

Industry Statistical Report

Manufacturing

2024/25

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






Industry Statistical Report: 2024/25
Manufacturing

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 ----- INTRODUCTION	5 ----- INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE	6 ----- CLAIM NUMBERS	6 ----- FREQUENCY RATE
7 ----- CLAIM NUMBERS BY DAYS LOST	8 ----- CLAIM PAYMENTS	10 ----- CLAIM COSTS	11 ----- CLAIM NUMBERS BY INDUSTRY SUBDIVISION
14 ----- CLAIM NUMBERS BY INDUSTRY SUBDIVISION BY DAYS LOST	16 ----- WORK STATUS RATE	17 ----- AGE GROUPS	18 ----- OCCUPATION
19 ----- NATURE OF INJURY OR DISEASE	20 ----- BODILY LOCATION	21 ----- MECHANISM OF INCIDENT	22 ----- AGENCY OF INJURY OR DISEASE
23 ----- GLOSSARY			

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.

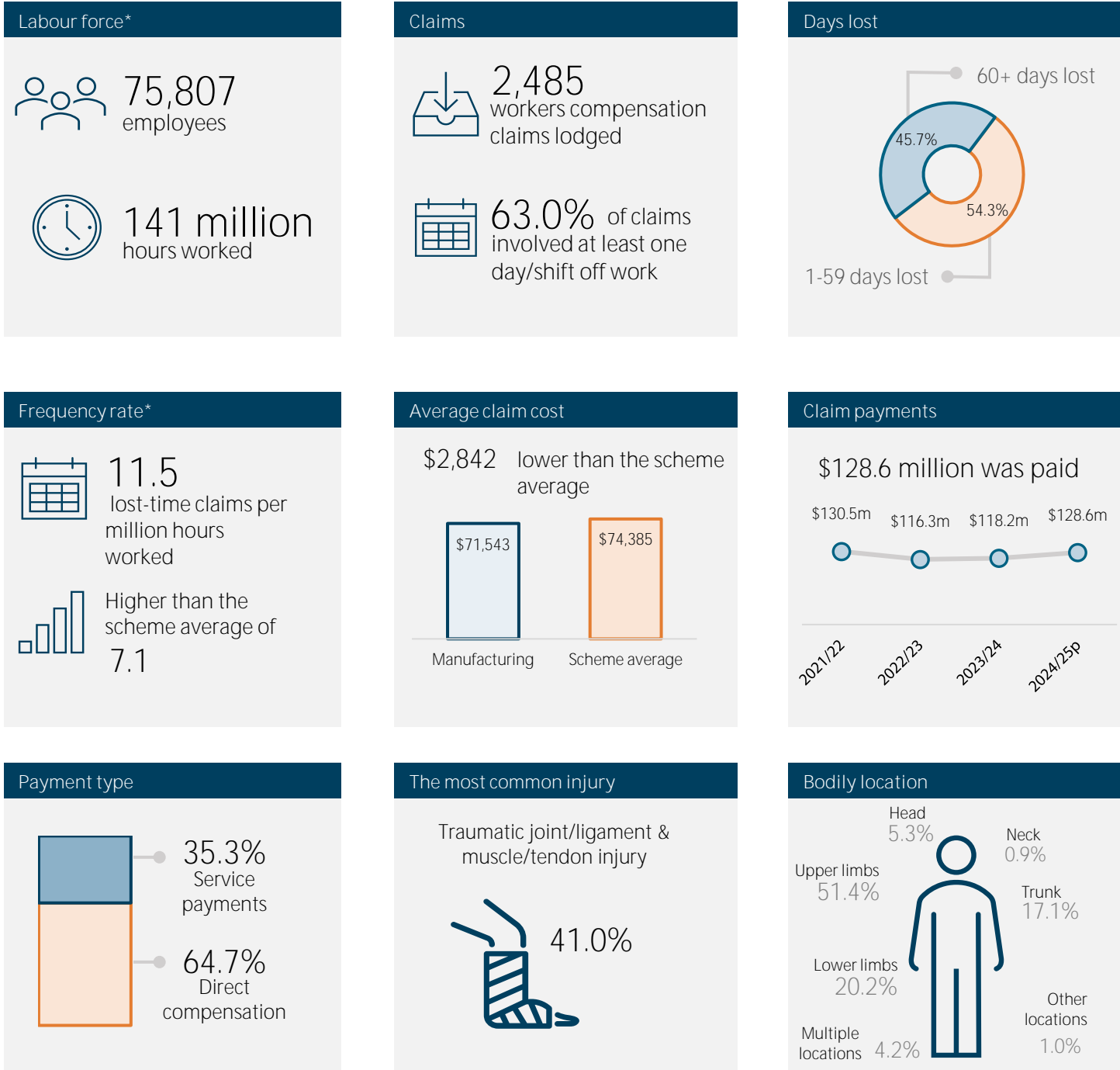
Frequency rates are based on the latest available data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which lags by one year from this report's timeframe.

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

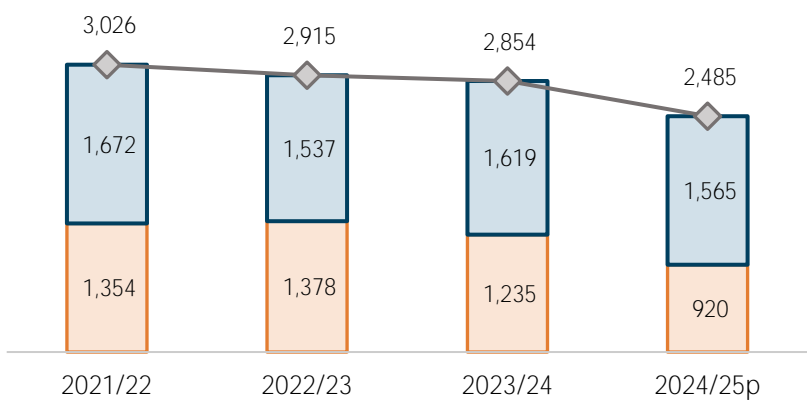
This industry includes food product manufacturing, beverage and tobacco product manufacturing, machinery and equipment, and wood product manufacturing.

Manufacturing at a glance 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

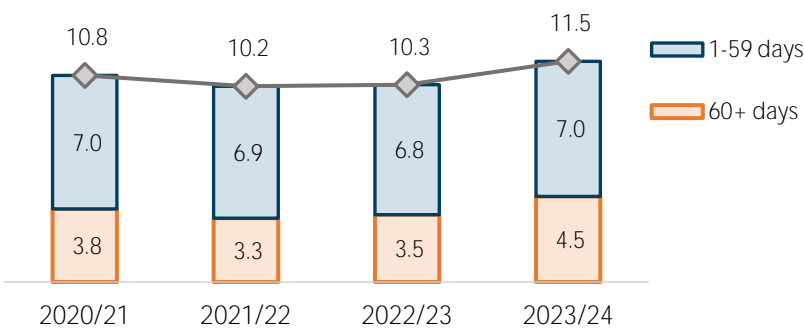


All claims
Total claims in the Manufacturing industry show a steady to increasing trend over the last four years.

Lost-time claims
Lost-time claims averaged 1,598 claims between 2021/22 to 2024/25p.

No lost-time claims
Claims with no time off work decreased (-32.1%) 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.

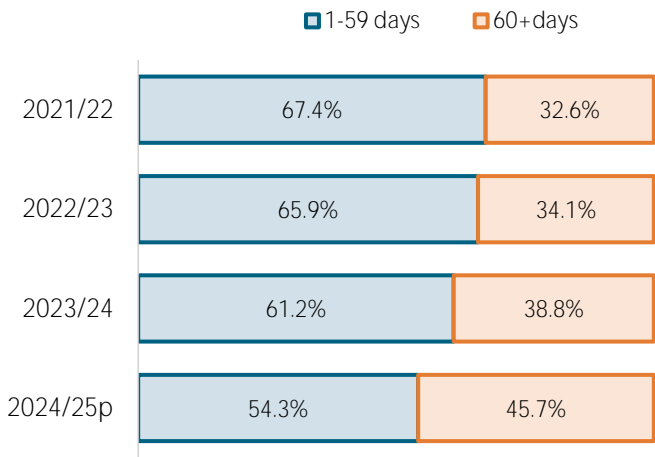
The frequency rate for the Manufacturing industry was 11.5 lost-time claims per million hours worked, compared to the scheme average of 7.1 for 2023/24.

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Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

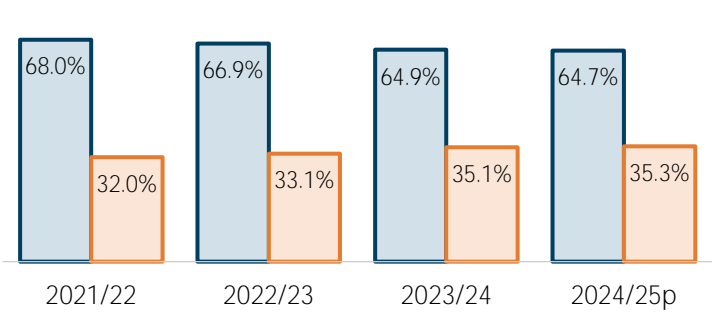
DAYS LOST	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
0 days	1,354	1,378	1,235	920
1 - 4 days	269	246	233	182
5 - 19 days	469	386	408	351
20 - 59 days	389	381	350	317
60 - 119 days	192	181	200	248
120 - 179 days	91	68	120	163
180+ days	262	275	308	304
Total claims	3,026	2,915	2,854	2,485

Lost-time claims proportions by days lost



Manufacturing accounted for 9.8% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p in the WA workers compensation scheme.

Total claim payments proportions by payment group

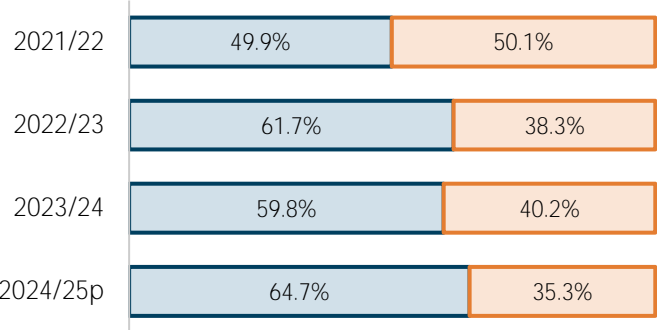


Direct compensation
payments made directly to the worker (either by income replacement or lump sums).



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

Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type

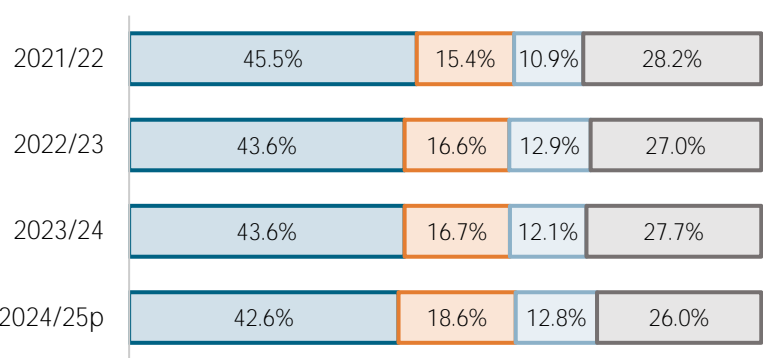


Income payments
as a proportion of direct compensation payments ranged from 49.9% to 64.7% over four years.



Lump sums
accounted for 35.3% to 50.1% 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

MANUFACTURING

Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

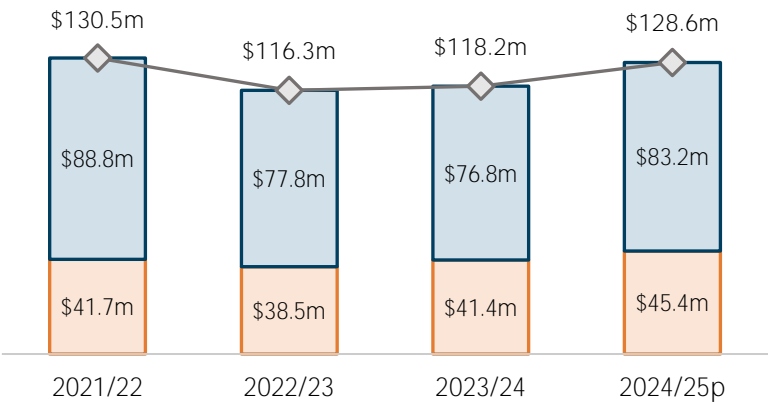
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
DIRECT COMPENSATION				
Income payments	\$44.3m	\$48.0m	\$45.9m	\$53.8m
Lump sums	\$44.5m	\$29.8m	\$30.9m	\$29.3m
SERVICE PAYMENTS				
Medical & hospital	\$19.0m	\$16.8m	\$18.1m	\$19.4m
Allied health*	\$6.4m	\$6.4m	\$6.9m	\$8.4m
Workplace rehabilitation	\$4.6m	\$5.0m	\$5.0m	\$5.8m
Legal & miscellaneous	\$11.7m	\$10.4m	\$11.5m	\$11.8m
Total claim payments	\$130.5m	\$116.3m	\$118.2m	\$128.6m



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 decreased from \$88.8 million in 2021/22 to \$83.2 million in 2024/25p.



Service payments increased and stands at \$45.4 million in 2024/25p.

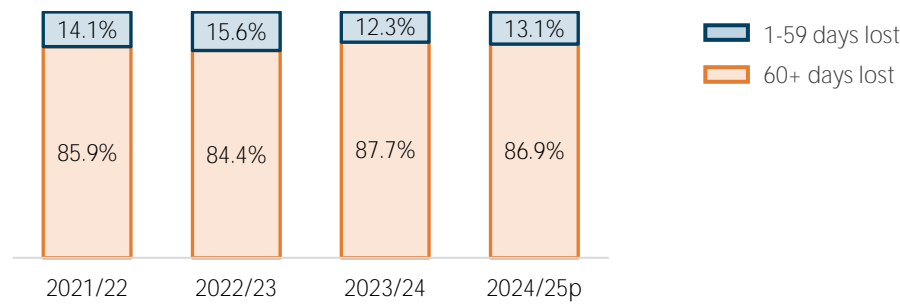
Payments for claims in the Manufacturing industry in 2024/25p totalled \$128.6 million, accounting for 8.5% of total scheme payments.

Claim costs* total claim costs by days lost

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
1-59 days lost	\$15.4m	\$15.9m	\$14.2m	\$14.7m
60+ days lost	\$93.9m	\$85.9m	\$101.9m	\$97.3m
Total claims	\$109.3m	\$101.8m	\$116.2m	\$112.0m

* 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	\$13,672	\$15,696	\$14,370	\$17,296
60+ days lost	\$172,343	\$163,841	\$162,326	\$136,032
Total claims	\$65,392	\$66,202	\$71,761	\$71,543

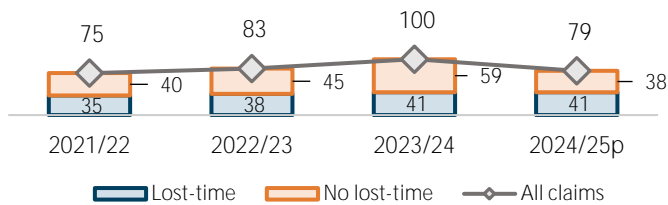
* Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly for the most recent year.

The average claim cost for Manufacturing was \$71,543 in 2024/25p, compared with the scheme average of \$74,385.

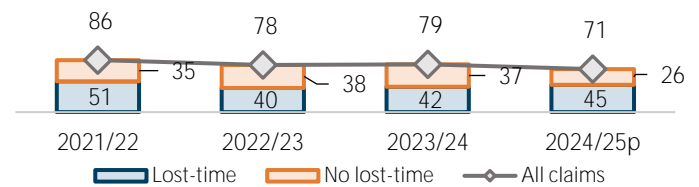
MANUFACTURING

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

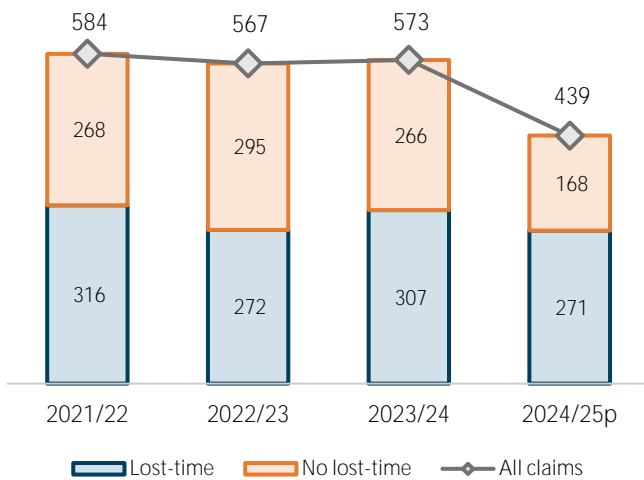
Basic chemical & chemical product manufacturing



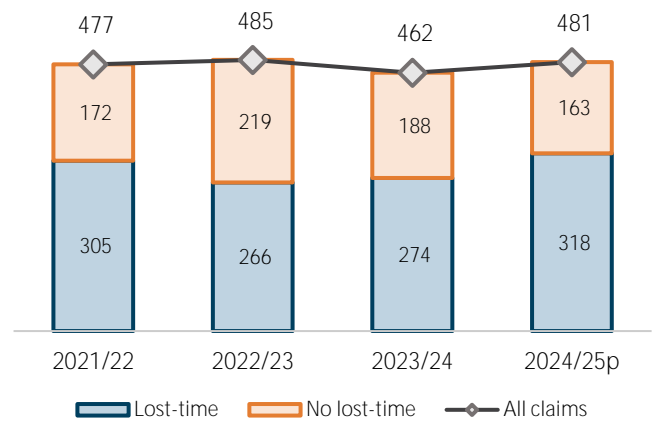
Beverage & tobacco product manufacturing



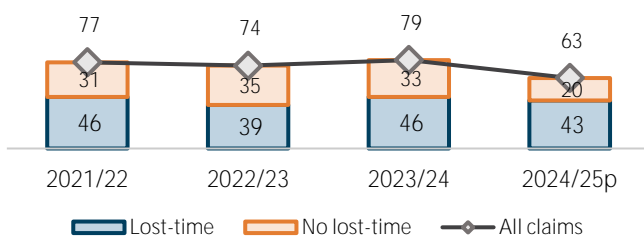
Fabricated metal product manufacturing



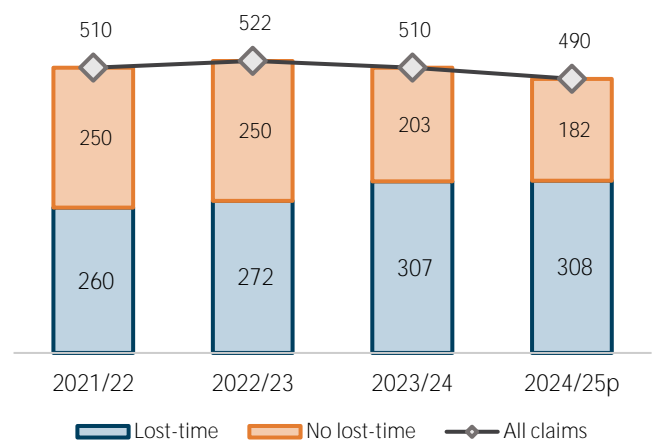
Food product manufacturing



Furniture & other manufacturing



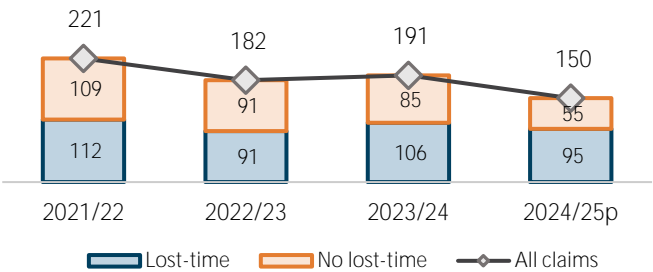
Machinery & equipment manufacturing



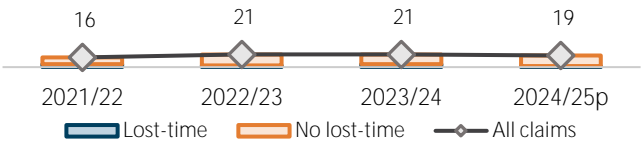
MANUFACTURING

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

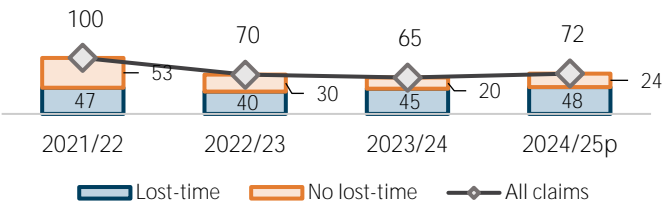
Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing



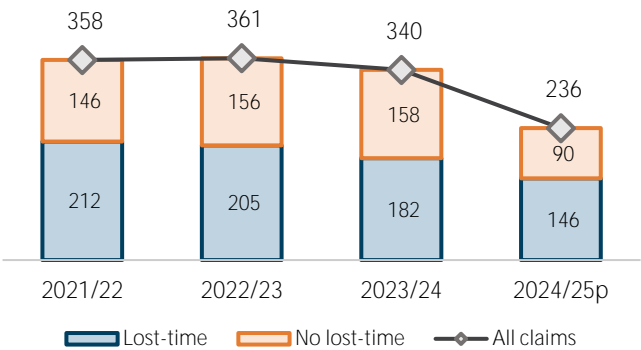
Petroleum & coal product manufacturing



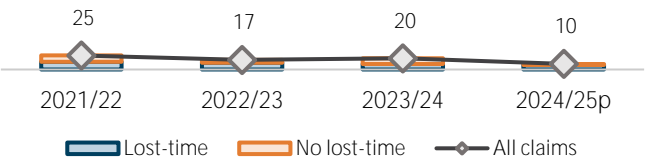
Polymer product & rubber product manufacturing



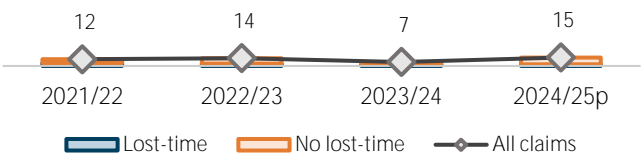
Primary metal & metal product manufacturing



Printing (incl the reproduction of recorded media)



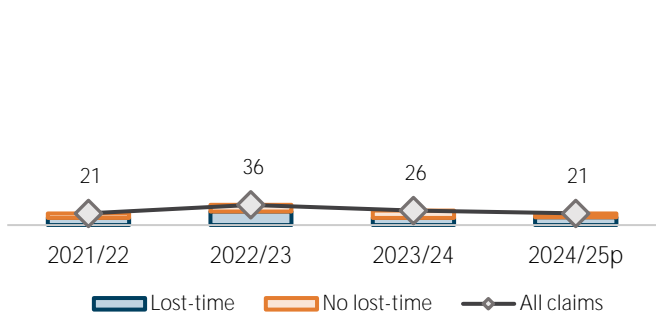
Pulp, paper & converted paper product manufacturing



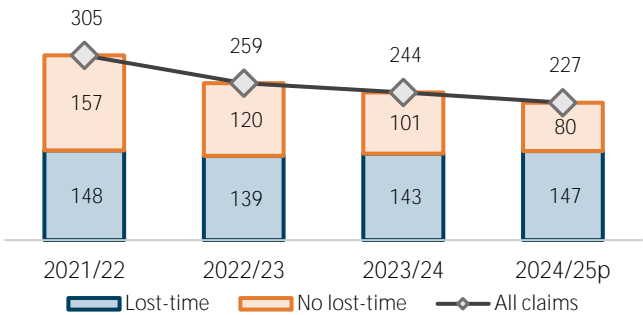
MANUFACTURING

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

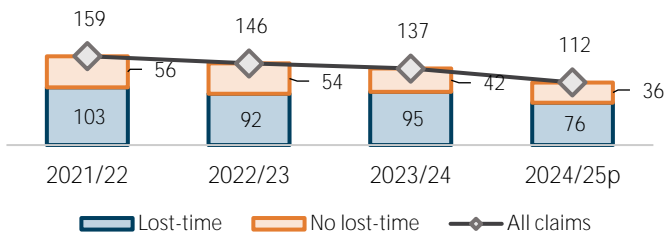
Textile, leather, clothing & footwear manufacturing



Transport equipment manufacturing



Wood product manufacturing



MANUFACTURING

Lost-time claims and frequency rate by industry subdivision

SUBDIVISION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p	Average* frequency rate
Basic chemical & chemical product manufacturing	35	38	41	41	4.5
1-59 days lost	17	22	16	22	2.2
60+ days lost	18	16	25	19	2.3
Beverage & tobacco product manufacturing	51	40	42	45	10.3
1-59 days lost	37	29	26	19	7.1
60+ days lost	14	11	16	26	3.2
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	316	272	307	271	20.1
1-59 days lost	223	176	177	140	12.9
60+ days lost	93	96	130	131	7.1
Food product manufacturing	305	266	274	318	11.4
1-59 days lost	212	180	172	184	7.6
60+ days lost	93	86	102	134	3.8
Furniture & other manufacturing	46	39	46	43	3.5
1-59 days lost	24	29	38	22	2.4
60+ days lost	22	10	8	21	1.1
Machinery & equipment manufacturing	260	272	307	308	11.7
1-59 days lost	180	180	199	176	7.8
60+ days lost	80	92	108	132	3.9
Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing	112	91	106	95	17.2
1-59 days lost	68	57	62	51	10.4
60+ days lost	44	34	44	44	6.8
Petroleum & coal product manufacturing	5	3	5	2	2.0
1-59 days lost	2	1	3	0	0.9
60+ days lost	3	2	2	2	1.1
Polymer product & rubber product manufacturing	47	40	45	48	10.1
1-59 days lost	27	23	22	15	5.5
60+ days lost	20	17	23	33	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.

MANUFACTURING

Lost-time claims and frequency rate by industry subdivision

SUBDIVISION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p	Average* frequency rate
Primary metal & metal product manufacturing	212	205	182	146	12.0
1-59 days lost	144	143	119	89	8.2
60+ days lost	68	62	63	57	3.9
Printing (incl the reproduction of recorded media)	14	12	10	8	3.7
1-59 days lost	10	7	2	6	2.0
60+ days lost	4	5	8	2	1.8
Pulp, paper & converted paper product manufacturing	5	4	3	3	2.6
1-59 days lost	2	1	2	2	1.1
60+ days lost	3	3	1	1	1.5
Textile, leather, clothing & footwear manufacturing	13	24	13	14	2.3
1-59 days lost	6	14	9	9	1.3
60+ days lost	7	10	4	5	1.0
Transport equipment manufacturing	148	139	143	147	9.6
1-59 days lost	99	91	84	75	6.1
60+ days lost	49	48	59	72	3.5
Wood product manufacturing	103	92	95	76	17.3
1-59 days lost	76	60	60	40	11.7
60+ days lost	27	32	35	36	5.6
Total claims	1,672	1,537	1,619	1,565	10.6
1-59 days lost	1,127	1,013	991	850	6.9
60+ days lost	545	524	628	715	3.7

* 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	70.7%	70.0%	70.7%	65.7%
at 3 months	80.2%	81.9%	80.4%	77.4%
at 6 months	84.9%	86.2%	86.0%	82.4%
at 12 months	87.6%	88.9%	88.0%	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, 88.0% of claimants in Manufacturing returned to work at 12 months after the claim was lodged, higher than the overall scheme (86.4%).

Lost-time claims by age group

AGE GROUP	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
15-24 years	257	225	256	247
25-34 years	347	353	358	346
35-44 years	389	343	352	320
45-54 years	380	306	316	322
55-64 years	265	273	269	271
65+ years	34	37	68	59
Total claims	1,672	1,537	1,619	1,565

Frequency rate* by age group

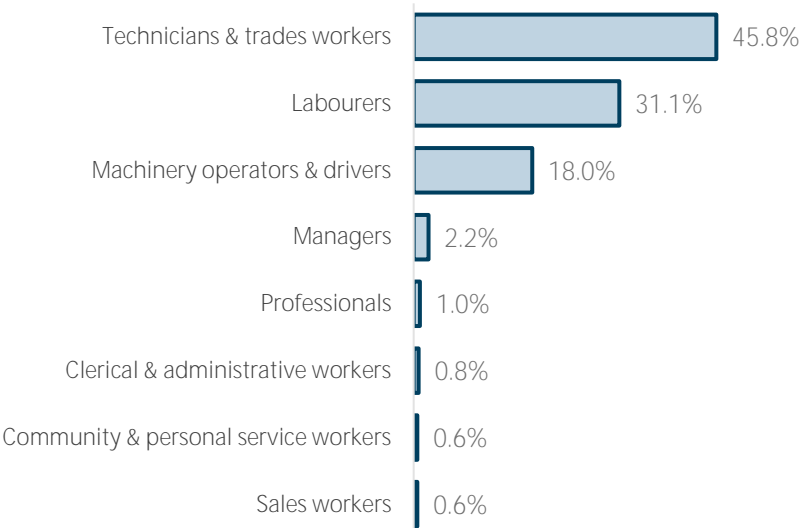
AGE GROUP	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
15-24 years	14.5	18.8	16.0	n/a
25-34 years	9.9	10.7	9.7	n/a
35-44 years	8.8	7.9	11.0	n/a
45-54 years	11.3	9.4	11.2	n/a
55-64 years	9.3	11.2	12.0	n/a
65+ years	6.9	9.1	13.1	n/a
Total claims	10.2	10.3	11.5	n/a

* 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
Technicians & trades workers	816	742	715	717
Labourers	497	448	463	487
Machinery operators & drivers	276	269	333	281
Managers	37	37	40	35
Professionals	13	6	24	15
Clerical & administrative workers	10	15	30	12
Community & personal service workers	12	10	8	9
Sales workers	11	10	6	9
Total claims	1,672	1,537	1,619	1,565

Lost-time claims proportions by occupation 2024/25p



Lost-time claims by nature of injury/disease

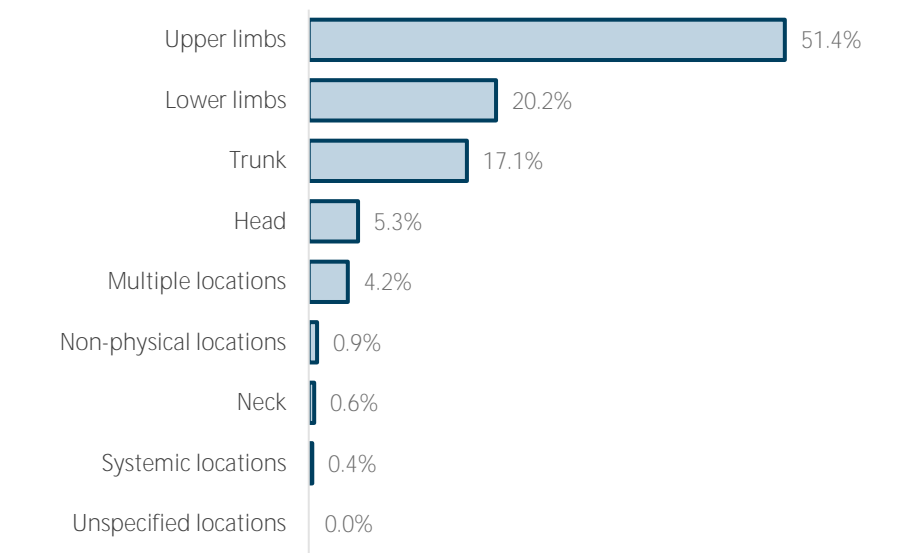
NATURE	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	675	641	668	642
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	473	392	401	367
Fractures	265	229	242	252
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	74	105	118	107
Burn	77	68	70	69
Other injuries	39	32	30	41
Digestive system diseases	24	23	26	36
Nervous system & sense organ diseases	14	14	18	17
Mental diseases	14	10	12	14
Intracranial injuries	11	13	22	13
Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases	1	8	6	4
Respiratory system diseases	3	0	3	1
Injury to nerves & spinal cord	0	0	0	1
Neoplasms (cancer)	0	0	1	0
Infectious & parasitic diseases	1	0	0	0
Circulatory system diseases	0	1	2	0
Other diseases	1	1	0	1
Total claims	1,672	1,537	1,619	1,565

Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continued to be the leading type of injury for claims lodged in the Manufacturing (41.0%), 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	793	785	803	804
Lower limbs	388	323	344	316
Trunk	261	233	252	267
Head	105	86	103	83
Multiple locations	92	88	80	66
Non-physical locations	14	10	12	14
Neck	13	8	19	9
Systemic locations	5	3	6	6
Unspecified locations	1	1	0	0
Total claims	1,672	1,537	1,619	1,565

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

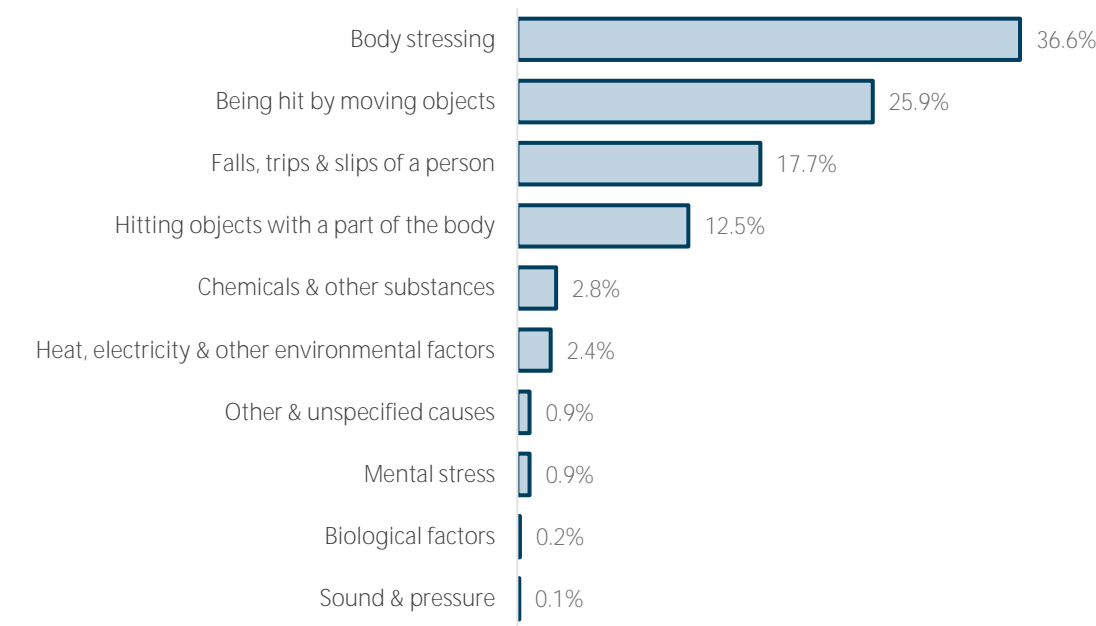


Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 71.6% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p.

Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

MECHANISM	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Body stressing	532	546	597	573
Being hit by moving objects	497	425	423	405
Falls, trips & slips of a person	329	277	278	277
Hitting objects with a part of the body	186	168	192	195
Chemicals & other substances	44	44	48	44
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	46	39	42	38
Other & unspecified causes	20	19	19	14
Mental stress	14	10	12	14
Biological factors	4	9	6	3
Sound & pressure	0	0	2	2
Total claims	1,672	1,537	1,619	1,565

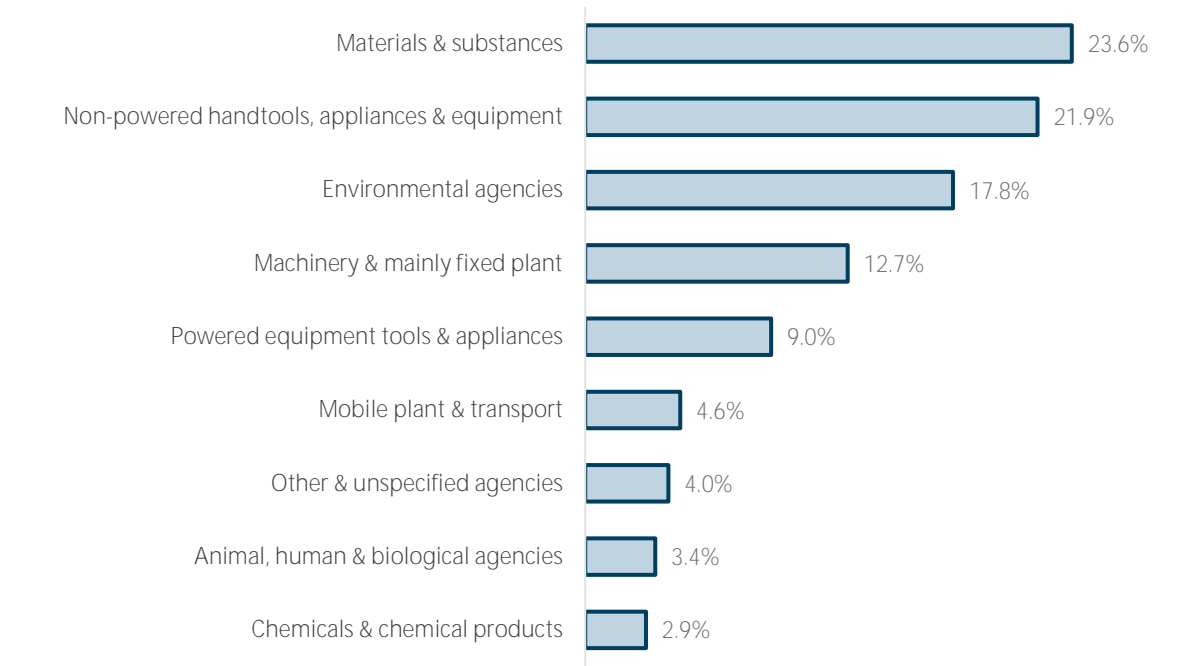
Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2024/25p



Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease

AGENCY	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Materials & substances	398	366	421	369
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	376	351	373	343
Environmental agencies	305	283	260	279
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	179	153	157	199
Powered equipment tools & appliances	155	148	158	141
Mobile plant & transport	107	77	79	72
Other & unspecified agencies	55	58	69	63
Animal, human & biological agencies	51	58	49	53
Chemicals & chemical products	46	43	53	46
Total claims	1,672	1,537	1,619	1,565

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> (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	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 (abs.gov.au).

MANUFACTURING

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> (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>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">▲ Certain contractors are also deemed workers if all of the following apply:<ol style="list-style-type: none">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.2. The individual does not sublet the contract.3. If the individual employs a worker, they perform part of the work personally4. NDIS support workers are deemed workers if engaged under self-managed or plan-managed arrangements.5. Labour hire workers are covered; the labour hire company is considered the employer.