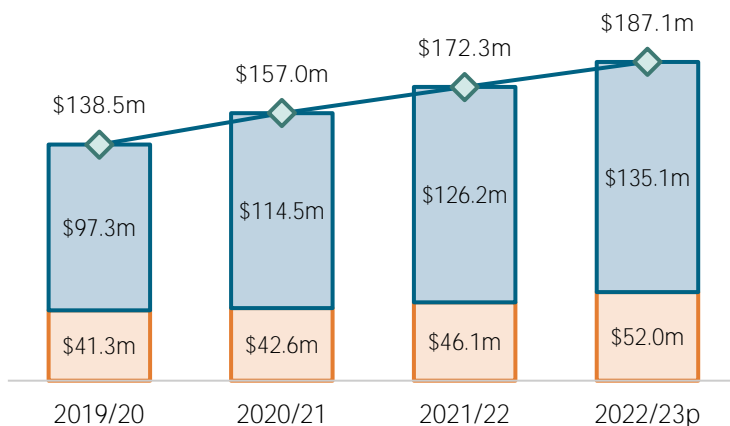
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
<b>DIRECT COMPENSATION</b>				
Income payments	\$63.4m	\$69.3m	\$87.8m	\$90.7m
Lump sums	\$33.9m	\$45.2m	\$38.5m	\$44.4m
<b>SERVICE PAYMENTS</b>				
Medical & hospital	\$18.4m	\$19.4m	\$21.0m	\$21.3m
Allied health*	\$6.0m	\$6.5m	\$7.5m	\$8.5m
Workplace rehabilitation	\$4.4m	\$4.3m	\$4.8m	\$5.5m
Legal & miscellaneous	\$12.5m	\$12.3m	\$12.7m	\$16.8m
<b>Total claim payments</b>	<b>\$138.5m</b>	<b>\$157.0m</b>	<b>\$172.3m</b>	<b>\$187.1m</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 \$97.3 million in 2019/20 to \$135.1 million in 2022/23p.



**Service payments** increased from \$41.3 million in 2019/20 and stands at \$52.0 million in 2022/23p.



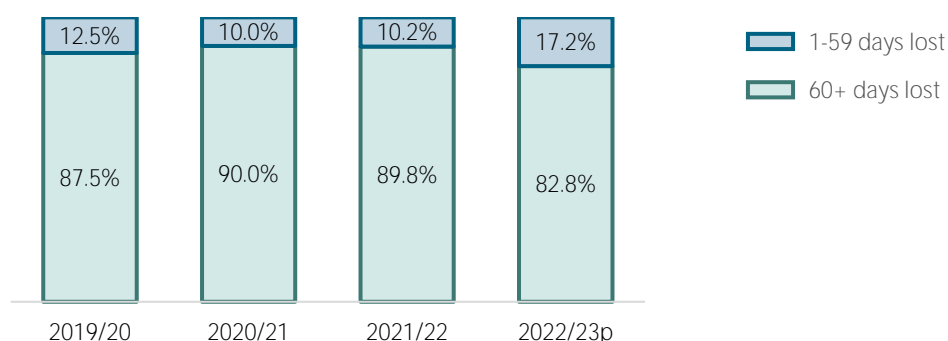
Payments for claims in the Mining industry in 2022/23p totalled \$187.1 million, accounting for 15.7% of total scheme payments.

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

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
1-59 days lost	\$15.7m	\$15.9m	\$17.4m	\$23.4m
60+ days lost	\$109.7m	\$142.0m	\$152.8m	\$113.0m
Total claims	\$125.3m	\$157.8m	\$170.3m	\$136.4m

\* 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

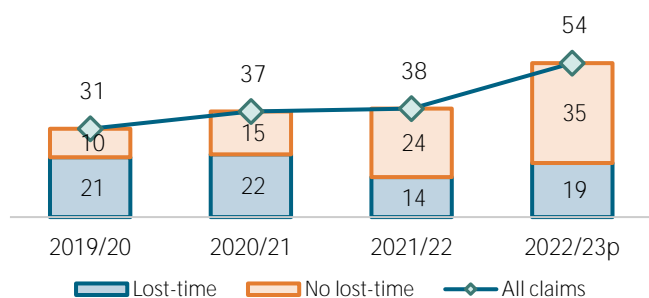
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
1-59 days lost	\$20,842	\$18,794	\$20,831	\$26,391
60+ days lost	\$183,086	\$187,553	\$174,848	\$116,727
Total claims	\$92,830	\$98,588	\$99,505	\$73,532



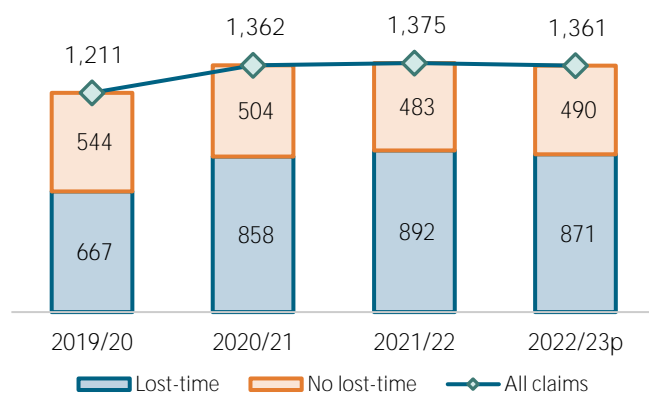
The average claim cost for Mining was \$73,532 in 2022/23p, compared with the scheme average of \$57,986.

## Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

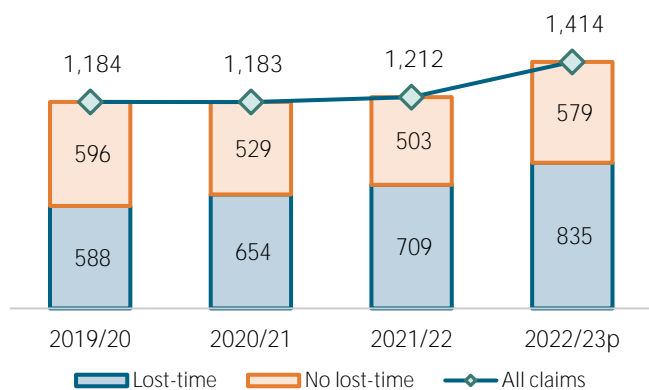
## Coal mining



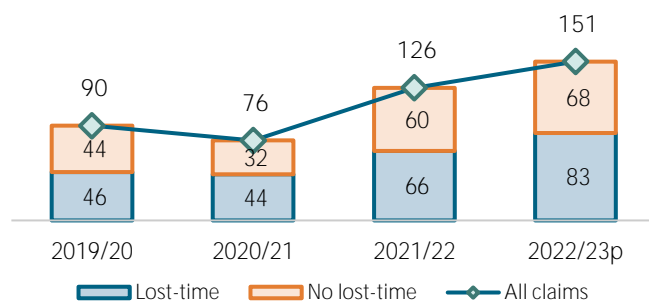
## Exploration and other mining support services



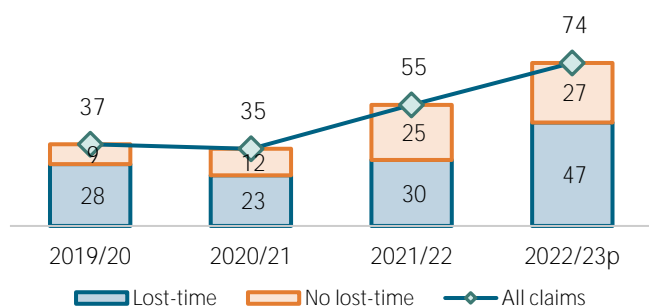
## Metal ore mining



## Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying



## Oil and gas extraction



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

SUBDIVISION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p	Average* frequency rate
Coal mining	21	22	14	19	4.5
1-59 days lost	15	10	5	9	2.4
60+ days lost	6	12	9	10	2.1
Exploration and other mining support services	667	858	892	871	14.5
1-59 days lost	360	476	481	437	8.0
60+ days lost	307	382	411	434	6.4
Metal ore mining	588	654	709	835	4.3
1-59 days lost	335	310	307	381	2.2
60+ days lost	253	344	402	454	2.1
Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying	46	44	66	83	5.9
1-59 days lost	29	32	35	36	3.8
60+ days lost	17	12	31	47	2.1
Oil and gas extraction	28	23	30	47	0.9
1-59 days lost	12	16	9	24	0.5
60+ days lost	16	7	21	23	0.5
Total claims	1,350	1,601	1,711	1,855	6.2

\* 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	2022/23
at 1 month	76.4%	75.2%	75.1%	67.0%
at 3 months	84.6%	83.8%	80.8%	77.6%
at 6 months	89.1%	88.2%	85.1%	82.8%
at 12 months	89.8%	90.1%	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.



For 2021/22, 87.9% of claimants in Mining returned to work at 12 months after the claim was lodged, similar to the overall scheme (87.3%).

## Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
15-19 years	13	21	39	29
20-24 years	94	108	166	158
25-34 years	351	402	422	447
35-44 years	323	360	378	445
45-54 years	336	396	393	410
55-59 years	146	182	186	184
60-64 years	66	88	101	133
65+ years	21	44	26	49
Total claims	1,350	1,601	1,711	1,855

## Frequency rate\* by age group

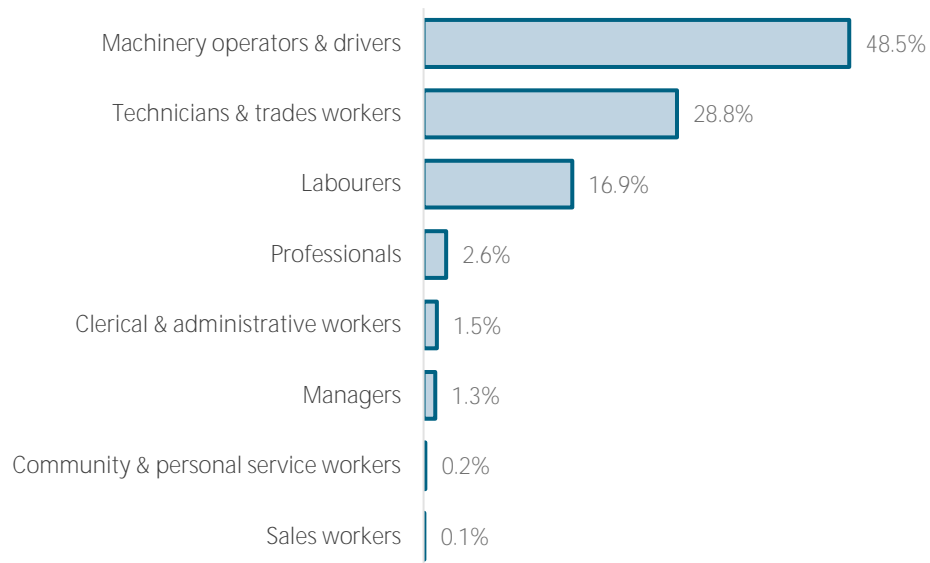
AGE GROUP	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
15-19 years	15.9	17.7	16.9	n/a
20-24 years	7.8	6.3	13.0	n/a
25-34 years	4.9	6.0	7.5	n/a
35-44 years	4.3	4.4	6.0	n/a
45-54 years	5.5	6.5	8.1	n/a
55-59 years	6.7	8.7	9.9	n/a
60-64 years	6.7	10.4	8.8	n/a
65+ years	6.9	18.1	21.1	n/a
Total claims	5.3	6.2	8.0	n/a

\* 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
Machinery operators & drivers	657	764	814	899
Technicians & trades workers	427	471	495	535
Labourers	220	297	323	314
Professionals	26	29	46	48
Clerical & administrative workers	11	17	12	28
Managers	7	14	9	25
Community & personal service workers	2	9	11	4
Sales workers	0	0	1	2
Total claims	1,350	1,601	1,711	1,855

## 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	790	991	969	1,019
Fractures	179	205	271	264
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	188	188	235	222
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	62	74	93	121
Mental diseases	14	28	29	60
Other injuries	18	33	23	39
Digestive system diseases	46	26	33	32
Burn	20	16	30	29
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	14	24	10	29
Intracranial injuries	5	7	5	17
Infectious & parasitic diseases	2	0	5	11
Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases	10	3	5	9
Other diseases	2	6	3	3
Total claims	1,350	1,601	1,711	1,855



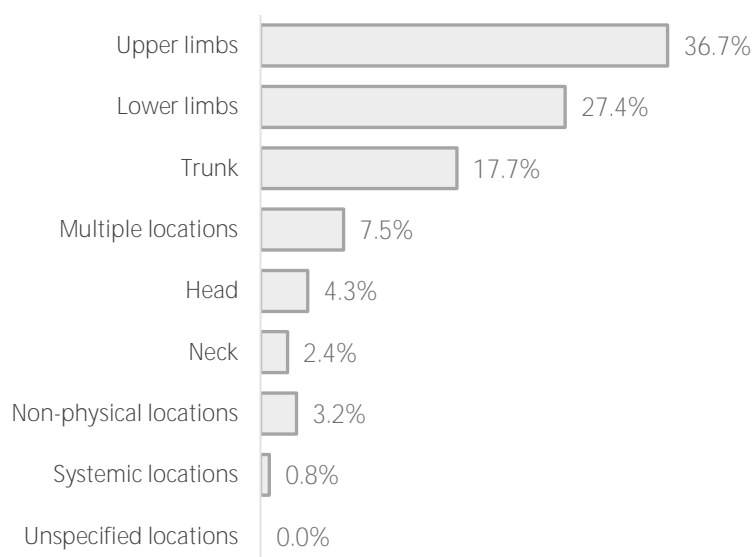
In 2022/23p, Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continue to be the leading type of injury for claims lodged in the Mining industry (54.9%), and the overall scheme (49.5%).



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

LOCATION	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Upper limbs	534	627	690	680
Lower limbs	355	446	470	509
Trunk	268	284	311	328
Multiple locations	92	123	125	139
Head	46	58	39	79
Neck	32	32	35	45
Non-physical locations	14	28	29	60
Systemic locations	9	3	11	15
Unspecified locations	0	0	1	0
Total claims	1,350	1,601	1,711	1,855

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

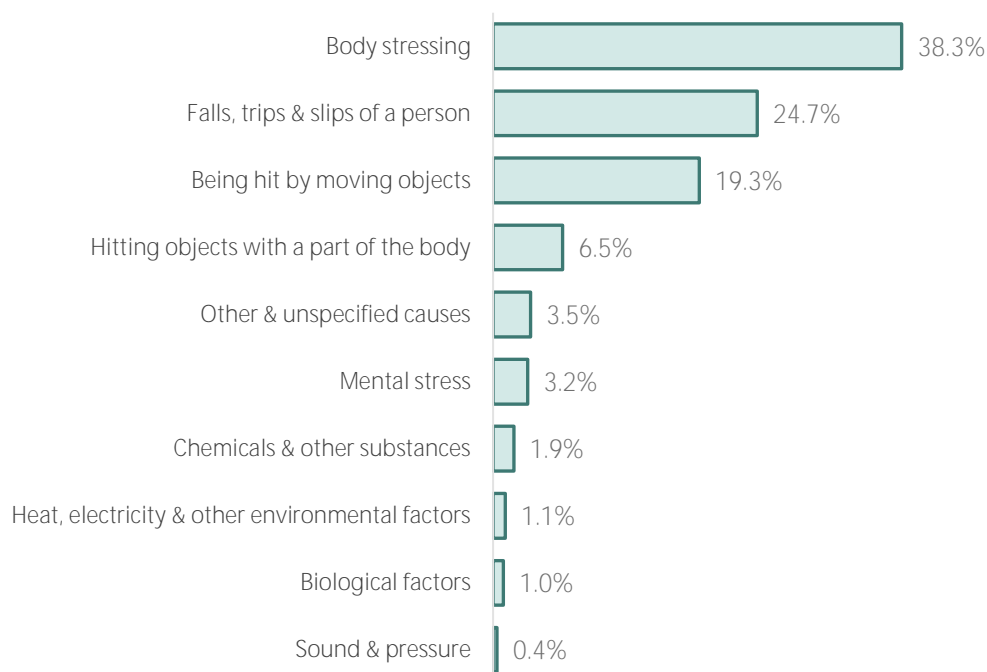


Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 64.1% of total claims lodged in 2022/23p.

## Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Body stressing	581	686	667	710
Falls, trips & slips of a person	359	427	438	459
Being hit by moving objects	228	284	343	358
Hitting objects with a part of the body	89	108	112	121
Other & unspecified causes	33	29	63	65
Mental stress	14	27	28	60
Chemicals & other substances	26	16	28	36
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	11	15	22	21
Biological factors	8	4	8	18
Sound & pressure	1	5	2	7
Total claims	1,350	1,601	1,711	1,855

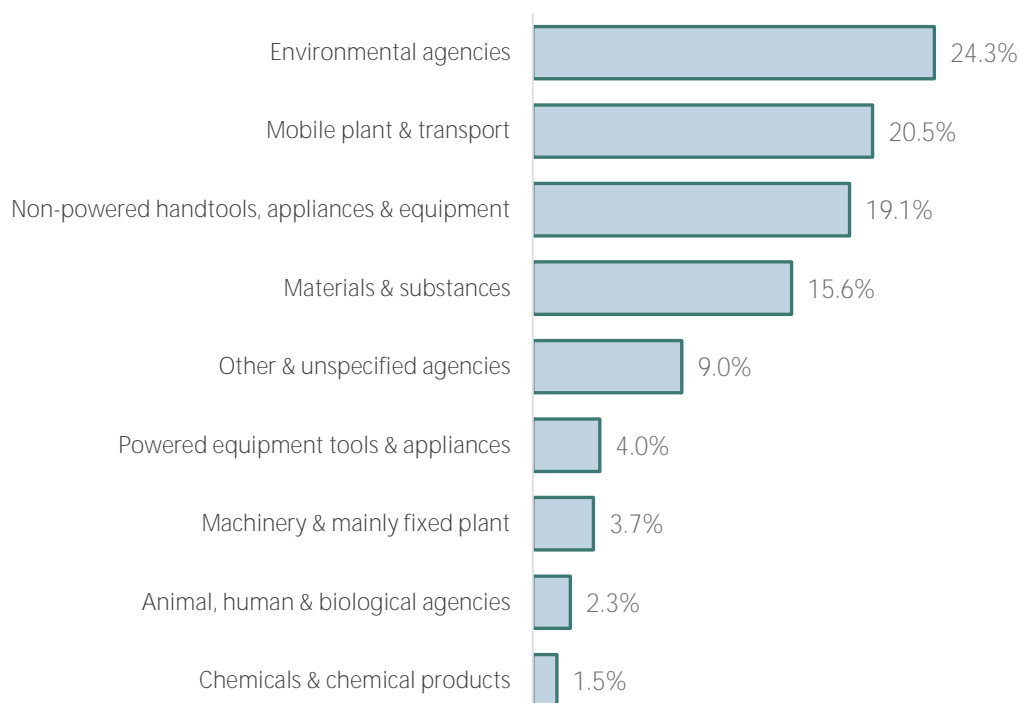
## Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2022/23p



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

AGENCY	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23p
Environmental agencies	359	412	407	450
Mobile plant & transport	307	401	382	381
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	279	275	329	355
Materials & substances	205	250	314	290
Other & unspecified agencies	67	105	105	167
Powered equipment tools & appliances	47	73	65	75
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	43	47	61	68
Animal, human & biological agencies	21	19	24	42
Chemicals & chemical products	22	19	24	27
Total claims	1,350	1,601	1,711	1,855

## 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.**