

COMPENDIUM OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATISTICS AUSTRALIA 2010–11



March 2013

Safe Work Australia

Compendium of Workers' Compensation Statistics Australia 2010–11

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Foreword

While the Compendium is restricted to the analysis of accepted workers' compensation claims, it nevertheless provides a good indicator of Australia's work health and safety performance in 2010–11p and allows analysis of trends in performance over time. Data are presented by key variables such as industry, occupation, age and sex with supporting information on the circumstances surrounding work-related injury and disease occurrences. The data in this report were compiled according to the concepts and definitions set out in the *National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics* (NDS).

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Standard symbols and abbreviations

The following standard symbols are used in this publication:

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 2 nd edition
Comparative Performance Monitoring
not applicable
National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics
not elsewhere classified
data not available due to confidentiality restrictions
preliminary data
Type of Occurrence Classification System
Asterisked incidence and frequency rates in tables have a relative
or of 25% or more, but less than 50% and should be used with

Part A: Serious claims, 2010–11p

Preliminary data show 127 355 serious workers' compensation claims in 2010–11, which equates to 12.2 serious claims per 1000 employees and 7.3 serious claims per million hours worked.

- Sex Men accounted for two-thirds of all serious claims, resulting in an incidence rate of 15.2 serious claims per 1000 male employees, nearly double the 8.9 claims per 1000 female employees, as in 2009–10. There were 8.1 serious claims per million hours worked by male employees, compared to 6.3 serious claims per million hours worked by female employees.
- Age Incidence rates increased with age from 7.0 serious claims per 1000 employees aged 15–19 years to 16.6 claims per 1000 employees aged 60–64 years. Frequency rates did not show the same pattern, ranging from 5.1 serious claims per million hours worked by employees aged 25–29 years to 10.5 for those aged 60–64 years.
- Industry Employees in Transport & storage sustained the highest incidence rate of all industries: 21.7 serious claims per 1000 employees, nearly twice the national rate of 12.2. Agriculture, forestry & fishing employees made 21.0 serious claims per 1000 employees, while there were 20.9 in Manufacturing and 17.8 in Construction. These four industry divisions also experienced high frequency rates.
- Occupation Employees working as Labourers & related workers sustained the highest incidence rate of all occupation groups: 30.2 serious claims per 1000 employees, more than twice the national rate. Intermediate production & transport workers made 26.7 claims per 1000 employees and Tradespersons & related workers 20.7. These three occupation groups also recorded the highest frequency rates.

Nature of injury or disease

Almost three-quarters of all serious claims were the result of injury, with *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles* alone accounting for 42% of all serious claims. The most common disease claims involved *Disorders of muscle, tendons & other soft tissues* (6% of all serious claims), *Dorsopathies – disorders of spinal vertebrae* (6%) and *Mental disorders* (6%).

Mechanism of injury or disease

Manual handling mechanisms (*Muscular stress while lifting objects* and *Muscular stress while handling objects*) resulted in 32% of all serious claims. Falls accounted for 20% of all serious claims.

Location of injury or disease

The back was the location on the body that was most often injured, accounting for 22% of all serious claims (16% for *Lower back* injuries alone). Other common locations were *Hand, fingers & thumb* (12%), *Shoulder* (9%) and *Knee* (9%).

Part B: Extended time series

Between 2000–01 and 2009–10, the number of serious claims decreased by 8% from 142 870 to 131 170. Over the same period, the incidence rate fell 26% from 17.5 to 13.0 serious claims per 1000 employees, and the frequency rate fell 23% from 10.2 to 7.8 serious claims per million hours worked. The decrease in rates was the result of the decline in the number of claims combined with an increase in the number of employees.

Incidence rates fell in all industries over the period, with decreases of 49% in Mining, 44% in Electricity, gas & water supply and 38% in both Construction and Communication services. These four industry divisions also recorded the highest falls in frequency rates.

Payments and time lost

Over the same period, median time lost from work rose 17% from 3.6 working weeks to 4.2. In 2009–10 median time lost for male employees was 3.8 working weeks and 5.1 for female employees, a difference that has remained relatively constant over the ten years.

Median payments for female employees were \$7400 in 2009–10. This is lower than the \$8500 for male employees despite the longer time lost for female employees, possibly due to women's lower average wages. The median payment for all serious claims rose 44% from \$5700 to \$8200 over the ten-year period.

Part C: Compensated fatalities

Preliminary data show 169 compensated fatalities in 2010–11, equivalent to an incidence rate of 1.6 fatalities per 100 000 employees. Of these, 158 (93%) occurred to male employees. The number of compensated fatalities remained relatively stable between 2003–04 and 2006–07 before peaking at 323 in 2007–08 and then declining to 215 in 2009–10. Over the same period, the fatality incidence rate has tracked the number of fatalities closely, falling from 3.3 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2003–04 to 2.1 in 2010–11p.

- Industry In 2010–11p the highest number of compensated fatalities (28) was in the Construction industry. There were 24 compensated deaths in Transport & storage, 18 of which were in Road freight transport alone. The highest incidence rate however was in Transport & storage, even after decreasing 80% from 9.9 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2008–09 to 5.5 in 2010–11p.
- Occupation Intermediate production & transport workers accounted for 32% of the compensated fatalities in 2010–11p (50), with 6.0 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. More than half of these fatalities (30) were of Truck drivers. Tradespersons & related workers sustained 34 compensated fatalities (3.1 per 100 000 employees) while Labourers & related workers and Professionals each recorded 26 compensated fatalities.

Mechanism of injury or disease

Almost a third of the compensated fatalities in 2010–11p were due to a *Vehicle accident* (53). Other major causes of fatalities were *Long term contact with chemicals or substances* (21), *Being hit by moving objects* (19) and *Falls from a height* (17).

The preliminary data for 2010–11 show that there were 127 335 claims accepted for workers' compensation that involved a serious injury or disease. The claims included in this publication are those that were lodged in the reference year and accepted by the date at which the data was extracted. Serious claims involve either a fatality, a permanent incapacity or a temporary incapacity requiring an absence from work of one working week or more.

The 127 335 serious claims represent an incidence rate of 12.2 serious claims per 1000 employees or a frequency rate of 7.3 serious claims per million hours worked. However, these data are preliminary (as denoted by the letter 'p' throughout this publication) and are likely to change as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date. As a result, 2010–11p data understates the number of serious claims that will eventually be recorded for this year.

Serious claims by sex

Table 1 shows that of the 127 335 serious claims during 2010–11p, two-thirds were made by male employees and one-third by female employees. These proportions have varied little in recent years and persist when serious claims are divided into Injury & musculoskeletal disorders and Diseases.

Table 1 Serious claims, percentage of total, incidence and frequency rate by injury or disease and sex, 2010–11p

Sex	Number of serious claims	Percentage	Incidence rate ^a	Frequency rate ^b					
Males									
Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders	71 320	85.6%	13.0	6.9					
Diseases	11 995	14.4%	2.2	1.2					
Total	83 315	100.0%	15.2	8.1					
	Females								
Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders	37 745	85.7%	7.6	5.4					
Diseases	6 275	14.3%	1.3	0.9					
Total	44 020	100.0%	8.9	6.3					
	All serious c	laims							
Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders	109 065	85.7%	10.4	6.3					
Diseases	18 270	14.3%	1.8	1.1					
Total	127 335	100.0%	12.2	7.3					

a Calculated as serious claims per 1000 employees.

b Calculated as serious claims per million hours worked.

Incidence rates

Differences in the number of serious claims for males and females reflect underlying gender differences in labour force participation. The incidence rate—measured as the number of serious claims per 1000 employees takes into account differences in labour force participation, and can be used to compare the relative likelihood of work-related injury or disease between males and females.

Table 1 shows that male employees were almost twice as likely as their female counterparts to have a serious claim for both Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders and Diseases.

To a large extent the higher incidence rates of serious claims among male employees may be explained by the high proportion of males employed in the more hazardous industries. For example, in the *Construction* industry there were 7 times more male employees than female; in *Mining* there were 5 times more male employees than female; and in *Electricity, gas & water supply, Transport & Storage* and *Manufacturing* the employee sex ratio was 3 males to every female.

Frequency rates

Another way to examine differences in workplace injury or disease between different groups of employees is to compare frequency rates. This measure calculates the number of serious claims reported among a given group of employees relative to the total time they spent working. Frequency rates control for any differences in the proportion of part-time employees between one group and another.

Table 1 shows that in 2010–11p there was less difference in the frequency rates of serious claims between males and females than there was for incidence rates. This reflects the higher level of part-time work among females than among males. However, male employees were still 1.3 times more likely than female employees to have a serious claim (8.1 serious claims per million hours worked by male employees compared with 6.3 serious claims per million hours worked by female employees).

For Diseases the frequency rate of serious claims for males was 1.3 times higher than the frequency rate for females (1.2 and 0.9, respectively). The overall frequency rate for Diseases was 1.1 serious claims per million hours worked.

Serious claims by age and sex

Table 2 shows serious claims across age groups in 2010–11p. Precisely 4% of all serious claims involved employees aged less than 20 years, and almost 9% involved employees aged 60 years and over. Males and females have a relatively similar distribution of claim numbers according to age, with the exception of the 45–49 and 50–54 year age groups where females have a larger proportion of serious claims than males. The highest proportion of serious claims for females was recorded in these age groups (16% each).

The pattern observed for serious claims is driven by trends within serious claims for Injury and musculoskeletal disorders. Serious claims lodged by male employees for Injury and musculoskeletal disorders were evenly spread between the ages of 20 and 54, whereas female employees lodged more claims when they were older, particularly those aged 45 to 54 years.

The proportion of serious claims for Diseases increased with age reaching 17% for female employees within the 50–54 years age group and 16% for male employees within the 55–59 years age group.

Table 2Serious claims, percentage of total, incidence and frequency rate by injury or
disease by sex by age, 2010–11p

	Numbe	er of seriou	ıs claims	Percenta	age of serio	ous claims	Incidence	Frequency
Age group	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	rate ^a	rate ^b
			Alls	erious clair	ns			
<20 years	3 745	1 410	5 155	4.5%	3.2%	4.0%	7.0	7.3
20–24 years	7 880	3 275	11 155	9.5%	7.4%	8.8%	9.0	5.9
25–29 years	8 405	3 525	11 935	10.1%	8.0%	9.4%	9.1	5.1
30–34 years	8 335	3 375	11 710	10.0%	7.7%	9.2%	10.4	5.9
35–39 years	9 515	4 440	13 960	11.4%	10.1%	11.0%	12.1	6.8
40-44 years	9 870	5 545	15 410	11.8%	12.6%	12.1%	13.6	7.7
45–49 years	10 065	7 035	17 100	12.1%	16.0%	13.4%	14.9	8.4
50-54 years	9 555	7 130	16 690	11.5%	16.2%	13.1%	15.9	9.0
55–59 years	7 950	4 995	12 945	9.5%	11.3%	10.2%	16.0	9.4
60–64 years	5 890	2 640	8 535	7.1%	6.0%	6.7%	16.6	10.5
65 years & over	2 085	650	2 735	2.5%	1.5%	2.1%	12.8	9.7
Total	83 315	44 020	127 335	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	12.2	7.3
-		Inj	uries & mu	sculoskelet	al disorder	s		
<20 years	3 625	1 325	4 950	5.1%	3.5%	4.5%	6.7	7.0
20–24 years	7 520	2 945	10 465	10.5%	7.8%	9.6%	8.4	5.5
25–29 years	7 880	3 060	10 935	11.0%	8.1%	10.0%	8.4	4.7
30–34 years	7 600	2830	10 430	10.7%	7.5%	9.6%	9.3	5.3
35–39 years	8450	3 700	12 150	11.8%	9.8%	11.1%	10.5	5.9
40-44 years	8 515	4655	13 165	11.9%	12.3%	12.1%	11.6	6.6
45–49 years	8 530	6015	14 550	12.0%	15.9%	13.3%	12.7	7.2
50-54 years	7 735	6080	13815	10.8%	16.1%	12.7%	13.1	7.5
55–59 years	6 005	4 270	10 275	8.4%	11.3%	9.4%	12.7	7.4
60–64 years	4 170	2 290	6 460	5.8%	6.1%	5.9%	12.5	7.9
65 years & over	1 275	570	1 845	1.8%	1.5%	1.7%	8.6	6.5
Total	71 320	37 745	109 065	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	10.4	6.3
				Diseases				
<20 years	120	80	200	1.0%	1.3%	1.1%	0.3	0.3
20–24 years	360	330	690	3.0%	5.3%	3.8%	0.6	0.4
25–29 years	530	470	995	4.4%	7.5%	5.4%	0.8	0.4
30–34 years	735	545	1 275	6.1%	8.7%	7.0%	1.1	0.6
35–39 years	1 065	740	1 805	8.9%	11.8%	9.9%	1.6	0.9
40-44 years	1 355	890	2 245	11.3%	14.2%	12.3%	2.0	1.1
45–49 years	1 530	1 020	2 550	12.8%	16.3%	14.0%	2.2	1.3
50–54 years	1 820	1 050	2 870	15.2%	16.7%	15.7%	2.7	1.6
55–59 years	1 945	725	2 670	16.2%	11.6%	14.6%	3.3	1.9
60–64 years	1 725	350	2 075	14.4%	5.6%	11.4%	4.0	2.5
65 years & over	810	75	885	6.8%	1.2%	4.8%	4.1	3.1
Total	11 995	6 275	18 270	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	1.8	1.1

a Calculated as serious claims per 1000 employees.

b Calculated as serious claims per million hours worked.

Incidence rates

Incidence and frequency rates take into account differences between age groups in the total number of employees and the total hours employees spent at work. Table 2 shows that incidence rates of serious claims increased progressively with age from less than 20 years (7.0 serious claims per 1000 employees) until 60–64 years (16.6 serious claims per 1000 employees). Figure 1 shows that this pattern is fairly similar for female and male employees with incidence rates generally increasing with age. However, incidence rates of serious claims peak at 50–54 years of age for female employees and 60–64 years for males. Male employee incidence rates of serious claims in 2010–11p were almost twice the corresponding rates for female employees in most age groups.

For Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders, the incidence rate of serious claims increased with age up to 50–54 years (13.1 per 1000 employees); with a similar pattern observed for Diseases.



Figure 1 Serious claims: incidence rate by sex and age, 2010–11p

Frequency rates

There was less variation in frequency rates across the age groups (refer to Table 2) suggesting that on a 'per hour worked' basis there is not a large difference in the frequency of serious claims associated with the age of the employee. Figure 2 shows that while there was variation in frequency rates between male and female employees in the younger and older age groups, male and female employees in the 45–49 and 50–54 years age groups had almost identical frequency rates of serious claims.

The frequency rates for Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders were much higher than Diseases in all age groups. Rates for both categories increased progressively with age with the exception of Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders for employees in the less than 20 years to 20–24 years age groups.

Table 2 shows that overall frequency rates declined sharply from 7.3 serious claims per million hours worked recorded for the less than 20 years age group to 5.1 recorded for the 25–29 years age group, and then rose steadily with increasing age. Figure 2 shows that frequency rates began to decline again for female employees at 50–54 years while for males rates began to decline at 60–64 years.

While the incidence rate for male employees in the less than 20 years age group was the lowest of all the male age groups, the frequency rate was the third highest (9.4 serious claims per million hours worked). This is due to the lower number of hours worked and higher proportion of part-time work of male employees in this age group compared to the other age groups.





Serious claims by industry

Table 3 shows the number and percentage of serious claims reported in each industry for 2010–11p. Almost 60% of serious claims involved five industries: Manufacturing, Health & community services, Retail trade, Construction and Property & business services.

Within these industries the pattern for male and female employees was quite different. For female employees, 33% of serious claims were reported in the Health & community services industry, 14% in Retail trade, 10% in Education and 7% in Property & business services and Accommodation, cafes & restaurants. For male employees, the highest proportions of serious claims were recorded in the Manufacturing (20%), Construction (15%), Transport & storage (10%) and Property & business services (9%) industries.

The distribution of Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders by industry was the same as the distribution of all serious claims, which is not unexpected given that these claims comprised 85% of all serious claims in 2010–11p. Almost one third of serious Injury & musculoskeletal disorder claims were made by employees in the Manufacturing (15%) and the Health & community services (14%) industries, of which the mechanism Body stressing accounted for the largest proportions of serious claims (40% and 51% respectively).

As with Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders, the industries with the greatest number of serious claims for Disease were made by employees in the Manufacturing 17%), Health & community services (13%) and Construction (9%) industries.

	Number of serious claims			Number of serious claims Percentage			•
Industry	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
	Alls	serious clair	ns				
Manufacturing	16 795	2 630	19 425	20.2%	6.0%	15.3%	
Health & community services	3 680	14 340	18 020	4.4%	32.6%	14.2%	
Retail trade	7 095	5 975	13 075	8.5%	13.6%	10.3%	
Construction	12 570	415	12 985	15.1%	0.9%	10.2%	
Property & business services	7 485	3 170	10 655	9.0%	7.2%	8.4%	
Transport & storage	8 460	1 065	9 525	10.2%	2.4%	7.5%	
Education	2 345	4 525	6 865	2.8%	10.3%	5.4%	
Personal & other services	4 605	1 865	6 475	5.5%	4.2%	5.1%	
Wholesale trade	4 990	1 145	6 130	6.0%	2.6%	4.8%	
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	2 735	3 100	5 835	3.3%	7.0%	4.6%	
Government administration & defence	2 840	2 540	5 380	3.4%	5.8%	4.2%	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2 945	730	3 675	3.5%	1.7%	2.9%	
Cultural & recreational services	1 725	960	2 685	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%	
Mining	2 370	150	2 520	2.8%	0.3%	2.0%	
Communication services	1 080	320	1 400	1.3%	0.7%	1.1%	
Finance & insurance	275	845	1 115	0.3%	1.9%	0.9%	
Electricity, gas & water supply	765	65	830	0.9%	0.1%	0.7%	
Total ^a	83 315	44 020	127 335	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
li	njuries & mu	sculoskelet	al disorders	40 - 201	=	(= 00)	
Manufacturing	14 080	2 230	16 310	19.7%	5.9%	15.0%	
Health & community services	3 110	12 625	15 735	4.4%	33.4%	14.4%	
Retail trade	6370	5 495	11 865	8.9%	14.6%	10.9%	
Construction	10 945	340	0.220	15.3%	0.9%	10.3%	
Property & business services	0 595	2 625	9 220	9.2%	7.0%	8.5%	
Figure tion	7 380	935	8315	10.3%	2.5%	7.0%	
	1 000	3 360	5 390	2.0%	9.4%	4.9%	
	4 425	2 820	5 375	0.2%	2.5%	4.9%	
Porsonal & other services	2 400	2 030	5 2 6 5	5.4%	2.6%	4.0%	
Covernment administration & defense	3 700 2 115	1 0/5	4 060	3.2%	5.0%	4.0% 3.7%	
Agriculture forestry & fishing	2 115	680	3 / 15	3.0%	1.8%	3.1%	
Cultural & recreational services	1 590	875	2 4 5 5	2.0%	2.30/	2 20/	
Mining	1 930	135	2 455	2.27%	2.3%	2.3%	
Communication services	930	290	1 275	1.1%	0.4%	1.3%	
Einance & insurance	195	250 650	845	0.3%	1.7%	0.8%	
Electricity das & water supply	545	45	590	0.8%	0.1%	0.5%	
Total Injuries & musculoskeletal ^a	71 320	37 745	109 065	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	71020	Diseases	100 000	100.070	100.070	100.070	
Manufacturing	2 715	400	3 115	22.6%	6.4%	17.0%	
Health & community services	570	1 715	2 285	4.8%	27.3%	12.5%	
Construction	1 625	75	1 700	13.5%	1.2%	9.3%	
Education	510	965	1 475	4.3%	15.4%	8.1%	
Property & business services	895	545	1 440	7.5%	8.7%	7.9%	
Personal & other services	910	500	1 405	7.6%	8.0%	7.7%	
Government administration & defence	730	595	1 320	6.1%	9.5%	7.2%	
Retail trade	725	480	1 210	6.0%	7.6%	6.6%	
Transport & storage	1 080	130	1 210	9.0%	2.1%	6.6%	
Wholesale trade	565	190	760	4.7%	3.0%	4.2%	
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	280	270	550	2.3%	4.3%	3.0%	
Mining	440	15	455	3.7%	0.2%	2.5%	
Finance & insurance	80	195	270	0.7%	3.1%	1.5%	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	210	45	255	1.8%	0.7%	1.4%	
Electricity, gas & water supply	220	20	240	1.8%	0.3%	1.3%	
Cultural & recreational services	145	80	230	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	
Communication services	100	30	130	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%	
Total diseases ^a	11 995	6 275	18 270	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 3 Serious claims and percentage of total by injury or disease by sex and industry division, 2010–11p

a Includes claims for which Industry was not stated.

Incidence rates

Figure 3 shows that in 2010–11p, five industries had incidence rates substantially above the national rate of 12.2 serious claims per 1000 employees. These industries were Transport & storage (21.7), Agriculture, forestry & fishing (21.0), Manufacturing (20.9), Construction (17.8) and Personal & other services (17.5).

Figure 3 Serious claims: incidence rate by industry, 2010–11p



Frequency rates

Figure 4 compares frequency rates of serious claims between industries in 2010–11p. When rates are calculated using hours worked, the same industries mentioned above along with Health & community services have frequency rates well above the national rate of 7.3 claims per million hours worked.

Figure 4 Serious claims: frequency rate by industry, 2010–11p



When Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders alone were examined Agriculture, forestry & fishing had the highest frequency rate with 9.8 serious claims per million hours worked followed closely by Transport & storage (9.7) and Manufacturing (9.1). The lowest rate was in Finance & insurance with 1.2 serious claims per million hours worked.

For claims involving Diseases, Personal & other services reported the highest frequency rate of 2.3 claims per million hours worked followed by Manufacturing (1.7). Over three-quarters (78%) of the serious Disease claims in Personal & other services were for *Mental disorders*, of which 86% were made by employees in Public order & safety services, which includes Police Services, Corrective centres and Fire brigade services.

Serious claims by occupation

Table 4 shows the number and percentage of serious claims made by male and female employees in each occupation for all serious claims, Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders and Diseases in 2010–11p.

Labourers & related workers accounted for one fifth of all serious claims followed by Tradespersons & related workers and Intermediate production & transport workers each accounting for 18%. Together, employees working in these occupations experienced more than half of all serious claims lodged in 2010–11p. Managers & administrators and Advanced clerical & service workers accounted for the lowest number of serious claims, together representing just over 3% of all serious claims.

The three high risk occupations accounted for over two-thirds of all serious claims among male employees. The pattern for female employees was somewhat different, with the highest proportions of serious claims lodged by Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers (29%), Professionals (19%) and Labourers & related workers (16%), together accounting for almost two-thirds of serious claims lodged by female employees. The disparity between serious claims made by males and females was greatest for Tradespersons & related workers and Intermediate production & transport workers where males accounted for 91% of claims for these occupational categories.

The distribution of serious claims for Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders was very similar to the distribution of all serious claims as these represent 86% of all serious claims. Labourers & related workers were responsible for lodging just over one-fifth of serious claims for Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders, followed by Tradespersons & related workers and Intermediate production & transport workers, each accounting for 18%.

The distribution of serious claims for Diseases was similar to the distribution of all serious claims for both sexes. Tradespersons & related workers lodged the greatest proportion of serious claims for diseases (17%), followed closely by Labourers & related workers, Intermediate production & transport workers and Professionals (16% each).

Table 4 Serious claims and percentage of total by injury or disease by sex and occupation major group, 2010–11p

	Number of serious claims			Percentage of serious cla					
Occupation	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total			
	All serious claims								
Labourers & related workers	18 550	6 855	25 405	22.3%	15.6%	20.0%			
Tradespersons & related workers	21 345	1 660	23 005	25.6%	3.8%	18.1%			
Intermediate production & transport workers	20 280	2 085	22 365	24.3%	4.7%	17.6%			
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	4 480	12 590	17 070	5.4%	28.6%	13.4%			
Professionals	5 115	8 285	13 400	6.1%	18.8%	10.5%			
Associate professionals	6 080	5 025	11 105	7.3%	11.4%	8.7%			
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	4 785	5 565	10 350	5.7%	12.6%	8.1%			
Managers & administrators	2 215	1 115	3 330	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%			
Advanced clerical & service workers	250	725	975	0.3%	1.6%	0.8%			
Total	83 315	44 020	127 335	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%			
Injuries &	musculo	skeletal d	isorders						
Labourers & related workers	16 325	6 225	22 550	22.9%	16.5%	20.7%			
Tradespersons & related workers	18 405	1 485	19 895	25.8%	3.9%	18.2%			
Intermediate production & transport workers	17 625	1 820	19 445	24.7%	4.8%	17.8%			
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	3 785	10 935	14 720	5.3%	29.0%	13.5%			
Professionals	3 925	6 610	10 535	5.5%	17.5%	9.7%			
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	4 270	5 110	9 375	6.0%	13.5%	8.6%			
Associate professionals	4 870	4 100	8 970	6.8%	10.9%	8.2%			
Managers & administrators	1 745	800	2 545	2.4%	2.1%	2.3%			
Advanced clerical & service workers	200	555	755	0.3%	1.5%	0.7%			
Total	71 320	37 745	109 065	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%			
	Disea	ases							
Tradespersons & related workers	2 940	170	3 110	24.5%	2.7%	17.0%			
Intermediate production & transport workers	2 655	265	2 920	22.1%	4.2%	16.0%			
Professionals	1 190	1 675	2 865	9.9%	26.7%	15.7%			
Labourers & related workers	2 220	630	2 855	18.5%	10.0%	15.6%			
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	695	1 655	2 350	5.8%	26.4%	12.9%			
Associate professionals	1 210	930	2 140	10.1%	14.8%	11.7%			
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	520	455	975	4.3%	7.3%	5.3%			
Managers & administrators	470	315	785	3.9%	5.0%	4.3%			
Advanced clerical & service workers	50	170	220	0.4%	2.7%	1.2%			
Total	11 995	6 275	18 270	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%			

Incidence rates

Figure 5 shows that Labourers & related workers had the highest incidence rate of 30.2 serious claims per 1000 employees, followed by Intermediate & production & transport workers (26.7) and Tradespersons & related workers (20.7). The remaining occupations all had incidence rates below the national rate of 12.2 serious claims per 1000 employees.

Figure 5 Serious claims: incidence rate by occupation, 2010–11p



Table 5 shows the occupation groups with the 20 highest incidence rates in 2010–11p. Together, these accounted for almost half (44%) of all serious claims. Skilled agricultural workers had the highest incidence rate, 82.9 serious claims per 1000 employees, almost seven times the national incidence rate (12.2). Males in this occupation group had a much higher incidence rate than their female counterparts (149.3 and 29.4 respectively). Process workers had the second highest incidence rate of 43.2 serious claims per 1000 employees, with male and female employees having similar incidence rates.

Of the 5620 serious claims made by Process workers, almost half (2525 or 45%) were due to *Body stressing*.

Table 5 Serious claims,	percentage of tot	al, and incidenc	e rate by occu	upation minor g	groups ^a
with the highes	st incidence rates	, 2010–11p			

Occupation minor group ^a	Number of serious claims	Percentage of serious claims	Percentage of employees	Incidence Rate ^b
Skilled agricultural workers	510	0.4%	0.1%	82.9
Process workers	5 620	4.4%	1.2%	43.2
Police officers	2 155	1.7%	0.5%	42.7
Fabrication engineering tradespersons	2 825	2.2%	0.8%	34.8
Miscellaneous tradespersons & related workers	2 570	2.0%	0.7%	33.4
Road & rail transport drivers	9 180	7.2%	2.7%	33.1
Mining, construction & related labourers	3 195	2.5%	1.0%	31.2
Welfare associate professionals	745	0.6%	0.2%	29.6
Elementary service workers	4 230	3.3%	1.4%	29.0
Intermediate mining & construction workers	1 810	1.4%	0.6%	28.0
Structural construction tradespersons	3 705	2.9%	1.3%	26.9
Agricultural & horticultural labourers	2 630	2.1%	0.9%	26.9
Enrolled nurses	875	0.7%	0.3%	25.8
Intermediate stationary plant operators	1 255	1.0%	0.5%	22.1
Wood tradespersons	590	0.5%	0.3%	22.0
Food tradespersons	1 975	1.6%	0.9%	21.6
Plumbers	1 360	1.1%	0.6%	20.7
Carers & aides	7 915	6.2%	3.8%	20.0
Horticultural tradespersons	1 275	1.0%	0.6%	19.9
Cleaners	3 740	2.9%	1.8%	19.7

a Compiled at the 3rd level of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), 2nd Edition. Occupations are limited to those involving more than 500 serious claims, 'Miscellaneous' categories are excluded. Occupations for which the estimate of employees had a relative standard error exceeding 25% are excluded.

b Calculated as serious claims per 1000 employees.

Road & rail transport drivers had the 6th highest incidence rate of serious claims (33.1 serious claims per 1000 employees) but the greatest number of serious claims overall (9180). Over one third of these claims were due to *Body stressing* (37%). *Falls, trips & slips of a person* accounted for a further 27% of serious claims.

Frequency rates

Figure 6 shows that in 2010–11p the frequency rate pattern by occupation was quite similar to the incidence rates displayed in Figure 5. This similarity between the two measures indicates that at this broad level of aggregation, differences in hours worked between occupation groups are small.

Labourers & related workers had the highest frequency rate, 20.7 serious claims per million hours worked — over two times the national rate of 7.3. Intermediate production & transport workers had the next highest frequency rate (14.3 serious claims per million hours worked) followed by Tradespersons & related workers (10.7) and Elementary clerical, sales & service workers (8.5). All other occupation groups had frequency rate (2.1 serious claims per million hours worked).



Figure 6 Serious claims: frequency rate by occupation, 2010–11p

Serious claims by the nature of injury or disease

The *Nature of injury or disease* classification is used to categorise the most serious injury or disease sustained by the employee. In 2010–11p, there were 109 065 serious claims for Injuries & musculoskeletal disorders (consisting of 92 095 claims for Injuries & poisonings and 16 970 for Musculoskeletal disorders), and 18 270 serious claims for Disease. The work-related disease figures shown in this publication should be considered as an undercount as for a variety of reasons many diseases do not result in a compensation claim.

Figure 7 shows *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles* accounted for 42% of all serious claims. This was followed by *Fractures* (8.5%) and *Open wound* (7.7%). Together *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue* (which includes Arthropathies & related disorders, Disorders of muscle, tendons & other soft tissues, Dorsopathies and Osteopathies, chondropathies and acquired musculoskeletal deformities) accounted for 13% of all serious claims.



Figure 7 Serious claims: percentage of claims by nature of injury or disease, 2010–11p

* Other diseases is not a formal Nature of injury or disease classification. It includes *Contact dermatitis* and *Other diseases of skin & subcutaneous tissue*.

** Other injuries includes *Superficial injury*, *Multiple injuries* and *Other & unspecified injuries*.

Serious claims by bodily location of injury or disease

The bodily location of injury or disease classification is used to identify the part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease. At the broadest level of the classification the most commonly affected locations were *Upper limbs* (32% of serious claims), *Trunk* (27%) and *Lower limbs* (21%). Together these bodily locations accounted for 79% of serious claims.

Figure 8 shows the percentage distribution of serious claims in 2010–11p across bodily locations classified at a finer level of detail. The *Back* was the most common location of injury or disease, accounting for 22% of serious claims. Almost three quarters of these claims (72%) were specific to the *Lower back*.

The next most common bodily locations were *Hands, fingers & thumb* (12% of serious claims), *Shoulder* (9%) and *Knee* (9%). The non-physical category *Psychological system* was specified for 6% of all claims. This category covers conditions such as anxiety and depression.



Figure 8 Serious claims: percentage of claims by bodily location of injury or disease, 2010–11p

Percentage of serious claims * These categories are not formal Bodily location of injury or disease classifications. They are logical groupings of locations that individually accounted for less than 1% of claims.

Serious claims by mechanism of injury or disease

The mechanism of injury or disease classification is used to describe the action, exposure or event that was the direct cause of the most serious injury or disease. The *National OHS Strategy 2002–2012* (the National Strategy) identified four mechanisms for priority attention: *Body stressing* (40% of serious claims), *Falls, trips & slips of a person* (21%), *Being hit by moving objects* (14%) and *Hitting objects with a part of the body* (7%). These four mechanisms together accounted for 82% of serious claims in 2010–11p.

Of the 18 270 serious claims for diseases, *Mental stress* accounted for 40% followed by *Sound & pressure* (26%) and *Body stressing* (21%).

Figure 9 shows the percentage distribution of serious claims across mechanisms classified at a finer level of detail. In the *Body stressing* group *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects* accounted for 17% of serious claims and *Muscular stress while handling objects* other than lifting, carrying or putting down objects a further 15%. The most common mechanism not related to *Body stressing* was *Falls on the same level* accounting for 14% of serious claims.

Figure 9 Serious claims: percentage of claims by mechanism of injury or disease, 2010–11p



a This category is not a formal Mechanism of injury or disease classification but comprises all other mechanisms not shown and unspecified mechanisms of injury.

Serious claims by breakdown agency of injury or disease

The breakdown agency refers to the object, substance or circumstance principally involved in, or most closely associated with, the point at which things started to go wrong and that ultimately led to the most serious injury or disease. Figure 10 shows that at the broad level of classification 23% of serious claims involved *Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment*. Of these, the most common sub-groups were *Fastening, packing & packaging equipment* and *Furniture & fittings*, accounting for 34% and 23% of these claims respectively.

The second most common breakdown agency specified at the broad classification level was *Environmental agencies* (16% of serious claims). These claims were split almost equally at the sub-group level between *Outdoor environment* and *Indoor environment* with 55% and 44% respectively. Of incidents involving *Outdoor environment*, almost half were due to *Traffic and ground surfaces*.

Figure 10 Serious claims: percentage of claims by breakdown agency of injury or disease, 2010–11p



To gain a better understanding of the types of incidents occurring in the workplace that result in the lodgement of a serious claim, it is important to understand both how the incident occurred and what was involved. Table 6 shows the most common mechanisms of injury and disease cross-tabulated with the breakdown agencies most often involved in these incidents.

Body Stressing

One-third of serious *Body Stressing* claims involved *Non-powered handtools, appliances* & *equipment* and in particular *Fastening, packing* & *packaging equipment* such as *Crates, cartons, boxes, cases, drums, kegs, barrels, cans* (5400 serious claims accounting for 4.2% of all serious claims). A further 3.0% of serious claims due to *Body Stressing* involved *Furniture* & *fittings* (3835 serious claims) with items such as *Doors* & *windows, Storage equipment, Seating furniture* and *Beds, hospital beds* frequently mentioned.

Serious *Body Stressing* claims also arose from handling people with 3.9% of all serious claims due to *Human agencies* (4990 serious claims) which is the coding applied when other people are involved. In these cases most involved lifting and handling patients in medical environments.

Mechanism of injury Breakdown agency of injury & disease	Number of serious	% of serious claims
Body stressing	50 865	39.9%
Non-nowered handtools, appliances & equipment	17 585	13.8%
Eastening packing & packaging equipment	7 870	6.2%
Crates, cartons, boxes, cases, drums,	5 400	4 204
kegs, barrels, cans	5 400	4.270
Bags, bundles & bales	1 340	1.1%
Furniture & fittings	3 835	3.0%
Doors & windows	685	0.5%
Storage equipment	685	0.5%
Seating furniture	625	0.5%
Meteriale & eulestenese	5/5	0.4%
Materials & substances	7 805	6.1%
Ferrous & non-ierrous metal	1 320	1.0%
	660	0.5%
Animai, numan & biological agencies	5 800	4.6%
Human agencies	4 990	3.9%
Mobile plant & transport	3 565	2.8%
	1 435	1.1%
I rucks, semi-trailers, iorries	705	0.6%
Other mobile plant	1 245	1.0%
I rolleys, h&carts	825	0.6%
Powered equipment, tools & appliances	3 285	2.6%
Office & electronic equipment	1 375	1.1%
Computers & keyboard	1 085	0.9%
Kitchen & domestic equipment	940	0.7%
Cleaning equipment	555	0.4%
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	1 890	1.5%
Falls, trips & slips of a person	26 975	21.2%
Environmental agencies	15 825	12.4%
Outdoor environment	8 490	6.7%
surfaces	1 235	1.0%
Buildings & other structures	1 060	0.8%
Indoor environment	7 215	5.7%
Steps & stairways	2 165	1.7%
Wet, oily or icy other internal traffic & floor areas	1 945	1.5%
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	3 940	3.1%
Ladders, mobile ramps & stairways, & scaffolding	1 780	1.4%
Ladders	1 375	1.1%
Mobile plant & transport	2 510	2.0%
Road transport	1 640	1.3%
Trucks, semi-trailers, lorries	1 250	1.0%
Materials & substances	1 075	0.8%
Being hit by moving objects	17 545	13.8%
Non-powered h&tools, appliances & equipment	4 095	3.2%
Furniture & fittings	1 170	0.9%
Fastening, packing & packaging equipment	1 090	0.9%
Animal, human & biological agencies	3 720	2.9%
Human agencies	2 885	2.3%
Materials & substances	3 385	2.7%
Ferrous & non-ferrous metal	1 300	1.0%
r shous a non forfous motal	1000	

Table 6 Serious claims: number and percentage by selected mechanisms by selected breakdown agencies, 2010–11p

Mechanism of injury	Number	% of serious
Breakdown agency of injury & disease	claims	claims
Being hit by moving objects continued		
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	2 120	1.7%
Mobile plant & transport	1 625	1.3%
Powered equipment, tools & appliances	1 045	0.8%
Hitting objects with a part of the body	8 395	6.6%
Non-powered hand &tools, appliances & equipment	3 600	2.8%
Hand &tools, non-powered, edged	1 320	1.0%
Knives & cutlery	1 075	0.8%
Materials & substances	1 605	1.3%
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	865	0.7%
Total serious claims	127 330	100.0%

Note: Only major sub-categories are shown so the sub-categories do not necessarily sum to the total shown at the broad level.

Other types of objects being handled that resulted in *Body Stressing* claims were *Ferrous & non-ferrous metal* (1320 serious claims) and *Computers & keyboards* (1085 serious claims).

Falls, trips & slips of a person

Nearly 60% of the serious claims involving *Falls, trips & slips of a person* were due to *Environmental agencies*. This agency is used when the ground surface the employee was working on contributed to the incident. The *Outdoor environment* accounted for more claims than the *Indoor environment* (8490 and 7215 serious claims, respectively). For both surfaces that were wet, oily or icy contributed significantly to the number of claims (1235 claims attributed to indoor areas and 1945 to outdoor areas). When indoors *Steps & stairways* were the greatest hazard with 1.7% (2165) of all serious claims due to a fall on internal stairs.

Falls from *Ladders* (1375) and *Trucks, semi-trailers, lorries* (1250) were also notable hazards.

Being hit by moving objects

Serious claims due to *Being hit by moving objects* were caused by a variety of agencies with the most notable being *Human agencies* (2885 serious claims). These claims involved another person either deliberately or unintentionally hitting the worker. As with *Body stressing* claims, many occurred within medical environments.

Fastening, packing & packaging equipment (1090 serious claims), *Furniture & fittings* (1170) and *Ferrous & non-ferrous metal* (1300) were other objects often cited in claims where the worker was hit by an object.

Hitting objects with part of the body

Most (42%) of the serious claims due to *Hitting objects with part of the body* involved *Non-powered handtools, appliances &equipment.* In particular hitting oneself with *Knives & cutlery* (1075 claims) accounted for 0.7% of all serious claims.

Part B Trends over time, 2000–01 to 2009–10

The NDS was first introduced as a standard set of data items collected by each jurisdiction in 1987–88. Following a review of the NDS, reporting requirements were changed significantly in 2000–01. Since then, the NDS data has been recorded consistently and now allows time series analysis from 2000–01 to 2010–11. Due to the length of this time series, the tables in this chapter display the first year in the time series (2000–01) and the most recent five years (2005–06 onwards).

The following analysis of trends uses serious claims from 2000–01 to 2009–10. Data for the most recent available year (2010–11) are displayed but not used in examining trends because they are preliminary (denoted throughout the publication with the letter 'p') and are likely to increase. Tables in this chapter containing median time lost and median payments exclude claims lodged in 2010–11 as these claims are likely to be open and still accruing time lost and costs.

The data show that there has been a 8% decrease in the number of serious claims from 142 870 claims in 2000–01 to 131 170 claims in 2009–10. Serious claims are defined as accepted claims involving either a death, a permanent incapacity or a temporary incapacity involving an absence from work of one working week or more excluding those that result from journeys to and from work.

In order to understand the impact of this decrease, incidence rates have been calculated using estimates of the number of employees who are covered by workers' compensation. This shows that there has been a 26% decrease in the incidence rate of serious claims from 17.5 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 13.0 in 2009–10 (see Figure 11).





The overall decrease in the number of serious claims over the ten-year period, combined with increasing employee numbers (up from 8.2 million in 2000–01 to 10.1 million in 2009–10) has resulted in this fall in the incidence rate of compensated serious work-related injury or disease. Similarly, the frequency rate has fallen 23% over the same period from 10.2 serious claims per million hours worked by employees to 7.8 serious claims per million hours worked by employees (see Table 7).

These numbers should not be confused with the target measurement under the *National OHS Strategy 2002–2012*. The Strategy includes a target to reduce the incidence of work-related injury (including musculoskeletal disorders) by at least 40% by June 2012. The base period for this target is the three-year period 2000–01 to 2002–03. Data from the Comparative Performance Monitoring Report shows that there has been a 28% improvement recorded from the base period to 2010–11.

Year of claim lodgement	Number of serious claims	Number of Employees (million)	Incidence rate	Number of hours worked (billion)	Frequency rate)			
2000–01	142 870	8.19	17.5	14.1	10.2			
2001–02	139 440	8.26	16.9	14.1	9.9			
2002–03	140 330	8.48	16.5	14.5	9.6			
2003–04	141 610	8.65	16.4	14.6	9.7			
2004–05	142 615	8.90	16.0	15.2	9.4			
2005–06	138 235	9.17	15.1	15.4	9.0			
2006–07	137 495	9.49	14.5	16.0	8.6			
2007–08	138 245	9.75	14.2	16.4	8.4			
2008–09	134 675	9.88	13.6	16.4	8.2			
2009–10	131 170	10.12	13.0	16.8	7.8			
2010–11pª	127 335	10.44	12.2	17.3	7.3			

Table 7 Serious claims: number, incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees) and frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked). 2000–01 to 2010–11p

a Analysis of trends excludes the preliminary year as it is likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

Trends by sex

Table 8 shows that over the period 2000–01 to 2009–10 the number of serious claims decreased by 13% for male employees and increased by 3% for female employees. Claim numbers rose slightly from 2003–04 to 2004–05 before falling in subsequent years. The proportion of serious claims made by female employees has remained constant at around one-third of claims over the period.

The number of employees has grown over the period 2000–01 to 2009–10 with male employee numbers increasing by 21% and female employee numbers increasing by 26%. This growth combined with decreases in the number of claims has resulted in a 28% decrease in the incidence rate of serious claims for male employees. While the number of claims for females rose over the same period, there was an 19% decrease in the incidence rate due to a relatively larger increase in the number of female employees. Incidence rates fell in most years, but more significantly from 2005–06 onwards. Frequency rates fell by 17% for female employees and 26% for male employees over the ten-year period. Frequency rates have consistently fallen from 2004–05 onwards.

		Females			Males			
Year of Lodgement	Number of serious claims	Incidence rate	Frequency rate	Number of serious claims	Incidence rate	Frequency rate		
2000–01	43 900	11.5	7.9	98 965	22.7	11.6		
2001–02	43 600	11.2	7.8	95 840	22.0	11.2		
2002–03	44 365	11.0	7.7	95 965	21.5	10.9		
2003–04	45 455	11.1	7.9	96 155	21.0	10.9		
2004–05	46 030	10.9	7.6	96 585	20.6	10.6		
2005–06	44 575	10.2	7.2	93 660	19.5	10.1		
2006–07	44 445	9.8	6.9	93 050	18.7	9.7		
2007–08	44 945	9.7	6.8	93 300	18.2	9.5		
2008–09	45 185	9.5	6.7	89 490	17.4	9.2		
2009–10	45 030	9.3	6.6	86 135	16.3	8.6		
2010-11p ^a	44 020	8.9	6.3	83 315	15.2	8.1		

Table 8 Serious claims: number, incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees) andfrequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked) by sex, 2000–01 to 2010–11p

a Analysis of trends excludes the preliminary year as it is likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

Payments and time lost

Figure 12 shows that the median time lost from work for a serious claim ranged from 3.6 to 4.2 working weeks over the ten-year period. The pattern for time lost incurred by males and females separately followed a similar trend. In 2008–09, male employees required 3.8 working weeks off work while female employees required 5.0. This difference between the sexes has been similar across the years showing that female employees tend to take around one more week off work than male employees for serious claims.

Figure 12 Serious claims: median time lost from work by sex, 2000–01 to 2009–10



Figure 13 shows that median payments increased 44% from \$5700 in 2000–01 to \$8200 in 2009–10. In contrast to the median time lost, median payments showed less difference between male and female employee claims up to 2007–08. The median payment for males increased 52% from \$5600 in 2000–01 to \$8500 in 2009–10 while the median payment

for females increased 23% from \$6000 in 2000–01 to \$7400 in 2009–10. From 2004–05 onward, median payments for female employees were lower than median payments for male employees. This is most likely due to lower wages earned by females which is partly offset by the longer time lost associated with claims made by females. The reader should keep in mind that while a claim remains open, the time lost and associated payments can increase. For this reason medians for the preliminary year (2010–11) are not reported.





Trends by age of employee

The age used in this report is the age of the employee on the date on which the injury occurred or, if the claim involved an occupational disease, when the disease was first reported to the employer. Table 9 presents information on the age of employees who had serious claims in the period 2000–01 to 2009–10. The 60–64 years age group has shown a substantial increase in serious claims over time (up 83%). The large increase in claims is due to a doubling of the number of employees in this age group, which in turn has resulted in falls in the incidence and frequency rates. The largest percentage drops in numbers of serious claims were recorded in the 30–34 years age group (down 30%) and the 25–29 age group (down 28%).

Incidence rate

While claims rose in some age groups and fell in others, the incidence rate in all age groups fell between 17% and 38% over the period from 2000–01 to 2009–10. This is the result of increases in the number of employees in each age group offsetting any increases in the number of claims.

Incidence rates can be used to compare the relative likelihood of workrelated injury or disease at different ages. Table 9 shows that incidence rates of serious claims generally increased with employees' age. The lowest incidence rates were recorded in the 15–19 years age group (6.8 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2009–10) while the highest incidence rates were recorded in the 60–64 years age groups, with a rate of 18.0 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2009–10. Over the period 2000–01 to 2009–10 there was a steady decline in incidence rates in all age groups. The largest decline (38%) occurred among employees aged 25–29 years from 15.2 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 9.5 in 2009–10. This age group recorded a 28% decrease in claim numbers. Similarly the 30–34 years age group experienced a 37% fall in incidence rate due to a 30% decrease in claim numbers and a greater than average increase in employee numbers. Despite a substantial increase in claims over this period (up 83%), the 60–64 years age group recorded a drop in incidence rate of 28%, from 25.1 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 18.0 in 2009–10. This is due to the number of employees in this age group more than doubling during the period.

Age group	2000–01	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chgª	2010–11p			
Number of serious claims											
< 20 years	6 830	6 415	6 600	6 630	5 945	4 995	-27%	5 150			
20-24 years	13 990	13 170	12 965	12 825	12 005	11 220	-20%	11 155			
25-29 years	16 380	13 340	13 025	12 950	12 540	11 795	-28%	11 930			
30-34 years	17 275	15 430	14 295	13 655	12 970	12 050	-30%	11 705			
35-39 years	18 870	16 325	16 345	16 075	15 880	15 100	-20%	13 960			
40-44 years	19 590	18 535	17 645	17 250	16 430	16 060	-18%	15 415			
45-49 years	17 875	18 910	18 830	19 080	18 375	17 875	0%	17 095			
50-54 years	16 635	16 200	16 795	17 110	17 070	17 310	4%	16 685			
55-59 years	9 720	12 295	12 755	13 180	13 295	13 635	40%	12 945			
60-64 years	4 665	5 950	6 405	7 345	7 900	8 550	83%	8 535			
Total claims ^b	142 870	138 230	137 495	138 245	134 675	131 170	-8%	127 330			
Incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees)											
< 20 years	10.0	8.7	8.8	8.6	7.9	6.8	-32%	7.0			
20-24 years	13.7	11.8	11.2	10.9	10.4	9.2	-33%	9.0			
25-29 years	15.2	12.8	11.9	11.4	10.9	9.5	-38%	9.1			
30-34 years	17.5	14.6	13.7	12.8	12.1	11.1	-37%	10.4			
35-39 years	19.2	16.0	14.9	14.4	13.9	13.2	-31%	12.1			
40-44 years	19.2	16.8	16.1	15.7	15.0	14.7	-23%	13.6			
45-49 years	19.5	17.8	16.9	16.7	16.0	15.7	-19%	14.9			
50-54 years	21.3	17.8	17.9	17.8	17.2	17.0	-20%	15.9			
55-59 years	21.1	18.2	18.2	18.1	17.7	17.5	-17%	16.0			
60-64 years	25.1	18.6	18.1	18.8	17.5	18.0	-28%	16.6			
Overall rate ^b	17.5	15.1	14.5	14.2	13.6	13	-26%	12.2			
Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)											
< 20 years	9.7	8.5	8.6	8.4	7.9	7.1	-27%	7.3			
20-24 years	8.4	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.0	-29%	5.9			
25-29 years	8.3	7.1	6.6	6.2	6.1	5.4	-35%	5.1			
30-34 years	9.6	8.1	7.6	7.1	6.8	6.3	-34%	5.9			
35-39 years	10.6	9.0	8.4	8.1	7.9	7.5	-29%	6.8			
40-44 years	10.7	9.5	9.1	8.8	8.5	8.3	-22%	7.7			
45-49 years	10.6	9.9	9.4	9.4	9.0	8.9	-16%	8.4			
50-54 years	11.7	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.7	9.6	-18%	9.0			
55-59 years	11.9	10.5	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.2	-14%	9.4			
60-64 years	15.3	11.4	11.2	11.9	10.9	11.4	-25%	10.5			
Overall rate ^b	10.2	9.0	8.6	8.4	8.2	7.8	-24%	7.3			

Table 9 Serious claims: incidence and frequency rates by age, 2000–01 to 2010–11p

a Percentage change 2000-01 to 2009-10

b Totals include claims from employees aged 65 years and over. These data have not been shown separately, as they are not strictly comparable to other age groups.

Frequency rate

While incidence rates showed a marked increase with age for claims in 2009–10 (from 6.8 to 18.0 serious claims per 1000 employees), the increase in frequency rates with age was smaller, ranging from 7.1 to 11.4 serious claims per million hours worked, reflecting the impact of controlling for the differences in average hours worked amongst different age groups. This effect is most pronounced in the youngest employees aged 15–19. While this group had the lowest incidence rate in all years of the series, in most years they experienced higher frequency rates than any age group below 40 years. The largest decreases in frequency rates occurred in the 25–29 and 30–34 years age groups (down 35% and 34% respectively). The smallest decrease in the frequency rate of serious claims (down 14%) occurred in the 55–59 years age group.

Time lost and payments

Figure 14 shows that the median amount of time taken off work following an injury or illness increased with age from 2.6 working weeks for those in the 15–19 years age group to 5.0 working weeks for those aged 45–49 years before falling off for the oldest age groups. Over the past ten years, the median time lost from work has increased for all age groups with an overall increase of 17%.

Median payments also show an increase with age. However, the range is much larger with employees aged 15–19 years receiving \$2400 while those aged 60–64 years receiving \$12 000. This difference is due to the combination of increasing time lost with age and increasing earnings with age. The greatest increase in median payments was recorded in the 60–64 years age group which increased 45% from \$8300 to \$12 000 over the ten years. Over all age groups, the median payment has increased by 44% from \$5700 in 2000–01 to \$8200 in 2009–10 (see Figure 15).

The reader should keep in mind that while a claim remains open, the time lost and associated payments can increase. For this reason, median time lost and median payments for the preliminary year (2010–11) are not reported.



Figure 14 Serious claims: median time lost from work by age group, 2000-01 to 2009-10



Figure 15 Serious claims: median payment by age group, 2000–01 to 2009–10

Trends by industry

Table 10 shows that over the nine-year period from 2000–01 to 2009–10, the number of serious claims decreased in 12 of the 17 industry divisions. The largest decrease in the number of claims over this period occurred among employees in the Manufacturing and Agriculture, forestry & fishing industries, which both fell by 32%, followed by the Finance & insurance industry (down 21%).

Increases in the number of claims were recorded in the Government administration & defence (up 31%), Personal & other services (up 18%), and Mining (up 16%) industries. Changes in the number of claims may be a result of an increase or decrease in the number of employees in the industry. In order to examine trends over time in the risk of serious injury or illness in different industries, it is therefore necessary to examine incidence and frequency rates.

Incidence rate

Despite some industries recording increased claim numbers, incidence rates have fallen in all industries since 2000–01. The largest fall in incidence rate over the ten-year period occurred in the Mining industry, which fell by 49%. Large decreases in incidence rates were also recorded in the Electricity, gas & water supply (down 44%), Communication services (down 38%) and Construction (down 38%) industries. The smallest improvements occurred in the Government administration & defence (down 3%), Personal & other services (down 8%) and Education (down 10%) industries.

Frequency rate

The pattern of frequency rates by industry is similar to the pattern for incidence rates with frequency rates falling in all industries except Government administration & defence. The largest falls in frequency rates occurred in the Mining (down 48%), Electricity, gas & water supply (down 44%) and Construction (down 36%) industries.

Industry	2000–01	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chgª	2010–11p	
Number of serious claims									
Manufacturing	30 920	27 030	26 750	25 540	23 145	21 060	-32%	19 425	
Health & community services	16 050	16 405	16 440	16 835	17 005	18 280	14%	18 020	
Retail trade	14 990	13 840	13 620	13 700	13 640	13 215	-12%	13 075	
Construction	13 575	13 215	13 525	14 265	14 505	13 260	-2%	12 985	
Property & business services	9 830	8 920	9 115	9 855	9 740	9 550	-3%	10 655	
Transport & storage	11 405	10 970	10 990	11 225	10 890	10 380	-9%	9 525	
Education	6 280	7 065	7 215	7 185	7 010	7 200	15%	6 865	
Personal & other services	5 880	6 160	6 325	6 360	6 560	6 925	18%	6 475	
Wholesale trade	6 990	6 725	6 455	6 690	6 415	6 145	-12%	6 130	
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	6 840	6 270	6 230	6 320	6 140	5 790	-15%	5 835	
Government administration & defence	4 730	6 465	6 485	6 155	6 080	6 205	31%	5 380	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	5 840	4 670	4 570	4 310	4 340	3 995	-32%	3 675	
Cultural & recreational services	3 010	2 680	2 680	2 810	2 735	2 670	-11%	2 685	
Mining	2 240	2 450	2 630	2 695	2 590	2 605	16%	2 520	
	1670	1 485	1470	1 5 3 5	1 480	1 415	-15%	1 400	
Finance & insurance	1 425	1 225	1 170	1 140	1 100	910	-21%	1115	
Total sorious claims	900	129 225	1 100	129 245	000	010 131 170	-10%	000 127 225	
	rate (seri		ns ner 1	130 243 000 emp		131 170	-0 /0	127 333	
Manufacturing	29.5	27.8	27.3	25.3	24.1	22.3	-24%	20.9	
Health & community services	18.3	15.8	15.1	15.2	14.7	14.9	-19%	13.7	
Retail trade	12.1	9.7	9.5	9.2	9.0	8.8	-27%	8.3	
Construction	31.0	23.0	21.0	21.4	21.4	19.1	-38%	17.8	
Property & business services	10.2	8.0	7.9	8.3	8.4	7.9	-23%	8.5	
Transport & storage	31.5	26.8	26.3	25.0	25.1	23.9	-24%	21.7	
Education	9.6	9.4	9.6	9.0	8.7	8.6	-10%	7.9	
Personal & other services	21.0	19.0	19.3	18.1	18.9	19.3	-8%	17.5	
Wholesale trade	17.5	16.7	14.8	15.9	15.3	13.9	-21%	14.2	
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	14.3	12.5	11.7	11.9	11.5	10.1	-29%	10.2	
Government administration & defence	11.7	13.7	13.0	12.4	11.5	11.3	-3%	9.6	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	29.0	26.0	25.2	24.6	25.5	21.8	-25%	21.0	
Cultural & recreational services	13.6	10.0	9.6	10.4	9.3	9.4	-31%	9.0	
Mining	29.8	19.9	20.4	19.4	15.9	15.2	-49%	12.7	
	10.4	9.1	8.5	8.9	6.4	6.4	-38%	6.2	
Finance & insurance	4.4	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	-34%	2.9	
Electricity, gas & water supply	14.9	14.5	14.1	12.0	7.8 43.6	8.4	-44%	7.3	
Frequency rat	17.5 te (serioi	15.1 Is claims	ner mill	14.2	s worker	13.0	-20%	12.2	
Manufacturing	15.0	14.2	14.1	13.0	12.6	11.7	-22%	10.9	
Health & community services	12.5	10.8	10.5	10.5	10.2	10.4	-17%	9.6	
Retail trade	8.8	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.4	-27%	6.1	
Construction	15.1	11.5	10.4	10.6	10.7	9.6	-36%	8.9	
Property & business services	5.6	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.5	-20%	4.7	
Transport & storage	15.7	13.8	13.4	12.7	13.2	12.4	-21%	11.2	
Education	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.4	-7%	5.0	
Personal & other services	12.6	11.4	11.8	11.1	11.5	12.0	-5%	10.8	
Wholesale trade	8.9	8.6	7.6	8.3	8.2	7.3	-18%	7.5	
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	10.1	9.1	8.7	8.5	9.0	7.9	-22%	8.1	
Government administration & defence	6.7	8.0	7.6	7.3	6.7	6.7	0%	5.8	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	15.0	13.9	13.1	12.8	12.9	11.2	-25%	10.5	
Cultural & recreational services	9.8	7.4	7.2	7.5	6.8	6.8	-31%	6.7	
	12.8	8.8	8.8	8.6	7.2	6.7	-48%	5.6	
	5.5	4.9	4.6	4.8	3.6	3.6	-35%	3.5	
Finance & Insulance	2.4 7 7	1.9 7 5	1./	1.0	1.0 1.2	0.1 7 0	-33%	1.0 2.0	
Total	10.2	9.0	8.6	8.4	4.3 8.2	4.3 7.8	- 24%	5.0 7.3	

Table 10 Serious claims: number, incidence and frequency rates by industry, 2000–01 to 2010–11p

a Percentage change 2000-01 to 2009-10.

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The smallest improvements occurred in Personal & other services (down 5%), Education (down 7%), Wholesale trade (down 18%) and Health and community services (down 17%) industries. The frequency rate for Government administration & defence rose to 8.0 serious claims per million hours worked in 2005–06 but has returned to 6.7 serious claims per million hours worked in 2009–10, therefore showing no overall difference over the period.

Time lost

Increases in median time lost were recorded in 16 of the 17 industries. The greatest increase was recorded by the Retail trade industry, which rose 56%, from 3.2 working weeks lost in 2000–01 to 5.0 working weeks in 2009–10. The Mining industry was the only industry to record a decrease in time lost, from 4.0 working weeks lost in 2000–01 to 3.7 in 2009–10.

Payments

Table 11 shows that median payments increased in all industries. The smallest rise (10%) was recorded by the Mining industry and followed by the Accommodation, cafes & restaurants industry (up 21%). The Accommodation, cafes & restaurants industry has consistently recorded the lowest median payments for serious claims over the ten-year period (\$4600 in 2009–10 compared to the median for all industries of \$8200)^c.

In contrast, the Mining industry has consistently recorded the highest median payments (\$13 400 in 2009–10). This is linked to the relatively high salaries in the Mining industry, since the median time lost from work by employees in this industry is generally only slightly higher than the median for all industries.

The highest percentage increases in median payments were recorded by the Electricity, gas & water supply (up 82%) and Government administration & defence (up 68%) industries. Increases in payments reflect increases in wages and salaries and the cost of medical treatment.

Median payments are based on the cumulative costs of serious claims for a particular year. They are not a summary of the payments of all open claims in any one year. Median payments are subject to revision as updated data on open claims are received in subsequent years. The payments tabulated are those current at the time of publication and are not adjusted for inflation (expressed as constant prices) because compensation is generally paid in cumulative sums over a period.

Industry	2000-01	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	% chg ^a			
Median time lost (working weeks)										
Finance & insurance	4.2	5.1	4.8	5.0	5.4	6.6	57%			
Retail trade	3.2	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.8	5.0	56%			
Cultural & recreational services	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.8	5.0	4.8	17%			
Personal & other services	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.8	20%			
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.7	7%			
Health & community services	4.0	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.7	18%			
Transport & storage	3.7	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.6	24%			
Construction	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.4	7%			
Property & business services	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.2	2%			
Communication services	3.5	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.1	17%			
Wholesale trade	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	11%			
Education	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.0	11%			
Mining	4.0	3.8	4.3	4.2	4.6	3.7	-8%			
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.4	0%			
Government administration & defence	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	10%			
Manufacturing	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	0%			
Electricity, gas & water supply	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.4	26%			
Overall median ^b	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	17%			
Median payment										
Finance & insurance	\$8 200	\$9 800	\$9 500	\$10 300	\$11 100	\$12 700	55%			
Retail trade	\$4 500	\$5 000	\$5 300	\$5 800	\$6 300	\$6 900	53%			
Cultural & recreational services	\$5 000	\$5 200	\$6 400	\$6 700	\$8 100	\$7 400	48%			
Personal & other services	\$7 000	\$7 800	\$8 700	\$9 200	\$9 800	\$10 200	46%			
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	\$4 300	\$5 100	\$5 500	\$6 400	\$6 700	\$6 600	53%			
Health & community services	\$5 100	\$5 500	\$5 600	\$6 000	\$6 300	\$6 300	24%			
Transport & storage	\$5 300	\$6 300	\$6 600	\$8 200	\$8 700	\$8 500	60%			
Construction	\$7 100	\$7 400	\$7 600	\$8 000	\$9 800	\$9 800	38%			
Property & business services	\$5 700	\$5 300	\$6 300	\$6 900	\$8 000	\$7 200	26%			
Communication services	\$7 500	\$9 100	\$10 700	\$10 300	\$11 500	\$11 100	48%			
Wholesale trade	\$5 900	\$5 600	\$6 600	\$7 200	\$8 400	\$8 500	44%			
Education	\$6 300	\$7 800	\$8 100	\$8 300	\$8 400	\$8 400	33%			
Mining	\$12 200	\$11 000	\$13 700	\$13 600	\$17 100	\$13 400	10%			
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	\$3 800	\$3 500	\$3 600	\$4 100	\$4 700	\$4 600	21%			
Government administration & defence	\$6 300	\$7 800	\$8 100	\$8 600	\$9 800	\$10 600	68%			
Manufacturing	\$6 000	\$6 200	\$6 800	\$7 300	\$8 500	\$8 700	45%			
Electricity, gas & water supply	\$6 100	\$10 000	\$10 500	\$10 200	\$11 900	\$11 100	82%			
Overall median⁵	\$5 700	\$6 200	\$6 700	\$7 300	\$8 200	\$8 200	44%			

Table 11 Serious claims: median time lost and median payments by industry, 2000–01 to 2009–10

a Percentage change 2000–01 to 2009–10. b Includes claims where industry was not stated. c Since the time lost in this industry is only a little lower than the median for all industries, the low payments are most probably linked to the relatively lower salaries in this industry and the high proportion of part-time employees (see ABS Average weekly earnings, Cat. No. 6302.0.
Trends by occupation

Table 12 shows the number of serious workers' compensation claims decreased in five of the nine major occupation groups over the ten years from 2000–01 to 2009–10. The largest percentage decrease in the number of claims over this period occurred among Advanced clerical & service workers (down 41%) followed by Labourers & related workers (down 26%). The greatest increase in the number of serious claims was recorded by the Professionals group which rose by 33%.

Table 12 Serious claims: number, incidence and frequency rates by occupation, 2000–01 to 2010–11p

Industry	2000-01	2005-06	2006-07	2007–08	2008-09	2009–10	% chg ^a	2010–11p
	Num	ber of se	rious cla	ims				
Labourers & related workers	34 090	33 925	31 305	31 650	28 200	25 170	-26%	25 405
Tradespersons & related workers	28 615	27 210	28 180	27 560	25 620	24 240	-15%	23 005
Intermediate production & transport	26 990	24 140	24 835	24 840	24 435	23 985	-11%	22 365
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	14 815	17 135	16 665	16 200	16 435	17 295	17%	17 070
Professionals	11 415	12 210	13 145	15 090	15 490	15 140	33%	13 400
Associate professionals	9 450	9 905	9 870	9 665	10 570	10 980	16%	11 105
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	11 085	9 595	9 265	9 210	9 635	10 150	-8%	10 350
Managers & administrators	3 025	2 850	3 100	2 905	3 130	3 265	8%	3 330
Advanced clerical & service workers	1 420	1 115	945	935	970	840	-41%	975
Total serious claims ^b	142 870	138 235	137 495	138 245	134 675	131 170	-8%	127 335
Incidenc	e rate (se	rious cla	ims per	1000 emj	oloyees)			
Labourers & related workers	42.2	42.8	37.8	38.6	34.4	30.0	-29%	30.2
Tradespersons & related workers	32.2	27.6	27.5	25.9	24.2	23.1	-28%	20.7
Intermediate production & transport	38.7	32.2	30.4	29.2	28.9	28.9	-25%	26.7
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	9.2	10.1	9.5	9.1	8.9	9.0	-2%	8.7
Professionals	7.2	6.6	6.9	7.4	7.5	7.0	-3%	5.9
Associate professionals	10.7	9.1	8.4	8.3	8.6	9.0	-16%	8.7
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	11.7	9.4	9.3	9.1	9.5	9.9	-15%	9.6
Managers & administrators	7.2	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.5	4.3	-40%	4.5
Advanced clerical & service workers	4.1	3.3	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.9	-29%	3.3
Overall rate ^b	17.5	15.1	14.5	14.2	13.6	13.0	-26%	12.2
Frequency	rate (serio	ous clain	ns per mi	illion hou	rs worke	ed)		
Labourers & related workers	28.7	28.7	25.3	25.5	23.7	20.8	-28%	20.7
Tradespersons & related workers	16.2	14.2	14.1	13.3	12.6	12.1	-25%	10.7
Intermediate production & transport	20.3	17.1	16.4	15.7	15.7	15.8	-22%	14.3
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	6.1	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.3	3%	6.1
Professionals	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.3	4.0	3%	3.4
Associate professionals	5.3	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.9	-8%	4.7
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	10.1	8.1	8.2	7.9	8.2	8.8	-13%	8.5
Managers & administrators	3.1	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.1	2.0	-35%	2.1
Advanced clerical & service workers	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.9	-27%	2.2
Overall rate ^b	10.2	9.0	8.6	8.4	8.2	7.8	-24%	7.3

a Percentage change 2000–01 to 2009–10. b Includes claims where industry was not stated.

Incidence rate

Since 2000–01, incidence rates of serious workers' compensation claims have fallen in all major occupation groups. Managers & administrators recorded the largest decrease in incidence rates (40%) primarily due to a 65% increase in the number of employees in this occupation with no commensurate increase in claims. This was followed by Advanced clerical & service workers and Labourers & related workers both down 29%.

Frequency rate

Frequency rates of serious workers' compensation claims by occupation showed a similar pattern to that observed for incidence rates. All occupations recorded a fall except Professionals and Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers (both up 3%). The largest decrease in frequency rates was experienced by Managers & administrators (down 35%), followed by Labourers & related workers (down 28%) and Advanced clerical & service workers (down 27%).

Time lost

Table 13 shows that the median time lost in a serious workers' compensation claim rose in all of the nine major occupation groups between 2000–01 and 2009–10. Elementary clerical, sales & service workers recorded the largest increase in median time lost from work (up 52%). Advanced clerical & service workers had the highest median time lost of 5.6 working weeks in 2009–10. The lowest median time lost in all ten years was recorded by Tradespersons & related workers with a median time lost of between 3.3 and 3.5 working weeks.

Payments

Table 13 shows that median payments increased in all occupation groups over the ten-year period. Labourers & related workers recorded the largest increase, rising 54% from \$4800 in 2000–01 to \$7400 in 2009–10. Managers & administrators and Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers both recorded the smallest increases in median payments over the ten-year period (up 24%).

Table 13 also shows that Managers & administrators consistently had the highest median payments for serious claims (\$12 300 in 2009–10), one and a half times greater than the median payment for all serious claims. This reflects the high salaries associated with this occupation and the longer time lost.

Median payments are based on the cumulative payments for serious claims in a particular year. They are not a summary of the payments of all open claims in any one year. Median payments are subject to revision as updated data on open claims are received in subsequent years. The payments tabulated are those current at the time of data supply and are not adjusted for inflation (expressed as constant prices) because compensation is generally paid in cumulative sums over a period.

Occupation	2000-01	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	% chg ^a
M	ledian time l	ost (work	ing week	s)			
Advanced clerical & service workers	4.0	4.2	4.8	4.4	5.0	5.6	40%
Managers & administrators	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.4	17%
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	3.3	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.8	5.0	52%
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.6	15%
Associate professionals	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.5	13%
Professionals	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.2	5%
Intermediate production & transport workers	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.1	11%
Labourers & related workers	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	11%
Tradespersons & related workers	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3%
Overall median ^ь	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	17%
	Medi	an payme	ent				
Advanced clerical & service workers	\$6 800	\$7 500	\$9 300	\$9 300	\$10 300	\$9 600	41%
Managers & administrators	\$9 900	\$10 800	\$11 100	\$12 300	\$12 700	\$12 300	24%
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	\$4 800	\$5 100	\$5 600	\$6 000	\$6 300	\$7 000	46%
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	\$5 500	\$5 900	\$6 000	\$6 500	\$7 000	\$6 800	24%
Associate professionals	\$6 600	\$7 700	\$8 100	\$8 300	\$9 200	\$8 900	35%
Professionals	\$7 200	\$8 500	\$8 800	\$8 900	\$9 000	\$9 100	26%
Intermediate production & transport workers	\$6 200	\$6 700	\$7 400	\$8 200	\$9 300	\$9 200	48%
Labourers & related workers	\$4 800	\$5 100	\$5 600	\$6 100	\$7 200	\$7 400	54%
Tradespersons & related workers	\$5 600	\$6 000	\$6 300	\$7 100	\$8 300	\$8 200	46%
Overall median ^b	\$5 700	\$6 200	\$6 700	\$7 300	\$8 200	\$8 200	44%

Table 13 Serious claims: median time lost and median payments by occupation, 2000–01 to 2009–10

a Percentage change 2000-01 to 2009-10.

b Includes claims where occupation was not stated.

Trends by nature of injury or disease

Serious workers' compensation claims are coded by the Nature of injury or disease incurred. This classification identifies the most serious injury or disease sustained by the employee and allows claims to be divided into those involving injuries and those involving diseases. However, due to changes in this classification affecting data from 2003–04, claims involving diseases of the musculoskeletal system have been combined with sprains & strains and reported as injuries rather than disease. This amalgamation is only shown in this section (for further explanation see Appendix 1 — Explanatory note 7).

Table 14 shows injury & musculoskeletal disorders accounted for 87% of serious claims over the ten years. Serious claims in this group fell 11% from 124 855 claims in 2000–01 to 111 185 in 2009–10. This was mostly the result of the significant fall in the number of *Sprains, strains & musculoskeletal disorders* claims.

The number of serious claims involving diseases (excluding musculoskeletal disorders) increased 11% from 18 010 claims in 2000–01 to 19 985 in 2009–10 due in part to then 11% rise in claims for *Mental disorders* from 6945 in 2000-01 to 7690 in 2009-10. The largest increase in the number of serious claims over the ten-year period occurred for *Deafness* claims, which increased by 50%, from 3755 claims in 2000–01 to 5640 claims in 2009–10.

Nature of injury or disease ^a	2000–01	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	diff⁵	% chg	2010–11p
Injury & musculoskeletal disorde	ers								
Sprains, strains & musculoskeletal	83 185	78 020	77 705	77 675	75 575	73 630	-9 555	-11%	70 250
Fractures	11 265	11 535	11 350	12 165	11 425	10 650	- 615	-5%	10 820
Open wound	11 980	10 905	10 985	10 810	10 215	9 765	-2 215	-18%	9 775
Contusion & crushing	9 300	9 480	9 200	9 115	8 570	7 925	-1 375	-15%	8 185
Dislocation	1 000	1 680	1 865	1 935	2 010	1 855	855	86%	1 960
Burns	2 160	2 060	2 200	2 070	1 895	1 815	- 345	-16%	1 835
Superficial injury	1 430	850	775	695	840	665	- 765	-53%	805
Traumatic amputation	770	725	690	705	605	530	- 240	-31%	600
Foreign body in eye, ear or nose etc.	630	590	600	580	515	490	- 140	-22%	495
Intracranial injury	440	605	545	540	525	475	35	8%	565
Multiple injuries	675	455	355	450	480	450	- 225	-33%	505
Vertebral fracture	385	435	445	430	450	400	15	4%	420
Poisoning	410	300	315	280	260	235	- 175	-43%	245
Injuries to nerves & spinal cord	85	120	165	190	230	185	100	118%	215
Internal injury of chest, abdomen	100	115	120	105	95	115	15	15%	80
Electric shock	15	130	130	155	95	110	95	633%	110
Traumatic deafness	np	30	35	55	40	50	0	0%	45
Medical sharps injury	35	80	65	60	60	50	15	43%	55
Effects of weather, exposure etc.	170	60	65	60	50	45	- 125	-74%	60
Audio shock/audio shriek	35	30	30	30	45	30	- 5	-14%	45
Other and unspecified injuries	785	1 200	1 475	1 490	1 650	1 715	930	118%	1 990
Total injury & musculoskeletal disorders	124 855	119 405	119 115	119 595	115 630	111 185	-13 670	-11%	109 060
Diseases									
Mental disorders	6 945	7 225	7 245	6 970	7 115	7 690	745	11%	7 585
Deafness	3 755	3 645	3 425	4 085	4 815	5 640	1 885	50%	4 630
Hernia	3 230	3 710	3 520	3 340	3 200	3 205	- 25	-1%	2 820
Disorders of nerve roots etc.	1 440	1 585	1 510	1 535	1 400	1 310	- 130	-9%	1 220
Skin diseases	375	560	585	600	580	495	120	32%	440
Contact dermatitis	270	305	275	255	250	185	- 85	-31%	165
Respiratory diseases (incl cold and flu)	180	210	165	180	165	160	- 20	-11%	165
Infectious & parasitic diseases	100	140	60	80	110	105	5	5%	105
Total diseases	18 010	18 825	18 380	18 650	19 040	19 985	1 975	11%	18 270
Total serious claims	142 865	138 230	137 495	138 245	134 670	131 170	-11 695	-8%	127 330

Table 14 Serious claims: number by nature of injury or disease, 2000-01 to 2010-11p

a Category labels have been abbreviated. See Explanatory note 7 for correspondences. b Difference in number of claims from 2000–01 to 2009–10.

Time lost

Table 15 shows that the median time lost for Injury and musculoskeletal disorder claims was 3.6 working weeks in 2000–01 and has risen to 4.2 working weeks in 2009–10. Median time lost for claims involving Diseases has remained fairly constant at around 4 working weeks lost in the period from 2000–01 to 2008–09, and has dropped to 3.5 weeks in 2009-10.

Among claims involving injuries, *Injuries to nerves & spinal cord* resulted in the longest time lost from work in 2000–01 of 15.4 weeks, but has dropped to 7.8 weeks in 2009–10, a decrease of 49%. Conversely, there has been an increase in the median time lost for *Vertebral fracture* claims from 12.4 weeks in 2000–01 to 16.6 weeks in 2009–10. Among claims involving disease, Mental disorders recorded the largest increase in time lost, rising 2.6 working weeks from 10 weeks in 2000-01 to 12.6 weeks in 2009-10.

Serious claims involving Hernias and Contact dermatitis both recorded small decreases in median time lost whilst claims for *Deafness* claims generally involve no absence from work. Overall, the median time lost for work for Disease claims has decreased by 13% over the ten year period.

Nature of injury or disease ^a	2000-01	2005-06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	diff⁵	% chg
Injury & musculoskeletal disorders								
Sprains, strains & musculoskeletal disorders	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.6	0.6	15%
Fractures	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0	0.6	10%
Open wound	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	0.0	1%
Contusion & crushing	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.8	0.4	17%
Dislocation	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.0	7.4	6.6	-0.4	-6%
Burns	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	0.0	1%
Superficial injury	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.2	11%
Traumatic amputation	6.4	6.2	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	0%
Foreign body in eye, ear or nose etc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	-1%
Intracranial injury	2.4	2.9	2.4	3.0	3.0	3.6	1.2	50%
Multiple injuries	5.4	4.8	5.4	4.4	4.4	7.0	1.6	30%
Vertebral fracture	12.4	13.4	17.0	16.6	17.8	16.6	4.2	34%
Poisoning	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	0.0	2%
Injuries to nerves & spinal cord	15.4	10.5	10.8	7.2	8.2	7.8	-7.6	-49%
Internal injury of chest, abdomen & pelvis	4.6	5.0	5.6	5.6	6.0	5.8	1.2	27%
Electric shock	4.0	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.6	3.6	-0.4	-10%
Traumatic deafness	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.2	21%
Medical sharps injury	5.8	2.8	2.4	2.2	5.0	2.8	-3.0	-52%
Effects of weather, exposure etc.	2.3	2.0	2.4	1.6	1.8	1.5	-0.9	-37%
Audio shock/audio shriek	0.0	1.4	3.0	2.8	4.0	2.9	2.9	0%
Other & unspecified injuries	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	4.3	1.1	34%
Total Injury & musculoskeletal disorders	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	0.6	17%
Diseases								
Mental disorders	10.0	11.0	10.7	11.2	12.0	12.6	2.6	26%
Deafness	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Hernia	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.2	-0.6	-10%
Disorders of nerve roots etc.	8.3	8.5	9.5	8.6	9.0	8.4	0.1	1%
Skin diseases	2.0	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.0	0.0	-1%
Contact dermatitis	2.8	2.2	2.9	3.6	3.0	2.2	-0.6	-21%
Respiratory diseases (incl cold and flu)	3.8	5.0	4.2	4.6	4.2	4.2	0.4	11%
Infectious & parasitic diseases	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.6	3.0	2.2	0.2	10%
Total Diseases	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.5	-0.5	-13%
Overall median (all serious claims)	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	16%

Table 15 Serious claims: median time lost by nature of injury or disease, 2000-01 to 2010-11p

a Category labels have been abbreviated. See Explanatory note 7 for correspondences. b Difference in median time lost from 2000–01 to 2009–10.

Payments

This section analyses the median payment for serious claims recorded against Injury & musculoskeletal disorders and Disease claims. This payment refers to the total payments recorded against a claim and includes weekly benefits, medical and rehabilitation payments and lump sum payments (see Glossary entry for Payment and Explanatory note 4). Due to the difference in nature between these two types of claims, it must be recognised that the median payment for Injury & musculoskeletal disorders is typically an indication of payments due to the worker's being unable to work. This is in contrast to Disease claims, where the median payment is often representative of a lump sum payment or death benefit.

Of claims relating to Injury & musculoskeletal disorders, the largest increase in median payments were for claims in the *Traumatic amputation* category, with payments rising 52% from \$15 500 in 2000–01 to \$23 600 in 2009–10 (see Table 16). The next largest increase was recorded by the *Vertebral fracture* category which increased from \$22 400 to \$27 600 over the ten years. Substantial decreases in median payments over this period were recorded for claims relating to *Injuries to nerves and spinal cord* which fell from \$57 600 in 2000–01 to \$10 900 in 2009-10, *Audio shock/ audio shriek* claims (down \$17 800) and *Electric shock* claims (down 17 100).

Table 16 shows that the injury with the highest median payment in 2009–10 was *Vertebral fractures*, at \$27 600. The next highest median payment in 2009–10 were *Traumatic amputation* (\$23 600) and *Multiple injuries* (\$23 500).

Of the Disease categories where there were a large number of serious claims, the highest median payment in 2009–10 was for *Mental disorders*, with \$20 400. This figure has increased by \$5400 (or 36%) from the 2000–01 median of \$15 000. Table 16 shows that median payments increased slightly more for Disease claims (up 50% from \$8800 in 2000–01 to \$13 200 in 2009–10) than Injury & musculoskeletal disorders (up 39% from \$5100 in 2000–01 to \$7100 in 2009–10). Disease claims are often more expensive than injury or musculoskeletal claims because they typically involve more time off work, may require longer and more expensive medical treatment and/or involve a lump sum payment.

Table 16 Serious claims: median payment by nature of injury or disease, 2000–01 to 2010–11p

Nature of injury or disease ^a	2000–01	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	diff⁵	% chg
Injury & musculoskeletal disorders								
Sprains, strains & musculoskeletal disorders	\$6 100	\$6 100	\$6 600	\$7 100	\$7 700	\$7 700	\$1 600	26%
Fractures	\$6 500	\$7 800	\$8 700	\$9 400	\$10 300	\$9 500	\$3 000	46%
Open wound	\$2 500	\$2 900	\$2 900	\$3 100	\$4 000	\$3 600	\$1 100	44%
Contusion & crushing	\$3 000	\$3 000	\$3 200	\$3 600	\$4 200	\$4 200	\$1 200	40%
Dislocation	\$9 200	\$11 000	\$11 400	\$11 300	\$12 900	\$11 900	\$2 700	29%
Burns	\$1 400	\$1 700	\$1 800	\$1 900	\$2 000	\$2 000	\$ 600	43%
Superficial injury	\$2 300	\$2 400	\$3 000	\$3 300	\$2 800	\$3 200	\$ 900	39%
Traumatic amputation	\$15 500	\$21 500	\$23 900	\$22 900	\$29 500	\$23 600	\$8 100	52%
Foreign body in eye, ear or nose etc.	\$1 400	\$1 500	\$1 500	\$1 600	\$1 800	\$2 000	\$ 600	43%
Intracranial injury	\$3 500	\$4 300	\$3 700	\$5 200	\$7 900	\$5 900	\$2 400	69%
Multiple injuries	\$25 700	\$23 600	\$32 800	\$25 500	\$26 000	\$23 500	-\$2 200	-9%
Vertebral fracture	\$22 400	\$21 600	\$31 200	\$31 400	\$41 500	\$27 600	\$5 200	23%
Poisoning	\$2 300	\$2 300	\$2 200	\$2 500	\$2 400	\$2 500	\$ 200	9%
Injuries to nerves & spinal cord	\$57 600	\$15 900	\$17 000	\$13 200	\$14 600	\$10 900	-\$46 700	-81%
Internal injury of chest, abdomen & pelvis	\$6 800	\$8 600	\$17 500	\$14 100	\$12 100	\$11 900	\$5 100	75%
Electric shock	\$25 800	\$7 200	\$6 100	\$4 700	\$6 100	\$8 700	-\$17 100	-66%
Traumatic deafness	\$19 000	\$3 400	\$12 100	\$9 200	\$14 600	\$8 900	-\$10 100	-53%
Medical sharps injury	\$3 700	\$3 000	\$3 100	\$3 900	\$4 300	\$3 600	-\$ 100	-3%
Effects of weather, exposure etc.	\$3 900	\$11 200	\$7 000	\$4 200	\$8 000	\$6 400	\$2 500	64%
Audio shock/audio shriek	\$28 000	\$3 600	\$7 300	\$10 600	\$9 400	\$10 200	-\$17 800	-64%
Other & unspecified injuries	\$4 300	\$3 800	\$4 400	\$5 200	\$6 600	\$8 100	\$3 800	88%
Total Injury & musculoskeletal	\$5 100	\$5 400	\$5 800	\$6 400	\$7 200	\$7 100	\$2 000	39%
Diseases								
Mental disorders	\$15 000	\$15 500	\$17 000	\$17 700	\$19 800	\$20 400	\$5 400	36%
Deafness	\$9 200	\$10 400	\$11 200	\$12 400	\$13 800	\$14 200	\$5 000	54%
Hernia	\$6 800	\$9 000	\$9 200	\$9 800	\$10 300	\$10 000	\$3 200	47%
Disorders of nerve roots etc.	\$9 900	\$12 600	\$12 900	\$12 900	\$13 300	\$13 400	\$3 500	35%
Skin diseases	\$2 200	\$3 000	\$2 600	\$3 100	\$2 800	\$3 400	\$1 200	55%
Contact dermatitis	\$3 800	\$3 000	\$2 900	\$3 400	\$3 600	\$2 200	-\$1 600	-42%
Respiratory diseases (incl cold and flu)	\$8 200	\$10 000	\$8 100	\$8 300	\$6 200	\$6 800	-\$1 400	-17%
Infectious & parasitic diseases	\$2 500	\$1 700	\$2 000	\$1 800	\$2 900	\$3 100	\$ 600	24%
Total Diseases	\$8 800	\$10 300	\$10 900	\$11 600	\$12 900	\$13 200	\$4 400	50%
Overall median (all serious claims)	\$5 700	\$6 200	\$6 700	\$7 300	\$8 200	\$8 200	\$2 500	44%

a Category labels have been abbreviated. See Explanatory note 7 for correspondences. b Difference in median time lost from 2000–01 to 2009–10.

Trends by bodily location of injury or disease

Bodily location refers to the part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease. Table 17 shows that claims coded to Upper limbs accounted for almost one-third of all serious claims. Within this group, serious claims for *Shoulder* have risen by 14% over the past nine years from 11 120 claims in 2000-01 to 12 670 claims in 2009-10. Serious claims coded to *Back* account for around one-fifth of all serious claims. This group of claims recorded a 22% decrease over the period from 36 570 claims in 2000–01 to 28 680 claims in 2009-10. A major contributor to this decrease is the reduction in *Lower back* claims, which

declined from 25 565 claims in 2000–01 to 20 795 claims in 2009–10 – a drop of 4770 claims. *Lower back* claims were the most common subgroup of claims over the ten year period, typically accounting for one-sixth of all serious claims.

Bodily location of injury or disease	2000–01	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	diffª	% chg	2010 — 11p
Upper limbs	44 820	44 135	44 415	44 995	43 575	41 430	-3390	-8%	40 595
Shoulder	11 120	12 305	12 580	12 895	12 770	12 670	1550	14%	11 875
Fingers	8 395	8 390	8 310	8 550	7 840	7 430	-965	-11%	7 585
Wrist	6 335	6 465	6 440	6 430	6 345	5 905	-430	-7%	5 820
Hands	4 305	5 135	5 185	5 300	5 230	4 780	475	11%	4 525
Upper arm	1 210	1 080	1 105	1 155	1 220	1 070	-140	-12%	1 100
Upper limb - multiple	1 405	1 280	1 355	1 230	1 325	1 100	-305	-22%	1 000
Forearm	2 240	2 245	2 125	2 260	1 990	1 910	-330	-15%	1 885
Elbow	3 275	3 185	3 085	3 045	3 010	2 910	-365	-11%	2 830
Thumb	2 825	2 930	3 035	2 935	2 705	2 615	-210	-7%	2 670
Upper limb - other	3 700	1 115	1 205	1 195	1 140	1 025	-2675	-72%	1 310
Back	36 570	32 420	31 145	30 990	29 540	28 680	-7890	-22%	27 805
Lower back	25 565	24 315	22 605	22 205	21 270	20 795	-4770	-19%	20 060
Back - unspecified	4 440	4 760	5 325	5 310	4 960	4 915	475	11%	4 920
Back - other and multiple	5 225	1 625	1 690	1 980	1 955	1 610	-3615	-69%	1 605
Upper back	1 340	1 720	1 530	1 490	1 355	1 355	15	1%	1 220
Lower limbs	27 215	28 060	28 675	28 860	28 200	27 440	225	1%	26 490
Knee	10 895	11 790	12 060	11 885	11 865	11 615	720	7%	11 170
Ankle	6 055	6 340	6 285	6 485	6 330	6 195	140	2%	5 895
Foot	3 605	3 485	3 605	3 655	3 405	3 270	-335	-9%	3 205
Lower leg	2 310	2 765	2 825	2 955	2 820	2 725	415	18%	2 665
Upper leg	1 035	1 005	1 040	1 025	1 015	940	-95	-9%	940
Lower limb - other	3 320	2 680	2 860	2 855	2 765	2 700	-620	-19%	2 620
Head	7 865	7 880	7 615	8 250	8 730	9 185	1320	17%	8 365
Ear	4 045	3 920	3 745	4 345	5 095	5 870	1825	45%	4 890
Eye	1 170	1 225	1 185	1 180	1 015	925	-245	-21%	955
Head - other	2 650	2 730	2 690	2 725	2 620	2 390	-260	-10%	2 525
Abdominal muscles and tendons	4 045	4 350	4 160	3 995	3 780	3 760	-285	-7%	3 465
Psychological system	6 935	7 230	7 270	6 985	7 175	7 870	935	13%	7 730
All other locations	15 425	14 160	14 205	14 170	13 670	12 805	-2620	-17%	12 875
Total serious claims	142 870	138 235	137 495	138 245	134 675	131 170	-11700	-8%	127 335

Table 17 Serious claims: number by bodily location of injury or disease, 2000–01 to 2010–11p

a Difference in the number of serious claims from 2000–01 to 2009–10.

Trends by mechanism of injury or disease

The mechanism of injury or disease classification is used to identify the action, exposure or event that was the direct cause of the most serious injury or disease. Table 18 shows that *Body stressing* was the most common mechanism of injury, consistently accounting for 40% of serious claims, but also recording the largest fall in claim numbers (down 6760 claims) of all mechanisms over the ten-year period. In fact, over half of the decrease in all serious claims were due to the reduction in *Body stressing* claims.

The second largest decrease in serious claims was recorded by *Other* & *unspecified* mechanisms of injury, which fell by 3240 claims. This mechanism includes *Vehicle accident*, cases where there were multiple mechanisms and cases where the mechanism was not known. It is possible this is due to better coding practices with increases or smaller falls in the other mechanism categories occurring as a result. The number of claims due to *Vehicle accident* has shown little change over the ten years, accounting for around 3100 claims each year.

Table 18 Serious claims: number by mechanism of injury or disease, 2000–01 to 2010–11p

Mechanism of injury or disease	2000-01	2005-06	2006-07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	diff ^a	% chg	2010–11p
Body stressing	60 555	57 605	56 995	56 710	54 835	53 795	-6 760	-11%	50 865
Falls, trips & slips of a person	27 130	27 725	27 790	28 520	28 225	27 340	210	1%	26 975
Being hit by moving objects	18 945	19 745	19 680	20 045	19 050	17 555	-1 390	-7%	17 550
Hitting objects with a part of the body	10 930	10 150	10 000	10 225	9 505	8 685	-2 245	-21%	8 395
Mental stress	6 610	6 940	6 970	6 705	6 805	7 470	860	13%	7 385
Sound & pressure	3 885	3 805	3 605	4 185	4 980	5 800	1 915	49%	4 830
Heat, radiation & electricity	2 030	2 040	2 115	2 070	1 800	1 805	- 225	-11%	1 815
Chemicals & other substances	1 850	1 540	1 530	1 530	1 495	1 275	- 575	-31%	1 225
Biological factors	620	550	535	580	535	380	- 240	-39%	435
Other & unspecified mechanisms of injury	10 310	8 135	8 270	7 675	7 450	7 070	-3 240	-31%	7 865
Vehicle accident	2 990	3 175	3 270	3 385	3 365	3 010	20	1%	3 120
Total serious claims	142 870	138 235	137 495	138 245	134 675	131 170	-11 700	-8%	127 335

a Difference in the number of serious claims from 2000–01 to 2009–10.

Time lost and payments

Table 19 shows that between 2000–01 and 2009–10, median time lost increased in nearly all mechanism categories. The largest proportional increase was for *Mental stress*, which increased by 2.8 working weeks from 10.2 working weeks lost in 2000–01 to 13.0 weeks in 2009–10. *Mental stress* claims consistently had the longest median time lost from work, more than three times the overall median. The high median time lost for *Mental stress* claims also resulted in those claims having the highest median payment (\$20 800 in 2009-10), more than double the median for all serious claims of \$8200.

The largest increases in median payment occurred for claims due to *Heat, radiation & electricity*, up 60% from \$1500 in 2000–01 to \$2400 in 2009–10. *Sound & pressure* claims rose 53%, from \$9200 in 2000–01 to \$14 100 in 2009–10.

Median payments for all categories increased over the period with the overall median rising 44% from \$5700 in 2000–01 to \$8200 in 2009–10.

Claims involving *Sound & pressure* recorded zero median time lost. This is because of the very high proportion of deafness claims in this category, which generally involve no absence from work. This mechanism however, recorded the second highest median payments in all nine years, most likely due to the payment of lump sum compensation for permanent hearing loss.

Table 19 Serious	claims: median	time lost and	median p	bayment by	mechanism	of injury or
disease	, 2000–01 to 201	0–11p				

Mechanism of injury or disease	2000–01	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	diff ^a	% chg⁵
			Median	time lost	(working	g weeks)		
Body stressing	4.2	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.8	19%
Falls, trips & slips of a person	4.2	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.1	0.9	21%
Being hit by moving objects	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.3	0.3	9%
Hitting objects with a part of the body	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.4	0.0	2%
Mental stress	10.2	11.4	11.0	11.8	12.4	13.0	2.8	27%
Sound & pressurec	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Heat, radiation & electricity	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	-0.2	-10%
Chemicals & other substances	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.8	0.0	0%
Biological factors	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.6	2.0	2.1	0.1	7%
Other & unspecified mechanisms of injury	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.8	0.4	9%
Vehicle accident	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.2	0.0	1%
Overall median	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	0.6	16%
				Median	payment			
Body stressing	\$6 300	\$6 800	\$7 400	\$7 800	\$8 500	\$8 400	\$2 100	33%
Falls, trips & slips of a person	\$5 900	\$6 200	\$6 700	\$7 600	\$8 200	\$8 100	\$2 200	37%
Being hit by moving objects	\$4 200	\$4 600	\$4 800	\$5 400	\$6 200	\$5 800	\$1 600	38%
Hitting objects with a part of the body	\$2 700	\$3 200	\$3 200	\$3 500	\$4 400	\$4 100	\$1 400	52%
Mental stress	\$15 400	\$15 600	\$17 100	\$17 800	\$19 800	\$20 800	\$5 400	35%
Sound & pressurec	\$9 200	\$10 300	\$11 000	\$12 300	\$13 700	\$14 100	\$4 900	53%
Heat, radiation & electricity	\$1 500	\$2 000	\$2 200	\$2 300	\$2 400	\$2 400	\$ 900	60%
Chemicals & other substances	\$3 000	\$3 400	\$3 800	\$4 500	\$3 600	\$3 900	\$ 900	30%
Biological factors	\$2 100	\$2 400	\$2 700	\$2 700	\$2 500	\$2 800	\$ 700	33%
Other & unspecified mechanisms of injury	\$6 400	\$7 700	\$8 000	\$8 600	\$9 700	\$9 300	\$2 900	45%
Vehicle accident	\$8 400	\$7 700	\$8 300	\$8 600	\$10 500	\$9 600	\$1 200	14%
Overall median	\$5 700	\$6 200	\$6 700	\$7 300	\$8 200	\$8 200	\$2 500	44%

a Difference in median from 2000–01 to 2009–10.

b Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2009-10.
 c Sound & pressure claims generally involve hearing loss where no time is taken off work.

Trends by breakdown agency of injury or disease

Breakdown agency of injury or disease refers to the object, substance or circumstance principally involved in, or most closely associated with, the point at which things started to go wrong, and ultimately leading to the most serious injury or disease. Table 20 shows that *Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment* consistently recorded the highest number of claims across the nine years. Between 2000–01 and 2009-10, claims fell in this group by 5385 claims or 15%. This group consists of a large range of equipment including knives, hammers, saws, furniture, ladders, scaffolding as well as fastening & packing equipment. In particular, packing containers such as crates and boxes accounted for around one-fifth of claims and usually resulted in body stressing claims. The most notable change occurred with claims that involved *Other & unspecified agencies* with a fall of 4810 claims, from 23 870 claims in 2000–01 to 19 060 in 2009-10. This agency is used for claims where sufficient information has not been obtained to accurately code to a specific agency or where a non-physical agency was associated with the injury. The decrease could be linked to better coding practices.

Serious claims for *Machinery & (mainly) fixed plant* fell by 2940 claims, from 10 080 claims in 2000–01 to 7140 claims in 2009-10. Within this agency, claims for *Cutting, slicing, sawing machinery; Crushing, pressing, rolling machinery* and *Other plant & machinery* recorded the greatest falls.

The group of agencies that recorded the greatest increase in claim numbers was *Animal, human and biological agencies* rising by 9% from 14 455 claims in 2000–01 to 15 825 in 2009–10. This was mainly due to an 83% increase in claims for *Mental stress* involving *Animal, human & biological agencies* over the same period.

Table 20 Serious claims: number by breakdown agency of injury or disease, 2000–01 to 2010–11p

Breakdown agency of injury or disease	2000–01	2005-06	2006-07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	diffª	% chg	2010–11p
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	36 930	36 380	35 965	35 320	33 525	31 545	-5 385	-15%	29 635
Other & unspecified agencies	23 870	18 590	17 960	18 345	18 895	19 060	-4 810	-20%	21 385
Environmental agencies	21 165	21 560	21 390	22 250	22 325	21 880	715	3%	20 610
Materials & substances	15 685	16 745	17 615	17 820	16 485	15 850	165	1%	15 175
Animal, human & biological agencies	14 455	15 275	15 170	15 125	15 525	15 825	1 370	9%	15 185
Mobile plant & transport	12 300	12 575	12 680	13 025	12 600	12 315	15	0%	11 635
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	10 080	8 610	8 490	8 075	7 430	7 140	-2 940	-29%	6 750
Powered equipment, tools & appliances	6 905	7 230	7 020	7 125	6 800	6 655	-250	-4%	6 025
Chemicals & chemical products	1 470	1 265	1 195	1 165	1 080	900	-570	-39%	925
Total serious claims ^b	142 870	138 235	137 495	138 245	134 675	131 170	-11 700	-8%	127 335

a Difference in the number of claims from 2000–01 to 2009–10.

b Includes claims where breakdown agency is not stated.

Preliminary data from 2010–11 show that there were 169 accepted workers' compensation claims for the death of an employee resulting from work-related causes. However, as workers' compensation schemes do not generally cover self-employed workers and in most jurisdictions workers' compensation claims can only be lodged where there is a dependent, this number is not an accurate count of all work-related fatalities in Australia.

The 169 fatalities compensated in 2010–11p equate to a fatality rate of 1.6 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. However, as the 2010–11 data are preliminary, the rate is expected to rise with the final determination on claims lodged during this year. Since 2003–04, the compensated fatality incidence rate has fallen 36% from 3.3 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees to 2.1 in 2009–10.

Nature of injury or disease

Table 21 shows injuries accounted for 77% of compensated fatalities and had a fatality incidence rate three times the rate for diseases in 2010–11p (1.2 compensated injury fatalities per 100 000 employees compared with 0.4 for disease fatalities). The fatality frequency rate for injuries was four times the rate for diseases (0.8 compared with 0.2 fatalities per million hours worked).

Sex	Compensated fatalities	ompensated Percentage in fatalities		Fatality frequency rate ^b
		All compensat	ted fatalities	
Males	158	93%	2.9	1.5
Females	11	7%	0.2	0.2
Total	169	100%	1.6	1.0
		Injuri	ies	
Males	119	92%	2.2	1.2
Females	11	8%	0.2	0.2
Total	130	100%	1.2	0.8
		Disea	ses	
Males	39	100%	0.7	0.4
Females	0	0%	0.0	0.0
Total	39	100%	0.4	0.2

Table 21 Compensated fatalities, percentage of total, incidence and frequency rate by injury or disease and sex, 2010–11p

a Calculated as compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. b Calculated as compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Figure 16 shows the number of injury fatalities increased steadily from 178 in 2003–04 to 218 in 2007–08. Since then it has declined to 148 in 2009–10. Over the same period, the number of deaths attributed to disease has declined from 108 to 67. While the 2010–11p data show major falls in the number of fatalities for both injuries and disease, these data are preliminary and may rise in future updates.



Figure 16 Compensated fatalities by nature of injury or disease, 2003–04 to

There were 1441 compensated injury fatalities recorded over the period 2003–04 to 2010–11p. Of these, 594 (41%) were coded to *Multiple injuries* of which 361 (61%) were caused by *Vehicle accident*.

Two of the three most common causes of disease-related deaths were *Malignant neoplasm of the pleura (mesothelioma)* and *Asbestosis*, both due to past exposure to asbestos fibres. Together they accounted for half of the compensated fatalities for disease. Disease-related deaths typically occur in older workers with employees aged 55 years & over comprising 69% (27 fatalities) of those who died of disease in 2010–11p. This is largely due to the longer exposure to workplace hazards and the long latency of some work-related diseases.

Age and sex

Compensation was paid for the work-related deaths of 158 male employees and 11 female employees in 2010–11p. Over the period 2003–04 to 2010–11p, the proportion of deaths for females has ranged between 4% and 10% and made up 7% of deaths in 2010–11p.

Table 21 shows that males had a fatality incidence rate 14 times that of females and a fatality frequency rate 7 times that of females.

Table 22 shows how the number, incidence and frequency rates of fatalities vary by age. In 2010–11p, the highest recorded number of fatalities occurred amongst workers aged 65 years and over (21 deaths, 12% of all compensated fatalities). The oldest age group, 65 years & over, also recorded the highest incidence and frequency rates of fatality: 9.8 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees and 7.5 compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

The high incidence rate recorded for all compensated fatalities in the 65 years & over age group is mainly due to the high number of diseaserelated fatalities—of the 21 compensated deaths in this age group, 16 were caused by diseases. For this age group, both the incidence rate and the frequency rate of disease fatalities were three times that of the corresponding rates for injury fatalities. The higher incidence rates in this age group relative to number of claims is also due to the small number of employees continuing to work beyond 65 years of age. The distribution of disease-related deaths was distinctly skewed towards older aged employees, with almost three-quarters of disease fatalities involving employees aged 55 years or more. This is a result of the greater lengths of exposure to work-related substances and conditions that cause disease and the long latency period of some work-related diseases.

-	Νι	umber of fataliti	Fatality	Fatality	
Age group	Males	Females	Total	rate ^a	rate ^b
		All compe	nsated fata	alities	
15–19 years	2	0	2	0.3	0.3
20–24 years	11	2	13	1.0	0.7
25–29 years	15	0	15	1.1	0.6
30–34 years	11	1	12	1.1	0.6
35–39 years	13	0	13	1.1	0.6
40–44 years	17	2	19	1.7	1.0
45–49 years	16	3	19	1.7	0.9
50–54 years	16	1	17	1.6	0.9
55–59 years	17	1	18	2.2	1.3
60–64 years	20	0	20	3.9	2.5
65 years & over	20	1	21	9.8	7.5
Total	158	11	169	1.6	1.0
		I	njuries		
15–19 years	2	0	2	0.3	0.3
20–24 years	11	2	13	1.0	0.7
25–29 years	15	0	15	1.1	0.6
30–34 years	9	1	10	0.9	0.5
35–39 years	12	0	12	1.0	0.6
40–44 years	16	2	18	1.6	0.9
45–49 years	13	3	16	1.4	0.8
50-54 years	11	1	12	1.1	0.6
55–59 years	12	1	13	1.6	0.9
60-64 years	14	0	14	2.7	1.7
65 years & over	4	1	5	2.3	1.8
Total	119	11	130	1.2	0.8
			Disease		
15–19 years	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
20-24 years	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
25–29 years	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
30–34 years	2	0	2	0.2	0.1
35–39 years	1	0	1	0.1	0.0
40–44 years	1	0	1	0.1	0.1
45–49 years	3	0	3	0.3	0.1
50-54 years	5	0	5	0.5	0.3
55–59 years	5	0	5	0.6	0.4
60–64 years	6	0	6	1.2	0.7
65 years & over	16	0	16	7.5	5.7
Total	39	0	39	0.4	0.2

Table 22 Compensated fatalities, fatality incidence and frequency rate by sex and age, 2010–11p

a Compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees.

b Compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Compensated fatalities by age over time

Analysis of trends in compensated fatalities by age over time excludes the preliminary data from the most recent year as they are likely to increase as further claims are accepted. Data for earlier years are also subject to revision. Table 23 shows the number of compensated fatalities increased steadily from 286 in 2003–04 to 323 in 2007–08 before declining to 215 in 2009–10. Although there was little variability in the incidence and frequency rates for all ages, there was substantial variability within each age group due to the small numbers involved. These data show that fatality rates generally increase with age. Incidence and frequency rates remained fairly constant between 2003–04 and 2007–08 before both recorded a substantial decrease in 2009-10.

Table 23 Compensated fatalities, fatality incidence and frequency rate by age, 2003-04 to 2009–10a

Age group	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg⁵	
Number of fatalities									
15–19 years	11	15	11	9	5	10	6	-45.5	
20–24 years	15	16	19	19	17	16	14	-6.7	
25–29 years	18	27	20	13	18	16	13	-27.8	
30–34 years	31	28	34	30	21	25	11	-64.5	
35–39 years	17	22	30	27	37	27	18	5.9	
40–44 years	36	31	32	37	36	20	18	-50.0	
45–49 years	36	26	34	28	37	27	29	-19.4	
50–54 years	33	30	30	27	40	39	26	-21.2	
55–59 years	34	41	34	35	38	31	34	0.0	
60–64 years	25	22	23	27	23	22	17	-32.0	
65 years & over	30	15	33	38	51	32	29	-3.3	
All ages	286	273	300	290	323	265	215	-24.8	
			Fatality	incidence	rate ^c				
15–19 years	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.2	0.6	1.3	0.8	-45.8	
20–24 years	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2	-20.4	
25–29 years	1.8	2.7	1.9	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.1	-41.5	
30-34 years	2.9	2.7	3.2	2.9	2.0	2.3	1.0	-65.6	
35–39 years	1.7	2.2	2.9	2.5	3.3	2.4	1.6	-8.7	
40-44 years	3.4	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.3	1.8	1.6	-51.7	
45–49 years	3.6	2.5	3.2	2.5	3.2	2.4	2.5	-28.9	
50-54 years	3.9	3.4	3.3	2.9	4.2	3.9	2.5	-34.2	
55–59 years	5.8	6.6	5.0	5.0	5.2	4.1	4.4	-25.2	
60-64 years	9.7	7.6	7.2	7.6	5.9	4.9	3.6	-62.9	
65 years & over	32.6	14.1	27.4	28.5	33.4	19.1	15.0	-54.0	
All ages	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	-35.7	
			Fatality	frequency	rated				
15–19 years	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.2	0.6	1.3	0.9	-42.9	
20–24 years	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7	-18.6	
25–29 years	1.0	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	-40.5	
30–34 years	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.3	0.6	-65.2	
35–39 years	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.3	0.9	-7.8	
40-44 years	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.0	0.9	-50.9	
45–49 years	2.0	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.3	1.4	-27.3	
50–54 years	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.6	2.3	2.2	1.4	-33.2	
55–59 years	3.3	3.7	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.5	2.5	-23.9	
60–64 years	6.0	4.6	4.4	4.7	3.7	3.0	2.3	-62.4	
65 years & over	26.3	10.2	20.6	21.2	24.6	15.1	11.2	-57.5	
All ages	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.3	-34.7	

a Analysis of trends excludes 2010–11 preliminary data as they are likely to increase as further claims are accepted. b Percentage change from 2003-04 to 2009-10. c Compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. d Compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Industry

Table 24 shows that in 2010–11p, the Construction industry recorded the highest number of compensated fatalities of any industry (28),17% of all compensated fatalities. The second highest number of fatalities occurred in the Transport & storage industry (24) followed by Manufacturing (21) and Government administration & defence (18).

When the number of compensated fatalities is expressed as a rate, the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry recorded the highest fatality incidence rate of 9.1 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees, five times the rate for all industries of 1.6. This was followed by the Transport & storage industry (5.5) and Construction (3.8).

The Construction industry recorded the most injury fatalities with 24 injury deaths followed by Transport & storage (21) and Property & business services (17). The Agriculture, forestry & fishing had the highest injury fatality rate with 8.6 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees, followed by Transport & storage industry (4.8) and Construction (3.3).

For diseases, the Government administration & defence industry recorded 16 fatalities, followed by Manufacturing (5) and Construction (4). Around two-thirds of the fatalities in these three industries were caused by past exposure to asbestos fibres. The fatality incidence rates were highest for Government administration & defence (2.9 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees) followed by Transport & storage with 0.7.

Figure 17 shows a more detailed level of fatalities by industry. Together the thirteen industry groups shown accounted for half of all compensated fatalities (86 deaths). The highest number of compensated fatalities (18) involved employees in the Road freight transport group followed by Government administration (11).

Figure 17 Compensated fatalities by industry groups with largest number of fatalities in 2010–11p



Table 24 Compensated fatalities, fatality incidence and frequency rate by industry division and sex, 2010–11p

	Νι	umber of fatalit	Fatality	Fatality		
Industry division	Males	Females	Total	Incidence rate ^a	frequency rate ^b	
			Injuries			
Construction	24	0	24	3.3	1.6	
Transport and storage	21	0	21	4.8	2.5	
Manufacturing	16	0	16	1.7	0.9	
Property and business services	14	3	17	1.4	0.8	
Government administration and defence	1	1	2	0.4	0.2	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	14	1	15	8.6	4.3	
Wholesale trade	9	1	10	2.3	1.2	
Personal and other services	6	1	7	1.9	1.2	
Retail trade	3	2	5	0.3	0.2	
Health and community services	1	2	3	0.2	0.2	
Mining	3	0	3	1.5	0.7	
Education	2	0	2	0.2	0.1	
Cultural and recreational services	3	0	3	1.0	0.8	
Communication services	1	0	1	0.4	0.2	
Finance and insurance	1	0	1	0.3	0.1	
Electricity, gas and water supply	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Total ^c	119	11	130	1.2	0.8	
		D	iseases			
Construction	4	0	4	0.5	0.3	
Transport and storage	3	0	3	0.7	0.4	
Manufacturing	5	0	5	0.5	0.3	
Property and business services	1	0	1	0.1	0.0	
Government administration and defence	16	0	16	2.9	1.7	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1	0	1	0.6	0.3	
Wholesale trade	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Personal and other services	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Retail trade	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Health and community services	2	0	2	0.2	0.1	
Mining	1	0	1	0.5	0.2	
Education	1	0	1	0.1	0.1	
Cultural and recreational services	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Communication services	1	0	1	0.4	0.2	
Finance and insurance	1	0	1	0.3	0.1	
Electricity gas and water supply	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Accommodation cafes and restaurants	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
	39	0	39	0.0	0.0	
		All compe	ensated fata	alities	0.2	
Construction	28	0	28	3.8	1.9	
Transport and storage	24	0	24	5.5	2.8	
Manufacturing	21	0	21	2.3	1.2	
Property and business services	15	3	18	1.4	0.8	
Government administration and defence	17	1	18	3.2	1.9	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	15	1	16	9.1	4.6	
Wholesale trade	9	1	10	2.3	1.2	
Personal and other services	6	1	7	1.9	1.2	
Retail trade	3	2	5	0.3	0.2	
Health and community services	3	2	5	0.4	0.3	
Mining	4	0	4	2.0	0.9	
Education	3	0	3	0.3	0.2	
Cultural and recreational services	3	0 0	3	1 0	0.8	
Communication services	2	n n	2	0.9	0.5	
Einance and insurance	2	n n	2	0.5	0.3	
Electricity gas and water supply	0	0	<u>ک</u>	0.0	0.0	
Accommodation cafes and rostourants	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
	450	44	460	0.0	0.0	
IOLAI	158	-11	169	1.6	1.0	

a Compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. b Compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked. c Includes compensated fatalities where industry was not stated.

Compensated fatalities by industry over time

Analysis of trends in compensated fatalities by industry over time excludes the preliminary data from the most recent year as they are likely to increase as further claims are accepted. Data for earlier years are also subject to revision.

Transport & storage recorded the highest number of fatalities in five of the seven years shown. Almost two-thirds (64%) of the fatalities in Transport & storage involved *Vehicle accident*. The Construction industry recorded the second highest number of compensated fatalities in four of the seven years and the highest number in two years. Around one-third (35%) of fatalities in the Construction industry were caused by *Long term contact with chemicals or substances* (all of these were asbestos-related disease fatalities).

Agriculture, forestry & fishing had the highest incidence and frequency rates in five of the seven years shown. Almost one-half (45%) of these fatalities involved *Vehicle accident*.

The incidence and frequency rates of fatalities have generally declined over the seven-year period. The overall incidence rate has fallen from 3.3 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2003–04 to 2.1 in 2009–10 and the frequency rate from 2.0 fatalities per 100 million hours worked to 1.3 over the same period.

The Construction industry showed a decrease of around 40% in both incidence and frequency rates of fatality since 2003–04. Over the same period the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry had a decrease of almost 60% in both incidence and frequency rates of fatality.

Table 25 Compensated fatalities, fatality incidence and frequency rate by industry division, 2003–04 to 2009–10^a

Industry division	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg⁵		
	Number of fatalities									
Construction	53	48	35	40	40	39	44	-17.0		
Transport & storage	47	53	46	48	76	48	43	-8.5		
Manufacturing	37	45	36	39	34	27	29	-21.6		
Government administration & defence	19	12	9	14	17	8	20	5.3		
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	29	30	26	15	32	27	12	-58.6		
Property & business services	18	16	33	19	18	18	11	-38.9		
Wholesale trade	17	11	6	12	8	18	9	-47.1		
Mining	8	7	15	7	7	15	8	0.0		
Retail trade	12	11	12	15	7	9	8	-33.3		
Communication services	4	2	7	7	4	3	5	25.0		
Cultural & recreational services	4	5	3	6	4	1	5	25.0		
Personal & other services	8	7	10	13	15	11	5	-37.5		
Health & community services	7	6	3	4	6	5	4	-42.9		
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	13	9	5	8	0	4	3	-76.9		
Finance & insurance	2	1	3	1	5	1	2	0.0		
Electricity, gas & water supply	3	2	9	0	3	3	1	-66.7		
Education	5	4	4	4	5	6	1	-80.0		
Total ^c	286	273	299	289	319	265	215	-24.8		
			Fatalit	y inciden	ce rate ^a					
Construction	10.5	8.7	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.3	-39.7		
Iransport & storage	12.3	13.3	11.2	11.5	16.9	11.1	9.9	-19.2		
Manufacturing	3.8	4.5	3.7	4.0	3.4	2.8	3.1	-18.5		
Government administration & defence	4.1	2.5	1.9	2.8	3.4	1.5	3.6	-12.1		
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	15.5	16.3	14.5	8.3	18.3	15.9	0.5	-57.9		
Property & business services	1.7	1.5	3.0	1.6	1.5	1.5	0.9	-47.2		
vvnolesale trade	4.2	2.8	1.5	2.8	1.9	4.3	2.0	-51.6		
Mining Detail trade	0.0	7.0	12.2	5.4 1.0	5.U 0.5	9.2	4.7	-40.0		
	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	-40.2		
	2.7	1.3	4.3	4.1	2.3	1.3	2.3	-10.5		
	1.7	1.9	1.1 3.1	2.1	1.0	0.0	1.0	3.0 47.1		
Health & community services	2.0	2.2	0.3	4.0	4.5	0.4	0.3	-47.1		
Accommodation cafes & restaurants	27	17	1.0	1.5	0.0	0.4	0.5	-80.5		
Finance & insurance	2.7	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.5	-00.0		
Electricity das & water supply	4 1	27	10.8	0.0	3.5	29	1.0	-74.6		
Education	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.1	-82.7		
Total	3.3	31	3.3	3.0	3.3	27	21	-35.7		
	0.0		Fatalit	v frequen	cv rate ^e					
Construction	5.2	4.3	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.2	-38.3		
Transport & storage	6.1	6.7	5.8	5.9	8.6	5.8	5.1	-15.8		
Manufacturing	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.6	-16.2		
Government administration & defence	2.4	1.5	1.1	1.6	2.0	0.9	2.2	-11.6		
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	8.2	8.5	7.7	4.3	9.5	8.0	3.4	-59.3		
Property & business services	1.0	0.8	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.5	-47 1		
Wholesale trade	2.2	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.0	2.3	1.1	-50.3		
Mining	3.8	3.0	5.4	2.4	2.2	4.2	2.1	-46.2		
Retail trade	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.4	-40.2		
Communication services	1.5	0.7	2.3	2.2	1.2	0.7	1.3	-12.1		
Cultural & recreational services	1.2	1.4	0.8	1.6	1.1	0.2	1.3	3.8		
Personal & other services	1.6	1.3	1.9	2.4	2.6	1.9	0.9	-45.4		
Health & community services	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	-55.4		
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	2.0	1.3	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.6	0.4	-79.6		
Finance & insurance	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.3	-13.8		
Electricity, gas & water supply	2.1	1.3	5.6	0.0	1.7	1.6	0.5	-74.6		
Education	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.1	-82.3		
Total ^c	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.3	-34.7		

a Analysis of trends excludes 2010–11 preliminary data as they are likely to increase as further claims are accepted. b Percentage change from 2003-04 to 2009-10. c Includes compensated fatalities where industry was not stated. d Compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. e Compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Occupation

Table 26 shows that the greatest number of deaths in any occupation in 2010–11p occurred among Intermediate production & transport workers with 50 fatalities (30% of all compensated fatalities). This group also recorded the highest fatality incidence rate and fatality frequency rate: both more than three times the respective rate for all compensated fatalities.

Within the Intermediate production & transport group, more than half the fatalities (30) involved Truck drivers and more than half of these were caused by *Vehicle accident*. The next most common cause of death was *Being hit by moving objects* which was responsible for 15% of Truck driver deaths.

Table 26 Compensated fatalities, fatality incidence and frequency rate by sex and occupation major group, 2010–11p

	Nu	mber of fatalit	Fatality	Fatality					
Occupation major group	Males	Females	Total	rate ^a	rate ^b				
		All com	pensated	fatalities					
Intermediate production and transport workers	50	0	50	6.0	3.2				
Tradespersons and related workers	34	0	34	3.1	1.6				
Professionals	22	4	26	1.1	0.7				
Labourers and related workers	25	1	26	3.1	2.1				
Associate professionals	10	0	10	0.8	0.4				
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	4	4	8	0.4	0.3				
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	7	1	8	0.7	0.7				
Managers and administrators	5	1	6	0.8	0.4				
Advanced clerical and service workers	1	0	1	0.3	0.2				
Total ^c	158	11	169	1.6	1.0				
	Injuries								
Intermediate production and transport workers	43	0	43	5.1	2.8				
Tradespersons and related workers	21	0	21	1.9	1.0				
Professionals	17	4	21	0.9	0.5				
Labourers and related workers	20	1	21	2.5	1.7				
Associate professionals	6	0	6	0.5	0.3				
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	2	4	6	0.3	0.2				
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	5	1	6	0.6	0.5				
Managers and administrators	4	1	5	0.7	0.3				
Advanced clerical and service workers	1	0	1	0.3	0.2				
Total ^c	119	11	130	1.2	0.8				
			Diseases						
Intermediate production & transport workers	7	0	7	0.8	0.4				
Tradespersons & related workers	13	0	13	1.2	0.6				
Professionals	5	0	5	0.2	0.1				
Labourers & related workers	5	0	5	0.6	0.4				
Associate professionals	4	0	4	0.3	0.2				
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	2	0	2	0.1	0.1				
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	2	0	2	0.2	0.2				
Managers & administrators	1	0	1	0.1	0.1				
Advanced clerical & service workers	0	0	0	0	0				
Total ^c	39	0	39	0.4	0.2				

a Compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees.

b Compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

c Includes compensated fatalities where occupation was not stated.

The second highest number of deaths (34) occurred among Tradespersons & related workers, representing 20% of all compensated fatalities. There were 5 fatalities each among Carpentry and joinery tradespersons and Electricians, and 3 Metal fitters. Tradespersons & related workers and Labourers & related workers recorded the second highest incidence fatality rate (3.1 fatalities per 100 000 employees).

Table 26 also shows that Intermediate production & transport workers recorded the highest number (43) of injury fatalities. This occupation also recorded the highest injury fatality incidence and frequency rates. The incidence rate was more than four times the overall rate for injury fatalities (5.1 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees compared with 1.2), and the fatality frequency rate was more than three times higher (2.8 compared with 0.8).

The greatest number of disease-related deaths occurred among Tradespersons & related workers with 13 fatalities (33% of all compensated fatalities caused by disease). Almost three-quarters of these were caused by past exposure to asbestos fibres. This group also recorded the highest disease fatality incidence and frequency rates, both more than three times the respective rate for all compensated disease-related fatalities.

Compensated fatalities by occupation over time

The analysis of trends excludes preliminary data for 2010–11p as they are likely to increase as further claims are accepted. This analysis is based on frequency rates as this measure takes into account differences in hours worked across occupations.

Table 27 shows that over the period 2003–04 to 2009–10, the frequency rate decreased 35% from 2.0 to 1.3 compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Intermediate production & transport workers recorded the highest number of compensated fatalities, as well as the highest incidence and frequency rates in each of the seven years shown. However, both the incidence rate and the frequency rate have decreased over the seven-year period despite the consistently high number of deaths as there were more workers employed in this category over time.

Fatality frequency rates decreased in six of the nine major occupation groups. Managers & administrators had the largest decrease of 64% over the period 2003–04 to 2009–10.

Fatality rates increased for Elementary clerical, sales & service workers over the period. The incidence rate increased by 22% from 0.9 to 1.1 fatalities per 100 000 employees and the frequency rate increased by 25% from 0.8 to 1.0 fatalities per million hours worked.

Table 27 Compensated fatalities, fatality incidence and frequency rates by occupation major group, 2003–04 to 2009–10^a

Occupation major group	2003– 04	2004– 05	2005– 06	2006– 07	2007– 08	2008– 09	2009– 10	% chg ^b	
			Num	ber of fat	alities				
Intermediate production & transport workers	78	90	82	81	105	84	73	-6.4	
Tradespersons & related workers	58	42	50	59	57	46	48	-17.2	
Labourers & related workers	67	44	48	50	49	31	25	-62.7	
Professionals	14	22	30	23	31	31	20	42.9	
Intermediate clerical, sales & service	13	3	13	17	11	13	15	15.4	
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	9	7	8	8	6	11	11	22.2	
Managers & administrators	15	10	18	16	19	14	9	-40.0	
Associate professionals	16	18	18	13	14	12	9	-43.8	
Advanced clerical and service	2	1	3	1		3	1	-50.0	
Total ^c	286	273	300	290	323	265	215	-24.8	
	Fatality incidence rate ^c								
Intermediate production & transport workers	10.8	11.9	10.9	9.9	12.3	9.9	8.8	-18.5	
Tradespersons & related workers	6.2	4.4	5.1	5.7	5.4	4.3	4.6	-25.8	
Labourers & related workers	8.2	5.5	6.1	6.0	6.0	3.8	3.0	-63.4	
Professionals	0.8	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.5	0.9	12.5	
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	0.8	0.2	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.0	
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	1.1	22.2	
Managers & administrators	3.1	1.8	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.0	1.2	-61.3	
Associate professionals	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.7	-56.3	
Advanced clerical & service workers	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.0.	0.9	0.3	-50.0	
Total ^c	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	-36.4	
			Fatality	r frequen	cy rate ^e				
Intermediate production & transport workers	5.7	6.3	5.8	5.3	6.6	5.4	4.8	-15.8	
Tradespersons & related workers	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.4	-22.6	
Labourers & related workers	5.7	3.7	4.1	4.0	4.0	2.6	2.1	-63.2	
Professionals	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.0	
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.0	
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.0	25.0	
Managers & administrators	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.5	-64.3	
Associate professionals	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	-50.0	
Advanced clerical & service workers	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.2	-50.0	
Total ^c	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.3	-35.0	

a Analysis of trends excludes 2010-11 preliminary data as they are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

b Percentage change from 2003-04 to 2009-10.

c Includes compensated fatalities where occupation was not stated.

d Compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. e Compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Mechanism of injury or disease

Figure 18 shows *Vehicle accident* accounted for 53 fatalities in 2010–11p, 31% of deaths. Of these, 20 involved *Cars, station wagons, vans, utilities, and* 23 involved *Trucks, semi-trailers, lorries. Long term contact with chemicals or substances* resulted in a further 21 (12%) compensated fatalities, all of which were caused by exposure to asbestos. *Vehicle accident* was the most common cause of injury fatality and *Long term contact with chemicals or substances* accounted for the most disease deaths.



In 2010–11p there were 19 fatalities recorded as *Being hit by moving objects*, including 7 cases involving *Trucks*, *semi-trailers*, *lorries* and 4 deaths involving *Cars*, *station wagons*, *vans*, *utilities*. Table 28 shows the number of fatalities for selected mechanisms over the period 2003–04 to 2009–10. These data show that fatalities due to *Vehicle accidents* accounted for the greatest number of deaths of all the mechanisms in all years. The 110 deaths resulting from *Vehicle accident* in 2007–08 was the highest in the seven years shown. Since then the number of fatalities due to *Vehicle accident* has declined to 67, which is the lowest number of fatalities recorded over this period for this mechanism.

Table 28 Compensated fatalities by selected mechanism sub-categories of injury or disease,2003–04 to 2009–10ª (ranked on 2009–10 claims)

Mechanism	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Vehicle accident	84	92	92	87	110	90	67
Long term contact with chemicals or substances	57	53	49	57	60	35	35
Falls from a height	24	15	18	13	19	23	14
Being hit by other moving objects	21	14	21	20	12	20	17
Being hit by falling objects	6	18	18	20	18	11	10
Contact with electricity	6	9	13	7	6	6	10
Being trapped between stationary & moving objects	3	4	4	2	6	5	5
Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, or putting down objects	6	3	3	2	2	2	5
Being trapped by moving machinery & equipment	6	4	2	11	8	4	4
Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down	1	3	3	1	9	0	4
Long term exposure to sounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Contact with, or exposure to, biological factors of non-human origin	3	2	2	1	2	3	2
Contact with, or exposure to, biological factors of human origin	0	1	1	2	0	2	2
Exposure to environmental heat	0	1	1	2	1	0	2
Other & unspecified mechanism of injury	69	54	73	65	70	64	35
Total	286	273	300	290	323	265	215

a Analysis of trends excludes 2010-11 preliminary data as they are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

Part D Priority industry profiles

The National OHS strategy 2002–2012 focussed on five industry sectors with large numbers of claims and/or high incidence rates. These priority industries are Agriculture, forestry & fishing; Construction; Health & community services; Manufacturing and Transport & storage. The following chapter provides a more detailed analysis of serious claims in these industries.

As the Retail trade and Property & business services industries employed over one million workers in 2010–11, they are also profiled in this chapter.

Table 29 shows summary statistics for all of the industries for the 2010–11 financial year sorted by the number of employed persons in the industry. As workers' compensation is generally only available to employees this table provides information on the full size of the industry and the proportion that the data in this report cover.

Preliminary workers' compensation data for 2010–11 shows the highest number of serious claims was recorded in the Manufacturing industry (19 425), while the highest incidence rates of serious claims were recorded in Transport & storage (21.7 claims per 1000 employees) and Agriculture, forestry & fishing (21.0 claims per 1000 employees).

Industry division	Employed persons ^a	Proportion of workforce	Proportion entitled to compensation ^b	Incidence rate ^c
Retail trade	1 540 375	14%	92%	8.33
Health & community services	1 518 775	13%	94%	13.74
Property & business services	1 354 085	12%	83%	8.48
Manufacturing	1 039 370	9%	93%	20.90
Construction	1 022 715	9%	73%	17.77
Education	629 495	6%	95%	7.93
Cultural & recreational services	602 325	5%	86%	8.99
Government administration & defence	588 320	5%	99%	9.64
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	564 310	5%	92%	10.20
Transport & storage	548 730	5%	86%	21.73
Wholesale trade	459 375	4%	92%	14.16
Finance & insurance	416 995	4%	95%	2.87
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	360 125	3%	55%	20.98
Mining	201 795	2%	99%	12.66
Personal & other services	193 860	2%	77%	17.46
Communication services	180 535	2%	91%	6.22
Electricity, gas & water supply	133 315	1%	97%	7.35
Total	11 354 500	100%	88%	12.2

Summary of industry characteristics, 2010–11p (ranked by employed persons)

a All persons employed in the industry division, including self-employed workers, based on ABS Labour force survey quarterly estimates

(see 'Employee' in the Glossary and Explanatory note 11).

b The number of persons employed in the division classified as Employees as a proportion of the total workforce (see 'Employee' in the Glossary). c The number of serious claims per 1000 employee jobs in 2010–11p.

Agriculture, forestry & fishing

Overview

The Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry employed 360 125 people in 2010–11, 3% of the Australian workforce. The following statistics relate to the 55% of workers in the industry who were classified as employees and were therefore covered by Australian workers' compensation schemes.

Preliminary data for 2010–11 show there were 3675 serious workers' compensation claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry, 3% of serious claims across all industries. This equates to 10 serious claims per day or 21.0 serious claims per 1000 employees, the second highest incidence rate of serious claims recorded for any industry and almost double the overall rate of 12.2 claims per 1000 employees. The frequency rate for serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry was 10.5 serious claims per million hours worked.

Characteristics of serious claims in the preliminary data

Industry profile

Figure 19 shows that in 2010–11p, 56% of employees worked in the Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming and Horticulture & fruit growing sectors. These sectors accounted for 56% of serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry.

Figure 19 Agriculture, forestry & fishing: proportion of employees and serious claims by industry group, 2010–11p



The proportion of claims exceeded the proportion of employees in Services to agriculture (including Shearing services) and Other livestock farming (including Pig and Horse farming). Employees in these sectors consequently experienced higher incidence rates in 2010–11p than were experienced in the other sectors of the industry. Employees in Other livestock farming had a rate of 41.3 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2010–11p and Services to agriculture (including hunting & trapping) had 27.2.

The lowest incidence rate of serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry was recorded in Dairy cattle farming with a rate 12.3 serious claims per 1000 employees.

Occupation

Agricultural & horticultural labourers accounted for 44% of the serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry in 2010–11p. Of this total, 39% were from Farm hands, while Farmers & farm managers were responsible for a further 9% of claims. Livestock farmers accounted for two thirds of serious claims by Farmers & farm managers.

Sex and age

While just over one quarter (29%) of the employees in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry in 2010–11p were female, they accounted for only 20% of serious claims. This resulted in an incidence rate of 14.4 serious claims per 1000 female employees, the highest rate recorded for females in any industry. The incidence rate for males in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry in 2010–11p was 23.7 serious claims per 1000 employees.

The highest incidence rate for both male and female employees occurred in youngest age group with rates of 30.2 serious claims per 1000 female employees and 28.6 serious claims per 1000 male employees aged under 25 years. Incidence rates tended to decline with age in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry, with the lowest rates recorded for workers aged 65 years or more for both males and females.



Figure 20 Agriculture, forestry & fishing: incidence rate by sex and age, 2010–11p

Common causes of serious claims

The most common causes of serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry in 2010–11p was *Falls on the same level* (15% of all serious claims), *Muscular stress while handling objects* (13%) and *Falls from a height* (9%).

Vehicle accident was responsible for 8% of claims, 47% of which involved *Motorcycles & sidecars, scooters, trail bikes* (including quad bikes and all-terrain vehicles).

Common types of injury and disease

In 2010–11p 84% of claims made by employees in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry arose from injuries. *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles* accounted for the greatest percentage of claims (35%) with *Fractures* and *Open wounds* accounting for 18% and 11% respectively.

More than one half of the 16% of claims due to diseases involved *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system & connective tissues* (9% of serious claims).

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Due to the preliminary nature of 2010–11 financial year data, the analysis below covers the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10. Table 30 includes data for the 2010–11p financial year for comparison.

Table 30 indicates that over the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10, the number of serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry decreased by 15%. Fewer claims were reported in all industry sectors in 2009–10 compared with 2005–06, with the exception of Poultry farming (a 17% increase) and Aquaculture (a 24% increase).

Over the same period, the incidence rate of serious claims declined by 16%, from 26.0 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 21.8 claims per 1000 employees in 2009–10. The largest decreases in incidence rates occurred in Other crop growing (68%) and Marine fishing (33%). Over the same period, large increases in incidence rates occurred in Other livestock farming (35% increase) and Poultry farming (29%).

The frequency rate of serious claims declined by 20% from 13.9 serious claims per million hours worked in 2005–06 to 11.1 in 2009–10. Other crop growing and Marine fishing again experienced the largest decreases in frequency rate. Poultry farming and Other livestock farming were the only sectors to experience increases in frequency rates between 2005–06 and 2009–10.

2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 % chg^a 2010–11p Industry subdivision & group Number of serious claims Agriculture 3 4 2 0 3 4 1 5 3 150 3 2 2 0 2 9 0 5 -15% 2 7 9 0 Horticulture & fruit growing 960 1 245 1 195 1 155 1 1 6 5 -23% 920 Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming 1 290 1 345 1 200 1 225 1 160 -10% 1 1 2 5 Dairy cattle farming 180 175 185 210 165 -8% 190 Poultry farming 150 160 190 190 175 17% 150 Other livestock farming 300 285 245 250 290 -3% 235 255 150 175 Other crop growing 255 175 185 -41% Services to agriculture; hunting & trapping 690 640 640 640 595 -14% 485 Forestry & logging 210 290 315 290 270 -24% 355 Commercial fishing 225 215 190 220 185 210 5% 70 65 -24% Marine fishing 85 105 90 60 115 155 125 Aquaculture 125 120 120 24% Agriculture, forestry & fishing 4 6 7 5 4 570 4 320 4 3 4 0 3 9 9 0 -15% 3 670 Incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees) Agriculture 23.8 22.8 22.9 24.9 20.5 -14% 20.5 Horticulture & fruit growing 20.2 20.1 22.5 23.8 17.3 -14% 17.5 Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming 26.3 24.0 22.9 24.5 23.3 -11% 24.5 Dairy cattle farming 15.4 17.4 14.8 21.4 12.0 -22% 12.3 Poultry farming 17.7 26.7 26.0 23.3 29% 20.3 18.0 Other livestock farming 36.9 40.6 44.9 50.8 49.7 35% 41.3 Other crop growing 51.1 32.7 20.9 22.3 16.6 20.0 -68% Services to agriculture; hunting & trapping 40.6 42.0 36.8 36.5 31.6 -22% 27.2 Forestry & logging 32.6 27.5 26.2 23.7 21.2 17.1-35% Commercial fishing 27.4 36.2 25.2 17.7 21.5 -21% 20.5 Marine fishing 36.3 24.0 14.6 13.2 -33% 19.8 14.8 Aquaculture 37.0 34.5 25.1 20.3 29.2 -21% 25.1 Agriculture, forestry & fishing 26.0 25.2 24.7 25.6 21.8 -16% 21.0 Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked) 10.3 -18% 10.0 Agriculture 12.6 11.9 11.8 12.3 Horticulture & fruit growing 11.5 11.1 13.0 13.1 9.6 -17% 9.5 10.4 10.3 Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming 13.1 11.7 10.8 -21% 10.7 Dairy cattle farming 8.5 6.7 5.7 -27% 5.3 7.7 9.8 Poultry farming 11 0 10.0 10.3 16.8 13.9 13.0 29% Other livestock farming 16.9 23.4 23.3 28.3 27.8 64% 22.6 Other crop growing 28.6 16.9 12.4 12.4 9.2 10.9 -68% Services to agriculture; hunting & trapping 23.3 22.5 21.2 20.0 17.6 -24% 14.8 Forestry & logging 16.0 12.7 13.4 12.9 11.8 -27% 9.3 Commercial fishing 16.6 19.1 13.8 9.3 11.4 -31% 11.3 7.6 Marine fishing 13.5 19.0 14.2 6.6 -51% 8.4 Aquaculture 19.6 18.3 13.0 10.8 16.3 -17% 13.6 Agriculture, forestry & fishing 13.9 13.1 12.8 12.9 11.1 -20% 10.5

Table 30 Agriculture, forestry & fishing: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate byindustry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

a Percentage change from 2005–06 to 2009–10 as preliminary data for 2010–11 are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

Time lost and compensation payments made for serious claims

Figure 21 shows that the median time lost from work for serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry increased by 7% from 4.4 to 4.7 working weeks lost between 2000–01 and 2009–10, closely matching the movements and levels of median time lost for all industries.



Figure 21 Agriculture, forestry & fishing: median time lost from work, 2000–01 to 2009–10

The median payment for serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry rose by 53%, from \$4300 in 2000–01 to \$6600 in 2009–10. The median compensation payment in Agriculture, forestry & fishing has moved in a generally similar pattern to the overall median payment for all industries, while being consistently lower than the all industries median payment level. Factors influencing median payment include employee's salary, the severity of the incident, length of absence from work and medical expenses.

Figure 22 Agriculture, forestry & fishing: median payment, 2000–01 to 2009–10



Compensated fatalities

The preliminary data for 2010–11 indicates that there were 16 compensated fatalities in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry, a small increase from the low of 12 recorded in 2009–10 but still considerably lower than the level of previous years. The number of fatalities in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry peaked at 32 in the 2007–08 financial year.

Workers' compensation data are known to undercount the number of work-related fatalities. This is because workers' compensation data is only available to employees and because of the requirement for a dependent to make a claim. A study in 2010–11¹ showed that only 27% of work-related traumatic injury fatalities in Agriculture, forestry & fishing were compensated. For this reason, these data should be interpreted with caution since there is a significant undercounting of fatalities in this industry.

The fatality rate of 9.1 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2010–11p is nearly six times the all industries rate of 1.6 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees, and the highest fatality rate recorded in any industry. Half of the compensated fatalities in 2010–11p (8) involved employees in the Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming sector, which had a rate of 17.4 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees.

Characteristics of compensated fatalities

Due to the small numbers of fatalities in any one year, the analysis of fatality characteristics is based on aggregated data for six years, 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Table 31 shows that over this period, there were 128 compensated fatalities in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry which equates to 12.0 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees.

Industry subdivision and group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11p	Total		
		Number of fatalities							
Agriculture	13	13	20	17	10	14	87		
Horticulture & fruit growing	1	3	7	1	2	3	17		
Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming	9	6	8	13	7	8	51		
Dairy cattle farming	0	2	0	1	1	0	4		
Poultry farming	0	0	1	0	0	0	1		
Other livestock farming	2	0	3	0	0	1	6		
Other crop growing	1	2	1	2	0	2	8		
Services to agriculture; hunting & trapping	5	2	8	8	1	2	26		
Forestry & logging	5	0	3	1	0	0	9		
Commercial fishing	3	0	1	1	1	0	6		
Marine fishing	2	0	1	0	0	0	3		
Aquaculture	1	0	0	1	1	0	3		
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	26	15	32	27	12	16	128		
Fatality rate (compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees)									
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	14.5	8.3	18.3	15.9	6.5	9.1	12.0		
All industries	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.7		

Table 31 Agriculture, forestry & fishing: compensated fatalities and fatality rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

1 Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities, Australia, 2010–11

The highest number of deaths occurred in Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming (51 or 40% of all fatalities in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry), followed by Services to agriculture; hunting & trapping which recorded 26 fatalities from 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Services to agriculture; hunting & trapping also recorded the highest fatality rate of 25.0 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees over the period from 2005–06 to 2010–11p.

In terms of occupation, over one quarter of deaths in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry were of Farm hands (34), followed by Truck drivers (12) and Air transport professionals (12).

The most common mechanism of fatality was *Vehicle accident* which accounted for 63 fatalities, including 16 Farm hands, 10 Farmers & farm managers and 9 Truck drivers. Of the 63 *Vehicle accident*, 13 involved light vehicles such as cars, vans and utilities, 10 involved motorcycles, 9 involved trucks, 8 involved aircraft and 6 involved tractors. A further 10 workers died after *Being hit by moving objects*, including workers in the Logging industry being hit by falling logs or trees.

Injuries caused 88% of fatalities over the six year period. Of the 113 injury fatalities, 38 were attributed to *Multiple injuries* and 44 to Other or unspecified injuries. Of the 15 disease-related fatalities, nearly half (7) were due to *Ischaemic heart disease*.

The highest number of compensated fatalities occurred in the 55 years and over age group (32), with a further 30 occurring in the 35–44 years age group, and 26 in the 25–34 years age group. The highest fatality rate was 15.2 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees in the 55–64 years age group. Figure 23 also shows that employees aged 45–54 year recorded the lowest fatality rate (8.2 fatalities compensated per 100 000 employees).

A study of all work-related traumatic fatalities between 2003–04 and 2010–11² found that 30% of workers in Agriculture, forestry & fishing who died of injuries incurred while working were aged 65 years or more. The discrepancy between compensated fatalities and total fatalities is due to the large proportion of older workers in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry who are self-employed and therefore not covered by workers' compensation.



Figure 23 Agriculture, forestry & fishing: fatality incidence rate by age group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p combined

2 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities, Australia, 2010–11

Construction

Overview

The Construction industry employed 1 022 715 people during 2010–11, making it one of the highest employing industries in Australia. The following statistics relate to the 73% of workers in the industry who were classified as employees and were therefore covered by workers' compensation schemes.

Preliminary data for 2010–11 show there were 12 985 serious workers' compensation claims in the Construction industry. This equates to 35 serious claims per day or 17.8 serious claims per 1000 employees. The frequency rate for serious claims in the Construction industry was 8.9 serious claims per million hours worked.

Characteristics of serious claims in the preliminary data

Industry profile

Figure 24 shows that in 2010–11p, the Building construction subdivision had the largest share of employment in the Construction industry (34% of employees) and accounted for 22% of serious claims. One fifth of serious claims occurred in the Installation trade services subdivision, which also had 24% of the total employment in the Construction industry. This industry subdivision accounts for activities such as plumbing, electrical, air conditioning and heating installations and installation of fire and security systems.

The Non-building construction subdivision recorded the highest rate of claims in the Construction industry in 2010–11p, 30.3 claims per 1000 employees. This subdivision accounted for 15% of serious claims in the Construction industry from 9% of the total industry employment (see Table 29). Non-building construction accounts for activities such as road and bridge construction and construction of railways, dams, irrigation systems, water and gas supply systems and pipeline and oil refinery systems.





The lowest rate of claims was recorded for the Building construction The lowest rate of claims recorded in this industry was in the Building construction subdivision, 11.7 serious claims per 1000 employees. This sector was the highest employing subdivision in the Construction industry (34% of employment) but recorded only 22% of serious claims.

Occupation

Nearly half (49%) of the serious claims in the Construction industry in 2010–11p were from Tradespersons & related workers. This group includes Carpentry & joinery tradespersons (14% of all serious claims in the Construction industry), Plumbers (8%) and Electricians (6%). Labourers & related workers accounted for 25% of serious claims in the Construction industry. This group includes Construction & plumbers assistants (4% of all serious claims in the Construction industry), as well as Traffic controllers and Concreters.

Nearly one third of serious claims by Carpentry & joinery tradespersons were due to *Body stressing*. A further quarter of claims were due to *Falls* (12% to *Falls from a height* and 10% to *Falls on the same level*).

Sex and age

Males accounted for 88% of employees in the Construction industry and accounted for 97% of the serious claims in 2010–11p. This equates to an incidence rate of 19.5 serious claims per 1000 employees for males, compared with 4.7 for females. The frequency rate for males was 9.5 serious claims per million hours worked compared with a rate of 3.2 for females.

Figure 25 shows that in 2010–11p, incidence rates by age for females ranged from 3.7 serious claims per 1000 employees aged 25–34 years to 6.1 for employees aged 55–64 years. For male employees, incidence rates generally increased with age, rising from 15.4 serious claims per 1000 employees aged less than 25 years to 32.8 for employees aged 65 years and over.



Figure 25 Construction: incidence rate by sex and age, 2010–11p

Common causes of serious claims

The most common cause of serious claims in the Construction industry in 2010–11p was *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects,* accounting for 16% of claims. Other common causes were *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting or carrying* (12%) and *Falls on the same level* (12% of all serious claims).

Common types of injury and disease

In 2010–11p, 76% of compensated claims made by employees in the Construction industry arose from injuries. *Sprains and strains of joints & adjacent muscles* accounted for the greatest percentage of claims (36%), while *Open wounds* and *Fractures* accounted for 13% and 12% respectively.

Nearly half of the 24% of claims due to diseases involved *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* (11% of all serious claims in the Construction industry).

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Due to the preliminary nature of 2010–11 financial year data, the analysis below covers the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10. Data for 2010–11p are included in Table 32 for comparison.

Table 32 shows that there was no significant change in the number of serious claims in Construction over the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10. The number of claims in the Installation trade services subdivision rose by 8% over the period, while substantial falls in the number of serious claims were recorded in the Non-building construction and Building completion services subdivisions (7% reductions).

Over the same period, the incidence rate of serious claims in the Construction industry fell by 17%, from 23.0 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 19.1 in 2009–10. This indicates that employment in the Construction industry rose during this period while the number of serious claims remained relatively steady.

The largest decrease in the incidence rate of serious claims occurred in Non-building construction with a 31% decrease from 44.6 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 30.8 in 2009–10. There was also a large decease in the rate of claims in Building construction (26%).

The frequency rate of serious claims in the Construction industry declined by 17% between 2005–06 and 2009–10, falling from 11.5 serious claims per million hours worked in 2005–06 to 9.6 in 2009–10.

Industry subdivision & group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg ^a	2010–11p				
	Number of serious claims										
General Construction	4 930	4 960	5 155	5 375	4 825	-2%	4 830				
Building construction	2 770	2 860	3 035	3 105	2 810	1%	2 885				
Non-building construction	2 160	2 100	2 120	2 270	2 015	-7%	1 945				
Construction trade services	8 280	8 565	9 110	9 125	8 435	2%	8 155				
Site preparation services	845	910	1 040	980	915	8%	965				
Building structure services	1 630	1 670	1 865	1 780	1 620	-1%	1 605				
Installation trade services	2 725	2 880	2 915	3 070	2 955	8%	2 750				
Building completion services	1 795	1 820	1 815	1 905	1 675	-7%	1 595				
Other construction services	1 285	1 285	1 475	1 390	1 265	-2%	1 235				
Construction	13 210	13 525	14 265	14 500	13 255	0%	12 980				
		Incidence	rate (serio	us claims _l	oer 1000 en	nployees)					
General Construction	22.2	20.5	20.1	20.4	15.8	-29%	15.6				
Building construction	15.9	16.1	15.2	15.7	11.7	-26%	11.7				
Non-building construction	44.6	33.1	37.4	34.4	30.8	-31%	30.3				
Construction trade services	23.6	21.3	22.2	22.1	21.6	-8%	19.4				
Site preparation services	25.4	22.0	25.4	24.0	22.6	-11%	22.3				
Building structure services	29.8	28.9	32.6	31.7	31.5	6%	29.0				
Installation trade services	19.8	17.9	17.8	18.8	18.1	-8%	15.9				
Building completion services	24.4	22.6	20.5	21.0	21.8	-10%	18.3				
Other construction services	24.9	21.1	24.9	22.5	21.5	-14%	19.7				
Construction	23.0	21.0	21.4	21.4	19.1	-17%	17.8				
	Fr	equency ra	te (serious	claims pe	r million ho	ours work	ed)				
General Construction	10.7	9.9	9.7	9.9	7.7	-28%	7.6				
Building construction	7.8	7.9	7.4	7.8	5.8	-26%	5.8				
Non-building construction	20.8	15.3	17.5	15.7	14.7	-29%	13.9				
Construction trade services	12.0	10.6	11.2	11.3	11.1	-8%	9.9				
Site preparation services	11.3	10.1	11.5	11.9	11.3	0%	11.2				
Building structure services	15.3	14.4	16.1	16.3	16.5	8%	15.2				
Installation trade services	10.1	8.9	8.9	9.4	9.1	-10%	8.0				
Building completion services	13.0	11.6	10.8	11.4	11.9	-8%	9.7				
Other construction services	13.2	10.8	13.1	11.2	10.8	-18%	9.9				
Construction	11.5	10.4	10.6	10.7	9.6	-17%	8.9				

Table 32 Construction: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

a Percentage change from 2005–06 to 2009–10 as preliminary data for 2010–11 are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.
Time lost and compensation payments made for serious claims

Figure 26 shows that the median time lost from work for serious claims in the Construction industry increased by 7% from 4.1 to 4.4 working weeks lost between 2000–01 and 2009–10. This was a smaller increase in time lost than occurred across all industries over the same period.



Figure 26 Construction: median time lost from work, 2000–01 to 2009–10

The median payment for serious claims in the Construction industry rose by 38% from \$7100 in 2000–01 to \$9800 in 2009–10. As Figure 27 shows, the median compensation payment in Construction has been consistently higher than the all industries level. Factors influencing median payment include employee's salary, the severity of the incident, length of absence from work and medical expenses.



Figure 27 Construction: median payment, 2000–01 to 2009–10

Compensated fatalities

In 2010–11 there were 28 compensated fatalities in the Construction industry which is the lowest number of compensated fatalities recorded in the Construction industry over the past six years and 38% lower than the long term annual average of 45 fatalities over that period.

Workers' compensation data are known to undercount the number of work-related fatalities due to compensation only being available to employees but also because in most cases a dependent is required in order for a claim to be made.

Although the fatality rate of 3.8 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees in the Construction industry in 2010–11p was the lowest rate recorded in the past 6 years, this rate is still considerably higher than the all industries rate of 1.6 compensated fatalities per 1000 employees.

Table 33 Construction: compensated fatalities and fatality rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

Industry subdivision and group 2005–06 2006–07 2007–08 2008–09 2009–10 2010–11p Total

	Number of compensated fatalities									
General Construction	16	22	16	17	18	7	96			
Building construction	5	12	9	10	12	4	52			
Non-building construction	11	10	7	7	6	3	44			
Construction trade services	29	46	30	24	26	21	176			
Site preparation services	2	3	7	1	5	6	24			
Building structure services	2	4	4	3	3	2	18			
Installation trade services	10	21	4	9	9	4	57			
Building completion services	8	13	9	6	6	5	47			
Other construction services	7	5	6	5	3	4	30			
Construction	45	68	46	41	44	28	272			
	Fatality rate (compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees)									
Construction	7.8	10.6	6.9	6.1	6.3	3.8	6.8			
All industries	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.7			

Characteristics of compensated fatalities

Due to the small numbers of fatalities in any one year, the analysis of fatality characteristics is based on aggregated data for six years, 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Table 33 shows that over this period, there were 272 compensated fatalities in the Construction industry.

Nearly two-thirds of the compensated fatalities during this period were employees in the Construction trade services subdivision (176 deaths), including 57 in Installation trade services and 47 in Building completion services. There were 96 fatalities recorded for the General construction subdivision, 52 in Building construction and 44 in Non-building construction.

Of the 272 compensated fatalities in the Construction industry over the six-year period, 37 (14%) were not coded for occupation. All of these were disease-related fatalities, 25 of which were due to *Mesothelioma* and 10 due to *Asbestosis*. Of the remaining compensated fatalities, the largest numbers occurred in the occupations of Electrician (30) and Carpentry & joinery tradespersons (23).

The most common mechanism of injury or disease that resulted in death was *Long term contact with chemicals and other substances*, resulting in 90 fatalities. Of these 56 involved *Mesothelioma* and 25 *Asbestosis*.

A further 46 fatalities occurred as a result of *Vehicle accident* and 36 as a result of *Falls from a height*.

Injuries resulted in 62% of fatalities in the Construction industry over the six year period since 2005–06. Of the 169 injury deaths, 57 were due to *Multiple injuries. Mesothelioma* accounted for over half of the fatalities due to disease (56 of 103).

Figure 28 shows that younger employees in the Construction industry had the lowest fatality rate (less than 5 compensated fatalities per million employees), while older employees experienced the highest rate of fatality (24.9 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees). The higher fatality rate for older workers is mostly attributable to *Mesothelioma* and *Asbestosis*, which caused over half of the fatalities in this age group. It is important to note that *Mesothelioma* and *Asbestosis* have a long latency period, typically resulting in death 20 to 30 years after the initial exposure. Therefore, the date of claim lodgement upon which the age of a claimant is calculated in this data does not correspond to the age at which the exposure occurred but rather the date at which the diagnosis was made. For other compensated fatalities, particularly injuries, the date of lodgement much better reflects the age at which the incident causing death occurred.





Health & community services

Overview

The Health & community services industry employed 1 518 775 people in 2010–11, making it the second highest employing industry in Australia and accounting for 13% of the workforce. The following statistics relate to the 94% of workers in the industry who were classified as employees and were therefore eligible to make a workers' compensation claim.

Preliminary data for 2010–11 show there were 18 020 serious workers' compensation claims in the Health & community services industry, which was 14% of serious claims across all industries. This equates to 49 serious claims per day or 13.7 serious claims per 1000 employees. The frequency rate of serious injury in the Health & community services industry was 9.6 serious claims per million hours worked.

Characteristics of serious claims in the preliminary data

Industry profile

Figure 29 shows that employees working in Hospitals & nursing homes comprised 48% of employees in the Health & community services industry and accounted for 55% of claims. The proportion of serious claims in Community care services was also greater than the proportion of employees (17% of employees and 26% of serious claims). This group of workers recorded the highest rate of serious claims, with 21.7 serious claims per 1000 employees and 15 serious claims per million hours worked.

In contrast, the Medical & dental services group employed the third largest number of employees in the industry (14%) but accounted for only 2% of serious claims. This resulted in the lowest rate of claims in the industry (2.4 serious claims per 1000 workers and 1.7 serious claims per million hours worked).



Figure 29 Health & community services: proportion of employees and serious claims by industry group, 2010–11p

Occupation

Nearly half of the serious claims that were made in the Health & community services industry were made by Carers & aides (33%) and Nursing professionals (16%). Over half of the claims made by these two groups of workers were due to *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles*.

Sex and age

Women comprised 80% of the workforce in the Health & community services industry in 2010–11p and accounted for 80% of serious claims. The Health & community services industry has the highest proportion of female employees of all Australian industries.

Figure 30 shows male and female incidence rates for serious claims in each age group. Incidence rates generally increased with age with the highest incidence rates for female employees occurring in the 45–54 years age group and the highest incidence rate for male employees occurring in the 55–64 years age group.

While overall incidence rates for males and females were equal at 13.7 serious claims per 1000 employees, females had a higher frequency rate than males (10.1 serious claims per million hours worked for females compared with 8.2 for males). This is because female employees work fewer hours per week on average than male employees in this industry (28.4 hours per week for females compared with 35.1 for males).

Figure 30 Health & community services: incidence rate by sex and age, 2010–11p



Common causes of serious claims

In 2010–11p, 42% of all serious claims in the Health & community services industry arose from manual handling injuries: *Muscular stress while handling objects* (4540 claims or 25% of all serious claims) and *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects* (3080 serious claims or 17%).

Half (51%) of the claims in the Health & community services industry were due to *Body stressing* but the pattern of claims differed between industry sub-divisions. Nearly half of all claims in the Veterinary services subdivision were due to *Being hit by moving objects* (mainly animals), over four times the industry average of 11%. Similarly, the proportion of claims for *Mental stress* in Medical and dental services, Other health services and Community care services were each over 10%, above the industry average of 9%.

Common types of injury and disease

Nearly three quarters of serious claims in the Health & community services industry in 2010–11p arose from injuries (70%), with *Sprains & strains of joints & muscles* alone accounting for 52% of serious claims.

The most common disease related claims arose from *Disorders of the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue* (17%).

These proportions where broadly similar for most groups within the Health & community services industry.

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Due to the preliminary nature of 2010–11 financial year data, the analysis below covers the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10. Data for 2010–11p are included in Table 34 for comparison.

Table 34 Health & community services: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

Industry subdivision and group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg ^a	2010–11p
			Numb	er of serio	us claims		
Health services	11 690	11 455	11 635	11 510	12 420	6%	12 245
Hospitals & nursing homes	9 625	9 375	9 495	9 295	9 995	4%	9 945
Medical & dental services	345	355	390	400	420	22%	425
Other health services	1 590	1 615	1 640	1 700	1 875	18%	1 735
Veterinary services	125	110	110	115	130	4%	145
Community services	4 720	4 985	5 200	5 495	5 865	24%	5 775
Child care services	780	870	825	885	925	19%	1 040
Community care services	3 935	4 115	4 375	4 615	4 940	26%	4 735
Health & community services	16 410	16 440	16 835	17 005	18 285	11%	18 020
		Incidence	e rate (seri	ous claim	s per 1000	employees	;)
Health services	15.1	14.3	14.1	13.5	13.6	-10%	12.7
Hospitals & nursing homes	19.4	18.1	18.1	17.0	16.8	-13%	15.8
Medical & dental services	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	5%	2.4
Other health services	13.4	13.0	13.6	13.4	14.4	7%	12.6
Veterinary services	8.1	7.5	5.7	7.3	7.4	-9%	7.4
Community services	18.0	17.5	18.1	18.1	18.5	3%	16.7
Child care services	9.0	9.2	8.6	9.0	8.4	-7%	8.3
Community care services	22.4	21.6	22.8	22.5	23.9	7%	21.5
Health & community services	15.8	15.1	15.2	14.7	14.9	-6%	13.7
	Fre	quency ra	te (serious	s claims pe	er million h	nours work	ed)
Health services	10.1	9.8	9.7	9.3	9.5	-6%	8.8
Hospitals & nursing homes	13.1	12.6	12.4	11.7	11.7	-11%	11.0
Medical & dental services	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	8%	1.7
Other health services	8.6	8.4	9.0	9.2	10.0	17%	8.8
Veterinary services	5.3	5.5	3.6	4.4	4.4	-16%	4.9
Community services	13.1	12.7	13.0	12.7	13.3	2%	12.0
Child care services	6.8	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.4	-5%	6.2
Community care services	16.0	15.6	16.1	15.6	16.7	4%	15.0
Health & community services	10.8	10.5	10.5	10.2	10.4	-4%	9.6

a Percentage change from 2005-06 to 2009-10 as preliminary data for 2010-11 are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

Table 34 shows that the incidence rate of serious claims in the Health & community services industry fell 6% from 15.8 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 14.9 in 2009–10.

A number of the sectors within the Health & community services industry showed a decrease in incidence rate of serious claims over the five year period. However Medical & dental services, Other health services and Community care services all showed an increase in incidence rate from 2005–06 to 2009–10.

The patterns in frequency rates were broadly consistent with the changes in incidence rates.

Time lost and payments made for serious claims

Between 2000–01 and 2009–10, the median time lost in the Health & community services industry increased by 18% from 4.0 weeks to 4.7 weeks. Over the same period, the median time lost for all industries showed a 16% increase. In each year, the median time lost for Health & community services compensation claims was higher than the all industries median.





During the same period, the median compensation payment in the Health & community services industry increased by 24% from \$5,100 in 2000–01 to \$6,300 in 2009–10. This increase was well below the 44% increase in median payments across all industries for the same period. In each year, the median compensation payment was lower in the Health & community services industry than the corresponding median for all industries.

Factors influencing compensation payments made include the employee's salary level, the length of absence from work and medical and legal expenses. Despite the longer absences for serious claims in the Health & community services industry, lower average salary levels affect the amount of compensation paid.



Compensated fatalities

The preliminary data for the 2010–11 financial year indicates that five compensated fatalities occurred in the Health & community services industry.

Workers' compensation data are known to undercount the number of work-related fatalities, because compensation is only available to employees but also because in most cases a dependent is required in order for a claim to be made.

Characteristics of compensated fatalities

Due to the small numbers of fatalities in any one year, the following analysis of fatality characteristics is based on aggregated data for the six years from 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Table 35 shows that over this period, there were 30 compensated fatalities in the Health & community services industry. The highest number of fatalities occurred in Hospitals & nursing homes (13) and a further 8 occurred in Community care services.

Table 35 Health & community services: compensated fatalities and fatality rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

Industry subdivision and group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11p	Total
		Nur	nber of co	mpensate	d fatalities	;	
Health services	3	6	4	1	3	5	22
Hospitals & nursing homes	0	3	3	0	2	5	13
Medical & dental services	2	2	1	0	0	0	5
Other health services	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Veterinary services	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Community services	1	0	2	4	1	0	8
Child care services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community care services	1	0	2	4	1	0	8
Health & community services	4	6	6	5	4	5	30
		Fatality ra	te (compe	nsated fata	alities per	100 000 em	ployees)
Health & community services	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
All industries	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.7

Five of the 30 compensated fatalities in the Health & community service industry involved Registered nurses with a further 3 involving Special care workers.

The most common mechanism of injury or disease resulting in a fatality was *Vehicle accident* which resulted in 6 fatalities. A further 3 fatalities occurred as a result of *Being assaulted by a person or persons*.

Injuries resulted in 63% of fatalities in the Health & community services industry over the six year period. Of the 19 injury deaths, 6 were due to *Multiple injuries*.

Figure 33 shows that younger employees in the Health & community services industry had the lowest fatality rates (less than 0.5 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees), while older employees experienced the highest rate of fatality (0.7 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees).

The fatality rate of 0.4 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees was well below the all industries average of 2.7, and has remained relatively steady over this six year period.

Figure 33 Health & community services: fatality incidence rate by age group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p combined



Manufacturing

Overview

The Manufacturing industry employed 1 039 370 people during 2010–11, making it one of the highest employing industries in Australia accounting for 9% of the workforce. The following statistics relate to the 93% of workers in the industry who were classified as employees and were therefore covered by workers' compensation schemes.

Preliminary data for 2010–11 show there were 19 425 serious workers' compensation claims in the Manufacturing industry, the largest number of serious claims recorded for any industry in Australia. This equates to 53 serious claims per day or 20.9 serious claims per 1000 employees. The frequency rate for serious claims in the Manufacturing industry was 10.9 serious claims per million hours worked.

Characteristics of serious claims in the preliminary data

Industry profile

Figure 34 shows the Machinery & equipment manufacturing subdivision had the largest share of employment in the Manufacturing industry (23% of employees) in 2010–11p. One quarter of serious claims occurred in the Food, beverage & tobacco manufacturing sector which employed 20% of those in the Manufacturing industry. Nearly half of the claims in the Food, beverage & tobacco manufacturing sector were recorded in Meat & meat product manufacturing, which recorded an incidence rate of 44.4 serious claims per 1000 employees for the 2010–11p financial year.

The Wood & paper product manufacturing subdivision recorded the highest rate of claims of all the subdivisions in the Manufacturing industry with 33.1 serious claims per 1000 employees. This subdivision accounted for 9% of serious claims in Manufacturing but only 6% of the total industry employment (see Table 29).



Figure 34 Manufacturing: proportion of employees and serious claims by Industry subdivision, 2010–11p

In contrast, the Printing, publishing & recorded media manufacturing subdivision employed 11% of employees in the industry but accounted for only 4% of serious claims, therefore having the lowest incidence and frequency rates in the Manufacturing industry (7.2 serious claims per 1000 employees and 3.7 serious claims per million hours worked).

Occupation

One third (33%) of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry in 2010–11p were from Labourers & related workers. This group includes Meat & fish process workers with accounted for 7% of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry. Other process workers (including labourers and factory hands) accounted for a further 6% of serious claims.

A further 32% of serious claims were from Tradespersons & related workers. This group includes Structural steel & welding tradespersons (8% of all serious claims) and Metal fitters and machinists (5% of serious claims).

Intermediate production & transport workers accounted for a further 22% of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry. This group includes Other intermediate machine operators with 5% of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry.

Sex and age

Males accounted for nearly three quarters (74%) of employees in the Manufacturing industry and 86% of serious claims in 2010–11p. This equates to an incidence rate of 24.3 serious claims per 1000 employees for males, compared with 11.0 for females. The frequency rate for males was 12.0 claims per million hours worked compared with 6.7 for females.

Figure 35 shows that in 2010–11, incidence rates by age for females ranged from 4.6 serious claims for 1000 employees aged over 65 years to 16.5 for employees aged between 45–54 years. For male employees, incidence rates of serious claims ranged from 20.5 claims per 1000 employees aged from 25–34 years to 32.4 for employees aged 55–64 years old.



Figure 35 Manufacturing: incidence rate by sex and age, 2010–11p

Common causes of serious claims

The most common cause of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry in 2010–11p was *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects* accounting for 19% of serious claims. Other common causes were *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting or carrying* (14%) and *Falls on the same level* (9%).

Common types of injury and disease

Injuries accounted for 70% of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry in 2010–11p. *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles* accounted for the greatest percentage of claims (34%) while *Open wounds* and *Fractures* accounted for 12% and 8% respectively.

Nearly half of the 30% of claims due to diseases involved *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* (14% of all serious claims in the Manufacturing industry).

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Due to the preliminary nature of 2010–11 financial year data, the analysis below covers the period 2005–06 to 2009–10. Data for 2010–11p are included in Table 36 for comparison.

Table 36 shows that the number of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry fell by 22% and no subdivision within the Manufacturing industry showed an increase in claim numbers over the period.

Over the same period, the incidence rate of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry fell by 20%, from 27.8 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 22.3 in 2009–10. The largest decrease occurred in Furniture & other manufacturing with a 34% decrease in incidence rate from 32.3 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 21.2 in 2009–10.

There were large deceases in the rate of serious claims in Food, beverage & tobacco manufacturing, Textile, clothing, footwear & leather manufacturing, Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product manufacturing, Non-metallic mineral manufacturing and Metal product manufacturing.

The frequency rate of serious claims in the Manufacturing industry declined by 18% between 2005–06 and 2009–10, falling from 14.2 serious claims per million hours worked in 2005–06 to 11.7 in 2009–10.

While the number of claims in the Wood & paper product manufacturing sector dropped between 2005–06 and 2009–10 (by 14%), this sector recorded an increase in the incidence rate for serious claims of 2% and an increase in the frequency rate of serious claims of 9%.

Employment in the Wood & paper product manufacturing fell by 15% from 2005–06 and 2009–10, while the number of hours worked in the sector fell by 21% over the same period. These changes were much greater than the general trend in the Manufacturing industry over the period (a 3% reduction in employment and 5% reduction in hours worked).

Industry subdivision & group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg ^a	2010–11p		
			Numb	er of serie	ous claim	S			
Food, beverage & tobacco mfg	6 960	7 100	6 600	6 075	5 530	-21%	4 850		
Meat & meat product mfg	3 265	3 450	3 215	2 910	2 645	-19%	2 295		
Textile, clothing, footwear & leather mfg	765	665	605	595	515	-33%	460		
Wood & paper product mfg	2 140	2 095	2 115	1 860	1 845	-14%	1 815		
Printing, publishing & recorded media	1 055	1 025	970	835	835	-21%	725		
Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product mfg	2 035	2 095	2 005	1 855	1 690	-17%	1 440		
Non-metallic mineral product mfg	1 285	1 245	1 305	1 230	1 045	-19%	950		
Metal product mfg	5 725	5 455	5 150	4 775	4 195	-27%	4 170		
Structural metal product mfg	1 550	1 545	1 510	1 425	1 330	-14%	1 350		
Fabricated metal product mfg	1 860	1 840	1 625	1 475	1 245	-33%	1 240		
Machinery & equipment mfg	5 230	5 245	5 070	4 530	4 175	-20%	3 900		
Motor vehicle & part mfg	1 460	1 425	1 325	1 135	965	-34%	930		
Industrial machinery & equipment mfg	1 900	2 030	1 940	1 790	1 710	-10%	1 620		
Furniture & other mfg	1 830	1 820	1 715	1 390	1 215	-34%	1 100		
Manufacturing	27 025	26 745	25 535	23 145	21 045	-22%	19 410		
	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees)								
Food, beverage & tobacco mfg	37.8	36.7	32.2	32.2	29.3	-22%	26.2		
Meat & meat product mfg	64.9	61.2	54.9	54.2	50.1	-23%	44.4		
Textile, clothing, footwear & leather mfg	16.4	15.2	14.3	14.7	13.0	-21%	11.5		
Wood & paper product mfg	32.5	31.2	34.2	33.5	33.1	2%	32.6		
Printing, publishing & recorded media	9.9	9.2	9.0	7.8	8.1	-19%	7.2		
Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product mfg	22.3	22.4	19.6	18.7	17.3	-22%	15.2		
Non-metallic mineral product mfg	35.9	36.6	32.0	32.6	26.7	-26%	24.1		
Metal product mfg	36.0	34.2	32.7	30.8	27.9	-23%	28.4		
Structural metal product mfg	53.5	62.9	56.4	54.6	52.3	-2%	54.6		
Fabricated metal product mfg	51.2	44.1	42.2	39.4	33.6	-34%	34.9		
Machinery & equipment mfg	23.1	23.5	21.8	20.5	19.7	-15%	18.5		
Motor vehicle & part mfg	18.4	19.6	19.7	17.8	15.1	-18%	14.9		
Industrial machinery & equipment mfg	34.7	40.9	35.7	33.5	32.7	-6%	31.8		
Furniture & other mfg	32.3	33.7	28.7	23.6	21.2	-34%	19.7		
Manufacturing	27.8	27.3	25.3	24.1	22.3	-20%	20.9		
	Fre	quency ra	te (seriou	is claims p	per million	hours work	(ed)		
Food, beverage & tobacco mfg	20.0	19.5	17.3	16.9	15.5	-22%	13.8		
Meat & meat product mfg	34.2	31.6	29.3	27.9	27.1	-21%	23.2		
Textile, clothing, footwear & leather mfg	8.9	8.6	7.8	7.7	6.9	-23%	6.0		
Wood & paper product mfg	16.0	15.9	17.3	17.5	17.5	9%	16.9		
Printing, publishing & recorded media	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.1	4.2	-23%	3.7		
Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product mfg	11.5	11.6	10.0	9.8	9.1	-21%	7.9		
Non-metallic mineral product mfg	17.7	18.4	15.4	17.0	13.9	-21%	12.5		
Metal product mfg	17.9	16.9	16.0	16.1	14.7	-18%	14.8		
Structural metal product mfg	26.5	31.5	27.7	28.7	27.4	3%	28.4		
Fabricated metal product mfg	25.5	22.2	20.7	20.7	17.7	-31%	18.2		
Machinery & equipment mfg	11.5	11.7	10.9	10.7	10.3	-10%	9.5		
Motor vehicle & part mfg	9.3	9.9	10.0	9.4	8.0	-14%	7.7		
Industrial machinery & equipment mfg	16.8	19.3	17.2	17.5	17.2	3%	16.5		
Furniture & other mfg	16.8	17.4	14.9	12.4	11.2	-34%	10.3		
Manufacturing	14.2	14.1	13.0	12.6	11.7	-18%	10.9		

Table 36 Manufacturing: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

a Percentage change from 2005–06 to 2009–10 as preliminary data for 2010–11 are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

Time lost and compensation payments made for serious claims

Figure 36 shows that the median time lost from work for serious claims in the Manufacturing industry remained largely unchanged between 2000–01 and 2009–10, moving in a range from 3.0 to 3.4 working weeks over the period.



The median payment for serious claims in the Manufacturing industry rose from \$6000 in 2000–01 to \$8700 in 2009–10, an increase of 45%. As Figure 37 shows, the median compensation payment in the Manufacturing industry has closely mirrored movements in payments in the all industries level. Factors influencing median payment include salary, the severity of the incident, the length of absence from work and medical expenses.



Figure 37 Manufacturing: median payment, 2000–01 to 2009–10

Compensated fatalities

The preliminary data for the 2010–11 financial year indicates that there were 20 compensated fatalities in the Manufacturing industry, the lowest number recorded for this industry in the last six years.

Workers' compensation data are known to undercount the number of workrelated fatalities, due to compensation only being available to employees but also because in most cases a dependent is required in order for a claim to be made. The fatality rate of 2.2 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2010–11p for Manufacturing is considerably higher than the all industries rate of 1.6. Food, beverage & tobacco manufacturing was the subdivision with the highest number of fatalities (7) and the highest fatality rate (3.8 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees).

Characteristics of compensated fatalities

Due to the small numbers of fatalities in any one year, the analysis of fatality characteristics is based on aggregated data for the six years from 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Table 37 shows that over this period, there were 212 compensated fatalities in the Manufacturing industry.

The highest number of fatalities occurred in Machinery & equipment manufacturing (43) with a further 37 in the Food, beverage & tobacco manufacturing sector. Over the 6 years from 2005–06 to 2010–11p, the Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing recorded a fatality rate of 13.7 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees, the highest rate for any sector within the Manufacturing industry.

Table 37 Manufacturing: compensated fatalities and fatality rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

Industry subdivision and group	2005–062	006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11p	Total
		Nu	mber of c	ompensa	ted fatalit	ies	
Food, beverage & tobacco mfg	8	7	6	5	4	7	37
Textile, clothing, footwear & leather mfg	1	0	2	2	2	0	7
Wood & paper product mfg	0	7	4	5	2	1	19
Printing, publishing & recorded media	1	2	0	0	1	2	6
Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product mfg	6	2	4	1	2	0	15
Non-metallic mineral product mfg	7	7	9	4	4	0	31
Metal product mfg	7	5	7	4	4	3	30
Machinery & equipment mfg	6	10	5	7	10	5	43
Furniture & other mfg	12	2	4	3	1	2	24
Manufacturing	48	42	41	31	30	20	212
	Fatality	rate (co	ompensat	ed fataliti	es per 10	0 000 emp	loyees)
Manufacturing	4.9	4.3	4.1	3.2	3.2	2.2	3.7
All industries	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.7

The number of fatalities and the rate of fatality in the Manufacturing industry has more than halved over the period from 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Several industry groups, including Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product manufacturing and Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing, recorded no fatalities during the 2010–11p financial year.

In terms of occupation, nearly one-third of those killed were Tradespersons & related workers (70 compensated fatalities) including 19 Metal fitters & machinists. A further 45 fatalities were of Labourers & related workers including 12 Truck drivers. There were 19 compensated fatalities not coded by occupation, all of which were due to diseases, principally *Asbestosis* (5) and *Mesothelioma* (13).

The most common mechanism of injury or disease resulting in death was *Vehicle accident*, which resulted in 21 fatalities. A further 6 fatalities occurred as a result of *Being hit by moving objects*.

Injuries resulted in 67% of the fatalities in the Manufacturing industry over the six year period since 2005–06. Of the 141 injury deaths, 52 were due to Multiple injuries. Of the 71 fatalities due to disease, one third (24) were due to Malignant neoplasm of pleura (Mesothelioma), with a further 13 each due to Asbestosis and Ischaemic heart disease.

Figure 38 shows that fatality rates for individual age groups ranged from 2.5 to 3.0 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees for those aged below 55 years. For those employees age over 55 years, however, the rate was 9.4 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. Of the 67 fatalities in this age group, 21 were due to asbestos exposure (Asbestosis and Mesothelioma).

It is important to note that Mesothelioma and Asbestosis have a long latency period, typically resulting in death 20 to 30 years after the initial exposure. Therefore, the date of claim lodgement upon which the age of a claimant is calculated in these data does not correspond to the age at which the exposure occurred but rather the date at which the diagnosis was made. For other compensated fatalities, particularly injuries, the date of lodgement much better reflects the age at which the incident causing death occurred.



Compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees

Figure 38 Manufacturing: fatality incidence rate by age group, 2005–06 to

Mining

Overview

The Mining industry employed 201 800 people in 2010–11, 2% of the Australian workforce. The following statistics relate to the 99% of workers in the industry who were classified as employees and were therefore covered by workers' compensation schemes.

Preliminary data for 2010–11 show there were 2520 serious workers' compensation claims in the Mining industry. This equates to 7 serious claims per day or 12.7 serious claims per 1000 employees. The frequency rate for serious claims in the Mining industry was 5.6 serious claims per million hours worked. While the incidence rate in the Mining industry is slightly above the national rate of 12.2 serious claims per 1000 employees, the frequency rate was lower than the national rate. This is due to the high number of hours worked, on average, by employees in the Mining industry (48 hours per week for male employees).

Characteristics of serious claims in the preliminary data

Industry profile

Figure 39 shows that although two thirds of workers in the Mining industry were employed in Coal mining and Metal ore mining, serious claims in these two industry subdivisions accounted for just half of claims in the Mining industry.

In contrast the Other mining services and Construction material mining sectors had much higher proportions of claims than employment. For this reason, the highest incidence rates in the Mining industry were recorded for Construction material mining (34.6 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2010–11p) and Other mining services (28.6). The Other mining services sector covers such activities as contract mining services and specialist oil and gas field services.





The lowest rate of claims was recorded for Oil and gas extraction, 5.9 serious claims per 1000 employees. This sector of the Mining industry employed 6% of the workforce while accounting for 3% of serious claims.

Occupation

Employees classified by occupation as Miners accounted for almost onethird (31%) of all claims in the Mining industry. Nearly half of the claims for Miners (45%) resulted from *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles*, with another one-quarter due to *Deafness* and 10% for *Fractures*. Other occupations with a high proportion of claims in the Mining industry were Mining support workers & drilling assistants (6%), Truck drivers (5%) and Drillers (4%).

Sex and age

Only 16% of employees in the Mining industry in 2010–11p were female, the lowest proportion of females in any industry with the exception of the Construction industry. Claims made by female employees in the Mining industry accounted for 6% of all serious claims, resulting in an incidence rate of 4.7 serious claims per 1000 female employees. Figure 40 shows this is well below the incidence rate of 14.2 serious claims per 1000 male employees.



Figure 40 Mining: incidence rate by sex and age, 2010–11p

The highest incidence rate for female employees occurred in the 45–54 years age group, with a rate of 5.7 serious claims per 1000 employees. In contrast, the lowest incidence rate for male employees occurred in the 25–34 years age group, with 11.1 serious claims per 1000 employees, while the highest rate was recorded for 55–65 year old employees at 22.6 serious claims per 1000 employees.

Common causes of serious claims

The most common cause of serious claims in the Mining industry in 2010–11p was manual handling, which resulted in 32% of all serious claims. Other common causes were *Falls on the same level* (15%), *Long term exposure to sounds* (12%) and *Being hit by moving objects* (6%).

There were generally similar proportions of serious claims across most subdivisions in the Mining industry in 2010–11p. However, in the Coal

mining sector, *Long term exposure to sounds* accounted for 19% of serious claims, while *Falls from a height* were responsible for 14% of serious claims in the Other mining sector, over double the proportion for the Mining industry overall. On the other hand, in the Exploration sector *Long term exposure to sounds* was responsible for only 3% of claims and only 5% of claims in the Other mining services sector.

Common types of injury and disease

Over three quarters (76%) of claims made by employees in the Mining industry in 2010–11p arose from injuries. *Sprains and strains of joints & adjacent muscles* accounted for the greatest percentage of claims (46%), while *Open wounds* and *Fractures* accounted for 10% and 6% respectively. Nearly half of the 24% of claims due to diseases involved *Deafness* (12% of all serious claims in the Mining industry).

The overall pattern of injury and disease was fairly consistent across the industry groups within the Mining industry. The highest proportion of claims for *Deafness* occurred in the Coal mining sector (19%), while Other mining services (14%) and Oil & gas extraction (12%) had above average proportions for *Fractures*. Over half of the claims in the Coal mining sector were due to *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles*, the highest proportion reported for any Mining industry sector.

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Due to the preliminary nature of 2010–11 financial year data, the analysis below covers the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10. Table 38 includes data for the 2010–11p financial year for comparison.

Table 38 shows that while the number of serious claims in the Mining industry rose by 6% over the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10, the incidence rate fell by 24%, from 19.9 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 15.2 in 2009–10. This fall in incidence rate was due to the large increase in employment in Mining from 2005–06 to 2009–10 (39%).

Frequency rates also decreased by 24% during this period, from 8.8 serious claims per million hours worked in 2005–06 to 6.7 in 2009–10.

Time lost and payments made for serious claims

Figure 41 shows that the median time lost from work for serious claims in the Mining industry decreased by 7% from 4.0 to 3.7 working weeks lost between 2000–01 and 2009–10.

The median payment for serious claims in the Mining industry rose from \$12 200 in 2000–01 to \$13 400 in 2009–10, an increase of 10%. Figure 42 shows the median compensation payment in the Mining industry has been consistently higher than the all industries level. Factors influencing median payment include employee's salary, the severity of the incident, length of absence from work and medical expenses.

Industry subdivision & group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg ^a	2010–11p			
			Numbe	er of seriou	us claims					
Coal mining	830	925	850	870	890	7%	735			
Oil & gas extraction	80	90	105	110	65	-19%	75			
Metal ore mining	630	640	735	650	665	6%	625			
Other mining	385	400	335	275	305	-21%	385			
Construction material mining	250	280	220	220	250	0%	295			
Other mining	135	120	120	55	55	-59%	90			
Services to mining	525	570	670	685	675	29%	695			
Exploration	165	190	260	220	210	27%	195			
Other mining services	360	385	410	470	470	31%	500			
Mining	2 450	2 625	2 695	2 590	2 600	6%	2 515			
	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees)									
Coal mining	26.8	30.9	28.1	23.8	14.3	-47%	11.6			
Oil & gas extraction	7.8	8.5	9.1	7.3	4.6	-41%	5.9			
Metal ore mining	13.5	12.7	14.3	11.8	13.1	-3%	9.3			
Other mining	36.7	38.3	32.1	18.9	23.0	-37%	23.4			
Construction material mining	36.2	38.6	28.7	26.5	30.4	-16%	34.6			
Other mining	37.6	37.8	43.6	8.8	10.9	-71%	11.4			
Services to mining	21.2	20.6	19.1	16.5	22.0	4%	17.8			
Exploration	10.8	10.7	11.5	7.0	10.9	0%	9.0			
Other mining services	37.9	38.4	32.6	47.1	41.7	10%	28.6			
Mining	19.9	20.4	19.4	15.9	15.2	-24%	12.6			
	Free	quency rat	te (serious	claims pe	er million h	nours work	ed)			
Coal mining	12.8	14.4	12.7	11.2	6.3	-51%	5.2			
Oil & gas extraction	3.6	3.8	4.3	3.6	2.1	-40%	2.7			
Metal ore mining	5.7	5.3	6.1	5.1	5.6	-2%	3.9			
Other mining	15.7	15.4	14.6	8.3	10.6	-32%	11.4			
Construction material mining	15.6	16.7	12.5	11.1	13.0	-17%	15.8			
Other mining	15.9	13.1	22.5	4.1	5.9	-63%	5.9			
Services to mining	9.4	9.0	8.7	7.5	9.7	4%	8.0			
Exploration	4.8	4.8	5.3	3.2	4.8	-1%	4.2			
Other mining services	16.5	16.0	14.8	20.9	18.3	11%	12.6			
Mining	8.8	8.8	8.6	7.2	6.7	-24%	5.6			

Table 38 Mining: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

a Percentage change from 2005–06 to 2009–10 as preliminary data for 2010–11 are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.







Figure 42 Mining: median payment, 2000–01 to 2009–10

Compensated fatalities

The preliminary data for the 2010–11 financial year indicates there were 4 compensated fatalities in the Mining industry, which is the lowest number of compensated fatalities recorded in the Mining industry over the past six years and 54% lower than the long term annual average of 9 fatalities per year over that period.

Workers' compensation data are known to undercount the number of work-related fatalities, due to compensation only being available to employees but also because in most cases a dependent is required in order for a claim to be made.

The compensated fatality rate fell by 82%, from a peak of 11.4 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2005–06 to 2.0 in 2010–11p. The fatality rate of 2.0 claims per 100 000 employees for the Mining industry, while being the lowest rate recorded in the past 6 years, is still higher than the all industries rate of 1.6.

Industry subdivision and group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11p	Total
			Num	ber of fata	lities		
Coal mining	3	0	0	4	0	0	7
Oil & gas extraction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metal ore mining	4	2	1	3	3	1	14
Other mining	3	1	1	3	2	1	11
Construction material mining	2	1	1	3	1	1	9
Other mining	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Services to mining	4	4	3	5	2	2	20
Exploration	2	2	0	0	0	2	6
Other mining services	2	2	3	5	2	0	14
Mining	14	7	5	15	7	4	52
		Fatality rat	te (comper	nsated fata	lities per 1	00 000 emp	oloyees)
Mining	11.4	5.4	3.6	9.2	4.1	2.0	5.6
All industries	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.7

Table 39 Mining: compensated fatalities and fatality rate by industry subdivision and group,2005–06 to 2010–11p

Characteristics of compensated fatalities

Due to the small numbers of fatalities in any one year, the analysis of fatality characteristics is based on aggregated data for six years, 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Table 39 shows that over this period, there were 52 compensated fatalities in the Mining industry.

Fourteen fatalities were recorded in both the Metal ore mining and Other mining services sectors, while a further 9 occurred in Construction mineral mining and 7 in Coal mining.

Of the 52 compensated fatalities in the Mining industry over the six-year period, 14 of the employees were Miners and 5 were Mining support workers & driller's assistants.

Over the period from 2005–06 to 2010–11p, 16 of the 52 fatalities were due to *Vehicle accident*. A further 7 were due to *Falls from a height* and 5 from *Being hit by moving objects*. In 9 cases, the mechanism of injury was unspecified.

Injuries resulted in 83% of the 52 fatalities in the Mining industry over the six year period since 2005–06. Of the 43 injury deaths, 18 were due to *Multiple injuries* and a further 9 due to *Intracranial injuries* and *Fractures*. Of the 9 fatalities due to disease, 4 were attributed to *Ischaemic heart disease*.

Figure 43 shows that the highest fatality rates were among workers aged over 54 years (8.5 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees), closely followed by the under 25 year age group (7.8). Workers aged between 25 and 44 years recorded the lowest fatality in the Mining industry.



Figure 43 Mining: fatality incidence rate by age group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p combined

Property & business services

Overview

The Property & business services industry employed 1 354 085 people during 2010–11, making it the third largest employing industry in Australia accounting for 12% of the workforce. The following statistics relate to the 83% of workers in the industry who were classified as employees and were therefore covered by workers' compensation schemes.

The Property & business services industry covers activities in a number of areas, including real estate operations, machinery and equipment hiring and leasing, scientific research, computer services, legal and accounting services, marketing and business management, employment placement services and management of contract staff.

Preliminary data for 2010–11 show there were 10 655 serious workers' compensation claims in the Property & business services industry. This equates to 29 serious claims per day or 8.5 serious claims per 1000 employees. The frequency rate of serious claims in the Property & business services industry was 4.7 claims per million hours worked.

Characteristics of serious claims in the preliminary data

Industry profile

Figure 44 shows that employees in Other business services (employment placement and contract staff services) comprised 34% of employees in the Property & business services industry in 2010–11 and accounted for 69% of serious claims.

The proportion of claims also exceeded the proportion of employees in the Machinery & equipment hiring & leasing group.



Figure 44 Property & business services: proportion of employees and serious claims by industry group, 2010–11p

Occupation

Cleaners accounted for 12% of claims in the Property & business services industry in 2010–11p with Elementary service workers accounting for a further 10% of serious claims. Guards & security officers accounted for over half of the serious claims made by Elementary service workers.

Nearly half of all claims from Cleaners were due to manual handling (*Muscular stress while handling objects* and *Muscular stress while lifting or carrying objects*), while over one quarter were due to falls (20% for *Falls on the same level* and 6% for *Falls from a height*).

For Guards & security officers, 17% of claims were due to *Being hit by moving objects* with the majority of these from *Being assaulted by a person or persons*. A further 14% of claims were due to *Falls, trips and slips* with the majority of these claims from *Falls on the same level*.

Sex and age

In 2010–11p, over half (55%) of employees in the Property & business services industry were male, and they accounted for 70% of the serious claims. This equates to an incidence rate of 10.8 claims per 1000 employees for males compared with 5.6 for females.

Figure 45 shows that male employees in the Property & business services industry had a higher incidence rate than female employees in all age groups. Although female employees worked fewer hours per week than male employees (estimated to be approximately 41 hours per week for males and 32 hours per week for females), frequency rates for males were also higher than frequency rates for females in most age groups. The exceptions were the 45–54 and 55–65 years age groups, where the frequency rate for females was slightly higher than the rate for males.



Figure 45 Property & business services: incidence rate by sex and age, 2010–11p

Common causes of serious claims

The most common causes of serious claims in the Property & business services industry in 2010–11p were *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects*, which accounted for 16% of claims. Other common causes were *Falls on the same level* (15%) and *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting or carrying* (13%).

Common types of injury and disease

In 2010–11p, 75% of compensated claims made by employees in the Property & business services industry arose from injuries. *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles* accounted for the greatest percentage of claims (42%), while *Open wounds* and *Fractures* accounted for 10% and 7 % respectively.

More than half of the 25% of claims due to diseases involved *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue* (12% of all serious claims in the Property & business services industry).

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Due to the preliminary nature of the 2010–11 financial year data, the analysis below covers the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10. Data for 2010–11p are included in Table 40 for comparison.

Table 40 shows that over the period 2005–06 to 2009–10, the number of serious claims in the Property & business services industry increased by 7%. The number of claims in the Other business services group (labour hire and contract staff management) rose by 13% over the period, and accounted for over two thirds of all serious claims in the industry.

Over the same period, the incidence rate in Property & business services fell by 1%, from 8.0 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 7.9 in 2009–10. The largest decrease occurred in Scientific research, with a 31% decrease in incidence rate from 3.0 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 2.1 in 2009–10. There were also large deceases in the rate of claims in Legal & accounting services and Marketing & business management services. In contrast, over the same period the incidence rate of claims in Other business services rose by 11%, from 13.9 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 15.4 in 2009–10.

The frequency rate of serious claims in the Property & business services industry remained at 4.5 serious claims per million hours worked over the period.

Table 40 Property & business services: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate by industry subdivision and group, 2004-05 to 2010-11p

Industry subdivision & group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg ^a	2010–11p
			Numbe	r of seriou	us claims		
Property services	1 125	1 145	1 215	1 305	1 245	11%	1 235
Property operators & developers	200	195	205	225	235	18%	255
Real estate agents	180	195	205	265	205	14%	220
Machinery, equipment hiring & leasing	740	745	800	810	795	7%	755
Business services	7 800	7 970	8 640	8 435	8 305	6%	9 425
Scientific research	135	100	80	85	90	-33%	95
Technical services	635	655	765	780	645	2%	645
Computer services	250	245	275	265	250	0%	220
Legal & accounting services	365	340	365	280	330	-10%	290
Marketing & business mgt services	925	1 065	1 050	925	805	-13%	820
Other business services	5 490	5 565	6 105	6 100	6 185	13%	7 350
Property & business services	8 920	9 110	9 855	9 740	9 545	7%	10 655
	In	icidence i	ate (serio	ous claims	s per 1000	employe	es)
Property services	8.3	7.7	8.2	9.1	8.5	3%	7.8
Property operators & developers	5.6	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.1	-8%	5.1
Real estate agents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%	2.6
Machinery, equipment hiring & leasing	30.1	27.8	34.4	35.4	34.3	14%	30.0
Business services	8.0	7.9	8.3	8.3	7.9	-1%	8.6
Scientific research	3.0	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.1	-31%	2.3
Technical services	5.1	4.7	5.1	5.3	4.3	-16%	4.0
Computer services	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	-7%	1.6
Legal & accounting services	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.6	-22%	1.5
Marketing & business mgt services	8.3	9.5	8.5	7.8	6.6	-21%	6.2
Other business services	13.9	13.6	15.2	15.6	15.4	11%	17.1
Property & business services	8.0	7.9	8.3	8.4	7.9	-1%	8.5
	Freq	uency rat	e (seriou	s claims p	er million	hours we	orked)
Property services	4.4	4.1	4.4	5.2	4.8	9%	4.3
Property operators & developers	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.9	-6%	2.9
Real estate agents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%	0.0
Machinery, equipment hiring & leasing	15.5	14.4	17.3	20.1	19.3	25%	16.7
Business services	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.4	-2%	4.8
Scientific research	1.7	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.2	-30%	1.3
Technical services	2.6	2.4	2.6	3.0	2.4	-8%	2.2
Computer services	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	4%	0.9
Legal & accounting services	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.9	-21%	0.9
Marketing & business mgt services	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.4	3.7	-19%	3.5
Other business services	8.5	8.4	9.4	8.9	8.7	2%	9.5
Property & business services	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.5	0%	4.7
a Percentage change from 2005-06 to 2009-10 as p	reliminary da	ta for 2010-	11 are likely t	o increase as	further claim	ns are accept	ed

Time lost and payments made for serious claims

Figure 46 shows that the median time lost from work for serious claims in the Property & business services industry increased by 3%, from 4.1 to 4.2 working weeks lost, between 2000–01 and 2009–10.



The median payment for serious claims in the Property & business services industry rose from \$5700 in 2000–01 to \$7200 in 2009–10, an increase of 26%. As Figure 47 shows, the median compensation payment in Property & business services largely mirrored the movement in the median payment recorded by all industries. Factors influencing median payment include employee's salary, the severity of the incident, length of absence from work and medical expenses.



Figure 47 Property & business services: median payment, 2000–01 to 2009–10

Compensated fatalities

The preliminary data for the 2010–11 financial year indicates that there were 18 compensated fatalities in the Property & business services industry, a figure very close to the average number of fatalities recorded for this industry annually over the last six years.

Workers' compensation data are known to undercount the number of work-related fatalities, due to compensation only being available to employees but also because in most cases a dependent is required in order for a claim to be made.

The fatality rate of 1.4 fatalities per 100 000 employees for Property & business services in 2010–11p is slightly lower than the all industries rate of 1.6. Most of the fatalities in the Property & business services industry in the 2010–11p financial year occurred in Other business services (14 of the 18 recorded in 2010–11p).

Characteristics of compensated fatalities

Due to the small numbers of fatalities in any one year, the analysis of fatality characteristics is based on aggregated data for six year, 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Table 41 shows that over this period, there were 118 compensated fatalities in the Property & business services industry.

Other business services recorded the most fatalities of any sector of the Property & business services industry since 2005–06 (nearly half of all fatalities, 53 fatalities from the total of 118 in the Property & business services industry over this six year period). A further 17 occurred in the Marketing & business management services sector.

Industry subdivision & group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11p	Total
		Nu	mber of c	ompensat	ed fatalitie	S	
Property services	9	3	7	3	0	2	24
Property operators & developers	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Real estate agents	2	1	1	1	0	1	6
Non-financial asset investors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinery, equipment hiring & leasing	6	2	5	2	0	1	16
Business services	24	17	11	15	11	16	94
Scientific research	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Technical services	6	1	2	4	1	1	15
Computer services	2	0	0	2	0	0	4
Legal & accounting services	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Marketing & business mgt services	4	5	2	3	3	0	17
Other business services	10	9	7	6	7	14	53
Property & business services	33	20	18	18	11	18	118
	Fa	tality rate	(compens	ated fatali	ties per 10	0 000 empl	loyees)
Property & business services	3.0	1.7	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.4	1.7
All industries	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.7

Table 41 Property & business services: compensated fatalities and fatality rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

In terms of occupation, one quarter of the fatalities involved Professionals (29 compensated fatalities), with the most compensated fatalities in Other professionals which includes oenologists, electorate officers and museum curators. Intermediate production & transport workers accounted for a further 21% of deaths (25 compensated fatalities), with 16 of these being deaths of Truck drivers.

The most common mechanism of injury or disease resulting in death was *Vehicle accident*, which resulted in 31 fatalities over the six year period. A further 15 fatalities occurred as a result of *Being hit by moving objects*.

Injuries resulted in 74% of the fatalities in the Property & business services industry since 2005–06. Of the 87 injury deaths, 38 were due to *Multiple injuries*. The most common cause of fatality due to disease was *Ischaemic heart disease* with 8 fatalities recorded.

Figure 48 shows that younger employees in the Property & business services industry had the lowest fatality rate (less than 2 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees for each of the age groups under 55 years), while older employees experienced the highest rate of fatality (2.9 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees for employees aged over 55 years).



Figure 48 Property & business services: fatality incidence rate by age group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p combined

Retail trade

Overview

During 2010–11, over one and a half million people worked in the Retail trade industry, making it the highest employing industry division in Australia. The following statistics relate to the 92% of workers in the industry who were classified as employees and were therefore covered by workers' compensation schemes.

Preliminary data for 2010–11 show there were 13 075 serious workers' compensation claims in the Retail trade industry division. This equates to 36 serious claims per day or 8.3 serious claims per 1000 employees. The frequency rate for serious claims in the Retail trade industry was 6.1 claims per million hours worked.

Characteristics of serious claims in the preliminary data

Industry profile

Figure 49 shows that employees in Supermarket & grocery stores and Specialised food retailing together comprised 39% of employees in Retail trade and were responsible for 46% of serious workers' compensation claims.

The proportion of claims exceeded the proportion of employees in the Supermarket & grocery stores and Motor vehicle services groups. Employees in these groups consequently experienced higher incidence rates in 2010–11p than was the case for the remainder of the Retail trade industry.



Figure 49 Retail trade: proportion of employees and serious claims by

Percent of employees/serious claims

Occupation

Sales assistants accounted for 29% of serious claims in Retail trade in 2010–11p and Storepersons accounted for a further 10%. Over half of the serious claims made by Sales assistants were due to *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles*.

Sex and age

In 2010–11p, over half (53%) of employees in Retail Trade were female, and they accounted for 46% of the serious claims. This equates to an incidence rate of 7.1 claims per 1000 female employees in Retail trade, compared with 9.7 claims per 1000 employees for males.

Figure 50 shows male employees had a higher incidence rate than female employees in all age groups. Although the overall incidence rate for male employees is higher than for female employees, there is no difference in the frequency rates, with both males and females having a rate of 6.1 serious claims per million hours worked. This is because female employees work fewer hours per week on average than male employees in the Retail trade industry (estimated to be approximately 33 hours per week for males and 24 hours per week for females).



Figure 50 Retail trade: incidence rate of serious claims by sex and age, 2010–11p

Common causes of serious claims

The most common cause of serious claims in the Retail trade industry in 2010–11p was *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects*, accounting for 28% of claims. Other common causes were *Falls on the same level* (14% of all serious claims) and *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting or carrying* (12%).

Common types of injury and disease

In 2010–11p, 77% of compensated claims made by employees in the Retail trade industry arose from injuries. *Sprains and strains of joints & adjacent muscles* accounted for the greatest percentage of claims (46%), while *Open wounds* and *Fractures* accounted for 9% and 7% respectively.

More than half (14% out of 23%) of claims due to diseases involved *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue*.

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Due to the preliminary nature of 2010–11 financial year data, the analysis below covers the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10. Data for 2010–11p are included in Table 42 for comparison.

Table 42 shows that over the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10, the number of serious claims in Retail trade decreased by 4%. Only the Recreational good retailing and Household equipment repair groups showed an increase in serious claim numbers over the period, both groups showing a 10% increase in the number of serious claims.

Over the same period, the incidence rate of serious claims in the Retail trade industry fell by 10%, from 9.7 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 8.8 in 2009–10. The largest decrease occurred in Motor vehicle retailing, with a 45% decrease in incidence rate from 13 claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 7.1 in 2009–10. There was also a large decease (18%) in the rate of claims in Furniture, house ware & appliance retailing.

The frequency rate of serious claims in the Retail trade industry declined by 9% between 2005–06 and 2009–10, falling from 7.0 claims per million hours worked to 6.4.

Industry subdivision and group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg ^a	2010–11p
			Numbe	r of serio	us claims		
Food retailing	6 110	5 900	6 025	6 195	6 010	-2%	5 905
Supermarket & grocery stores	4 030	3 735	3 775	4 035	3 845	-5%	3 740
Specialised food retailing	2 085	2 160	2 250	2 155	2 165	4%	2 165
Personal & household good retailing	4 565	4 695	4 705	4 560	4 435	-3%	4 565
Department stores	860	845	850	765	670	-22%	570
Clothing & soft good retailing	550	615	630	710	655	19%	750
Furniture, houseware & appliance retailing	1 545	1 605	1 550	1 485	1 485	-4%	1 575
Recreational good retailing	400	435	440	425	440	10%	410
Other personal & household good retailing	1 105	1 090	1 120	1 070	1 075	-3%	1 165
Household equipment repair services	100	110	110	105	110	10%	95
Motor vehicle retailing & services	3 160	3 025	2 965	2 885	2 770	-12%	2 600
Motor vehicle retailing	980	910	905	795	775	-21%	740
Motor vehicle services	2 185	2 115	2 060	2 085	1 995	-9%	1 860
Retail trade	13 835	13 620	13 695	13 640	13 215	-4%	13 070
	In	cidence i	ate (serio	ous claim	s per 1000) employe	es)
Food retailing	10.7	10.5	10.3	10.4	10.5	-3%	9.8
Supermarket & grocery stores	14.4	13.4	13.0	13.3	13.9	-4%	12.6
Specialised food retailing	7.2	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.3	1%	7.0
Personal & household good retailing	7.3	7.3	6.9	7.0	6.7	-8%	6.6
Department stores	7.8	7.5	7.8	8.6	7.4	-5%	6.1
Clothing & soft good retailing	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.8	5.3	11%	5.8
Furniture, nouseware & appliance retailing	10.1	10.0	8.6	8.3	8.2	-18%	8.3
Other personal & household good	5.7 6.7	6.6	5.0 6.4	5.4 6.2	5.5 6.1	-4% -8%	6.4
Household equipment repair services	9.3	7.7	8.5	8.3	8.6	-8%	7.0
Motor vehicle retailing & services	13.6	13.5	13.0	10.9	10.3	-24%	9.4
Motor vehicle retailing	13.0	12.8	12.9	9.9	7.1	-45%	6.8
Motor vehicle services	14.0	13.8	13.0	11.4	12.5	-10%	11.2
Retail trade	9.7	9.5	9.2	9.0	8.8	-10%	8.3
	Frea	uencv rat	e (seriou	s claims i	per million	hours w	orked)
Food retailing	9.2	9.0	9.0	7.9	7.9	-14%	7.4
Supermarket & grocery stores	12.1	10.9	10.9	11.2	11.5	-5%	10.5
Specialised food retailing	6.2	6.9	6.9	5.1	5.1	-19%	4.9
Personal & household good retailing	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.0	4.9	-8%	4.8
Department stores	6.8	6.9	7.0	8.9	7.5	10%	5.9
Clothing & soft good retailing	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.0	3.7	1%	4.1
Furniture, houseware & appliance retailing	6.0	6.1	5.1	5.7	5.7	-4%	5.8
Recreational good retailing	4.3	4.7	4.2	3.7	3.8	-12%	3.5
Other personal & nousenoid good retailing	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.3	4.3	-16%	4.5
Housenou equipment repair services	5.7	4.0	4.9 7 A	5.7 7 F	0.0	11%	4.9
	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.2	-1%	0.0
wotor venicle retailing	0.0	0.4 7 7	0.5	0.8	4.9	-25%	4.8
wotor venicle services	7.0	7.7	1.4	/.ŏ	ŏ./	15%	/.ŏ
	7.0	/.0	6.8	6.6	6.4	-9%	0.1

Table 42 Retail trade: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

a Percentage change from 2005-06 to 2009-10 as preliminary data for 2010-11 are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

Time lost and payments made for serious claims

Figure 51 shows that the median time lost from work for serious claims in the Retail trade industry increased by 56% from 3.2 to 5.0 working weeks lost between 2000–01 and 2009–10. This has been a greater increase in time lost than has occurred across all industries over the same period.



Figure 51 Retail trade: median time lost from work, 2000–01 to 2009–10

The median payment for serious claims in Retail trade rose from \$4500 in 2000–01 to \$6900 in 2009–10, an increase of 53%. As Figure 52 shows, the median compensation payment in Retail trade has consistently been below the all industries level. Factors influencing median payment include employee's salary, the severity of the incident, the length of absence from work and medical expenses.



Figure 52 Retail trade: median payment, 2000–01 to 2009–10

Compensated fatalities

The preliminary data for the 2010–11 financial year indicated that there were five compensated fatalities in the Retail trade industry. This is the lowest number recorded for this industry in the last six years.

Workers' compensation data are known to undercount the number of work-related fatalities, because compensation is only available to employees but also because in most cases a dependent is required in order for a claim to be made.

The fatality rate of 0.3 claims per 100 000 employees for Retail trade is considerably lower than the all industries rate of 1.6. All of the five fatalities in Retail trade for the 2010–11p financial year occurred in Personal & household good retailing, which has also seen the most fatalities of any sector of the Retail trade industry since 2005–06. Of the 59 compensated fatalities in Retail trade over this six year period nearly 50% (28) occurred in the Personal & household good retailing sector.

Characteristics of compensated fatalities

Due to the small numbers of fatalities in any one year, the analysis of fatality characteristics is based on aggregated data for six years, 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Table 43 shows that over this period, there were 59 compensated fatalities in the Retail trade industry.

The highest number of fatalities occurred in Motor vehicle services (16), with a further 10 occurring in the Furniture, houseware & appliance retailing sector.

Industry subdivision and group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11p	Total
		Numbe	r of compe	ensated fa	talities		
Food retailing	3	3	3	1	1	0	11
Supermarket & grocery stores	0	1	1	0	1	0	3
Specialised food retailing	3	2	2	1	0	0	8
Personal & household good retailing	6	8	3	3	3	5	28
Department stores	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & soft good retailing	1	0	0	1	1	1	4
Furniture, houseware & appliance retailing	1	2	3	1	2	1	10
Recreational good retailing	2	2	0	0	0	1	5
Other personal & household good retailing	2	3	0	1	0	1	7
Household equipment repair services	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Motor vehicle retailing & services	5	4	2	5	4	0	20
Motor vehicle retailing	0	2	1	0	1	0	4
Motor vehicle services	5	2	1	5	3	0	16
Retail trade	14	15	8	9	8	5	59
F	atality rate	e (compen	sated fata	lities per 1	00 000 em	nployees)	
Retail trade	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.7
All industries	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.7

Table 43 Retail trade: compensated fatalities by industry subdivision and group and fatality rate, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

In terms of occupation, the highest number of fatalities occurred among Intermediate production & transport workers who recorded almost one third of the fatalities in the Retail trade industry (18 compensated fatalities). Five of these fatalities involved Delivery drivers. A further one fifth of fatalities (11) were Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers with the majority of these fatalities involving Sales representatives (7).

The most common mechanism of injury or disease resulting in death was *Vehicle accident* which resulted in 21 fatalities. A further 6 compensated fatalities occurred as a result of *Being hit by moving objects*.

Injuries resulted in 69% of the fatalities in Retail trade over the six year period since 2005–06. Of the 41 injury deaths, 21 were due to *Multiple injuries*. Half of the fatalities due to disease (9 of 18) involved *Ischaemic heart disease*.

Figure 53 shows that the youngest employees in the Retail trade industry had the lowest fatality rate (less than 5 compensated fatalities per million employees). In contrast, older employees experienced the highest rate of fatality (1.9 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees aged 55 years and over).




Transport & storage

Overview

The Transport & storage industry employed 548 730 people in 2010–11, 5% of the Australian workforce. The following statistics relate to the 86% of workers in the industry who were classified as employees and were therefore covered by workers' compensation schemes.

Preliminary data for 2010–11 show there were 9525 serious workers' compensation claims in the Transport & storage industry, 7% of serious claims across all industries. This equates to 26 serious claims per day or 21.7 serious claims per 1000 employees, the highest incidence rate for serious claims recorded for any Australian industry and almost double the overall rate of 12.2 claims per 1000 employees. The frequency rate for serious claims in the Transport & storage industry was 11.1 serious claims per million hours worked.

Characteristics of serious claims in the preliminary data

Industry profile

Figure 54 shows that in 2010–11p, the largest proportion of employees (30%) and of serious claims (42%) occurred in the Road freight transport sector. This resulted in an incidence rate of 30.2 claims per 1000 employees in Road freight transport and was the second highest rate recorded for any industry sector in the Transport & storage industry. The highest rate of 32.2 serious claims per 1000 employees was recorded by Services to water transport which includes Stevedoring.

The lowest incidence rate of serious claims in the Transport & storage industry was recorded in the Other services to transport sector, where there were 9.7 serious claims per 1000 employees. This group includes activities such as travel agents and customs services. Other services to transport accounted for 12% of the total employment in the Transport & storage industry, and 5% of all serious claims in the industry.



Figure 54 Transport & storage: proportion of employees and serious





Occupation

Road & rail transport drivers accounted for almost half (47%) of the serious claims in the Transport & storage industry in 2010–11p with 31% attributed to Truck drivers alone. Other occupations within the Road & rail transport drivers occupation with a high proportion of claims were Bus & tram drivers (7%), Train drivers & assistants (4%) and Delivery drivers (4%).

One third of serious claims for Truck drivers were due to *Body stressing* with a further 10% due to a *Vehicle accident*. Among Train drivers & assistants, 18% of serious claims arose from *Mental stress* while 66% of serious claims from Storepersons were for *Body stressing* injuries.

Sex and age

Females accounted for 25% of the employees in the Transport & storage industry in 2010–11p and 11% of serious claims, resulting in an incidence rate less than half of that for male employees (9.7 serious claims per 1000 female employees compared with 25.7 for male employees).

The highest incidence rate of serious claims for female employees occurred in the 45–54 years age group with a rate of 14.5 serious claims per 1000 employees. The lowest rate was recorded for employees aged 65 years & over (7.7). In contrast, the lowest incidence rate for male employees occurred in the 25–34 years age group (19.8) while the highest rate was recorded in the 55–64 years age group (30.4).





Common causes of serious claims

The most common cause of serious claims in the Transport & storage industry in 2010–11p was *Body stressing* (35% of all serious claims) followed by *Falls on the same level* (13%), *Falls from a height* (9%) and *Vehicle accident* (7%).

The proportion of serious claims due to *Vehicle accident* was highest in Road passenger transport and Rail transport, with *Vehicle accident* accounting for 12% of serious claims in both sectors. Rail transport also had a higher than average proportion of claims due to *Long term exposure to sounds* (14%). Over half (52%) of serious claims in the Storage sector were due to *Body stressing* with 39% due to *Muscular stress while lifting or carrying objects*.

Common types of injury and disease

In 2010–11p, 75% of claims made by employees in the Transport & storage industry arose from injuries. *Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles* accounted for the greatest percentage of claims (47%) followed by *Fractures* (9%) and *Contusions with skin intact* (7%).

The overall pattern of injury and disease was fairly consistent across industry groups within the Transport & storage industry. However, in the Rail transport sector 21% of serious claims were due to *Mental stress* (more than 5 times the industry average of 5%) and these accounted for 39% of all *Mental stress* claims in the Transport & storage industry.

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Due to the preliminary nature of 2010–11 financial year data, the following analysis covers the period from 2005–06 to 2009–10. Table 44 includes data for the 2010–11p financial year for comparison.

Between 2005–06 and 2009–10, the number of serious claims in the Transport & storage industry fell by 5%. Over the same period the incidence rate fell by 11% from 26.8 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 23.9 in 2009–10.

While Services to air transport recorded the largest percentage increase in the number of serious claims (143%) over this period, this increase was due to a particularly high number of claims in 2009–10. The preliminary data for 2010-11 shows a return to more regular claim numbers. This highlights the need for caution when analysing small numbers over a period of time.

The sector with the next highest percentage increase in claim numbers was Water transport (29%) though the incidence and frequency rate for this sector both fell by 10% over the same period. This indicates that there is growing employment in this sector.

The highest percentage increase (10%) in incidence rate was recorded by Road passenger transport (other than Services to air transport as explained above) though claim numbers have eased in recent years.

Frequency rates of serious claims in the Transport & storage industry decreased by 10% over this period from 13.8 serious claims per million hours worked in 2005–06 to 12.4 in 2009–10. Increases in frequency rates were recorded by the Other transport, Road passenger transport, Rail transport and Services to air transport.

The largest decrease in serious claims and incidence rates occurred in the Other services to transport sector with a 33% decrease in claims between 2005–06 and 2009–10 resulting in a 35% decrease in incidence rate from 15.3 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06 to 10.0 in 2009–10.

Table 44 Transport & storage: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

Industry subdivision & group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	% chg ^a	2010–11p
			Numbe	er of serio	us claims		
Road transport	5 060	4 995	5 455	5 435	5 200	3%	5 000
Road freight transport	4 095	3 965	4 320	4 310	4 120	1%	3 990
Road passenger transport	965	1 030	1 135	1 125	1 080	12%	1 015
Rail transport	1 115	1 015	1 035	1 045	1 020	-9%	810
Water transport	295	310	320	415	380	29%	370
Air & space transport	925	870	925	785	725	-22%	700
Other transport	**	340	335	310	285	**	250
Services to transport	1 855	1 880	1 905	1 710	1 685	-9%	1 375
Services to road transport	315	320	420	270	215	-32%	105
Services to water transport	625	620	595	590	610	-2%	580
Services to air transport	140	185	125	195	340	143%	180
Other services to transport	780	755	765	655	520	-33%	510
Storage	1 585	1 580	1 250	1 185	1 085	-32%	1 015
Transport & storage	10 970	10 990	11 225	10 885	10 380	-5%	9 520
		Incidence	rate (seri	ous claims	s per 1000	employees	;)
Road transport	30.7	29.1	28.9	29.2	27.4	-11%	27.0
Road freight transport	36.0	33.4	32.6	32.7	30.0	-17%	30.2
Road passenger transport	18.8	19.5	20.1	20.7	20.6	10%	19.2
Rail transport	26.4	27.2	24.3	25.0	26.0	-1%	20.2
Water transport	19.6	18.6	17.5	21.9	17.7	-10%	16.7
Air & space transport	17.2	17.6	18.5	16.2	15.6	-10%	14.9
Other transport	**	31.3	27.8	30.0	25.5	**	22.3
Services to transport	22.7	21.9	21.9	20.3	19.8	-13%	15.5
Services to road transport	64.1	63.5	68.5	45.2	37.8	-41%	18.1
Services to water transport	43.4	44.5	43.5	45.6	38.9	-10%	32.2
Services to air transport	12.0	17.1	11.0	16.9	28.8	141%	14.4
Other services to transport	15.3	13.5	13.7	12.2	10.0	-35%	9.7
Storage	35.9	34.1	24.4	27.0	26.8	-25%	23.0
Transport & storage	26.8	26.3	25.0	25.1	23.9	-11%	21.7
	Free	quency rat	te (serious	claims pe	er million h	ours work	ed)
Road transport	14.8	14.2	14.1	14.4	13.4	-10%	13.1
Road freight transport	16.3	15.0	14.8	15.3	14.0	-14%	13.9
Road passenger transport	10.7	11.7	11.8	11.9	11.6	8%	10.6
Rail transport	13.7	13.6	12.6	14.4	14.6	7%	11.1
Water transport	8.3	7.6	6.4	9.1	7.5	-10%	7.1
Air & space transport	10.0	10.4	10.7	9.2	8.8	-12%	8.2
Other transport	**	16.1	14.3	16.2	14.3	**	12.3
Services to transport	12.5	11.7	11.8	11.3	11.0	-12%	8.5
Services to road transport	36.1	39.7	40.6	25.9	21.0	-42%	10.0
Services to water transport	23.5	23.7	22.8	23.8	21.6	-8%	17.3
Services to air transport	6.8	9.3	5.8	9.2	15.6	130%	7.9
Other services to transport	8.5	7.1	7.4	6.9	5.6	-33%	5.3
Storage	19.2	18.5	13.2	15.1	15.1	-22%	13.0
Transport & storage	13.8	13.4	12.7	13.1	12.4	-10%	11.1

a Percentage change from 2005–06 to 2009–10 as preliminary data for 2010–11 are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

Time lost and compensation payments made for serious claims

Figure 56 shows that the median time lost from work for serious claims in the Transport & storage industry increased by 25% from 3.7 to 4.6 working weeks lost between 2000–01 and 2009–10.

Figure 56 Transport & storage: serious claims, incidence and frequency rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2009–10



The median payment for serious claims in the Transport & storage industry rose from \$5300 in 2000–01 to \$8700 in 2009–10, an increase of 60%. Figure 57 shows the median compensation payment in the Transport & storage industry moved in a generally similar pattern to the overall median payment for all industries. Factors influencing compensation payments include the employee's salary, the severity of the incident, length of absence from work and medical expenses.



Figure 57 Transport & storage: median payment, 2000–01 to 2009–10

Compensated fatalities

The number of compensated fatalities in the Transport & storage industry declined from a peak of 78 fatalities in 2007–08 to 24 in 2010–11p. This represents the lowest number of compensated fatalities recorded in the Transport & storage industry for any year so far (see Table 45).

Workers' compensation data are known to undercount the number of work-related fatalities. This is because workers' compensation is only available to employees and in most jurisdictions there must be a dependent to claim. A study in 2010–11 showed only 48% of work-related traumatic fatalities in the Transport & storage industry were compensated (see *Work-related traumatic fatalities, Australia, 2010–11*).

Over the six years the fatality rate has averaged 11.2 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees, the highest fatality rate for any industry and more than 4 times the overall rate of 2.7 fatalities per 100 000 employees.

Characteristics of compensated fatalities

Due to the small numbers of fatalities in any one year, the analysis of fatality characteristics is based on aggregated data for the six years, 2005–06 to 2010–11p. Table 45 shows that over this period, there were 290 compensated fatalities in the Transport & storage industry, the highest number recorded in any industry during this period.

Over two-thirds of the compensated fatalities in the Transport & storage industry since 2005–06 occurred in the Road freight transport sector (200 of the 290 compensated fatalities), resulting in a fatality rate of 26.1 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees, the highest rate recorded for any sector in the Transport & storage industry, and more than double the rate for the industry overall.

Industry subdivision and group	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11p	Total
			Num	ber of fata	lities		
Road transport	35	37	61	36	29	19	217
Road freight transport	31	34	58	31	28	18	200
Road passenger transport	4	3	3	5	1	1	17
Rail transport	2	1	5	4	1	0	13
Water transport	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Air & space transport	6	0	4	3	7	2	22
Other transport	0	3	2	0	0	0	5
Services to transport	3	7	4	3	5	3	25
Services to road transport	0	1	2	0	2	1	6
Services to water transport	2	3	1	0	1	2	9
Services to air transport	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Other services to transport	1	3	1	2	1	0	8
Storage	2	0	2	0	1	0	5
Transport & storage	48	49	78	48	43	24	290
	F	atality rat	e (comper	sated fata	lities per 1	100 000 em	ployees)
Transport & storage	11.7	11.7	17.3	11.1	9.9	5.5	11.2
All industries	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.7

Table 45 Transport & storage: compensated fatalities and fatality rate by industry subdivision and group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p

Almost two-thirds (62%) of compensated fatalities in the Transport & storage industry over the period from 2005–06 to 2010–11p were due to a *Vehicle accident* (188 fatalities). A further 8% of fatalities (24) were due to *Being hit by moving objects*. Truck drivers accounted for 191 (66%) of the fatalities.

Injuries caused 88% of the fatalities in the Transport & storage industry over the six year period. Of the 255 injury deaths, 125 were due to *Multiple injuries*. Of the 35 fatalities due to disease, 14 were attributed to *Ischaemic heart disease*.

In terms of age, the largest number of compensated fatalities occurred in the 45–54 years age group, with 89 fatalities or 31% of total fatalities in the Transport & storage industry. Figure 58 shows that fatalities rates increased with age, with the highest fatality rates among workers aged 55 years and over (18.6 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees).



Figure 58 Transport & storage: fatality incidence rate by age group, 2005–06 to 2010–11p combined

Glossary

Age

The age of the employee at the time of injury or the date when the disease was first reported to their employer.

Bodily Location of Injury or Disease

The part of the body most seriously affected by the most serious injury or disease incurred by the employee.

Breakdown Agency of Injury or Disease

The object, substance or circumstance principally involved in, or most closely associated with, the events that culminated in the most serious injury or disease.

Disease

A condition resulting from repeated or long term exposure to an agent or event. The concept aligns with the definition of occupational disease as resolved by the 16th International Conference of Labour Statisticians: 'a disease contracted as a result of an exposure over a period of time to risk factors arising from work activity' (International Labour Organization 1998).

Employee

The ABS defines employee as 'a person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece-rates, or payment in kind; or a person who operates his or her own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees' (ABS 2007).

In calculating incidence rates, Safe Work Australia uses an estimate of the number of jobs worked by employees. Employees with more than one job (multiple jobholders) face exposures to distinct risks of injury and disease in each separate job. The ABS therefore supplies Safe Work Australia with derived estimates of employee jobs for use as the denominators in calculating incidence rates (See Explanatory note 11). The employee count is an estimate of how many jobs were worked by people classified as an employee in their main job on average over the reference period.

Fatality

Workers' compensation schemes only apply to a subset of workers classified as Employees. Self-employed workers are not eligible for compensation. This is one of the reasons counts of compensated fatalities do not reflect the full scale of work-related death. In most jurisdictions, fatalities of employees who die of work-related exposures are only compensable where there are dependents to lodge a claim.

Fatality rate The number of compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. Fatality rates are calculated using the following formula:

number of compensated fatalities x 100 000 number of employees

Fatality frequency rate

The number of compensated fatalities per 100 million hours worked by employees. Fatality requency rates are calculated using the following formula:

> number of compensated fatalities x 100 000 000 number of hours worked by employees

Frequency rate

The number of serious claims per million hours worked by employees. Frequency rates are calculated using the following formula:

number of serious occupational injury and disease claims x 1 000 000 number of hours worked by employees

Incidence rate

The number of serious claims per thousand employees. Incidence rates are calculated using the following formula:

number of serious occupational injury and disease claims x 1000 number of employees

Hours worked

The ABS supplies Safe Work Australia estimates of the total hours actually worked by all employees in the reference period. These estimates provide a measure of the time that employees are exposed to work-related risks. Hours worked does not include paid leave such as annual leave or sick leave.

Hours usually worked

The number of hours the employee/claimant usually works in a week, whether full-time or part-time as defined by the jurisdiction for compensation purposes.

Industry

The industry of the employer of the employee making the claim as coded to ANZSIC93 (see Explanatory note 5).

Injury

A condition resulting from a single traumatic event where the harm or hurt is immediately apparent, for example, a cut resulting from an accident with a knife or burns resulting from an acid splash. The concept aligns with the definition of occupational injury as resolved by the 16th International Conference of Labour Statisticians 'any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident' which is defined in turn as 'an unexpected and unplanned occurrence, including acts of violence, arising out of or in connection with work which results in one or more workers incurring a personal injury, disease or death' (International Labour Organization 1998).

Mechanism of Injury or Disease

The action, exposure or event which directly caused the most serious injury or disease incurred by the employee.

Median

The central value of all observations in the population ranked from smallest to largest for the relevant property. In other words, one half of the observations are higher than the median and one half lower. For even numbers of observations, the median is the average of the two middle values.

Because a small number of uncharacteristically long absences or high payments can skew the average (mean), in this publication, median payment and median time lost from work of serious workers' compensation claims approximate to a 'typical' claim. See Explanatory notes 3 and 4.

Nature of Injury or Disease

The Nature of injury or disease classification provides the framework for coding the most serious injury or disease sustained or suffered by the worker.

Occupation

The occupation of the employee making the claim as coded to the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations 2nd Edition* (ASCO — see Explanatory note 6).

Payment

Payments include:

- · benefits paid to a worker or the worker's surviving dependents
- outlays for goods and services such as medical treatment, funeral expenses, rehabilitation services
- non-compensation payments such as legal costs, transport and interpreter services, and
- common law settlements, which may incorporate estimates of future liability and indirect costs such as loss of productivity.

Reference year

The financial year when a claim was lodged.

Serious claim

A workers' compensation claim for a death, permanent incapacity, or a temporary incapacity requiring an absence from work of one working week or more lodged in the reference year, and accepted for compensation by the jurisdiction by the date the data are extracted for publication. Claims in receipt of common law payments are also included.

Each jurisdiction has its own definition of permanent incapacity. It may include total incapacity for work or a permanent impairment requiring a change of tasks.

Claims arising from a journey to or from work are only compensable in some jurisdictions, so they are excluded from the analysis in this publication.

Time lost

The number of compensated hours an employee was absent from work.

Working week

The number of working weeks lost is calculated by dividing the amount of time lost by the hours usually worked per week by the employee. Claims requiring one working week or more of time off count as serious. (see *Serious claim*)

1. Scope and coverage

The statistics presented in this publication are compiled annually from serious claims made under the state, territory and Australian Government workers' compensation Acts. The data shown for 2010–11p refer to all accepted claims for which payments were made (apart from payments for goods and services, like medical treatment) lodged from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, extracted as at 30 November 2011.

The statistics in this report do not cover all cases of occupational injuries and diseases for the following reasons:

- Occupational injuries and diseases involving temporary incapacity and resulting in an absence from work of less than one usual working week are excluded.
- Claims arising from a journey to or from work are excluded.
- While general state, territory and Australian Government workers' compensation legislation provides coverage for the majority of employees, some specific groups of workers are covered under separate legislation. Claims lodged by police in Western Australia and military personnel of the Australian Defence Forces are not included in this publication.
- Most mesothelioma cases (associated with work-related exposure to asbestos) are compensated through mechanisms other than workers' compensation. Consequently mesothelioma claims in this publication are known to be understated.
- Workers' compensation schemes do not generally provide coverage to self-employed workers, resulting in an understatement of the number of work-related injuries and diseases of workers employed in industries where self-employed workers are common. These industries include Agriculture, forestry & fishing; Construction; and Road transport. Large proportions of Managers & administrators and Tradespersons & related workers are also self-employed. Estimates of jobs and hours used as denominators in calculating incidence and frequency rates include only those worked by employees eligible for workers' compensation.

2. Age of employee

The age of the employee used in this report is derived from their date of birth and the date on which the injury occurred or the disease was first reported to the employer. Data related to the open-ended age group 65 years & over should be used with caution as claims can be made by persons no longer in the workforce particularly for diseases related to exposure to substances while working. The employee estimates used in this publication only count persons currently working. It is possible that incidence and frequency rates shown in this publication for this age group overstate the actual rates.

3. Time lost from work

Time lost figures shown in this publication are measured in working weeks lost from work and exclude estimates of future absences.

Time lost from work comprises the total period of time for which compensation was paid — the time lost is not necessarily continuous, and may occur over a number of separate periods. Where an employee returns to work on a part-time basis they may continue to receive pro-rata payments and the total number of hours for which compensation has been paid is included in calculating time lost.

All serious claims are included in calculating median working weeks lost, including claims that do not involve payments for time off work such as fatalities and disabilities like Deafness.

This report does not display median time lost for claims lodged in the preliminary year as they are likely to be open and the claimant may have more time off in the subsequent year.

4. Payments

Median payments are rounded to the nearest \$100 in this publication. Medians are used in preference to averages because a few long-term claims involving large compensation payments can skew the average. It is not possible to calculate total payments by multiplying the median payment by the number of claims.

In contrast with median time lost, the calculation of median payments excludes serious claims where no payments apart from payments for goods and services, like medical treatment, have been supplied.

This report does not display median payments for claims lodged in the preliminary year as they are likely to be open and still accruing payments.

5. Industry classification

The industry shown in this publication is the industry of the establishment that formally employs the claimant, classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993 edition (ABS Cat. No. 1292.0).

As we are measuring industry of employer, a claim made by a person employed under labour hire arrangements is coded to the Contract staff services industry class (ANZSIC code 7862) which is part of the Property & business services industry division. Industry of employer will be different to Industry of workplace for a range of workers.

The denominators used to calculate rates are primarily based on ABS Labour force Survey (LFS) data. Some respondents to the LFS do not provide enough information to code the industry of their employer to the most detailed level of the classification. In these cases industry is coded to a less detailed level. For the purposes of this analysis, such records are assigned to a detailed category on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the proportions in the dataset of those coded to that level of the classification (see Explanatory note 11). Detailed analysis of industry is principally confined to Part D of this report, 'Priority industry profiles'.

The ABS recently reviewed the methodology used to estimate the number of employees covered by workers' compensation. The incidence and frequency rates shown in this publication from 2005–06 onwards are based on the new ABS estimates. Estimates for previous years have been adjusted to allow continued time series analysis, however, caution should be used especially when viewing movements at lower levels of the classification.

In addition, denominators used in calculating rates at detailed levels of the industry classification have larger standard error than those used at higher levels. This means that rates for industry groups may be less reliable than those for industry divisions and subdivisions.

6. Occupation classification

The occupation of the claimant is classified to the ASCO, 2nd Edition, July 1997(ABS Cat. No. 1222.0).

The denominators used to calculate rates are primarily based on ABS LFS data. Some respondents to the LFS do not provide enough information about their jobs to code occupation to the most detailed level of the classification. In these cases occupation has been coded at a less detailed level. For the purposes of this analysis, such records are assigned to a detailed category on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the proportions in the dataset of those coded to that level of the classification (see Explanatory note 11).

The ABS recently reviewed the methodology used to estimate the number of employees covered by workers' compensation. The incidence and frequency rates shown in this publication from 2005–06 onwards are based on the new ABS estimates. Estimates for previous years have been adjusted to allow continued time series analysis, however, caution should be used especially when viewing movements at lower levels of the classification.

Denominators used in calculating rates at detailed levels of the occupation classification have larger standard error than those used at higher levels. This means that rates for occupation minor groups may be less reliable than those for occupation major and sub-major groups.

7. Type of occurrence data

Details of the 'description of the occurrence' reported on the workers' compensation claim have been reported using the Type of Occurrence Classification System, Second Edition, (May 2002) (TOOCS2.1). Throughout this publication, TOOCS categories appear in italics.

The five variables used to describe the type of occurrence are:

Nature of Injury or Disease

Bodily Location of Injury or Disease

Mechanism of Injury or Disease

Breakdown Agency of Injury or Disease

Agency of Injury and Disease

See the Glossary for the definitions of these variables.

Certain tables and figures in this publication incorporate non-standard aggregations of Nature categories. In particular, Tables 13, 15 and 16 aggregate the disease category Disorders of the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue with the injury category Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles. This aggregation is required because jurisdictions have been progressively introducing the 3rd edition of TOOCS since July 2005 which more closely aligns the TOOCS Nature of injury or disease to the International Classification for Disease (National Centre for Classification in Health 2006). Under this new classification more guidance is provided to code claims which involve a single traumatic event to Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles with all other muscle related claims coded to Disorders of the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue. This coding change is a more accurate reflection of the way in which muscle conditions occur. By combining these categories, a useful time series can still be created. This publication will continue to report using TOOCS2.1 until all jurisdictions are coding claims under the new classification.

In Tables 13 to 16 abbreviated category names have been used for some injuries and diseases. The table below shows the abbreviated name used and the actual category name from the TOOCS classification:

Abbreviation used	Type of injury or disease
Audio shock / audio shriek	Effects of exposure to audio shock / audio shriek
Contusion & crushing	Contusion with intact skin surface & crushing injury excluding those with fracture
Dermatitis or eczema (excl. contact dermatitis)	Other & unspecified dermatitis or eczema
Disorders of nerve roots etc	Disorders of nerve roots, plexuses & single nerves
Ear diseases (excl deafness)	Other diseases of the ear & mastoid process
Effects of weather, exposure etc	Effects of weather, exposure, air pressure & other external causes, not elsewhere classified
Electrocution or electric shock	Electrocution or shock from electric currents
Foreign body in eye, ear, etc.	Foreign body on external eye, in ear or nose or in respiratory, digestive or reproductive systems
Infectious & parasitic diseases (excl viral)	Other infectious & parasitic diseases
Injuries to nerves & spinal cord	Injuries to nerves & spinal cord without evidence of spinal bone injury
Intracranial injury, incl concussion	Intracranial injury, including concussion
Medical sharps injury	Needlestick puncture & medical sharps injury
Mesothelioma	Malignant neoplasm of the pleura (mesothelioma)
Open wound	Open wound not involving traumatic amputation
Poisoning	Poisoning & toxic effects of substances
Respiratory diseases (incl cold & flu)	Other diseases of the respiratory system
Skin diseases	Other diseases of the skin & subcutaneous tissue
Sprains & strains & MSD	Sprains & strains of joints & adjacent muscles and Diseases of the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue
Traumatic amputation	Traumatic amputation including enucleation of eye (loss of eyeball)
Traumatic deafness	Traumatic deafness from air pressure or explosion
Vertebral fracture	Fracture of vertebral column with or without mention of spinal cord lesion
Viral diseases (excl hepatitis)	Viral diseases excluding hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases & AIDS

8. 'Not stated' data

A number of claims have not been fully coded for the various classifications used in this publication due to insufficient information being provided at the time of the claim. The main data items affected are occupation, industry and type of occurrence. Where there is a significant number of incompletely coded claims, they may be separately identified in tables and graphs in residual categories like 'Other & unspecified'. These claims are always included in the total number of claims.

9. Confidentiality

Claim numbers in this publication are rounded to the nearest 5. This helps protect confidential information about employers and employees. Due to rounding, differences may appear between the reported totals and the sum of the row or column values. Rates and proportions are calculated on unrounded claim numbers. By agreement with the jurisdictions, fatality numbers are not rounded since this information is a matter of public record.

10. Time series analysis

Comparison of 2010–11p data with previous years should be conducted with caution. The data shown for 2010–11 are preliminary (denoted by 'p'). Data from previous years are more likely to have been finalised and are therefore generally more accurate and comprehensive than the most recent year's data. Accordingly, time series analysis excludes the preliminary data.

In addition, when analysing trends over time, consideration needs to be given to legislative changes that may have been made within certain jurisdictions during the period being investigated. The current workers' compensation arrangements can be found in *Comparison of workers' compensation arrangements, Australia & New Zealand.*

11. Denominator data used to calculate incidence and frequency rates

Estimates of the number of employees and hours worked for each Australian workers' compensation jurisdiction are supplied annually by the ABS. The ABS provides two sets of estimates for each jurisdiction: one split by sex, age and industry and the second by occupation. This restricts presentation of incidence and frequency rates to the categories that ABS data support i.e. it is not possible to calculate rates by occupation within an industry.

The denominator data are derived principally from the LFS, adjusted to account for differences in scope between the LFS and workers' compensation coverage. The largest adjustment is for workers who have more than one job. Because a person holding two or more jobs (a multiple jobholder) may lodge a workers' compensation claim with respect to an illness or injury incurred in any of those jobs, a count of jobs is a more appropriate denominator than a count of persons in calculating incidence rates. The multiple jobholder adjustment adds around 5% to the number of employees in the LFS. Other adjustments aim to ensure correct industry of employer coding for employees working under labour hire arrangements.

In 2008, the ABS conducted a review of the methodology used to calculate the number of employees in each industry and the number of hours worked by each employee. After the review the ABS implemented a number of changes to their methodology, which increased their estimates. As the ABS could only supply new estimates back to 2005–06, estimates for earlier years were adjusted based on the movement between the old and new estimates for 2005–06 to avoid a break in the time series. Publications from 2007–08 have used these new estimates. Comparison with previous publications should therefore not be made.

The major change to the estimates following the review was in the industry coding of 'jobs other than the main job' of multiple job holders. Where previously the second job was combined into the industry of the first job, these have now been separated to be shown in the industry in which the employee works in each separate job. This has resulted in changes to the incidence and frequency rates in some industries. In particular, a decrease in employee estimates occurred in Government administration & defence, Manufacturing and Health & community services as these were the industries where a greater proportion held a second job. An increase occurred in Cultural & recreational services and Accommodation, cafes & restaurants as these were the industry divisions where the second job was most commonly worked.

While the ABS is able to adjust the employee estimates to account for the industries where the second job was worked, it is unable to adjust the hours worked in a similar manner. All hours worked have been allocated to the industry of the main job.

Because eligibility for workers' compensation varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, further adjustments are necessary. The most significant adjustments are:

- Police in Western Australia, who are covered by a separate scheme that does not report to Safe Work Australia, are excluded from the denominators.
- Under the Queensland legislation, Owner-managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs), who are included in the standard definition of 'Employee', have the option of purchasing workers' compensation insurance for themselves. Based on 2006 Census data, some 10% of employed persons in Queensland were OMIEs, an unknown number of whom were covered by workers' compensation. This population has been excluded from the denominators, and claims have also been excluded from the numerators.

Differences in movements between incidence and frequency rates occur because of differences in the two measures. The employee estimate is a head count of all employees who were employed during the reference period. This measure does not take into account the proportion who were not at work and therefore not at risk on any given day. The frequency rate however is a measure of exposure per actual hour of work. This measure also reflects that many workers work on a part-time basis. While this publication provides both measures. it is recommended that frequency rates be used in preference to incidence rates when comparing movements over time.

12. Adjustment of Victorian data

Safe Work Australia uses one working week of time lost as the cut off point for the classification of temporary claims as serious. This cut off point was chosen because most jurisdictions have an employer excess of one week or less. Since claims with a time lost of at least one week are generally processed by the workers' compensation authority, the use of a one week cut off ensures comparable data are provided from all jurisdictions and an accurate national estimate can be produced.

However, under the Victorian workers' compensation scheme the employer is liable for the first 10 working days lost by the injured worker (for an employee working two days per week, for instance, that would amount to five weeks' pay) plus the first \$582 (as of 1 July 2010) of medical services, unless the employer has elected the Excess Buyout option. Since information on claims paid solely by employers are not always provided to WorkSafe Victoria, the national count of serious claims is affected.

To correct for this under-counting, claims in Victoria of one to two weeks duration are increased by a factor to represent the 'missing claims'. The factor is calculated by comparing the percentage of claims of one to two weeks' duration reported for Victoria with the percentage of one to two week claims reported by other Australian jurisdictions at the industry division level and by Nature of injury or disease. The factoring makes the percentage of claims in each industry and nature group in Victoria match the Australian average for claims of this duration. The factoring increases total Victorian claims by around 20% and the Australian count by less than 3%.

While South Australia also has a 10 day excess it is calculated per employee for all claims lodged by that employee in the year. This encourages employers to provide information on claims of short duration to the workers' compensation authority. Analysis of the South Australian data shows they have one of the highest proportions of claims of one to two weeks duration and therefore no adjustment to South Australian data is necessary.

13. Reliability of the data

The statistical data in this publication are subject to two sources of error.

Non-sampling error

Non-sampling error may occur in any statistical collection during data reporting, recording and processing and can result from one or more of the following:

- · deficiencies in data collecting forms
- incorrect recording of answers by the respondent or the processing agency
- inaccurate coding
- non-response or omitted cases
- · errors in collection procedures, and
- errors in data entry, editing and processing.

Non-sampling error may affect both the numerator and denominator data. It is difficult to quantify non-sampling error.

Sampling error

Sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. The likelihood of a difference between the findings and the real effect occurring in the population is determined by measuring standard error. Standard error indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied from the real effect in the population by chance because only a sample of that population was selected for testing. Sampling variability is usually expressed as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers —relative standard error (RSE).

In this publication, the denominator data used in calculating incidence and frequency rates are the only data which are subject to sampling error. When the incidence and frequency rates have high relative standard errors, the tables are annotated with one asterisk (*) to indicate an RSE of the denominator of 25% or more and two (**) if the RSE is 50% or greater.

In general, at the aggregate level at which most compendium data are presented, high RSEs are rare. However, readers should note that rates relating to groups with relatively small numbers of employees are likely to have comparatively high RSEs and should therefore be viewed with caution.

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Contact information

New South Wales	WorkCover New South Wales 13 10 50 www.workcover.nsw.gov.au
Victoria	WorkSafe 1800 136 089 www.worksafe.vic.gov.au
Queensland	Department of Industrial Relations 1300 369 915 <u>http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/</u>
	WorkCover Queensland 1300 362 128 www.workcover.qld.gov.au
Western Australia	WorkSafe Western Australia 1300 307 877 www.worksafe.wa.gov.au
	WorkCover Western Australia 1300 794 744 (inside WA only) www.workcover.wa.gov.au
South Australia	Safework SA 1300 365 255 www.safework.sa.gov.au
	WorkCover Corporation South Australia 131 855 www.workcover.com
Tasmania	WorkCover Tasmania 1300 366 322 (inside Tas. only) www.workcover.tas.gov.au
	Workplace Standards Tasmania 1300 366 322 (inside Tas. only) <u>www.wst.tas.gov.au</u>
Australian Capital Territory	ACT WorkCover (02) 6205 0200 www.workcover.act.gov.au
Northern Territory	NT WorkSafe Department of Employment, Education and Training 1800 019 115 <u>www.worksafe.nt.gov.au</u>
Australian Government	Comcare Australia 1300 366 979 http://www.comcare.gov.au/home

For further information about data in this publication contact:

Data & Analysis Section Tel: (02) 6121 9112

Safe Work Australia Loc C220NB2 GPO Box 641 Canberra ACT 2601

Enquiries

For further information regarding the contents of this publication contact:

The Data & Analysis Section Safe Work Australia

1300 551 832