



# Industry Statistical Report

Mining

2024/25

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

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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.

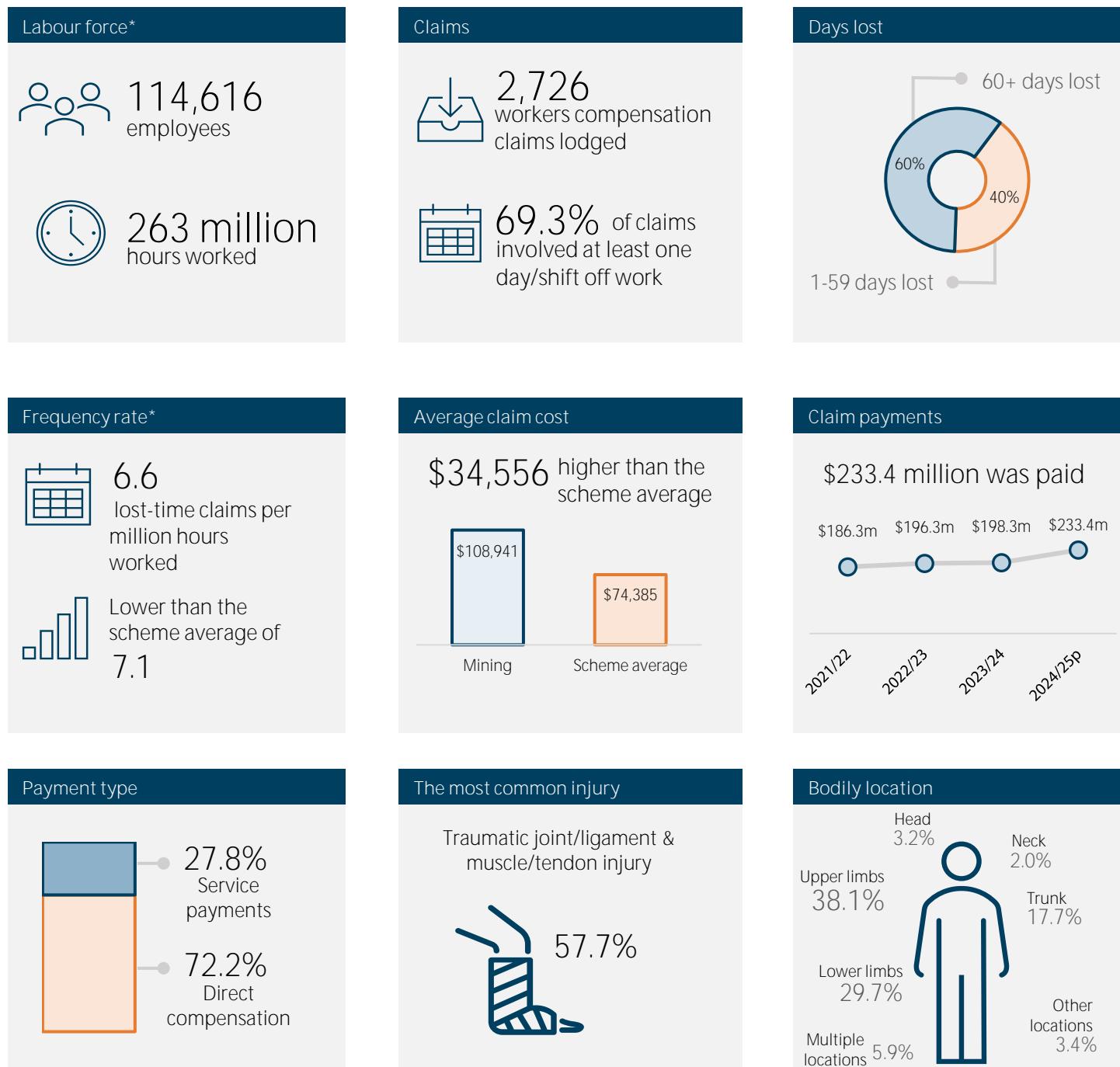
Frequency rates are based on the latest available data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which lags by one year from this report's timeframe.

# MINING

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

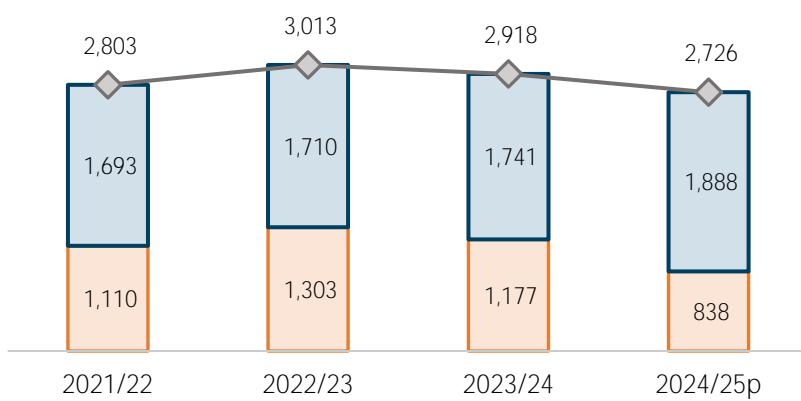
This industry includes coal mining, oil and gas extraction, metal ore mining, non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying, and exploration and other mining support services.

## 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.

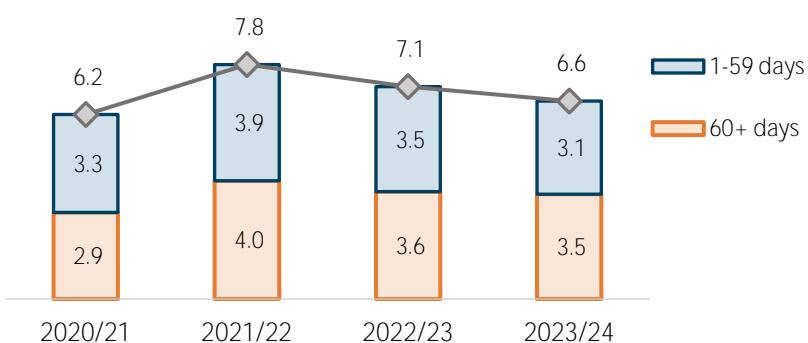
### ■ Lost-time claims

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.

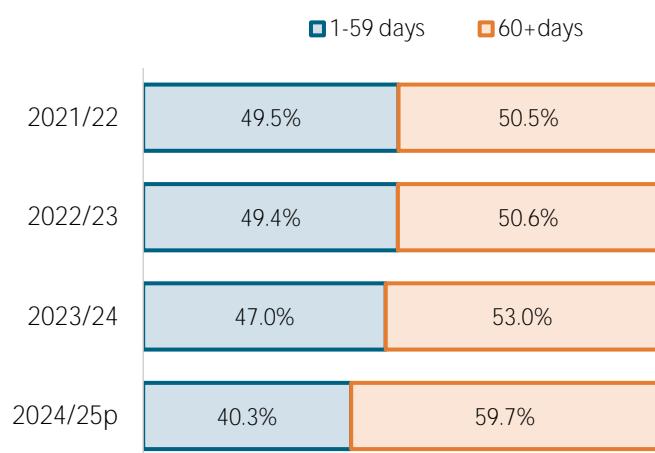
\* The 2024/25 frequency rates were not available at the time of reporting.

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

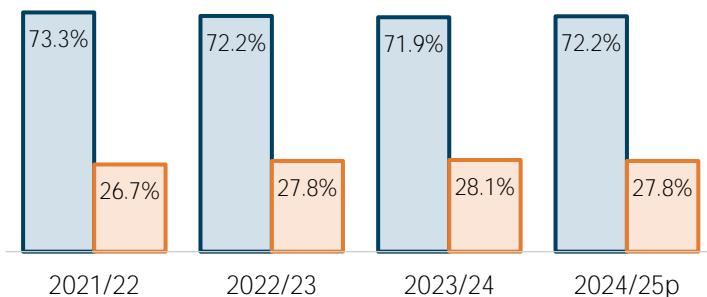
DAYS LOST	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
0 days	1,110	1,303	1,177	838
1 - 4 days	67	72	63	65
5 - 19 days	341	297	274	250
20 - 59 days	430	476	482	446
60 - 119 days	265	309	322	386
120 - 179 days	164	150	138	302
180+ days	426	406	462	439
Total claims	2,803	3,013	2,918	2,726

## 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

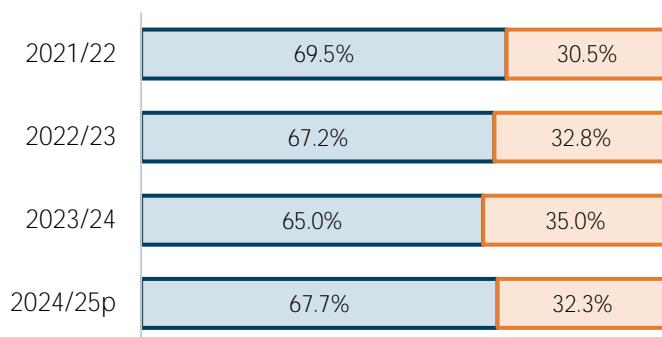
payments made directly to the worker (either by income replacement or lump sums).



### Service payments

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

## Direct compensation payments proportions by payment type



### 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)

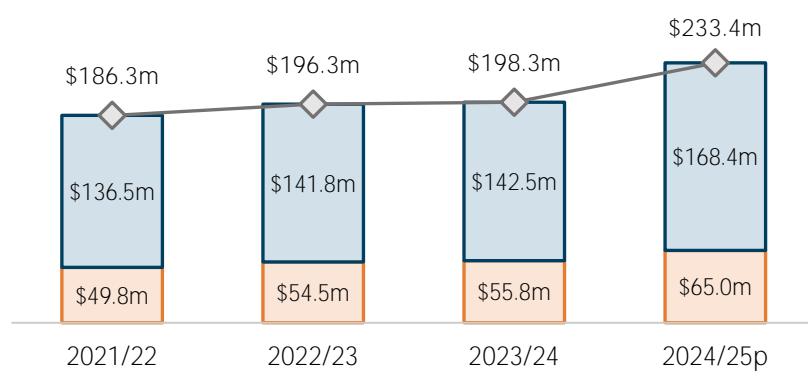
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
<strong>DIRECT COMPENSATION</strong>				
Income payments	\$94.8m	\$95.2m	\$92.7m	\$114.1m
Lump sums	\$41.6m	\$46.5m	\$49.9m	\$54.3m
<strong>SERVICE PAYMENTS</strong>				
Medical & hospital	\$22.2m	\$21.9m	\$21.3m	\$25.6m
Allied health*	\$8.5m	\$9.3m	\$9.6m	\$11.3m
Workplace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



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

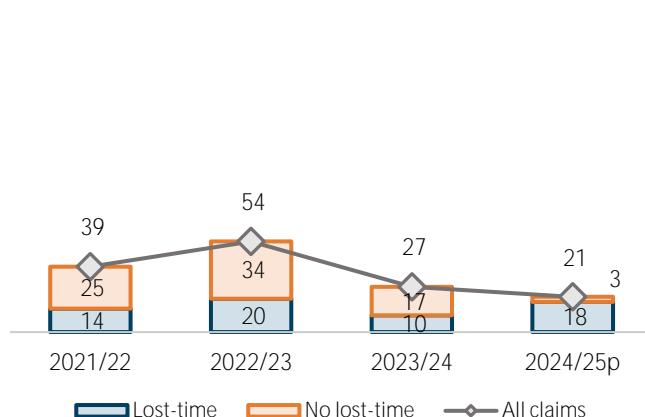
\* Due to the evolving nature of claims, data is subject to change particularly for the most recent year.

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

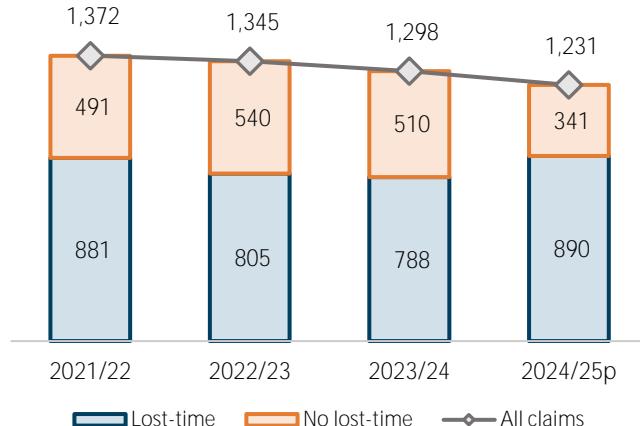
# MINING

Claim numbers by lost-time per industry subdivision

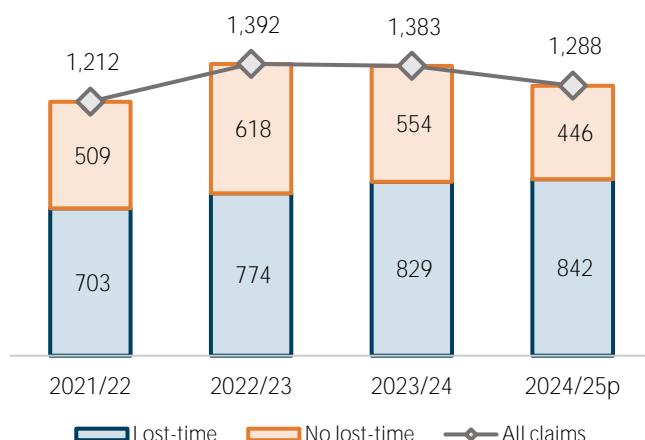
Coal mining



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* 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

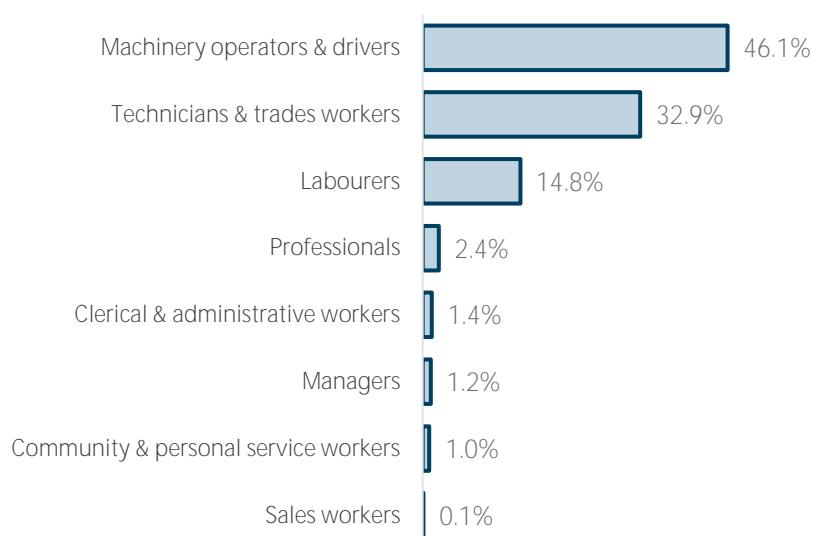
AGE GROUP	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
15-24 years	13.2	9.0	7.3	n/a
25-34 years	7.5	7.0	6.1	n/a
35-44 years	5.9	5.8	5.4	n/a
45-54 years	7.9	6.7	6.8	n/a
55-64 years	9.4	9.0	9.8	n/a
65+ years	20.3	13.4	7.4	n/a
Total claims	7.8	7.1	6.6	n/a

\* 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

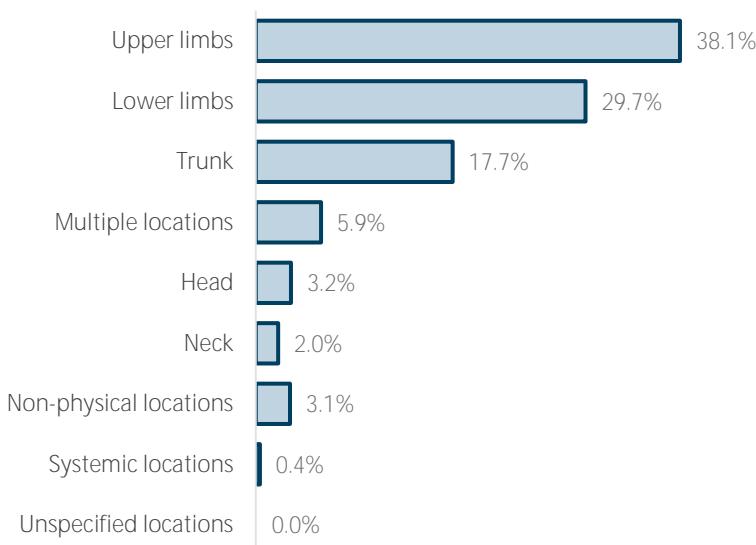
NATURE	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25p
Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury	956	953	987	1,090
Fractures	269	252	255	235
Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage	235	205	190	212
Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases	91	114	132	172
Mental diseases	29	31	32	58
Digestive 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

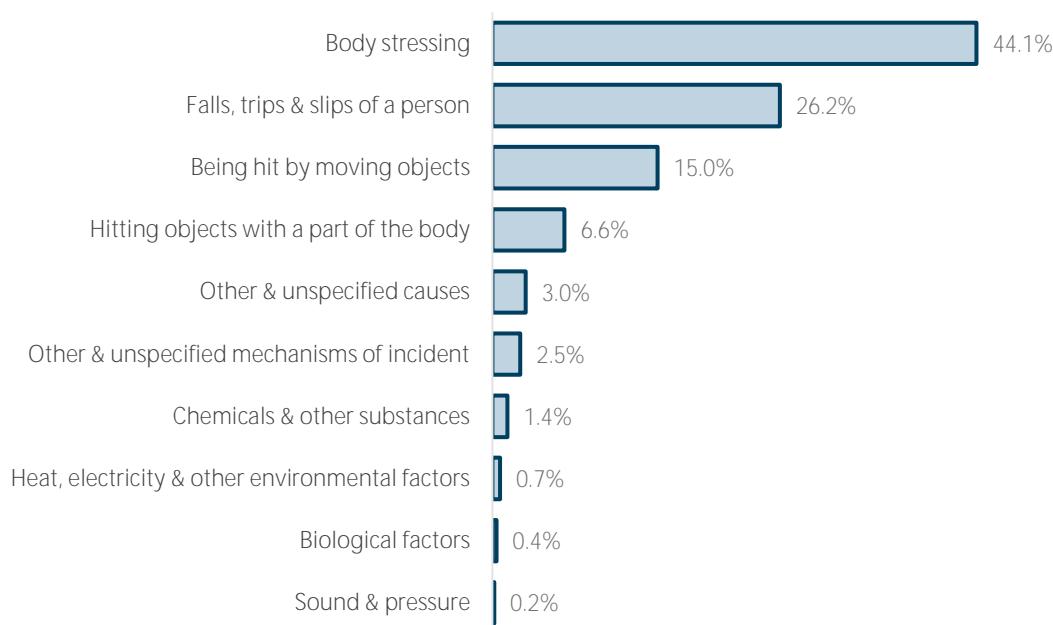


Upper and lower limb injuries accounted for 67.8% of total claims lodged in 2024/25p.

## 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

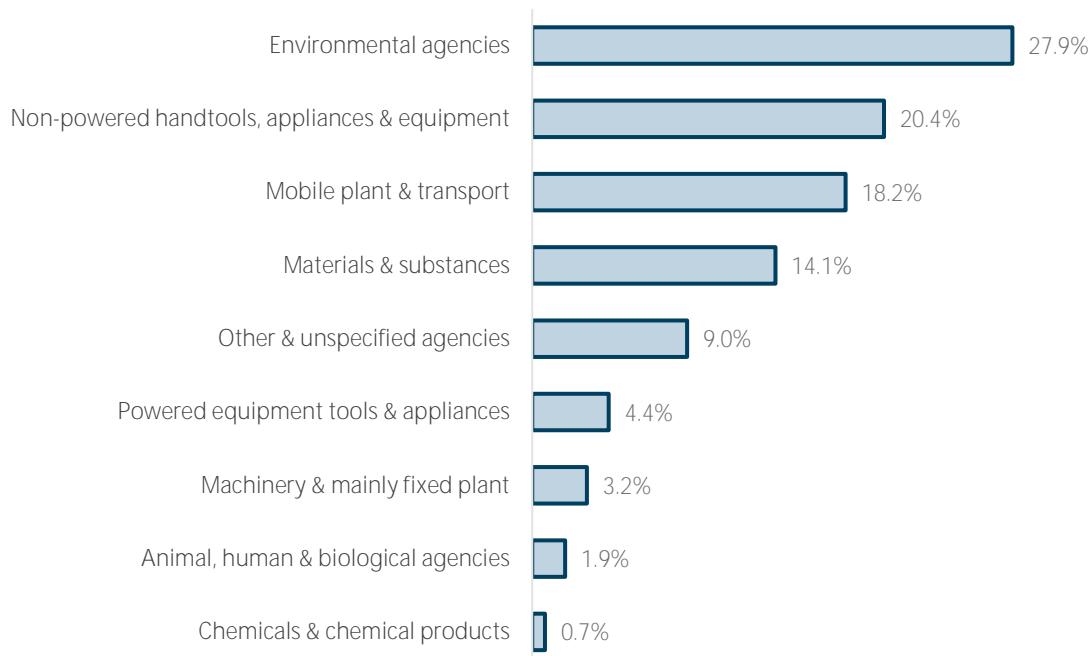
## Lost-time claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2024/25p



## 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	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> ).

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>