

# Industry Statistical Report

Mining

2024/25

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






Industry Statistical Report: 2024/25  
Mining

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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.

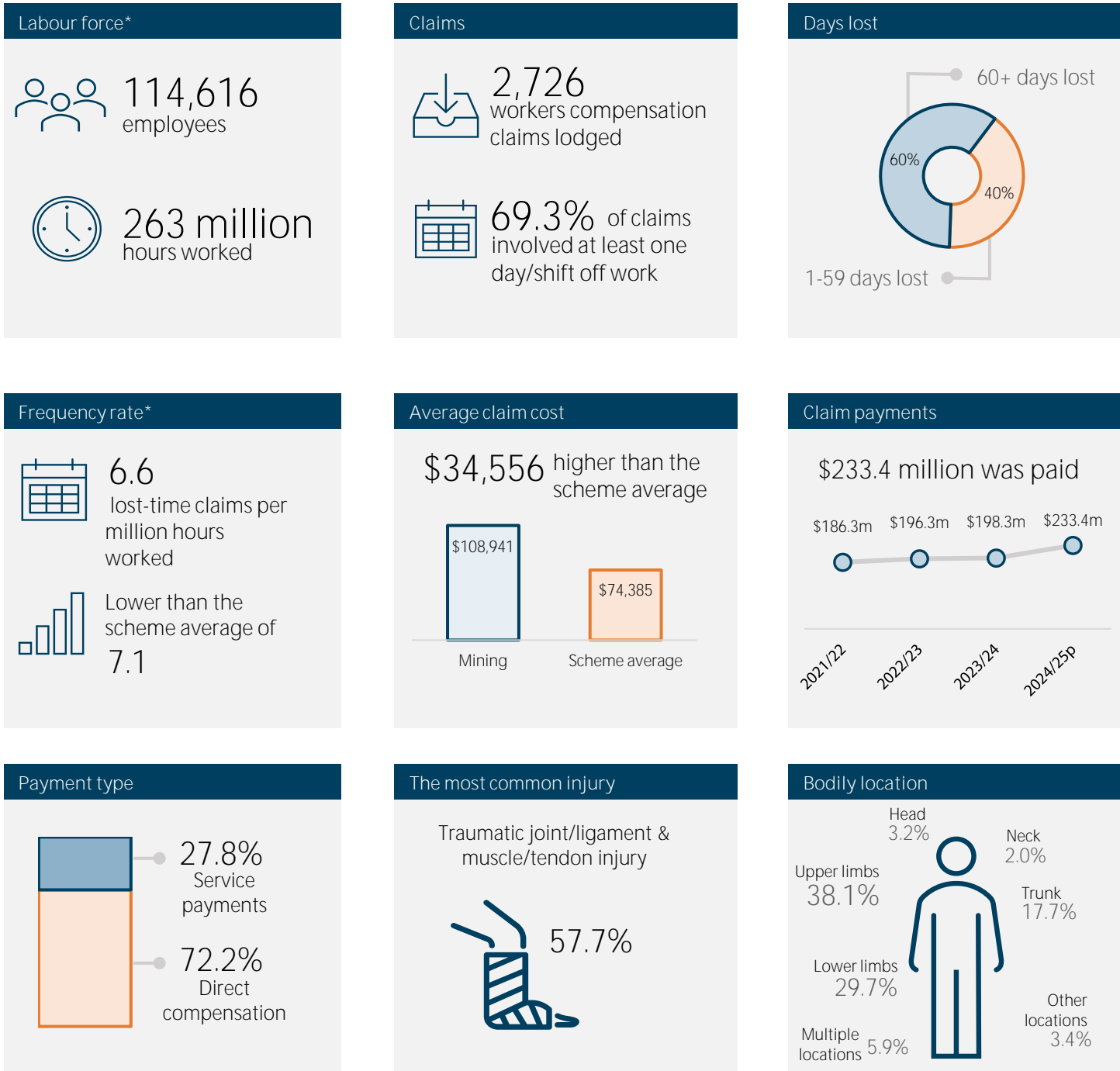
Frequency rates are based on the latest available data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which lags by one year from this report's timeframe.

# MINING

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

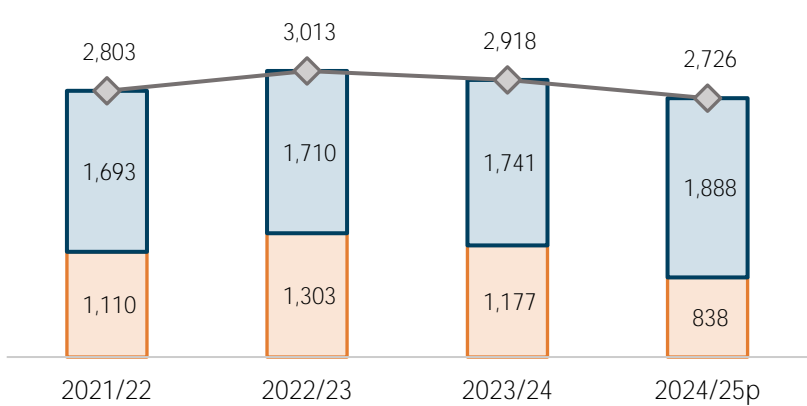
This industry includes coal mining, oil and gas extraction, metal ore mining, non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying, and exploration and other mining support services.

## Mining at a glance 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

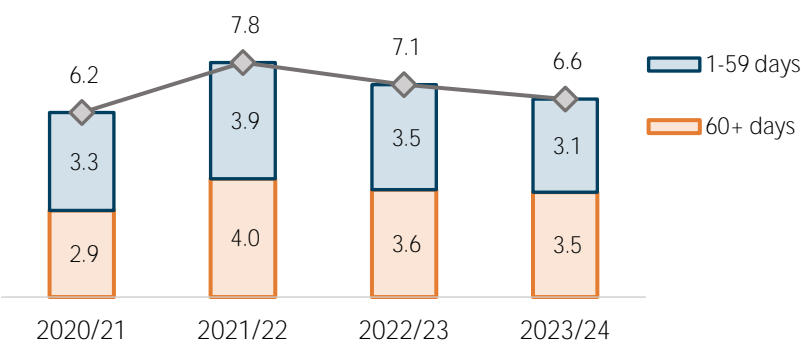


**All claims**  
Total claims in the Mining industry decreased (-2.7%) from 2021/22 to 2024/25p.

**Lost-time claims**  
Lost-time claims in Mining averaged 1,758 claims between 2021/22 to 2024/25p.

**No lost-time claims**  
Claims with no time off work averaged 1,107 claims over the same period.

Frequency rate\* lost-time claims per million hours worked



Frequency rate indicates the prevalence of workers compensation lost-time claims by measuring the number of claims per million hours worked. The number of hours worked by employed persons is supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

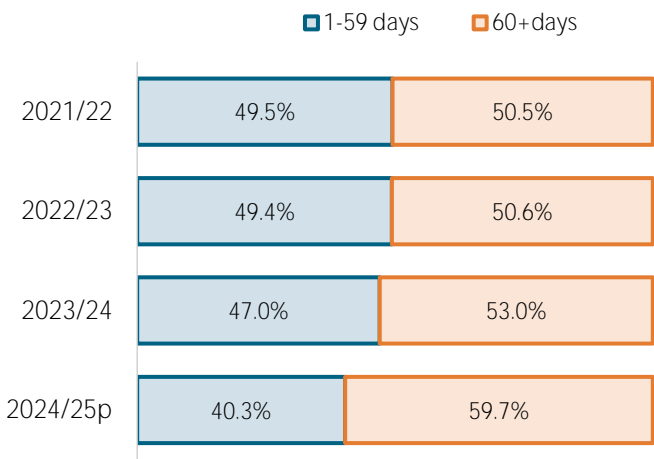
\* The 2024/25 frequency rates were not available at the time of reporting.

For claims lodged in 2023/24, the frequency rate for the Mining industry was 6.6 lost-time claims per million hours worked. This is lower than the scheme average of 7.1.

Claim numbers number of claims lodged by days lost

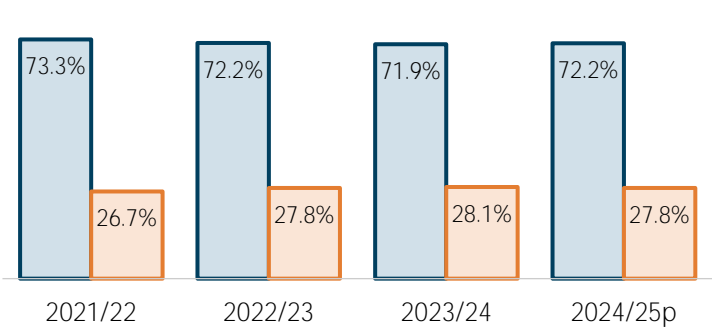
| DAYS LOST      | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25p |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 0 days         | 1,110   | 1,303   | 1,177   | 838      |
| 1 - 4 days     | 67      | 72      | 63      | 65       |
| 5 - 19 days    | 341     | 297     | 274     | 250      |
| 20 - 59 days   | 430     | 476     | 482     | 446      |
| 60 - 119 days  | 265     | 309     | 322     | 386      |
| 120 - 179 days | 164     | 150     | 138     | 302      |
| 180+ days      | 426     | 406     | 462     | 439      |
| Total claims   | 2,803   | 3,013   | 2,918   | 2,726    |


Lost-time claims proportions by days lost




Mining accounted for 10.8% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p in the WA workers compensation scheme.

Total claim payments proportions by payment group

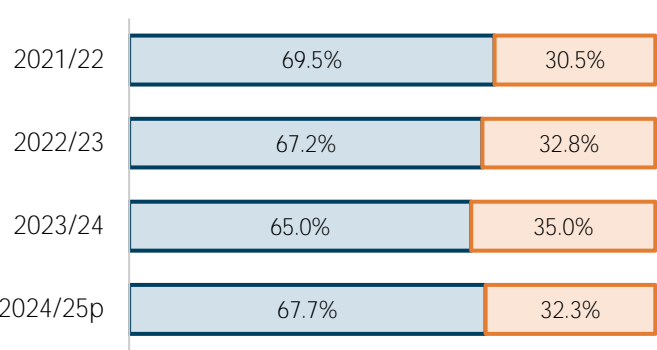



- 


**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

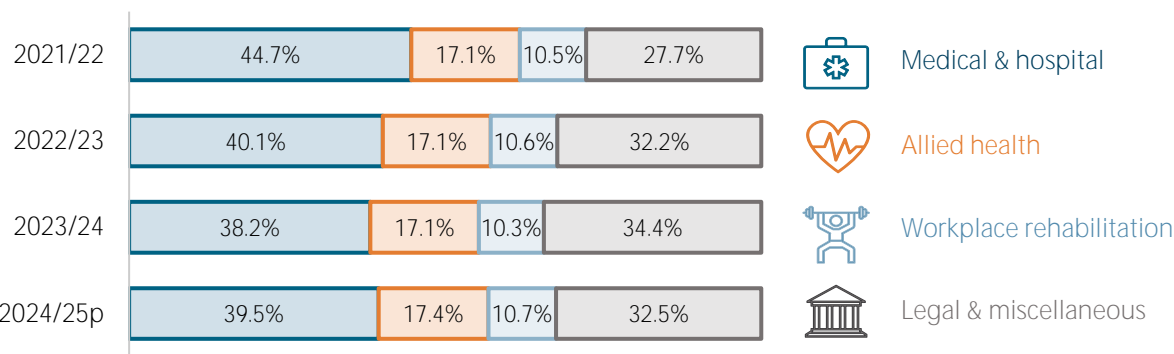


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**Income payments**  
as a proportion of direct compensation payments ranged from 65.0% to 69.5% over four years.
- 

**Lump sums**  
accounted for 30.5% to 35.0% 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**



## Claim payments (\$million adjusted)

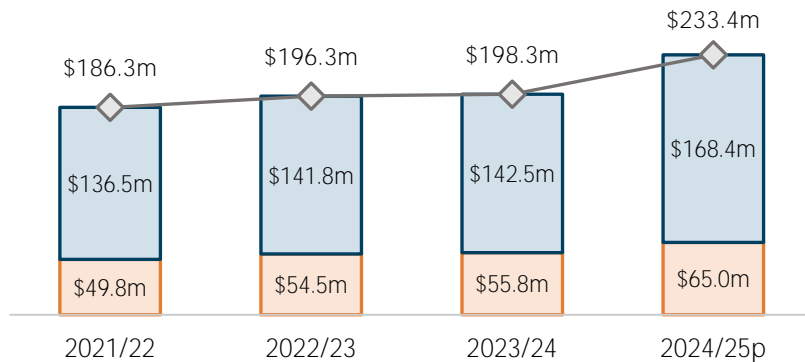
|                             | 2021/22         | 2022/23         | 2023/24         | 2024/25p        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>DIRECT COMPENSATION</b>  |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Income payments             | \$94.8m         | \$95.2m         | \$92.7m         | \$114.1m        |
| Lump sums                   | \$41.6m         | \$46.5m         | \$49.9m         | \$54.3m         |
| <b>SERVICE PAYMENTS</b>     |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Medical & hospital          | \$22.2m         | \$21.9m         | \$21.3m         | \$25.6m         |
| Allied health*              | \$8.5m          | \$9.3m          | \$9.6m          | \$11.3m         |
| Workplace rehabilitation    | \$5.2m          | \$5.8m          | \$5.7m          | \$7.0m          |
| Legal & miscellaneous       | \$13.8m         | \$17.6m         | \$19.2m         | \$21.1m         |
| <b>Total claim payments</b> | <b>\$186.3m</b> | <b>\$196.3m</b> | <b>\$198.3m</b> | <b>\$233.4m</b> |



Total claim payments are adjusted to allow meaningful comparisons over time.

\* Allied health includes 'other treatment services'.

## Total claim payments (\$million adjusted) by payment group



**Direct compensation** payments increased from \$136.5 million in 2021/22 to \$168.4 million in 2024/25p.



**Service payments** increased from \$49.8 million in 2021/22 and stands at \$65.0 million in 2024/25p.

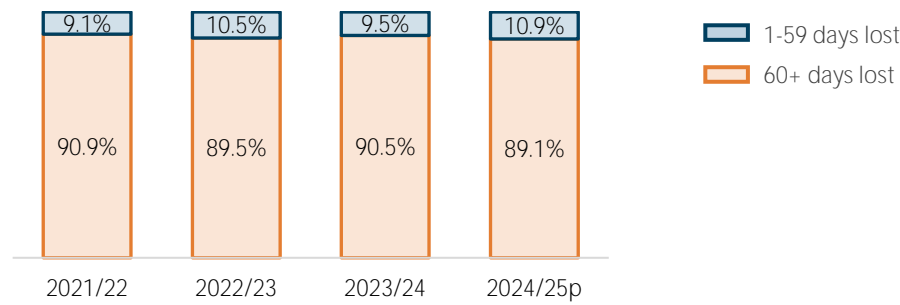
Payments for claims in the Mining industry in 2024/25p totalled \$233.4 million, accounting for 15.4% of total scheme payments.

Claim costs\* total claim costs by days lost

|                | 2021/22  | 2022/23  | 2023/24  | 2024/25p |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1-59 days lost | \$16.3m  | \$19.5m  | \$18.2m  | \$22.5m  |
| 60+ days lost  | \$162.4m | \$165.4m | \$172.8m | \$183.2m |
| Total claims   | \$178.6m | \$184.9m | \$190.9m | \$205.7m |

\* 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

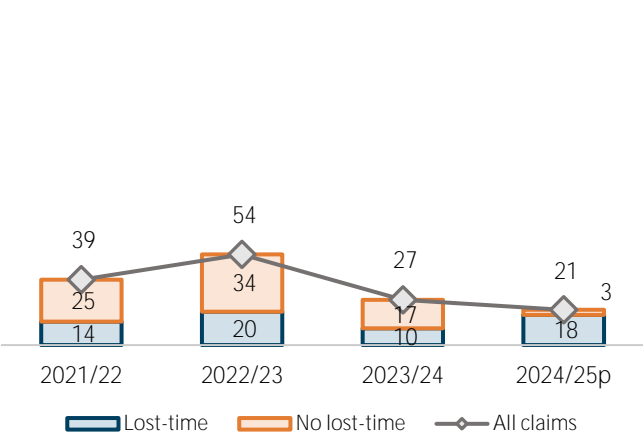
|                | 2021/22   | 2022/23   | 2023/24   | 2024/25p  |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1-59 days lost | \$19,412  | \$23,061  | \$22,176  | \$29,559  |
| 60+ days lost  | \$189,906 | \$191,203 | \$187,372 | \$162,543 |
| Total claims   | \$105,515 | \$108,115 | \$109,661 | \$108,941 |

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

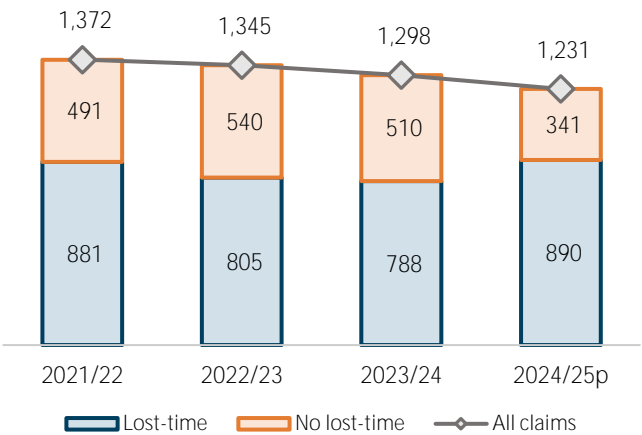
The average claim cost in Mining was \$108,941 in 2024/25p, compared with the scheme average of \$74,385.

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

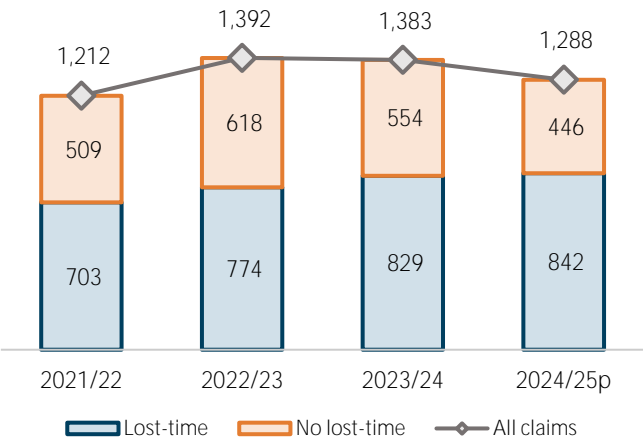
Coal mining



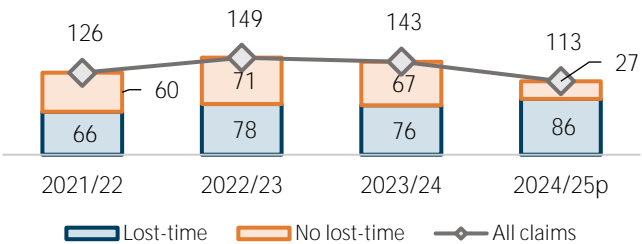
Exploration and other mining support services



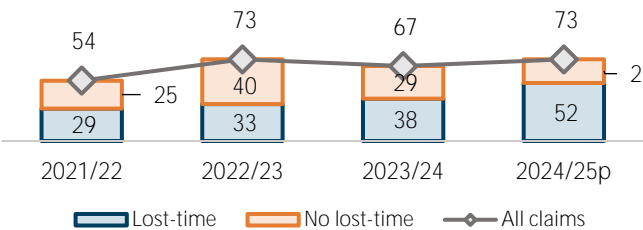
Metal ore mining



Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying



Oil and gas extraction



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

| SUBDIVISION                                   | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25p | Average*<br>frequency rate |
|---|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| Coal mining                                   | 14      | 20      | 10      | 18       | 4.6                        |
| 1-59 days lost                                | 6       | 8       | 6       | 8        | 2.1                        |
| 60+ days lost                                 | 8       | 12      | 4       | 10       | 2.5                        |
| Exploration and other mining support services | 881     | 805     | 788     | 890      | 12.1                       |
| 1-59 days lost                                | 479     | 423     | 397     | 374      | 6.3                        |
| 60+ days lost                                 | 402     | 382     | 391     | 516      | 5.7                        |
| Metal ore mining                              | 703     | 774     | 829     | 842      | 5.5                        |
| 1-59 days lost                                | 308     | 361     | 367     | 322      | 2.5                        |
| 60+ days lost                                 | 395     | 413     | 462     | 520      | 3.0                        |
| Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying     | 66      | 78      | 76      | 86       | 6.6                        |
| 1-59 days lost                                | 36      | 39      | 31      | 35       | 3.2                        |
| 60+ days lost                                 | 30      | 39      | 45      | 51       | 3.4                        |
| Oil and gas extraction                        | 29      | 33      | 38      | 52       | 2.0                        |
| 1-59 days lost                                | 9       | 14      | 18      | 22       | 0.8                        |
| 60+ days lost                                 | 20      | 19      | 20      | 30       | 1.2                        |
| Total claims                                  | 1,693   | 1,710   | 1,741   | 1,888    | 7.2                        |
| 1-59 days lost                                | 838     | 845     | 819     | 761      | 3.5                        |
| 60+ days lost                                 | 855     | 865     | 922     | 1,127    | 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 the report.

Work status rate lost-time claims

| Return to work rate | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25p |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| at 1 month          | 75.2%   | 66.7%   | 72.0%   | 65.3%    |
| at 3 months         | 81.0%   | 78.2%   | 81.6%   | 73.7%    |
| at 6 months         | 85.2%   | 85.0%   | 86.2%   | 78.5%    |
| at 12 months        | 88.0%   | 88.8%   | 89.1%   | n/a      |



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

For 2023/24, 89.1% of claimants in Mining 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  | 204     | 171     | 143     | 156      |
| 25-34 years  | 419     | 420     | 428     | 460      |
| 35-44 years  | 374     | 407     | 410     | 424      |
| 45-54 years  | 390     | 371     | 403     | 467      |
| 55-64 years  | 281     | 298     | 306     | 320      |
| 65+ years    | 25      | 43      | 51      | 61       |
| Total claims | 1,693   | 1,710   | 1,741   | 1,888    |

## Frequency rate\* by age group

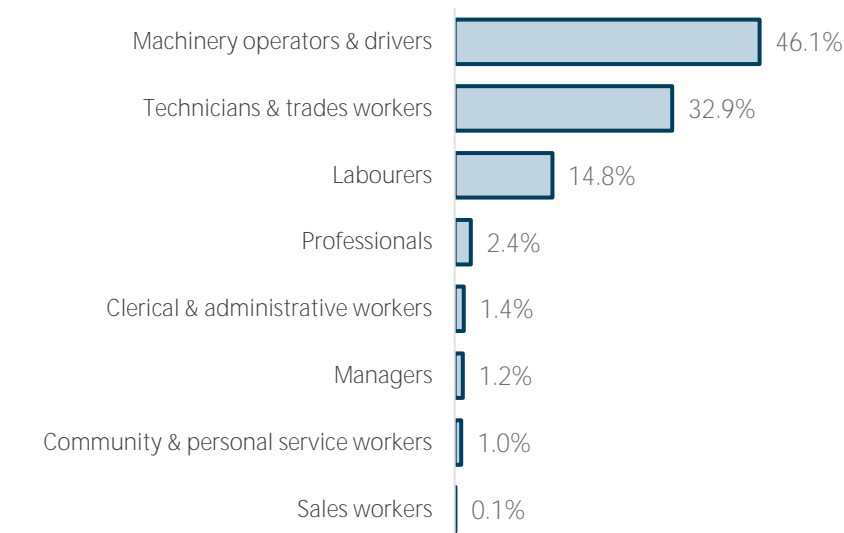
| AGE GROUP    | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25p |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 15-24 years  | 13.2    | 9.0     | 7.3     | n/a      |
| 25-34 years  | 7.5     | 7.0     | 6.1     | n/a      |
| 35-44 years  | 5.9     | 5.8     | 5.4     | n/a      |
| 45-54 years  | 7.9     | 6.7     | 6.8     | n/a      |
| 55-64 years  | 9.4     | 9.0     | 9.8     | n/a      |
| 65+ years    | 20.3    | 13.4    | 7.4     | n/a      |
| Total claims | 7.8     | 7.1     | 6.6     | 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 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Machinery operators & drivers        | 808     | 838     | 833     | 871      |
| Technicians & trades workers         | 490     | 492     | 562     | 622      |
| Labourers                            | 320     | 297     | 244     | 279      |
| Professionals                        | 45      | 37      | 48      | 46       |
| Clerical & administrative workers    | 11      | 20      | 24      | 26       |
| Managers                             | 8       | 20      | 17      | 23       |
| Community & personal service workers | 10      | 5       | 11      | 19       |
| Sales workers                        | 1       | 1       | 2       | 2        |
| Total claims                         | 1,693   | 1,710   | 1,741   | 1,888    |

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          | 956     | 953     | 987     | 1,090    |
| Fractures  | 269     | 252     | 255     | 235      |
| Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage | 235     | 205     | 190     | 212      |
| Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases             | 91      | 114     | 132     | 172      |
| Mental diseases  | 29      | 31      | 32      | 58       |
| Digestive system diseases                                | 33      | 32      | 36      | 33       |
| Other injuries/diseases                                  | 26      | 37      | 25      | 19       |
| Burn   | 30      | 27      | 26      | 19       |
| Intracranial injuries                                    | 5       | 17      | 16      | 17       |
| Nervous system & sense organ diseases                    | 10      | 22      | 23      | 17       |
| Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases                      | 5       | 9       | 9       | 7        |
| Infectious & parasitic diseases                          | 4       | 9       | 5       | 4        |
| Injury to nerves & spinal cord                           | 0       | 1       | 4       | 3        |
| Respiratory system diseases                              | 0       | 1       | 0       | 1        |
| Circulatory system diseases                              | 0       | 0       | 1       | 1        |
| Total claims   | 1,693   | 1,710   | 1,741   | 1,888    |

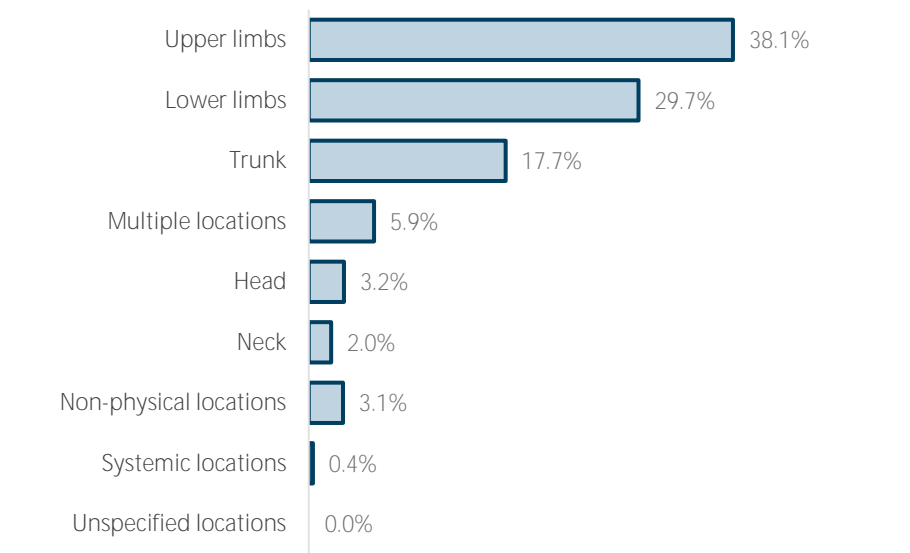
Sprains and strains (traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury) continued to be the leading type of injury for claims lodged in the Mining industry (57.7%), and showed the same pattern to the overall scheme (48.8%) in 2024/25p.



Lost-time claims by bodily location of injury/disease

| LOCATION               | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25p |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Upper limbs            | 681     | 642     | 711     | 720      |
| Lower limbs            | 467     | 474     | 506     | 560      |
| Trunk                  | 307     | 306     | 279     | 334      |
| Multiple locations     | 122     | 128     | 107     | 111      |
| Head                   | 40      | 72      | 66      | 60       |
| Neck                   | 35      | 43      | 36      | 38       |
| Non-physical locations | 29      | 31      | 32      | 58       |
| Systemic locations     | 11      | 14      | 4       | 7        |
| Unspecified locations  | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0        |
| Total claims           | 1,693   | 1,710   | 1,741   | 1,888    |

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

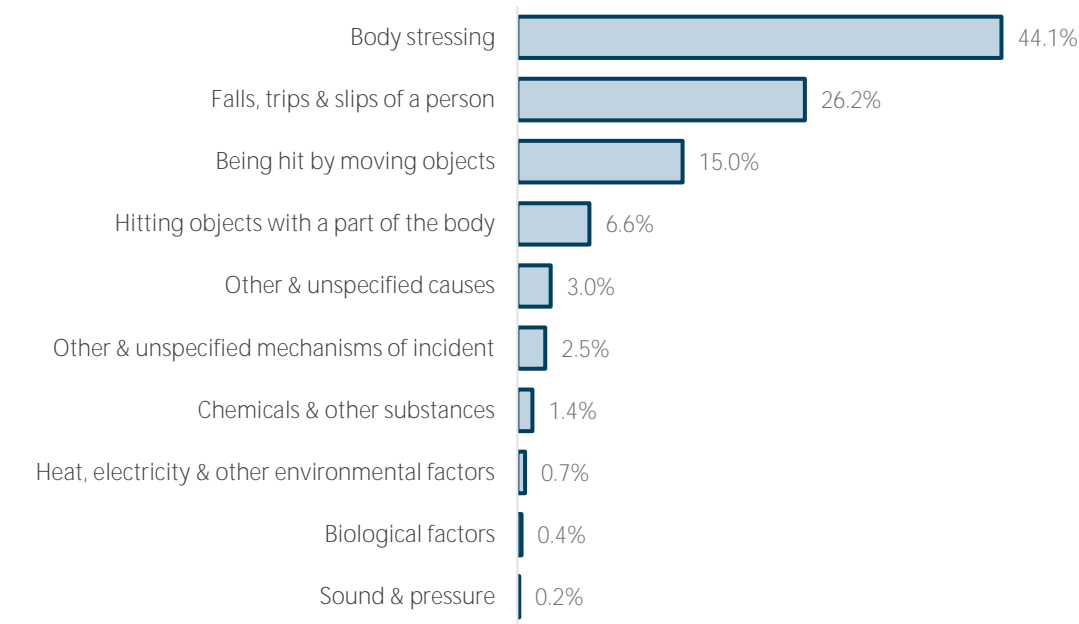


Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 67.8% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p.

Lost-time claims by mechanism of incident

| MECHANISM                                       | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25p |
|---|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Body stressing                                  | 655     | 667     | 720     | 832      |
| Falls, trips & slips of a person                | 435     | 433     | 455     | 494      |
| Being hit by moving objects                     | 341     | 335     | 312     | 284      |
| Hitting objects with a part of the body         | 112     | 112     | 122     | 124      |
| Other & unspecified causes                      | 28      | 31      | 32      | 57       |
| Other & unspecified mechanisms of incident      | 63      | 61      | 46      | 48       |
| Chemicals & other substances                    | 28      | 33      | 26      | 26       |
| Heat, electricity & other environmental factors | 22      | 19      | 16      | 13       |
| Biological factors                              | 7       | 16      | 11      | 7        |
| Sound & pressure                                | 2       | 3       | 1       | 3        |
| Total claims                                    | 1,693   | 1,710   | 1,741   | 1,888    |

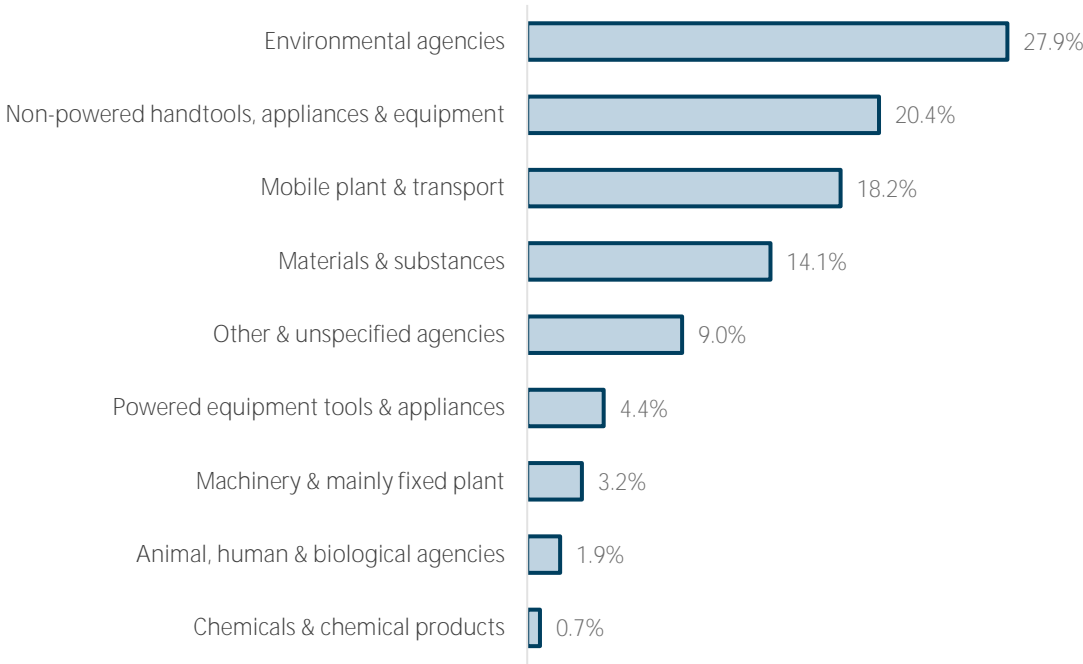
Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2024/25p



Lost-time claims by agency of injury/disease

| AGENCY  | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25p |
|---|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Environmental agencies                        | 405     | 422     | 446     | 527      |
| Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment | 326     | 321     | 376     | 386      |
| Mobile plant & transport                      | 380     | 366     | 307     | 344      |
| Materials & substances                        | 310     | 279     | 265     | 267      |
| Other & unspecified agencies                  | 105     | 129     | 143     | 170      |
| Powered equipment tools & appliances          | 61      | 70      | 77      | 84       |
| Machinery & mainly fixed plant                | 59      | 60      | 72      | 60       |
| Animal, human & biological agencies           | 23      | 37      | 33      | 36       |
| Chemicals & chemical products                 | 24      | 26      | 22      | 14       |
| Total claims                                  | 1,693   | 1,710   | 1,741   | 1,888    |

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>   |