

National OHS Strategy 2002–2012

Priority industry progress

The National OHS Strategy 2002–2012 (the National Strategy) provides the framework for collective efforts to improve Australia's work health and safety performance. The National Strategy set national targets to reduce the incidence of compensated work-related injury fatalities at least 20% and the incidence of serious work-related injuries at least 40% by 30 June 2012.

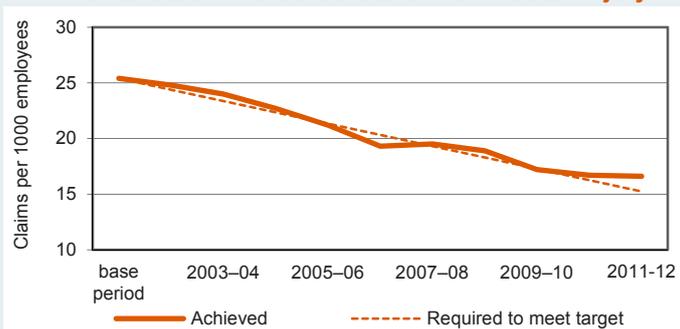
Work-related injuries are measured using serious injury (including musculoskeletal disorders) claims from the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS). Serious claims include all fatalities, all claims for permanent incapacity and claims involving one or more weeks of time lost from work.

The baseline for measuring progress is the three-year period 2000–01 to 2002–03. There has been a 26% decrease in the incidence rate of serious injury nationally between the commencement of the National Strategy and 2011–12. The Construction industry recorded the greatest fall (down 34%) followed by Manufacturing (down 28%), Transport, postal & warehousing (down 27%), Agriculture, forestry & fishing (down 25%) and Health care & social assistance (down 13%).

Construction

Since the commencement of the National Strategy there has been a 60% increase in the number of employees in the Construction industry with only a 5% increase in the number of serious claims. This resulted in a 34% fall in the incidence rate of serious injury up to 2011–12.

Construction: Incidence rate of work-related injury



All sectors within the Construction industry recorded falls of between 7% and 58% in their incidence rate of work-related injuries.

The Construction services sector accounted for 63% of employees and recorded a 37% fall in the incidence rate of work-related injury.

The Building construction sector accounted for the second largest proportion of employees (28%) in 2011–12 and recorded a 23% decrease in the incidence rate of work-related injury.

The largest percentage fall (58%), was recorded by Non-residential building construction and the lowest fall (7%) was recorded by Residential building construction.

period 2000–01 to 2002–03. A three-year base period was chosen to compensate for volatility in the compensation data. As data supplied for the latest year are updated, no adjustments were needed as updated data likely reflect final numbers.

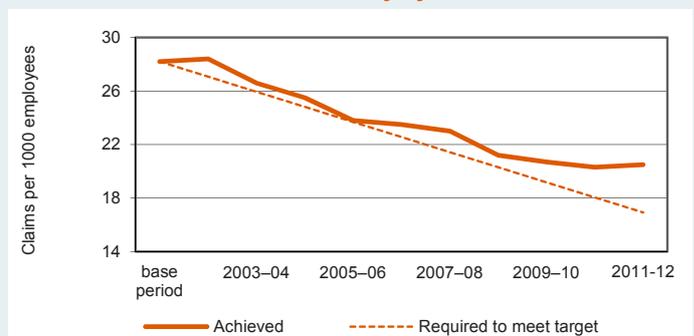
A number of industries were selected to receive priority attention under the National Strategy. These industries were selected based on a combination of high incidence rates of work-related injury and/or high employment.

The priority industries are: Agriculture, forestry & fishing; Construction; Health care & social assistance; Manufacturing; and Transport, postal & warehousing. Together these industries accounted for 34% of employees and 52% of serious injury claims in 2011–12.

Transport, postal & warehousing

Since the commencement of the National Strategy there has been a 7% fall in the number of compensated work-related injuries in the Transport, postal & warehousing industry. Combined with a 28% increase in the number of employees in this industry, this has resulted in a 27% fall in the incidence rate of work-related injury.

Transport, postal & warehousing: Incidence rate of work-related injury



Falls in the incidence rate of work-related injuries were recorded in all sectors within the Transport, postal & warehousing industry except for Airport operations services and Water transport support services.

The warehousing & storage services sector recorded a substantial percentage fall in incidence rates (52%) due to a 15% decrease in the number of work-related injuries and a 79% increase in the number of employees. This sector accounted for 10% of employees in 2011–12.

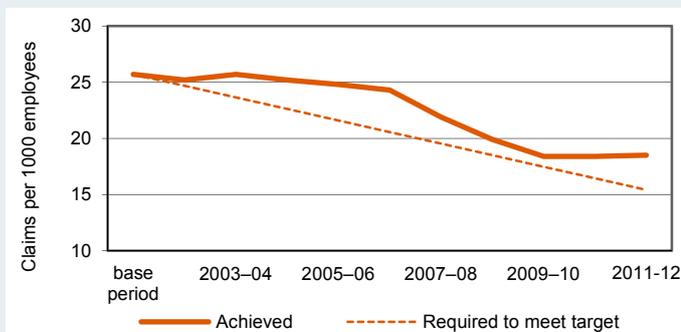
The sector with the greatest number of employees in 2011–12 was Road freight transport. This sector accounted for 24% of employees and recorded a 6% fall in incidence rates. This sector has many self-employed workers who are not covered by workers' compensation and hence the 6% fall may not be representative of all workers in this sector.

The next biggest sectors were Postal & courier pick-up & delivery services and Road passenger transport. Accounting these for 20% and 11% of employees respectively in 2011–12, and recorded falls in incidence rates of 27% and 30% respectively.

Manufacturing

The Manufacturing industry is one of only three industries to record a fall in the number of employees since the commencement of the National Strategy. An 11% fall in employment combined with a 36% fall in the number of work-related injuries resulted in a 28% improvement in the incidence rate of work-related injuries. Most of this improvement occurred in the last few years.

Manufacturing: Incidence rate of work-related injury



Falls in the incidence rates of work-related injuries were recorded in all sectors within the Manufacturing industry.

The Food product manufacturing sector accounted for the greatest proportion of employees in 2011–12 (22%) and recorded a 42% decrease in the incidence rate of work-related injuries since the commencement of the National Strategy.

The Machinery & equipment manufacturing sector accounted for the second largest proportion of employees (13%) and recorded a 17% decrease in incidence rate of work-related injuries.

The greatest percentage decrease (58%) in the incidence rate of work-related injury was recorded by the Primary metal & metal product manufacturing sector. This sector also recorded a substantial increase in employment since the commencement of the National Strategy with 32% more employees. The other notable fall in incidence rate was in the Printing (including the Reproduction of Recorded Media) industry where there was a 37% decrease in the rate of work-related injury.

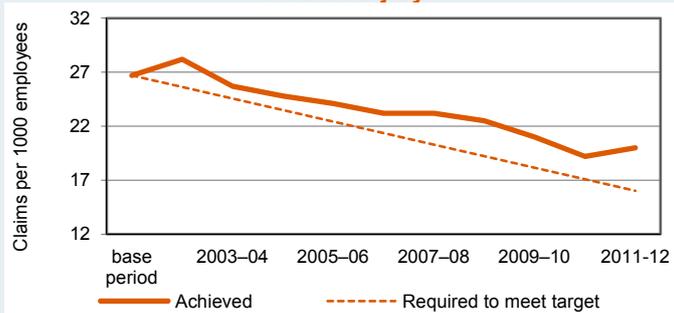
The Wood product manufacturing sector recorded the smallest improvement with only an 8% fall in the rate of work-related injury.

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

The Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry is the second of only three industries to record a fall in the number of employees since the commencement of the National Strategy. A 6% fall in employment combined with a 29% fall in the number of serious injury claims resulted in a 25% improvement in the incidence rate of work-related injuries.

Falls in the incidence rates of work-related injuries were recorded in all sectors within the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry.

Agriculture, forestry & fishing: Incidence rate of work-related injury



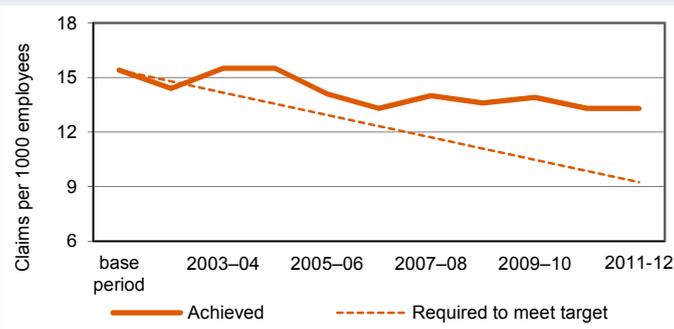
The Sheep, Beef Cattle & Grain Farming sector accounted for 37% of employees in 2011–12 and recorded a 32% decrease in its incidence rate. The Fruit & tree nut growing sector accounted for 14% of employees and recorded a 16% fall in its incidence rate of compensated work-related injuries.

The largest decreases in incidence rates of compensated work-related injuries were recorded in Poultry farming (down 51%), Other crop growing (down 32%), Sheep, beef cattle & grain farming (down 32%) and Fishing (down 28%).

Health care & social assistance

The number of employees in the Health care & social assistance services industry has increased by 49% since the start of the National Strategy. Combined with a 29% increase in the number of serious claims, this industry recorded a 13% fall in its incidence rate of work-related injuries since the commencement of the National Strategy. The rate of work-related injury has largely plateaued since 2008–09.

Health care & social assistance: Incidence rate of work-related injury



Falls in incidence rates were recorded in all sectors within the Health care & social assistance industry except for Child care services where there was a 23% increase, Hospitals (up 6%) and Other health care services (up 1%). Child care services recorded a substantial increase (up 76%) in the number of employees since 2001 but still accounted for 9% of the industry's workers in 2011–12.

The Hospitals sector accounted for 33% of all employees in this industry in 2011–12 and recorded a 9% increase in the incidence rate of serious injury. The largest percentage fall in incidence rates was recorded by Allied health services with a 57% decrease.

