

National OHS Strategy 2002–2012

Progress against targets

The National OHS Strategy 2002–2012 (the National Strategy) provides the framework for collective efforts to improve Australia's work health and safety performance. The strategy for the next decade – the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012–2022 – was launched in October 2012. This is the final reporting on the progress against targets in the National Strategy.

The National Strategy set a national target to reduce the incidence of compensated work-related injury fatalities at least 20% and a national target to reduce the incidence of serious work-related injuries at least 40% by 30 June 2012.

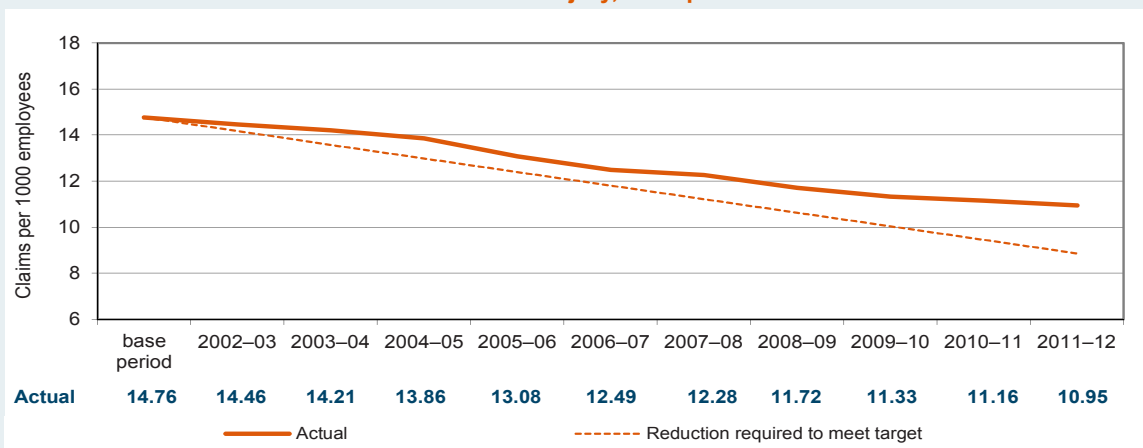
Work-related injuries are measured using serious injury (including musculoskeletal disorders) claims from the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS). Serious claims include all fatalities, all claims for permanent incapacity and claims involving one or more weeks of time lost from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

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

Injury target

There was a 26% decrease in the incidence rate of work-related injuries between the base period and 2011–12. This is below the rate of improvement required to achieve a 40% reduction in the incidence rate of work-related injuries by June 2012. Australia did not meet this target.

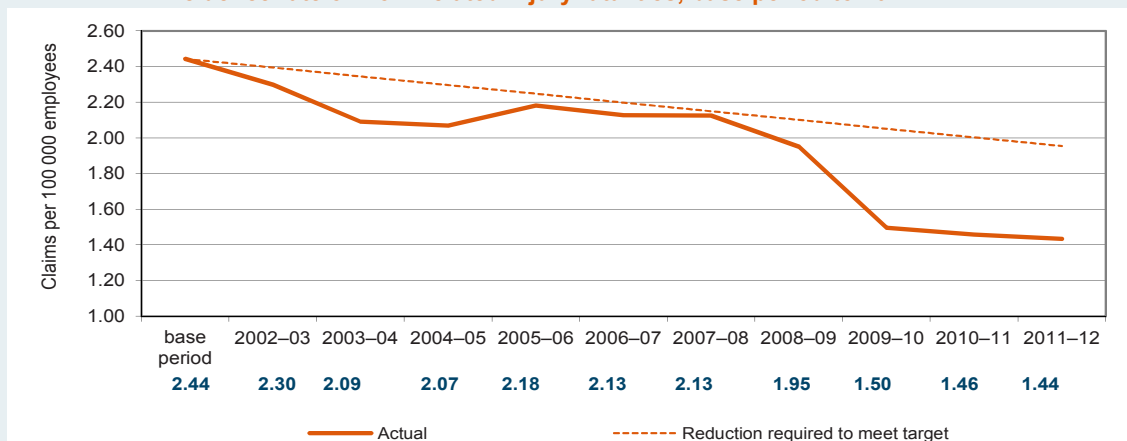
Incidence rate of serious injury, base period to 2011–12



Fatalities target

There was a 41% decrease in the incidence rate of compensated work-related injury fatalities between the base period and 2011–12. This is more than twice the desired result and, despite the volatility in this measure, Australia met the target of a 20% reduction in the incidence rate of compensated work-related injury fatalities by June 2012.

Incidence rate of work-related injury fatalities, base period to 2011–12





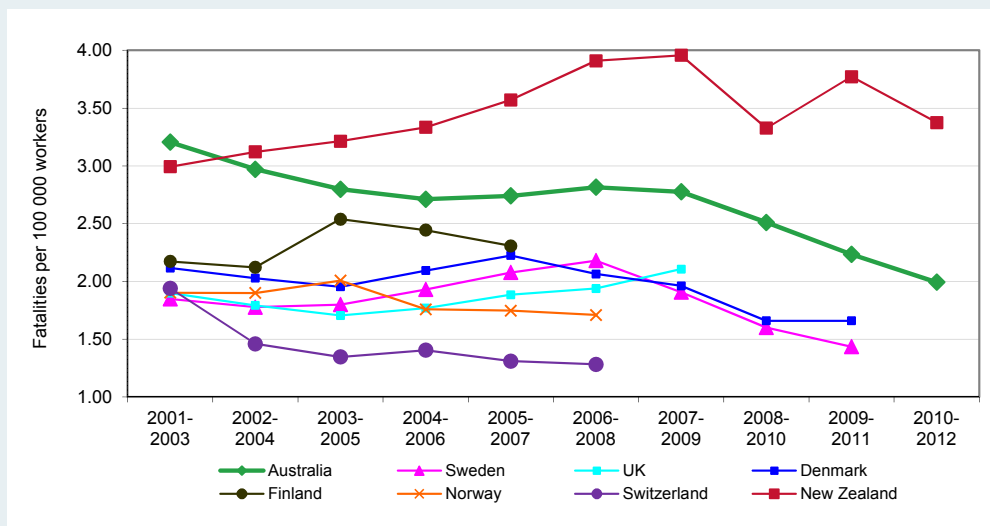
International fatalities target

Following the first triennial review of the National Strategy an additional target of having the lowest rate of traumatic fatalities in the world by June 2009 was adopted.

Fatalities data need to be compiled on a consistent basis to undertake this type of comparison. Work-related injury fatalities were sourced from the International Labour Organisation and only the better performing countries, in terms of fatality incidence rates, were selected for comparison. Australian data were taken from the Traumatic Injury Fatalities collection. This captures work-related injury fatalities involving all workers not just those where a workers' compensation claim has been lodged. Therefore, the fatality rates shown in the graph below are higher than those shown for the fatalities target on the previous page. A three-year moving average approach was adopted to reduce the volatility in the measure.

Although the gap between Australia and the better performing countries has reduced since the commencement of the National Strategy, the figure below shows Australia did not meet the target of having the lowest rate of traumatic fatalities in the world. Relative to the other countries considered here, and based on the most recent data available, Australia is still in seventh position.

Comparison of Australia's work-related injury fatality rate with the best performing countries



These data were extracted from the 16th Comparative Performance Monitoring report. More information on these indicators, including information on jurisdictional performance and information on the National OHS Strategy can be found on the [Safe Work Australia website](#).