

Key WHS statistics Australia 2020

Work-related injury fatalities



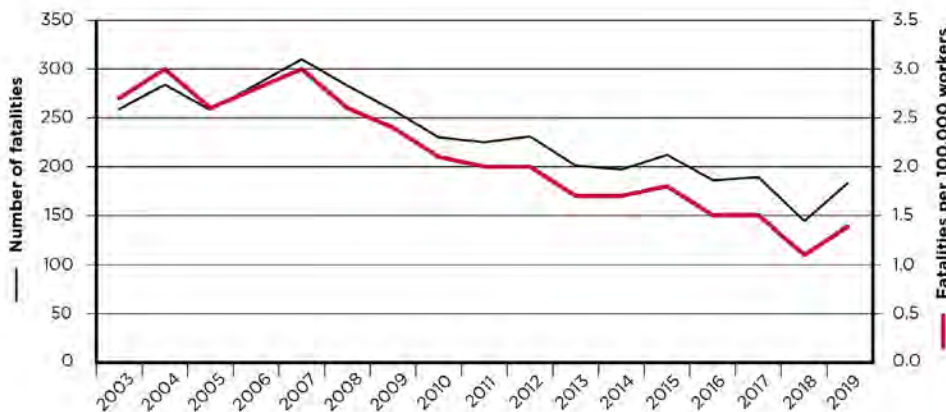
Safe Work Australia compiles the Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities data set which provides national statistics on all workers and bystanders fatally injured at work. This data draws on a range of information sources, including:

- initial reporting of fatalities in the media or on relevant authority websites such as police, road authorities and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau
- notifications to Safe Work Australia from the jurisdictional authorities, and
- the National Coronial Information System which provides confidential access to coroners', police and other investigative reports.

Work-related fatalities resulting from diseases, natural causes and suicides are excluded. Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [Explanatory notes for Safe Work Australia datasets](#).

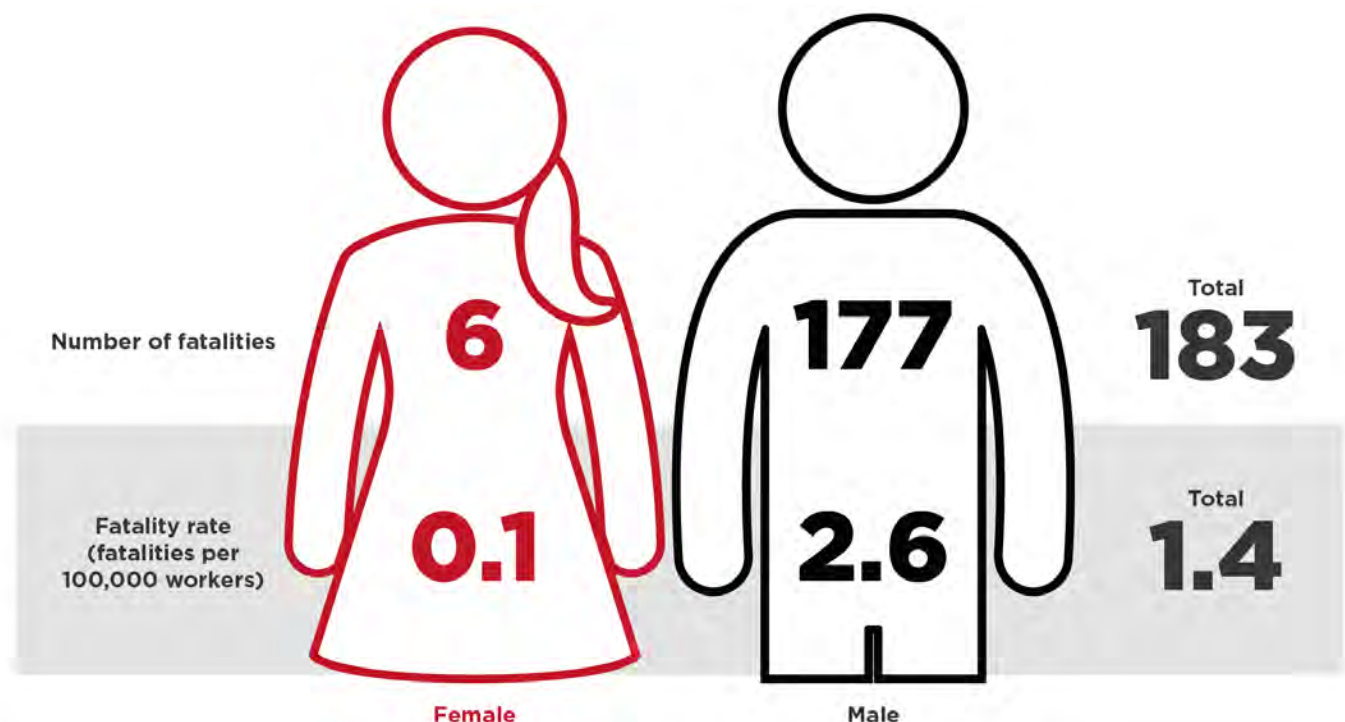
This document provides statistics about people who die each year from an injury sustained in the course of a work activity (worker fatalities) in Australian territories or territorial seas.

Trends in worker fatalities, 2003 to 2019



Australia's fatality rate **decreased by 53%** from the peak in 2007

Worker fatalities by gender, 2019



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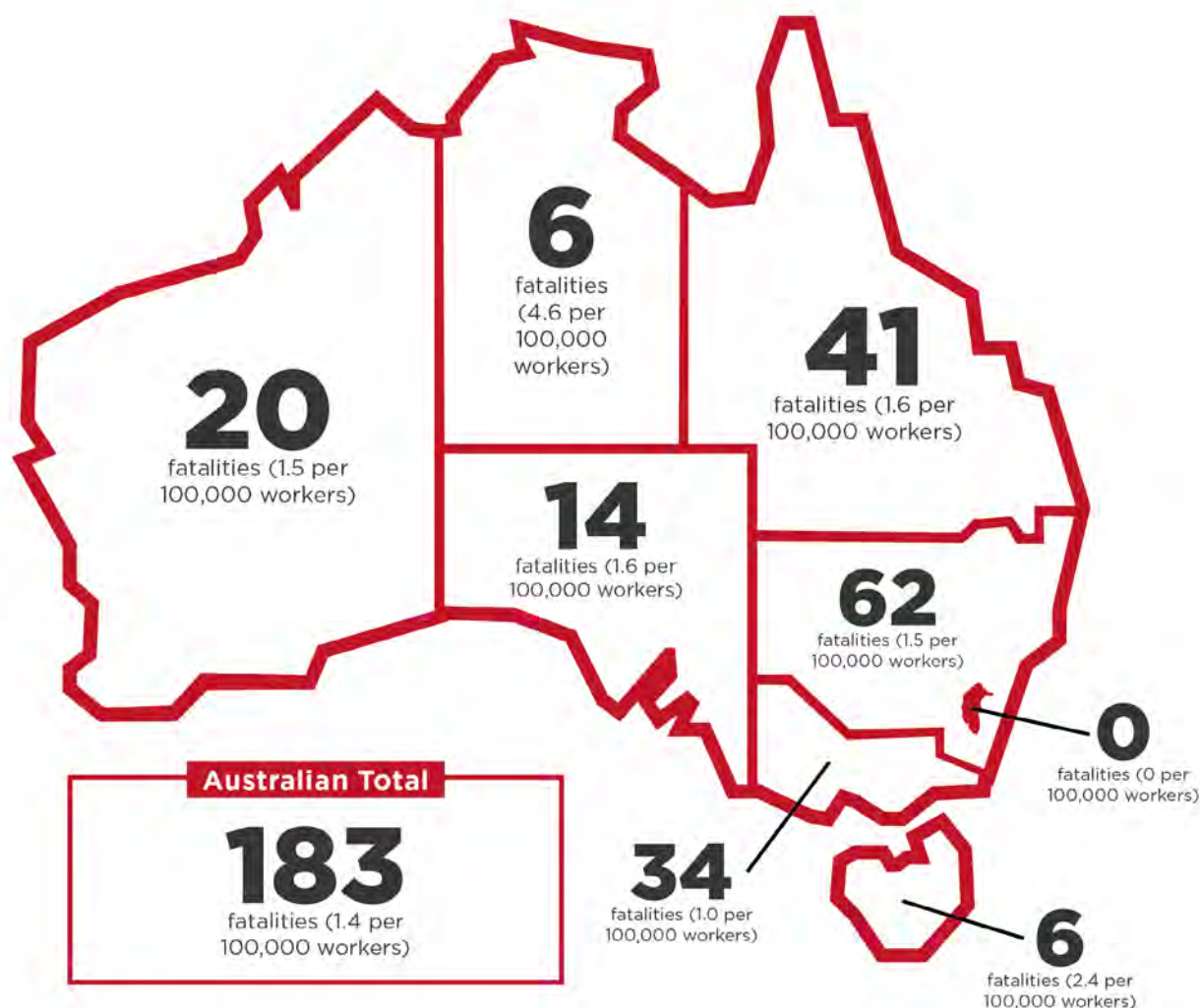


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Worker fatalities by age group, 2019

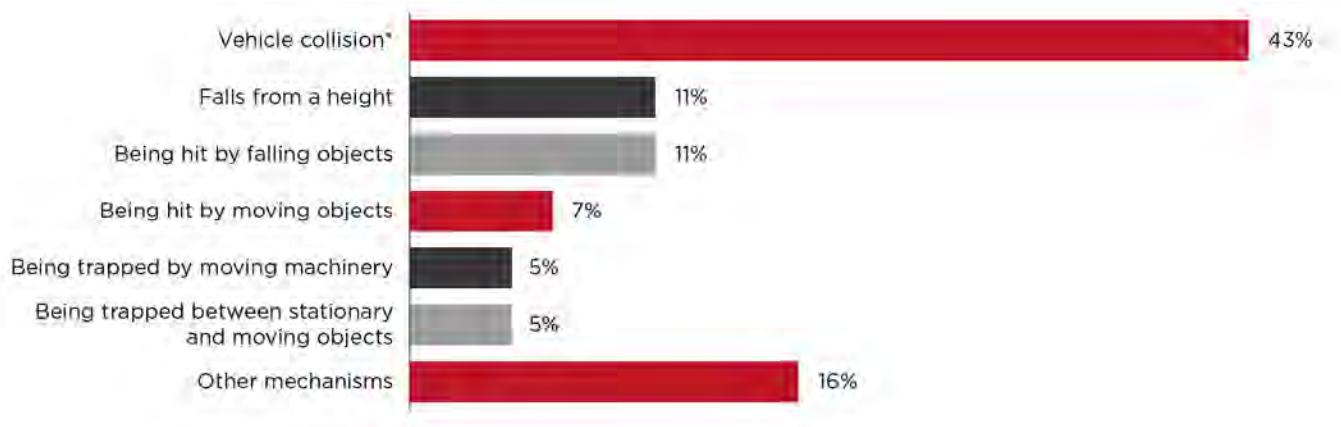
Age group (years)	Number of fatalities	Fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Under 25	13	0.7
25-34	26	0.8
35-44	31	1.1
45-54	33	1.3
55-64	48	2.5
65 and over	32	5.4
Total	183	1.4

Worker fatalities by state/territory, 2019*



*fatalities are presented according to the state or territory where the fatality occurred, not the jurisdiction under which the fatality fell.

Worker fatalities by mechanism of incident, 2019



Note:

- only mechanisms accounting for 5% or more of fatalities are included. The remaining mechanisms are grouped together under other mechanisms.
- the percentages shown in this table have been rounded to the nearest whole number; therefore the sum of percentage figures for each column may not equal the total.

Mechanism of incident	Number of fatalities	% of injury fatalities
Vehicle collision*	79	43%
Falls from a height	21	11%
Being hit by falling objects	21	11%
Being hit by moving objects	13	7%
Being trapped by moving machinery	10	5%
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	9	5%
Other mechanisms	30	16%
Total	183	100%

*vehicle collisions include fatalities that occurred as a direct result of a vehicle crash. Vehicles include not only road vehicles such as cars and trucks, but also machines such as aircraft, boats, loaders, tractors and quad bikes.

Worker fatalities by occupation, 2019



Machinery operators and drivers

8.3

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Labourers

2.3

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Managers

1.6

fatalities per 100,000 workers

Occupation	Number of fatalities	Fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Machinery operators and drivers	72	8.3
Labourers	29	2.3
Managers	25	1.6
Technicians and trades workers	28	1.5
Community and personal service workers	17	1.2
Professionals	9	0.3
Clerical and administrative workers	2	0.1
Sales workers	1	0.1
Total	183	1.4



Worker fatalities by industry, 2019



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

9.1

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Transport, postal and warehousing

8.7

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Electricity, gas, water and waste services

3.8

fatalities per 100,000 workers

Industry of employer	Number of fatalities	Fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	30	9.1
Transport, postal and warehousing	58	8.7
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	6	3.8
Mining	7	2.9
Construction	26	2.2
Arts and recreation services	5	2.0
Wholesale trade	7	1.8
Administrative and support services	7	1.5
Manufacturing	13	1.5
Public administration and safety	12	1.3
Other services	5	1.0
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1	0.5
Accommodation and food services	2	0.2
Education and training	2	0.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	1	0.1
Health care and social assistance	1	0.1
Financial and insurance services	0	0.0
Information media and telecommunications	0	0.0
Retail trade	0	0.0
Total	183	1.4

Key WHS statistics Australia 2020

Work-related injury and disease



Safe Work Australia compiles the National Dataset for Compensation-based Statistics which comprises information on workers' compensation claims provided by each of the jurisdictional workers' compensation authorities.

Data in this report refers to serious claims only. Serious claims relate to where the compensated injury or disease resulted in one week or more off work. Data for 2018-19 is preliminary (denoted by a 'p') and subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised. Serious claim numbers are rounded to the nearest five and, as such, the figures may not add to the total. Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [Explanatory notes for Safe Work Australia datasets](#).

Serious claims statistics, 2018-19p*



Total of

114,435

serious claims



Frequency rate of

5.7

serious claims per million hours worked



Median time lost

6.0

weeks per serious claim



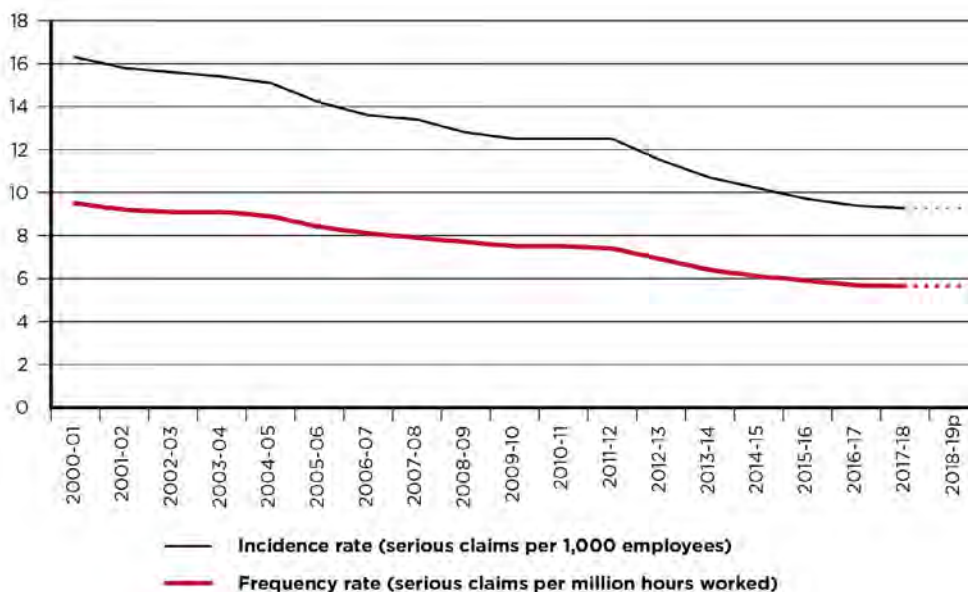
Median compensation paid

\$11,700

per serious claim

*preliminary data subject to revision in subsequent years as further claims are finalised.

Serious claim rate, 2000-01 to 2018-19p*

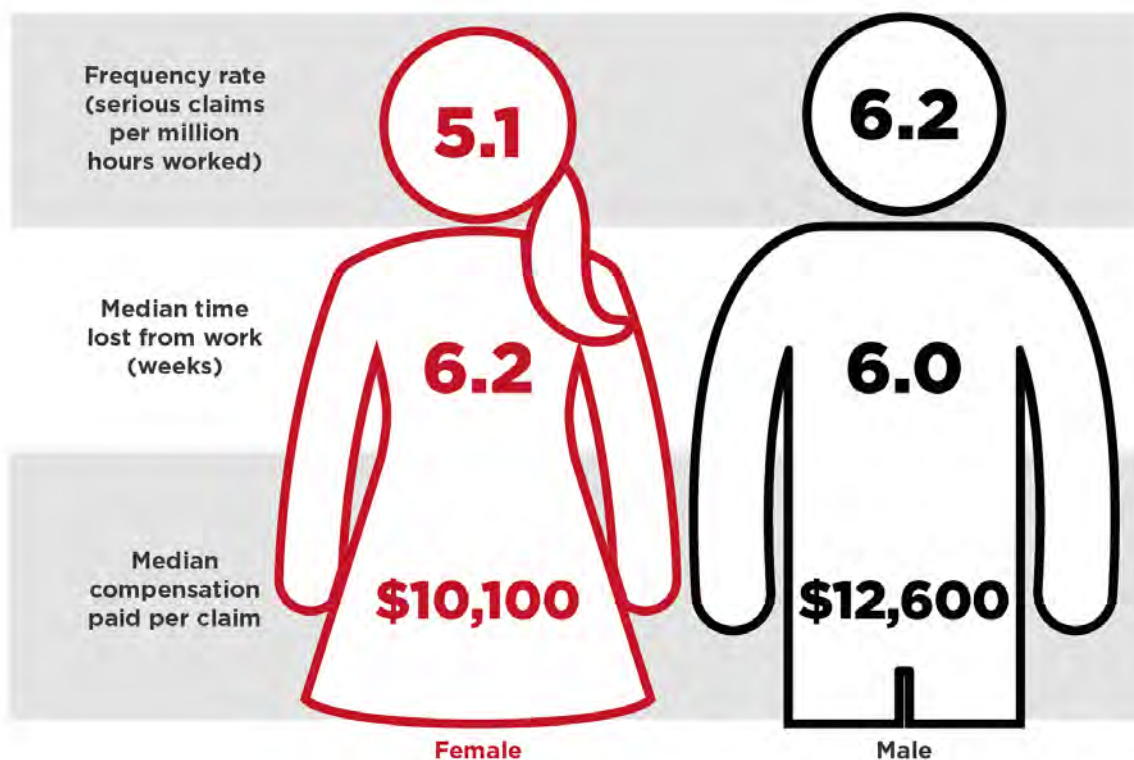


The Australian serious claim frequency rate **decreased by 26%** from 2008-09 to 2017-18

*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.



Serious claims by gender, 2018-19p*

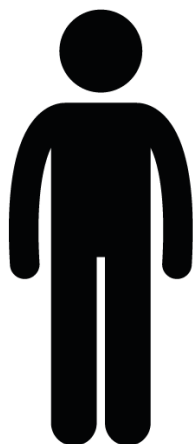


Gender	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Female	42,965	5.1	7.3
Male	71,465	6.2	11.4
Total	114,435	5.7	9.4

*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.



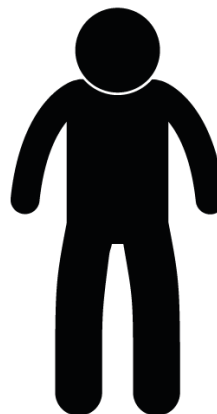
Serious claims by age group, 2018-19p*



Workers aged 30-34 years had the **lowest claim rate** of

4.5

claims per million hours worked



Workers aged 60-64 years had the **highest claim rate** of

8.2

claims per million hours worked

Age group (years)	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Under 20	3,785	5.9	5.3
20-24	10,385	5.6	8.0
25-29	12,000	4.7	8.0
30-34	11,465	4.5	7.9
35-39	11,185	4.7	8.2
40-44	11,965	5.4	9.5
45-49	14,230	6.2	11.1
50-54	13,950	7.0	12.3
55-59	13,320	7.7	13.1
60-64	8,715	8.2	12.7
65 and over	3,430	6.0	7.9
Total	114,435	5.7	9.4

*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

Key WHS statistics Australia 2020

Work-related injury and disease



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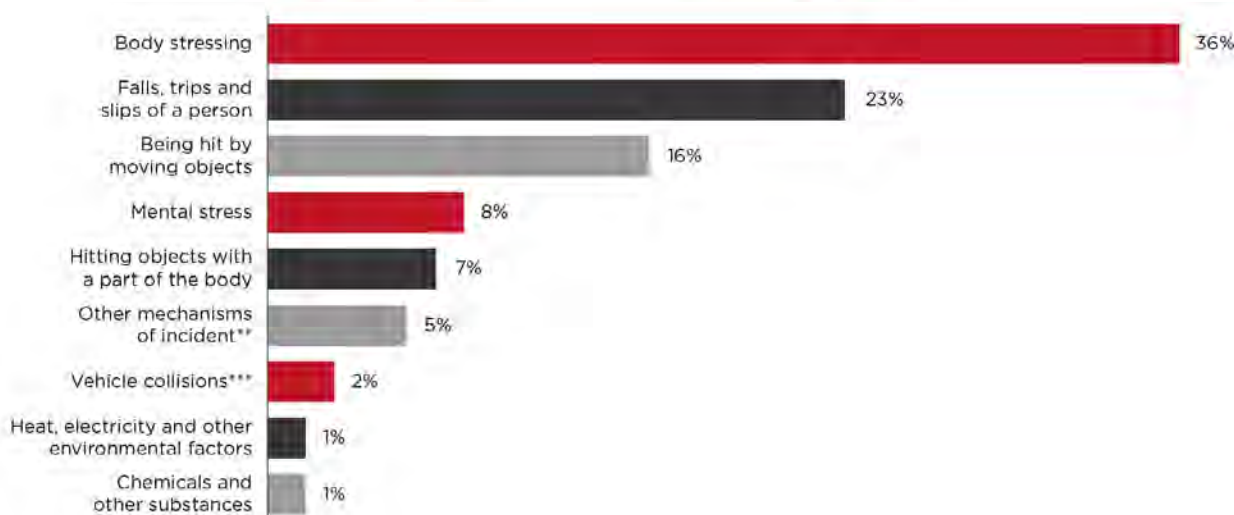
Serious claims by mechanism of incident, 2018-19p*



Body stressing
36%



Falls, trips and slips of a person
23%



Mechanism of incident	Number of serious claims			% of serious claims		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Body stressing	15,350	26,045	41,395	36%	36%	36%
Falls, trips and slips of a person	10,785	15,210	26,000	25%	21%	23%
Being hit by moving objects	5,595	12,760	18,355	13%	18%	16%
Mental stress	5,600	3,910	9,510	13%	5%	8%
Hitting objects with a part of the body	1,795	5,880	7,675	4%	8%	7%
Other mechanisms of incident**	2,230	3,980	6,215	5%	6%	5%
Vehicle collisions***	715	1,945	2,660	2%	3%	2%
Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	630	955	1,580	1%	1%	1%
Chemicals and other substances	265	780	1,045	1%	1%	1%
Total	42,965	71,465	114,435	100%	100%	100%

*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

**other mechanisms of incident include biological factors, sound and pressure, other multiple mechanisms of incident, roll over, slide or cave-in and unspecified mechanisms of incident.

***vehicle collisions include claims where the injury was the direct result of a vehicle crash. Vehicles include not only road vehicles such as cars and trucks, but also machines such as aircraft, boats, loaders, tractors and quad bikes.

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Work-related injury and disease



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Serious claims by nature of injury/disease, 2018-19p*



Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury

39%



Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage

16%



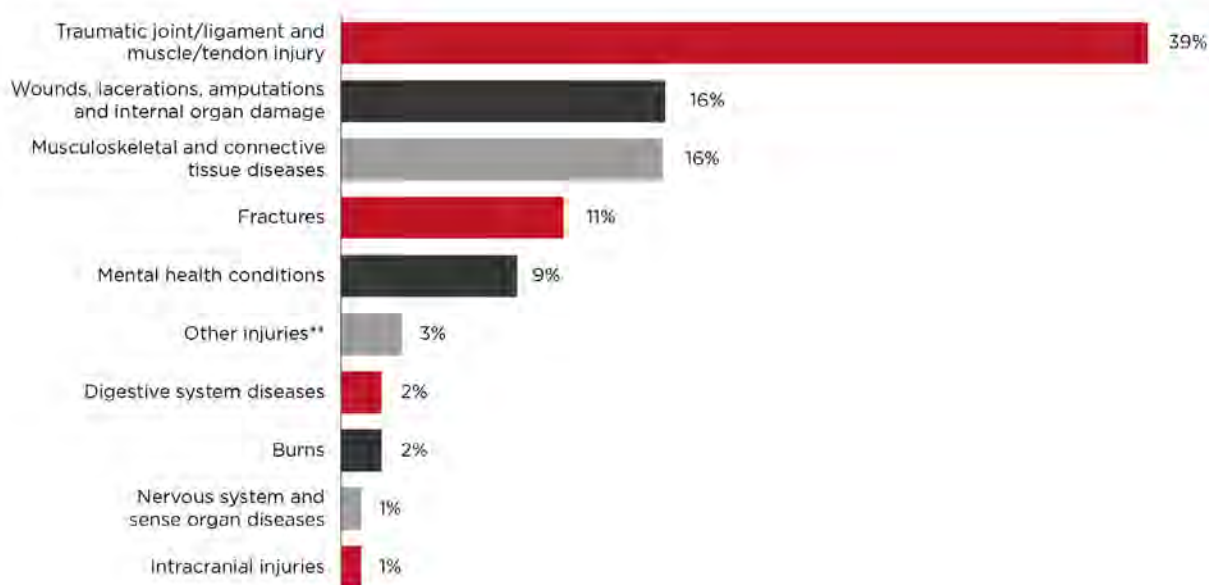
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases

16%



Disease
28%

Injury
72%



Nature of injury or disease	Number of serious claims			% of serious claims		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injuries	17,550	27,595	45,145	41%	39%	39%
Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage	4,465	13,425	17,895	10%	19%	16%
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases	7,280	10,495	17,780	17%	15%	16%
Fractures	4,065	7,970	12,035	9%	11%	11%
Mental health conditions	5,845	4,170	10,015	14%	6%	9%
Other injuries	1,290	2,370	3,660	3%	3%	3%
Digestive system diseases	135	2,020	2,155	0%	3%	2%
Burns	655	1,115	1,770	2%	2%	2%
Nervous system and sense organ diseases	525	610	1,135	1%	1%	1%
Intracranial injuries	475	525	995	1%	1%	1%
Total***	42,965	71,465	114,435	100%	100%	100%

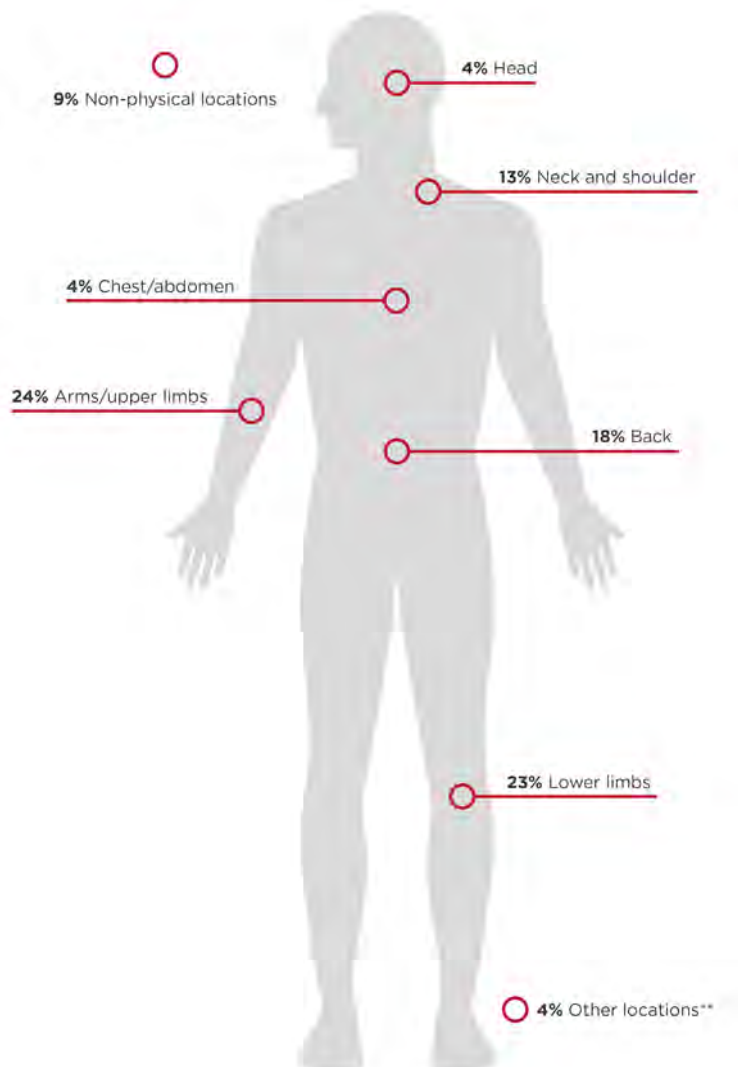
*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

**other injuries includes those related to poisoning, electrocution, air pressure, weather conditions, unspecified injuries and injuries not classified elsewhere.

***injuries or diseases accounting for less than 1% of serious claims are not included separately but are included in the total



Serious claims by bodily location of injury, 2018-19p*



Body location of injury/disease	Number of serious claims	% of serious claims
Arms/upper limbs	27,900	24%
Lower limbs	26,545	23%
Back	20,675	18%
Neck and shoulder	14,615	13%
Non-physical locations	10,005	9%
Other locations**	5,075	4%
Chest/abdomen	4,930	4%
Head	4,040	4%
Total***	114,435	100%

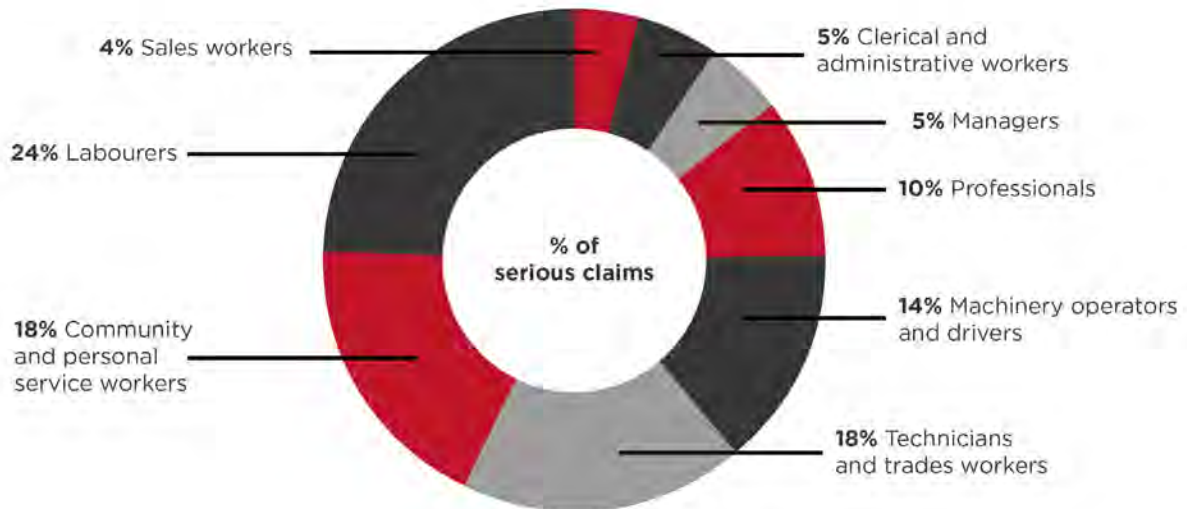
*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

**other locations include multiple locations, systemic locations, and trunk excluding chest and abdomen

***claim numbers are rounded to the nearest five. Claims where the bodily location was unknown are not included separately, but are included in the total.



Serious claims by occupation, 2018-19p*



*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

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Serious claims by occupation, 2018-19p*

Occupation	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Labourers	27,090	16.4	23.7
Community and personal service workers	21,075	11.9	15.2
Machinery operators and drivers	15,870	10.4	19.9
Technicians and trades workers	20,755	7.0	13.3
Sales workers	5,120	3.6	4.5
Professionals	11,645	2.3	3.9
Clerical and administrative workers	5,420	2.0	3.1
Managers	5,420	1.9	3.9
Total**	114,435	5.7	9.4

*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

**claim numbers are rounded to the nearest five. Claims where the occupation was unknown are not included separately, but are included in the total.

Serious claims by industry, 2018-19p*



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

9.2

serious claims per million hours worked



Manufacturing

8.4

serious claims per million hours worked



Transport, postal and warehousing

8.2

serious claims per million hours worked



*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

**other industries include all other industries excluding the top seven industries by number of serious claims.

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Work-related injury and disease



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Serious claims by industry, 2018-19p*

Industry	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,565	9.2	17.2
Manufacturing	13,410	8.4	15.7
Transport, postal and warehousing	8,905	8.2	15.2
Health care and social assistance	19,505	8.1	11.6
Construction	14,280	7.6	15.2
Arts and recreation services	2,290	7.4	9.3
Wholesale trade	4,910	7.0	13.1
Administrative and support services	5,250	7.0	11.0
Public administration and safety	8,760	6.1	10.2
Accommodation and food services	6,205	5.5	6.8
Retail trade	8,770	5.0	6.9
Mining	2,525	4.8	10.5
Education and training	7,530	4.6	7.1
Other services	2,935	4.2	7.0
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1,165	3.9	7.6
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1,080	3.0	5.3
Information media and telecommunications	475	1.3	2.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	2,120	1.2	2.1
Financial and insurance services	665	0.9	1.5
Total**	114,435	5.7	9.4

*preliminary data subject to revision in future years as further claims are finalised.

**claim numbers are rounded to the nearest five. Claims where the industry was unknown are not included separately, but are included in the total.