

# Industry Statistical Report

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

2024/25

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






Industry Statistical Report: 2024/25  
Agriculture, forestry & fishing

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Queries should be directed to:

Data and Analytics Branch  
Corporate Services Division  
WorkCover WA

 Advice and Assistance: 1300 794 744  
 [communications@workcover.wa.gov.au](mailto:communications@workcover.wa.gov.au)  
 [workcover.wa.gov.au](http://workcover.wa.gov.au)

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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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## Industry Statistical Report

### WorkCover WA

WorkCover WA is the government agency responsible for overseeing the workers compensation and injury management scheme in Western Australia, constituted under the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023*.

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 (2024/25p) 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.

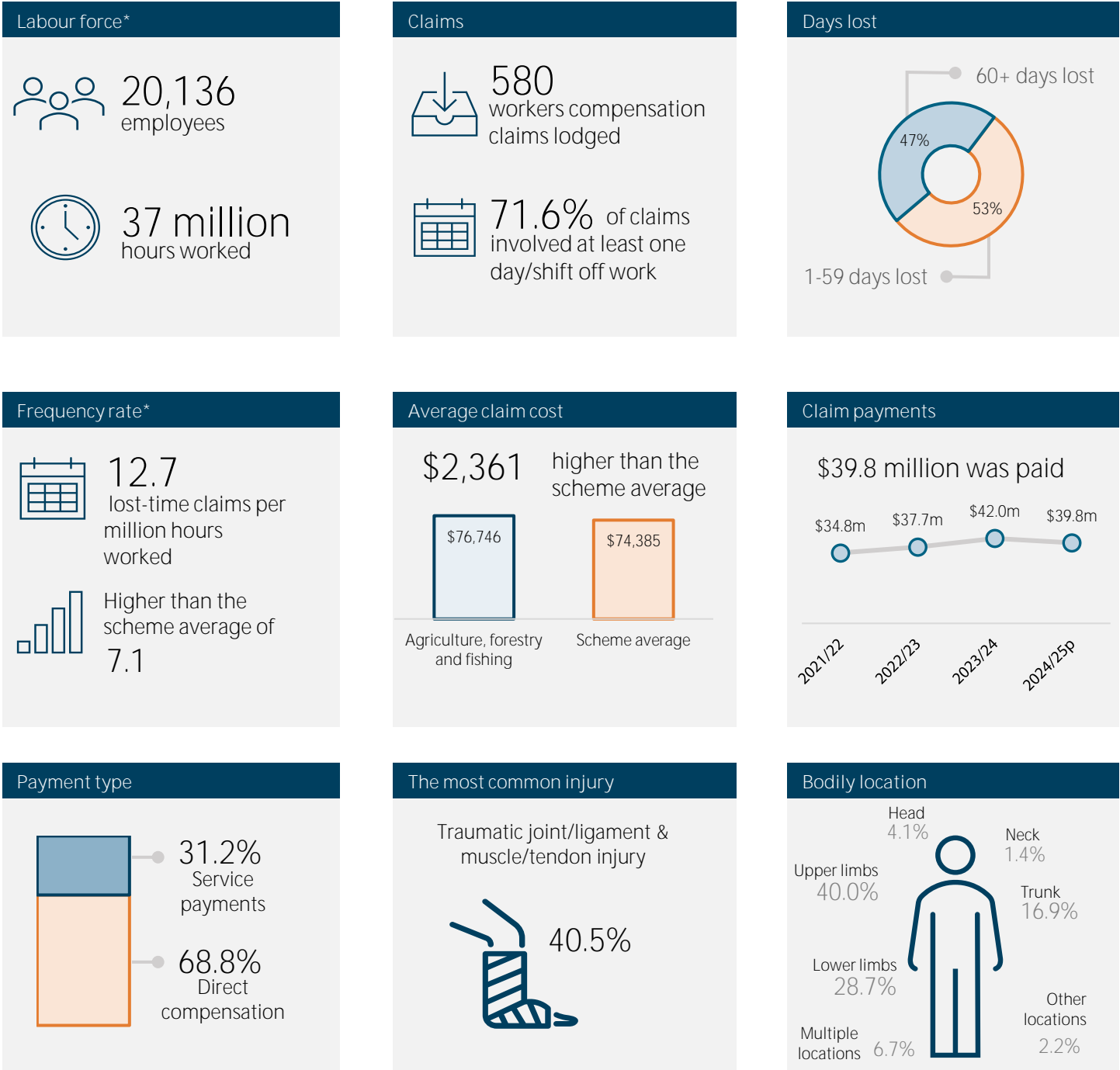
Frequency rates are based on the latest available data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which lags by one year from this report's timeframe.

# AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

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.

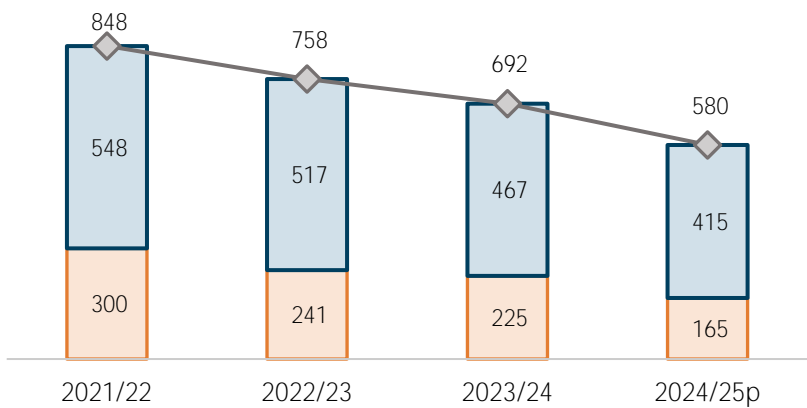
This industry includes businesses mainly engaged in heritage, creative and performing arts, sports and recreation, and gambling activities.

## Agriculture, forestry & fishing at a glance 2024/25p



\* Based on 2023/24, as 2024/25 was not available at the time of reporting.

Claim numbers number of claims lodged by lost-time

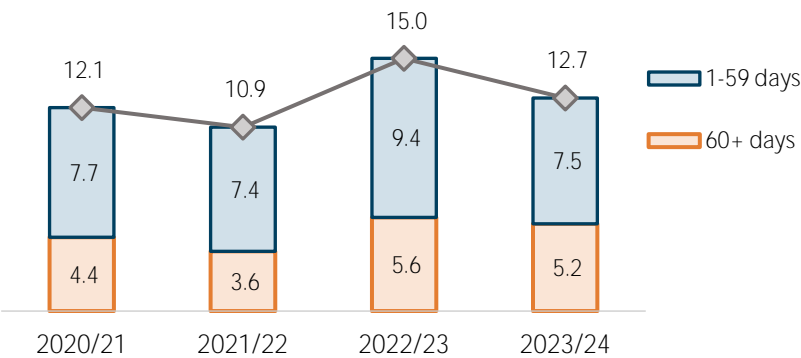


**All claims**  
Total claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry show a decreasing trend (-31.6%) over the last four years.

**Lost-time claims**  
Lost-time claims averaged 487 claims between 2021/22 to 2024/25p.

**No lost-time claims**  
Claims with no time off work decreased (-45.0%) 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 2024/25 frequency rates were not available at the time of reporting.

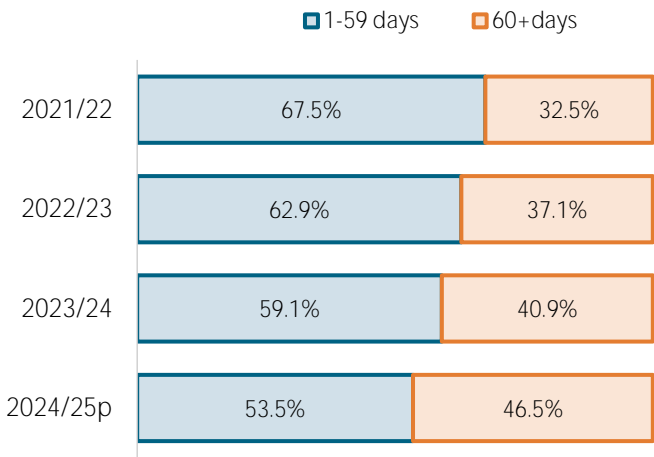
The frequency rate for the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry was 12.7 lost-time claims per million hours worked, compared to the scheme average of 7.1 for 2023/24.

# AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

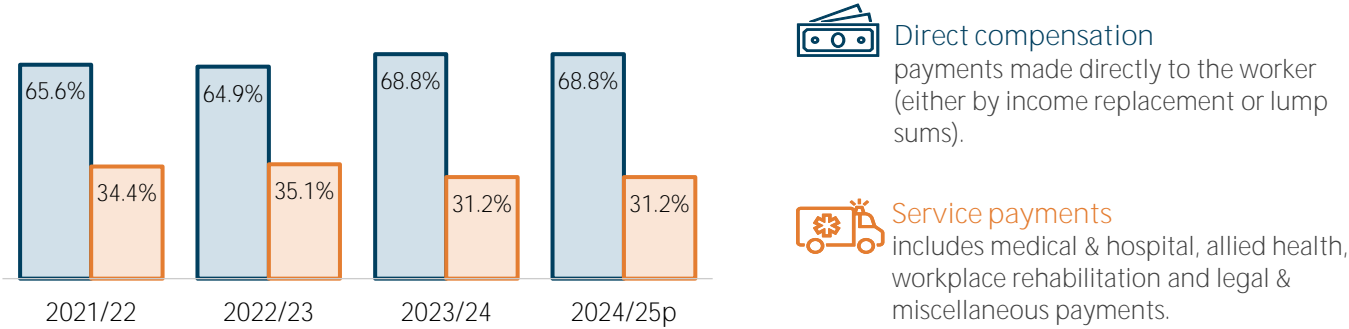
DAYS LOST	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
0 days	300	241	225	165
1 - 4 days	70	73	43	43
5 - 19 days	165	130	118	95
20 - 59 days	135	122	115	84
60 - 119 days	74	74	72	78
120 - 179 days	25	33	23	43
180+ days	79	85	96	72
Total claims	848	758	692	580

Lost-time claims proportions by days lost

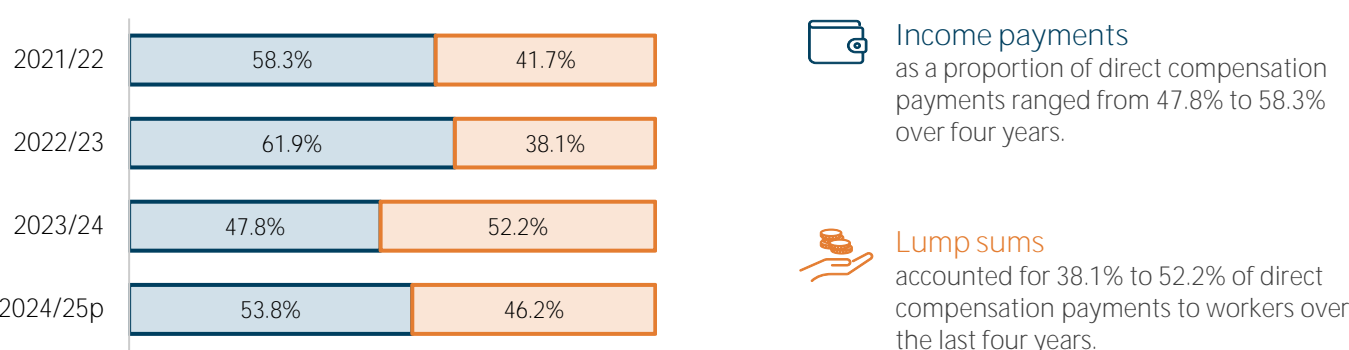


Agriculture, forestry & fishing accounted for 2.3% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p in the WA workers compensation scheme.

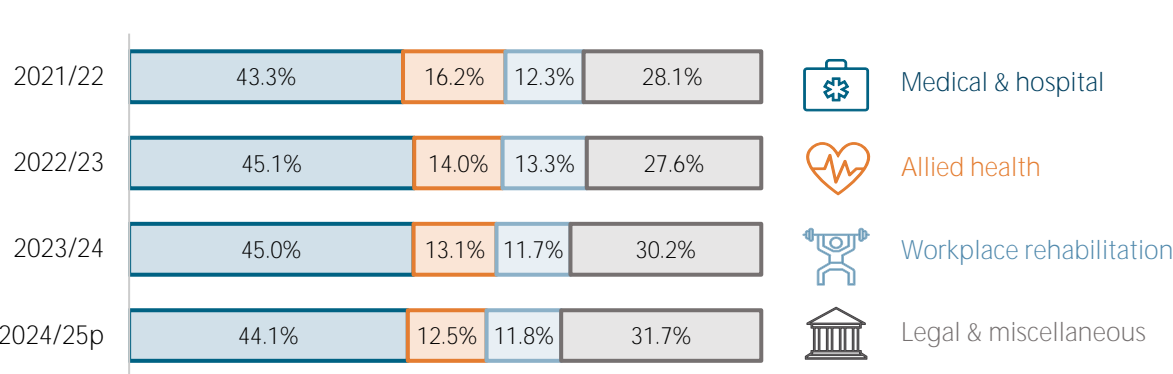
Total claim payments proportions by payment group



Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type



Service payments proportions by payment type





# AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

## Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

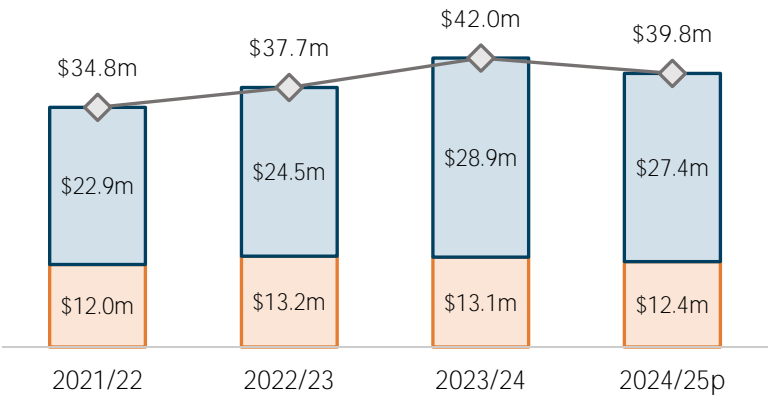
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
DIRECT COMPENSATION				
Income payments	\$13.3m	\$15.2m	\$13.8m	\$14.7m
Lump sums	\$9.5m	\$9.3m	\$15.1m	\$12.6m
SERVICE PAYMENTS				
Medical & hospital	\$5.2m	\$6.0m	\$5.9m	\$5.5m
Allied health*	\$1.9m	\$1.8m	\$1.7m	\$1.5m
Workplace rehabilitation	\$1.5m	\$1.8m	\$1.5m	\$1.5m
Legal & miscellaneous	\$3.4m	\$3.6m	\$4.0m	\$3.9m
Total claim payments	\$34.8m	\$37.7m	\$42.0m	\$39.8m



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 \$22.9 million in 2021/22 to \$27.4 million in 2024/25p.



Service payments remained stable and stands at \$12.4 million in 2024/25p.

Payments for claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry in 2024/25p totalled \$39.8 million, accounting for 2.6% of total scheme payments.

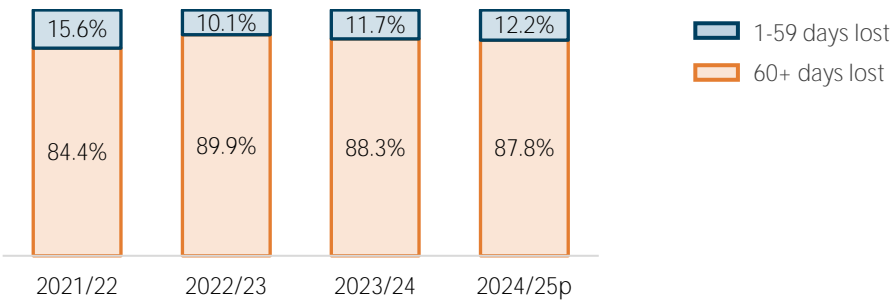
# AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

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

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
1-59 days lost	\$4.9m	\$4.2m	\$4.2m	\$3.9m
60+ days lost	\$26.6m	\$37.7m	\$31.6m	\$28.0m
Total claims	\$31.5m	\$41.9m	\$35.8m	\$31.8m

\* 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

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
1-59 days lost	\$13,247	\$12,999	\$15,200	\$17,553
60+ days lost	\$149,495	\$196,094	\$165,233	\$144,832
Total claims	\$57,503	\$80,996	\$76,563	\$76,746

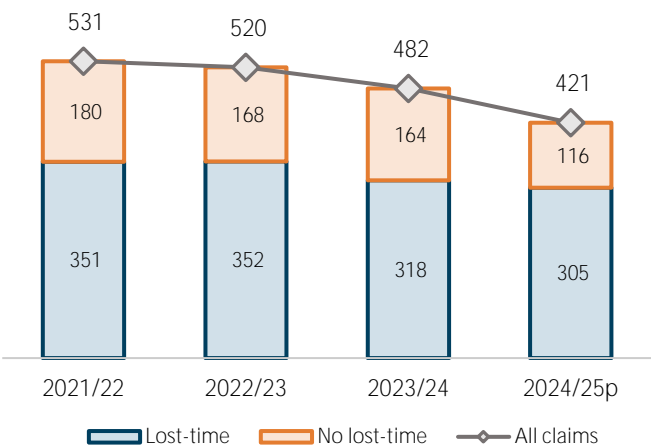
\* Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly for the most recent year.

The average claim cost for Agriculture, forestry & fishing was \$76,746 in 2024/25p, compared with the scheme average of \$74,385.

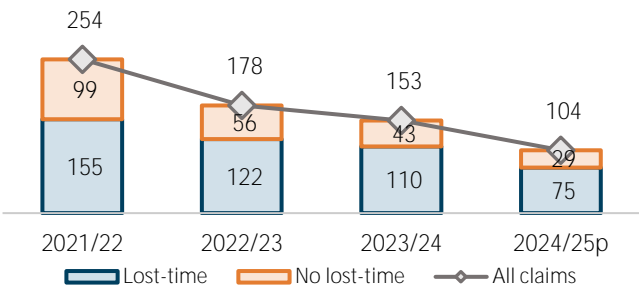
# AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

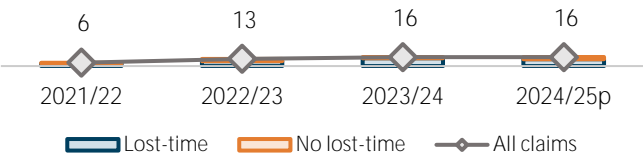
Agriculture



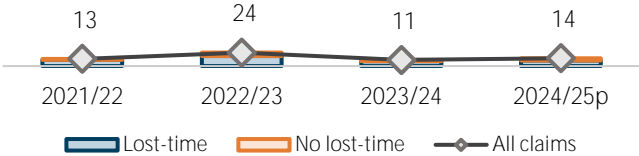
Agriculture, forestry & fishing support services



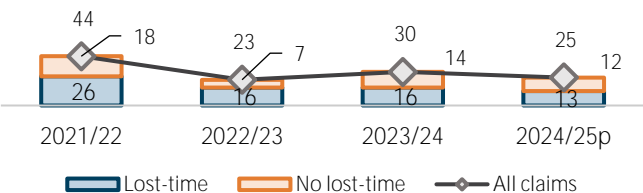
Aquaculture



Fishing, hunting & trapping



Forestry & logging



# AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING

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

SUBDIVISION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Average* frequency rate
Agriculture	351	352	318	305	11.9
1-59 days lost	229	215	189	167	7.4
60+ days lost	122	137	129	138	4.5
Agriculture, forestry & fishing support services	155	122	110	75	20.2
1-59 days lost	111	80	70	37	13.6
60+ days lost	44	42	40	38	6.6
Aquaculture	5	9	14	12	5.8
1-59 days lost	2	9	6	5	3.6
60+ days lost	3	0	8	7	2.3
Fishing, hunting & trapping	11	18	9	10	11.2
1-59 days lost	6	12	4	4	6.5
60+ days lost	5	6	5	6	4.7
Forestry & logging	26	16	16	13	12.7
1-59 days lost	22	9	7	9	8.3
60+ days lost	4	7	9	4	4.4
Total claims	548	517	467	415	12.6
1-59 days lost	370	325	276	222	8.0
60+ days lost	178	192	191	193	4.6

\* The average frequency rate is over three years (2021/22 to 2023/24). The 2024/25 frequency rate was not available at the time of reporting.

Work status rate lost-time claims

Return to work rate	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
at 1 month	67.4%	60.7%	60.3%	56.3%
at 3 months	79.8%	76.4%	77.0%	72.5%
at 6 months	85.8%	84.5%	83.8%	77.2%
at 12 months	88.0%	88.5%	86.7%	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 2023/24, 86.7% of claimants in Agriculture, forestry & fishing returned to work at 12 months after the claim was lodged, on par with the overall scheme (86.4%).

## Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
15-24 years	116	108	104	102
25-34 years	163	133	145	108
35-44 years	86	90	74	70
45-54 years	86	99	64	60
55-64 years	78	67	67	56
65+ years	19	20	12	19
Unknown	0	0	1	0
Total claims	548	517	467	415

## Frequency rate\* by age group

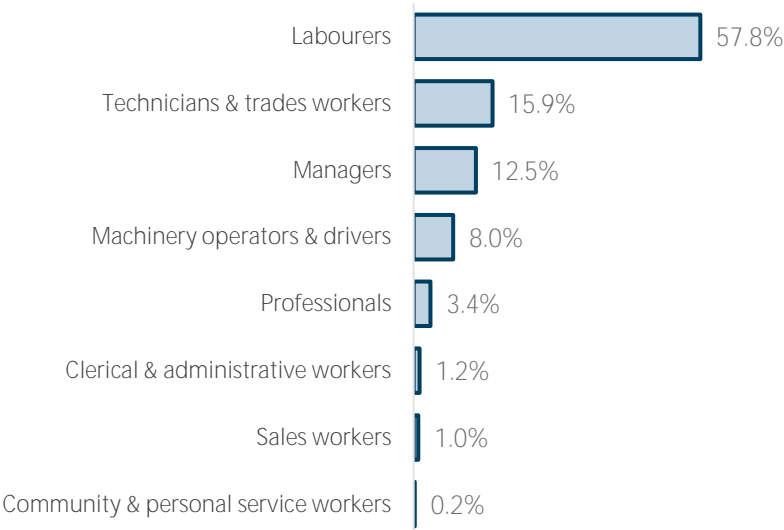
AGE GROUP	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
15-24 years	18.8	39.0	19.7	n/a
25-34 years	15.1	16.6	15.7	n/a
35-44 years	9.5	11.9	10.0	n/a
45-54 years	6.0	12.7	10.2	n/a
55-64 years	14.4	11.4	14.1	n/a
65+ years	4.4	8.4	3.1	n/a
Total claims	10.9	15.0	12.7	n/a

\* The 2024/25 frequency rates were not available at the time of reporting.

Lost-time claims by occupation

OCCUPATION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Labourers	272	284	274	240
Technicians & trades workers	109	103	80	66
Managers	32	43	53	52
Machinery operators & drivers	80	66	43	33
Professionals	42	15	13	14
Clerical & administrative workers	8	4	1	5
Sales workers	2	1	2	4
Community & personal service workers	3	1	1	1
Total claims	548	517	467	415

Lost-time claims proportions by occupation 2024/25p



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

NATURE	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	232	205	174	168
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	125	135	114	98
Fractures	122	110	102	89
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	33	20	30	20
Other injuries	10	19	13	12
Mental diseases	2	0	4	7
Burn	7	5	12	7
Intracranial injuries	3	8	10	5
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	3	6	1	3
Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases	2	1	0	2
Digestive system diseases	5	6	6	2
Respiratory system diseases	0	0	0	1
Infectious & parasitic diseases	1	0	1	1
Other claims	1	0	0	0
Other diseases	0	1	0	0
Neoplasms (cancer)	2	1	0	0
Total claims	548	517	467	415

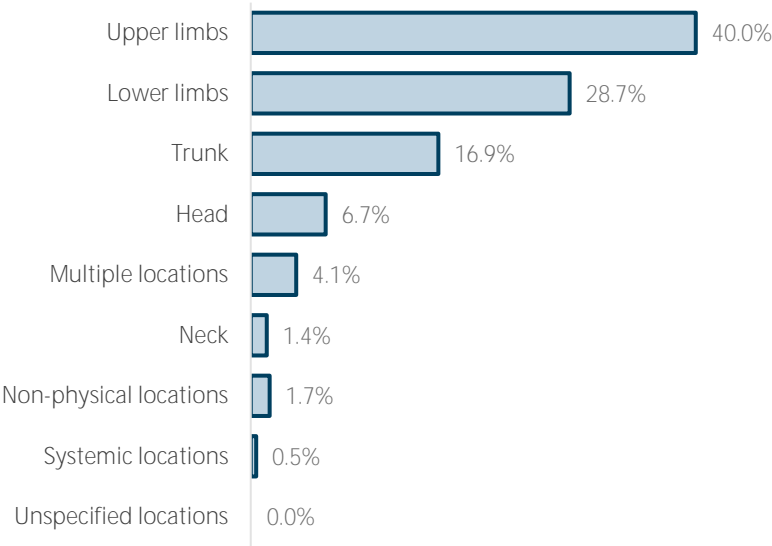
Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continued to be the leading type of injury for claims lodged in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry (40.5%), and showed the same pattern to the overall scheme (48.8%) in 2024/25p.



Lost-time claims by bodily location of injury/disease

LOCATION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Upper limbs	233	228	203	166
Lower limbs	148	139	127	119
Trunk	107	85	70	70
Head	23	33	25	28
Multiple locations	29	26	31	17
Neck	4	5	4	6
Non-physical locations	2	0	4	7
Systemic locations	1	1	3	2
Unspecified locations	1	0	0	0
Total claims	548	517	467	415

Lost-time claims proportions by bodily location of injury/disease 2024/25p

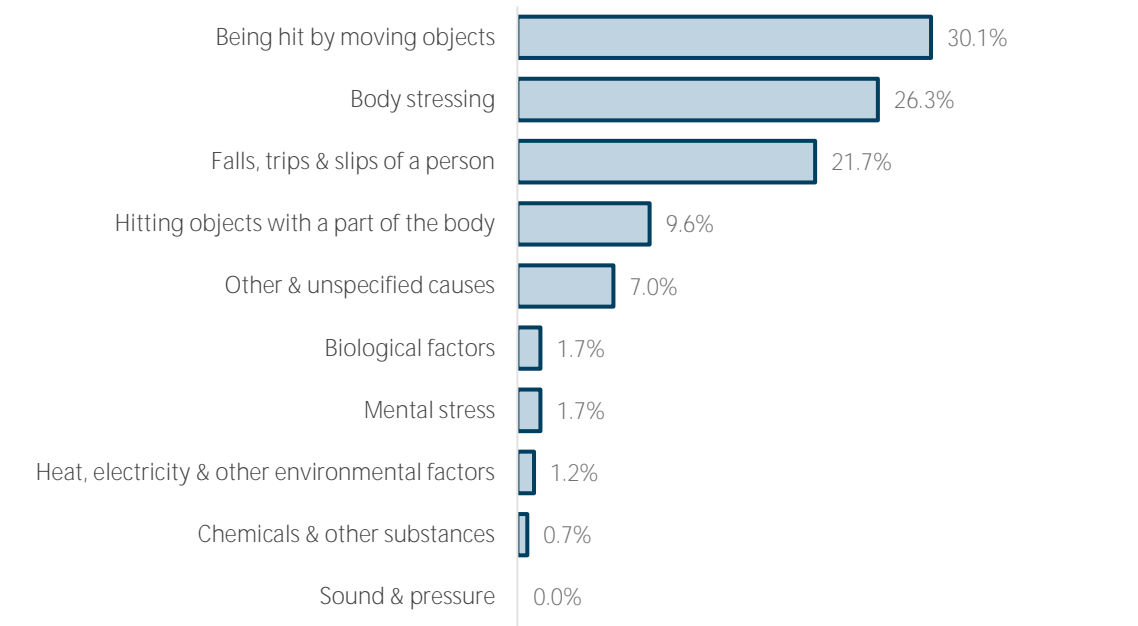


Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 68.7% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p.

Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Being hit by moving objects	162	157	135	125
Body stressing	161	145	120	109
Falls, trips & slips of a person	128	122	108	90
Hitting objects with a part of the body	53	46	46	40
Other & unspecified causes	25	30	36	29
Biological factors	1	2	2	7
Mental stress	2	0	4	7
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	6	4	10	5
Chemicals & other substances	9	9	3	3
Sound & pressure	1	2	3	0
Total claims	548	517	467	415

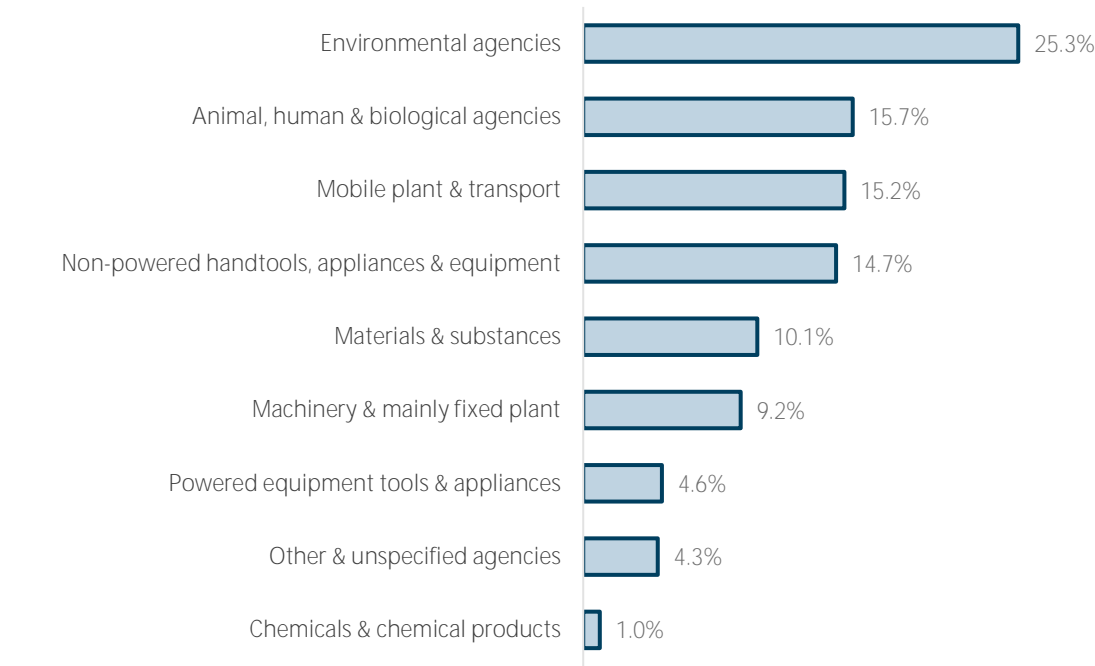
Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2024/25p



Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease

AGENCY	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Environmental agencies	153	148	137	105
Animal, human & biological agencies	71	70	77	65
Mobile plant & transport	85	66	76	63
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	84	85	65	61
Materials & substances	66	59	44	42
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	41	51	40	38
Powered equipment tools & appliances	29	18	16	19
Other & unspecified agencies	12	9	11	18
Chemicals & chemical products	7	11	1	4
Total claims	548	517	467	415

Lost-time claims proportions by agency of injury/disease 2024/25p



TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
Act	This report is based on the <i>Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023</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>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"> <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>
Claim payments	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 sum settlement.
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 ( <a href="http://abs.gov.au">abs.gov.au</a> ).

TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
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> ( <a href="http://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="http://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="http://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>
Worker	<p>Under the <i>Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023</i>, a 'worker' is defined in section 12 and related regulations primarily any person working under a contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer. Additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Certain contractors are also deemed workers if all of the following apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The work is not in the course of or incidental to a trade or business regularly carried on by the individual in their own name or under a business/firm name.</li> <li>2. The individual does not sublet the contract.</li> <li>3. If the individual employs a worker, they perform part of the work personally</li> <li>4. NDIS support workers are deemed workers if engaged under self-managed or plan-managed arrangements.</li> <li>5. Labour hire workers are covered; the labour hire company is considered the employer.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>