

Construction
Statistical update
2015–16 to 2019–20

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Construction industry

1. Summary of findings

a. Labour market

- In Construction, employment increased approximately 18 per cent from 2015–16 to 2019–20 compared to over six per cent growth for all of Queensland.
- Workers in Construction were more likely to be engaged on a full-time basis (86.0 per cent) than workers in Queensland as a whole (68.9 per cent) in 2019–20.

b. Accepted workers' compensation claims

i. Occupations

- The occupation with the highest number of claims in 2018–19 was technicians and trades workers (3,728 claims or 45 per cent).

ii. Non-fatal claims and claim rates

- In 2019–20, the non-fatal claim rate for construction, at 30.3 claims per 1,000 workers, was above the Queensland rate of 27.4 claims per 1,000 workers.
- Construction services recorded the highest number of non-fatal claims (4,801 claims) in 2019–20, and one of the highest claim rates at 29.3 claims per 1,000 employees.
- Between 2015–16 and 2019–20, the non-fatal claim rate fell by around seven per cent per annum for the sector and six per cent per annum for the whole of Queensland.

iii. Serious injuries

- In 2019–20, the serious injuries claim rate was 14.6 in Construction and 12.3 for Queensland.
- From 2015–16 to 2019–20, the serious injury claim rate fell by 2.4 per cent per annum for the sector, compared to a 1.2 per cent per annum recorded for all Queensland.

iv. Mechanisms of injury

- The most common mechanisms of injury over the five years to 2019–20 were:
 - body stressing (27 per cent)
 - being hit by moving objects (23 per cent)
 - falls, trips and slips (20 per cent).

v. Agencies of injury

- The most common agencies of injury over the five years to 2019–20 were:
 - material and substances (30 per cent)
 - non-powered hand tools, appliances and equipment (25 per cent)
 - environmental agencies (15 per cent)
 - mobile plant and transport (9 per cent)
 - machinery and fixed plant (8 per cent).

vi. Fatalities

- Over the period 2015–16 to 2019–20, there was an average of 10 fatalities each year recorded for the sector, making construction the most hazardous industry in Queensland.

c. Inspectorate activity

- In 2019–20:
 - Activities such as workplace visits, intervention activities, workshops, presentations and seminars by inspectors to businesses in the Construction industry accounted for approximately 34 per cent of all inspector activities in Queensland. This is significantly higher than the industry's share of notified events (24 per cent).
 - Approximately 76 per cent of events notified for the Construction industry were categorised as bodily harm or dangerous event. Proactive activities made up 35 per cent of inspector activities in the industry.
 - The share of statutory notices issued to businesses in the Construction industry

was 45 per cent. This is significantly higher than the industry's share of employees in Queensland (10 per cent)

- Over 75 per cent of notices issued to businesses in the Construction industry were improvement notices.

2. Labour market

a. Business size

Table 1 below shows the structure of businesses in construction was similar to that of Queensland as a whole in 2019. The vast majority of businesses in construction were small businesses (98 per cent). A small proportion of businesses in construction were medium sized (two per cent) and large sized (less than one per cent).

Table 1: Construction, size of business, Queensland, June 2019

Industry subdivision	Number of businesses by size					
	Small		Subtotal	Medium	Large	Total
	Non-employing	1-19		20-199	200+	
Building construction	10,485	5,973	16,458	246	6	16,717
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1,148	1,059	2,207	132	10	2,357
Construction services	33,994	23,592	57,586	946	18	58,559
Construction	45,627	30,624	76,251	1,324	34	77,633
Queensland total	288,461	157,369	445,830	11,302	668	457,876
Industry subdivision	Proportion of businesses by size (%)					
	Small		Subtotal	Medium	Large	Total
	Non-employing	1-19		20-199	200+	
Building construction	63	36	99	1	0	100
Heavy and civil engineering construction	49	45	94	6	0	100
Construction services	58	40	98	2	0	100
Construction	59	39	98	2	0	100*
Queensland total	63	34	97	2	0	100

Source: ABS, Counts of Australian businesses, including entries and exits, Jun 2015 to Jun 2019. Cat. No. 8165.0 *There are rounding errors in the table.

b. Workers employed

The number of employed people, as determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) through its labour force survey, has been used in this report as an estimation of the number of workers covered by workers' compensation in Queensland and to calculate claim rates.

Between 2015–16 and 2019–20, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated that the number of workers in the industry grew by 18 per cent. Table 2 shows in 2019–20, the number of employed was highest in construction services (163,809 people or two-thirds of the industry).

Of all workers in construction in 2019–20, 86 per cent were employed in a full-time capacity and 52 per cent were males¹.

¹ ABS labour force data

Table 2: Construction, workers employed

Subdivision and group	Workers employed					Av. annual change (% p.a)
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	
Building construction	49,821	53,801	48,337	64,230	55,437	4.3
Residential building construction	19,002	20,458	17,602	23,388	25,931	9.4
Non-residential building construction	8,262	8,912	10,385	11,656	9,239	4.0
Heavy and civil engineering construction	16,349	14,280	23,633	26,982	26,363	16.2
Heavy and civil engineering construction	16,349	14,280	23,633	26,982	26,363	16.2
Construction services	137,173	154,229	165,776	144,437	163,809	5.1
Land development and site preparation services	8,228	11,602	12,052	10,135	15,984	21.7
Building structure services	17,792	22,209	25,557	21,414	22,110	6.7
Building installation services	47,202	52,790	55,463	45,237	55,897	5.5
Building completion services	40,035	45,932	47,171	45,062	41,414	1.2
Other construction services	22,170	18,930	23,675	21,149	27,352	7.3
Construction	208,310	229,280	238,815	235,833	245,609	4.3
Queensland	2,365,632	2,370,310	2,468,936	2,508,166	2,514,973	1.6

Sources: ABS, Labour Force, Australia.

c. Full-time and part-time employment

In 2019–20, construction workers were engaged overwhelmingly on a full-time basis (86 per cent). Full-time employment was most prevalent in heavy and civil engineering construction (93 per cent).

Over the period 2015–16 to 2019–20, full-time employment in the industry increased by 3.8 per cent per annum, whereas part-time employment increased by 8.3 per cent per annum. In comparison, full-time employment for Queensland grew by 1.3 per cent per annum and part-time employment grew by 2.2 per cent per annum.

Table 3: Construction, category of employment

Subdivision and group	Employed full-time					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change
	(% p.a)					
Building construction	43,345	46,200	42,697	55,832	47,324	3.6
Residential building construction	16,075	17,144	15,223	20,105	22,815	10.2
Non-residential building construction	7,756	8,109	9,707	10,451	8,270	2.8
Heavy and civil engineering construction	15,777	13,372	21,049	25,406	24,523	14.8
Heavy and civil engineering construction	15,777	13,372	21,049	25,406	24,523	14.8
Construction services	119,907	130,681	140,811	121,779	140,440	4.6
Land development and site preparation services	6,460	9,388	9,993	7,933	14,167	27.4
Building structure services	14,996	19,101	21,825	17,512	19,156	7.8
Building installation services	43,431	46,306	46,628	39,686	49,481	4.3
Building completion services	35,035	39,156	41,835	38,451	35,207	0.5
Other construction services	18,349	14,748	18,673	17,206	21,377	5.8
Construction total	183,409	196,457	205,538	203,201	212,286	3.8
Queensland	1,647,389	1,634,814	1,688,476	1,717,396	1,733,003	1.3
Subdivision and group	Employed part-time					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change
	(% p.a)					
Building construction	6,476	7,601	5,640	8,398	8,113	9.3
Residential building construction	2,926	3,314	2,379	3,283	3,117	4.5
Non-residential building construction	506	803	678	1205	969	25.3
Heavy and civil engineering construction	572	908	2584	1576	1,840	55.3
Heavy and civil engineering construction	572	908	2584	1576	1,840	55.3

Construction services	17,266	23,548	24,964	22,658	23,369	9.1
Land development and site preparation services	1,768	2,214	2,059	2,202	1,817	1.9
Building structure services	2,797	3,108	3,733	3,902	2,953	2.9
Building installation services	3,772	6,484	8,835	5,551	6,417	21.6
Building completion services	5,000	6,775	5,336	6,612	6,207	8.0
Other construction services	3,821	4,182	5,002	3,943	5,975	14.9
Construction total	24,901	32,824	33,277	32,632	33,322	8.3
Queensland	718,244	735,496	780,460	790,769	781,970	2.2
Subdivision and group	Employed total					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change (% p.a)
Building construction	49,821	53,801	48,337	64,230	55,437	4.3
Residential building construction	19,002	20,458	17,602	23,388	25,931	9.4
Non-residential building construction	8,262	8,912	10,385	11,656	9,239	4.0
Heavy and civil engineering construction	16,349	14,280	23,633	26,982	26,363	16.2
Heavy and civil engineering construction	16,349	14,280	23,633	26,982	26,363	16.2
Construction services	137,173	154,229	165,776	144,437	163,809	5.1
Land development and site preparation services	8,228	11,602	12,052	10,135	15,984	21.7
Building structure services	17,792	22,209	25,557	21,414	22,110	6.7
Building installation services	47,202	52,790	55,463	45,237	55,897	5.5
Building completion services	40,035	45,932	47,171	45,062	41,414	1.2
Other construction services	22,170	18,930	23,675	21,149	27,352	7.3
Construction	208,310	229,280	238,815	235,833	245,609	4.3
Queensland	2,365,632	2,370,310	2,468,936	2,508,166	2,514,973	1.6

Subdivision and group	Full-time workers as a proportion of total (%)					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Change*
Building construction	87.0	85.9	88.3	86.9	85.4	-1.6
Residential building construction	84.6	83.8	86.5	86.0	88.0	3.4
Non-residential building construction	93.9	91.0	93.5	89.7	89.5	-4.4
Heavy and civil engineering construction	96.5	93.6	89.1	94.2	93.0	-3.5
Heavy and civil engineering construction	96.5	93.6	89.1	94.2	93.0	-3.5
Construction services	87.4	84.7	84.9	84.3	85.7	-1.7
Land development and site preparation services	78.5	80.9	82.9	78.3	88.6	10.1
Building structure services	84.3	86.0	85.4	81.8	86.6	2.4
Building installation services	92.0	87.7	84.1	87.7	88.5	-3.5
Building completion services	87.5	85.2	88.7	85.3	85.0	-2.5
Other construction services	82.8	77.9	78.9	81.4	78.2	-4.6
Construction	88.0	85.7	86.1	86.2	86.4	-1.6
Queensland	69.6	69.0	68.4	68.5	68.9	-0.7

Sources: ABS, Labour Force, Australia. Notes: * percentage point change

3. Accepted workers' compensation claims

a. Accepted claims by occupation

Table 4 below shows Technicians and trades workers had the highest number of accepted claims (3,728 claims) followed by Labourers (2,533 claims) in 2018–19.

Note that 2019–20 claims data has been omitted due to a lag in coding occupation data.

Table 4: Construction, accepted non-fatal claims by occupation

Occupation	Number of claims				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	Av. annual change (% p.a.)
Labourers	3,686	3,606	3,100	2,533	-11.5
Community and personal service workers	24	25	22	22	-2.6
Machinery operators and drivers	643	663	651	752	5.6
Technicians and trades workers	3,656	4,115	4,164	3,728	1.1
Professionals	60	106	71	98	27.2
Sales workers	12	11	11	17	15.4
Clerical and administrative workers	122	116	93	87	-10.4
Managers	129	136	154	133	1.7
Construction	8,564	9,112	9,073	8,202	-1.2
Queensland	72,351	73,347	73,593	73,052	0.3

Sources: QSA, July 2020. ABS, Labour force, Australia. Totals include claims where occupation is unknown.

b. Accepted non-fatal claims and claim rates by industry

The number of total accepted non-fatal claims (injury plus disease claims) has reduced 3.2 per cent per annum for the industry and 1.1 per cent per annum for Queensland over the five years to 2019–20 (Table 5).

Over the same period, the claim rate for construction related non-fatal claims has fallen by 7.3 per cent per annum (down from 41.1 in 2015–16 to 30.3 claims per 1,000 workers in 2019–20) and 2.6 per cent per annum for Queensland (down from 30.6 to 27.4 claims per 1,000 workers).

The simultaneous reduction in the number of claims along with employment growth of 4.3 per cent on average per annum in construction has contributed to a 10.8 percentage point reduction in the claim rate over the five years.

Table 5: Construction, total accepted non-fatal claims and claim rate

Subdivision and group	Number of claims					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change (% p.a.)
Building construction	1,333	1,557	1,554	1,391	1,231	-1.3
Residential building construction	717	875	918	796	727	1.2
Non-residential building construction	616	682	636	595	504	-4.4
Heavy and civil engineering construction	931	915	975	927	827	-2.7
Heavy and civil engineering construction	931	915	975	927	827	-2.7
Construction services	5,763	6,065	5,869	5,208	4,801	-4.3
Land development and site preparation services	534	562	547	558	500	-1.5
Building structure services	1064	1081	842	773	672	-10.4
Building installation services	1,818	1,792	1,941	1,710	1,682	-1.7
Building completion services	1,516	1,677	1,655	1,350	1,138	-6.2
Other construction services	831	951	882	817	809	-0.3
Construction	8,564	9,112	9,073	8,202	7,441	-3.2
Queensland	72,351	73,347	73,593	73,052	68,993	-1.1
Subdivision and group	Claim rate (per 1,000 employed people)					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change (% p.a.)
Building construction	26.8	28.9	32.1	21.7	22.2	-4.3
Residential building construction	37.7	42.8	52.2	34.0	28.0	-1.7
Non-residential building construction	74.6	76.5	61.2	51.0	54.5	-6.2
Heavy and civil engineering construction	56.9	64.1	41.3	34.4	31.4	-10.4
Heavy and civil engineering construction	56.9	64.1	41.3	34.4	31.4	-0.3
Construction services	42.0	39.3	35.4	36.1	29.3	-1.5

Land development and site preparation services	64.9	48.4	45.4	55.1	31.3	-1.3
Building structure services	59.8	48.7	32.9	36.1	30.4	1.2
Building installation services	38.5	33.9	35.0	37.8	30.1	-4.4
Building completion services	37.9	36.5	35.1	30.0	27.5	-2.7
Other construction services	37.5	50.2	37.3	38.6	29.6	-2.7
Construction total	41.1	39.7	38.0	34.8	30.3	-7.3
Queensland	30.6	30.9	29.8	29.1	27.4	-2.6

Sources: QSA, July 2020. ABS, Labour force, Australia. Notes: N/A = not applicable.

In 2019–20 there were 7,441 accepted non-fatal injury and disease claims, of those 5,534 related to injuries while only 1,907 related to disease and other causes.

Over the period 2015–16 to 2019–20, the industry experienced an average annual reduction of 4.4 per cent per annum in the number of non-fatal injury claims compared to a fall of 1.9 per cent per annum recorded for Queensland. Over the same period, the number of non-fatal disease and other claims for the industry increased 0.9 per cent per annum, which was the same for Queensland.

The incidence (claims per 1,000 workers) of non-fatal injuries in 2019–20 was higher for construction workers (22.5) than workers in all industries in Queensland (19.3). The opposite was true for non-fatal diseases and other categories where the Construction rate was 7.8 claims per 1,000 workers compared to 8.1 for Queensland.

Table 6: Construction, accepted non-fatal injury claims and claim rate

Subdivision and group	Number of claims					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change
	(% p.a.)					
Building construction	1,066	1,241	1,242	1,047	963	-1.8
Residential building construction	598	730	765	621	592	0.8
Non-residential building construction	468	511	477	426	371	-5.3
Heavy and civil engineering construction	662	697	737	671	585	-2.7
Heavy and civil engineering construction	662	697	737	671	585	-2.7
Construction services	4,601	4,813	4,581	3,986	3,613	-5.6
Land development and site preparation services	403	424	407	415	352	-3.0
Building structure services	842	839	650	597	526	-10.7

Subdivision and group	Number of claims					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change (% p.a.)
Building installation services	1,486	1,469	1,553	1,321	1,311	-2.8
Building completion services	1,235	1,370	1,329	1,057	875	-7.4
Other construction services	635	709	642	596	549	-3.2
Construction total	6,717	7,203	7,083	6,177	5,534	-4.4
Queensland	52,595	53,980	53,389	51,992	48,571	-1.9
Subdivision and group	Claim rate (per 1,000 employed people)					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change (% p.a.)
Building construction	21.4	23.1	25.7	16.3	17.4	-2.7
Residential building construction	31.5	35.7	43.5	26.6	22.8	-4.4
Non-residential building construction	56.6	57.3	45.9	36.5	40.2	-7.3
Heavy and civil engineering construction	40.5	48.8	31.2	24.9	22.2	-11.6
Heavy and civil engineering construction	40.5	48.8	31.2	24.9	22.2	-11.6
Construction services	33.5	31.2	27.6	27.6	22.1	-9.7
Land development and site preparation services	49.0	36.5	33.8	40.9	22.0	-14.5
Building structure services	47.3	37.8	25.4	27.9	23.8	-14.5
Building installation services	31.5	27.8	28.0	29.2	23.5	-6.6
Building completion services	30.8	29.8	28.2	23.5	21.1	-8.9
Other construction services	28.6	37.5	27.1	28.2	20.1	-5.4
Construction total	32.2	31.4	29.7	26.2	22.5	-8.5
Queensland	22.2	22.8	21.6	20.7	19.3	-3.4

Sources: QSA, July 2020. ABS, Labour force.

Table 7: Construction, accepted non-fatal disease and other claims and claim rate

Subdivision and group	Number of claims					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change (% p.a.)
Building construction	267	316	312	344	268	1.3
Residential building construction	119	145	153	175	135	4.7
Non-residential building construction	148	171	159	169	133	0.0
Heavy and civil engineering construction	269	218	238	256	242	-1.9
Heavy and civil engineering construction	269	218	238	256	242	-1.9
Construction services	1162	1252	1288	1222	1188	0.7
Land development and site preparation services	131	138	140	143	148	3.1
Building structure services	222	242	192	176	146	-0.1
Building installation services	332	323	388	389	371	3.3
Building completion services	281	307	326	293	263	-1.2
Other construction services	196	242	240	221	260	0.1
Construction total	1,847	1,909	1,990	2,025	1,907	0.9
Queensland	19,756	19,367	20,204	21,060	20,422	0.9
Subdivision and group	Claim rate (per 1,000 employed people)					
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Av. annual change (% p.a.)
Building construction	5.4	5.9	6.5	5.4	4.8	-1.8
Residential building construction	6.3	7.1	8.7	7.5	5.2	-2.1
Non-residential building construction	17.9	19.2	15.3	14.5	14.4	-4.8
Heavy and civil engineering construction	16.5	15.3	10.1	9.5	9.2	-0.1
Heavy and civil engineering construction	16.5	15.3	10.1	9.5	9.2	0.1
Construction services	8.5	8.1	7.8	8.5	7.3	-3.5

Land development and site preparation services	15.9	11.9	11.6	14.1	9.3	-10.1
Building structure services	12.5	10.9	7.5	8.2	6.6	-13.5
Building installation services	7.0	6.1	7.0	8.6	6.6	0.0
Building completion services	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.5	6.4	-2.4
Other construction services	8.8	12.8	10.1	10.4	9.5	4.5
Construction total	8.9	8.3	8.3	8.6	7.8	-3.1
Queensland	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.1	-0.7

Sources: QSA, July 2020. ABS, Labourforce, Australia. Notes: N/A = not applicable.

c. Serious injury claims by industry and occupation

In 2019–20, the serious injury claim rate (injuries requiring one or more weeks off work) for construction, at 14.6 claims per 1,000 workers, was above the state average of 12.3 claims per 1,000 workers for all industries.

Over the five-year period to 2019–20, the serious injury claim rate reduced by 2.4 per cent per annum for the Construction industry, compared to an increase of 1.2 per cent per annum recorded for Queensland. The construction services industry subdivision recorded the highest number of serious injury claims in 2019–20 with 2,409 claims or 67.1 per cent of all serious claims made by construction workers. The construction services industry subdivision also had the highest claim rate in 2019–20, at 20.4 per 1,000 workers.

Table 8: Construction, accepted non-fatal serious claims and claim rate

Industry subdivision	Number of claims					Av. annual change
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	(% p.a.)
	Building construction	511	596	610	628	610
Heavy and civil engineering construction	348	321	335	354	326	-1.4
Construction services	2,312	2,448	2,505	2,524	2,409	1.1
Construction	3,365	3,585	3,727	3,779	3,589	1.7
Queensland	27,815	28,691	29,698	31,646	30,986	2.8
Industry subdivision	Claim rate (per 1,000 employed people)					Av. annual change
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	(% p.a.)
	Building construction	10.3	11.1	12.6	9.8	11.0
Heavy and civil engineering construction	12.8	13.0	12.9	13.9	14.7	3.7
Construction services	42.3	27.7	27.8	34.9	20.4	-12.5
Construction	16.2	15.6	15.6	16.0	14.6	-2.4
Queensland	11.8	12.1	12.0	12.6	12.3	1.2

Sources: QSA, July 2020. ABS, Labour Force, Australia.

Technicians and trades workers had a large number of serious claims (1,774 claims) in 2018–19. There were also a substantial number of claims for Labourers each year, with 1,221 in 2018–19.

Overall, claims for serious injuries in the Construction industry accounted for 41 per cent of the industry's total number of accepted nonfatal claims. In comparison, the number of serious claims accepted for all of Queensland accounted for approximately 40 per cent of accepted claims.

Note that 2019–20 claims data has been omitted due to a lag in coding occupation data.

Table 9: Construction, accepted non-fatal serious claims by occupation

Occupation	Number of claims				Av. annual change (% p.a.)
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	
Labourers	1,439	1,390	1,287	1,221	-5.3
Community and personal service workers	9	11	7	8	0.0
Machinery operators and drivers	326	322	346	384	5.7
Technicians and trades workers	1,414	1,607	1,746	1,774	8.0
Professionals	19	38	17	30	40.4
Sales workers	6	5	5	6	1.1
Clerical and administrative workers	24	42	27	29	15.6
Managers	42	47	49	47	4.0
Construction	3,365	3,585	3,727	3,779	4.0
Queensland	27,815	28,691	29,698	31,646	4.4

Sources: QSA, July 2020, employee claims. Note: average change excludes the 2019–20 year. Totals include claims where occupation is unknown.

d. Mechanism of injury (non-fatal claims)

Table 10 below shows the most common mechanisms of injury in construction, across all industry subdivisions for the period 2015–16 to 2019–20, were:

- body stressing (27 per cent)
- being hit by moving objects (23 per cent)
- falls, trips and slips (20 per cent).

These three mechanisms accounted for the majority (70 per cent) of industry claims.

Table 10: Construction, most prevalent mechanisms of injury for accepted non-fatal workers compensation claims by subdivision, 2015–16 to 2019–20

Industry subdivision	Mechanism of injury	Percentage of claims within subdivision (%)
Building construction (7,066 claims)	Being hit by moving objects	24.6
	Body stressing	24.2

Industry subdivision	Mechanism of injury	Percentage of claims within subdivision (%)
	Hitting objects with a part of the body	21.3
Heavy and civil engineering construction (4,575 claims)	Body stressing	32.0
	Being hit by moving objects	21.6
	Falls, trips and slips of a person	19.9
Construction services (27,706 claims)	Body stressing	26.7
	Being hit by moving objects	22.9
	Falls, trips and slips of a person	21.0
Construction (42,392 claims)	Body stressing	26.9
	Being hit by moving objects	23.0
	Falls, trips and slips of a person	20.4

Note: The sub industry totals do not add to the industry totals due to Labour Hire claims, which are not allocated a sub industry.
Source: QSA, July 2020.

e. Agency of injury (non-fatal claims)

Table 11 shows that the most common agencies of injury in the Construction industry over the five years to 2019–20 were:

- material and substances (30 per cent)
- non-powered hand tools, appliances and equipment (25 per cent)
- environmental agencies (15 per cent)
- mobile plant and transport (9 per cent)
- machinery and (mainly) fixed plant (8 per cent).

These five agencies accounted for nearly 90 per cent of industry claims.

Table 11: Construction, most prevalent agencies of injury for accepted non-fatal workers compensation claims by subdivision, 2015–16 to 2019–20

Industry subdivision	Agency of injury	Percentage of claims within subdivision (%)
Building construction (7,066 claims)	Materials and substances	33.9
	Non-powered hand tools, appliances and equipment	26.0
	Environmental agencies	14.4
	Mobile plant and transport	7.9
	Machinery and (mainly) fixed plant	6.4
Heavy and civil engineering construction (4,575 claims)	Materials and substances	24.8
	Non-powered hand tools, appliances and equipment	21.6
	Environmental agencies	17.2
	Mobile plant and transport	13.7
	Machinery and (mainly) fixed plant	7.9
Construction services (27,706 claims)	Materials and substances	30.7
	Non-powered hand tools, appliances and equipment	25.3
	Environmental agencies	15.0
	Mobile plant and transport	8.8

	Machinery and (mainly) fixed plant	8.5
Construction (42,392 claims)	Materials and substances	30.3
	Non-powered hand tools, appliances and equipment	24.9
	Environmental agencies	15.4
	Mobile plant and transport	9.4
	Machinery and (mainly) fixed plant	8.0

Source: QSA, July 2020.

f. Fatalities

Table 12 details a breakdown of the accepted number of fatal workers' compensation claims in Queensland by major industry groups, as administered under the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003.

The Construction industry recorded the highest number of compensated fatalities for Queensland industries over the period 2015–16 to 2019–20.

There were 10 fatalities recorded on average for Construction each year compared to 59 for all Queensland industries.

Table 12: Accepted fatal workers compensation claims

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Average
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6	6	11	6	2	6
Mining	1	6	3	7	3	4
Manufacturing	6	9	8	10	9	8
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1	0	1	0	2	1
Construction	10	12	9	11	8	10
Wholesale trade	1	1	3	2	2	2
Retail trade	3	2	2	4	2	3
Accommodation and food services	3	0	1	4	1	2
Transport, postal and warehousing	6	11	9	8	8	8
Information media and telecommunications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial and insurance services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rental, hiring and real estate services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional, scientific and technical services	3	2	2	1	1	2
Administrative and support services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public administration and safety	6	6	5	2	3	4
Education and training	3	2	1	1	4	2
Health care and social assistance	4	2	2	6	1	3
Arts and recreation services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Queensland total[#]	59	65	60	63	50	59

Sources: QSA, July 2020, employee claims. Note # includes unknown and mining.

4. Inspectorate activity

a. Events notified

Construction accounted for a significant number of notified events in Queensland each year, and in 2019–20 accounted for 24 per cent (or 1,703 incidents) of all notified events in Queensland.

In 2019–20, events in the bodily harm/dangerous event category accounted for 76 per cent of all notified incidents that occurred in the Construction industry.

Table 13: Construction, events notified

Incident type	Number of events notified				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Fatality	19	9	14	10	8
Grievous bodily harm [#]	437	433	421	441	394
Bodily harm/Dangerous event ^{###}	1,203	1,437	1,300	1,372	1,301
Industry total	1,659	1,879	1,735	1,823	1,703
Queensland total	7,584	7,596	7,745	7,922	7,161
Incident type	Industry share (%)				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Fatality	16	8	13	8	7
Grievous bodily harm [#]	20	20	17	16	16
Bodily harm/Dangerous event ^{###}	23	27	25	27	28
Industry total	22	25	22	23	24

Source: CISR, extracted July 2020. Notes: # admitted to hospital. ### all other incidents including dangerous events.

The number of notified fatality events presented in Table 13 are the number of work-related fatalities recorded and coded as such, under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act). It is the record of notifications to the workplace health and safety regulator of workers (both employees and self-employed) who suffered a fatal injury at work as well as bystanders who suffered a fatal injury as a consequence of work activity.

b. Inspectorate activity

Table 14 shows that construction accounted for a large share of inspector activity at around 37 per cent each year on average over the period. Proactive activities remain the focus for inspectors with 35 per cent of activities of a proactive/educative nature in 2019–20.

It is important to note that activities in different categories and within categories are not necessarily equal in terms of time or resources used.

Table 14: Construction, inspectorate activities

Type of activity	Number of inspector activities				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Number of workplace visits: reactive	3,200	3,714	3,921	4,018	4,219
Other intervention activities: reactive	12,537	14,893	14,205	14,508	15,082

Number of workplace visits: proactive	12,880	8,190	6,954	7,991	9,803
Number of workshops/presentations/seminars: proactive	727	604	356	464	410
Industry total	29,344	27,401	25,436	26,981	29,514
Queensland total	69,877	70,541	69,891	77,930	85,714
Type of activity	Industry share (%)				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Number of workplace visits: reactive	43.4	43.9	39.9	37.6	36.5
Other intervention activities: reactive	36.0	36.6	32.9	30.5	29.6
Number of workplace visits: proactive	56.9	49.8	48.9	46.6	47.8
Number of workshops/presentations/seminars: proactive	14.4	12.2	13.2	18.5	15.8
Industry total	42.0	38.8	36.4	34.6	34.4

Source: CISR, extracted 2020

c. Statutory notices

Over recent years, WHSQ inspectors have issued more statutory notices in response to the findings of the Best Practice Review (BPR). The BPR recommended a shift to directed compliance, noting that stricter compliance by duty holders would reduce the exposure to risk of injury and illness to workers and others thereby reducing injury rates and workplace illnesses.

Table 15 details the different types of compliance notices issued by inspectors under the WHS Act or the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ES Act).

In 2019–20, improvement notices were the most commonly issued type of notice to businesses in the Construction industry (75 per cent). Overall, in 2019–20, 45 per cent of notices issued by inspectors in Queensland were issued to businesses in the Construction industry.

Table 15: Construction, statutory notices

Building construction	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Improvement notice	708	762	1,108	2235	3661
Prohibition notice	179	235	445	699	820
Infringement notice	27	45	82	174	266
Electrical safety protection	9	17	22	50	85
Unsafe equipment notice	2	2	2	2	4
Seizures	0	1	0	0	0
Subtotal	925	1,062	1,659	3,160	4,836
Construction services	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Improvement notice	420	613	1047	2244	2740
Prohibition notice	180	160	273	563	500

Infringement notice	50	114	122	328	410
Electrical safety protection	12	6	17	55	33
Unsafe equipment notice	4	4	2	2	3
Seizures	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	666	897	1,461	3,192	3,686
Heavy and civil engineering construction	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Improvement notice	15	24	102	181	174
Prohibition notice	6	10	43	36	26
Infringement notice	0	1	13	26	35
Electrical safety protection	0	0	2	2	2
Unsafe equipment notice	0	0	0	0	0
Seizures	0	0	0	1	0
Subtotal	21	35	160	246	237
Total Industry	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Improvement notice	1,143	1,399	2,257	4,660	6,575
Prohibition notice	365	405	761	1,298	1,346
Infringement notice	77	160	217	528	711
Electrical safety protection	21	23	41	107	120
Unsafe equipment notice	6	6	4	4	7
Seizures	0	1	0	1	0
Industry total	1,612	1,994	3,280	6,598	8,759
Queensland total notices	2,699	3,920	7,405	15,918	19,345
	Industry as a proportion of Queensland (%)				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Notices to Construction industry	59.7	50.9	44.3	41.4	45.3

Source: CISR, extracted July 2020

5. Explanatory notes

Accepted claims

Accepted claims are those where an insurer has accepted liability for the claim at some stage of the claims history. Accepted claims may be subject to development over time, thus the category they are reported in may change over time. Claims for a serious injury are those involving one or more weeks off work.

Accepted claims include the categories:

- accepted non-fatal injury claims (including the category 'accepted non-fatal serious injury claims')
- accepted non-fatal disease and other claims
- accepted fatal workers' compensation claims.

Claim rate

Due to limitations in data availability, calculating claim rates for occupations is not possible except at Census time.

The claim rates for the type of claim by industry reported in Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 are based on the number of employed people from ABS labour force data. This is used as an approximation of employees covered by Workers' Compensation and is likely an overestimate of less than ten per cent. In between Census periods, ABS labour force data is the best information available for this purpose. The claim rate is derived using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of claims (by industry)} \times 1,000}{\text{Number of employed (by industry)}} = \text{Claim rate per 1,000 employees covered by Workers' Compensation}$$

Events

- The WHS Act prescribes that a person who conducts a business or undertaking must ensure that the regulator is notified immediately after becoming aware that a notifiable incident arising out of the conduct of the business or undertaking has occurred. What is considered to be notifiable is also defined in this legislation.
- The Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) also receives requests for regulator response.
- Notifications and reports to OIR are assessed as per the WHSQ Response Assessment Process based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, the severity of the incident. This forms the basis for the action taken by OIR in response to the notification or report and can include administrative response, regional response, Electrical Safety Office (ESO) response or response by one of the specialist units in OIR.
- As part of this process, incidents are categorised as types as per the categories prescribed in the legislation based on the information Assessment Services is provided and/or gathers as part of their assessment process.

Full-time workers

Full-time workers are people who usually work 35 hours or more per week in all jobs, or although usually working less than 35 hours a week, actually worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Part-time workers

Part-time workers are those who usually work less than 35 hours per week, and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Notices

- Statutory notices represent notices issued as a result of both proactive and reactive work.

- Data in this report may differ from other data published on statutory notices due to the date of extraction from the database.
- Due to various legislative changes occurring over the period 2015–16 to 2019–20, caution should be exercised when comparing changes in data items over this period. The various data items, relevant legislation changes and some of the impacts are explained below:
 - ‘Infringement notices’ are on-the-spot fines for contravention of either WHS legislation or the ES Act. From 1 January 2012, this data includes infringement notices where a dangerous and/or hazardous substance is involved.
 - ‘Seizures’ includes a number of notice types, all relating to when something (e.g. plant, tool or workplace) is seized for evidence, or where a workplace which is the subject of investigation is not to be disturbed. Seizure notices are issued under either the WHS Act, ES Act or, until 1 January 2012, the *Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001*.
 - ‘Electrical safety protection notices’ and ‘unsafe equipment notices’ are issued by WHSQ inspectors under the ES Act. The ‘electrical safety protection notice’ is the equivalent of the ‘WHSQ prohibition notice’ and the ‘unsafe equipment notice’ is also the equivalent of the ‘prohibition notice’ but where it relates specifically to equipment, as opposed to work processes.
 - ‘Improvement notices’ require an improvement in health and safety by a specified time and can be served under either the WHS Act or ES Act.
 - ‘Prohibition notices’ prohibit a certain work activity or use of certain equipment and can be served under WHS legislation only.

Site visits

Site visits represent the number of times a workplace was visited by WHSQ staff. One or more site visits may take place as part of any given investigation, assessment or advisory. Advisories are an educational or industry information activity undertaken by an inspector.

Workers covered

Covered workers have been approximated using the ABS number of employed people. See Claim rate section above for further information.

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