

Industry Statistical Report

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

2023/24

A workers compensation and injury
management scheme that works for all.






Industry Statistical Report: 2023/24
Agriculture, forestry & fishing

Publication date: November 2024
Data extraction date: 7 November 2024

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Industry Statistical Report

WorkCover WA

WorkCover WA is the government agency responsible for overseeing the workers compensation and injury management scheme in Western Australia (WA).

WA operates a privately underwritten workers compensation scheme, where private insurance agencies are approved by WorkCover WA to provide workers compensation insurance to WA employers. Additionally, WorkCover WA also exempts large employers, who have the material and financial resources to cover their own liabilities from any workplace injuries that may occur, from having to obtain workers compensation insurance from an approved insurer. Exempt employers are commonly referred to as self-insurers. During the period referenced in this report, there were six approved insurers and 23 self-insurers operating within the WA workers compensation scheme.

Data from the Insurance Commission of Western Australia (ICWA) is also included in this report. ICWA manages workers compensation arrangements for WA government agencies. Although not an approved insurer within the WA workers compensation scheme, ICWA is considered to be more appropriately grouped with approved insurers rather than self-insurers.

Purpose of 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 industry-specific insight into claims activity within the Western Australian workers compensation scheme over a four-year period.

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

The 'p' in the reference period (2023/24p) signifies 'provisional data' - data that is subject to change over time as further information about the claims are received.

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

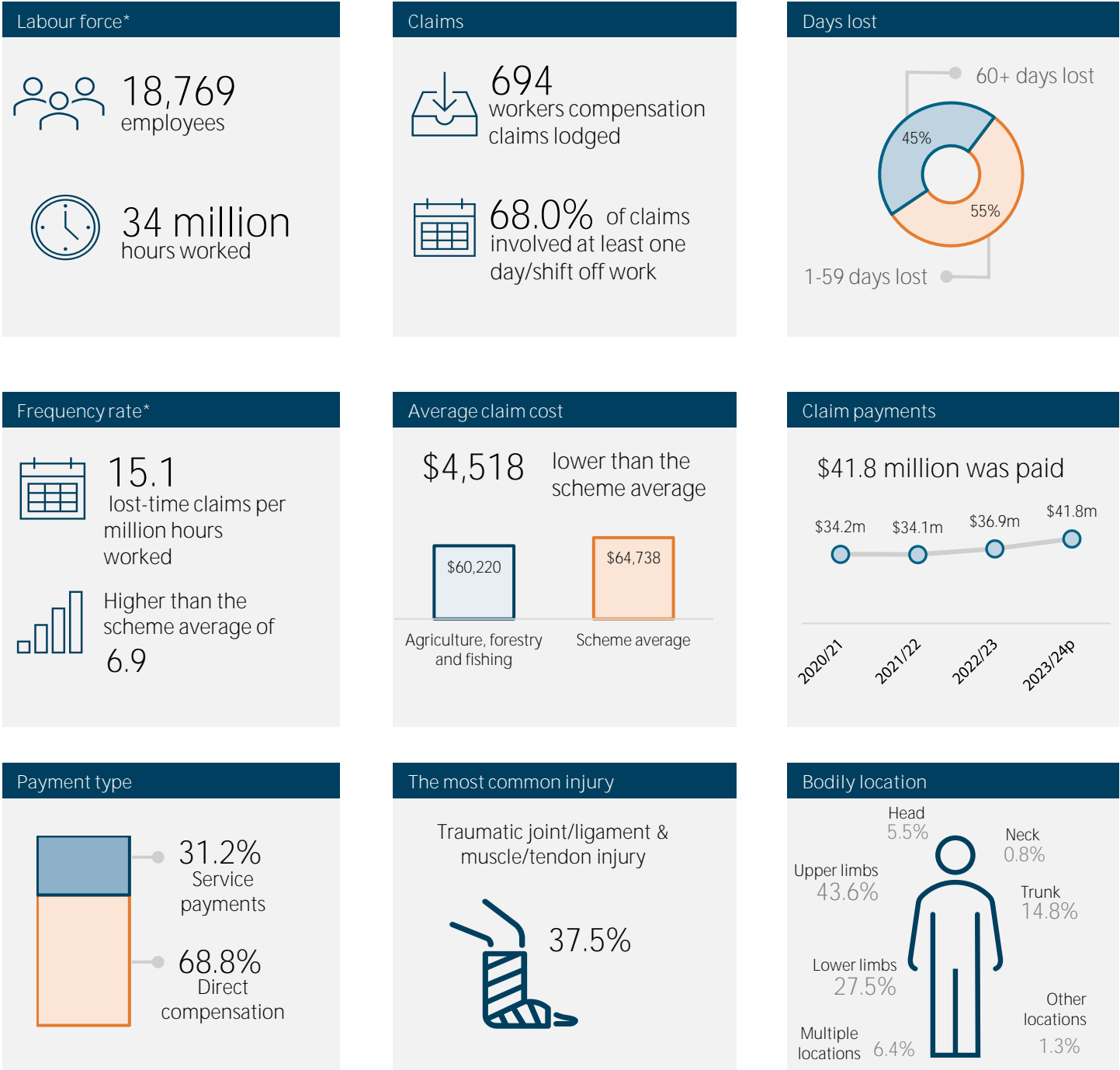
Frequency rates are based on the latest available data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which lags by one year from this report's timeframe.

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

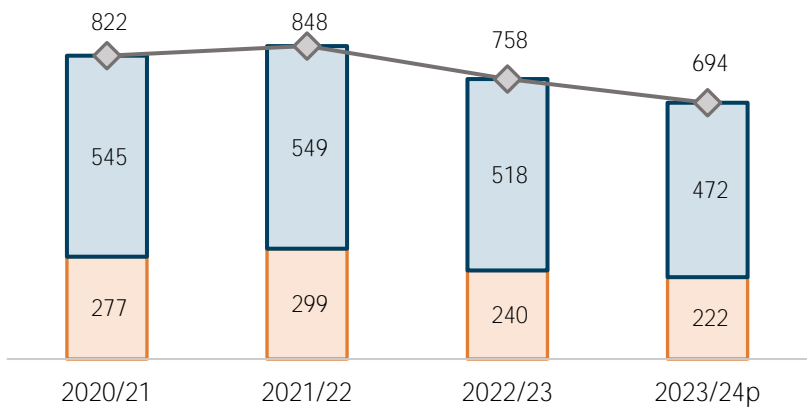
This industry includes businesses mainly engaged in heritage, creative and performing arts, sports and recreation, and gambling activities.

Agriculture, forestry & fishing at a glance 2023/24p



* Based on 2022/23, as 2023/24 was not available at the time of reporting.

Claim numbers number of claims lodged by lost-time

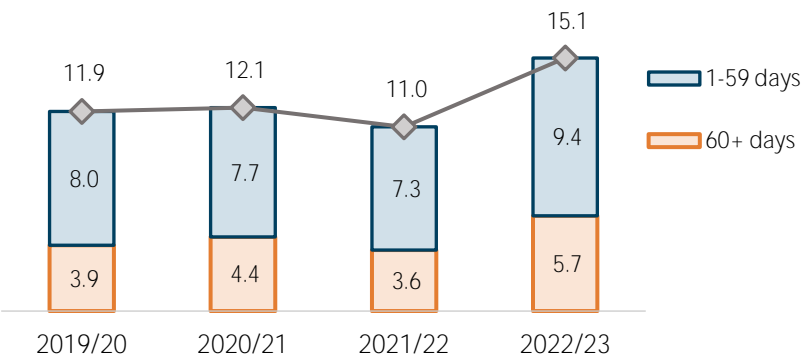


All claims
Total claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry show a decreasing trend (-15.6%) over the last four years.

Lost-time claims
Lost-time claims averaged 521 claims between 2020/21 to 2023/24p.

No lost-time claims
Claims with no time off work decreased (-19.9%) 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 increase in the frequency rate from 11.0 in 2021/22 to 15.1 to 2022/23 was due to a 30.0% decrease in the number of hours worked (estimated by Safe Work Australia).

* The 2023/24 frequency rates were not available at the time of reporting.

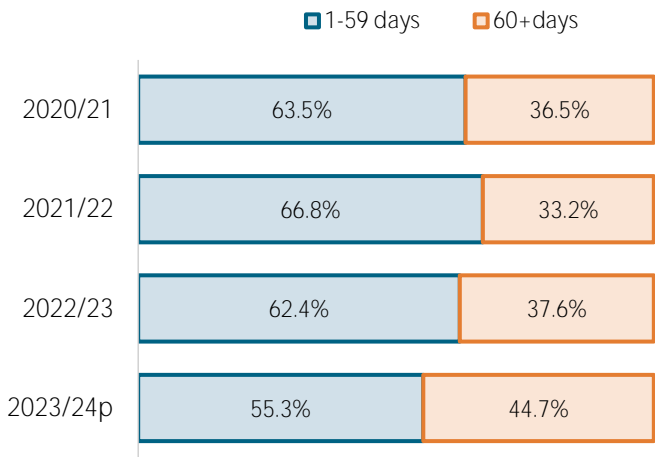
The frequency rate for the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry was 15.0 lost-time claims per million hours worked, compared to the scheme average of 6.9 for 2022/23.

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Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

DAYS LOST	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
0 days	277	299	240	222
1 - 4 days	61	69	72	43
5 - 19 days	136	165	130	113
20 - 59 days	149	133	121	105
60 - 119 days	70	77	72	84
120 - 179 days	45	25	36	48
180+ days	84	80	87	79
Total claims	822	848	758	694

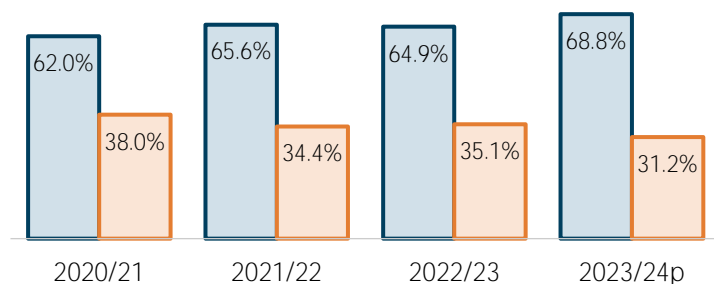
Lost-time claims proportions by days lost



Agriculture, forestry & fishing accounted for 2.6% of total claims lodged in 2023/24p in the WA workers compensation scheme.

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Total claim payments proportions by payment group

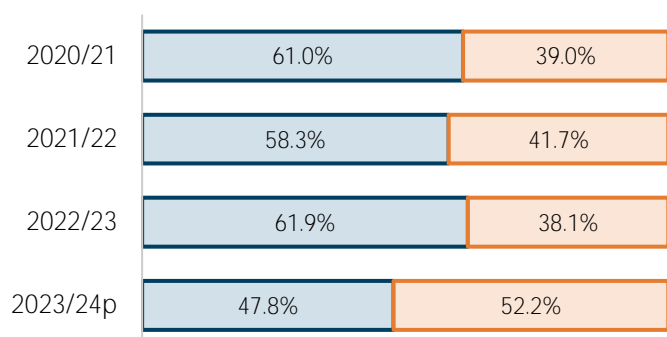


Direct compensation
payments made directly to the worker (either by income replacement or lump sums).



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

Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type

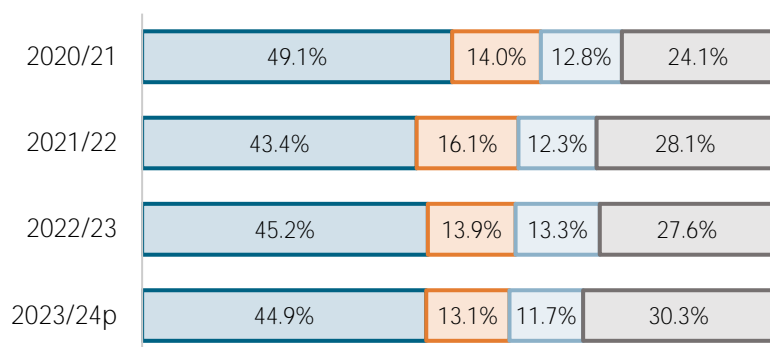


Income payments
as a proportion of direct compensation payments ranged from 47.8% to 61.9% over four years.



Lump sums
accounted for 38.1% to 52.2% of direct compensation payments to workers over the last four years.

Service payments proportions by payment type



Medical & hospital



Allied health



Workplace rehabilitation



Legal & miscellaneous

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Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

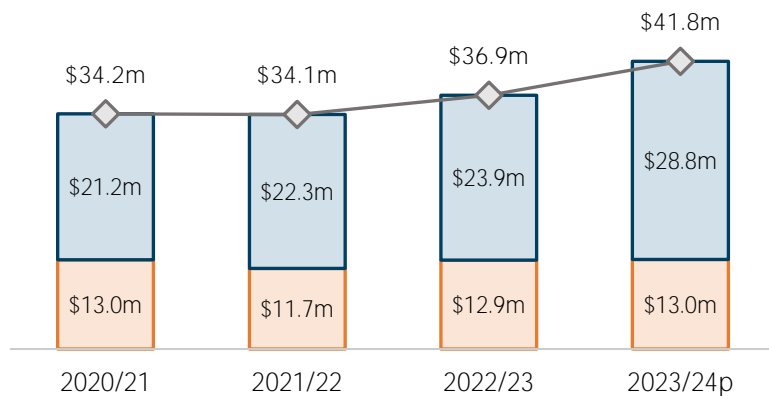
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
DIRECT COMPENSATION				
Income payments	\$12.9m	\$13.0m	\$14.8m	\$13.8m
Lump sums	\$8.3m	\$9.3m	\$9.1m	\$15.0m
SERVICE PAYMENTS				
Medical & hospital	\$6.4m	\$5.1m	\$5.9m	\$5.9m
Allied health*	\$1.8m	\$1.8m	\$1.7m	\$1.7m
Workplace rehabilitation	\$1.7m	\$1.4m	\$1.7m	\$1.5m
Legal & miscellaneous	\$3.1m	\$3.3m	\$3.6m	\$3.9m
Total claim payments	\$34.2m	\$34.1m	\$36.9m	\$41.8m



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 \$21.2 million in 2020/21 to \$28.8 million in 2023/24p.



Service payments remained stable and stands at \$13.0 million in 2023/24p.

Payments for claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry in 2023/24p totalled \$41.8 million, accounting for 3.1% of total scheme payments.

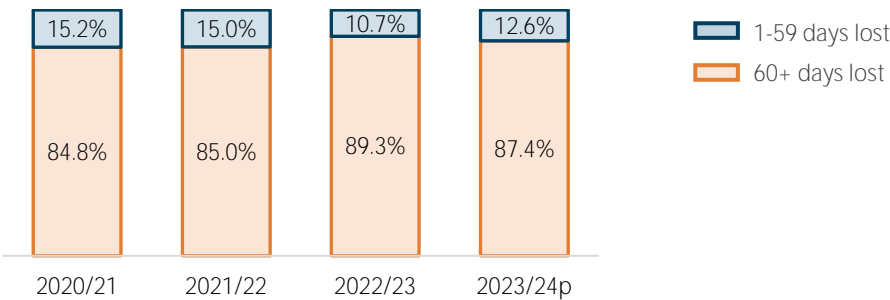
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

Claim costs* total claim costs by days lost

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
1-59 days lost	\$4.9m	\$4.8m	\$4.2m	\$3.6m
60+ days lost	\$27.4m	\$27.3m	\$35.4m	\$24.8m
Total claims	\$32.3m	\$32.2m	\$39.6m	\$28.4m

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

Claim costs* proportion of claim costs by days lost



Claim costs* average claim costs by days lost

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
1-59 days lost	\$14,222	\$13,176	\$13,129	\$13,731
60+ days lost	\$137,689	\$150,241	\$181,583	\$117,725
Total claims	\$59,304	\$58,615	\$76,543	\$60,220

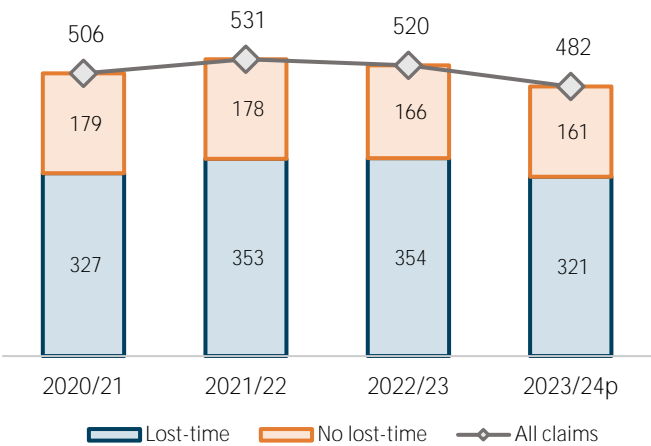
* Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly for the most recent year.

The average claim cost for Agriculture, forestry & fishing was \$60,220 in 2023/24p, compared with the scheme average of \$64,738.

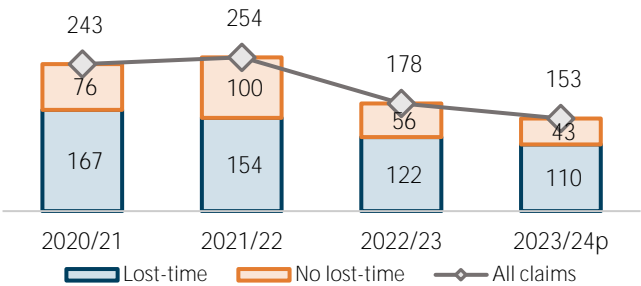
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

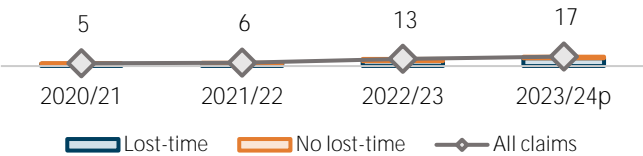
Agriculture



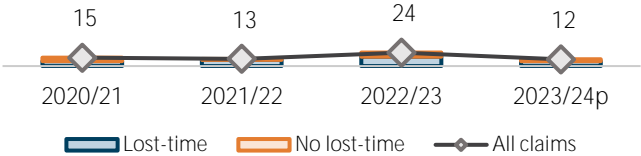
Agriculture, forestry & fishing support services



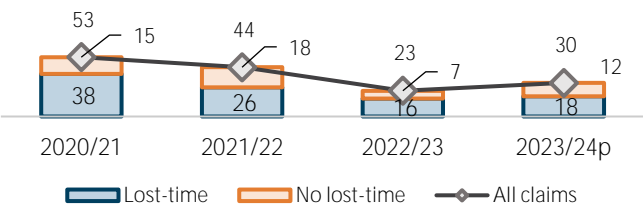
Aquaculture



Fishing, hunting & trapping



Forestry & logging



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Lost-time claims and frequency rate by industry subdivision

SUBDIVISION	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p	Average* frequency rate
Agriculture	327	353	354	321	11.0
1-59 days lost	195	229	212	179	6.6
60+ days lost	132	124	142	142	4.4
Agriculture, forestry & fishing support services	167	154	122	110	21.1
1-59 days lost	117	108	82	64	13.8
60+ days lost	50	46	40	46	7.3
Aquaculture	4	5	9	14	5.6
1-59 days lost	3	2	9	6	4.1
60+ days lost	1	3	0	8	1.6
Fishing, hunting & trapping	9	11	17	9	8.8
1-59 days lost	6	6	11	4	4.9
60+ days lost	3	5	6	5	3.9
Forestry & logging	38	26	16	18	12.2
1-59 days lost	25	22	9	8	8.9
60+ days lost	13	4	7	10	3.3
Total claims	545	549	518	472	11.9
1-59 days lost	346	367	323	261	7.4
60+ days lost	199	182	195	211	4.5

* The average frequency rate is over three years (2020/21 to 2022/23). The 2023/24 frequency rate was not available at the time of reporting.

Work status rate lost-time claims

Return to work rate	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
at 1 month	61.5%	67.3%	61.1%	60.0%
at 3 months	78.7%	79.8%	76.5%	76.1%
at 6 months	85.3%	85.8%	84.5%	81.7%
at 12 months	88.4%	88.0%	88.5%	n/a



Return to work status measures the proportion of claimants who returned to work at any capacity at key intervals from the date of claim lodgement.

For 2022/23, 88.5% of claimants in Agriculture, forestry & fishing returned to work at 12 months after the claim was lodged, higher than the overall scheme (87.4%).

Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
15-24 years	120	117	108	106
25-34 years	129	161	133	144
35-44 years	84	86	89	79
45-54 years	111	86	99	63
55-64 years	78	80	69	66
65+ years	23	19	20	13
Unknown	0	0	0	1
Total claims	545	549	518	472

Frequency rate* by age group

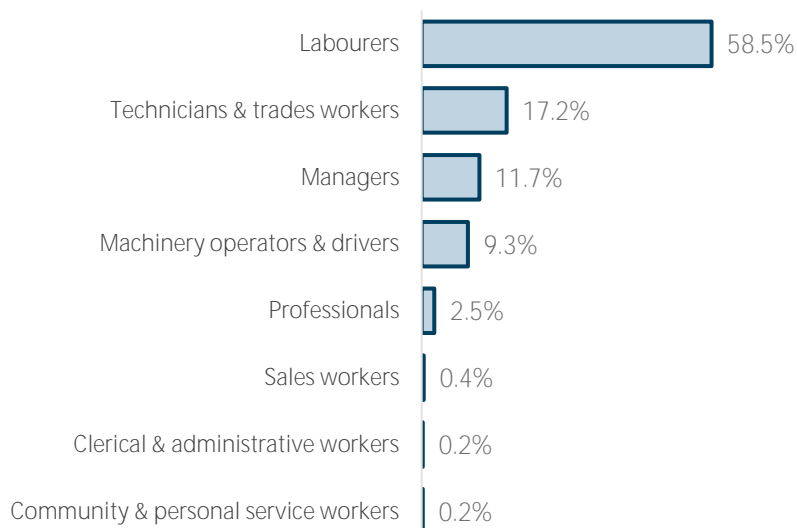
AGE GROUP	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
15-24 years	14.7	19.0	39.0	n/a
25-34 years	15.0	14.9	16.6	n/a
35-44 years	10.1	9.5	11.8	n/a
45-54 years	12.9	6.0	12.7	n/a
55-64 years	9.4	14.8	11.7	n/a
65+ years	7.3	4.4	8.4	n/a
Total claims	12.1	11.0	15.1	n/a

* The 2023/24 frequency rates were not available at the time of reporting.

Lost-time claims by occupation

OCCUPATION	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
Labourers	320	272	283	276
Technicians & trades workers	100	109	104	81
Managers	33	32	44	55
Machinery operators & drivers	50	82	68	44
Professionals	35	41	13	12
Sales workers	2	2	1	2
Clerical & administrative workers	5	8	4	1
Community & personal service workers	0	3	1	1
Total claims	545	549	518	472

Lost-time claims proportions by occupation 2023/24p



Lost-time claims by nature of injury/disease

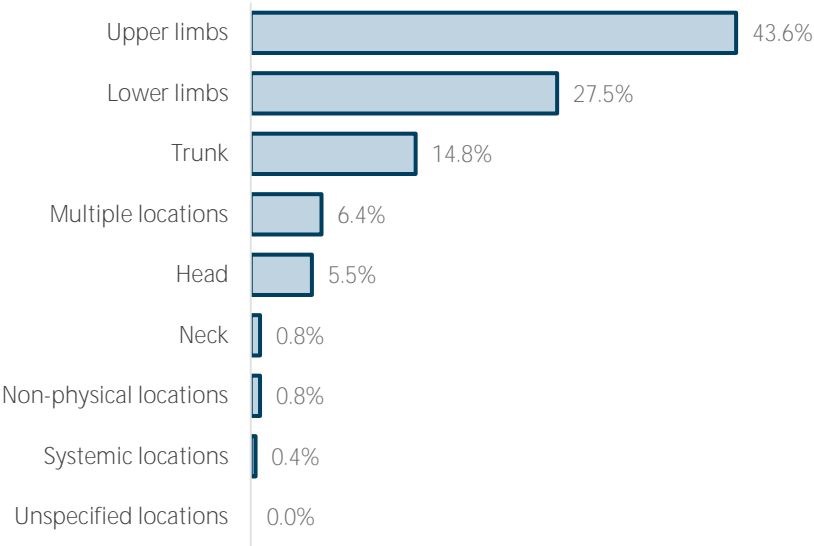
NATURE	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	247	235	206	177
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	133	125	135	117
Fractures	106	122	110	101
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	18	33	21	31
Burn	4	7	4	12
Other injuries	12	9	19	12
Intracranial injuries	8	3	8	11
Digestive system diseases	2	5	6	5
Mental diseases	3	2	0	4
Infectious & parasitic diseases	0	1	0	1
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	3	3	6	1
Injury to nerves & spinal cord	1	0	0	0
Neoplasms (cancer)	0	2	1	0
Other diseases	0	0	1	0
Respiratory system diseases	1	0	0	0
Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases	7	2	1	0
Total claims	545	549	518	472

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 & fishing industry (37.5%), and showed the same pattern to the overall scheme (48.5%) in 2023/24p.

Lost-time claims by bodily location of injury/disease

LOCATION	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
Upper limbs	232	234	231	206
Lower limbs	158	150	140	130
Trunk	86	105	84	70
Multiple locations	35	29	25	30
Head	27	23	32	26
Neck	3	4	5	4
Non-physical locations	3	2	0	4
Systemic locations	1	1	1	2
Unspecified locations	0	1	0	0
Total claims	545	549	518	472

Lost-time claims proportions by bodily location of injury/disease 2023/24p

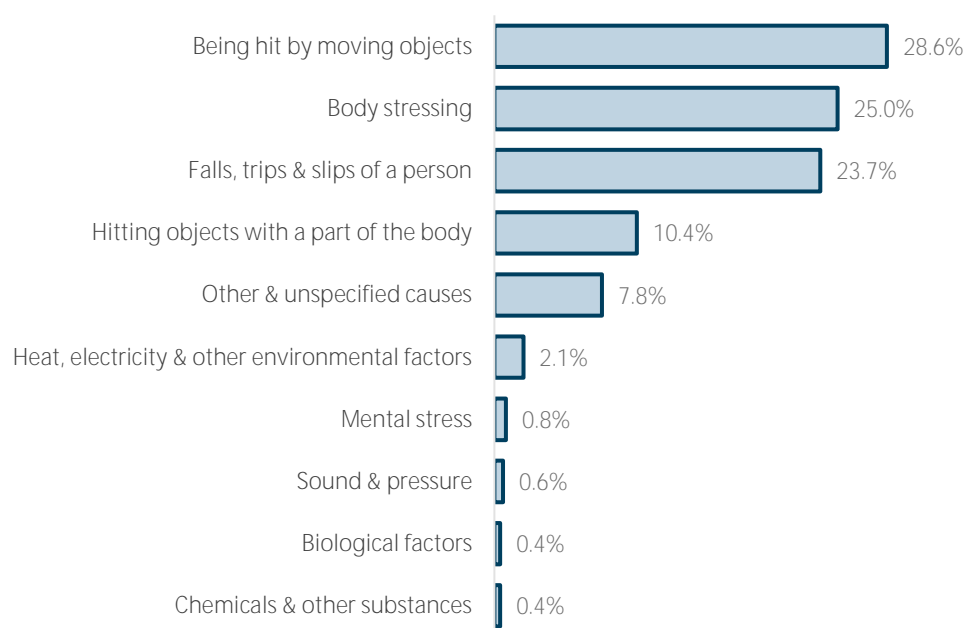


Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 71.2% of total claims lodged in 2023/24p.

Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
Being hit by moving objects	173	162	158	135
Body stressing	141	163	146	118
Falls, trips & slips of a person	136	128	122	112
Hitting objects with a part of the body	45	53	46	49
Other & unspecified causes	33	26	30	37
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	5	6	3	10
Mental stress	3	2	0	4
Sound & pressure	1	1	2	3
Biological factors	5	1	2	2
Chemicals & other substances	3	7	9	2
Total claims	545	549	518	472

Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2023/24p

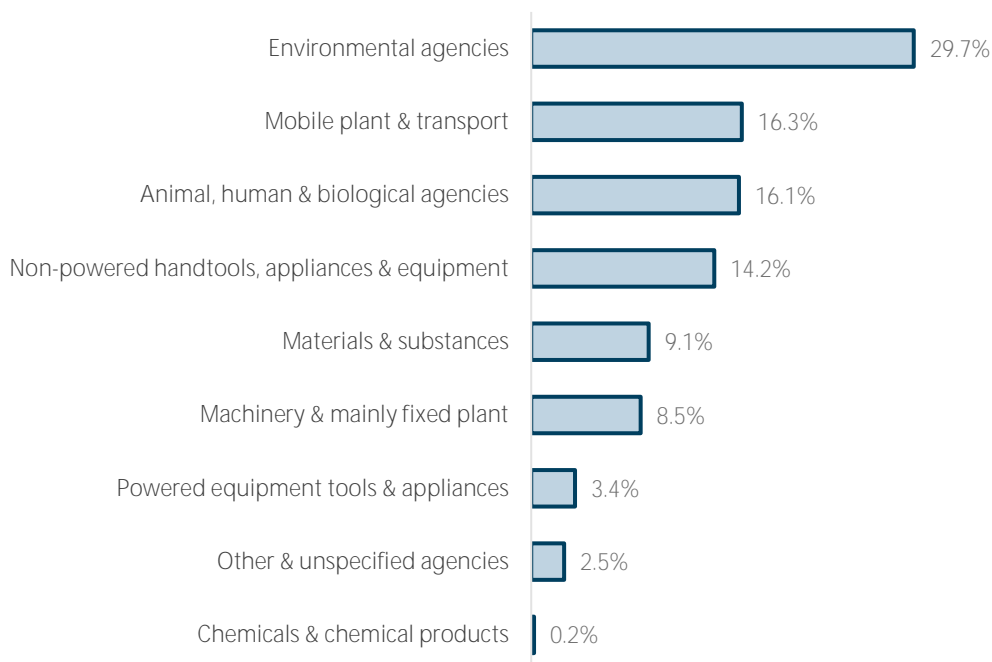


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Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease

AGENCY	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24p
Environmental agencies	164	153	148	140
Mobile plant & transport	81	87	65	77
Animal, human & biological agencies	88	71	71	76
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	84	85	86	67
Materials & substances	59	64	59	43
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	41	41	51	40
Powered equipment tools & appliances	16	29	18	16
Other & unspecified agencies	12	12	9	12
Chemicals & chemical products	0	7	11	1
Total claims	545	549	518	472

Lost-time claims proportions by agency of injury/disease 2023/24p



TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
Act	This report is based on the <i>Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981</i> , as it was in effect during the period covered by this report (up to 30 June 2024). Future reports will reflect the changes introduced by the new <i>Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023</i> , which took effect from 1 July 2024.
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>
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	<p>Payments made directly to the worker either by income replacement (payments made for absences from work) or lump sums such as:</p> <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.

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
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.
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).
Worker	<p>As defined in Section 5 of the <i>Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981</i>, a worker is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.