

Key WHS statistics Australia 2019

Work-related injury fatalities

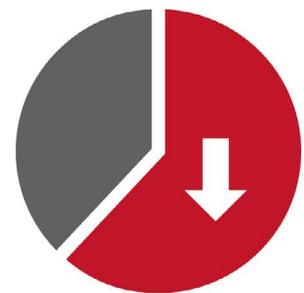
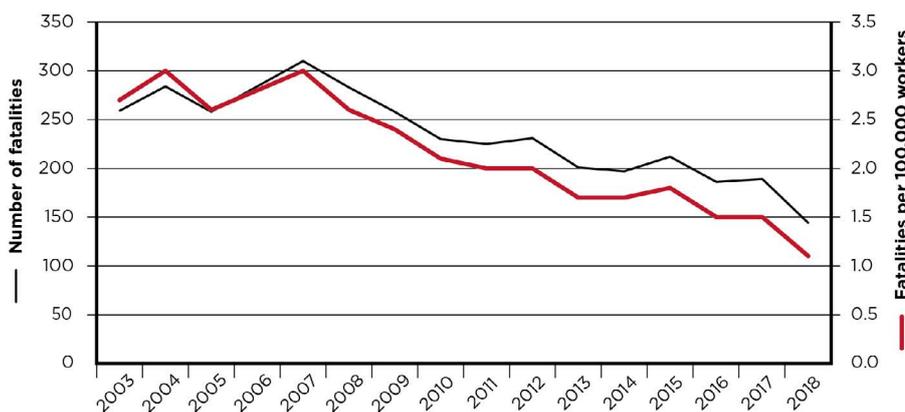


Safe Work Australia compiles the Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities data set which provides national statistics on all workers and bystanders fatally injured at work. This data draws on a range of information sources, including:

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

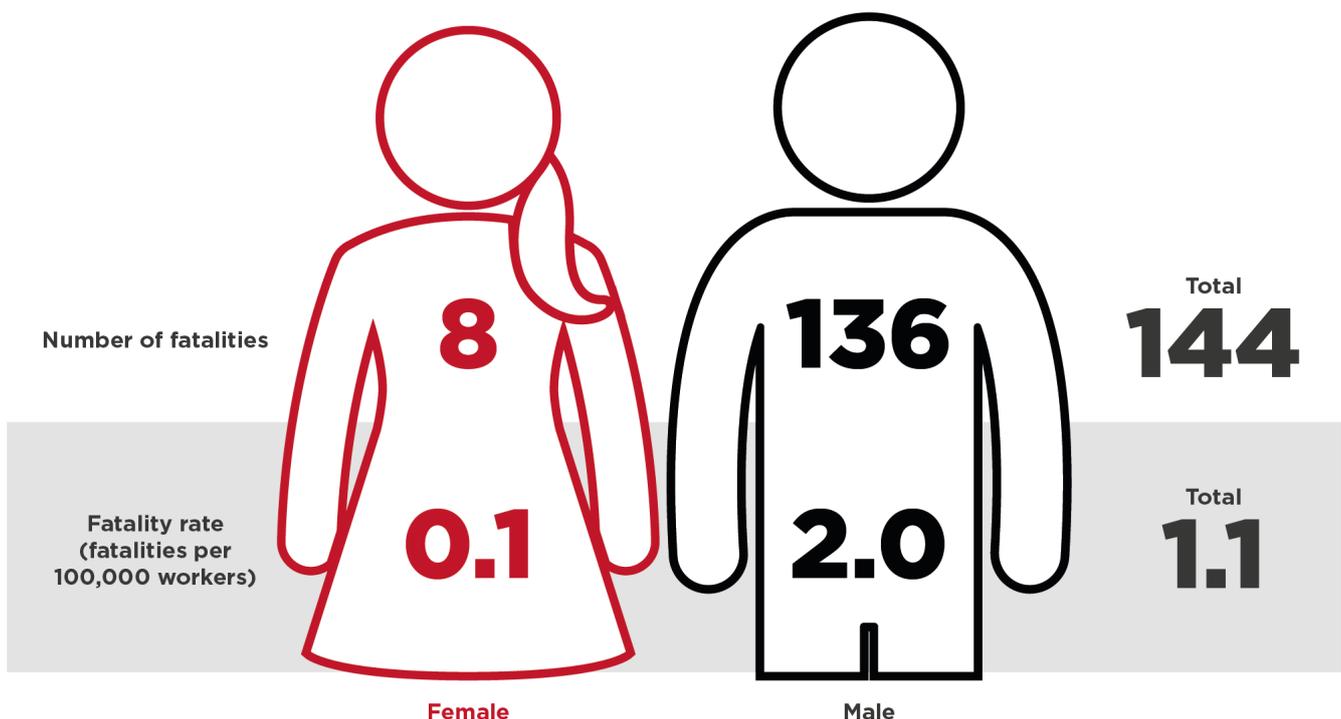
Work-related fatalities resulting from diseases, natural causes and suicides are excluded. Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [Explanatory notes for Safe Work Australia datasets](#).

Trends in work-related injury fatalities, 2003 to 2018



Australia's fatality rate **decreased by 62%** from the peak in 2007

Work-related injury fatalities by gender, 2018

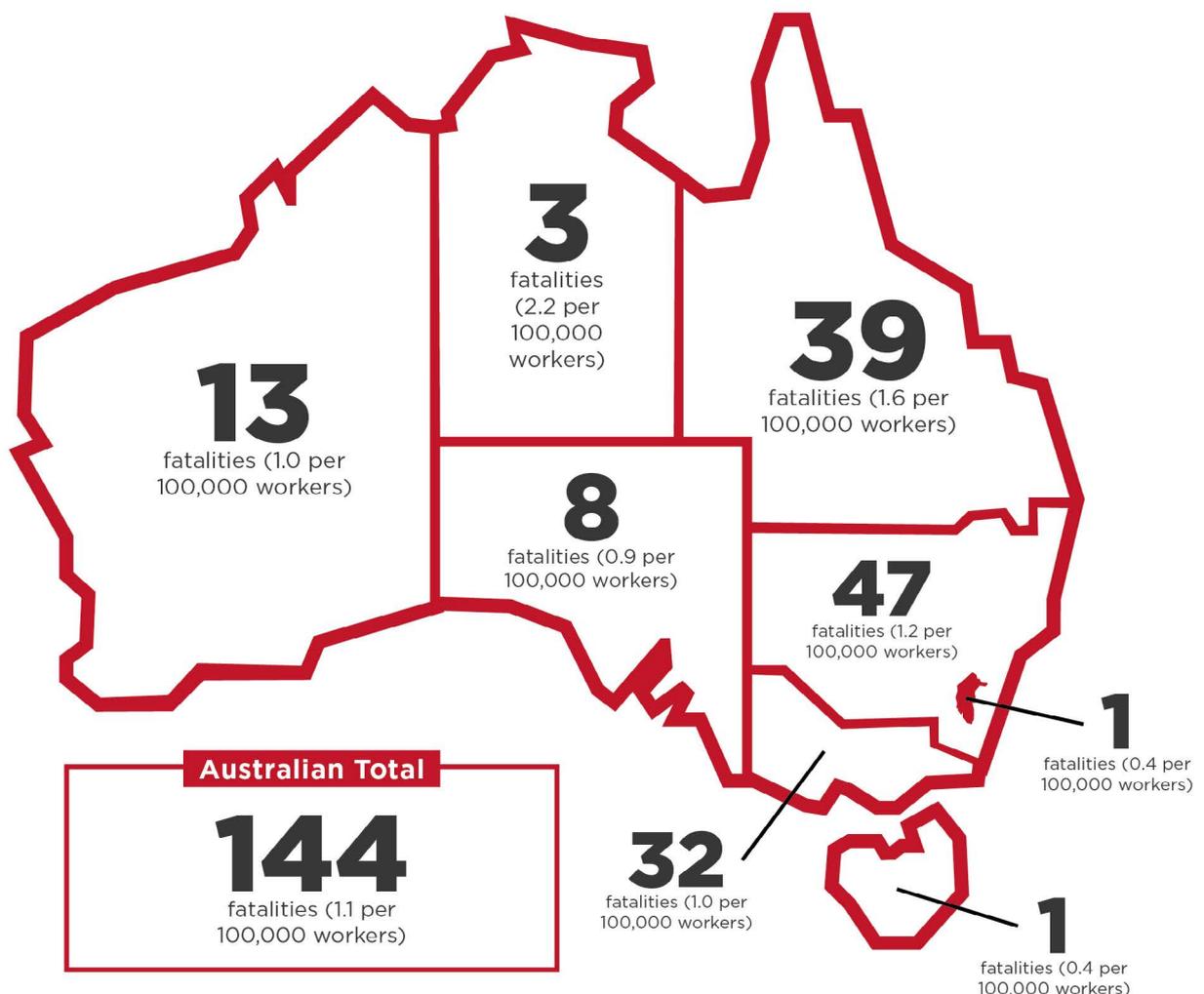




Work-related injury fatalities by age group, 2018

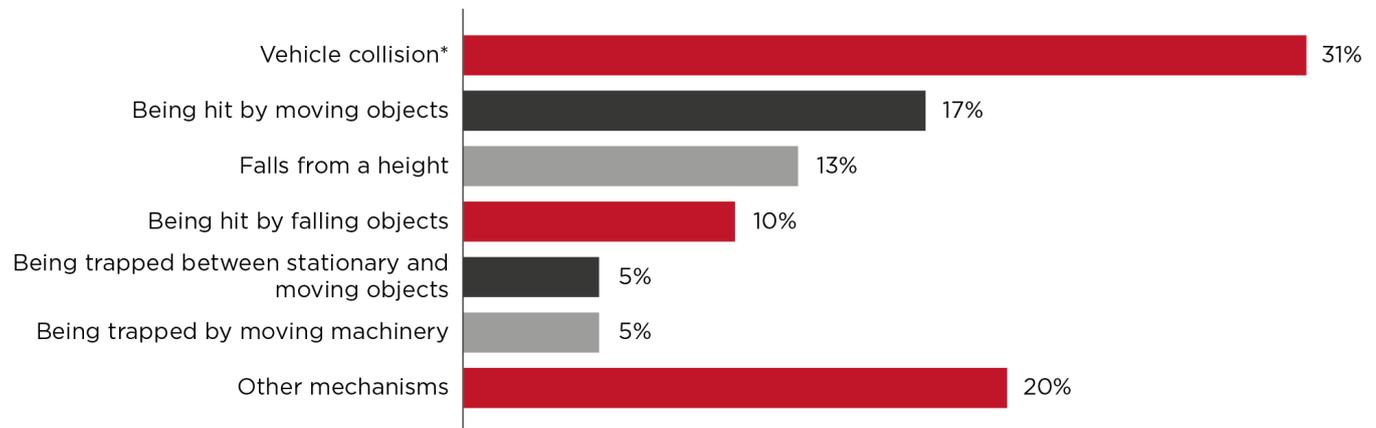
Age group (years)	Number of fatalities	Fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Under 25	19	1.0
25-34	24	0.8
35-44	25	0.9
45-54	27	1.0
55-64	31	1.7
65 and over	18	3.3
Total	144	1.1

Work-related injury fatalities by state/territory, 2018*



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

Work-related injury fatalities by mechanism of fatal injury, 2018



Note: Only mechanisms accounting for 5 per cent or more of fatalities are included. The remaining mechanisms are grouped together under 'other mechanisms'.

Mechanism of incident	Number of fatalities	% of injury fatalities
Vehicle collision*	44	31%
Being hit by moving objects	24	17%
Falls from a height	18	13%
Being hit by falling objects	15	10%
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	7	5%
Being trapped by moving machinery	7	5%
Other mechanisms	29	20%
Total	144	100%

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



Work-related injury fatalities by occupation, 2018



Machinery operators and drivers

6.2

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Labourers

2.9

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Technicians and Trades Workers

1.5

fatalities per 100,000 workers

Occupation	Number of fatalities	Fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Machinery Operators and Drivers	51	6.2
Labourers	36	2.9
Technicians and Trades Workers	27	1.5
Managers	16	1.0
Professionals	8	0.3
Community and Personal Service Workers	4	0.3
Clerical and Administrative Workers	1	0.1
Sales Workers	1	0.1
Total	144	1.1



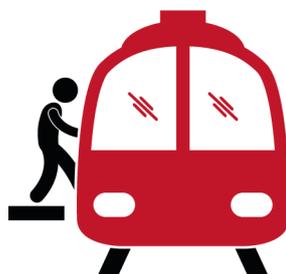
Work-related injury fatalities by industry, 2018



Agriculture, forestry
and fishing

11.2

fatalities per
100,000 workers



Transport, postal
and warehousing

5.9

fatalities per
100,000 workers



Mining

3.7

fatalities per
100,000 workers

Industry of employer	Number of fatalities	Fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	37	11.2
Transport, postal & warehousing	38	5.9
Mining	9	3.7
Construction	24	2.0
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	3	2.0
Manufacturing	13	1.4
Rental, hiring & real estate services	2	0.9
Information media & telecommunications	2	0.9
Wholesale trade	3	0.8
Arts & recreation services	2	0.8
Administrative & support services	3	0.7
Other Services	2	0.4
Public administration & safety	3	0.4
Accommodation & food services	1	0.1
Education & training	1	0.1
Health care & social assistance	1	0.1
Retail trade	0	0.0
Professional, scientific & technical services	0	0.0
Financial & insurance services	0	0.0
Total	144	1.1

Key WHS statistics Australia 2019

Work-related injury and disease



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

Data in this report refers to serious claims only. Serious claims relate to where the compensated injury or disease resulted in one week or more off work. Data for 2017-18 is preliminary (denoted by a 'p') and therefore is subject to revision in subsequent years as further claims are finalised. Serious claim numbers are rounded to the nearest five and as such the figures may not add to the total. Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [Explanatory notes for Safe Work Australia datasets](#).

Serious claims overall statistics, 2017-18p*



Total of

107,335

serious claims



Frequency rate of

5.5

serious claims per million hours worked



Median time lost

5.8

weeks



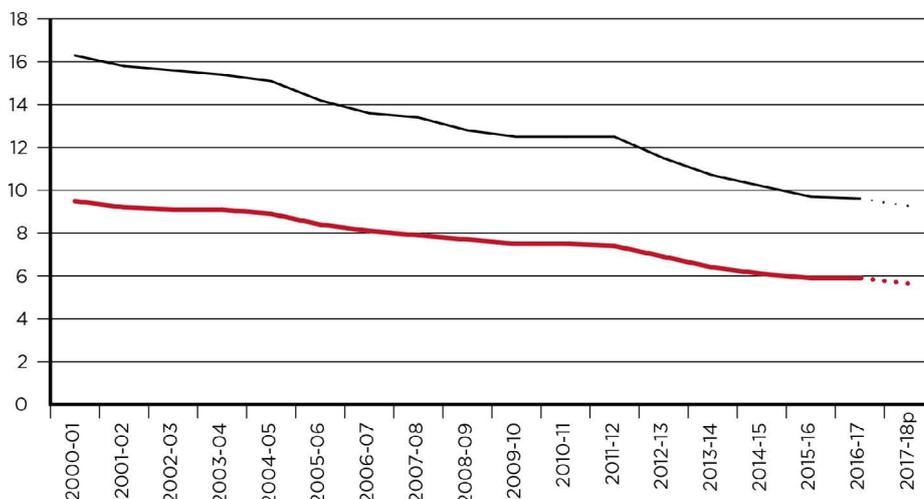
Median compensation paid

\$11,300

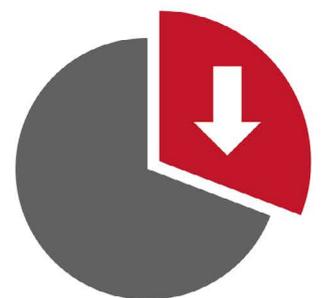
per claim

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

Trends in the rates of serious claims, 2017-18p*



— Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
— Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)



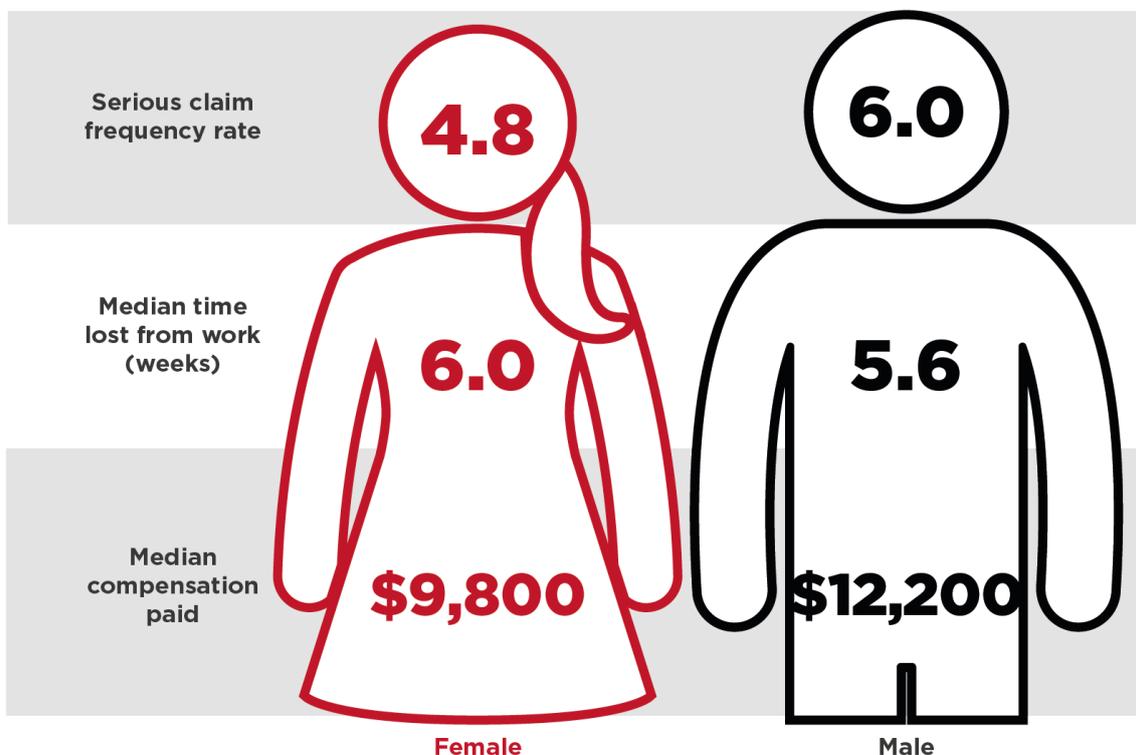
The Australian serious claim frequency rate **dropped by 29%** from 2007-08 to 2016-17

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





Serious claims by gender, 2017-18p*

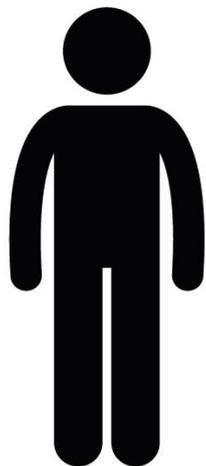


Gender	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Female	39,235	4.8	6.9
Male	68,100	6.0	11.2
Total	107,335	5.5	9.1

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



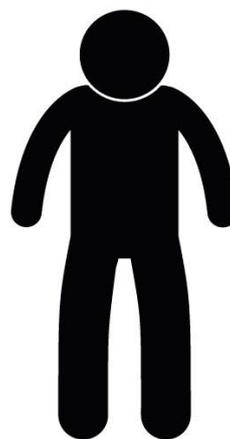
Serious claims by age group, 2017-18p*



30-34 years

4.3

claims per million hours worked



60-64 years

7.7

claims per million hours worked

Age group (years)	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Under 20	3,775	6.2	5.5
20-24	9,780	5.3	7.7
25-29	11,085	4.4	7.6
30-34	10,460	4.3	7.4
35-39	10,420	4.5	8.0
40-44	11,435	5.2	9.2
45-49	13,540	5.9	10.6
50-54	13,420	6.7	12.0
55-59	12,410	7.2	12.5
60-64	7,870	7.7	12.2
65 and over	3,145	5.9	8.1
Total	107,335	5.5	9.1

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



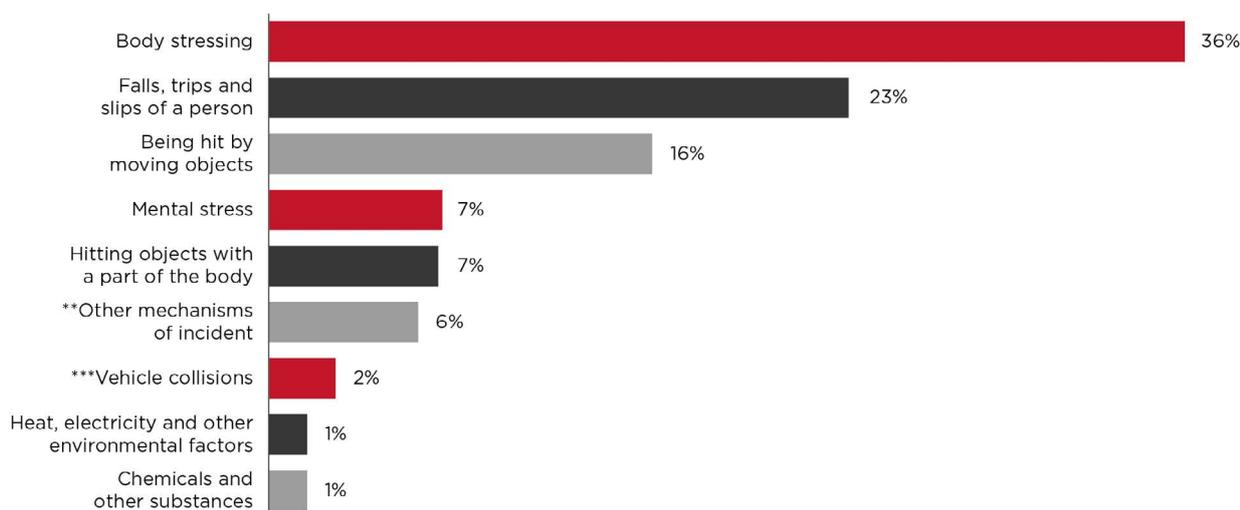
Serious claims by mechanism of incident, 2017-18p*



Body stressing
36%



Falls, trips and slips of a person
23%



Mechanism of incident	Serious claims	Per cent
Body stressing	38,770	36
Falls, trips and slips of a person	24,890	23
Being hit by moving objects	17,160	16
Mental stress	7,685	7
Hitting objects with a part of the body	7,485	7
Other mechanisms of incident**	6,440	6
Vehicle collisions***	2,580	2
Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	1,485	1
Chemicals and other substances	835	1
Total	107,335	100

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

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

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



Serious claims by nature of injury/disease, 2017-18p*



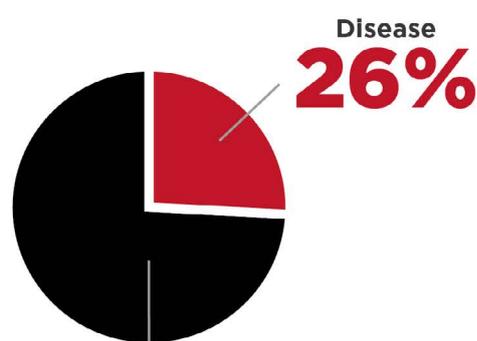
Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury

41%



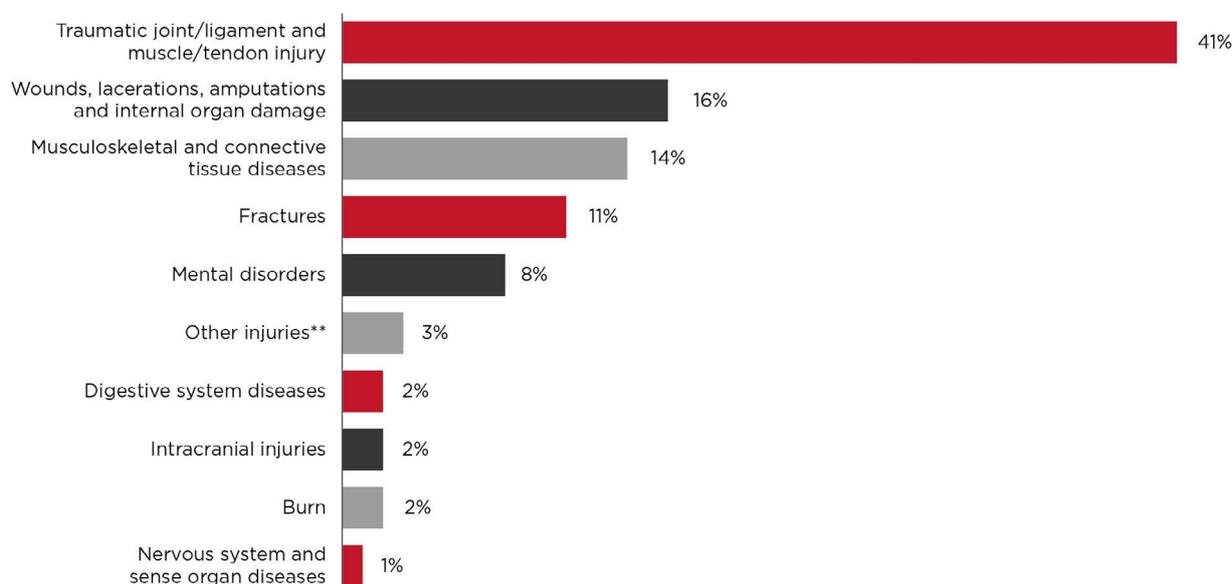
Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage

16%



Injury
74%

Disease
26%



Nature of injury/disease	Serious claims	Per cent
Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury	43,880	41%
Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage	16,815	16%
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases	15,320	14%
Fractures	11,765	11%
Mental disorders	8,095	8%
Other injuries**	3,435	3%
Digestive system diseases	2,070	2%
Intracranial injuries	1,795	2%
Burn	1,685	2%
Nervous system and sense organ diseases	1,105	1%
Total***	107,335	100%

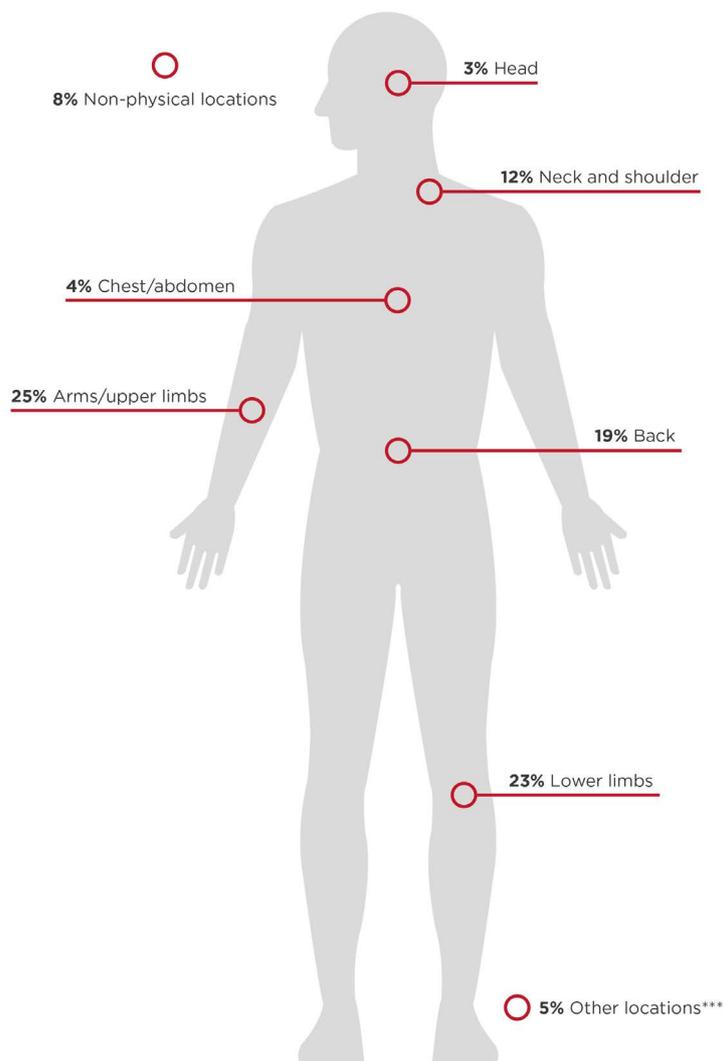
*preliminary data subject to revision in subsequent years as further claims are finalised.

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

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



Serious claims by bodily location of injury, 2017-18p*



Body location of injury/disease	Serious claims	Per cent
Arms/upper limbs	26,420	25%
Lower limbs	25,040	23%
Back	19,880	19%
Neck and shoulder	13,090	12%
Non physical locations	8,090	8%
Other locations***	4,970	5%
Chest/abdomen	4,610	4%
Head	3,565	3%
Total**	107,335	100%

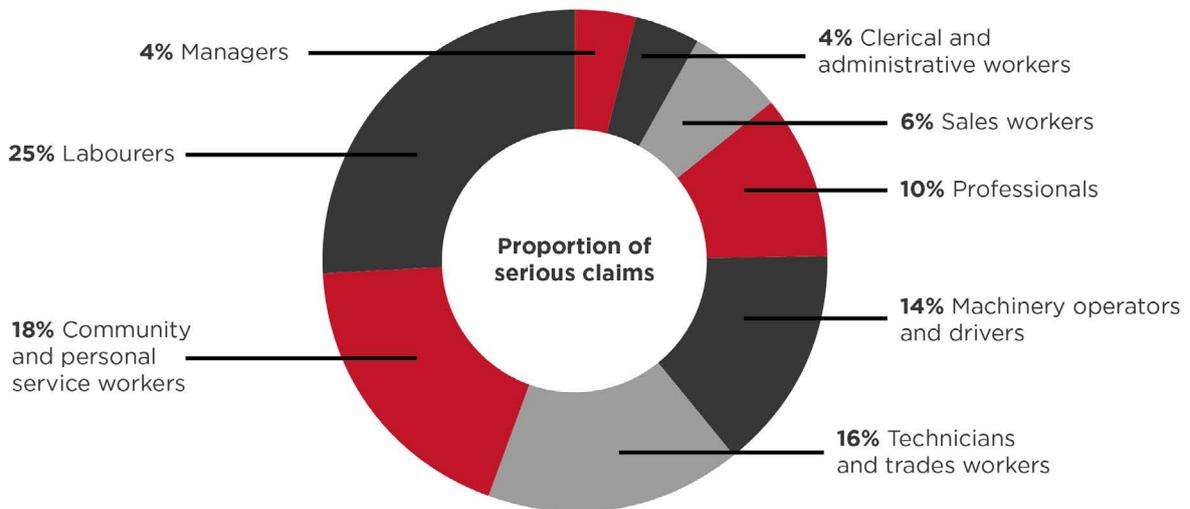
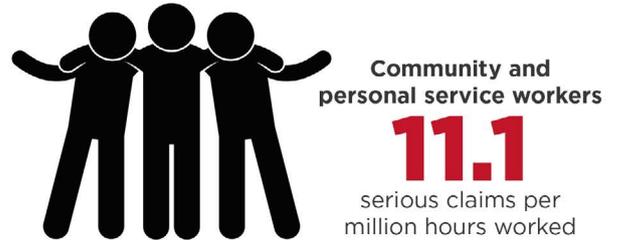
*preliminary data subject to revision in subsequent years as further claims are finalised.

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

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



Serious claims by occupation, 2017-18p*



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



Serious claims by occupation, 2017-18p*

Occupation	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Labourers	27,140	16.8	24.1
Community and personal service workers	18,895	11.1	14.1
Machinery operators and drivers	15,280	10.4	20.3
Technicians and trades workers	17,330	5.9	11.3
Sales workers	6,390	4.3	5.6
Professionals	10,960	2.2	3.8
Clerical and administrative workers	4,355	1.7	2.7
Managers	4,405	1.6	3.2
Total**	107,335	5.5	9.1

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

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

Key WHS statistics Australia 2019

Work-related injury and disease



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Serious claims by industry, 2017-18p*



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

8.6

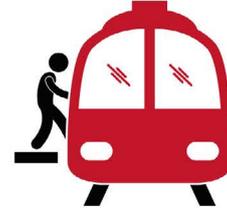
serious claims per million hours worked



Manufacturing

8.1

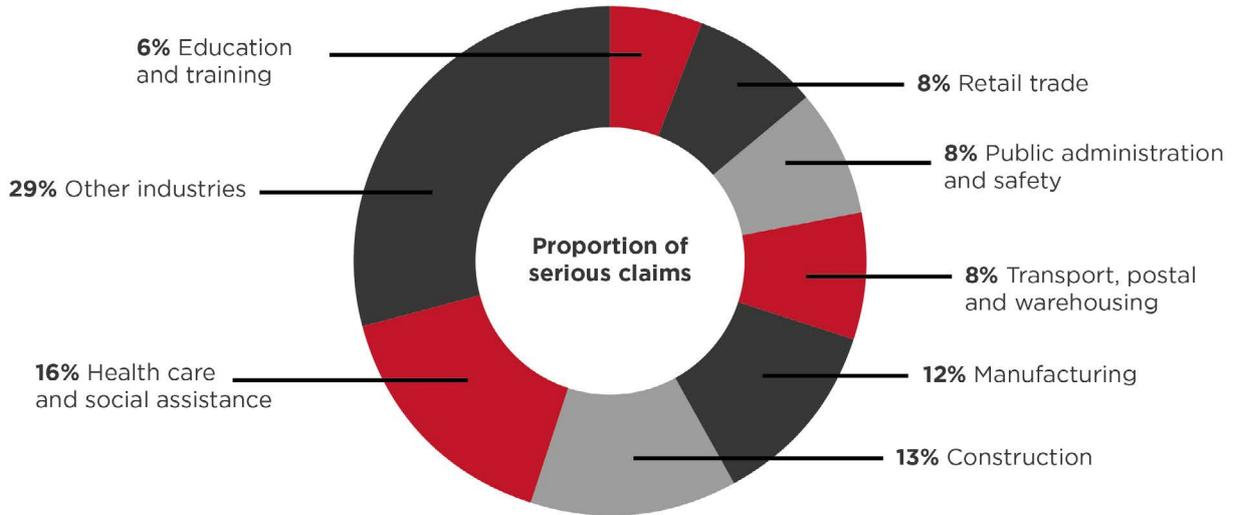
serious claims per million hours worked



Transport, postal and warehousing

7.7

serious claims per million hours worked



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

**'Other industries' includes all other industries excluding the top seven industries by number of serious claims.

Key WHS statistics Australia 2019

Work-related injury and disease



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Serious claims by industry, 2017-18p*

Industry	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,560	8.6	16.7
Manufacturing	12,925	8.1	15.2
Transport, postal and warehousing	8,515	7.7	14.7
Construction	13,855	7.5	15.0
Health care and social assistance	17,345	7.2	10.5
Wholesale trade	4,660	7.0	13.2
Arts and recreation services	2,120	6.8	8.6
Administrative and support services	4,880	6.8	10.8
Public administration and safety	8,305	6.6	11.0
Accommodation and food services	5,985	5.3	6.6
Retail trade	8,190	4.6	6.4
Mining	2,140	4.3	9.7
Other services	2,890	4.2	7.1
Education and training	6,685	4.2	6.4
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1,120	3.9	7.6
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1,050	2.9	5.1
Information media and telecommunications	470	1.3	2.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,905	1.1	2.0
Financial and insurance services	655	0.9	1.5
Total**	107,335	5.5	9.1

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

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

Key WHS statistics Australia 2019

Costs of work-related injuries and diseases



Work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths impose both direct costs and indirect costs on employers, workers and the community. The costs are estimated using a methodology developed by the former National Occupational Health and Safety Commission. The most recent figures available are for 2012-13.

Costs of work-related injuries and diseases

Costs of work-related injuries and diseases	2000-01	2005-06	2008-09	2012-13
Total estimated cost (billion)	\$34.3	\$57.5	\$60.6	\$61.8
Estimated cost as a percentage of GDP	5.0%	5.9%	4.8%	4.1%
Percentage of cost borne by employers	3%	4%	5%	5%
Percentage of cost borne by workers	44%	49%	74%	77%
Percentage of cost borne by community	53%	47%	21%	18%

Cost of work-related injuries and diseases by severity

