

Key work health and safety statistics Queensland 2021

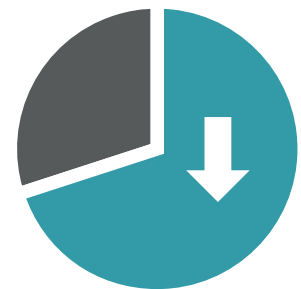
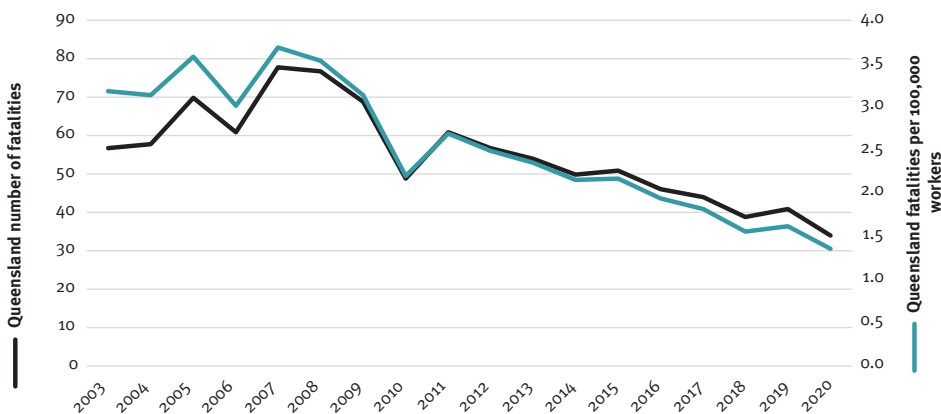
Work-related injury fatalities

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 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.

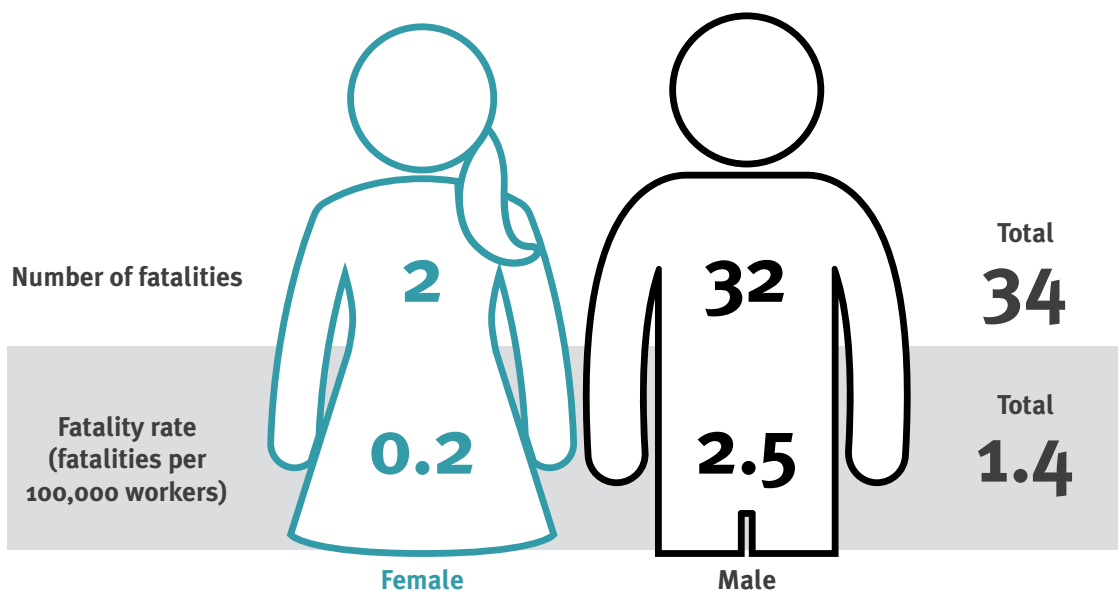
Work-related fatalities resulting from diseases, natural causes and suicides are excluded. Further explanatory notes on the data can be found in the [Explanatory notes for Safe Work Australia datasets](#).

Trends in worker fatalities, 2003 to 2020



Queensland's fatality rate **decreased by 63%** from the peak in 2007

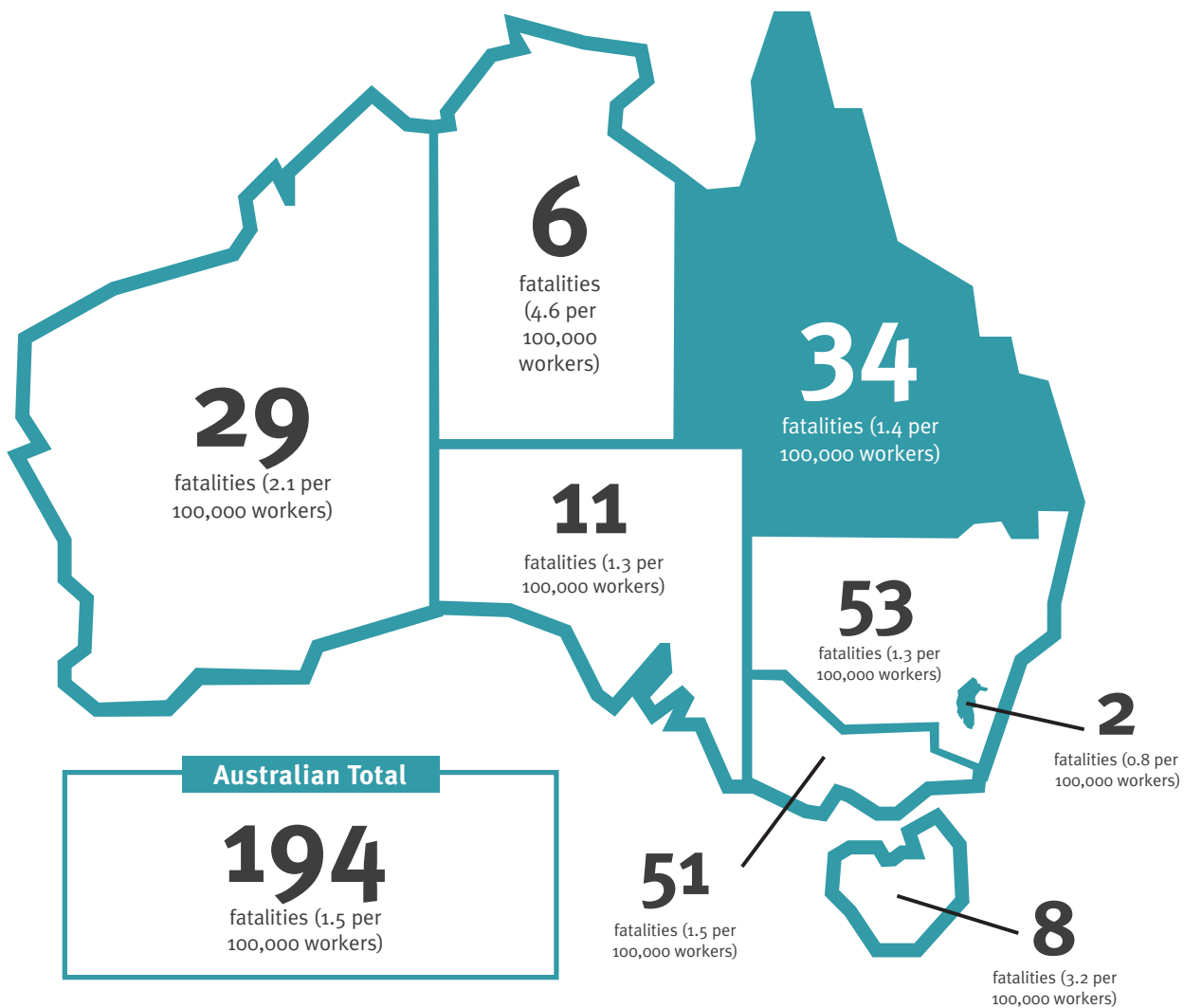
Worker fatalities by gender, 2020



Worker fatalities by age group, 2020

Age group (years)	Queensland number of fatalities	Queensland fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
under 25	1	0.2
25-34	3	0.5
35-44	5	0.9
45-54	6	1.2
55-64	15	4.2
65 and over	4	4.7
Total	34	1.4

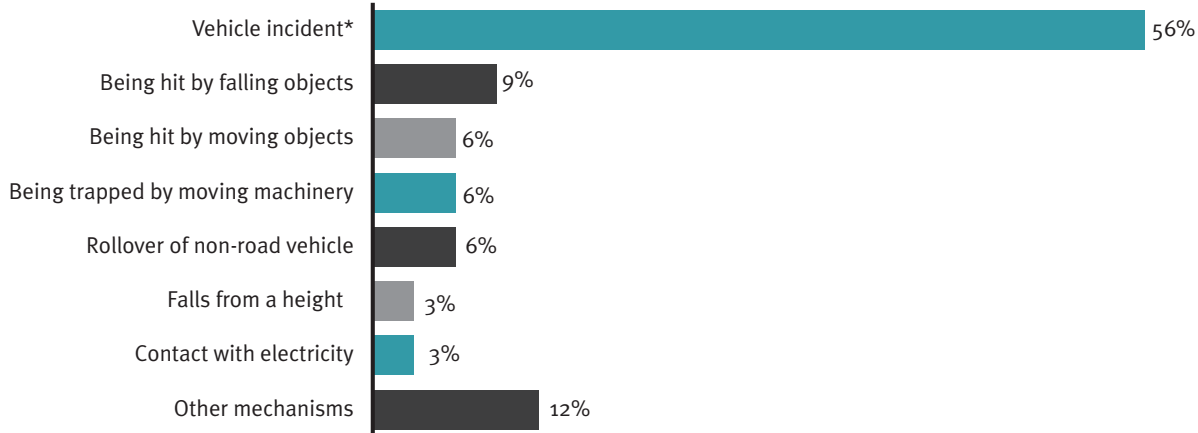
Worker fatality by state/territory, 2020*



* 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, 2020



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, 2020	Queensland number of fatalities	Queensland proportion of injury fatalities
Vehicle incident*	19	56%
Being hit by falling objects	3	9%
Being hit by moving objects	2	6%
Being trapped by moving machinery	2	6%
Rollover of non-road vehicle	2	6%
Falls from a height	1	3%
Contact with electricity	1	3%
Other mechanisms	4	12%
Total	34	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, 2020



Machinery operators and drivers

5.8

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Labourers

3.7

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Technicians and Trades Workers

1.7

fatalities per 100,000 workers

Work-related injury fatalities by occupation, 2020	Queensland number of fatalities	Queensland fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Machinery operators and drivers	10	5.8
Labourers	10	3.7
Technicians and trades workers	6	1.7
Managers	5	1.6
Community and personal service workers	1	0.4
Clerical and administrative workers	1	0.3
Professionals	1	0.2
Sales workers	0	0.0
Total	34	1.4

Work-related injury fatalities

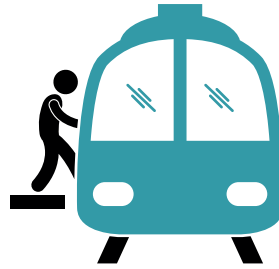
Worker fatalities by industry, 2020



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

12.2

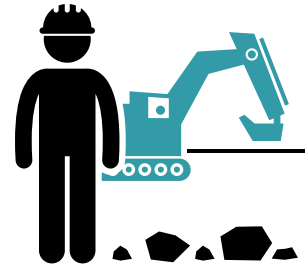
fatalities per 100,000 workers



Transport, postal and warehousing

7.9

fatalities per 100,000 workers



Electricity, gas, water and waste services

3.5

fatalities per 100,000 workers

Work-related injury fatalities by industry, 2020	Queensland number of fatalities	Queensland fatality rate (fatalities per 100,000 workers)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	11	12.2
Transport, postal and warehousing	10	7.9
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1	3.5
Administrative and support services	2	2.5
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1	2.0
Construction	4	1.7
Mining	1	1.5
Manufacturing	2	1.2
Accommodation and food services	1	0.6
Health care and social assistance	1	0.3
Public administration and safety	0	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	0	0.0
Other services	0	0.0
Education and training	0	0.0
Retail trade	0	0.0
Wholesale trade	0	0.0
Arts and recreation services	0	0.0
Financial and insurance services	0	0.0
Information media and telecommunications	0	0.0
Total	34	1.4

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. Data for 2019–20 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 statistics, 2019-20p*



Total of

28,732

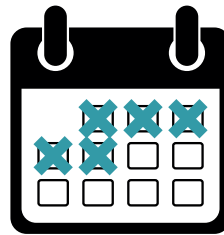
serious claims



Frequency rate of

7.6

serious claims per million hours worked



Median time lost

5.6

weeks per serious claim



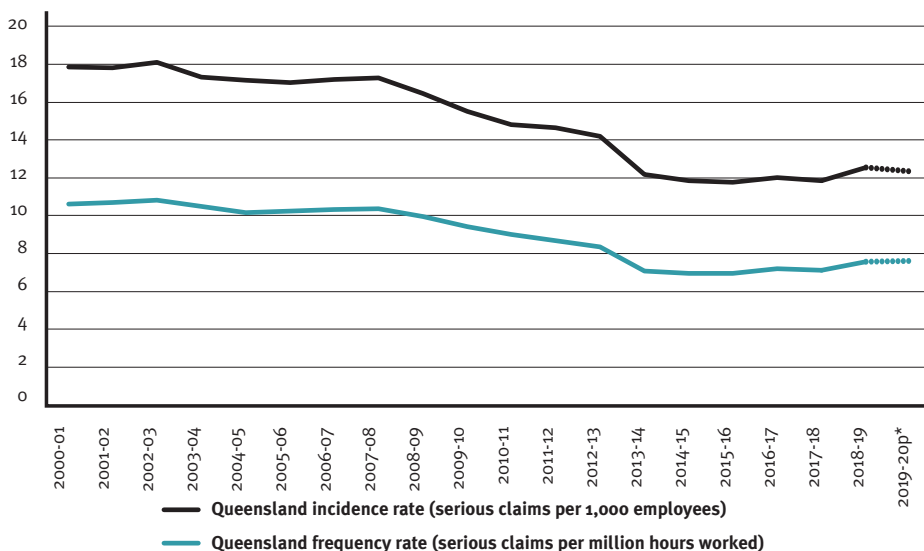
Median compensation paid

\$9,900

per serious claim

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

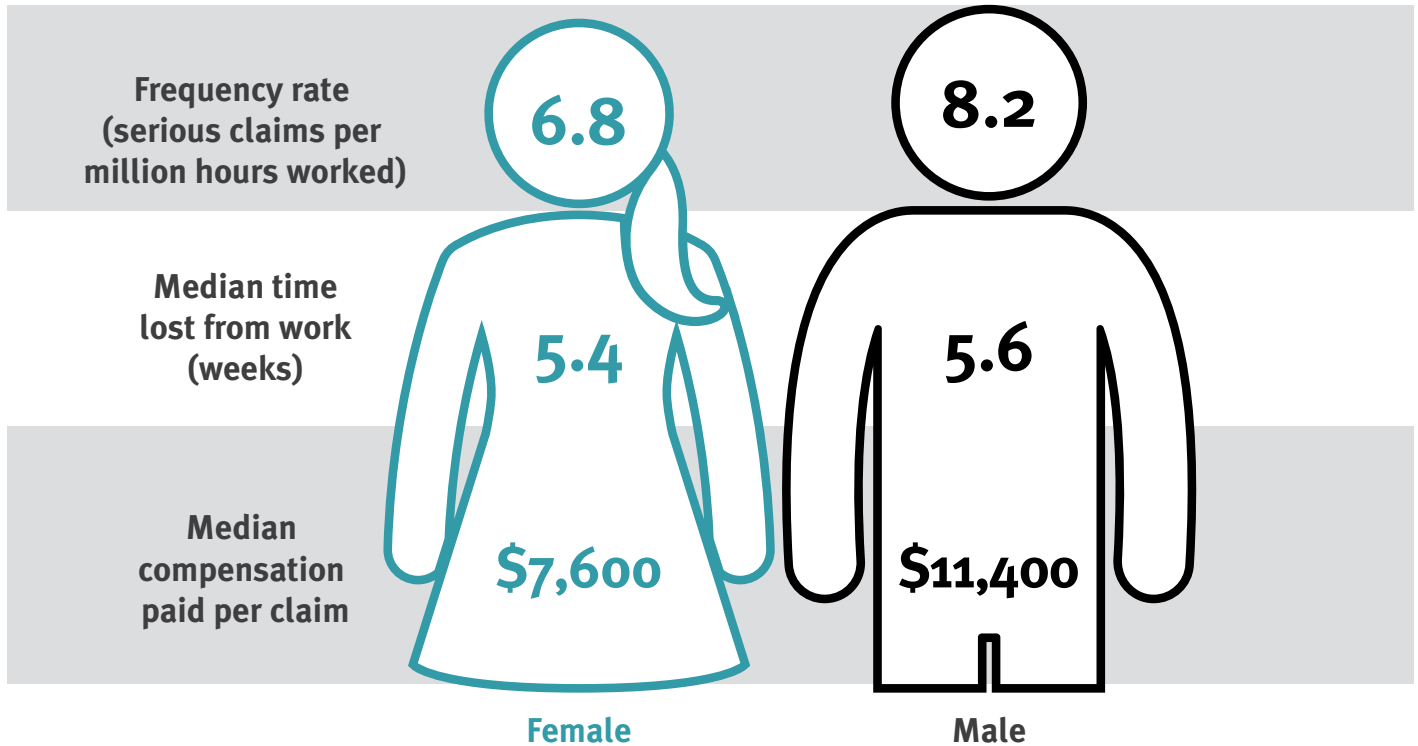
Serious claim rate, 2000–01 to 2019–20p*



The Queensland serious claim frequency rate **dropped by 19%** from 2009–10 to 2018–19

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

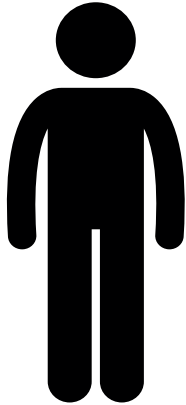
Serious claims by gender, 2019–20p*



Gender	Number of serious claims	Frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees)
Queensland female	11,000	6.8	9.6
Queensland male	17,660	8.2	15.0
Queensland total	28,730	7.6	12.4

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

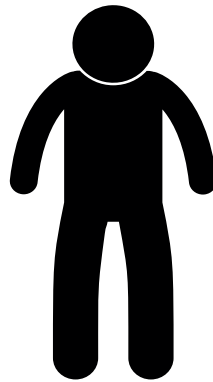
Serious claims by age group, 2019–20p*



Workers aged
35-39 years had
the lowest claim rate of

6.6

claims per million
hours worked



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

10.2

claims per million
hours worked

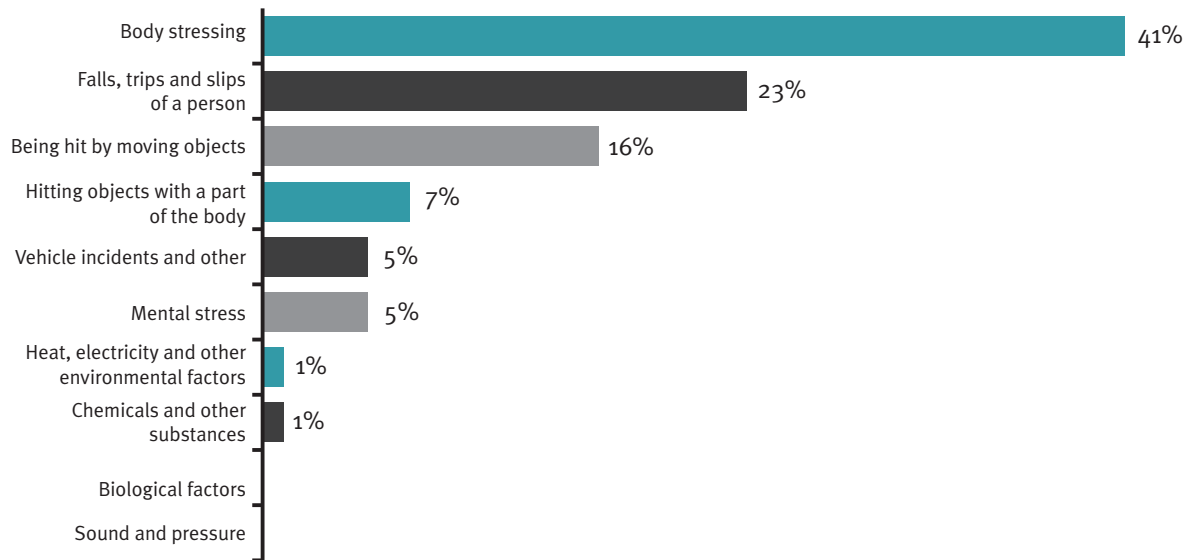
Age group (years)	Number of serious claims	Queensland frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Queensland incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Under 20	1,056	7.5	7.0
20-24	2,872	8.3	12.2
25-29	3,233	6.8	11.6
30-34	3,032	6.6	11.0
35-39	2,895	6.6	11.5
40-44	2,960	7.0	12.4
45-49	3,352	7.2	12.9
50-54	3,404	8.7	15.3
55-59	3,097	9.3	15.6
60-64	2,082	10.2	15.8
65 and over	749	7.0	9.4
Total	28,732	7.6	12.4

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

**The 65 and over age group had a frequency rate of 7.4 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, 2019–20p*



Mechanism of incident	Queensland number of serious claims			Proportion of serious claims		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Body stressing	4,767	7,114	11,902	43%	40%	41%
Falls, trips and slips of a person	2,774	3,699	6,495	25%	21%	23%
Being hit by moving objects	1,346	3,184	4,546	12%	18%	16%
Hitting objects with a part of the body	463	1,618	2,089	4%	9%	7%
Vehicle incidents and other	530	958	1,489	5%	5%	5%
Mental stress	816	574	1,390	7%	3%	5%
Heat, electricity and other environmental factors	165	252	420	1%	1%	1%
Chemicals and other substances	94	166	260	1%	1%	1%
Biological factors	41	64	105	0%	0%	0%
Sound and pressure	6	30	36	0%	0%	0%
Total	11,002	17,659	28,732	100%	100%	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.

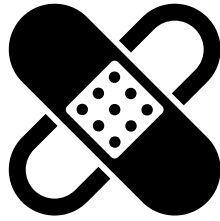
Work-related injury and disease

Serious claims by nature of injury/disease, 2019–20p*



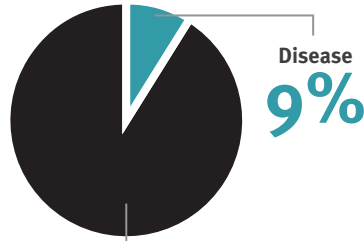
Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury

49%



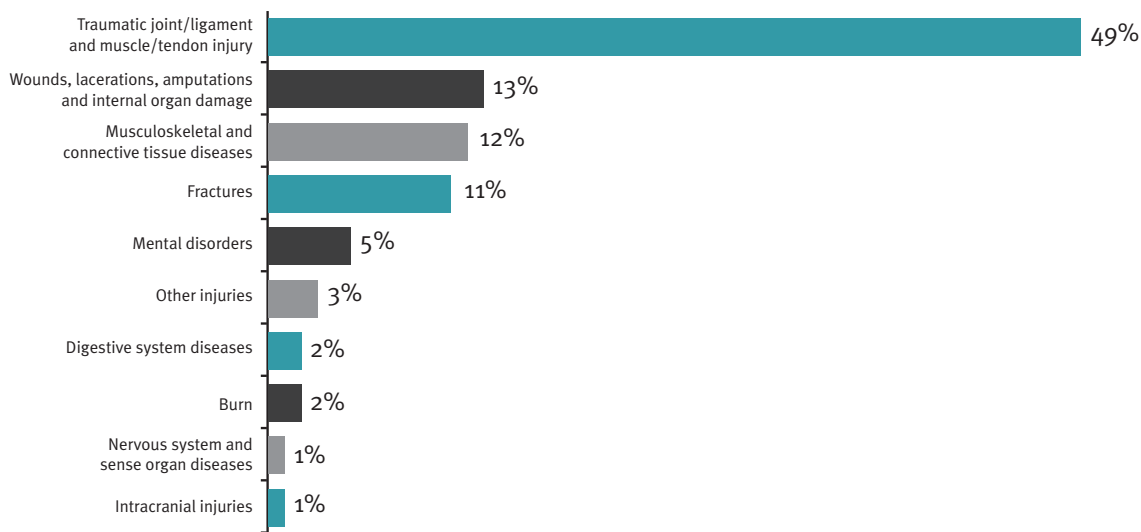
Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage

13%



Injury
91%

Disease
9%



Note: Order of injury is based on national results.

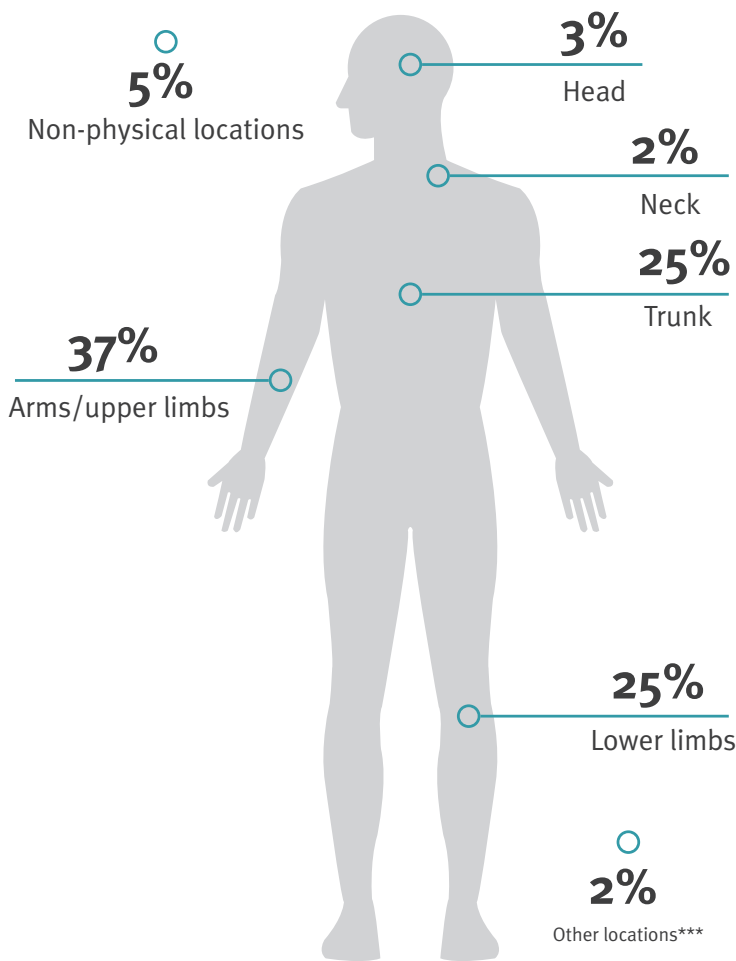
Nature of injury/disease	Queensland number of serious claims			Proportion of serious claims		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury	5,720	8,403	14,155	53%	48%	49%
Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage	861	2,982	3,858	8%	17%	13%
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases	1,538	1,824	3,371	14%	11%	12%
Fractures	1,034	2,038	3,082	10%	12%	11%
Mental disorders	823	595	1,418	8%	3%	5%
Other injuries	325	468	794	3%	3%	3%
Digestive system diseases	36	480	516	0%	3%	2%
Burn	172	303	478	2%	2%	2%
Nervous system and sense organ diseases	189	167	356	2%	1%	1%
Intracranial injuries	79	88	167	1%	1%	1%
Total	10,777	17,348	28,732	100%	100%	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 *nationally* are not included separately but are included in the total.

Serious claims by bodily location of injury, 2019–20p*



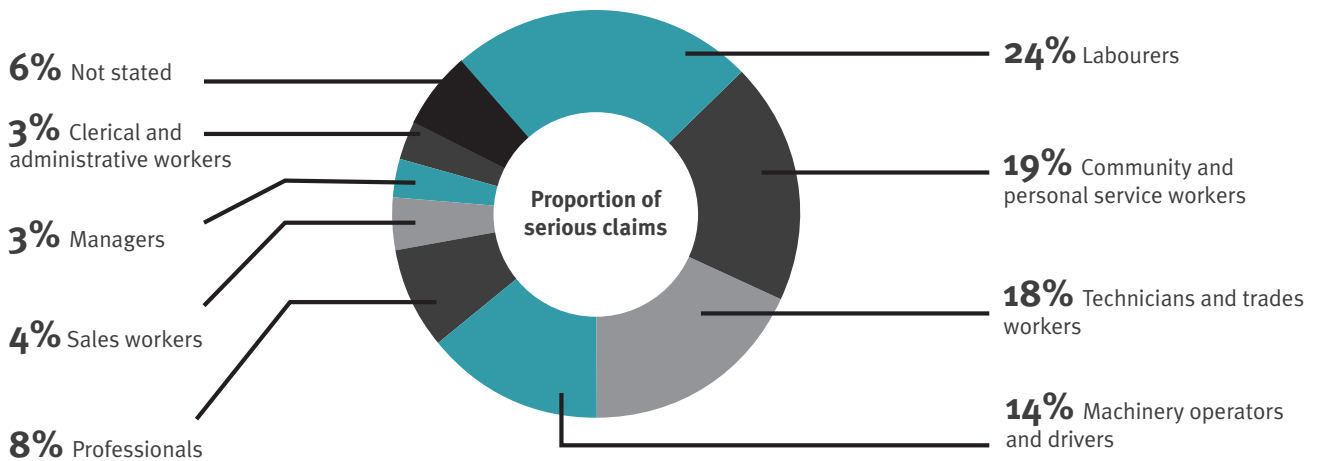
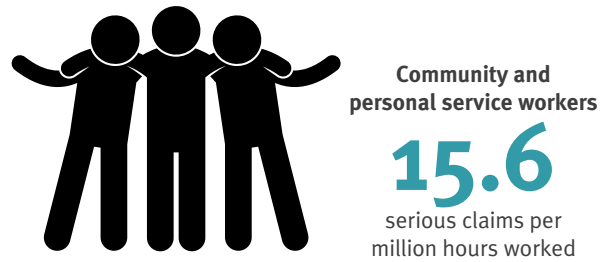
Body location of injury/disease	Number of serious claims	Proportion of serious claims
Upper limbs	10,699	37%
Trunk	7,186	25%
Lower limbs	7,129	25%
Non-physical locations	1,418	5%
Head	880	3%
Multiple locations	607	2%
Neck	588	2%
Total	28,732	100%

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

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

***Other locations include multiple locations and systemic locations.

Serious claims by occupation, 2019–20p*



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

Serious claims by occupation, 2019–20p*

Occupation	Number of serious claims	Queensland frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Queensland incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Labourers	6,889	20.3	28.9
Community and personal service workers	5,576	15.6	20.1
Technicians and trades workers	5,214	8.8	16.4
Machinery operators and drivers	4,148	13.2	25.1
Professionals	2,345	2.7	4.6
Sales workers	1,256	4.5	5.6
Clerical and administrative workers	868	1.8	2.7
Managers	837	1.5	3.2
Not stated	1,599	n/a	n/a
Total	28,732	7.6	12.4

*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.

Work-related injury and disease

Serious claims by industry, 2019–20p*



Administrative and support services**

14.7

serious claims per million hours worked



Manufacturing

11.8

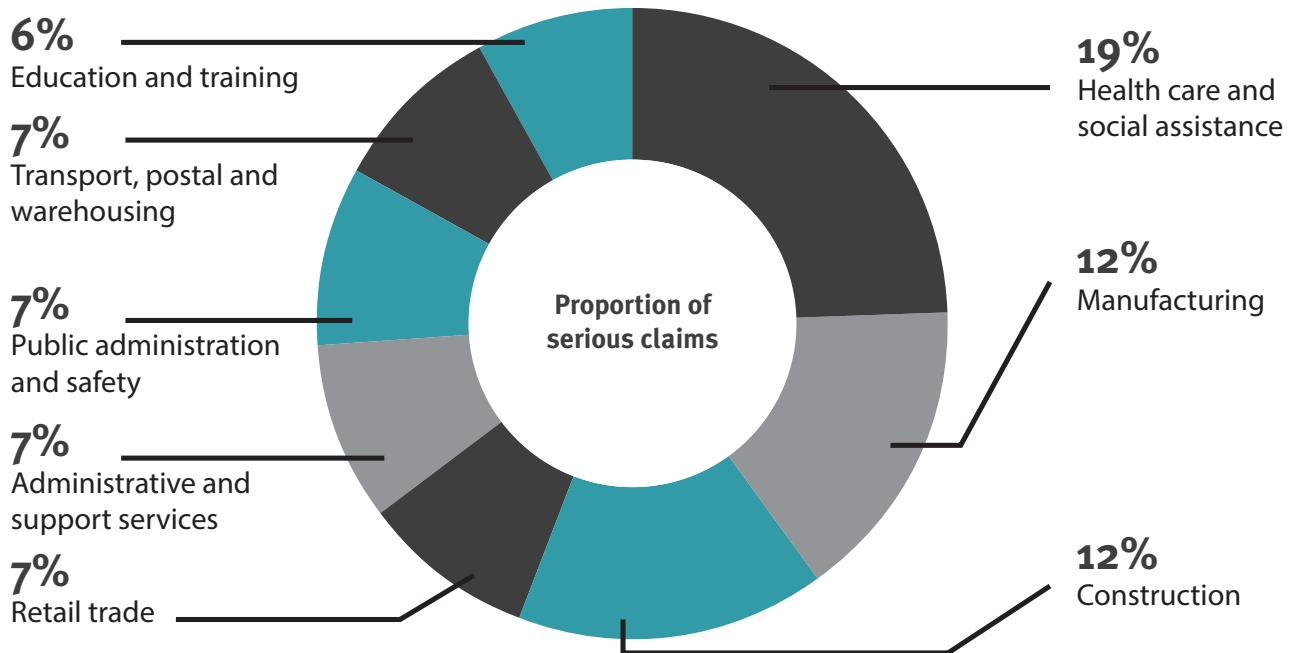
serious claims per million hours worked



Health care and social assistance

10.8

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 nine industries by number of serious claims.

Serious claims by industry, 2019–20p*

Industry	Number of serious claims	Queensland frequency rate (serious claims per million hours worked)	Queensland incidence rate (serious claims per 1,000 employees)
Health care and social assistance	5,474	10.8	15.9
Manufacturing	3,377	11.8	22.0
Construction	3,314	8.8	17.2
Retail trade	2,082	6.6	9.0
Administrative and support services	2,079	14.7	22.9
Public administration and safety	1,910	8.3	13.4
Transport, postal and warehousing	1,871	9.3	16.9
Education and training	1,811	5.4	8.3
Accommodation and food services	1,669	7.2	8.7
Wholesale trade	1,174	9.2	17.3
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,072	9.9	20.7
Other services	852	5.9	9.5
Mining	518	4.1	8.6
Arts and recreation services	375	6.5	8.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	334	1.1	2.0
Rental, hiring and real estate services	290	3.6	6.1
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	256	4.4	8.2
Financial and insurance services	99	0.9	1.7
Information media and telecommunications	55	1.2	2.1
Not stated division	120	n/a	n/a
Total	28,732	7.6	12.4

*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.