

AGRICULTURE FORESTRY AND FISHING



The Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry employed 344 000 people in 2011–12 (3% of the Australian workforce). Within this industry 58% of workers were classed as employees and were covered by workers' compensation. Employers in this industry paid 3.8% of payroll in 2011–12 to provide workers' compensation coverage for their employees.

FATALITIES

Over the five years from 2007–08 to 2011–12, 294 Agriculture, forestry & fishing workers died from work-related injuries. Three-quarters of these involved a vehicle. The total number of deaths equates to 16.81 fatalities per 100 000 workers, which is seven times the national rate of 2.29.

- *Vehicle incident* accounted for 100 fatalities with a variety of vehicles involved. In 38 of the incidents the worker was in an aircraft while 21 were in a car, 13 were in a truck, 9 were riding a motorcycle and 8 were riding a quad bike.
- *Being hit by moving objects* resulted in 43 deaths. This was followed by *Rollover of non-road vehicles* and *Being hit by falling objects* (37 and 24 fatalities respectively).
- *Being trapped between stationary & moving objects* and *Drownings* accounted for 16 fatalities each.

SERIOUS CLAIMS

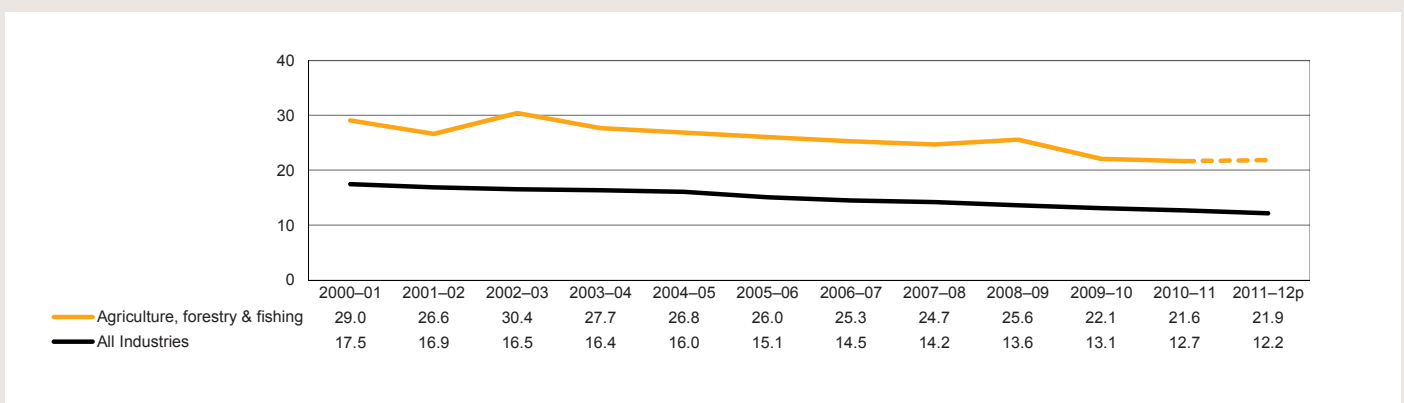
The preliminary data for 2011–12 show there were 3923 successful workers' compensation claims for serious injury or illness. Over the five years from 2007–08 to 2011–12, the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry accounted for 3% of all serious workers' compensation claims. On average there were 11 claims each day from employees who required one or more weeks off work because of work-related injury or illness.

Figure 1 shows that the incidence rate of serious claims has fallen 25% from 29.0 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 21.6 in 2010–11. However, this rate remains substantially higher than the rate for all industries (12.7) and was the third highest incidence rate of all industries in 2010–11.

Between 2007–08 and 2011–12:

- *Body stressing* accounted for 28% of claims—the most common cause was muscular stress while handling sheep.
- *Being hit by moving objects* accounted for 25% of claims, with more than one-third of these claims involving animals.
- *Falls, trips and slips of a person* accounted for 23% of claims and these mostly occurred in the outdoor environment due to falling over on uneven ground.

Figure 1: Serious claims: Incidence rates by year





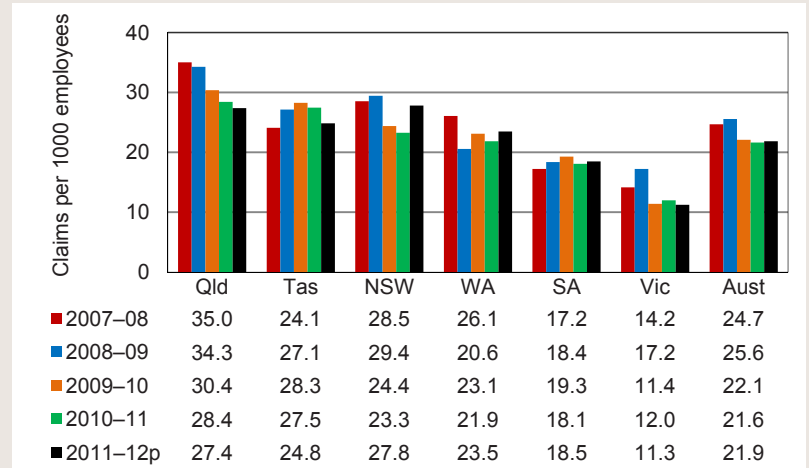
SERIOUS CLAIMS BY JURISDICTION

Figure 2 shows the incidence rates of serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry by jurisdiction.

Over the period 2007–08 to 2010–11 all jurisdictions except Tasmania and South Australia recorded decreases in incidence rates. The largest fall was recorded by Queensland (19%) followed by New South Wales (18%). Tasmania and South Australia increased by 14% and 5% respectively.

The preliminary data for 2011–12 show that New South Wales recorded the highest incidence rate with 27.8 serious claims per 1000 employees and Victoria recorded the lowest with 11.3.

Figure 2: Serious claims: Incidence rates by jurisdiction



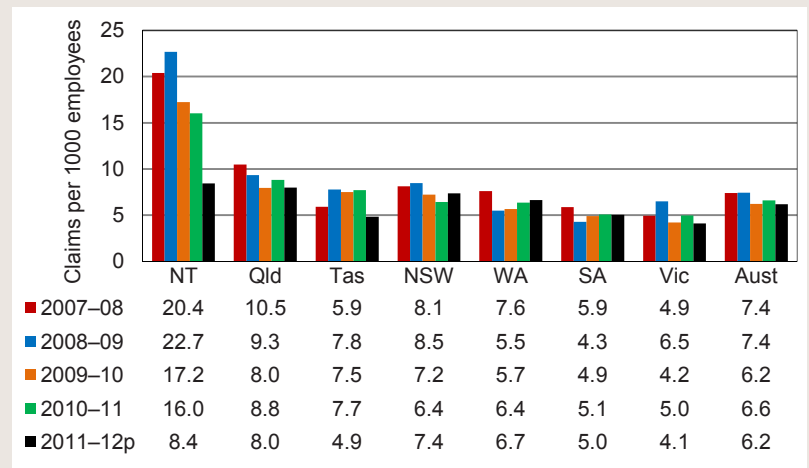
CLAIMS INVOLVING 12 OR MORE WEEKS TIME LOST BY JURISDICTION

Figure 3 shows the incidence rates of claims involving 12 or more weeks off work by jurisdiction. Preliminary data for 2011–12 show 28% of serious claims had compensation paid for 12 or more weeks off work.

Over the period 2007–08 to 2010–11 all jurisdictions except Tasmania and Victoria recorded decreases in the incidence rates of long term claims. The largest decreases were recorded in the Northern Territory (22%) and New South Wales (21%).

The preliminary data for 2011–12 show that incidence rates of long term claims ranged from 4.1 claims per 1000 employees in Victoria to 8.4 in the Northern Territory.

Figure 3: Claims involving twelve or more weeks off work: Incidence rates by jurisdiction



Claims data were extracted from the National Data Set (NDS) for Compensation-based statistics. The data presented here are restricted to accepted claims for serious injury and disease. Serious claims include fatalities, claims for permanent disability and claims for conditions that involve one or more weeks of time lost from work. Serious claims do not include those involving journeys to and from work. The 2011–12 data are preliminary and expected to rise. As such they have not been used to determine the percentage change in rates over time. More information on this industry can be found at swa.gov.au.

Information on fatalities is extracted from the Traumatic Injury Fatalities database. Annual fatalities reports can be found at swa.gov.au.

