

Key work health and safety statistics Queensland 2022

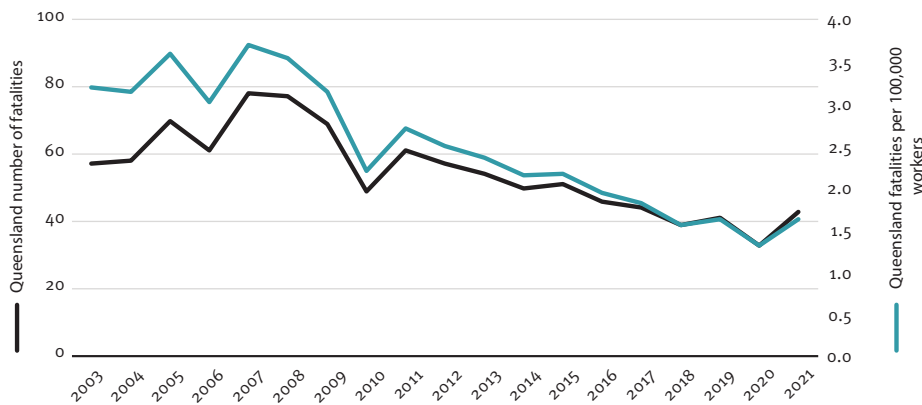
Work-related injury fatalities

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 report presents a summary of Queensland results from this dataset, based on Safe Work Australia’s Key Work Health Safety (WHS) Statistics report and results for Australia. The national data set includes a range of information sources, such as:

- 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
- the National Coronial Information System which provides confidential access to coroners’, police and other investigative reports.

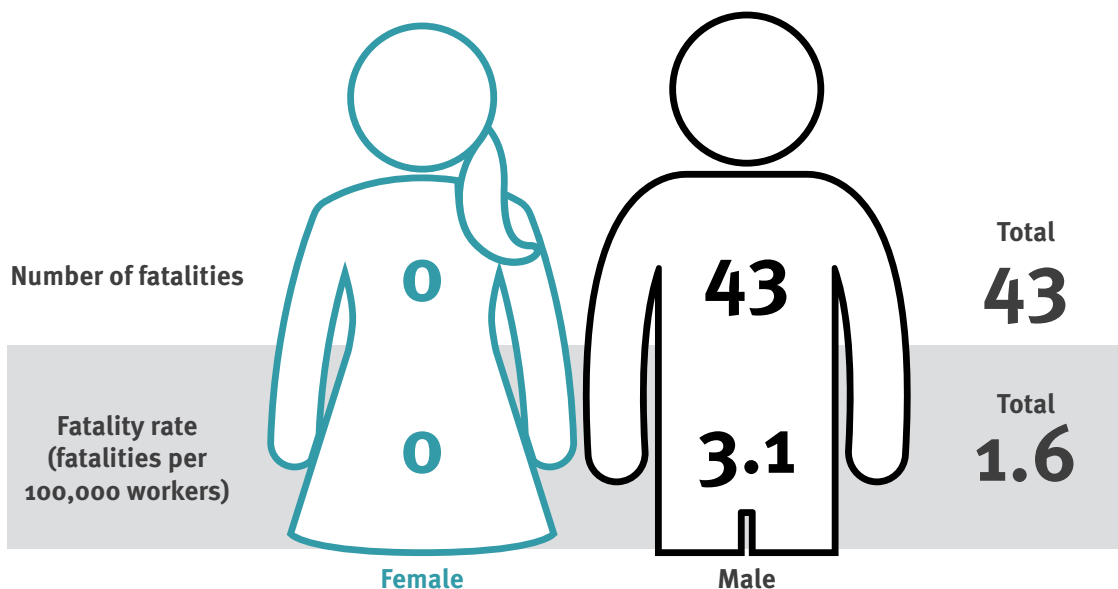
Work-related fatalities resulting from diseases, natural causes and suicides are excluded. Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [Explanatory notes for Safe Work Australia datasets](#).

Trends in worker fatalities, 2003 to 2021



Queensland's fatality rate decreased by 56% from the peak in 2007

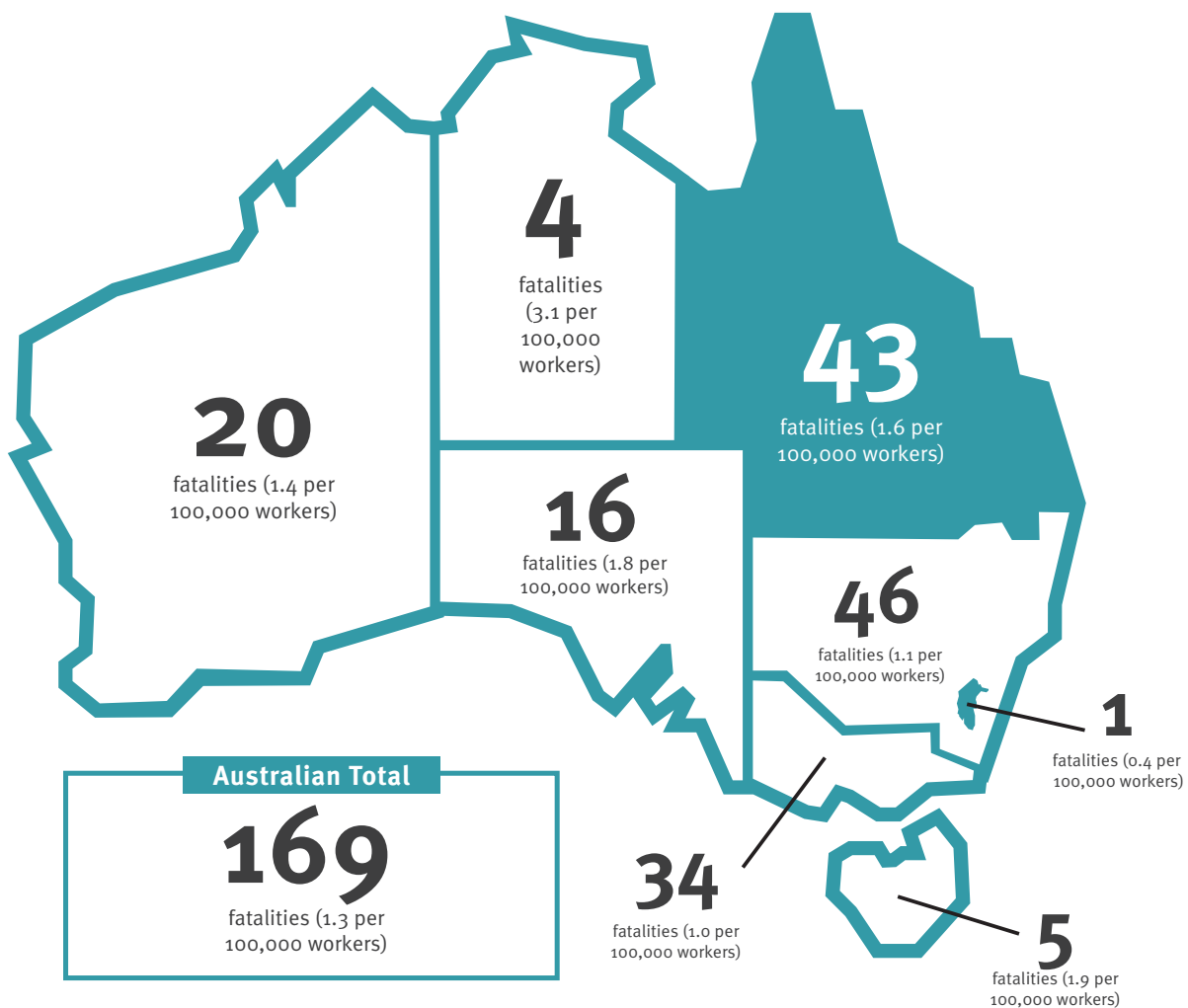
Worker fatalities by gender, 2021



Worker fatalities by age group, 2021

Age group (years)	Queensland number of fatalities	Queensland fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
under 25	4	0.9
25-34	8	1.3
35-44	6	1.1
45-54	9	1.6
55-64	11	2.9
65 and over	5	5.3
Total	43	1.6

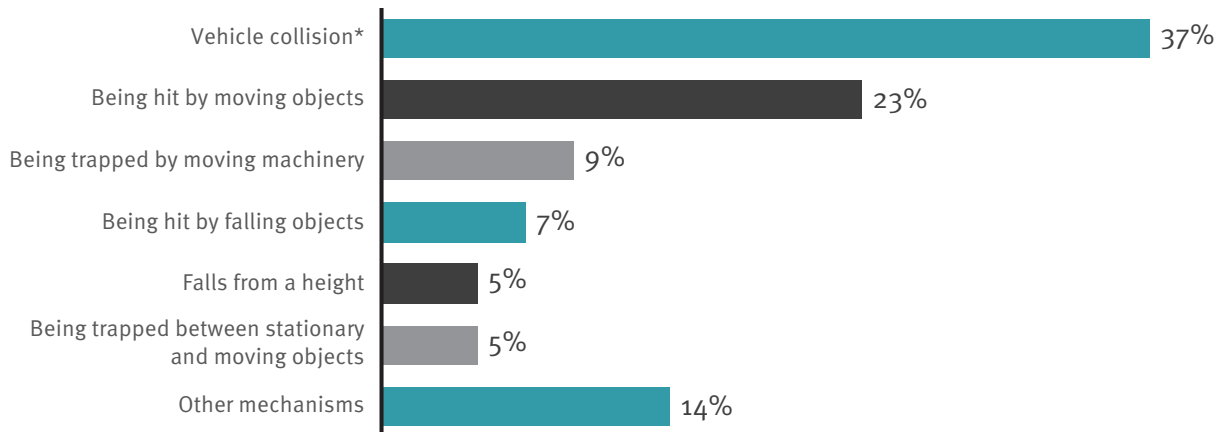
Worker fatality by state/territory, 2021*



* 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

Worker fatalities by mechanism of incident, 2021



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

Work-related injury fatalities by mechanism of fatal injury, 2021	Queensland number of fatalities	Queensland proportion of injury fatalities
Vehicle collision*	16	37%
Being hit by moving objects	10	23%
Being trapped by moving machinery	4	9%
Being hit by falling objects	3	7%
Falls from a height	2	5%
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	2	5%
Other mechanisms	6	14%
Total	43	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

Worker fatalities by occupation, 2021



Machinery operators and drivers

8.8

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Labourers

3.1

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Community and personal service workers

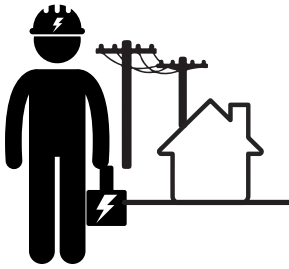
1.6

fatalities per 100,000 workers

Work-related injury fatalities by occupation, 2021	Queensland number of fatalities	Queensland fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Machinery operators and drivers	17	8.8
Labourers	8	3.1
Community and personal service workers	5	1.6
Technicians and trades workers	6	1.6
Managers	5	1.5
Sales workers	1	0.4
Professionals	1	0.2
Clerical and administrative workers	0	0
Total	43	1.6

Work-related injury fatalities

Worker fatalities by industry, 2021



Electricity, gas, water and waste services

10.1

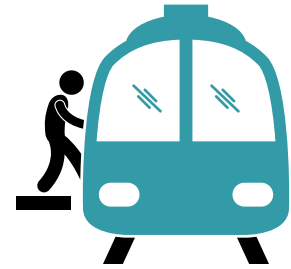
fatalities per 100,000 workers



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

9.6

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Transport, postal and warehousing

7.4

fatalities per 100,000 workers

Work-related injury fatalities by industry, 2021	Queensland number of fatalities	Queensland fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	3	10.1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	7	9.6
Transport, postal and warehousing	10	7.4
Manufacturing	6	3.2
Mining	2	2.6
Administrative and support services	2	2.5
Construction	5	2.1
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1	1.9
Public administration and safety	3	1.8
Education and training	2	0.9
Other services	1	0.9
Health care and social assistance	1	0.3
Information media and telecommunications	0	0.0
Wholesale trade	0	0.0
Arts and recreation services	0	0.0
Accommodation and food services	0	0.0
Retail trade	0	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	0	0.0
Financial and insurance services	0	0.0
Total	43	1.6

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 Queensland serious claims only. Serious claims relate to where the compensated injury or disease resulted in one week or more off work, excluding fatalities and journey claims. Data for 2020–21 is preliminary (denoted by a 'p') and therefore is subject to revision in subsequent years as further claims are finalised. Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [Explanatory notes for Safe Work Australia datasets](#).

Serious claims statistics, 2020-21p*



Total of

32,262

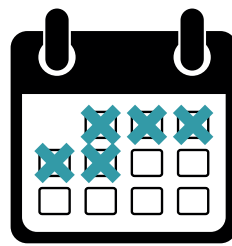
serious claims



Frequency rate of

8.2

serious claims per million hours worked



Median time lost

6.2

weeks per serious claim

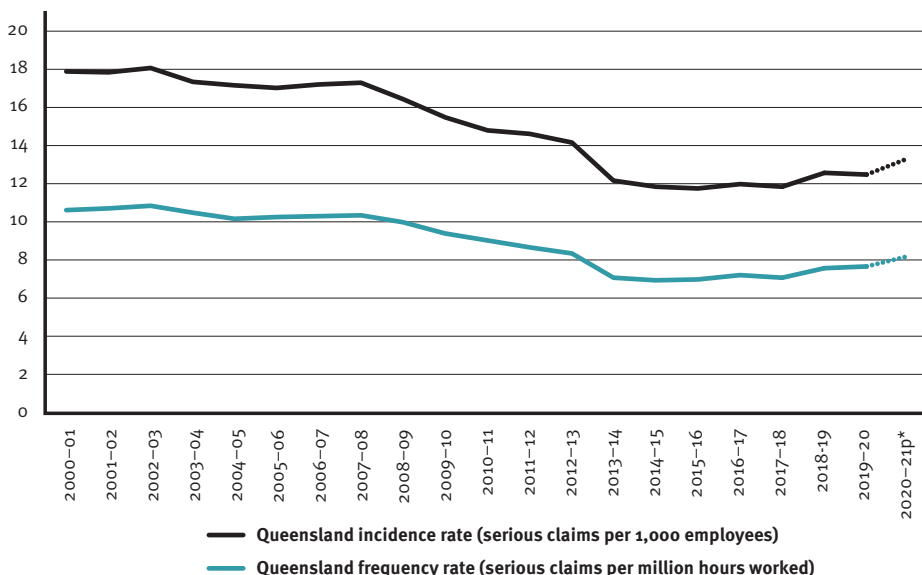


Median compensation paid**

\$11,300

per serious claim

Serious claim rate, 2000–01 to 2020–21p*

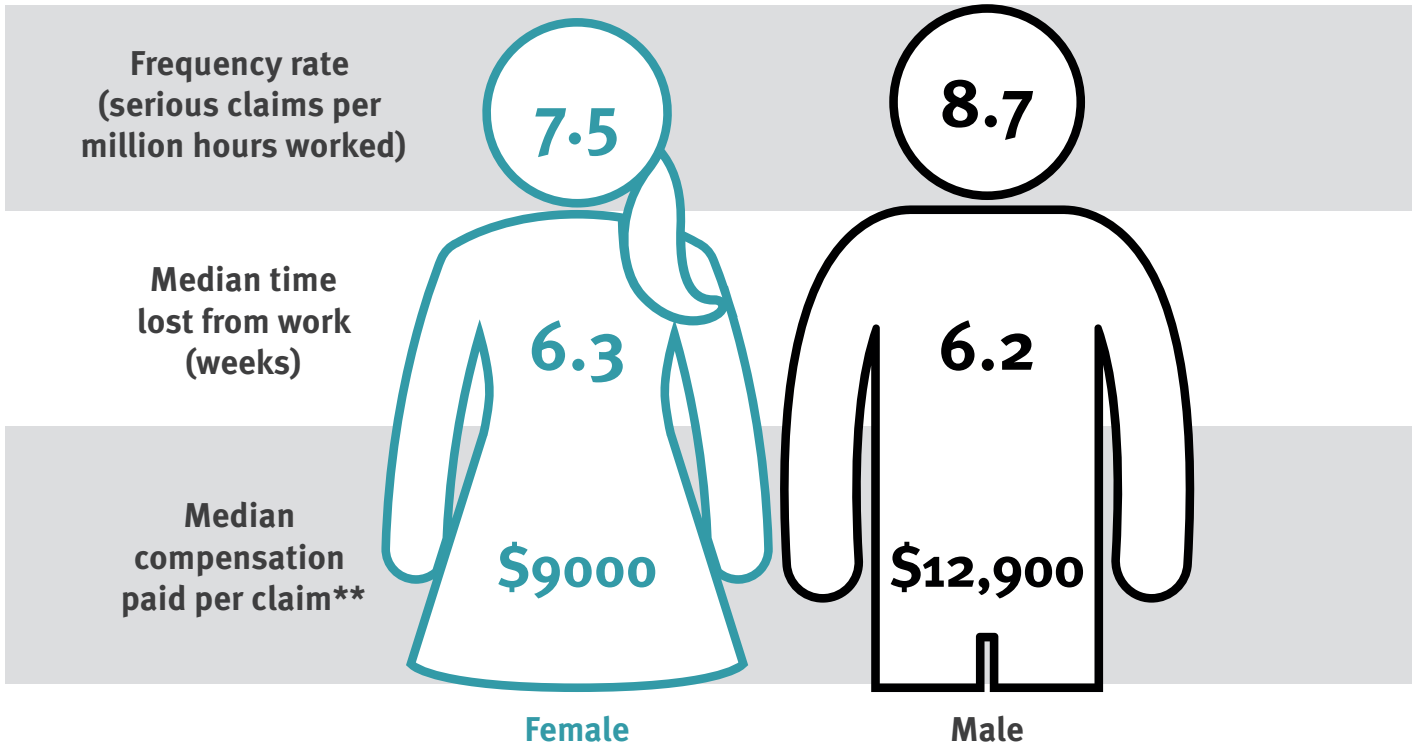


The Queensland serious claim frequency rate **dropped by 15%** from 2010–11 to 2019–20

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

**The median includes serious claims where the payment made was greater than zero.

Serious claims by gender, 2020–21p*



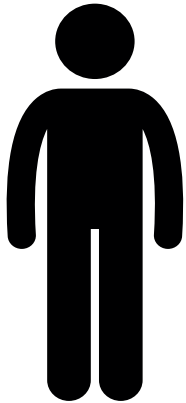
Gender	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees)
Queensland female	12,814	7.5	10.7
Queensland male	19,377	8.7	15.9
Queensland total***	32,262	8.2	13.3

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

**The median includes serious claims where the payment made was greater than zero.

***The totals include serious claims where gender was not collected or is unknown.

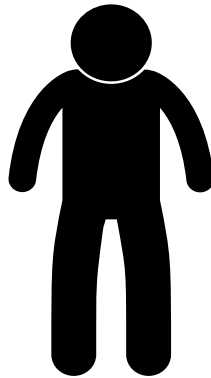
Serious claims by age group, 2020–21p*



Workers aged 40-44 years had the lowest claim rate of

7

claims per million hours worked



Workers aged 60-64 years had the highest claim rate of

10.3

claims per million hours worked

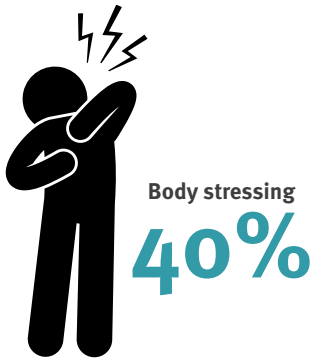
Age group (years)	Number of serious claims	Queensland frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Queensland incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees)
Under 20	1249	8.2	7.3
20-24	3138	8.7	12.9
25-29	3549	7.8	13.0
30-34	3440	7.5	12.7
35-39	3319	7.2	12.4
40-44	3136	7.0	12.5
45-49	3852	8.2	14.8
50-54	3846	9.0	15.9
55-59	3411	9.5	16.1
60-64	2362	10.3	16.7
65 and over	960	8.3	11.2
Total	32,262	8.2	13.3

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

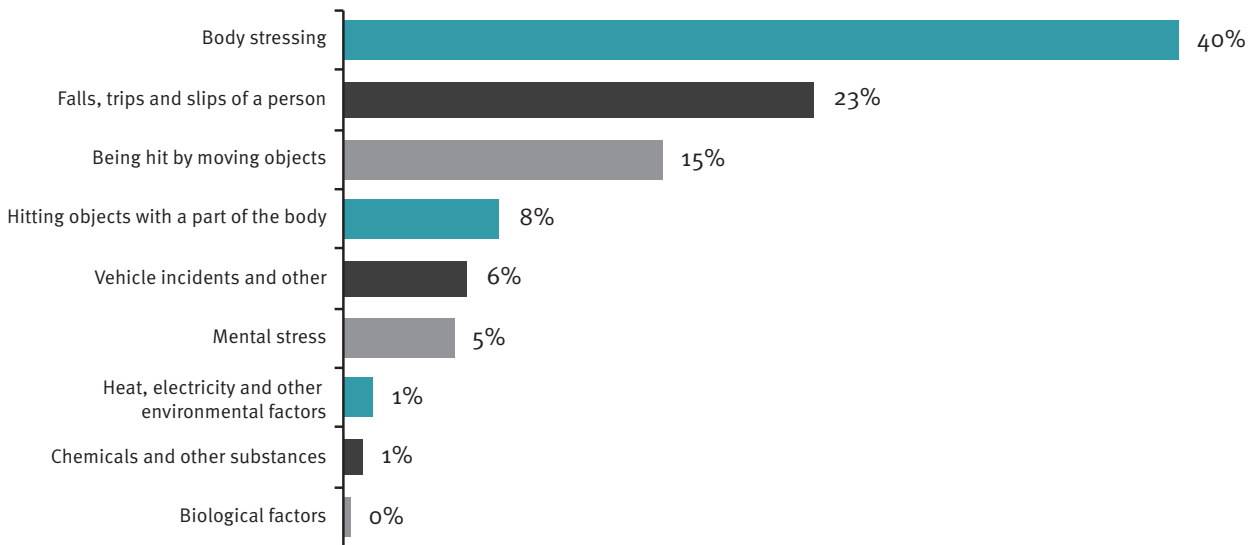
**The 65 and over age group had a frequency rate of 8.3 claims per million hours worked in Queensland, however rates are likely to be understated due to retirement choices.

Work-related injury and disease

Serious claims by mechanism of incident, 2020–21p*



Falls, trips and
slips of a person
23%



Mechanism of incident	Queensland number of serious claims			Proportion of serious claims**		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Body stressing	5238	7777	13,045	41%	40%	40%
Falls, trips and slips of a person	3344	4003	7358	26%	21%	23%
Being hit by moving objects	1559	3404	4969	12%	18%	15%
Hitting objects with a part of the body	645	1777	2435	5%	9%	8%
Vehicle incidents and other***	711	1207	1924	6%	6%	6%
Mental stress	999	700	1700	8%	4%	5%
Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	166	269	438	1%	1%	1%
Chemicals and other substances	108	167	276	1%	1%	1%
Biological factors	31	48	79	0%	0%	0%
Sound and pressure	13	25	38	0%	0%	0%
Total****	12,814	19,377	32,262	100%	100%	100%

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

**Percentages are rounded to the nearest decimal place and may not sum to total.

***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.

****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.

Work-related injury and disease

Serious claims by nature of injury/disease, 2020–21p*



Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury

48%



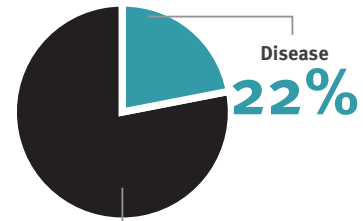
Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage

13%



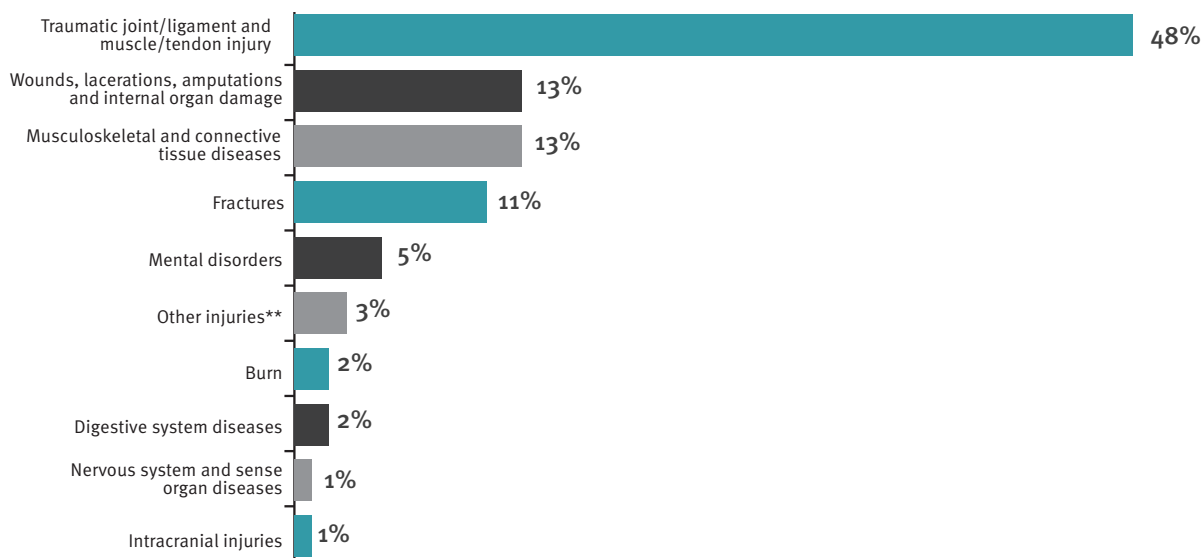
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases

13%



Injury
78%

Disease
22%



Nature of injury/disease	Queensland number of serious claims			Proportion of serious claims**		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury	6565	9042	15,641	51%	47%	48%
Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage	1028	3124	4163	8%	16%	13%
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases	1891	2224	4124	15%	11%	13%
Fractures	1235	2229	3470	10%	12%	11%
Mental disorders	1004	754	1759	8%	4%	5%
Other injuries***	352	606	959	3%	3%	3%
Burn	189	322	515	1%	2%	2%
Digestive system diseases	26	479	506	0%	2%	2%
Nervous system and sense organ diseases	211	185	397	2%	1%	1%
Intracranial injuries	109	130	240	1%	1%	1%
Total****	12,814	19,377	32,262	100%	100%	100%

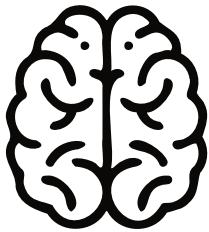
*Preliminary data subject to revision in subsequent years as further claims are finalised.

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

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

****Percentages are rounded to the nearest decimal place and may not sum to total.

Mental health conditions, 2020–21p*



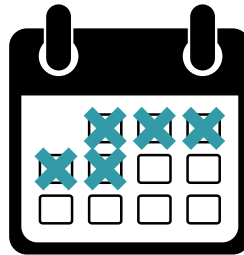
1759

Serious claims for mental health conditions



5.5%

Proportion of all serious claims due to mental health conditions



Median time lost

24

weeks per serious claim



Median compensation paid**

\$37,418

per serious claim

Mental health conditions account for a relatively small but increasing proportion of serious claims, rising from **3%** of all serious claims in 2014–15 to **5%** in 2020–21p.

In 2020–21, the largest share related to anxiety or stress disorders (**53%**) or post-traumatic stress disorder (**22%**).

Workplace mental health conditions are one of the costliest forms of workplace injury. Our data shows that they lead to significantly more time off work and higher compensation paid when compared to physical injuries and diseases.

In 2019–20:

- The median time lost for mental health conditions was **24 working weeks** per serious claim, compared to **6 working weeks** per serious claim for physical injuries and diseases.
- The median compensation paid was **\$37,418** per serious claim, compared to **\$8351** for physical injuries and diseases.
- The median time lost (in working weeks) for mental health conditions has increased markedly in recent years, from **16.2 working weeks** in 2015–16 to **24 working weeks** in 2019–20.

COVID-19 claim figures*** are as follows:



In 2020–21p

10

Workers' compensation claims for COVID-19 were accepted

Of these claims



40%

Women



60%

Men



40%

workers aged 35–44 years lodged the highest proportion of claims



80%

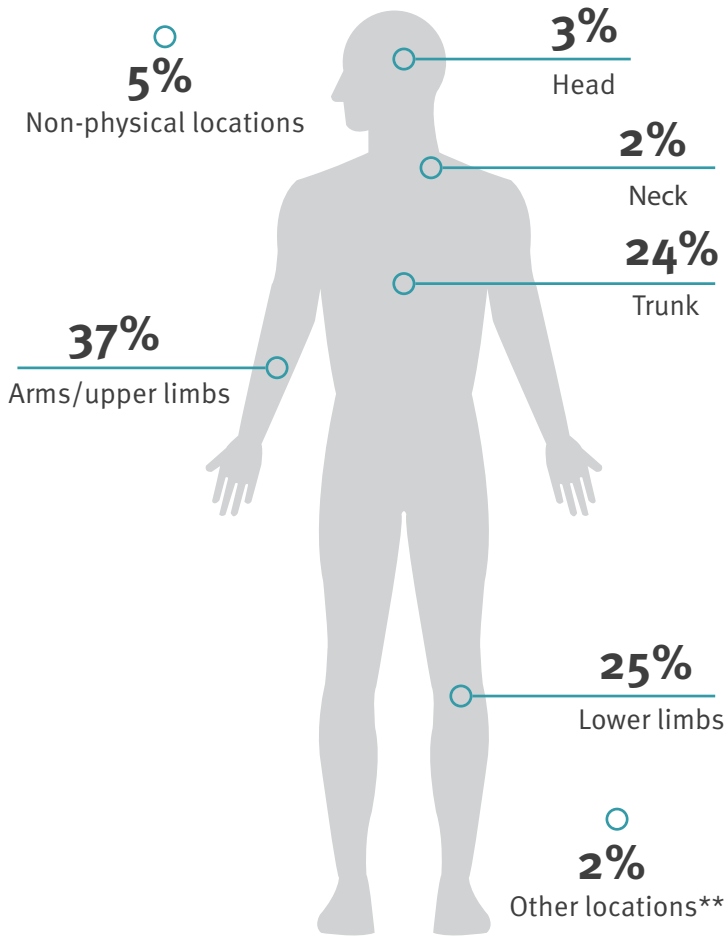
Health care and social assistance, and Public administration and safety had the highest proportion of claims (40% each).

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

**The median includes serious claims where the payment made was greater than zero.

***The COVID-19 workers' compensation claims data need to be interpreted carefully in the context of the reference period for this data, the difficulty in establishing a work connection to transmission of the virus and the possibility that workers with COVID-19 may not have applied for compensation and instead used personal leave.

Serious claims by bodily location of injury, 2020–21p*



Body location of injury/disease	Number of serious claims	Proportion of serious claims***
Upper limbs	12,081	37%
Lower limbs	7,931	25%
Trunk	7,748	24%
Non-physical locations	1,759	5%
Head	1,050	3%
Multiple locations	693	2%
Neck	678	2%
Systemic locations	86	0%
Total****	32,262	100%

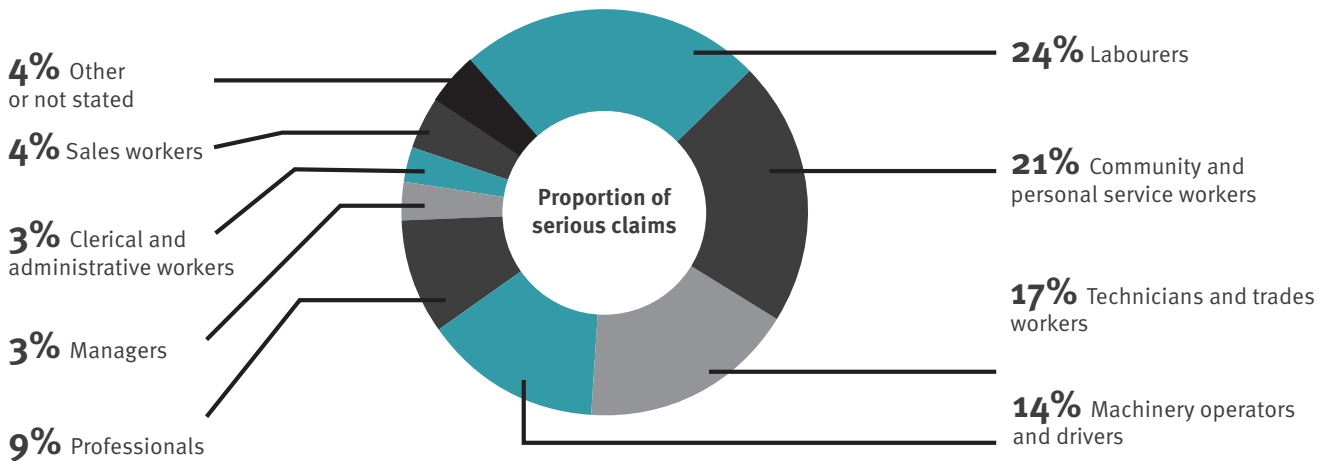
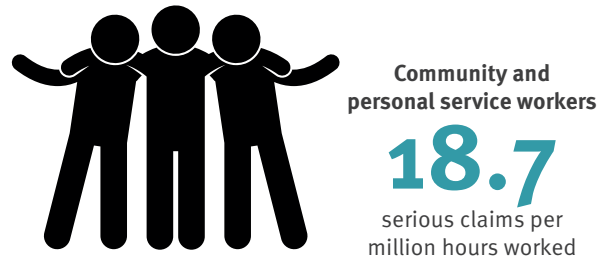
*Preliminary data subject to revision in subsequent years as further claims are finalised. Order of results is based on national results.

**Other locations include multiple locations and systemic locations.

***Claims where the bodily location was unknown are not included separately but are included in the total.

****Percentages are rounded to the nearest decimal place and may not sum to total.

Serious claims by occupation, 2020–21p*



Serious claims by occupation, 2020–21p*

Occupation	Number of serious claims	Queensland frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Queensland incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Labourers	7826	23.0	32.8
Community and personal service workers	6724	18.7	24.0
Technicians and trades workers	5529	9.0	17.1
Machinery operators and drivers	4637	14.3	27.5
Professionals	2874	3.1	5.2
Other or not stated	1392	n/a	n/a
Sales workers	1357	4.8	5.9
Clerical and administrative workers	973	1.8	2.8
Managers	950	1.7	3.4
Total**	32,262	8.2	13.3

*Preliminary data subject to revision in subsequent years as further claims are finalised. Order of results is based on national results.

**Claims where the occupation was unknown are not included separately but are included in the total.

Serious claims by industry, 2020–21p*



Administrative and support services**

20

serious claims per million hours worked



Health care and social assistance

12

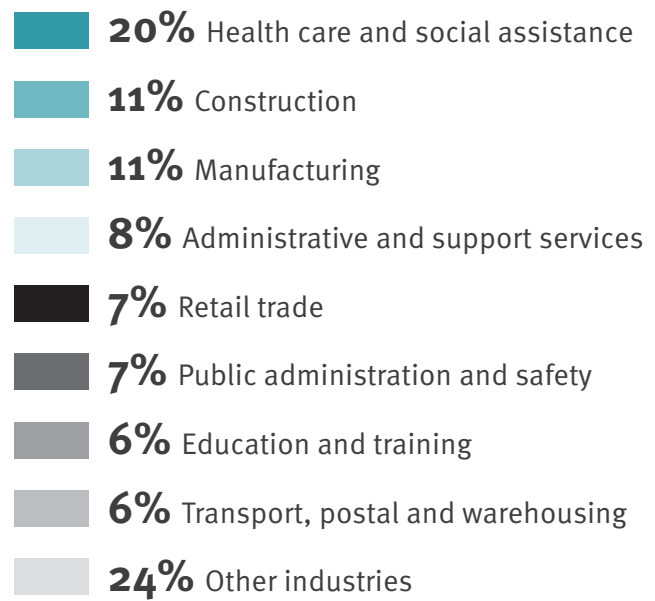
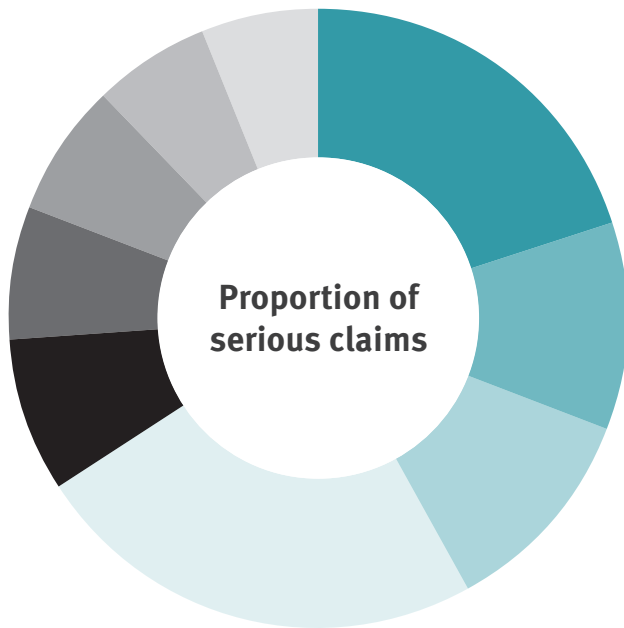
serious claims per million hours worked



Agriculture

11.6

serious claims per million hours worked



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

**The Administrative and support services industry includes labour hire workers. For example, some construction workers.

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

Serious claims by industry, 2020–21p*

Industry	Number of serious claims	Queensland frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Queensland incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees)
Administrative and support services	2522	20.0	31.8
Manufacturing	3567	11.3	21.3
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1157	11.6	20.8
Construction	3650	9.9	19.2
Health care and social assistance	6575	12.0	17.5
Transport, postal and warehousing	1972	8.9	16.4
Wholesale trade	1202	8.7	16.0
Public administration and safety	2359	9.5	15.7
Accommodation and food services	1932	9.1	10.4
Other services	835	6.1	10.3
Arts and recreation services	427	7.7	9.8
Education and training	2059	6.3	9.5
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	266	4.7	9.3
Retail trade	2262	6.4	8.6
Mining	528	3.4	7.3
Rental, hiring and real estate services	300	3.7	6.6
Information media and telecommunications	92	2.1	3.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	404	1.3	2.4
Financial and insurance services	82	0.6	1.1
Total**	32,262	8.2	13.3

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

**Claims where the industry was unknown are not included separately but are included in the total.