



# Industry Statistical Report

Construction

2024/25

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

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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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# INTRODUCTION

## 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.

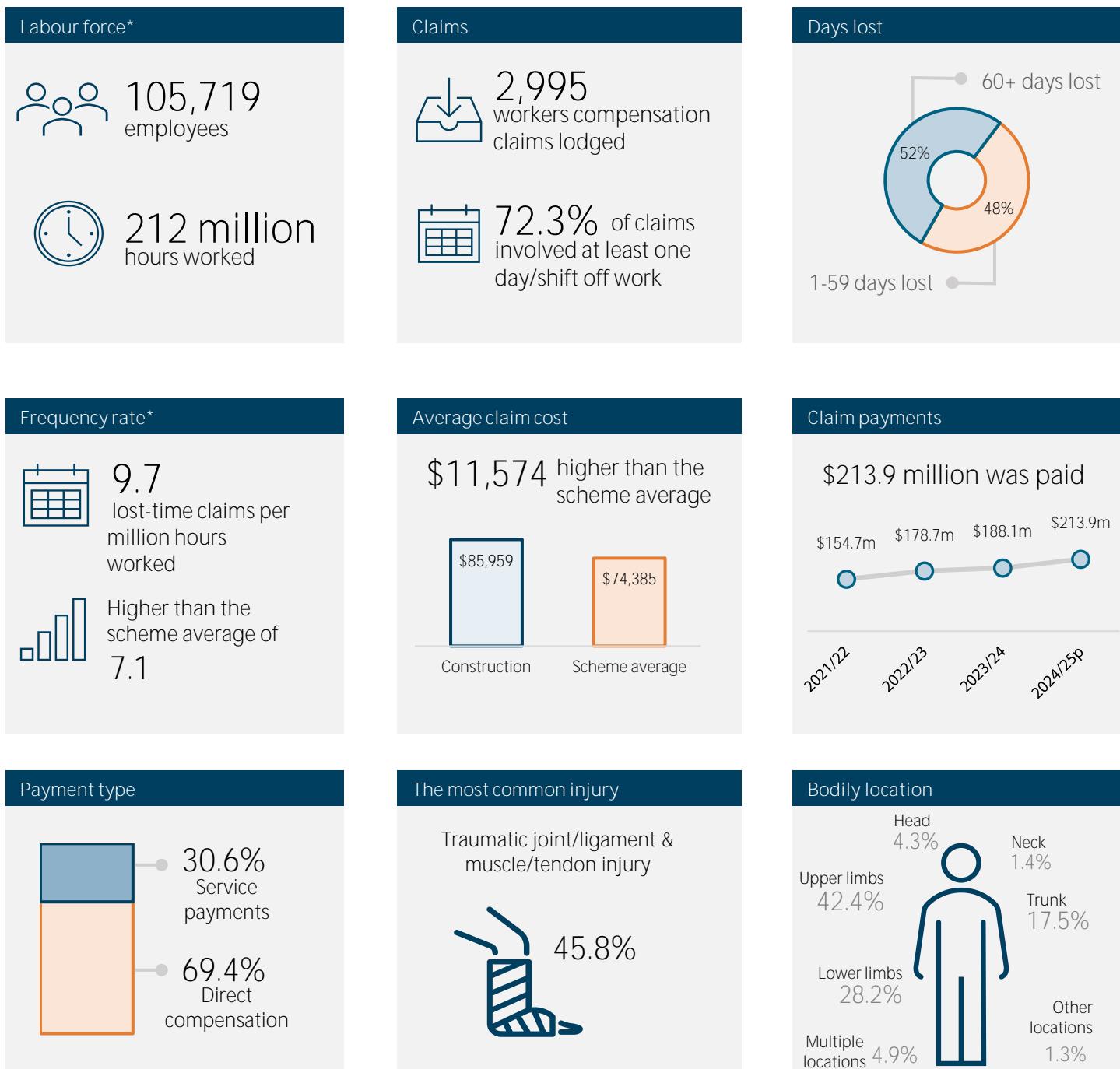
Frequency rates are based on the latest available data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which lags by one year from this report's timeframe.

# CONSTRUCTION

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

This industry includes building construction, heavy and civil engineering construction, and construction services (land development and site preparation, building structure, building installation, building completion, and other construction services).

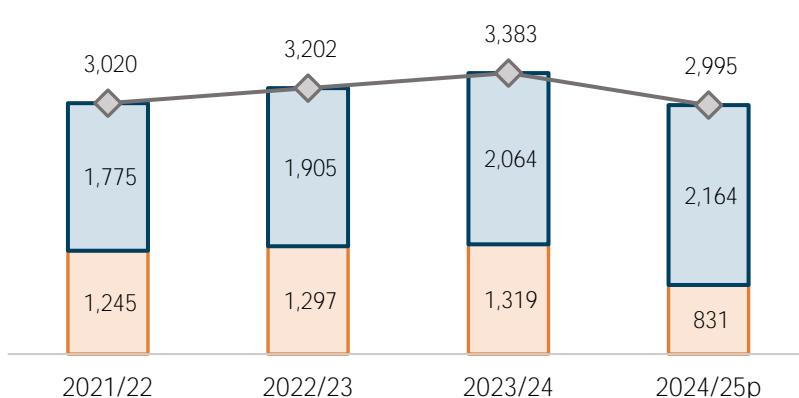
## Construction at a glance 2024/25p



\* Based on 2023/23, as 2024/25 was not available at the time of reporting.

# CONSTRUCTION

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



### ■ All claims

Total claims in the Construction industry decreased (-0.8%) from 2021/22 to 2024/25p.

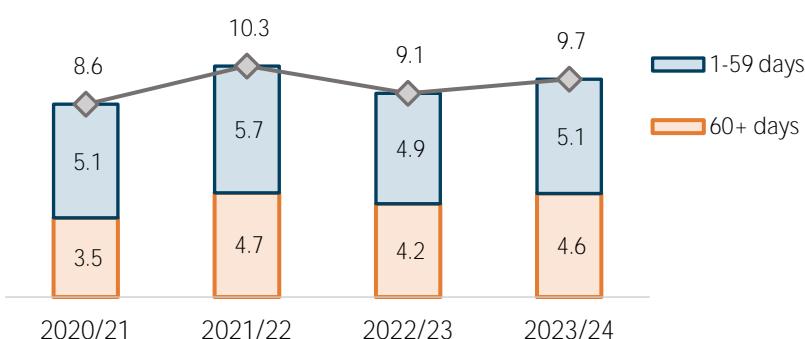
### ■ Lost-time claims

Lost-time claims averaged 1,977 claims between 2021/22 to 2024/25p.

### ■ No lost-time claims

Claims with no time off work decreased (-33.3%) 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.

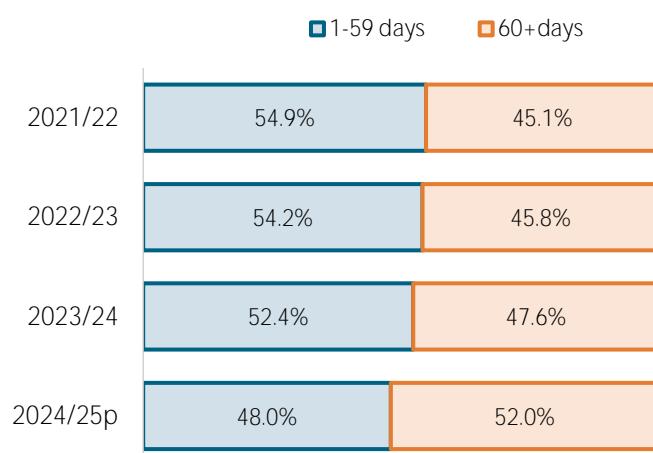
The frequency rate for the Construction industry was 9.7 lost-time claims per million hours worked, compared to the scheme average of 7.1 for 2023/24.

# CONSTRUCTION

## Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

DAYS LOST	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
0 days	1,245	1,297	1,319	831
1 - 4 days	181	157	141	147
5 - 19 days	360	371	464	431
20 - 59 days	433	504	476	461
60 - 119 days	293	299	298	404
120 - 179 days	139	131	152	264
180+ days	369	443	533	457
Total claims	3,020	3,202	3,383	2,995

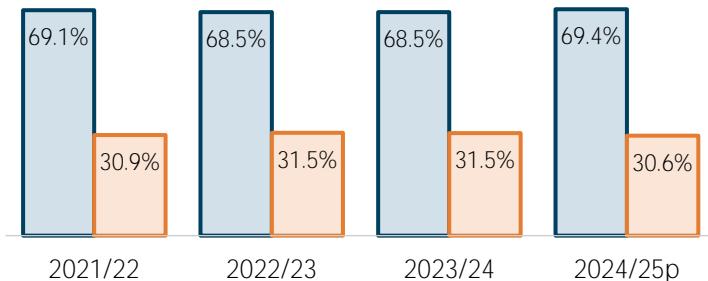
## Lost-time claims proportions by days lost



Construction accounted for 11.8% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p in the WA workers compensation scheme.

# CONSTRUCTION

## Total claim payments proportions by payment group



### Direct compensation

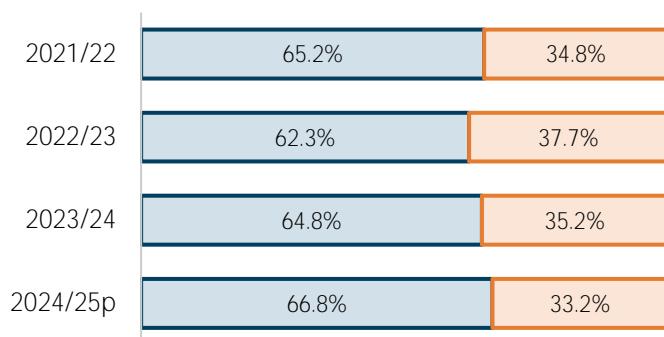
payments made directly to the worker (either by income replacement or lump sums).



### Service payments

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

## Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type



### Income payments

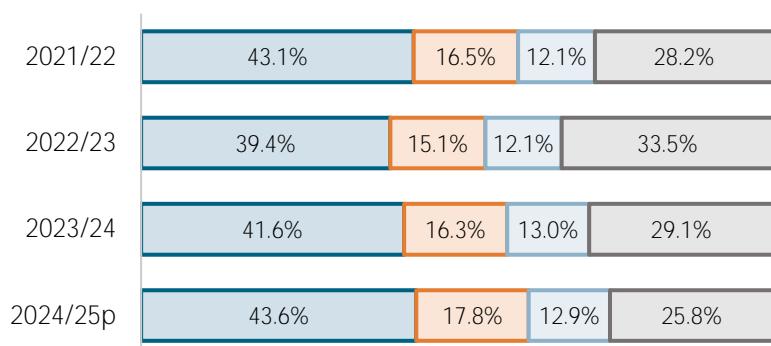
as a proportion of direct compensation payments ranged from 62.3% to 66.8% over four years.



### Lump sums

accounted for 33.2% to 37.7% 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

# CONSTRUCTION

## Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
DIRECT COMPENSATION				
Income payments	\$69.7m	\$76.3m	\$83.5m	\$99.1m
Lump sums	\$37.2m	\$46.1m	\$45.4m	\$49.3m
SERVICE PAYMENTS				
Medical & hospital	\$20.6m	\$22.2m	\$24.6m	\$28.5m
Allied health*	\$7.9m	\$8.5m	\$9.6m	\$11.6m
Workplace rehabilitation	\$5.8m	\$6.8m	\$7.7m	\$8.4m
Legal & miscellaneous	\$13.5m	\$18.8m	\$17.2m	\$16.9m
Total claim payments	\$154.7m	\$178.7m	\$188.1m	\$213.9m



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 \$106.9 million in 2021/22 to \$148.4 million in 2024/25p.



Service payments increased from \$47.8 million in 2021/22 and stands at \$65.5 million in 2024/25p.

Payments for claims in the Construction industry in 2024/25p totalled \$213.9 million, accounting for 14.1% of total scheme payments.

# CONSTRUCTION

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

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
1-59 days lost	\$15.3m	\$16.8m	\$17.2m	\$21.8m
60+ days lost	\$133.2m	\$167.5m	\$182.8m	\$164.2m
Total claims	\$148.6m	\$184.4m	\$200.0m	\$186.0m

\* 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	\$15,754	\$16,313	\$15,927	\$20,984
60+ days lost	\$166,335	\$191,906	\$185,916	\$145,968
Total claims	\$83,706	\$96,781	\$96,886	\$85,959

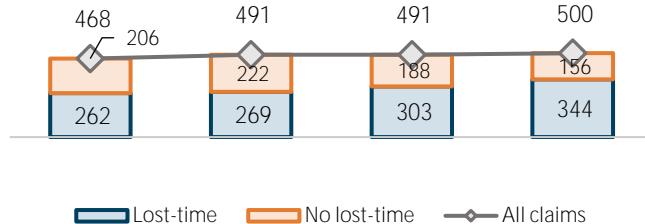
\* Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly for the most recent year.

The average claim cost for Construction was \$85,959 in 2024/25p, compared with the scheme average of \$74,385.

# CONSTRUCTION

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

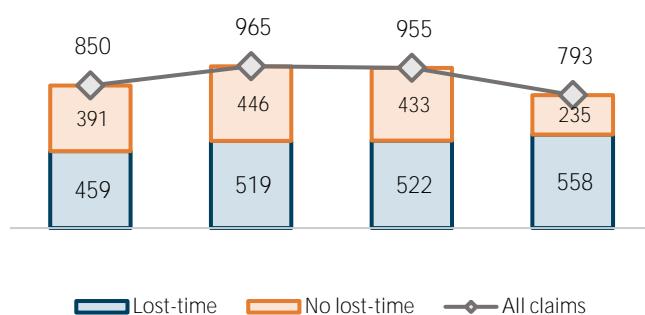
Building construction



Construction services



Heavy and civil engineering construction



# CONSTRUCTION

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

SUBDIVISION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p	Average* frequency rate
Building construction	262	269	303	344	7.1
1-59 days lost	148	154	157	160	3.9
60+ days lost	114	115	146	184	3.2
Construction services	1,054	1,117	1,239	1,262	9.4
1-59 days lost	567	608	657	619	5.1
60+ days lost	487	509	582	643	4.4
Heavy and civil engineering construction	459	519	522	558	13.1
1-59 days lost	259	270	267	260	7.0
60+ days lost	200	249	255	298	6.2
Total claims	1,775	1,905	2,064	2,164	9.7
1-59 days lost	974	1,032	1,081	1,039	5.2
60+ days lost	801	873	983	1,125	4.5

\* 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.

# CONSTRUCTION

## Work status rate lost-time claims

Return to work rate	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
at 1 month	65.5%	63.4%	65.0%	63.2%
at 3 months	77.9%	77.8%	77.2%	75.0%
at 6 months	85.6%	86.1%	84.7%	81.4%
at 12 months	86.0%	86.5%	85.1%	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, 85.1% of claimants in Construction returned to work at 12 months after the claim was lodged, lower than the overall scheme (86.4%).

# CONSTRUCTION

## Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
15-24 years	324	411	374	426
25-34 years	421	434	518	535
35-44 years	355	360	439	475
45-54 years	357	353	371	367
55-64 years	263	292	292	297
65+ years	55	55	70	64
Total claims	1,775	1,905	2,064	2,164

## Frequency rate\* by age group

AGE GROUP	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
15-24 years	14.2	12.5	10.5	n/a
25-34 years	9.2	7.0	9.2	n/a
35-44 years	8.2	7.1	8.0	n/a
45-54 years	10.9	10.0	9.7	n/a
55-64 years	11.7	12.7	12.1	n/a
65+ years	10.8	9.6	22.9	n/a
Total claims	10.3	9.1	9.7	n/a

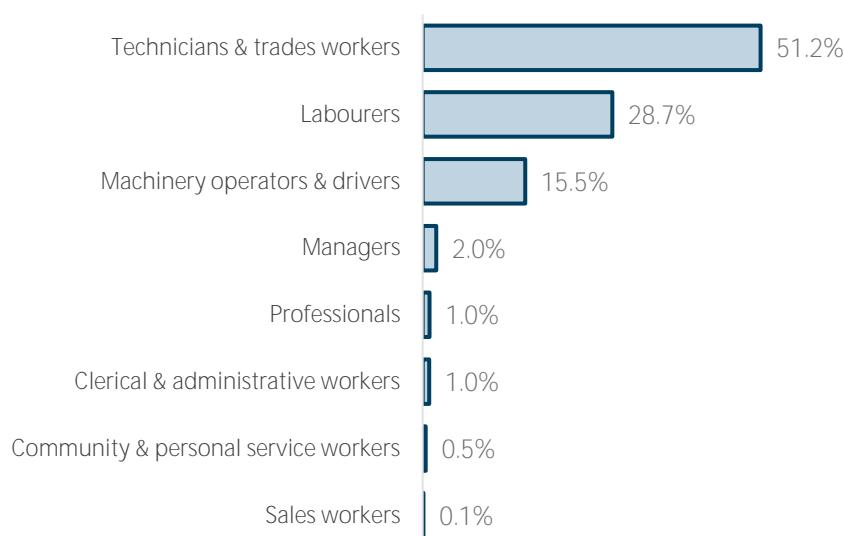
\* The 2024/25 frequency rates were not available at the time of reporting.

# CONSTRUCTION

## Lost-time claims by occupation

OCCUPATION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Technicians & trades workers	890	982	1,043	1,107
Labourers	513	532	586	621
Machinery operators & drivers	313	313	342	336
Managers	32	38	50	44
Professionals	8	19	11	22
Clerical & administrative workers	12	14	26	21
Community & personal service workers	3	5	1	10
Sales workers	4	2	5	3
Total claims	1,775	1,905	2,064	2,164

## Lost-time claims proportions by occupation 2024/25p



# CONSTRUCTION

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

NATURE	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	845	845	945	991
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	389	451	446	482
Fractures	313	374	378	378
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	72	84	136	131
Digestive system diseases	32	28	36	42
Other injuries/diseases	34	35	39	36
Burn	18	33	34	33
Intracranial injuries	22	16	19	27
Mental diseases	15	14	13	23
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	6	19	10	12
Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases	8	1	5	8
Infectious & parasitic diseases	20	1	0	1
Respiratory system diseases	0	0	1	0
Neoplasms (cancer)	0	0	1	0
Circulatory system diseases	1	1	1	0
Injury to nerves & spinal cord	0	3	0	0
Total claims	1,775	1,905	2,064	2,164

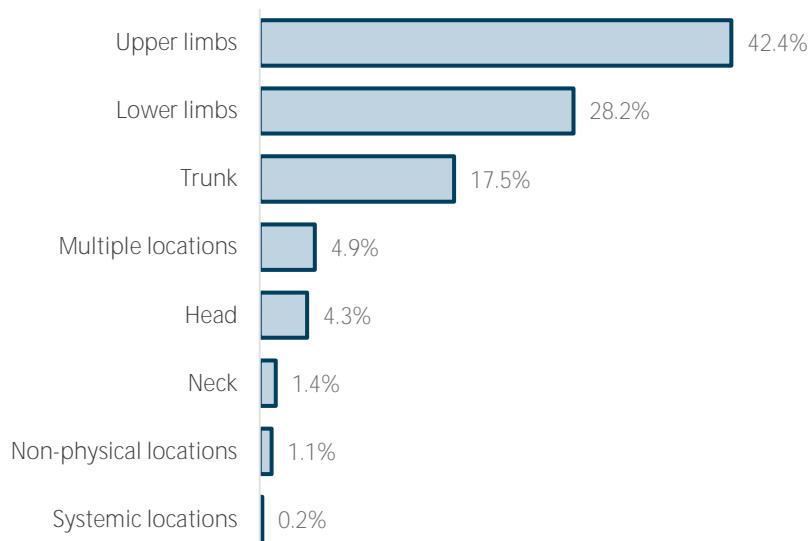
Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continued to be the leading type of injury for claims lodged in the Construction industry (45.8%), and showed the same pattern to the overall scheme (48.8%) in 2024/25p.

# CONSTRUCTION

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

LOCATION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Upper limbs	731	876	908	917
Lower limbs	489	496	561	610
Trunk	325	305	347	378
Multiple locations	87	95	106	107
Head	81	93	89	92
Neck	20	19	31	31
Non-physical locations	15	14	13	23
Systemic locations	27	7	9	5
Total claims	0	0	0	1

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



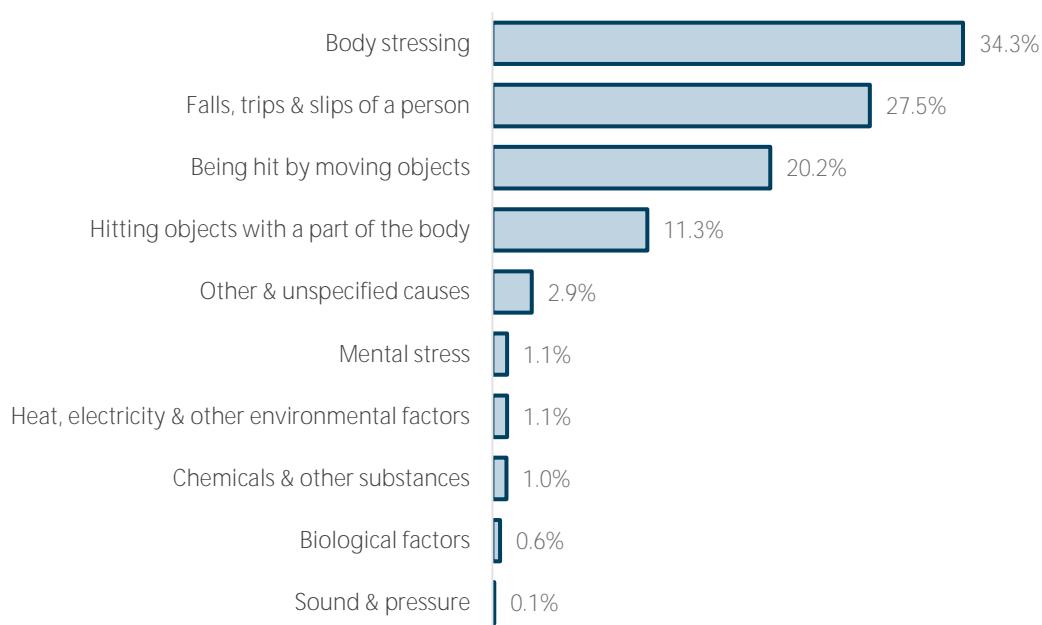
Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for around 70.6% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p.

# CONSTRUCTION

## Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Body stressing	563	572	664	742
Falls, trips & slips of a person	532	538	587	595
Being hit by moving objects	382	447	436	438
Hitting objects with a part of the body	174	225	238	244
Other & unspecified causes	48	53	61	62
Mental stress	15	14	13	23
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	17	23	26	23
Chemicals & other substances	18	27	31	22
Biological factors	26	4	4	12
Sound & pressure	0	2	4	3
Total claims	1,775	1,905	2,064	2,164

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

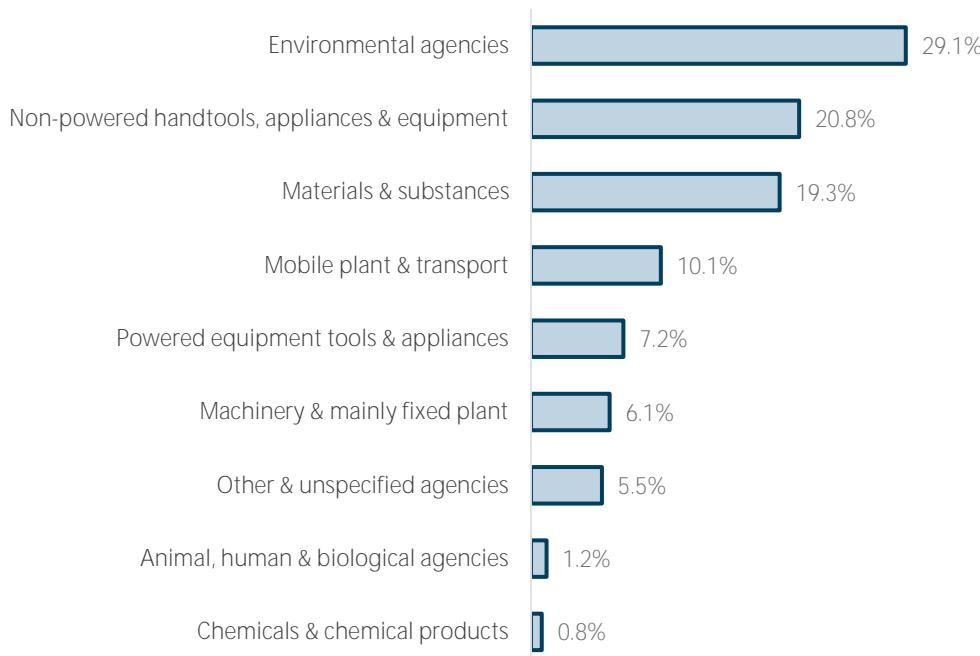


# CONSTRUCTION

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

AGENCY	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Environmental agencies	520	517	593	629
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	385	383	436	450
Materials & substances	342	405	415	417
Mobile plant & transport	184	204	190	218
Powered equipment tools & appliances	137	159	152	155
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	77	105	122	132
Other & unspecified agencies	73	79	93	119
Animal, human & biological agencies	37	29	37	26
Chemicals & chemical products	20	24	26	18
Total claims	1,775	1,905	2,064	2,164

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



# CONSTRUCTION

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	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: <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> Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly the most recent year.
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> ).

# CONSTRUCTION

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>1. 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>